

12 August 2020

The Hon Don Harwin MLC  
Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations,  
Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister

### **Metro-Minerva Theatre**

I write to request the NSW Government work with the City of Sydney to investigate returning the Metro Minerva Theatre in Orwell Street Potts Point as a working arts venue.

The Metro-Minerva Theatre is a premium example of Art Deco buildings in Sydney and one of the finest near functional theatre spaces dating from the 1930s. The building was used as a cinema from 1950, continued live performance until around 1979 and later for commercial purposes, however it has been sold and now stands empty. The building is listed on the State Heritage Register for its historic, associative, aesthetic and representative values, and for its rarity. I understand that key heritage features remain despite removal of some interiors.

There are longstanding concerns about performing arts space in Sydney after the closure and demolition of other theatres. The Metro-Minerva provides an opportunity to remedy this with its 1,000 seat capacity in demand. Its location in the heart of Kings Cross/Potts Point also has the potential to help activate this precinct, which has suffered significant economic change. COVID-19 pandemic restrictions have exacerbated these impacts locally and on the wider arts and culture sector, making re-opening the theatre more vital.

There is strong community support for the Metro-Minerva to be reborn as performance space, with more than 3,400 signatures on a petition calling for it to be retained and opened up again.

I ask that the government investigate options with the City of Sydney for supporting returning the Metro-Minerva Theatre to Sydney's performing arts community and audiences.

***Could you please work with the City of Sydney to re-open the Metro-Minerva Theatre and inform me what action you will take?***

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich  
**Member for Sydney**  
CC: Lord Mayor Clover Moore

