

ARTS, CULTURE and CREATIVE INDUSTRIES POLICY

TOWN HALL CONSULTATION STREAM

SUMMARIES LISMORE to BROKEN HILL

#	Town Hall / Engagement Session	Date	Attendee Numbers
1	Lismore/Bundjalung	18-Jul	67
2	Newcastle/Awabakal	24-Jul	108
3	Sydney/Gadigal	25-Jul	208
4	ONLINE #1	27-Jul	83
5	Penrith/Dharug	31-Jul	45
6	Bega/Djiringanj	7-Aug	51
7	Wagga Wagga/Wiradjuri	8-Aug	58
8	Leichardt/ Gadigal & Wangal	9-Aug	32
9	ONLINE #2	10-Aug	100
10	Dubbo/Wiradjuri	14-Aug	38
11	Tamworth/Kamilaroi	15-Aug	54
12	Wollongong/Dharawal	21-Aug	41
13	Liverpool/Dharawal	25-Aug	61
14	Broken Hill/Wilyakali	29-Aug	30
15	ONLINE #3	30-Aug	62
	TOTAL		1,075

Town Hall Lismore 18 July Northern Rivers Conservatorium	The Lismore Town Hall was the first public meeting assembled for the policy consultation. Lismore as a city and as a community, is still recovering from the impacts of the 2022 floods, and the major themes from this region reflect its specificity as well as amplifying many of the concerns being voiced throughout the consultation from across the creative industries sector.
Top themes from the floor	
<p>Government – De-siloed approach: In Lismore, the theme of government working in a de-siloed way was a focus noting that this policy should take into account other policies and government programs including flood recovery in the Northern Rivers, tourism, education, and planning. Joined-up thinking to achieve shared goals was encouraged.</p> <p>Space – Accessible/Affordable: Opportunities to utilise existing space flexibly, particularly to support independent artists, was seen as important by some. Where some artists have experienced flood damage to their creative spaces, others have been impacted by cost of living.</p> <p>Regional Equity: The second stream of the conversation was a desire for strategic investment on regional-size infrastructure and support for signature events which attract tourism such as the Byron Writers Festival and Bluesfest who were represented in the room. There was a view expressed that a coordinated region-wide approach could help to reinvigorate audiences in the region. Tourism was seen as a key area with support and leadership from the NSW Government.</p> <p>Career Pathways : Clear pathways to careers in arts, culture and creative industries starting in school, through to tertiary and training and into working life were also emphasised.</p>	

Town Hall Newcastle 24 July Fort Scratchley	The Newcastle Town Hall comprised a lively and engaged audience. Recent media on the closure of venues due to neighborhood noise complaints coincided with the Minister's visit, and social media on these local issues drew a contingent of musicians, music promoters and venue operators to the event.
Top themes from the floor	
<p>Regulatory Reform: The meeting demonstrated strong support for policy to guide land use planning, new development application processes and provisions to support the live music industry at legacy venues. Participants described the challenges of the current development application process and the opportunity to remove barriers.</p> <p>Career Pathways: Participants were keen to foster sustainable and long-term career pathways for people in creative industries, starting from a young age, and support students enrolled in vocational training and tertiary education. The pathway should also include career development, specific business development training and mentoring programs.</p> <p>A clear local pathway to support business models, resourcing structures, capacity building programs and long-term careers to cultivate sustainable businesses and ultimately produce more roles was widely supported.</p> <p>Space – Accessible/Affordable: Infrastructure and creative spaces should be accessible and affordable for both audiences and creative industry practitioners. Buildings should be safe and meet accessibility requirements, consider all ages and have secure storage areas of shared and practitioner equipment.</p> <p>Some participants commented on the need to improve safety and accessibility provisions for audiences. A few advocated the need for government to go one step further and regulate safety and accessibility at venues and the need for additional obligations set for venue operators.</p> <p>Government – De-siloed approach: More broadly, participants acknowledged the benefits with an aligned strategic vision from all levels of government and the shift to promoting the industry experience.</p>	
<p>Local member present: Tim Crakanthorp – <i>former</i> NSW Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education</p>	

Town Hall Sydney 25 July Carriageworks	The Sydney town hall drew a mixed contingent of representatives from established arts and culture organisations alongside tourism operators, screen industry leaders, musicians and union representatives. The town hall did not include large numbers of independent artists or creative practitioners.
Top themes from the floor	
<p>Investment Reform: Create NSW funding processes need to be less time and resource intensive and offer longer-term opportunities so that artists and organisations can forward plan and commit more time to their creative practice.</p> <p>Market Development: There are significant untapped markets and opportunities for artists to sell and perform their work. Some of the examples raised included tourist demand for arts/cultural experiences, regional touring, and working with/performing to NSW school students.</p> <p>Spaces – Affordable/Accessible: There is a need for artists to have access to more affordable spaces to create and perform their work. Some of the solutions suggested included the need for more arts-friendly planning laws and local councils improving access to venues/spaces.</p> <p>Education/Training: The importance of schooling to developing a lifelong relationship with arts and culture was raised. Resources and teachers devoted to the arts varies greatly from school to school, resulting in some students gaining a very limited arts/culture education.</p> <p>Career Pathways: A wide range of comments were made about the financial difficulties of sustaining a career in the arts and cultural sector, and the need to support artists at all stages of their career.</p> <p>Support/Employment: Many people commented on the lack of affordability of arts and cultural experiences, including the cost of tickets, food/drinks, and transport.</p> <p>Audience Development: There is a lack of information for people looking for arts/cultural activities. One person commented that we need a centralised ‘outlet’ / source for providing this information, rather than having information fragmented across multiple sources / departments.</p> <p>Government – De-Siloed Approach and Health/Wellbeing: There was wide acknowledgement of the potential of arts and cultural experiences to deliver benefits to the community through its contribution to improved outcomes across a range of indicators, including physical and mental health, education, justice, and social cohesion.</p>	

Town Hall 1st Online 27 July	<p>The first town hall conducted online included participants from Local Government Authorities, Federal Government Offices (Live Music Office), NSW Government departments: Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade; Regional NSW; Local Government NSW, and many established arts and culture organisations from across Sydney and the state.</p>
Top themes from the floor	
<p>Investment Reform: Diversifying funding allocations to capture smaller to medium organisations and to cover the diverse art forms, artists and locations was raised. Some participants also commented on the need to reduce the complexity of the funding application process and create funding opportunities that don't require artists to continually reinvent the wheel, to reduce administrative burden and burnout. Expanding multi-year funding and providing funding for maintenance and upkeep of infrastructure to create more opportunities for artists and to help sustain the industry was also seen as important.</p> <p>Regulatory Reform: There were several comments on the need to increase understanding within the sector of the regulatory framework in which they operate. Communicating broadly how the regulatory framework operates and the available incentives is important.</p> <p>Ecology/Grassroots: Focusing investment and support at a local level to encourage growth at the ground level and embed creative industries deeply into communities was emphasised. This includes increasing collaboration with local councils and expanding the capacity and capability of local councils.</p> <p>Education Reform and Youth Arts/Participation: There were multiple comments about providing support, training and education for young artists to inspire them to join the creative industries. Collaboration between the NSW Department of Education and the arts sector was encouraged.</p> <p>Spaces – Affordable/Accessible: The need to better utilise existing venues and spaces for arts and cultural activities was raised by attendees. This included creating incentives for landlords to allow vacant shops for creative use, especially in regional areas, as well as maximising the use of venues with a smaller profile.</p> <p>Audience Development: Many people commented that there should be focus on increasing the participation of diverse audiences in arts and cultural activities. This included young people, people living with a disability and older people.</p> <p>The connection between arts and culture and tourism was acknowledged; however, participants noted that there is a lack of appropriate cultural facilities in some areas to accommodate tourism.</p>	

Town Hall Penrith 31 July The Joan Performing Arts	The Penrith Town Hall attracted a vocal contingent with attendance from key local arts organisations plus good local government representation. Funding equity for Western Sydney and barriers to accessing regional funds due to the categorisation of the Blue Mountains as Western Sydney was a focus of elements of the conversation.
Top themes from the floor	
<p>Investment Reform: Many participants were critical of the proportionally low funding of arts and culture in Western Sydney relative to its population. Participants want to see a healthy arts/cultural ecosystem with less focus on the larger, metro-based organisations and more attention given to individual artists and local small to medium sized organisations. Barriers to accessing funds were raised including the issue of the categorisation of the Blue Mountains as Western Sydney creating eligibility restrictions with Destination NSW regional funding cited as an example. The issue of funding applications being unnecessarily time and resource intensive was also raised.</p> <p>Ecosystem/Grassroots: Many participants noted that the Blue Mountains was home to a very significant arts and cultural community.</p> <p>Regional Investment Equity: Participants made various comments about the need for less city centric outcomes and that more support is required to celebrate artists outside of the city, including those in Western Sydney, the Blue Mountains, and regional NSW.</p> <p>Spaces – affordable/accessible: Several participants raised Blue Mountains artists needing more spaces to perform, as well as more opportunities for performing their work locally. Many participants noted there are significant under-utilised council-owned spaces, which could be used by artists to practice and perform their work.</p> <p>Local Government Role incl. support and capacity: Many participants commented on the potential for local councils to play a bigger role in supporting arts and cultural activities in their areas. However, it was noted that most councils have many competing funding pressures, resulting in arts and culture being neglected. Many participants also raised that local councils would benefit from closer partnerships with State and Federal government.</p>	
Local member present: Karen McKeown, OAM, MP - Member for Penrith	

Town Hall Bega 7 August Bega Valley Community C.	The Bega Town Hall attracted representation from local independent and community arts organisations, state and local government and local festivals. The Bega Valley and the far south coast communities of NSW are recognised as recovering from disaster following the catastrophic bushfires of 2019.
Top themes from the floor	
<p>Investment Reform and Regional Investment Equity: Many participants commented that increased funding is needed for sector survival. Simplified grant processes including streamlining requirements across funding bodies and grant distribution by Regional Arts Development Organisations (RADOs) was suggested. Participants also raised the importance of talent exchange from the regions to the city, and collaboration with local artists to support regional tours that traditionally only tour cities. Other comments included better initiatives to keep artists local and that short-term funding creates a barrier to regionally based sustainable employment opportunities.</p> <p>Sector Capacity Building and Sector Sustainability: Several participants commented on the need to recognise the importance of volunteers and volunteer run organisations, including managing the perception that established volunteer run events are riskier to fund. Succession planning support and how to retain volunteers was also mentioned.</p> <p>Spaces – affordable/accessible and Local Government Role: Several comments suggested utilising local spaces for performance would help to build local audiences, and that local government could coordinate artist access to studios and creative spaces.</p> <p>Education/Training: Supporting careers in the arts and creative industries through skills development and accredited courses, valuing the arts as much as sport in schools and the significant barriers for creative organisations to work in schools was raised by many. Participants noted that creative industries training opportunities in the region such as TAFE courses had ceased, and collaboration between Create NSW and NSW Department of Education was encouraged.</p> <p>Youth Arts/Participation: Nurturing a love of arts and culture in young people and the provision of improved pathways to pursue a career in the arts that enable young people to stay in regional areas was raised by many.</p> <p>Regulatory Reform: Comments were made that navigating approvals for events is overly complicated, especially for repeat events. It was suggested that planning approvals could be standardised, and more assistance provided.</p>	
Local member present: Dr Michael Joseph Holland, MP, Member for Bega	

Town Hall Wagga Wagga 8 August Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre	The Wagga Wagga Town Hall was well attended including representation from the tertiary sector with the theme of access to education dominating the feedback.
Top themes from the floor	
<p>Education/Training and Sector Capacity Building: Education reform was a key topic with a call for more resources for arts education in schools with participants emphasising the importance of a good arts education for developing a lifelong relationship with the arts. The loss of courses and funding for arts disciplines in regional universities, particularly Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga was raised with a focus on the two-fold impact of minimising career paths for young people and the loss of employment opportunities for practicing artists who often teach.</p> <p>Many raised the need for a strong professionalised workforce with access to appropriate professional development and career pathways to sustain arts and cultural activity in regional NSW. Coupled with this was an emphasis on the need for young people to be encouraged to pursue a career in the arts, plus the establishment of viable post-school and university career pathways that will enable opportunities to perform/practice and live regionally. A range of comments were made about the importance of mentoring for both emerging artists and arts organisation professionals. One recurring theme was the need for arts organisations to develop their skills to better manage their large volunteer base.</p> <p>Regional Investment Equity: There were a range of comments about the need to increase arts funding in regional NSW, including for the Regional Arts Development Organisations (RADOs) network, multi-year arts organisation funding, and individual grants. Several people commented on the need to tailor this support based on strengths, character, infrastructure, and communities, noting that what works in the city does not necessarily work in regional NSW.</p> <p>Audience Development: There were a range of comments about the need to engage and attract a wider audience to arts and cultural events in regional NSW.</p> <p>Investment Reform: Multiple comments were made that Create NSW funding applications need to be simplified so they are less time and resource intensive.</p>	
Local member present: Member for Wagga Wagga, Dr Joe McGirr, MP	

Town Hall Leichhardt 9 August Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative	The First Nations dedicated Town Hall attracted representation from significant First Nations organisations and artists. It was held in a First Nations owned and culturally safe space generating thoughtful and deep conversation and facilitated by a First Nations Create NSW staff member.
Top themes from the floor	
<p>First Nations self-determination and leadership: Participants raised what does ‘First Nations First’ mean and how to ensure that this concept doesn’t just drive more work to the sector without the necessary resourcing. Several participants raised the need to move away from consultation to self-determination, co-design, and collaboration. A range of comments were made about the need to create financially sustainable First Nations run and owned arts and cultural entities and networks. Support for First Nations production companies and producers to retain and own their intellectual property was also raised.</p> <p>First Nations Arts and Culture: Position First Nations artists at the forefront of popular culture through increased funding and drive local, national, and international access. A move away from Destination to Experience Tourism, and a need to develop authentic, immersive First Nations’ cultural experiences across NSW was suggested.</p> <p>Sector Sustainability: Back successful First Nations led exhibitions/events (such as Australian Museum’s recent <i>Unsettled</i> exhibition) as a model for others, noting a need for increased resourcing to ensure good audience reach, and support for already stretched and under-resourced First Nations workers and organisations.</p> <p>Investment Reform and Regional Investment Equity: Grant processes need to be more accessible, less onerous and offer longer-term opportunities. Funding needs to be at appropriate levels to meet current and future costs. More opportunity for First Nations representation at the funding decision table and increased funding to secure First Nations officer roles in regional arts organisations across NSW was also raised. It was noted that there is substantial unmet demand for First Nations services and expertise in areas such as conservation and curation. With appropriate funding, this demand could be met to attract and retain a First Nations workforce.</p> <p>Education/Training: Several comments suggested more needs to be done to build First Nations’ capability and capacity through accessible education, traineeships, and pathways from education to employment. Multiple comments suggested a lack of support for grant writing, particularly in regional areas.</p> <p>Spaces – Affordable/Accessible and Fit for Purpose: A range of comments focused on the need to support and make better use of existing venues and spaces for arts and cultural activities, including the host venue, Boomalli. It was also noted that Sydney needs a dedicated First Nations arts and cultural centre.</p>	
Local member present: Kobi Shetty MP, Member for Balmain	

Town Hall 2nd Online 10 August	The second online Town Hall attracted 100 participants with strong representation from small to medium organisations through to significant cultural institutions.
Top themes from the floor	
<p>Spaces – Affordable/Accessible and Fit for Purpose: Multiple comments were made about cultural infrastructure, particularly around incentivising affordable and accessible spaces. Utilising existing venues, particularly local government-owned assets, and investigating the possibility of adaptive reuse of heritable buildings was raised, however finding the resources and funding to make spaces viable and sustainable is a challenge.</p> <p>Education/Training: Multiple comments were made about creative arts education being delivered across all levels of the education sector to improve skills, knowledge, happiness, and wellbeing. Creating more inclusive and accessible pathways into the creative industries, particularly for young people, was also noted as important. Some participants suggested providing training and support to assist artists in transforming their practice to digital settings to provide alternate pathways for supporting sustainable practice.</p> <p>Sector Capacity Building and Sector Sustainability: There were several comments about the need to increase the crossflow of ideas through residency programs, mentoring, professional development and training opportunities. Some participants also commented on the need for greater collaboration between government departments and different disciplines.</p> <p>Ecosystem/Grassroots: Multiple comments were made about the importance of understanding the value of art beyond just the economic to include social and environmental value. Communicating this value within and beyond the sector was raised.</p> <p>Investment Reform: Some participants commented on the need to reduce the complexity of grant applications and for the assessment process to consider more equitable measures based on population and audience base.</p> <p>Audience Development: There were several comments about supporting diverse art forms and diverse audiences. This included consulting with people to understand what they need to be able to engage with arts and culture as both participants and audiences.</p>	

Town Hall Dubbo 14 August Western Plains Cultural Centre	The Dubbo town hall event was well attended by the local community. Organisations were well represented including local government museums and galleries from the region. The top theme for the event was a need for increased funding, and decentralising government support.
Top themes from the floor	
<p>Investment Reform: Multiple comments were made about the need for increased funding for artists. Participants also raised the notion of a decentralised funding model including leveraging regionally based professionals such as Regional Music Officers or embedding Create NSW staff in the regions. Simplification of the grant application process particularly for individual artists was widely supported with some noting a need to improve timing and transparency around the decision-making processes.</p> <p>Youth Arts/Participation: The importance of investing in the next generation of artists and audiences was a key topic. Participants shared that the focus for young people is largely on sport and many stated that young people need to leave the region to pursue the arts as a career.</p> <p>Spaces – Affordable/Accessible: Unlocking existing infrastructure was raised with several suggesting that Dubbo’s existing facilities, such as those owned by TAFE and local schools, are underutilised. Participants noted that the region would have enough spaces and venues for arts and cultural activity if access was improved.</p> <p>Education/Training: Several comments were made about the need for additional resources in the region including a focus on First Nations communities to support careers in the arts through training, clear pathways, and employment support.</p> <p>Regional Investment Equity: Participants commented on the need to invest in the artists and creativity “west of the mountains” including a ‘West of Sydney’ strategy to include a customised approach that considers barriers faced such as distance and local conditions.</p> <p>Sector Capacity Building: Many raised the importance of supporting the significant number of volunteers that make up the sector and who are heavily relied upon due to limited resources.</p> <p>Local Government Role: Several comments acknowledged Council’s great support to the industry however noted that their funding is too limited to support sufficiently. Participants also noted that Council isn’t required to report to State Government on arts and culture activities.</p>	
Local member present: Member for Dubbo, Dugald Saunders, MP	

Town Hall Tamworth 15 August Tamworth Community C.	The Tamworth Town Hall attracted representation from key local arts organisations, state and local government, local media outlets plus good representation from local music venues.
Top themes from the floor	
<p>First Nations Arts and Culture and Audience Development: Leveraging arts and culture to drive tourism in regional NSW was noted. The group wanted to see more inclusion of First Nations artists from outside Sydney and exchanges between ‘mainstream’ and First Nations culture, and between metro and regional areas.</p> <p>Regional Investment Equity: A deeper understanding of regional NSW was encouraged, including acknowledging the barriers faced by artists, creatives, and support staff. Some participants suggested that having more NSW Government staff based regionally would assist and raised that too much emphasis is placed on metro and Greater Sydney when it comes to arts funding distribution, events, and tourism.</p> <p>Investment Reform: Re-thinking grants and funding was raised with some noting that NSW needed to fund and support arts and culture to the same level as sport. Consideration of grant processes including simplification of applications, the timing of funding releases to align with program delivery, and grants for individual creatives to include pitch sessions instead of grant applications.</p> <p>Education/Training: Training and pathways to inspire and keep young people in the regions was raised with some concerned that training and other sector opportunities were Sydney based. Local training was seen as essential to inspire young people including to foster new technologies such as digital games. There was a desire from some experienced practitioners to share their knowledge and experience with the next generation, with a shortage of technical skills in production and sound noted as a barrier to further growth.</p> <p>Spaces – Fit for Purpose: A common thread was that funding infrastructure such as a dedicated regional arts precinct in Tamworth, as well as protecting existing venues in regional centres, was necessary to drive growth in arts and culture, and this represented an issue of equity given how much cultural infrastructure has been developed in Sydney.</p> <p>Sector Capacity Building: A focus on maintaining and strengthening live music and performance was evident from comments in the session. While volunteers were seen as a strength, reliance on ‘good will’ to deliver projects and maintain collections was raised.</p>	
<p>Local member present: Member for Tamworth, Hon. Kevin Anderson, MP</p>	

Town Hall Wollongong 21 August The Music Lounge	The Wollongong Town Hall attracted attendance from key local arts and cultural organisations and good local government representation from across the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions however a lack of independent artist representation was noted.
Top themes from the floor	
<p>First Nations Arts and Culture: There were a range of comments about the need to recognise and celebrate First Nations arts and cultural practices, including showcasing the work of local artists and making First Nations art more prominent within school education.</p> <p>Investment Reform and Regional Investment Equity: Several participants highlighted the need for funding equity particularly for infrastructure across all regional areas and that grant funding processes need to be less onerous. Many noted the confusion caused by geographical categorisation of metro verses regional faced by Wollongong when applying for funds is similar to the experience of the Blue Mountains and Newcastle.</p> <p>Audience Development: A range of comments were made about the importance of growing audiences, particularly young audiences. Participants also commented on the need for more opportunities for the community to participate in arts practices.</p> <p>Spaces – Affordable/Accessible and Fit for Purpose: Many commented on the need for long-term, affordable spaces for artists, with the under-utilisation of arts and cultural facilities at Wollongong TAFE raised. The need for more funding for infrastructure in the south coast to attract and support local artists to create work, and the opportunity to integrate arts and cultural infrastructure into major local developments was raised.</p> <p>Local Government Role: There were a range of comments about the need for local government to play a greater role, including increasing access to affordable spaces for artists, ensuring planning laws are conducive to arts & cultural activities particularly for live music and offering more funding to local arts and cultural activities.</p> <p>Education/Training: Many noted the lack of teachers and resources for arts education in regional NSW schools as a key barrier to creating a thriving arts and cultural sector. Several participants highlighted the importance of a robust professional workforce to support production of cultural activity, particularly technicians. This workforce requires both training pathways and career opportunities.</p> <p>Value of the Creative Industries: Several participants spoke to the value of the creative industries particularly in social cohesion, mental health and broader health and educational outcomes, citing various studies that would be provided through the submission process.</p>	

Town Hall Liverpool 25 August Casula Powerhouse	<p>The Liverpool Town Hall attracted a strong attendance from local key arts and cultural organisations plus representation from Liverpool, Burwood, and Campbelltown City Councils, as well as Members of Parliament including the Local Member. Individual artist representation was a clear gap, but a range of artists representing screen, music, performing arts and community practice were present. The event commenced with a screening of the Western Sydney Arts Alliance recent video on the Arts in Western Sydney.</p>
Top themes from the floor	
<p>Investment Reform: Many participants raised the issue of funding parity for Western Sydney, stating that Western Sydney should be better funded to reflect its population and to recognise and celebrate its unique culture. Multiple comments were made about the need for greater funding for Western Sydney individuals and smaller arts organisations, not just the larger, well-established arts organisations.</p> <p>Ecosystem/Grassroots: Support for culturally diverse arts and culture was raised. Multiple comments highlighted the need to support and celebrate the unique cultural character of Western Sydney including through providing fit-for-purpose spaces for non-Western performances and funding for non-English speakers.</p> <p>Spaces – Affordable/Accessible: The need for more affordable spaces to allow artists to create and perform their work with a particular focus on the need for safer and more accessible spaces for artists with a disability was raised several times. Participants suggested this could include rent subsidies and planning instruments.</p> <p>Education/Training: Several comments were made about the need for better pathways for people to enter and sustain careers in the arts, including through schools, tertiary education, and traineeships. Multiple comments were made about the need for more funding and resources for arts education in schools. There were a range of comments about the need for professional development and capacity building opportunities for artists and arts workers, specifically in production roles.</p> <p>Health/Wellbeing: Multiple comments were made about the importance of arts and culture to health, well-being, and mental health. It was suggested that more funding is needed from the health portfolio to support artists to work in health settings.</p> <p>Audience Development: The need for better public transport for Western Sydney residents to travel to arts and cultural events, particularly at night-time was raised by several participants.</p>	
<p>Local members present: Member for Liverpool, Charishma Kaliyanda, MP; Member for Leppington, Nathan Hagarty, MP</p>	

Town Hall 29 August Broken Hill The Palace Hotel	The Broken Hill event had a smaller and more locally focused audience relative to other town halls, with conversations revolving around opportunities for artists, local arts and culture, and for young people to be educated and forge a career in the arts in Broken Hill.
Top themes from the floor	
<p>Audience Development and Health/Wellbeing: Valuing and promoting the positive impact of art and creativity on mental health, wellbeing, culture and vibrancy of cities was a key point raised. Reliance on volunteers to run grassroots organisations was noted as a risk by some in attendance at the session.</p> <p>Sector Capacity Building: The view was expressed that NSW has invested in buildings and institutions and there is now an opportunity to support and fund the artists and creatives. Time and energy spent on grant applications was raised as well as the size of grants. The reach and engagement of the Regional Art Development Organisation network across NSW was viewed as a strength that could be leveraged further to help artists. Connections with other creative communities across NSW and Australia was considered important by the audience. This includes access to touring and high-speed internet access. The audience noted that connection should be two-way, i.e., city to Broken Hill and Broken Hill to cities (including Melbourne and Adelaide).</p> <p>Regional Investment Equity: A common theme at the session was that the unique characteristics of Broken Hill were under-appreciated when it came to grant funding or policy making. This included the distance from Sydney (12 hours' drive) which impacts the cost and frequency of freight and flights. A suggested solution included separating the existing grant classification of 'regional/remote' to create two separate classifications 'regional' or 'remote' respectively. Another suggestion was that a 'Broken Hill first' policy should be implemented, with the perception being that Broken Hill is currently at the 'end of the line'.</p> <p>Government – de-siloed approach: Collaboration across government including TAFE, councils, training, education, health, tourism and business was viewed as important. This included valuing the experience of established artists who were equipped and willing to teach and share knowledge at local educational institutions.</p> <p>Regulatory Reform: Access to empty spaces including changing planning laws and funding for rent, insurances and other costs was viewed as an opportunity in Broken Hill which has many vacant buildings. Navigating liquor licenses for events and other administration was viewed as onerous.</p> <p>Youth Arts/Participation: The audience raised that it was important to support and develop the next generation of artists and culture lovers. This included establishing local pathways to a creative career in Broken Hill for youth including manager-level administrators and embedding arts into education.</p> <p>Audience Development: With Adelaide only 'half a day drive away' the participants' view was that Broken Hill should be promoted to Adelaide audiences including for two-way touring and tourism. Melbourne was also mentioned. It was noted that cross-border opportunities were often prevented due to funding guidelines.</p>	