



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 4 December 2020

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Arts Sector

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (9.57 am): Queensland is the first Australian state to open our theatres to full capacity without an exemption required. This means full houses for seated ticketed events. We are welcoming more visitors, boosting employment and reconnecting Queenslanders with arts and cultural experiences. There is plenty on offer.

At QPAC, in the weeks ahead audiences can enjoy: Circa's *Carnival of the Animals*; Queensland Ballet's *60 Dancers: 60 Stories*; shake & stir's *A Christmas Carol*; and QPAC's *Spirit of Christmas* concert. I know that many members will relish the monster news that from January *Shrek The Musical* will be the first major musical in Australia to perform at 100 per cent capacity without an exemption since COVID-19. That is right here in Queensland. *Shrek's* QPAC season will support an estimated 3,000 shifts for artists and arts workers and will be a major drawcard for interstate visitors.

Our museums and galleries are also back to work. Queensland Museum's *Sea Monsters: Prehistoric Ocean Predators* takes guests on a journey through our ancient inland oceans. *The Motorcycle: Design, Art, Desire* is exclusive to GOMA thanks to blockbuster funding from the Palaszczuk government and support from Tourism and Events Queensland. It features 100 exceptional motorcycles from the 1870s to the present and is also exclusive to Brisbane.

Cultural and heritage visitors spend more and stay longer than other visitors. Prior to COVID-19, the arts, cultural and creative sector directly and indirectly contributed an estimated \$12.3 billion to Queensland's economy and employed around 92,000 Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government's 2020 budget delivers a plan for Queensland's economic recovery with an investment of over \$290 million in the current financial year. This includes our \$22.5 million Arts and Cultural Recovery Package to sustain the sector through COVID-19, develop new work, reopen our venues and support COVID-safe audience experiences across the state.

Our investment is helping the sector to emerge with strength and supporting Queensland's economic recovery. As at 31 October, \$12.8 million in funding from the recovery package has already been committed, supporting 242 applicants. I am incredibly proud of the way that Queensland's arts community has responded to the challenges faced this year. I invite Queenslanders and interstate visitors alike to some of the incredibly rich cultural experiences on offer in the weeks and months ahead. With restrictions easing and the reopening of borders, the arts sector in Queensland is good to go.