

---

**From:** on behalf of Matthew Crocker  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 August 2018 11:39 AM  
**To:** Berge Okosdinossian  
**Subject:** RCM Brief.docx  
**Attachments:** RCM Brief.docx

For your files

## Berge Okosdinossian

**Date to Premier: 13/08**

**Date to Adviser: N/A**

**Due Date: N/A**

### Issue

Riverina Conservatorium of Music (RCM) – Potential Wagga Wagga announcement

### Background

The RCM is based in Turvey Park and caters for the Riverina catchment, teaching music to about 1,200 students from across the region.

RCM are moving out of their existing site within Charles Sturt Uni at some point next year after the Uni sold off the building. We have already provided the RCM with a new building on RMS land on Simmons Street in Wagga Wagga, as well as \$10 million for the fit out of this building – this provides for the same facilities as their previous site and will be ready for occupancy by late 2019 to early 2020. This \$10 million for relocation and fit out is referred to as stage 1.

Dr Andrew Wallace, Chair of the RCM wrote to you on 31 July requesting that the Government commit to a further stage 2 round of funding. Stage 2 would provide for a concert hall and associated facilities at the RCM. Rough estimates of stage 2 are costed at approx. \$20 million. The letter from Dr Wallace is attached.

### Adviser comments

As I understand it, the \$10 million for stage 1 was a significant achievement for the RCM and was received very positively by the community. It is now in the purview of Property NSW to engage architects and master planners to commence the delivery of stage 1.

There is some concern from the community that now that Daryl is gone, the Government might not follow through on its commitment to Stage 1 – as there was a perception that Daryl was very much personally driving the project.

Stage 2 is very much a ‘nice to have’ for the RCM; no doubt they are using the by-election as leverage to secure funding for this next stage. Based on conversations I have had with DPC staff based in Wagga (James Bolton – formerly GM of Wagga Council); stage 2 is by no means a top order priority for the community and could seem as quite a ‘political’ announcement.

Options here for us are:

1. Reconfirm our \$10 million commitment for stage 1 fit out of the new RCM site, and announce that we are moving to the next stage of master planning and engaging architects. We could turn this into quite a nice announcement.
2. Commit to stage 2, with the additional (approx.) \$20 million to fund the new concert hall. However, as the letter attached shows, they are still at an early stage of their planning for Stage 2, and so do not have a firm cost or design for the project.

As part of option 1, we could say that we commit to exploring the options around stage 2, without actually committing any funds at this stage.

Recommendation: Please provide your feedback so we can lock in announcement you prefer – with the view of making an announcement on 24/8.

