




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gallipoli Symphony; Budget, The Arts

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.05 pm): I was pleased to announce this week that Queensland will host the Australian premier of the Gallipoli Symphony in November. This is another coup for the Queensland Performing Arts Centre as it celebrates its 30th year. The Gallipoli Symphony has been 10 years in the making. Every year since 2006 Australian, New Zealand and Turkish composers have presented a movement of the symphony at Gallipoli to mark Anzac commemorations. On 24 November this year the Queensland Symphony Orchestra will play these individual movements as a complete symphony for the first time in Australia. This is a wonderful opportunity for Queenslanders and a sign of the high regard in which our arts community is held.

This is why I am also proud to announce the boosted arts funding in this week's budget as part of my commitment to ensuring that Queensland is once again a leader in the arts. \$173 million over the next four years will be invested in the future of arts, working towards restoring funding stripped by the LNP government and protecting the heritage value of our cultural institutions. This funding includes \$28 million for essential upgrades to Brisbane's Cultural Precinct in the wake of its heritage listing. The Cultural Precinct supports significant tourism and economic returns for the state. It attracted 4.7 million visitors in 2013-14. It is vital that we maintain this beating heart of our arts scene.

I am also happy to report that \$5.1 million over the next four years will go to an exciting new program: the Queensland Arts Showcase. This will have three separate funding streams to ensure that funds are available to develop new talent as well as attract big names to events across the state.

The budget also includes \$1.7 million for QAGOMA to support exhibitions during GOMA'S 10th anniversary celebrations. Since opening, QAGOMA's top 10 exhibitions have contributed more than \$100 million to Queensland's economy and over 6.4 million people have visited the gallery. The budget also provides \$11.2 million over the next four years to safeguard programs which were slated to end in 2014-15. We will provide additional support for the small to medium sector by continuing the Backing Indigenous Arts initiative and the Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy. I might add that I am looking forward to attending the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair later this month. This event is funded to go from strength to strength. I am pleased to report that Queensland now has a government that recognises the importance of an accessible, dynamic and vibrant arts sector to our economy and to Queenslanders' lives.