

SUBJECT: LMM 27/10/20 - CITY OF NEWCASTLE SUBMISSION - AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIAS CREATIVE AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

MOTION

That City of Newcastle:

1. Notes that the Australian Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts has invited submissions regarding an Inquiry into Australia's Creative and Cultural Institutions;
2. Notes that Newcastle has a thriving arts and cultural scene where creative pursuits are encouraged and artistic flair is celebrated, with more artists per capita than any other city in Australia and that creative industries across the Hunter region are worth almost \$1 billionⁱ
3. Recognises the importance of our vibrant creative and cultural industries, and the devastating impact that the COVID-19 global pandemic has had on our makers, traders, creators, artists, designers and producers;
4. Notes that the City Taskforce, comprising of industry leaders from across our City has recognised recognized the valuable contribution the arts sector plays in creating vibrancy for our city and sustaining local jobs;
5. Notes that the City Taskforce, with the Independent Creative Alliance Newcastle [ICAN], believe that more is required to create new and ongoing opportunities in the Greater Newcastle area and that critical to the recovery of the creative sector in Newcastle is the need to address the glaring inconsistencies for both Federal and State Funding (Attachment A: The Newcastle Response: Arts Sector);
6. Makes a submission, on behalf of our local arts and cultural sector workers, to the Australian Parliamentary Inquiry in Australia's creative and cultural industries, noting the research and recommendations of the City Taskforce has developed in close consultation with the Independent Creative Alliance Newcastle (ICAN).

Part B: City of Newcastle Civic Cultural Precinct

That City of Newcastle:

1. Supports the Community and Cultural Advisory Committee and Chairperson Cr Carol Duncan who have resolved to explore the creation of a formal Civic Cultural Precinct to ensure appropriate long-term planning for the protection of the City's cultural institutions, including:
 - Newcastle Art Gallery
 - University of Newcastle's School of Music and Conservatorium

- University House
- City Hall
- Civic Theatre
- Civic Playhouse
- Newcastle Region Library
- Wheeler Place
- Newcastle Visitor Information Centre
- Newcastle Museum
- Victoria Theatre

2. Includes City of Newcastle's support for the creation of a formal Civic Cultural Precinct, and the benefits of defining such a Precinct for economic development and protection of cultural heritage in Newcastle, in our submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry.

BACKGROUND

Australia's cultural and creative industries and institutions will be the focus of a new Parliamentary inquiry. [The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts](#) will hear evidence on the benefits the arts bring to Australia, and the significant impacts that COVID-19 has had on this important industry.

[Committee Chair, Dr David Gillespie MP](#), said 'Australia's cultural and creative industries are at a point of significant change as Australia adapts to life in a pandemic'.

'Australia's creative innovation economy has made us a major player in the international arts arena, delivering benefits to our economy and helping shape our national identity. It's time to reflect on and re-think the way we create and interact with art, as we react to the pandemic and the challenges we need to overcome'.

'We will take evidence on the terms of reference, and encourage anyone within the arts community to make a submission or [participate in the online survey](#).'

Inquiry Terms of Reference:

The Committee will inquire into Australia's creative and cultural industries and institutions including, but not limited to, Indigenous, regional, rural and community based organisations.

The Committee will consider:

- The direct and indirect economic benefits and employment opportunities of creative and cultural industries and how to recognise, measure and grow them

- The non-economic benefits that enhance community, social wellbeing and promoting Australia's national identity, and how to recognise, measure and grow them
- The best mechanism for ensuring cooperation and delivery of policy between layers of government
- The impact of COVID-19 on the creative and cultural industries; and
- Avenues for increasing access and opportunities for Australia's creative and cultural industries through innovation and the digital environment.

For more information regarding the Inquiry:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Communications/Arts

City Taskforce 'The Newcastle Response': The Arts Sector

City of Newcastle, in close consultation with the Independent Creative Alliance Newcastle (ICAN), has developed a strong policy position regarding what is required to support our arts and cultural sector through the COVID-19 global pandemic

The Newcastle Response: Arts Sector

The City Taskforce recognises the valuable contribution the arts sector plays in creating vibrancy for our city and sustaining local jobs.

We thank the Federal Government for the \$250 million JobMaker program designed to restart Australia's Creative Economy as well as its support for the sector nationally through the Australia Council.

We also thank the NSW Government, who through Create NSW have provided a range of support programs for the sector.

The City Taskforce, however, in partnership with the Independent Creative Alliance Newcastle [ICAN], believe that more is required to create new and ongoing opportunities in the Greater Newcastle area.

Critical to the recovery of the creative sector in Newcastle is the need to address the glaring inconsistencies for both Federal and State Funding.

1. We ask that all levels of Government value and prioritise investment in arts and culture programs and infrastructure. Cultural and creative activity contributes in excess of \$110 billion to Australia's economy each year. In Newcastle, we have a higher per 10,000 population number of arts and recreation businesses than anywhere else in NSW. See Smart Specialisation report.
2. We request the Federal Government:
 - a. Establish a cultural infrastructure fund that Gateway Cities like Newcastle, Wollongong and Geelong can access. Currently, the

Federal Government provides Regional Arts Funding, which Newcastle is ineligible for, in addition to a range of capital city-based funding opportunities. More equity in access is required.

- b. The Creative Economy Taskforce establish a consultative partnership with the Independent Creative Alliance Newcastle [ICAN] to ensure that the views of arts and cultural organisations in Gateway Cities like Newcastle, are informing Federal Government policy.

3. We request the NSW State Government:

- a. Establish a cultural infrastructure fund that Gateway Cities like Newcastle and Wollongong can Arts Sector The Newcastle Response – Arts Sector access. Currently, the NSW Government provides a Regional Cultural Infrastructure fund, which Newcastle is ineligible for, and a range of Sydney-based projects. Newcastle is effectively shut out of all NSW cultural infrastructure grants. Link to recent submission to NSW Public Accountability Committee Inquiry.
- b. Establish a Cultural Development Organisation for Greater Newcastle which provides leadership and advocacy for the Arts Sector, fosters region-wide cultural initiatives and works in partnership with the arts and cultural sector. Such an initiative would align to equivalent bodies established by Regional Arts NSW.
- c. Develop a Greater Newcastle Cultural Strategy.
- d. Develop a Strategic Business Case for a Newcastle Arts Precinct connecting the Newcastle Art Gallery, City Hall, Civic Theatre, Civic Park, the Victoria Theatre and a range of smaller privately-owned venues.
- e. Destination NSW to provide an additional \$200,000 in financial support for the City of Newcastle's new arts and cultural festival. This festival is vitally important in creating new economic opportunities for local artists.

4. Partner on local arts and culture infrastructure projects:

- a. Newcastle Art Gallery Expansion project. The City of Newcastle and the Newcastle Art Gallery Foundation have committed to contribute the majority share of the funding. We request the Federal and State Governments contribute towards the project.
- b. Victoria Theatre refurbishment. We request that the Federal and State Governments contribute towards the refurbishment of Victoria Theatre.

ATTACHMENTS

Item 20 Attachment A: City Taskforce – The Newcastle Response, Arts Sector

ⁱ Creativity and Cultural Production in the Hunter report: <https://soci.newcastle.edu.au/hci/wp-content/uploads/sites/291/2019/03/HCI-Report-Executive-SummaryV2.pdf>