

Dear Reader,

I am Chair of the Adelaide Hills Artists Association and Deputy Chair of the Adelaide Hills International Sculpture Symposium. I have been an artist all my life and work in a number of media having previously exhibited in London, Paris and Sydney.

As I am sure you have heard before, when Churchill was asked during WW2 to reduce arts funding he replied "then what are we fighting for?", this remains as relevant today as it was then. Our very culture is based around our creativity, from architecture to jewellery, from sculpture to tattoos. The governments plan to reduce funding is both short sighted and guaranteed to offend the majority of the electorate. It is penny pinching policy whose main outcome will be to further entrench the current ideology that this government does not care.

The repercussions on the arts community will be to end a great number of on ground services and projects and this will wash out into the wider community in the loss of cultural endeavour and community engagement.

I urge a rethink. With the reduction in coal mining coming perhaps you could redirect subsidies to the mining industry to cover this budget measure?

Cheers Simon Jones.