




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Wynnum Fringe Festival

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.58 pm): Wynnum Fringe Festival is just over three weeks away from Yana Marumba and all the sensational delights that Fringe brings. Queenslanders know that the Palaszczuk Labor government values the arts and the people who work in the arts know that, too. However, let's compare that with the LNP. Whilst those opposite are often seen at opening nights enjoying the hospitality, performances or experiences, there is not one mention of the arts in their ridiculous, needy little 'vote for me' pamphlet. Obviously the opposition are happy to utilise the medical skills of the member for Moggill, but as the opposition spokesperson for the arts he obviously did not get a look in with the LNP pamphlet because there is not one mention of the arts. Come on, really—not one word! I would suggest to those in the arts sector that they need to be very scared if those opposite ever get into government.

We on this side of the House know how valuable the arts are to our economy and driving social change and strengthening communities, activating local places and spaces, and celebrating regional stories and storytellers. Contrast our government's support for the sector. Wynnum Fringe alone has received \$917,944 over three years, \$90,000 over two years for a BDM, \$149,000 over two years to support community programs and a further \$90,000 over two years to employ an emerging associate producer. Not only are we supporting Wynnum Fringe, we are also supporting community and industry development. Since the first festival in 2020, our government has supported Wynnum Fringe. Wynnum Fringe has generated over \$2.5 million in direct benefit to our local economy, attracted 70,000 attendees and employed over 1,000 arts workers.

Everyone here knows that the old Newman government razor gang is sitting on the opposition front bench and if elected cutting arts funding will be high on their agenda. They appear to be only interested in the freebies or getting candidates to have fundraising opportunities on the community capital of arts groups. There is no doubt that those opposite will come out swinging with their cuts and locally-led arts events will bear the brunt of their slashed funding. Who can forget one of the Newman government's first acts was to cut the Premier's Literary Awards and cut the arts budget funding, resulting in the defunding of so many arts organisations. No-one in the arts community has forgotten and nor have they forgiven.

We want to grow the arts. If members have not got their tickets for Wynnum Fringe, get online and get them now. It is a great event and I will be there.