




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Live Music Industry

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.09 am): The arts and cultural sector has been amongst the hardest hit by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and this has been especially so for the live music industry. To date, the Palaszczuk government has committed to more than \$79 million worth of initiatives to support the arts and cultural sector through the impacts of COVID-19. This includes a \$22.5 million Arts and Cultural Recovery Package and a further \$7 million in the 2021-22 budget to support the live music industry.

Queensland's live music sector remains one of the most significantly impacted by the pandemic, which is presenting unprecedented challenges to the sustainability of venues and the careers of artists, arts workers and suppliers who rely upon the industry for employment. I was pleased to recently announce that round 3 of the Palaszczuk government's Live Music Support Program has provided around \$2.8 million in further financial support to many of Queensland's dedicated indoor live music venues. This includes support for small to medium sized venues, including \$180,000 to Solbar in Maroochydore, \$100,000 to the Brisbane Jazz Club in Kangaroo Point and more than \$30,000 to The Junk Bar in Ashgrove, with support for larger venues as well, such as \$380,000 to the Fortitude Music Hall.

Our latest support for venues through round 3 of the Live Music Support Program brings the Palaszczuk government's total support for live music to \$13.7 million since the onset of COVID-19 impacts in March 2020. This includes direct financial assistance to 37 venues statewide. Queensland's dedicated live music venues have been very clear that the Palaszczuk government's programs have been a vital lifeline for this important part of the live music ecology. One venue operator on the Sunshine Coast recently wrote—

Over the last year we have only been able to keep our doors open due to the generous State Government support.

Paul Day, President of the Brisbane Jazz Club, said—

It is so important for entertainment to survive in these difficult times and it will now at the Brisbane Jazz Club, along with keeping its staff employed, thanks to the Live Music Support Program and the Queensland Government.

The arts, cultural and creative sectors are key to delivering our plan for economic recovery, each year contributing \$8.5 billion into the state's economy and supporting more than 92,000 jobs. The Palaszczuk government will continue to consult with the live music sector and the wider arts and cultural industries to understand and respond to ongoing and emerging impacts of COVID-19.