



Funding for the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway

This initiative provides an additional \$409,000 in grant funding over the forward estimates to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway (KTMW) in Sydney to enable the continued operation of this important Second World War commemorative site. This measure will meet the Government's commitment to KTMW with \$186,000 in 2022-23 and up to \$186,000 per year for the next 3 years thereafter to support their operations, more than doubling the funding for KTMW in the March Budget.

The funding will be provided through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts' grant program, Local Community, Sport and Infrastructure Projects.

Why is this important?

The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway is a site of commemoration of those Australian service personnel who fought in the Second World War, with a specific focus on those who fought along the Kokoda Track. 2022 marks the 80th anniversary of the start of the Kokoda campaign, a touchstone for the Australian understanding of our nation's experiences in the Second World War. As at the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in August 2021, there were some 12,000 Australian Second World War veterans still living.

The Walkway is of great significance to local Second World War veterans and its managing Board is unable to fully resource its operations via traditional fundraising opportunities, which have been limited by COVID-19 impacts over 2020 and 2021. Without funding support, the Walkway may be unable to continue to run its services and events for the community at the same level, or be maintained to the current standard.

This measure will meet the Government's commitment to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway with \$186,000 in 2022-23 and up to \$186,000 per year for the next three years thereafter to support their operations, more than doubling the funding for KTMW in the Budget March 2022-23. This is one way the Government demonstrates its acknowledgement of Second World War service personnel.

Who will benefit?

Veterans of the Second World War and their families and descendants will benefit from the continued acknowledgment of their service. School students and community members in the Sydney region will have access to the Walkway's reflection spaces and educational opportunities.

Date of effect?

1 July 2023.



How much will this cost?

\$409,000 over four years in direct grant funding to the Walkway. Total commitment to KTMW is \$186,000 in 2022-23 and up to \$186,000 per year for the next three years thereafter.