

From: Taryn McGregor
To: [Committee, Communications \(REPS\)](#)
Subject: Music Industry submission
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To the Committee Secretariat

I write to express my views on the Australian Music Industry.

I professionally joined the Music Industry 2 years ago when my Partners and I purchased Rockinghorse Studios, a professional recording studio in Byron Bay, after living in the region for over a decade.

Refurbishing the Studio was not a cheap or an easy exercise; however, part of our research was looking in to Music Studios in Australia and the story was the same over and over. Until 301 studios in Sydney opened earlier this year, no one had built a professional studio for many years, in fact most had closed over the years, been sold up for development or unviable due to the owners driving the repairs, lack of business, and the increase of education facilities providing commercial services for free.

The closure of studios has been a slow and regular activity for years; however I also see an increase in red tape by local councils for music events and regular closure of live entertainment venues. This is only increasing the difficulty artists are having in finding regular gigs, and for those that do many are unpaid, further decreasing their ability to pay for professional services.

It is a tough gig getting your music heard on radio, the opportunities are far between and the ratio of Australian music being played is well below where it should be.

The same issues seem to be in all levels across of the industry. Lack of funds, lack of payment, lack of location and lack of support, the burden falls upon the artists alone.

I do see a correlation to many of the issues, lack of regulation of the internet increased piracy and this impacts all levels of the industry, however with the increase of streaming systems that are making music so easy for people to access, there is now a shift of where funding is going. However big corporations such as iTunes, Spotify and now Amazon are not going to feed much of that income back to Australia or even to artists themselves.

This last decade or more of working for free, giving away music and finding it hard to create music that generates an income has only increased the desire for people to cut costs, in turn this, in cases, has meant cutting quality. With lack of quality how can artists expect to be showcased on radio?

Copyright, commercial licenses, credits for professionals and payment to the hard-working artists all need to be regulated.

I also see that Australian Music industry is primed to follow in the footsteps of the Australia Movie industry. There is an opportunity to increase awareness of the quality opportunities that Australia has to offer and encourage international artists to visit Australia for creating music not just selling it to us.

Thank you for your time and allowing me to express my concerns.

Regards

Taryn McGregor

Rockinghorse Studios

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