



Robyn LAMBLEY MLA

Member for ARALUEN

National Cultural Policy Consultation
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

To Whom it May Concern,

Re Letter of Support: Alice Springs Cinema Submission to the National Cultural Policy Consultation

I write in strong support of the submission made by Alice Springs Cinema to the National Cultural Policy Consultation. As a local Alice Springs Member of Parliament, I represent the community of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, and I can attest firsthand to the vital role the Alice Springs Cinema plays in the life of our town.

Alice Springs Cinema is far more than a place to watch a film. It is one of the few genuinely shared public spaces in Alice Springs — a place where Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, families, elders, students and visitors come together as equals. In a community that faces significant social challenges, the cultural and civic value of that gathering place cannot be overstated.

Without our only cinema, we are cut off entirely from a dimension of contemporary Australian life that most of the country takes for granted.

The Digital Mark II infrastructure challenge facing Alice Springs Cinema is real and urgent. Operating in a remote, high-cost environment — where energy, freight and wages all carry a significant remote premium — the cinema cannot fund the replacement of its ageing projection and digital systems from operating cashflow alone. The distributor-backed mechanisms that funded the original digital transition no longer exist. The sector must not be left to face this challenge without support.

I urge the Australian Government to recognise cinema exhibition as essential cultural infrastructure within the next National Cultural Policy, and to develop targeted support for regional and remote cinemas through a national Digital Mark II framework. The case for Alice Springs Cinema is both commercial and social, but above all it is a matter of equity: Australians living in remote communities deserve the same access to shared cultural life as those in our capital cities.

I commend this submission to you without reservation and welcome any further discussion.

Yours sincerely,



ROBYN LAMBLEY MLA
Member for Araluen

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