



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday April 16, 2009

Councils congratulated for investing in cultural infrastructure

Arts OutWest congratulates Central West councils for spending some of their recently allocated Local and Regional Infrastructure Program (LRIP) funds on improving cultural facilities in the region.

The Local and Regional Infrastructure Program was announced by the Federal Government in late 2008 as part of their major economic stimulus package. Confirmation of projects was made in March 2009 and publically announced April 9, 2009 (the Lithgow City Council projects were only announced today, April 16).

The 12 contributing councils in the Arts OutWest program area were allocated a total of \$5,449,000.

Arts OutWest is pleased to see cultural infrastructure rating as a priority for a number of the councils.

Highlights of the spending include:

- The **Wellington** Civic Centre is set for an overhaul with \$185,000 to be spent both backstage and in public areas.
- **Blayney** Shire Council has allocated \$220,000 to a Community Hall Compliance Fund to bring ten of their community halls into line with Places of Public Entertainment legislation.
- **Bathurst** Regional Council will undertake \$175,000 worth of additional works on the new Chifley Interpretation Centre next to the current Chifley Home in Busby St Bathurst. They will also fund \$50,000 of work at the Rockley Mill Museum.
- **Orange** Regional Conservatorium will receive \$100,000 of Orange City Council's allocation for much needed renovations.
- **Parkes** Shire Council will upgrade the Little Theatre in Parkes.

Much of the region will benefit from improvements made under the scheme to multi-purpose community halls. Arts OutWest recognizes that whilst town and community halls are not always ideal or always available for specific arts and cultural activities such as visiting exhibitions, museum displays, many types of workshops or touring performances, by necessity they are heavily used for community arts and cultural activities in regional communities.

In the Central West, about a quarter of the Local and Regional Infrastructure Program will be spent on cultural infrastructure. Councils who will spend the largest portion of their funds on cultural infrastructure include Lachlan Shire Council (full amount spent on new multi-purpose Tullibigeal Hall which can be used for arts and cultural activities), Blayney Shire Council (76%), Lithgow City Council (51%) and Wellington Council (47%).

Projects will all commence shortly and must be completed by the end of September this year.

Arts OutWest wrote to all councils when the funding was first announced offering support and encouraging them to consider the need for improvements to the region's cultural infrastructure. Arts OutWest re-contacted councils during February-March to confirm how they planned to spend their funds.

Released by Maryanne Jaques, Communications Officer, Arts OutWest

Attached: List of how and where Central West councils will spend their money

Spending of Local and Regional Infrastructure Program funds by councils in the Arts OutWest program area

Council	Total funding	Projects	
Bathurst Regional Council	\$959,000	<u>Direct Cultural infrastructure/ Halls:</u> Chifley Interpretation Centre Eglinton Hall augmentation Rockley Mill Museum <u>Other community infrastructure:</u> Playground Shade Structures: Macquarie View & Lavelle Street Construction of Kelso Community Centre Storage Shed Senior Citizens Centre kitchen upgrade Machattie Park Toilet Block Mount Panorama Volunteers Amenities Shed Energy Generation - Visitor Information Centre Bathurst Seymour Centre Upgrade of Infrastructure Bathurst Skate Park BBQ and amenities facilities Caring for Country Project - Hector Park Playground equipment various locations Cycleway/Pathway additions various locations	\$175,000 \$40,000 \$50,000 \$45,000 \$40,000 \$20,000 \$200,000 \$150,000 \$30,000 \$20,000 \$20,000 \$60,000 \$19,000 \$90,000
Blayney Shire Council	\$289,000	<u>Direct Cultural infrastructure/ Halls:</u> Community Hall Compliance Fund <u>Other community infrastructure:</u> Shade Structure – Heritage Park Playground BBQ & Picnic Tables – Mandurama Playground Equipment – Carcoar Blayney Tennis Courts Resurfacing	\$220,000 \$28,000 \$12,000 \$12,000 \$17,000
Cabonne Council	\$381,000	Money split evenly between six wards (\$63,500 per ward) <u>Direct Cultural infrastructure/ Halls:</u> Refurbishment to community halls Yeoval Community Hall Roof Replacement Community Hall Upgrade, Mullion Creek Cumnock Community Hall and Library Historic Signage, Canowindra <u>Other community infrastructure:</u> Tennis Courts Refurbishment, Canowindra Access and Shade Structure, Canowindra Cemetery Historic Awning Posts, Canowindra Memorial Park Improvements, Canowindra Borenore Park Upgrade Nashdale Park Upgrade Cargo Oval Improvements Manildra Playground Upgrade Community Hall Gates, Manildra Hall Dean Park Upgrade, Cudal Molong Skate Park Shade Structure, Molong Village Green Shade Structure, Molong Recreation Ground	<i>No detailed breakdown provided</i>
Cowra Shire Council	\$448,000	<u>Direct Cultural infrastructure/ Halls:</u> Woodstock Early Settlers Memorial <u>Other community infrastructure:</u> Showground Amenities Block Col Stinson Netball Courts Gooloogong War Memorial clubrooms - indoor toilets & storage Showground Security Fencing (Grenfell Rd) Woodstock Play Equipment	\$5000 \$150,000 \$61,000 \$92,000 \$39,000 \$40,000

		Cherry Tree Avenue irrigation Senior Citizens air con Grocott Park watering system Saleyards holding pens	\$30,000 \$3,000 \$3,000 \$25,000
Forbes Shire Council	\$494,000	<u>Direct Cultural infrastructure/ Halls:</u> Forbes Historical Museum - Ben Hall exhibition Forbes Town Hall Stage Ceiling <u>Other community infrastructure:</u> CCTV within Forbes CBD Forbes Community Indoor Heated Pool – hot water system Forbes Town Pool Shade Structures Beautification Street Lighting Victoria Park Restroom Facilities Forbes Netball Courts Upgrade Forbes Skate Park All weather cover at Lawn Bowling Facility Forbes Golf Course Water Augmentation	\$10,000 \$15,000 \$100,000 \$9,000 \$10,000 \$25,000 \$30,000 \$105,000 \$40,000 \$15,000 \$135,000
Lachlan Shire Council	\$576,000	<u>Direct Cultural infrastructure/ Halls:</u> New Tullibigeal Multi-purpose Hall	\$576,000
Lithgow City Council	\$529,000	<u>Cultural infrastructure:</u> Union Theatre/ Hoskins Building - complete linking Union Theatre Toilets Portland Crystal Theatre – contribution to upgrade Wallerawang Library Civic Ballroom Lithgow Vale Hall Kitchen <u>Other community infrastructure:</u> Lithgow Skate Park	\$40,000 \$10,000 \$80,000 \$64,000 \$30,000 \$10,000 \$260,000
Mid-Western Regional Council	\$527,000	<u>Direct Cultural infrastructure/ Halls:</u> Purchase movie theatre equipment Rural Halls <u>Other community infrastructure:</u> Develop Glen Willows sporting fields Construction of Kandos Skate park Develop safety facilities at Mudgee Skate Park Upgrade Kandos Sports Ground - fencing Installation of lighting, Bill Dunn Oval Bylong Village landscaping Environmental protection works Cudgegong river	\$30,000 \$30,000 \$250,000 \$50,000 \$20,000 \$50,000 \$100,000 \$10,000 \$32,000
Oberon Council	\$267,000	<u>Direct Cultural infrastructure/ Halls:</u> Burruga Community Hall Upgrade <u>Other community infrastructure:</u> Oberon Common Adventure Playground Upgrade Black Springs Cemetery Renovation	<i>No detailed breakdown provided</i>
Orange City Council	\$875,000	<u>Direct Cultural infrastructure/ Halls:</u> Orange Regional Conservatorium <u>Other community infrastructure:</u> Two amenities blocks - Adventure playground Diving pool repairs - Orange Pool Skatepark Energy efficient council buildings Footpaths/ cycleways CBD seats/ furniture Yarrowong Childcare Centre (+\$20K from council) Rain tanks at Animal Shelter	\$100,000 \$100,000 \$250,000 \$50,000 \$100,000 \$50,000 \$40,000 \$180,000 \$5,000

Parkes Shire Council	\$543,000	<u>Direct Cultural infrastructure/ Halls:</u> Parkes Theatre Upgrade <u>Other community infrastructure:</u> Memorial Park enhancement, Tullamore Sports Ground Expansion, Harrison Park Remembrance Tree Preservation, Trundle Swimming Pool Upgrade, Peak Hill Sports Ground Enhancements, Armstrong Park Sporting Oval Upgrade, North Parkes Pedestrian Access and Mobility Program	\$63,000 \$10,500 \$20,000 \$21,000 \$50,000 \$55,000 \$112,000 \$201,500
Wellington Council	\$395,000	<u>Direct Cultural infrastructure/ Halls:</u> Wellington Civic Centre upgrade (\$185,000), including: Carpet replacement Refurbishment of interior Flooring PA system Stage improvements Change rooms upgrade Toilets refurbishment Landscaping <u>Other community infrastructure:</u> Rygate tennis and netball courts - synthetic surface Wellington Showground - sewer connection to western amenities block Wellington Showground - electricity upgrade Wellington Council administration office - installation of lift to provide disabled access to Council Chamber	\$30,000 \$30,000 \$15,000 \$20,000 \$30,000 \$40,000 \$10,000 \$10,000 \$50,000 \$20,000 \$75,000 \$65,000

See the full list of Local and Regional Infrastructure Projects nationally on the federal government's site at: http://www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au/community_infrastructure.htm