

# Bailout plea if concerts cancelled due to coronavirus

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The \$2bn live entertainment industry has warned of significant disruption to its business and employees if concerts or festivals are scrapped because of the coronavirus.

Peak industry body Live Performance Australia says its members, including concert promoters and venues, are heeding the advice of health officials.

The group has called for support from the federal government's promised \$10bn stimulus package because of the economic impact on its members in the event of shows being postponed or cancelled. Large-scale events in coming months that are expected to attract thousands of fans include the Byron Bay Bluesfest and tours by Iron Maiden, Alanis Morissette and Faith No More.

LPA chief executive Evelyn Richardson said the industry was watching developments after the cancellation of the South by Southwest music festival in Texas.

She said LPA had written to federal Arts Minister Paul Fletcher seeking assistance. "We would be seeking some kind of reserve or compensation fund to assist in keeping venues open, companies operating (and) managing financial flow-on from any cancellations," Ms Richardson said. "Our focus, like the government's, is keeping our businesses open and people employed at the same time as maintaining public health and safety.

"Like other industries, we are looking at the risks and scenarios. If there were limitations on public events then we would want to be part of any stimulus package."

## MATTHEW WESTWOOD



### ARTS CORRESPONDENT

Matthew Westwood, the newspaper's chief arts correspondent, was arts editor from 2008 to 2011. He has been writing about the performing arts, particularly classical music and opera, for two decades. He writes a... [Read more](#)