




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Arts and Culture

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (10.04 am): Last week, the annual Matilda Awards recognised the achievements of Queenslanders in our arts and cultural sector—a sector that contributes over \$10 billion directly and indirectly to the Queensland economy and supports a multitude of talented women across our state.

Ahead of Queensland Women's Week, it was an honour to present Suellen Maunder, the CEO and artistic director of JUTE Theatre Company in Cairns, with the prestigious Gold Matilda. Suellen Maunder is one of three passionate women based in Cairns whose creative sparks combined to launch JUTE Theatre Company in late 1992. The Gold Matilda award recognises Suellen's enormous commitment over more than three decades to supporting local and regional artists to develop, produce and share Queensland's rich and unique stories.

The Miles government is committed to backing Queensland's vibrant arts and cultural sector and the many jobs the sector supports across the state. Our 10-year Creative Together road map is an important part of the Miles government's commitment to Queensland's diverse artists and arts workers, with the road map's second action plan supported by a record \$50 million investment designed to support great arts outcomes across our state.

Through Arts Queensland, we once again supported this year's Matilda Awards with \$15,000 in funding which helped broaden its reach and support regional engagement with more of Queensland's talented artists and arts workers—something that was evident in the diversity of award winners this year. The Miles government has also championed many of this year's Matilda Awards nominees and winners, including: Breathe In from Mackay's Crossroad Arts and winner of this year's Best Video Design, the Judges' Award and Best New Australian Work, which is something I know the member for Mackay is very proud of; Oombarra Productions and QPAC's *Is That You, Ruthie?* featuring Chenoa Deemal, who was recognised for Best Performance in a Leading Role in a Mainstage Production; *Bananaland*, the winner of Best Musical or Cabaret and Best Composition and Sound Design; the Queensland Theatre's *Drizzle Boy* awarded for Best Mainstage Production and Best Direction; and *Vietgone* for Best Performance in a Supporting Role Mainstage Production.

The incredible artists, arts workers and arts organisations behind these productions continue to showcase the diverse talents and breadth of Queensland's creative economy. Our government is proud to back our state's vibrant arts and cultural sector to grow, thrive and create jobs—especially as the eyes of the world begin to turn to Queensland ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.