



MEDIA RELEASE

Nearly \$60,000 for Tamworth arts projects

20 Nov 2019

Tamworth has secured a significant share of new arts funding awarded to the New England under the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund.

Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, said Tamworth will host three of the five arts projects in the electorate funded under this latest round.

Recent grants include:

- Tamworth Regional Council's (\$19,680): Sky Canvas: Telling our stories of the Sky, Land and People will be the first series of creative arts programs at the Tamworth Regional Astronomy and Science Centre (TRASC).
- Tamworth Regional Gallery (\$19,465): Collection Conversion – study of the region's identity through an exploration of six regional museums and their collections to develop a series of new artworks that uniquely respond to each collection.
- Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council (\$20,000): Building Leadership in Aboriginal Arts and Culture. The project utilises arts and culture to build the cultural and economic capacity of Aboriginal cultural leaders in the Guyra and Tamworth regions.

"Whether it's in the history, the stars, or Aboriginal culture, it is so important to make an investment that broadens the mind and adds to the lives of the people who live in the New England," Mr Joyce said.

"Aboriginal people have a long history that dates back thousands of years and to learn more about their history, is to learn more about us."

The Regional Arts Fund supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote communities by providing support to artists and organisations to create new works, develop skills and make connections across communities.

Through the latest Regional Arts Fund round, the Government will provide more than \$1.1 million to support 71 regional arts and cultural projects.

Also funded in the New England under this round:

- Aboriginal Regional Arts Alliance, Ashford (\$35,000): to increase employment and economic opportunities for Aboriginal artists in regional and remote NSW by building the capacity and

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Hon **Barnaby Joyce** MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

- creativity of Aboriginal communities through a series of professional and creative workshops.
- New England Writers' Centre, Armidale (\$8,030): to fund a children's literature festival outreach to communities beyond Armidale and region.

Each year the Government provides about \$3.5 million through the fund, which is delivered by Regional Arts Australia and organisations in each state and territory.

For more information about the Regional Arts Fund visit: www.arts.gov.au/raf

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