

Tamworth Performing Arts Centre and Cultural Precinct



Contributing to our city's soul

Tamworth
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Cultural activities give a place a soul. They play a major part in contributing to the community in a way that feeds and strengthens spirit and social pride within a community.

Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) is committed to providing arts and cultural facilities and programs which meet the needs of the community and enhance the liveability of Tamworth.

The development of the Tamworth Performing Arts Centre (TPAC) is a major arts and cultural infrastructure project for the Tamworth community and the Northern Inland Region. The project is a community identified objective within the current **Community Strategic Plan** (2017-2027) and **Cultural Plan** (2018-2023) and has been highlighted as a key action in the **Tamworth Regional Blueprint 100** vision for the region's future. It is a project that is of significance at a Regional, State and National level and will be one of the largest infrastructure projects undertaken by TRC with an estimated total project cost in 2022 dollars of \$128m. TRC proposes the cost to be funded by equal contributions of \$43M each by TRC, the NSW Government and the Federal Government.

The TPAC development will create a suite of venues which will meet the social inclusion, performing arts, creative industries, conference and events needs of the Tamworth community. Its integration with the existing **Tamworth Regional Gallery** and **Tamworth City Library** and inclusion of leased premises to **Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music** and **ABC New England North West** will create a vibrant and exciting Cultural Precinct which is of national significance. The precinct will drive strong, long-term economic and employment benefits for Tamworth.

Project Inclusions:

- 600 seat Proscenium Theatre
- 200 seat flexible Studio Theatre
- 100 seat Salon recital room
- Rehearsal Rooms
- 200 seat Function Room
- Board Room
- 180 - 200 seat Amphitheatre
- Event Plaza
- Recording Studio
- Café / Restaurant
- Studios for ABC New England North West
- Studios and operations facilities for the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music
- Back of house support and staff facilities



www.theprecinct.org.au

Studio and Main Theatre section



The Business Case identified:

Benefits

- Increased social inclusion and engagement
- Expanded cultural and entertainment options for the community
- Increased creative capacity supporting the development of community groups and professional artists
- Provision of functions and conference facilities which strengthen Tamworth's position as an events hub for the New England region
- Synergies from the integration of Tamworth Performing Arts Centre, Tamworth Regional Gallery, Tamworth City Library, Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music and ABC New England North West into a cohesive cultural precinct
- Economic benefits for the Tamworth community from the construction and operation of the project
- Increased employment
- Increased night time economy
- Increased business and cultural tourism

Economic Impact

- Direct addition of 288 jobs in the local construction sector
- An estimated increase in gross regional product (GRP) in Tamworth Regional Council by \$72.38 million
- An additional 11 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs directly created
- Operational savings of \$0.500 million per annum for Council from the new structure
- A direct injection into Tamworth's economy of conservatively \$4.6 million per annum through cultural and business visitation
- A Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) of 1.53

This project, which supports and aligns with the principles of [Blueprint 100](#), is about **Placemaking** - the art and science of planning and making authentic, vibrant and resilient public spaces that are valued by their communities and admired by visitors. It's about contributing to our city's soul.

View the 'fly-around video' and the full documentation for the Business Case, Concept Design and Functional & Technical Design Brief at www.theprecinct.org.au

"Positioning Tamworth to be a leader in Business Tourism, Cultural Tourism and a regional centre of arts excellence."

Timeline

- 2017 – Vision documented from key stakeholder consultation
– Adopted as a key action of TRC's *Community Strategic Plan (2017-2027)*
- 2018 – Adopted as a key objective of TRC's *Cultural Plan (2018-2023)*
- 2019 – *Business Case & Concept Design* approved by TRC
- 2020 – *Functional & Technical Design Brief* developed
- 2021 – *Functional & Technical Design Brief* approved by TRC
– EOI sought for Lead Architect
- 2022 – Feb 2022 funding target to stay on project timelines
- 2023 – Capitol Theatre's lease expires in November
- 2024 – Late 2024 / Early 2025 proposed opening



Studio Theatre view (Rear of Centre)