

MUSIC BILL 2026

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Need: Why is the policy needed based on factual evidence and stakeholder input?

The aim of this Bill is to introduce and consolidate legislative and regulatory improvements supporting the promotion, protection and growth of the contemporary music industry in NSW under one 'Music Act', to modernise the *Entertainment Industry Act 2013*, to better reflect contemporary artists and the work done by their representatives, to amend the *Protection of Environment Operations Act 1997* to require a standard noise assessment methodology at major music festival sites, and to provide additional clarification on the eligibility requirements of the Live Music Incentive Scheme in the *Liquor Act 2007*.

The Bill seeks to:

- create a NSW Music Act
- repeal and replace the *Sound NSW Advisory Board Act 2025*
- repeal and replace the *Sound NSW Advisory Board Regulation 2025*
- repeal and replace Schedule 1 of the *24-Hour Economy Legislation Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Act 2024*
- amend the *Entertainment Industry Act 2013*
- amend the *Entertainment Industry Regulation 2020*
- amend the *Protection of Environment Operations Act 1997*
- amend the *Protection of Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2022* (POEO Regulation)
- amend the *Liquor Act 2007*.

The Music Bill delivers on a number of NSW Government commitments outlined in the NSW Contemporary Music Strategy 2025-34, and the election commitment to review the *NSW Entertainment Industry Act 2013*.

These reforms act on feedback from the NSW contemporary music community, industry and NSW Government Agencies to optimise NSW's legislative framework specific to contemporary music. This Bill complements the Government's efforts to support live music via the 'Vibrancy Reforms'. It also aligns with the whole-of-government approach to supporting a contemporary creative industry in NSW, similar to the *Screen and Digital Games Industry Act 2025*, which passed Parliament in March 2025.

Objectives: What is the policy's objective couched in terms of the public interest?

The NSW Government is committed to the continued growth of the State's contemporary music industry, ensuring it reaches its full economic and creative potential. The global music industry is projected to experience substantial growth over the next decade, and NSW needs to ensure the State is competitive in the global market, as both a music destination and an exporter.

The Bill will introduce provisions to support, incentivise and increase access to original live music, while providing recognition for accredited live music venues leading the way in this space. Separately, live music venue mediation is intended to provide an alternative avenue for resolving disputes, avoiding costly legal proceedings for complainants and respondents, as well as the unnecessary closure of NSW live music venues.

Finally, this Bill will consolidate disparate legislative provisions under one Act, presenting efficiency benefits for Government and industry participants.

In legislating an all-of-government approach to enabling and supporting contemporary music initiatives, this Bill will also leverage opportunities to deliver key actions of the Contemporary Music Strategy aimed to use music to build community connection and improve mental health outcomes.

Options: What alternative policies and mechanisms were considered in advance of the bill?

These reforms deliver on a series of NSW Government commitments. Some of these commitments make explicit reference to legislative amendments or policy options. As such, limited options analysis was completed.

There has been significant consultation with the contemporary music and entertainment sector to explore and refine options for reform. Where alternatives were considered and tested through stakeholder consultation (such as alternative legislative mechanisms or policy options), it was concluded that they would likely have minimal effect on the program objectives or would present additional cost to government.

Where existing legislation was functioning as intended, and is simply being consolidated under this Bill, alternate options were not considered.

Analysis: What were the pros/cons and benefits/costs of each option considered?

The 2025-26 Budget provided funding of \$20 million to Sound NSW to implement the NSW Contemporary Music Strategy through grants programs, capacity-building initiatives and regulatory reform to strengthen the NSW music industry. The NSW Government has also committed \$103 million over the period of 2023 to 2027 to support contemporary music.

If these amendments do not proceed, the opportunity cost impacts of the current lack of a coherent framework will continue to reduce the contemporary music industry's ability to meet its full potential.

It will also fail to realise NSW Government efficiencies presented by streamlining regulation.

Pathway: What are the timetable and steps for the policy's rollout and who will administer it?

The Bill will be introduced to the NSW Parliament the week of 9 February 2026. If enacted all provisions will commence upon assent, except the Venue Accreditation Scheme, and the live music venue mediation service which will commence on 1 July 2026, and the amendments to the POEO Act and Regulation, which will commence on proclamation.

The Department of Creative Industries, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport will be responsible for administering the Venue Accreditation Scheme and will work with the Small Business Commission to deliver the live music venue mediation service.

In addition, the NSW Environment Protection Authority will work with relevant site owners to update noise assessment methodology in the *Approved Methods* document, ready for publication in mid-2026.

Administration of the *Entertainment Industry Act 2013* will continue to be managed by NSW Fair Trading.

Consultation: Were the views of affected stakeholders sought and considered in making the policy?

The need for a Music Bill arose during extensive consultation for the NSW Contemporary Music Strategy. Sound NSW led further targeted consultation with key stakeholders of the contemporary music industry, including the Sound NSW Advisory Board, to test and refine the functions of the Bill.

The provisions specific to the Venue Accreditation Scheme have been developed in collaboration with Liquor & Gaming NSW and the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner (O24HEC).

Public consultation on the proposed amendments to the *Entertainment Industry Act 2013* was conducted via two 'Have Your Say' surveys that ran between 23 June – 28 July 2025.

Sound NSW and O24HEC also consulted with the Australian Festivals Association, relevant landowners and multiple acoustic experts on the proposed changes to noise measurement and regulation at festival sites, to address long held concerns about the complexity of noise regulation.

In addition, consultation was undertaken with relevant NSW Government agencies including NSW Environment Protection Authority, NSW Fair Trading, the Land and Environment Court, NSW Small Business Commission, NSW Treasury, Liquor & Gaming NSW, NSW Department of Education, Destination NSW, Create NSW, Screen NSW, Placemaking NSW, Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, Venues NSW, Greater Sydney Parklands, and the NSW Government cultural institutions such as the Australian Museum, Museums of History, the Art Gallery of NSW, and the Sydney Opera House.