



The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP
NSW Premier
52 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000

CC: The Hon. Dominic Perrotet MP; The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP; The Hon. Victor Dominello MP; The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP; The Hon. Damien Tudehope MP; The Hon. Don Harwin MLC; The Hon. Mark Speakman MP; The Hon. Alex Greenwich MP; The Hon. Chris Minns MP; The Hon. Prue Carr MP; The Hon. John Graham MLC; The Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC; The Hon. Daniel Mookhey MLC; The Hon. Ryan Park MP; the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Councillor Clover Moore

Dear Premier

The Night Time Industries Association (NTIA) represents the hospitality, performance, arts and culture sectors – the frontline service industries most impacted by COVID-19 and this recent outbreak.

The NSW Government has led the way in responding to the pandemic and our Members appreciate the sectoral support offered through grants and initiatives such as 'Dine and Discover' and the \$24 million live music support package. This assistance has tangibly supported NSW businesses, saving jobs and livelihoods, and increased consumer confidence.

Since reopening last year, the night time industries have adapted to comply with public health orders to ensure the safety of our customers and the community. However, this recent lockdown has hurt many of our Members, who are suffering without access to safeguards that kept their businesses afloat during the early stages of the pandemic – like JobKeeper, bank loan holidays, rent moratoriums and Hospitality Award flexibility.

During this lockdown, small hospitality and performance businesses have reported losses of up to \$25,000 per week. For larger businesses, losses range in the order of \$150,000 to \$1.2 million per week. The business supports announced by the NSW Government are simply inadequate – both to meet our immediate needs in the midst of lockdown and to ensure our commercial viability in reopening.

Urgent action is required to support the night time industries through the uncertainty of this lockdown and the road to recovery that lies ahead. A range of measures are included below for your consideration:

- **Providing wage subsidies for employees, including work visa holders** – to enable employers to pay and retain staff on flexible working arrangements during lockdown, and restore working hours in recovery.



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- **Reinstating the rent moratorium** – to enable businesses to negotiate with landlords as they face restricted trading during lockdown.
- **Reinstating delayed payment schemes for Federal and State taxes** – including payroll tax and BAS, to assist cashflow and support businesses not currently generating revenue.
- **Reinstating flexible work provisions under Schedule J of the Hospitality Award** – to allow employers and employees to negotiate flexible work arrangements, including work hours, locations and duties performed.
- **Lowering the \$75,000 minimum earning threshold for the NSW Government COVID-19 Support Grant** - to provide relief to more small businesses and sole traders, including many in the performance sector. Musicians, artists and other performers generally operate as sole traders and should not be excluded from this support.
- **Introducing a Licensed Venue Grant Scheme, for all licensed venues** – similar to that offered in Victoria in 2020, to provide scalable support to venues based on their patron capacity, annual turnover, and venue location.
- **Developing a clear roadmap to reopening and recovery** – working with industry to devise a plan to allow businesses the confidence to navigate restrictions and reopen successfully.

The hospitality, performance, arts and culture sectors rely on in-person patronage and will continue to suffer while lockdowns and restricted trading conditions remain. The supply chain into these sectors, such as food, beverage, design, construction, technology, training, logistics and professional services are all also impacted as a result. The economic and personal impacts are wide-ranging and immense.

The Night Time Industries Association looks forward to working with your team to assist in devising sectoral supports and a roadmap to recovery. We know we can make it to the other side of this outbreak if we work together.

Yours sincerely,

Justine Baker
Chair, Night Time Industries Association