

Music Festival Roundtable

9 February 2022



Outcomes and Next Steps

The Music Festival Roundtable provides government agencies, lawmakers, regulators and industry stakeholders the opportunity to strengthen relationships, share information, address members' priorities and tackle emerging issues impacting music festivals in NSW.

It was established by the Minister for Customer Service under the *Music Festivals Act 2019*, with its functions specified in the Act and which include supporting the growth of the music festival industry in NSW and the safety of patrons. Membership of the Roundtable is also outlined in the Act and comprises equal distribution of government and industry representatives.

Joint statements about key meeting topics and outcomes are published below:

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- The eighth Music Festival Roundtable was held on 9 February. The government co-chair was John Tansey, Executive Director Policy & Strategy, Better Regulation Division, Department of Customer Service and the industry co-chair was Julia Robinson, Managing Director of the Australian Festival Association (AFA). Julia Robinson chaired the meeting.
- Julia Robinson presented an overview of the Festival sector, noting the impact of COVID-19 restrictions and industry priorities. NSW has the strictest restrictions nationally related to music festivals which has impacted 13 Music Festivals this year. A concern was raised regarding uncertainty of restrictions and the impact from March onward.
- Julia Robinson raised the ongoing concerns regarding the skills shortage issues faced by the industry. Julia noted the industry are continuing to seek relief of state-based user pays policies.
- Melinda Lucas from Penington Institute presented the Sexual health & Safety Toolkit that was developed in consultation with the Australian Festivals Association. The toolkit can be downloaded from penington.org.au/festivalsafety/.
- Emily Collins from MusicNSW presented an update on the Music Industry review. The update outlined the work being conducted by representatives from the music industry in developing a plan to address sexual harm and sexual harassment. The review consultation will start in mid-February and will be conducted via a national survey and focus groups. Updates will continue to be provided to the roundtable.
- Create NSW coordinated a presentation to provide an update on the NSW support and stimulus packages available from each of the following NSW agencies:
 - Regional NSW
 - Create NSW
 - Office of the 24-hour Economy Commissioner
 - Destination NSW

As part of the presentation, Create NSW noted there is about \$280 million worth of support funding available through Create NSW.

- Richard Broome from NSW Health spoke to current and future Government restrictions and health updates. Angela Matheson spoke to health and safety of patrons attending festivals that have been held recently including drug trends and an increase in reports on mental health issues..

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- James Hulme from the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner presented on current projects and priorities including the CBDs revitalisation program, the district acceleration program called 'Uptown', and a major 24-hour Economy Conference later in the year to assist in selling Sydney as a 24-hour economy city to a global audience.
- John Tansey from Liquor & Gaming NSW provided an update to the Roundtable on recent cabinet and Ministerial changes noting that the responsibility for the *Music Festivals Act* has transferred to the Minister for Hospitality and Racing, Kevin Anderson, and the staff responsible for liquor, gaming and racing will move to the new Department of Enterprise, Industry and Trade in April 2022. A new Government Co-Chair will be required.
- The ongoing actions following the Government's response to the Review of the *Music Festivals Act* were noted.

Next steps

- The next roundtable meeting is scheduled for May 2022, with discussions to continue about industry hosting a Roundtable meeting at an event during 2022, as required by the *Music Festivals Act 2019*.

Attendee List

| Roundtable Attendees | Organisation |
|----------------------|---|
| John Tansey | Department of Customer Service |
| Natasha Luschwitz | Department of Premier and Cabinet |
| Daniel Madeddu | Ministry of Health |
| David Dutton | NSW Ambulance |
| Craig Moran | Transport for NSW |
| Phil Ventham | Destination NSW |
| Augusta Supple | Create NSW |
| Julia Robinson | Australian Festival Association |
| Adelle Robinson | Australian Festival Association |
| Jessica Ducrou | Australian Festival Association |
| Tara Benney | Australian Festival Association |
| Dean Ormston | APRA AMCOS |
| Emily Collins | Music NSW |
| Evelyn Richardson | Live Performance Australia |
| Annabelle Herd | Australian Recording Industry Association |
| Penelope Pedersen | Local Government NSW |
| Vanessa Seagrove | Unions NSW |

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| Guests/Observers | Organisation |
|---------------------|--|
| Steven Battle | Regional NSW |
| Melinda Lucas | Penington Institute |
| Chris Keely | Create NSW |
| Michael Huxley | Create NSW |
| Simon Glasser | NSW Police |
| James Hulme | Office of the 24 Hour Economy Commissioner |
| Maria Bonaccorso | Transport for NSW |
| Kim Tran | Live Performance Australia |
| Rohini Sivakumar | Australian Recording Industry Association |
| Claire Bunyon | Department of Premier & Cabinet |
| Simon Pogoriutchnig | NSW Rural Fire Service |
| Christopher Ryder | NSW Rural Fire Service |
| Sarah Norman | Ministry of Health |
| Angela Matheson | Ministry of Health |
| James Donnelly | Liquor & Gaming NSW |
| Anthony Vescio | Liquor & Gaming NSW |
| Daniel Zuccarini | Liquor & Gaming NSW |
| Susan Wright | Liquor & Gaming NSW |
| Astrid Harriott | Liquor & Gaming NSW |
| Stephen Biddulph | Liquor & Gaming NSW |
| Erin Phillips | Liquor & Gaming NSW |