

Submission Number	Submission Categories	Permission to publish
1	Architectural Community	Y
2	Architectural Community	Y
3	General Public	Y
4	General Public	
5	General Public	
6	General Public	
7	Descendant	Y
8	General Public	Dept. only
9	Veterans Community	Y
10	General Public	
11	General Public	Y
12	General Public	Y
13	Descendant	Y
14	Descendant	
15	General Public	Y
16	General Public	
17	General Public	
18	General Public	Y
19	General Public	Y
20	Descendant	Y
21	Descendant	
22	General Public	
23	General Public	
24	Descendant	Y
25	General Public	Y
26	General Public	
27	Descendant	Dept. only
28	General Public	
29	General Public	Y
30	General Public	
31	General Public	Y

Submission Number	Submission Categories	Permission to publish
32	General Public	
33	Architectural Community	
34	Architectural Community	Y
35	Veterans Community	Y
36	Community Interest Groups	Y
37	General Public	
38	General Public	Y
39	General Public	
40	General Public	Y
41	Veterans Community	
42	Community Interest Groups	Y
43	General Public	Y
44	Descendant	Y
45	Veterans Community	Y
46	General Public	
47	General Public	
48	General Public	Y
49	General Public	
50	General Public	
51	General Public	
52	General Public	
53	General Public	
54	General Public	
55	General Public	
56	General Public	Y
57	General Public	Y
58	General Public	Y
59	General Public	Y
60	General Public	Y
61	General Public	Y
62	General Public	Y

Submission Number	Submission Categories	Permission to publish
63	General Public	
64	General Public	Y
65	Descendant	Y
66	General Public	Y
67	General Public	
68	General Public	
69	Descendant	Y
70	General Public	Y
71	Community Interest Groups	Y
72	Veterans Community	Dept. only
73	General Public	Y
74	General Public	Y
75	Descendant	Y
76	General Public	
77	Veterans Community	Y
78	General Public	Y
79	General Public	
80	General Public	Y
81	Veterans Community	Y
82	Veterans Community	Y
83	General Public	
84	Descendant	
85	General Public	
86	General Public	Y
87	Veterans Community	Y
88	Veterans Community	Y
89	Veterans Community	Y
90	General Public	
91	General Public	Y
92	Veterans Community	
93	Veterans Community	Y

Submission Number	Submission Categories	Permission to publish
94	Veterans Community	
95	Veterans Community	Dept. only
96	Veterans Community	
97	General Public	Y
98	Veterans Community	Y
99	General Public	
100	Veterans Community	
101	General Public	Y
102	General Public	Y
103	Architectural Community	Y
104	Veterans Community	Y
105	Veterans Community	Y
106	Veterans Community	Y
107	Descendant	Y
108	Veterans Community	Y
109	Veterans Community	
110	Veterans Community	Y
111	General Public	Y
112	General Public	
113	Veterans Community	Y
114	Descendant	Y
115	Veterans Community	Y
116	Veterans Community	
117	General Public	Y
118	General Public	Y
119	General Public	Y
120	veterans Community	Dept. only
121	General Public	Y
122	Veterans Community	
123	General Public	
124	Veterans Community	Y

Submission Number	Submission Categories	Permission to publish
125	Architectural Community	Y
126	Veterans Community	
127	Community Interest Groups	Y
128	General Public	Y
129	Veterans Community	
130	Veterans Community	Y
131	Veterans Community	Y
132	Veterans Community	
133	Veterans Community	
134	Veterans Community	Y
135	Descendant	Dept. only
136	General Public	
137	Architectural Community	Y
138	Architectural Community	
139	Descendant	Y
140	Veterans Community	Y
141	Veterans Community	
142	General Public	Y
143	Community Interest Groups	Y
144	Community Interest Groups	Y
145	General Public	Dept. only
146	Veterans Community	Y
147	Descendant	Y
148	General Public	Y
149	General Public	Y
150	General Public	Y
151	Architectural Community	
152	Government	Y
153	Architectural Community	Y
154	General Public	
155	Veterans Community	Y

Submission Number	Submission Categories	Permission to publish
156	General Public	
157	Descendant	Y
158	Contemporary Defence Family	Y
159	Contemporary Defence Family	
160	Veterans Community	Dept. only
161	Descendant	
162	General Public	
163	General Public	
164	General Public	
165	Government	Dept. only
166	Veterans Community	Y
167	General Public	

From: [Redacted]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: RE: AWM EPBC Preliminary Documentation

AWM Development Project - EPBC
Public Comment
001 Submission [Redacted]

Sent: Thu 2/07/2020 12:01 PM

Dear Australian War Memorial Development Project Team

I object to the proposed development :

1. The development requires demolition of Anzac Hall - a significant, award-winning building which respects the heritage values of the Memorial by allowing it to retain its dominance.
2. The AWM is a Memorial to those who gave their life for our country. The proposed development appears to be driven by a need to turn it into a tourist attraction.
The significant increase in size will not, in my view, enhance its primary role as a Memorial. It will do the opposite.
3. The proposed development uncomfortably abuts the northern end of the Memorial. It provides it no breathing space, detracts from its heritage prominence, and totally subsumes it.
It is an inappropriate development from a heritage point of view.
4. Demolition of Anzac Hall represents enormous environmental waste.
It is less than 20 years old, was probably designed with a minimum 100-year life span in mind, and is presumably still in good condition. How did the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Memorial Council apparently get it so wrong only 20-odd years ago?
5. In summary, the demolition of Anzac Hall represents a complete, inexcusable, and unjustifiable waste of taxpayer money.

Australia is about to be hit with a severe economic downturn as a result of COVID-19.
The Australian Government, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Memorial Council need to take better care of taxpayer resources and cancel the project.

With thanks



From: Hugh Gill [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: AWM EPBC Preliminary Documentation

Dear Matt Anderson,

I have read the EPBC Preliminary Documentation and wish to provide the following feedback:

I wish to register my strong opposition to the redevelopment plans. As a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects I am steadfastly opposed to the demolition of Anzac Hall which is a fit-for-purpose, award winning building and is only eighteen years young. It also holds the memories of all those who have visited the building. It won the Sir Zelman Cowen Award for Public Architecture in 2005. A public inquiry is needed to stop the demolition of Anzac House as your current committee appear hell-bent on pursuing this course of action.

Regards

Hugh Gill [REDACTED]



From: Terence Clarke [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Proposed development

Sent: Fri 3/07/2020 8:51 AM

Dear Sir/Madam,
I strongly oppose this project.

1) it is unnecessary. It replaces something not very old that does not need replacing.

2) it is hugely expensive. At a time when the finances of the Federal Government are sorely pressed by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, without sign of a let-up, together with the recently announced huge increase in Defence spending, occasioned by the growing threat of China, the expense is hard to justify. Indeed, I cannot see what case can be made for it.

I am,
Yours,
Terence John Osborne Clarke AM



From: John Boughton [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Future development at AWM

Sent: Fri 3/07/2020 12:44 PM



Dear Sir,

It is with much dismay that I read of further expansion of the War Memorial in Canberra.

While it is probably one of the best of memorials of its type (I have visited many in US/UK,France/Singapore/Vietnam) why do we need to continue to memorialise war when we already have enough Memorials all over the country.

As one who's father's brother died in a POW camp in Japan in WW2 and who's mother's uncle died Gallipoli, our family has experience the tragedy of war. My own father fought in New Guinea but could never front an Anzac service as his view it was glorifying war.

I have attended Australian memorials in Singapore, France, and Gallipoli and feel we have more than enough memorials to our fallen.

These funds should go towards our veterans where the suicide rate is well above the national average.

This whole extension appears to be a collection of ego's rather than respect for the fallen

Lets use the funds where it can deliver the best benefit for our returned soldiers and their families.

Sincerely

John Boughton
[REDACTED]

From: Bruce [REDACTED] Cameron [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc: pwc@aph.gov.au
Subject: AWM EPBC Submission: Comment

Sent: Fri 3/07/2020 2:27 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the AWM's redevelopment plans. I have read through the EPBC submission and offer the following comments for consideration:

It's to be expected that the most important element of the submission is the need for the project (everything else is subordinate to this). Four key reasons are given. These are:

"a. a lack of capacity to provide equitable coverage of conflicts and operations;

b. a lack of capacity to describe a broader description of war;

c. a lack of circulation space; and

d. poor accessibility and access."

Only reasons a and b relate to the need to increase the present size of the display facilities.

The need to '*describe a broader description of war*' is interesting. The submission explains that this need is meet "*the deep community interest in understanding more diverse contexts of war such as the efforts made by the Australian Defence Force and other agencies to avoid war*". This does not appear to be one of the purposes of the AWM, as described in the submission:

"In 1952 the role of the Memorial was further expanded, adapting to include commemorating and telling the story of Australia's national experience in all wars, regional conflicts, international peacekeeping and humanitarian operations as these commitments have continued through time. The Memorial's purpose remains the same today, as it has since its inception in the fields of France in 1916, and yet it continues to grow in significance with each new generation of Australian servicemen and servicewomen."

It is hard to understand how the need to explain the *diverse contexts of war* justifies the expansion of the AWM's display area. This is described as a need generated by "*deep community interest*", however, there are no examples provided of the community's feedback to the AWM in this respect.

One might expect that as the number of conflicts increases, so does the AWM's need for area in which to commemorate those who served. It's my belief that, for many people, this is the principle justification for expansion of the AWM. Yet there are only three comments provided from a survey conducted of visitors to this effect (Annex D).

I've previously asked how the AWM intends to display exhibits in the new galleries that are planned. I was advised that this aspect will be considered later in the project. It seems to me that this is something of the 'cart before the horse'.

I am a veteran and a supporter of the AWM's commemoration of the service and sacrifice of veterans from all conflicts. I find it hard to understand, however, how expansion can be justified without an outline of the changes proposed in terms of the display galleries and the conceptual planning to this end.

Bruce Cameron [REDACTED]

AWM Development Project - EPBC Public
Comment
011 Submission - MCCARTNEY

From: Mike McCartney [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Development Project - Feedback

Sent: Fri 3/07/2020 6:46 PM

The proposed project development of the AWM is commendable and should proceed.

- Our nation has grown and the AWM must grow with it;
- Our young people continue to be taught the price of our national sovereignty whether it be protecting our nation, other nation states to defend themselves, provide peacekeeping in times of trouble, or providing aide in times of distress; and
- We should be proud, despite the knockers, that our national institutions continue to reflect our values.

Mike McCartney
[REDACTED]

AWM Development Project - Public

Comment

012 Submission - [REDACTED]

From:

Sent: Sat 4/07/2020 8:28 AM

To: Development

Cc:

Subject: No to expansion

Dear Sir / Madam

the memorial is already a great place to visit. Far better to put the money to our actual defence or the enormous public debt covid 19 has created.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

AWM Development Project - EPBC Public
Comment
013 Submission - [REDACTED]

Sent: Sat 4/07/2020 10:21 AM

From: [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Australian War Memorial Development

I wish to express my objection to the Governments proposed development at the Australian War Memorial site, and the large amounts proposed to fund this project..

Over the years there has been considerable change at the war museum, which has made it a national icon, and a wonderful place to visit. My forefathers fought for Australia's freedom in both world wars, and their names adorn the wall of honour, one in particular is my uncle who I was named after, and died as a P.O.W. in Yokohama Japan, who has his name recorded in the national archives of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

I'm sure I speak for them in rejecting these latest plans at a time our country's people, and the overall economy urgently need the government to divest these taxpayer funds in more essential and pressing needs, or to preserve these substantial monies as part of a critical buffer to assist the country emerge more successfully from this crisis we now face.

I trust that smarter minds in government will see this as a futile exercise, and abandon this plan for the time being, and perhaps revisit when our economy can better afford this type of expenditure outlay.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Max Bourke [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Proposed developments a comment.

Sent: Sat 4/07/2020 4:15 PM

Please do not do this.

- 1 The AWM is a beautiful and quite adequate facility. I have known this building for almost 70 years.
2. This is just hubris from now on far beyond commemoration.
3. The funds would be far better deployed on assisting Australian veterans.
4. At a time like this the Council and Staff should be ashamed of themselves for pushing this project.

Max Bourke AM

AWM Development Project - EPBC Public
Comment
018 Submission - [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: AWM Development Project feedback

Sent: Mon 6/07/2020 2:06 PM

Hello,

I am a regular visitor to the AWM. In recent decades the visits have been to use the Research Centre, but I always take the time to look through the galleries.

I would like to add my opinion to the debate about the extensions to the AWM.

I do not believe the project is necessary. The AWM is not intended to be a theme park. It is intended to engender thoughtful and respectful consideration of the impact of war, particularly among young Australians.

The current buildings do a good job of this, and can continue to do so far into the future.

While representation of recent and current conflicts is important, this extension would lead to quite an imbalance that favours recent wars over those in the past.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Submission to oppose the \$500m expansion of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra

A war memorial is a place for reflection on human lives lost in combat.

It is not

a museum of artefacts of war: guns, tanks, helicopters, planes and missiles.

nor

a celebration of technological changes to facilitate the attack and killing of other humans.

If the Memorial Board wish to help veterans and provide a 'therapeutic milieu' then they should leave the space as it was originally designed, uncluttered and open for whatever memories may surface, rather than provoking reaction thorough an increased display of these objects.

The existing Heritage-listed building needs no further embellishment.

It should not become a monument with the implications of glory and celebration of battle.

Its setting and outlook across Lake Burley Griffin are in themselves an inspiration for quiet reflection.

This is what a memorial is.

Please Remember

[REDACTED]

6 July 2020

Elizabeth Evatt AC



6 July 2020

Australian War Memorial Development Project Team
GPO Box 345
Canberra ACT 2601

Submission on the AWM Development Project

Like many Australians I have family members from earlier generations whose lives and service are commemorated at the AWM. I have visited the AWM a number of times. I have visited family graves in French war cemeteries, and I was proud to be a passenger on the Qantas flight which brought the unknown soldier home to Australia.

I am making this submission as I am concerned that the proposed development will undermine the purpose of the AWM as I see it, namely to honour and commemorate the service of so many Australian men and women. The focus of the AWM should, in my view, remain with those people who have served our country and not on the weapons and machinery of war. In that regard, I was dismayed to see so much of the proposed additions to the AWM being assigned to the paraphernalia of the military.

I am extremely concerned about the size of the proposed expansion, which will detract from the essence of the AWM as a memorial. Another concern is that it will result in the demolition of the ANZAC Hall which was a carefully designed addition completed not so long ago. To destroy it is nothing short of vandalism.

I hope that the project will be reconsidered; the AWM should not become just a museum of war.

There are many who have called for better support for veterans suffering from mental illness. As long as resources are not allocated to provide effective support for veterans, it would be wrong to allocate resources to carry out an unnecessary expansion of the AWM.

Thank you for receiving this submission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Evatt'.

Elizabeth Evatt AC

From:

To: Development

Cc:

Subject: Your project. CC AWM Director.

Dear Project Team and the AWM Director - please forward.

I write to oppose this development. The ideal of these memorials was to say "Never Again". But this AWM proposal aims in the opposite direction, and has much extra funding from manufacturers of unspeakable weapons of offence. The Memorials should aim for historical accuracy about the suffering and the pointlessness.

Let's take the wars in the Sydney region and Gallipoli

After the British Invasion, the UK forces lost terribly, especially in the early Sydney wars, also in the early Armidale region. Per capita, the losses were the same as the Battle of the Somme. British soldiers only had flint-lock guns, slow to load, whereas spears were far more effective weapons. The British never spent the inordinate sums subduing the Indigenous peoples anywhere else in the Pacific except for Australia. It was too expensive; treaties were cheaper.

This war and the many others in Australia deserve a prominent place in the AWM. This is refused by the AWM and "others". One can only assume the AWM represents white supremacy. It is obviously blind to history.

Gallipoli was a disaster. Churchill devised this, and the terrible Greek campaign in WW2 too. Gallipoli represents the Australian white dependency-supremacy in always siding with Britain and now the USA. Except for the turn away from Britain under the horrors of Britain's collapse and loss of Singapore. John Curtin had to turn to the USA then; not that this was easy. General Macarthur was another cracked war-planner like Churchill. His schemes were dreadful - does anyone at the AWM know of the dumb Borneo campaign? But Curtin's bravery, in my view the greatest Prime Minister Australia has ever had, goes unrecognised.

Indeed, I was shocked at how little the then AWM Director knew of history when I met him. I was speaking for the HMAS Bundaberg crew's Association when they unveiled a plaque to the warship, little though the Corvette class ships were. (My father was their beloved skipper; they loathed the others) The Director moved to talk of asbestos - I think the NSW Governor and former Admiral had just died of it, used so plentifully on our warships.

He attacked any criticism of the use of asbestos. He had no idea, until I told him, that the Roman Empire could only get slaves to work and die in the asbestos mines.

Back then I could see how the AWM was moving - into a celebration of war

I think it's shameful and a terrible example of blindness and even loathing of historical records. Is this what you want to teach Australian children? Bellicosity?

Yours sincerely



AWM Development Project - EPBC Public
Comment
025 Submission [REDACTED]

Sent: Tue 7/07/2020 10:16 AM

From: [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Australian War Memorial development

I wish to make an objection to the redevelopment project on the grounds that expenditure of this magnitude is inappropriate at this time of economic stringency. The \$60,000 000 that has been quoted would be much better spent on current priorities - recovery from the NSW and Victoria bushfires, support for unemployed beyond the current COVID19 support funding, restoring funding for the ABC to pre-2013 levels, strategic development aid for our South Pacific neighbours - to name a few.

I consider the current War Memorial buildings to be a more than adequate monument and memorial to members of our armed services and their contribution to Australia's security.

[REDACTED]

From: Nick & Sue Cracknell [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Australian War Memorial

Sent: Tue 7/07/2020 11:31 AM



Referring to a newspaper advertisement concerning the Australian War Memorial – ‘Have Your Say’

To Whom It May Concern

After a visit to the War Memorial in 2018 we sent an email to the then Minister which we have never had a reply from. This is a copy of the email sent.

“Recently we visited the Australian War Memorial Museum in Canberra which we found very informative and gives a real life picture on how Australian servicemen and women fought in war ravaged countries along with their day to day living conditions.

The tribute paid to the soldiers that didn’t return home and the grave of the unnamed soldier is a great tribute and very moving.

The only criticism, if we may call it that, is there is no prominent display of the thousands of soldiers who did return home. They also made a big sacrifice and there would have been thousands of servicemen and women who ultimately died from their injuries received in battle after returning home.

We would like to see a wall listing all the servicemen and women who served their country and made it back home.

Their names could run on the outside of the building if insufficient room inside.

Our parents and grandparents, fortunately for us, returned home. We should have been able to have seen their names listed in recognition of what they sacrificed for us and their country.

To have been able to purchase a Poppy to place beside their names would have added a personal touch for us and I’m sure for thousands of other visitors who visit the War Memorial.

With the thousands of children visiting the Museum on school trips each year, imagine their pride in being able to recognise their family names.

We do hope you will give consideration to this suggestion. Please don’t say ‘it would be too hard’

‘It could and should be done’”

With the Australian War Memorial planning an expansion maybe this is the time an Honour Roll for all RETURNED Australian Armed Force Members should be recognised and listed.

With Regards

Sue and Nick Cracknell
[REDACTED]

David Wardle



8/7/20

Australian War Memorial Development Project

Dear Sir

I wish to respond to the development proposals at the Australian War Memorial.

I am an enthusiastic supporter of all of our national cultural institutions and the differing roles that they play in Canberra and for the rest of the country. I wish to see them all thrive and flourish and receive the support that they deserve.

I have visited the Memorial many times with both my father and grandfathers, and as a researcher I have used the Memorials services and facilities.

I have been following your development plans closely and read through the documentation for your plans. The new southern (front) entrance complex and the extensions behind Poppies have all been designed sensitively and in keeping with the essential emotional character of the building and all that it stands for.

What is disappointing beyond belief is the desecration of the stunningly beautiful Anzac Hall which delivers an equally emotional response to that of the rest of the main building. How anyone of the planners or architects could contemplate the demolition of this recent addition to the Memorial's evolution is heartbreaking. Of course institutions need to grow and evolve however not at the expense of what is already there. It is as appalling as the removal of statues or other reminders of our nation's history that some suggest to be inconvenient.

Any competent architect should be able to work with what is there and not want to destroy what has been built by others who have gone before.

I urge you in the most strongest terms to revisit the proposed demolition of the evocative Anzac Hall that rests beautifully within the surrounding built and natural landscape, and seek alternative ways of expanding the interpretation spaces of what must remain a Memorial for remembrance, contemplation and research rather become a large exhibition centre.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Wardle', written in a cursive style.

David Wardle

AWM Development Project - EPBC Public
Comment
034 Submission SEIDLER

Sent: Thu 9/07/2020 2:19 PM

From: Penelope Seidler [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: submission on the AWM development project

To Whom it may concern

I have had a strong interest in the AWM and have visited it many times, I am proud to recognise the names of two of my uncles killed in WW1 and a cousin killed in WW2 as well as other relatives who served.

I am opposed to the proposed extension both personally and professionally as an architect; the extension ruins the existing ANZAC Hall and alters the purpose of the Museum

The proposed size of the extension is excessive and detracts from the purpose of the AWM as a memorial.

It appears the new addition will house armaments, war machines and military paraphernalia whereas the purpose should remain with those who served our country rather than creating a military or War Museum.

The proposed extension is unnecessary

Thank you

Penelope Seidler AM LFRAIA
Architect [REDACTED]



VIETNAM VETERANS' FEDERATION

Incorporating
Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association NSW Branch
Vietnam Veterans Federation Queensland Branch
Vietnam Veterans Federation ACT Branch
Vietnam Veterans Federation Victorian Branch
Vietnam Veterans Federation South Australian Branch
Vietnam Peacekeepers Peacemakers Federation of Tasmania
Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Federation of Australia WA
Branch

Australian War Memorial Development Project Team
GPO Box 345
Canberra ACT 2601
AUSTRALIA

9 July 2020

Dear Project Team,

Thank you for inviting us to comment on the project.

The Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia strongly supports the Australian War Memorial's goal of better acknowledging the service of contemporary veterans.

Lacking architectural expertise, however, the Federation makes no judgement on alternative proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Roberts OAM
National President



Canberra Chapter



Australian War Memorial Development Team

E = development@awm.gov.au

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The basic goal of the Walter Burley Griffin Society (WBGS) is for Canberra to fulfil its potential to be a great capital city. Our principal objectives are:

- To commemorate and promote a better understanding of the lives, ideals, vision and works of the Griffins
- To promote the preservation and conservation of landscape designs, buildings or other works designed by the Griffins.

In response to the advertisement of 3 July, this submission to the AWM Development Project Team under the EPBC Act comprises three main heritage issues:

1. The architecture and setting of the Memorial building
2. Griffin's Land Axis and the Parliament House Vista
3. Anzac Parade.

The building

The splendid heritage Crust/Sodersteen external design is manifestly degraded and spoiled by the proposed east and west access infrastructure, detracting from the pylons and stairs and original entrance, and the modest, noble shape of the iconic War Memorial. From the celebrated southerly viewpoint there now intrudes a wall, the width of the building. The enlargement of Anzac Hall also adversely affects the harmonious composition of the building in the landscape setting, which will be overpowering from the back of the building.

It is unreasonable to pack all of the records, artifacts and displays in one building. The Smithsonian in Washington has eleven museums and galleries. Canberra has storage places and Australian National Archives has an accessible annex at Mitchell.

Bigger is not better, certainly where the special purposes of memorial and museum are to be well served. In fact, the inflation of the building could be counter-productive with respect to community perceptions that Canberra looks too militaristic. Canberra persistently develops as a 'sheep in wolf's clothing' with its widespread plethora and imbalance of war monuments and artifacts. The AWM should occupy a rightful and appropriate, not inordinate, place in the band of national cultural institutions.

This expansion project seems to be shifting the **purpose** of the building back towards a militarist, narrow sense of war and Anzac without its social and identity significance. Australia has other major sources of history, identity and achievements, conversely including engagement in peace and conflict resolution initiatives and movements, scholarship, institutions and ideals, equally as enduring and connected with the experiences of wars.

Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin as pacifists

The Preliminary documentation and the Heritage Impact Statement in particular (see p 42) recognise the special association and enduring relevance of Walter and Marion to the development of the National Capital: the Central National Area, landscape and spatial design, vision, vistas and a city designed as,

and evolving organically, as an expression of democracy, art, national ethos and the natural environment. They lived in Australia from 1912 to 1935 and left a rich legacy. Earlier in Chicago and intensively and prominently in Melbourne and Sydney they were involved with business, professional and community development, with particular interests in the natural environment and philosophy.

It is entirely relevant to mention that Walter and Marion (more strongly) were pacifists and to assert that a rounded understanding of the Griffins offers additional potential legacy of values and historical associations. Writing in 1915 about the war, Walter said 'freedom and equality are more important than engaging in war, productivity or efficiency.' The peace movement is strong in Australia and New Zealand and was prominent in the Gallipoli Centenary events.

In *The Symbolic Role of the National Capital* (2003) David Headon relates how Australians have worked to develop their national capital as representative and commemorative of the nation's rich history. He gives (at p 87) an account of the official opening of the Australian War memorial in November 1941, when Governor General Gowrie and Prime Minister Curtin shared the view that a prime motivation of the AWM was '... to be a reminder for future generations of the brutality and utter futility of modern war ...'

Peace monuments, memorials and collections are scarce in Canberra. The proposed AWM expansion creates more distorted historical and cultural symbolism for the nation's capital.

Griffin's Land Axis and the Parliament House Vista

The Heritage Impact Statement in the Preliminary Documentation pays ample respect to Griffin's planning design, ideals, values, vision and street layout of the National Capital. The heritage significance of the Land Axis embraces its central function in aligning buildings, national symbols, vistas, open spaces and Griffin's geometry of axes, radials, avenues and boulevards. The Parliament House Vista emphasises the drama of its sector, including the AWM and Anzac Parade, but is limited otherwise to the National Triangle and Parliamentary Zone. The properties of the Land Axis extend to the inner hills and distant mountains beyond Parliament House.

One paramount vista appears to be omitted from the Preliminary documentation: the iconic vista and visual democratic exchange, southwards from the foyer inside the present entrance, parapet or steps outside the building over Parade, Lake, southside government and cultural buildings, Parliament House and beyond to the hills and far border mountains. **Can we be reassured that this great vista will not be impeded by interior works or changes?**

Anzac Parade

The Development Project incorporates changes to the forecourt of the building to provide more formal and aesthetic lines and a narrowing of the terminal area of Anzac Parade itself. The proposed changes would cause immense damage to Griffin's Land Axis, comparable with the most egregious departures from his Plan over the past century.

Professor Ken Taylor wrote in the magazine of the National Trust (ACT) *Heritage in Trust* (Spring 1999 p 4) that Anzac Parade is 'one of the great landscape axes of the world.' It was an integral part of the Land Axis and of his 'ideal city.' He called it Prospect Parkway and its inspiration derived from his reading of Scrivener's contour map and from Frederick Law Olmsted's *Midway Plaisance* at the World's Columbian Exhibition in Chicago in 1893. It was not designed as a formal avenue but an attractive promenade 200 metres wide and 1.5 kilometres long with shade trees, gardens and generous open space, bordered by stands of Victorian Bluegums planted eventually by Charles Weston, picturesque but still defining the Land Axis.

In 1928 it was renamed Anzac Park and in 1965 'Parade' replaced 'Park' for the 50th anniversary of Gallipoli. Photos of the time show walkways, shrubbery, varied plantings in a lace-like pattern and Weston's evergreen theme straights and curves of gums, which circumscribed a series of spaces. Griffin intended the park to be the heart of a prime residential district, areas of terraced and medium density housing in what is now Reid, Braddon and Campbell and high-density mixed use activities along his

Capital Terrace (Constitution or 'Municipal' Avenue). In 1964 the NCDC replaced the park and trees with the existing border of Tasmanian Bluegums, sparse planter boxes and the red gravel Parade.

In his premiated Plan Griffin also envisaged an arts, culture, sports and recreational (galleries, arts, museums, theatre and opera house, baths and place of assembly) precinct at the southern end of Prospect Parkway, as well as the 'casino' (pleasure garden, cafes, bars, social diversions, music) at the northern end (Griffin endorsed the location there of the AWM in 1924).

It would seem that aspects of Griffin's Plan are now coming to pass, with the build up of higher density housing and recreational activities in nearby areas, placing a premium on more parkland and open space. The present Anzac Parade should become more parkland and arts, recreational precinct and less transport thoroughfare. It is rarely used for commemorative purposes and has been under increasing restrictions by the AWM. Another section of red gravel Parade is further south on the Lake foreshore at Gallipoli Reach.

Dedication of the whole 1.5 kilometres of parade ground to military service is a glaring case of ascribing too much about war in Australia's national culture. Griffin never wanted the area to be over-burdened by the memory of war.

There was a disturbing and regrettable incident in October 2018 when the National Capital Authority refused permission for the Medical Association for the Prevention of War to hold a *Gathering for Peace* in Anzac Parade on Remembrance Day 11 November to stand in silent commemoration for the victims of war, including those who did not fight. The official reason given was 'Anzac Parade is reserved exclusively for the 2018 Remembrance Day Commemorations.'

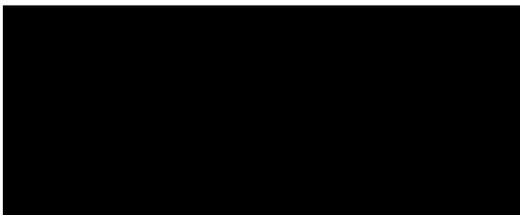
Anzac Parade is Heritage listed and the Management Plan/conservation policy requires it to:

- be retained as a ceremonial approach to the AWM
- memorials on the right and left sides only
- maintain the eucalypts
- protect for cultural and aesthetic significance.

At a presentation in August 2018 to raise funds for *The Diggers' Requiem* project, AWM resident composer Chris Latham said: 'The *Diggers' Requiem*' revisits the dichotomy of war and the arts (recognised at the time of the Great War) in an attempt to return to the spirit of the Griffins' plans in order to enable catharsis and healing. And to empower movements towards achieving a lasting peace in the world.'

Concluding comments

It is important to keep all of Canberra's heritage alive, where possible, and to build on our fortunate foundations. The AWM plays a natural and vital part in the evolution of the nation's capital. It has the responsibility to conserve heritage and collaborate with government agencies and the community to develop Canberra as an ideal city and national capital. The magnitude and the expense of the proposed expansion of the AWM are inordinate and unjustified. The dimensions of Anzac Parade and clear long range vistas along his Land Axis should be preserved, whilst signalling the potential for realising Walter Burley Griffin's overall vision, ideals and intentions.



Canberra Chapter
Walter Burley Griffin Society Inc

AWM Development Project - EPBC Public
Comment
038 Submission BROWN

From: Paul Brown [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Our Plans

Sent: Fri 10/07/2020 5:54 PM

Dear AWM Administrators,

It is disappointing to see continuing disproportionate government spending within the Eastern States. When will Western Australia receive its share of this budget?

Paul

--
Dr Paul Brown

From: Angela Woollacott [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: comments on your proposed development

Sent: Sun 12/07/2020 10:42 AM

Dear Australian War Memorial Development Project Team,

I write in response to your invitation for feedback during this public consultation phase.

I strongly oppose your planned expansion. My main objection is that it will destroy the Memorial's current sombre and dignified character, which enables it to fulfill gracefully its historical role as the nation's place to reflect on the terrible losses of war.

An expanded Memorial, along with the large number of tanks, aeroplanes and other big military hardware planned to be on display, will become more like a museum -- and perhaps, worryingly, rather like a military theme park.

It will be a real loss to the nation to forfeit an important and respected Memorial to a glitzy, militaristic Museum.

My secondary objection is the appalling cost of the project, especially at this time of national need and hardship. At a time when the National Gallery of Art is laying off a large number of staff, and other national cultural institutions have been cut to the bone through repeated 'efficiency dividends', it is particularly egregious for the Australian War Memorial to spend such a vast amount of public funds on an extension that will ruin its own character.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Woollacott

Professor Angela Woollacott *FRHistS, FASSA, FAHA*
Manning Clark Professor of History
School of History
The Australian National University
[REDACTED]



Australian War Memorial Development Project

SUBMISSION BY THE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Australian War Memorial Development Project consultation.

FAHS is the umbrella body for Australia's community history and heritage associations which number over 1000 and have approximately 100,000 members. Our volunteer members are deeply involved in working towards the best preservation and presentation of Australian cultural heritage in all its forms, including historic heritage buildings and sites, and museums. They undertake very large volumes of historical research and collection in hard (documentary, movable objects and built/sites) and digital forms, they operate many hundreds of small cultural heritage exhibitions and museums, and they transmit our history and heritage in publications, websites and various other formats. FAHS was a founding member of GLAM Peak and of Blue Shield Australia.

FAHS expresses its strong opposition to the proposal to undertake major changes to the structure of the Australian War Memorial. Put concisely, our objections are on the following three grounds:

1. The Australian War memorial is listed on both the National Heritage List and the Commonwealth Heritage List. The advancement of this project in the way that has occurred, notably the announcement of half a billion dollars in funding prior to application for any approvals from heritage authorities, infers a contempt for the heritage protection offered by these lists and a belief that they can be swept aside at will. This is profoundly concerning for supporters of Australian heritage and is in clear breach of the intent of the EPBC Act.
2. The ANZAC Hall, which is proposed to be demolished, is a relatively new and award winning piece of architecture. Its destruction denies its significance as part of the listed heritage of the AWM complex, flies in the face of financial common sense and infers a cavalier attitude to waste.
3. The proposal to spend nearly half a billion dollars on this project is extraordinary in the current financial circumstances and indicates an unusual set of values at a time when Australia's cultural heritage and principal national institutions are being starved of operational funds, notably including the National Museum of Australia, the National Library of Australia, the National Gallery of Australia, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Film and the Sound Archive.

There are numerous ways in which Australia's cultural heritage would benefit far more from the rational expenditure of this sum, including a broadening of national heritage grants to sites not on the National Heritage list and to voluntary heritage organisations.

For further communication please contact:
The Executive Officer,



AWM Development Project - EPBC Public
Comment
043 Submission WHALEN

From: Margaret Whalen [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Australian War Memorial

Sent: Tue 14/07/2020 1:14 PM

Dear Sir,

Without going through the documentation with a toothcomb, the proposed design would appear to enhance the original building and provide the necessary extra exhibition space.

I trust that it will be built to budget, as in the current environment, there are many living who are in desperate need of ongoing financial need. However, having spent time in the Somme at Australian, Newfoundland and Canadian battlefields and cemeteries, I believe it is important to have the history of our armed forces documented, honoured and available for public perusal.

Regards,
Margaret

Margaret Whalen

From: Peter Bishop [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Disagreement with proposed development

Sent: Wed 15/07/2020 2:21 PM

To whom it may concern,

I've read the EPBC submission and its attachments and although I see the need for more acknowledgement of recent conflicts such as East Timor and Afghanistan, I feel that the demolition and rebuilding of the existing Anzac Hall is an unnecessary waste of resources. A reuse of the existing space, reducing exposure of other earlier conflicts if necessary, is more appropriate to the memory of conflict's victims and victors. Expenditure of \$500 million seems to elevate war to a place unwarranted, when so much more could be done with such expenditure to promote alternatives to conflict.

kind regards,
Peter Bishop

(grandson of WWI artilleryman)

AWM Development Project - EPBC Public

Comment

045 Submission [REDACTED]

From:

Sent: Wed 15/07/2020 4:00 PM

To: Development

Cc:

Subject: \$500 Million Redevelopment

Who came up with the crazy idea to spend half a billion dollars on the war memorial. Surely it could be better spent on actual veterans programs rather than what is a vanity project.

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was shocked to be aware of the huge financial cost of the renovations and additions to the Australian War memorial. Surely this money could be spent on hospitals with special reference to the Australian War Memorial, so that people are aware of the significance of the building.

I have visited the AWM and was very impressed but in my opinion I think the money could be better spent.

I am also very disappointed that there is no mention of frontier battles with the First nation people of our land. They gave their lives to protect there land and way of life. We should acknowledge them.

I would be grateful for a reply to my thoughts on these two important matters.

Yours sincerely, Rod Oaten

Request type: Reference Other

Received date: 8/07/2020 10:41 AM

From: Jenny McManus [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Fast Track Australian War Memorial Expansion - Australians support Urgent need for Expansion, Larger Facility needed for Veterans

AWM Development Project EPBC Sent: Fri 17/07/2020 10:14 AM
Public Comment
056 Submission MCMANUS

Dear AWM

The Australian War Memorial is ridiculously small and inadequate currently and needs Urgent expansion that needs to be Fast Tracked. Expansion must be completed within a year as Australians cannot wait 8 years for completion.

Australian Community wants this Project to be Fast Tracked and supports it completely. Our Veterans need a enlarged Facility to honour and recognise them.

Please Fast Track War Memorial Expansion and all other Infrastructure Projects as they create better facilities and jobs for the Australian Public and our Veterans.

Cheers

Jenny

Australian War Memorial Development Project Team
GPO Box 345
CANBERRA ACT 2601

17 July 2020

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to voice my strong objection to the proposed alteration and additions to the Australian War Memorial. My concerns are as follows:

1. The AWM trustees seem to have lost focus on the role the AWM. The M in AWM stands for memorial, not museum. The primary purpose of the AWM is to provide the Australian people with a sacred place to remember and give thanks for the sacrifices of our service personnel, not to provide large display areas for redundant military equipment. If the Australian government wants to build a war museum similar to the Imperial War Museum in London then fine, but do it elsewhere.
2. The proposed development requires the wasteful demolition of ANZAC Hall, a building of such architectural quality that it was awarded the 2005 Sir Zelman Cowen Award for Public Architecture. How can any government, particularly one that proudly boasts of its economic management, justify the waste of public money by demolishing a perfectly suitable building in order to replace it with a gargantuan display area of little architectural merit. Big is not better, especially at this cost - both financial (\$500 million) and architectural - to the nation.
3. There has been some suggestion that a bigger AWM will somehow have a cathartic effect on our war veterans, but I have yet to see a report from any reputable psychologist who believes a larger building will be more cost effective in treating post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) than the suitable provision of personal medical care for our war veterans.

By all means provide the AWM with sufficient funding to ensure it continues to improve its role as the national focus of our remembrance of those Australian who sacrificed their lives for our great country. The \$500 million could be better spent by a) providing suitable support to our war veterans, and b) if necessary, a large warehouse/museum to display military equipment built elsewhere in Canberra. But, please, don't fund this wasteful development project.

Yours respectfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

cc: Hon Mathias Cormann, Minister for Finance; Dave Sharma, Member for Wentworth
Senator Tim Ayres; Senator Andrew Bragg; Senator Perin Davey;
Senator Mehreen Faruqi; Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells; Senator Holly Hughes;
Senator Kristina Keneally; Senator Jenny McAllister; Senator Jim Molan;
Senator Deborah O'Neill; Senator Marise Payne; and Senator Tony Shelton

From: GandM [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Submission

Sent: Sun 19/07/2020 10:31 AM

Dear Sirs,

I write to express my concerns about the proposed major extension to the Australian War Memorial.

Beauty and appropriateness are tied to proportionality. The proposed extension is disproportionate for the following reasons:

1. The sum intended to be spent is totally out of proportion to the needs of other national cultural icons in Canberra and throughout the country
2. Involvement in war is not the defining feature of Australia's character and identity. To make it so is to severely undervalue and misrepresent other more significant features such as migration, multiculturalism, the pioneering spirit of earlier settlers, and the cultural wars involving Australia's indigenous people.
3. The AWM's connection with industries that profit from armaments is morally wrong in an age when the making of war, especially in places such as Yemen, is scandalously profitable to armament producing nations of which Australia now has ambitions to be included.
4. The legitimate resistance of Aboriginal people to the resumption of their land is not fairly represented in the AWM and therefore the memorial contribute to the distortion of Australian history.
5. I understand the extension involves the destruction of perfectly good buildings at a time when investment could b made in Australia's sustainable development.

Yours sincerely

George

Bishop George Browning PhD DLitt

From: [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: comment on EPBC referral re War Memorial redevelopment.



I am writing to express my concern and opposition regarding the proposals for greatly expanding the museum at the Australian War Memorial.

This iconic building is primarily a memorial to Australians who have lost their lives in war - all wars. It serves this purpose well.

It was original also designed to include a museum as a secondary educational experience to enhance understanding of its commemorative function.

This museum was sensitively expanded in 2001 with the construction of ANZAC Hall, widely acclaimed for its architectural excellence.

The current proposals seek to further expand the museum, however this time to the detriment of the original cruciform design of the memorial, making the commemorative role of the place secondary to a display of military history.

There is no reason this expansion needs to take place at this significant site within our national capital.

It is a failure of the Peace - that is a failure of our politicians and foreign policy - that we need to further expand the museum intended to document "the war to end all wars". This failure should not be celebrated at the heart of our national institutions.

No museum places all of its collection on display at any one time - for most typically only a fraction of the collection would be on display. Also most museums may have a small "permanent" display to tell the core story, complemented by themed rotating displays to mark significant anniversaries or other contemporary events. The War Memorial museum should be no different.

Rotating displays would allow more recent conflicts to be recognised and remembered while still telling the essential stories of earlier conflicts.

The War Memorial museum has many large "objects" in its collection. The significant and iconic site at the base of Mt Ainslie is simply not an appropriate place to accommodate all of these large items in the one place. There are many other suitable sites around the national areas of Canberra better suited to accommodate a museum of these artefacts without over-developing this site and destroying the essence of the War Memorial.

Establishing a separate museum would create a new national attraction in Canberra with all the benefits that would bring for national pride and the local economy. The War Memorial is the most visited site in Canberra, not because of the extensive displays but because of its commemorative function and the family links many Australians can trace to those remembered there. Having the institution focus on this healing and remembering role rather than divert focus to stories of battle tactics and war machines would clarify and enhance the visitor experience - while also providing scope for a new destination which can tell those stories in a better, contemporary manner - such as the Gallipoli exhibition at Te Papa in Wellington NZ.

The proposal has unacceptable impacts on the fabric of the existing building which will negatively affect on the way Australians perceive the place and understand its purpose and significance. For this reason the proposal should be abandoned and alternate options explored for accommodating the War Memorial museum collection. These options should consider the possibility of a new national military history museum on a separate site in Canberra and rotating exhibits within the existing facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: The Australian War Memorial Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Review

Re: The Australian War Memorial Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Review

I wish to make a submission to the Committee regarding the Australian War Memorial (AWM) application for expansion.

The Australian War Memorial has proposed a massive expansion. The proposed expansion is unnecessary for the AWM to meet its obligations to the public. The proposal is to provide new space which would be devoted to housing large pieces of equipment such as airplanes and helicopters. This emphasis on hardware does nothing to promote understanding of the historical context of Australia's wars and their impact on society. Instead this plan would serve to promote the arms industry.

Instead, the AWM should be offering better support for veterans' needs, especially their mental health and housing needs. It should make a major contribution to reconciliation with Indigenous Australians (First Nations Peoples) by recognising the Frontier Wars. It should provide greater coverage to efforts to prevent wars through diplomacy and peace keeping operations.

George Dale Hess
[REDACTED]

From: Max Hardman [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Australian War Memorial Development Project

Sent: Sun 19/07/2020 2:14 PM

Australian War Memorial – Comment on the proposal on the Development Project.

The Responsible Officer

Having briefly read some of the submissions and have the following comment to make:

- 1 The function of the war memorial is the “celebrate” the activities of the of our troops who died in action. That function should be clearly the major impression of any completed works. It should remain unchanged.
- 2 The secondary uses which other buildings are put to, is the historic detail of individuals, battles and paraphernalia of warfare. This is a secondary part of the memorial complex.

Accordingly, the war memorial should remain intact as it represents in its built form the solution that the designers of the past saw as appropriate.

The secondary uses should be housed in buildings which are some distance from the main memorial building and developed as a museum and resource structure in their own right. The design scope in the war memorial and the museum will be different as will be the means of addressing the buildings.

Yours sincerely

Max Hardman

Architect and Town planner
Former Member of the National Capital Planning Committee Canberra.

From: Adam Johnston [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Submission - Australian War Memorial Development Project Team

Australian War Memorial Development Project Team
GPO Box 345
Canberra ACT 2601
AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir,

I read about your consultation in the Sydney Morning Herald and, also saw an advertisement about the development application from the Territory Government. While broadly supporting the Australian War Memorial's desire to expand and display more of its collection, the way this is proposed to be done is very disturbing.

The Main Building should always be the focus and, the apparent preferred option detracts from it significantly. While figure 4.6 (New Southern Entry Render) does not interfere with the Main Building, figure 5.1a and 5.1b are disturbing. While there may have been difficulties in gaining similarly aged or weathered stonework, the extension does not look anything like the building of which it is supposedly a part. I would have thought that there would have at least been an effort to construct the roof of the extension in a way that was in keeping with the existing building's roof.

The glazed link and new Anzac Hall may have won praise architecturally. While not an architect myself, beyond their possible functional use, they do not strike me as constructions which are sympathetic to the surroundings or aesthetically pleasing. The impressions of the glazed link remind me of any number of ultramodern glass buildings. Again, the building beyond that would have been far less noticeable if the roof construction matched the Main Building.

As such, my preference is for Figure 4.7 (Design completion render for entry that retained the current Anzac Hall). Too often modern buildings, modern building extensions or building refits compromise important aspects of character and history in construction. In my own experience, the New South Wales Law Society building and the extension to the State Library of NSW exemplified these points. The Law Society building was remodelled internally and went from old world wood panelling and furnishing, to ultramodern clean lines, white walls, lots of glass and slimline furniture. While this was certainly more functional, the charm of the place seemed to be lost. Similarly, with the modern extension to the NSW State Library, it is no doubt functional, but I will always find the charm, interest, and character in the old and original Mitchell Building.

This is Australia's War Memorial and particular care should be taken with it.

Yours faithfully,


Adam


Adam Johnston

Adam Johnston

From: [REDACTED]

To: Development

Cc:

Subject: WarMemorial extensions

Dear Sir

Please consider traffic lights at night he corner of Treloar and Limestone ave Every week there is a traffic incident on this corner The problems involve :—

Interstate visitors turning right as they enter Treloar from Limestone

They do not register cars proceeding directly ahead towards Reid as they are too busy looking left to avoid oncoming traffic

Also mainly interstate visitors queue up crossing Limestone to turn right into Limestone from Treloar and sit across the oncoming traffic

Children from the high school are often trying to cross Treloar on Limestone and are not registered by cars only looking left at traffic coming their way at 60 mph The pedestrian lights presently there could be moved to the cross roads

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: Hugh and Mary Lou Chalmers [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: War Memorial expansion

Sent: Mon 20/07/2020 10:02 AM



Dear Sir/Madam

As a long time visitor to the Memorial and with relatives who were killed at Gallipoli and on the Kokoda Trail, I am a strong supporter of the War Memorial.

However I believe that the latest development plans, including the destruction of the most excellent Anzac Hall, are unwarranted and should be shelved.

The amount of money which it is planned to spend, notwithstanding this is over a large period, would be much more better allocated to supporting and assisting our recent and future military personnel who are leaving the forces with a legacy of mental and physical problems. This will be even more important as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Increasing the space in order to show more powerful military technology does nothing to "commemorate the sacrifice of those who have died in war or on operational service". In fact it has a tendency to glorify war as an acceptable part of life and fosters a sense of "games mentality" in younger generations who have no other exposure to war and the trauma it produces for military personnel, their families and all the community.

On behalf of all the generations of my family, past and current including my grandchildren, I request that you do not proceed with these plans.

Yours faithfully

Hugh Chalmers

Tilman A Ruff AO

MB, BS (Hons), FRACP
Associate Professor, Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne

20 July 2020

Mr Wayne Hitches
Executive Program Director
Australian War Memorial Development Project
development@awm.gov.au,

Dear Mr Hitches,

Re: Consideration of major expansion proposed for the Australian War Memorial (AWM), Canberra, under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity and Conservation Act

I write to provide a brief personal submission regarding the proposal for a \$498 million expansion of the AWM. I oppose this costly expansion and find it to be unwarranted and inappropriate at any time, but particularly so at this time of crisis related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is causing hardship for millions of Australians.

The Memorial can well meet its obligations without this planned expansion.

Much of the new space is planned to be used for display of large military platforms and weapons, particularly airplanes and helicopters, which serve to de-contextualise, sanitise and glorify the technology of war, while doing little to promote understanding of the causes of war, its horror, or the effects on combatants and non-combatants. This undue emphasis on military equipment would reinforce the current offensive and unethical involvement and prominent profile at the AWM afforded weapons companies which profit from military spending, armed conflict and war.

The AWM frequently cites ADF peacekeeping operations as an example of efforts to avoid wars that it wishes to better display. While peacekeeping operations should be recognised and honoured, very many Australians outside the ADF have made huge efforts over many decades to prevent or stop wars and reduce its long-term harmful consequences. These contributions are currently marginalised, and would remain so with the proposed expansion. In addition, the role of diverse and critical voices in Australian history would be omitted from the planned live feed of current ADF operations.

The Memorial's claim of providing a "therapeutic milieu" for recent veterans is not based on sound evidence, and the needs of veterans and their families could be much better served by direct support for mental health and other health care services for veterans, housing and other social support.

Contributing to a balanced understanding of Australia's heritage and history and the importance of preventing war and its human toll, promoting humanitarian values and human security, would be far better served in other ways, such as:

- more adequately supporting our other cultural institutions;
- finally rectifying the Memorial's racist refusal to recognise and document Australia's Frontier Wars;
- the establishment of an Australian Peace Museum honouring the many Australians who have worked and work for peace.

Yours sincerely,



Tilman A Ruff AO

Associate professor
Nossal Institute for Global Health, School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne

Co-President, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (Nobel Peace Prize 1985)

Co-founder and Founding Chair, Australian Committee member, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (Nobel Peace Prize 2017)

I acknowledge the Wurrundjeri People of the Kulin Nations as the traditional custodians of the land upon which I live and work.



AWM Development Project - EPBC Public
Comment
069 Submission SWEENEY

From: julanne [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Divert funding for War Memorial extensions

Sent: Tue 21/07/2020 12:08 PM

Good morning, members of the War Memorial decision makers.

I have heard on Radio National Kerry Stokes and the mother of a soldier who suicided offering different views on the Memorial. I have already sent an objection to what I consider a misuse of public money in your plans. My two uncles died in 1942 on active service (El Alamein and New Guinea) and my grandchildren find their family names to honour when they visit Canberra. The Memorial's ambition to provide a 'therapeutic milieu' for recent veterans is inappropriate and misguided – and a smokescreen for its demand for space to display planes, helicopters, and other retired military equipment. I did not want my grandchildren to visit displays of armaments. I'm nearly 84 and support the mother on RN today who is trying to establish a sorrow space for grieving for war's victims.

The Memorial should manage within its existing space, and assist the grieving mother's project. She can use the money you have allocated because the Memorial can meet its obligations without continuing with the project. The money would be better spent on direct benefits to veterans and their families, and on other cultural institutions.

The extensions will destroy the Memorial's character, affect its heritage status, and entail the demolition of the award-winning Anzac Hall.

My deepest concern is that you are being taken over in PEACETIME by the MONEY and GREED of armaments manufacturers: the very evil our defence forces died for. Much of the new space will be used to display large technology objects, particularly planes and helicopters, serving as a convenient advertisement for their manufacturers.

PLEASE RECONSIDER YOUR WASTEFUL AND MISGUIDED USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS WHEN SO MANY OTHER BETTER CAUSES ARE IN NEED.

Julanne Sweeney
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

To: Development

Cc:

Subject: War Memorial Development Project

Hi

My sincere comments.

I have visited on several occasions thus comments below.

1. The 'vibe' I get when I visit and no doubt the new proposed work will inhance, is one of glorification of war, which I **dont** like. Its something to do with all the diaramas, war machines (werent we wonderfull building these things vibe)

2. There should be 2 distinct elements to the site

- a. A **memorial** with grief and thanks for the fallen – sombre stuff. Maybe hero and heartache stories with no glorification.

ANZAC day services and the like held here.

- b. A **museum**. I dont think we need this however recognise the politics.

A completely seperate building with historical elements along with gore.

e.g. the battle for Medway was terrible – show it like it was.

Maybe people wont go . Which maybe good. You have to show stories from

both 'sides'. e.g. the war museum in H.C M. City Vietnam shows their side.

If you had a Vietnam section it should be 50:50. Our side their side. Explain

the Bay of Tonkin lies.

Dont make it a must see theme park. Just do as above with no \$500m price tag.



[REDACTED]

To the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment
Via the Australian War Memorial Development Project Team

Dear Sir / Madam,

I write to confirm my interest and support for additional space to tell important stories of Australians at the Memorial.

Currently I understand there is very little displayed on our Peacekeepers or Humanitarian operations. We need to tell the stories of what is being done to prevent wars, actions to protect both our citizens at home and while traveling, and what is done when an incident arises.

Australians cannot forget the tragedies of the past and we need to learn from mistakes in order to make the world a safer place.

I understand that this development is a large investment in our future and serves to expand our ability to respect those who protect our way of life and honour those we have lost and recognise those who advance to help when the worst happens.

If the new Galleries can educate our youth on the incidents that have shaped the world and provide some small changes to heal those affected or influence improvements for the future of Australians, at home and overseas, I can't see why this would be opposed.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: Development [REDACTED]
Cc:
Subject: FW: Australian War Memorial Development

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2020 12:05 PM
To: 'developmentt@awm.gov.au'
Subject: Australian War Memorial Development

Dear Committee Secretary,

I wish to present my objections to the currently proposed expansion of the Australian War Memorial and to submit that this should not be undertaken.

We need to pause and reflect – reportedly \$498 million – for re-development and this, at a time, when the country is facing such dire needs.

I cannot help but believe that the proposed expansion will simply advance the profits of weapons manufacturers.

It is more important, indeed, of the utmost importance, at this time, to emphasise and assist in Australia's role of peace-keeping.

And, thinking of the veterans, we should be providing more assistance to those who have suffered so much, and, are still suffering from war.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Submission to the Australian War Memorial: AWM Development Project

I wish to add my voice of opposition to the current plans under discussion to expand the Australian War Memorial at a cost of \$500 million.

There is no argument in relation to the need to honour and commemorate the many soldiers, men and women, who gave up their lives for their nation. There is also a need to recognize the impact of war on so many people, including those who fought and returned home traumatised by their experiences, the families and civilians whose lives were destroyed and are still being impacted by more recent wars in Vietnam and Afghanistan. However, my concern relates to how the Australian War Memorial plans to ‘commemorate’ these conflicts.

What is the purpose of the Australian War Memorial?

The Australian War Memorial states that part of its mission is: “...to assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society.”¹

I find that the focus of the current project runs counter to this mission as much of the story will be about the weapons of war – rather than their impact. From reading aspects of the AWM proposal, it will house helicopters and aeroplanes and weapons of war and how technology is assisting fighting wars. I find this absolutely abhorrent! It appears to me to be a glorification of the weapons of war and can be seen as a marketing exercise for the military industrial complex rather than a balanced examination of the impacts of war.

Where in these plans are there any proposals to display the complexity of issues related to conflict? An accurately documented process detailing the background to the conflict including those who opposed the involvement in the Vietnam war, in Iraq and indeed the war in Afghanistan is necessary. Where is the documentation of dissent, the anti-war protests and the Peace movements that were so prevalent before the outbreak and during these wars and indeed in WW1 and WW2.

Focusing on those impacted by war rather than the weapons of war

Further in relation to the provision of a commemorative or ‘therapeutic milieu’ for those involved in these wars, I cannot see how the displaying of weapons and military equipment will achieve this aim. I am sure that the AWM is well aware of the impact of war on veterans. A recent Mental Health Prevalence Report published by the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2018 contained some alarming statistics including that: ‘46.4% of Transitioned ADF members are estimated to have experienced a mental disorder in the previous 12 months’ (DVA, 2018 p.vi)². The report contains many other very disturbing statistics related to the wellbeing of people who have transitioned from active service in overseas conflicts. It is my view that a part of the \$500 million should be allocated to improving the wellbeing of these veterans in relation to mental health but also their state of work, homelessness and other assistance programs.

Acknowledging the Frontier Wars

The former Director of AWM, Dr Brendan Nelson did acknowledge the need to have representation of the Frontier Wars in a museum, but that the AWM was not the right place for such an exhibition. (Evans, SMH, 2018). This is countered by Aboriginal people and

prominent historians such as Prof Henry Reynolds. These conflicts are so much part of our national history and they deserve representation.

Developing a Museum for Peace

In addition, I would like to see taxpayers' money allocated not just to the commemoration of the impacts of war, but the promotion of peace. Why not include a section in the museum devoted to Peace? There are many excellent examples of peace museums throughout the world. I would recommend modelling examples from the Peace Museum associated with Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. These museums emphasise the horrors of war and the need to focus on peace building and to build a mind set for peaceful conflict resolutions.

Why demolish aspects of the AWM heritage buildings?

I would like to note that the War Memorial entrance and Anzac Hall do not need to be destroyed – the Hall itself has a lasting presence that should be maintained and indeed it is seen as architecturally significant in its own right. Also, it was built less than 20 years ago! Surely its demolition is a waste of taxpayers' money.

Please give due consideration to the overwhelming national opposition to this development which comes from many organisations, eminent individuals (including former directors of the AWM), veterans and members of the general public.

Nina Burridge (Assoc Professor)

- 1 Australian War Memorial, online, <https://www.awm.gov.au/about/organisation#:~:text=The%20Memorial's%20purpose%20is%20to,ending%20impact%20on%20Australian%20society.>
3. Evans, S., (2018) War memorial expansion should include Aboriginal fighters: historian. Sydney Morning Herald. <https://www.smh.com.au/national/act/war-memorial-expansion-should-include-aboriginal-fighters-historian-20181105-p50e16.html>
- 2 Department of Veterans Affairs https://www.defence.gov.au/Health/DMH/Docs/180502_Mental_Health_Prevalence_Technical_Report-Final.pdf, p.vi.

From: Stephen Mitchell [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Development project - feedback - objection

Sent: Fri 24/07/2020 9:22 AM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have reviewed the plans and viewed the video for the redevelopment of our Australian War Memorial (AWM).

They appear to show that the new ANZAC Hall and glazed link will primarily provide for a greatly expanded space for displays of military equipment.

I personally love seeing such equipment but I don't think the AWM is the right place for this - nor do I think it is keeping with the AWM's purpose.

I refer to the AWM's purpose on your website:

"The Memorial's **purpose** is to commemorate the sacrifice of those Australians who have died in war or on operational service and those who have served our nation in times of conflict. Its mission is leading remembrance and understanding of Australia's wartime experience."

I feel the increased display of equipment glorifies rather than commemorates those who have served our nation.

The redevelopment does not appear to incorporate more displays of people who have served, provide for remembrance or improve our understanding of Australia's wartime experience..

My visits to the AWM have been solemn occasions. My Grandfather and his brother served in France and Belgium in World War I.

I don't think this expansion is something they would be proud of.

There are a number of museums in regional around Australia that display military equipment. Funds should be diverted to them.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Mitchell
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir, Madam, Ms. (not necessarily in that order),

I write to express my support for the pending AWM development.

As a recently retired serving member of the ADF (a veteran) I take pride in knowing that the legacy of all those who came before me can be shared and better understood by the general public. Personally I have spent more ANZAC Days than I dare to remember at the AWM reflecting on the sacrifices made for our freedoms; and knowing that the experience will not only continue to be available to the public but will now be expanded and enhanced is a source of great comfort.

I have had the opportunity to view the proposed plans for the development and was very impressed by what was being tabled. As we move forward as a country we will need more space to be made available to tell the stories of our current and future operations and this should not be at the expense of the stories of our previous generations. The only option is to better utilise the space within the memorial precinct. I have read some of the criticisms of the proposed development and feel they lack the basic understanding of what the AWM is all about, that is, they fail to show empathy toward the real Australians that have sacrificed to make this country what it is and what it will be.

I believe the design to be a very fitting and appropriate and provides the opportunity to honour many generations into the future.

Regards

Martin Jolley
Commander

25 JUL 20

From: Jim Windeyer [REDACTED]
To: Development [REDACTED]
Cc:
Subject: Australian War Memorial Development

re. The proposed development of the Australian War Memorial

It is my view that the \$500 million expansion of the War Memorial should not go ahead.

1. There are other less expensive solutions to the Memorial's pressure for space:
 - 1.1 It could build a separate building to house /display the large items from the collection;
 - 1.2 It could reallocate the existing space. No collecting institution can ever display more than part of their collection.
2. It involves the destruction of ANZAC Hall:
 - 2.1 A building only 20 years old and winner of an architectural award;
 - 2.2 its destruction suggests a thinking that heritage is of no significance in planning decisions.
3. **The money could be better spent on other projects - what, in economics is the opportunity cost, is too high.**
 - 3.1 **Many such projects have been suggested in the public debate.**

I would prioritise the funding of the other national collecting institutions which are having to cut staff and services;
 - 3.2 **It is said that funds for the War Memorial have not been a factor in the budgets for other institutions.**

It may well be a case of 'separate buckets' but it is clearly within the government's power to redirect funds from one bucket to another.
4. The Memorial should be about persons and sacrifice and the meaning and experience of war not about large weaponry.
5. Arguments about healing experiences for veterans, the contribution to tourism in the National Capital etc., are not ones that should be applied to decisions in relation to this project.

I am
Yours faithfully
J.B. Windeyer
[REDACTED]



SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER and the ENVIRONMENT (DAWE) consideration of the AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL (AWM) DEVELOPMENT PROJECT under the ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (EPBC) ACT 1999

I am pleased to make the attached submission to assist the DAWE 's consideration of the AWM Development Project under the EPBC Act 1999.

The **Friends of the NFSA Inc.** is an independent membership organisation that exists to support the NFSA, advocate for and promote the NFSA, provide volunteer support, present public programs based on the NFSA collection, and serve as a focus for the NFSA's constituency.

Founded in 2000, the Friends has historically worked to defend the professional integrity and independence of the NFSA, including the campaign leading to its creation as a statutory authority in 2008. The Friends' mission, history and activities can be accessed at www.archivefriends.org.au

The Friends would be happy to provide any further information that DAWE may require to assist it in its assessment of the AWM Development Project under the EPBC Act.

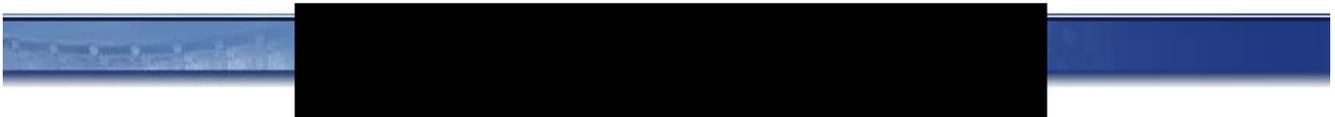
Yours sincerely

Dr Ray Edmondson OAM

President, Friends of the NFSA



31 July 2020



SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER and the ENVIRONMENT (DAWE) consideration of the AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL (AWM) DEVELOPMENT PROJECT under the ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (EPBC) ACT 1999

SUBMISSION from THE FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE (NFSA) INC.

Submitted 31 July 2020

The Friends' Submission's focus is on the need for the proposed AWM Development Project.

The Friends query the expected benefits from the forecast \$500m investment in comparison to what might be achieved by investments in other national cultural institutions including the NFSA. This reflects the main points raised in the Friends' submission to the Standing Committee on Public Works consideration of the AWM Development Project and are repeated here for the benefit of the DAWE's consideration of the AWM Development Project under the EPBC Act.

The Friends has noted that the overwhelming majority of submissions to the Standing Committee on Public Works express concern about the Development Project. Moreover, serious concerns about the Development Project were a feature in submissions to the Committee from veterans and their families, concerned citizens, distinguished Australians, academics, historians, as well as former AWM directors and staff.

A major impact of the proposed Development Project is the demolition of the award-winning ANZAC Hall. The Friends' is of the view that the AWM can continue to meet its obligations without the expansion envisaged particularly as this involves the destruction of the recently completed and still functional ANZAC Hall. The AWM should be able to manage its responsibilities and statutory obligations within its existing space including ANZAC Hall and the Annexe Building in Mitchell ACT.

A decade of "efficiency dividends" and associated funding cuts has led to a significant reduction in the resources devoted to the NFSA with a commensurate loss of public profile. Other national cultural institutions such as the National Archives of Australia (NAA) are also suffering from a lack of Government funding with the National Library of Australia (NLA) recently announcing that as a direct result of diminishing ongoing funding it would need to scale back its Asian collections.

Whilst not arguing against the role the AWM plays as a national memorial to commemorate the sacrifices made by Australians in time of war the allocation of \$500m for yet another building extension, involving as it does the destruction of the recently completed ANZAC Hall signifies a skewed and unbalanced investment strategy for our national cultural institutions.

There is no evidence that in making this allocation the Government considered what benefits the broader Australian community could derive from an equitable distribution of funds across the whole range of Australia's national cultural institutions. For example, a relatively modest amount of funding compared to what is being invested in the AWM Development Project would allow both the NFSA and the NAA to significantly advance their work in digitising their collections. Collections that are in danger of being lost forever without further investment of funds.

A small proportion of the \$500 million being devoted to the AWM Development Project could make a vast difference to the NFSA's ability to carry out its national obligations. Similarly, for the other national cultural institutions

From: Ken and Helen Semmler St Jakobi Vineyards [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: We need the project!

Sent: Sat 25/07/2020 7:56 PM

Message  St Jakobi Letterhead small 3.pdf (359 KB)

Ken and Helen Semmler St Jakobi Vineyards
[REDACTED]

Greetings to the AWM team; it's a privilege to hit the keys in support of the re-development. To the south we have Parliament House and to the north there is the War Memorial. It's a significant statement in that, without the sacrifice of many, we would not have Parliament House as an active symbol of our democracy. Whether we like it or not, a significant way in which Australia has contributed to the well-being of the world has been through walking alongside, fighting for and with folk such that they might come to enjoy and value at least some of the freedoms we have. Ah, the 'Aussie' is good at that. Free speech has never been free. It has been paid for at great price. The AWM stands as a living memorial to all who have contributed to the life which we should cherish.

I am privileged in that grand-children, as part of school visits, have been able to tour the AWM and their reactions have been heart-warming. The simple fact is there is an urgent need for more space such that such group visits can be conducted more effectively. This begs the question as to why so many folk choose to visit. It gives all, regardless of whether there is a personal link or not, the opportunity to reflect on the value of all the good we enjoy and how that 'good' came to be. It's not a matter of merely displaying the items linked with the various campaigns but those items have stories, the stories of individuals. To adequately present such information there is the need for space. There is the need for visual contact such that the various events come alive. Each military action needs to be adequately catered for. In that, one is well aware that the biggest dilemma is to resolve what to include and what to leave out! One of the many areas begging for space is the magnificent art collection, much of which currently languishes in storage. Again, each painting is the story of individuals. Please let all see and absorb more of that collection, just to mention one aspect which is currently lacking.

It's been encouraging to read at least some of the re-development proposals and the reason for them. I applaud the choices made. Let's give the record of history its due place and proceed apace with the project such that all visitors and future generations can absorb the heritage they've inherited. The sad reality is that there's currently a noisy and destructive minority who are deliberately throwing our heritage in the mud for whatever warped reason. Let the AWM record for the benefit of all, that which is good and how, at great price, that good has been given to us.

Keep up the good work! Best of wishes, Ken Semmler (Vietnam service)



27 July 2020

Mr Matt Anderson PSM
Director
Australian War Memorial

**SUBMISSION ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF
THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL**

Dear Mr Anderson,

As a war veteran (Vietnam War) I am writing to advise my support of the proposed redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial. My reason for supporting the expansion lies in the purpose for which the Australian War Memorial exists. First, the remembrance of the supreme sacrifice made by over 102,000 Australian men and women; second, the commemoration of the conflicts in which countless Australians have served through the medium of exhibitions; and third, as an archive of the records and a research centre for the study of those conflicts. While the first and most important purpose continues to be adequately accommodated, the latter two do not.

The heart of the Australian War Memorial is the iconic, original Byzantine building that has come to symbolise the Memorial in the public mind. All the other buildings and structures are an adjunct to it. Initially designed and built to house the artefacts and commemorate Australia's involvement in the Great War, the original building has had to cope with the remembrance of another eleven conflicts, including the Sudan Campaign (1885) and the South African War (1899-1902), and numerous peacekeeping operations. Despite two extensions to provide additional exhibition space and the construction of two new administrative and archival buildings, the Memorial continues to lack the facilities to adequately commemorate these conflicts, and provide a suitable archive and research centre. This is most evident in the Post-1945 Gallery tucked away in one small corner of the Memorial, largely hidden from the main public spaces. Despite the best efforts of previous Directors the exhibition space for the Korean War does not do justice to that conflict, the Malayan Emergency and the confrontation in Borneo are barely covered, while the ten year Vietnam War exhibition is small, cramped and crowded. Moreover, the Gulf War, Timor and Iraq get scant mention, while Afghanistan has to contend with a small ad hoc exhibition astride the thoroughfare to the present research centre.

Nor do the exhibitions flow in a chronological order; the restrictions on space have not allowed the story of Australia's involvement in war and peacekeeping to be exhibited in a sequential and seamless manner. Rather it has resulted in a disjointed approach with several conflicts receiving less than adequate commemoration. The current exhibition space is at capacity, and unless the Memorial is expanded this unsatisfactory situation will continue. The veterans of all conflicts deserve to have their story adequately and proportionally represented. The proposed redevelopment will allow this to happen.

Having seen the design plans I am satisfied the iconic nature of the original Byzantine building, with its symbolic cross layout, and its south-western face from Anzac Parade will be preserved. Like the current Anzac Hall the new buildings are sympathetic with the original building. Combining the new research centre with C.E.W. Bean Building and its archives is a sensible approach, allowing for more exhibition space within the original building, and a more efficient access to records for those undertaking historical and family research.

While it is highly regrettable that the redevelopment involves the removal of the recent and award winning Anzac Hall, that structure does not have the iconic status, stature and presence of the original Byzantine building. Indeed, the proposed enlarged building set to replace Anzac Hall bears a strong resemblance to it. We should also question whether a recent award winning building should stand in the way of ensuring the Memorial has sufficient exhibition space to properly exhibit past and probable future conflicts and peacekeeping operations, or whether an industry award should take precedence over the proper commemoration and sacrifice of Australian servicemen and women in our more recent conflicts? Surely, the purpose of the Australian War Memorial and its need to properly discharge its functions should take precedence.

The projected cost has drawn criticism in the public arena. While these concerns are recognised, the redevelopment should be undertaken properly with a long term view of meeting the Memorial's needs well into the future, rather than continuing with the piecemeal approach that has occurred in the past. That approach has not solved the difficulties currently being encountered. Rather than fritter money away over succeeding years with patchwork solutions, it is time to bite the bullet and develop a cohesive, world class exhibition space that compliments the original building and delivers the long term intent for which the Memorial exists.

For the Australian War Memorial to continue to serve its purpose to commemorate Australia's involvement in all conflicts, and to do this in such a way that each is properly and proportionally represented, it needs to considerably expand its exhibition space. I believe the proposed design plans achieve this in a manner that is sympathetic to the symbolism of the original structure, without detracting from its iconic appearance.

Yours Sincerely



Brigadier C.A.M. Roberts AM, CSC. (Rtd)

From: Valerie Mayer [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc: Yvonne DeLacy
Subject: Australian War Memorial Development Project Team

Australian War Memorial Development Project Team Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Members of the Project Team,

First, thank you for the opportunity to submit written feedback regarding the plans to extend the AWM.

On our most recent visit to the Australian War Memorial in 2017, we were again struck by the solemnity of this place where our servicemen and women are remembered and honoured for their sacrifice. And this is why we are writing to you and members of the Committee to express our deep concern and dismay at the proposed enormous extension to the Memorial. We believe that the money for this extension would be better spent on our returned service people and their families to ensure that all their needs are met, especially their emotional and physical health, as they adjust to civilian life.

In 2016, following information from John Garibaldi Roberts' Scrapbooks in the State Library of Victoria, we visited his son, Frank's grave in Peronne, France. The inscription on the headstone is: 'Not lonely with the boys, I'm one of the Aussie family here.' These words were from a letter Frank wrote to his father, while serving in France. The idea expressed in these words is what we see as the ANZAC spirit that sustained a young nation through the grief of losing a generation of young men. This is the spirit in which the War Memorial was built and as envisaged by C.E.W Bean while with troops on the battlefields. It was not built as a military museum to justify a war machine. That could be built elsewhere.

Bean's vision was 'to avoid glorification of war and boasting of victory ... for both moral and national reasons and because those who have fought in wars are generally strongest in their desire to prevent war.' Ref: AWM Website. Bean also believed relics, 'sacred things should be presented with their own stories rather than examples of type.' A large building displaying collections of weapons and military vehicles would seem contrary to Bean's original concept.

Finally, we support the proposal for a sculpture in the grounds of the Memorial as requested by veterans and their families who need a place to grieve for their loved ones. But why must this modest tribute be funded privately when the large extension is funded with public money?

Yours faithfully,

Yvonne DeLacy [REDACTED]

Valerie Mayer - [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

To: Development

Cc:

Subject: AWM Development proposal

To whom it may concern

Having read the documentation posted on your website, I wish to make the following comments regarding the proposed Development at the Australian War Memorial.

As a long term Canberra local, the War Memorial has consistently been a favourite site to visit when hosting interstate and overseas guests, and is a fantastic part of the local landscape. While the Memorial as it is today is great to visit, it is my view that the proposed developments will make this visit even more significant and meaningful.

I am a veteran of the Royal Australian Navy (service in the late 1970's and early 1980's) and am acutely aware that there is presently not enough space to adequately tell the service stories from more recent generations, and there is certainly nowhere near enough for future generations. This lack of space is not going to be remedied effectively in any other way aside from significant expansion. Keeping the main museum aspect in close proximity to the Hall of Memory is, in my opinion, highly valuable with both elements of the Memorial being significant to my visits.

I am particularly pleased to see that no changes will be made to the Commemorative Area, and the images of the Southern Entrance look to enhance the front on view of the Memorial.

Having worked with veterans, I am aware that every individuals' experience with service is different - with some largely positive and some often less so. Having adequate space to tell these stories as well as having the space for quiet reflection, will no doubt enhance the future of education and awareness of this important public service.

I appreciate that this Development may not please everyone, however, I believe it is important to look forward and plan for what will benefit the future community of Australians whilst future proofing the Australian War Memorial. It is important that we remember and continue to commemorate.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Mr Matt Anderson PSM,
Director,
Australian War Memorial.
Dear Sir,

SUPPORT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT
of the AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

I want to add my support for the redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial because:

a. The existing facility does not have exhibits proportional to the importance, size and period of Australian involvement in conflicts of war and peacekeeping. There is a lack of 'flow' in the story of our commemorative history; which must be because of a lack of space.

b. For those who are entrusted to caretake and upkeep the exhibits as well as ever increasing archives, there must also be sufficient space and appropriate facilities.

c. The existing facilities are not large enough to accommodate reasonable 'volumes/numbers' of visitors. Overcrowded halls and exhibits and 'bottlenecks' detract from what should be appropriate respectful, somewhat solemn yet enjoyable visitors' experiences.

I hereby record my support for bigger and better facilities for the Australian War Memorial on the basis of:

a. As a veteran of the Vietnam War,

b. A patriot who values the service of those who came before and will come after us; to keep Australia a free and sovereign nation,

c. A citizen who values our culture and history; without which we would lose our 'identity', and,

d. my personal experiences from visiting the Australian War Memorial on many occasions since about 1960, including hosting friends from overseas countries.

Yours sincerely,
(signed)

Major M. D. Simic (Ret.)

From: David Jenkins [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: AWM - Written Feedback Consultation.

Sent: Mon 27/07/2020 11:52 PM

To whom it may concern,

I'm sending this brief email as part of the public submission to support the redevelopment of the AWM as proposed last year and under EPBC assessment.

During my 10 years living in Canberra I have (as an army reserve veteran) often walked through the memorial and found peace in the records and stories preserved here because they are important to me for many reasons. Chiefly because the ADF is an extended family of mine and my relatively short and uneventful time serving, left me with many good friends and a certainty that if things ever got really bad i could rely on my fellow ADF members to stick by me.

This might sound a bit lyrical, but I'm absolutely certain I'm not the only one. Consequently, the design of the memorial is important to me.

I'd like too reluctantly offer my 2 cents worth in support of the proposed design from a veteran's point of view.

The planned design doesn't alter the meaning or intent of the AWM but rather adds to the graceful arcs and provides additional weight and symmetry to the overall design within the Canberra landscape.

The extended lines and vaulted open and protected spaces bring a larger space (in practical terms) and a sense of light and peace to what was previously and darker and more ominous Anzac Hall.

The AWM should (in my humble opinion) reflect the humility and love that was demonstrated so often by so many Australian individuals when faced with great stress and adversity.

Many of us alive today haven't experienced anything like total war or would want to. By having an AWM space thoughtfully extended it will provide Australian's of all ages an opportunity to contemplate the sacrifices of previous generations, to perhaps consider the decisions both good (and some arguably NOT so good) made and how these have shaped our past and the future.

Perhaps a better AWM could help us remember the horrors that we might avoid too.

Ultimately the AWM is somewhere every Australian, rich or impoverished, from any station in life, gender, colour or religion can go to humbly remind ourselves of our best qualities. Courage, endurance, mateship, and sacrifice.

The new design very subtly does this and greatly improves the capacity simultaneously while preserving and improving the overall appearance and footprint of the buildings.

Sincerely,
David Jenkins

Submission, re the Australian War Memorial Redevelopment Project

development@awm.gov.au

27 Jul 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

We are writing to share our views on the expansion planned for the Australian War Memorial.

As taxpayers, and supporters of the AWM, we have observed the growing antagonism from certain sections of the AWM "old brigade" along with the "Canberra Elite", being directed toward the expansion project.

We would normally ignore the ramblings of this group, as they are generally predictable in their disdain for anything that appears to be forward looking, or that they did not themselves suggest. The difference this time is that the volume of catastrophic language is such that it demands our attention and has engendered our ire, as will be seen from the somewhat intemperate tone of this letter.

There are many submissions in support of the development, and it is not for us to add to those thoughtful documents. We look to offer a perspective which neither the AWM submission, nor the detractors seem to have highlighted.

The discussion on Heritage Issues relates mostly to Bricks and Mortar, Architectural Awards, Exhibition Items, Open Spaces and Canberra Vistas. We are concerned that little if anything, has been said about "Cultural Traditions being passed down from our veterans to future generations". It is our experience that veterans of all conflicts wish for their children and grandchildren that they should not have to endure what they themselves went through. So, if we consider that up to 10 million children will visit the AWM over the next 50 years, then we have a responsibility to ensure that the memorial is relevant to them, as well as veterans and their families. We feel duty bound to ensure that the sacrifices made by our veterans are not visited on future generations.

Shame on those detractors who lack the vision to consider future generations of Australians who deserve to understand the values espoused by those who have served Australia in uniform. If the expansion of the AWM into the 21st century allows just one future leader to be temperate in their consideration of sending our troops into conflict, then our veteran's wishes will have been honoured... and Australia will be better for it. We believe that "the Diggers that the Memorial are meant to Honour" would make this investment to ensure that their descendants understand the experience and sacrifice of war. With this understanding they can make informed decisions, to serve when needed, and to be thoughtful in their leadership of our nation.

We also ask you to consider the following:

1. Anything that enhances the experience of children visiting the memorial, over the next 50+ years, has the potential to be beneficial for Australia. Every child exposed to the values and experiences of those who served, will be enriched in some way. If we consider that the total investment, in each child, over that time is about \$60; surely as a nation we can afford such an investment.
2. History has proven that the staff at the AWM will use the space sensitively, and for the intended purpose. Statements that the AWM will be turned into a "Theme Park" are contemptuous of the dedicated and hardworking Council, leadership team, staff, and volunteers at the AWM. The same Theme Park "luminary" was also quoted as saying that "he had not seen one person, beside the memorial's current director Brendan Nelson, support the expansion". *One can only deduce that he moves in vastly different circles to the broader and more inclusive community in which we live.*
3. Mr. Kelson's comment relating to the collection items that "Never Saw Combat", the F-111 for example, also shows contempt for those who served, and died, in such machines. This mindset reminds us of the reprehensible attitude that was shown toward returning Vietnam Vets, by many of the RSL old guard, regarding Vietnam being merely a "Police Action". *It should also be noted that youngsters growing up in the 60's (that's us) saw the purchase of the F-111 as defining Australia's emerging defence capability, and that this visionary purchase was only 18 years after the end of WW2. Similar vision is being shown with this redevelopment.
4. The team at the AWM use "Military Hardware" to tell stories, and thereby engage with both adults, and young people. Mr. Kelson sees a "piece of hardware", where most people see a place where servicemen, and women, lived, experienced mateship, exhibited courage, felt fear, or perhaps spent their last moments. The hardware, supported by the personal stories of those who served, completes the picture, and enriches the visitor's experience. The curators and historians at the AWM "commemorate sacrifice" by weaving stories that give the visitor a sense of what it was like to serve. The "Military Hardware" is an essential part of that story.
5. We note that two of the loudest, and perhaps most prominent detractors, Messrs. Gower and Kelson, contributed to the need for this major redevelopment by their lack of vision in planning for the future. They compromised the heritage value of the AWM by allowing piecemeal additions to be undertaken... and their inability to raise the profile of the AWM, and garner support for modernization, is testament to their lack of foresight.
6. With net immigration approaching 200,000 per year there is no better institution to inform our "new Australians" of the sacrifices that have been made to ensure that we continue to enjoy, and cherish, a country which values freedom... and is prepared to defend it, no matter the cost.
7. There has been a suggestion that the funds could be better spent on education and health. The AWM is a significant contributor to the education of Australian children

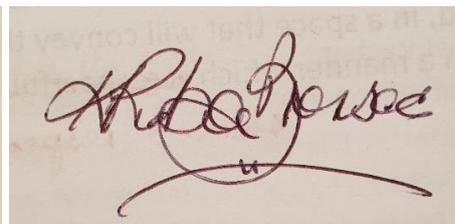
and informs them of the values and sacrifice of our forebears. This was brought into sharp focus by the introduction of the “Last Post Ceremony” by former director Dr. Nelson. It is inspiring to see hundreds of children sitting reverently and reflecting on their experience at the AWM. This motivated us to fund a short documentary film highlighting the 15 values identified as being representative of our servicemen and women (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMxsogyys1c>). Regarding Health, the Federal Government will spend approx. \$800 Billion on healthcare, over the period of the AWM redevelopment. The investment in the AWM redevelopment is a fraction of that amount. We believe the experience offered by the expanded galleries, reflection spaces and digital/interactive platforms will contribute in a positive way to allowing our young people to find “perspective” in an ever-changing world. Effectively managed, this could be of great benefit in promoting positive mental health and resilience with our youth.

As background, we are proud to have contributed over \$200k of our private funds to AWM projects over the last 6 years. Our first experience of the AWM was over 50 years ago, so we are not “new to the game”. Between ourselves and our children we have served a combined 36 years in the ADF, with 50% full-time service and 50% reserve. The Roll of Honour bears the names of an uncle, and great uncle, who made the supreme sacrifice, and members of our extended family have served in all conflicts since WW1, apart from the Korean War.

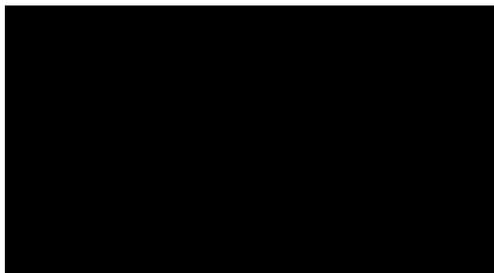
Based on the above, and following considerable discussion with our family and friends, we are all prepared to support the ongoing investment in commemorating those who have served and believe that it is also a valuable contribution to future generations.

In conclusion, the AWM redevelopment will enhance the ability of those who served to speak to future generations in the language they understand, in a space that will convey the true experience of conflict and peacekeeping ... and in a manner which shows respect for the **Devotion, Endurance** and **Sacrifice** of all Australian Servicemen and Women.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature is highly stylized and cursive, appearing to read 'M Ribot de Bressac'.A handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature is highly stylized and cursive, appearing to read 'Katherine Ribot de Bressac'.

Michael & Katherine Ribot de Bressac



From: Peter Condon [REDACTED]
To: Development [REDACTED]
Cc:
Subject: Australian War Memorial Development

Sent: Tue 28/07/2020 11:57 AM

AWM Development Team,

I understand that there are some objections to the proposed redevelopment to the Australian War Memorial and I wish to remind all interested parties to do some research on the history of the Charles Bean's idea. It is currently a major Canberra attraction and it should be upgraded and modernised to remain so.

The Australian War Memorial is an Australian war memorial and museum and not a public library. War related artefacts and equipment used by Australian forces during wartime operations form a major part of the collection, and may I suggest, are the primary reason people of all ages visit the establishment. New high-tech displays are important in teaching about or recreating past wartime actions, but being able to see or even touch some of the equipment used at the time is more important. Most importantly, to display this equipment, such as restored aircraft, rockets, guns and vehicles, more space is needed in or adjacent to the main buildings. Artefacts in storage are of no use to anyone, and referring to them as "war toys" is disgusting.

I support the planned upgrade to the Australian War Memorial.

Sincerely

Peter Condon
RAAF WGCDCR Retired
Vietnam Veteran 1969

From: [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Australian War Memorial Development

Sent: Tue 28/07/2020 12:31 PM

Dear Sir/ Madam

I must respond to the recent consultation on the plans for the future development of the Australian War Memorial. In particular the environmental and heritage impacts of these plans, pending the assessment within the EPBC Act. I would normally not respond to such consultation, however, I am angered by the incorrect reports by media publications on the Development project. The history of the AWM is well known. A memorial to honour the sacrifice of the men and women of our Defence forces involved in war & conflict to defend our nation. The site attracts people world wide to visit the galleries & displays that tell the stories of war. When the complex was built it was never envisaged the building function would out grow the original structure. However, experience has shown a major expansion onsite is essential to represent the stories of the past. A wealth of information is available on the project. Key review document being:- <https://www.awm.gov.au/system/files/documents/EPBC%20Preliminary%20Documentation%20Submission.pdf>.

The Heritage considerations will remain with the Commemorative space and Roll of Honour maintained as part of the original building, with added space to accommodate visitor numbers, tour groups including school children. The design features blend well with the surrounds. The detached new Research Centre building will remain part of the AWM archive but will enable the researchers to work without interruption. This is well positioned on the eastern side of the site. The new Southern entry design features added space to welcome visitors that blends in well with the original landscape. The utilisation of a glazed atrium to connect historic buildings mirrors the British Museum expansion who outgrew their original building, as has the Memorial. Redevelopment of Anzac Hall is contentious, however, the dome of the Hall of Memory to remain the central focus as images show

To meet the challenges of this century the AWM must develop onsite to establish future galleries. The investment by the Australian Government in this Capital project is a prudent one. It will a world class institution to make our nation proud that benefits all Australians

Sincerely [REDACTED]

From:
To:
Cc:

[REDACTED]
Development

Subject: RE: AWM Development

Well said [REDACTED] - fully supported.
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

[REDACTED]
----- Original message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 28/7/20 12:07 pm (GMT+10:00)
To: development@awm.gov.au

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir?Madam

As an ex-serviceman with 20 years service in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, I take great umbridge and am deeply insulted with the so called critics of the Australian War Memorial (AWM) expansion using the term "War Toys" in a derogatory manner.

I suggest that these critics remember the thousands of servicemen and women who died whilst playing with these "War Toys" to provide free speech in your free country.

With out these past sacrifices these same critics could well be speaking Japanese rather than English today.

Reflect upon that for a long moment!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Memorial Project

Sent: Wed 29/07/2020 10:18 AM

I have followed this proposed project and the public debate and still cannot be persuaded it is of any appreciable value to current or recently serving members or in line with the original aims of the Memorial.

The \$500 million could be better spent on current support for Defence force personnel, if that is one of the aims.

There are much better and cheaper ways to keep the current activities of the forces - peacekeeping and military - known to the public.

A building in Canberra stuffed with more artifacts and displays is of very imited value.

Cheers
[REDACTED]

AWM Development Project - EPBC Public

Comment

102 Submission [REDACTED]

From:

Sent: Wed 29/07/2020 11:55 AM

To:

Development

Cc:

Subject:

Australian War Memorial

I right to object in the strongest possible terms against the enlargement, embellishments and general extravagant extensions of The Australian War Memorial. It is already a much respected monument to those who fought for our freedoms. Sometimes I'll advised. We are in danger of glorifying war we must use all our resources to create an equal fair prosperous society in Australia and avoid war [REDACTED]

From: Peter Watts [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Australian War Memorial Redevelopment

Sent: Wed 29/07/2020 12:28 PM

Dear Sirs

I recently visited the Australian War Memorial (AWM) as I have done many times. I have donated family items relating to both World Wars to the Memorial over the years and have an uncle recorded on the Roll of Honour. The place has deep meaning for me, as it does for many others.

I have also visited in my capacity as one of the longest serving museum directors in the country (now retired).

As a Museum Director, and also an Architect and Landscape Architect, I am deeply concerned about the proposed expansion of the AWM. I summarise the reasons below:

1. The AWM is an unusual institution in that it plays the role of both memorial and museum. Keeping an appropriate balance between these two functions is critical. The museum function should never dominate the commemorative and ceremonial role of the place. This is a fine line to tread. In my view that balance is achieved at present. The museum does not need to be enlarged. All high quality museums have temporary exhibitions. It does not need to have permanent displays on every conflict Australia has been engaged in. It is perfectly normal to do so and it is not necessary to cover all subject areas on a permanent basis. That can be done in changing displays and exhibitions.

The proposed new lower ground southern entry will remove the simple direct entry to the building that immediately places visitors in front of the commemoration area and is a good demonstration of how this balance has been dramatically altered

The move to aggrandisement is unwarranted when there are so many other matters government could and should be supporting, especially amongst its other cultural institutions.

By way of example the new extension to the War Memorial in Sydney's Hyde Park shows what a very thoughtful and sensitive development can achieve. In that instance the whole visitor experience is enhanced in the most modest, dignified and balanced way demonstrating that quality of approach will always prevail over size.

2. The proposal to demolish the ANZAC Hall is an obscene one. It is an outstanding building, as evidenced by the many awards it has received. For such a large building it sits modestly in the landscape and has a brilliant and dramatic interior for the display of large pieces of military hardware. To demolish it and replace it with something roughly equating the same footprint is an inexcusable extravagance and wasteful of resources and antithetical to sustainability principles that the government should be promoting.
3. The proposed development fails to understand the relationship between the building and its landscape setting, especially the exceptionally thoughtful and successful Eastern Precinct development undertaken a number of years ago. As an example of this the enlargement and formalisation of the parade ground in front of the building at the end of Anzac Parade with big new steps and a blade wall façade will greatly increase the built surfaces and destroy the setting of the discrete simple Memorial in a simple landscape setting.

There must come a time when enough is enough. In my view that time has been reached and the AWM should operate within its current facilities. It can and should continually upgrade and refresh its facilities and its displays. But this should be done within the present structures.

Dr Peter Watts AM

From: [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: AWM Development Project

I wish to render my support for the pending AWM Development Project.

As an Air Force veteran of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I wish to provide an opinion on the project.

The AWM has three functions: as a war memorial, as a museum of conflict artefacts, and as a research centre.

The memorial function is fit for purpose, with the Hall of Memory, Reflecting Pool, Galleries and the Hall of Valour expressing the timeless gratitude of the Australian people for the sacrifice and service of those who fought for, and are fighting for, the protection of the Free World, Australia, its people and its values.

The Research Centre is the national repository of the story of Australia's involvement in war, from the time of the Boer War to the present day. It is well equipped and staffed to provide an exemplary service to historians, Australians from all walks of life, service personnel and their families and international researchers. It is, however, very limited in its space and requires expansion.

The Museum function, with its artefacts, photos and stories, serves two purposes: to (1) display these to inform and educate visitors, including children, on the nature of war, sacrifice and service; and, from my perspective, as importantly, (2) to provide the essential link between the names of the Fallen and those who served, starkly recorded in the Galleries and the research archives, with the physical, emotional and spiritual manifestation of their war service and sacrifice. This link enables awareness, appreciation, reflection and understanding of the human and material cost of defending Australia and all we hold dear.

To the extent possible, the Museum meets its purpose, but it is sorely deficient in space available to display the Collection. This is never more apparent than after a tour of the Mitchell Annexes, where so much of the Collection overflows, never to be seen at the AWM despite the best endeavours of the curators to cycle the Museum display.

Thus, the expansion of the AWM, as proposed by the Development Project, is fully justified if the the nation is to give due recognition and gratitude to those who have served in our Navy, Army and Air Force to protect our nation and its values, which must never be taken for granted.

To those who oppose this development and its purpose I would say that the supreme sacrifice made by over 100,000 Australians to defend their right to freedom in all its forms should be remembered with gratitude, that the service of the millions of Australians in war and peacekeeping operations throughout our history should be acknowledged with appreciation, and that the essential purpose of the Australian War Memorial in forever remembering that sacrifice and service should be supported, currently through the AWM Development Project.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Bainbrigge, Mark [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: AWM expansion plans

To whom it may concern.

I am writing to express my support of the expansion of the Australian war Memorial and subsequently the identification of a need to properly tell the story of Australians involved in peacekeeping, middle eastern conflicts and even home responses to a multitude of events that are part of our history. In particular I feel there is a need and want to display the efforts of our Police and military in little known interventions such as pre INTERFET, Haiti, Mozambique, South Sudan, Cyprus and others.

These stories have not really been told and are part of Australia's social heritage and some of the service shown by members representing Australia overseas has been invaluable but unrecorded. There has to be suitable space at the memorial to do this and is particularly important to not only Australians who served on these missions but to their families as well.

Please let me know if there is anyone else I can write to in relation to this. I have already made contact with the PWC and believe that the memorial needs to keep evolving and to do this there must be room to tell the modern stories as well. This place is one of heritage, healing, inclusion and remembrance. It is important.

Regards

Mark

Mark Bainbrigge
Operations Manager
Property & Asset Management Australia Queensland
JLL
[REDACTED]

AWM Development Project - EPBC Public
Comment
106 Submission TERRY

From: Terry, Richard [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: I support the AWM development [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Sent: Wed 29/07/2020 2:21 PM

UNOFFICIAL

Dear AWM

I support the development – you don't have enough space to tell the stories of recent conflicts. It is important to me that you do. I was a UN peacekeeper and I would like my service recognised and have the ability to show my children examples of my service.

I recently visited the AWM – I understand what the development will do. I don't understand why some object it really won't affect the appearance of the place but it will give more space.

Kind regards

DETECTIVE SUPERINTENDENT RICHARD TERRY
[REDACTED]

From: Ian Colley [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Australian War Memorial proposals

Dear AWM,

I am writing to raise some concerns about the proposal for further developments at the Memorial.

I am particularly worried that the additional floor space will upset the delicate balance between memorial and museum that has been such a valuable feature of the facility over past years.

The danger is that the place will just become one big museum and, especially, destroy the setting of the discrete and simple Memorial in a simple landscape setting. I have always admired the simplicity and humility of Australia's approach to reflecting on war and history. Bit by bit I feel it is being overwhelmed by a more jingoistic and celebratory approach.

Specifically, I am worried that, with the proposal:

-
- A large glass box will be added directly to the rear and destroy an appreciation of the free standing original Memorial building by Emil Sodersten and John Crust (design 1928 completed 1941) – that also acts as a simple and strong memorial shrine – this will be visible rising about the AWM down Anzac Parade and from Mt Ainslie. The demolition of the National award winning Anzac Hall by Denton Corker Marshall 2001;
- A new lower ground southern entry that will remove the simple direct entry to the building that immediately places visitors in front of the commemoration area – after my report the AWM changed tack and said it will still be open but I reckon they will just lock the door one day; and
- Enlargement and formalisation of the parade ground in front of the AWM at the end of Anzac Parade with big new steps and a blade wall façade that will greatly increase the built surfaces and destroy the setting of the discrete simple Memorial in a simple landscape setting.

Please take these views into your considerations.

Kind regards

Ian Colley (son and grandson of two Light Horsemen who each fought in their respective world wars).

From: [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Submission re Expansion of AWM EPBC Report Dr Martin Hess

Sent: Wed 29/07/2020 7:43 PM

Good evening,

I fully support the expansion of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. I am a former member of the Australian Army Reserve and a long-serving member of the Australian Federal Police with peacekeeping service in Cyprus, East Timor and Afghanistan. I am a peacekeeping veteran and am very proud of my service, and those of my colleagues.

One of the aspects of the expansion is to tell the stories of those who have served in post 1945 missions and operations in which Australian values played such a large part in their successful implementation. These involve long-term justice-based mission in regional neighbours such as East Timor/Timor Leste and the Solomon Islands. In both countries, the AFP has played a central role in restoring hope and trust in disrupted and shattered communities. The police have served further afield and a host of capacities, including responses to terrorist incidents and disasters in which have caused the deaths of multiple Australians.

The Australian War Memorial is more than a building which contains the hardware of war. It is a spiritual home to many of us who have served in various capacities to make a better peace once the fighting is over. In my view, Australia has acquitted itself extremely well in all aspects of this type of engagement and these stories need to be told to a general public who is largely unaware of what has been done in their name, often at great risk to those who have been involved.

I am happy to support this expansion because it provides an opportunity to tell the story of peace, alongside the stories of war. Australia, and Australians can be rightfully proud of the efforts of all who have served, both past and continuing in both war and peace. These stories need a place for their stories to be told.

Dr Martin Hess
[REDACTED]

From: CHRIS LANGTON <[REDACTED]>
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Australian War Memorial Re-Development

Sent: Wed 29/07/2020 11:04 PM

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

My name is Chris Langton (0221574 RAAF) and I flew as a FAC in Vietnam 1969-1970.

Australian FAC had a unique position in Vietnam as we were primarily attached to US Army Units such as the 1st Infantry Division where I was assigned.

My Father and my Grandfather were Navy and Army in the Second World War and the First World War and my Grandfather lost his brother on the last day of the war when they were in France.

I am told that there is some issue being raised by some individuals or their organisations against the commitment by our Government to provide what they believe is adequate funding to Re -Develop the War Memorial.

I am appalled and dismayed that anyone should be so dismissively educated that they have no idea as to the importance of this Memorial in continuing to inform and remind our population as to what the alternatives might be if our country is not able to defend itself or has lost the will to do so.

The figure in terms of dollars to get this message across is practically immaterial to this discussion and is in any event not a thing which can be calculated in dollar terms.

In any event, I think those of us who are responding are entitled to know exactly who the dissenters are and what might be their arguments to the contrary.

Australia is already in a precarious position on the world stage and the Canberra bubble might need to take heed and recognise the importance of elevating the sort of knowledge which the AWM movingly provides in so many ways.

Chris Langton

From: Don Watson [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Australian War Memorial Development



Australian War Memorial Development Project Team
GPO Box 345
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Project Team

In response to your call for public comment on this project, we wish to question the premise on which it is based, the planning process and elements of its proposed realisation.

Misrepresentation of national history

The project aims to address 'a lack of capacity to provide equitable coverage of conflicts and operations'. This is misguided given the losses suffered in these various operations differ greatly, as does their impact on Australian society. Attempting to record recent operations in a way commensurate with the coverage of World War I—the reason for the Memorial's creation—is absurd.

Likewise, the aim to address 'a lack of capacity to describe a broader description of war' is questionable given the Memorial has never given much attention to the Home Front and continues to exclude any coverage of Australia's Frontier Wars.

Inappropriate planning process

The development concept was determined before the design competition was held, precluding an outcome more compatible with the exceptional clarity of the original design. The result is a collage of barely related components competing with the original and each other (Fig. 4.5). The term 'campus' is apt for an outcome (four design packages coordinated by an 'integration architect') that is inappropriate for a national shrine.

Insufficient demonstration of the preferred option

The Australian War Memorial Development Project Preliminary Documentation Submission (June 2020) is confused by discussion of rejected options.

- No site plan is provided for the development of the preferred option, although aspects can be inferred from renderings (Fig 5.1a).
- The new subterranean entrance will suit only a minority of visitors approaching from the south. Other visitors will either descend ramps in sunken courtyards to both sides or simply use the existing front door. Illustrations of the ramps (Fig 5.2) are not reassuring about the visitor experience of this a circuitous route (one being mislabelled). The formerly clear entry to the building will be confused.
- Having been deprived of a view of the facade, the visitor experience of the subterranean entrance is not saved by the oculus. Without sections through the building, there is insufficient information to know whether the dome will be visible through the oculus but this seems unlikely. Its low height will be fine until someone falls into it. If orientation is needed at the new front door, there are real problems.
- It is not clear how new subterranean spaces to the south and north are connected, nor if there is yet another entrance into the Glazed Link.
- The mention of life spans for new components presupposes their continual replacement, which is inappropriate for such an important building.
- The Glazed Link and the rebuilt Anzac Hall are largely unrelated to the original building in their form, details and materials. Why is the new Anzac Gallery clad with rusted steel? What is the raking soffit (Fig 4.5)?
- The use of ETFE for the roof of the Glazed Link is inappropriate; the visual connotations of the material are sports stadiums or shopping centres. Being only partly transparent, the visual link with the dome will not be obvious. If there is any failure of the membrane the consequences would be catastrophic for a museum.
- Where is the proposed service access? Roads to Treloar Crescent seem obstructed. What appear to be external service access points in Figs 7.3 and 5.8 (lower right) will be internal within the new Glazed Link.
- More before and after images would have been useful. In the only instance (Fig 7.2) the existing is preferable.

Unacceptable impact on heritage values

The proposed additional components compete as rival expressions which, piece by piece, diminish the unity and gravity of the original War Memorial (Figs 4.5, 5.7 and 5.8). The new southern entrance, redeveloped Parade Ground, replacement Anzac Hall, and infill Glazed Link all compete visually with the original.

The building's external shell is outstandingly significant and should remain without accretions. The considerable extension of the CEW Bean Building clutters the view from the east, while the enlarged Anzac Hall and Glazed Link obscure the view from the north.

There is an unfortunate willingness to forgo the formal and material simplicity of the original in favour of current architectural elaboration.

The redeveloped campus-like complex underrates the symbolic importance of the original Memorial.

As professionals with considerable experience of heritage protection in Queensland, we believe that the proposed additions would not be permitted to a comparable building here; and that, if approved, would indicate a serious deficiency in heritage controls at a national level.

Unacceptable environmental impact

The demolition of Anzac Hall, an award-winning building erected relatively recently and designed to complement the main building, is beyond belief.

Waste of public funds

The project does not represent wise expenditure of public funds, being over-scaled and largely unnecessary. In these days of complex display technology, such as virtual reality, the Memorial could find smarter ways of extending its coverage than by expanding its buildings. It could also present more temporary and changing exhibits, and make its collections accessible to more Australians through travelling exhibitions.

The Memorial has long benefitted from generous public funding by comparison with Australia's state and regional museums. Extravagant expansion in the present situation of unprecedented national debt is both irrational and unsupportable.

We urge that this misguided scheme be deferred immediately and, if revived in the future, should be more broadly considered.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Judith McKay

(Art Curator, Australian War Memorial 1977–79; Queensland consultant for Ken Inglis's national war memorials study; member of the Queensland Heritage Council 2011–16; assessor for Queensland Anzac Centenary and Veterans' Memorial Grants programs, 2016–)

Dr Don Watson

(Life Fellow, Australian Institute of Architects; Life Fellow, Society of Architectural Historians of Australia and New Zealand; Adjunct Professor, University of Queensland)



29 July 2020

Australian War Memorial Development Project Team
GPO Box 345
Canberra ACT 2601

**Australian War Memorial Development Project
EPBC Act preliminary documentation - comments from S. N. Gower AO AO (Mil)**

I wish my objection to the Australian War Memorial development proposal be recorded because of its significant and adverse impact on the National Heritage values of the AWM. The proposal is incompatible with the legislated AWM Heritage Management Plan 2011 and the 2019 review. You and your advisors stubbornly refuse to acknowledge this. In short, the proposal does not enhance the heritage values of the site and represents a major risk to this National Heritage place.

I agree with and draw your attention to the heritage review by Ashley Built Heritage prepared for the Australian Institute of Architects in December 2019 and request that *Section 5 Summary of Impacts, Conclusions and Recommendations* is fully addressed by the AWM along with any other critical comments you receive from Mr Ashley. You just cannot ignore these and attempt to downplay their significance. Ashley is independent and understands the heritage implications of your proposals, as indeed does the advocacy body for good architecture, the Australian Institute of Architects.

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment has the expertise (and responsibility) to assess every detail of the proposal against the Memorial's Heritage Management Plan and the Commonwealth and National Heritage listings and this must be done. My comments are broader and relate to the key aspects of the development proposal. I must say your attempts to drown interested parties by what is no more than an incoherent collection of website material is to be deplored. But you expect the average Joe to plow through it all and then give an informed comment!

The destruction of ANZAC Hall. This building is listed as to be retained in the Memorial's own heritage documentation. It is referred to in the National Heritage list as a 'modern and flexible exhibition hall' that retained the view of the original building 'in the round' as originally intended by Sodersten and Crust. Also from the NHL description - the hall sits unobtrusively behind the iconic Main Building and has minimum impact on views from Anzac Parade. A simple steel/glass bridge link joins the existing building to the hall. It melds appropriately with the heritage values of the Main Building and its landscaped setting and won the Sir Zelman Cowen Award for public buildings for its design excellence.

It is not correct or rational for the AWM to suggest Anzac Hall is 'not fit for purpose' and that the Commonwealth and National heritage lists, and your own Heritage Management Plan are in some way wrong about its value. Your statement is indicative of the many

contradictions and non sequiturs in your new assessment. To also suggest that the expanded museum capability of the proposed new building negates any impact from the destruction of Anzac Hall is not only wrong but patently ridiculous. At the PWC hearing, your Director stated, *inter alia* that Anzac Hall was ‘.....a bespoke building....’, ‘.... a missed opportunity...’ and capable of displaying only ‘.... a relatively small number of large-technology objects.’ That such ignorant nonsense was fed to him lends one to question the ability of his advisers.

Changes to the northern precinct. Apart from the destruction of Anzac Hall, the proposal for a new building attached to the Main Building by a glass (now plastic) atrium overwhelms the Main Building and denies the opportunity to view it ‘in the round’. The NCA placed great importance on that issue when the building was being planned, and I would be shocked if its position had changed. Atriums don’t work; visit the British Museum to see that. It’s devoid of any valuable collection items. Your proposal is intrusive when viewed from the north, west and east including from Mt Ainslie, and critically, is visible above the parapet from Anzac Parade in that iconic vista.

Changes to the southern precinct. The new southern entry has expanded the more discrete and sensitive Johnson Pilton Walker concept into one that has significant impact on the iconic southern view of the building and significantly changes the heritage significant arrival experience along the main sightline and into the Commemorative Area. It introduces a massive new façade into the view from the south at level with a ludicrously over-scaled and rectangular parade ground. The proposed parade ground rearrangement challenges the scale of the Main Building and ignores the importance of its long standing axial arrangement which sympathetically connects it to Anzac Parade and the heritage building. Its present orientation draws a viewer naturally to the Stone of Remembrance and thence upwards to the entrance. The proposed blades are no more than a discordant, unnecessary artifice that serves no useful purpose than to intrude on the important north-south Parliament House – Memorial sightline.

Incidentally after 40 years of ADF service, I’ve never heard of an approved ‘Army’ parade ground. It was put to me this is a reason why you are wasting money on changing the existing one supposedly on the advice of anonymous ‘Defence stakeholders’. The existing arrangement dates to the late ‘50s, if not before. The only change (in 2004) has been refinement and the inclusion of noble materials. As stated in the Heritage Management Plan, it should be retained and conserved.

Changes to the eastern precinct. The significant increase in size of the existing Bean Building to the south overwhelms the (heritage documentation described) informal and native planting landscape. Your proposed extension of the building (to the south rather than the planned east) will challenge the primacy of the Main Building and its sense of isolation in the landscape – something which the current building by DCM, and the eastern precinct café building by JPW were at pains not to do. Needless to say, the impact of the proposed southern expanded Bean Building will also have a dramatic adverse impact on the Sir Zelman Cowen awarded eastern precinct; but I would have to observe that your ideas on ‘progress’ and the ‘need for space to do your job’ don’t seem to worry about things like that.

Changes to the western precinct. I note that the AWM says the western precinct will not change. However, it is clear that a complete realignment of roads and pathways to a more formal and rectangular style site-wide is apparent. The impact of this more formal geometric

approach should be addressed, but this does not appear to have occurred. There was a time when the layout was given long and serious consideration informed by a staff member with postgraduate overseas qualifications in that particular subject along with JPW. But she, like others, fled some years ago.

I am also concerned that no consideration of the significance of the Unit Plaque Dedication Program, that is pre-eminent in the western precinct and western courtyard, has occurred. The importance of this significant installation, especially along the central access pathway, which you propose realigning, seems to have been overlooked in AWM documentation. How these unit plaques which were dedicated by surviving veterans from these units (many now dead) are valued must be addressed. Their important intangible heritage aspect cannot be overlooked, similar to the intangible heritage aspect of Anzac Hall opened in the presence of WW1 veteran, Ted Smout. None can be removed from their current installed locations without that examination. There is also the potential for damage.

In summary. Charles Bean in his vision spoke of the Memorial being a ‘gem of its kind’ and being ‘not colossal in scale’. Yet ‘colossal’ appears exactly what is being proposed by the AWM. I note you used Bean’s quotation of aspiring to have ‘the best museum of its kind’ to support your plans at the PWC hearing, but you are doing no more really than destroying the ‘gem’ he envisioned: you do not seem to realise this. Your plan will swamp and destroy the inherent well-recognised heritage value of the site if executed as currently proposed. It seems heritage issues have been ignored willfully, dismissed by those responsible for safeguarding the unique intrinsic heritage value of the overall site.

For goodness sake, please stop the weasel-worded justifications for wholesale change and accept you can do the job without interfering with a priceless national piece of heritage that you don’t appear to value, let alone appreciate.

And finally, objectors to your plans recognise the need for more space to cover recent conflicts, but not your proposal.

Yours sincerely

MAJGEN Steve Gower AO AO (Mil), ME

From: Douglas Newton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2020 10:31 AM
To: Development
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Opposition to the Redevelopment Project

Re: Australian War Memorial Development Project

I wish to place on record my opposition to the current proposal to spend \$498 million on a massive reconstruction of the Australian War Memorial.

I have just finished reading the transcript recording proceedings of the Public Works Committee enquiry into the project on 14 July 2020. I note there the implication that those who oppose the project must be opposed to proper recognition for our servicemen and women. This is false. I would like to note that both my grandfathers served in the Australian forces during the First World War, Lieutenant Alfred Joseph Newton, as a dispensing chemist and doctor, and Private Cecil Alfred Ashcroft (SERN 14583), as a driver. My father, Captain Noel Curtis Newton (NX206858), a polio victim as a child, was a surgeon in the RAAMC; he served in the Second World War at Cowra. My father-in-law, Private Harold Charles Gobert (NX5079), served in the 2nd AIF, spending almost three years in Egypt and Libya from 1939. Thus, there is no lack of respect for servicemen and servicewomen in this household.

The essence of my opposition is this:

- The AWM is above all else a shrine to the vast bulk of our war dead, those from the First World War and Second World War, a shrine that takes its dignity from its simplicity.
- The redevelopment proposal is a grandiose extravagance masquerading as red-poppy respect for the fallen and the returned servicemen and women.
- The mission of the AWM's museum arm is a broad one: to engage the Australian people with issues of war and peace in the widest sense, through changing exhibitions in the existing spaces. It should not be converted into a giant museum of combat experience.
- The creation of vast new exhibition spaces at huge expense is not necessary to the successful operation of the AWM museum arm's mission. What is required is more probing exhibitions in existing spaces.
- The demolition of an existing heritage building ('Anzac Hall') and its replacement by vast new exhibition spaces at the AWM in order to house war material is a profanation of a shrine.
- The idea that the presence of large pieces of war weaponry assists veterans – based on anecdotal evidence only – is an emotive, illogical, and unproven argument. Anecdotal evidence is a frail basis on which to base such a vast outlay of public money. Anecdotal evidence could easily be assembled to underpin exactly the opposite argument: that many veterans are re-traumatised by the objects, sounds, and smells of war.
- The idea that Australia's role in more contemporary conflicts is not sufficiently represented at the AWM is a problem to be addressed by changing exhibition spaces not by a huge overdevelopment of the existing historic site.
- The idea that the ticketed \$498 million cannot be redirected, so that it is not really a choice between the AWM redevelopment and the better funding of veterans' services, is a sophistry that flies in the face of the reality of all public spending: it is always a matter of sorting budget priorities.
- After both world wars, veterans themselves argued that there were choices to be made between funding memorials and better funding for veterans. In scores of places across Australia and across the decades they voiced their preference for more generous provision for veterans. Local history shows that on many occasions the veterans themselves pleaded for better funding for the disabled, the traumatized, and the bereaved, to be given priority over grand memorialization.

In conclusion, no one ever puts the case better than my mother-in-law, Ethel Mulder (neé Barklay) of Bundeena, who lost her eldest brother, Sergeant Harold Edward Barklay (service number 403119), aged 25, in a flight accident in the sea near Burntisland, just north of Edinburgh, on 8 December 1941. As a girl, Ethel memorized the poem "For Johnny" by the RAF officer John Pudney, written during World War II, and made famous in the film "The Way to the Stars" (1945). She remembers it vividly and can recite the poem by heart. The poem pleaded even then for assistance to the survivors, the traumatised and the grieving always to take priority over grand memorialization:]

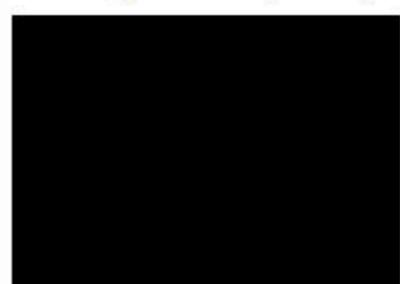
FOR JOHNNY

*Do not despair
For Johnny-head-in-air;
He sleeps as sound
As Johnny underground.*

*Fetch out no shroud
For Johnny-in-the-cloud;
And keep your tears
For him in after years.*

*Better by far
For Johnny-the-bright-star,
To keep your head,
And see his children fed.*

Dr Douglas Newton, 30 July 2020.



Dear AWM Development Team,

LEST WE FORGET

Of what value is the Australian War Memorial - to a Veteran, to his or her family to the general public, to schools and to children?

The greatest gift we have for the future generations is, 'Storytelling'. The AWM is the epitome of truthful and respectful storytelling. The Australian War memorial is that - and more. Yes, it is a memorial, a monument to the fallen. Those brave souls who defended our freedom and way of life and who did not return.

But there's more to it. One must ask, 'If a country is to build a memorial to its fallen heroes, what form should it take?

should there be statues?

should there be paintings and artwork?

should there be uniforms and badges and medals?

should there be a library?

should there be memorabilia?

should there be actual weapons of war, operated by Australians at war - and their foes?

Servicemen and women don't choose to go to war. Wars are begun with the breakdown of communications and understanding between nations who ultimately resort to armed action to defeat, destroy or to defend. In Australia's case we sent servicemen and women to war to defend the Empire, to defend our shores and to contribute to world peace and freedoms via alliances and via the United Nations.

We servicemen trained for war, we were equipped for war and we were sent to war. Some choose to forget their war. However, it is important for our nation to remember who, what, where and why Australians went to war

We hope there will be an end to war but while a chance exists, we must continue to train and prepare. We also need to explain to non-participants, families and friends, what we did and why we did what we did.

The AWM does not glorify war. War is ugly and best avoided - but never must it be forgotten.

This country was built on sacrifice and this sacrifice is commemorated by the AWM; but the role of the AWM goes further.

In my personal case, I can attest to the significant emotional effect that the AWM has had on myself and my family.

As a young pilot, I visited Canberra and the AWM. It was overwhelming; a place of reverence. The great respect and the atmosphere that prevailed, moved me. I came to know the memorial and I learned about the campaigns that built our nation. I also became enthralled by the art of Ivor Hele and Arthur Streeton who expressed the atmosphere of the war zones and the combatants better than any photograph. Every time, I visited Canberra I

made a point of visiting the AWM and I watched it grow in size and quality. It is a holy place - a place of remembrance but it is far more.

As a serviceman, I appreciated the ability to see, feel and almost smell, the real uniforms, weapons and diaries of the soldiers. I particularly welcomed and appreciated the presence of full-size aircraft. To be able to stand next to a real SE 5 or Albatros of WW I, a Zero or Kittyhawk of WW II, a Meteor of Korea and an Iroquois of Vietnam, moved me - and I was most impressed and moved by the realism of the action in light and sound, that was associated with the Iroquois display.

I am a Vietnam veteran and I flew in combat in that arena. I worked within the headquarters of the First Australian Task Force and flew over Phuoc Tuy province as top cover for the Aussie battalions and the armour. I worked with the Army Possum helicopters and Iroquois Bushranger gunships and yet for me to describe these actions to a young person of today, is almost lost - like a fake movie or computer game. But to see them in their reality adds meaning to many stories. I have overheard returned soldiers telling their children what it was like to be inserted by helicopter and transported in an APC.

Recently, I had the opportunity to take my adult son to the AWM. He had never been before. He had tears in his eyes when he stood in the presence of the Mustang as I described their role in Korea.

The AWM is more than a memorial - it is a living history.

I was planning to take my grandchildren to Canberra (from Adelaide) this year to witness the unveiling of the OV-10 Bronco aircraft - a USAF aircraft that was flown by Aussie Forward Air Controllers in Vietnam. It is a unique presentation as it is the only aircraft in the memorial carrying American insignia. It has been magnificently restored by the staff of the AWM from a wreck that was recovered from the Philippines. This aircraft needs a special place to shine and the extensions to the AWM offer just this space.

Since the era of the Vietnam war Australians have participated in many actions and these are equally important to be commemorated and kept real.

Culling the existing collection to accommodate more recent wars would be a tragedy - as would limiting the display to pictures and books. Veterans, families and future generations need to see and feel the aircraft, the tanks and guns to appreciate the significance of these actions and the roles of our heroes - and they are heroes all.

Don't forget also the considerable psychological pain felt by Vietnam veterans when they returned from war, to find they were unwelcome and were sometimes abused. The AWM has changed that and they can now join other returned servicemen and women in their rightful place in history - in the AWM.

Yours sincerely,

David Robson
Wing Commander RAAF (Ret'd)
Jade FAC 1969/70

PS: Most recently I have found further inspiration in the AWM collection to produce collages of our major actions. I have attached a couple of samples.



AWM Development Project - EPBC Public
Comment
117 Submission DAVIES

From: Glenys Davies [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Feedback on War Memorial Plans.

Sent: Wed 29/07/2020 4:54 PM

I wish to provide feedback on the plans to upgrade the National War Memorial.

Additional funds are required to provide support to returned Servicemen and women
Many are still suffering from the impacts of their service and may need support for the rest of their lives.

Additionally, Peace is harder to achieve and any plans need to take into consideration of how steps are being taken to achieve this.

A museum of war machines etc will not help to wards this endeavour!

Yours sincerely,
Ms Glenys Davies

[REDACTED]

From: Angela [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2020 12:21 PM
To: ISS Information
Subject: Fw: Assessment of the proposal demolition of the Australian War Memorial

Attention: Director, Mr Matt Anderson

Copy of request to Dept of Environment

From: Angela
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:31 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Assessment of the proposal demolition of the Australian War Memorial

Attention EPBC Compliance Team:

I am strongly opposed to the proposed demolition and reconstruction of the War Memorial and wish the proposal to be subject to rigorous assessment as a 'controlled action' under the EP&B Act. I do so on four grounds:

- 1) The demolition of award winning and culturally significant Anzac Hall is an act of vandalism in itself and the proposed two level replacement involves inappropriate design features both internally and as it would relate to the rest of the building;**
- 2) The proposed structure would encroach on the crucial Parliament House vista, as well as other War Memorial view lines;**
- 3) The proposed Southern Entrance has numerous shortcomings, not least the loss of the inspiring original entrance and the fact that it does not relate well to the rest of the building, even assuming evident engineering challenges are overcome;**
- 4) The proposed glazed courtyard is an insensitive 'add on' to the existing, heritage building.**

I fear that the War Memorial is being appropriated by interests with a commercial interest in war and that the allocation of half a billion dollars to repurpose the building to this end makes a travesty of its original, high minded purpose.

I look forward to your response,

Angela Munro (Dr)
[REDACTED]

30 July 2020

Mr. Matt Anderson PSM
Director
Australian War Memorial
via email: development@awm.gov.au

Dear Matt,

I write to express my support for the development of the Australian War Memorial and, in particular; the social heritage aspects which have gained much attention.

The social heritage aspects of the Australian War Memorial, I believe, are critical to both the sustainability and relevance of our country.

I note The Memorial's galleries are a key determinant in the type and level of social heritage values it delivers, particularly for those Australians whose stories it tells, or those closely related to them, as identified in both the National and Commonwealth Heritage Listings for the Memorial.

As the Australian community grows and evolves, it is imperative that the Memorial adapts accordingly, ensuring it remains a place of comfort, and importantly, a relevant and engaging resource for the community.

It has been universally agreed amongst stakeholders and consultation participants that the development of contemporary conflict and operations galleries would aid this, subsequently engendering a positive impact on the Memorial's social and cultural heritage values.

Most participants, especially key stakeholders in the form of veterans and defence families, identified it as very important that the proposed changes would allow the Memorial to meet growing public expectations in the telling of Australia's modern stories of service and sacrifice with the same dignity as the stories of the First or Second World War or subsequent conflicts such as Korea and Vietnam.

Some stakeholder consultation participants raised concerns about the balance of the Memorial's roles as a shrine, archive and museum, or expressed worries about the 'Disneyfication' of the Memorial through an over reliance on Large Technology Objects (LTO's) or audio-visual displays as part of the project.

Typically, these concerns were assuaged when the full context of the development and the planned approach to exhibition storytelling, was outlined to participants, i.e. - the intended use of an 'in their words' approach to telling Veterans' stories. Despite the Memorial's explanations, there remained a small, but very vocal, opposition to the plans, particularly around the display of LTO's based on the perceived impact on 'balance' from the identified specific interest groups. Therefore, it is clear that the AWM needs to maintain the mandate and mission quoted by the previous Director:

'The paradox of the Australian War Memorial is that it is not actually about war. Instead from the horror and bloodshed emerge stories of love and friendship; love for friends and between friends; love of family and of country; of honouring men and women whose lives have been devoted not to themselves, but to us – and their last moments to one another.'

The expansion and the use of LTO's will not only serve as a basis to deliver more effective and illustrative material, it will naturally engage the younger generation who need to understand and be educated on the history, in order to truly imagine the prospect of peace and how this can be achieved. This will not happen unless we move with the times and acknowledge the more recent conflicts that have occurred.

In step with the history it records, the Australian War Memorial has always evolved. This constant change is as essential a feature of the place as any of its collections or commemorative spaces. The Memorial serves as a tangible commemoration of our Veterans; but should also capture and inspire the Australian spirit. As we grow, so too must our ability to share and express ourselves in a way that maintains our relevance, while reflecting the true strength and nature of what it means to be Australian.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garry Browne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Garry Browne AM

NOTE - This response was recieved in reply to submission 114

AWM Development Project - EPBC Public
Comment
121 Submission MILLER

From: Rod Miller [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Development
Subject: Re: Opposition to the Redevelopment Project

Sent: Thu 30/07/2020 4:09 PM

Well done!

A wonderful submission on your part which zeros in on all the important issues.

Your citing of the family's military history should effectively silence any puerile comments concerning the motives of those daring to speak against this wrong-headed plan to physically expand the AWM.

As you point out, this huge budget allocation should be used to help those in need.

Human needs — not soulless bricks and mortar.

A powerful submission, which I hope will cause the perpetrators to think again.

Regards,

Rod

(Including the poem was a nice touch.)

AWM Development Project - EPBC Public
Comment
124 Submission NEIL

From: Graham Neil [REDACTED]
To: Development [REDACTED]
Cc:
Subject: AWM Development Plans

Sent: Thu 30/07/2020 4:44 PM

As an ex-RAAF career officer and previous donor of articles and items to the AWM, pertinent to the Vietnam campaign, I wish to register my ongoing support to the planned AWM development currently under consideration.

Time flies, and the planned development will be necessary to go anywhere near adequately representing the more recent activities to which the ADF has contributed whenever called upon by the Australian Government.

AVM Graham Neil, AO, DFC, DFC (US) Retd

Australian War Memorial

Treloar Crescent
Campbell ACT 2612PO Box 6021

development@awm.gov.au

30th July 2020

To Whom it May Concern

Australian War Memorial Redevelopment Project

I write to the **Australian War Memorial** regarding the **EPBC Submission** for the New Southern Entrance and the Anzac Hall project. I write as representative of Scott Carver Pty Ltd.

Our submission is in response to the EPBC Submission and includes a commentary on a number of key items, in particular:

- Item 1: The stated purpose of the proposed work and its suitability for that purpose;
- Item 2: The need for the work;
- Item 3: The cost-effectiveness of the proposal.

We also wish to clarify the perception that the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) and the membership it represents unilaterally objects to the redevelopment projects inclusive of the New Southern Entrance and the New Anzac Hall Project; as has been implied in various publications.

Introduction

By way of introduction, as are the Architectural design practice for the New Southern Entrance project; and hence declare an interest in the project.

Our involvement in the project has occurred through a two-stage process. In March of 2019, we submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) in response to a national EOI process. The EOI sought architectural design practices with evidenced exemplar project experience; and a team with relevance and experience in designing within a heritage significant environment. In the case of our core experience, we note that Scott Carver has extensively worked on the World Heritage listed Sydney Opera House, with 45 projects completed since 2010. Our most recent renewal work within the Opera Theatre received in late 2019, the *UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Award for New Design Works in Heritage Contexts*.



In regards to the EOI, we understand a significant number of architectural practices, throughout Australia, submitted in response to the EOI, for the opportunity to participate in one of four projects.

Of these projects, four design practices were shortlisted for each of the design excellence competitions for The New Southern Entrance and the Anzac Hall project. Scott Carver had the honour of being selected to participate in the New Southern Entrance national design excellence competition. Through this competition, our scheme was selected by a Jury inclusive of three well-regarded Architects. In turn, the highly awarded firms of Cox were selected for Anzac Hall; and Lyons commissioned for the Bean Building.

Importantly, in the submission and assessment of the competition entry, there were seven key assessment criteria's, that the submissions were required to address and evidence design excellence against:

- Innovation
- Integration
- Connectivity and Circulation
- Heritage
- Capacity and Sensitivity
- Sustainability and Climatic Response; and
- Respectful and Dignified Visual Impact.

It was these criteria and attitudes that we believe has been embodied in both our design scheme for the New Southern Entrance and the Cox scheme for the Anzac Hall that we have come familiar with over the past 12 months.

Item 1: The stated purpose of the proposed work and its suitability for that purpose.

Within the formal submission by the Australian War Memorial, a detailed summation of this topic is provided. Our letter simply seeks to clarify how we believe the projects responds to not only the stated purpose of the Memorial; but also, the suitability of the work.

As we understand it, the Australian War Memorial Act sets out three functions for the Memorial including 'memorial', 'museum' and 'archive'.

In the case of the New Southern Entrance and the Anzac Hall project, they are both responding to the key functions of 'memorial' and 'museum' by providing design solutions that are:

- Visually and emotionally connecting to the existing building, ensuring the Memorials national significant through integration.
- Physically connecting in a discrete and respectful manner in order to be subservient to the gravitas of the original Memorial building and its' key visual prominence to Anzac Parade. In the case of the New Southern Entrance this is achieved through a carefully considered underground response that retains the existing entrance stairs, forecourt and plinths. It should be stressed that in the design of the New Southern Entrance the reinstatement of these elements has been considered in detail through the engagement of a heritage sandstone specialist to ensure the original fabric is well protected and preserved.
- Draws in visitors in an intuitive, natural and accessible manner. This in turn improves the visitors experience, by providing dignity in arrival and departure; easing what is invariably an emotive journey for many that visit the Memorial.
- Provides long term resilience and flexibility in the new gallery spaces and adaptable public spaces for the Memorial and its' collection.
- Provides a sense of place, through visual connection to the existing Memorial. Within the New Southern Entrance, a skylight that draws on the existing Memorial dome over the Hall of Memories, provides visual connection to the existing building. It ensures the existing entrance retains its' heritage significance, whilst concealing the pragmatic needs of visitor arrival out of sight from the primary axis and context of Anzac Parade and the Parade Ground.
- Retains and protects the key landscape setting of the Memorial and its visual dominance and symmetry along Anzac Parade to Parliament House. Contextually, the Australian War Memorial sits on one of three key radials of the great Griffin Plan, connecting Capital Hill with Mount Ainslie. It is in keeping with this symmetry that the New Southern Entrance and Anzac Hall is located.

Item 2: The need for the work.

Having now worked on the project for the last 12 months; our team has had the opportunity to become deeply involved and cognisant of the Memorials needs through a detailed understanding of not only the Memorial and its' function; but also through the feedback and experience that the User Groups apply to the design process.

Throughout the design process, the design teams have had the opportunity to engage with a range of User Groups within the Memorial. These groups represent the functional requirements of the Memorial and those that visit. It is through regular and detailed engagement with the User Groups that has allowed the design teams to understand more around:

- How the current spatial constraints limit the stories of recent conflicts and operations, to a level commensurate with earlier conflicts.

- The need to recognise not only recent conflicts, but also peacekeeping and humanitarian operations;
- The lack of capacity in the memorial to include large technical objects that form an important part of the storytelling of the operations; and in fact, as physical objects provide emotive connection for those who served in those operations.
- Current limitations around the management of visitors regarding not only the quantum of visitors; but also, their arrival journey, security and screening; and orientation for some 1 million visitors per annum. These limitations are only natural in a building that must adapt and support the unfortunate growth in conflicts and missions; but also adapt to a changing context that could not have been envisaged when the original building was designed. As a National institution, it is a responsibility to ensure the visitor journey is equitable, safe and secure in our contemporary world context.
- Current limitations around universal accessibility. The existing building was designed at a time where the concept of universal access for all, did not exist. The existing entrance and many parts of the existing building do not have equitable and dignified accessible connections for those with varying levels of physical capacities. This is considered unacceptable, considering the Memorial is a place for all Australians and by its' very function will have those visiting with accessibility challenges, from those injured in missions, to the elderly remembering their friends and loved ones.

Memorials are important because they act as historical touchstones. They link the past to the present and enable people to remember and respect the sacrifice of those who died, fought, participated or were affected by conflicts. Ensuring the Memorial is relevant to all, is in our view a key responsibility of the Memorial.

Adapting to current requirements and resolving the current constraints, will ensure the building and its' content is cared for by future generations. We consider this to be both in the national interest and in support of the primary purpose of the Memorial.

Item 3: The cost effectiveness of the proposal.

Whilst we cannot comment on the project's cost effectiveness compared to other government expenditure, we can confirm that value for money and budget control has been a key aspect of the design development process.

As a design team we received prior to the design competition a project budget for the New Southern Entrance. This has been carefully monitored and assessed through out the design process.

Through regular cost planning and value management assessments with the Memorial and the project Cost Planner, the project has included milestone hold points to ensure the project budgets and value for money is continually assessed and reported on.



Finally, as members of the public, it is challenging to imagine why a building that is nearing 100 years old and an institution that needs to tell the stories of those who have served in contemporary conflicts and humanitarian missions, does not warrant investment in the future.

Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) Published Objections.

Scott Carver is a member organisation of the Australian Institute of Architects; as are the other design organisations involved in the Memorial projects. All individuals who have counter signed this letter are involved in the project and are registered with our respective state chapters of the AIA.

We are aware that the AIA has published objections to the work at the Australian War Memorial. Whilst we respect that some members of the AIA do object to the proposed works and process undertaken by the Memorial, we wish to point out that this objection does not reflect the membership as a whole in our opinion. The published objections did not seek a vote or agreement from the broader membership of the AIA.

The core responsibility of the AIA is to represent the membership and the advancement of architecture. In the case of the published Memorial objection, the AIA has committed members funds to the commissioning of a Heritage Report that has a relatively one-sided view of the project/s; without seeking the alternate view; and to the best of our knowledge, without testing with the broader membership, as to whether it was an appropriate commitment of member funds.

In forming a view and publicly announcing their position, the AIA has not sought the broader opinions of the profession in our view; or recognised that in response to the Memorials EOI, a large quantum of Member organisations, including some of the country's pre-eminent design practices, responded and sought involvement in the projects at the outset.

Whilst the AIA has not commented on the particular aspects of the design scheme, the Heritage report commissioned by the AIA does make comment on the design proposals undertaken by member organisations of the AIA. These comments have effectively been endorsed through publicly advertising the report and the campaign under the 'Policy and Advocacy' page of the AIA website. Whilst it is true that a number of Architects have supported the 'Save Anzac Hall' campaign; we note that at time of this letter, there are some 1,270 signatures on the AIA website supporting their objection to the Memorials process. However, with some 11,500 registered Architects in Australia, it is fair and reasonable to surmise that the objection to the project and the process is not the view of a majority of the profession.

Summary

In summary, The Australian War Memorial is an enduring, culturally significant symbol of remembrance that commemorates those that gave their lives for our nation. It is a physical representation of pride, honour, courage and sacrifice. It is all our history living through the memory of the stories; of those both past and present.



It is these stories that the design work seeks to support by providing a place for our young to understand the sacrifices that built our nation. A place for local and foreign visitors to learn about our nation's strength and resolve. A place for the families of the lost to honour their loved ones. A place for the families of current service men and women to be proud of; and a place for all Australians to reflect on the heroes of this country.

We kindly request the *EPBC* consider the above in their assessment of the Memorial's proposal. Whilst we of course have a declared interest in the project, we do consider in our professional opinion that:

- The work proposed is reflective of the core values and principals of the Memorial and the stated purpose of the Memorial. The design process undertaken has sought through a competitive environment, design work that is dignified in its' response to the existing building fabric.
- The work is needed to ensure the Memorial remains relevant for future generations and to support our past and present service men and women who have served Australia.
- The design solutions are cost effective and responsive to the Memorial needs.
- The design solutions respect and reflect the fundamental heritage values of the project.

Kind Regards,

Doug Southwell

[Director] - NSW Registered Architect.





30 July 2020

Development Project Team
Australian War Memorial
GPO Box 345
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Project Team

**Australian War Memorial development proposal – EPBC Act Preliminary Documentation.
Submission from Stewart Mitchell**

I am responding to the opportunity provided under the EPBC Act to comment on the preliminary documentation for the Australian War Memorial development proposal. My comments are informed by my understanding of the Australian War Memorial and its heritage values developed over 20 years of working there. This included significant time spent in site planning and development, and heritage management as Head of Buildings and Services.

I support the role of the AWM and agree with the need for it to evolve. I do not oppose development of the site but strongly believe it must be done in a way that respects the site and does not damage its extraordinary qualities. **Please record that I object to the Australian War Memorial development proposal as it currently stands because of its significant adverse impact on the National heritage values of the AWM.**

The proposal does not support or enhance the National and Commonwealth heritage attributes of the site. It impacts the sense of isolation in the landscape of the Main Building, destroys the ability to appreciate the building 'in-the-round', dramatically changes views to the Main Building along a number of key sightlines, hardens and formalises the landscape through increased development, and destroys the award-winning Anzac Hall.

I found the preliminary documentation to be poorly presented and complex to deal with. In spite of that, I have attempted to provide general comment and address some issues identified in the attachment *EPBC Preliminary Documentation Submission* in the order they appear. I have reservations about much of the content in your Preliminary Documentation but have not addressed all of your broad and/or unsupported statements of compliance and procedure. Needless to say, I have been commenting on your proposal for some time (since late 2018) including in contributions made to the AIA, DAWE and PWC and I am satisfied anything I have missed has been covered by these. That said, I would like all my comments in this document addressed. Also, I support the comments in the AIA commissioned December 2019 Heritage Review and subsequent submissions and recommendations by independent heritage architect Geoff Ashley of Ashley Built Heritage – I assume you will fully address these too.

General comment

The proposal is not compliant with the AWM's legislated Heritage Management Plan (2011). The revised HMP (2019) is still not complete and this document should be the key reference point for any proposed changes at the AWM. This document should be ratified under the EPBC Act before you proceed any further with this development proposal.

The scale of the entire proposal impacts on the overall landscaped setting of the site and the sense of isolation of the Main Building in its landscaped setting.

The concept of 'memorial, museum and archive' is important. All of these elements combine and contribute to the commemorative function of the site. Your focus on the need for more museum space, regardless of impact on the heritage values of the site, has resulted in a proposal which degrades the quality of the place and weakens the capability of the building and site to evoke a commemorative response. The tangible qualities of the Main Building and site are damaged by this development and this causes adverse impact to the unique intangible qualities of the site.

The cumulative impact of the currently under construction extension of the eastern precinct underground carpark should have been assessed as part of this EPBC Act review – it is clearly part of the larger project.

The Memorial's Lighting Master Plan does not seem to have been considered in the proposal. There is already significant light spill to the south from the new carpark construction in the eastern precinct. The impact of light spill from the northern precinct atrium has not been sufficiently described and there has been no discussion of unwanted light spillage from the new southern entry building façade south onto the parade ground and the Stone of Remembrance. The impact of the forecourt oculus has also not been examined.

The new grid pattern arrangement of the site and new lineal alignments of roads and pathways removes the sense of a gentle and natural landscape that surrounds the Main Building. The Main Building risks becoming an object in a more formal and rigid landscape.

When justifying your new southern entrance proposal, you make a comment about the importance of technology and how there is 'no space for this technology at present with visitors needing to rely on intuition rather than guidance to understand the importance of the Commemorative Area'. This statement highlights a lack of understanding of the power of the building and its architectural features. The Commemorative Area and all its elements are designed to evoke intuitive senses and feelings and it does this extremely well. Whilst sensitive interpretation is valuable in some circumstances the intuitive response to the Commemorative Area is one of the outstanding elements of the place and these elements are protected in the Heritage Management Plan for this reason. The lack of ability to place technology in there, and the suggestion that it is essential, is a uniformed and absurd justification to use.

You make comparison to the new entrance arrangement at the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park so I think it would be valuable to discuss this comparison with Johnson Pilton Walker (the architects who did the Anzac Memorial work) and also, how dramatically your new interpretation of the southern entry deviates from their original concept for this and why it does so.

Talking up the value of your replacement to Anzac Hall because of its increased gallery space and inclusion of exhibits fundamentally ignores the value of the existing Anzac Hall and its retention as outlined in the HMP. This also shows a significant misunderstanding of the value of sensitive architecture and form which respects the Main Building in the site.

Northern Precinct and Anzac Hall

Anzac Hall is a highly contributory element in the Commonwealth heritage listing. The HMP 2011 requires the conservation, management and interpretation of the existing Anzac Hall (Galleries 1.11) and the 2019 HMP has the same clear policy: *Conserve Manage and Interpret Anzac Hall. Respect the important architectural qualities of Anzac Hall including its external architectural form and siting which is subservient and recessive in the landscape and to the main Memorial building. Manage future change to Anzac Hall that is sympathetic to the heritage values of the Memorial.* The proposed demolition of Anzac Hall does not comply with these clearly stated policies.

The glazed atrium and replacement building to Anzac Hall overwhelms the Main Building including in views from Mt Ainslie. The glazed roof of the new atrium structure would be clearly visible from Anzac Parade. It removes the ability to appreciate the building as a free-standing form and 'in the round' (HMP 2011 - Policy Action 1.11.1 ensuring visual isolation, Policy Action 1.11.2 development not to impinge on views from land axis, Policy Actions 1.12.1 and 1.12.5 symmetry and visibility of cruciform form 'in the round')

The replacement to Anzac Hall and its glazed link do not 'restore views' of the Main Building (the 'original Memorial' you call it). You say that it does but do not justify how it accomplishes this in any way. In fact, the images supplied in the preliminary documentation confirm just the opposite. Viewing the heritage building from inside the proposed atrium is not how the HMP interprets the importance of free-standing form and 'in-the-round'.

You say that the view from Mt Ainslie of the replacement to Anzac Hall does not substantially alter the prominence of the Main Building, its landscape setting or the view to both Parliament Houses. Your attachments, specifically Attachment Q1 and Q2 show that this view and the prominence of the Main Building in the landscape and 'in the round' is significantly altered and weakened.

Southern Precinct

The new southern entrance design changes the arrival experience. It has not been able to preserve and encourage visitors to experience the importance of the entry into the Commemorative Area. It also does not appear to provide a smooth transition from a new southern entry to the Front Foyer for those who have entered below but still wish (and need) to experience entering into the Commemorative Area with its view ahead to the Hall of Memory and behind down Anzac Parade to Parliament House.

HMP 2011 - Policy Action Commemorative Area 1.1.3: *'Conserve and manage the symbolic arrival into the main building through the Commemorative Area and the experience of the grand vista of Griffin's land axis on arrival and departure'* will not be complied with in relation to the current design of the new southern entrance.

The Parliament House Vista looking north to the Memorial will change dramatically. The new 'bladed' building façade introduces a disruptive element into this major sightline and impacts on

the primacy of the Main Building in the southern elevation. Its presence on grade with a vastly over scaled parade ground and stairs significantly impacts the iconic view of the building and its placement in the landscape.

The oversized parade ground completely changes the sense of the Main Building resting gently in the site at the head of Anzac Parade. Its increased scale, loss of the existing axial arrangement, and the introduction of a new building façade does NOT 'recover' focus on the Stone of Remembrance as you suggest – quite the opposite – it overwhelms it. The existing axial arrangement does NOT create a focus to the south away from the Stone as you suggest – it actually works beautifully (and was designed this way) to draw your focus to the Stone and then lead it up to the Main Building from the major sightline from the south. It works similarly well in the sightline from the north.

The axial arrangement also compliments the Griffin design, interfaces sensitively with Anzac Parade and has defined the parade ground since the 1960's. This important element of the site is noted as only having medium tolerance for change in the AWM Heritage Management Plan.

The oversized parade ground may very well only be 'filled' on Anzac Day with the rest of the year its oversized appearance will be more akin to an empty stadium than a well-proportioned and well-designed part of the site.

The expectation you have of at grade visitor entry from the parade ground is flawed – there is no clear access for visitors to the parade ground from main site entry points and current carparks. Visitor entry via Anzac Parade onto the parade ground is not supported by visitor parking. Where do you see parking located that facilitates (and encourages) egress onto the parade ground and entry to the building from there? This supposed benefit for access and circulation is mistaken and misleading.

You have used security arrangements as a justification for your new southern entry design. Have you considered the potential for vehicle intrusion into the building through the at grade (parade ground/Anzac Parade) new southern entry building façade? It also does not appear to smoothly accomplish your visitor security requirement for those wishing to bypass the new entry and enter via the Front Foyer.

The increased pathways onto the parade ground (especially from the south), the lineal formality of these and the replacement plantings proposed in the rearrangement add to the disconnect created by this proposal.

Changing the parade ground to a rectangular form does not make it more fit for purpose, nor does it enhance the symmetry of the site and the central axial relationship leading to the Main Building as you suggest, but do not justify. Apparent feedback from the Memorial's 'Defence stakeholders' does not justify the massive changes proposed here. Neither does the dubious improvement to the visitor experience you cite by its rectangular linear arrangement – the Greeks recognised the value of an amphitheatre arrangement – apparently you do not. The existing terraced seating is focused on the dais, the Stone, the parade ground, and the views down Anzac Parade; and the efficiency of the audio arrangement is a technical solution not a major rearrangement of the parade ground.

You have also introduced an external glass lift design into the eastern landscape because your new southern entry is stepped on the eastern side. Surely there is a design resolution to this by reconsidering the original JPW concept that has ramped entry on both the east and west sides?

Does the oculus in the forecourt of the Main Building have the capacity to withstand vehicle transport over it including extreme weight POTUS vehicles (and LTO) – the road is used for vehicle access for VIP's and has been used for LTO movement on 'Open Day' activities.

Eastern precinct

The vastly increased size of the Bean Building challenges the primacy of the Main Building, changes the essential character of the award-winning eastern precinct, and damages the highly valued architecture and site presence of the café building.

You acknowledge the essential primacy of the Main Building and say this can be maintained by façade colourisation, surface treatments and other visible design elements of the Bean Building extension – but you ignore the impact of its size on this primacy. The Bean Building is not 'well out of view of the Main Building' as you say and the proposed southern extension will make it a prominent feature in the landscape - most definitely challenging the primacy of the Main Building. The proposed curved treatment of the 'shop front' adjacent the café building and obscuring the view to the Main Building from the east is both inconsistent and jarring with the architecture of the café, the Bean Building and, most importantly, the Main Building.

You state that the heritage values impacted by the extended Bean Building are the vista from Parliament House and the vista from Mt Ainslie (7.4.2, 7.4.3). This is true but you ignore the significant impact a building of this size and this proximity to the Main Building (and the eastern precinct award winning café building) has on the sense of isolation in the landscape of the Main Building and the open, natural, informal landscape setting of the eastern precinct.

The roof of the new eastern carpark you say is designed to provide capacity for soil so as to grow mature eucalypts. Considering the number of planting failures on the site (notably the artificial garden bed between the Bean Building and the eastern road/Main Building, loss of new trees in the eastern courtyard and vicinity, and some of the newer plantings flanking the parade ground, how is the AWM guaranteeing this critical element of this carpark installation?

Western precinct

You propose realignment of pathways in the western precinct but make no mention of how you will deal with the commemorative plaques contained in the western entry pathway. The Unit Plaque Dedication Program is mentioned in Memorial heritage documentation as an important aspect of the site – these plaques were dedicated by surviving veterans of these units however it appears you have not considered this and their future in your documentation. There is also no documentation regarding your broader site development plan that should be available (and up-to-date) as it is an important heritage management tool for providing a planning overview of possible and/or future landscape (public domain) changes.

Significant changes to various elements of the landscaped grounds (the public realm) are not individually detailed and do not comprehensively show the impact of the changes on the more formal western precinct and the more informal eastern precinct. Your documentation does show

that significant mature tree loss will occur including the very undesirable loss of the mature eucalypts flanking the parade ground – this planting has been in place for over 55 years and is a significant part of the site and its planted (eucalypt) relationship with Anzac Parade.

EPBC Preliminary Documentation Submission

3.2 The Need for the Project

The AWM lists a lack of circulation space (and capacity) as one of the reasons why the Project is required however the documentation shows no design or concept for new galleries and building circulation in the Main Building and how they interface with the proposed new southern entry and the proposed replacement building for Anzac Hall at the other end of the building (apparently this design will have occurred by 2024). This detail would seem to be a critical part of a holistic design approach and should be an integral part of the proposal. This also begs the question is the renovation of the internal Main Building properly costed and part of the \$0.5B?

4.2.3 Conclusion of Management Based Approach Assessment

The AWM indicates they have decided to ‘undertake construction and refurbishment of existing assets at the Memorial’s Campbell site’ and that this was ‘to maintain its social significance at the heart of national commemoration’. There is no discussion about this strategy and the capability of the site to sustain the level of development the AWM expects, without damage to its tangible and intangible heritage attributes. It appears the AWM has developed their design based on this premise alone (the need for space on-site) without guidance on appropriate development from its own Heritage Management Plan.

4.2.4 Importance of the Campbell Site to the Australian People

The AWM states that their assessment ‘showed that any solution other than development on site would substantially detract from the commemoration of our servicemen and servicewomen’. The AWM acknowledges that ‘the Campbell site has meaning, and the functions and services delivered in those buildings have a specific meaning to the people who visit’ however they appear to have ignored the delicate and important relationship between ‘memorial, museum and archive’. These roles are inseparable and all these elements are significant for commemoration. The AWM appears to have weighted the museum component (and development of the site for museum purposes) at the expense of the ‘memorial’ and the tangible and intangible character of the site that supports this.

4.2.6 Government Decision on the Initial Business Case Options

The AWM states ‘the Australian Government accepted the Memorial’s recommendation that the option that best met the need for the Project was the construction of additional gallery space on the main Memorial site at Campbell’. It must be made clear that the Australian Government has NOT actually accepted a proposal to accomplish this if it disregards the documented heritage values of the site. The AWM should desist from describing their proposal as if it is a *fait accompli*.

4.4.6 Heritage Considerations of Options Assessment

The AWM has assumed in all option considerations that the glazed link allows the view of the main building ‘in the round’ i.e. as a free standing and cruciform shaped building, however this is not supported by the documentation and images provided. The AWM assumes that the buildings visibility from within the atrium allows appreciation of the external form – the glazed link (and

building structure) clearly obscures the ability to perceive the building 'in the round' and visually swamps the Memorial.

The AWM assumes all options have minimal impact on the front of the Main Building. Disregarding the fact that none of the options shown have an expanded parade ground, the comparison images provided show a significant impact from the new entry building façade (and expanded and rectangular parade ground and stairs) on the southern elevation.

The AWM considers a 'social heritage' outcome as a major determinant but ignores the important relationship between 'social heritage' and physical heritage and the impact on the intangible and tangible attributes of the site by overdevelopment to increase 'social heritage' values.

The AWM provides detail about how they determined where major new space would be constructed but does not address the requirement for internal renovation of the existing building (between the new southern and northern elements). This should be part of a sensible and holistic approach to a development of this scale and should not be ignored in this documentation. This detail should be part of the Preliminary Documentation review by DAWE.

4.5.3 Competition assessment Criteria

The AWM design competition fixated on replacement of the existing Anzac Hall and a new southern entry. It was expected that architects would deliver against a preconceived requirement that did not take its lead from the requirements of the Heritage Management Plan. However, the AWM claims the assessment criteria included heritage considerations and a 'respectful and dignified visual impact' as well as 'connectivity and circulation' (there is no information on circulation between the new north and south development).

4.6.1 Precinct Spatial Solution

The AWM says 'the reason that the additional gallery space needs to be constructed on the site of the existing Anzac Hall is the same reason the decision was made to locate the existing Anzac Hall at that location when it was first constructed. It is the only above ground area close to the Main Building that does not interrupt the Parliament House Vista'. This is spurious reasoning and means that the AWM has assumed that Anzac Hall must go and has ignored the value of the existing building and its heritage status let alone adaptive reuse. The AWM also in this statement attempts to justify a new building in that location by acknowledging the importance of the Parliament House Vista – but ignores the impact in that vista of the new southern entry design (and the roof line of the Anzac Hall replacement building). This is difficult logic to follow.

5.1 Overview of Functional Brief Served by the Project

The AWM states 'the Main Building refurbishment of galleries, educational functions and enhanced circulation is subject to a later heritage process that is likely to commence in 2024 with refurbishment works to commence in mid-2024. (Note: Approval for the internal refurbishment works is not included in this submission)'. One would expect that this aspect i.e. how the Main Building connects the new north and south elements was critical to the project and would be undertaken with the design for new works proposed to the north and the south, particularly as circulation is identified as a primary driver. It seems remiss to not include it and should be part of the EPBC Act review of the project. And, is this future significant refurbishment included in the \$0.5B?

Comment on AWM response to impacts on (National and Commonwealth) values:

National

7.6.1 Criterion A – Events and processes

The AWM assumes no notable impact on this value. However, it dramatically changes the relationship of the site to Anzac Parade and the Parliament House Vista (new southern entry façade and reworked parade ground).

The AWM says no change is proposed for the sculpture garden however significant realignment of the plaque dedication pathway is proposed.

Impact to the exterior of the Main Building is considered minor by the AWM even considering the significant visual impact of the new northern building and its glazed element, and the new southern entry building façade (and stairs) on grade with the parade ground.

7.6.2 Criterion B – Rarity

The AWM considers increased space to display the collection as a positive impact but ignores the negative impact of the new northern building and its atrium, new southern entry, expanded parade ground and Eastern (expanded Bean Building and new carpark) works. The need for sensitive development that maintains the balance between the character of the Main Building and site and providing extra floor space for museum display seems to have been ignored.

7.6.3 Criterion C – Research

The removal of all archive activities from the heritage Main Building as proposed by the AWM changes the integral relationship between the memorial, museum and archive and its focus in the Main Building.

7.6.4 Criterion E – Aesthetic characteristics

The AWM believes aesthetic impacts of the proposal are minor. This ignores the impact of major changes to the north elevation, the south elevation (a whole new building façade at parade ground level), visibility from the Parliament House Vista, and immense new scale of the parade ground and the Bean Building. The AWM fails to link this perception of change to the intangible quality of the Hall of Memory and Roll of Honour – it does not ‘stay the same’ interpretation with this much external interference. The AWM does not address change that will occur to the precious aesthetic characteristics of the place because of site development of this kind. Significant development on site clearly impacts interpretation of the so called ‘untouched’ elements in the Commemorative Area.

7.6.5 Criteria G – Social value

Again, the AWM is unable to see that the intangible values of Anzac Parade, the Sculpture Garden and the Hall of Memory are also impacted by the adjacent physical changes. Change which damages or destroys its unique heritage values will undoubtedly affect the Memorial’s social value.

7.6.6 Criterion H – Significant people

Anzac Hall was opened in the presence of Ted Smout – Australia’s 6th last surviving WW1 veteran. This is significant but is not considered in the AWM documentation. The sculpture garden plaque pathway is proposed to be realigned. These plaques were placed by surviving veterans of these units. This is significant but is not considered in the AWM documentation.

Commonwealth

7.7.3 Criterion D - Characteristic Values

The AWM’s response ignores that the buildings design successfully fulfills its special functions and reinforces the role of the place as a shrine.

The AWM states simply that the Art Deco style is not affected and the building is still appreciable ‘in the round’. They provide no evidence to support their statement and in lieu of the significant changes proposed in the north, east and southern precincts, all impacting the Main Building, it is not justifiable.

7.7.4 Criterion E - Aesthetic Characteristics

The AWM simply addresses this as ‘the proposal does not diminish the Memorial’s landmark status’. This ignores the major contribution the Memorial makes to the principle views from both Parliament Houses and the changes introduced into that sightline – particularly the new southern entry building façade, the enlarged parade ground, and visible roof structure of the northern façade proposed works.

7.7.7 Criterion H – Significant people

Again, the AWM states that impacts on the original features are limited and do not diminish the associative significance of the fabric. Clearly, the significant changes proposed will affect the original perception of the building.

Parliament House Vista (Commonwealth)

7.8.2 Criterion E – Aesthetic characteristics

The AWM has incorrectly included some of their *response* to this criterion as part of the criterion *attribute*. Whatever. The AWM acknowledges that the roof of the ‘proposed Anzac Hall and Glazed Link’ will be visible from Anzac Parade but believes it will not be ‘unduly prominent’. The images provided at Attachment 03 Existing and Proposed Comparison along Anzac Parade do not support this belief. Their prominence is significant and the AWM ignores the impact of the roof line on this major sightline and the (increased) cumulative impact when viewed in conjunction with the impact created by the new southern entry building façade and oversized parade ground.

The AWM states that a copper roof on the new northern building will ‘weather green allowing it to blend with the slopes of Mt Ainslie behind it’ – and then deduces that this is a positive impact. This is also spurious reasoning – the impact of the new building and its atrium is clear.

The AWM acknowledges the expansion of the Bean Building will reduce open spaces around the Memorial. They state here that the expansion will occur towards the east so the Main Building can still be viewed in-the-round. This is incorrect – the proposed expansion is to the east and south with the southern expansion significant. This scale of building in that location will significantly change

the landscape character of the precinct, the existing café building, and significantly impact the sense of isolation in the landscape of the Main Building.

Contrary to what the AWM claims - the north ('rear') elevation of the Main Building is NOT 'more visible [than it currently is] as a result of the design of [the new] Anzac Hall'. Clearly this view and sense of the Main Building will be reduced and this is a significant impact.

The AWM claims the replacement of existing mature trees (flanking the parade ground) with a new (and more symmetrical) planting will 'improve the relationship [of the site] with [the] designed landscape of Anzac Parade and improve its aesthetic presentation in the Parliament House Vista'. The AWM provides no justification for this statement. The AWM Heritage Management Plan indicates the parade ground only has medium tolerance for change and should be retained and conserved. The proposed change notably hardens the interface between Anzac Parade, the parade ground and on to the Main Building. The AWM does not appear to have conferred on their interpretation of the impact of their proposal with the NCA who has responsibility for Anzac Parade. It should also be noted that the impressive architectural street lighting installation on Anzac Parade, and the configuration of the roundabout at the junction with the Memorial, strongly relate to and compliment the current parade ground shape.

7.8.3 Criteria F – Technical Achievement

The AWM believes that because the proposed additions and alterations to the site are symmetrical along the land access (and supposedly of an appropriate height – although visible from Anzac Parade) they are not disruptive and that a more linear arrangement of the parade ground is better suited as a continuation of Anzac Parade. This assumes that a change to a more formal linear arrangement is complimentary to the site. I don't believe it is and this is supported by existing heritage documentation. This proposal significantly changes the nature of the site and ignores the principles outlined in the AWM's own Heritage Management Plan. An oversized 'linear' parade ground ignores the value of the current axial arrangement, scaled appropriately to the Main Building, that gently transitions from Anzac Parade directing the view to the Stone of Remembrance and on to the building.

The existing spatial setting of the buildings as features in the landscape and their careful location which compliments the Main Building will be significantly weakened by the increased building and hardstand introduced by this proposal.

7.8.4 Criteria G – Social value

The AWM ignores the impact of their proposed changes to the location of Plaque Dedication Program unit plaques installed in the western precinct. The main access pathway in the western precinct contains the bulk of these unit plaques and this pathway is to be removed in their proposal.

The AWM does not address the proposed removal of existing mature trees that flank the parade ground and makes the statement 'Memorial features such as sculptures, plaques and commemorative trees are not impacted by the proposal'. This again shows a disregard for the Heritage Management Plan and the tangible and intangible value of the landscape and its plantings.

7.9 Social heritage values

The AWM separates social heritage values from other values of the site and does not acknowledge the intrinsic relationship between all values – they assume that the proposal increases social heritage (by increasing the museum component) and is therefore beneficial regardless of the associated impact on other tangible and intangible qualities of the site.

7.9.8 Accessibility improvements

The AWM states that ‘accessibility conditions at present cause significant inconveniences and potential embarrassment for visitors with mobility impairments to enter the Memorial’ and says that mobility impaired visitors need to wait (in the weather) for a staff member to provide lift access at the front of the building. This statement is incorrect. This lift is independently operated by the user for building entry/exit via the Front Foyer, and provides access to the LGF museum and the cloisters. It was designed for independent access and was fully compliant when installed in the mid 2000s as an upgrade to the pre-existing lift (to address the very issue of accessibility). Other access issues have been addressed during Gallery Development and in the Commemorative Area. The AWM overstates access issues and uses it as a means to an end for uncontrolled development of a heritage building.

8.3.5 Mitigation Strategy 5 – Anzac Hall - Future flexibility for expansion

The AWM states that ‘the Memorial considered expanding Anzac Hall or extending underneath it, however the design of the existing Anzac Hall resulted in neither option being technically viable...’. This is an incorrect and misleading statement. The AWM already has an engineered and costed AWM Building Concept Masterplan completed by JPW in November 2016 that shows excavation under Anzac Hall is technically and financially viable.

Recommended changes

Development of the site purely based on achieving significantly increased exhibition space/footprint at the expense of the tangible and intangible attributes of the site and its role as a memorial is untenable. Revisit the concept design for the project including review of ALL proposals with less heritage impact including existing site development and building master plans.

The proposal to destroy Anzac Hall and replace it with a new building and glazed link is in clear contravention of the Heritage Management Plan. The proposal significantly impacts the tangible and intangible qualities of the Main Building and site. It should not proceed under any circumstances.

The current proposal for a new southern entrance design does not accomplish a seamless entry into the Memorial, or respect and maintain the primary value of entry via the existing front steps into the Commemorative Area. Its large bladed building façade at level with the parade ground and large oversized stairs intrude on the major sightline to the Memorial from the south and impact the primacy of the Main Building. It should not proceed in this form.

The expansion and realignment of the parade ground is over scaled for the site and challenges the primacy of the Main Building. It destroys the existing and long-standing axial arrangement which provides a smooth transition from Anzac Parade, to the Stone of Remembrance and the Memorial Building. The HMP does not support this level of change and it should not proceed.

Bean Building expansion to the south has a serious impact on the site. It should be expanded to the East only.

Gallery redevelopment in the Main Building linking the proposed northern and southern extensions should be treated as a key part of the overall proposal and not be considered and approved independently of it as the AWM proposes. Do not proceed with development works until a holistic Building Master Plan is completed and presented.

Conclusion

The proposal should not proceed further until the revised Heritage Management Plan is accredited under the EPBC Act and its principles are applied to the proposal.

If the project proceeds as it is currently proposed it will have major adverse impact on the National and Commonwealth heritage values of the site. In accordance with the EPBC Act DAWE should recommend refusal of the project in its current form. There are documented viable and heritage compliant options.

Yours sincerely
Stewart Mitchell BAppSci, M ICOMOS

AWM Development Project - EPBC Public
Comment
128 Submission REID

From: Reid Family [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Support for the AWM expansion

Sent: Thu 30/07/2020 6:25 PM

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing to express my support for the current plan to expand the AWM and its ongoing development. I recently had the privilege of visiting the AWM and was surprised that the AWM did not adequately account for recent conflicts, particularly those since the Vietnam War.

I am a passionate believer that the AWM needs to tell the story of ALL of those who have served Australia, including contemporary service and peacekeeping missions.

Please do not let a few of the noisy critics derail the important (and critical) expansion of the AWM so the stories of ALL can be told and recognised. The AWM should not prioritise awards for architecture but expand and prioritise the stories of those who serve.

Thank you
Michael Reid

30 July 2020

Mr Matt Anderson
Director
Australian War Memorial

**SUBMISSION ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN WAR
MEMORIAL SITE**

Dear Mr Anderson

I am writing to you to lodge my support of the of the proposed redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial site. I am an ex-serving member of the Australian Defence Forces and I have had a close association with the Memorial for the past [REDACTED]

I recall being thrilled to be able to visit the Memorial for the first time in September 1993 and I have fond memories of seeing the Lancaster Bomber G for George. I felt tremendous pride when I first viewed the collection and in particular G for George, which at the time was located in Bradbury Aircraft Hall. I have a close personal connection with G for George [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] My pride has stemmed not only for the effort that the Memorial has tirelessly put into maintaining and displaying the incredible artefacts but importantly the way the stories are presented, which are closely tied to the artefacts and technological objects. The collection clearly has cultural significance and helps visitors and patrons to understand the service and sacrifice of so many Australians and the need for a place of commemoration and recognition of service.

Since my first visit I have been thrilled to see the continued expansion of both the collection and the Memorial itself, including Anzac Hall, the East Precinct redevelopment and so many improvements to the way in which the collection is displayed and accessed by both Australians and visitors from around the globe.

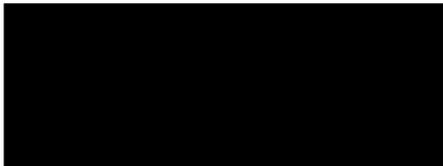
In the eyes, hearts and minds of current and former members of the Australian Defence Forces, the Memorial is our spiritual home and is a place of healing and therapy. The Memorial is our place to be able share our stories of the hardships we have and continue to endure in service to our country. Sadly, more than a century since the end of the Great War, there has been and continues to be a need for Australians to serve in theatres of conflict. Recent conflicts have often called Australians back to fight in the same parts of the world as our forefathers.

The Memorial's collection has continued to grow hand in glove with the continuing need for service and sacrifice of so many over the past 30 years. While the Memorial has done its very best to serve and honour this generation of service men and women, the physical limitations of the site restricts the opportunity to have our story told and understood by Australians and world at large. I feel that this is something that would be ill at ease with Charles Bean and moreover, the current generation who have and are continuing to serve our nation.

With social heritage considerations in mind, the proposed redevelopment of the site does not fundamentally alter what the Memorial stands for. Rather, the redevelopment and expansion of the site will significantly enhance the cultural values that the Australian community places upon this iconic institution.

It is both disheartening and disconcerting that there are some who are opposed to the Memorial's continuing efforts to better recognise the service and sacrifice of our nation's finest people. I am grateful that the Memorial's vision for the future is not limited by its current infrastructure. Indeed, without such vision the current Anzac Hall and many other initiatives would not have occurred. I commend the Memorial for its ongoing vision and determination to develop the site to better recognise and value the enduring sacrifice that so many Australians continue to make.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A black rectangular redaction box covering contact information.



COMMANDO WELFARE TRUST

ABN 17 860 403 129

PATRONS

MAJGEN Tim McOwan AO DSC CSM (Retd)
The Hon DR Brendan Nelson AO BMBS FRACP (HON) FAMA FRSN
CHAIRMAN : BRIG Mark Smethurst DSC AM (Retd)
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: BRIG Craig Shortt DSC CSC DSM

TRUSTEES

Bruce Parker OAM ; Peter Laverick; Ian Breedon; Mark Coad;
BRIG Alison Creagh AM CSC; Miriam Dwyer; RADM Robyn Walker AM RAN.

TRUST EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MAJOR Steve Pilmore OAM RFD (Retd)

30th July 2020

Australian War Memorial Development Project Team

GPO Box 345

Canberra ACT 2601 AUSTRALIA

The Commando Welfare Trust (CWT) was created to provide beneficiaries with support that is outside the scope of, but complementary to, existing Defence and non-Defence support mechanisms (eg. Legacy, DVA). The CWT is able to provide support in unique ways including payment of school fees, modified equipment such as wheelchairs & computers; family reunion travel, financial aid such as back to school help and costs of medical interventions not supported by Defence or Dept of Veterans' Affairs

Our beneficiaries are almost entirely from ADF members who have joined, trained and been on operations in the last 20 years, either as Commandos and supporting elements, both men and women, and full and part time soldiers.

The affect that the "From the Shadows" Exhibition the Australian War Memorial staged recently was palpable on virtually every serving member, former member and as importantly their family members who were lucky enough to see it. It started conversations and generated explanations that many members had shied away from for a range of reasons and the good that this does in the Special Forces and wider communities whilst hard to measure, it is without a doubt a massive force for good.

The current amount of room available at the existing AWM facilities is known to limit what can be displayed.

The Trustees of the Commando Welfare Trust therefore are unanimously in favour of the adoption of the full development as we acknowledge the purpose of the AWM Development is to allow recognition of the modern campaigns in the same vein WW1, WW2, Korea and Vietnam have been recognised. This includes Afghanistan, the longest campaign Australia has been involved in, Iraq, East Timor and others, including Peace Keeping Operations.

This can only do good in our veteran community, their families and the wider Australian community as well as informing the significant number of overseas visitors to visit the AWM each year, of this country's significant role in military operations in the last few decades.

Yours sincerely

Chairman

The Commando Welfare Trust



From: [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Australian War Memorial Development Project - Have Your Say

Sent: Fri 31/07/2020 9:55 AM

Dear Sir/Madam

The Australian War Memorial Development Project should not go ahead.

I consider that to pull down part of the existing war memorial to be a scandalous waste of public money.

With a cost estimated at 500 million dollars this is a bad investment by the Government and particularly so when young veterans need funds to assist with their repatriation back into civilian life.

The Monash Centre on the Western Front receives few visitors - surely the sacrifice of soldiers would be better acknowledged by the Australian community by directing funds to peace initiatives and for the health and wellbeing of veterans.

In my opinion Australia already has enough war memorials - veterans should come first.

John Albert Bugge 3790810 HQ.Coy 1.ATF. Vietnam 1968

[REDACTED]



AWM Development Project - EPBC Public
Comment
137 Submission ASHLEY

Development Project Team
Australian War Memorial
GPO Box 345
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Development Project Team,

**Australian War Memorial Development Project —EPBC Act 1999 Preliminary
Documentation — Submission**

This submission is made in response to the Australian War Memorial (AWM) Development Project Preliminary Documentation that has been made available for public comment on the AWM website. It is understood that after consideration of public submissions the AWM proposes to finalise its Preliminary Documentation and submit this to the Department of Agriculture Water and the Environment (DAWE) for approval under the EPBC Act, 1999.

I am making this submission as the Principal of Ashley Built Heritage. This submission objects to the project on the basis of the significant adverse heritage impacts that would result.

In my opinion the AWM should not submit the Preliminary Documentation for assessment by DAWE but should revise the project and resubmit it after substantial amendment that addresses the 'prudent alternatives' that I believe are available and which are required to be addressed under Clause 341ZC of the EPBC Act.

However, if the AWM does not take this opportunity to reconsider the project then DAWE should refuse the application on the basis of its significant impacts on the identified National and Commonwealth heritage values.

This submission provides relevant background, a summary of what I believe will be the heritage impacts as well as other issues with the documents in the advertised Preliminary Documentation package. This submission also makes recommendations for the 'prudent alternatives' that should be addressed by the AWM before it proceeds any further.

Background

I am a heritage consultant and a member of Australia ICOMOS. I have a degree in architecture and over three decades experience in advising on all types of heritage places and levels of significance. I was part of the team that prepared the currently endorsed Heritage Management Plan for the Australian War Memorial in 2011.

In December 2019 I provided the Australian Institute of Architects with an independent assessment report on the AWM Development Project when it was Referred to DAWE under the EPBC Act. I had no starting position and the AIA did not direct or influence the content of my work in any way.

On 16 June 2020 I made a submission to the Australian Parliament Joint Public Works Committee (PWC) Inquiry into the Development Project and on 14 July I appeared via teleconference at the PWC Inquiry — a transcript of my opening statement and the questions answered are available in Hansard.

Adverse Impacts on National and Commonwealth Heritage Values

I strongly believe in the cultural importance and role of the Australian War Memorial and I support the AWM's objectives to better address Australia's involvement in recent conflicts. However, I believe the project as described in the Preliminary Documentation will result in many adverse heritage impacts and also reflects failures of process and methodology in relation to heritage considerations.

I believe that there would be four key heritage impacts on the identified National and Commonwealth heritage values.

Impact 1: The Glazed Link

The glazed link addition will remove an ability to appreciate the Memorial's free-standing form that is comprised of a cruciform plan and stepped massing surmounted by the dome, and which beautifully and simply evokes and communicates its role as a national memorial shrine. This glazed addition, together with the enlarged new Anzac Hall, will visually swamp the Memorial and stop it from communicating its deep cultural meaning.

The AWM is wrong to assert that being able to see the rear of the Memorial from inside the glazed link is seeing it 'in-the-round', as this term relates to being able to appreciate the full external form of a free standing building and this full width and height glazed box added to the rear of the Memorial will certainly prevent that appreciation.

The glazed link will also have significant impacts on key culturally significant views — not only in regard to the War Memorial, but also the urban form and landscape of Canberra.

The current view from Mount Ainslie includes the Memorial as a free-standing element with its cruciform walls visible above and separate to the Anzac Hall. This separation and its deeper cultural meaning will be lost in views from Mount Ainslie with the new glazed addition.

The new glazed link will also be visible along Anzac Parade rising above the Memorial. This visibility would be a direct and significant impact on the Memorial, Anzac Parade and the Parliament House Vista and is therefore totally unacceptable.

In my opinion, the impact of the glazed link addition as well as the expansion, hardening and formalising of the landscape setting of the AWM, as discussed below, will impact the essential role and importance of landscape that underpins the urban form of Canberra and the Griffin Land Axis around which the idea of Canberra was created.

Impact 2: Demolition of Anzac Hall

The demolition of Anzac Hall would result in the loss of a highly contributory component in the Commonwealth Heritage listing of the AWM and contravenes management policy in both the 2011 and 2019 Heritage Management Plans that require its retention.

The 2005 national architectural award for Anzac Hall as the best public building reflects its design qualities as contemporary design of the highest order that was also totally respectful of the past in its relationship to the Memorial. Like the AWM, the AIA represents the community as a whole and so this award expressed community confidence that contemporary creative design can respect the past and contribute to the future.

This proposal to remove Anzac Hall without any real engagement with the original architects to work to conserve and adapt it is very disrespectful not just to them but also the community as a whole. In the Preliminary Documentation Submission (p35) the AWM says that it has 'consulted the architects of the current Anzac Hall as part of the moral rights process'. I contacted one of the original architects for my December 2019 report who said that the original design contract was prior to Moral Rights legislation and that while the AWM had contacted him in the required manner with an offer to consult on the demolition (but not retention of Anzac Hall) he has asserted (and not waived) his Moral Right in relation to the building — and there may also be other moral rights holders in relation to Anzac Hall.

Impact 3: The new Southern Entry

I appreciate the change in the project from the Referral stage where the existing entry would only be available on ceremonial occasions or for visits by dignitaries, to one where now the existing entry would still be available to visitors. This reflects that the AWM has listened to the feedback provided at the Referral stage about this impact. However, the change in the arrival experience to the War Memorial for the majority of public visitors at the southern entrance who will enter at the new lower level would still result in a reduction, delaying and obscuring what currently is an immediate and profound experience of the memorial aspect.

I accept that this new alternative entrance provides for equitable access, however, the heritage impacts from this change in the arrival experience for the majority of visitors still needs to be acknowledged.

While the Preliminary Documentation includes an Architectural Heritage Response (Attachment M) of the structural interventions in the southern façade of the existing Memorial, no reference is made to structural engineering and Geotech advice that supports the proposed 'shoring-up' two metres in front of the walls flanking the entry towers, rather than underpinning. This reads as 'we think it should work' in a situation where failure could be catastrophic.

Impact 4: Changes associated with the Parade Ground and the site generally

The enlargement, reshaping and regrading of the Parade Ground, together with the adjacent increased terracing, more 'formal' tree planting and the lower ground entry to the AWM via a bladed entry 'façade', with its large freestanding single set of steps, will greatly increase the extent of built form visible at the front of the Memorial from Anzac Parade. This will substantially damage the existing setting of the Memorial as a discrete shrine sitting gently above and within its own landscape. It will also a change the broader urban landscape and meaning of the Griffin Land Axis and start to make too much of Anzac Parade at the expense of the Land Axis as a whole.

The existing tapered chevron form of the Parade ground provides an appropriate termination of Anzac Parade before the currently separate Memorial itself. The proposed rectilinear arrangement of the Parade Ground and associated features rather than reinforcing qualities of Anzac Parade that finish with the Stone of Remembrance will now swamp that symbolic element and become a large forecourt to the Memorial that impacts both the Memorial and its setting and the broader urban form of Canberra and the importance of the Land Axis as a connecting line in the landscape.

The EPBC Act Variation February 2020 also greatly expanded the area and scope of the project. While the Research Centre addition to the CEW Bean building will appropriately house research functions and free up display areas in the AWM proper, it has also created a far more visible built form in the overall landscape and will exacerbate the impacts of the Parade Ground works and further increase the overall hard landscape character that will result from the project.

Issues with Preliminary Documentation

While it is appreciated that the February 2020 Variation finally included all project aspects in a master planning sense (although it was silent on the need or the potential for changes to the interior of the Memorial itself) it greatly increased the scope and added additional impacts. Other project documentation was published for the first time only earlier this month in the Preliminary Documentation, including a completely new Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) report.

I believe that the new HIS (a Heritage Impact Assessment is required under the EPBC Act) is flawed methodologically. Firstly, as a National Heritage Place the AWM is defined as a matter of National Environmental Significance (MNES) and the project should have been assessed against the NHL Significant Impact Criteria 1.1 and the CHL criteria 1.2. I also believe it to be inappropriate to use the NSW heritage guidelines that focus on the nature of change rather than the impacts on heritage values, as is required under the EPBC Act.

Secondly, an HIS/HIA should firstly identify heritage impacts before providing an overall evaluation of the impacts. This HIS does not adequately identify impacts before it evaluates the impacts. For example, a theme of the HIS, and of the Preliminary Documentation generally, is that the positive social impacts of the new galleries outweighing impacts on the physical building and setting of the Memorial, without even attempting to acknowledge what these physical impacts will be. As noted above and in my PWC submissions, I do not agree with this premise: the physical heritage impacts will have a major adverse social heritage impact.

Similarly, I generally disagree with the assessments in the HIS in relation to impacts on the National and Commonwealth values; in particular in relation to Criteria A Process & Events (Historic), B Rarity and E Aesthetic. For example, under the NHL Rarity Criterion B that identifies the relationship between the building, commemorative spaces and the collections, a Positive impact is assessed based on a claim of an expansion of this relationship, whereas I assess that the project will greatly damage and reduce this relationship and result in a High adverse impact.

Recommended Changes to the Project

I strongly believe in the AWM and respect the project objectives to communicate recent stories of service, but not at the expense of the broad social values connected to its role as a Memorial. As noted in my December 2019 report and my PWC submission, I believe that during the project brief development the enlargement of display areas and minimised visitor walk times were prioritised at the expense of options that would have had far less heritage impacts. The areas of the glazed link and the new Anzac Hall are a direct result of the unquestioned increase in floor gallery floor areas.

In my opinion, and in accordance with the EPBC Act guidelines, there are 'prudent alternatives' to retain the overall project and its objectives in relation to social values (but not at the expense of the deep social values found in the Memorial as a place), while also reducing the heritage impacts and total expenditure. These prudent alternatives are referred to in the following recommendations:

- A number of factors can be varied to 'revise down' the project brief areas considerably so that Anzac Hall is retained and the glazed link is not needed. This could include greater curatorial cycling of exhibits and use of galleries for temporary exhibits, including the main Memorial building interior and galleries with reference to the tolerance for change in the HMP, other display development on the campus but separate to the Memorial and other development off campus, such as at Treloar. (I note that the main Memorial interior has received virtually no reference in the current plans but it is difficult to see it not requiring more funds than in the currently defined project scope and costings.)
- If the new southern entry is approved then this should be on the basis of a condition of approval that ensures that the current entry is permanently retained for visitors in the current manner and without the need for prior approval. While it will continue to be used as an entrance on ceremonial occasions and for dignitaries etc, this entrance should not be referred to as the Ceremonial entrance as it has always been the public entrance.
- To reduce impacts from the bladed wall façade adjacent to the Parade Ground on the setting of the Memorial, the lower ground connection from the new southern entrance to the Parade Ground should be removed from the project.
- Work with the original architects of Anzac Hall, and in the spirit of respecting their moral rights, to adapt and/or provide additions to it while retaining its key architectural qualities (see below in relation to an underground link to the Memorial).
- Delete the glazed link while creating a new below ground level link from the Memorial to the retained and adaptively reused Anzac Hall.
- In addition to removing the blade wall façade noted above, the set of steps and all the current changes to the Parade Ground area should be removed from the current project given the heritage impacts on the landscape setting of the AWM and potentially on the urban form of Canberra more generally. Carefully reconsider any future change to the Parade Ground in association with the NCA and Australian Heritage Council so that there are no heritage impacts to the overall AWM cultural landscape and the broader urban landscape of Canberra.

Notwithstanding these opportunities to revise the project, it should not proceed further until such time as a revised Heritage Management Plan is accredited under the EPBC Act.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The Australian War Memorial is a vitally important national institution that needs to be able to change and evolve in the stories it tells of conflict. However, this needs to be done in a balanced and carefully manner so that its simplicity and directness as a national memorial are retained.

The proposed glazed link, the new southern entry and the parade ground changes included in the AWM's Preliminary Documentation would greatly impact an ability to appreciate the cultural meaning of the place as a whole. The demolition of Anzac Hall, a highly contributory and award winning contemporary component of the site, would disrespect the public support and processes in play.

Under the EPBC Act 1999 an action is likely to have a significant impact on the National Heritage values of a National Heritage place if there is a real chance or possibility that one or more values will be: lost, degraded, damaged, altered, modified, obscured or diminished. All of these impacts except loss will occur immediately, although loss will follow soon enough.

Given these significant adverse impacts on National and Commonwealth heritage values the Project should not proceed and should be withdrawn in its current state and be revised. This submission contains a number of suggestions for the 'prudent alternatives' that are required to be addressed under the EPBC Act 1999.

However, if the Project proceeds as currently proposed it will have major adverse heritage impacts on the National and Commonwealth heritage values of the Australian War Memorial and in accordance with the EPBC Act and associated MNES guidelines, DAWE should therefore recommend refusal of the project.

Yours sincerely,



Geoff Ashley
PRINCIPAL

29 July 2020

From: [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: EPBC inquiry response to public consultation

My, then husband served in the Vietnam war As a result, the marriage suffered as did many others.

Veterans need help from DVA. They would be happy if the plan was modified.

WE don't need DVA to be paying for this piece of vandalism.

The plan to spend half a billion dollars to destroy AWM, especially heritage listed Anzac Hall, was approved unknown to Australians. Approval was snuck in without providing a need for change. It was done without public consultation.

It is platitudinous nonsense to say three out of four people support the project. Most people don't know it's happening. Who has been polled? Where is AWM's evidence that people approve?.

At the inquiry AWM claimed they consulted people. But these consultations were poorly attended. They were not advertised because AWM said it cost too much.

Can we have evidence that polls were carried out. I question the validity of the consultation.

Was consultation done by an external company, if so by whom and when?

I understand a company was engaged January this year.

People on the street in Canberra still don't know the story. Interstate the story had no publicity before November 2019 when SMH published an opinion piece by a previous director criticising the project.

At the EPBC inquiry AWM didn't address the need, the cost or suitability of the plan. They relied on emotional anecdotes, as had Dr Nelson. He claimed AWM was a place of healing.

Remember the homeless vets who this news would not reach.

Evidence given by medical doctors at the inquiry said there are no valid studies to say AWM is a place of healing.

It was not meant to be a place for "laying on hands." Its a place for human remembrance of soldiers who have served.

DM Napier

SUBMISSION CONCERNING THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Introduction

I welcome the opportunity to provide some positive comment in support of the Australian War Memorial Development Project during its Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act Controlled Action assessment.

I have had a close association with the Memorial, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Memorial stands as an iconic National Institution, telling the stories of Australia's extensive involvement in conflicts, and peace-keeping operations, and importantly, the impacts on families of those who fought. It offers one of the most telling ways of impressing on others in the wider community, the nature and consequence of our many overseas deployments. We see it as more than a museum; it is a memorial to the many who have given their lives, and a place of solemn commemoration, it is a repository of much of our military history, and a rich source of research material. For those less familiar with our involvement in conflict, it presents a stark reminder of the cost of service, and the imperative to do what we can to prevent war into the future.

Recent Developments

The Memorial has experienced significant sympathetic enhancements over the past 25 years in particular. These have provided expanded exhibition and administrative space to accommodate increasing public visitations and attendance at commemorative events, as well as some space to recognise some of our more recent engagements. These have been of considerable importance to those who participated in those operations and their families directly impacted.

Technology has been more effectively incorporated into many of the displays with excellent effect.

We have reached the point, however, where a major generational redevelopment is required to be able to adequately tell the stories of more recent and possible future military engagements without compromising the historical presentations and stories of our participation in the two major global confrontations of the 20th Century, in which many young Australians are showing increasing interest and awareness through the stories of their forebears. We need to now look out to the possible needs of the 22nd Century.

The Memorial's annual visitor numbers of more than 1 million attest to the community interest in better understanding some of the key elements of our national character, and the traditions we are expected to uphold and cherish.

Of the options considered, a major expansion within the space available on the present site is seen as more practical for visitation, security, administration, and commemoration, than establishing secondary or satellite displays elsewhere. It is important that visitors, for whatever purpose, have the opportunity to at least reflect on the solemnity of the commemorative area, and the records of those who have given their lives in our name.

In exploring options for expansion, it has been critical to maintain the original façade and outlook onto Anzac Parade, our ceremonial avenue, and towards Parliament House where the decisions are made about our overseas commitments. In the design presented, the dignity is being maintained while offering expanded space, better access and circulation, and an enhanced visitor experience.

The New Southern Entrance

This creatively designed entrance facilitates the arrival and departure of visitors, particularly those with special mobility needs, while preserving the existing central and more formal entrance. Being low set, the new southern entrance does not intrude on the vista from either the Memorial to Anzac Parade, or looking from Anzac Parade. I would strenuously refute those occasional suggestions that these and related enhancements will turn the Memorial into a theme park.

Anzac Hall

Much concern has been raised about the proposed demolition of Anzac Hall. These are understandable concerns as this is an award-winning building, not yet 20 years old, and providing much of the present indoor large object display area.

I note that several options had been carefully considered with a view to integrating the present Anzac Hall into the new design. In the event, the compromises that would have to be made, the additional cost, and the limited assessed benefit, did not produce the optimum solution. It would impose design limitations and the end result may not remain close to or sympathetic with the main building.

It is often the case that buildings are demolished rather than renovated before the end of their useful life so that a better and more enduring longer-term solution may be put in place to meet the need. Anzac Hall is such a case.

The replacement facility in this case has been sensitively designed to provide an additional 4,000 square metres of gallery space, incorporating that area occupied by the present Anzac Hall.

The Visitor Experience

Visitors do not just visit the Memorial to look at military hardware. They come to learn the stories of Australia's involvement in conflict, the impact this had on the nation, and on families, and through this, gain a deeper appreciation of how we might prevent conflict or better prepare for it if it becomes inevitable. The displays support those endeavours. The Memorial stands as a major repository of Australia's social heritage, supported by several other museums and memorials around Australia, and complemented by our other national institutions. Without diminishing the substantial legacy of our broader social history, the good and not-so-good aspects, it is our Servicemen and Women, and those many citizens who have supported them, who have contributed most substantially to maintaining our liberty and our way of life.

Some of the families of current and recent Servicemen and Women who visit the Memorial may feel that the contribution of their loved ones is somewhat undervalued due to the minimal space available to tell their story. This needs to be corrected, but as previously noted, not at the expense of the substantial stories of earlier conflicts. This is a question of balance and equity. Many veterans expect that in telling their story, the Memorial is fulfilling its role of public education and in portraying their experiences, better allowing the community to appreciate the value of their contribution. This is also important for those who may contemplate a Service career in the future.

Summary

The Memorial has developed an expansive but sensitive project which will allow it to effectively continue to meet its obligations under the Australian War Memorial Act 1962, well into the future.

Heritage considerations have been comprehensively incorporated into the consideration of the development, and should continue to be as the project progresses. These include specifically both the heritage of the physical structure of the Memorial, and the social heritage it is charged to maintain.

The Development is clearly seen to be overcoming the key reasons which gave rise to its need, most particularly, a lack of space to provide equitable coverage of more recent operations, the lack of capacity to offer a broader insight into conflict and how to avoid it, and the limited functionality to be able to accommodate increasing numbers of visitors. I support these endeavours.



From:

[REDACTED]
Development

Cc:

Subject:

War Memorial

Hi, I would like to convey my objection to the the proposed extension of the War Memorial.

Firstly this is a War Memorial , not a theme park.

I live in Ballarat I have heard nothing of a public information session.

If you want to display large items then do it some where near by and call it a Military museum.

Spending this amount of money is obscene and in the current climate it is doubly so.

Covid 19 provides the ideal excuse to shelve these plans and rethink the whole exercise.

[REDACTED]

Heritage **Guardians**

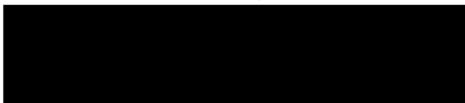
Equity for our cultural institutions

Submission to Australian War Memorial on Memorial redevelopment
30 July 2020

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Contact: David Stephens, Convener, Heritage Guardians



1. This response is in three parts, dealing with:
 - some false premises of the Memorial’s case for the expansion project, both in the heritage documentation under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act and in general
 - heritage impacts of the project that the Memorial’s heritage documentation underplays or glosses over, and
 - overblown claims and flawed methodology in the Memorial’s consultation with the public.

False premises: not caught in the Act

‘Equitable basis’ is a made-up term

2. [Paragraph 3.1 of the Memorial’s Preliminary Documentation Submission](#) says this:

The Memorial’s Council considers that the Memorial currently does not adequately tell the stories of those servicemen and servicewomen who have served Australia in more recent conflicts and operations ***on an equitable basis as required by the Australian War Memorial Act 1980***. (Emphasis added.)

3. People familiar with the Memorial’s Act were surprised by the claim that it said anything about equitable treatment of cohorts of servicemen and servicewomen. Questioned by Heritage Guardians, the Memorial came up with a lengthy emailed justification about how it has ‘interpreted the Act’.
4. In Heritage Guardians’ view, however, the justification for ‘equitable basis’ is not in the Memorial’s Act but in [its Corporate Plan 2019-23](#), not legislation of the Parliament like the Act, but a glossy document signed off by the then Director, Dr Brendan Nelson. The Plan at page 6, under the heading ‘Strategic Vision 2019-39’, says,

Through this redevelopment the Memorial will record and tell the stories of the more than 100,000 Australians who have served on peacekeeping operations in East Timor, Afghanistan, and Iraq, and on humanitarian operations, ensuring their service is commemorated ***just as is the service of the National Collection***. (Emphasis added.)

5. While the words are garbled, the bolded section at the end of that quote sounds rather like 'equitable basis': recent service is to be recognised 'just as' is the service of Australians in earlier wars recorded in the Memorial's collection.
6. Having committed to the redevelopment project, the Memorial wrote appropriate words into its Corporate Plan. The 'just as' words were new in the 2019-23 plan but [the 2018-19 Plan](#) (again signed off by the then Director) had been similar: '[the Memorial] will seek to engage contemporary and younger veterans and ensure their stories are recorded and told in the same manner as those who served before them' (page 11).
7. So, to claim that 'equitable basis' is required by the Memorial's Act is simply wrong. 'Equitable basis' is an artefact of the Memorial's corporate planning process. If the Memorial wants 'equitable basis' to be in its Act, it should persuade the responsible Minister and the Parliament to make this happen. This careless, perhaps even dishonest, claim at the very beginning of the Memorial's heritage documentation throws a shadow over the whole 600 plus pages of material.

[Paying respect does not depend on space](#)

8. How then does the Memorial's documentation make the case for 'equitable basis'? In [the Attachments to its submission](#), the Memorial offers just *one page* ([Attachment D](#)) of 'examples of lack of capacity to recognise all conflict and operations'. There is *barely a page* in [the submission proper \(paras 3.2-3.5\)](#) on '[t]he need for the project'. That page includes the suggestion that overcoming 'a perception that the service of some veterans is more important than the service of others' depends on gaining more space. The Memorial also claims that 'with the lack of gallery space there is no opportunity to respectfully and equitably describe the broader context of war'.
9. Equating respect with space is, of course, nonsense. It would be better evidence of respect if the Memorial were to make hard decisions about the allocation of its *existing* space to the various wars and warlike operations – and peacekeeping operations – that Australia has been involved in, rather than clamouring for *more* space. If the result of such decision-making privileged recent military involvements compared with, say, the Boer War of 1899-1902 or the New South Wales contingent to the Sudan in 1885, few Australians today would quibble.

10. All cultural institutions in Australia and the rest of the world must make hard decisions about which small proportions of their total holdings can be on display at any one time. Why should the Memorial be any different? Heritage Guardians is not against recognition of service in recent wars and peacekeeping. It just believes that recognition should be provided within the Memorial's existing space. (See also [paras 5-10 of Heritage Guardians' submission No. 40 to the Public Works Committee \(PWC\) inquiry.](#))

'Therapeutic milieu'

11. The Memorial's claims about the therapeutic powers of its exhibitions have always been heavy on emotion and light on evidence. See, for example, the testimonials [on the Memorial's website and in its on-site 'pop-up' exhibition](#) and the many public statements by the former and current Directors of the Memorial. ([An example](#) from former Director Nelson. See also: Director Anderson's evidence to the PWC hearing, 14 July 2020, Draft Hansard, pages 31 and 37.)

12. [Heritage Guardians' submission No. 40 to the PWC \(paras 11-14\)](#) rebuts the claims that the Memorial can provide a 'therapeutic milieu', healing and validation for servicemen and women. Dr Charlotte Palmer, a retired GP with 25 years' experience in treating psychological trauma, looked thoroughly at potentially relevant literature and [drew this conclusion](#):

PTSD and Moral Injury are complex and profoundly disruptive to the lives of sufferers and their families ... Any well-founded therapeutic input is welcome, but glib and selective accounts or affecting anecdotes from individuals – [like those found in the Memorial's promotional material](#) – are insufficient to justify the claim that an expanded Memorial, replete with retired military machinery, will provide a therapeutic milieu.

'The Anzac cloak'

13. Ultimately, the Memorial's case for the project relies not on claims about healing but on what [historian Peter Cochrane called 'the Anzac cloak'](#): 'Drape "Anzac" over an argument and, like a magic cloak, the argument is sacrosanct'. The Anzac cloak means that normal standards of public accountability do not apply; the Memorial benefits from special treatment and the perception that it is a sacred institution.

14. This alleged special status was clear from [a statement by then Director Nelson in April 2018](#):

Whatever the cost [of the Memorial project], as one man said to me: “We’ve already paid. We’ve paid in blood, and whatever the government spends on the Australian War Memorial ... **will never be enough**”. (Emphasis added.)

15. In similar vein was [Prime Minister Morrison’s speech in November 2018 to launch the project](#) where he said, ‘The funding will allow the Memorial to implement these plans **and not be limited in its ambition**’. (Emphasis added.) Those two remarks supporting open-ended funding are triumphs of hyperbole but must be anathema to anyone who believes in sound public administration and a fair distribution of money between institutions.

16. Opponents of the Memorial project have been seen – wrongly – as un-Australian or anti-Anzac. Some of the former Director’s characterisations of the opponents were as inaccurate as they were silly. ([An example](#).) Heritage Guardians can identify with the comment of the CEO of the Australian Institute of Architects, Julia Cambage, in recent testimony to the PWC (Draft Hansard, page 19):

Disappointingly, representatives of the memorial have sought to belittle and misrepresent [the Institute’s] concerns. They have disingenuously and quite offensively sought to cast the institute [sic] opposition of the proposed expansion as a failure to support measures to better honour Australian service men and women who served in modern conflicts and operations.

17. Heritage Guardians does not object to some Australians regarding the Memorial as sacred. Other Australians need not see it that way. Irrespective of how the Memorial is seen, however, public money spent on it should be treated with the same rigour – and with the same basis in evidence – as money spent elsewhere by government.

Underplayed and glossed over: heritage impacts:

Design choice and the destruction of Anzac Hall

18. [The Memorial’s submission at sections 4.3-4.4](#) summarises the design choice process up to the point that Option 1, including the destruction of Anzac Hall, went forward to further development. [Heritage Guardians’ detailed 2019 study](#) (prepared by former

senior officer at the Memorial, Richard Llewellyn) of Memorial documents made available under FOI came to these conclusions about the process:

Examination of the [Memorial's] *Options Assessment Report* suggests that remarkably little reliable evidence was gathered during the Report's preparation. In fact, the Report can be read as nothing more than a detailed (though loosely accurate) statement of a predetermined position requiring "validation" through a consultant's report. In other words, the answer was written before the questions were asked ...

The *Options Assessment Report* refers to "metrics" used for assessing options but only includes one metric (apart from some references to distances). Other so-called metrics are actually objectives or goals or aims ...

In assessing the degree to which options meet objectives the Memorial's consultants [in the absence of metrics] used a subjective measure to determine success against another subjective measure.

Assessment against technical standards is largely missing from the *Options Assessment Report*, but emotive, evidence-free putdowns of non-preferred options are common.

Expenditure of the magnitude suggested should be supported by a robust and reliable presentation of the reasons for it, not just simple statements of belief ...

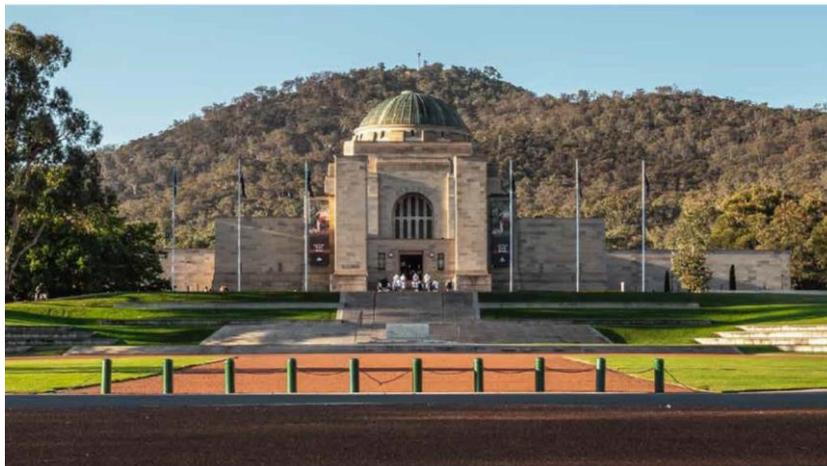
The preferred option (Option 1) of replacing Anzac Hall with a two-level structure (of which one level would be substantially if not completely underground) is an extremely poor idea. It is costly, cumbersome and fraught with unnecessary risk factors to do with the heaviness of Large Technology Objects, difficulties in manoeuvring them, the need for multiple access points, drainage, and other factors.

19. So, a deeply flawed decision process led to an outcome including the destruction of Anzac Hall. Heritage Guardians notes that [its submission No. 40 to the PWC \(pages 2-3\)](#) included questions relating to this process and that the PWC agreed to put these questions to the Memorial. Heritage Guardians looks forward to the Memorial's response.

20. Meanwhile, the Memorial's Heritage Impact Assessment, prepared in June 2020 by Harold Abrahams Architects, says this ([Attachment C to submission, page 57](#)) about the destruction of Anzac Hall: 'The loss of the existing ANZAC Hall is a sole significant loss of value ... The demolition of ANZAC Hall has a substantial negative impact on the heritage significance of the place.'
21. Heritage Guardians agrees with this assessment and supports submitters to this process, particularly the Australian Institute of Architects, who oppose the destruction of Anzac Hall and who see that destruction as incompatible with the project proceeding in its current form. Heritage Guardians endorses the view of [former Memorial Director, Major General Steve Gower \(Ret'd\)](#) that '[t]he decision [to destroy Anzac Hall] is a prize example of philistine vandalism masquerading as progress'.
22. Moreover, as noted above, the proposed two-level replacement Anzac Hall will have problematic design features both internally (point loadings, access and drainage) and in relation to the rest of the building. (See also: [Richard Llewellyn's 2019 analysis for Heritage Guardians, paras 91-100.](#)) Future managers of and visitors to the Memorial may well bear the consequences of this foolish decision.

Front façade allegedly 'unchanged'

23. The Memorial persists in claiming that the south-facing façade of the Memorial will be unchanged by the project. ([An example.](#)) This is despite the evidence of its own illustrations in the heritage documentation, which clearly show the extent of change.





24. The extended description of the work at [paras 7.2.1-7.2.7 of the Memorial's submission](#) also gives the lie to claims of lack of change. There is enough change to involve (in the words of the submission under a heading 'Impacts upon significant fabric, spatial relationships and views affected and steps to mitigate') removal and reinstatement of original fabric at entrance, change to the visitor arrival experience, structural risk from subterranean connection, glass lift access to access New Southern Entrance, oculus inserted into Main Building forecourt, and Parliament House Vista from the south.

25. In view of the above, it is very difficult to agree with the summary conclusion of the Heritage Impact Statement that the changes in this area of the Memorial have 'a generally positive impact' on heritage values ([Attachment C to the Memorial's submission, page 57.](#)) The Statement recognises 'some negative impact arising from the protruding oculus on the land axis, and the treatment of the introduced terrace wall with slots and freestanding stair'. Heritage Guardians believes this understates the impact of these changes.

26. Distinguished architect, Roger Pegrum, said this to the PWC (Draft Hansard, page 10) about the plans for the front of the building:

I just draw the attention of the proponents and the committee to the fact that you are dealing with a potentially fragile load-bearing brick building, and digging an underground entrance into it is not something that can be done quickly or without considerable care ...

If built as drawn, it is an irreversible and complete change to the appearance of the memorial. For a number of reasons, including those that could be labelled as heritage reasons, it should not, I believe, be allowed to proceed.

27. To sum up, the new southern entrance and façade, including the oculus, will change the sense of arrival to the Memorial, alter the front view of the original building, remove forecourt stairs and plinths, produce risks to structural integrity, set up uncertain relationships between the new entrance and the rest of the building, and involve engineering challenges.

What happened to the *Heritage Management Plan*?

28. [The Memorial's submission proper](#) hardly refers to [the Memorial's Heritage Management Plan \(HMP\) of 2011](#), let alone the withdrawn draft HMP of 2019 (see below para 32), yet para 1.4.3 of the submission mentions the Plan as one of the key documents that the Memorial refers to when making changes to its site.

29. The Memorial's Heritage Impact Assessment ([Attachment C to the submission](#)) goes through the policies in the Plan, marking most of them 'Complies', with a few 'Partly complies' and a couple 'Does not comply', relating to Anzac Hall.

30. A key finding, against 'Policy 1.11 Conserve, manage and interpret the Anzac Hall as a part of the AWM main building', reads 'The proposal includes the demolition of ANZAC Hall and therefore does not conserve it. Does not comply [with the Policy] (page 53).' If heritage management plans are to be more than an empty concept that finding alone should be decisive and bring the Memorial project to a halt. 'Demolishing Anzac Hall would breach the War Memorial's own heritage management plan', said Julia Cambage of the Australian Institute of Architects to the PWC (Draft Hansard, page 19).

31. The planned destruction of Anzac Hall directly contradicts the status of the Hall in the 2011 HMP. That Plan describes Anzac Hall as 'architecturally impressive' (page 13) and it is listed among features of the Memorial that 'act as reminders of important events and people in Australia's history' (page 35). The 2011 Plan continues to be the relevant plan for the purposes of DAWE assessment.

32. The Memorial put out a revised Heritage Management Plan for consultation in 2019, including words on Anzac Hall identical to those in the 2011 plan, but the revision was

withdrawn from circulation and does not now appear on the Memorial's website. [Katie Burgess in the Canberra Times](#) pointed to the discrepancy between the words in the draft Plan and the Memorial's plans for Anzac Hall.

33. Heritage Guardians support the heritage arguments put by [the Australian Institute of Architects](#). The AIA said it had 'significant and ongoing concerns about the redevelopment project regarding the planned demolition of Anzac Hall and threats to the heritage value of the site, including the nationally significant Eastern Precinct Development'. The Institute's consultant, Ashley Built Heritage, said the overall project 'has significant heritage impacts arising from the bulk, scale and location of the new work such that further detail and minor modification would not remove that significant impact'. Architect Roger Pegrum told the PWC (Draft Hansard, page 9), 'The demolition of Anzac Hall and construction of new exhibitions as proposed, hard up against the memorial, is not clever; it's not the answer and it should not be approved'. Heritage Guardians agrees with him.

Overblown claims and dodgy methodology: consultation process

Where did the consultation caravan stop and how were questions asked?

34. The Memorial's statements about consultation, including those made recently by the Director and other Memorial staff to the PWC (as shown in the Draft Hansard of the PWC hearing on 14 July), consistently reveal a credibility gap between claim and evidence. The following examples support this statement.
35. The Memorial made a great show of consultation over eight weeks in August-September 2018, analysed the results thoroughly, then took them off its website [after Honest History pointed out that only 134 people had responded](#), despite an extensive promotion campaign of 'dedicated website content, social media content, email address [sic], stakeholder forums, drop-in information sessions, pop-up events within the Memorial and a digital scrapbook to capture feedback'. The results reappeared in November 2019, buried in [the Memorial's first EPBC heritage referral](#). Heritage Guardians, by contrast, early in 2019 [gathered 1236 signatures in two weeks on a petition against the project](#). The AIA [has more than 1200 signatures on its petition against the demolition of Anzac Hall](#).

36. Then there was the Memorial's consultation undertaken in late 2019 and 2020. This consultation was done in four formats: 'face to face presentations and [community drop in] sessions facilitated by Memorial staff at one of 46 locations [sic] across the country; written correspondence received through a dedicated email address (development@awm.gov.au) and a demographically representative online survey' ([Attachment S1 to the Memorial's submission, page 5](#)).
37. Oddly, the Memorial lumps these four consultation methods together to give a total respondent figure of 1031, even though the type of input for or against derived from, say, a drop-in session would be rather different in form and quality from that derived from an 'online survey'. Is support derived from a quick visit to a drop-in session worth as much as that contained in a considered letter to the Memorial. How is that support to be weighted against opposition expressed by a letter? It is not good statistical practice to combine data from diverse consultation formats, in this case, mixing quantitative data from the 'online survey' with qualitative data from the other formats.
38. The Memorial's presentation of an overall 'supportive' number of 76 per cent ([Attachment S1, page 7](#)) glosses over the fact that 32 out of the 55 pieces of correspondence the Memorial received, or 58 per cent, were *against* the project. Such slippery treatment of numbers does not instil confidence in the study overall.
39. Those heavy numbers in support are, moreover, so much against other evidence of community feeling that it is necessary to question them. [In a Canberra Times poll in June 2019](#), for example, 80 per cent of respondents were in favour of a statement by former Memorial Director, Brendon Kelson, that the project should not proceed. By Heritage Guardians' count, letter-writers to the editor of the *Canberra Times* on the subject have also been more than 80 per cent against, as have [submissions to the PWC inquiry](#).
40. Further, both the two petitions referred to in para 35 above, with nation-wide and international signatories, gathered more support – over 1200 each – than the Memorial's consultation efforts during November 2019 to February 2020. [The Heritage Guardians open letter in March 2019](#) (83 signatories) and [the Heritage Guardians submission No. 15 to the PWC](#) (82 names) saw many distinguished Australians from all over the country express views against the project.

41. One reason for the Memorial's strange figures could be found in where the consultation took place, where the Memorial consultation caravan stopped. The Memorial has a table of 'EPBC Consultation Events' at page 121 of [Attachment S1](#). The table shows:
- 21 *locations* at 22 *venues* in metropolitan cities and suburbs and regional cities saw 46 *events*, either presentations or drop-in sessions (elsewhere, there is a reference to 46 locations – see above, para 36)
 - 32 of the events, or 70 per cent, were held in RSL or other ex-military clubs or at the War Memorial or the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne
 - the average attendance at the 46 events was just ten people, with the highest attendance 38 and the lowest just one person (at a presentation at the Wagga Wagga RSL on 5 December).
42. It is not surprising that events held at such heavily 'military' venues produced favourable responses to the project. The Memorial, at [Attachment S1 to its submission, page 5](#), tries to conceal the heavy representation of RSL and ex-service clubs: 'Events were conducted in a variety of locations including at the Memorial as well as museums, libraries, town halls, and clubs'. The attendance may have been skewed also by advice put out (according to reports received by Heritage Guardians) by some venues to potential attendees that the events were 'invitation only'.
43. It is also worth noting in passing that the Memorial Director and two other Memorial officers told the PWC recently that the Memorial team had visited '42 locations' or '42 places' (PWC Draft Hansard, pages 31, 35 and 40.) The Memorial's own statistic – 21 locations – gives the lie to these careless claims.
44. Then, one could look at the characteristics of those who took part in the four forms of consultation. 'The Memorial notes', we are told at page 7 of [Attachment S1 to its submission](#), 'that the participants at presentations or CDI sessions and written correspondents were mainly reflective of those already interested in or involved with the Memorial such as veterans or defence family members'.
45. There is more below on the 'online survey', which the Memorial claims (again at page 7 of [Attachment S1](#)), 'was designed to, and does, represent a broader cross section of the Australian community' – broader, that is, than the representation in the other formats

such as RSL clubs. Careful to find this broader cross-section, the Memorial has no qualms, however, about lumping together results from the four disparate formats to come up with 'General sentiment' ([Attachment S1, page 7](#)): data from the 'representative' online survey is combined with data from face-to-face events, even though the Memorial admits that participation at these events was skewed towards older people and was disproportionately male ([Attachment S1, pages 32-33](#)).

46. Finally, there is the way the project was promoted at the presentations and drop-in sessions (462 attendees in total). At page 90 and following of [Attachment S1 to the Memorial's submission](#) is 'EPBC Presentation, December 2019'. It is a glossy and slick presentation of dot points and architect's illustrations. The servicemen and women pictured are glowing with health and airbrushing. There is no mention of costs, of the destruction of Anzac Hall, of opposition. How could anyone say no to such a project? It is surprising that just under a quarter of those attending and witnessing this sales pitch resisted it and remained opposed to the project or wanted more information. Perhaps they asked questions about what the presentations glossed over.

Not a 'survey' at all

47. We turn now to the Memorial's 'online survey', reported at page 74 and following of [Attachment S1 to the Memorial's submission](#). The Memorial's contractors, [Faster Horses](#), ('We combine art and science to find meaning in patterns, that others don't see') described how they weighted the data to ensure they had a nationally representative sample. The contractors paid attention to location, age and gender but apparently not to cultural and linguistic diversity. This is a glaring omission in the Australia of 2020.

48. Despite the exercise being described by the Memorial development project's Executive Director [at Estimates](#) (page 148) and before the PWC (Draft Hansard, page 40) as a 'survey', it was not a survey in any real sense, that is, an honest canvassing of opinions. Instead, it sought 'feedback' to carefully constructed leading questions. 'The primary aim of this research', says the report at page 77 of [Attachment S1](#), 'was to assess how the Australian public feels about the proposed developments to the Australian War Memorial (AWM), and whether this development aligns with the AWM's Social Values'.

49. For example, respondents were asked to read this sentence: ‘The time has come to modernise and expand the Australian War Memorial’s galleries and buildings so it can tell the continuing story of Australia’s involvement in modern conflicts’. They were then shown some attractive images of the project. There was nothing about the cost, nothing about the opposition to the project or the arguments against it, nothing about other options.
50. Then followed a brief description of the elements of the project and this concluding sentence: ‘Sensitively connected to the existing landscape, the detailed plans will ensure the heritage façade remains unchanged’. (On that last debatable point, see above paras 23-26.) Given that just 21 per cent of the sample had heard of the Memorial project ([Attachment S1 to the Memorial’s submission, page 79](#)), it would have been easy for these prompted messages to take hold. Forty-two per cent of respondents admitted to having little or no knowledge about the AWM’s role and functions ([Attachment S1, page 81](#)). Respondents like this would have been especially susceptible to Faster Horses laden with glowing descriptions of the Memorial’s plans.
51. Another question gave respondents a description of how the Memorial contributes to Australian social values at present and then asked them whether the Memorial would still deliver on those values once the proposed development was complete. ‘After learning about the planned development, the level of total agreement that the AWM will deliver social heritage values increased slightly from 78% to 83% (page 84).’
52. Questions like those that Faster Horses pitched are bound to lead to favourable responses, and these questions did just that for three-quarters of those providing feedback. The phrase, ‘They would say that, wouldn’t they?’ comes to mind. Particularly if, as noted above, a large proportion of those surveyed had no pre-existing knowledge.
53. The Memorial Director’s testimony to the PWC shows the leading question habit persists there and, interestingly, delivers the same level of support:

Then the question [put to visitors to the Memorial] is, “Do you agree with the need to more fully tell the stories of modern conflicts, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations?” Eighty-six per cent of people said yes. Eighty-one per cent strongly

agreed or agreed that the development will deliver improved social heritage values for the memorial. (Draft Hansard, page 39.)

Conclusion: striking a balance

54. The Memorial has always been, and is meant to be, at once a memorial, a museum, and an archive. Different visitors will look for different elements. Heritage Guardians' concern is to maintain an appropriate *balance* between these three functions. The Memorial's redevelopment project does not do that.

55. A greatly extended Memorial, full of retired military machinery – 'toys for the boys' and effectively advertisements for the manufacturers, some of the world's biggest and most profitable defence companies – will be irrevocably more of a military museum than a memorial. The balance will have shifted.

Visitors would walk [said Dr Sue Wareham of Medical Association for Prevention of War to the PWC (Draft Hansard, page 23)] amidst decommissioned military hardware, an experience which is clearly intended to inspire awe and fascination at the technology itself. This would tend to dwarf and marginalise the human element: the very people whose deaths we are commemorating.

56. Memorial Council Chair, Kerry Stokes, told the PWC (Draft Hansard, page 36) that the Memorial's promotional 'fly-throughs' of the new space showing these machines are just notional, and final decisions about what is displayed are up to the curators. This claim must be treated sceptically, given [the listing of military machinery in the Memorial's PWC submission \(para 2.6.3\)](#) ('It is important that these objects are part of a conflict or operation gallery where they are a key element of the story', the Memorial argued) and statements by the former Director, such as [the one that a retired F-111 would have 'pride of place' in the expanded Memorial.](#)

57. Why take on these planes, helicopters, armoured vehicles and what-not from the Department of Defence if they are not to be displayed? They are tourist attractions as well as combat relics and the Memorial is immensely proud of its tourist visitor numbers (even if it [sometimes has manipulated the figures](#)). And the more of these machines that find their way into the Memorial, the greater the risk of the place becoming something other than what it has been since it was opened in 1941.



MAPW - Health Professionals Promoting Peace

Medical Association for Prevention of War



31 July, 2020

Submission regarding the Australian War Memorial's EPBC referral on its redevelopment proposal

Principal author:

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President, Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia)



SUMMARY

MAPW (Australia) strongly opposes the proposed redevelopment. We believe that the additional prominent displays of military machinery would entrench a narrow, militaristic view of Australia's history and heritage, and the redevelopment would continue the marginalisation of critically important aspects of Australia's wars.

MAPW recommends that the speech given by Governor-General Lord Gowrie VC at the opening of the AWM in 1941 be displayed prominently at the entrance to the Memorial. He said that the Memorial would be "*...not only a record of the splendid achievements of the men that fought and fell in the war..*" but also "*a reminder to future generations of the barbarity, of the utter futility of modern war*".

In addition the right to dissent is a fundamental part of our heritage, and yet it is dangerously jeopardised by the proposed inclusion in any expansion of live feed from the ADF of current operations. Such inclusion would be an extremely slippery slope to military propaganda. It should be rejected.

Finally, any proposal for a major redevelopment at our most important place of war commemoration that continues to overlook the Frontier Wars - wars on our soil that have

had a profound and lasting impact on many Australians - simply magnifies this deep stain on our national story and should be rejected.

INTRODUCTION

MAPW welcomes this opportunity to contribute to the second phase of the EPBC approval process for the proposed project.

However we note again (as in the 2019 EPBC approval process) that the AWM's documentation for this EPBC referral has not helped the process of engagement. It is over 600 pages (82 pages of submission and 528 pages of attachments) and, again, there is no summary of the key points on which feedback is being sought. The labelling of this second phase of EPBC consultation as "EPBC Preliminary Documentation" again adds to confusion as to whether there is further EPBC documentation, and opportunity for public input, to follow.

MAPW refers the AWM to our association's submission to the Public Works Committee for more detail on our serious concerns in relation to the very poor consultation process. A major impediment to trust in the process is that the public were told during the November 2019 – January 2020 sessions that "*A decision has been made that this proposal will go ahead*". The same message, presented in many different ways, times and places, remains. Therefore confusion remains as to what decisions will be decided on the basis of community feedback. What is the exact purpose of feedback now if a decision has already been made? How much feedback was never put forward, given that the proposal has largely been presented as a "done deal"?

Nevertheless MAPW offers the following comments.

HERITAGE VALUES OF THE AWM

The AWM clearly plays a strong and important role in commemoration and education about the role of Australia's wars in our history. Those wars are a significant part of our heritage (although, it should be emphasised, only a part of our heritage). However, MAPW and many others believe that the AWM currently marginalises the broad context and circumstances in which our wars have occurred, matters which are also important parts of our heritage.

The AWM claims to assist Australians to "*remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society*", including "*the events leading up to...*" and "*the aftermath of...*" wars. However, there are many aspects of this broad context on which the AWM focusses very little attention. They include:

- The historical context of each of Australia's many wars, to help explain: How did this war begin? Who made the decision for war? What discussions were held in our parliament? Was the decision controversial? Who opposed it and why? What

might have prevented it? Which factors helped perpetuate it or stymie peace prospects? Did the war unite or divide the nation?

- The impacts of Australia's wars on our security, including negative impacts from our involvement in the "war on terror" since 2001
- Economic impacts, particularly with the current huge expansion of our military hardware
- Our national identity. Is fighting wars the most important part of our history as a nation, or does such a view diminish awareness of our fine achievements in social, political and other spheres?
- Civilian experiences of war. Many Australians have suffered wars' ravages directly as civilians in other places before coming here. Their experiences should not be overlooked, lest we develop militarised and glorified views that ignore the reality of modern warfare – that most of its victims are civilians.
- Critical questions such as: Why do wars persist? What have we learnt?

All these questions – the presentation of which does not require vast space - lie at the heart of our heritage as it relates to warfare, and yet the proposed redevelopment appears to be designed to continue educating principally about stories from the battlefield, especially with displays of large items of weaponry. (Although AWM Council chair Mr Stokes stated recently to the parliamentary Public Works Committee that this is not the case, and that the content of proposed new galleries has not been decided, every other indication including the AWM's promotions indicates that that is indeed what is planned.) This will tend to reinforce a simplistic notion that Australians' experience of war starts and finishes with battles or other forms of direct combat. The wide spectrum of the role of warfare in Australians' lives will be reduced to a narrow, militaristic view of our past, present and future.

To advocate a much broader scope in the AWM's exhibits in no way detracts from respectful commemoration of our war dead. On the contrary, failure to learn from the sacrifices made, and an apparent determination to anticipate Australian involvement in wars for the foreseeable future, does an enormous disservice to our service men and women.

THE AWM OPENING SPEECH

The AWM's "Brief history of the AWM" (on page 9 of the EPBC documentation) refers of course to its opening in 1941, but not to the message of Governor-General Lord Gowrie VC who performed the opening. He said that the Memorial would be "*...not only a record of the splendid achievements of the men that fought and fell in the war..*" but also "*a reminder to future generations of the barbarity, of the utter futility of modern war*".

He asked:

“What can we do for those who did so much? What can we give to those who gave us all? And I know that our answer will be that we are determined that these men shall not have died in vain, and that we are prepared for any sacrifice to put an end, once and for all, to this diabolical menace to mankind and ensure the peace of the world for future generations.”

Lord Gowrie anticipated how future visitors would respond to the galleries and the commemorative areas. He said *“Every one of them I am firmly convinced will declare, and will declare with no uncertain voice, never again, never again.”*

Lord Gowrie’s speech stands in stark contrast to the casual acceptance of warfare in glib [remarks](#) made in 2018 by former AWM Director Dr Brendan Nelson in promoting the redevelopment. Nelson stated that *“the government would continue to send military forces overseas”*. Such remarks give no hint of the enormity of the price paid when governments do indeed send military forces overseas, and the responsibility of the Memorial to accurately reflect this cost. The proposed redevelopment, by giving undue space to the weapons with which we fight wars – how we fight - would detract from, rather than highlight, the human costs of our wars.

MAPW recommend that Lord Gowrie’s historic but oft-forgotten speech be displayed prominently near the entrance to the AWM.

THE RIGHT TO DISSENT – A PART OF OUR HERITAGE

A further concern is that Australia’s heritage of the right to dissent, one of the democratic rights for which our nation is said to fight, is at risk. With few exceptions, the AWM gives very little space to dissenting views, including voices for peace such as the huge anti-war movement before the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Unfortunately the proposed redevelopment, with its planned live feed from current ADF operations, would actively undermine the right to dissent against wars that have not yet finished. It would dangerously reinforce a notion that opposition to current wars is somehow unpatriotic and indicates lack of support for our troops. It risks an extremely short slippery slope to military propaganda.

The recent attempt by the AWM to prevent even its unpaid volunteers from speaking out on the redevelopment issue is a particularly egregious example of suppression of dissenting views.

TELLING THE STORIES OF WORK FOR PEACE

While MAPW strongly supports and honours the work of Australia’s peacekeepers, we observe that the AWM seems incapable of seeing work for peace in anything other than a military sense. The avoidance of wars – which the Memorial states that it wishes to recognise – precedes and goes far beyond the role of peacekeepers. Australia also has a rich heritage of civilians working for peace.

Telling these stories - beginning with World War 1 - does not need vast space. The proposed grandiose redevelopment would hinder rather than help that process.

A KEY PART OF OUR HERITAGE STILL IGNORED

Finally, any listing of matters marginalised or ignored by the AWM is not complete without drawing attention, again, to the Memorial's ongoing failure to recognise the Frontier Wars, which have been described by historian Henry Reynolds as our most significant military conflict. A satisfactory and logical reason for this failure has not been presented. A huge redevelopment which continues to overlook conflicts that have had a profound and lasting impact on many Australians simply magnifies this deep stain on our national story, one which we have not even begun to address.

Foreword

Talissa Papamau is an Afghanistan veteran who served as an Advanced Medical Technician in the Australian Regular Army becoming the nation's first Australian Tuvaluan returned service person.

As a combat medic Talissa was responsible for rendering life saving interventions for critically injured coalition forces and local national men, women and children from the neighbouring Afghanistan provinces. Certainly, treating friends who were catastrophically injured and fellow Australian's whose injuries were not survivable represent some of the darkest and most traumatic experiences of her life and military career.

Talissa's deployment as part of Mentoring Taskforce 5 on OP SLIPPER spanned a critical and historically significant time in the context of the fourteen year campaign. Throughout the rotation Talissa was involved in the treatment or attended 7 Australian KIAs, 33 WIA and provided primary health and emergency care to a vast number of coalition, Australian Federal Police, Contractors, Afghan National Army, Afghan Police and local nationals. During her deployment and due to operational demand Talissa received just one and half days off duty in over 170 days on deployment.

On the 29th August a critical incident involving a green on blue whereby an Afghan soldier who sympathised with the local Taliban decided to discharge an AK-47 magazine into the group of unsuspecting and unprotected Australians occurred. This generated four Australian casualties all of whom were evacuated to the resuscitation bay. Tragically, despite best efforts and aggressive life-saving medical interventions three of the four soldiers died.

A couple of hours later, in the early hours of the morning Talissa was again recalled to the resuscitation bay again to respond to a Black Hawk Helicopter crash carrying American troops and Australian Special Forces personnel. An additional two Australian Commandos died as a result of injuries sustained in the crash. This 24-hr period, in terms of loss of Australian life, is unparalleled for the Afghanistan campaign and represents the highest loss of Australian life in a 24-hr period since the Vietnam War.

During her military career Talissa was also involved in the development, delivery and instruction of the Combat Medical Attendant Pilot Course for the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) in 2014. The pilot course was the first training provided to the PNGDF to support the re-establishment of the PNGDF Medical Corps since its retrenchment following the Bougainville Crisis.

Commentary of Proposed Development Australian War Memorial

On review of the EPBC Preliminary Documentation Submission associated with the Australian War Memorial Proposed Development I strongly support the rationale and merit for development of the Australian War Memorial. In addition, due to extensive first-hand visitor experience of the Australian War Memorial I strongly support the proposed development of Anzac Hall to facilitate the ethical and compliance obligations of the Memorial.

The Afghanistan campaign is Australia's longest armed conflict and has revolutionised the collective understanding, narrative and lived experience of contemporary military service and sacrifice. In addition, the era of contemporary veterans and their military service spans extensive operations in East Timor and Iraq. Australia's prolonged, sustained and accelerated operational tempo is historically unprecedented and has redefined our experience and understanding of:

- *'What it means to serve'* and the emergence of multi-tour, multiple deployment contemporary veterans as a consequence of the professionalisation of the Australian Defence Force.
- *What it means to protect Australia's national interests* and the Australian way-of-life in contemporary society.
- *'The diversity of context and contribution'* by Australia's veterans and military families.

To date, I contend that these important historical, cultural and social denouements have not been respectfully and equitably recorded, recognised and represented. Through the Proposed Development the Australian War Memorial has a unique

opportunity to convey these narratives and experiences in a way that both commemorates, inspires and enriches the lives of others.

Narratives and experiences such as my own, which traditionally have been underrepresented however broaden and challenge traditional viewpoints and prejudices surrounding who veterans are, what veterans do and how all roles and types of service have relevance and validity. As a veteran, this notion that my sacrifice and story could enhance and inspire the lives of others provides me healing, validation and dignity.

Indeed, the Australian War Memorial has an obligation to commemorate the voices and stories of **all** veterans (inclusive of corps, rank, service, gender, ethnicity, culture and deployment) and by doing so promoting social heritage understanding that enriches the lives of Australian and international visitors and importantly, supports validation and reconciliation for the many thousands of veterans and military families.

I believe, the inequitable and incomplete recognition of veterans, how they represented the country and their contribution post service life, has contributed to misguided and limited social rhetoric and understanding among the community. This can expose veterans and their families to risk and historically, this has resulted in prejudice, persecution and disadvantage for veterans and their families most notably the Vietnam War veteran generation.

In the context of my own contemporary veteran cohort, transitioning from military life after the prolonged and accelerated operational tempo has its inherent challenges. My generation of service personnel are impacted by issues surrounding career prospects and employment opportunities following military service. Therefore, any development that elevates the value, understanding, diversity and abilities of Australia's service personnel has considerable benefit and is worthy of support and investment.

In addition to the social heritage and historical significance considerations the Proposed Development for the Australian War Memorial has a critical and timely opportunity to convey a holistic and multi-dimensional narrative of veterans, military service and its underrepresented application and value to the Australian people and communities, private enterprise, state and federal Government.

I was honoured with the esteemed privilege to have my portrait exhibited at the Australian War Memorial last year as part of the 'After the War' Exhibition alongside a group of other

contemporary veterans; who despite their service-related injuries have become ambassadors for successful life after service.

Since medically transitioning as a combat medic from the Australian Defence Force in 2015 for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, I continue to dedicate my life to caring for the health, well-being and quality of life of Australia's veterans and military families.

In 2016 I established Modern Soldier Social Media an online digital support organisation that has amassed an online membership exceeding 75,000 followers across two social media technologies. Modern Soldier has become one of the largest online engagement communities consistently reaching over 1 million unique social media users on a monthly basis.

Given my connection to the veteran community and my comprehensive understanding of the untold, underrepresented, unvalidated stories, experiences and learnings of Australia's veterans and families as well as the unique challenges faced by them on a daily basis, I am obliged to reinforce my support of the Proposed Development Australian War Memorial.

For me, the Proposed Development Australian War Memorial provides an equitable and needed opportunity for the diverse and valuable stories of veterans and military service to be recorded and commemorated. My story and sacrifice is one of countless and is a humble contribution to our social heritage and our understanding of military servitude. The true value of my story and sacrifice is that it belongs to, and enriched by a much broader collective and a much older lineage that cannot truly be understood, recognised nor respected if not comprehensively represented through an expanded and diverse legacy.

I have every confidence in the Australian War Memorial under the oversight of the recently appointed Director to ensure the Australian War Memorial remains the national embodiment of excellence for recognising and commemorating all Australian veterans, military servitude and sacrifice both past and present.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

'Lest We Forget'

Talissa Papamau



Submission regarding AWM 2018-20 Development Project – Michael Piggott, AM

Basis of submission

When Brendan Nelson retired in August 2019, the former AWM Director called critics opposed to the development project “a facile minority out of touch with the rest of the country”, adding they were a “small group of people – intellectuals, academics, some retired public servants, even some former staff member who left this place 20 years ago”.¹ In similar vein, earlier this month, the AWM Council chair described critics as being mostly from Canberra, and by inference therefore to be dismissed.²

Accordingly, having lived in Canberra for 49 years and worked for the War Memorial for a decade I assume that my views will be discounted. I am also not in one of the AWM’s preferred stakeholder groups, being neither a serving member of the ADF nor, having never experienced even a single day of continuous military service, a veteran. And I do not have a medical background – apparently necessary, according to the Council chair, to assess the efficacy of a therapeutic milieu at the Memorial for veterans.³

Even so, I want my objections on record and counted among those who do not support the development. My views draw on relevant emotional associations and professional experience:

- Members on both sides of my parents’ families have served in war, and some are represented with their units on the 1914-18 and 1939-45 panels of the Roll of Honour; my brother was called up during the Vietnam War; and my stepson served in the Army Reserve then Australian Army while his father served in the Navy (HMAS Hobart) during the Vietnam War;
- While the University Archivist at the University of Melbourne (1998-2008) my responsibilities included the Grainger Museum, a heritage

¹ <https://aboutregional.com.au/nelson-blasts-war-memorial-expansion-critics-in-retirement-announcement/>

² <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6833350/war-memorial-rejects-criticism-from-special-interest-groups/>

³ [https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/australian-war-memorial-to-get-\\$500m-renovation/12471580_at_the_3_50/](https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/australian-war-memorial-to-get-$500m-renovation/12471580_at_the_3_50/). What Dr Sue Wareham (President of the ACT Chapter, Medical Association for the Prevention of War, Australia) thinks of the Chair’s risible comment we can only imagine.

listed building creatively expanded (advised by Lovell Chen) during 2006-8 without undermining the integrity of the original structure;⁴

- My decade at the Memorial (1978-88), primarily as Senior Curator, Written Records, coincided with the passing of the current Act (1980) and the beginning of a policy addressing space needs with solutions external to the Main Building (the Administrative Building, the Mitchell Annex), a policy which has held for the past forty plus years. During that decade I also produced initial policy advice for an Eternal Flame, worked under three directors (Noel Flanagan, Jim Flemming and Keith Pearson) and published guides to collections including the papers of the CEW Bean.

Who is the Memorial for now?

The short answer is and should be “all Australians”. A slightly longer answer would add “including those who have a family connection to a name on the Roll of Honour”. Not anymore. Now, apparently, the AWM is essentially, primarily, for a much narrower section of the community. In recent decades, the AWM Council and senior management have signalled to current and former members of the ADF that, first and foremost, it is for them.

Thus, the opening paragraph of the Development Project webpage states: “The Memorial commemorates our living history”, then adds the priority order: “for every veteran and for every Australian”. Thus, the *Have Your Say* advertisement (CT, 3 July 2020, p 6) stated the project will “ensure the Memorial remains the national centre of commemoration *for all who have served*” [my emphasis]. Thus, the illustrations in the *Our Next Chapter* newsletter: all current serving personnel.

The Memorial’s April 2020 consultation report was just as explicit, mentioning consultation with “200 organisations and their members including ex-service organisations, kindred organisations, veterans’ welfare and defence family groups”. This report also stated (p 3) that “Our values, our character and our identity live on in the stories of past, present, and future service members, their families and community”. It continued, interpreting visitor motives narrowly: “More than one million people visit our Memorial every year to honour these

⁴ See <http://www.lovellchen.com.au/lc/grainger-museum/>

members' service and learn about their experiences in war, peacekeeping, and humanitarian operations".⁵

The Memorial's functions do require it, via its definition of "Australian Military History", to include in its focus the history of ADF and the history of the aftermath of wars and war like operations through documentation, exhibitions and disseminating information about this history. Even so, the AWM should be, and was intended to be, for all Australians. Aside from the membership of the Council, the 1980 Act made no mention of any particular section of the community, no mention of veterans or ex-servicemen and women, no mention requiring a "therapeutic milieu" for veterans and the ADF.

The Australian people's diversity is not irrelevant here. To take three illustrations.

- By contrast with the emphasis on millions of Australians who have a connection with the Memorial via a family member named on the Roll of Honour (overwhelming from the two world wars but also the 1945-1975 conflicts and operations), the current AWM agenda has singled out a tiny proportion of the community for special attention - the current ADF and veterans of post 1999 conflicts and operations. Of course, even this group is extremely diverse – there are veterans of recent conflicts and there are veterans who were never involved in "warlike" operations. To the AWM, some Australians are more equal than others, and some veterans too.
- Since 1945 almost 8 million people have migrated to Australia, and almost half the population were born overseas or have at least one parent born overseas. Each state capital has a different ethnic makeup, but, as the Corona virus second wave outbreaks has focused on Melbourne, note that many oversea-born Victorians were refugees from conflicts in Indo-China, the republics of the former Yugoslavia, the Horn of Africa, the Middle East and Afghanistan. Newer Australians' understanding of our history, including engagement in wars and related operations, is crucial.

⁵ AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, April 2020
<https://www.awm.gov.au/system/files/documents/ATTACHMENT%20S1%20%20%20EPBC%20Act%20National%20Consultation%20Report.pdf>

Net overseas migration over the past 20 years was between 100,000 and 200,000 p.a. To what extent is the Memorial for these Australians and what did they think of the \$500m expansion plans?

The AWM's June 2020 Preliminary Documentation Submission

None of the arguments for the development are so compelling or convincing that they demonstrate conclusively that *only* the specific development proposed (and no other alternative) *must* be supported. This doesn't matter of course, as the Prime Minister announced the development as a done deal in November 2018.⁶ The June 2020 retrofitted justification (as presented in June 2020 Preliminary Documentation Submission⁷) is littered with non sequiturs, unsupported claims, and inconsistencies.

- Take for example the assertion that the removal of Anzac Hall “will be one of many alterations the Memorial has made over the 79 years since it opened” (p 30). In relation to the Main Building, at worst, past alterations have meant things like closing the clerestory windows or placing a simple glass link bridge to the current Anzac Hall. To call *the removal* of a building *an alteration* is disingenuous, and to imply it would be all part of a pattern of past work is dishonest. As is the assertion that “The design concept is deferential to, and respectful of, the Main Building consistent with the current Anzac Hall” (p 35). No, it is not.
- A further example is the seemingly uncontentious statement “it is essential that conflicts subsequent to 1971 are properly commemorated through exhibition. The Project will enable veterans to bring families to the Memorial to explain what they did in these more recent conflicts and humanitarian and peacekeeping operations. The ability for veterans to be able to do this is incredibly important for themselves, their families, and the broader veteran community” (p 69). But this happens now! And commemoration through exhibition can happen and does happen now (including the display of large objects).
- Repeatedly in the AWM documentation there is an assumption that more space is needed to display more large objects, as if otherwise the stories and service of veterans of post 1999 conflicts and operations and their

⁶ <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/address-australian-war-memorial-masterplan-redevelopment>

⁷ <https://www.awm.gov.au/ourcontinuingstory/ourplans/EPBC-prelim-doc>

families somehow won't be adequately acknowledged; as if otherwise their mental health won't be adequately managed. Seriously? It is bizarre and open-ended thinking. What does the Memorial do when a RAN veteran – perhaps the donor the BPC Navy badge⁸ who served with Border Protection Command – asks why it hasn't displayed a Bay class patrol boat? And where is the Memorial's Oberon- class submarine - “reported to have regularly conducted operations with special forces”⁹? Surely it too would enable Navy veterans to bring their families to the Memorial to explain what they did.

- At the core of the AWM case is the belief that ‘equity’ is “required” by the 1980 Act (p 11), that currently there is inequitable coverage of Australia's military conflicts and operations, that it is not the frontier wars but post 1999 conflicts and operations that not adequately represented, and that it needs more physical space and more personal stories to remedy this. The people affected by this imbalance are sometimes identified as “servicemen and servicewomen who have served Australia in more recent conflicts and operations” (p 11) and at other times “all Australian servicemen and servicewomen” (p 14). So, which is it?

The significance assessment methodology used by the Memorial to reach this conclusion is not stated but implies Attachment D has the answer. Here metrics such as deaths, total personnel involved and years of conflict are tossed about without recourse to criteria or weighting, and nowhere tied to gallery space or type of collection item. Surely, given the taxpayer dollars involved, we are entitled to something more rigorous?

The current Memorial challenges are not new. On many previous occasions, space pressures for exhibitions collections staff and facilities have been identified and then addressed without undermining the integrity of the primary building, e.g. in 1978 (Mitchell Annex), 1988 (Administration Building), 2001 (Anzac Hall) and 2006 (CEW Bean Building). As well, off site solutions at Mitchell have been enhanced several times, the grounds in Campbell better exploited (e.g. Sculpture Garden, 1999) and car parking put underground. All sensible.

⁸ <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1293205>

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oberon-class_submarine

The minds behind the proposed development of course are aware of this logic – thus, in rationalising the expansion of the Bean Building stating “The extension, and refurbishment of the existing building, will allow us to consolidate operational and non-critical administrative functions from the main building – optimising the use of space in the main building for gallery content”.¹⁰ Of course now they don’t plan to stop there.

Conclusion and alternatives

In summary, I am especially opposed to (i) the removal of the current Anzac Hall and (ii) the glazed link to a new Anzac Hall.

The February 2020 Development newsletter stated that the project’s primary purpose is “to provide the space and facilities needed to tell the continuing story of contemporary servicemen and servicewomen who have served in modern conflicts, peacekeeping, and humanitarian operations”, and “Sharing the stories of contemporary Australian servicemen and servicewomen is what the project is all about”. It does *not* follow however that there is only one way to do this. There are less expensive more sensitive ways to achieve these aims. For example:

- Expand the current Anzac Hall (the AWM’s June 2020 submission states at p 75 this is not a technically viable option, then refers the reader back to para 4.5.2 even though here it provides no justification for such an assertion); I find it very hard to believe it is not technically possible to do;
- Reduce earlier wars’ galleries to allow more extensive representation of post 1999 operations if that really is today’s priority, and refocus the travelling exhibition program and online exhibitions accordingly; and
- Establish a major oral history program to record the stories of the current veterans and relevant ADF members, then make edited selections available online and also direct this content into the education and publications programs.

¹⁰ <https://www.awm.gov.au/ourcontinuingstory/ourplans>

From: frank hutchinson [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Australian War Memorial

Sent: Fri 31/07/2020 2:55 PM



Submission

1. The proposed \$500 million for expanding/ refurbishing the Australian War Memorial could be far better spent when we are in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. The War Memorial's claim of providing a "therapeutic milieu" for recent veterans is not based on evidence, and is a smokescreen for its demand for more space for military hardware

3. Australia's heritage and other values would be far better served in other ways, such as:

- o adequately supporting our other cultural institutions Eg the National Library, Museum of Australia, National art museums that are all currently starved of funding*
- o finally rectifying the Memorial's ongoing refusal to recognise the Frontier Wars*
- o better supporting veterans mental health, housing and other needs*
- o the setting up of a peace museum*

To honour our war dead properly, we need to look at alternatives to fighting wars.

My relatives who have died and fought for our country, and whose names are honoured in the War Memorial would want our children to learn about alternatives to war.

Like so many who have died defending our country, they envisaged a future in which policy priorities would be given to adequate resources being put into enabling health and economic security for those in our community who are most in need, including those suffering from war trauma, and not for scarce resources being lavished on an expanded war memorial.

Dr Francis Hutchinson
[REDACTED]

From: Matt Overton [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: War Museum Development

Sent: Fri 31/07/2020 3:16 PM

Dear Team,

I strongly feel you should and must completely reconsider the current Australian War Memorial proposal.

My principal concern is that the imagery shown and layouts proposed annex the Shrine to an out building. The current building is a great example of reverence in Architecture, the shrine is front and centre, no visit starts or ends without fitting reminder of what has paid for our freedom. The presentation inside never leaves the people who fought for us far from thought.

It is that reason we must oppose a change that recasts the Memorial as a Museum of War Technology. Look no further that the imagery presented it uses Recruit Ads of Fighter Planes. Tanks lined up like a used car dealer ship and Helicopters as play equipment.

It is like are being softened up for a new conflict to come not reminded of why we must value peace.

Matt Overton
[REDACTED]

Visitor of the AGM on winter mornings.

From: Shaun Cartwright [REDACTED]
To: Development
Cc:
Subject: Letter of Support

Sent: Fri 31/07/2020 3:30 PM

To Whom it may concern,

I wish to express my support of the Australian War Memorial's proposed expansion at its Campbell, ACT site. The Australian War Memorial is essential to allow Australians to pay their respects to all who have served our Country and to tell their stories. The proposed expansion will allow our Veterans legacies to continue.

Regards

Shaun Cartwright

Managing Director

VIRIATHUS | AUSTRALIA

[REDACTED]



Australian Government
Australian Heritage Council

AWM Development Project - EPBC Public
Comment
152 Submission AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE
COUNCIL

Australian War Memorial Development Project Team
GPO Box 345
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Email: development@awn.gov.au

To whom it may concern

Australian War Memorial Expansion – Preliminary Documentation Submission

I write on behalf of the Australian Heritage Council (AHC) regarding the proposed developments at the Australian War Memorial, and congratulate the Project Team for the effort that has gone into the production of the report.

While I note there are commendable reasons for the project to proceed as documented in terms of meeting the functions of the Memorial, our responsibility is to respond to the impacts on the National and Commonwealth heritage values of the site. The comments of the AHC are as follows:

1. Overall the Council notes that the entire project is predicated on the assumption that the Memorial will not be able to perform its functions unless the size of the exhibition and other areas is considerably increased. The intent of the project to acknowledge and incorporate continuing arenas of conflict and military operation is commendable.

The documentation provided, however, while addressing alternatives relating to structural expansion, appears to have not addressed options such as operational and other functional changes that could minimise the need for additional space. These include different and technological methods of interpretation and museum display, as well as opportunities to introduce a more sustainable visitation strategy. Both are important aspects of a comprehensive heritage management programme and should be considered as key approaches to improving capacity.

Physical expansion to support the display of large objects such as submarines and aircraft is not a sustainable intent over the long term and, in the current circumstances, cannot be achieved without significantly impacting listed heritage values.

2. The listed heritage values of the Memorial include its landscape and setting, and this is discussed in some detail in the documentation. While the discussion is clear on matters such as impacts on the Anzac Parade context, view lines, or the impacts on trees in the precinct, it is noted that the impacts on the landscape and micro-setting of the Memorial have not been specifically considered in terms of the accretion of proposed structural change within the Memorial site.

There is ambiguity in the response in Section 6 of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) (p. 240) to the query 'Has the advice of a consultant skilled in the conservation of



heritage landscapes been sought? If so, have their recommendations been implemented?'. In its assessment, the document omits consideration of the impact on the heritage landscape of the expansion of the C.E.W. Bean Building (included as a Variation to the original referral). While the assessment concludes that the larger structure has a positive impact in providing increased space, as noted in point 1 above, it does not consider the negative impact of the expanded footprint on the heritage landscape and setting through the reduction of 'natural' space. This action imposes a considerable impact on and imbalance of landscape design within the site, and can be seen to compromise the relationship between the natural bushland setting of the Memorial and its continuity with Mount Ainslie.

While we note there is a reference to these concerns in the HIA (page 57) that 'care must be taken to ensure the landscape qualities of the eastern precinct are not overly diminished', this fails to acknowledge that the proposed expansion already has this effect.

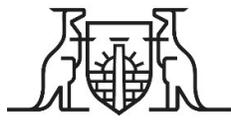
3. While the documentation, and particularly the HIA, provide a detailed response to individual actions, the combined impacts of the works is less well considered. It is the holistic impact of the proposed changes that is of concern in terms of the listed heritage values, including the landscape and setting. A comparison of Figures 2.1 and 5.1b (pages 8 and 33 of the Submission) highlights the complexity and extent of the combined actions and the alterations to the heritage landscape (which includes all aspects of the Memorial structure). This comparison clearly shows the loss of natural areas to designed and constructed spaces and the full extent and design changes arising from the redevelopment of the Parade Ground area.
4. In addition the Council notes the following individual actions as having negative impacts on Listed Heritage Values that should be seriously reconsidered:
 - The demolition of the existing Anzac Hall (identified in the HIA as having a substantial negative impact)
 - The redesign and expansion of the Parade Ground
 - The inclusion of the Oculus - principally in terms of the removal of a direct line of access into the AWM building
 - The inclusion of an external lift
 - The expansion of the C.E.W. Bean building.

Regrettably the Council cannot support the conclusion that the proposed redevelopment will not have a serious impact on the listed heritage values of the site and recommends that the matters above be given serious attention.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Dr David Kemp AC
Chair
31 July 2020



Australian
Institute of
Architects

Australian War Memorial Development Project

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
(EPBC) Act 1999 Referral – Second Consultation Stage

Submission issued

31 July 2020



SUBMISSION BY

Australian Institute of Architects ABN 72 000 023 012



Contact

Name: Kathryn Hurford, National Policy Manager



PURPOSE

- This submission is made by the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) to provide comments on the Australian War Memorial Development Project.
- At the time of this submission the National President of the Institute is Alice Hampson.
- The Chief Executive Officer is Julia Cambage.
- The cover feature photo was provided by John Gollings AM (www.gollings.com.au).

INFORMATION

The Australian Institute of Architects (Institute) is the peak body for the architectural profession in Australia. It is an independent, national member organisation representing over 12,500 members across Australia and overseas.

The Institute exists to advance the interests of members, their professional standards and contemporary practice, and expand and advocate the value of architects and architecture to the sustainable growth of our communities, economy and culture.

The Institute actively works to maintain and improve the quality of our built environment by promoting better, responsible and environmental design.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) is the peak body for the architectural profession in Australia, representing over 12,500 members. The Institute works to improve our built environment by promoting quality, responsible, sustainable design. Architecture influences all aspects of the built environment and brings together the arts, environmental awareness, sciences and technology. By combining creative design with technical knowledge, architects create the physical environment in which people live, which in turn, influences quality of life. Through its members, the Institute plays a major role in shaping Australia's future.

On 1 November 2018, the Australian Government announced the Australian War Memorial (AWM) Development Project with funding of \$498.7 million over a nine-year period commencing in 2019/20. The proposed Development Project includes a new entry into the main building, the southern and eastern extension of the Charles Edwin Woodrow (CEW) Bean Building, the modification of the Parade Ground and the 'removal and replacement of Anzac Hall'. This means that there is significant potential for cumulative impact on the National Heritage values of the site.

The Institute recognises the need and in principal understands that ongoing re-development of the AWM is necessary. However, it is essential that the National and Commonwealth heritage values and solemn purpose and nature of the site as a memorial, rather than as a war museum, are prioritised in all decision-making processes. The Institute therefore welcomes this opportunity to make a second submission in relation to the AWM development referral to the Department of Agriculture, Energy and the Environment (DAEE) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act 1999)*.

This submission outlines our significant and ongoing concerns about the project including the planned demolition of Anzac Hall and threats to the heritage value of the site. The demolition of Anzac Hall will result in the loss of a highly contributory component in the Commonwealth Heritage listing for the AWM and contravenes management policy in both the (current) 2011 and (pending) 2019 Heritage Management Plans (HMP).

We would also like to note that our concerns mirror the views of a wide cross-section of the community, not just the architectural profession, stemming from veterans and their families, concerned citizens, distinguished and honoured Australians, leading academics, renowned historians, as well as former memorial directors and staff as evidenced by the ongoing engagement of the Australian community in both the *EPBC Act 1999* referral process and the current inquiry into the proposal being undertaken by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

2. DUE PROCESS CONCERNS

The Institute has enduring concerns about the process undertaken from the inception of the AWM Development Project. These include:

- a Reference Design, that included the demolition of Anzac Hall, as a mandatory requirement in the Expression of Interest (EOI) process, even though three other Preliminary Designs met the same floor space requirements but retained Anzac Hall;
- public consultation for the development project that predominately related to early parts of the functional brief, rather than actual design concepts. It has also not appropriately included professional stakeholders such as the Institute or the Moral Rights holders of Anzac Hall;

- initially, only some parts of the development were under consideration or are being reviewed when all aspects should have been included in the one review process. The heritage impacts from these 'non referred' parts of the development should have been included in the Development Project now being considered; and
- the approval of the 2019 AWM Heritage Management Plan has been delayed, compromising assessment of the heritage impacts of the Development Project on the site. The 2019 HMP should have been approved and made publicly available before assessment of the heritage impacts of the Project were sought from DAEE.

The Institute is extremely disappointed that not only did the Reference Design significantly constrain the usual creative and strategic design processes, it lost the opportunity to creatively explore further options identified in the Preliminary Design stage, which would have supported the retention of Anzac Hall.

As noted, some parts of the Development Project have not been included in the *EPBC Act 1999* Referral or for review by the Public Works Committee and have in fact already been approved by the National Capital Authority (NCA). A Temporary Carpark located east of Poppy's café was approved by the NCA on 23 November 2019 on the basis that it was 'physically separate' to the development although the NCA have acknowledged it was part of the overall Development Project.

At the time the Institute advised the NCA that the Temporary Carpark Project application presumed that the \$498.7 million AWM Development Project would proceed and that Public Works and NCA approval would be granted. It is the view of the Institute that the separate consideration and early approval of the Temporary Carpark Project further prejudiced the proper consideration of future applications forming part of the overall Development Project.

While it may have been technically feasible to apply for and receive approval for these works based on the costs involved, the total AWM Development Project should have been subject to a review process before any approval was given for related parts of the project and the associated expenditure of funds. The combined and cumulative impact on the National Heritage values of the AWM must be considered in detail.

Of further concern to the Institute is that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works Inquiry is being undertaken at the same time as the project referral to DAEE under the *EPBC Act 1999*, and without an updated and approved HMP in place. The Institute is also extremely concerned that the Public Works Committee will be asked to make a final determination on the Development Project without necessary information on the heritage impacts of the development. This is again exacerbated by other parts of the Development Project being approved and progressed independently and without Public Works Committee oversight or *EPBC Act 1999* Referral.

The Institute also notes that a major variation to the scope of the Development Proposal/ Preliminary Documentation was submitted to DAEE by the AWM following the referral being determined a "controlled action" at the end of 2019. It is likely that the scope and impacts of the expanded project referral will be unable to be fully reviewed and adequately assessed as the scale of the supporting documentation only published in July 2020 means that the public consultation component of the *EPBC Act 1999* assessment process has now been substantially compromised.

This new documentation seriously impacts on the ability of all parties to carefully review the project with more than 600 pages of project documentation newly published, including a completely new heritage impact assessment report. The response times for the second stage consultation are unreasonably short given the scale of this new documentation and the expanded scope of the project now under consideration.

Given the scale of the new documentation and the potential cumulative heritage impacts of the planned development at the AWM, it is the view of the Institute that DAEE should review the processes undertaken to date and consider if it is now more appropriate for the *EPBC Act 1999* referral process to be undertaken via Public Inquiry.

3. PLANNED DEMOLITION OF ANZAC HALL

It is of utmost concern to the Institute and its members that the Memorial has widely and very publicly committed itself to a development plan that includes the demolition of Anzac Hall. Opened in 2001 at a reported cost of \$11.3 million, Anzac Hall has been lauded for its sensitivity to the heritage and cultural context of this national memorial while also providing functional design.

The AWM is included on the Australian Institute of Architect's register of "Nationally Significant 20th-Century Architecture". In 2005, architects Denton Corker Marshall (DCM) won the Institute's prestigious national "Sir Zelman Cowen Award for Public Architecture" and the "Canberra Medallion" for Anzac Hall.

DCM is also an award-winning architectural firm including being recipients of the "Australian Institute of Architects' Gold Medal", the highest honour the Institute can bestow. The award recognises the exceptional body of executed work and outstanding contribution of DCM to the development of the architecture profession and the built environment in Australia.

Our reference to Anzac Hall's award-winning status illustrates its peer-reviewed quality as a piece of master craftsmanship that is exceptionally fit-for-purpose, with many decades, remaining in its useful life. There is also a direct relationship between recognition by groups such as the Institute (and others such as Engineers Australia) for the work of their peers and the eventual recognition of values by the broader community through heritage listing. The AWM heritage listings already acknowledge the contribution of Anzac Hall to the precinct. Given time, it is extremely likely that Anzac Hall would obtain a direct heritage listing in its own right.

The current and pending AWM Heritage Management Plan's (2011 and 2019) also recognise the importance of Anzac Hall to the AWM Campbell precinct and require that Anzac Hall be retained and conserved. At the same time, the Memorial continues to proceed with a Development Project that requires the demolition of Anzac Hall. At only 19 years of age, Anzac Hall is considered young in public building terms, where average lifecycles are 50 to 100 years.

While the Institute and its members fully support the Memorial's purpose in commemorating "the sacrifice of those Australians who have died in war or on operational service and those who have served our nation in times of conflict," we oppose the planned wasteful and unnecessary destruction of Anzac Hall, a building that was painstakingly designed and crafted to honour this service to our nation. Anzac Hall is a building that forms an integral part of the War Memorial site itself, whose sacred and special significance is the sum of all its parts. It is now also a building that holds two decades' worth of precious experiences where countless veterans, families and their visitors have engaged in shared remembrance.

There remains significant and growing concern, not only from the Institute but from other professional bodies and the wider community about the Development Project. No approvals have been given by the National Capital Authority nor the Public Works Committee for the demolition of Anzac Hall. There has been very limited transparency in the decision making process regarding this project and the Institute has seen no evidence that the demolition is required. Nor has there been an appropriate level of community consultation on options that include the retention of Anzac Hall.

4. IMPACT ON THE EASTERN PRECINCT

The Eastern Precinct Development by Johnson Pilton Walker also won the Institute's prestigious Sir Zelman Cowen Award for Public Architecture and the Canberra Medallion in 2011. The effort the Memorial took to develop the Eastern Precinct adjacent to the AWM main building was significant.

The Memorial followed due process under the *EPBC Act 1999*, including review and approval by the Public Works Committee with the result being a HMP and site development plan that worked together with a collaborative and collegiate team to produce an award winning development that had very little impact on the AWM and which is still highly celebrated.

The Eastern Precinct Development integrated a range of landscape and architectural elements within a nationally significant heritage landscape, based on extensive consultation and planning. The result being that the cafe, forecourt and National Service Memorial Courtyard are sensitive in architectural conception, powerful in composition, delicate and precise in construction, refined and exquisite in their simplicity, and delightfully integrated into the immediate and greater landscape. The precinct is an exceptional work of architecture and urban design and something should not be undermined through insufficiently planned future development.

The cumulative impact of all planned development must be considered in detail to ensure that the effort taken to prioritise heritage values, maximise eucalypt retention and minimise vegetation loss during earlier development projects is not lost through insufficient planning and appropriate oversight when undertaking future development. The already approved tree removal and car park development, along with the broader Development Project has the potential to cumulatively impact significantly and negatively on the heritage and architectural value of the entire site.

5. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

As noted above the Institute has significant concerns about the process followed in relation to heritage considerations for the \$498.7 million AWM Development Project and the extent to which the entire project has progressed without the relevant heritage approvals in place.

The Institute will continue to voice strong opposition to the development plans. While welcoming efforts to further honour the stories of Australia's servicemen and women, we are at a loss as to why alternatives that allowed for the preservation of Anzac Hall as part of the development plan were not further explored. This is of particular concern, given that the existing and pending heritage management plans for the site require its retention, conservation and interpretation. We are also more broadly concerned that the Development Project threatens the heritage values of the entire site, including the Eastern Precinct Development.

The Memorial has legislative obligations for the protection and conservation of the AWM heritage values for all Australians. It is not apparent that the Memorial has liaised effectively or to the extent required for such a significant project with the Department of Agriculture, Energy and the Environment, National Capital Authority or other identified stakeholders to properly assess the proposal's cumulative impact on the site such as with Australia ICOMOS: International Council on Monuments and Sites.

We appreciate there may be a need to increase the Memorial's capacity, including some expansion, but we oppose doing this in a way that is wasteful, destructive and damaging to the heritage value and integrity of the site. Over development will lead to significant adverse loss of the qualities that make the AWM nationally significant.

The current expansion proposal breaches the War Memorial's own Heritage Management Plans which explicitly require the retention of Anzac Hall. Given time, we are confident that Anzac Hall will achieve status as a heritage listed building in its own right – something the plans to bulldoze it clearly seek to avoid. Allowing legislated heritage protections to be so blatantly disregarded in this instance, and for such a prominent public institution, would set a dangerous precedent for other iconic sites.

As the national institute for architects, we have a remit to seek to preserve Australia's architectural heritage and to promote sustainable development, to conserve energy and resources and minimise waste. Fortunately, many aging buildings are worth saving and deserve longer lives. Their functional and technical obsolescence can be remedied in ways that are financially feasible. They can be successfully remodelled, reconfigured or enlarged and, equally important, repurposed to efficiently meet current and future requirements. It is the Institute's position that significant public buildings that are of cultural, social and environmental value should not be demolished if they have a useful life. Anzac Hall should be preserved for current and future generations. Its demolition is unnecessary and unwarranted.

We know that at least three other Preliminary Designs met the same floor space requirements while also retaining Anzac Hall and that in addition at least one Reference Design also retained Anzac Hall while successfully meeting the remaining conditions of the EOI process. There is absolutely no reason why Anzac Hall cannot be retained, and the aims of the Development Project still be delivered. Demolishing an award winning and culturally significant public building that is only 19 years old should never have been considered appropriate.

The *EPBC Act 1999* referral should also have been completed before the project was considered by the Public Works Committee. It is not right and proper that the Public Works Inquiry is being undertaken at the same time as the project referral to DAEE under the *EPBC Act 1999*, and without an updated and approved HMP in place. It is impossible for the Australian public and members of the Institute to have confidence that the Public Works Committee has the necessary information on the heritage impacts of the development in order to make an informed decision.

The Institute would also like to reaffirm that given the scale of the major variation to the scope of the Development Proposal/Preliminary Documentation as part of the *EPBC Act 1999* process – with more than 600 pages of project documentation newly published, including a completely new heritage impact assessment report – DAEE should reconsider the Preliminary Documentation and redetermine that the *EPBC Act 1999* referral process be undertaken through Public Inquiry.

The AWM is, unquestionably, one of our nation's most valued and important public institutions and while the proposed demolition of Anzac Hall is of extreme concern to the Institute and our members, it is also our belief that the current Development Project, and associated projects that are already underway could, cumulatively lead to the adverse loss of the qualities that make the AWM nationally significant. On behalf of all Australians the *EPBC Act 1999* referral process must be undertaken in a detailed and measured way to ensure that this does not occur.



Australian War Memorial Development Project Team



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you in my capacity as the President of the Veterans Film Festival. On behalf of Festival Committee, I want to express our strong support for the proposed Australian War Memorial development.

Now in its 6th year the festival is a not-for-profit organisation, which has become a highly respected event on the national arts calendar. Partner organisations include the Australian War Memorial, the National Film and Sound Archive, and Beyond Blue. The festival has attracted wide support and now finds itself well poised to grow into a significant event on the international film festival calendar. Drawing entries from all corners of the globe and support from multiple Embassies and High Commissions. We are also proud to have His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC (Ret'd) & Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley as the Co-Patrons of the festival.

Supporting veterans as filmmakers, and filmmakers who make content with veteran themes is at the core of our mission at the Veterans Film Festival, putting the spotlight on recent work by veterans and filmmakers who explore diverse perspectives on conflict and veterans' themes. In addition, the festival aims to provide opportunities for veteran artists and their families through education, exhibitions and other programs.

Our Committee contains several members who are veterans: myself, a current Senior Officer in the Australian Army (Colonel), Vice President Glen Ferrarotto who served in Afghanistan as a Corporal and is now a highly regarded contributor to veteran employment and the RSL, Brigadier Alison Creagh AM CSC who has served in multiple operational theatres and Wing Commander (Retd) Chris Huet, an ex-F/A-18 pilot and instructor. So we have a broad understanding of the current issues that veterans and the veteran community face, and of their feelings towards the Australian War Memorial.

The Australian War Memorial holds a deep and meaningful place in the hearts and minds of both our Committee and the entire Veterans Film Festival network. It is a place of respect, honour, sacrifice and ultimate commitment to our nation and the Commonwealth. It is an ever-present reminder of the heartache, pain and trauma experienced by those who serve both during conflict and in the years following.

Whilst the existing format and experience within the AWM is of world standard and delivers the most respectful representation of the Boer War, WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam, there is need

Veterans Film Festival





for an improvement, which would facilitate the telling of the stories from our more recent conflicts. Including: Peacekeeping operations in Rwanda, Somalia and Bougainville; Observer Missions in Israel and North Africa; and of course, the conflicts in Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe the Australian War Memorial development will address an imbalance and allow the service of contemporary and more recent veterans to be suitably reflected. Appropriate measures should be taken in the design of the development to ensure that there is scope to tell the stories of our future.

The Australian War Memorial is a valued venue for the Veteran's Film Festival. It supports our goals to celebrate veteran filmmakers and recognise the complexity of conflict and military service. The proposed expansion includes a larger, digital theatre which will directly improve the festival's ability to show world-class movies and host events. Improved gallery space will support other arts-related parts of the festival, such as the exhibition of artworks. This means that audiences in attendance will be able to experience the Australian War Memorial in a contemporary and unique way.

I reiterate our strong support for the proposed Australian War Memorial development.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours Sincerely,

Warwick Young OAM
President
Veterans Film Festival

31 July 2020



To:

- The Australian War Memorial and
- The Evaluation Committee re Heritage Impacts of the current AWM Proposal

AWM Proposed Partial Demolitions, Reconstructions and Extensions:

Response to Invitation for Public Comment

This Deeply Flawed and Totally Inappropriate Proposal Must Not Further Proceed!

I am writing as a concerned citizen who has (along with innumerable others across the community and the country) been wholly and vehemently opposed to this egregious and wholly deleterious proposal from the point at which it first took on any sort of tangible shape – intensified by each subsequent stage in the painfully gradual emergence of the full catastrophe laid out in the voluminous but-still—tardily-incomplete documentation laid out on the War Memorial website... in response to the invitation to provide comment in respect of the Heritage impacts.

In one sense, it is curious that the glacial piecemeal process has taken this time to reach this sort of ante-pre-penultimate point in its development (like an infinitely slow slicing of a great length of highly malodorous salami)...

In another sense it is much more extraordinary that it has somehow been improbably enabled and grotesquely pushed forward, like some unspeakable evolving creation of a whole convocation of militaristical Frankensteins – in utter disregard of reason, common sense and the devastating criticism and opposition of informed public opinion at every level and every stage.

Because of my long-standing and deepening opposition to the project proposal, I have previously lodged a Submission to the Public Works Committee process – because of other commitments only able to put that together quickly and right on the formal closure date, and certainly without the vast specialist knowledge, relevant experience, eloquence and gravitas of that notable group of opponents and the countless others whom they represent – but at least to be counted and to present an additional if more subjective point of view.

As I do now to put that point of view before the Committee which has responsibility to evaluate and determine upon the Heritage Impacts of the AWM proposal.

My own approach is shaped by the military service of my father and uncles and also my father-in-law right through and beyond WWII, my own military (National) Service during the Vietnam involvement; and a much longer interest in military history – in terms of the facts, causes, impacts, implications, outcomes etc – not the romantic anecdotes, heroic legends and emotive overblown rhodomontade that characterizes the “populist” end of the spectrum.

... and, more directly, my own direct involvement and service with the Australian War Memorial as an external member of a Internal Review of AWM Visitor Services undertaken over a period of months in the 199s: which provided me not only with an understanding of the operations of all aspects of the AWM, but also, in particular, immediate contact with - and exploration of the interactions, experiences and responses of - the vast spectrum of the Australian public.

That has instilled lifelong informed and empathetic impressions of the universality of respect, engagement and deep emotive connection they share with that Institution and all aspects of its operations and services to the needs of a vast and diverse “public”.

In essence, an apparent common value across all the hundreds of people with whom I personally interacted and the written reflections and inputs of many hundreds more, was a shared sense of “heritage” – and their connectivity with that deep sense of heritage in terms of inter-generational and historical heritage links, a shared national and social heritage, and a heritage permeating all aspects of - and integral with - the constructed heritage of the building and the complementary natural heritage of its grounds and setting and surrounding vistas.

My retained and profound impression is of a common sense, across all elements of that widely disparate group, that any such intention to demolish and destroy any aspect of that building as the physical manifestation and guardian of all those combined aspects of their heritage, would have been to them an abomination that they would oppose to the end...

...And that the sorts of slick, glitzy, ersatz and irrelevant “imposed rebuilds” as are now being flourished in the plans and drawings on the AWM website are nothing more than a vile heresy and desecration.

[Parenthetically: when I consider the responsive numbers, breadth of coverage, range and depth of responses we obtained in that previous exercise, with considerably less available funding than the recent exercise conducted by the AWM – and so loudly, frequently and triumphantly bruted forth by the SWM as reflecting “overwhelmingly positive responses and support” for their present “felonious little plans”, their claims are simply derisory.

After all, given that the responses they derived were in apparently gained in the context of a number of small and carefully managed information, marketing and selling events staged around the country, this must immediately be discounted as being little more than elaborate “push-polling”...

Whom, exactly, apart from themselves are they trying to fool and convince by this shabby exercise in prestidigitation....?

Of course, the recent revelation in “*The Canberra Times*”, and also in “*The Guardian Australia*” that the AWM Management has recently issued to all its deeply-valued Volunteer workforce, a Ukase by email, threatening that any of the volunteers detected voicing opinions on the proposed re-development, would face severe disciplinary action and expulsion..... Dissenting voices are democratically unacceptable in these hallowed halls.

Moving forward to more specific points in terms of heritage impacts evident in the documentation”

- The proposed **new southern entrance** will impact upon the existing axial arrangement of the building and also significantly change the existing forecourt with its stairs and plinths – and its appearance from Anzac Parade. Additionally, and of both linked and separate concern, this will create considerable engineering and structural challenges and risks, including to the structural integrity of the building.
- Associated with the previous point, the Parliament House vista will be significantly affected: the radial view to the building, and also views from other directions will be adversely affected by the totality of planned “enhancements” (or: “acts of philistine vandalism masquerading as progress”...)
- The proposed Glazed Courtyard involves the addition of (an excrescence) an atrium to the rear of the existing building; which one previous Director has characterized as “A grossly inappropriate concept”.
- Above all, the supreme monstrosity is the proposed demolition of Anzac Hall – which is in its present form an award-winning building of outstanding architectural significance. Its then proposed replacement by a disproportionate gargantuan “Illegitimate Son of Azac Hall” will then obviously and self-evidently have a range of problematic design features, both in terms of its internal dimensions – and most significantly and obtrusively, in terms of its relationship with the rest of the “enhanced” – (and differently vandalized...) – main building.

Weirdly and tellingly in respect of this latter comment re Anzac Hall, it is of particular note that in the AWM's own Heritage Management Plan 2011 – which still stands as their governing document, the Anzac Hall is described both as “Architecturally impressive, and as a key feature of the Memorial.

As recently as the AWM's Draft Heritage Management Plan 2019, the Anzac Hall was still given the same level of priority, in words identical with those used in the still extant 2011 Plan.

But, curiously, and as revealed by Katie Burgess in “*the Canberra Times*”, that Draft Revised Plan has mysteriously vanished from the AWM website; and the discrepancy between the still-extant wording of the 2011 Heritage Management Plan – and the total destruction of that architecturally and heritage-significant building that now exists there and its replacement by some ware-house-like gargantuan grotesquerie – is not the sort of oxymoron-in-action that the Australian War Memorial is prepared either to recognize or address.

In conclusion and in essence: I submit that in terms of its gross array of proposed and unacceptable Heritage Impacts – along with all those other negative aspects raised in the scores of submissions to the parallel PWC consultation – the present proposal of the Australian War Memorial must not be permitted to proceed any further.

R. J. Macgregor



From: Elvi Wood [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2020 4:28 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Memorial Development Project - feedback

Good afternoon,

Please find below my feedback and thoughts on the Development Project at The Australian War Memorial.

Criteria: Process

“The addition of new galleries will ensure that the stories of modern veterans from the last 30 years are recorded and displayed in the same way as those of the First or Second World Wars”

I fully support the plan of ensuring that recent conflicts are honoured in the same way as previous conflicts. It is so important for the next generation of Australians to understand what has been - and continues to be - sacrificed by our current veterans. The impact of recent conflicts on our current veterans & families is an important story to tell.

Criteria: Rarity

“Commemorate through understanding”

“... the idea that we must understand and experience of our servicemen and women to truly remember and honour them”

From the first time I visited the AWM many years ago until now, I have always left with the impression that the Memorial has remembered and honoured all of those that have served and continued to serve in the ADF.

The recent addition of the Afghanistan exhibition with the continuous images projected showing footage taken by soldiers as well as official video, provides a rare glimpse into what was experienced in that country. The images of the country, the dust & heat, the faces of locals as well as showing the soldiers in action - it is a powerful and moving experience.

Criteria: Technical Achievement

“The additions will make the Memorial not just an Australian icon, but an international one”

To highlight and commemorate Australia’s contribution to wars and peacekeeping is extremely important. The Memorial recognises and acknowledges Australia’s involvement and support of our Allied countries - and in my opinion, this is such a wonderful way to recognise and acknowledge all the amazing Australians who took part in defending our country - whether it was at home or overseas. There are so many stories to tell and so many sacrifices made.

Criteria: Social Value

“The changes to the Memorial will enable us to create and maintain ‘special associations’ with contemporary veterans and peacekeepers in the way we have First and Second World War veterans, their families and now their descendants”

As a contemporary War Widow, I am humbled by the fact that my husband’s name is recorded on the Roll of Honour and that his medals are on display within the Memorial. The knowledge that he is remembered and honoured is a tremendous gift for me. One of my greatest fears was that he would be forgotten and the sacrifice he made for his country would never be known by future generations. To know that his name will remain at the Memorial forever fills me with pride. He and so many that served before and after him deserve our acknowledgement and respect.

I have never thought the Memorial has glorified war. I have always felt - even before meeting my husband - that the Memorial was a place of genuine reflection, of seeing & learning what our servicemen and women and so many others have sacrificed and continue to sacrifice.

And now the Memorial provides me with a place where I can go to honour him. To see & touch his name on the Roll of Honour, to stand in the Hall of Valour are moments that touch my heart. And I want future Australians to experience that.

Kind regards,

Elvi Wood

From:

To: Development

Cc:

Subject: AWM Development [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

AWM Development Project
EPBC Public Comment
166 Submission

Sent: Mon 17/08/2020 8:58 AM

UNOFFICIAL

Good morning,

Recently I had the pleasure of touring the AWM and some of the proposed changes to expand the floor space were explained to me. As always, the tour was moving and informative but more recent conflicts, especially peacekeeping, was not done to a standard befitting the service and sacrifices of Australians over the past 30 years.

Expanding the AWM is an exciting opportunity to be able to showcase our peacekeeping and recent military history that will be relevant for current and future generations of children, tourists, service personnel, and modern veterans.

I fully support the proposed changes and development of the AWM and look forward to the expanded galleries to showcase the service of the ADF and Police.

Kind Regards,

