

Theatre reaches new heights

A 23-metre steel structure is now towering over the Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre (DRTCC) construction site.

Forty tonnes of steel is needed to construct the Theatre's fly-tower which is almost equal in height to a six-storey building.

"The erection of the fly-tower is symbolic. It is a significant milestone and marks the construction framework – internally and externally – for the coming 12 months," DRTCC Manager Alan Youngson said.

"Dubbo's fly-tower – containing an elaborate system of pulleys and counterweights to store and fly-in scenery, painted backdrops, lighting bars and stage curtains – will make it one of the highest in eastern Australia, comparable with that of the Sydney Theatre Company and the Canberra Play House."

The fly-tower height and its 46 line flying system will mean Dubbo will have the requisite facilities to stage A-Class touring shows such as the Australian Ballet and high flying circus performers.

The flying system will also provide flexibility in terms of being able

to have two different events take place on the same day. For example, a daytime conference utilising the full stage, lighting and film screen until 5pm and then being cleared for further evening performances of a musical or dance show as the scenery is already suspended out of sight in the fly-tower on other fly-lines.

The pouring of concrete for the Theatre stage area is now complete.

Temporary closure of Civic Centre

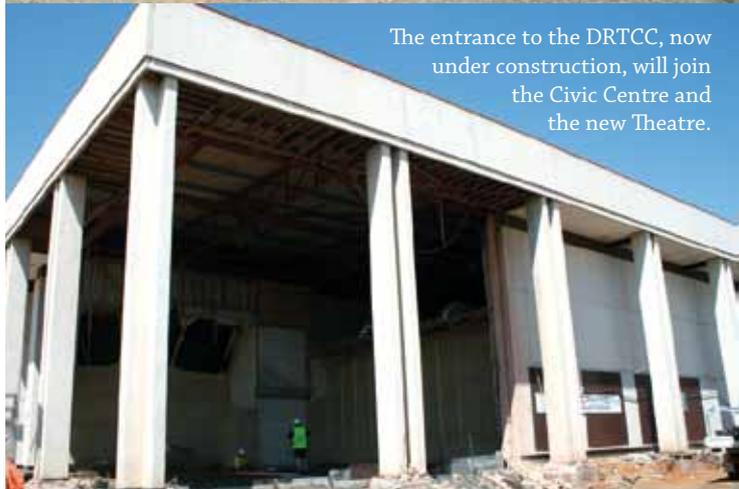
The Dubbo War Memorial Civic Centre has been temporarily closed until mid March 2009 while demolition occurs on the north-eastern corner of the building.

The Civic Centre building will be physically joined to the new 500-seat regional theatre. Patrons will enter the DRTCC through large glass doors before stepping into a combined foyer area comprising the entrance to the Civic Centre and Theatre.

Contractor Andrew Madsen, DRTCC Manager Alan Youngson and Council's Building Consultant Mick Wilson in front of the fly-tower.



The entrance to the DRTCC, now under construction, will join the Civic Centre and the new Theatre.



Audiences to be 'wowed'

The new Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre (DRTCC) is set to attract an inspiring assortment of performing arts not yet experienced by local audiences.

When the Theatre officially opens in 2010, the City will become a destination for Playing Australia, featuring some of the best entertainment on the touring show circuit.

"From theatre to music and opera, dance, puppetry and circus, Dubbo and regional audiences will be wowed by an ongoing bevy of cultural experiences in a venue that features comfortable tiered seating, and top quality sound and lighting," Dubbo Mayor Greg Matthews said.

"Dubbo also intends to work with Bathurst and Orange to help offset the costs of bringing such performances to the region."

Cr Matthews said attracting well-known performers and performances to the area would give local audiences the opportunity to see what people living in the capital cities often took for granted.

"It will also mean more opportunities for local talent to work in a professional theatre environment, and it will create opportunities for those wishing to gain exposure to technical theatre training," he said.

"Seeing the recent erection of structural steel for the twenty-three metre Theatre fly-tower was very exciting and I look forward to watching this major City project continue to take shape."

FAST FACTS

What is a fly-tower?

A theatre fly-tower contains an elaborate system of pulleys and counterweights which control and store stage scenery and lighting bars. The DRTCC fly-tower system will contain 46 'flying lines' which will enhance versatility and capability. It will house multiple fly systems designed to quickly move backdrops, lights, microphones and stage curtains.

February 2009

WEEKS 1-3:

Structural steel erection of the fly-tower

Up to two trucks per day will be entering the site from Darling Street and Carrington Avenue.

WEEK 2

Concrete pour to loading dock floor

About 14 trucks will be entering from Carrington Avenue from around 6am to 11am on 11-12 February.

February/March 2009

Panel deliveries to the site

Up to four trucks per day will use the Darling Street and Carrington Avenue construction site entrances, as well as the Carrington Court car park (Council has notified Bob Berry Real Estate regarding disruptions to parking for tenants) from 20 February to 9 March. Movement of the crane and unloading of the panels could cause traffic delays in the area.

Pre-cast concrete erection will occur during this period.

Work will also begin on the concrete floor to the air-conditioning plenum under the auditorium floor. While other hydraulic and electrical work will be carried out during this time, there will be no impact on traffic.

Construction updates now online

Visit Council's website: www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Please note: all timelines are subject to weather conditions and may change.

Mayor Greg Matthews with the architectural plans for the Theatre.



CONSTRUCTION TIMELINES