



Media Release – For immediate release

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## Live Performance Australia slams funding silence on eve of drastic cuts

On the eve of unprecedented cuts to small to medium performing arts companies across the country, Live Performance Australia has slammed the silence of the major political parties on funding for the live performance industry.

Live Performance Australia (LPA) Chief Executive, Evelyn Richardson, said, "It's time for all political parties to step up and support new investment and jobs for Australia's \$2.5 billion live performance industry."

As a priority, both the Coalition and ALP must commit to the restoration of \$72.8 million funding to the Australia Council that was cut in the 2015 Budget and which is critical to the longer term viability of our small to medium companies.

"The legacy of these cuts announced in the 2015 Budget to the Australia Council will be realized within the next fortnight when up to 40 per cent of our small to medium companies are likely to be informed they will lose their funding at the end of this year. This will potentially see 20 companies close their doors, costing hundreds of jobs.

"Both sides of politics during Budget week have overlooked the significant contribution the live performance industry makes to the Australian economy. The industry employs 34,000 people and supports more than 500 performing arts companies around Australia and hundreds of venues, producers and music promoters.

"Both major parties have stated their commitment to supporting jobs, growth and innovation. The live performance industry will play a vital role in meeting these goals with the right investment by government," Ms Richardson said.

**ENDS**

### Media contact

Matt Francis  
Newgate Communications  
Ph 0467 777 220  
[matt.francis@newgatecomms.com.au](mailto:matt.francis@newgatecomms.com.au)

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### About LPA

LPA is the peak body for Australia's live performance industry. Established in 1917 and registered as an employers' organisation under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*, LPA has over 400 Members nationally. We represent commercial producers, music promoters, major performing arts companies, small to medium companies, independent producers, major performing arts centres, metropolitan and regional venues, commercial theatres, stadiums and arenas, arts festivals, music festivals, and service providers such as ticketing companies and technical suppliers. Our membership spans from small-medium and not-for-profit organisations to large commercial entities. LPA has a clear mandate to advocate for and support policy decisions that benefit the sustainability and growth of the live performance industry in Australia.