

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

CC: The Hon. Dominic Perrottet 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. Natalie Ward 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 Hon. Yasmin Catley MP; The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Councillor Clover Moore

Dear Premier

**Re: Reopening support for night time industries**

We write in furtherance of our letters dated 12 and 23 July 2021, with thanks for the support provided to the highly-impacted industries that the Night Time Industries Association (“NTIA”) represents - being hospitality, events and performance, arts, culture, retail and their supply chains.

With public funds starting to find their way into private business bank accounts and the reintroduction of mandated rent relief for eligible commercial tenants - for which we thank you - we now turn our attention to the reopening of these industries as safely, efficiently and quickly as possible.

In this, we are seeking more clarity on what the roadmap to recovery looks like, as well as reopening principles and support specifically targeted at these highly-impacted industries, which have experienced extreme adverse economic and personal impacts due to the lockdown. It is our understanding that confidence is at an all-time low since the onset of COVID-19.

We ask you to please consider the following:

1. Establishing a “Rebuild Nightlife Taskforce” within NSW Government to focus specifically on rebuilding the night time economy, with their first priority being **the release of a reopening framework, outlining when and which restrictions will be lifted based on the percentage of**

**the population vaccinated.** We are seeking definition of the level of restrictions that our industries will open with, what the outdoor vs. indoor distancing measures will be at each stage, and if vaccinations will be mandated through Public Health Orders for employees and customers. Our industries need to start planning for reopening, and this clear structure will allow businesses to confidently navigate restrictions and reopen successfully.

2. **Prioritising vaccinations for hospitality workers under 40** by extending the definition of “essential” to these front-line workers, alongside younger supermarket workers and delivery drivers, who have exposure to customers and food service. We have endorsed a letter sent by Mr Yum to The Hon. Greg Hunt MP calling for this prioritisation, joining 500 Australian venues in support of this, including Solotel and Australian Venue Co. Young hospitality workers have said they are willing and eager to get vaccinated, get back to work and see hospitality revive.
3. **Extending the JobSaver program to subsidise businesses for a reasonable recovery period after reopening.** We are seeking an extension to the payments to businesses to cover operating and payroll costs whilst trading in a heavily restricted environment. The fixed costs to open are the same whether the customer numbers are restricted or not. After the previous lockdown last year, many businesses did not achieve a sustainable revenue model until restrictions were lifted to 1 person per 2sqm, with vertical drinking. As the National Code of Conduct for Commercial Leasing is connected to this support program, its extension is critical to the rebuild period.
4. **Introducing specific support for live entertainment and event-based businesses after reopening**, including:
  - a. **Development of a live events fund and underwriting a specific insurance product** to ensure a pipeline of events as part of the recovery, similar to (and broader than) that recently introduced in the United Kingdom and Germany. Insuring against the costs incurred through cancellations, postponements due to COVID lockdowns and capacity restraints will help to boost and safeguard confidence, and to save live events scheduled for the 21/22 summer period. Ultimately, consistency between the States in this regard will be integral to the long-term viability of both the NSW and national live events sector. We urge you to consider working in partnership with the Victorian Government on this, to lead and push the Federal Government to support.
  - b. **Establishment of a grants system focused on programming entertainment into hospitality venues** as restrictions ease. In a restricted trading environment of seated service and capacity limits, venue business models cannot support the scheduling of entertainment. Last year, the live entertainment sector was the first to stop and the last to return. This support will help to improve commercial viability and expedite its revival this year.

The NTIA and its affiliates would welcome the opportunity to work with the Government in bringing these recommendations to fruition and discuss these in more detail by video conference at your earliest convenience. We again ask for your support to best enable the night time industries to reopen safely and thereby revive the valuable night time economy of NSW.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JBaker', written in a cursive style.

**Justine Baker**

Chair, Night Time Industries Association