



Industry Coalition Calls For Halt Of Music Festival Licence Changes

Dear Member,

The Australian Festival Association has released the following statement in partnership with Live Performance Australia, Music NSW, APRA AMCOS and the Live Music Office in response to growing industry concerns about the NSW Government's proposed licensing for music festivals:

'A coalition of industry groups has rejected the NSW Government's proposed licensing regulations for music festivals and called for a halt to their implementation to allow proper consultation.

The Australian Festival Association has formed a coalition with Live Performance Australia, Music NSW, APRA AMCOS and the Live Music Office to represent industry concerns about the new rules for music festivals which are due to come in from 1 March.

As they stand, the new regulations will put festivals, events and live music in our cities, regional and remote communities under real threat.

A preliminary review of the draft regulations by the AFA yesterday has confirmed the draft regulations are still incomplete and make reference to risk assessment tools and interim guidelines that are still not available for review.

We are deeply concerned the NSW Government is rushing ahead with a new license regime without proper industry consultation and careful consideration of the operational and economic impact of these changes.

The coalition will be meeting with representatives for the Premier today with the following requests:

- The impending Music Festival Licence regulation must be delayed until further industry consultation has taken place*
- The government undertakes a full Regulatory Impact Statement to examine and consider the impacts this will have on regional communities, our significant festival industry, the music industry and the broader community*
- The government acknowledges the significant social, cultural and economic contribution music festivals make to NSW by working closely with the Australian Festivals Association and other relevant music bodies to develop viable, effective and evidence-based safety protocols for festivals*
- To ensure that emergency service costs borne by events are negotiated well ahead of time, and are consistent across NSW events.*

NSW is the largest market nationally for contemporary music and music festivals in Australia, generating \$325m in revenue for the NSW economy with 6 million attendees each year.

We are all strongly committed to the safety at our events and are eager to work with the government on implementing sensible and effective measures developed through a proper consultation process.

We want the government to provide certainty for the music festival industry and consider the far-reaching impacts that these significant changes will have on festival goers, musicians, festival organisers and communities that host them.

Note: The coalition has scheduled a meeting with the Premier's Department on Wednesday 20th February at 2:30pm. A request was made that this meeting includes the Premier and relevant ministers. At this stage, only staff advisers have confirmed their attendance.

Representatives from the newly formed coalition will be in attendance, and speaking, at the Don't Kill Live Music rally on Thursday 21st February in Hyde Park Sydney.'

ENDS

The full media statement can be accessed [here](#).

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