

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Cultural Precinct amphitheatre takes new shape**

The Gold Coast Cultural Precinct's Stage 1 amphitheatre will be an integral part of the landscape, with a new concept presented to Council today (8/9/15).

Embedded in the Stage 1 Artscape, the revised concept forms a seamless green connection between the existing Arts Centre and the planned Riverside Hub, with its transitional visual arts galleries.

Council, at its Special Budget Committee today unanimously recommended the new concept for inclusion in Stage 1. The recommendation will now go before full Council.

Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate said the garden theatre-style concept was a new direction for what will be the precinct's versatile outdoor space, or amphitheatre.

"It follows market testing, consultation and feedback from key stakeholders and potential users," Cr Tate said.

"Councillors were given the opportunity to review the previous proposal – The Splash – and compare it with this new concept.

"We received a detailed presentation from the design team, led by ARM Architecture. Councillors have now supported this new direction.

"It gives us the opportunity to incorporate the Design Competition-winning voronoi design into the amphitheatre and is still flexible, catering for a wide array of performances, functions and events.

"It will still be purpose-built with a flexible capacity of 850 to 5000 people, with the opportunity to bump in equipment for larger performances.

"This concept performs the same function as the Splash and we have advice that there will be no additional cost."

The new concept includes landscaping over the stage and wings, with potential for grassed observation areas, picnic spots, play equipment and areas for artistic activation.

Further detailed design work can now commence.

Work on Stage 1 is scheduled to begin early in 2016, with completion by 2018.