



Submission to the NSW State Plan September 2006

Theme 1 – Plan ahead

Regional Arts NSW supports the **State Plan, Plan Ahead** concept and welcomes this opportunity to submit a response to the draft document and to propose some additional priorities for inclusion in the Plan.

Theme 2 – Respect and responsibility

Arts and cultural activities have a significant role to play in addressing the priorities within this theme. Arts and cultural initiatives and cultural infrastructure contribute significantly to the development of harmonious communities and in community engagement, early intervention, promotion of diversity and understanding of cultural differences, local distinctiveness and cultural identity.

Additional priorities include:

1. Increase support for cultural infrastructure and arts and cultural programs in NSW, and regional NSW in particular, leading to the development and support of more harmonious communities.
2. Increase the utilisation of arts and cultural programs in addressing the underlying causes of crime and the development of early intervention strategies.

Theme 3 – Improving services

The further development of arts and cultural programs and infrastructure in New South Wales has a significant role to play in improving service in NSW in the 13 existing priority areas and in the areas of health, education, disability, transport, the community sector, housing and welfare – all of which are benefiting from the utilisation of arts and cultural programs and would benefit from further growth in this area.

Arts education, arts and health, arts and disabilities – indigenous art and cultural development have an opportunity to contribute to achieving positive results within this theme.

Keeping people engaged and active in their communities, often through participation in arts and cultural activities is an important factor in reducing isolation, loneliness, and disaffection and should be considered as a strategy to improve, self esteem, pride in culture and self efficacy and to reduce the reliance on stretched health and welfare services services.

Additional priorities include:

1. Increase resources and development of the arts as a contributor to community wellbeing in NSW particularly in regional NSW.
2. Increase resources for the development of indigenous arts and cultural programs in NSW.
3. Increase resources for Regional Arts Boards supporting arts development in regional NSW.

Theme 4 – Growing prosperity across NSW

Growing prosperity in NSW can be achieved through further recognition of the role of arts, culture and creativity, creative communities, and creative industry development.

Business and professional people are attracted to live and work in vibrant communities where they and their families have opportunities to participate in arts education and arts activities. The development of cultural infrastructure is a vital component in attracting business professionals and relocation of industry.

New media arts and cultural industries are providing opportunities for new business and employment in many regional communities

Additional priorities include:

1. Increase resources and development of arts education in NSW particularly in regional NSW
2. Increase support to foster the development of creativity and creative industries in NSW.
3. Support research for the development of new media strategies in NSW recognising the rapid development of digital content.
4. Increase support for the development of the NSW Film Industry and filming in regional NSW.
5. Support the development of a cultural heritage register for NSW and a State Collections Directory and Policy.

Theme 5 – Environment for living

The priorities listed under this theme are excellent however they focus mainly on the natural environment and recreation and would benefit from the inclusion of additional priorities relating to the built environment and cultural infrastructure that contributes significantly to a positive environment for living.

Vibrant communities are created by pride in local distinctiveness, by participation in a range of activities, by recognising and celebrating diversity and by creating an environment of inclusiveness and acceptance of difference.

Additional priorities include:

1. Increase resources for the development of cultural infrastructure, supporting communities throughout NSW, including performing arts, visual arts, museums, conservatoriums, regional cultural infrastructure, a new generation of multiple-use venues.
2. Increase support for the development of public art that reflects and expresses local distinctiveness and cultural identity.
3. Increase access to arts and cultural programs within communities across NSW contributing to a positive environment for living.