



MEDIA STATEMENT

JOHN HYDE MLA

Shadow Minister for Culture and the Arts; Heritage; Multicultural Interests; Citizenship

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WA museums face another five per cent budget cut

Museums in WA will face a further five per cent cut in funding this year as a result of the Barnett Government's financial mismanagement, Shadow Arts Minister John Hyde said today.

Mr Hyde said museums had already been hit hard by the three per cent budget cuts which led to the WA museum and several regional museums closing for one day a week.

"Now museum and arts workers have been told to find a further five per cent budget cut," Mr Hyde said.

"The arts sector in Western Australia has been cut to the bone and now the Barnett Government is sucking out the marrow as well.

"A further five per cent budget cut will devastate the arts community.

"Last year three per cent budget cuts closed museums for one day and led to the Fremantle History Museum and other local museums closing completely. I fear for the future of the arts with a further five per cent cut."

Mr Hyde said it was his understanding that the five per cent budget cuts would be formalised in this year's budget process.

"It is about time the Barnett Government started to support the Western Australian arts community," Mr Hyde said.

"The first priority should be to protect WA jobs and to promote WA as an exciting and culturally diverse place to visit."

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