



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Community Recognition Statement

19 May 2022

CLAIRE WILLIAMS

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend) :

Newcastle Theatre Company is run by volunteers and has been an integral part of the local community since 1957.

The Theatre has over 200 members and stages eight productions a year. In 2019, the NTC were in crisis.

Facing a bill in excess of \$100,000 for fire safety compliance, the NTC were at risk of closure.

Not one to go down without a fight, President Claire Williams vowed to save the Theatre.

Within a matter of months, Claire had secured a grant through the My Community Project of \$190,000 which was a lifeline for the Theatre.

Not only did the grant cover the compliance issue but also allowed the Theatre to upgrade access and make significant improvements.

Then in 2020 and 2021 COVID struck and the Theatre was forced to close for an extended period. The Theatre reopened with new shows and a spectacular new building.

After a rough few years, Claire has decided to hang up her President's cap for a while and explore other opportunities.

I am sure Claire will be missed by all at the NTC, but never forgotten for all the blood, sweat and tears put in to saving the Theatre.

Well done Claire.