

# QUEENSLAND THEATRE

12 February 2021

## A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF QUEENSLAND THEATRE

To all concerned,

We are writing to you as the Chair and Artistic Director of Queensland Theatre.

Queensland Theatre has had the humbling experience of being rightly called out for our failure to live by our stated commitment to First Nations work and our stated respect for First Nations people.

Our public responses, and the pace of these responses have disappointed, frustrated and angered people we respect. We apologise.

We are grateful to those of you who have spoken out. We accept that we need to do better and embrace the opportunity to listen, reflect on our values and most importantly, take action. We will:

- **Listen:** We will meet with local First Nations performing arts practitioners and with members of the First Nations community. From these consultations we will develop a First Nations Engagement Strategy to align with our Reconciliation Action Plan. We are committed to deepening our conversations with the First Nations community on an ongoing basis.
- **Review our First Nations cultural capability:** We will engage an external independent First Nations consultant to undertake a review of all Company processes to learn how they can be improved to better serve First Nations arts practitioners and the wider First Nations community. This will take in all levels of the organisation, including the Board. We will keep the community informed of our progress.
- **Reinvigorate our Indigenous Reference Group:** This group will assist us to review our Reconciliation Action Plan based on the community consultations and guide our progress in implementing our First Nations Engagement Strategy.
- **Strengthen our commitment to supporting First Nations artists to tell their stories:** We believe it is important that First Nations stories are told by, for and about First Nations people. Our job is to support that in any way we can and share those stories with a wide audience. We deeply regret the hurt caused by the lack of a First Nations production in Brisbane in 2021 and the perception that we would ever step away from First Nations stories.

This is just the beginning. It is our hope that our actions, in partnership with the First Nations' community, will lead to significant improvements at Queensland Theatre and in the arts and creative industries in Queensland and Australia.

Respectfully,



Elizabeth Jameson & Lee Lewis.

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