

Tuesday, 23 June 2015

BUDGET STRENGTHENS ARTS ACROSS THE STATE

The NSW Liberal & Nationals Government's Budget will strengthen NSW arts and culture, positioning Sydney as a global centre for arts in the Asia Pacific, growing arts and culture in Sydney's west and continuing to invest in our regional artists and organisations across the State.

Minister for the Arts Troy Grant said this Budget provides over \$316 million to arts, demonstrating the Government's commitment to improving public access and fostering excellence in arts and culture.

"We're investing in areas that have only been talked about by former governments but never acted on," Mr Grant said.

"Free access to museums for kids, supporting Walsh Bay's dramatic redevelopment, a big focus on arts and culture in Western Sydney and continued investment in arts, culture and screen across the whole of our State will activate a new generation of audiences and participants, growing the industry for the future."

Highlights of the 2015/16 Arts budget include:

- Almost \$51 million for the Arts and Cultural Development Program to support artists and organisation right across NSW;
- \$30 million over four years for arts in Western Sydney including \$10 million over two years to plan for the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum from Ultimo to Parramatta and \$7.5 million for local arts and cultural organisations;
- \$11 million over two years for planning, design and approvals of the new Walsh Bay arts precinct;
- Almost \$10 million for Screen NSW to attract film production, support the local industry and invest in events such as the Sydney Film Festival;
- \$4 million to progress design and planning of NSW Art Gallery's Sydney Modern Project;
- \$4.9 million for upgrades to the State Library, including improved disability access;
- \$2.9 million to upgrade lighting, air conditioning and chiller units at the NSW Art Gallery; and
- \$2.1 million to allow free access for children under 16 to the Powerhouse and Australian Museums.

In addition to measures in this budget, the NSW Liberal & Nationals Government will reserve \$600 million from the leasing of poles and wires for arts and culture infrastructure.

Jarrad Schwark 0429 234 308