

Australia's Performing Arts

# WE ALL PLAY A PART

Wednesday 24 September, 2008

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Building stronger communities: investing in cultural capital

The *We All Play a Part* campaign today called on the Federal Government to renew Australia's cultural capital by investing in performing arts centres across the country. The announcement comes in response to the Prime Minister's announcement of a national Local Government Summit to be held later this year.

"Theatres and arts centres are the cultural hubs of towns and suburbs" said Bronwyn Edinger, the President of the Australian Performing Arts Centres Association (APACA). "They play a vital role in building stronger communities across the country."

*We All Play a Part* partner APACA represents 134 performing arts centres across Australia, from the Sydney Opera House to The Walkington Theatre in Karratha.

Infrastructure Australia, which will assist in the delivery of Australia's future infrastructure needs, seeks to 'improve the functioning of and quality of life within our major cities and major regional centres.'<sup>1</sup> The *We All Play a Part* campaign recognises that cultural infrastructure, like roads and rail, needs investment to improve quality of life.

APACA will ask Infrastructure Australia and Minister Albanese to allocate investment to physical infrastructure, such as local theatres and performing arts centres in a submission to Infrastructure Australia. "We will be drawing from the overwhelming evidence of the fundamental role performing arts play in building stronger communities throughout Australia"

"Local Government invests close to \$1 billion a year in the arts, but the ever increasing load of maintaining and expanding venues and arts centres to meet community demand has become a real challenge. Local Government, particularly in regional and outer suburban areas has a considerable backlog of renewal expenditure required to ensure community and cultural infrastructure can keep its doors open"<sup>2</sup> said Clr. Paul Bell, President of the Australian Local Government Association.

The *We All Play a Part* campaign also recognises the considerable contribution of Playing Australia, which funds professional productions to tour suburban and regional communities, and the need for continued Federal support to meet the needs of growing audiences.



“This campaign goes beyond bricks and mortar. Infrastructure Australia provides a great opportunity to enhance access to performances that build the creative capacity and social cohesion of local communities,” added Ms Edinger.

Supporters of *We All Play a Part* are encouraged to register online at [www.weallplayapart.com.au](http://www.weallplayapart.com.au) to receive updates on campaign activities and information as the campaign continues.

**-ENDS-**

### **About the *We All Play a Part* Campaign**

The *We All Play a Part* campaign aims to highlight the role that all Australians play in the local and global success of Australia’s performing arts industry. Visit the website [www.weallplayapart.com.au](http://www.weallplayapart.com.au) to register as a supporter and receive updates on future events.

The *We All Play a Part* campaign is an initiative of the Australian Major Performing Arts Group (AMPAG), in association with Live Performance Australia (LPA) and the Media and Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA).

Also supporting *We All Play a Part* are the following campaign partners: the Australian Children’s Music Foundation (ACMF); the Australian Performing Arts Centres Association (APACA); and the Australian Network for Art and Technology (ANAT). This is first time such a broad coalition of representative bodies from the arts have come together for an advocacy campaign.

Major themes for the campaign are: Nurturing Talent; Building Stronger Communities; Participation and Enjoyment; and National Pride.

### **For further information or to arrange an interview, please call:**

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For more information about the Infrastructure Australia, see [http://www.minister.infrastructure.gov.au/aa/releases/2008/August/AA121\\_2008.htm](http://www.minister.infrastructure.gov.au/aa/releases/2008/August/AA121_2008.htm).

For PricewaterhouseCoopers’ report into the financial sustainability of local government, see <http://www.alga.asn.au/policy/finance/pwcreport/>.

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<sup>i</sup> Albanese, The Hon. A, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government  
*MEDIA RELEASE: \$20 Billion for Nation Building Projects*, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008

<sup>ii</sup> PricewaterhouseCoopers, *National financial sustainability study of local government (PwC Report) November 2006*