



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party



MEDIA RELEASE

[Friday 7 June 2019]

Grimley Sings Out for Home for Theatre Troupe

Member for Western Victoria Stuart Grimley has voiced his support for the Torquay Theatre Troupe's proposal to take over the facilities at Surf World.

Upon the completion of the Surf Coast Basketball Stadium (to be built next to Surf Coast Secondary College) in late 2020, Mr Grimley questioned what the purpose would be for the then-vacant building otherwise.

Torquay Theatre Troupe have been campaigning for just under a decade and when approached by the Troupe, the Member for Western Victoria couldn't believe they had been heard on deaf ears for so long.

An Armstrong Creek local, Mr Grimley said there was one facility visibly missing from the Surf Coast region and that was a dedicated amateur arts space that the community could utilise.

Speaking on Pulse FM program [Mitchell's Front Page](#)* on Monday 4th June, Mr Grimley said that although he welcomes funding for Geelong Performing Arts Centre (GPAC) to the tune of \$128m in the 2019/20 State Budget and in addition to the \$38m upgrade currently being undertaken on the centre, he was disappointed that "there's no money for the Torquay Theatre Troupe [in this years' State Budget]".

[Speaking in Parliament on Thursday 7th June](#), he further stated his frustration to Creative Industries Minister the Hon. Martin Foley - whom the Troupe have personally contacted - that the Troupe only needed just under \$2m to convert Surf World to a proper theatre/arts space, which he said was "just common sense" to fund.

Mr Grimley conceded that pressure on the Surf Coast Shire to fund the project was difficult to overcome given the current Inquiry into Rate Capping which has left local Councils across Victoria hesitant to spend significant funds.

Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"After almost a decade of campaigning, Torquay Theatre Troupe deserve a place they can share their performing talent with the community.

We all know the benefits of the arts; and not just performing. The Surf Coast needs a versatile arts space for performing arts, visual arts displays and for all age groups to use, which is what the TTT are hoping for.

The Torquay Theatre Troupe have proven their perseverance and skill; going from one performance a year, to three sell-out performances. They need a proper arts space to continue to expand."

ENDS

**Discussions of a theatre space for Surf Coast take place at approximately 6m30s*

A: 1/15 Pearl St, Torquay VIC 3228
E: stuart.grimley@parliament.vic.gov.au

  
@StuartGrimleyMP