

STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR 2021-22

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

INTRODUCTION

This Statement of Intent provides the response of the Council of the Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM) to the Government's Statement of Expectations of 21 November 2021 in relation to the museum's role, relationship with government and strategic priorities.

AGENCY ROLE

The ANMM's purpose is increased knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of Australia's maritime heritage by managing the National Maritime Collection and staging programs, exhibitions and events.

The functions of the museum are set out in section 6 of the Australian National Maritime Museum Act 1990 (the Act), namely to:

- a) exhibit, or to make available for exhibition by others, in Australia or elsewhere, material included in the National Maritime Collection or maritime historical material that is otherwise in the possession of the Museum;
- b) co-operate with other institutions (whether public or private) in the exhibiting, or in the making available for exhibition, of such material;
- c) develop, preserve and maintain the National Maritime Collection;
- d) disseminate information relating to Australian maritime history and information relating to the Museum and its functions;
- e) conduct, arrange for and assist research into matters relating to Australian maritime history; and
- f) develop sponsorship, marketing and other commercial activities relating to the Museum's functions.

In essence, the ANMM is responsible for leading the promotion and conservation of Australia's maritime heritage and culture. This is done through developing and sharing its collections, knowledge and expertise; motivating learning through research, educational programs and products; supporting community participation to retain Australia's maritime heritage; and exploring contemporary issues of public interest and maritime relevance.

e museum administers one program – management of maritime heritage.

ANMM's Corporate Plan for 2021-24 sets out the museum's operating environment, how it will achieve its purpose, priorities, capability and risk oversight and management.

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT

The ANMM is a corporate Commonwealth entity and an agency within the Arts Portfolio. The Minister for the Arts is responsible for the administration of the Act.

The ANMM Council is accountable for ensuring the proper and efficient performance of the functions of the museum and, subject to any direction from the Minister, determining the affairs of the museum with respect to any matter. The Director of the museum manages the affairs of the museum subject to the directions of, and in accordance with policies determined by the Council.

Under section 14 of the Act, the Minister may, by notice in writing, give directions to the Council with respect to the performance of the functions, and exercise of powers of the museum. The Minister also has various specific powers under the Act.

The ANMM is one of the National Cultural Institutions contributing to national arts and cultural outcomes. In support of this function, the museum contributes data on the agency's performance to national planning and reporting.

ANMM's CONTRIBUTION TO GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN 2021-2022

1. Provide Leadership and foster collaboration within national and international museum sectors as they recover from the effects of COVID-19

In 2021-22, the ANMM will continue to provide leadership and foster collaboration within the museum sector as we recover from the effects of COVID-19, including by:

- Continuing to engage with the museum sector through organisations such as the Council of Australasian Museum Directors (CAMD).
- Continue leading the Australian Maritime Museums Council and Migration and Multicultural Museums Alliance.
- Continuing to advocate for targeted investment in maritime heritage held by regional and community museums.
- Continued representation at national and international seminars.
- Collaboration with the Office for the Arts and National Collecting Institutions.
- Supporting development of expertise on vessel conservation and interpretation in museums, exhibitions and at events around Australia through leadership of the Australian Register of Historic Vessels.
- Continuing engagement with national and international maritime archaeological programs, particularly working with the State of Rhode Island on the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project (RIMAP), as well as HMAS *Perth*, HMAS *AE1* and *AE2*.
- Promotion of marine science and national collaboration as the flagship museum venue for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

2. Contribute to Australian economic and cultural activity as restrictions ease, institutions reopen to the public and tourism resumes

In 2021-22, the ANMM will contribute to Australian economic and cultural activity as restrictions ease, institutions reopen to the public and tourism resumes, including by:

- Delivering a touring exhibition program across Australia including *One Ocean - Our Future*, *Sanyo Maru*, *Brickwrecks: sunken ships in Lego® Bricks* and *Sea Monsters*.
- Developing a site activation strategy that includes a range of activities and involvement in key cultural events, such as the Festival of Sydney, including *Acoustic life of boatsheds on Sydney Harbour*, *Sea of Light*, and *Lunar Sea*.
- Delivering a diverse range of outreach and tourism activities including sailings on replica vessels *Duyfken* and *HMB Endeavour* on and out of Sydney Harbour designed for differing audiences.

3. Support recovery in regional, remote and outer metropolitan areas through collection touring, exhibitions, and outreach activities

In 2021-22, the ANMM will support recovery in regional, remote and outer metropolitan areas through collection touring, exhibitions and outreach activities including:

- Continuing delivery of grants to support regional museums nationally through the Maritime Museums of Australia Project Support Scheme (MMA PSS) for collection, program and skills development nationally.
- Delivering touring exhibitions tailored for regional and remote areas including *One Ocean - Our Future*, *Sanyo Maru*, *Remarkable: Stories of Australians and their boats* and *Cazneaux-through a different lens*.
- In partnership with the Australian Maritime Museums Council, delivering support to small and regional museums throughout Australia, both through personnel, additional training resources and partnership exhibitions, including linking with community based maritime festivals around the nation.

4. Promote inclusion, diversity and social cohesion by providing greater opportunities for all Australians to access arts and culture, including through digital channels

In 2021-22, the ANMM will promote inclusion, diversity and social cohesion by providing greater opportunities for all Australians to access arts and culture, including through digital channels, including by:

- Increasing the development, sharing and engagement in digital content such as continued development of the *Deep Dive* website to provide access to maritime archaeology practices.
- Developing and implementing a digital first approach to the design of exhibitions and programs.
- Continuing migration related activities such as the unveiling ceremony for the National Monument to Migration.
- Developing the Museum's next Reconciliation Action Plan.

5. Continue to foster appreciation and understanding of Indigenous arts, culture and knowledge systems and contribute to a professional, viable and ethical Indigenous arts sector

In 2021-22, the ANMM will foster appreciation and understanding of Indigenous arts, culture and knowledge systems, and contribute to a professional, viable and ethical Indigenous arts sector, including by:

- Continuing development of Indigenous collections and programming.
- Launching the new permanent exhibition *Shaped by the Sea* and redevelopment of exhibition *Mariw Minaral* (spiritual patterns) for touring.
- Strengthening partnerships with Indigenous creative suppliers to support *Shaped by the Sea* and further commission material for use in both temporary and permanent display spaces.
- Providing assistance to Indigenous organisations seeking to communicate maritime and river related stories within a tourism context.

6. Engage in activities to enrich arts and cultural education at all levels

In 2021-22, the ANMM will engage in activities to enrich arts and cultural education at all levels, including by:

- Delivering curriculum aligned, onsite schools' programs to educate and inspire the next generation.
- Continuing to develop web-based learning initiatives focused on STEM based subjects, specifically marine science, combined with providing students with physical access to new technologies such as underwater drones.
- Continuing the development of the *Deep Dive* maritime archaeology website.

7. Maintain and strengthen the financial sustainability of the Museum by increasing own-source revenue, philanthropy and private-sector support

In 2021-22, the ANMM will maintain and strengthen the financial sustainability of the Museum by increasing own-source revenue, philanthropy and private-sector support, including by:

- Continuing rebuilding and implementation of a recovery strategy for the Museum's commercial activities including the launch of the new store.
- Growing onsite visitation revenue from the museum precinct and vessel activation.
- Continuing to reinvigorate and rebuild the museum's membership base in the context of the pandemic situation.
- Fostering sponsorship and philanthropic support for infrastructure, asset, collection and interpretive programs.