

## MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 20 June 2017

### **BUDGET DELIVERS ARTS FUNDING FOR THE CITY AND BUSH**

The 2017-18 Budget has delivered big for arts and culture with a funding boost for key projects across NSW and ongoing support for local organisations.

The arts and culture Budget has increased to \$639 million, including funding for the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, the Sydney Opera House renewal program and funding to support the arts and screen industries through grants programs.

More than \$344 million has been allocated to two new projects set to change the arts and culture fabric of the state.

\$100 million will be spent over four years as part of the new Regional Cultural Fund to build and upgrade arts and culture facilities across rural NSW. This can be spent on upgrading theatres, galleries, museums or any space to ensure arts and culture thrives.

The NSW Government is also backing the Sydney Modern Project by providing \$244 million in funding to the iconic extension to the Art Gallery of NSW. The much-heralded SANAA-designed building will become a Sydney icon and put the Indigenous collection at the heart of the expanded Gallery.

Minister for the Arts Don Harwin said funding for the Budget is spread across the State's Cultural Institutions and regional NSW.

"Through this budget our Government will continue to build on the legacy we are leaving across NSW in both the city and in the bush," Mr Harwin said. "I'm pleased to see significant investment to support regional communities through RCIF and the continued backing of once in a generation projects at our leading cultural institutions.

"It is important that we invest in projects that will not only have a lasting impact on the artists and organisations we support today but also the generations to come."

Highlights of the 2017-18 Budget include:

- \$244 million to the Art Gallery of NSW Sydney Modern project
- \$109 million to rejuvenate the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct
- \$100 million for a new Regional Cultural Fund
- \$52.7 million for the Arts and Cultural Development Program to support artists and organisations across NSW, including targeted funding to regional NSW and Western Sydney

- \$50 million for Stage One of the Sydney Opera House renewal program
- \$10 million for a range of programs to support screen development and production, regional filming fund grants and industry and audience development projects across the state
- \$7 million to the Made in New South Wales Program for new TV drama and international 'footloose' projects

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