

CREATIVE STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT BILL 2024

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Need: Why is the policy needed based on factual evidence and stakeholder input?

In December 2023 the NSW Government launched *Creative Communities – NSW Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy 2024-2033*. *Creative Communities* is a 10-year, whole-of-government policy with the goal of sustainably growing the creative industries throughout NSW.

The development of *Creative Communities* was shaped by an extensive program of consultation and engagement with community and sector stakeholders between July and September 2023. The program included engagement across many formats, with over 1,000 people attending 15 town halls (12 in-person and three online), peak body briefings and sector specific roundtables.

This consultation spanned the breadth of NSW, with town halls held in Sydney and across various regional locations, including Lismore/Bundjalung, Newcastle/Awabakal, Bega/Djiringanj, Wagga Wagga/Wiradjuri, Tamworth/Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay, Wollongong/Dharawal, Dubbo/Wiradjuri, and Broken Hill/Wilyakali. Seven hundred and seventy-five written submissions were also lodged – by individuals, industry groups, local government, commercial businesses and social enterprises.

Creative Communities commits to a whole-of-government effort to advocate for, to enable and invest in the arts, culture and creative industries. *Creative Communities* puts arts, culture and the creative industries at the heart of government. For the first time, arts, culture, and the creative industries become a priority across all of NSW Government departments and agencies.

The NSW Government will advocate, enable, and invest to create a vibrant, inclusive, and growing cultural and creative ecosystem. Importantly, it will also increase the level of transparency and accountability regarding arts, culture and creative industries policy and outcomes in NSW.

To ensure transparency and accountability, the policy commits that the NSW Government will legislate the delivery of a Creative Statement to Parliament every three years, detailing and tracking the status, health and progress of the arts, culture and creative industries. This will provide a clear understanding of the size, complexity and health of the sector. The proposed legislation would give effect to this commitment.

While the Creative Statement to Parliament has arisen through the development of *Creative Communities*, the Statement would continue beyond the ten-year horizon of the policy and continue to consider policies relevant to the arts, culture and creative industries, ensuring long-term monitoring and accountability.

Objectives: What is the policy's objective couched in terms of the public interest?

The Bill seeks to promote accountability and sharing of information regarding the arts, culture and creative industries in New South Wales, and report on the implementation of related policies and plans, by requiring the Minister to:

- Prepare a three-yearly Creative Statement to Parliament.

- Ensure a copy of the Statement is tabled in each House of Parliament and made publicly available.

Options and Analysis: What alternative policies and mechanisms were considered in advance of the bill? What were the pros/cons and benefits/costs of each option considered?

To mandate the delivery of a Creative Statement to Parliament every three years, new legislation must be made, or existing legislation amended.

There is no existing legislation which would lend itself to amendment for the purpose of tabling a Creative Statement to Parliament.

Options to use existing mechanisms to facilitate a report to Parliament, including inclusion in relevant annual reports or existing optional reporting mechanisms, were investigated and discounted. These non-legislative options would not provide the level of transparency and accountability required to drive systemic improvements in the outcomes achieved across the arts, culture and creative industries in NSW.

Pathway: What are the timetable and steps for the policy's rollout and who will administer it?

The Act would make the Minister responsible for preparing and tabling the Creative Statement to Parliament. The Bill will be introduced to the NSW Parliament in the week of 14 October 2024.

Should the Act be passed, the first Creative Statement to Parliament must be tabled within 18 months after the commencement of the Act. Subsequent Statements must be tabled no later than 3 years after the last Statement was tabled.

Consultation: Were the views of affected stakeholders sought and considered in making the policy?

The Department of Creative Industries, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport has consulted with The Cabinet Office, NSW Treasury, and the Parliamentary Counsel's Office in the preparation of this Bill.

The commitment to legislate the Creative Statement to Parliament arose from extensive consultation as part of the development of the *Creative Communities* policy, including town halls, peak body briefings and roundtables held across NSW and online.

Implementation of the policy commitments is supported by an Interdepartmental Committee with representatives from across the NSW Government.