

Disability Access upgrade @ QPAC November 2008

Questions and Answers

Q. What modification works are happening at QPAC?

A. QPAC's main theatres, the Lyric Theatre and Concert Hall, are to be modified to improve their disability access.

Q: What does the modification of QPAC's two theatres involve?

A: The modifications will include general maintenance work at QPAC as well as modifications to the Lyric Theatre and the Concert Hall to provide more seating choices and easier access for people with a disability and their guests.

Q: When will the modifications occur?

A: The work is scheduled to take place between November 2008 and February 2009.

Q: When will the theatres reopen?

A: a formal construction program is still to be prepared however it is expected that the Lyric Theatre and Concert Hall will re-open by March 2009.

Q: Will QPAC close entirely for 4 months?

A. No. It will be business as usual in the Playhouse and Cremorne Theatres, the Tony Gould Gallery, Cascade Court and Lyrebird Restaurant. The Box Office and general operations will continue as normal.

Q. Does this mean there won't be many events at QPAC during this time?

A. There will be an active program of events in the Playhouse, Cremorne Theatre and other spaces around the centre. The works are however expected to interrupt events in the Lyric Theatre or Concert Hall.

Q. Will I still be able to park at QPAC?

A. Yes. The cultural centre carparks will not be affected by the modification works.

Q. Is QPAC going to be difficult to access during this work?

A. We do not anticipate any serious impact to access in and around the centre. A full traffic management plan will ensure ease of access to operating theatres and event spaces and signage will be installed to show alternative routes, if required.

Q. Will the box office at QPAC still be open?

A. Yes. However the box office counter may temporarily be relocated during some of the construction period.

Q. Will the Lyrebird Restaurant be affected by the works?

A. The restaurant is expected to operate as normal throughout the scheduled period of work.

Q. Why was this time chosen to do the works?

A. QPAC is heavily booked with events from now right through until the end of 2008. If the modifications were to be undertaken any earlier, it would have significant impacts on the hirers of our venues and, in turn, patrons. We have sought to minimise the impact on all stakeholders by choosing a time far enough in the future whereby we can plan for the works.

Q: Why do parts of the centre need to close?

A: This work will cause disruption to parts of QPAC, particularly the central staircase which is used by 90% of patrons. The works will also involve noise, dust and safety issues.

Q: Why will the work take so long?

A: The construction program is still to be finalised however works will be undertaken between November 2008 and February 2009.

Q: Why can't the work be done now rather than wait for another year?

A: QPAC is committed to honouring its existing bookings and does not want the construction work to impact on any hirers. As such, the works have been scheduled for the first available opportunity in the Lyric Theatre and Concert Hall.

Q: What seating choices will people with disabilities have when the works are completed?

A : This is still to be finalised, but it is likely there will be additional seats installed into the front half of stalls of the Lyric Theatre as well as the Concert Hall in addition to the existing seating at the rear of the stalls. Additional amenities will also be installed in the foyers.

Q: Where will the orchestra/ballet etc perform during that time?

A: QPAC has been working with these companies to ensure that their respective event programs have been structured around this closure. Performances will occur in other venues, both at QPAC and at other venues, during this short period.

Q: Why does the work have to be done at all?

A: When QPAC was designed 25 years ago, it complied with the access standards of the day. It is very desirable for QPAC's facilities to be progressively upgraded to improve accessibility for all patrons including those with a disability.

Q. Will QPAC staff be affected by the closure?

A. There will be no reduction in staff numbers at QPAC as a result of the closure however there will be a temporary drop in the amount of work available to its casual staff during the period of the construction. When QPAC reopens in March 2009, its full complement of staff will be again required to manage this busy venue.

Q. Will the public be kept informed about the works and their impacts?

A. QPAC is committed to keeping all parties informed, including patrons and members of the public. Information will be regularly updated on our website and in all of QPAC's publications.