

Creative Arts Research Institute
Griffith University,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

22 May 2026

Dear NCP Advisory

Re: Australia's National Cultural Policy Submission

About Us

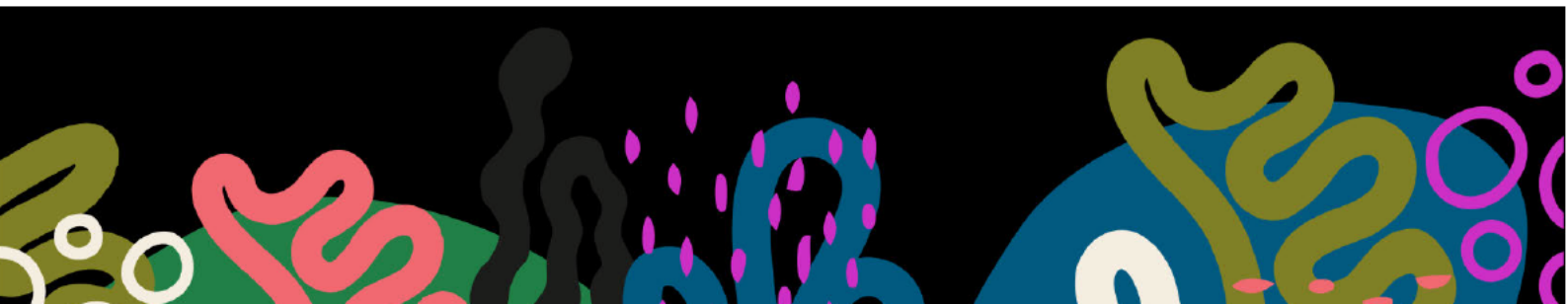
The Performance and Ecology Research Lab (P+ERL) is an initiative within the Creative Arts Research Institute (CARI) at Griffith University. We work at the cutting edge of environmental sustainability and the performing arts and welcome the opportunity to contribute to the development of Australia's NCP. Operating under a government-funded Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage project (LP230200526), P+ERL collaborates with national and international industry and academic partners to investigate how the performing arts can play a leading role in addressing the climate crisis.

Challenges and opportunities

Despite the escalating negative effects of climate change on every aspect of Australian social, economic, and cultural life, environmental sustainability remains a consistent gap in the National Cultural Policy, even as the sector's sustainability focus is increasing. Our recent Culture for Climate survey shows 94% of arts workers are concerned about the climate crisis, while 74% believe that the Australian performing arts sector has a responsibility to act on the issue (Lazaroo et al., 2025). As well as addressing carbon impacts, arts organisations have significant potential to affect communities, addressing the climate emergency in unique, powerful and immediate ways.

Recommendations for the new National Cultural Policy

We welcome the five-pillar structure of the Policy and strongly support the First Nations First Pillar and its recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and knowledge as foundational to environmental stewardship. We agree that "culture connects people and builds resilience" (pg. 5), particularly in the context of community recovery in the face of climate disruption. This strength is especially reflected in the way theatre and live performance are used to explore and express climate grief, climate hope, and climate futures. We believe that environmental sustainability should be



reflected across all five pillars and explicitly embedded within Pillar 4: Strong Cultural Infrastructure. We recommend that this is achieved by:

1. *Embedding Sustainability into Values and Vision.* This requires deep thinking on how sustainability can be supported and articulated through organisational language and values.
2. *Demonstrating Leadership in Climate Care.* We need to foreground the performing arts' unique position as cultural leaders.
3. *Engaging in a Culture of Sharing.* Ongoing education, resource-sharing, workshops, and collaborative learning are essential for building sector-wide capacity and progressing sustainability through collective knowledge exchange.
4. *Heightening Visibility and Celebrating Success.* It is critical to break down information silos and acknowledge that sustainability is a journey by recognising the efforts of those championing the cause.

Findings from our report suggest that if cultural policy is to support meaningful climate action in the performing arts, it must incentivise and financially support the sector's capacity to take a bolder approach to sustainability strategies. Aligning policy priorities with the lived experience of organisational decision-making would encourage the performing arts to play an enhanced role in Australia's green transition more broadly.

Findings from our report suggest that if cultural policy is to support meaningful climate action in the performing arts it must incentivise and financially support the sector's capacity to take a bolder approach to sustainability strategies. Aligning policy priorities with the lived experience of organisational decision-making would encourage the performing arts to play an enhanced role in Australia's green transition more broadly.

Sincerely,

Tanja Beer, P+ERL
Linda Hassall, P+ERL
Natalie Lazaroo, P+ERL
Grace Nye-Butler, P+ERL
Julian Meyrick, P+ERL
Arts on Tour
Bondi Pavillion
Creative Climate
One Stone Asia Pacific
Slingsby
Terrapin
Theatre Green Book Australia
Theatre Kimberly

