

# Media Release

10/05/2023

## BUDGET NOTES FOR REGIONAL CREATIVITY

### REGIONAL ARTS FUND RECEIVES AN ONGOING UPLIFT

Regional Arts Australia welcomes yesterday's Federal Budget and the additional \$960 million investment in Australian Cultural Sector. This includes a \$8.5 million uplift over 4 years (and \$2.2 million per year ongoing) to the Regional Arts Fund, previously announced as part of the National Cultural Policy, Revive.

This increased investment in the Regional Arts Fund benefits short- and long-term professional development and capacity building programs, and the development of new works across all arts forms, through regional, rural and remote Australia.

View a highlights reel:

<https://fb.watch/kqIMGdPeDc/?mibextid=v7YzmG>

Other regional announcements will have an impact on regionally based artists, creative industries and communities. These include the establishment of a Regional Investment Framework and the identification of four priority areas for regional investment: People; Places; Services and Industry and the \$600 million Growing Regions Program Grant.

The Growing Regions Program will invest in infrastructure and community projects across regional Australia through two \$300 million funding rounds for grants of between \$500,000 and \$15 million. The grant guidelines launched on Monday 8 May have significant relevance for the creative sector, particularly local government and not for profit venues, galleries and cultural institutions.

A joint media release from The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government and The Hon Kristy McBain MP Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories highlights the benefits the community and economic infrastructure projects in regional and rural Australia.

**“The Growing Regions Program forms part of our Government’s unwavering commitment to investing in Australia’s regions to create jobs, build opportunity and unlock economic growth and productivity”** Regional Development, Local Government and Territories Minister, Kristy McBain said.

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/department/media/news/grant-guidelines-now-available-round-1-growing-regions-program>

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Other positive measures for regional Australia include the Government's commitment to the 'State of the Regions' report, the extension of the Regional First Home Buyers Grant and incentives for buy-to-rent investors, the establishment of the National Net Zero Authority to support regional communities, businesses and workforces to transition to renewable energy.

These measures align with RAA Regional Strategic Framework, a placed based strategy that is designed to bring together industries and policy sectors to build a diverse, adaptive and more sustainable regional, remote and rural Australia.

Regional Arts Australia looks forward to working with our national colleagues, to support ongoing creative practice across regional, rural and remote Australia. We commend the Australian Government for their commitment to the arts and creative industries and look forward to working with them to meet the needs of regional Australian communities.

"I can't separate the arts from life ... they are the same"  
– Miss Dorothy Helmrich OBE, founder Regional Arts Australia

## LINKS

Regional Arts Fund: [regionalarts.com.au/regional-arts-fund/about-regional-arts-fund](https://regionalarts.com.au/regional-arts-fund/about-regional-arts-fund)

Regional Arts Australia: [regionalarts.com.au](https://regionalarts.com.au)

National Cultural Policy – Revive: [www.arts.gov.au/what-we-do/national-cultural-policy](https://www.arts.gov.au/what-we-do/national-cultural-policy)

Growing Regions Program <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/department/media/news/grant-guidelines-now-available-round-1-growing-regions-program>

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