




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Brisbane Festival

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.01 am): Brisbane Festival 2022 starts this weekend with a bang. This year's festival features a showcase of extraordinary Queensland artists and organisations presenting bold new works and sharing inspiring stories. The Palaszczuk government proudly supports Brisbane Festival to engage audiences, connect community and bring vibrancy to cultural venues and the city's streets. Brisbane Festival provides important employment opportunities for our local artists and arts workers, with more than 1,100 Queensland artists featured in this year's festival including more than 160 First Nations artists. Last year's festival reached an audience of 1.5 million, attracted 80,000 visitors to Brisbane and contributed an estimated \$36 million in economic benefit. This was a great boost at a time when the state was still recovering from the effects of COVID.

This year there are more than 580 performances, including 230 free presentations, with 22 new works. Audiences will see 41 Queensland arts organisations featured over the 23 days of the festival, with amazing productions of performances from homegrown companies including Australasian Dance Collective, Camerata, Little Red, The Farm, Shake & Stir, and Dead Puppet Society—just to highlight a few. Must-see First Nations festival works include the opening night Jumoo smoking ceremony as well as the premiere of Alethea Beetson's *Queen's City* and the page-to-stage adaptation of Anita Heiss's wonderful book *Tiddas*, co-produced by La Boite Theatre and QPAC. Queensland Theatre will present a groundbreaking trilingual production of *Othello*, set in the Torres Strait during World War II, creating a unique and distinctive theatre experience.

Townsville's Dancenorth will return to Brisbane to premiere a powerful fusion of dance, music and visual art in *Wayfinder*, created in collaboration with artist Hiromi Tango. Brisbane Festival 2022 sees the return of festival favourites such as the annual Riverfire by Australian Retirement Trust, which will dazzle crowds in the festival's opening this weekend. This year the Palaszczuk government is also supporting two new community programs, Dance Halls and Nightwalks with Teenagers, which will highlight the important role arts engagement can play in delivering social outcomes.

The Palaszczuk government has announced \$50 million over four years to accelerate the growth of arts in Queensland through the next action plan of our 10-year road map for arts, culture and creativity. It is only 10 short years until the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games when uniquely Queensland cultural events like Brisbane Festival will be showcased to global audiences on an international stage. I invite all members, locals and visitors to enjoy Brisbane Festival 2022.