

THEME 4 | *telling more stories to more people*

THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Australian War Memorial is an important place for all Australians, where they can remember the service and sacrifice of those who have served in war and on operations. This is perhaps best expressed in the words of the Memorial's founder, Charles Bean: *"Here is their spirit, in the heart of the land they loved; and here we guard the record which they themselves made."* Since opening in 1941, the Memorial has recognised, honoured and told the stories of our defence force personnel and their experiences in war, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

The Memorial's ability to respectfully commemorate and display these stories is now at capacity; visitor numbers remain strong and modern conflicts are under-represented. There is no further gallery space to tell the stories of what is happening now and for the future. A significant redevelopment is required to improve the experience, education and understanding of our visitors by increasing gallery space and improving amenities.

The Memorial is developing a detailed proposal to submit to the Federal Government for funding for this project, and is also developing a Precinct Masterplan to create a vision that will guide the Memorial for the next 50 years.

HAVE YOUR SAY

The Memorial is currently seeking feedback on a range of project themes in order to help shape the Government submission and the Precinct Masterplan. There are five key themes the Memorial is seeking feedback on.



WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR THE PLANNING OF FUTURE GALLERY SPACES AT THE MEMORIAL?

The Australian War Memorial tells the stories of Australia's war, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations in its galleries through carefully curated items from its world class collection. These stories are ongoing and gallery spaces need to be created with enough flexibility to enable a place for stories not-yet-written. The Memorial also has many items that are too large to display in the current Memorial galleries.

TELLING TODAY'S STORIES

The Memorial helps visitors appreciate the experiences of our servicemen and women. The stories told in the galleries are critical to achieving this.

Over many years exhibitions relating to more recent operations, such as Afghanistan or the Australian peacekeeping mission in East Timor, have been added but remain under-represented. These stories can be fragmented due to lack of space, detracting from the

The National Collection contains a wealth of information that can be searched at the Memorial and online



overall commemorative narrative the Memorial seeks to build. In addition, space limitations have reached the point where important collection items from these recent operations are being displayed in areas such as hallways, or alongside amenities and staff access areas. The Memorial does not believe this is an adequate setting to honour our veterans.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

To tell these ongoing stories, the Memorial needs to evaluate and renew current displays whilst planning for an unknown future by introducing guiding principles for the development of future galleries. The Memorial must also consider other factors, not just which items to put on display. This includes how visitors can move through the galleries; the best way to tell the stories of different conflicts now and into the future; and how the galleries relate to other

areas. Additionally, temporary exhibitions, public and education programs, research space, theatre space, special commemoration areas, food and beverage, retail spaces and amenities must also be included in future planning.

The Memorial's gallery spaces need flexibility to allow displays to change and cater for a wider variety of objects on public display, including floors that are structurally strong enough to display additional large objects (such as planes, tanks and helicopters), and the ability to move these items more easily.

Technology continues to emerge that enables these stories to be told in different ways and this presents new opportunities such as telling the stories of today's military operations in near real-time. These opportunities must be balanced with both traditional and contemporary displays from the Memorial's collection.

It is currently difficult to showcase large objects like planes, tanks and helicopters in the main gallery spaces as the building is not constructed to hold such heavy objects



HAVE YOUR SAY

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VISIT www.awm.gov.au/haveyoursay to learn more about this project and complete our online scrapbook with your ideas.

EMAIL your ideas to haveyoursay@awm.gov.au

VISIT one of our drop-in sessions to learn more about the project and share your ideas. Details are on the website.