



SARI HALL FUNDING BOOST 30th November 2001

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold handed a \$2000 cheque to the Port Lincoln Civic Hall Management Board towards the cost of renovations of the SARI Hall.

Mrs Penfold said the funding came from the Minister for the Arts, the Hon Diana Laidlaw, following an application for funding by the Management Board. The Minister has been a keen supporter of the arts community and previously approved the free transfer of the former SARI property from the State Government to the Port Lincoln City Council.

"Diana has watched the transformation of the theatre and art facilities with great interest. Her all-round support has contributed greatly to the successful work carried out by the Board," she said.

Mrs Penfold said the setting up of the former SARI Hall as an arts workshop was the last stage in the redevelopment.

"Jill Parker and the management board team are congratulated on the progress of the total project.

The ongoing commitment to fundraising has been phenomenal. In addition the numbers of paying patrons to the Theatre has exceeded all expectations with the first six months of operation showing that 6,375 paying patrons had attended the theatre with 10,000 visiting the Galleries.

It has transformed the theatre and art world in the southern Eyre Peninsula region," she said..

SARI HALL ONE STEP CLOSER 28 AUGUST 2001

The Port Lincoln craft community's move to the former South Australian National Railway Institute hall is a big step closer now that the hall is officially owned by the Port Lincoln City Council.

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said documentation transferring the SARI hall to Council is complete.

"We have an active craft community centred on Port Lincoln but taking in artists from many Eyre Peninsula districts. I am delighted that they will soon have purpose-designed facilities," she said.

Council's Chief Executive Officer, Ian Burfitt, said the existing property of Artheyrea can now be developed as additional car parking, thus fulfilling an agreed part of the long range plan in the redevelopment of the Civic Hall.

"The galleries, theatre and meeting rooms in the redeveloped Civic Hall are a resounding success, and I am confident that the SARI hall will be equally successful as a craft centre," Mr Burfitt said.

Mrs Penfold said the Council will pay the costs of transfer, including stamp duty and registration fee.

The SARI hall handover comes under the Regional Rail Property Redevelopment Program. The program was initiated by the Government through Transport SA for the redevelopment of railway land returned to the State in November 1997 following the sale and break-up of Australian National.

Under the program local government agencies and community interest groups are given the opportunity to have a say in how land should be redeveloped.

Where land is not handed over to local councils for community purposes, the State Government will pursue a sale process.