

**BRISBANE
POWERHOUSE**

Committee Secretary, Economics and Governance Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Q 4000
egc@parliament.qld.gov.au

28 June 2020

Dear Secretary,

Queensland Government Economic Response to COVID-19

On behalf of the Brisbane Powerhouse board and staff, we would like to acknowledge the funding efforts of Arts Queensland and the Queensland Government to address the critical financial issues that have surrounded the wider arts industry during COVID-19.

The critical issues we have faced included:

1. Brisbane Powerhouse is not eligible for JobKeeper under the current Federal guidelines due to the organisation being a wholly owned subsidiary of Brisbane City Council.

Whilst we are a local government owned entity, we are not operated by Brisbane City Council; we receive an operating grant but operate independently. We are managed and staffed independent of Council, and the funding supplied by Brisbane City Council needs to be supplemented in order to deliver our program each year.

2. There have been 131 days between our last day of trading and our next. We are forecasting 55,000 tickets to be sold in 2020/21, as compared to 140,000 last year, and our income will fall from \$11.45m to \$7.7m.

We anticipate a \$1.9m financial loss as a result of COVID-19 and ongoing restrictions. As a result, our fulltime workforce are all currently working 3 days a week and we have just made 7 roles redundant in order to keep operating.

As such, all financial support from our State government has direct positive effect on our businesses ongoing and future viability.

Yours sincerely

Kris Stewart
Artistic Director