



PETER DEBNAM MP
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

SHADOW TREASURER
SHADOW MINISTER FOR WESTERN SYDNEY
SHADOW MINISTER FOR REDFERN WATERLOO
SHADOW MINISTER FOR CITIZENSHIP

Mr Edmund Capon AM OBE
Director
Art Gallery of New South Wales
Art Gallery Road
The Domain
Sydney NSW 2000

25 July 2006

Dear Edmund

Thank you very much for spending time with Shadow Arts Minister Jillian Skinner and myself recently to discuss your ideas for future development of the Gallery.

Congratulations to you, members of the Trust and the staff on the many years of hard work that have gone into developing a very fine institution that is enjoyed very much every day by many people of NSW.

I am very pleased that you finally convinced the NSW Government to sign the Art Gallery of New South Wales Service Agreement 2005/06 – 2007/08 and I will be pleased to renew it beyond this period should the Coalition win government in March 2007.

In addition I am pleased to confirm other details of our discussions:

- Thank you for outlining your plans to develop the current storage area as new exhibition space. I am pleased to commit \$1.25 million in recurrent funds to assist in this project.
- Extending the wall of the Yiribana Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Gallery to let in more light and make it a more functional space is also a very exciting proposal and I will commit \$2 million in infrastructure funding for that project.

- As you indicated, the Gallery needs additional funding for routine maintenance and upgraded air conditioning and air control. I am happy to commit \$3 million per annum over five years, to a total of \$15 million to enable that important work.

I trust these commitments demonstrate the NSW Liberal/Nationals' support for the Gallery and our hope that it will continue to be a place where many citizens enjoy a broad range of art works, exhibitions and events.

Please feel free to bring these commitments to the attention of the Trust and supporters of the Gallery.

Once again thanks for being so generous with your time. We look forward to meeting you again in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Peter Debnam

cc. Jillian Skinner Shadow Arts Minister
Pea Seaton Shadow Finance Minister