

PO Box 655  
Ballarat Vic 3353  
AUSTRALIA

Telephone: 03 5320 5500  
Facsimile: 03 5333 4061



Date: 08 May 2024

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Enquiries: (61) 03 5320 5730

Direct Email: [jeffjohnson@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:jeffjohnson@ballarat.vic.gov.au)

Judy-Ann Quilliam  
Business and Marketing Manager  
Royal South Street Society Ballarat Eisteddfod  
[judy-ann@royalsouthstreet.com.au](mailto:judy-ann@royalsouthstreet.com.au)

Dear Judy-Ann

### **RE: HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE BALLARAT**

The current Her Majesty's Theatre Stage 3 capital works are being undertaken to improve the capability, accessibility, and safety of the 149-year-old theatre. A significant element of the works will address the current compromised access for patrons, staff, and performers with mobility issues. The critical improvements will bring the venue up to modern accessibility standards and ensure future generations will continue to enjoy this icon of Ballarat.

When finished, the project will provide full accessibility throughout the theatre with the construction of two new lifts, an improved front-of-house area, new toilet facilities, and associated compliance works. The \$16.3M project is co-funded by the State Government and the City of Ballarat and when completed, will re-establish the facility as Royal South Street's creative and artistic home.

The project has presented many challenges. The construction team has encountered a large number of latent conditions (existing/legacy structural issues), including rotten floor structures, unstable ground conditions, contaminated soil, historic fire damage, wiring, wall instability, and other issues associated with a 150-year-old heritage building. This has had a direct impact on the project completion date and required an additional \$2.4 million to complete the project. The issues have been more significant than first anticipated and were not identifiable until the excavation and demolition of existing floors, walls and ceilings began. Over the course of this project, the complexity of solving these latent conditions has caused delays and has challenged the project management team to be able to ascertain a specific practical completion date.

With these latent issues now resolved, the Contractor very recently provided the revised project practical completion date of Friday 4 October 2024. With a further six weeks required to make the theatre operational (reinstall and test equipment) after this date, we anticipate performances could take to the stage from mid-November 2024. Should the practical completion date be brought forward, we will do everything possible to facilitate access to Royal South Street. We will work closely with RSSS to provide advice should any timelines change.

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We recognise Her Majesty's Theatre is the home of RSSS and appreciate your ongoing support for the current works program and look forward to your support in re-establishing the facility as Ballarat's beating heart of creative and artistic life.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MD', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Martin Darcy  
Director Economy and Experience

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