



# Media Release

## nbn and Sydney Festival to host regional pop-up events screening Bangarra Dance Theatre

### Initiative to support artists connect with new audiences and bring creative content to regional communities

20 January 2021

**nbn**, as Sydney Festival's first ever *Regional Partner*, is creating pop-up community events in five regional locations across Australia this year that will screen a recording of Bangarra Dance Theatre's performance *Spirit: a retrospective 2021*. The performance will premiere tonight at the 2021 Sydney Festival.

Performances are planned to be screened at community pop-up events over coming months<sup>1</sup> in:

- Bangalow and Batemans Bay in New South Wales
- Stradbroke Island in Queensland
- Ballarat in Victoria; and
- A location in the Northern Territory soon to be announced.

*Spirit: a retrospective 2021* celebrates the unbroken connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to the land and invites audiences to connect with stories and songlines from across the nation with a collection of work from across the Bangarra Dance Theatre's rich history.

**nbn** is actively engaged to help support the digital capability of regional Australia through a range of community initiatives and activities. These initial community pop-up events are part of a broader commitment to engage and collaborate with the arts sector to help develop innovative approaches for making use of retail broadband services over the nbn™ network. This will enable the delivery by internet providers and organisations such as the Sydney Festival of cultural content to new audiences across the country, including in regional and remote locations.

**NBN Co Chief Development Officer – Regional and Remote, Gavin Williams said:** “We are thrilled to be involved in this bold celebration of arts and culture as Sydney Festival's first ever Regional Partner. *Spirit: a retrospective 2021* showcases some of Australia's finest performers and hosting these pop-up community events provides an opportunity for regional Australians in Bangalow and Batemans Bay (NSW), Stradbroke Island (QLD), Ballarat (VIC) and a soon to be announced destination in the Northern Territory to experience one of the Sydney Festival's leading acts without needing to leave their home town. This partnership underpins **nbn's** support and commitment to Australia's creative sector and we look forward to helping to connect Australians in regional and rural areas



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with incredible creative content and cultural performances via their broadband services over the nbn™ network.”

**Sydney Festival Director, Wesley Enoch said:** "I'm excited that Sydney Festival is collaborating with **nbn** as they help take the Festival to parts of regional Australia. The performance of *Spirit* is an incredibly evocative work from one of our country's most renowned performing arts companies. For people in Bangalow, Batemans Bay, Stradbroke Island, Ballarat and a soon to be announced location in the Northern Territory to have access to a filmed performance of this extraordinary piece is something to be celebrated."

ENDS

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## Notes to editor:

1. Screening dates to be confirmed