

*Tabled - Minister Sounis  
13/8/13 - Tourism,  
Major Events, Hospitality,  
The Arts.  
Resolved to publish  
Received -  
Natale  
Ubolovic*

**Question:** What is the Government doing in response to its commitment to develop an arts and cultural policy for NSW?

**Answer:**

- I thank the Honourable Member for their question.
- NSW's arts and cultural industries generate almost \$4.8 billion in business income which is a significant contribution to the State's economy.
- This Government recognises that strong arts and cultural sector not only builds jobs. It enriches the lives of the State's citizens.
- To ensure that the sector continues to flourish, the NSW Government is committed to the development of an arts and cultural policy as a key action under our plan NSW 2021.
- The NSW Arts and Cultural Policy will set a vision and 10-year strategy for the sector in NSW, to maintain and enhance the important social and economic contribution this sector makes to our State... The policy will build on our State's existing strengths.
- The State's arts and cultural sector makes up 38 per cent of the national arts workforce... and NSW creative industries

are responsible for 4.7 per cent of total NSW employment. It actually leads the country in cultural employment

- NSW is at the forefront of Australia's arts and cultural activity on many indicators...
- As for screen production...NSW continues to lead in the film, television and digital games sector, with 59.37 per cent of all people employed nationally in production and post-production businesses based in NSW<sup>1</sup>.
- 55 per cent of all Australian production and post-production businesses are located here in NSW, with a total income of more than \$1.58 billion in 2011-12.
- Cultural tourism is also flourishing in this State. In 2010-11, tourism generated 3,100 jobs in cultural services in NSW, representing 34.7 per cent of Australia's employment in this sector.
- As the first step in the development of the Arts and Cultural Policy, Arts NSW has prepared a discussion paper which will set the direction for discussions with stakeholders and the public to contribute to the development of the State's first Arts and Cultural Policy.

---

<sup>1</sup> Source: ABS figures for the Film, Television and Digital Games sector, released on 18 June

- It sets out priority areas and potential future directions for discussion with stakeholders.
- And it includes themes and actions for Government to support artists and cultural organisations, and to promote participation in an active cultural life across the State.
- The discussion paper was developed with the guidance of a five-member Arts and Cultural Policy reference group appointed earlier this year.
- The members of the Arts and Cultural Policy reference group are:
  - Chris Freeland, Chair Sydney Film Festival, Partner, Baker & McKenzie,
  - Professor Deborah Stevenson, University of Western Sydney,
  - Scott Howie, Eastern Riverina Arts,
  - Lisa Havilah, CEO, Carriageworks
  - Ben Quilty, artist, 2011 Archibald Prize winner.
- The discussion paper was informed by considerable existing research, internal expertise and stakeholder feedback obtained from a range of consultation processes.
- Consultation undertaken to develop the industry action plans for the visitor economy and creative industries has informed the development of the discussion paper... as well

as cultural tourism forums and NSW stakeholder input to the National Cultural Policy.

- The Discussion Paper will be released for wide ranging consultation shortly.
- The consultation period will include face to face and online forums to engage key stakeholders and the general public... in both metropolitan and regional NSW.
- The Arts and Cultural Policy will provide the NSW Government with a strong platform to drive the growth and development of a professional, engaged and more sustainable sector in NSW.
- For the first time we will have a clear, articulated plan to build our competitive advantage in this sector and ensure NSW remains Australia's creative capital.
- A proposed NSW Arts and Cultural Policy will be provided to Cabinet for consideration in early 2014.
- The development of the Arts and Cultural Policy, and the review we are currently also undertaking of the Arts Funding Program, will both necessarily reflect a tight budgetary environment.

- This emphasises the importance of getting the planning right so the allocation of resources meets the needs of the sector while ensuring sustainable growth and productivity.
- The creation of this State's first ever Arts and Cultural Policy shows our commitment to the growth and sustainability of the sector into the future.
- Whether in local communities or regional hubs, a flourishing arts environment creates opportunities for people to come together.
- NSW is home to some of the most innovative and creative arts practitioners in Australia and the NSW Government is determined to sustain the State's national leadership in these sectors.

[ENDS]