

Submission: National Cultural Policy Consultation (2026)



Hive is a case study in what strong national cultural policy can make possible in a regional community.

Built in 2021, [Hive](#) is the Central Coast's cultural centre in North West Tasmania, bringing together arts, science, history, tourism and community spaces within a single civic hub. Hive is also a current host venue for *Sharing the National Collection*.

The five-pillar framework works

The framework is clear, practical and already useful at a local level. We have adopted it to shape the [Central Coast Arts & Cultural Strategy](#) because it provides a strong structure for translating national cultural ambition into local cultural life. Importantly, it gives legitimacy and clarity to regional cultural strategy within local government planning and investment contexts.

Regional cultural organisations are essential infrastructure

Australia's cultural future will be strongest when creativity, opportunity and cultural authority are distributed through connected and place-responsive cultural ecosystems.

Places like Hive are not simply presentation venues. They are long-term civic and creative infrastructure where people encounter arts, history and science as part of everyday life.

Regional organisations create pathways into culture at every level of engagement, from children and hobbyists through to professional and master practitioners, building communities of practice through sustained participation and exchange.

Creative capability is not built through isolated projects alone. It grows through ongoing access to spaces, mentorship, collaboration, audiences and professional practice embedded within community life.

Hive

50 Main Street, Ulverstone, Tasmania
7 days a week | 10am-4pm | hivetasmania.com.au



Distributed cultural ecosystems create national strength

At Hive, partnerships with organisations including North West Support Service's Art Studio [Rebl & Shy](#) and [Slipstream Circus](#) allow us to operate as shared cultural infrastructure, pooling facilities, expertise and creative networks to expand participation and creative development across the region.

We also provide a platform for state and national organisations seeking meaningful regional engagement.

Strong movement between metropolitan and regional contexts, of artists, ideas, collections and opportunity, creates a healthier and more resilient national cultural ecosystem.

Programs such as *Sharing the National Collection* demonstrate the value of this approach and should be expanded through reciprocal pathways that also support regional artists and creative work to be seen in metropolitan centres. Cultural exchange must be two-way.

Creative pathways must be strengthened

Regional cultural organisations are increasingly becoming places where young people encounter professional creative practice, develop cultural confidence and build pathways into lifelong participation and creative careers.

As arts education pathways narrow, dedicated arts teachers, artists-in-schools programs and sustained partnerships between schools and cultural organisations are essential national investments in Australia's future creative vitality and capability.

Operational funding sustains cultural infrastructure

Strong cultural infrastructure includes skilled staff, operational continuity, long-term partnerships that sustain participation over generations.

Priorities include:

- Sustainable operational funding
- Better alignment of federal programs with regional delivery realities

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- Mechanisms that attract philanthropy into regional communities
- Investment in essential infrastructure, including collection storage

This policy provides an opportunity to strengthen Australia's cultural future by investing in connected, enduring and place-responsive cultural ecosystems across the country.

Regional cultural organisations are central to a resilient and genuinely national cultural future.

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