

# Media Release

**Steve Dimopoulos MP**

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events  
Minister for Creative Industries



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## **BREAKING GROUND ON THE ICONIC MELBOURNE ARTS PRECINCT**

Work has officially started on what is set to become Australia's largest arts and culture infrastructure project to transform the Melbourne Arts Precinct.

With a \$1.7 billion investment from the Andrews Labor Government, the project includes the iconic new art and design gallery The Fox: NGV Contemporary, an extensive refurbishment of Victoria's heritage State Theatre, and 18,000 square metres of new public parklands in the heart of Melbourne.

Early works include relocating critical shared utilities and services, as well as site investigations and ground testing.

The works are vital to support the significant refurbishment of the heritage State Theatre, including improved accessibility, upgraded seating and acoustics, places to eat, and state of the art back-of-house facilities such as new rehearsal spaces.

The early works are starting with Art Centre Melbourne's refurbishment and will continue with the demolition of the CUB building at 77 Southbank, preparing for the build of the already iconic The Fox: NGV Contemporary.

The transformation of the Melbourne Arts Precinct will create more than 11,000 jobs over its lifetime and is set to generate hundreds of ongoing creative sector jobs when it is completed in 2028.

Early works on Arts Centre Melbourne will be completed in early 2023, after which main works will begin.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Creative Industries Steve Dimopoulos**

*"We're getting on with transforming the Melbourne Arts Precinct – building a global destination for arts and culture that will last for generations to come, cementing our reputation as Australia's cultural capital."*

*"We are investing in this landmark creative project as a demonstration of our ongoing commitment to the state's creative sector, one which we know will contribute to growing our economy by bringing in millions more cultural tourists to Melbourne."*

### **Quote attributable to Member for Southern Metropolitan Region Nina Taylor**

*"This is a very exciting project for tourism and for the thousands of people who make up our creative industries."*

### **Quote attributable to Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation CEO Katrina Sedgwick**

*"The Melbourne Arts Precinct has one of the highest concentrations of arts, cultural and creative organisations in the world, and this multidimensional project will establish the precinct as one of the world's leading creative and cultural attractions."*