

Regional Performing Arts and Entertainment Centres (RPAEC) Review Launch

The Regional Capital Alliance WA (RCAWA) is proud to announce the release of an informative and comprehensive Regional Performing Arts and Entertainment Centres (RPAEC) review. Appropriately launched at the Regions Rising conference at the Bunbury Entertainment Centre, the report explores the Regional Capital's Centre's operations within a State and National context.

Dennis Wellington, Chair of the Alliance and Mayor of the City of Albany, said that "RCAWA have long understood the importance of the RPAECs as a feature of the development of our cities and a representation of cultural identity and growing sophistication. These centres serve many interests, from providing pure entertainment, cultural expression, social inclusion, artistic employment, and the more traditional role of the Town Hall as a meeting and conference space and civic centre. The role of Performing Arts and Entertainment Centres in growing healthy, creative young people and vibrant communities is well understood and, as we emerge from the shadow of Covid it is timely to breathe life into these treasured assets and get the show well and truly back on the road in Regional WA".

The replacement value of the 10 centres, included in this study, exceed \$600m and their current direct economic impact is more than \$25m per year which, if aggregated, would place the centres alongside the WA Symphony Orchestra and Perth Festival as the State's largest Performing Arts organisations.

The review contains 5 key and 54 overall recommendations which, if enacted, could provide opportunities for the enhancement of beneficial outcomes for the arts sector and WA community at large. These recommendations place the RCAWA in a position to act collaboratively with local and community stakeholders and, with the support of State and Federal Government, negotiate improvements to current operating, governance and funding arrangements.

The Covid 19 pandemic had a profound impact on the arts and entertainment sector which has been mitigated to some extent through Covid recovery funding programs offered by both the State and Federal Government. This support of the arts is, and will continue to be, well received; particularly in the regions.

Minister for Culture and the Arts David Templeman said the review was a welcome and useful exercise that would highlight some of the key challenges faced by regional arts and entertainment centres. "Some of the recommendations align with work already undertaken by the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries and its key delivery partners in the regional arts sector," Mr Templeman said.