

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
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Dear Chair and Members of the Inquiry

The ACT Cultural Facilities Corporation (CFC) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into fostering and promoting the significance of Australia's National Capital.

The CFC is a statutory authority of the ACT Government with responsibility for the Canberra Theatre Centre, the Canberra Museum and Gallery and Commonwealth Nolan Collection, and the ACT Historic Places.

The mission of the CFC is to create and drive diverse and remarkable experiences that enliven and elevate arts, culture, and heritage in the Capital. It does this in pursuit of our vision – Building Australia's arts and culture capital – in line with the ACT Government's Statement of Ambition for the Arts, for Canberra to be recognised as Australia's arts capital.

In the context of the Inquiry, I wish to draw attention to the impending redevelopment of the Canberra Theatre Centre and the opportunity this presents to the Federal Government to invest in the establishment of a national live performance production house in Canberra which will contribute enormously to elevating the profile and importance of Canberra as the national capital of Australia. The key gap for our nation's capital in terms of cultural institutions is in the area of the performing arts.

The redevelopment of the Canberra Theatre Centre is a major project that will significantly enhance the city's cultural infrastructure and value proposition. The project involves the construction of a 2,000 seat theatre, comparable in scale to the largest theatres in Australia, and the refurbishment and expansion of the existing complex to create a world-class cultural facility that is fully integrated into the fabric and identity of the city. The new complex is anticipated to comprise state-of-the-art performance spaces, including the new 2000-seat theatre, a studio theatre, a playhouse and a contemporary flexible performance space for standing and seated events and performances.

The new facilities will provide artists with the resources and support they need to create and present their work at the highest possible level, while also enhancing the overall experience for audiences.

The establishment of a national live performance production house in Canberra would further enhance the capital's cultural offering and elevate its profile as a cultural destination. It would be a flagship arts centre that produces, presents and collaborates on works of national and global



ACT
Government

**CANBERRA
MUSEUM
+ GALLERY**

**THE
NOLAN
COLLECTION**

**ACT
HISTORIC
PLACES**

**CANBERRA
THEATRE
CENTRE**

significance across all performing art forms. It would be a hub of creativity and innovation, bringing together the best artists and arts organisations from around the country and the world to create new and exciting works that reflect the unique cultural identity of Australia. It will showcase the diversity and richness of Australian culture and its place in the global community. It will also provide a platform for the exploration of important social and political issues, and a forum for the exchange of ideas and perspectives.

Further, this creative development in Canberra would provide significant benefits for the cultural sector in Australia, creating new opportunities for artists, including actors, directors, designers, and writers, to work on high-profile productions and develop their skills and talents. It would also provide new employment opportunities for people working in the arts, including technicians, educators, and other support staff. It will be a catalyst for new works, collaborations, and talent development.

In turn, it will have far-reaching impacts on the Australian theatre industry and the cultural landscape of the nation. It will put Canberra on the map as a hub for creative excellence and innovation, and position the city as a leader in the cultural conversation, attracting audiences, artists, and investors from across Australia and around the world. Canberra has already established itself as a cultural destination as well as a welcoming and enriching place to live, visit, and explore: this will further elevate Canberra's profile as the national capital and a cultural destination.

Developing the CTC into a performing arts centre of national significance, will enable Canberra to grow as a leader in the cultural conversation. In turn this will attract visitors from both within Australia and internationally, generate economic benefits for the region and increasing the profile of the ACT as a cultural destination. A renewed CTC would be a heart of unity and inspiration both for the city and nation, presenting and creating work that redefines the possibilities of Australian cultural identity.

An expanded and reimagined CTC will be a destination for storytelling, ceremony and engagement across all performing art forms, cultures, and generations, reflecting 60,000 years of our shared history. It will increase the capacity for important productions to be created and presented, strengthen national and regional performing arts touring networks, and enable the presentation of a diverse range of productions. It will foster collaborations and partnerships with artists and organisations, create programs and events, and appeal to a broad range of audiences.

The opportunity to position the Canberra Theatre Centre as a national performing and producing arts centre ultimately enables powerful synergies in cultural expression, civic development, tourism, talent retention, and job opportunities. Rightly in our nation's capital, we will have a central creative hub where the works and ceremonies of national, cultural, social, communal, and political significance can be created and presented in the meeting place that was founded and designed to speak to the Australian population of excellence: a landmark of cultural significance for generations to come.

The CFC would welcome the opportunity to provide the Committee with further information if required.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Ramsay
Chief Executive Officer