



19 August 2022

**To: Office for the Arts**

**RE: National Cultural Policy Submission**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer feedback to the new National Cultural Policy. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Green Music Australia – a globally recognised not-for-profit dedicated to helping the music scene reduce its environmental impact.

I would like to commend the Federal Government and in particular, Tony Burke MP, for having such a bold vision for our country's arts, entertainment and cultural sector. Few governments have demonstrated the depth of understanding of the enormous positive impact of our creative industries on our economy and more broadly, our society.

The focus of this submission is to draw attention to a critical gap in the current goals, namely, the omission of climate action as a key pillar. Not only is the climate crisis the most pressing challenge of our time, but it also presents an enormous opportunity to drive innovation and jobs.

All five pillars identified in Creative Australia require a stable climate to be fully realised. That is, the health of our creative industries depends upon the health of our natural ecosystems. Artists and arts workers, like all human beings, need clean water and air, abundant food, and a safe habitable environment, to survive, prosper, and ultimately continue to innovate and create.

As a signatory to the Rome Declaration of the G20 Ministers of Culture, the Australian Government is already committed to "enshrining climate action more firmly within cultural policies". This is further articulated in two of the five priority areas addressed in the Ministerial Declaration: i) Culture and creative sectors as drivers for *regeneration and sustainable* and balanced growth; and iii) Addressing the climate crisis through culture.

We need action on an unprecedented level. Indeed, with climate change increasingly being seen as a deeply cultural issue, and its solutions as cultural ones to do with changing the way we understand our world and our place in it, the role of cultural practitioners in helping to address it should also increasingly be seen as central.

To address climate challenges, Green Music Australia proposes that the government:

- Commit our arts, entertainment and cultural sector to play a leading role in climate mitigation, by adopting an emissions reduction target in line with the Government's 43% ERT by 2030.
- Develop multi-year partnerships to support a national audit of the arts, entertainment and cultural sector to gather benchmark emissions data.
- Ensure First Nations peoples, who are the original caretakers of Country, are included in all decision making processes around environmental stewardship.
- Create a pool of funds to support arts businesses to decarbonise their operations.
- Leverage funding agreements to accelerate action on climate, looking to international best practice for guidance eg. require Australia Council for the Arts grantees to implement a

sustainability action plan that includes the measurement and monitoring of their carbon footprint, and a commitment to reduced environmental impacts over time.

- Introduce a policy of local sourcing of materials and skills to match local content requirements and boost circular economy adoption.
- Consolidate information around the environmental impact of the arts, and centralise and make accessible best practices to reduce climate impacts.

Green Music Australia has a wealth of experience and case studies in this space which we would be more than happy to provide to the federal government to advise on the implementation of such strategies.

Greening the arts scene has far-reaching impacts. Picture solar panels and batteries conspicuously sitting on concert halls and theatre buildings – and the message that sends to audiences. Imagine the thousands of events across our continent swapping out rubbish for reusables, becoming beacons for our new circular economy. Consider the message it sends to fans if bands’ merchandise becomes locally sourced, plastic free, organic and fair trade. The arts can help us reimagine the world in more sustainable ways.

We would be delighted to discuss this submission with you at a future date.

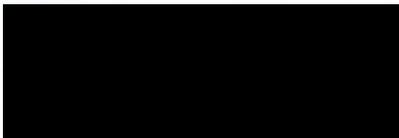
Sincerely,



Green Music Australia

**This submission has been endorsed by:**

Rhoda Roberts AO  
First Nations Arts Producer



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