



State Budget 2016-17

Fact sheet

A total of \$217.7 million has been allocated to the Culture and Arts budget in 2016-17. This represents \$ 123.8 million for recurrent services and \$93.9 million for capital works.

Some of the major highlights included in this year's budget are:

Western Australian Regional Film Fund

- The Government has invested \$16 million, through the Royalties for Regions program, to encourage regional film and television production activity, the building of regional based businesses, and contribute to the liveability and vibrancy of regional Western Australian communities.
- The Western Australian Regional Film Fund will be delivered over four years by ScreenWest, building on the agency's expertise and established relationships within the national and international screen industry.
- The Film Fund will provide the State with a competitive advantage over other states in attracting productions to film in Western Australia. There will be a focus on job creation in the regions, the purchasing of goods and services, capitalising on tourism development, and establishing longer term economic and cultural benefits in the regions.
- The current production of *Breath* in Denmark, as one example, has generated more than 250 local jobs.
- The Fund is an extension of the success stories already seen between ScreenWest, the Regional Development Commissions and the screen industry. *Jasper Jones* recently finished shooting in Pemberton in the South West and *Red Dog: True Blue* worked alongside the Pilbara Development Commission.

New Museum project

- A total of \$95 million has been allocated in 2016-17 to progress the new museum project.
- This year will see a major milestone for the new museum project, with works to commence on the Perth Cultural Centre site later this year.

Brookfield Multiplex and architects OMA and Hassell were announced on 6 April 2016 as the preferred proponent to design and build the new museum, with contract negotiations now nearing completion.



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This follows on from completion of the \$17.6 million new laboratories and storage facilities in Welshpool, with the opening of the Harry Butler Research Centre on 17 April 2015.

Royalties for Regions \$24 million investment in regional culture and arts

- The 2016-17 State Budget includes an allocation of \$7.3 million in Royalties for Regions funding as part of the \$24 million investment in regional culture and arts.
- The program is intended to deliver benefits to regional audiences and venues, Aboriginal art centres; and regionally based arts and cultural organisations, artists and arts workers.
- The second year of this program, which is being managed by the Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA), will continue to enhance and facilitate the delivery of high quality arts and cultural activity in regional areas of Western Australia. This, in turn, will contribute greatly to enhancing the quality of life for Western Australians living in regional communities, and contribute to the State Government's aim of building vibrant, liveable regional centres.

Investing in cultural assets

- The State Government is investing in its cultural assets, undertaking asset maintenance and equipment and technical upgrades at some of the State's flagship cultural venues.
- \$6.6 million has been allocated 2016-17 to the Asset Maintenance Program, which addresses building maintenance issues. Priority projects include upgrading the goods and services lifts, and façade remediation, for the Alexander Library Building; and significant structural and façade brickwork restoration at Old Customs House in Fremantle.
- The Infrastructure Improvement Program (fitness for purpose) will expend \$2.2 million in 2016-17 on equipment and other technical upgrades to venues. This includes replacement of seats in His Majesty's Theatre, and lighting and audio visual upgrades at various venues.

Arts funding

- In 2016-17 about \$29 million will be provided to support the delivery of arts and cultural activities across WA.



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- The DCA now offers a more flexible and responsive grants programme, as a result of recent reforms. The new programme also provides more funding opportunities for individuals, groups and arts organisations.

Better Beginnings

- The State Library will continue to build on the success of its award winning Better Beginnings program. In 2016-17 \$1.9 million will provide services and materials to encourage parents to engage their children in reading at a young age.
- The State Government has allocated nearly \$8 million to this program from 2014-15 to 2017-18, supporting family literacy across Western Australia.
- The State Library will also continue to support the 232 public libraries in WA, with \$9.8 million allocated in 2016-17 for public library books and other materials.