



DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Office of the Mayor

22 August 2024

Laura Ismay  
Director – Committees  
Committee Office  
Legislative Council  
**Via Email: [State.Development@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:State.Development@parliament.nsw.gov.au)**

Dear Laura

I refer to the “Inquiry into the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services” and the request for information with regard to questions taken on notice during the Inquiry. Accordingly, please see the following. I note that with regard to Regional Cities NSW, I am waiting on the requested information to be provided.

### **Museums and Art Galleries**

*Local governments across New South Wales are the backbone of cultural access for communities outside metropolitan areas. Councils (outside of Metropolitan and Western Sydney) are the primary operators (funding and staffing) of galleries, museums, and theatres, ensuring these communities enjoy robust and regular cultural experiences.*

*In the Dubbo Region, Dubbo Regional Council spearheads the construction, operation, and programming of cultural infrastructure and strategic cultural development. These efforts provide both residents and neighbouring regional and remote communities with access to programs that support creative industry development, essential educational opportunities, and nationally and internationally significant cultural experiences. Such investments keep regional communities vibrant and economically attractive, drawing new investment.*

*Consider the visual arts sector: Dubbo Regional Council support has seen over 135 regional artists have their first solo exhibitions. The Dubbo Art Fair has generated more than \$115,000 in sales less than three years, creating a new arts market in Western NSW. The Dubbo Regional Gallery proudly hosted the National Indigenous Art Triennial from the National Gallery of Australia three times, each time as its only NSW venue. These successes highlight the indispensable role of local government in fostering cultural access and programs.*

*The removal of local government funding for cultural programming or infrastructure in many communities (certainly in Dubbo) would end access to creative programs for the community. There are no comparable organizations providing access to cultural programs, events, or strategic development, particularly in regional NSW, councils are the only consistent providers of cultural engagement.*



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Yours faithfully

*Councillor Mathew Dickerson*  
Mayor of Dubbo Regional Council