



The Hon Simon Crean MP
Minister for Regional Australia,
Regional Development and
Local Government
Minister for the Arts



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP
Premier of NSW
Minister for Western Sydney

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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REDEVELOPMENT HERALDS NEW ERA FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell and Federal Minister for the Arts Simon Crean today officially opened the \$53 million redevelopment of the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia in Sydney.

The State and Federal Governments provided equal contributions of \$13 million to the project which increases gallery space by 50 per cent and provides room for the creation of a new National Centre for Creative Learning.

Mr O'Farrell said the MCA is a much loved icon that can now play a greater role in the cultural life of the city.

"After a \$53 million facelift, the MCA has been transformed and reopens as a bold, new and significantly expanded museum," Mr O'Farrell said.

"This is great news for Sydney tourism and jobs – and an appropriate response to the climb in visitor numbers.

"More than 500,000 people visit the MCA each year and this redevelopment boosts its potential to make the MCA a must visit for international tourists.

"With its state-of-the-art educational facilities, the MCA is also better placed to foster cultural literacy and expand programs for education including digital workshops.

"The MCA reminds us of the importance of putting innovation at the centre of everything we do and today marks a new and exciting era for this harbourside institution," Mr O'Farrell said.

Mr Crean said the MCA will become a hub of creative excellence in Sydney.

"The Federal Government is proud to be a partner in this outstanding redevelopment, which was funded through our economic stimulus package," Mr Crean said.

“The MCA redevelopment is the result of a strong partnership with funding coming from the Federal Government, NSW Government, City of Sydney and private donors – including a generous contribution from Simon and Catriona Mordant.

“Investing in the arts generates a double dividend for the nation – an economic dividend in terms of attendance, jobs and attracting tourism, and a social dividend as the arts empower individuals and underpin important values of expression, tolerance and inclusion.

“On the eve of the release of Australia’s first national cultural policy in almost twenty years, the redeveloped MCA will ensure creative excellence drives our economy and inspires future generations.”

The \$53 million MCA redevelopment was funded by:

- Federal Government - \$13 million;
- NSW Government - \$13 million;
- Mordant family - \$15 million;
- City of Sydney - \$1 million;
- Private donors - \$9 million; and
- MCA - \$2 million.

ENDS

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