



Media Release – For immediate release

14 February 2019

An Open Letter to the Premier, NSW

Live music industry peak body calls for a stop on rushed new regulations until proper industry consultation undertaken

Dear Premier

We request that you respond to the live music industry's request for a pause on implementation of the new Music Festival licensing scheme and immediately move to convene a roundtable with all the relevant parties, including industry representatives, to cooperate on a workable plan.

The festivals industry needs certainty and confidence about the government's expectations. The process to date has been ad hoc and poorly handled - leading to confusion and uncertainty among festival organisers. There are still many unanswered questions.

We are asking you to **pause the implementation** of new licensing requirements until there has been a proper consultation involving all industry bodies and key stakeholders i.e. music festival owners, regulators, medical experts, emergency services and law enforcement agencies.

We can't rely on the ad hoc assurances given through media in response to representations from a festival operator which have further confused the situation.

The best safety outcomes will be achieved by the government working with industry on policies and procedures that are effective and transparent - not through poorly designed regulations that are imposed without consultation.

The Government must work with the industry - not against it. We are ready to help through a properly managed consultation process, but the current arrangements must be shelved, and any new arrangements developed and implemented properly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Richardson".

Evelyn Richardson

Chief Executive

Live Performance Australia

ENDS



Media contact

Susan Fitzpatrick-Napier
DMG USA/Australia
Office: +1 61 2 8218 2144
susan@dmgpr.com

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About LPA

LPA is the peak body for Australia's live performance industry. Established 100 years ago 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.