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Title:

Statement from the Premier - Election policy statement - Arts development

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date July 4, 1975.....

State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square, Adelaide,
South Australia 5001
228 4811

Embargo.....

ELECTION POLICY STATEMENT - ARTS DEVELOPMENT

South Australia's new Museum building will be erected on the site of the existing bus depot at Hackney.

This was announced today by the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, in a statement of Government policy on the Arts.

The Hackney site had been chosen after an examination of all the alternatives.

"The Government will not put buildings of this kind on the Torrens bank south of the Festival Centre," the Premier said. "That area has been reserved and planned as a village green area, providing additional open space for community activities. It would be impossible to put a complex of the kind described by the Opposition there without taking up the whole of the Torrens bank, and that is quite unthinkable.

ART GALLERY

Indicating the Government's plans for the Art Gallery, the Premier said that it was a beautiful gallery, but had insufficient exhibition space.

"As recommended by a Government working party, the Art Gallery will expand to take over the building immediately west of it, now housing the Museum and part of the Library," Mr. Dunstan said.

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"The area at the rear of that building will be converted to a Sculpture Court. The historic Police Barracks building will be restored."

"That will provide one of the most beautiful Art Galleries in this country. There is no reason to build an entirely new Art Gallery."

The Government recently legislated to allow the Art Gallery to expand its activities and move outside its walls. The Director and the Board of the Art Gallery are now able to assist in the community centres and independent regional galleries. They are also able to work with Local Government organisations throughout the State.

LIBRARIES

The Premier also disclosed that the Government intends to expand library services.

The maximum subsidy for Council subsidised libraries would be raised immediately to \$80,000 for the first library and to \$60,000 for a subsequent library. The limits of subsidies for administration and for the purchase of books will also be extended in this year's Budget.

The Premier said that the Government had established South Australia as the pre-eminent State for the Arts in the whole of Australia. Grants in the whole area of cultural activities had been increased.

"We have set up the Festival Centre Trust and built the Festival Centre; we have set up the South Australian Film Corporation, the South Australian Theatre Company and funded the Australian Dance Theatre and New Opera."

"We have markedly increased the grants to the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and the Festival of Arts and increased many hundreds of times the amounts paid to the Art Gallery to buy works of art."

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The Government will continue to support the development of activities of the Craft Authority at the Jam Factory as a means of encouraging the growth of a commercially viable design and craft based industry in this State.

CULTURAL CENTRES IN COUNTRY

The Premier also stated that when the Adelaide Festival Centre was completed it would be necessary to develop regional cultural centres so that people in the country areas of South Australia would have similar advantages.

The Government will continue to support cultural activities associated with regional community festivals, such as the Cornish Festival and the Mount Gambier Festival.

"We have provided funds for the planning of the new Whyalla Cultural Centre."

"We have provided funds for the feasibility studies for centres at Mount Gambier and Port Lincoln, and we will subsequently develop a cultural centre in the Riverland area. The Government will offer to legislate to establish trusts for the running of the cultural centres, which will not only have performing arts facilities, but could include such things as libraries, art galleries, meeting and exhibition places."

The Premier added that each trust would be able to borrow \$750,000 a year at the semi-Governmental interest rate without approval by the Loan Council. This means that the centres could be financed largely on the same basis as the Adelaide Festival Centre, and the Government would support from revenue the running costs and the servicing of the loans.

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