



Don Harwin
Minister for Resources
Minister for Energy and Utilities
Minister for the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT INVESTING \$20 MILLION IN MUSICIANS OF TOMORROW

The NSW Government has committed an additional \$20 million for the construction of a purpose-built recital hall that will ensure Wagga Wagga becomes the Riverina's première entertainment destination.

Minister for the Arts Don Harwin said the new recital hall would provide musicians and students with a state of the art and acoustically appropriate performance space that would attract audiences of all ages from across regional NSW.

"By nurturing up and coming musical prodigies and providing them with a world class venue to showcase their talent, we are preparing them for a life on the stage," Mr Harwin said.

"This new recital hall will build upon the previously announced refurbishment work that is providing the Riverina Conservatorium of Music with a new home and the teaching space, rehearsal rooms and video facilities required to help musicians soar.

"Arts and culture is at the heart of every regional community and this NSW Government funding shows our commitment to ensuring towns and communities across regional NSW are the best places in the country to live, work and invest."

The new recital hall will comfortably house 300 patrons and feature an exhibition space that can also host large events, while a specialised early childhood music education centre will allow musicians to develop their talents from a young age.

The recital hall will also benefit Wagga Wagga tourism by attracting audiences to a wide variety of musical performances, from classical to pop.

"World class performance spaces also increase the exposure of professional musicians, allowing them to perform to new audiences while providing the people of regional NSW with access to entertaining arts and cultural experiences," Mr Harwin said.

Mr Harwin said the \$20 million funding for the Stage Two recital hall will be made available subject to the full project scope and costings, which will also confirm the timing for completion.

The refurbishment work for the new conservatorium building being undertaken as part of Stage One is due for completion by the end of 2019.

Liberal Candidate for Wagga Wagga Julia Ham welcomed the Government's investment in arts and culture.

"This is a wonderful outcome for our community and it will ensure that young people in our region have access to the best music education facilities into the future," Ms Ham said.

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