

Question on Notice

No. 814

Asked on Thursday, 14 June 2018

MR J KELLY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the support the Palaszczuk Government is providing for the Arts in Queensland in the 2018-19 budget?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

In 2018-19, the Palaszczuk Government will invest an additional \$183.3 million over four years to build and maintain vital arts infrastructure and deliver arts and cultural initiatives for Queenslanders.

New investment announced this year includes \$125 million over four years towards a new \$150 million 1,500 to 1,700 seat theatre at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC). The new theatre will deliver significant cultural tourism benefits while supporting the growth of Queensland's arts sector. This new theatre is an investment in the next generation of great stories, talent and arts companies celebrated and nurtured at QPAC.

\$20.75 million will ensure that necessary maintenance is undertaken across the Queensland Cultural Centre at South Bank, including the implementation of sustainability initiatives such as, infrastructure retrofitting to existing light fittings, hot water systems, lighting controls and solar panels and systems to improve energy performance, reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

QPAC will also receive an \$8 million uplift over four years to support a range of initiatives including the development and delivery of digital arts content to regional communities.

Blockbuster funding for the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, reintroduced by the Palaszczuk Government, will receive a top up from 2021-22 of a further \$6 million committed over two years. This investment builds on the four-year funding commitment in the 2016-17 budget which has already delivered significant cultural tourism benefits and economic outcomes for the State through *Marvel: Creating the Cinematic Universe* in 2017 and this year's *Patricia Piccinini: Curious Affection* exhibition.

The State Library of Queensland's successful *First 5 Forever* initiative has a certain future with an annual ongoing investment of \$5 million to ensure all Queensland children have a great start. This initiative provides direct support to families and primary caregivers to build a literary foundation for all Queensland children aged five and under. *First 5 Forever*, delivered by the State Library of Queensland in partnership with 68 local governments, supports our commitment to nurture the creative minds of our children in Queensland public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres across the State.

Additionally, the Government, through the Department of Housing and Public Works, has committed \$14 million towards the redevelopment of the heritage-listed Thomas Dixon Centre, the home of the Queensland Ballet. The redevelopment of the Centre supports Queensland Ballet's vision to create a centre of artistic excellence within the Asia Pacific region - supporting our next generation of dancers - and will enable the Company to collaborate with small to medium arts organisations and provide world class facilities for other organisations.

Recognising the important role of arts infrastructure in delivering arts experiences and driving cultural tourism in regional centres, this Government has committed \$8 million over two years to support Rockhampton Regional Council's plans for a new \$31.5 million art gallery. This builds on the 2017-18 allocation of \$2 million to support the Council to develop its plans for the gallery. This new investment towards the gallery is subject to the confirmation of a \$10 million contribution by the Federal Government.

This budget recognises the enormous contribution our arts sector makes to the State's cultural tourism experience while also celebrating our unique stories, history, industries and characters.

The Palaszczuk Government has a strong and ongoing commitment to invest in arts and cultural experiences that captivate audiences across the State.

I recently wrote to Federal Minister for the Arts Mitch Fifield and called on him to increase Federal funding for the Arts in Queensland. Queensland has 20 per cent of Australia's population, but only receives approximately 9 per cent of the funding available through the Australia Council for the Arts.

The Federal LNP need to ensure Queensland has a fair share of Arts funding.