




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 2 September 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Brisbane Festival

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.03 am): I am delighted to inform the House that Brisbane Festival 2021 will open on Friday night! Thanks to Queensland's positive health response, Brisbane audiences will experience this Brightly Brisbane Festival which spans the month of September, connects Brisbane communities and brings life to the city's streets and cultural venues.

As part of Queensland's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19, Brisbane Festival 2021 will showcase 43 Queensland companies and employ more than 1,000 local artists, giving a fresh reimagining of ancient and classic stories. We will see exciting work from Queensland companies like Dancenorth, Karul Projects, Digi Youth Arts, Camerata, Access Arts, Blaklash Creative and Australasian Dance Collective. Our state companies will also be there with work from the Queensland Ballet, Queensland Theatre, Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Opera Queensland.

Featuring 157 First Nations artists engaged across the 23-day event, Brisbane Festival 2021 will present their largest ever First Nations program, opening with the Jumoo smoking ceremony at South Bank. Opening day highlights also include the world premiere of the stage version of *Boy Swallows Universe*. Presented by Brisbane Festival, Queensland Theatre and QPAC, this production brings to life the internationally successful first novel of local writer Trent Dalton and his tale of growing up in suburban Brisbane. In another world premiere, the Brisbane based Dead Puppet Society presents *Ishmael*, a captivating reimagining of the novel *Moby Dick*, which features a talented Queensland cast and creatives, state-of-the-art technology, brilliant puppetry and an outstanding original score.

The event First Nations Fashion: Walking in Two Worlds features stunning contemporary fashion and garments by First Nations designers and artists in a performance event led by artist Grace Lillian Lee. A reimagined return this year is Street Serenades: At Our Place, which will deliver 64 creative arts workshops across Brisbane in partnership with local neighbourhood centres. Family favourite Sunsuper Riverfire will again light up the Brisbane skies in an explosion of colour and music after its hiatus last year. For the second year running the Palaszczuk government's investment through Brisbane Festival's Working Title creative residencies will create jobs, creative development opportunities for artists and arts workers and exciting new work.

The arts, cultural and creative industries are key to delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19, each year contributing \$8.5 billion into the state's economy and supporting more than 92,000 jobs for Queenslanders. Prior to COVID-19 Brisbane Festival 2019 contributed \$64 million to Queensland's economy. Even during the pandemic in 2020 it still injected \$14 million into the local economy, with more than 38,000 visitors welcomed to the city during the festival.

I am also pleased to announce today that 22 Queensland live music venues have received \$2.3 million through round 2 of our Live Music Support Program. That adds up to an almost \$11 million investment from the Palaszczuk government. This funding will support smaller Brisbane venues such

as the Junk Bar as well as larger venues like the Fortitude Music Hall, the Zoo and regional venues on the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Toowoomba. Live music is hugely important to our local arts sector, and through these grants and events like the Brisbane Festival our government is backing their success.