

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES

REVIEW OF THE *HERITAGE ACT 1977*

Hearing – 2 September 2021

Response to supplementary questions to Ms Annette Pitman, Head of Create Infrastructure, Create NSW

1 The committee has asked this question before but it was brought to our attention that it should have been directed to Create NSW.

So Ms Pitman, Aboriginal communities have asked for a building to be earmarked as an Aboriginal War Memorial Museum. They need a place where they can exhibit a number of Movable Heritage items that relate to the Aboriginal Wars and Massacres.

The Sydney Living Museum has operated the Endangered Houses Fund since 2005. The fund purchases properties, carries out appropriate conservation work and places suitable protections, such as Heritage Agreements, on the property. The items are then sold, with sale funds becoming the working capital for the next project.

One of these restored heritage properties could be turned an Aboriginal War Memorial Museum.

- a) Is this something Create Infrastructure could get on board with?
- b) What kind of assistance can Create Infrastructure give to the requirements of such a project?
- c) This Museum in turn could become a Heritage Tourism site. The Heritage Act currently provides no incentives to support or encourage heritage tourism. The SA Australian government has a range of regulatory and non-regulatory initiatives. Could you suggest any Heritage Tourism initiatives that could be applied to an Aboriginal War Memorial Museum?

Response

- a) The Endangered Houses Fund is a conservation program operated by Sydney Living Museums. The Fund is not intended to create new public museums; significant heritage properties that are at risk are identified and conserved, and then offered back to the marketplace for future generations to enjoy. Questions about the Endangered Houses Fund should be directed to Sydney Living Museums.
- b) While Create Infrastructure is not aware of the specifics of this proposal, our work is guided by the NSW *Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+*, which recognises the need for infrastructure that supports the cultural practice and economic empowerment of Aboriginal communities. This includes the need for Aboriginal keeping places and cultural centres, and appropriate storage and digitisation of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Create NSW works with Aboriginal Affairs NSW and other relevant stakeholders to support the development of cultural infrastructure that meets the needs of the Aboriginal community. For example, Create Infrastructure is working with Aboriginal Affairs NSW and the Stolen Generations Council to establish keeping places at four NSW sites of significance to the Stolen Generations.

	<p>c) Create NSW is currently working with Heritage NSW and other government agencies to consider a wide range of options to better support the activation and revitalisation of heritage places, including through the promotion of cultural and heritage tourism.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Ms Pitman, the discussion papers referenced some examples of successful programs that facilitate heritage investment and activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK Heritage Enterprise Grants scheme helps communities to repair and reuse derelict historic buildings. • The NSW Endangered Houses Fund is a revolving fund that purchases, conserves, protects and then sells, heritage properties considered to be a risk of demolition or neglect. • The Victorian Heritage scheme is a financially self-sustaining heritage re-use scheme that has potential application to government-owned heritage. <p>a) Do you see how any of these incentives could fit in to Create Infrastructure?</p> <p>b) Can you recommend any points on how these schemes may be improved?</p> <p>c) Have you heard of any other incentives schemes interstate or overseas that could be considered?</p>
	<p>Response</p> <p>a) Create NSW supports Heritage NSW’s proposal for consideration of new initiatives to incentivise heritage ownership, conservation, adaptive reuse, activation, and investment. New initiatives, such as those listed, have the potential to remove barriers and make the activation of heritage buildings more accessible for the arts and cultural organisations we work with.</p> <p>b) Create NSW is working with Heritage NSW and other government agencies to explore a wide range of options to better support the activation and revitalisation of heritage places.</p> <p>c) There are significant opportunities to encourage adaptive reuse and activation of heritage places and achieve cultural infrastructure outcomes through partnerships with local councils, cultural organisations, the private sector, the Commonwealth, Federal Cultural institutions, and within the NSW Government.</p> <p>Further examples of heritage schemes in other jurisdictions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling Development guidance from Historic England • The Commonwealth’s Australian Heritage Grants program • South Australia’s ‘Growing Our Heritage Future’ strategy • The City of Perth’s Heritage Adaptive Reuse Grants program • Various local government heritage incentive schemes <p>While there is likely no single solution, a combination of complementary measures and initiatives should facilitate greater activation of, and community engagement with, our state’s heritage.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Ms Pitman in the hearing on 2 September 2021 you mentioned there has been an allocation made for a fund that will fund projects such as the establishment of a First Nations Peoples War Memorial Museum. You mentioned you will be opening a round of application for the that later on this year.</p> <p>a) Could you provide details on when, where and how to submit an application?</p> <p>b) What is the cap for individual grants?</p>

Response

In September 2021, the NSW Government, through Create NSW, launched the \$60 million Creative Capital funding program. The first of three rounds will open shortly.

The Creative Capital program is administered by Create Infrastructure in connection with its work in the planning and delivery of infrastructure for the cultural sector.

Creative Capital has been introduced to meet the demand for the infrastructure needed to support the creative economy and ensure people can enjoy quality cultural experiences across NSW.

Funded projects will include new cultural infrastructure, upgrades to existing cultural infrastructure and purchases of essential equipment to ensure cultural spaces are fit-for-purpose and able to accommodate quality programming, such as touring exhibitions and productions. Creative Capital will fund museums, theatres, performance spaces, galleries and Aboriginal Cultural Centre or Keeping Place and language centres across NSW.

Eligible Locations

Organisations across all of NSW are eligible to apply, including:

- Local Councils
- Joint Organisation of Councils
- Not-for-profit organisations, including business chambers, industry associations and charities
- Research or academic organisations including conservatoria,
- Local Aboriginal Land Councils

There are two categories in Creative Capital:

- Minor Works and Equipment Projects – two rounds, each one stage
- Medium to Large Projects - one round in two stages

Examples of types of projects that Creative Capital will fund include:

- New builds, refurbishments (including repurposing of existing spaces for arts and cultural use) and acquisition of specialised equipment to address a cultural infrastructure gap for a local area
- Capital works or specialised equipment to enable a museum, gallery, performance venue, library, Aboriginal Cultural Centre or Keeping Place or language centre to receive touring programs
- Refurbishment or specialised equipment, including major instruments to provide regional conservatoria and other performing arts venues with functional performance spaces
- Investment to enable a museum, gallery, Aboriginal Cultural Centre or Keeping Place or language centre, or a performance venue to provide a cultural precinct or hub for a local or regional area and support smaller venues in that area
- Establishment of collections digitisation hub in a regional area that doesn't currently have one, in line with the guidelines for previous Government investment in collections digitisation
- Data management systems and other digital infrastructure including collection management systems and recording, broadcasting and livestreaming equipment
- Development, including master-planning of Aboriginal Cultural Centres, Keeping Places, language centres and other Aboriginal cultural infrastructure
- Investment to assist in building new libraries in locations that currently don't have a library

There are three opportunities to apply for Creative Capital, and an organisation may apply across multiple rounds. The level of detail expected in an application will increase according to the requested funding amount.

Creative Capital aims to support:

- Increasing access and participation to quality local spaces for local communities who need more or improved cultural facilities
- Touring programs enablement
- Strategic investment to strengthen a cultural venue ('hub') that can then support smaller organisations ('spokes') in the local area
- Digital enablement
- Aboriginal Cultural Centres, Keeping Places, language centres and other Aboriginal cultural infrastructure

Further information, including the Guidelines, is available at <https://www.create.nsw.gov.au/create-infrastructure/creativecapital/>, or the team can be contacted on 0477 21 34 34, or at creative.capital@create.nsw.gov.au

4

Given that work has commenced to dismantle Willow Grove from the Parramatta Powerhouse site, where will the dismantled Willow Grove building be stored before its future site is determined?

Response

The dismantled components of Willow Grove are being stored inside a secure warehouse in Wetherill Park while plans for the future site and use of the building are made.

5

Given that on 2 September 2021, you referenced the "Willow Grove Relocation Framework and methodology plan", can you answer the following:

- a) When was this plan created?
- b) Which government departments are involved in the plan?
- c) Who has oversight of the plan?
- d) Are there external contractors engaged with this plan, and if so, list the contractors and how much they are being paid for their expertise?

Response

- a) The Relocation Framework and Methodology Plan (RFMP) was finalised in June 2021.
- b) Infrastructure NSW engaged specialists, Advisian, to prepare the RFMP. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment approved the plan in June 2021.
- c) Infrastructure NSW is responsible for the implementation of the RFMP. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is responsible for monitoring compliance.
- d) Infrastructure NSW has engaged Advisian to prepare the RFMP and a range of other services on the project. The details of this engagement are commercial in confidence.