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Hopgood Theatre to perform for many years to come

Long term lease agreement transfers to local council

The future of the Hopgood Theatre has been secured following the approval from the State Government of a 25-year lease agreement between TAFE SA and the City of Onkaparinga, with the operation of the theatre officially handed over to the council.

As part of the agreement, a grant of $6 million was also provided to the City of Onkaparinga for the refurbishment of the theatre.

Improvements to the theatre, with pre-development work currently underway, will include maintenance work, the re-roofing of the theatre and an upgrade to sound and lighting systems.

The State Government collaborated with key stakeholders to also ensure increased funding for the management of the theatre, securing the long-term future of the theatre. The agreement includes an annual peppercorn lease consideration.

Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Blair Boyer, said the advocacy of so many passionate locals, helped secure the theatre’s future.

“The Hopgood Theatre has provided the southern suburbs and Fleurieu Peninsula with a facility for theatre and performing arts since it opened in 1985 – that’s why I’m so pleased that, along with the tireless advocacy of local MPs, we were able to secure its future with the support of TAFE SA and the Onkaparinga Council,” Minister Boyer said.

“The refurbished theatre, and this agreement, will support local artists, provide schools with an event and education space and will continue to provide for the local community long into the future.”

TAFE SA Chief Executive, David Coltman, said that TAFE SA was looking forward to the Hopgood Theatre being a vibrant and energetic part of its Noarlunga Campus for many years to come.

“The Hopgood Theatre is a valued and important local community resource, and we are delighted to have now transferred the lease to the City of Onkaparinga as part of its long-term future,” Mr Coltman said.

“Having a refurbished theatre to support local artists to entertain large audiences, while also providing schools with an event and education space will provide many benefits for the local community.

“The State Government has recognised the importance of the Hopgood Theatre in supporting a vibrant southern suburbs community and this commitment ensures it will continue to serve the community long into the future.

“Given the location of the theatre on the TAFE SA Noarlunga Campus, the commencement of this long-term leasehold is the most efficient outcome and we look forward to working alongside the City of Onkaparinga into the future.”

Earlier this year, the City of Onkaparinga sought community feedback on the future opportunities at Hopgood Theatre, including the programs and services offered. TAFE SA also provided input relating to use of the theatre as part of this process.

City of Onkaparinga Mayor Moira Were expressed her delight at the handover and planned upgrades.

"This outcome couldn't have been achieved without the tireless campaigning from our community,” she said.

“We've been advocating for the Hopgood Theatre for years, and we can't thank everyone enough for their support.

“The Hopgood Theatre is more than a building; it's a vital part of our community, drawing a diverse crowd of patrons including schools, regional groups and seniors from all walks of life, and these upgrades ensure it will remain a vibrant hub for decades to come.

“Council is taking on a comprehensive refurbishment, expected to begin in 2024, which will include flooring and seating upgrades, enhanced lighting and sound, improved bathrooms, a revamped front of house and bar, and superior backstage facilities – enhancing the experience for patrons and performers alike.”