NSW Night Time Economy Councils’ Committee

2018 Annual Report
# Table of contents

1. Background .......................................................................................................................... 3  
   1.1 Establishment ................................................................................................................. 3  
   1.2 Role ................................................................................................................................. 3  
   1.3 Meetings .......................................................................................................................... 3  
   1.4 Night Time Economy Forum in 2017 ............................................................................. 4  
   1.5 Email Network ............................................................................................................... 4  

2. Activities in 2018 ................................................................................................................. 4  
   2.1 Masterclasses .................................................................................................................. 4  
   2.2 Advocacy and Communications ...................................................................................... 5  

3. Next Steps .......................................................................................................................... 6
1. Background

1.1 Establishment

The NSW Night Time Economy Councils’ Committee (NTECC) was established in late 2016 by the City of Sydney, Parramatta and Newcastle Councils with the support of Local Government NSW (LGNSW). NTECC now comprises a total of nine councils including Wollongong City, Waverley, Liverpool City, City of Canterbury-Bankstown, Lake Macquarie City and Northern Beaches. These councils have shown interest and expertise in developing the Night Time Economy.

Those on the NTECC are staff members (generally one representative per organisation) with a diverse range of knowledge, including economic development, community safety, urban design, place making, culture and advocacy.

1.2 Role

NTECC raises awareness of the value of Night Time Economies (NTEs); advocates to state and federal governments; shares information on the best-practice management of NTEs; and seeks to build partnerships and networks around NTE initiatives.

The terms of reference for the committee are below:

1. share information on best practice approaches and contemporary issues to build knowledge and council capabilities to shape vibrant, safe and sustainable NTEs
2. establish a consistent approach to the development and management of NTEs to achieve positive outcomes for business and the community
3. advocate to State and Federal Governments on matters of common interest
4. establish a network of night time economy practitioners across NSW councils
5. promote awareness amongst councilors and staff of the value and benefit of taking a proactive approach to the development and management of the NTE and the work being done in this area
6. promote the benefits of subscribing to the National Night Time Economies Report.
7. facilitate capacity building and development of collaborative partnerships on NTE initiatives
8. Any other issues of relevance.

1.3 Meetings

The Committee met 12 times during 2018 on:

17 January; 6 February; 20 March; 24 April; 5 June; 2 July; 24 July; 20 August; 3 September; 9 October; 30 October; 7 December.

The meetings in 2018 were primarily held at the LGNSW office in Sydney and chaired by LGNSW.
1.4 Night Time Economy Forum in 2017

In October 2017, NTECC delivered the inaugural Councils’ Night Time Economy (NTE) Forum hosted by City of Parramatta Council which was attended by over 120 staff from 33 councils – a third which were regional councils.

The day explored topics including culture and creativity, place-making and urban design, policy, planning and regulation and services, infrastructure and safety. The most critical areas identified by attendees for future focus were capacity building for councils and advocacy to the NSW Government. Importantly, 90% of council staff said that they will implement the information that they had learned from the day, with many indicating that they would like to develop a NTE discussion paper or strategy for their council.

1.5 Email Network

Following the Forum, NTECC established the NTE practitioners email network for council staff to share resources and relevant updates. The NTECC email network comprises over 109 staff from across 44 councils (24 metropolitan and 20 regional councils).

2. Activities in 2018

2.1 Masterclasses

Three masterclasses were designed by NTECC in 2018 to deliver capacity building to council staff in the areas of NTE strategy development, business engagement and urban planning to better support development of vibrant, inclusive and sustainable local NTEs.

**Masterclass 1 – Strategy Development & Results Based Accountability Framework (8 May 2018)**

The first half day masterclass was focused on NTE strategy development and evaluation and was hosted by City of Sydney Council on 8 May 2018. The event was attended by 31 staff from 14 metropolitan councils and 5 regional councils. Speakers included Suzie Matthews, Director Customer Excellence - NSW Department of Industry and Trina Geasley, Safe City Manager - City of Sydney. Representatives from Local Government NSW, the University of Technology and Department of Premier and Cabinet were also present at the masterclass.

A post event survey revealed that 100% of respondents increased their knowledge and skills and 85% said they were very or extremely likely to implement the learning in developing their council’s NTE strategy.

**Masterclass 2 – Effective Business Engagement (8 August 2018)**

A full day masterclass on how councils can better engage with and support local business was hosted by Liverpool City Council on 8 August 2018. The event was attended by 41 staff, representing 20 metropolitan and 9 regional councils. Sessions covered a range of topics such as global trends impacting the NTE, recalibration of how the NTE is positioned (party scene vs broader economy) and initiatives that enable better engagement with local business operators and communities. The day finished with a workshop using Liverpool as a case study to identify opportunities to encourage later trading businesses that will entice students from the newly opened universities to patronise the city centre.
Speakers included Adrian Sheather, General Manager - Rising Sun Workshop; Brett Leonard, Centre Manager - Westfield Liverpool; Clayton Ries, Owner - Macquarie Bistro; Nathaniel Bavington, Smart City Coordinator - Newcastle City Council; and Skye Frost, Creative Place Facilitator - Port Macquarie Hastings Council.

A post event survey revealed that 87% of respondents increased their knowledge and skills and 78% of respondents said they were very or extremely likely to implement the learning in developing their council’s Night Time Economy strategy.

Masterclass 3 – Urban planning for vibrant and sustainable NTE’s (20 November 2018)

A final masterclass on Urban Planning was hosted by City of Canterbury Bankstown Council on 20 November 2018. The event was attended by 59 participants, representing 19 Metropolitan and 6 Regional Councils. Workshop sessions explored global, regional and local planning perspectives to support understanding and integration of NTE provisions into local planning instruments. Two further sessions were held focusing on interpretation of land use definitions for hybrid models and curation of ground floor mixed used developments.

Speakers included Department of Planning and Environment representatives Gary White, Chief Planner; Allison McLaren, Director Local Planning Policy; and Michael Murrell, Team Leader Employment Systems; as well as Ben Pechey, Strategic Planning Policy Manager - City of Sydney and Dr Jon Drane, independent researcher and advisor specialising in city precinct development and activation of dormant cityscapes.

A post event survey revealed that 80% of respondents increased their knowledge and skills and 57% of respondents said they were very or extremely likely to integrate their learning in their council’s planning instruments.

2.2 Advocacy and Communications

The NTECC has been active in communicating with councils across NSW and advocating to the NSW Government.

Arts and Music Parliamentary Inquiry

Information shared by the network shaped LGNSW’s submission, and submissions by some NTECC councils, to the NSW Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into the Music and Arts Economy. LGNSW and City of Sydney were invited to present as witnesses at the first hearing in February. NTECC members Liverpool City, Newcastle City, City of Parramatta and Wollongong City gave evidence at further hearings held in 2018. The final report from the Parliamentary Inquiry was released on 15 November 2018 and includes recommendation 38:

*That Create NSW engage with local government through the NTE Councils’ Committee (NTECC), on how State and Local Government can collaborate to support the development of more music, arts, creative and theatre spaces to grow our cultural infrastructure.*
Advocacy to the NSW Government Night Time Economy Taskforce

LGNSW prepared a letter to the Minister for the Arts, Don Harwin MLC, on behalf of NTECC, requesting the NSW Government develop a NTE Strategy, in consultation with local government. The Minister’s response indicated that State Government NTE Taskforce was developing a NTE Strategy and would do so in consultation with the NTECC.

NTECC members were also invited to present in April 2018 to the NSW Government’s Night Time Economy Taskforce (consisting of 13 government agencies and the City of Sydney) and advocated that state government planning needs to consider the views of councils across NSW.

Engagement with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Representatives from the Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) attended the June 2018 NTECC to discuss noise legislation. DP&E subsequently surveyed councils twice through the email network to better understand how planning regulations affect the NTE.

Engagement with the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors

LGNSW represented NTECC and all councils at the May 2018 National Safe Cities network, convened by the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM), which has a focus on reducing alcohol and drug related harm and driving the night time economy. We presented the activities of NTECC and advocated for inclusion of a broader range of councils in the work of the Safe Cities network. The City of Sydney continued this advocacy to ensure that data was collected for 37 local government areas (LGAs) in NSW for the report “Measuring the Australian Night Time Economy 2016-17” which was commissioned by the CCCLM. A new membership and fee structure for the CCCLM and subscription to the data has since been announced with reduced fees for regional councils. These 37 LGAs were invited to an information session about the data on 7 December 2018 at the City of Sydney.

Office of Small Business Workshops and other council engagement

NTECC members were invited to present about the work of NTECC and the development of NTEs at a series of workshops around NSW hosted by the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner in May and June 2018.

NTECC also had a representative from City of Parramatta present at the Central West NSW Economic Development Managers' Forum in October and at a business networking event in western Sydney.

3. Next Steps

A final meeting of the NTECC was held on 7 December 2018 to determine the focus of activities for 2019 which will continue to include advocacy and capacity building.