

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public and anonymous

Individual

Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

We call for climate to be embedded as a cross-cutting imperative across all pillars of REVIVE, positioning arts and culture as essential infrastructure for climate adaptation, community resilience, and regenerative futures.

Climate change is intensifying disasters across Australia—bushfires, floods, and extreme heat—placing sustained pressure on communities, systems, and infrastructure (IPCC, CSIRO). These impacts are environmental, economic, and deeply social, affecting cohesion, wellbeing, and long-term recovery. Evidence shows strong social and cultural connections are critical to resilience, yet current policy often overlooks arts and culture's role in this work. Embedding climate within REVIVE offers a critical opportunity to reposition culture as essential infrastructure for adaptation, preparedness, and regeneration.

Climate action is a cultural as well as environmental challenge, requiring shifts in values, behaviours, and collective imagination—areas where arts and culture play a critical role (IFACCA, UNESCO). Embedding climate across REVIVE would align Australia with global movements like Culture at COP, which recognises arts and culture as vital to communication, adaptation, and systems change. This approach ensures arts and culture contribute to resilience not only in policy, but through everyday creative practices: how artists are trained, how work is made, how materials are sourced, and how stories are told.

For REVIVE to be effective, climate-responsive policy must enable and be informed by on-the-ground practice—iterative, lived, and led by artists and communities. Climate-aware culture must be cultivated through practice, strengthening collective capacity to respond to disruption and imagine regenerative futures.

Climate as a Cross-Cutting Cultural Imperative (All Pillars)

We call for:

- Climate and ecological crisis—alongside respect for the living world—embedded across all five pillars as a core organising lens.
- First Nations knowledge systems and leadership recognised as central to climate adaptation and land stewardship.
- Arts and culture recognised as essential to resilience, cohesion, and recovery.
- Acknowledgement of the Climate Emergency and its role in driving social division, with arts and culture playing a unifying role in climate mitigation and transition through shared narratives of better futures.
- Arts and culture as drivers of climate mitigation, fostering systems change and imagining regenerative futures.

This approach aligns Australia with global best practices, centres justice and equity, and harnesses the unique power of creativity to transform challenges into opportunities. The time to act is now.