

Release of overseas travel information

Visit: Lord Howe Island

Dates: 6, 7 and 8 August 2016

The portfolios to which the trip relate

Environment

The destinations visited

Lord Howe Island

The dates of travel

6–8 August 2016

The number of persons who accompanied the Minister, including Ministerial advisers, agency staff and, in accordance with relevant guidelines, family members

Lydia Robertson, Policy Advisor.

The total cost of airfares and accommodation

Total cost \$4698.86

The total cost of other expenses (including travel allowances)

Total cost \$229.80

A detailed description of the purpose and benefits of the travel to the State of New South Wales

During my first visit to Lord Howe Island as Minister responsible for the *Lord Howe Island Act 1953*, I met with a wide range of community and business groups and members of the Lord Howe Island Board. In doing so, I was able to assess progress on key governance, financial, environmental and community amenity issues of concern to Islanders.

Meetings were held with Lord Howe Island Board members and staff to discuss progress on issues including:

- major projects
- infrastructure projects
- planning and land administration issues
- rodent eradication program
- weed program
- cultural and natural history issues
- environmental issues
- world heritage and permanent park preserve
- tourism issues.

I met with two key stakeholders in the tourism industry: Lord Howe Island Environmental Tours and the Lord Howe Island Tourism Association. During these meetings we discussed their concerns and opportunities to develop tourism on the Island.

I also met extensively with the Lord Howe Island Board and discussed a number of major projects that have the potential to have a significant impact on the Island's environment and amenity. These

projects include the implementation of a renewable energy scheme designed to reduce the Island's dependence on diesel fuel, and a rodent eradication program.

I was also delighted to attend an 'Open house' at the community hall where I met members of the Lord Howe Island community including key stakeholders. I was particularly interested in the issues raised at this forum, including: the proposed method of rodent eradication, progress with the renewable energy program and the newly upgraded airport runway, and land allocation matters.

My detailed itinerary is attached for reference.

Mark Speakman SC MP

Minister for the Environment

Lord Howe Island

Ministerial visit: 6–8 August 2016

6 August 2016

- 11.10 Depart Sydney for Lord Howe Island
- 13.35 Arrive Lord Howe Island and transfer to accommodation (Earl's Anchorage) by Penny Holloway, CEO, Lord Howe Island Board
- 14.00 Tour of Island and discuss major projects, infrastructure projects and planning and administration issues with Penny Holloway, and James Lonergran (A/Manager, Environment and Community Services) and Andrew Logan (Manager, Infrastructure and Engineering)
- 16.30 Briefing on rodent eradication program by Barney Nichols (Board member) and Andrew Walsh (Manager, LHI Rodent Eradication Program)
- 17.00 Return to accommodation
- 18.15 BBQ dinner at 'Government House' with Penny Holloway, senior board staff and local board members and spouses

7 August 2016

- 09.30 Walk to Transit Hill and briefing on the weed program by Sue Bower (Flora Management Coordinator)
- 10.30 'Open House' at the community hall – meet and greet with the community and stakeholders
- 12.45 Lunch at The Coral Café including briefing on cultural and natural history issues with the Chair and members of the Museum Committee
- 14.00 Lagoon boat trip / trip to North Bay including briefing on environmental issues, world heritage and permanent park preserve with Hank Bower (Manager, World Heritage), Dave Kelly (Manager, ECB), and Dean Hiscox (LHI Environmental Tours)
- 16.30 Return to accommodation
- 18.30 Dinner with the Lord Howe Island Board Chair and board members at Anchorage Restaurant

8 August 2016

- 08.30 Briefing on tourism issues with members of the Lord Howe Island Tourism Association including Lauren Douglas (Executive Officer), Andrew Young (Chair) and Gai Wilson (Committee Member)
- 10.00 Attend the Lord Howe Island Board meeting
- 12.30 Lunch with board members
- 13.30 Depart for airport
- 14.45 Depart from Lord Howe Island
- 16.25 Arrive Sydney