

# Sydney Opera House Renewal

## Joan Sutherland Theatre

### THEATRE MACHINERY PROJECT

In 2015 the Opera House announced that it is self-funding a \$45 million Renewal project in the Joan Sutherland Theatre to replace equipment that has reached the end of its operational life, improving reliability, functionality and safety in the theatre. The NSW Government is investing a further \$26 million into additional works to improve the theatre's accessibility, acoustics and functionality.

#### The Theatre Machinery Project will:

- Replace outdated electric hoists and manual, counter-weighted fly lines with lightweight, electric powered winches, which are quieter, safer and more reliable;
- Replace the floor of the grid deck as part of a new, more flexible system of hoists that will provide a clear and open work area;
- Replace the existing rear stage lifts for greater reliability and flexibility;
- Replace fixed lighting bars with a flexible, centrally controlled system, allowing temporary rigging of sound and projection equipment;
- Install a new lighting portal bridge; and
- Relocate fire sprinklers and replace lighting dimmers.

*The theatre machinery upgrades will take place between May and December 2017.*

#### Accessibility, acoustic & safety upgrades:

A number of additional venue improvements have been confirmed, pending planning approvals:

- Upgrades to the orchestra pit and a state-of-the-art acoustic enhancement system;
- New passageway on the western side of the JST leading to a lift giving wheelchair access to all levels of the Foyers;
- Partial replacement of the auditorium lighting, a new sound console and follow spot room; and
- Six additional female toilets and one accessible bathroom in the Northern Foyer.

*These further works will start during the theatre closure, with completion expected by mid-2018.*

