

3rd March 2015**A NEW HOME FOR THE CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL**

Local Labor MP for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards, has announced that the Castlemaine State Festival will soon have a new home in the town's historic Railway Station Goods Shed.

The new headquarters for Victoria's longest running regional festival will include administrative offices and performance spaces in the heritage-listed building.

The State Festival, which has agreed in-principle to lease the redeveloped Goods Shed, had been seeking new premises that are large and open enough and have the potential for mixed uses.

The upgrade of the 150 year old Goods Shed will include repointing of the brickwork, construction of a new main entrance and stairs, a kitchenette and a new balustrade fence along the platform. Accessibility will also be improved with the construction of an accessible ramp and toilets.

A tender for the works is being managed by the building's owner, VicTrack, who are seeking qualified organisations to repair, restore and fit out the building for its intended use.

Tenders close on 11 March 2015, with works expected to commence in April and to be completed by mid-2015.

The Castlemaine State Festival will run from 13-22 March 2015. For more information and a full list of events, visit www.castlemainefestival.com.au.

Quotes attributable to Member for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards

"We're giving the Castlemaine Festival a new home, and the historic Goods Shed a new lease on life."

"The redeveloped Goods Shed will be a cultural hub for Castlemaine, showcasing the region's arts and cultural life."

"Today's announcement means the longest-running regional festival in Victoria has a bright future here in Castlemaine."

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