

BUNDANON TRUST

2 October 2018

Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield
Minister for the Arts
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Fifield

Please find following the Statement of Intent for Bundanon Trust.

The document outlines our understanding of and commitment to your Ministerial Statement of Expectations dated 17 September 2018 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 2016 – 2019.

We will build awareness of the Bundanon collection and programs and our celebrations to date of our 25th Anniversary have already assisted us in this objective. We will continue to deliver innovative, high quality arts education and public programs, both on and off our Shoalhaven sites. In tandem with this we will develop strategies to increase participation and provide access to Bundanon and Riversdale. This includes a residency program presenting opportunities for research and development across all art forms, as well as providing public access to artists' creative endeavours and Bundanon's significant environmental, architectural and cultural heritage through on-site programming strategies. These include performances, readings, workshops, seminars, conferences 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 Bundanon Local program will continue to enrich the lives of local disadvantaged school children as well as other specific communities of the area. Diversity is a pillar of our programming and recruitment strategies and we continue to engage with artists and employees from diverse backgrounds as well as present diverse work to the wider public.

With the first funding received from the NSW Government, we will commence planning for the building works for the Riversdale Master Plan to transform our Riversdale site. The Trust's Board and Management will focus on securing partners at all three levels of government, as well as through the private sector, to obtain the remainder of the funds needed. The Master Plan identifies the infrastructure needs to support Bundanon's education programs for the coming decades, as well as anticipating trends and opportunities specific to the Shoalhaven, such as a shortage of quality conference facilities and a need to build tourism opportunities beyond the beach. The plan meets the Trust's own objectives of creating a safe storage repository for our national collection and an appropriate place to display it, along with a need for more accommodation and better visitor services. The implementation of the plan would enable the Trust to open its doors to a far larger number of Australian audiences.

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 and of 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*.

Our commitment to the landscape we operate on is reflected in our continuing work in maintaining and returning it where possible to its native state. Ongoing work will continue in weed control, tree plantings and fauna protection and management, and we are developing new walking trails with appropriate signage. We will also continue to work with River Watch in protecting the banks of the Shoalhaven. We will partner with Nowra Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Rural Fire Service to reintroduce cultural burning on our properties which will assist with bush fire protection as well as enable the transmission of this practice within the local Indigenous community.

Cultural diplomacy grows as a part of Bundanon's program activity. Ongoing artists exchange programs have been established with France, the UK and African countries and we have commenced a new program with China. We anticipate growing our partnership with the French Embassy to expand this program to enable more French artists to be in residence.

Our work with the Nowra Aboriginal Land Council on cultural burning, with Indigenous school children in our education programs, our new First People's artists residency program, and our partnerships with Playwriting Australia and Mooghalin Performing Arts to provide residencies for Indigenous playwrights, addresses some of the aims of the Government's *Closing the Gap* initiative and align with the International Year of Indigenous Languages. We will seek opportunities to commemorate the James Cook 250 anniversary in ways that are appropriate to our region and that reflect our purpose.

We will build on our existing self-generated revenue streams which represent a significant proportion of the Trust's turnover (55% leveraged against DoCA's operating grant). The realisation of our Master Plan will provide us with enhanced opportunities to do this in the future. In the meantime, the Trust carefully balances its objectives to provide a sanctuary for artists, nationally and internationally; a creative learning environment for school students and an innovative, high quality, arts experience for audiences; alongside the purely commercial opportunities which exist for room hire, functions and accommodation bookings.

Our long-term relationship with the University of Wollongong delivers many mutual benefits and connects us deeply into the region's wider educational agendas. This year sees the expansion of this partnership with our participation in the ARC Centre for Excellence in Biodiversity and Heritage. We will continue to identify new partnerships across the business and community sectors to assist where possible. The Trust actively seeks funding from private sources, including trusts and foundations, and maintain close relationships with a number of key donors, actively seeking the engagement of new benefactors.

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 initial 'J'.

Jennifer Bott AO
Interim Chairman
Bundanon Trust