



THE HON SUSSAN LEY MP
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
THE HON PAUL FLETCHER MP
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS,
CYBER SAFETY AND THE ARTS



THE HON MATT KEAN MP
MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 14 February 2020

SCULPTURES TO COMMEMORATE THE MEETING OF TWO CULTURES AT KAMAY BOTANY BAY

Three commemorative bronze sculptures designed by Aboriginal artists have been chosen to mark the 250th anniversary of the first contact between the crew of HMB *Endeavour* and the Gweagal people on the shores of Botany Bay.

The installations will be erected at what is now Kamay Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell ahead of April 29 anniversary this year.

Minister for the Environment, Sussan Ley today announced that artists Julie Squires and Theresa Ardler's works '*Wi-Yanga and Gurung The Whales*' and the '*Nuwi/Canoes*' have been chosen along with Alison Page with Nik Lachaczak's '*Eyes of the Land and Water*'.

"We want all Australians to visit this culturally significant site, to help to interpret the many stories of this historic place and, more importantly, to understand its part in our shared story," Ms Ley said.

"The Kamay 2020 Project aims to present differing perspectives of the site, and to encourage respect as they visit the national park, which will receive a \$50million upgrade funded by the Commonwealth and State Governments."

NSW Minister for Energy and Environment Matt Kean said the NSW Government has committed \$25 million for planned works including new visitor amenities, transport, educational and other park infrastructure.

"Upgrades to the visitor centre and park infrastructure will ensure visitors to this important site can get a better appreciation of its significance as part of our shared history."

Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, Paul Fletcher, said the Kamay 2020 Project Board has selected works which include story-telling of both Aboriginal and European viewpoints of the arrival of the *Endeavour*.

“Art is a powerful tool for telling people’s stories and interpreting historical events, and we want these sculptures to promote understanding and reflection as people look back on the landing in 1770,” Minister Fletcher said.

“Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders had already been here for more than 60,000 years when the HMB Endeavour arrived. Marking the meeting place of the Gweagal people and the crew through this installation gives us an opportunity to come together as a nation to reflect on both sides of our shared history – from the ship and from the shore.”

The commemorative installations are based on concepts placed on public exhibition for community feedback in 2019. ThinkOTS will assist in installing *Wi-Yanga and Gurung The Whales* and ‘Nuwi/Canoes’ and UAP Australia the *‘Eyes of the Land and Water’*.

The installations are just one aspect of the larger Kamay 2020 Project which will support community education and interpretation programs, provide new ways to learn about and enjoy this historically important place, and deliver on the vision to make Kamay a place of significance to all Australians that contributes to the national identity.

“On 28 April 2018 it was announced that the Commonwealth and NSW governments would jointly fund the implementation of Stage 1 of the master plan works,” Minister Ley said.

“Stage 1 will include a new visitor centre, cafe and exhibition space, ferry wharves to re-establish the physical, social and cultural link between La Perouse and Kurnell, enhanced access around the site, restoration and repair of the historic Alpha House and conservation works to the 19th century Cook and other monuments.”

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is managing this project and will provide updates on the design and construction of the sculptures at the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service website.

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Kamay 2020 Project Board

Chaired by the Hon. Bruce Baird AM the Project Board was selected by the Commonwealth and NSW Governments to represent stakeholder interest in the project.

Other Board members are: Ms Julie Adams; Jason Ardler, Head of Aboriginal Affairs NSW; Mr Greg Holland; Chris Ingrey, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council; The Hon. Dr David Kemp, Chair of the Australian Heritage Council; Dillon Kombumerri, Principal Architect NSW Government Architect; The Hon Ben Morton MP, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet; Cr Carmello Pesce, Mayor Sutherland Shire Council; The Hon Mark Speakman MP, Member for Cronulla; The Hon. Robert Webster

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