



## Federal Election 2019

Dear Member,

It's been over three weeks since the Federal Election was called. As yet, no side of politics has outlined an overarching arts or cultural policy. Some parties have announced commitments that will benefit some parts of the industry, but these are mostly at the local level. These are summarised below.

### LPA PRIORITIES

For an industry that contributes billions of dollars in economic activity and is integral to our cultural and social life, LPA considers it critical to move the conversation beyond squabbling over very modest amounts of funding. The absence of an ambitious and well-defined national cultural strategy, and continued funding cuts and a lack of commitment to significant investment to leverage our creative talents, requires a fresh approach through a resetting of policy objectives and significantly enhancing the status of our cultural and creative industries.

We'll be tracking what the major parties have to say during this campaign, assessing their commitments and stated priorities. Post-election, and as the new government takes shape, we will have more to say about how we as an industry, in collaboration with other key peak bodies and agencies, can work together to reshape the conversation so that greater investment and support for our cultural and creative industries is seen as a national priority and that our creativity and cultural industries are recognised as valuable assets to be nurtured and advanced through a well-resourced national strategy.

Key initiatives that LPA has been advocating for over the last 12 months, and will continue to advocate for post-election, include:

- Increasing funding to the **Australia Council** by at least \$20 million
- Providing **tax incentives** on pre-production costs for live productions
- Establishing a major **seed fund** for original Australian works of scale
- Increasing the level of funding and expanding the eligibility criteria of **Playing Australia**.

A summary of LPA's priorities can be found [here](#).

### RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS

LPA developed the Fact Sheets (below) and have been using them as part of our advocacy activities. Please feel free to use them in any of your own advocacy activities.

- [Facts about the performing arts](#)
- [A snapshot of creative and cultural industries](#)
- [Tax incentives](#)

## KEY PROMISES SO FAR

### 1. Coalition

- [\\$30.9m Australian Music Industry Package](#)

### 2. Labor

- [\\$28.5m Soundtrack Australia music package](#)
- \$50m to MONA, as part of a \$120m package to support Tasmanian tourism, for public facilities that will include a theatre
- \$5m to upgrade facilities and improve accessibility at Her Majesty's Theatre in Ballarat
- \$332,900 to Queensland Theatre for the refurbishment and expansion of their Bille Brown Studio into a performance space

### 3. Greens

- Establishment of a Creativity Commission

We are expecting further announcements as election day gets closer and will be releasing a Report Card and Media Statement next week.

**Evelyn Richardson**  
Chief Executive, Live Performance Australia

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any queries related to LPA's advocacy activities, please contact **Kim Tran**, LPA's Director, Policy & Governance via [email](#) or on 03 8614 2000.



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