



REGIONAL ARTS NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

New board joins Regional Arts NSW network

The Chair of Regional Arts NSW, Meg Larkin, has welcomed the announcement by the NSW Arts Minister, Virginia Judge, to commit funding to establish a new regional arts board to service the communities of Griffith, Leeton and Narrandera in the Western Riverina area of NSW.

“This board will fill a significant gap in the service delivery of arts and cultural development across the state. I am delighted that the NSW Government has listened to our submissions to fund this new board. It will become the 14th regional arts board to be formed since the devolution of arts and cultural development to local regions commenced in 1997,” said Ms Larkin.

The regional arts board program is unique to NSW and gives a local voice to local people. It is a significant and enduring partnership between NSW State and Local Government. Funding of \$100,000 per annum from the State Government is matched with funding committed by the contributing councils, an amount based on population.

Ms Larkin acknowledged the hard work undertaken by the three Western Riverina Councils (especially Griffith City Council who took the lead in this project) in consulting with their communities and working with Regional Arts NSW to develop sound strategic and business plans that will ensure the success of the new board.

“This did not happen overnight,” she added. “The development of the new board has taken around four years and has included consultation with the neighbouring boards, South West Arts and the Eastern Riverina Arts Program. There will now be a fantastic opportunity for collaborative projects right across the south of the state from the Snowy Mountains to the South Australian border.”

The CEO of Regional Arts NSW, Elizabeth Rogers, added her thanks to the State Government. “It has been very obvious that this region has been inadequately serviced by the regional arts program and this announcement is terrific. It will enable the employment of a Regional Arts Development Officer (RADO) who can facilitate partnerships, coordinate projects and generally build the capacity of this region to engage with creative industry development. The RADOs across the state make a fantastic network of highly skilled and dedicated people and we look forward to welcoming a new colleague to the network.”

Regional Arts NSW is assisted by the NSW Government through Arts NSW.

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