



Premier & Cabinet



Mr R D Grove
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
NSW Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Grove

The Premier has asked me to forward to you the NSW Government response to the NSW Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Public Works Report No. 5/54 The Development of Arts and Cultural Infrastructure Outside the Sydney CBD.

I am also advised that there is a factual error in the report, at paragraph 4.11. The report incorrectly states that the total funding to the Regional Arts Boards is \$200,000 per year, or \$14,000 per board. The correct figure for 2009/10 is \$100,000 for each of the 13 Regional Arts Boards, totalling \$1.3 million.

If you have any queries concerning this matter, please contact Mr Tim Hurst, Executive Director, Infrastructure Environment and Economic Development Policy, Department of Premier and Cabinet on (02) 9228 5493.

Yours sincerely

Brendan O'Reilly
Director General

Peer, need R. 8/12/2010

NSW Government response to the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Public Works Final Report on the *Development of Arts and Cultural Infrastructure Outside the Sydney CBD*.

- 1. That Department of Premier and Cabinet coordinate a larger role for Arts NSW in future metropolitan and regional planning decisions.**

Support

The Department of Planning consults with relevant agencies, including Arts NSW on regional and subregional planning and would welcome a larger role for Arts NSW in future metropolitan and regional planning. The Department of Premier and Cabinet, where possible, will ensure Arts NSW is adequately consulted in future metropolitan and regional planning decisions where they pertain to arts and cultural infrastructure.

- 2. That the Western Sydney Arts Strategy model be adopted and adapted for rural and regional NSW.**

Partially Supported

The Western Sydney Arts Strategy is an integrated and place based model that is tailored to the specific and unique issues, requirements and challenges of Western Sydney. It is a valuable strategic planning document for the region and it provides a useful approach for other regions with a need for integrated cultural development.

However, the Western Sydney Arts Strategy was a model designed for the particular needs and characteristics of Western Sydney, which, at the 2001 census had a population of 1.7 million (27 per cent of the population of NSW) with projected population growth of around 30 per cent by 2019-20. It also has the third largest economy in Australia. These characteristics are not shared elsewhere in NSW and therefore the same model cannot readily be adopted elsewhere.

The integrated approach is consistent with the Metropolitan Strategy which focuses on transforming Sydney from a single centred city to a more connected, multi centred city in which local services, including art and cultural institutions, are provided in the regional cities of Parramatta, Liverpool and Penrith.

For other regional areas, Arts NSW is taking a targeted approach to examine artistic and organisational development needs. For example Arts NSW has recently undertaken research for the prioritised area of the Central Coast.

3. That arts organisations at both the federal and state levels work more collaboratively to improve ease of access to grants by local government and non profit agencies and avoid duplication.

Support

The Government recognises that ease of access and avoiding unnecessary duplication of grant applications by local government and non profit agencies is important. Arts NSW already will accept either a single application for a council's entire or combined arts and cultural program or if they should desire, Arts NSW will also accept separate applications from separate council business units.

The Government continues to collaborate and liaise with a number of federal bodies, other States and Territories, local councils, various community organisations and other key stakeholders to develop, implement and review various arts funding programs, including programs which provide assistance to regional NSW.

A review of the previous arts funding process was completed in 2008. As a result of the review a new Arts Funding Program was introduced for 2009 which simplified funding categories and streamlined application processes. The new Arts Funding Program was designed in accordance with government guidelines on grants and to reflect state priorities for arts funding. It aims to introduce greater flexibility to funding arrangements, ensure more effective use of resources delivering on State Plan priorities, reduce red tape as part of the Government's ambitious target to reduce red tape by \$500 million by June 2011 and deliver administrative efficiencies through improved grants administrative processes.

4. That Arts NSW be funded to better assist in developing partnerships between business and arts organisations that contribute to the development of arts and cultural infrastructure in rural and regional NSW.

Support

The Government will continue to provide funding to assist Arts NSW to support the efforts of local councils and not for profit organisations in developing partnerships between business and arts organisations that contribute to the development of arts and cultural infrastructure in rural and regional NSW.

Arts NSW is jointly funding with the Australia Council for the Arts a new Artsupport Australia manager for New South Wales. Artsupport Australia is an initiative of the Australia Council for the Arts to grow cultural philanthropy. The Artsupport NSW manager will support fundraising activity across NSW with a particular focus on Western Sydney and Aboriginal arts and culture.

Arts NSW also seeks to develop partnerships between business and arts organisations to provide indirect, 'in kind' support, as demonstrated through the Creative Enterprise Hubs project. The Creative Enterprise Hubs project encourages commercial property owners and local government to recognize that the creative industries can drive economic and urban renewal. Hubs operate in temporary and low cost or free premises, providing artists and arts groups with creative space.

Since the publication of the Committee's report, Arts NSW has developed a toolkit and website to help communities convert their empty spaces into Creative Enterprise Hubs for artists. In addition, funding has been provided to Renew Newcastle (\$50,000 per annum for 2009/10 and 2010/11) and to Parramatta and Lismore (\$50,000 each per annum for 2010/11 and 2011/12) for the development of Creative Enterprise Hubs.

5. That either Arts NSW or local councils be funded to provide training and guidance to non profit organisations regarding grant applications, particularly in relation to financial and governance arrangements and programme planning and outcomes.

Support

The Government will continue to provide funding for training and guidance to non profit organisations regarding grant applications. Funding is available across a number of programs and initiatives. These include:

- project funding from the Arts Funding Program for arts organisations wishing to build organisational capacity, including funding for the development of business plans and for improving corporate governance; and
- funding for a series of information sessions held each year by Arts NSW to provide guidance on applications for funding.

The Government also provides support under the Arts Funding Program to Regional Arts NSW (\$530,000 in 2009/10) and Museums and Galleries NSW (\$1,099,000 in 2009/10). These organisations are well placed to provide support to non profit organisations to develop capacity building.

6. That either Arts NSW or local councils be funded to provide training and guidance to non profit organisations to assist them with submissions to more strategically access the Community Development and Support Expenditure Scheme.

Not Supported

The Government provides grants to arts and cultural projects through the Community Development and Support Expenditure Scheme. Funding under the Scheme is allocated by the boards of individual registered clubs and

reflects the relative priorities and objectives of individual boards and club board members.

It is not clear that directing resources to improving the quality of submissions would be likely to achieve an increase in funds allocated to such projects. Arts NSW will work to promote the value of arts and cultural projects to clubs.

7. That arts and cultural funding to areas outside the Sydney CBD, and in particular, to regional areas be substantially increased.

Partially Supported

The NSW Government is committed to supporting arts and culture outside of the Sydney CBD and already provides significant funding in this regard.

Over the five years since 2006, including the funding recommended for projects in 2011, grants for arts infrastructure, programs and projects in regional NSW total \$37.9 million, with a further \$22.8 million for Western Sydney. This is in addition to funding for organisations which provide services State-wide such as:

- State Cultural Institutions, including the Art Gallery of NSW and the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences;
- Sydney based performing arts companies; and
- the Local Government and Shires Association which receives funding for the State-wide Local Government Cultural Development Program.

The Arts NSW audit of state arts infrastructure identified significant infrastructure across the state. Recent steps have been made to enhance the funding for some regional projects and programs. This includes the following capital infrastructure grants:

- \$80,000 to Liverpool Plains Shire Council towards the capital redevelopment of the Royal Theatre at Quirindi;
- \$85,000 to Dubbo City Council for the development of the Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre; and
- \$85,000 to Broken Hill City Council for the development of the collection storage facility at Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery.

In 2009/10 support was increased to each of the Regional Arts Boards through Regional Arts NSW from \$85,000 to \$100,000 and a new Regional Arts Board in the Western Riverina was announced, to bring the total number of Regional Arts Boards to fourteen.

The NSW Government has also established the Country Library Fund, which will provide \$9 million from 2008/09 to 2012/13.

There are grants and funding assistance currently available through Screen NSW and Industry and Investment NSW. The ABC productions *East of Everything* and *dirtgirlworld* have brought a significant amount of investment to regional NSW and received funding from Screen NSW. The feature film

Mad Max 4: Fury Road has also received a large amount of funding from the NSW government. It will film for 30 weeks in Broken Hill.

- 8. That a consultative process be employed at the electorate level similar to the Community Building Partnership in order to decide where funding would be best placed.**

Not supported

The Government considers that the existing process of a peer committee assessing applications against set criteria is the most appropriate mechanism for determining the distribution of funds. This model was developed arising from the 2008 review of arts funding programs.

- 9. That the NSW Government establish a Premier's Arts Partnership Fund in line with South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.**

Not supported

Arts organisations in NSW have traditionally had a large amount of support from the private sector due to the large number of corporate headquarters in Sydney. This is just one of the contributing factors that make the situation in NSW very different than that in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

Arts NSW will seek to build on existing support from businesses in NSW and continue to encourage the development of relationships between arts organisations and businesses. Arts NSW has been working with the Australia Council for the Arts to grow philanthropy through Artsupport Australia.

- 10. That Arts NSW be adequately funded and resourced to expedite a full audit of arts and cultural infrastructure across NSW.**

Support

Arts NSW has now completed an audit of publicly-owned arts and cultural infrastructure outside the Sydney CBD and is currently conducting an audit of Sydney's cultural infrastructure.

The audit of infrastructure outside the Sydney CBD provides a detailed repository of information on cultural infrastructure in NSW. This has been made available on the Arts NSW website and includes an interactive map of cultural facilities. Users are able to drill down into the data to discover the level of detail they require concerning the facilities in which they are interested. Owners of the facilities will have privileged access to the database to allow them to update information on a regular basis. Local Government Areas and other bodies that did not participate in the survey will also be

encouraged to lodge information. The City of Sydney already has an interactive database and booking system covering venues in the CBD which can also be linked in.

Local Councils are currently required to develop asset management plans which should include arts and cultural assets.

11. That both local councils and non profit arts organisations have access to funding which would allow them to conduct technical feasibility studies that focus on ways to better utilise and redevelop already existing arts and cultural infrastructure.

Not Supported

It is the primary responsibility of local councils to provide and manage local infrastructure. The Government though Arts NSW will continue to give start up funding to local councils to help organisations to leverage other funding, including Commonwealth funding. The NSW Government considers that the resources available for capital projects should continue to be used for direct investment in infrastructure.

12. That the NSW government consider incentives for developers to incorporate arts and cultural infrastructure within strategic developments.

Support

The Government recognises the potential for securing arts and cultural funding through incentives for developers. There are a number of commitments already made in relation to the provision of cultural infrastructure such as within the new developments at Barangaroo and Redfern-Waterloo.

The NSW planning system includes a mechanism for the incorporation of arts and culture institutions as public amenities within strategic developments, called "voluntary planning agreements". Under a planning agreement a developer may be required to dedicate land free of cost, pay a monetary contribution, or provide any other material public benefit, or any combination of them.