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Point Nepean  
Community Trust

An Australian Government Initiative



Press Release 16 June 2006

## Commonwealth Increases Point Nepean Community Trust Funding

The Point Nepean Community Trust (PNCT) is delighted by the Federal Treasurer, the Hon. Peter Costello's announcement of \$27 million in additional Commonwealth Government funding.

The PNCT chairman, Mr Simon McKeon, said that the Commonwealth's significant financial support for the PNCT has ensured that Point Nepean will be preserved and managed for the benefit of all Australians.

The Commonwealth's simultaneous National Heritage Listing of Point Nepean strongly supports this additional investment, Mr McKeon said.

The additional funding will enable the PNCT to deliver on key Commonwealth commitments regarding community uses for the heritage buildings and natural environment at the 90 hectare Quarantine Station. They are to promote marine and coastal education, to encourage understanding of the area's Indigenous and European history and to provide respite care for disadvantaged children and their families.

Mr McKeon said works required to refurbish selected heritage buildings for the Australian Maritime College's National Centre for Marine and Coastal Conservation (NCMCC) will proceed and in ways that provide opportunities for other members of the community to use these valuable resources. This will allow the AMC to establish a world-class centre for marine research and policy and to fulfil its vision of becoming an international leader in multi-disciplinary research and higher education seeking solutions to current and future issues.

The additional funding will enable the PNCT to deliver on the future vision for the site with a variety of works that open it up for use by the Australian public and facilitate transfer of the Quarantine Station to the State Government for integration into the Point Nepean National Park by mid June 2009. These include works to the grounds, a Quarantine Station Museum, a heritage library and archive, a Boonwurrung integrated cultural heritage centre and facilities for conferences, meetings, accommodation and dining.

Master planning will now commence to determine the location of facilities and infrastructure leading to an expression of interest process for suppliers and operators. The additional Commonwealth funds will also be used to fund environmental and coastal protection works and to enable vital infrastructure works for improving public access, amenities and safety.

All outcomes will ensure the preservation and sustainability of the natural, historic and built environments and improve community access to the Quarantine Station for the benefit of all Australians, Mr McKeon said.

“By acknowledging its commitment to the site with this generous \$27 million allocation, the Commonwealth has set the Quarantine Station on a sound economic, social and environmentally sustainable footing,” he said.

“Now the Quarantine Station with its rich mix of heritage buildings, environmental and cultural values can begin to realise its potential as a national and possibly international heritage icon.

“I want to thank the CEO of the PNCT, Mr Alan Studley, his executive team and our Trustees who worked hard on the funding proposal and business case which achieved this outcome. The support of the Federal Member for Flinders, Mr Greg Hunt was invaluable. Thanks are due also to the community for its involvement in the management planning process and help in determining policies for the future, which helped clarify the PNCT’s need for increased funding to achieve them.

In late December 2005, a shared planning team of PNCT and Parks Victoria staff submitted a Draft Management Plan for the proposed integrated Point Nepean National Park for relevant Government approvals. This will now be amended to incorporate requirements for the National Heritage Listed values before release to the public in early July for public consultation and comment.

The PNCT will hold a **series of community information briefings at the Quarantine Station in July** on implications of the NHL and additional \$27 million Commonwealth funding. **All interested parties are welcome.** For details of dates and times refer to Events at [www.pointnepean.org](http://www.pointnepean.org)

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