

National Cultural Policy Submission

Anonymous

Challenges and opportunities

The National Cultural Policy is an opportunity to shake things up, to reinvigorate the arts and cultural sectors of Australia, and to build pride in what we offer our communities, the nation, and the world. It's about telling the little stories as well as the big ones, nurturing, showcasing, and developing creativity no matter where it resides —broadening the focus beyond the city limits and shining a light on the hidden corners of Rural, Regional and Remote Australia. 'Excellence' exists in many places and in many forms.

There are challenges inherent in any policy like this. Not having dollars to support the vision of a National Cultural Policy would potentially see it fail, particularly given the stress the sector is in.

The importance of the pillars to my practice and why

All the pillars are important but shouldn't be viewed exclusively of each other. First Nations stories and knowledge systems are important in my practice as an environmental artist, but not at the exclusion of science, or other knowledge systems that develop deep care about place and a deep understanding of the issues impacting the future. There's a place for other stories, sitting alongside each other, something I try to capture in my practice. These documented stories provide an archive of connection to place, that in turn creates a snapshot of our regional communities at a point in time. As an artist I have the privilege of asking the hard questions in conversations about the future of our Rural, Regional and Remote communities. I see my role as a creative as being critical to gathering and sharing ideas and feelings within Australia and globally, presenting them back to audiences in new ways, from new perspectives. Internet connectivity is critical to the connecting and sharing part of this process. Rural, Regional and Remote Australia still doesn't have equitable access to fast, reliable internet services that allow us to be part of broader conversations, here and overseas.

The support of Regional Arts Organisations is critical to my practice as an artist. I am a regionally based, project artist (digital media and writing) working on social ecology issues of environmental sustainability, resource sharing, climate change, regional renewal/regeneration, cultural knowledge etc., often in collaboration with artists nationally and internationally. The support of Regional Arts orgs is important to helping me do this. I believe they need more secure operating budgets to build on the work they're currently doing with minimal resources.

Additional comments

I would like to see a commitment from the Government to ensure that digital connectivity is equitable across the country (with particular attention on Rural, Regional, and Remote areas), and of a global standard that provides us with opportunities to be part of not just regional and national conversations, but global ones.

There's also a need for the arts and culture to be adopted across portfolios. I'm always looking for opportunities to work in a multi-disciplinary way, to reach broader audiences. There's currently no commitment to consider the role of artists in conversations, projects or planning for the future of sectors that we inherently are part of as citizens and residents of this country.