

TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

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\$35 million upgrade for Her Majesty's Theatre

The State Government is funding a major revamp and expansion of Her Majesty's Theatre to create a world-class arts venue that will attract more national and international shows.

The \$35.2 million investment over three years will be used to build a new entrance and foyer for the historical theatre on adjoining land. The project will create up to 220 jobs during construction and additional ongoing jobs in the arts.

The original auditorium will be expanded by up to 570 seats, repositioning Her Majesty's Theatre as a leading venue option for touring productions.

The State Labor Government has also announced it will spend \$15.7 million over four years to continue to invest in South Australia's cultural capital.

The funding will include \$700,000 for the Adelaide Festival of Arts, \$3 million for Arts South Australia and \$4 million each year to drive economic activity and job opportunities in the arts.

Background

Her Majesty's Theatre has been an Adelaide landmark since 1913, but its current capacity of 970 seats makes it an unviable option to host large scale productions such as musicals.

With the 2,000 seat Festival Theatre in high demand, South Australia is often overlooked by major touring events.

It's anticipated the \$35 million transformation will enable Her Majesty's Theatre to host at least 50 additional performances each year.

The Adelaide Festival Centre Trust is raising \$3 million to contribute to the project. The State Government is spending an additional \$1.1 million over two years supporting the Trust during times when the theatre is closed for renovations.

Planning for the redevelopment will start immediately, with construction concluding in late 2019.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

The arts are a major economic driver in South Australia, with our festivals attracting large numbers of tourists and generating a huge amount of economic activity.

2016-17
STATE
BUDGET

We want to see South Australians and visitors going to shows and experiencing the vibrancy of Adelaide throughout the year, not just during festivals.

Expanding and revitalising Her Majesty's Theatre will bring more major shows to Adelaide, create jobs and support traders in the precinct.

The CBD has completely transformed in the past three years, and combined with the joint \$14.6 million State Government – Adelaide City Council Markets to Riverbank laneways upgrade, we are going to see even more vibrancy and cultural expression in the city.

Quotes attributable to Arts Minister Jack Snelling

This is brilliant news and it reaffirms our commitment to the Arts and the State Government's commitment to creating jobs in South Australia.

This redevelopment also provides much needed certainty for Arts organisations that use our Festival Centre facilities, such as the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, State Theatre and the State Opera.

And of course this is another proud moment in the long history of Her Majesty's Theatre. It'll ensure that this Adelaide institution remains one of the best venues for performers from near and far.

The further \$15.7 million investment in the Arts showcases the State Labor Government's commitment to the sector and is in stark contrast to the Turnbull Government's cruel cuts to the Australia Council for the Arts to fund the controversial Ministerial catalyst fund.

Quotes attributable to CEO of the Adelaide Festival Centre Douglas Gautier

The redevelopment and expansion of Her Majesty's Theatre is great news for the performing arts community and for Adelaide audiences. It's also great news for the city.

Over recent years, a number of blockbusters, including The Lion King, Les Miserables and other theatrical, comedy and music products, have been bypassing Adelaide because of our shortage of large theatrical venues.

This upgrade will provide a home for large-scale performances like this and further put Adelaide on the map.

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