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The Secretary,
Department of Premier and Cabinet,
GPO Box 5341,
Sydney, NSW, 2001.

Dear Mr Comley,

On the advice of the Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP the Riverina Conservatorium of Music (RCM) makes a submission to Government under the *Unsolicited Proposals to Government* process. It is our initial submission made with regard to the surplus site at 1 Simmons Street, Wagga Wagga.

This proposal is driven by the urgent need to find secure permanent accommodation for the RCM following the sale of the Charles Sturt University campus on which the RCM has been housed since 1981. A summary of the rationale for this submission is attached.

Please contact me should you need further copies of the document, or advice on any aspect of this proposal.

With kind regards,



Dr Andrew R. Wallace.

Chair: Riverina Conservatorium of Music.
23rd February, 2017.

Securing the future for the RCM

Summary of Unsolicited proposal to Government – 1 Simmons St., Wagga Wagga

This proposal outlines an initiative through which the Riverina Conservatorium of Music (RCM) seeks to secure a future for the promotion and delivery of quality music education and world-class music performance for Wagga Wagga and the Riverina region.

The RCM currently works in partnership with the NSW Government, continuing to provide unique services to support the initiatives of government and the community, as it has for many years. It is a very large regional conservatorium with major impacts within schools across the Riverina, and serves over 1200 student placements in schools and studio programs with music education and performance initiatives. From our location in Wagga, the RCM produces over 150 concerts each year, bringing local, regional, interstate and international music performers to an audience drawn from southern NSW and beyond. The RCM is a leader in quality curriculum-based music education and remote teaching programs in NSW.

This proposal is driven by the sale of our current home this year, located on Charles Sturt University (CSU) South Campus. There is an urgent need to find viable alternative location if the RCM is to continue to deliver music in regional NSW. The RCM has been given clear advice by CSU that our current partnership will end in mid-2020, and our current site will no longer be available to us. At that time the RCM will be forced to close if this issue is not addressed urgently.

The RCM seeks permanent accommodation to allow it to continue to deliver quality music programs for the Government, and to grow into the future for the benefit of our students and the community. The RCM seeks to secure and redevelop the surplus NSW Government property at 1 Simmons St, Wagga Wagga. This site expands our vision, and will bolster our continuing partnerships with Government, enabling future growth for the RCM. This is a unique opportunity for Government to initiate an exciting development within the Riverina to provide a permanent facility supporting music education and performance in Wagga Wagga for southern NSW.

The proposed development also underpins face-to-face and distance education programs, based upon a sound business model. It will support studio teaching, and provide expanded opportunities for schools to engage in performance and quality learning opportunities.

This proposal also addresses the current lack of appropriate performance spaces in our community. The RCM has very limited space on our current site, and has great difficulty finding suitable venues for our music performances. The city of Wagga Wagga and the wider Riverina does not have a purpose-built music performance space, nor the facilities to provide music performance opportunities for student groups, or visiting performers, leading ensembles and orchestras. The auditorium in the proposed project will afford a new level of quality in music performance for the region, addressing the current lack of facilities, and enriching the lives of the whole community by providing facilities similar to those offered in metropolitan areas.

The proposal for the redevelopment of the Simmons Street site provides a unique opportunity to place the RCM at the heart of our growing city and region. This site offers high visibility in a creative environment, as a vital part of the cultural hub of the city. It affords an opportunity for the city of Wagga Wagga to maintain this historic location as a public asset, adding significantly to the cultural infrastructure critical for the regional hub centred on Wagga Wagga, while advancing excellence in music performance and education in southern NSW.

The RCM seeks the support of the NSW Government to bring this initiative to fruition, strengthening our partnership with Government and the community into the future.

Dr. Andrew R. Wallace
Chair: Riverina Conservatorium of Music