

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Friday, 26 November 2021

BUILDING AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST REGIONAL ARTS CENTRE

The new Geelong Arts Centre will become the country's biggest regional arts centre, with new designs revealing state-of-the-art facilities and two flexible performance spaces to host local, national and international performers.

Premier Daniel Andrews today visited Geelong to unveil designs for the \$140 million Andrews Labor Government redevelopment.

The project will create around 600 construction jobs and provide opportunities for local apprentices, in a major economic boost to the Geelong community.

The striking design brings together elements drawn from the history of Geelong – showcasing the region's strong and continuing First Nations culture, its proximity to the ocean, and the local history of circus and theatre.

The new facility will include a 500-seat theatre that expands to an 800-person capacity in 'live gig' mode, as well as a hybrid theatre with more than 250 seats connected to the Little Malop Street Plaza.

The design features a playful connection portal with interactive lighting that joins it with the nearby Ryrie Street Building, as well as bars and alfresco dining for locals and visitors.

Architects Ashton Raggatt McDougall worked with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation as co-designers to weave in stories of the lands, waters and skies as well as local ochres, jarosites from Bells Beach and greenstone found at Dog Rocks in Batesford.

Geelong's history will be expressed in the Lascelles wool store-inspired moulded concrete walls and the design features a curtain shaped facade inspired by Victoria's early history of performance, theatre and circus tents.

The flowing form also references the ripples of water and patterns of sand around Geelong.

The project is being delivered by a partnership between the Geelong Arts Centre, Creative Victoria, Development Victoria and Lendlease and is due to be completed by late 2023.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"We're building Australia's biggest regional performing arts venue – and we're creating hundreds of good, local jobs along the way."

"The new Arts Centre will bring tourists and locals alike back to the heart of Geelong, driving the city's recovery as our state reopens and rebuilds."

Quotes attributable to Member for Geelong Christine Couzens

"This project is providing local jobs now and will host amazing experiences for many years to come."

"I can't wait to see our new arts centre come to life and provide a platform for local talent alongside the world's best."