

Frequently asked Questions

New performing arts venue business case

Why is a new performing arts venue being considered for Brisbane?

The State Government is committed to supporting a vibrant arts and cultural sector in Queensland and recognises the critical role of infrastructure in making this happen.

Audience demand for major musicals and large scale theatre production continues to grow with increasing pressure on Brisbane's largest venues to satisfy demand from touring producers and audiences.

Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) is the only Brisbane venue that hosts major musicals and theatrical productions while also providing a dedicated venue for Queensland's home companies - Queensland Ballet, Queensland Theatre Company, Opera Queensland and Queensland Symphony Orchestra. This means it cannot fully meet the demand from commercial hirers to support the national touring circuit of some productions.

The Queen's Wharf Integrated Resort Development set to open in 2022 also presents significant cultural tourism opportunities with an estimated additional 1.39 million tourists expected to visit the resort each year.

Government must ensure the state's arts companies and arts sector are well positioned to leverage the opportunity this increased cultural tourism demand presents.

Our state's performing arts sector is also telling us that venue availability is affecting their growth; for example greater 'mainstage' theatre capacity would enable Queensland Ballet to grow its performing schedule.

This means taking action and planning for future growth in performing arts audiences and cultural tourism by commencing business case development for a new 1500-seat performing arts venue in Brisbane.

What is the timing and process being undertaken to investigate a new performing arts venue?

A consortium of KPMG, Cox Rayner Architects and AECOM has been appointed to undertake the business case.

The first stage in the business case development is to consult with key stakeholders across Queensland and Australia. This consultation will focus on exploring the purpose and scope, preferred sites, governance structures, and financial, delivery and operating models.

It is expected that the business case will be completed this year, with any recommendations provided to Government for consideration in late 2016. Should a new performing arts venue proceed, it is estimated it would take about five years to plan, design, commission, and construct a new venue.

What is the scope of the business case development?

The business case will consider financial, management and governance models, delivery and operating models, and will provide preliminary design specifications and guidelines. The business case will also consider outcomes of community and stakeholder consultation.

The development of a business case will ensure the thorough examination of conditions by which private investment (either solely or in partnership with the Government) would work to deliver a new performing arts venue.

The key outcomes of the business case will be the identification of a preferred site, delivery, governance and operating model options.

What criteria will be used to assess possible proposals for the new performing arts venue?

Criteria will cover a range of considerations including financial model, site suitability, the ability to leverage off existing infrastructure, and the potential for broader arts and tourism benefits to be generated.

What sites are being considered for the new performing arts venue?

The Queensland Government will consider all sites that are able to be delivered within the defined proposal framework.

A new performing arts venue could be located within an existing arts, cultural and entertainment precinct to leverage the significant cultural tourism benefits.

How would a new performing arts venue be funded?

Government will consider public private partnership delivery models in the financing and delivery of this project as part of this process.

Does the Cultural Precinct heritage listing impact any site options?

Development of a new performing arts venue in the existing Cultural Precinct would need to consider its heritage listing in 2015.

Arts Queensland has commissioned a Conservation Management Plan to conserve the precinct's heritage values and inform future infrastructure planning. Following an Expressions of Interest process, Arts Queensland appointed heritage consultants Conrad Gargett in November 2015.

How can the public and other stakeholders provide input or feedback into the development of a new performing arts venue?

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring the community and all stakeholders are kept informed of the progress of the business case and also have the opportunity to inform its development.

Consultation with key stakeholders will be undertaken to ensure all options and feedback are considered in the development of the business case.

If you would like to take part in the consultation process contact Arts Queensland at newvenue@arts.qld.gov.au

In the meantime information on the progress of the new performing arts venue will be made available via www.arts.qld.gov.au