



MEDIA RELEASE

GOWER RE-APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF MEMORIAL

The Council of the Australian War Memorial today welcomed the Government's decision to extend the current appointment of Steve Gower AO AO(Mil) as Director of the Australian War Memorial.

The Director has indicated he is pleased to continue his current appointment for a further 18 months and is looking forward to leading the Memorial into a busy and dynamic year ahead.

Chairman of the Council of the Australian War Memorial, General Peter Cosgrove AC MC (Ret'd) said the announcement by the Minister had been well received by Council and staff.

"This extension of the Director's stewardship will enable the Memorial to move forward in confidence in planning future redevelopment projects, commemorative events and exhibition programs, including the refurbishment of the First World War galleries as well as ANZAC and Remembrance Day commemorations."

"Under his guidance, energy, commitment and outstanding leadership, the original vision of the Memorial's founder, Charles Bean, has been maintained and enhanced. There is no doubt that many of the successes of the Memorial over the past 15 years are due to the sound management practices and bold corporate planning undertaken by the present administration."

"The Director has shaped the Memorial into a world-class museum attracting hundreds of thousands of domestic and overseas tourists annually. It is recognised internationally for its outstanding galleries and educational programs along with its unique status as the commemorative heart of Australia," the Chairman said.

The Council looks forward to continuing to work with the Director to realise the plans for this iconic national institution, especially the major commemorative activities in the lead up to the centenary of the Gallipoli landings in 2015.

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