

ITEM 3.1. CREATIVE CITY AND NIGHTLIFE ADVISORY PANEL**FILE NO: S051491****MINUTE BY THE LORD MAYOR**To Council:

The City of Sydney has developed a vision for a city with a dynamic, inclusive, diverse and safe cultural life and nightlife. This vision, based on extensive consultation with our communities, welcomes creative energy and bold ideas, encourages participation, and values and celebrates our cultural life.

This vision, expressed through our OPEN Sydney Strategy, Creative City Policy and Action Plan, the Live Music and Performance Action Plan and our suite of Public Art Policies and Strategies, has attracted strong support.

Achieving the goals and objectives of these policies, strategies and plans requires action by the City and the involvement of other agencies. Only through taking this action and this engagement will we fulfil aspirations for a vibrant and creative city expressed by the community during our extensive consultations.

These aspirations are already being challenged by the actions of other levels of government. The State Government's lockouts and other restrictions introduced in 2014 and the Commonwealth Government's severe cuts to Australia Council funding in 2015 are the two most high profile examples. While some Australia Council funding has been restored, the impact of the cuts on small to medium arts companies is still being felt.

The NSW Government has made some minor changes to the liquor restrictions. Venues providing live entertainment after midnight may apply for a 30 minute extension to the lockouts on the nights live entertainment is provided. The maximum capacity of small bars has increased from 60 to 100 and small bars may trade until 2am, where this is permitted by their development consent. Restrictions on the types of drinks small bars may sell have been removed.

While these changes are welcome, they do not go far enough and increasingly the creative and nightlife sectors look to the City for leadership and support.

We will have an opportunity to demonstrate this leadership tonight when we consider endorsing the discussion paper, *An Open and Creative City: planning for culture and the night time economy* for public exhibition.

While undertaking this work will contribute to achieving our vision, more needs to be done. We must continue to adopt innovative approaches and respond to new issues and challenges, fuelled by collaboration between the cultural and creative industries, our nightlife sector, government and the private sector.

To help the City fulfil this role, I propose that the City establish a broadbased Creative City and Nightlife Advisory Panel, which would bring together the best people from the creative, cultural and nightlife sectors.

The City has already successfully established effective Advisory Panels. The Design and Public Art Advisory Panels provide expert advice on specific projects and strategies. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel and Inclusion (Disability) Advisory Panel enable the City to engage with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and people with disabilities and gain a deeper understanding of their issues.

The Creative City and Nightlife Advisory Panel would play a similar role. It would provide expert advice on the implementation of our cultural and nightlife policies and strategies. An obvious early task would be providing advice on the issues raised in the Discussion Paper and other reforms needed, including a review of night time trading.

The Panel would also play an important role in helping the City to engage with the creative, cultural and nightlife community and in deepening our understanding of its complex ecology, its challenges and its aspirations. Drawing on this engagement and understanding, the Panel would advise on other issues related to Sydney's cultural life and nightlife, help the City identify and respond to new and emerging issues and suggest opportunities for partnership and collaboration.

This Panel would also play an important role galvanising efforts across the cultural, nightlife, government and private sectors to apply strategic leadership to realising a vision for Sydney as a vibrant cultural and creative city.

To fulfil this role, the Panel would require members with a mix of experience, expertise and participation in the cultural, creative and nightlife sectors, particularly in areas relating to the City's cultural, creative and nightlife priorities. Some members may have many years' involvement, others may bring new energy with fresh ideas and imagination. All would be champions of the City's cultural life and nightlife.

To ensure the Panel achieves these objectives, we need to determine the most appropriate structure and membership and prepare formal terms of reference to set out its role.

I propose asking the Chief Executive Officer to develop a detailed proposal for consideration by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) endorse the establishment of a City of Sydney Creative City and Nightlife Advisory Panel as set out in this Minute; and
- (B) request the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - (i) prepare a structure and Terms of Reference for the Panel; and
 - (ii) identify suitable Panel membersfor consideration and endorsement by Council.

COUNCILLOR CLOVER MOORE

Lord Mayor