

BUNDANON TRUST

23 November 2019

The Hon Paul Fletcher MP
Minister for Communications, Cyber Security and the Arts
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Please find following the Statement of Intent for Bundanon Trust for the period 2019 – 20. The document outlines our understanding of and commitment to your Ministerial Statement of Expectations dated 21 October 2019 and provides an overview of initiatives to be taken by the Trust to fulfill the expectations and priorities of Government.

The Trust will continue to act upon requests from the Government and the Parliament whilst complying with the legislative requirements of the Trust's Constitution, the *Commonwealth Authorities Act 1997*, the *Corporations Act 2001*, the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and the Trust's Funding Agreement 2020 – 2022. We are also pleased to be able to directly address two of your priorities in our programs and activities.

The Trust's commitment to growing the Indigenous art market is reflected in the opportunities we provide to Indigenous artists through our First Nations residencies, and our partnerships with Playwriting Australia, Mooghalin Performing Arts, Red Room Poetry, the Biennale of Sydney and the Sydney Festival to provide residencies and creative space to Indigenous artists and ensembles. Should our application to the Australia Council for four-year funding be successful, we will be significantly expanding our Indigenous programs. This commitment to Indigenous arts is complemented by our partnership with Mudjinggaalbaraga to maintain the cultural burning practices on our properties first instigated in 2018 by hosting Firesticks, the National Indigenous Fire Workshop.

All our programs and activities are geared towards the promotion of Australian stories and identity. Ninety five percent of our residencies are offered to Australian artists to develop new work and our concerts and events programs are one hundred percent Australian. Our new Gallery to be developed through the Masterplan will not only showcase the work of the Boyd family, but also the work of contemporary Australian artists. Our four-year funding application to the Australia Council projects a significant program of commissions and exhibitions. We will continue to tour our unique collection nationally and to display aspects of the collection on site within the context of the Boyd family home. Our current

touring exhibition *Landscape of the Soul* has already drawn a significant number of visitors in Sydney, Ipswich and Shepparton with venues in Cairns, Port Macquarie, Murwillumbah, Katoomba and Lake Macquarie also locked in over the coming years.

With the \$22M funding commitment made by the Australian Government in the 2019-20 Budget, we can realise the full Riversdale Masterplan. We are immensely grateful to you and the government for this support as well as the one-off grant of \$640,000 to attend to urgent capital needs. It will enable greater access to the Boyd collection and our pristine sites, the safe storage of the Trust's collection, expand our education and creative learning programs and ensure the future sustainability of the Trust.

The Board of the Trust is focused on the timely and on budget delivery of the Masterplan. We have a number of strong governance processes and structures in place to ensure this including our Audit and Risk Committee and our Project Control Group. The latter will include representatives from the State and Commonwealth Governments and has several Board members with construction and cultural infrastructure expertise. The Board has also scheduled extra meetings to discuss the progress of the project and how it will continue to deliver effective governance and risk management through the construction period. We have great confidence in our project managers, Capital Project Control and the team of consultants engaged to deliver the project. The Board and management of the Trust has considered minimising disruption to our operations and plan to continue to deliver both our education and residency programs on our Bundanon site during the period of construction. While our events program will be in abeyance, we will utilise this time to develop the new exhibitions and events programs for the re-opening of the Riversdale site. In the meantime, as already mentioned, our touring exhibition activity will continue.

The Trust's Board and Management are focussed on the necessary financial modelling and communications strategy to secure increased earned revenue through new business opportunities and partnerships. We are also seeking the support of the private sector to supplement capital and operational funds into the future. To this end, the Trust has recently appointed two very experienced senior managers into the roles of Chief Operating Officer and Development Manager. Further senior appointments are expected in 2020-21.

We continue our work in building awareness of the Bundanon collection and programs. Arthur Boyd's 100th Centenary in 2020, as well as public interest in the Masterplan, will be leveraged to this end. We will continue to develop innovative, high quality programs, both on and off our Shoalhaven sites, in the areas of residencies, collaborations as well as research and development in the science and environmental fields. We already have in place partnerships with National Trust properties across the country to offer composer residencies through our *Prelude* program, and we are a partner in the ARC CABAH project which brings artists and scientists together for unique collaborations.

We will maintain effective lines of communication between our staff and Ministerial and Departmental officers to ensure that the Department of Communications and the Arts (DoCA) and the Minister are informed in a timely manner of the Trust's activities, the progress of the Masterplan, any emerging issues, planning developments or significant events. As part of this we will continue to provide timely data on Bundanon's performance for national reporting and planning and fulfil the performance reporting requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

I trust that this Statement of Intent meets the requirements of the Government.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer M. Bott", with a large, stylized flourish on the left side.

Jennifer Bott AO
Chairman
Bundanon Trust