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Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts**

Mr Stephen Palethorpe
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

9 March 2023

Dear Mr Palethorpe

Thank you for your email of 20 February 2023 inviting the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (the department) to make a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the National Cultural Policy and any other related matters.

I am writing to provide an update on significant developments that have arisen since the Government launched the National Cultural Policy, *Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place*, on 30 January 2023.

Work is progressing across government on implementing all *Revive* actions. Significant developments for actions led by the Office for the Arts within the department are outlined below.

Legislation to amend the *Australia Council Act 2013*

The Australia Council Amendment (Creative Australia) Bill 2023 was introduced in the House of Representatives on 15 February 2023. This Bill amends the *Australia Council Act 2013* (the Act) to give effect to elements of *Revive* that are required to be in place by 1 July 2023, including Creative Australia as an alternative business name for the Australia Council, and new functions to allow the commencement of work related to Music Australia and the Centre for Arts and Entertainment Workplaces.

The Bill also implements the election commitment to transfer the functions of Creative Partnerships Australia to the Australia Council. The proposed amendments provide clear authority for the Australia Council to deliver the functions of Creative Partnerships Australia, including to attract and recognise public and private sector support for the arts, undertake research on public and private sector investment in the arts, and deregister Creative Partnerships Australia under the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Further legislation will be introduced in the winter parliamentary sittings to establish Creative Australia as an entirely new body. The Bill will also establish the governance arrangements for Music Australia and the Centre for Arts and Entertainment Workplaces. Further legislation will establish the First Nations body and Writers Australia to allow for extensive consultation and ensure the appropriate governance model is in place.

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Implementing *Revive* through the establishment of Creative Australia

The department is working closely with Australia Council on the implementation of *Revive*. The Government has agreed to a staged approach to enable Creative Australia to responsibly scale up and implement new functions, and allow additional consultation to occur where required.

The department and the Australia Council have also commenced work to transfer the Prime Minister's Literary Awards to Creative Australia to deliver the Awards in the later part of 2023.

Extending the Public and Educational Lending Right Schemes to include digital content

The Public Lending Right Scheme (Electronic Books and Audiobooks) Modification 2023 Instrument was tabled in Parliament on 8 March 2023. The Instrument modifies the *Public Lending Right Scheme 2016* to extend public lending rights to eligible electronic books (ebooks) and audiobooks. In parallel, the *Educational Lending Right Policy and Procedures* have also been amended. These changes entitle eligible creators and publishers of ebooks and audiobooks to receive lending right payments under both public and educational lending schemes from 2023-24.

If you require further information or have questions about *Revive*, please contact Leonie Holloway, Assistant Secretary, National Cultural Policy Taskforce

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide an update.

Yours sincerely

Dr Stephen Arnott PSM
Deputy Secretary
Creative Economy and the Arts
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts