

**Question on Notice**

**No. 346**

**Asked on 2 May 2013**

**MR STEVENS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR SCIENCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND THE ARTS (MR WALKER)—**

With reference to the proposed cultural precinct on the Gold Coast – what in-kind support is the State Government providing to develop this vibrant and much needed addition to the arts industry in Queensland?

**ANSWER:**

Growing the cultural capacity of the Gold Coast is critical to ensure the success of a major cultural precinct and also over the next six years in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games.

One of the key pillars identified in planning for a successful Commonwealth Games is engagement with individuals and organisations either working in or interested in the arts and cultural sector.

The Gold Coast City Council has identified the Bleach\* Festival, which is supported by Arts Queensland and Tourism and Events Queensland, as a major contributor to building cultural capacity over the next six years leading up to the Games.

There are other key drivers in the wave of cultural change on the Gold Coast and the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland is already establishing connections with Gold Coast arts organisations and artists and Brisbane arts organisations to encourage partnering, networking and joint initiatives. These include:

- Rabbit and Cocoon Artist Run Initiative, a creative precinct, supported through philanthropic donation, which initiates pathways for motivated people to run businesses, projects and events that align with the Gold Coast's cultural, economic and social future.
- Gold Coast Events Centre, host of Regional Stages Gold Coast, an initiative which is supported by Arts Queensland and the Australia Council. This program strengthens local communities in regional Queensland by supporting local performance-making. For example, The Surfer and the Mermaid, a new Gold Coast work developed through Regional Stages, was part of the 2013 Bleach\* Festival, and secured a season at the Tamarama Rock Surfers, Bondi Pavilion, Sydney in 2012.

The Gold Coast is home to a burgeoning and digitally savvy group of artists and arts organisations who are creating unique arts events that tap into the region's growing reputation as a place of creativity, innovation and energy. Supporting the Gold Coast arts sector will help to ensure a new precinct can harness local creative and artistic talent and ensure the proposed precinct is a vibrant and energetic place.