

**Submission
No 41**

INQUIRY INTO STATE OF LIVE MUSIC IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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DRAFT SUBMISSION

Inquiry into the State of Live Music in New South Wales

February 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| <i>Introduction</i> | 3 |
| Our position..... | 3 |
| <i>Local government’s contribution to the night-time economy and the live music sector</i> | 4 |
| <i>Challenges for local government</i> | 5 |
| Immediate operational uncertainty of the Vibrancy Reforms..... | 5 |
| Lack of clear operational guidance and state-local co-ordination | 6 |
| Increased council workload without additional resourcing | 6 |
| Difficulty with managing noise without clear guidelines | 7 |
| The high upfront cost of establishing Special Entertainment Precincts | 8 |
| <i>Challenges for the live music and broader arts and culture sector</i> | 9 |
| Limits of liquor licence led incentives on the live music and broader cultural sector | 9 |
| Loss of affordable cultural spaces and implications for Vibrancy Reforms..... | 10 |
| Workforce precarity and housing insecurity in the creative sector | 10 |
| Ongoing funding cuts and the impact on live music and cultural sectors | 11 |
| <i>Improving night-time economy and the arts and culture sector across our communities</i> .. | 12 |
| Addressing short-term implementation challenges of the Vibrancy Reforms | 13 |
| Strengthening the creative ecosystem | 13 |
| Expanding affordable and adaptable cultural spaces | 14 |
| <i>Conclusion and next steps</i> | 15 |
| <i>Recommendations</i> | 16 |

Introduction

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) is the peak body for local government in New South Wales, representing general purpose councils and related entities. LGNSW facilitates the development of an effective, community-based system of local government and advocates on behalf of councils to ensure the equitable provision of services across NSW.

LGNSW welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the Inquiry into the State of Live Music in New South Wales. This submission is in draft form until endorsed by the LGNSW Board. The Committee is asked to consider this current version. We will advise of any amendments to the submission in due course.

Our position

This submission is underpinned by the positions in [LGNSW's Policy Platform](#), which consolidates the voices of councils across NSW.

Highlighting the critical role of local governments in enabling economic development and arts and culture in local communities, LGNSW advocates for:

- 2.3 Reducing unnecessary regulatory complexity affecting local economies to support events, cultural and business uses.
- 3.0 Recognising that local government owns and manages cultural, community and recreation facilities and is best placed to plan for and deliver this essential local infrastructure.
- 3.6 Increasing infrastructure funding to local government through Commonwealth and State Government revenue sharing and grant programs, e.g. Roads to Recovery, NSW block grants for regional roads, local water utilities, street lighting, library grants, waste and resource recovery.
- 16.3 Ensuring councils receive a fair share of funding from government arts and culture programs, particularly by investigating a model similar to the library funding model.
- 16.4 Recognising the challenges for small, regional and remote councils and prioritise them for arts and cultural funding relative to the large State Cultural Institutions.
- 16.5 Providing funding to councils to promote and support arts and culture, including galleries, performance, exhibitions and festivals.

Local government's contribution to the night-time economy and the live music sector

Across NSW, councils play a critical role in shaping the environments where live music and cultural activity can thrive. As the level of government closest to communities, councils support an efficient, fair, and locally led planning system that prioritises quality of life and reflects local needs and expectations. Through their statutory planning responsibilities, councils help ensure that land use decisions balance amenity, economic opportunity, creative expression, and community wellbeing.

Councils also play a broader role in supporting the cultural, creative, and economic vibrancy of their communities. This includes sensible land-use planning, thoughtful place management and activation initiatives that encourage people to come together, engage with local culture and participate in the night-time economy. By providing confident and consistent planning frameworks, councils enable and encourage investment in cultural infrastructure, hospitality, and the visitor economy.

Across the state, councils deliver, fund, host, support, and promote a wide range of arts and cultural initiatives, including live music. They collectively manage more than 4,000 cultural sites and operate over 350 libraries, alongside more than 600 museums, galleries, theatres, and arts centres. These facilities form the backbone of public access to arts and culture and often serve as key venues for live music and performance.

Local government's investment in arts and culture generates substantial economic, social, cultural, and health benefits across both metropolitan and regional areas. These investments help communities to:

- Build cohesion, wellbeing, and resilience
- Create vibrant and attractive places to live, work, and visit
- Showcase creative talent, natural assets, and unique local cultures

LGNSW supports the place-based approach embedded in the NSW Government's Vibrancy Reforms. Councils work directly with their communities and local businesses to develop tailored solutions that strengthen local live music and night-time economies.

Challenges for local government

Immediate operational uncertainty of the Vibrancy Reforms

Under the Vibrancy Reforms since July 2024, the responsibility for regulating entertainment noise complaints shifted from local government to Liquor & Gaming NSW. To enable this change, entertainment-noise consent conditions previously approved by councils as part of the planning process no longer apply while a venue operates under a liquor licence.

Council approved consent conditions that automatically ceased to have effect when a venue is licensed include decibel-based limits such as L_{A10} noise criteria, rules about when live or amplified music can be played, requirements to use a noise limiter and conditions regarding the placement or use of speakers. Licensed venues are also exempt from noise provisions in the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, including offensive noise laws.

Meanwhile, councils continue statutory development assessment responsibilities under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for both licensed and unlicensed premises.

In managing entertainment noise at licensed premises, Liquor & Gaming NSW may issue directions where licensed activities cause 'undue disturbance' under Part 5 of the *Liquor Act 2007*. However, unlike development consent conditions, the Act does not prescribe objective thresholds for determining what constitutes 'undue disturbance.'

While the *Community Guide to Noise Disturbances* and *Venue Guide to Dealing with Sound Disturbances* outline the steps residents and venues should take to resolve a complaint, they do not explain how Liquor & Gaming NSW will assess the complaint if it is escalated to them by a resident. This uncertainty limits councils' ability to provide clear, confident advice to applicants, residents, or elected members about the likely outcome of complaints.

There is also a perception that Liquor & Gaming NSW's decision-making may reduce resident amenity without consideration of local context, community expectations and existing place-based planning work. This can lead to reputational and legal risks for councils.

Recommendation 1 - That the NSW Government publish operational guidelines outlining how Liquor & Gaming NSW will assess 'undue disturbance', including criteria and contributing factors.

Recommendation 2 - That the NSW Government establish an information-sharing protocol to improve coordination between Liquor & Gaming NSW and councils regarding complaints, investigations and directions issued under the *Liquor Act 2007*.

Lack of clear operational guidance and state-local co-ordination

LGNSW supports the intent of the Vibrancy Reforms. However, councils report implementation has occurred without clear operational guidance. Councils must interpret how the new settings interact with existing planning controls when determining applications.

Councils describe ongoing confusion across local government, businesses and residents. Councils report communication and responsiveness from Liquor & Gaming NSW and the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner could be improved when councils need guidance. Regional councils have also reported that general guidance provided through 'Contact Us' platforms has been slow and disconnected from the regional context.

Councils emphasise the need for stronger state-local coordination to avoid conflicting advice or duplicated processes. Councils report long delays during Liquor & Gaming NSW's initial review to determine whether it is the correct authority to handle a noise complaint, with some matters being referred back to councils for resolution after significant waiting periods. This has led to community confusion and frustration.

To support implementation, councils seek structured training and written guidance, clear state contact points for advice, and regionally based officers who can provide timely, context-specific support.

Recommendation 3 - That the NSW Government deliver structured training, webinars and written guidance for councils, businesses and communities on the practical operation of the reforms.

Recommendation 4 - That the NSW Government appoint designated liaison officers within Liquor & Gaming NSW and the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner to provide timely advice to councils.

Recommendation 5 - That the NSW Government employ regional officers to deliver timely guidance informed by local context.

Increased council workload without additional resourcing

Councils support the intent of the Vibrancy Reforms but report that they have resulted in some increased workload. Staff must interpret amendments across the *Liquor Act 2007*, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and the Cultural SEPP and explain altered responsibilities and seek greater agency guidance to assist with this task.

This is occurring amid a critical shortage of urban and regional planners across NSW and increasing reliance on less experienced staff.

Councils report that:

- Council roles have shifted from routine complaint management to explaining the reforms and managing expectations. For example, councils report receiving inquiries from businesses about whether they still need to adhere to noise conditions under their DAs.
- Assessment and advisory demands have increased as staff interpret legislative changes and explain altered responsibilities to businesses and residents.
- Community concern regarding noise, anti-social behaviour, late-night impacts and public safety has intensified in some areas, particularly during peak visitation periods.

These pressures add complexity to core planning functions and compound existing workforce constraints in councils.

Recommendation 6 - That the NSW Government provide targeted implementation support to councils for additional planning, compliance and advisory workload arising from the reforms.

Recommendation 7 - That the NSW Government ensure that any future regulatory amendments are accompanied by clear transitional guidance.

Difficulty with managing noise without clear guidelines

With the aim of reinvigorating culture and the night-time economy, the Vibrancy Reforms have relaxed the parameters for noise at licensed venues by changing how sound is regulated (see **Immediate Operational Uncertainty** section for details).

Councils must still assess entertainment noise under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* using Australian Standards and the NSW EPA Noise Policy for Industry, including acoustic reports and technical criteria.

The ambiguity arises because these planning requirements do not line up with the simplified, complaint-based approach used by L&GNSW. Council planners are unsure how far they should go in imposing noise-control conditions at the development approval stage when similar controls have been removed from liquor licences. They are also left to manage situations where planning rules expect a higher level of noise mitigation than the liquor-licensing system now requires. This creates practical confusion for councils, venues and residents about which rules take priority and how the two systems are meant to work together in day-to-day decision-making.

Recommendation 8 - That Liquor & Gaming NSW and Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure develop a joint operational guideline that explains how planning-system noise assessments and L&GNSW's disturbance-complaint framework are intended to work together. This guideline should include clear examples of how these interact with liquor-licence settings, and which system takes precedence in mixed-use areas to provide consistent, statewide interpretation of the reforms.

The high upfront cost of establishing Special Entertainment Precincts

The reforms encourage councils to establish Special Entertainment Precincts (SEPs) under the *Local Government Act 1993*. This allows a council to designate an area, streetscape or single venue where sound conditions and trading hours are set through a precinct management plan. The *24-Hour Economy Legislation Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Act 2023* and the 2024 amendments strengthened the SEP framework by offering incentives for venues, streamlining regulation and refining governance arrangements.

Councils are broadly supportive of SEPs in principle, including the NSW Government's Kickstart Grant Program which supports establishment. However, the grant is not sufficient to cover the significant upfront cost and administrative burden of establishing a precinct, making it unfeasible for some regional councils. Developing a SEP requires councils to undertake strategic planning, acoustic analysis and extensive community consultation. By contrast, where a metropolitan council already has designated late-night trading areas, the transition to Special Entertainment Precincts is less burdensome.

Byron Shire Council's recent experience also raises questions about the adaptability of the SEP mechanism to support bespoke community visions. The council engaged in community consultation in 2025 to develop a SEP proposal but recently determined to adopt a community-focussed approach outside of the SEP framework to better match what the community wanted. This experience indicates potential misalignment between local priorities on noise, amenity and trading and state-level expectations for precinct design.

Recommendation 9 - That the NSW Government:

- a) review its current funding and technical support for rural and regional councils for establishing SEPs
- b) revise the SEP Guidelines to ensure that they support bespoke precinct designs that reflect locally determined priorities for noise, trading hours and community amenity.

Challenges for the live music and broader arts and culture sector

The work of musicians and performance artists generates extensive public value – culturally, socially and economically. Access and participation in cultural activity empower diverse voices, enrich local life and improve social cohesion and wellbeing. The cultural and creative industries also drive economic growth.

At this early stage of the reforms, councils do not have reliable data on live music activity and related metrics making it difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of reforms or understand trends in the sector. Council experiences vary, from reporting no noticeable change to noticing an increased number of venues, such as pubs and bowling clubs, hosting more live music or performances. Without reliable data it is unclear whether these changes can be attributed to the reforms.

Limits of liquor licence led incentives on the live music and broader cultural sector

Councils acknowledge that, by introducing incentives for licensed venues to program live performance, the Vibrancy Reforms have the potential to increase the number of gigs delivered in hospitality settings. However, there may be limited benefits to local musicians and audiences.

The incentives primarily stimulate activity within alcohol-centred, late-night venues, rather than directly supporting artistic development or long-term sector growth. Programming decisions may also be shaped by the need to satisfy eligibility criteria for extended trading, which does not necessarily promote quality, originality or diversity.

While the reforms increase performance frequency in qualifying venues, they do not address the broader infrastructure needs of contemporary music creation. For example, City of Sydney reports that local songwriting activity indicates evolving participation patterns, including increased female involvement and growth in acoustic, electronic, jazz and art-music genres. These forms often require distinct acoustic conditions and curatorial approaches, such as dedicated live music venues, gallery settings or community-based spaces. They are often not suited to licenced venues environments where music is ancillary to hospitality operations.

Recommendation 10 - That the NSW Government complement incentives for hospitality venues with increased funding to make a wider range of venues accessible for live music, including dedicated live music spaces, galleries and community facilities.

Loss of affordable cultural spaces and implications for Vibrancy Reforms

Rising housing costs are pushing creative and cultural industries out of metropolitan and regional cities. Escalating living costs are increasing inequality of access, making it harder for creative professionals to enter or remain in the sector.

Statewide consultation for the NSW Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+¹ confirmed that access to space is the sector's most urgent need. More than 86 percent of respondents identified rehearsal and practice space as critical, followed closely by community or artist run galleries and flexible collaborative spaces. Workforce growth has also slowed, with affordability pressures and casualisation contributing to financial insecurity and an ageing creative workforce.

Councils reflect that while the impact is most pronounced in metropolitan areas, regional areas experiencing surging property prices and rents are also affected. Small to medium and independent operators are particularly affected. Often sole traders or micro-businesses, they rely on affordable leases, shared facilities and proximity to audiences and cultural infrastructure.

The loss of affordable cultural spaces threatens the growth and viability of NSW's creative and cultural industries. It also limits the potential impact of Vibrancy Reforms. Without a stable creative workforce and accessible spaces, efforts to build vibrant communities will have limited impact.

Recommendation 11 - That the NSW Government reinvigorate the Cultural Infrastructure Plan and collaborate with councils and artists to develop a statewide affordable cultural spaces strategy, including planning mechanisms, leasing models and financial incentives to retain and expand creative spaces across metropolitan and regional NSW.

Workforce precarity and housing insecurity in the creative sector

The sustainability of the live music ecosystem is directly affected by the financial precarity of its workforce. Musicians and artists face severe housing insecurity, driven by irregular employment patterns and low incomes. Average annual earnings for professional artists averaged \$54,500 in the 2021-22 financial year, with \$23,200 from creative work,² posing particular challenges as a result of rising housing and living costs across New South Wales.

There has also been a substantial decrease in the number of musicians nationally, reflecting broader attrition within the sector. Musicians report ongoing financial pressures, limited time for creative development due to secondary employment, mental health strain, burnout, and a lack of sustainable opportunities and structural support.³

¹ NSW Government. (2023). [Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+](#) [PDF]. New South Wales Government.

² Creative Australia. (2024). [A summary and response by Creative Australia](#) [PDF]. Australian Policy Online.

³ Triple J 2023, [What's Up in Australian Music? Social media stress, big DIY energy and multiple jobs](#).

These conditions undermine the capacity of artists to remain in metropolitan and regional centres, participate consistently in local scenes, and invest in long-term creative practice. Without addressing workforce sustainability, venue-based incentives alone will not stabilise or grow the live music sector.

Recommendation 12 - That the NSW Government develops cross-portfolio programs that address income and housing insecurity, supports career pathways development and sustainability within the arts and culture sector.

Ongoing funding cuts and the impact on live music and cultural sectors

Create NSW's regional arts grant funding has played an essential role in supporting the operations, programming and outreach of regional galleries and cultural organisations across NSW. These grants have enabled councils to deliver diverse programs, provide professional opportunities for artists and enable communities to access high-quality cultural experiences.

The 2025–2026 NSW State Budget introduced a major restructure of Create NSW, resulting in significantly reduced financial support for galleries across the state, with regional galleries particularly affected. Reforms to the Arts and Cultural Funding Program under the NSW Government's Creative Communities: Putting Culture at the Heart of the State 2024 to 2033 policy have consolidated funding streams and increased uncertainty for councils and the sector.

Across NSW, 2025 funding outcomes from Create NSW have significantly destabilised the gallery sector. Fewer than half of the 37 council-operated galleries secured multi-year Create NSW support. Only five secured four-year funding, while 14 received two-year funding mostly at reduced levels compared to previous years. The overall funding remains imbalanced, with just 36 regionally based organisations sharing \$7.15 million of the \$17 million annual investment across 82 funded organisations. This decline in support threatens councils' ability to deliver cultural programs and maintain vital infrastructure. Rising costs for staffing, freight, insurance and production mean that reduced grants have an even greater impact.

The flow-on effects extend directly to live music. Council-operated galleries and cultural facilities frequently host live music performances, festivals and cross-artform events, particularly in regional areas with limited dedicated live music infrastructure. Funding reductions force councils to scale back staffing, programming and venue activation, leading to imminent program cuts and fewer opportunities for artists and musicians.

The NSW Government already applies a fair and transparent model for public library funding, ensuring all residents have access to library services regardless of location. LGNSW calls on the NSW Government to adopt a similar approach for annual funding of council-run arts and cultural facilities and events.

In 2025, the cessation of creative development funding, including Creative Steps, New Work and Cultural Access, has further weakened the sector. These programs supported artists to create new work, build skills and develop audiences.

Cuts to arts funding undermine both the spaces and workforce that sustain live music and cultural activity across NSW, disrupting locally produced cultural experiences that create vibrant places. Reduced state funding also compels councils to fill the gap, diverting resources from other essential community services and increasing pressure on already constrained local government budgets.

Recommendation 13 - That the NSW Government provide an annual investment of \$10 million to councils for arts and culture. This would be an average of \$75,000 per council for cultural programming and the arts, boosting the visitor economy, enriching community life, and ensuring even the smallest rural and regional communities have access to cultural experiences that foster social cohesion and livability.

Recommendation 14 - That the NSW Government support creative development programs for emerging musicians and artists to strengthen employment pathways.

Improving night-time economy and the arts and culture sector across our communities

LGNSW welcomes the NSW Government's commitment to revitalising the night-time economy and supporting live performance. While the Vibrancy Reforms represent positive progress, long-term sector growth depends on strengthening the broader creative ecosystem.

Live music and arts and culture is a vital contributor to NSW's cultural vibrancy, nighttime economy, and community wellbeing. However, it does not operate in isolation. A sustainable live music sector depends on the health of a broader local arts and cultural ecosystem that includes venues of varying scales, creative workers, producers and promoters, education and skills pathways, audiences and surrounding small businesses.

Councils play a central role in supporting this ecosystem through planning, infrastructure provision and local cultural programs.

Addressing short-term implementation challenges of the Vibrancy Reforms

Councils remain responsible for local planning, development assessment, and community engagement. As detailed in 'Immediate operational uncertainty' and 'Difficulty with managing noise,' uncertainty about interpreting licensing, noise and consent conditions has increased workload. Addressing these short-term challenges is critical so councils can uphold community amenity, provide consistent advice and support vibrant local economies.

Special Entertainment Precincts offer a valuable mechanism for balancing vibrancy and amenity, but the high upfront cost, technical requirements and workforce constraints make them unviable for many regional and rural councils where venue density and community expectations may differ from metropolitan areas.

Please see recommendations as outlined under 'Challenges for councils'.

Strengthening the creative ecosystem

Councils have highlighted the need for support for the wider live music ecosystem, noting that performance activity depends on more than venue incentives alone. A sustainable sector requires strong pathways for artist development, accessible spaces to create and collaborate, and the skills, networks and audiences that enable creative work to thrive. To deliver lasting impact, reforms must therefore extend beyond individual venues or events and instead bolster the broader conditions that allow the cultural ecosystem to function effectively and equitably across metropolitan and regional communities.

Regulatory reform may have unintended disruptions to existing pathways for nurturing creative development and appreciation. For example, NSW councils regularly host community events that provide performance opportunities for children and young people. Through these activities, local government has provided entry-level experiences that build confidence, creative skills and long-term participation in arts and culture. However, the *Children's Guardian Act 2019* has created barriers for councils to host young performers at civic events.

Under section 92 of the Act, councils must obtain an Employer's Authority when children perform in activities that fall within the Act's definition of entertainment. In practice, this requirement is being applied to low-risk community events triggering detailed administrative, notification and record-keeping obligations. While councils expected to be exempt under clause 55 of the Children's Guardian Regulation, the definition of "entertainment" remains broad and unclear. As a result, many community performances are still captured, despite the recent statutory review recommending reduced complexity and better alignment with low-risk settings.

This ambiguity leaves councils unable to confidently host young performers without assuming the full regulatory burden, leading some to reduce or withdraw youth participation at events, undermining early creative development and limiting access to civic cultural life.

Recommendation 15 - That the NSW Government develop policies that strengthen the broader creative ecosystem beyond live music venues, including support for music discovery and development, education and skills pathways, collaboration opportunities, and sustainable career progression for artists.

Recommendation 16 - That the NSW Government undertake an urgent legislative review of child employment requirements as they apply to council run community events, to enable councils to continue to provide safe and community-rooted performance opportunities for children and young people.

Expanding affordable and adaptable cultural spaces

Councils struggle to support cultural activity because affordable, adaptable creative spaces are increasingly scarce. Rising property prices, redevelopment pressures and the loss of low-cost industrial and commercial stock have reduced the availability of spaces suitable for creation, rehearsal and presentation. Strengthening planning and regulatory settings and enabling councils to repurpose public assets or use development contributions, is therefore essential to maintaining a pipeline of accessible, fit-for-purpose creative spaces across metropolitan, regional and rural NSW.

Fragmented investment, rising maintenance costs and increasing community demand place significant pressure on council-owned cultural assets, especially in regional and rural areas where councils often operate as the primary cultural provider.

Strengthening cross-government coordination and providing reliable, recurrent investment is essential to ensure that cultural infrastructure remains accessible, fit for purpose and capable of supporting live music, creative work and community participation.

Recommendation 17 - That the NSW Government work with local government to expand affordable and adaptable cultural spaces, leveraging government property, development contributions, and regional coordination.

Conclusion and next steps

LGNSW welcomes the Vibrancy Reforms as an important step toward revitalising arts, culture and the night-time economy across New South Wales. Councils value the reforms' intent to expand opportunities for live performance and strengthen local cultural activity.

To fully realise this potential, the reforms must be supported by clearer operational settings, stronger state–local coordination, and the resources councils need to implement the new framework effectively. Addressing the short-term implementation challenges outlined in this submission will reduce uncertainty, improve consistency and support councils to balance vibrancy with community amenity.

Ensuring access to affordable and adaptable cultural spaces, supporting the wider creative ecosystem, and coordinating cultural infrastructure investment will further strengthen the foundations that enable artists, venues and communities to thrive. These improvements are essential for sustaining a diverse cultural landscape across metropolitan, regional and rural NSW.

By working in partnership with councils, investing in place-based solutions, and maintaining an ongoing commitment to equitable cultural access, the NSW Government can ensure the Vibrancy Reforms deliver long-term benefits for artists, audiences and communities across the state.

To discuss this submission further, please contact

Recommendations

1. Operational guidance, accountability and state-local coordination

Recommendation 1 - That the NSW Government publish clear operational guidelines outlining how Liquor & Gaming NSW will assess 'undue disturbance', including criteria and contributing factors.

Recommendation 2 - That the NSW Government establish an information-sharing protocol to improve coordination between Liquor & Gaming NSW and councils regarding complaints, investigations and directions issued under the Liquor Act 2007.

Recommendation 3 - That the NSW Government deliver structured training, webinars and written guidance for councils, businesses and communities on the practical operation of the reforms.

Recommendation 4 - That the NSW Government appoint designated liaison officers within Liquor & Gaming NSW and the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner to provide timely advice to councils.

Recommendation 5 - That the NSW Government employ regional officers to deliver timely guidance informed by local context.

B. Resourcing and transition support for councils

Recommendation 6 - That the NSW Government provide targeted implementation support to councils for additional planning, compliance and advisory workload arising from the reforms.

Recommendation 7 - That the NSW Government ensure that any future regulatory amendments are accompanied by clear transitional guidance.

C. Noise regulation interface and planning alignment

Recommendation 8 - That Liquor & Gaming NSW and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure develop a joint operational guideline that explains how planning-system noise assessments and Liquor & Gaming NSW's disturbance-complaint framework are intended to work together. This guideline should include clear examples of how these interact with liquor-licence settings, and which system takes precedence in mixed-use areas to provide consistent, statewide interpretation of the Vibrancy Reforms.

Recommendations continued

D. Special Entertainment Precincts implementation

Recommendation 9 - That the NSW Government:

1. review its current funding and technical support for rural and regional councils for establishing SEPs, and
2. revise the SEP Guidelines to ensure that they support bespoke precinct designs that reflect locally determined priorities for noise, trading hours and community amenity.

E. Strengthening the live music ecosystem and venue mix

Recommendation 10 - That the NSW Government complement incentives for hospitality venues with increased funding to make a wider range of venues accessible for live music, including dedicated live music spaces, galleries and community facilities.

F. Affordable creative space and cultural infrastructure access

Recommendation 11 - That the NSW Government reinvigorate the Cultural Infrastructure Plan and collaborate with councils and artists to develop a statewide affordable cultural spaces strategy, including planning mechanisms, leasing models and financial incentives to retain and expand creative spaces across metropolitan and regional NSW.

G. Workforce sustainability and artist livelihoods

Recommendation 12 - That the NSW Government develops cross-portfolio programs that address income and housing insecurity, support career-pathways development and sustainability within the arts and culture sector.

H. Funding stability and creative development

Recommendation 13 - That the NSW Government provide an annual investment of \$10 million to councils for arts and culture. This would be an average of \$75,000 per council for cultural programming and the arts, boosting the visitor economy, enriching community life, and ensuring even the smallest rural and regional communities have access to cultural experiences that foster social cohesion and livability.

Recommendation 14 - That the NSW Government support creative development programs for emerging musicians and artists to strengthen employment pathways.

Recommendations continued

I. Pathways for young performers and participation

Recommendation 15 - That the NSW Government develop policies that strengthen the broader creative ecosystem beyond live music venues, including support for music discovery and development, education and skills pathways, collaboration opportunities and sustainable career progression for artists.

Recommendation 16 - That the NSW Government undertake an urgent legislative review of child employment requirements as they apply to council-run community events, to enable councils to continue to provide safe and community-rooted performance opportunities for children and young people.

J. Expanding adaptable cultural spaces

Recommendation 17 - That the NSW Government work with local government to expand affordable and adaptable cultural spaces, leveraging government property, development contributions and regional coordination.