



Don Harwin MLC

Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities,
Minister for the Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council

Mr David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Blunt

Please find attached the Government response to the interim report entitled *Museums and galleries in New South Wales* by Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Legal Affairs for tabling in the Legislative Council.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Harwin', with a horizontal line underneath.

Don Harwin MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Resources
Minister for Energy and Utilities
Minister for the Arts
Vice-President of the Executive Council

Encl: Government response to the Interim Report for the Museums and Galleries Inquiry

Received at 4:25 pm
Monday 18 June 2018
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NSW Government response to the Interim Report of the Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Legal Affairs Inquiry into Museums and Galleries

Recommendation	Response
<p>Recommendation 1 That the NSW Government ensure there is an annual event where free entry to all the state’s key cultural institutions is promoted and provided to all members of the public.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>General admission is already free to the Art Gallery of NSW, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the State Library of NSW and some Sydney Living Museum sites.</p> <p>In addition, the Australian Museum and the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences host an annual free weekend that is widely promoted and open to all members of the public.</p> <p>The Government will work with the State Cultural Institutions to expand this program and establish an annual event.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2 That the NSW Government review the cost and benefits of the annual efficiency dividend for art and cultural institutions.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Since 2004, the efficiency dividend has not been applied to expenses relating to donations, private sector grants and other non-Government revenue received by what were then the five Cultural Institutions – the Art Gallery of NSW, the Australian Museum, the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, the State Library of NSW, and the Sydney Opera House. From 2017-18, this exemption was extended to revenue generated by the then Cultural Institutions from the sale of their goods and services.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3 That Create NSW prioritise the digitisation of collections in its policies and frameworks, and explore avenues for further investment in the digitisation of state cultural collections.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>NSW has one of the highest percentages of online collections available in Australia and all the State Cultural Institutions actively digitise and make available their collections.</p> <p>The Arts, Screen and Culture Division in the Department of Planning and Environment has already commenced a holistic digitisation project, as recommended by Infrastructure NSW’s advice to Government in the Cultural Infrastructure Strategy.</p> <p>In addition, the NSW Government has committed more than \$70 million to digitisation processes for the State Library of NSW. A key action in <i>Create in NSW: the NSW Government’s Arts and Cultural Policy Framework</i>, is supporting the development of digital platforms to extend the reach of the State Cultural Institutions’ collections, programs and events to schools, universities, researchers, artists and cultural practitioners across the State.</p>

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	The Regional Cultural Fund also supports projects which enhance the digitisation capacity of regional cultural institutions.
<p>Recommendation 4 That the NSW Government release the full business case for the Powerhouse Museum and all assessed proposals to the committee and the community for full public consultation before making its final decision.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>The Final Business Case was released to the Legislative Council on 12 June 2018.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5 That the Premier re-consider her refusal to attend and appear before the inquiry.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>The NSW Government has participated in the Inquiry on several occasions. As the Minister responsible for museums and galleries, the Hon Don Harwin MLC, Minister for the Arts, appeared before the Inquiry on 6 June 2017 and 29 August 2017.</p> <p>In addition, the Deputy Secretary of the Arts, Screen and Culture Division and senior executives from Create NSW and the Cultural Infrastructure Project Management Office have also appeared before the Inquiry.</p> <p>Senior executives from the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, the Museum of Contemporary Art and the Historic Houses Trust have also appeared before the Inquiry.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6 That the business case prepared by the NSW Government consider establishing a Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences satellite site in Western Sydney.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>The NSW Government remains committed to growing the arts and cultural sector in Western Sydney and across the state. This includes the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta.</p> <p>As is standard with a major cultural infrastructure project, the planning process for the Powerhouse Museum project has considered several options, leading to the relocation of this iconic museum to Parramatta.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7 That the NSW Government consider investing in a cultural precinct proposal for Western Sydney, such as a migration museum or cultural centre, to</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>The NSW Government remains committed to growing the arts, screen and cultural sector in Western Sydney and across the State. This includes the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta.</p>

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<p>be identified during a community consultation process.</p>	<p>As is standard with a major cultural infrastructure project, the planning process for the Powerhouse Museum project has considered several options, leading to the relocation of this iconic museum to Parramatta.</p> <p>The NSW Government is also developing a Cultural Infrastructure Plan for 2025 and beyond as part of its commitment to the arts and cultural sector. The Cultural Infrastructure Plan will deliver a strategic, long-term and secure approach to investment in cultural infrastructure and help develop distinctive cultural infrastructure and precincts that support creativity, participation and jobs growth.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8 That the NSW Government consider a range of other Western Sydney sites for a cultural centre or precinct.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>The NSW Government remains committed to growing the arts, screen and cultural sector in Western Sydney and across the state. This includes the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta.</p> <p>The NSW Government is developing a Cultural Infrastructure Plan for 2025 and beyond as part of its commitment to the arts and cultural sector. The Cultural Infrastructure Plan will deliver a strategic, long-term and secure approach to investment in cultural infrastructure and help develop distinctive cultural infrastructure and precincts that support creativity, participation and jobs growth.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9 That the Minister for Arts and Create NSW update <i>Create in NSW</i>: NSW Arts and Cultural Policy Framework, to expressly include support and capacity building for regional museums and galleries.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Regional NSW is a priority area under <i>Create in NSW</i>, the Government's arts and culture policy framework. Over the last two years, \$15.19 million has been provided for the State's museums and galleries through the Arts and Cultural Development Program. Over this two-year period, \$3.57 million has been provided for regional museums and galleries, including annual funding of \$100,000 for the Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre and the Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery.</p> <p>In addition, the Regional Cultural Fund was established by the NSW Government to ensure regional NSW receives its fair share of arts and cultural infrastructure and the associated recreational and educational benefits. The Fund will invest \$100 million to drive growth in arts, screen, cultural and heritage infrastructure for the social, cultural and economic benefit of communities in regional NSW.</p> <p>Arts 2025 was launched by the Government in March 2018 at a sector-wide summit and will set an ambitious agenda for NSW. While still in the early stages of development, Arts 2025 will complement <i>Create in NSW</i> and incorporate initiatives to enrich and enliven communities through cultural programs that recognise regional NSW as a priority area. The summit provided an important opportunity for engagement with regional and volunteer run</p>

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	organisations, and this will be followed by a series of targeted engagements with the sector to help inform development of the Government's Strategic Framework that will be released in the second half of 2018.
<p>Recommendation 10 That Create NSW, in partnership with Museums and Galleries of NSW:</p> <p>a) review and expand funding grants and programs for projects, capital works, and maintenance in rural and regional museums and galleries</p> <p>b) ensure a minimum percentage of grant and program funding is allocated to rural art and cultural facilities</p> <p>c) examine the restrictions on the allocations of the Regional Cultural Fund and investigate expanding the funds availability and making it accessible for specific programs and staffing needs.</p>	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>Annual funding of \$1.19 million has been provided by Create NSW over the last three years to Museums and Galleries NSW, under the Arts and Cultural Development Program, including an annual \$300,000 component of devolved funding for museums and galleries. Funding provided to Museums and Galleries NSW has also included support for Volunteer Museum Projects, which included funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Old Courthouse Museum, Batemans Bay to assess its physical collection, • The Moruya Museum to engage a consultant to develop and lead the training of volunteers • The Corowa Federation Museum to engage a consultant to prepare a strategic plan, and • The Gerringong Museum to engage a conservation expert to provide members with training and guidance in the handling and storage of its collection. <p>This support also helps regional museums to improve the preservation of their collections, increase access to their exhibits, provide training for members on the handling of collections during refurbishment and provide advice on how to undertake strategic planning. Create NSW will continue to work closely with Museums and Galleries NSW to assess the needs of the museums and galleries sector and explore new opportunities. Create NSW supports Museums and Galleries NSW to offer programs and opportunities to develop regional museums and galleries.</p> <p>Recognising the importance of Regional NSW to the cultural fabric of the State, the Government is investing \$100 million via the Regional Cultural Fund to develop new and existing arts and culture projects, including for rural and regional museums and galleries. The Regional Cultural Fund is available to all 92 regional NSW Local Government Areas, plus Lord Howe Island and the Unincorporated Far West, to support the creation of cultural infrastructure as well as operational funding for museums and galleries.</p> <p>The Arts and Cultural Development Program also supports regional museums and galleries through funding programs, including Regional Partnerships grants. These grants support significant strategic and long-term partnerships in regional NSW that will stimulate strong and diverse regional arts and cultural activity, and leave a legacy. The Arts and Cultural Development Program is regularly reviewed and updated by Create NSW to ensure that it identifies opportunities to make improvements to its processes and programs, while reducing barriers for entry and making things easier for NSW artists and arts and cultural organisations to access advice, services and funding.</p>

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	<p>The Cultural Infrastructure Program Management Office will regularly review the Regional Cultural Fund to identify opportunities to make improvements to processes and ensure the fund is effectively supporting the development of regional based cultural infrastructure across NSW. The Regional Cultural Fund was established to ensure that arts and cultural facilities in NSW support diverse and distinctive cultural offerings.</p> <p>The fund does not duplicate the funding programs that Create NSW already offers. The Regional Cultural Fund is governed by the overarching Regional Growth Fund program policies which are continually reviewed to ensure equitable and effective access to funding across regional NSW.</p>
<p>Recommendation 11 That Create NSW, in partnership with state institutions, introduce subsidised loans scheme to support regional cultural institutions in acquiring suitable touring exhibitions</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>A central objective of <i>Create in NSW</i> is to improve access to the State's collections.</p> <p>The State Cultural Institutions are improving access to their collections through touring, educational outreach, partnerships and digitisation. They also regularly partner with regional galleries and museums on tours, exhibitions and the delivery of education programs. These touring partnerships are designed to reduce costs and maximise efficiencies.</p> <p>In this regard, the Cultural Institutions – the Australian Museum, the Art Gallery of NSW, the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, the State Library of NSW, Sydney Living Museums, and the Sydney Opera House, as well as the Museum of Contemporary Art, which is a State Significant Organisation supported by the Government, regularly conduct tours of their exhibitions across regional NSW.</p> <p>In 2016-17, these tours across regional NSW attracted attendances totalling 270,000 visitors.</p> <p>As part of this touring schedule, the Australian Museum held two natural history exhibitions at the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum at Bathurst in 2016-17 that attracted combined attendances of around 20,000 visitors.</p> <p>The Art Gallery of NSW also conducted several exhibitions at regional NSW galleries in 2016-17, including the 2016 Archibald prize winner, which was attended by more than 22,000 people at Wagga Wagga, Cowra and Bega.</p> <p>The injection of \$100 million through the Regional Cultural Fund will provide even greater opportunities for regional centres to accommodate exhibitions by Sydney-based cultural organisations. The Arts and Cultural Development Program also supports regional museums and galleries through funding programs including</p>

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	<p>Regional Arts Touring grants that support projects providing access to arts and culture for audiences living in regional NSW.</p> <p>In March 2018, five professional theatre, music and visual arts organisations received funding of \$161,104 as part of Regional Arts Touring for their productions and exhibitions to be taken across the state. This included funding of \$15,580 to Charles Sturt University to tour the <i>Elsewhere</i> exhibition featuring artworks by acclaimed Australian artists, Wendy Sharp and Bernard Ollis, to regional galleries in Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Dubbo, Port Macquarie and Tamworth in 2018 and 2019.</p> <p>Create NSW is also looking at opportunities to make improvements to its processes and programs, while reducing barriers for entry and making things easier for NSW artists and arts and cultural organisations to access advice, services and funding.</p>
<p>Recommendation 12 That Create NSW develop a strategy, in consultation with key stakeholders, to enhance the capacity of regional cultural institutions to undertake digitisation projects.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Arts, Screen and Culture Division has commenced work on a holistic digitisation project, which will include regional NSW, as recommended by Infrastructure NSW's advice to Government set out in the <i>Cultural Infrastructure Strategy 2016</i>. In addition, projects which enhance the digitisation capacity of regional cultural institutions are eligible to apply for support via the Regional Cultural Fund.</p>
<p>Recommendation 13 That Create NSW collaborate with community managed museums and galleries to develop strategies to recruit and train volunteers, including: a) a peer-to-peer best practice training manual for volunteers b) a media campaign to promote volunteering at community museums and galleries.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>Under the Arts and Cultural Development Program, Create NSW supports Museums and Galleries NSW to provide support to the museums and galleries sector. This includes funding of \$1.19 million in 2017-18 to Museums and Galleries NSW, which includes devolved funding of \$300,000 available to museums and galleries. Museums and Galleries NSW support includes a range of resources, which are available on its website, and programs to support and develop volunteers in museums and galleries, and to assist museums and galleries in recruiting, training and managing volunteers. These resources include a statement of principles for the recognition of volunteers, policy guides, a skills audit template and information on succession planning. Museums and Galleries NSW also holds networking opportunities and events that contribute to professional development.</p> <p>Create NSW recognises the important role volunteering plays in the museum and gallery sector, and will continue to explore ways to support and increase the involvement of volunteers in the arts and cultural sector.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 14 That the NSW Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) engage with Aboriginal elders, communities and key stakeholders, to establish how best to capture the history, art and culture of Aboriginal people in New South Wales (b) identify and invest in opportunities to further promote Aboriginal arts, culture and history in existing cultural institutions (c) ensure that the management and control of any Aboriginal art and culture centre and its collections be in the hands of the Aboriginal peoples of New South Wales. 	<p>Supported</p> <p>Ongoing engagement with Aboriginal cultural leaders, communities and artists and support for Aboriginal arts, screen, and culture, are priorities under the NSW Government's Arts and Cultural Policy Framework, <i>Create in NSW</i> and the <i>NSW Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Strategy 2015-2018</i>. The NSW Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Strategy will be updated later in 2018, which will be led by Create NSW in consultation with the Aboriginal arts and cultural sector.</p> <p>Since 2014/15, the NSW Government has provided over \$5.7 million for programs and projects that explore a diversity of Aboriginal arts and cultural practice, training, career development, and marketing opportunities for Aboriginal artists, Aboriginal arts and cultural workers, and Aboriginal young people across NSW. The Aboriginal Arts Fellowship was launched in 2014, supporting a professional Aboriginal artist to undertake a self-directed program of professional development.</p> <p>In 2016/17, Create NSW provided funding of more than \$1.79 million towards the annual and multiyear programs of Aboriginal organisations and strategic Aboriginal arts and cultural projects.</p> <p>In 2017, Museums and Galleries NSW was funded by Create NSW to prepare <i>Living Centres for Living Cultures 2</i>, a report investigating the current state of Aboriginal cultural venues in NSW. The report looks at: 43 current Aboriginal operated cultural venues around NSW; details the impact of location, building, surrounding grounds, income sources, governance, staffing, collection management, and engagement; includes information gathered through surveys, roundtable discussion, field trips, and previous documentation and site visits. This report will inform future strategic policy development.</p> <p>In March 2018, Create NSW announced a new fund, known as the Creative Koori Aboriginal Strategic Fund, providing up to \$75,000 for people and organisations towards projects and employment that supports a vibrant Aboriginal arts and cultural sector in NSW.</p> <p>The State Cultural Institutions recognise the significance of Aboriginal Communities in artistic programs, collections, exhibitions and language, and are deepening and expanding their engagement with community and the sector.</p> <p>Sydney Modern, the Art Gallery of NSW expansion, will create a prominent new destination, showcasing contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture front and centre in the expanded Gallery. Sydney Modern, which is being supported by the NSW Government through funding of \$244 million, is expected to be completed by 2021 to coincide with the Gallery's 150th anniversary.</p>

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	<p>The State Library of NSW is piloting an Indigenous Digital Platform which allows Aboriginal communities to collect and curate their own digital content and for this content to be incorporated into the Library's permanent collections with appropriate permission from local communities.</p> <p>The Australian Museum is continuing a program of community workshops and Museum visits with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander at-risk youth and young people in detention, with a focus on young women.</p> <p>The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences has appointed an Indigenous Programs Producer, and built strong relationships with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.</p> <p>Sydney Living Museums has appointed a group of Indigenous advisors to guide the realisation of its Aboriginal Action Plan, and fulfil its commitment to genuine Aboriginal engagement and respectful sharing of cultural heritage at museums and sites.</p> <p>The Arts, Screen and Culture Division is undertaking sector consultation in 2018 in relation to existing and future government policy settings for arts, screen and culture.</p> <p>Also, the Office of Environment & Heritage, in consultation with Aboriginal Affairs, is leading a reform process on Aboriginal cultural heritage. The reforms will deliver a contemporary and respectful vision for the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in New South Wales and are the product of many years of engagement with Aboriginal elders and communities.</p>