

**Submission  
No 129**

## **INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 12 August 2016

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Partially  
Confidential

## Information for submission - Upper House inquiry

a) NSW government policy, funding and support for museums and galleries, museum and gallery buildings and heritage collections, including volunteer managed museums and museums managed by councils

We would like to see funding more streamlined and on-going, particularly for the triennial program funding. Ideally this would be provided by ArtsNSW as dedicated funding, which may simply be calculated for each regional gallery as a percentage of annual budgets.

A long-term and more permanent approach to funding regional galleries would allow resources to be directed to other activities – submissions and acquittals are time-consuming and resources are often very stretched in regional galleries. It would also allow projects with long lead times to be developed with greater certainty around the associated funding. The administrative load on the funding bodies would also be significantly reduced.

If local government is able to commit to long term, on-going funding, of substantial levels, to support cultural institutions for the benefit of their ratepayers state and federal governments should look to do the same.

b) potential funding impacts on museums and galleries affected by council amalgamations

The Gallery currently services the \_\_\_\_\_ including councils that are earmarked for amalgamation with \_\_\_\_\_ Council (there are no other \_\_\_\_\_ galleries in this area). Council amalgamations may provide greater formality to this situation, and could potentially strengthen our case for additional funding through the larger amalgamated council body, to facilitate transport to the Gallery and outreach programs. The area that will be expected to be serviced by the Gallery will be significantly larger than is the current situation – a different proposition to many metropolitan amalgamations.

c) opportunities to revitalise the structure, reach, and impact of museums and galleries, and their research and collecting priorities

Providing funding to galleries to allow their collections to be made available and fully searchable on-line would assist in the reach of galleries, as well as substantially increase research opportunities for all. Galleries contain major works, often of national significance, but are rarely able to provide on-line access to this material. This would allow the breadth of possible exhibitions that could be assembled to be increased. It would also allow collecting priorities of galleries to be refined as more becomes known about other, possibly neighbouring, collections.

d) access to the collections of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, the Australian Museum and any other state collections held in trust for the people of New South Wales, and programs that promote physical and online access

Gallery has borrowed material from state collections recently, and these institutions have been very supportive of the loans. AGNSW has been especially good to borrow material from – no loan fees or packing fees. SLNSW did charge loan fees (although they agreed to a reduction) and packing fees (totalling around \$3,500). A consistent approach, and ideally without fees, across state institutions would be beneficial. are increasingly assembling major exhibitions in-house that often rely on material from other institutions. More significant levels of funding for facility upgrades (environmental conditions, security etc.) is also needed to ensure regional galleries are able to meet the requirements of lending institutions.

e) the cost benefits of the sale of the Powerhouse Museum site in Ultimo and its proposed move to Parramatta, and whether there are alternative strategies to support museum development.

I provide no comment on the relocation to Parramatta.

Consideration should be given to an increase in assistance being provided to enable and the access to the collection so that it can be more accessible through loans to regional institutions.

Consideration should also be given to the allocation of a percentage of the cost savings that will flow from the relocation of the Powerhouse being made available to regional institutions for the development facilities, exhibitions and educational content.

f) the development and transparency of advice to the government on priorities for NSW museums and galleries

We feel there is currently little transparency regarding advice to the government in this area. The sense we have is that this advice is developed within a narrow sphere and that regional galleries are not consulted directly in this process.

Organisations such as Regional and Public Galleries NSW and Museums and Galleries NSW are valuable in establishing what priorities are for these institutions, and the sector; their level of influence on the development of government policies does not seem to be high.

g) the impact of the efficiency dividend on the budgets of museums and galleries over the last 10 years, and funding levels compared to other states.

No comment

h) the economic impact of museums and galleries on cultural tourism, and their role in supporting the visitor economy in Sydney and regional New South Wales

The positive impact regional museums and galleries have on cultural tourism has been documented in recent reports; and research undertaken by \_\_\_\_\_ Gallery this year confirms that visitors are travelling to \_\_\_\_\_ especially for exhibitions we have on display, exhibitions we have marketed into Sydney, and through national media.

i) any other related matter.

Nil response