

Submission  
No 16

INQUIRY INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARTS AND  
CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE OUTSIDE THE SYDNEY  
CBD

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# **Sutherland Shire Council submission to Public Works Committee Inquiry into the Development of Arts and Cultural Infrastructure outside the Sydney CBD**

## **1. Issues of private and public funding and allocation of resources**

In the case of Sutherland Shire Council many local benefactors and individuals give freely to the arts once the appropriate strategies for giving are in place. There is a long history of financial and in kind support for most elements of local arts activity.

### **a. Gifts and philanthropic opportunities**

It can be difficult to gain philanthropic support for activities that are perceived as a Government responsibility. Current Federal legislation includes the Arts as a Charitable activity only as a subset of Education, not in its own right. Focus could be strengthened across cultural arts areas in the Shire by developing policies to enable giving to be ethical and easy. Making cash donations for arts and cultural activity and infrastructure should be a priority with information on tax deductibility readily available.

- Hazelhurst provides a good example of philanthropic goodwill and is founded on this principle. Cash & in-kind contributions to Hazlehurst Gallery and Art Centre since 2000 exceed \$600,000.
- Sutherland Shire Libraries benefit from in kind donations - from the funds provided from the sale of donated books in an annual Book Fair.

### **b. Sponsorship from private sector**

Sponsorship has ethical considerations and political implications. For local government sponsorship policy must transparent. Acceptance of sponsorship funding from private providers requires clear and transparent policies.

Support is required for organisations to develop policy, locate sponsors, meet sponsorship obligations and administer and account for funds. More private sector partnerships may be forged as marketing “good corporate citizenship” and “good governance” and quadruple bottom line reporting increases.

Sponsorship decisions impact on local government due to the complex funding arrangements of the sponsoring organisations themselves, and the need for a separation receipt of funding from decision making. This is where Arts Boards may assist by removing decisions about arts/cultural funding and infrastructure from local government.

Sponsorship can be ad hoc and uncertain, contribution timeframes occasionally do not align with arts and cultural events planning and development. Sponsorship may not address issues of recurrent funding. Whilst all sponsorship is highly valued, arrangements are frequently uncertain.

Every effort should be made to develop partnerships with suitable private sector partners for arts and cultural infrastructure development.

Unlike corporate philanthropy, sponsorship is a strategic business activity for the businesses involved. Recipients of sponsorship must be able to offer suitable and desirable benefits to them in order to secure it.

- Since 2004 Viola (Bus and Coach Service) have provided free return bus travel for schools & community groups to visit the gallery and participate in activities. This service is available across their Bankstown, St George & Sutherland Shire network.
- Council currently streamlines, maintains relationships and monitors local sponsorship arrangements for most arts/cultural units and activity and allocates funds provided in line with the strategic direction of council through the General Manager on an annual basis.

**c. Councils contribution to cultural and arts services and infrastructure funding**

Council builds, operates and programs a wide range of Arts and Cultural facilities. Council provides considerable support to not for profit organisations through waiving fees and charges and, providing rehearsal space, publicity and direct subsidies for Arts and Cultural activity.

*'It is difficult for council alone to fund capital improvements and maintain equipment standards without community users paying full commercial rates for hire of facilities. Income from the box office does not offset maintenance costs, particularly for older facilities that do not meet current technological requirements.'* (Manager Sutherland Entertainment Centre)

- Sutherland Entertainment Centre facility is made available to a range of both community and private groups by providing a sliding scale of fees and charges, and through Section 356 donations for some not for profit groups, waiving fees altogether.

**d. Public Art Infrastructure levies**

Allocation of a percentage of the cost of new development for provision of public art as undertaken in Queensland and Parramatta may enhance the public domain, assist in providing certainty to the development of appropriate public art in communities, boost the arts economy and provide more regular employment opportunity for local artists. . It should be noted that a levy should not be introduced without first establishing a Public Art Strategy in order to set out clear objectives, parameters and controls for public art.

- Councils Section 94 Plan concludes shortly. There may be scope to include such a levy into future plans modelled on other council's policy. This policy could include community facilities, and public open space, refurbishment of public spaces, heritage listed buildings and new developments including aged care facilities.

**e. Local trusts to allocate grant funding**

Devolving responsibility for sponsorship funding for the arts to an Arts Board could minimise conflicts experienced in direct sponsorship negotiations. A local trust could assist with local and regional allocation of grant and sponsorship comprising private sector cash and in kind funding. This trust could be linked to the development of Regional Arts Boards or by utilising Southern Sydney Regional organisation of Councils (SSROC) infrastructure to develop a board structure.

**e. Public funding**

The grant application processes can be an onerous process. The level of accountability and administrative input into some applications given the funds sought can be overly complex. For unskilled organisations with voluntary committees accessing Capital Assistance funding can be prohibitive. For larger organisations such as local government supported organisations such as Hazelhurst gallery and Arts Centre, application for grant funding for programs is an integral part of core business.

- Arts NSW (Visual Arts & Crafts, Capital Assistance & Contemporary Visual Arts Strategy Programs) have provided significant support (\$600,000 since 2000) which has been relied upon/targeted to enable the development and presentation of high quality, engaging & popular exhibition programs.

**f. Support from Arts NSW to apply for arts and cultural infrastructure funding.**

A high level of skill and resourcing is needed to apply for and access capital assistance and infrastructure funding for facilities due to the requirement for certainty regarding zoning, ownership, development application processes, maintenance plans and management plans.

Resourcing by Arts NSW would assist in fast tracking capital facilities projects through lengthy approval processes. Identified specialist multi disciplinary positions or teams would be required in local government regions (SSROC) or individual councils to lodge arts and cultural infrastructure Capital Assistance applications. Collaboration with artists would be required for some aspects of the proposal however much of the application process could be handled by planners.

Application for grant funds would need to be clearly articulated in Councils Strategic and Management Plans, Section 94 as well as individual unit Business Plans, Maintenance and Infrastructure Plans. Any/all Section 94 developer levies should include clear instruction regarding the use of these levies for public art and cultural infrastructure.

Funding applications for capital works should require evidence of sufficient collaboration with planners and compliance with planning requirements in line with a public art policy and Cultural Plan for that area.

Cultural infrastructure funding **MUST** include an appropriate level of funding for ongoing maintenance and management of the facility for which the grant is provided.

Cultural infrastructure funding to private organisations should require evidence of the “public good” “public benefit” and the linkages of that organisation to local strategic and infrastructure plans and partnerships with the arts community.

Allocation of funds to regions should be transparent and encourage collaboration between regions, not competition. This would minimise duplication and encourage better approaches to regional development. The total \$ value and timing of funding available to each region should be made available to boards to assist in developing cohesive plans which are realistic.

Utilisation of groups such as the City of Sydney Design Advisory Group which looks at design qualities for the city could be considered to ensure that funds were appropriately utilised. Artwork could be seamlessly integrated into landscapes. The City of Birmingham has also had much success in this field.

Utilisation of the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) for allocations of state government Arts and cultural funding could assist in the equitable distribution of capital facilities grants.

Residents in Southern Sydney suffer many of the same disadvantages as those in Western Sydney when it comes to accessing arts and cultural infrastructure in the Sydney CBD. Southern Sydney Councils should have access to the same Arts Infrastructure matched funding programs that have been offered to the Western Sydney LGAs

#### **g. The effectiveness of Cultural Accords**

Accords are effective in developing the broad overarching principals of arts funding, assist all to work toward the same goals for a set timeframe. A Cultural Plan for the state could achieve the same objectives. Ensuring that the Accord goals or Cultural Plan goals were effectively linked to funding and reporting would ensure that targets were achieved.

The Accord currently in place states that:

- *Local and State Government are complementary partners in the development of arts and Culture at a local level and that Local Government has primary responsibility for the planning, Development and operation of cultural facilities at the local level.*

This responsibility impacts council due to the high cost of infrastructure upgrades and maintenance and should be shared with the State.

- *Local and regional cultural planning is integral to the establishment of shared priorities for governments and communities, and for the effective integration of State Government support For cultural activity at the community level.*

Determining which region or regions the Sutherland Shire falls within needs to be made clear. The SSROC region for example, or is Sutherland Shire, due to its number of residents, a region on its own? More standard benchmark information is needed for business planning regarding the critical mass required to make facilities viable. Benchmarks for various facilities differ. The state would need to define these benchmarks linked to capital assistance funding.

- None of the 8 Sutherland Shire Libraries are eligible for State government grants due to the linkage of grant monies to the size and utilisation rates of library facilities. (People, places, a guide for Public Libraries in NSW)

A further objective of the Accord is:

- *Local and State Governments continue their commitment to the development of contemporary Aboriginal Culture.*

This strategy is strongly supported locally through social support, provision of community facilities, exhibitions, cultural education, tourism, business opportunities and employment.

*Local and State Government will advocate for all spheres of government to work together to develop and provide up-to-date, easy to use and accessible public library and information services for their communities. In other regions, such as Western Sydney, significant success has been achieved through effective co-ordination at a Regional level between Councils and the State Government via the agency of a Region of Councils organisation.*

Council has worked in partnership to secure funding for Library and information services. As this accord concludes Library funding is now less certain.

The goals of the third accord were to:

- *To work collaboratively to establish a new Ministry funding program for Local Government that recognizes Local Governments who are making a sustained commitment to the arts and culture through a cultural planning framework.*
- *In recognition of the important cultural collections held by Local Governments, to jointly Encourage greater integration of the operation of Local Government cultural facilities including libraries, museums and art galleries.*
- *To jointly develop a proposal for a national strategy for Community Cultural Development*

Overall the objectives of the current Cultural Accord and Federal government Cultural and arts funding are neither well understood nor integrated into local plans. Council has addressed these goals to various degrees however it is unclear whether actions were undertaken as a result of the Accord being in place.

Accords can be developed with community input, through local councils and inform the community of the key directions for Federal, State and local Government cultural and arts funding priorities.

#### **h. Funding support by Council for the arts community - Local Grants**

Council's contribution of cash and in kind resources and funding to the community is significant.

Locally, Council provides considerable grant funding to community arts groups through an annual grants round, assisting in the development of a range of performance, event and other art and cultural mediums. The basis for the allocation of grants is to provide equitable resources to seed, develop and create certainty for local voluntary not for profit arts groups.

Recommendations are made to Council for consideration and approval. The guidelines align with councils Cultural Framework and Strategic Plan.

The allocation of grant funding from Council to local community organisations is not overtly aligned to a longer term Accord. There may be benefit in better communicating the long term vision for arts funding to build on capacity and strengths in the local area with reference to an Accord. State-wide an Accord enables arts and cultural priorities to be broadly directed and focuses toward key outcomes.

**i. Funding support by Council for the arts community - In kind**

Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre supports volunteers, provides gallery and exhibition space at low cost community rates and is involved with the support for Friends of Hazelhurst

Council also has over forty halls and community facilities. Many of these are utilised for cultural activity. Not for profit groups may apply on two occasions per year to use these facilities at reduced or no cost. Other groups hire at a reduced community rate. While not purpose built for the exclusive use of practicing artists or performers they provide an important cultural and social function as an enabler of cultural activity and community development. Community groups have used Councils community halls at a subsidised rate for a total of 33,755 hours in the period 2007/2008. Data shows that over the year 266,122 people used the facilities as part of a not for profit group. Each day 667 people from the not for profit sector utilise council halls and community centres. A large percentage of this use would be attributed to cultural activity. (SSC Customer utilisation summary – Not for Profit 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008)

**Recommendation 1**

**That the State encourages a closer alignment of art activity at a local level along with regional and state directions through the Accord, thereby strengthening negotiations at a Federal level.**

**Recommendation 2**

**That the Accord is integrated into or superseded by a NSW Cultural Plan.**

**Recommendation 3**

**That the objectives of the Accord are clearly communicated to local government for integration into Strategic Planning and Management Planning processes.**

**Recommendation 4**

**That Accord and cultural planning priorities are articulated in Cultural and Arts grants funding at a State and local government level to focus diverse funding sources and programs toward achieving broader agreed goals.**

**Recommendation 5**

**That regions identified for Arts Infrastructure Funding and Arts program funding are clearly defined and aligned with existing local government boundaries or Regional Organisations of Councils.**

**Recommendation 6**

**That the State Government partners with metropolitan Councils outside Western Sydney in the capital funding of new and upgraded Arts and Cultural Facilities**

## **2. Suitability of public infrastructure for arts and cultural life**

### **a. Facility development and refurbishment**

Taking the concept of arts and cultural activity in the broadest sense, Sutherland Shire has a range of community cultural and arts facilities and infrastructure already in place.

*'Basic needs of the community are very well met but significant investment is needed to keep pace with increasing number and complexity of demands. Much of the equipment in the Sutherland Entertainment Centre is ageing. The current facility does not allow for multi use in the current configuration. The existing facility is unable to meet demand at busy times between April and December. Many event organisers are going outside the region due to lack of availability or unsuitability of facilities and equipment'. (Manager Sutherland Entertainment Centre)*

New infrastructure is required to accommodate different and emerging needs. Facility infrastructure upgrades are a priority for the current council in line with The Strategic and Management Plan.

### **b. People infrastructure**

Generation of additional skilled "people infrastructure" is important to support the development of Boards and Accords.

Currently Sutherland Shire has a wealth of individual amateur, semi professional and professional artists, practitioners, educators and businesses. An audit of community arts groups was undertaken several years ago.

### **c. Support from Arts NSW to undertake integrated cultural planning/planning for cultural infrastructure**

Full partnership with Council to utilise the valuable existing work that has already been undertaken in this regard in particular the Public Art Policy and Cultural Framework would be most welcome. . Effectively integrating a cultural plan with other planning frameworks within Council remains the greatest challenge. Assistance with mapping private sector opportunities would be most beneficial.

Future new infrastructure developments proposed by council present a number of arts and cultural development opportunities. Similarly there are many significant private redevelopment projects which could incorporate cultural infrastructure principles.

Currently there is little opportunity to significantly expand arts infrastructure beyond the scope of the current key infrastructure projects. All Section 94 developer funds have been expended.

Councils Property Section would undertake a full audit of community cultural and arts facilities with the support of Arts NSW. This audit could be integrated with existing plans. (A preliminary Audit of Arts and Cultural facilities in Sutherland Shire has been undertaken and is attached to this response)

Arts NSW should assist in defining regions, bringing stakeholders together and contributing resources for Regional cultural plans.

### **d. Outdoors**

Infrastructure which will enable outreach and mobile arts and cultural activity that is responsive and sustainable is important and needed, particularly in addressing the needs of marginalised and disadvantaged communities and in undertaking outdoor events.

Attention to gateway signage to the area is required acknowledging traditional aboriginal owners.

Park upgrades incorporating monuments, recognition of individuals and heritage values is undertaken and has benefited from utilisation of arts/cultural/heritage funding previously.

Development and design of parks and reserves for performances, festivals and cultural events, location of public art and landscape design which addresses fitness, health safety and access and environmental sustainability is undertaken. Integration of outdoor park and public space development with the proposed Public Art policy will continue to enhance these spaces.

**e. Safety - Outreach and mobile arts/cultural activity**

Increasing use of hotspot areas of the Shire at night to increase legitimate use of public areas will increase surveillance, reduce perceptions of crime and revitalise areas. Provision of outreach and mobile events to these areas will enable flexibility in program provision and responsiveness to local needs. Appropriate attention to integration of CPTED design and planning principals into planning public spaces will minimise unsafe practices and promote surveillance and use.

Youth events require suitable acoustic infrastructure, lighting and public activity space. The revitalization of neighbourhoods requires outdoor spaces for cultural expression and performance which can be undertaken professionally and on a regular basis.

**f. Accessible infrastructure**

The increasing proportion of ageing residents has indicated that more day time performances would suit them better. Residents have also indicated that they would enjoy local suburban smaller scale activity based activity that was accessible and safe. (Community Plan 2004 – 2010)

**g. Transport**

Accessible venues and access to transport to and from performances would be desirable. Transport infrastructure supports participation and access to arts infrastructure and activity for all ages.

**h. Vacant heritage buildings**

Lost opportunities to better utilise vacant private buildings and heritage buildings could be addressed by targeting funding to revitalise and preserve existing industrial and heritage sites through integration into development, tourism and development. In particular facilities in Royal national park could be revitalised similar to work undertaken in places such as Sofala and Broken Hill

**i. Industrial sites**

Industrial sites and warehouses are becoming redundant as large manufacturers leave the area and are replaced by cleaner industries. These large empty warehouse sites provide an ideal shell from which to develop spaces of a suitable scale to commission and develop artwork, performances and exhibitions and installations and performances such as the biennale and interactive events requiring access to robust indoor and outdoor areas. Generally, however, these sites are problematic if utilised for arts and cultural activity if they are not located in active community hubs and/or are not well serviced by public transport.

**Recommendation 7**

**That Council and the NSW Government work together to ensure that all major public infrastructure facilities are suitable and in fact do contribute to art and cultural life. Skilful use of existing spaces, refurbishment of ageing infrastructure and new build opportunities if well planned can enhance cultural and arts activity.**

**Recommendation 8**

**Demonstration of how integration of arts opportunities and principles are incorporated into all indoor and outdoor infrastructure projects as a**



**prerequisite to receipt of any infrastructure funding from all Government departments would support this development.**

**Recommendation 9**

**That any new infrastructure needs and facility upgrades are funded in line with Councils Strategic Plan, and jointly developed and a co-ordinated Regional Cultural Plan**

**Recommendation 10**

**That detailed indoor and outdoor Arts and Cultural facility audits are undertaken at a local government level with support of Arts NSW.**

**Recommendation 11**

**That outdoor arts and cultural infrastructure funding and policy is developed including gardens, parks, outdoor stages, vehicles, performance stages, water , natural areas etc.**

<b>3. The desirability of locating cultural facilities in close proximity to create hubs</b>
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The provision of hubs for art activity is in line with Councils own 2030 Strategic Plan, Management Plan, Community Social Plan, Crime Prevention Plan, Cultural Framework, Ageing Strategy and Tourism Plan.

The Public Art Policy currently under development provides a structure to assist in closely linking Councils plans to new development. Further development of the ways that Council can integrate this policy into practical outcomes will be undertaken this year.

Consultation with local residents regarding their local identity and the importance of art and culture are already undertaken through the Strategic Plan, Community Plan and the Neighbourhood and participation Survey. Feedback and evaluation surveys are undertaken at all events conducted by Cultural Planning and Events Unit. Communications Unit, Cronulla CBD management, Sutherland Shire Library and information Services and Hazlehurst Regional gallery and Art Centre. This feedback informs decision making and management and allocation of resources and is reported annually. Larger consultations around urban areas and precincts at the Master planning Stage can be undertaken to link planning with design.

The provision of hubs or clusters enables revitalisation, provides critical mass for development of associated activity and infrastructure and promotes cohesion and economic development and prosperity. Clustering arts activity provides supportive environments, enables spaces to be multipurpose, and promotes opportunity for further development in an atmosphere which explores the meaning of culture.

The concept of hubs aligns with the Metro Strategy. Arts precincts in walkable areas encourage night activity and promote use of public open spaces in the day and evening, promoting safety, natural surveillance and interactions between diverse community members.

*The benefits of being linked to shopping, transport and other commercial activity are extremely important. Location in commercial precinct provide evening economic stimulus for neighbouring businesses. Locating different arts and cultural infrastructure in different commercial and community districts enables matches and enhances the character of the area. It is important to target effective and flexible spaces for particular types of activity. (Manager Sutherland Entertainment Centre)*

**Support for Arts/Cultural hubs**

Council has a number of urban focal points being

- Cronulla with its beach culture,
- Gymea with a café culture,

- Gymea TAFE and Hazelhurst Community Arts Workshops as arts education precinct,
- Sutherland a civic and performance precinct,
- Kurnell/Royal National Park and Woronora River with Aboriginal cultural heritage significance
- Menai/Bangor with a Celtic focus.
- Como with heritage parklands
- Bundeena is a suburb rich in cultural heritage and the place of residence for many local artists.

Lesser suburban areas which will also be developed as part of the Metro strategy will be the focus of suburban upgrades. Opportunities will be available in these locations allowing the differentiation of art forms and themes linked to various centres and demand.

- Hubs which are multi use, accessible, have day and night and weekend access and cater to a broad range of community interests thrive as demonstrated by Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre.

*In giving consideration to the history of Gymea TAFE as the original home of Kogarah TAFE's art school, an opportunity exists to return that campus to Gymea. In so doing, a dynamic 'hub' and capacity could be built with synergies developed between the gallery & art school. (Hazelhurst Gallery Director)*

Events which cater to a broad range of participants at safe accessible locations are popular and well attended and important in the development of social cohesion. Held in suitable public places with adequate infrastructure these events ensure diverse communities are involved, as demonstrated by annual cultural events such as the Jazz and Blues Market, Fiesta and Australia Day events.

Economic development is an important component of events held at the start of the tourist season at key locations such as Cronulla CBD Spring Fair.

Sutherland Entertainment Centre in the civic precinct is located in an area which is accessible, close to a number of memorials and within proximity of parks and tourist attractions. The variety of performances held within the centre and the adjacent civic precinct is due to its dimensions to cater for large audiences and bigger performances.

#### **Recommendation 12**

**That Sutherland Shire Council supports the concept of promoting and developing cultural hubs which reflect existing urban uses and focal points rather than facilities being established in less accessible and under-utilised areas.**

## **4. Accessibility of cultural and arts education**

In Sutherland Shire art and cultural education occurs in a range of formats informally through lecture, workshop, excursions and artist in resident formats in non accredited classes and through accredited institutionalised organisations providing qualifications.

Locally both opportunities are available and the demand is growing. VET courses are expanding; TAFE courses are increasing - with the proposed relocation of St George TAFE to Gymea. Locally council provides facilities to accommodate University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age. There are also a number of programs available at the St George and Sutherland Community College and Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts centre. Sutherland Entertainment Centre provides performance space for schools and private performing arts education organisations. Sutherland Library provides many opportunities for life long learning and cultural education through hire of facilities, provision of technology, training and educational material and programs for all ages.

A number of private and public secondary schools and TAFE have excellent facilities for performance, music, visual arts and media. The level of access to the public outside the school/TAFE community is unknown. Improving these existing facilities provided community access was ensured, would be beneficial to the community especially in well located facilities that are accessible by public transport.

A number of smaller facilities such as the School of Arts, various halls and community centres, scout halls, galleries and seniors centres developed in the 60's and 70's are in need of an upgrade to increase access. Generating income and increasing usage may make them sustainable. Appropriate targeted use of cultural infrastructure funding to enhance and multipurpose these spaces in line with a Cultural Framework, Public Art policy Community Plan and Strategic Plan will enable buildings to be upgraded. These facilities will in turn promote and facilitate the development of cultural and arts based programs and education.

Councils SSHED provides spaces for arts groups to meet and facilities for seeding arts based businesses. Education for artists in establishing viable business management strategies could be an essential service offered at local TAFE and Wollongong University Campus at Loftus. Artists in residence mentor others to further develop their businesses and skills.

Making use of and upgrading existing ageing arts education infrastructure enable communities to maintain facilities for educative and other purposes and revitalise them.

Hazelhurst serves the Sutherland Shire, St George and Northern Illawarra regions (representing 71% of visitation). In 07/08 29% (up 3%) of visitation came from elsewhere in Sydney/NSW/Aust/OS.

- Primary and secondary schools regularly participate in programs and partnerships have been established with TAFE, University of Wollongong and Macquarie University. Hazelhurst offers proximity and ease of access, along with affordable use of expensive and technique specific studio equipment (printmaking, digital media and ceramics).
- The Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre workshop program caters for skills development and hobby interests across a range of age groups and media specific interests. The organisation plans to introduce Certificate level accredited courses and have had a number of students move onto more formal training at either TAFE or university level.

#### **Recommendation 13**

**That where possible, existing facilities, industrial areas and heritage buildings are utilised for the provision of arts/cultural education infrastructure thereby making existing facilities more sustainable and preserving local history and culture.**

#### **Recommendation 14**

**That appropriate targeted use of cultural infrastructure funding can be used to enhance and multipurpose existing seniors facilities, halls and identified art spaces in line with a Cultural Framework, Public Art policy Community Plan and Strategic Plan.**

#### **Recommendation 15**

**That education for artists in establishing viable business management strategies could be offered at local TAFE and Wollongong University Campus at Loftus.**

## **5. Economic impacts on communities**

The community has identified the need for facilities in which to establish businesses. In particular, a requirement for facilities which can accommodate high levels of IT for new media.

The larger proportion of older residents in the community in future, together with the lack of succession planning by local small businesses may lead to a reduction in employment opportunities in Sutherland Shire. Regeneration of centres with active cultural precincts, business opportunities and attraction and retention of younger people to the area may assist in developing more prosperous communities. Public transport and affordable housing are closely linked to enabling lower paid people such as key workers will continue to live and work in the area.

**a. Economic employment opportunities for local residents**

Many cultural facilities provided by Council provide employment opportunities for local residents, particularly part time casual and shift workers.

**b. Economic Impact for Artists & Communities**

*'Ongoing employment opportunities for artists have been generated through workshops and master class programs. Further benefits have been derived via sales of locally produced arts & crafts and exhibition exposure. Hazelhurst's merchandise turnover stands at close to \$100,000 pa (most of which relates to sales of local arts and crafts). In addition, Hazelhurst's proximity to Gymea's shopping strip has added a significant cultural element and contributed to development of a lively café culture'. (Hazelhurst Gallery Director)*

**c. Economic impacts for small business and neighbourhoods**

Urban consolidation of centres will mean that urban public precincts will have to be attractive and well maintained to encourage use of space, break down isolation, encourage night use and create a sense of safety and cohesion. Arts infrastructure will be integral to developing these hubs.

Councils Neighbourhood and Interaction Survey conducted each four years clearly demonstrate a significant increase in the numbers of residents socialising in cafes. It is anticipated that this trend will continue.

Provision of formal and informal education, business and tourism opportunities and facilities in which artists can work and practice are all required to enhance the employment of artists in Sutherland Shire. Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre currently employs many artists through providing opportunities to exhibit and sell work.

Cultural Planning and Events Unit provides opportunities for art and craftspeople to sell work locally. There is a thriving market program supporting craft sales.

The Sutherland Entertainment Centre promotes local and international artists and continues to build on attendance numbers benefiting the local economy, particularly the evening economy in the Sutherland shopping district.

Festivals supported by Chambers of Commerce, Progress Associations and community based committees provide economic incentives to local small business people in the locale and those participating in them.

The relatively recent development of Aboriginal Cultural tours in and around Sutherland Shire is a significant step. Supporting the local community to sustain and strengthen this valuable cultural development and tourism business would bring significant gains to the area. Federal funding assistance has supported the development of this program/business.

The Inquiry requested that reference is made to **Fair and equitable access to access to all people in NSW**. It is significant that cultural and artistic pursuits showcase diversity and promote community cohesion. Ensuring that marginalised communities are able to access facilities, infrastructure, programs, events and education will enable diverse communities to participate in cultural life. Many local community based organisations utilise art/cultural mediums as a vehicle to explore social justice and equity issues and to empower disadvantaged communities. In particular acknowledging aboriginal communities through the provision of art and cultural funding and participation.

**Recommendation 16**

**That participation by diverse community representatives on regional Arts Boards or SSROC Arts Boards is encouraged.**

**Recommendation 17**

**That economic development and tourism support is given to support Art and Cultural Infrastructure in Sutherland Shire with specific focus on Aboriginal Cultural tours.**

<b>6. The Adequacy of the NSW State Plan and desirability of a State Cultural Plan</b>
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**a. Targets and strategies**

Lack of clearly articulated targets and strategies for cultural development in NSW and lack of integration with Federal government initiatives is of concern to local government.

Clear linkages to key directions in the Metro strategy and Tourism Plan should be strongly articulated in a Cultural Plan for NSW.

A Cultural Plan for NSW will prompt local councils to develop their own plans so that goals, targets and reporting can aligned with the State Plan. Reporting against a Cultural Plan will allow the State to evaluate, plan for the future and to be better able to collaborate and form partnerships across departments and agencies. It will also assist in development and cooperation for regions. It will provide transparency and direction for all State government departments as all will have a stake in the Plan.

Holistic approaches to those diverse services and activities such as inclusion of libraries, sporting events and community organisations should be considered.

Support for arts infrastructure funding for community based agencies which already receive State funding and are in their own premises should be considered.

Focus of the State plan on Participation is a key element to encourage communities to participate in the arts.

**b. Timeframes**

The State Cultural Plan could provide a schedule and rationale for equitable, time framed allocations of funding to LGA's or regions. A State Cultural Plan could provide certainty and assist in applying for funding, reduce time spent on developing funding applications and promote cooperative practices among arts organisations.

**c. Aboriginal culture**

Clear references and positions in regard to funding for Aboriginal cultural heritage and development programs must be considered.

**d. Safety**

The NSW Cultural Plan should have reference to Crime prevention CPTED strategies.

**Recommendation 18**

**That the State develop a Cultural Plan which references the Metro Strategy, Cultural Accords and Tourism Strategy and articulates clear direction for the state in the long term with targets and funding targets attached.**

**Recommendation 19**

**That Aboriginal cultural heritage and development programs are incorporated into an Arts and Cultural infrastructure plan**

**Recommendation 20**

**That all cultural services and activities such as libraries, sporting facilities and community organisations should be considered for Cultural infrastructure funding.**

**Recommendation 21**

**That community based agencies which already receive State funding and are in their own premises should be eligible to apply for Cultural and Arts infrastructure funding.**

**Recommendation 22**

**That the State Cultural Plan and Infrastructure Plans and funding focus on Participation.**

**Recommendation 23**

**The State Cultural Plan could provide a schedule and rationale for equitable, time framed allocations of funding to LGA's or regions.**

**Recommendation 24**

**That the NSW Cultural Plan and Infrastructure planning requirements should have reference to Crime prevention CPTED strategies**

**Recommendation 25**

**That any Cultural Plan for the State include (or be supported by) planning and co-ordination at a regional level.**

<b>7. Any other relevant matters</b>
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**a. Revitalising the public domain to include state owned infrastructure**

Existing state owned infrastructure such as railway stations, national parks, hospitals and hospital grounds and schools should be looked at in the context of this inquiry. Public Art policies could be applied to each of these areas to create more liveable structures and revitalise precincts in line with other local government and private sector development occurring in the precinct.

**b. Previous negotiations with Federal funding**

Federal funding options for capital funding infrastructure for cultural purposes have been investigated through Council previously.

DOTARS offered support to submit for funding to upgrade a council facility tenanted by a community organisation. Lack of recurrent funding for maintenance and management and limitations of the community based committee in regard to Business Planning prevented the option from proceeding.

A number of community sporting organisations in the area were successful in securing grant funding for water tanks prior to the last election. Once again these grants did not include funds for maintenance or upkeep. They are located on Council owned sporting fields and are now located, managed and maintained by council.

Renewed concern by local government about cost shifting means that in future larger capital assistance opportunities not identified in the Strategic Plan and Budgets will not generally be supported unless full funding and recurrent costs are covered.

**c. Presentation at Conference**

The matters raised here should be presented and raised at NSW conferences dealing with infrastructure and urban revitalisation and consolidation.

**d. Innovation and best practice**

Development of cultural facilities, creative partnerships and best practice could be showcased through accessible low cost conferences and workshops.

**e. Community based organisations and capital funding for infrastructure**

Many organisations providing services to diverse and marginalised communities utilise arts and cultural programs to explore issues of diversity, promote self esteem and promote social cohesion. Most community groups utilising premises for group programs would undertake cultural programs of some kind are it recording music, art and craft, visual arts, dance and performance etc.

- Locally, a community based organisation providing key services to young people for over a decade have been renting premises on the private market due to lack of capital funding assistance and recurrent funding to locate into suitable publicly owned premises. This high rental cost has impacted on budgets available for staffing and service delivery.

**f. Ageing infrastructure and new needs**

Established areas with high ratings such as Sutherland Shire Council rarely receive substantial grant funding from any source. For many years key Cultural and Arts infrastructure has been deteriorating with little funding for maintenance.

There is significant competition and demand for arts infrastructure funding from local governments and other community based and private stakeholders.

Community consultation to varying degrees has further identified the need for:

- Refurbishment and upgrade of existing halls and facilities
- Affordable performance and rehearsal space
- Accessible venues for large performances
- A showground
- Artist in residence facilities
- Facilities for incubating arts businesses with new media technologies and
- Spaces and workshops for practicing visual artists
- Large exhibition spaces or spaces developed in existing infrastructure
- Library infrastructure upgrades
- Public art and performance sites suitably located in identified public spaces
- Public art exhibition space in existing civic buildings and private businesses.
- Sensory gardens on accessible places
- Accessible community gardens

There are very few capital works and infrastructure programs that can be accessed through State funding and where it is provided it is poorly targeted and inadequate for meeting today's standards.

Available funding for large scale sporting facilities has been targeted to rural areas for the last decade. Small grants from NSW Sport and Recreation have not been adjusted in the past 20 years and are based on electorate distribution.

Library funding guidelines have excluded Sutherland Shires new purpose built library from eligibility for any capital assistance funding.

**Recommendation 26**

**Funding priorities should be articulated in the NSW Cultural Plan and any Arts and Cultural infrastructure Plans so that applicants for funding are clear about eligibility and priorities.**

**Recommendation 27**

**That Public Art policy could be applied to State owned infrastructure such as railway stations, schools and hospitals to create more liveable structures and revitalise precincts in line with other local government and private sector development occurring in the precinct.**

**Recommendation 28**

**That along with infrastructure funding additional assistance is provided to community based organisations for maintenance and management of facilities.**

**Recommendation 29**

**That community based organisations seeking capital funding and infrastructure funding are given appropriate referral and assistance with business planning which addresses maintenance and management of facilities.**

**Recommendation 30**

**That larger capital funding assistance opportunities include full funding and recurrent funding for an establishment phase.**

<b>Attachment - Arts and Cultural Infrastructure Audit</b>
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A basic Cultural Infrastructure Audit is attached to this response paper. It includes current and possible proposed projects under development for council, government departments, private sector and community organisations are captured in the attached table.