

Contact: Clare Harley
Phone: 9367 9226

Liquor Law Review
GPO Box 7060
Sydney NSW 2001



ABN: 92 379 942 845
7-15 Wetherill Street, Leichhardt NSW 2040
PO Box 45, Leichhardt NSW 2040
Phone: (02) 9367 9222 Fax: (02) 9367 9111
TTY: 9568 6758
Email: leichhardt@lmc.nsw.gov.au
www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au

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Dear Sir

RE: Leichhardt Council Submission to the Callinan Liquor Law Review

Leichhardt Council has been exploring ways to help live music venue operators negotiate the approvals process, manage noise and open up new spaces to performers. Councils adopted policies which progress this strategic direction include:

- a 'Good Neighbour Policy' which supports the 'agent of change principle' that protects existing compliant live music venues from complaints from new development and residents
- changes to the *Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan 2013* to make it easier for small bars to become established
- working towards the revitalisation of the Parramatta Road corridor as a cultural precinct
- investigating the establishment of a live music development control plan for Parramatta Road which would provide planning incentives and protections for live music and performance venues potentially including extended trading hours for licensed premises.

Council notes and supports the roundtable discussions with key stakeholders which have been instigated by the NSW Government with the aim to promote a safe and vibrant Sydney night-time economy.

Council actively engages in discussions with the National Office of Live Music to promote live music in our local area and is aware of the current discussion about the impacts of the lockout laws on the live music industry. In preparing this submission Council has considered submissions prepared by the Office of Live Music and Music Australia to the Senate Inquiry into Alcohol Fuelled Violence and the Callinan Review of NSW Liquor Laws.

The National Live Music Office has released data which indicates that there was a 40% drop in live performance revenues at venues within the CBD lockout area in 2014. Some CBD venues now find it difficult to programme original, live music.

Council acknowledges the need for laws and regulations which contribute to a reduction in alcohol fuelled violence but notes that Music Australia's submission suggests that the 1:30am lockout law does not address:

- violence between patrons within venues who arrived prior to the lock out
- excessive consumption by patrons prior to going out
- excessive early evening consumption of alcohol by patrons motivated by the lock out deadline
- the impacts of moving problem behaviour elsewhere.

Music Australia's submission also notes that the lock out laws have had a significant impact on the live music industry including:

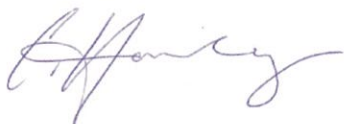
- a decrease in patronage at live music venues
- venues struggling to maintain patronage and viability in affected areas
- artists struggling to find gigs
- a decrease in the critical mass of live music venues needed to support an entertainment precinct and associated businesses in the night time economy
- loss of evening entertainment options, particularly for young people with a corresponding loss of advantage, opportunity and positioning for Sydney and its economy.

Council has considered the submission of Music Australia and supports its recommendations, in particular noting the need for:

- national definitions for Live Music venues, Small Bars and other relevant activities which would aid planning policy and regulations
- integrated management and regulatory environments which optimise balanced and healthy night time economies and provide for public order and industry viability
- best practice approaches such as those used in Victoria and South Australia and which make specific reference to music venues in planning policies, adopt the agent of change principle, red tape reduction and integrated stakeholder planning
- exemptions to the 1:30am lockout laws to be granted to sufficient live music venues to restore a critical mass of small, medium and large venues,
- the development of co-ordinated low risk regulations for live music and performance venues, and
- proactive and integrated state and city planning to ensure the provision of live music venues.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of this submission.

Yours sincerely



Clare Harley
Director – Environmental and Community Management