



**Don Harwin**

Minister for Resources  
Minister for Energy and Utilities  
Minister for the Arts

## MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 26 February 2019

### **NATIONAL ART SCHOOL'S FUTURE SECURE**

Today marks a new and exciting era for The National Art School (NAS) with the signing of a 45-year lease agreement for the Old Darlinghurst Gaol site with the NSW Government.

Minister for the Arts Don Harwin also announced The National Art School (NAS) has joined the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA) and Carriageworks as a State Significant Organisation.

“The National Art School has called the old Darlinghurst Gaol home since 1922 and I’m delighted to confirm a new agreement for this historic property recognising the important role it plays for the promotion of the visual arts in the State,” said Minister Harwin.

“NAS has a stellar history and has produced some of Australia’s greatest artists. With a 45-year lease, its future is secure.

“Becoming a State Significant Organisation will afford sustainable funding security and allow the School to open up its high-profile activity and programs to a wider audience across NSW and the visiting public.

State Significant Organisations are arts organisations with annual incomes of over \$2.5m that make a significant contribution to NSW’s arts and cultural profile, demonstrate strong management and deliver benefits across NSW communities.

Chair of the National Art School Board, Carolyn Fletcher added.

“This is a very important milestone in the life of the National Art School,” Ms Fletcher said.

“With confidence that we now have secure site tenure and guaranteed long term funding, we will be able to plan and work for an exciting future, to realise the great potential that NAS has to contribute to the artistic and cultural life of Sydney and NSW.

“We are very much looking forward to delivering our expanding program of activities that will engage with even more communities across Sydney and NSW.”

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