



**Dr Andrew R. Wallace** (Chair)

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The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian,  
Premier of NSW,  
NSW State Government,  
GPO Box 5341,  
Sydney, NSW, 2001.

Dear Premier,

I write to you with regard to our work with government. We are in the process of implementing our vision for the redevelopment of the new site for the Riverina Conservatorium of Music (RCM) on 1 Simmons Street, Wagga Wagga. I write with particular regard to the future of our work in this electorate, and to the uncertainties relating to the resignation of local member, Mr. Daryl Maguire.

Our Board is particularly concerned at the loss of energy and advocacy that were hallmarks of Mr Maguire's work in your government. Mr Maguire was pivotal to the development of the vision for the work of the RCM on the site, bringing it to the attention of government, and facilitating timely funding to support this vision. He has also worked tirelessly to achieve the completion of the second stage of the Riverina Conservatorium of Music initiative in Wagga Wagga. This is the visionary part of the project that provides world-class performance spaces and teaching and learning opportunities for music education and performance across the Riverina region. The initiative compliments those of your government for rural NSW.

We have a short list of issues that we would now like to explore with you following the departure of Mr Maguire:

- We were very thankful to receive funding for the first stage of our project – the provision of the site to support our vision, and the funding of the refurbishment of the main building to support teaching and learning. The initiative of government will ensure that we meet our deadline to move from our current site to the new location. We are currently working with architects to re-design the development of the site to support our community;
- There has been a very strong local reaction to the announcement of the move of the RCM to the Simmons Street site. The comments are ongoing and very positive. As anticipated, this development has generated wide excitement within the community, and considerable optimism as we begin working towards the new site. The local paper has run a number of items concerning this initiative, including two major articles with three pages in each of photographs and background on the site. Mr. Maguire has continued to be part of this ongoing advocacy on our behalf, and he will be missed. This is a very popular local project that has wide support. It is our hope that the new Liberal candidate will be able to continue to work with this issue within our community and with government; and,
- We were working with Mr. Maguire to extend funding to support the second stage of our development. The anticipated additional cost will be known after the design/planning process is completed in the next few months. Our submission at this stage is based upon QS estimates of around \$20 million. Mr. Maguire had been working with us to find funding sources to support this stage, but the work is incomplete.

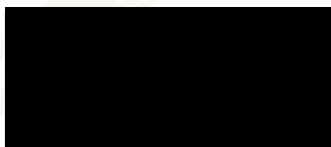
Our project does not fit neatly into existing funding initiatives of government. The *Regional Cultural Fund* does not support projects over \$10 million. Mr Maguire was working assiduously to find a means by which we might move immediately into the final stage of the redevelopment of the site. While we remain optimistic that the new member will work to support us, we will really miss the experience that Mr. Maguire added to our project, and his commitment to expedite funding for us. We need certainty on how we can fund the vision that we shared with you in February of last year;

We have three basic questions that lie at the heart of this letter:

1. How might we continue to work together to ensure the timely development of our initiative as a priority for government in our area, supporting our schools, student body and community?
2. Are you in a position to promise the completion of the popular RCM initiative in the upcoming by-election, or in the general election in 2019?
3. With whom should we speak about ways to fund the completion of our project?

We thank you for the advice and support you have already provided for this project, and we look forward to finding a pathway that supports our work and the greater good of our community.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Andrew R. Wallace.**

Chair: Riverina Conservatorium of Music.

31st July, 2018.