Gary Higgins
Minister for Arts and Museums

Music to the ears of Creatives

3 August 2016

The Northern Territory music industry will be one of the focus points to receive additional funding support as part of the increased Arts Grants Program budget for 2016/2017.

$1.25 million has been added to the 2016/17 Arts Grants Program budget, totalling $8.093 million, following the release of Vibrant NT - the arts and culture policy for the Northern Territory.

Minister for Arts and Museums, Gary Higgins, said the music sector in the Northern Territory is thriving in all regions of the Territory as can be seen and experienced by the talented musicians showcased at the NT Indigenous Music Awards, the NT Song of the Year Awards, the Bush Bands Bash Festival and the regular gigs taking place at original music venues, festivals and events across the Territory.

Mr Higgins said the value of live music was identified with an overall benefit of $22 million for the Northern Territory in 2014 as stated in a report issued by Live Music Office set up to review policy and the impact of the Australian live music sector.

"$32 000 is provided to Music NT for the Northern Territory to participate in the national Live Music census to deepen our understanding of the value and impact of the live music sector in the Northern Territory," Mr Higgins said.

"The NT’s Live Music Census will offer a mapping of live music venues, locations, artists and genres through Google Maps, to inform and strengthen Government and music industry strategies for the development of contemporary music in the Northern Territory."

Vibrant NT’s aim is to grow a sustainable arts sector with a strong focus on research, and frameworks to measure the value and benefit of the creative economy in the NT.

Further music industry development initiatives to increase national and international showcasing opportunities for artists and support arts business to explore new markets include:

- $40 000 to support an NT delegation of artists and industry representatives to attend international industry forums and music showcasing events at Music Matters in Singapore and Big Sound in Brisbane in September 2016.

- $35 000 for Tiwi band B2M to perform at the Pulima Art Festival in Taiwan in November 2016, secured as a direct outcome of their showcase at the Australian Performing Arts Market in early 2016. B2M also
plan to participate in community cultural engagement activities with Indigenous communities of Taiwan. This initiative is supported by Artback NT and B2M’s music label Skinnyfish Music.

**Media Contact**

Sean Conway  0400 165 743