

**Submission  
No 43**

**INQUIRY INTO GOVERNMENT'S MANAGEMENT OF THE  
POWERHOUSE MUSEUM AND OTHER MUSEUMS AND  
CULTURAL PROJECTS IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Organisation:** Clarence Valley Council

**Date Received:** 6 May 2020

---



1 May 2020

Reference: DWS  
Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_,  
Regional Gallery Director

NSW Legislative Council  
Select Committee  
Parliament of NSW  
Parliament House  
6 Macquarie Street  
Sydney, NSW 2000

To Whom It May Concern,

**SUBMISSION TO THE NSW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SELECT COMMITTEE  
INQUIRY INTO THE POWERHOUSE MUSEUM AND OTHER MUSEUMS AND  
CULTURAL PROJECTS IN NSW**

Clarence Valley Council and Grafton Regional Gallery acknowledges the support provided by State funded museums and galleries to provide access to quality arts, cultural and heritage experiences to regional audiences across NSW.

The Clarence Valley has a vibrant arts, cultural and heritage sector comprising of local, and regional library services, regional gallery, private galleries, volunteer managed community museums, an active Aboriginal community including visual artists, story tellers, language and dance groups, three community theatre groups, several dance schools and a conservatorium of music. The Valley has an active creative community and an emerging cultural economy turning practice into business.

The Council has a very active Cultural Advisory Committee and also runs a month long period of cultural activities through the PLUNGE Festival in April. This festival presents 150 cultural events as part of the program, the most well known event being the Maclean Highland Gathering. Unfortunately, PLUNGE had to be postponed due to COVID-19, although hopefully a modified program can be run in October 2020. In addition, the Grafton community runs the internationally recognised Jacaranda Festival in November which has obtained some funding from Destination NSW in the last few years.

Through Create NSW the Government has funded an exciting \$7.6 million expansion of the Grafton Regional Gallery and \$250,000 for the Lawrence Museum. In addition, the Government has funded, through the Regional Communities Program, a \$250,000 expansion of the Yamba Museum. It is important, given this Government's investment in new infrastructure, that this is backed by ongoing program funding. At present, the Grafton Regional Gallery regularly receives through Create NSW a \$70,000 contribution which is less than 10% of the programming cost for the gallery. The four museums in the Clarence Valley receive occasional special grant funding, but no ongoing funding and reliance is entirely on the goodwill of volunteers.

As leaders in the arts and cultural sector State funded museums and galleries are at the forefront of the development and growth of arts, culture and heritage. In these unprecedented times the role of the arts and cultural sector in supporting community recovery across NSW from the 2019 bushfire crisis and the current coronavirus

pandemic is essential. The fostering of resilience through creative practice and the strengthening of healthy communities is crucial to the ongoing success of NSW.

To effectively support regional communities and provide access to outstanding arts, cultural and heritage experiences, State funded museums and galleries require additional resourcing to that currently provided. With increased resourcing these organisations could provide enhanced access to professional services for the sector, access to State collections through touring exhibitions, collection loans to present outstanding arts and cultural experiences otherwise not available within regional NSW.

Increased support in the form of partnerships between regional organisations and significant State and National arts and cultural organisations would foster cultural economic opportunities and support for our creative industries. This effectively supports the growth within the cultural sector regionally and enhances the liveability of regional NSW.

Clarence Valley Council and Grafton Regional Gallery looks forward to continually working with State funded museums and galleries to provide outstanding arts, cultural and heritage experiences to our community.

Yours faithfully

**Ashley Lindsey**  
**General Manager**  
**Clarence Valley Council**