

Media Release

21 June 2022

Australian immersive multimedia installation *Walking through a Songline* opens at the National Art Gallery of Malaysia (Balai Seni Negara)

Walking through a Songline is a pop-up light installation in which visitors can immerse themselves in ancient knowledge communicated through new technology.

This dramatic digital experience is based on a component of the National Museum of Australia's internationally acclaimed exhibition *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters*, which takes visitors on a journey along the epic Seven Sisters Dreaming tracks.

Walking through a Songline, produced by the National Museum in partnership with Mosster Studio, has the ongoing support of the traditional Aboriginal custodians and knowledge holders of this story. The exhibition is supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as part of its flagship public diplomacy initiative, *Australia now*.

Margo Neale, Senior Indigenous Curator and Head of Indigenous Knowledges at the National Museum, said, "We need to remind the world that, although this story has ancient origins, it has critical contemporary relevance and uses contemporary technology as well as more conventional art forms."

Angela Hernandez, director of Mosster Studio, said "*Walking through a Songline* is a transformative experience that gives visitors the sensation of walking through songlines themselves."

Dr Justin Lee, Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, said "We are delighted that Malaysians will be the first international audience to experience the pop-up version of this digital installation."

"Viewers can immerse themselves in the stories, ancient knowledge and artistic ingenuity of the First Australians and gain an appreciation for their unique relationship to the land", said Dr Lee.

"We are pleased to collaborate with the National Museum of Australia to present *Walking Through a Songline*, an exhibition which celebrates Australian Indigenous arts, culture, and creativity. The National Art Gallery looks forward to partner various regional institutions to facilitate creative investigation of local wisdom and preserve our shared material and cultural history", said Mr. Amerrudin Ahmad, Director-General of the National Art Gallery.



Australia now Malaysia was launched in mid-2021 and has showcased the best of Australian innovation, diversity and creative excellence. The program has also included a culinary tv series starring Adam Liaw and Poh Ling Yeow, and a light installation on the Australian High Commission building in central KL

Lynas Rare Earths, Tourism Australia, Epson, the City of Greater Bendigo, the Western Australian and New South Wales governments, BlueScope, and Meat and Livestock Australia are sponsors of the program.

Walking through a Songline will show at the National Art Gallery of Malaysia from 21 June 2022 until 11 September 2022.

Media Contacts:

National Museum of Australia

Diana Streak – +61 409 888 976 or media@nma.gov.au

Australian High Commission

Shahidah Syed – 012 686 0147 or Shahidah.syed@dfat.gov.au

National Art Gallery

Sarifah Abu Bakar Ebau - +60 16 494 7921 or sarifah@artgallery.gov.my

Wan Nor Hidayah Wan Idris - +60 17 987 3303 or hidayah@artgallery.gov.my