

Submission to the REVIVE National Cultural Policy Review

Dear Minister Burke,

I welcome the review of the REVIVE National Cultural Policy as a critical moment to ensure that Australia's cultural framework reflects the full breadth and importance of creative practice shaping our nation.

I have worked at the intersection of arts and sustainability and climate action for over 20 years. I bring my experiences as a contemporary dancer, choreographer and independent performing artist along with my expertise as a sustainability and climate change policy advisor, consultant and educator to my considerations and response in this submission.

Specifically, I urge the government to:

- **Embed climate as an organising lens across all five pillars of REVIVE**, not as a standalone objective but as a principle that shapes how every pillar is designed, funded, and evaluated
- **Recognise First Nations knowledge systems as foundational to Australia's cultural climate response** - investing in First Nations artists and knowledge keepers as leaders in care for Country and ecological regeneration
- **Align Australia's cultural sector with international climate leadership**, including formal engagement with Culture at COP processes, positioning this country as a genuine contributor to global culture-led climate action
- **Invest in artists as climate educators, community animators, and agents of systems change** - not only as producers of climate-themed content, but as practitioners embedded in disaster preparedness, recovery, and long-term community building and resilience
- **Reform funding models** to support longer-term, sustained creative practice rather than the relentless short-term project cycle that exhausts practitioners and fragments community relationships. In particular I urge the government to use REVIVE to make a genuine commitment to the economic sustainability of independent artists who are most at risk in this short-term project-by-project lifecycle. A reformed funding model would signal and recognise the enormous contribution arts and cultural workers make to our society and community wellbeing.

To summarise, I am asking for two key things. Firstly, I am asking that REVIVE formalise what practitioners already know: that arts and culture are essential infrastructure for climate action and community wellbeing. Climate change is not a niche concern for a subset of environmentally-minded artists. It is the defining challenge of our time - and it is fundamentally a cultural challenge. It demands shifts in values, in imagination, in the stories

we tell about who we are and what we want to become. These are not the domain of science and policy alone. They are the domain of art.

Secondly, Australia's cultural life depends on a vast, largely invisible workforce of independent practitioners - artists who have spent decades developing craft, community, and expertise. These are people with enormous capacity to contribute: as educators, mentors, community leaders, and creative innovators. And yet our policy settings are pushing them out of the sector precisely at the point in their careers when they have the most to offer. I am asking to fully value the contribution of artists and arts workers through reformed longer-term funding models that provide the security and stability to allow for lifelong careers in the arts.

The cultural sector - properly resourced, properly recognised, and properly supported - has a vital role to play in a healthy, resilient future for Australia. REVIVE can be the policy that makes that possible. I hope it will be.

Submitted by:

Aimee Smith,

Artist, Sustainability and Climate Change Practitioner and Educator

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