



Australian Government



Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area Advisory Committee Communique, September 2018

The Advisory Committee for the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA) recently met on island to discuss key projects for the site. The members of the Advisory Committee are Mr Duncan Evans, Mr David 'Dids' Evans, Mr Kevin Sumption, Ms Kristal Buckley and myself as Chair.

Getting people on the ground at KAVHA was a focus of discussions, and the Advisory Committee was pleased that additional resources have been provided to the Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) to boost the KAVHA maintenance crew under the Service Delivery Agreement. This includes a full time KAVHA Team Leader and getting the skilled tradespeople back on site and fully employed in the upkeep of KAVHA's buildings and grounds.

The Department is working to engage a new Commonwealth Heritage Manager as soon as possible, and is investigating options to cover the role in the short-term. The recruitment process for a new Contracts and Building Works Supervisor is complete. The Supervisor will drive and manage capital works projects at KAVHA in consultation with the Commonwealth Heritage Manager.

Protection of water quality within KAVHA and at Emily Bay is a high priority. The Advisory Committee recommended engagement with the Cattle Association to decide on the best approach for managing livestock movement at KAVHA to protect water quality. The Committee was also pleased to note that the Department is consulting with NIRC to replace septic tanks within the KAVHA site.

Improving community and visitor safety and access to key buildings is paramount, and the immediate focus is on protecting heritage buildings from damage, reducing the risk of falls and improving access for people with limited mobility. Actions supported by the Advisory Committee include the installation of low timber barriers similar to those already in place at KAVHA to guide vehicles and pedestrians, and identify parking areas at key locations such as the Pier area and Emily Bay.

Given the importance of the Pier area to both the local community and visitors to the site, the Advisory Committee has recommended the upgrading of the road surface between the Crankmill and the Surgeon's Quarters to improve community access to the Pier.

Focusing on Government House, a number of trees will be selectively removed at KAVHA to address safety concerns and protect heritage assets. The Advisory Committee also supports the carefully planned removal of reeds and weeds from the channels on the Kingston Common.

Local input and community engagement is important, and the Advisory Committee has recommended the establishment of a Community Advisory Committee to provide the community with greater involvement in decisions about the management and conservation of KAVHA. A similar model has worked well for the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority, with the Community Advisory Committee considered critical to informing the Board on local issues.

The Advisory Committee would like to thank Dr Jane Harrington of the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority for sharing her knowledge and expertise, and Mr Brian Prince for his dedicated service in the role of Commonwealth Heritage Manager.

The Advisory Committee will meet again on Norfolk Island in February 2019.

Mr Eric Hutchinson
Chair, KAVHA Advisory Committee
13 September 2018