



# CREATIVE REGIONS NATIONAL SUMMIT

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24 NOVEMBER 2022 | PARLIAMENT HOUSE

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**REGIONAL**  
**arts**  
**AUSTRALIA**



**Australian Government**  
**Regional Arts Fund**

# WELCOME FROM REGIONAL ARTS AUSTRALIA

The Creative Regions National Summit takes place on the lands of the Ngunnawal people.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Ngunnawal people and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and region. We would also like to acknowledge and welcome other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may be attending today's event.

## CONNECTION TO COUNTRY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples represent 45 per cent of the population of very remote areas of Australia, and 16 per cent of the total population in remote areas.

Supporting a thriving, self-determined First Nations creative ecosystems that is embedded in place-based creativity and industry best practice is critical. We are committed to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and providing national awareness for diverse cultures, languages and knowledges of First Nations peoples.

Partnerships are critical and key in leveraging cross industry support and championing arts in regional, rural and remote Australia beyond the arts sector. It is through place-based strategy that industries and policy sectors are brought together to build diverse, adaptive and more sustainable communities.

RAA's regional framework unlocks the cultural ambition and potential of regional Australia by integrating industries such as tourism, hospitality, manufacturing, agricultural and technology with the creative sector and supporting the distinctive assets of a region and their communities.

Through a national approach, RAA ensures arts and creativity across regional Australia. Our priorities are to strengthen artistic and creative practice and we aim to work across industry and policy sectors to build a stronger, more diverse and sustainable arts and creative industries sector.

National gatherings such as the Creative Regions National Summit facilitate direct connection between the Board and staff of RAA, the regional network, and national colleagues.

This biennial event is designed to bring together industries and policy sectors from regional Australia and facilitate a whole of ecology approach, led by creative industries and cultural practice. With speakers and delegates from around the country the program endeavours to position the future of regional practice with priority strategies and direction.

We look forward to hosting colleagues from across the country.



Simon Spain  
Chairperson  
Regional Arts Australia



Ros Abercrombie  
Executive Director  
Regional Arts Australia

# ABOUT REGIONAL ARTS AUSTRALIA

REGIONAL ARTS AUSTRALIA (RAA) IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT PEAK BODY THAT IS THE NATIONAL VOICE FOR ARTS IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA.

We seek to ensure the arts in regional Australia are embedded within all of Governments plans for Regional Australia. To be critically positioned across multiple policy platforms and to support strong partnerships between governments, industry, not-for-profits and commercial business.

We encourage programs that support a creative ecosystem that is interconnected and integrated across art forms, across communities and across landscapes.

RAA's guiding principle is that 'place' is central to creative practice. It provides profound practical and emotional links between the economies and synergies of artistic and cultural practice.

Place-based initiatives seed longer-term cultural and economic sustainability, boosting local capacity, diversifying engagement, increasing accessibility and connection. Investment in innovative approaches within existing areas of strength make arts and cultural activities more accessible to all Australians.

We advocate for informed national regional arts policy that represents the diversity of practice and cultural landscape and represents best practice.

# PROGRAM

1.00 – 1.05	Welcome to Country - Ngunnawal Traditional Owner Aunty Violet Sheridan
1.05 – 1.15	Welcome from Chair of RAA - Dr Simon Spain
1.15 – 1.30	Opening Address – Rosie Sitorus
1.30 – 1.50	Keynote – Cathy McGowan
2 – 3.00	Panel Discussion; Cross Industry Engagement - facilitated by Hon Fiona Nash
3.00 – 3.30	Afternoon tea
3.30 – 4.30	Panel Discussion; Regionalisation – facilitated by Liz Richie
4.30 – 5.15	Where to from here?
	Hon Tony Burke MP - Minister for the Arts Parliamentary Guests and Delegate Responses
5.15 – 5.30	Closing Remarks

*Please note the program was correct at time of printing*

# A REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The cultural and creative industries play a critical role in contributing to the creativity, diversity and prosperity of Australia's regional and rural economy. They are a crucial element in the make-up of future liveable regions and are central to thriving and healthy communities and sustainable social and economic growth.

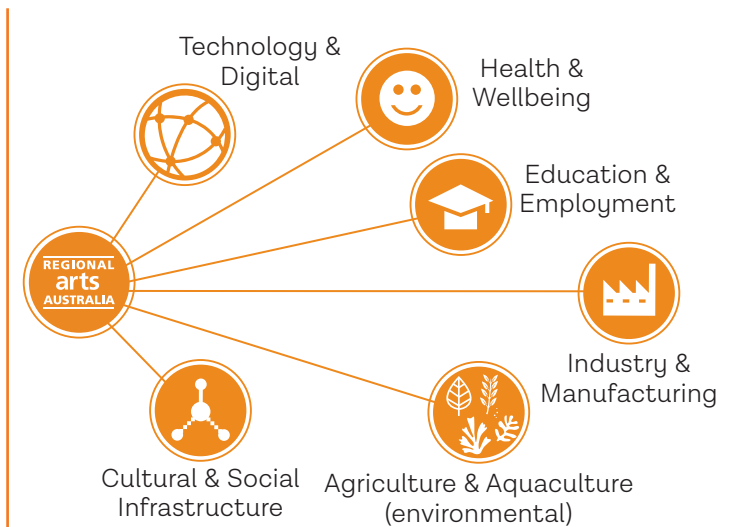
A Regional Strategic Framework is a place based strategy that is designed to bring together industries and policy sectors to build a diverse, adaptive and more sustainable regional, remote and rural Australia. The framework is positioned to understand the variety and diversity of a whole regional creative ecology. It is cross-disciplinary, multi-artform, inter-generational and importantly is self-determined by and for regional communities.

The fabric of cultural & creative ecology is built through:

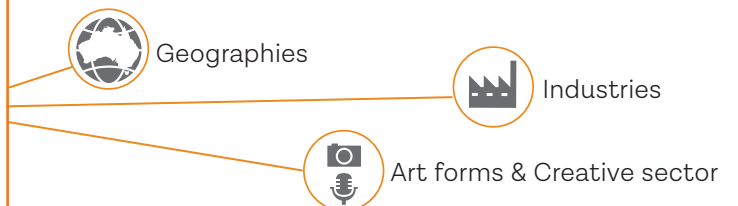
- **Community confidence (evidenced by connectivity)**
- **Creative confidence (evidenced by arts practice)**
- **Business confidence (evidenced by partnerships)**

A REGIONAL FRAMEWORK UNLOCKS THE CULTURAL AMBITION AND POTENTIAL OF REGIONAL AUSTRALIA BY INTEGRATING INDUSTRIES SUCH AS TOURISM, HOSPITALITY, MANUFACTURING, AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNOLOGY WITH THE CREATIVE SECTOR AND SUPPORTING THE DISTINCTIVE ASSETS OF A REGION AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

The Framework is structured around creating Strategic Partnerships with key industries that intersect cultural practice and experience;



That work across:



Brought together by:



Generating:



# OPPORTUNITIES

TO BE EFFECTIVELY EQUIPPED FOR THE ADVANCES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL BE PART OF OUR FUTURE, A TARGETED REGIONAL FRAMEWORK EMBEDS THE EXPANSION OF INNOVATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT THAT ARE DESIRED BY COMMUNITIES. THIS WILL EFFECTIVELY DRIVE ENGAGEMENT ACROSS COMMUNITIES AND INDUSTRIES.

Supporting

1. Connectivity
2. Cultural & Social infrastructure (soft and hard)
3. Education pathways & training
4. Innovation

The Regional Strategic Framework provides the mechanism for programs and initiatives to be delivered nationally while being responsive to local needs. RAA is committed to maintaining strategic, collaborative relationships for the benefit of arts and creative practice across the country. To;

MANY VOICES –  
MANY CONVERSATIONS –  
MANY COLLABORATIONS –  
MANY OPPORTUNITIES  
... Connecting the dots

- *Facilitate opportunities that strengthen artistic and creative practice*
- *Increase access and participation for artists, organisations, audiences and communities*
- *Strengthen the fabric of the creative ecosystem*
- *Maintain dynamic and resilient communities across artistic, social, economic and health indexes.*
- *Provide timely support to tell and celebrate Australian stories across art forms and across landscapes.*

# SPEAKERS



**Cathy McGowan** came to national attention when she won the seat of Indi as an independent in 2013. The community backed her again in 2016. In 2019 Indi made Australian political history when Dr Helen Haines was elected as Indi's second, independent woman.

During her time as a politician Cathy actively worked in Parliament to develop policy around regional development, constitutional change for first nations people and a solution to the indefinite detention of asylum seekers. In 2019 she was awarded The Accountability Round Table award for political integrity. She is an Officer in the Order of Australia, a Churchill fellow and lives very happily on her farm in the Indigo Valley in NE Victoria.



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**Craig Perkins** has worked in local government (6 years) and regional development (18 years), and until recently, 15 years as CEO and Director of Regional Development for the Regional Development Australia Tasmania Committee. Over this period, Craig worked with communities to support their strategic development, economic growth and improving social capacity.

Craig has a Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing and International Business), Master of Business Management, is a graduate of the Tasmanian Leaders Program, and has also been awarded a Diploma for successfully completing the AICD Company Directors course.

Craig was an elected member with the Meander Valley Council for 9 years, including his last 7 years as mayor. He concluded his term in October 2018.

Craig has strong networks across Tasmania and a good understanding of the opportunities and challenges that communities face. He is the Chair of Ten Days on the Island, the immediate Past President of the Rotary Club of Central Launceston and a board member of Crimestoppers Tasmania, the Launceston Chamber of Commerce and the Launceston City Football Club.



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**John Quertermous** is a marketing & tourism sales specialist with a solid track record delivering highly effective marketing & communications campaigns for the arts & entertainment sector. He specialises in attracting new audiences and achieving tourism targets for major events.

He is currently Marketing & Communications Director for Bangarra Dance Theatre and is the Chair of Cultural Attractions of Australia. He resides on Gadigal land in Sydney.



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**Dennis Stokes** is both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and comes from Darwin in the Northern Territory. He belongs to the Wardamann, Luritja and Warramunga people of the NT and the Wagadagam people of the Torres Strait.

Having worked in the arts and media sector for over 22 years Dennis and has held many roles including CEO of Mimi Aboriginal Arts & Craft, Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, First Nations Media Australia including strategic roles at NITV, Australia Council for the Arts, Australian Film Television and Radio School to name a few. An advocate for empowering First Nations voices and self determination in the Arts sector Dennis is committed to working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to achieve this goal.





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**Hon Fiona Nash** is the Regional Education Minister. Having grown up in Sydney, Fiona has spent the last couple of decades living and working in regional Australia. For many years she was involved in a farming enterprise in the central west of NSW, which her sons Will and Henry are now running. She spent twelve years in the federal parliament as a Senator for NSW and also held ministerial positions including Rural Health, and in Cabinet the positions of Regional Development, Regional Communications and Local Government and Territories. She also held the position of Deputy Leader of the Nationals. From 2018 - 2021 Fiona was the Strategic Adviser, Regional Engagement and Government Relations for Charles Sturt University.

Fiona was appointed by the Australian Government as the Regional Education Commissioner in December 2021.



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**Dr Georgie McClean** is the Executive Director of Development and Strategic Partnerships at the Australia Council for the Arts. She oversees the Council's sector engagement, research and professional development, digital culture strategies and international engagement. She looks for opportunities to extend the public value of the cultural and creative industries with new partners in new ways.

Prior to joining the Australia Council, Georgie has been a media/arts leader who has researched and shaped creative industries' dynamics, programs and policy for 20 years.

Formerly the Acting CEO of AFTRS (the Australian Film, Television and Radio School) where she led Strategy and facilitated new thinking about Australian storytelling, industry practices, innovation and the Creative Economy push. She also headed up Strategy and Communications at Screen Australia, and prior to that, was Manager of Policy and Research at Australia's multicultural public broadcaster SBS.

With an applied research Doctorate of Cultural Research, a Master of Arts in Communications, an MBA underway and strong practical knowledge of the screen, arts and media industries, Georgie translates between ideas, research and practice.



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**Matt Pinnegar** was appointed CEO of the Australian Local Government Association in 2021 after almost six years as CEO of Local Government South Australia (LGASA). Matt was born and bred in the northern suburbs of Adelaide and has a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Adelaide and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of South Australia.

Prior to his time at LGASA, Matt has worked as a Chief of Staff in the South Australian state government, and an adviser in the energy industry.

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**Liz Ritchie** is the CEO of the Regional Australia Institute (RAI). Liz's primary goal is to make a difference through providing vision and leadership for a better future – a future that recognises regional Australia in a new light.

Whilst understanding the issues and opportunities impacting regional Australia, she is dedicated to reform through the recently released Regionalisation Ambition 2032 which she is spearheading to build a new national movement to #rebalancethenation.

For over 20 years, Liz has worked across the corporate, government and the not for profit sector, and she specialises in leading organisational transformation to build a sustainable future. Liz is a change agent, a marketer, a researcher and an extremely passionate advocate for regional Australia, heralding from Deniliquin, in NSW.

As a founding Director of the Australian Gender Equality Council (AGEC), Liz is a strong advocate for gender equality, and ensuring rural and regional women can have equal access and opportunity.



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**Sarah Mathee** is the Foundation for Rural, Regional Renewal (FRRR), Partnerships and Services Manager, focused on supporting FRRR's partners to facilitate impact across rural, regional and remote Australia. She oversees FRRR's donor care and stewardship, corporate service delivery and develops opportunities for FRRR to utilise its knowledge by providing assistance to others.

Sarah joined FRRR in August 2017. She has extensive experience in the not-for-profit sector, having held a range of volunteer, board and staff roles over nine years with Engineers Without Borders Australia, and volunteer roles at environmental and arts organisations. A chemical engineer and lawyer, Sarah has also worked at a global commercial law firm.

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**Dr Simon Spain** has over thirty years of experience in social arts practice with communities. Simon trained as a printmaker in the UK. Working internationally as an artist and presenter, Simon settled in Australia in 2004 to establish ArtPlay for the City of Melbourne, moving to Tasmania at the beginning of 2016. Following the completion of a Masters in Social Investment and Philanthropy in 2015 Simon completed a reflective practice PhD, taking as his area of research the transformative power of community engagement in the arts and the artists role in responding to the challenges of the 21st century. Simon was awarded the Australia Council for the Arts Fellowship in Cultural and Community Development in 2017 and is the Arts Leader for the B4 Early Years Coalition in Tasmania. His current project in Tasmania provides residency and capacity building opportunities for artists through his creative initiative, 'All That We Are'. Simon is the Chair of RAA.





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**Rosie Sitorus** is a woman born of two migrant parents, based in Jambinbirri (Geraldton), WA. Her creative practice, focusing on music, spoken word performance and writing, often intersects with her work as a linguist and creative project manager with rural, regional and remote Aboriginal communities.

After completing a combined degree in Law/Arts at the University of Western Australia, Rosie moved to Geraldton in 2013, and has helped to build the local creative community, producing a range of works both solo and in collaboration with other creatives and cultural people from across the state. From 2015-2018, she co-wrote and performed *Fat Girls in Bike Shorts*, a regionally devised and produced work. Now an emerging producer and self-managed artist, Rosie has produced several storytelling and musical projects, as well as managing *Warralgurniya*, a cross-cultural songwriting project that grew out of her work with Bundiyarra - Irra Wangga Language Centre.

In addition to her creative work, Rosie is an avid gardener and hobby permaculturist, a budding potter and a community advocate. She is committed to finding a way to unite her creative work, professional pursuits and personal values to show that living in the regions is a diverse, passionate and enviable life.



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**Tony Burke** is the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Minister for the Arts, and Leader of the House in the 47th Australian Parliament.

Tony grew up in a small business family, later ran his own small business and also worked as the local organiser for retail workers. Tony's portfolios reflect his lifelong commitments to working people, the environment and to the arts.

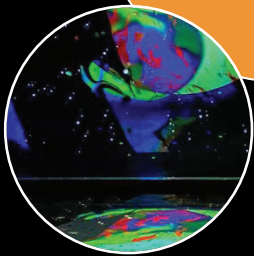
In Government, Tony Burke was responsible for resolving 100 years of conflict in the Murray-Darling Basin, placing Tasmania's forests on the World Heritage list, making the second-largest conservation decision in the history of the planet by protecting our oceans and implementing the comprehensive Creative Australia arts and culture policy.

He has also led the fight against racial hate speech with the iconic Walk for Respect in the heart of his community in the Sydney suburb of Lakemba.

**REGIONAL  
arts  
AUSTRALIA**

**80**  
YEARS OF  
REGIONAL  
PRACTICE

THE NATIONAL VOICE  
FOR THE ARTS IN  
REGIONAL AUSTRALIA



In 2023 Regional Arts Australia will celebrate 80 years since being established in 1943 as the Council for the Encouragement of Music.

In 1943 our founder Miss Dorothy Helmrich, affectionately known as Dot, envisaged a nation where people living in regional, rural, and remote Australia could contribute, participate, and enjoy the arts on equal level to those living in metropolitan areas.

For 80 years, Regional Arts Australia has been facilitating opportunities, increasing access, maintaining collaborative relationships, and providing timely support to celebrate Australian stories across art forms and across landscapes.

Regional Australia is changing, the role and value of regional arts sector is changing.

Regional Arts Australia has been an active voice in this changing environment supporting artists, communities and the creative sector in rural and remote Australia.

We invite you to help us imagine the next 80 years of regional arts in Australia.

“

I CAN'T SEPARATE THE ARTS FROM  
LIFE ... THEY ARE THE SAME

– Miss Dorothy Helmrich OBE

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**Australian Government**

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## Filming and Documentation

Filming and photography will take place through the day. Unless otherwise instructed, Regional Arts Australia reserves the right to publish photographs and videos from the event online and in printed materials.