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Press statement - Performing Arts Complex

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PRESS STATEMENT FROM THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN.

17/8/71.

PERFORMING ARTS COMPLEX.

Plans for the Adelaide Performing Arts Complex on the banks of the Torrens, adjacent to the Festival Theatre, were today announced by the Premier (Mr. Dunstan).

Mr. Dunstan noted that the Labor Party stated at the last election that it would complete the Centre and provide a home for the S.A. Theatre Company.

This had been recommended in the original Report obtained by the Government when previously announced.

"Since taking office plans have been developed for the completion of the Performing Arts Complex.

"The architect has been Mr. Colin Hassell who is the architect for the multi-purpose theatre and the consultant has been Mr. Tom Brown who has also been consultant on the theatre.

"In order to complete the original proposal, even without additions, it was necessary for us to re-examine the whole question of access by cars to the multi-purpose theatre and anything else which would be on the site since the original proposals for the plaza and for traffic access were inadequate.

"We have to develop an entirely new road system for access to the site and for completion of the plaza.

"A working committee of the Highways Department, the Public Buildings Department, the Adelaide City Council, the Commissioner of Railways and the Premier's Department has been working with the architect on this for some months.

"We are now in a position to proceed with the project and have working drawings completed and the necessary special legislation presented to State Parliament and examined by the necessary committees of Parliament.

"The new building will provide a home for the S.A. Theatre Company with the most modern and flexible stage facilities.

"Included in it will be an experimental theatre space available for a wide variety of performing arts activities.

"The estimated cost of the new building is \$2.5M. and the cost of completing roadways and the plaza necessary for the project will be \$3M.

"This will include resiting of some railway buildings and provision for the Railways Institute which had to be removed to provide for the Festival Hall.

"These detailed proposals will give South Australia the most flexible and effective performing arts centre anywhere in this country at a fraction of the cost of the Melbourne Cultural Complex and certainly of course of the Sydney Opera House.

"In addition it will provide facilities which will increase our ability to attract major conventions to South Australia and will be an important tourist attraction.

"It will also mean that we can provide for Festival venues and ensure that the benefits of the Adelaide Festival of Arts are maintained for the city", Mr. Dunstan said.
