

Public Accountability Committee
Integrity, efficacy and value for money of NSW government grant programs
Supplementary questions – 1 February 2021

In relation to the Batemans Bay Leisure Centre

1. Which minister approved funding for the project?

Regional Cultural Fund (RCF) has funded the arts and cultural components of the Batemans Bay Regional Aquatic, Arts and Leisure Centre.

All RCF funding decisions are made by the Minister for the Arts in consultation with the Deputy Premier.

2. What was the date on which the approval occurred?

This funding was approved on 28 November 2018.

3. From which funding source was it approved?

The Regional Cultural Fund.

4. What are the justifications provided for the funding?

Applications to the RCF are assessed by an independent panel, comprised of representatives with regional expertise from across the arts and cultural sector, infrastructure industry, and public servants.

The independent panel provides advice on the merits of each of applications against four program criteria:

- case for change,
- capacity to deliver,
- value for money and
- engagement and reach.

The arts and cultural components of this project were assessed by the independent panel as eligible and having merit.

5. Was there a benefit cost ratio provided for the project?

The RCF has funded the arts and cultural components of the centre.

Yes, all RCF applications above \$5 million were required to submit a full Business Case with a cost benefit ratio.

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- 6. Did the original business case show a \$300,000 per annum operating loss? Is that still estimated to be the case?**

Details of applications are confidential. The arts and cultural components of the project were assessed as eligible and having merit for funding under the Regional Cultural Fund. The Centre's operating budget is a matter for Council.

- 7. Were any written reasons provided for why this project as funded when it was ranked number 72 compared to the Bega Gallery which was ranked number 1? Can you confirm that the Bega Gallery was ranked number 1? Can you confirm that the Batemans Bay Leisure Centre was ranked number 72?**

On 14 August 2020, all documents concerning the applications, assessments, correspondence, recommendations, approvals and funding allocations relating to the RCF, were produced under a resolution under Standing Order 52 and they are subject to a claim of privilege by the Department.

- 8. Please provide a copy of the approval paperwork**

Please refer to answer from question 7.

- 9. Please provide a copy of any ministerial briefing notes in relation to the project**

Please refer to answer from question 7.

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In relation to Wagga Conservatorium

- 1. Which minister approved funding for stage 1 and the reservation of funding for stage 2 of the project?**

The Riverina Conservatorium was not an applicant to the RCF. Create NSW was not involved in the funding reservations or the announcement. This matter is referred to Department of Regional NSW to answer.

- 2. What were the dates on which the approvals occurred?**

Please refer to answer from question 1.

- 3. From which funding source was it approved?**

Please refer to answer from question 1.

- 4. What are the justifications provided for the funding of stage 1 and the reservation of funding for stage 2?**

Please refer to answer from question 1.

- 5. Was there a benefit cost ratio provided for stage 1 and/or the reservation of funding for stage 2 the project?**

Please refer to answer from question 1.

- 6. Please provide a copy of the approval paperwork**

Please refer to answer from question 1.

- 7. Please provide a copy of any ministerial briefing notes in relation to stages 1 and 2 of the project**

Please refer to answer from question 1.