

# BUNDANON TRUST

14 October 2020

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 2020 – 21. The document outlines our understanding of and commitment to your Ministerial Statement of Expectations dated 27 August 2020 and provides an overview of initiatives to be taken by the Trust to fulfill the expectations and priorities of Government.

The Trust sincerely appreciates the support you have provided during the challenges of the past year. Without the financial assistance offered by the Australian Government, we would not have been able to relocate our collection to safe, industry standard, storage in Sydney until new facilities are completed as part of our Masterplan. The additional support provided to install an ember suppression system across the Bundanon site will ensure that the heritage buildings under our care, including Arthur's Studio and Homestead, are protected to our best ability through future fire events. Lastly, the government's financial support in the face of lost revenue streams and our inability to access Job Keeper, has meant that we can continue to run our Open Days, pivot to digital programs and plan for the opening of our new facilities in twelve months' time.

We are committed to contributing to recovery in the Shoalhaven and regional NSW after the devastating bushfires of last summer and COVID-19. In 2020-21 we will launch a digital program *We Need to Talk about Fire*, providing a platform for dialogue about fire across disciplines and communities, bringing together Indigenous Knowledge systems, community action, healing voices, scientific evidence and creative/artistic responses. This will be a series of commissioned films, community workshops and video conversations led by Wesley Enoch. Our Masterplan construction project, as well as capital improvements such as the ember suppression system mentioned above, is providing a much-needed economic stimulus into the region. As restrictions start to ease across Australia, our exhibition *Arthur Boyd: Landscape of the Soul* will continue its tour with confirmed dates in Western Australia and in regional NSW.

Our commitment to Indigenous culture is best expressed through our partnership with Mudjingaalbaraga to maintain cultural burning practices on our properties.

First instigated in 2018 by hosting *Firesticks*, the National Indigenous Fire Workshop, this partnership has continued with planning for future burns. We have also commenced cultural walks on our properties with local elders, and fully expect this activity to expand as we reopen our new facilities and grow the breadth of programs we offer. As noted, Wesley Enoch will be leading a series of fire-related conversations and we will continue to commission leading Indigenous artists such as r e a. Our partnership with Red Room Poetry in their program of Poetry in First Languages encompasses a series of ongoing residencies at Bundanon. We will continue to find opportunities to host residencies by companies such as Red Room Poetry, Mooghalin Performing Arts and the Ilbijerri Theatre Company. Of note are the goods and services being sourced from Indigenous suppliers and contractors through the Masterplan build. This commitment to Indigenous culture will be reinforced through a hoped-for appointment of an Indigenous member to our Board.

As COVID-19 restrictions begin to ease, we have already restarted on-site residencies at Bundanon. With the appointment of a new Head of Curatorial and Learning we are looking forward to collaboratively delivering a range of cultural programs in partnership with peers in our sector. Our recent partnerships with the Sydney Festival and the Biennale of Sydney provide us with benchmarks on how such collaborations can be delivered nationally and internationally. Our commitment to bringing the arts and sciences together is the focus of our partnership with the University of Wollongong and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage, which will see a range of Australian artists respond to the research work of scientists in this important project. The final phase of our partnership with National Trust properties across the country offers composer residencies through our *Prelude* program. Such programs and projects work towards positioning Bundanon as a leader in residencies and cross-disciplinary collaborations in Australia and across the southern hemisphere.

The Boyds' vision for Bundanon was always to make it accessible to all Australians. Our education programs provide access to Bundanon to all school children from across Australia, particularly the Adopt a School program that provides subsidised residencies for disadvantaged schools. Events such as *We Need to Talk about Fire* have social cohesion and inclusivity as one of their major aims, and, of course, once our new gallery is complete, the Boyd Collection will become accessible to all Australians. A new website, as well as a growing suite of digital programs, will make this collection, as well as the work of leading contemporary Australian artists, even easier to access.

The Board of the Trust has expanded with new appointments bringing fresh skills and experiences to the table. Several structures are in place to ensure strong governance and accountability, including our Audit, Risk and Remuneration, Development and Governance Committees and our Masterplan Project Control Group. We are focussed on the necessary financial modelling and communications strategy to secure increased earned revenue through new business opportunities and partnerships once the Masterplan is complete. In the coming year, our focus will be on reviewing the operating model and grant for the Trust, as well as ensuring the right Food and Beverage operations are in place for the Masterplan, and

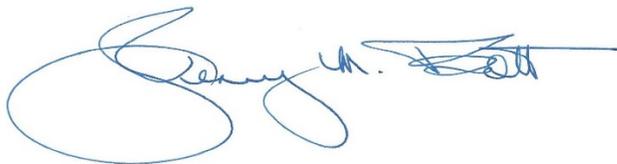
capitalising on regional tourism and small-scale conferencing opportunities, to maximise self-generated revenues. The recent appointment of a Development Manager and creation of a Development Committee will further advance our focus on philanthropic revenue. Established partnerships with KPMG Australia and Accor Australia have already seen significant pro-bono work in developing a new Risk Management Framework and industry input into the Food and Beverage framework for the Masterplan.

We will maintain effective lines of communication between our staff and Ministerial and Departmental officers to ensure that the Office for the Arts 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. We look forward to collaborating with the Office for the Arts on scoping shared storage facilities, strategic asset management plans as well as the proposed WH&S audit of national collecting institutions. 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*. 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.

With the \$22M funding commitment made by the Australian Government to our Masterplan, supplementing the \$8.5M from the NSW State Government, the full scope of the construction has started to take shape. We look forward to its completion in 2020-21 and to welcoming you, as well as Australians from all walks of life, to our new sites.

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 Bott', with a large, stylized initial 'J' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jennifer Bott AO  
Chairman  
Bundanon Trust