



The Hon Tony Burke MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
Minister for Cyber Security
Minister for the Arts
Leader of the House

MS25-002624

Mr Simon Froude
Director-General
National Archives of Australia
GPO Box 4924
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Mr Froude

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Burke', written over the name 'Mr Froude'.

I am writing to set out my expectations of the National Archives of Australia (National Archives).

The National Collecting Institutions in the Arts portfolio play an important role in preserving and sharing Australia's collective history and cultural heritage in a manner consistent with the National Cultural Policy, *Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place (Revive)*. The National Archives makes a vital contribution to Australia's cultural life, as a leader in the archives sector and by providing Australians with access to the national archival collection.

I commend the National Archives for the role it is playing in helping to achieve *Revive*'s outcomes. This includes preserving, sharing and celebrating our nation's stories and voices, reflecting our diversity and creativity, supporting truth-telling for First Nations people, inspiring audiences to learn, imagine and create, and fostering international collaboration and cultural exchange. I ask that the National Archives continues to clearly reflect the aims of *Revive* in its Corporate Plan, and report against these aims in its Annual Reports.

My expectations are that the National Archives should:

- Assist in the delivery of *Revive*, including supporting actions to modernise the *Archives Act 1983* (Archives Act).
- Participate in the government's consultation on a new National Cultural Policy.
- Foster appreciation and understanding of First Nations arts, culture and knowledge systems in line with the principle that First Nations arts and culture are First Nations led.
- Work closely with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts and other parties, especially other National Collecting Institutions, to efficiently achieve the objectives of *Revive*.
- Provide strong leadership and collaboration within national and international archives and cultural sectors, including developing networks and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific.
- Ensure policies and procedures are in place to promote diversity, sustainability, reconciliation and inclusion.

- Ensure the National Archives has a current Disability Inclusion Action Plan to support greater equity, access and inclusion for d/Deaf and disabled artists and arts workers, and audiences with disability, in line with the government's *Equity: the Arts and Disability Associated Plan*.
- Provide greater opportunities for all Australians to access arts and culture, including through a diverse range of exhibitions, programs, events and digital offerings, and engage in activities to enrich arts and cultural education at all levels.
- Support and promote artists and arts and cultural workers, and ensure they are remunerated appropriately and able to work safely.
- Ensure those appointed to the National Archives Advisory Council (the Council) understand their obligations, including under the Archives Act and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, and that Council members and National Archives staff are aware of, and abide by, the requirements of the National Archive's social media policy.

Funding Commitment

The government made a landmark funding commitment to the National Collecting Institutions in the 2023-24 Budget to respond to legacy issues. The National Archives should have well developed plans for how best to use this additional funding to protect existing jobs, support ongoing and long-term financial sustainability, and better maintain facilities so it can continue to preserve and share Australia's collective history and cultural heritage. Importantly, this funding has supported the National Archives to retain staff, digitise at-risk and high priority records, increase digital storage capacity and maintain public-facing spaces in state and territory offices.

Capital works and additional reporting

I thank the Archives for its timely and thorough contributions to the biannual reporting process introduced from 2023-24 to raise awareness of forecast funding pressures and financial performance.

While decisions about the expenditure of available resources remain subject to Accountable Authority decisions, I expect the National Archives to prioritise the allocation of government funding across staffing, suppliers and asset replacement (where applicable) by need within the allocation. The National Archives should work to maximise own-source revenue through philanthropic and private sector opportunities. I trust the National Archives will continue to responsibly manage available resources to ensure that any future funding requests are limited to essential needs and are cost-effective.

This Statement of Expectations and your corresponding Statement of Intent form important components of your organisation's governance framework. As such, I expect both documents will be made publicly available. I am writing to all National Collecting Institutions in similar terms and have copied this letter to the Council's Chair.

I wish the National Archives every success in taking on these responsibilities.

Yours sincerely



TONY BURKE

4/11/2025

cc Ms Amanda Heyworth, Chair, National Archives of Australia Advisory Council