



wollongong city council  
**CULTURAL  
PLAN**  
2014 - 2018

Live Music  
Background

## Wollongong Live Music Taskforce Report



# Wollongong Live Music Taskforce Report

Prepared for Wollongong City Council by John Wardle

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Cover photo by **Ian Laidlaw**  
**Tumbleweed** performing at Waves, Towradgi Beach Hotel, 31.12.2009

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Executive Summary

In 2013 The Wollongong Live Music Taskforce was established to bring together representatives from the live music sector, Wollongong City Council and Wollongong Police, enabling them to collectively resolve a range of important issues that were considered to have impacted negatively on the local music scene. This report summarises the work of the Taskforce, provides an overview of Wollongong's live music ecology, and recommends actions for the consideration of Council.

In developing their recommendations, the Taskforce has identified areas where Council and law enforcement policy can play a strategic role in optimising live music in Wollongong, including opportunities for audience and sector development as well as potential reforms in regulation associated with planning, noise complaints and liquor licensing.

Taskforce members have outlined a foundation for broader policy development. These Foundation Recommendations include:

- Investigate City planning controls to identify how these instruments can promote the development of the live music sector and City centre revitalisation.
- Optimising processes and hiring policies for accessing Council venues.
- Promoting Wollongong as a safe and creative City.

The wider taskforce recommendation draw from this basis to identify avenues through which to improve processes, develop resources, and build better relationships between artists, venues, Council and Police.

The Taskforce was in strong agreement that the investigation of issues affecting live music in Wollongong must consider all genres of music and that recommendations should be prepared to nurture live music opportunities for all ages and music genres for both performers and audiences.

At this time Council is investigating measures to ensure Wollongong's long-term financial sustainability. With additional funding required to maintain assets and infrastructure, consideration is being given to identifying different combinations of efficiency measures, service reductions, changes to fees and charges and rate rises. This context informed the responsible development of all Taskforce recommendations, and where possible, recommended actions are aimed at integrating with or amending existing programs rather than requiring new structures and further resources.

The Wollongong Live Music Taskforce Report joins with the Cultural Plan and the Evening Economy Strategy and Action Plan to form a suite of documents to go to Council in February 2014.

## 1.2 Establishment of the Wollongong Live Music Taskforce

The Wollongong Live Music Taskforce was established from the Council Meeting of 11 March 2013 where a motion was carried unanimously that:

*Council establish a Live Music Taskforce to work in concert with stakeholders, venue owners, Council and NSW Police, with the aim of developing within the Cultural Plan, a Live Music Protocol for the City of Wollongong and its suburbs<sup>1</sup>.*

The role of the Live Music Taskforce is to consider current issues affecting the provision of live music across the Wollongong Local Government Area and use these findings to inform the development of a Live Music Report that identifies short, medium and long-term actions to Wollongong City Council for consideration.

It will do this by:

1. Highlighting current policies or controls within the remit of Wollongong City Council that, in its opinion, require review or amendment
2. Identifying legislative changes that could be explored with other cities and state government to support live music in Sydney and NSW
3. Advising Council on existing government programs and initiatives (both domestic and international) that have a measurable track record in successfully supporting live music
4. Suggesting cost-effective new projects that would positively impact the live music and performance sector in Wollongong
5. Acknowledging opposing perspectives and seeking workable solutions<sup>2</sup>.

## 1.3 Membership

The Taskforce comprised 10 Community Stakeholders as well as Councillors, Council Staff, and external members including NSW Police and observers, with membership criteria determined as follows:

Community Stakeholders (10 members, no substitutions of membership are permissible), and may include:

- Licensees of venues
- Musicians
- Residents
- Community members with an interest in live music

Internal (members, or their delegates, and others as required for their area of expertise and business, with prior approval of the Chair)

- Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development
- Manager Regulation and Enforcement
- Manager Development Assessment and Compliance



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- Community and Cultural Development Manager
- Economic Development Manager
- Land Use Planning Manager
- 5 Councillors

### External (two members)

- NSW Police, delegate from Wollongong Local Area Command
- Independent Consultant

The membership of the Taskforce was announced on 13 August 2013 and comprised Councillors and Community Stakeholders

- Ann Martin (Chair): Councillor, Wollongong City Council
- Leigh Colacino: Councillor, Wollongong City Council
- John Dorahy: Councillor, Wollongong City Council
- Vicki Curran: Councillor, Wollongong City Council
- Bede Crasnich: Councillor, Wollongong City Council
- Ben Tillman: Owner/Director of Yours and Owls Café
- Carlie Carroll: Operations Manager at The Towradgi Beach Hotel
- Jeb Taylor: Booking agent, promoter and operator of Music Farmers
- Jessie Hunt: Live Music advocate, Filmmaker
- Michelle Hanley: Musician and organiser of one day festivals
- Neil Rowsell: Musician and Operations Manager Illawarra Folk Festival
- Peter Langstaff: Musician and community radio presenter
- Phil Slater: Musician, and tertiary educator
- Shaun Prince: Consultant to the hospitality industry
- Simon Leamon: Musician

### Internal

- Tanya Buchanan, Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development, Wollongong City Council
- Garry Meusburger, Ranger Services Manager Regulation and Enforcement , Wollongong City Council
- Mark Riordan, Manager Development Assessment and Certification, Wollongong City Council
- Sue Savage, Community and Cultural Development Manager, Wollongong City Council
- Mark Grimson, Economic Development Manager, Wollongong City Council
- Edith Barnes, Strategic Planning Officer Land Use Planning, Wollongong City Council

### External

- Licensing Sergeant Paul Hoyer, NSW Police, delegate from Wollongong Local Area Command
- John Wardle, Independent Consultant

In addition to the Community Stakeholders in the Taskforce, the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music was invited to present to the Taskforce with Acting CEO Luke Tierney addressing the

Taskforce at the meeting on 18 September. Alex Masso, Musician and Manager of the Music in Communities Network at the Music Council of Australia was granted observer status for the Taskforce, but gave notice due to touring and performing commitments. Co-Director from the National Live Music Office Dr Ianto Ware was also granted observer status to attend the Taskforce meetings.

Please see Appendix C.

### **1.4 Taskforce Methodology - Meeting Structure**

Taskforce meetings were scheduled over 6 forums between 28 August and 11 December 2013.

Following on from the City of Sydney Taskforce process, The Wollongong Taskforce took a similar direction, with the first meeting addressing procedural matters as well as Taskforce members describing their background, involvement with live music in Wollongong and relating important issues that informed what they would like to see the initiative achieve.

The second meeting saw issues papers prepared to give more detailed background for Taskforce members, particularly with regulatory functions and references. The taskforce then divided into two working groups for the third and fourth meetings, with those who wished to investigate regulation policy and those who wanted to focus on audience and sector development issues going into separate groups.

Whilst the City of Sydney Taskforce had separated into four working groups across 1) Liquor Licensing, 2) Planning and Noise, 3) The Building Code of Australia (BCA), and 4) Audience and Sector Development, the Wollongong Taskforce recognised that the policy investigation into The Building Code of Australia (BCA) as well as other complex NSW regulatory issues were already being investigated by the Sydney process, and that a single regulation working group that examined planning, noise, and liquor licensing issues for the Wollongong live music sector was satisfactory.

### **1.5 Taskforce Methodology - Policy Development and Relationship Building**

The Wollongong Taskforce was directly informed by the City of Sydney Taskforce terms of reference. Wollongong City Council adopted the 'Taskforce' model specifically as an efficient process to consider current issues affecting the provision of live music across the Wollongong LGA and to inform the development of short, medium and long-term actions for consideration.

This approach can be considered to have a series of significant benefits. Undertaking detailed investigation of regulatory systems and process builds capacity and knowledge in the live music sector across what are complex and challenging areas. By bringing together stakeholders from the live music sector, Council and Police, the process promotes mutual understanding and working relationships.

This enables the identification of short-term actions, whilst also developing pathways for the achievement of long-term goals, such as regulatory reform. Moreover, the increased understanding and relationships formed through the Taskforce model promote a more responsive policy environment beyond the life of the initiative itself.

### 1.6 Community Engagement

As part of the Taskforce process the Have Your Say Wollongong Community Engagement discussion board was established, which provides a continuing opportunity for members of the public to participate in dialogue around issues affecting the live music sector in Wollongong and the actions identified in the Wollongong Taskforce report.

Community engagement continues as Council and the community consider Taskforce recommendations, and interested participants are encouraged to get involved online at <http://haveyoursaywollongong.com.au/live-music-in-wollongong>

### 1.7 Literature Review

Taskforce members also considered a number of other recent contemporary music policy documents that examined live music policy initiatives nationally and overseas.

- *Accelerating Toronto's Music Industry Growth* – Leveraging Best Practices From Austin Texas
- *Live Music Matters* - The City of Sydney Live Music and Live Performance Taskforce Action Plan (Nov 2013)
- *The Future Of Music In South Australia* - The Thinker In Residence Report by Martin Elbourne for the Dunstan Foundation (Nov 2013)
- The Music Victoria submission to the Victorian State Planning Policy Framework Review Advisory Committee on the application of the Agent-Of-Change principle to the Victorian State Planning system.

It should be noted that each of the first three comprehensive reports were developed with different terms of reference and objectives. The *Accelerating Toronto's Music Industry Growth* study was prepared with the goal of progressing the commercial music industry generally in Toronto, whilst Martin Elbourne's *The Future Of Live Music In South Australia* brief was to investigate music industry policy reform across the tiers of government, which encompasses areas such as education and regional development.

The Music Victoria submission to the Victorian State Planning Policy Framework Review Advisory Committee on the application of the Agent-Of-Change principle to the Victorian State Planning system is not currently a public document but was supplied for the Taskforce's consideration.

## 1.8 Background

In 2012 and 2013 a series of interactions between Police, Council and venues hosting live music caused a great deal of concern in Wollongong's music sector. Many felt that there had been a heavy-handed response from regulators to grassroots live music initiatives.

On February 14, 2013 The Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing responded to a residential noise complaint against The Patch live music venue (part of The Cabbage Tree Hotel in Fairy Meadow) with a direction to cease all amplified live music.<sup>3</sup> This event capped a period in which regulatory impacts on music venues had reached a point of critical mass, with the decline of venues such as the Drop Bar, Sol Studios and Good Jelly, as well as the end of trading at The Oxford Tavern earlier in 2010.

Concern within the music sector had, accordingly, been growing for some time prior to the formation of the Taskforce. The significant efforts of Dr Robert Carr and all involved in The State of the Music Scene Forums of 2011 and 2012 must be acknowledged for bringing contemporary musicians across Wollongong together in a series of meetings that gave local artists, promoters and venues the opportunity to raise issues of concern with Council and Police. Dr Carr has been a long-term advocate for Wollongong musicians and live music and has published extensively over almost a decade on issues relating to the sector. His strong action has been part of a wider movement within Wollongong's music scene, with other notable advocates including Wollongong Conservatorium of Music jazz teacher/Music Council of Australia's Alex Masso, Musicians Nick Russo and Scotty Campbell; Jeb Taylor, who provided the venue for The State of the Music Scene Forums at Music Farmers, as well as activist, film maker and fellow Live Music Taskforce member Jessie Hunt, who showed considerable initiative through generating print and electronic media.

Following on from the 2011 State of the Music Scene Forum held at Music Farmers in April 2011, and the Community Music Conference Town Hall held the following month, Alex Masso's article *Wollongong's Music Scene – Parallels*<sup>4</sup> reviewed the issues affecting Wollongong's live music sector, noting that it required better organisation and advocacy, and better support from government to move forward.

Accordingly, at the 2012 State of the Music Scene forum held at Music Farmers, a Live Music Accord proposal was developed by a team including Dr Carr, Jessie Hunt, Alex Masso and Nik Russo to bring musicians, venues, Council, the Police, and the community together to work on ways to investigate the interests and responsibilities of all parties, build better understanding, and encourage the responsible development of the live music sector. The Live Music Accord also received strong support from the local Federal Member for the seat of Throsby, Stephen Jones.

Shortly thereafter, on 11 March 2013, Wollongong Councillor Ann Martin brought a resolution to Council that specified that consultation and workshops targeted to address the issues raised by the live music sector be included in the review of the Wollongong Cultural Plan. At this meeting through the Public Access Forum where the community can address Council, activist and later, Taskforce member, Jessie Hunt requested that Council consider a change to Councillor Martin's Notice of Motion that a Live Music Taskforce be established, modelled on the City of Sydney Live Music and Performance Taskforce. The motion was put and carried unanimously<sup>5</sup>.

The work of Wollongong's advocates and the forums they organised brought wider awareness of the issues facing the Wollongong live music scene and established a groundswell of support that ultimately saw the establishment of the Live Music Taskforce. The various and comprehensive articles that followed from these events defined the issues facing the scene and supported the Taskforce process as well as the development of this report.

### 1.9 Live Music In Wollongong

The live music scene in Wollongong encompasses a broad range of genres and venues and notwithstanding the issues raised by the live music sector that initiated the Live Music Taskforce investigated in this report, there are a number of organisations, events, and activities that contribute to the cultural diversity of the broader City and the development of Wollongong live music.

Appreciating what Wollongong does well and the contribution these venues and organisations make important so as to get a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the live music ecology, as well as to help identify areas for policy intervention.

Together with the weekly residencies and touring artists that visit the region, there are a number of venues and recent festival events that help define the live music scene in Wollongong.

#### 1.9.1 The Illawarra Folk Festival

On the weekend of January 17 in 2014 The Illawarra Folk Festival had its 29th annual music event at the Bulli Showground. With 150 acts performing 350 concerts<sup>6</sup>, the festival was expected to attract over 10,000 patrons over three days.

The Illawarra Folk Festival presents a number of fringe events from September through to January leading up to the Festival – including Folk By The Sea at the Kiama Showground in September and curating the Illawarra Folk Festival Lounge in MacCabe Park for Viva la Gong.

It was noted as part of Taskforce discussions on transport that the State Rail timetable was amended to provide more services to whilst the festival is on to facilitate efficient access and egress of festival patrons from Bulli Railway Station, and in 2009 The Green Music Train was introduced with three trains leaving from Sydney in 2014 on the weekend of the festival featuring musicians and festival artists.

#### 1.9.2 Viva la Gong

Held last year on 9 November 2013, the annual arts and culture festival in Wollongong featured over 40 local live music acts and aligns local musicians, promoters and venues across three outdoor stages and the Illawarra Folk Festival Lounge in MacCabe Park<sup>7</sup>.

Last year two stages were curated by the team who established Crown St venue Yours and Owls with the Round Stage at the south end of the park showcasing 8 local bands and artists across the afternoon and evening, and the Main Stage having 9 performances from artists including ABC

Illawarra's Nick Rheinberger and Friends through to Triple J unearthed artists Kira Purdu and The Bruise, Steve Smyth, and Ngaiire.

The Illawarra Folk Festival Lounge presented 10 local acts also booked to perform at the Festival at the Bulli Showground in January, whilst the Community Stage hosted world music and dance, choirs and a bush band.

### 1.9.3 The Wollongong Conservatorium Of Music

Situated in the grounds of Gleniffer Brae in Keiraville near the Wollongong University, The Wollongong Conservatorium Of Music is the largest music institution in the City of Wollongong. The Wollongong Conservatorium employs 65 professional musicians, and teaches over 1,400 students a week across classical, jazz, folk, and contemporary music as well as composition and song writing<sup>8</sup>. Administration and classrooms are situated in the Gleniffer Brae Manor House, with instrumental classrooms and ensemble rehearsal rooms in the decommissioned former Church of England Grammar School site on the grounds.

The Wollongong Conservatorium hosts over 100 concerts annually across a range of venues, with the 2013 jazz series featuring artists like Mike Nock and Paul Grabowsky. The 2013 chamber music series featured concerts at the Regent Theatre, at Gleniffer Brae and the Conservatorium, as well as the Thirroul Community Centre, Wollongong Art Gallery and the Wesley Church. Events featuring the four orchestral ensembles, the open day Christmas spectacular and the Jazz Showcase with James & John Morrison and the Megaband (featuring 100 Illawarra school age musicians) were held at the Regent Theatre.

Whilst there may be a general community perception that the Wollongong Conservatorium is an essentially classical music institution, the tuition and concert program has a strong contemporary music component. Concert series of recent years have showcased a significant amount of cutting edge contemporary and international jazz and world music, featuring Australian artists of international reputation such as Guitarist James Muller and Trombonist/Arranger Dave Panichi, as well as world music concerts with contemporary and ancient Indian music, tango, and Bulgarian folk.

### 1.9.4 Theatres and Major Venues

The largest indoor venue in the City is the Wollongong WIN Entertainment Centre (WEC), with a capacity of 6,000 seats<sup>9</sup>, which presents profile international and touring artists.

The Wollongong Town Hall and the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre (IPAC) are both owned by Wollongong City Council. The Town Hall event spaces can be arranged in various formats, with a maximum capacity of 824<sup>10</sup>, and features the important Ronald Sharp Organ. Currently the operation of the Town Hall is under contract to Pegasus Venue Management. The Illawarra Performing Arts Centre (IPAC) has three performing art spaces, the largest of which seats 515 people. Contracted to the Merrigong Theatre Company, the IPAC presents touring programs by Australian Major Performing Arts Companies, local dramatic arts, and musical theatre<sup>11</sup>.

The LGA has a number of historic theatres including the State significant Regent Theatre on Keira St and the restored Anita's Theatre at Thirroul. The Regent Theatre currently plays an important role in the Wollongong music scene, being the host to the larger events from the Wollongong Conservatorium Concert Series in 2013.

### 1.9.5 Globe Lane

The Globe Lane site between Crown St Mall and Burrelli St is a natural small precinct for events, and home to small bars The Little Prince, His Boy Elroy and the former site of the Good Jelly creative space and artists collective. In August 2013 Globe Lane hosted the 'Hand Cut' initiative, which presented a night of free performances and live art by street artists, and later in November 2013 was host to the Globe Laneway Festival organized by Tim Dennis that featured local bands Tommy M & The Mastersounds; The El Caminos; Vince & The Moonlighters; Ben Fowler & Friends; Shelley May & Mikaela Acronym and Joe Mungovan<sup>12</sup>

### 1.9.6 The Farmer and The Owl

In November 2013 the first The Farmer And The Owl festival was held at Wollongong University after extensive negotiations with larger venues in the City were unable to reach an agreement for the event to proceed. Presented by the creative forces behind Yours and Owls on Crown St and Music Farmers in Crown Lane on 4 stages on Saturday November 23<sup>13</sup>, the festival featured 16 main acts headlined by profile Western Australian band The Drones, as well as showcasing up and coming local acts, an acoustic stage, art installations and an indie market featuring creative local businesses. The Farmer and The Owl festival is planned to return in 2014.

### 1.9.7 Original Contemporary Music in Wollongong

In recent years Wollongong has lost two iconic venues that supported local original bands, with The Oxford Tavern site now prepared for redevelopment and longstanding venue The Patch at The Cabbage Tree Hotel ceased presenting live music in 2013 due to noise complaints.

Filling the void left by these venues, there are a number of important rooms that support original contemporary music in Wollongong, with Yours and Owls in the City being the highest profile venue that consistently programs local bands on a weekly basis, as well as curating two stages in the Viva La Gong Festival and promoting the Farmer and The Owl Festival. In September 2013 Yours and Owls underwent a change in ownership from co-owners Adam Smith and Taskforce member Ben Tillman to Daniel Radcliffe, and is now known as Rad.

The UniBar at the University of Wollongong has regular live music events featuring local original contemporary bands, and The Den above the City Diggers RSL also has strong programming of local original acts.

Another important venue for original contemporary bands is The Corrimal Hotel, that features hard rock and metal alongside the monthly residency of The Illawarra Jazz Club and other jazz performances. Formerly known as the Palm Court Hotel, live music is curated by Natalie (licensee) and Rob Dowey, Drummer from the former Oxford Tavern regulars Cyndustry.

## 1.10 A Night On The Town

To better understand the issues faced by venues, Council and Police within the Wollongong City precinct, a tour was undertaken of licensed premises on the night of Saturday 14 September with Wollongong City Council staff working on the Evening Economy Strategy and Action Plan, and licensing Police from the Wollongong Local Area Command (LAC).

Starting at The Little Prince in Globe Lane and moving through San Churro, small bar His Boy Elroy and past the former site of the Good Jelly creative space and artist collective, licensed premises across the range of bars, hotels, nightclubs and restaurants were visited and in many cases the opportunity to discuss licensing and live music issues was taken with licensees and managers.

Attending the Dagwood Bar and Kitchen on Market St we were able to consider the measures that were being investigated to reconcile the amenity issues that were arising from having consolidated residential development across the road from the busy restaurant strip starting at Dagwood and down Corrimal St to the south.

City nightclubs were attended, including The Harp, Ivory and The Glasshouse. International artist Cyndi Lauper was performing that night at the Wollongong Entertainment Centre, and we arrived at the venue as the show was about to finish. Patrons were observed dispersing from the Wollongong Entertainment Centre in a good natured and happy manner without incident or disturbance.

Premises on Keira St were visited including The Living Room, Lorenzos Diner, Amigos Mexican restaurant and the Red Square Tequila Bar before moving on past the Market St / Keira Lane site of the proposed 'container bar' small bar and on to the Illawarra Hotel

The tour finished with late trading Crown St venues Hostage X, Fever Nightclub and Dicey Riley's where The Villains were performing.

Over the course of the evening only two very minor incidents were observed, with a patron cautioned for taking a drink outside a Crown St nightclub for a cigarette and another with an open bottle as they walked through a dry zone within metres from the previous incident directed to empty its contents.

The migration of patrons through the City centre and Crown St mall was observed over the course of the evening and the narrow transport options adjacent to the City centre including the location of taxi ranks was discussed. At this time the Crown St Mall was undergoing redevelopment through the City Centre revitalisation program and significant building works were obstructing the mall.

Of the range of bars, nightclubs, hotels and restaurants visited in the Wollongong CBD on 14 September there were only three premises with live music.

4 Bands comprising Lomera; Kaleidoscope; The Berkshire Hunting Club and Lint were playing at Yours and Owls on Crown St, Cyndi Lauper at the Wollongong Entertainment Centre, and The Villains at Dicey Riley's also on Crown St.



### 1.10.1 Findings

A number of regulatory issues relevant to the live music sector were apparent from discussions with licensees. These also included late night transport for patrons, and historical perceptions of safety in the City that didn't correspond with more recent experience.

As a case in point, the licensee of Dagwood on Market St itemised the challenges faced by retail hospitality premises when noise complaints were made from adjacent residential development. One of the key issues for the taskforce is the expectation of various stakeholders as to land use intent, reasonable activity and noise and amenity. Addressing this issue to ensure that mixed use zoning expectations are supported by associated planning controls is central to the future development and revitalization of Wollongong's nighttime economy.

Speaking with the owner of the Howlin' Wolf Bar, another of the most important issues faced by live music venues generally was described first hand with regard to trading conditions. Opening earlier in 2013, the 97 seat Howlin' Wolf Bar (named after the famous American blues artist) on Crown St has a general bar liquor licence and standard trading hours on weekends closing at 12am on Friday and Saturday nights and 10pm on Sundays.

On the night we visited there was a DJ in the bar, with a live band featuring the night before on the Friday. As licensee Manny Mavridis explained, the sales were up 30% with the DJ than on the night before due to the different consumption pattern and associated financial return from having recorded entertainment as opposed to having a live band. On this occasion and in a further interview in January 2014, Manny explained his experience as a business owner wanting to support live music in his bar but where the turnover is often less when bands are on than if there wasn't a band there at all. As Manny described,

*"Regardless of whether the bands come in or not, the turnover is often the same or less if I have a band than if there was no live music, as audiences that come for the bands will often focus on the music and sit on a drink for the whole set".*

*"The band might finish at 10:30 or 11pm and the patrons will then move on and head to the nightclubs because they know the bar is closing. When the bands finish, I'm getting ready to pack up".*

*"For the Howlin' Wolf to be viable in terms of live music, the bar needs to be able to keep its patrons after midnight and have another hours trading or so. We would really love to be having more live music, but the economics of our current trading conditions are restricting what we are able to do unfortunately<sup>14</sup>.*

It was identified through the taskforce process that there was an understanding in the Wollongong hospitality and live music sector that any application for extended trading would face opposition from regulators, and that therefore venues were reluctant to embark on the costly licence variation process if they had no chance of a successful outcome.

### 1.11 December 2013 Wollongong Live Music Survey

In December 2013 the Taskforce undertook a survey of live music throughout the City, with Taskforce members requested to identify any live music performances that they were aware of.

Gigs were also researched from The Destination Wollongong website, The Illawarra Mercury entertainment listings, venue websites, social media pages and other online gig guides as well as notice-boards in cafes and music retailers.

It should be noted that the programming of music and venues reflects the time of year. Hospitality industry licensed venues presented more ancillary entertainment for holiday crowds than usual with a number featuring Sunday sessions and New Years Eve events. There were also community performances of Christmas carols in parks, and live sites and events in the Mall.

Venues that would program more live music throughout the year including the Wollongong Conservatorium Of Music and the UOW UniBar were quieter in the summer holiday period. For the purposes of this research, music presentation featuring recorded music was not surveyed unless it was a local producer presenting original material.

Table 1. Live music presentation in Wollongong by venue during December 2013.

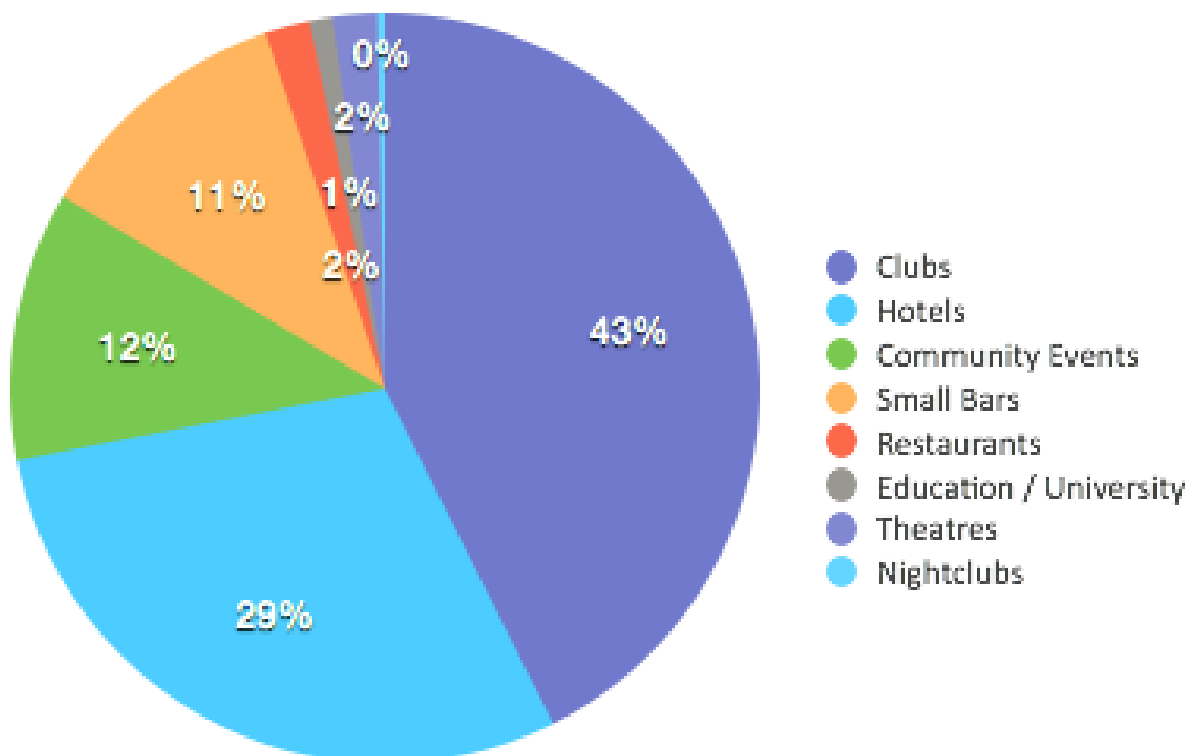
	Venue	Type	Suburb	Gigs
	Rad (Formerly Yours and Owls)	Small Bar	Wollongong	20
	Crown St Mall / Wollongong Central	Public Space	Wollongong	19
	Woonona Bulli RSL	Club (RSL)	Woonona	13
	Beaches Hotel	Hotel	Thirroul	12
	The Illawarra Brewery	Hotel	Wollongong	11
	Balgownie Hotel	Hotel	Balgownie	10
	Club Windang	Club (Bowling)	Windang	10
	Fraternity Club	Club	Fairy Meadow	10
	Dacey Riley's	Hotel	Wollongong	9
	Towradgi Park Bowling Club	Club (Bowling)	Towradgi	9
	Wiseman Park Bowling Club, Gwynneville	Club (Bowling)	Gwynneville	9
	Corrimal Hotel	Hotel	Corrimal	8
	Heritage Hotel Bulli	Hotel	Bulli	8
	Illawarra Yacht Club	Club	Warrawong	8
	Towradgi Beach Hotel Waves Nightclub	Hotel	Towradgi	8
	West's Illawarra	Club	Unanderra	8

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Table 2. Live music presentation in Wollongong by suburb and venue during December 2013.

Suburb	Events
Wollongong	108
Thirroul	26
Towradgi	21
Corrimal	13
Dapto	13

	Venues	Events
Clubs	27	132
Hotels	17	91
Community Events	16	36
Small Bars	6	35
Restaurants	3	6
Theatres	3	6
Education / University	2	3
Nightclubs	1	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>310</b>



### 1.11.1 Clubs

Clubs in Wollongong clearly play a significant role in supporting live music, presenting 44% of performances surveyed. Bowling Clubs and Leagues Clubs had the most live music, with Bowling Clubs hosting a surprising amount of live music (29 events).

A majority of Club entertainment involves covers and small-scale entertainment although there are important venues presenting regular curated events. The Wollongong Blues Club has a monthly residency at Corrimal Leagues Club and Windang guitarist Dan Stephenson from local band The El Caminos presents the weekly blues and roots music program *Sundays at the Green* at Club Windang. The Bombie Bar at the Coalcliff Surf Life Saving Club is also notable for their contemporary music program.

A number of Clubs that support live music are currently undergoing transition, with Wests Illawarra to amalgamate with Corrimal Leagues Club and the Illawarra Yacht Club and the Oak Flats Bowling & Recreation Club also considering their future.

*Survey Findings: Venues 27, Performances 132.*

### 1.11.2 Hotels

Hotels in Wollongong are a major supporter of the live music scene, with nearly a third of live music events held in hotels in December.

Hotels in the northern suburbs promote a considerable number of the weekly live music events in the City, with the Heritage Hotel at Bulli presenting profile local and international blues and roots artists weekly, Beaches at Thirroul having weekly performances and the Towradgi Beach Hotel presenting profile local and international acts in Waves nightclub and local musicians in the sports bar.

The Corrimal Hotel has an eclectic program of curated live music, and Dicey Riley's in the City has live bands on a weekly basis.

*Survey Findings: Venues 17, Performances 91.*

### 1.11.3 Public Space / Community Events

Live music in public spaces in December provided important opportunities for community music participation. Christmas carol events throughout the LGA featured in parks along the coastline and the Wollongong Central Crown St Mall venues provided live music on every December day before Christmas except one. The Crown St Mall venues and New Years Eve concert at Belmore Basin provided performances from recipients of Wollongong City Council's Financial Assistance Grants including The City of Wollongong Wind Band and The City of Wollongong Brass Band who also performed.

## Wollongong Live Music Taskforce Report

Two live music events were held in retirement villages in December including a performance by Folk band Chord-eaux, as well as Thirroul retro pop culture retail store presenting acoustic outfit The Tinkers (comprising Seamus (Jim) Moline & Evelyn Finnerty) on Saturday 21 December.

*Survey Findings: Venues 15, Performances 36.*

### 1.11.4 Small Bars and Restaurants

Changes to NSW liquor laws in 2007 that commenced in 2008 and saw the introduction of the general bar licence and the primary service authorisation (PSA) for on-premises licenses such as restaurants have brought a number of small venues to Wollongong, particularly in the City. New City small bars include Alibi, Café on Legs, Char Char Bar and Grill, Dagwood, His Boy Elroy, Howlin' Wolf, Lorenzos, Lower East, Red Square Vodka Bar, San Churro, The Little Prince, Yours and Owls and The Living Room, with others on the way such as the Sifters Events Container Bar made from recycled shipping containers planned for Market St and Keira Lane.

Both the Red Square Vodka Bar and the Howlin' Wolf Bar currently have weekly open-mic nights, with Wollongong Blues Club president Marty Malone programming fortnightly Friday nights the throughout 2013 at The Howlin' Wolf Bar until November.

Alibi and The Living Room also host live music regularly. None of these premises trade after midnight.

*Survey Findings: Venues 9 Performances 41.*

### 1.11.5 Nightclubs

There was only one live music event not comprising featured recorded music in Wollongong City Nightclubs identified in December gig listings, with Wollongong hardcore band Mary Jane Kelly performing at Hostage X on Friday December 20.

*Survey Findings: Venues 1 Performance 1.*

## 1.12 The Contribution Of Live Music To The Australian Economy

As well as providing opportunities for artists, live music makes a genuine contribution to the national and regional Australian economy.

- A study undertaken by the Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) in September 2011 titled the *Economic Contribution Of The Venue-Based Live Music Industry In Australia* identified that live music contributed \$1.21b to the Australian economy during the 2009/10 financial year, driven by patron spend at live music performances which included ticket sales, food, and drink<sup>15</sup>.
- The 2012 Live Performance Australia ticket attendance and revenue survey shows that contemporary music ticket sales comprised of more than one third of the live entertainment industry's revenue in 2012 with NSW contemporary music revenue representing a proportion of 34.5% of the national total with sales of \$166,537,434.00<sup>16</sup>.
- Aggregate APRA|AMCOS Live Artist Performance Licence Data for Wollongong supplied for the purposes of the Wollongong Live Music Taskforce Report identified that from 01/07/12 to 31/06/13 the 60 Wollongong venues registered for APRA|AMCOS Live Artist Performance Licences spent \$1,987,999.00 on artist fees in the financial year<sup>17</sup>.

## 1.13 Wollongong Live Music References

There are some important resources that describe the history of live music in Wollongong.

- The Steel City Sound website<sup>18</sup> by Warren Wheeler has a detailed history of Wollongong bands and Venues.
- The 2010 academic work of musician Ben Gallan '*Mild-mannered bistro by day, eclectic freak-land at night*' *The Oxford Tavern as Heterotopia and Cultural Asset*, describes the Oxford Tavern history in detail and explores its role in the Wollongong music scene<sup>19</sup>.

## Glossary of Terms

Building Code of Australia	BCA
Development Application	DA
Development Control Plan	DCP
Local Area Command	LAC
Local Environmental Plan	LEP
Local Government Area	LGA
Place of Public Entertainment consent (repealed)	PoPE
Protection of the Environment Operations Act	PoEO

## 2. The Issues

As the Live Music Taskforce process progressed from the initial introductory and procedural agenda, the Taskforce divided into two working groups to investigate in detail the issues affecting the development of live music in Wollongong.

Part two of the Taskforce report correspondingly reflects the focus of these groups, between regulation and audience and sector development issues.

### 2.1 Audience and Sector Development Issues

#### 2.1.1 Access to Public Space and Council Venues

Access to public space and Council venues was recognised across the live music community from contemporary musicians to jazz and classical music as being an area where sector expectations and understanding of how the City's venues are accessed was causing concern.

For the live music sector to better plan for events, having a good concept of what building stock or outdoor venues were appropriate and affordable for what was intended would greatly assist in presenting local live music. Developing a venue matrix of building stock and available sites for live music events through a staged process, identifying criteria including cost, availability, and suitability/fit for purpose aspects (such as Wi-Fi /Three phase power and security requirements for example) would benefit the entire live music community as they investigate options for presenting live music as they prepare for events.

To ensure that these venues are optimised to support live music events, the taskforce determined that undertaking a review of hiring policies, prices, facilities and licensing options could encourage more live music events across genres and demographics.

#### 2.1.2 The Arts Precinct

Comprising the Town Hall, Illawarra Performing Arts Centre, Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong Central Library and the open space enclosed by these cultural assets, the Arts Precinct features the eminent City cultural institutions across the art-forms within the City block defined by Burelli St, Kembla St and Crown St.

To optimize access and the use of these community resources as well as to provide the opportunity for community expectations to be addressed, the Taskforce recommends that consideration be given to include live music and performance use in the development of an Arts Precinct Master Plan. Additionally, building greater awareness in the music sector of costs and logistics involved in running major venues would help ensure expectations and planning for events by the sector were well informed.

Discussions about the Town Hall also covered the use of the Ronald Sharp Organ, and to what extent it was promoted as being played for the general public and available for local musicians. It was

recognised that the organ was being played regularly, and that ensuring its performance profile was promoted along with the rest of the live music sector was essential.

The Taskforce also considered the availability of rehearsal spaces in the City and it was identified that options for school age musicians included neighbourhood centres and for young people, the Wollongong Youth Centre.

### **Recommended Action**

- *That Council develop a venue matrix of building stock and available sites for live music events through a staged process, identifying criteria including cost, availability, and suitability/fit for purpose aspects*
- *That Council review hiring policies, prices, facilities and licensing options associated with City of Wollongong owned venues and spaces so that they are optimised to support live music events.*
- *Consideration is given to include live music and performance capacity in the development of an Arts Precinct Master Plan.*

### 2.1.3 Safety, Perception and the Evening Economy

The Live Music Taskforce considered that the perception of safety in the evening economy was a foundation issue for Wollongong, and managing this perception was integral to audience development as well as to the granting of trading conditions for live music venues.

It was raised by Taskforce members that there is a community concern about public safety built on a historical perception of nighttime risk in the City, and that there were programs underway to examine the issues.

In 2013 the Wollongong City Council Community Safety and Partnerships team undertook extensive research and data gathering on nighttime activity in the City centre. This findings of this research are tabled in the report *'In the Midnight Hour.....A survey of Wollongong City Centre at night.'* and support the development of the Evening Economy Strategy and Action Plan.

The picture described by recent findings from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) depicts some important trends in assault incidents in NSW, where rates of violent incidents have decreased since the introduction of the NSW *Liquor Act 2007*.

*Between January 2007 and December 2012 the number of assault incidents (including domestic violence related assault) recorded by Police as occurring at licensed premises fell from 1,620 to 1,236 (or 23.7 per cent)<sup>20</sup>.*

In a media release noting the downward trend in alcohol related violence in NSW from Monday 30 December 2013, The NSW Minister for Hospitality George Souris stated:

*"Between 2008 and 2012 there has been significant reductions in violent incidents on licensed premises (-28%); alcohol-related assaults on Police (- 35%); alcohol-related domestic assaults*



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*(-12%); alcohol-related non-domestic assaults (-28%); and hospital emergency department attendance rates for acute alcohol problems (-9%).”*

*“While there was a 26 per cent reduction in violent incidents in Newcastle’s licensed premises between 2008 and 2012, there was a 28 per cent reduction State-wide over the same period.*

*“For example, a 38 per cent reduction in violent incidents on licensed premises was recorded for Campbelltown, a 36 per cent reduction for Gosford and a 40 per cent reduction for Penrith<sup>21</sup>.*

Established in February 2011 from the Hassle Free Nights initiative, the Wollongong Precinct Liquor Accord implemented a series of programs developed to minimise or prevent alcohol-related violence or anti-social behaviour, and to protect and support the good order and amenity of the precinct.

These programs included; measures designed to contribute to a greater consistency in venue management throughout the precinct, the Hassle Free Nights late weekend bus service on Friday and Saturday nights, restricting take-away sales and ‘shots’, security patrols on Crown St Mall and precinct safety assessments.

The success of these programs was recognised in a further media release from Wednesday, 23 October 2013, where the CEO of the NSW Australian Hotels Association Paul Nicolaou, attributed the considerable reduction in violence at or near Wollongong licensed premises to the commitment to work together between venues and Police.

*“Assault figures at and near licensed premises in Wollongong are down 38% on 2008 levels – according to NSW Bureau of Crime Statistic and Research figures - due to a co-operative approach between hoteliers, Police and the community”<sup>22</sup>.*

The Taskforce expressed the position that without introducing different options from licensed premises then the way the City was perceived would correspondingly, not change either.

The best way to shift historical perceptions was considered to be encouraging a diverse range of nighttime entertainment options to demonstrate to the community that the City at night catered for all ages and interests, and that live music venues were an alternative to the existing nightclub culture.

### **Recommended Action**

- *Promote Wollongong as a safe City through positive images, visible policing, and making available data on trends in public safety*

### 2.1.4 Marketing and Promotion

The Taskforce identified that there were a range of resources and options available for marketing and promotion of live music events in Wollongong, but that they all had their shortcomings, and that important steps could be taken through the resources of Council, Destination Wollongong and Destination NSW to better promote local music.

There are a number of local options available for live music promotion in Wollongong with most of them being online.

- The Destination Wollongong *What's On* Events calendar has a searchable online website supported by the Destination NSW Get Connected program. Once venues are registered through the Get Connected registration process, mandatory event information such as, event name, an image, the address, contacts, an event description, event date/frequency/status and event classification must be submitted for the event to be registered. This web portal has been identified by the contemporary music sector as being impractical.
- The Illawarra Mercury has a dedicated gig guide where venues can email the performance details to have them listed.
- Bear Media from Em Lonsdale and Ben Abraham regularly promote Wollongong contemporary original music and culture as well as hosting a gig guide.
- The recent *Radar Illawarra* initiative from Josh Butler.
- Zephyr Magazine.
- Noticeboards in cafes, retail stores such as Music Farmers, Hayworth's Music and The Youth Centre.
- Larger venues including The Heritage Hotel in Bulli, Waves at the Towradgi Beach Hotel, the Wollongong Entertainment Centre, The Illawarra Performing Arts Centre and the Town Hall have comprehensive gig guides on their websites with online ticketing purchasing available. Rad (Yours and Owls) has both social media and a dedicated website with an online booking box office.
- Jaybees Entertainment Booking Agency has a comprehensive listing of their artists and venues.
- The Heltersmelter.com website.
- The [whatsoninwollongong.com.au](http://whatsoninwollongong.com.au) website.
- The [outinwollongong.com.au](http://outinwollongong.com.au) website
- The <http://whatsongong.com.au/> website
- Other general online gig guides include [my247.com.au](http://my247.com.au) and [eventfinder.com.au](http://eventfinder.com.au)

Most registered clubs have both a website and a facebook page that can promote live music. Very few take an active role in keeping both up to date, however many of the Bowling Clubs and the Bombie Bar at Coalcliff are active in weekly social media promotion of live music events.

Many small bars and venues hosting free live music events don't have a dedicated website and use facebook to promote their entertainment with varying degrees of consistency.

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The City of Wollongong has a Cultural Newsletter and regular correspondence with rate-payers, and these were seen as being an important way that Council could utilise its own communication resources to spread the word to support musicians and venues.

Whilst larger venues have well oiled marketing resources and online booking facilities, the small to medium sector noted that the independent gig guides and the mainstream media were more practical for their considerations than the Destination Wollongong portal for example, which was considered cumbersome, time-consuming, and not on the radar of the target audience.

In light of this, ideas about how Destination Wollongong could still make a contribution and better align their resources to progress live music in Wollongong were raised, including;

- Strategies could be developed for promoting regular, year-round live music activity throughout Wollongong to visitors and locals through existing independent and media-based gig guides.
- Promoting where you can go regularly to see live music, rather than focusing on individual events.
- Providing marketing support for profile live music events that increase visitation.

### Recommended Action

- *Council promotes live music venues and events through the Cultural Newsletter.*
- *Investigate the possibility of a stand-alone live music communication through Council.*
- *Encourage the sector to pro-actively contribute to a comprehensive gig guide and encourage venues to routinely log their events in the Destination Wollongong gig guide.*
- *Ensure that live music in Wollongong through events, festivals, institutions and venues are promoted beyond the residents of Wollongong through Destination Wollongong.*
- *Make representation to Destination NSW to optimise the capability of their events portal to enhance its function as a gig guide for the live music sector.*

### 2.1.5 Sector Engagement and Representation

One of the key findings from Wollongong State Of The Music Scene forums was developing an advocacy initiative for the live music sector to maintain dialogue with Council in a way which was formally recognised, such as through a live music accord.

The Wollongong City Council Cultural Reference Group charter states:

*The purpose of the Cultural Reference Group (CRG) is to provide information and advice to Council in relation to community cultural development, public art, cultural industry development and the Viva la Gong Festival. Broadly, the Reference Group will enable Wollongong City Council to meet the Wollongong 2022 Community Strategic Plan and in particular those parts of the plan that relate to the creation of a creative and vibrant City. The Reference Group will also provide a point of contact for Council's broader consultation with the cultural community of the Local Government Area (LGA)<sup>23</sup>.*

Having a representative from the Live Music Taskforce included in the Cultural Reference Group would help ensure that the interests of the live music sector are considered as the reference group gives guidance throughout the year on cultural development.

In December 2013 Taskforce members were given the opportunity to apply for a vacant position on the Cultural Reference Group, and with one application received from the Taskforce, Neil Rowsell was invited to accept the position in January 2014. Following on from the Taskforce Action plan progressing through Council, the Cultural Reference Group could consider an ongoing agenda item relating to live music and implementing the recommendations of this report.

It was noted during a taskforce meeting that the Wollongong Film sector meet monthly at small bar His Boy Elroy, to network and discuss ideas in how they can work together to progress local industry. Encouraging the live music sector to show similar initiative could maintain interaction following on from the Taskforce process, and keep the sector further engaged as recommendations are progressed. The former Wollongong Live Music Roundtable model also provides a template for continuing dialogue with Council.

### **Recommended Action**

- *Wollongong City Council Cultural Reference Group includes a representative from the Live Music Taskforce.*
- *Encourage the music sector to meet regularly at a live music venue to investigate issues facing the live music scene in Wollongong.*

### 2.1.6 Information Resources

Described recently by the Director of Environment and Community Management at a Sydney metropolitan council as “like running a hurdle race in the dark”, the daunting intersection of liquor, planning and building regulation that apply to live music venues is often the first experience many artists and venue managers have with Council.

Notwithstanding the probity implications for planning and economic development departments to keep certain functions at arms length, Council also has a responsibility to ensure that applicants to Council for development initiatives are able understand how the planning process works and have certainty in performance requirements.

The more informed the music sector is, the less likely it is to interact with Police and Council in the types of circumstances that have impacted venues in the past, as well as reducing expense and pain when creating venues and events. The recent establishment of the small business development assessment team within Council already demonstrates a commitment by Council to support small to medium sector enterprise in Wollongong. This unit was created to deliver an improved application service for small to medium enterprise applications such as new cafés, small bars, shops, service providers, or new industrial unit occupiers to negotiate approvals processes and commences early in

2014. Ensuring the development assessment team is resourced to deliver this service and making it available for the creative sector would be of great benefit to the cultural development of the City. This is an excellent initiative, and its formation precedes the corresponding recommendation from the City of Sydney Live Music and Performance Taskforce for the City of Sydney<sup>24</sup>.

*1.3.1 Recommendation: Establish a live music and performance liaison role that acts as first point of contact for regulatory enquiries and applications in relation to live music and performance.*

Created to provide a broad overview of what's involved in setting up a live music venue, the City Of Sydney Live Music 101 small business seminars have been very well received by the live music sector in Sydney, and feature presentations across the issues that affect live music venues. These forums have comprised venue owners describing strategies for operating successful venues, acoustic consultants discussing considerations and strategies to ameliorate noise issues and reduce complaints, how APRA live music venue licensing works for artists and venues, as well as Council cultural and regulatory staff explaining their various roles and responsibilities.

Hosting small business seminars to better inform venues and artists would support the development of associated information resources and give the sector an opportunity to further build relationships with Council and Police.

It should be noted that some initiative has already been shown from the local music industry to build skills and capacity for young people motivated to learn about the music industry. MusicNSW, The states peak music body representing the contemporary music sector has been actively involved in providing support and resources to the Wollongong live music sector, and in January 2013 Kristy St Quintin from \$4 Vinyl & Anna Chaplin from Chaplin Arts delivered a six-week series of workshops called "Are You Serious?" as part of the Wollongong Youth Services Program at 5pm on Thursday afternoons at the Youth Centre<sup>25</sup>. More projects are planned for 2014.

### **Recommended Action**

- *Align Council's information resources and access where relevant across planning, economic development and culture to support the development of live music in Wollongong.*
- *Resource the development assessment team to help deliver improved information and guidance for proponents of live music/performance throughout the application process.*
- *Investigate opportunities for hosting an information session for the live music sector to advise the community on how to establish a live music venue informed by the City Of Sydney Live Music 101 small business seminars model.*
- *Investigate partnership opportunities with the City of Sydney for dissemination of relevant information prepared from their Live Music and Live Performance Action Plan; including information guides that provide specific information on the process requirements and resources available for setting up a temporary or permanent live music or performance venues and that relate to the Building Code of Australia.*

### 2.1.7 Transport

Venues and musicians were concerned that limited public transport options late at night were an inhibiting factor for audiences to attend live music events in the City due to the distances that may be involved in coming into town. Both the *In The Midnight Hour* report and the *Evening Economy Strategy and Action Plan* have identified that transport is an issue for safety, and further discussions with venue owners raised transport as well as well lit parking and access routes as significant.

In a written submission to the Live Music Taskforce, Wollongong Police considered transport as an important issue with the Wollongong CBD and greater Wollongong area. Police would be encouraged to see the further deployment of taxis; venue operated courtesy buses, private bus operators within the CBD and providing further transport options to the community and residents.

Train services were identified as not running after midnight, and the Dions Night Bus established as an initiative of the Hassle Free Nights Scheme was limited to servicing the Northern Suburbs between Wollongong and Thirroul.

The 2014 Evening Economy Strategy and Action Plan also examines this issue further.

### Recommended Action

- *Investigate opportunities for improved transport at night.*

### 2.1.8 Venue Loading Access For Musicians

Taskforce discussions recognised the importance of easy access for musicians for loading heavy and often expensive musical equipment in and out of venues efficiently and reducing potential for injury or fines. As identified in the associated recommendation of the City of Sydney Live Music and Performance Taskforce Action Plan<sup>26</sup>, loading zones are off limits unless musicians have vehicles considered by NSW Roads and Maritime to be principally designed and constructed for carrying goods.

Encouraging live music venues to approach the Traffic Committee to consider what options could be available with short term parking conditions around performance timeslots adjacent to their venues if required would be an important step Council could take.

To further examine the experience of Illawarra musicians and access to live music venues a series of telephone interviews was undertaken with a number of Wollongong professional musicians that have worked regularly across the LGA. These artists were Mount Kembla singer and guitarist Jamie Barnes, Figtree blues and roots guitarist Illya Swec, Mental As Anything Bass Player Zoltan Budai of Thirroul.

- Jamie Barnes noted that access and loading for registered clubs was usually straightforward, but there were other venues such as the Five Islands Brewery and The Illawarra Hotel where better access for loading would make for less stress<sup>27</sup>.
- Illya Swec identified the Howlin'' Wolf bar as posing challenges for loading in and out as well as the aforementioned Five islands Brewery bar<sup>28</sup>.

- Zoltan Budai noted that loading in the City was more problematic than in the suburbs where generally there was more space<sup>29</sup>.

### Recommended Action

- *Encourage affected live music venues to Investigate supportive parking conditions to ensure better access for musicians at performance times*

### 2.1.9 Grants For Live Music Presentation

A member of the Taskforce commented on their inability to access Council grants for promotion and live music events. These grants are intended by Council to support not for profit organisations in the community and are not aimed for private enterprises that are for profit, even if this is not always achieved.

The Taskforce appreciates the financial sustainability considerations that Council is undertaking and there are no specific recommendations for the cultural grants program at this time, however it notes that other Councils are moving towards project based arts grants rather than solely not for profit organisations, as well as having other precedents for sport and recreation grants and programs for under 18's.

### 2.1.10 Major Events

Throughout the Taskforce Working Group Meetings the experiences of The Illawarra Folk Festival as well as those of The Farmer and The Owl Festival promoters informed Taskforce discussions around major events and infrastructure.

Wollongong does not have a designated, multi-day festival site within the LGA to host major out-door music events, with the largest music event currently being the Illawarra Folk Festival at the Bulli Showground.

Currently the Bulli Showground (and surrounds) site is approx. 120,000m<sup>2</sup> = 12 hectares (30 acres) that enables The Illawarra Folk Festival to include:

- 12 stages - audience capacities from 200 to 1500
- Camping for around 1500 people (500 camp sites)
- Total attendance 10,000 (4 days x around 2000 to 3500 per day)
- Car parking spaces approaching 1000 cars on top of the camping car spaces required

Illawarra Folk Festival organisers have identified that the range of functions required for the festival across venues, marquees, camping, car parking, recycling and waste management suggest they will be approaching capacity at the Bulli site if the current rate of expansion and popularity continues.

Whilst not expected anytime soon, the extension of the Northern Distributor up the Illawarra escarpment to connect with Bulli Pass would impact negatively on the Bulli Showground site, as

current camping sites for The Illawarra Folk Festival and venues in Grevillea Park would be lost.

The development of the Wollongong Events Strategy 2012-15 by Wollongong City Council and Tourism Wollongong recognises the importance of major events infrastructure to the region through the development of an integrated events strategy encompassing Signature Events, Major Events, Key Regional Events and Community Events. Additionally, there is an associated recommendation on p.19 regarding event sites:

**Event sites:** *Identify, research and develop up to three potential event sites: City centre, large-scale single day site, and overnight festival site<sup>30</sup>.*

In 2013 Destination Wollongong progressed this further in the preparation of an Integrated Branding Program for Wollongong City Council, and whilst not a public document, supplied the associated individual recommendation for the purpose of the Live Music Taskforce report and Cultural Plan.

**2.6 Festival Site:** *Assign an appropriate committee with the task of further exploring the option of identifying and developing a designated, multi-day festival site within the region, as championed by Illawarra Folk Festival.*

Section Seven of the Introduction of this report under The Contribution Of Live Music To The Australian Economy describes contemporary music event ticket sales in NSW in the national context. The Illawarra does not currently have a major contemporary music festival to cater for younger audiences and provide opportunities for local bands to support international and national touring artists.

Having a public position that supports the development of these events in Wollongong would potentially generate expressions of interest from festival promoters and encourage larger scale contemporary live music festivals to the Illawarra.

### **Recommended Action**

- *Identify and develop a designated, multi-day festival site within the region.*
- *Through Destination Wollongong investigate and encourage expressions of interest from major contemporary music festivals for an event in Wollongong.*

#### 2.1.11 Regional Tours and Summer Live Music Events

The Taskforce recognised that developing a regional touring initiative for south coast musicians with other Councils would broaden opportunities for south coast artists to perform and develop audiences. The Australia Council for example has a grants program through The Festivals Australia: Regional Festivals Project Fund, and a coordinated proposal could be developed along with other Councils to explore the potential to align live music programming and events in the Summer.

Inspired by the Canadian Festival of Small Halls, The Woodford Folk Festival in Queensland have created their own Festival of Small Halls<sup>31</sup> touring circuit across southern Queensland and northern NSW where festival artists visit regional communities to perform in local and out of the way small halls. Regional Arts Victoria also has a parallel initiative called *Home Is Where The Hall Is*<sup>32</sup> that



celebrates the cultural life of their regional communities. The recommended review of Council venues and hiring policies could also consider celebrating the City's small halls in this way.

Presented by Destination Wollongong, The Wollongong Summer of Fun program features outdoor sporting and family events. The taskforce identified that this program provided a latent opportunity for live music to also be incorporated into future Summer of Fun or similar programs, and that it could be a great opportunity to present regular live music at outdoor events and venues such as swimming pools.

### **Recommended Action**

- *Investigate the possibility of the development and promotion of a summer music series with regional Councils.*
- *Investigate the possibility of a program of live music events at swimming pools in summer as part of the Summer of Fun.*

### 2.1.12 Under 18's Events

The Taskforce investigated issues relating to opportunities available for under-18's to perform and access live music in Wollongong, with a positive response from a number of areas.

- Live music performances across the various outdoor events supported by Wollongong City Council give under 18's the opportunity to hear different genres of live music, with strong contemporary local music programming a feature of this 2013 Viva la Gong Festival.
- The Wollongong Youth Centre features a large auditorium with a full sound and to a lesser degree lighting system, with a separate rehearsal room available for younger musicians to practice regularly. The Wollongong Youth Centre programs a New Performer Night regularly to build the skills of young people.
- The quality of musicianship being developed through local high school programs was also recognised for these programs being active and producing strong performances.

A general concern that arose was the challenges faced by younger musicians in earning income from their performances. Changes to NSW Liquor Laws in 2007 under the Liquor Act 2007 section 123 (3)(b)<sup>33</sup> now permit under 18's to perform in the bar area of licensed premises without committing an offence provided they are accompanied by a responsible adult, however it was not identified as part of the Taskforce process if any Wollongong artists and venues were aware that this was available to encourage opportunities and paid employment for young performers, or for performing parents and teachers to have younger students along to play with them on their own gigs.

Wollongong Licensing Police explained that there are a number of licensed venues with approvals to host minor's functions, and that the process is procedural with standing approvals lasting some time. It was raised that minor's events can also be multi use functions, with transitions from under-18's to adults at any determined point in the evening, Licensed premises can approach Wollongong Police for more information if they are interested in having these events, and can also apply to be granted an

authorisation where minor's can be permitted to use specified parts of the premises provided a responsible adult accompanies them.

There are other opportunities for under 18's to see live music where it's presented in on-premises restaurant licensed premises as well as registered clubs, bowling clubs and hotels with beer gardens. Parents are encouraged to contact venues to determine any conditions that apply to areas where live music is presented that apply to children.

For further financial support, the NSW Governments Indent Partnership Grants Program through MusicNSW provides funding supporting young musicians and in January 2014 \$2,500 was awarded to sixteen Illawarra musical artists through the Kiama Youth Centre<sup>34</sup>.

The availability of targeted information detailing access to rehearsal spaces in the City as well as what trading conditions can be available across the range of options in the liquor act that can encourage live music opportunities could be included in the collated information resource initiative.

### 2.1.13 Research

Providing clarity in land use expectations and certainty for evening economy businesses is critical for City centre revitalisation and for live music venues to exist. Undertaking a survey of environmental noise in the City and suburban evening economy areas and corridors would provide data to inform measures designed to manage noise issues and effects.

The City of Sydney *Open Sydney Future Directions For Sydney at Night Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2030* also makes a corresponding recommendation to inform planning policies for inner City development. Having available data of environmental noise levels in surveyed areas will help ensure appropriate measures are taken through planning controls for suitable development in evening economy zones.

The very simple quantitative survey carried out of December live music events in Wollongong provide great insights into the City's live music ecology. Encouraging the undertaking of further localised research would identify additional areas for policy intervention to support the development of live music in Wollongong, and expand the knowledge base about the cultural and economic contribution of live music to the Illawarra.

### **Recommended Action**

- *That Council supports a noise mapping study of the City centre and suburban evening economy areas to research environmental noise levels.*
- *That Council encourages further research into mapping the cultural and economic contribution of live music to the City of Wollongong.*

## 2.2 Regulation Issues

### 2.2.1 Planning

Throughout Taskforce deliberations about the recent history of contemporary live music venues in Wollongong, there was a collective concern about the adequacy of existing planning guidelines, and a recognition of the importance of setting the ground rules for land use through planning controls if encouraging live music venues, events, and City centre revitalisation was to be achieved

A number of case studies were referenced through these discussions to do with land use expectations – including The Patch live music venue and the associated noise complaints, and the challenges faced by premises such as Dagwood, who were in one sense in an evening economy restaurant strip, but also adjacent to significant residential development.

The implications for the existing venues adjacent to the progression of mixed-use residential development on the site of the former Oxford Tavern and the Dwyer's site on Corrimal St raised questions about what additional construction requirements the City compels residential development to comply with in areas with an existing evening economy or desired future character, to ensure that the intended goals of City centre revitalisation and cultural vibrancy are achieved, and noise complaints from new residents don't ruin the clear potential for the City centre of Wollongong to develop into an exciting and culturally thriving living City.

Undertaking a review of the City planning controls could help identify how these instruments can promote the development of the live music sector and city centre revitalisation through various ways.

Reviewing the aims of the *Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 1990* to specifically reference cultural development would underpin zone objectives supporting live music venues and help plan for future character. As well as for the city centre and suburban evening economy zones, this could also prepare for live music and creative sector development in future consideration of industrial zones as these areas transition in use indexed to the future of heavy industry in the area.

In June 2007 the Australian Building Codes Board commissioned a scoping study report into *External Noise into Residential Apartment Buildings*<sup>35</sup>. This report was commissioned because at this time the National Construction Code has provisions for attenuating noise that is generated internally in residential buildings, but has no provisions for attenuating external noise entering through the building shell. The NSW Planning laws have provisions for attenuating externally generated road and rail noise, but no provision for attenuating external noise for residential development in mixed used evening economy areas. Without a national guideline for this construction specification, the responsibility lies with the Local Government Area planning controls to ensure mixed use residential development is constructed to an appropriate specification for the environment.

For example, *The City of Sydney Central Sydney Development Control Plan 1996 (DCP)* has acoustic privacy controls<sup>36</sup> specifically designed for residential development within the city core to ensure that land use expectations about amenity and a higher level of ambient noise are adequately planned for. A review of the City of Wollongong Development Control Plan might investigate how appropriate controls could be developed to ensure that residential development in the City and evening economy

areas could be applied to ensure city centre revitalisation and evening economy initiatives can co-exist with future residential development.

As well as defining the ground rules through planning controls for development to support live music venues and city centre revitalisation, ensuring residents and business are well informed as to the character of the neighbourhood and the inner city should also inform expectations and pre-empt evening economy land use conflict.

Processes for accessing event locations on Council and Crown land were noted as being complex and difficult, and there is recognition within Council of the need to provide clear and transparent approval processes that are consistent and without ambiguity or unnecessary barriers. Reviewing criteria for exempt and complying development could cut red tape for events on Council and Crown land.

It must be recognised that important steps are already being taken by Council to support the establishment of new live music venues and encourage events through reviewing planning processes. Referenced previously in the report, the establishment of the small business development assessment team within Council to deliver an improved application service for small to medium enterprise applications is a groundbreaking initiative of significance.

Also at this time the Council Community, Cultural & Economic Development Division is in the process of lodging individual generic development applications for major events within designated locations of the City to encourage and stimulate activity. These sites include:

- The Arts Precinct
- Dalton Park
- The City Foreshore Precinct
- Stuart Park
- Wollongong Botanic Gardens
- Lang Park
- Osborne Park
- MacCabe Park

Associated site-specific application criteria including traffic management plans are being developed, as well as a streamlined application process with required information in a single event booking form.

There was some concern amongst members of the live music sector that there may have been a lingering concept that live music in hospitality industry licensed premises was still considered to require development consent. For the record, Place of Public Entertainment (PoPE) development consents were disbanded in 2009. The NSW Department of Planning has an associated information resource on its website at 'Planning for Entertainment'<sup>37</sup>

The Taskforce was also concerned that future planning for the city included providing for the development of the creative industries, and that provision be made to encourage opportunities for the live music and creative sector in future development of industrial zones as these areas transition in use indexed to the future of heavy industry in the area. The importance of adaptable spaces to the creative development of NSW was recognized in the recent ArtsNSW consultation paper, *Framing The*

*Future: Developing An Arts And Cultural Policy For NSW*<sup>38</sup>. This report acknowledges the contribution that revitalization projects have already made to the cultural development of NSW, and recognizes that:

*“Allowing the flexible use of space for artistic endeavour can nurture local creative industries and be a magnet for creative ideas and innovation”.*

Planning for future cultural character in Wollongong would be well supported by considering mixed use zoning without residential development for industrial areas of the City in transition, where revitalisation would transform the use and perception of these areas, and provide jobs and opportunities for the creative sector.

### **Recommended Action**

- *That Council initiates a review of the city planning controls to identify how these instruments can promote the development of the live music sector and city centre revitalisation; as well as to support the findings of the associated Cultural Plan and Evening Economy Strategy and Action Plan.*
- *Remove the planning control requirements (LEP etc) for a DA for festivals and events on Crown or Council Land.*
- *Review Standard Conditions of Development Consent to avoid inadvertent operating restrictions or inconsistencies e.g. with hours of operation or liquor licensing requirements. .*
- *Ensure adequate information resources about responsibilities and land use character are available to venues and residents to pre-empt amenity complaints.*
- *Proposed residential development in mixed use evening economy areas to incorporate relevant acoustic and/or design measures to address noise amenity impacts.*
- *Following review of planning controls, consider providing s149 certificate notations to alert purchasers of properties in close proximity to areas with live music and evening economy character.*
- *That a protocol is prepared for Council Cultural and Economic Development staff to be advised by Planning and Building officers of any Development Application for or variation of consent or licensing conditions of a live music venue as an advisory pathway.*
- *That a program about the City’s cultural priorities and support for live music is implemented for City of Wollongong staff responsible for planning assessments, enforcement and compliance matters. This program could consist of training and annual refreshers about sector trends and issues affecting live music in Wollongong and NSW, as well as the recommendations of this Taskforce and the priorities outlined in associated Cultural Plan and Evening Economy Strategy and Action Plan.*
- *Endorse the pre-lodgment process recommended by the City of Sydney Live Music and Live Performance Taskforce Action Plan (based on the Edinburgh ‘Temporary Theatre Licence’ concept) as it is developed further by the City of Sydney – Through involving City of Wollongong building approval, planning, health and building and cultural staff to support the creation of non-traditional and temporary live music and performance venues.*
- *Encourage opportunities for the live music and creative sector in future development of industrial zones as these areas transition in use indexed to the future of heavy industry in the area.*

### 2.2.2 Liquor Licensing

Most day-to-day interactions between live music venues and regulatory agencies in Wollongong with regards to liquor licensing are with Police, with licensing issues also considered by Council when applying for or varying DA conditions. Whilst Wollongong City Council are the consent authority in charge of DA approvals, the NSW Police has a capacity to provide comment on DA applications, as do the general public and other stakeholders.

The functions of the NSW Liquor Act have significant implications for the live music sector in a number of ways, through the application of noise and amenity complaints processes, as well as in the consideration of trading conditions when applying for or varying a liquor licence.

The NSW Liquor Act recognises the importance of liquor license to the live music sector with a specific reference in the Act. This can be referred to as a supporting reference when a music venue is applying for or varying a liquor licence.

*LIQUOR ACT 2007 - SECT 3<sup>39</sup>*

*Objects of Act*

*(c) to contribute to the responsible development of related industries such as the live music, entertainment, tourism and hospitality industries.*

Currently within the Wollongong LAC there are the following licensed premises:

Licensed Premises in Wollongong LAC by licence class (Not inclusive of Lake Illawarra LAC) <sup>40</sup>			
In the Suburb of Wollongong		In the Wollongong LAC (Helensburgh to Coniston)	
Clubs	7	Clubs	29
Hotels	12	Hotels	26
On-Premises	91	On-Premises	133
Packaged Liquor	4	Packaged Liquor	30
Producer	4	Producer	11

The experience of Howlin'' Wolf licensee Manny Mavridis on the economics of trying to present live music in a venue with standard trading hours described in the introduction section of this report personifies this challenge for the viability of live music venues in Wollongong and if the intended City centre revitalisation is to be achieved. Current regulatory frameworks have the capacity to make it more financially viable to focus on alcohol sales, televised sports and gambling. Indeed, as the Howlin'' Wolf experience indicates, regulatory frameworks can produce disincentives for hosting live performances.

For many music venues, which do not have Gaming Machines or the associated revenue streams of Hotels or Clubs, later trading conditions granting an extra hour after midnight on performance nights can help to counterbalance reduced sales whilst the performance is underway. The culture of

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regulation has so far avoided the extension of trading hours to small bars and restaurants, although there is a belief that such venues have transformed the culture of the areas where they have been embraced, such as Surry Hills, Newtown, Melbourne and so forth. In these instances, adapting trading conditions to support different business models has allowed for greater diversity and an increase in venues focused on cultural activity, as distinct from more alcohol focused business models.

In a written submission to the Taskforce, the Wollongong LAC put their position on late trading for live music venues as follows:

*The Wollongong City Council and the Wollongong Police have been working together for the past number of years to maintain a balance of late trading licensed venues within the Wollongong CBD. This was to reduce a high level of alcohol related crime within the Wollongong CBD. For other venues to apply for late trading they would have to provide evidence as to why they should be entitled to be issued extensions to trade, considering that there are eleven late trading venues located just within the Wollongong CBD. The NSW Police is committed to reducing alcohol related crime and violence<sup>41</sup>.*

From a licensing point of view, Wollongong has two Police Local Area Command in the Local Government Area. Wollongong LAC from Helensburgh to Coniston, and Lake Illawarra LAC from Five Island Road covering Port Kembla and Dapto to Windang in the south.

In discussions with the Lake Illawarra Licensing Unit<sup>42</sup> it was noted that licensed premises were strongly advised through the liquor accord against rock bands and having nightclubs due to a perceived association with violence and crime.

The Lake Illawarra LAC Licensing Unit also noted a blanket objection to late trading extensions for licensed premises for the purposes of providing entertainment. In the event that Council and the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority (ILGA) granted a late trading licence, the Lake Illawarra Police would seek certain conditions be imposed on the licence including acoustic testing and an acoustic engineers report, as well as soundproofing and conducting sound equipment through a noise-limiting device with an associated standard La10 noise condition<sup>43</sup>. Under section 11(2) of the NSW Liquor Act 2007 a failure to comply with conditions to which the licence is subject attracts a maximum penalty of \$11,000 or 12 months imprisonment or both.

Special conditions involving alcohol restrictions that would otherwise be applied to the worst level 1 and 2 violent venues in NSW categorised under schedule 4 of the NSW Liquor Act 2007 with 12 or more alcohol related violent incidents in the previous 12 months would also be requested within the Lake Illawarra LAC, including no glassware after midnight as well as a requirement to provide venue operated transport for patrons.

There is clearly more work to do in this area if new live music venues for contemporary music in particular are to be encouraged to exist in Wollongong and the Illawarra. Alcohol related violence incidents are now in significant decline, and with the introduction of the Wollongong Liquor Accord, and increasingly regulated licensing requirements for venues such as Responsible Service of Alcohol

(RSA) programs, there are important measures in place to ensure licensed premises are well managed.

Subject to trial periods and good management, live music venues that provide jobs for local and touring artists should be recognised with appropriate trading conditions with regards to hours of operation. This would help ensure their viability and compensate for reduced consumption during show times where the audience is focused on the music. This would also allow for artists and the audience to remain in the venue after the show to support the business that provided the jobs and opportunities, rather than migrating to other existing late trading premises in the City, few if any of which are presenting live bands.

It was noted in Taskforce discussions that there was a perception in the hospitality industry that Council often endorsed the Police position on licensing/DA applications and variations for licensed premises. When considering Development Consent/Liquor Licensing Application submissions, Police utilise information recorded and publicly available from BOSCAR as well as drawing anecdotal evidence from information recorded on the Computerised Operational Policing System. Police in consultation with the Wollongong City Council Community Safety Team also utilise Safer By Design Principals in the context of DA/Liquor Licensing Applications. Internal Police data is not made available to the public<sup>44</sup>.

With Council undertaking the *'In the Midnight Hour.....A survey of Wollongong City Centre at night.'* and the development of The Evening Economy Strategy and Action Plan, it is encouraging that Council is looking carefully at City centre revitalisation strategies that could see a new approach.

Ensuring that evidence based decisions are made on licensing assessments as well as with reference to the objectives of the NSW Liquor Act and the cultural development of the City would support the establishment of new venues and appropriate trading conditions for existing venues. Onerous security conditions were also identified by the sector as being a significant burden for the former Otis Bar, which was a smaller venue with low-key live music events catering to local audiences. The imposition of arbitrary security conditions to small venues can drive up overheads and the venue may respond accordingly with recorded entertainment and encouraging higher alcohol sales.

Venues can also work to build relationships with Council and Police and keep informed on contemporary licensing issues through joining the Wollongong or Lake Illawarra Liquor Accords. The Taskforce agreed that live music venues would benefit from membership of these accords and should be encouraged to participate on a regular basis.

### **Recommended Action**

- *That the City of Wollongong encourages appropriate trading conditions to support the viability and development of live music venues, and that licensing applications and variations to trading conditions are considered with regard to the cultural and economic development of the City.*
- *Ensure that comprehensive data on public safety and crime statistics are available to Council and venues to ensure evidence-based decisions are made when determining DA and licensing conditions for live music premises.*
- *Encourage live music venues and small bars to participate in the Wollongong liquor accord, and to maintain good working relationships with Wollongong and Lake Illawarra Police.*



### 2.2.3 Noise Complaints and Live Music Venues

The Taskforce recognised that the interaction between the associate functions in the NSW Liquor Act and the pollution controls under the Protection of The Environment Operations Act that are both utilised to address amenity complaints against licensed premises was a complex area. This interaction is further investigated in the issues section of the *City of Sydney Live Music and Performance Taskforce Action Plan*.

In 2007 order of occupancy provisions were introduced into the NSW Liquor Act to provide context when adjudicating on complaints against licensed premises where certain considerations can give perspective to amenity issues.

*LIQUOR ACT 2007 SECT 81<sup>45</sup>*

*Decision by Director-General in relation to complaint*

*(3) The Director-General is to take the following matters into consideration before making a decision under this section:*

*(a) the order of occupancy between the licensed premises and the complainant,*

*(b) any changes in the licensed premises and the premises occupied by the complainant, including structural changes to the premises,*

*(c) any changes in the activities conducted on the licensed premises over a period of time.*

There is evidence that order of occupancy provisions are working as intended. When making a ruling against the Amble Inn Hotel at Corindi Beach with regards to an amenity complaint, the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority (ILGA) found that although the Hotel had been there first, the change in live music character was a determining factor.

1. *When making its decision the Authority has carefully considered those matters that a decision maker is required to address under section 81(3) of the Liquor Act 2007. Subsection 81(3)(a) concerns the order of occupancy between the licensed premises and a complainant. This is an important, but not determinative, consideration and the Authority is satisfied it is clearly in favour of the Hotel, which has operated at this location, according to the Review Applicant, since 1986 - long before the Complainant took up residence on 6 July 2007. However, on the particular facts of this case this consideration is counterbalanced by what the Authority has found to be a change in activities regarding the provision of live music at the Hotel over recent times.<sup>46</sup>*

Complaints under the NSW Liquor Act are declining substantially in recent years as identified in the following table<sup>47</sup> from the November 2013 review of the NSW Liquor Act 2007 - despite the 2009 removal of Place of Public Entertainment DA consents for live music in NSW that has seen a significant rise in live music in NSW.

Section 79 Noise Disturbance Complaints Finalised	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
	61	28	21	13

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This drop in complaints could either be for a number of reasons, perhaps because alternative avenues are being used for initiating noise complaints against licensed premises.

There is currently no formal protocol to deal with noise complaints against live music venues in the Wollongong LGA. Taking into consideration the importance of live music to the City and the effort and investment involved in establishing a venue, not having a clearly defined procedure for approaching amenity issues provides little certainty for venues and could be considered a disincentive for presenting live music.

The fundamental difference from a live music venues point of view between regulatory processes in the City of Sydney and The City of Wollongong is that noise and amenity complaints are usually referred to Licensing Police, whereas in the City of Sydney LGA the practice has been for Council staff to use the offensive noise provisions under the Protection of The Environment Operations (PoEO) Act, which has no specific reference to consider context when assessing a complaint.

The Wollongong Police LAC procedure is for calls that come through the switch to be referred to the licensing unit who would assess the case, or If a noise complaint were occurring in real time, it would be referred to a Police vehicle to attend/assess/take action.

Most noise complaints against licensed venues in Wollongong are directed to Police, as there is a general community awareness that Council Officers are not on duty at night. If there is a noise complaint from a hall or festival grounds, it would be assessed by the attending Police. All noise in the Wollongong LAC is assessed subjectively against the surrounding area, whether it's residential, industrial or rural, and the nature of the noise.

At the Lake Illawarra LAC licensing unit, the practice is to attend the complainant's premises and take a subjective assessment. If it's considered that under the provisions in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act that the noise is offensive, a notice is issued. It was estimated that noise abatement directions currently average around 4 times a year within the Lake Illawarra LAC.

Councils also have a number of options available<sup>48</sup>; a Prevention Notice, Noise Control Notice or Noise Abatement Direction, and individuals may also apply for a Noise Abatement Order from the local court.

It is unclear what role if any the Liquor Act and associated context provisions plays in the Wollongong LGA.

As part of the Taskforce process Wollongong City Council undertook an analysis of all noise complaints received by Council for 2013.

Of a total of 250 noise complaints, only 2 or 0.8% were against live music venues. The most common complaints were against Roosters; recording 96 or 38.4% of complaints followed by business equipment/outside of hours operations; recording 10.4% of complaints. The third most common cause of noise complaints was for animal noise with 6.4% of complaints<sup>49</sup>.

As identified in the previous section, there is an additional option for an La10 noise condition to be added to a liquor licence. It was an La10 breach that brought an end to amplified music at The Patch

venue in Fairy Meadow in February 2013 and provided the tipping point that led to the Live Music Taskforce being established<sup>50</sup>.

The application of an La10 condition to a liquor licence or the issuing of a noise abatement direction can likely have a serious outcome for the presentation of live music, with many venues giving up altogether. With offensive noise assessments and the application of La10 licence conditions bypassing the context provisions in the Liquor Act process, the live music sector would be better served with a process that delivers mediated solutions, where the presentation of live music can be adjusted in such a way as to reduce any impacts if found, without ending it altogether.

Across other councils in NSW and Government processes, there is a growing direction away from litigation to mediated settlements. The November 2013 review of the NSW Liquor Act of 2007 makes a number of recommendations with regards to the Liquor Act noise complaints process encouraging mediated solutions to amenity disputes<sup>51</sup>. Leichhardt Council has endorsed a Good Neighbours policy<sup>52</sup> where mediation is encouraged, and in December 2013 The City of Sydney Council unanimously endorsed the provision of mediation services for amenity complaints against live music venues<sup>53</sup>. The NSW Small Business Commissioner also offers support for dispute resolution and is developing a Small Business Friendly Councils Pilot Program<sup>54</sup>.

With noise complaints being the domain of both Council and the two Police Local Area Commands, there is an opportunity for this issue and any amenity complaints against live music venues to be also considered as an agenda item when these agencies convene for their regular Community Safety Meetings. This would allow for a better understanding and monitoring of any impacts of a poorly defined process on the development of live music in Wollongong through the various complaints processes and agencies, by incorporating this issue into an existing program, rather than establishing a separate global complaints register.

### **Recommended Action**

- *That a clearly defined and publicly available enforcement protocol for responding to amenity complaints against live music venues is prepared between Wollongong City Council and the Wollongong and Lake Illawarra Police.*
- *Encourage independent mediation between venues and residents in the case of an amenity dispute, to come to a negotiated solution that ensures live music is retained.*
- *That Community Safety Meetings between Council and Wollongong and Lake Illawarra Police also identify any noise complaints against live music venues and events.*
- *Investigate measures to ensure that the authority to issue enforcement measures against live music venues in response to complaints under the POEO Act are restricted to appropriate staff experienced and trained to assess and determine 'offensive noise', and that formal procedures reflect this.*
- *Ensure adequate information resources about responsibilities and land use character are available to venues and residents to pre-empt amenity complaints.*

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- *That a protocol is prepared for Council Cultural and Economic Development staff which ensures they are advised of any amenity complaints against live music venues.*

### 3. Live Music Taskforce Action Plan

#### 3.1 Goal: Civic Leadership and Governance

##### 3.1.1 Foundation Recommendations

- That Council initiates a review of the City planning controls to identify how these instruments can promote the development of the live music sector and city centre revitalisation; as well as to support the findings of the associated Cultural Plan and Evening Economy Strategy and Action Plan.
- Develop a venue matrix of building stock and available sites for live music events through a staged process, identifying criteria including cost, availability, and suitability/fit for purpose aspects.
- Promote Wollongong as a safe city through positive images, visible policing, and making available data on trends in public safety and crime.

##### 3.1.2 Information and Resources

- Align Council's information resources and access where relevant across planning, economic development and culture to support the development of live music in Wollongong.
- Resource the development assessment team to help deliver improved information and guidance for proponents of live music/performance throughout the application process.
- Investigate opportunities for hosting an information session for the live music sector to advise the community on how to establish a live music venue informed by the City of Sydney Live Music 101 Small Business Seminars Model.
- Investigate partnership opportunities with the City of Sydney for dissemination of relevant information prepared from their Live Music and Live Performance Action Plan; including information guides that provide specific information on the process requirements and resources available for setting up a temporary or permanent live music or performance venue and that relate to the Building Code of Australia.

##### 3.1.3 Planning

- Remove the planning control requirements (LEP etc) for a DA for festivals and events on Crown or Council Land.
- Review Standard Conditions of Development Consent to avoid inadvertent operating restrictions or inconsistencies eg with hours of operation or liquor licensing requirements.
- Ensure adequate information resources about responsibilities and land use character are available to venues and residents to pre-empt amenity complaints.
- Proposed residential development in mixed use evening economy areas to incorporate relevant acoustic and/or design measures to address noise amenity impacts.
- Following review of planning controls consider providing S149 certificate notations to alert purchasers of locations with live music and evening economy character.

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- That a protocol is prepared for Council Cultural and Economic Development staff to be advised by Planning and Building officers of any Development Application for or variation of consent or licensing conditions of a live music venue as an advisory pathway.
- That a program about the City's cultural priorities and support for live music is implemented for City of Wollongong staff responsible for planning assessments, enforcement and compliance matters. This program could consist of training and annual refreshers about sector trends and issues affecting live music in Wollongong and NSW, as well as the recommendations of this Taskforce and the priorities outlined in associated Cultural Plan and Evening Economy Strategy and Action Plan.
- Endorse the pre-lodgement process recommended by the City of Sydney Live Music and Live Performance Taskforce Action Plan (based on the Edinburgh 'Temporary Theatre Licence' concept) as it is developed further by the City of Sydney – Through involving City of Wollongong building approval, planning, health and building and cultural staff to support the creation of non-traditional and temporary live music and performance venues
- Encourage opportunities for the live music and creative sector in future development of industrial zones as these areas transition in use indexed to the future of heavy industry in the area.

### 3.1.4 Liquor Licensing

- That the City of Wollongong encourages appropriate trading conditions to support the viability and development of live music venues, and that licensing applications and variations to trading conditions are considered with regard to the cultural and economic development of the City.
- Encourage live music venues and small bars to participate in the Wollongong Liquor Accord, and to maintain good working relationships with Wollongong and Lake Illawarra Police.
- Ensure that comprehensive data on public safety and crime statistics and trends are available to Council and venues to ensure evidence-based decisions are made when determining DA and licensing conditions for live music premises.

### 3.1.5 Noise

- That a clearly defined and publicly available enforcement protocol for responding to amenity complaints against live music venues is prepared between Wollongong City Council and the Wollongong and Lake Illawarra Police.
- Encourage independent mediation between venues and residents in the case of an amenity dispute.
- That community safety meetings between Council and Wollongong and Lake Illawarra Police also identify any noise complaints against live music venues and events.
- Investigate measures to ensure that the authority to issue enforcement measures against live music venues in response to complaints under the POEO Act are restricted to appropriate staff experienced and trained to assess and determine 'offensive noise', and that formal procedures reflect this.
- Ensure adequate information resources about responsibilities and land use character are available to venues and residents to pre-empt amenity complaints.

- That a protocol is prepared for Council Cultural and Economic Development staff to be advised of any amenity complaints against live music venues as an advisory pathway.

## **3.2 Goal: Celebrating our Spaces**

### 3.2.1 Council Venues

- Review hiring policies, prices, facilities and licensing options associated with City of Wollongong owned venues and spaces so that they are optimised to support live music events.
- Consideration is given to include live music and performance capacity in the development of an Arts Precinct Master Plan.
- Identify and develop a designated, multi-day festival site within the region.

## **3.3 Goal: Vibrant Community**

### 3.3.1 Events

- Investigate and encourage expressions of interest from major contemporary music festivals for an event in Wollongong.
- Investigate the possibility of the development and promotion of a summer music series with regional Councils.
- Investigate the possibility of a program of live music events at swimming pools in summer as part of the Summer of Fun.

## **3.4 Goal: Smart Economy**

### 3.4.1 Research

- That Council supports a noise mapping study of the city centre and suburban evening economy areas to identify areas with higher background noise levels and plan accordingly.
- That Council encourages further research into mapping the cultural and economic contribution of live music to the City of Wollongong.

## **3.5 Goal: An Inclusive and Connected Community**

### 3.5.1 Marketing

- Council promotes live music venues and events through the Cultural Newsletter.
- Investigate the possibility of a stand-alone live music communication through Wollongong Council.
- Encourage the sector to pro-actively contribute to a comprehensive gig guide and encourage venues to routinely log their events in the Destination Wollongong Gig Guide.
- Ensure that live music in Wollongong, through events; festivals, institutions and venues, is promoted beyond the residents of Wollongong through Destination Wollongong.

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- Make representation to Destination NSW to optimise the capability of their events portal to enhance its function as a gig guide for the live music sector.

### 3.5.2 Sector Engagement and Representation

- Wollongong City Council Cultural Reference Group to include a representative from the Live Music Taskforce.
- Encourage the music sector to meet regularly at a live music venue to investigate issues facing the live music scene in Wollongong.

### 3.5.3 Transport and Parking

- Investigate opportunities for improved transport at night.
- Investigate parking conditions to ensure better access for musicians to live music venues.



## 4. Appendices

### Appendix A – Wollongong Live Music Taskforce Terms Of Reference

#### WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL LIVE MUSIC TASKFORCE TERMS OF REFERENCE

##### 1. PREAMBLE

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Live music is a vital part of the cultural life of any successful city.

*The economic and employment benefits of the live music scene are substantial – a 2011 APRA/Ernst & Young report estimated its contribution to the Australian economy at \$1.21 billion, with NSW as the largest contributor (32 per cent) and representing the highest level of industry employment.*

*It is also still our community's most popular live performance activity – boasting nearly 48 million attendances across the country in the 2009/10 financial year, four times more than the contribution of Australia's major performing arts companies and major arts festivals combined.*

*Despite its value, the venues that promote and support live music and small to medium scale live performance face challenges resulting from the combined impact of legislative and regulatory changes, including the introduction of poker machines and large sports screens into pubs in the early 1990s, increased costs, changing tastes, increased competition from other forms of entertainment and changed demographics.*

*Many of the challenges to developing, supporting, and fostering the seedbeds of our live music culture are common to inner urban areas. The dramatic increase of residential living in many areas that have traditionally been home to live entertainment venues has also presented government with the challenge of balancing different interests. Meeting these challenges requires co-ordinated, inter-departmental action by a range of government portfolios and at each level of government and a commitment to learn from past actions and experiences of other government agencies around Australia in this area. (Source: Terms of Reference City of Sydney Live Music and Live Performance Taskforce 2013.)*

Wollongong City Council has been working on the development of an active evening economy to create a vibrant and energised city and to ensure cultural and economic outcomes are achieved.

##### 2. OBJECTIVE

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The objective of the Live Music Taskforce is to consider current issues affecting the provision of live music across the Wollongong LGA and use these findings to inform the development of a Live Music Report that identifies short, medium and long-term actions Wollongong City Council might take.

It will do this by:

- a) Highlighting current policies or controls within the remit of Wollongong City Council that, in its opinion, require review or amendment
- b) Identifying legislative changes that could be explored with other cities and state government to support live music in Sydney and NSW
- c) Advising Council on existing government programs and initiatives (both domestic and international) that have a measurable track record in successfully supporting live music
- d) Suggesting cost-effective new projects that would positively impact the live music and performance sector in Wollongong
- e) Acknowledging opposing perspectives and seeking workable solutions.

### **3. LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY**

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The Taskforce is an advisory body to Wollongong City Council local government authority. It is not an executive body or a decision making body. It does not have the authority to:

- a) Expend money on behalf of Council
- b) Commit Council to any arrangement or expenditure
- c) Consider any matter outside its specific reference
- d) Direct Council staff in the performance of their duties
- e) Represent the City in any communication with the public or media.

### **4. TASKFORCE MEMBERSHIP**

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The Taskforce generally shall comprise:

- 4.1 Internal (members, or their delegates, and others as required for their area of expertise and business, with prior approval of the Chair)
  - Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development
  - Manager Regulation and Enforcement
  - Manager Development Assessment and Compliance
  - Community and Cultural Development Manager
  - Economic Development Manager
  - Land Use Planning Manager
  - 5 Councillors

- 4.2 External (two members)
  - NSW Police, delegate from Wollongong Local Area Command
  - Independent Consultant
- 4.3 Community Stakeholders (10 members, no substitutions of membership are permissible). Community stakeholders may include:
  - Licensees of venues
  - Musicians
  - Residents
  - Community members with an interest in live music

## 5. RECRUITMENT

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Internal and External members will be identified and invited to the Taskforce.

Community stakeholders will be invited to participate through a Recruitment of External Members to Committee process. This process will invite proposals for membership via advertising in the media (Advertiser, relevant mailing lists, websites, facebook), venues (eg libraries, uni, TAFE, current venues) and any other relevant avenues. Applications will be received by the Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development, who will convene an internal panel to make recommendations for appointment in a report to Council.

All applicants will be advised of the result of their Application.

## 6. SELECTION CRITERIA

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Appointment to the Taskforce will be made with reference to one or more of the following criteria which must be addressed in the Expression of Interest:

- a) Experience with issues affecting live music and/or small-scale live performance
- b) Capacity to identify and influence other local or state government partners/stakeholders in related subject areas including liquor licensing and accords, the hotels sector, planning and compliance, and the arts sector
- c) Understanding of the legislative, regulatory or financial regime that affect the provision of live music and/or small-scale live performance
- d) Understanding of best practice models and programs to support live music and/or small-scale live performance, particularly management of the potential conflict between noise transfer and residential amenity
- e) Be based in, or a resident of, Wollongong LGA

- f) Have an understanding of specific issues affecting Wollongong.

## **7. CHAIR**

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The position of Chairperson will be undertaken by a nominated Councillor.

## **8. TERM**

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- 8.1** The Taskforce shall be convened for the duration of up to six (6) meetings to take place between June and November 2013.
- 8.2** A person ceases to be a Taskforce member if they:
  - a) Resign
  - b) Fail to attend two consecutive meetings without notice
  - c) Fail to follow these Terms of Reference.
- 8.3** Any member may resign by giving written notification to the City. The General Manager may appoint new members without consulting the Taskforce.

## **9. FEES AND EXPENSES**

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There will be no payment to members of the Taskforce, except for the Independent Consultant who is responsible for developing the Live Music Report on behalf of the Taskforce.

## **10. CONDUCT**

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- Reference Group members will be required to act in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct.
- Meetings will be conducted under the general provisions of Council's Code of Meeting Practice.
- Minutes of meetings will be provided to members and be available to the community on the Council website.

## **11. MEETING ADMINISTRATION, ATTENDANCE AND PROTOCOL**

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- 11.1** Meetings will be serviced by an administrative officer.
- 11.2** The agenda will be distributed at least one (1) week prior to the meeting.

- 11.3 The Taskforce will meet up to six (6) times during the term, on dates and at places to be confirmed at the first meeting.
- 11.4 Minutes of the meeting will be distributed to all members by Council.
- 11.5 Members and Chairperson can suggest additional agenda items provided that those items do not contravene the objectives stated in these Terms of Reference and if time allows.
- 11.6 The quorum of a meeting of the Taskforce will be a simple majority (that is twelve [12] members). No business of the Taskforce will be considered unless a quorum is present. If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting will be dissolved.

## **12. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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A member who has a pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at a meeting must disclose the existence and nature of the interest at the commencement of every meeting. A member having disclosed a pecuniary interest must not be present when the matter is being considered, discussed or a recommendation developed and agreed upon.

## **13. REPORTING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

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- 13.1 The actions determined by the Taskforce will inform the development of a Live Music Report.
- 13.2 This Report will be completed at the conclusion of the Taskforce official meeting schedule and be presented to Council for adoption and implementation no later than 30 November 2013.

## **14. REVIEW**

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Recommendations for amendments to the Terms of Reference can be made however; amendments to the Terms of Reference must have unanimous support of the Taskforce and be approved by the General Manager.

Wollongong Live Music Taskforce Report

Appendix B – December Live Music Survey, Gigs by Venue

Venue	Type	Suburb	Gigs	Venue	Type	Suburb	Gigs
Rad (Formerly Yours and Owls)	Small Bar	Wollongong	20	Beach Bar, Novotel	Hotel	Wollongong	2
Crown St Mall /Wollongong Central	Public Space	Wollongong	19	Bellambi Bowling Club	Club	Bellambi	2
Woonona Bulli RSL	Club (RSL)	Woonona	13	Centro CBD	Restaurant	Wollongong	2
Beaches Hotel	Hotel	Thirroul	12	Corrimal Leagues Club/Wests	Club (Leagues)	Corrimal	2
The Illawarra Brewery	Hotel	Wollongong	11	Dapto Citizens Bowling Club	Club	Dapto	2
Balgownie Hotel	Hotel	Balgownie	10	Dapto Hotel 'Old Pub'	Hotel	Dapto	2
Club Windang	Club (Bowling)	Windang	10	Fairy Meadow Bowling Club	Club (Bowling)	Fairy Meadow	2
Fraternity Club	Club	Fairy Meadow	10	Illawarra Leagues Club	Club	Wollongong	2
Dacey Riley's	Hotel	Wollongong	9	Samuels Thirroul	Small Bar	Thirroul	2
Towradgi Park Bowling Club	Club (Bowling)	Towradgi	9	The Arts Precinct	Public Space	Wollongong	2
Wiseman Park Bowling Club,	Club (Bowling)	Gwynneville	9	The Den	Club (RSL)	Wollongong	2
Corrimal Hotel	Hotel	Corrimal	8	UOW Uni Bar	University	Wollongong	2
Heritage Hotel Bulli	Hotel	Bulli	8	Wollongong Entertainment Centre	Theatre	Wollongong	2
Illawarra Yacht Club	Club	Warrawong	8	Wollongong Town Hall	Theatre	Wollongong	2
Towradgi Beach Hotel					Club (Bowling)		
Waves Nightclub	Hotel	Towradgi	8	Wombarra Bowlo	Club (Bowling)	Wombarra	2
West's Illawarra	Club	Unanderra	8	Austinmer Beach	Public Space	Austinmer	1
Dapto Leagues Club	Club (	Dapto	7	Belmore Basin	Public Space	Wollongong	1
Illawarra Master Builders Club	Club	Wollongong	7	Berkeley Community Centre park	Public Space	Berkeley	1
Ryan's Hotel Thirroul	Hotel	Thirroul	6	Centennial Hotel	Hotel	Helensburgh	1
Port Kembla Leagues Club	Club	Port Kembla	5	Dandaloo Hotel	Hotel	Dapto	1
				Dapto Ribbonwood Centre	Community Centre	Dapto	1
Red Square	Small Bar	Wollongong	5	Diggies	Restaurant	Wollongong	1
The Bombie Bar,	SLS Club	Coalcliff	5				
Berkeley Sports Club	Club	Berkeley	4	Figtree High School. Sporting fields	Public Space	Figtree	1
Collegians Leagues Club	Club	Balgownie	4	Figtree Hotel	Hotel	Figtree	1
				Gleniffer Brae, Keiraville	Public Space	Keiraville	1
Howling Wolf	Small Bar	Wollongong	4				
Illawarra Master Builders Lounge	Club	Wollongong	4	His Boy Elroy	Small Bar	Wollongong	1
The Harp	Hotel	Wollongong	4	Hostage X	Nightclub	Wollongong	1
Thirroul Bowling, Leagues & Rec Club	Club (Leagues)	Thirroul	4	Links seaside retirement village	Retirement Village	Wollongong	1
Towradgi Beach Hotel Sports bar	Hotel	Towradgi	4	Illawarra Performing Arts Centre (IPAC)	Theatre	Wollongong	1
Alibi	Small Bar	Wollongong	3	Lovedoll Superstar	Retail	Thirroul	1
Bulli Workers Club	Club	Bulli	3	Port Kembla Baptist	Church	Port Kembla	1
Corrimal RSL Club	Club (RSL)	Corrimal	3	Port Kembla Golf Club	Club (Golf)	Warrawong	1
Figgy Bowlo	Club	Figtree	3	Rex Jackson Oval,	Public Space	Helensburgh	1
Lagoon Restaurant	Restaurant	North Wollongong	3	The Coniston Hotel	Hotel	Coniston	1
Mt Kembla Village Hotel	Hotel	Mt Kembla	3	The Fraternity Club	Club	Fairy Meadow	1



**Appendix C - Live Music Taskforce**

<b>Taskforce Member</b>	<b>No of Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Taskforce Member</b>	<b>No of Meetings Attended</b>
Cr Ann Martin	6	Paul Hoyer	5
Cr Bede Crasnich	3	Mark Grimson	1
Cr John Dorahy (Resignation received)	1	Mark Riordan	6
Cr Leigh Colacino	3	Michelle Hanley	2
Cr Vicki Curran	5	Neil Rowsell	6
Alex Masso (Resignation received)	0	Peter Langstaff	6
Ben Tillman	5	Pier Panozzo	2
Carlie Carroll	1	Shaun Prince	5
Edith Barnes	6	Simon Leamon	0
Ianto Ware	3	Sue Savage	5
Jeb Taylor	6	Tanya Buchanan	5
Jessie Hunt	5	Garry Meusburger	6
John Wardle	6		

## Wollongong Live Music Taskforce Report

Name	28-8-13	18-9-13	16-10-13	30-10-13	27-11-13	11-12-13
Cr Ann Martin	√	√	√	√	√	√
Cr Bede Crasnich	√	√	√	x	x	x
Cr John Dorahy	x	√	x	x	x	x
Cr Leigh Colacino	x	√	√	√	x	x
Cr Vicki Curran	√	√	√	x	√	√
Alex Masso	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ben Tillman	√	√	x	√	√	√
Carlie Carroll	√	x	x	x	x	x
Edith Barnes	√	√	√	√	√	√
Ianto Ware	√	√	x	√	x	x
Jeannie Nicol Represented by Garry Meusburger	x	x	x	x	x	x
Jeb Taylor	√	√	√	√	√	√
Jessie Hunt	√	x	√	√	√	√
John Wardle	√	√	√	√	√	√
Licensing Sergeant Paul Hoyer	√	√	√	√	x	√
Mark Grimson	x	x	x	x	x	√
Mark Riordan	√	√	√	√	√	√
Michelle Hanley	√	x	x	√	x	x
Neil Rowsell	√	√	√	√	√	√
Peter Langstaff	√	√	√	√	√	√
Pier Panozzo	√	√	x	x	x	x
Renee Campbell Represented by Edith Barnes	x	x	x	x	x	x
Shaun Prince	√	√	√	x	√	√
Simon Leamon	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sue Savage	x	√	√	√	√	√
Tanya Buchanan	√	x	√	√	√	√
Armando Reviglio	√	x	x	x	x	x
Garry Meusburger	√	√	√	√	√	√
Luke Tierney	√	x	x	x	x	x
Annie Edgar	√	√	√	√	√	√



## Appendix D – Further Reading

- *Economic Contribution Of The Venue-Based Live Music Industry In Australia* – Ernst & Young, September 2011.
- *Accelerating Toronto's Music Industry Growth – Leveraging Best Practices From Austin Texas*. Music Canada, March 2012
- *Live Music Matters* - The City of Sydney Live Music and Live Performance Taskforce Action Plan, Nov 2013.
- *The Future Of Music In South Australia* - The Thinker In Residence Report by Martin Elbourne for the Dunstan Foundation, November 2013.
- *The economic, social and cultural contribution of venue based live music in Victoria* – Deloitte Access Economics, June 2011.
- *External Noise into Residential Apartment Buildings, Scoping Study Report* – Bassett Acoustics, June 2007
- *Vanishing Acts - an inquiry into the state of live popular music opportunities in New South Wales* – Associate Professor Bruce Johnson, Dr Shane Homan. July 2002
- *Urban Redevelopment, Live Music and Public Space. Cultural performance and the remaking of Marrickville* – Chris Gibson and Shane Homan. 2004.

## Appendix E – References

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<sup>1</sup> Wollongong City Council. *Minutes, Ordinary Meeting of Council, March 11 2013*. Print.

<sup>2</sup> Wollongong City Council . *Live Music Taskforce Terms Of Reference*. 2013. Print.

<sup>3</sup> Carr, Robert. "Musicians call for long-term solution following closure of another live music venue - Live Music Accord under way." *Patch Press Release, 12.02.13*. n. page. Print.

<sup>4</sup> Masso, Alex. "Wollongong's Music Scene – Parallels." *alexmasso.blogspot.com.au*. N.p., 19 Aug 2011. Web. 3 Jan. 2014. <<http://alexmasso.blogspot.com.au/2011/08/wollongongs-music-scene-parallels.html>>.

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<sup>6</sup> Illawarra Folk festival. *2014 Festival Program*. Print.

<sup>7</sup> Wollongong City Council. *Viva la Gong Program, 2013*. Print.

<sup>8</sup> Tierney, Luke. "Notes for Live Music Taskforce, Acting CEO – Wollongong Conservatorium of Music." 19 Sept 2013. Print.

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<sup>10</sup> "Venue Hire." *Wollongong Town Hall*. n. page. Web. 10 Jan. 2014. <<http://www.wollongongtownhall.com.au/hire.php>>.

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- <sup>16</sup> "Ticket Attendance and Revenue Survey 2012." . Live Performance Australia. Web. 2 Jan 2014. <<https://liveperformance.com.au/sites>>
- <sup>17</sup> Data provided by APRA|AMCOS from Wollongong Live Artist Performance Licences, 01/07/12 to 31/06/13, for the purposes of this report.
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<sup>33</sup> " LIQUOR ACT 2007 - SECT 123 Minor not to enter or remain in certain licensed premises." *New South Wales Consolidated Acts*. Australasian Legal Information Institute. Web. 23 Jan 2014.  
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<sup>40</sup> Data supplied to the Taskforce by the Wollongong LAC. A written request to the Lake Illawarra LAC for an aggregate of licensed premises in the Wollongong LGA under their jurisdiction was not responded to.

<sup>41</sup> Hoyer, Paul. "Re: Live Music Taskforce Report." Correspondence to John Wardle. 11 Jan 2014. E-mail.

<sup>42</sup> Keevers, Gary. Telephone Interview with Lake Illawarra LAC Licensing Sergeant. 09 Jan 2014.

<sup>43</sup> Framework for noise control

- *The LA10\* noise level emitted from the licensed premises shall not exceed the background noise level in any Octave Band Centre Frequency (31.5Hz–8kHz inclusive) by more than 5dB between 7:00 am and 12:00 midnight at the boundary of any affected residence.*

*The LA10\* noise level emitted from the licensed premises shall not exceed the background noise level in any Octave Band Centre Frequency (31.5Hz–8kHz inclusive) between 12:00 midnight and 7:00 am at the boundary of any affected residence.*

*Notwithstanding compliance with the above, the noise from the licensed premises shall not be audible within any habitable room in any residential premises between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 7:00 am.*

*For the purpose of this condition, the LA10 can be taken as the average maximum deflection of the noise emission from the licensed premises. This is a minimum standard. In some instances the Director may specify a time earlier than midnight in respect of the above condition. Interior noise levels which still exceed safe hearing levels are in no way supported or condoned by the Director.*

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<<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/noise/130127NGLGPart2.pdf>>.

<sup>49</sup> Wollongong City Council, "Analysis of Noise Complaints." Message to John Wardle. 24.12.13 E-mail.

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<sup>53</sup> City of Sydney. *City fast-tracks live music priorities*. 11.12.13. Web.  
<<http://www.sydneymedia.com.au/city-fast-tracks-live-music-priorities/>>.

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