



Greg Aplin MP
Member for Albury

MEDIA RELEASE

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OUR COMMUNITY URGED TO REGISTER FOR RECORD REGIONAL ARTS AND CULTURE INVESTMENT

Member for Albury, Greg Aplin is reminding local artists, performers and organisations to register their ideas both big and small for infrastructure and arts projects that deliver long-term cultural benefits to the community.

The record \$100 million *Regional Cultural Fund* investment over four years is part of the Deputy Premier's \$1.3 billion *Regional Growth Fund* to improve economic outcomes as well as local amenities and the standard of living across regional NSW communities.

Mr Aplin said the Fund supports the building of new artistic and cultural spaces such as galleries, theatres, libraries, museums and halls, as well as the upgrading or repurposing of existing arts, screen, culture or heritage infrastructure.

"The *Regional Cultural Fund* is now open for Expressions of Interest and supports arts, screen and cultural organisation proposals for small, medium and large infrastructure projects that will deliver long-term cultural benefits," Mr Aplin said.

"Galleries and museums can also apply for operational funding to support the delivery of services, providing distinct experiences to visitors and promoting increased participation in creative and cultural activities.

"If you feel passionately about improving the arts and cultural offering across our region, as your local MP, I would love to hear your ideas. Call my office on 6021 3042 or send me an email at albury@parliament.nsw.gov.au today so that I can discuss the development of proposals to be considered for *Regional Cultural Fund* support."

NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro and Minister for the Arts Don Harwin said that interest for the new *Regional Cultural Fund* has been impressive, but they urged regional towns and cities not to miss out on important arts investments for their area.

Mr Barilaro said that funding for local arts and cultural infrastructure projects will boost economic growth across regional NSW.

"Investment in arts and cultural programs and facilities not only provide recreational and educational benefits, but they also help to boost tourist visitation, which in turn generates spending in the local economy," Mr Barilaro said.

Expressions of interest for the *Regional Cultural Fund* are now open and will close at midnight, 4 September 2017. Successful applicants will be invited to provide additional information. Up to \$25 million will be made available in the first round of funding.

In early August, the *Regional Cultural Fund* team will provide training for applicants who need assistance in completing the Expression of Interest form (Step One).

For further information, including guidelines for applicants, go to www.create.nsw.gov.au, call 8289 6575 or email regional@arts.nsw.gov.au.

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