

**DRAFT**

Date TBC

Dear [ERC Member],

I am writing on behalf of members of Regional Arts Victoria who are Victorian artists and organisations located across the state.

As you are aware, the arts, entertainment and cultural sector was the second most impacted by COVID-19 shutdowns after hospitality. The sector continues to be extremely vulnerable as it slowly rebuilds, with audience hesitancy and workforce shortages affecting individual creative workers and organisations. These impacts are even more severe in regional, rural and remote areas where increasing costs of living including energy and fuel prices limit participation in the arts.

The announcement of the long awaited National Cultural Policy development by Minister Burke this year has encouraged many of us and we are hoping for a framework that supports access to participating in and making art in rural, regional and remote communities.

A vibrant arts, entertainment and cultural industry delivers significant economic, social and cultural benefits for all Australians. It creates jobs and supports small businesses from sole traders to larger organisations. It also increases “liveability” of regional communities, providing social connectedness and attracting the skilled people required to provide local medical facilities, schools, childcare and more.

We welcome the recent budgetary measures for education, health, women's safety, and disaster relief. We believe that the arts, entertainment and cultural sector also play a significant role in helping to deliver long term gain in these critical pressure areas across all facets of government and in partnership with the public and private sectors.

We urge you to support investment in the National Cultural Policy to transform and safeguard a diverse, vibrant and sustainable regional arts, entertainment and cultural sector now and into the future.

Sincerely,



Jo Porter  
Chief Executive Officer  
Regional Arts Victoria