

**OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION *SONGLINES: TRACKING THE SEVEN SISTERS*  
CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF GERMAN-AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS****QUOTES****16.06.2022****Margo Neale, Senior Indigenous Curator, National Museum of Australia:**

“This grand drama of intrigue, mystery and beauty encompasses the passion and danger of creation, desire, love, flight and survival, and like all such narratives retains its relevance and universality. The lessons imparted continue to have critical contemporary relevance to movements such as the Black Lives Matter, Me-Too and other environment and climate concerns. Australian Aboriginal people managed this continent sustainably for 60,000 plus years. Yet in only 250 years since the arrival of the British, it is in dire straits. How? The answers lie in the Songlines.”

**Chris Cannan, First Assistant Secretary, Europe and Latin America Division,**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade:** “Australia greatly values its deep and enduring relationship with Germany and I am delighted that we are celebrating our 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Our two countries have forged a close partnership through strong shared values underpinned by close people-to-people and cultural links. The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s collaboration with the National Museum of Australia and other institutions enables us to tour Indigenous art around the world and promote Australia as an innovative and creative nation. We are delighted to once again partner with the National Museum to share the exhibition *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters* with our German friends.”

**Martin Thümmel, Acting Director-General for Asia & the Pacific, German Federal Foreign Office:**

“I am delighted that one of the most impressive creation mythologies of the Australian continent has been brought to life in this immersive experience, and can now be enjoyed in Berlin. Hosting the award-winning exhibition *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters* at the Humboldt Forum is a celebration of our profound friendship on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of German-Australian diplomatic relations. We have very close ties, despite the great distance between us. Australia is a key partner for us in the Indo-Pacific and a close ally in our commitment to rule-based international order, democracy and human

rights. We are working together as strategic partners to tackle global challenges such as climate protection.”

**Mathew Trinca, Director of the National Museum of Australia:**

“This is a momentous occasion for the National Museum of Australia and our award-winning exhibition, *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters* —one of the first major international shows to be displayed at the Humboldt Forum in Berlin. We are immensely proud to be sharing the foundational Australian stories with German audiences, who I know will be as captivated by this award-winning show as Australian audiences were, when the exhibition showed in Canberra. It is fitting that *Songlines* is on display in Berlin’s newest cultural centre in 2022, as we celebrate 70 years of Australian – German relations.”

**Hartmut Dorgerloh, General Director of the Humboldt Forum:**

“It gives us great pleasure to host *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters* at the Humboldt Forum in the 70th anniversary year of diplomatic relations between Australia and Germany. The exhibition presents an extraordinary encounter with the art and cultures of Indigenous communities at the Humboldt Forum. Hence, this programme is an important contribution to presenting this new site of international polyphony, transdisciplinarity and experiential knowledge to a broad audience.”

**Philip Green, Australian Ambassador to Germany:**

“I am delighted to support the opening of *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters* at the Humboldt Forum. This landmark exhibition from the National Museum of Australia truly is one of a kind: Indigenous Australian artists create the unique opportunity for us to submerge ourselves in the art, vibrant stories and ancient history of their communities and to learn and reflect. A fantastic experience that reflects Australia’s contemporary Indigenous excellence right here in the heart of Berlin.”

**Thomas Fitschen, German Ambassador to Australia:**

“For the German Embassy in Canberra, the opening of this mesmerizing exhibition *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters* in the Humboldt Forum about the foundation story of the Australian continent is the cultural highlight of this year’s celebration of 70 years of German-Australian diplomatic relations. The fact that *Songlines* is literally accessible across space and time in Berlin now, reflects our close bonds of friendship with Australia

and our deep respect for its ancient indigenous culture that stretches back more than 60000 years."