

[REDACTED]

From: Antony Burnham [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 8:18 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Block 3 Section 39 Campbell - Australian War Memorial

Categories: Orange category

I am writing to object to the proposal to approve early works on the Australian War Memorial. The existing ANZAC Hall is fit for purpose and any building works will reduce public access to this glorious memorial, and detract from the visual amenity of the site for the duration of the building project.

In relation to the National Capital Plan, item "Creation, conservation and enhancement of fitting sites, approaches and backdrops for national institutions and ceremonies as well as National Capital uses", the proposal does not conserve the existing site and in my opinion will not enhance it. Turning the area into a building site will make the site an eyesore for the duration of works, and is completely unnecessary because the existing building is an award-winning structure and fitting memorial to Australian servicemen. Thus, the negatives of closing the site for building works outweigh any possible benefit or marginal improvement that might arise from an enlarged structure.

Regards,
Antony Burnham
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Janet Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 April 2021 4:49 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Proposed destruction of the AWM

Categories: Green category, Orange category

I am writing in particular with reference to Dr Sue Wareham whose letter in Canberra Times, Monday April 26 urges readers to make their views about the AWM known to the NCA.

I am horrified at the plans for the “early works” at the Memorial including the demolition of the Anzac Hall, the destruction of over 100 trees and excavation around the Memorial entrance, all this before the NCA ‘s proposals for the AWM redevelopment have even been approved.

The War Memorial was built to remember the gallantry and sacrifice of Australian servicemen and certainly not as a showcase for military weaponry. It is regarded by many as a sacred site and visited by people from all over the world who abhor warfare and wish to remember the great things of which the human race is capable.

If it is so important to display weaponry, a hideous idea anyway, it should be done as an entirely separate project and situated far from our beautiful Memorial. It would be a true desecration to destroy the beautiful Anzac Hall. Today when we are so conscious of climate change and the importance of preserving trees and native habitats it would be another desecration to destroy the trees at the front of the Memorial which are the natural habitat of so many birds.

I protest most strongly about this whole project and urge authorities to leave the Memorial as it now stands.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,

Janet Wilson [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: John Harvey [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 April 2021 8:10 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: War Memorial early works

Categories: Orange category, Green category

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a Canberra resident concerned with the health of Canberra's environment as well as its economy and democracy, I am writing, first, to express my opposition to proposed early works that would see destruction not only of Anzac Hall but also of more than a hundred healthy established eucalypts for the sake of showcasing military hardware; and, second, to urge the Authority to publish public submissions on the proposal and the Authority's response to the public's various submissions on the matter.

I look forward to your responsive reply. Yours sincerely,

John Harvey

--

“Where all think alike, no one thinks very much.”
— Walter Lippmann.

[REDACTED]

From: James Cruz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 April 2021 3:56 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

Hi

I am writing as a resident of [REDACTED] next to the War Memorial to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the site.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Regards
James Cruz
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Jan Morgan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 10:07 AM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Jan Morgan

[Jan Morgan](#)
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Kate Bosser [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 2:28 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

[REDACTED]

From: Bernadette [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 16 April 2021 2:29 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

I love the War Memorial, please leave it alone.

Thanks
Bernadette

[REDACTED]

From: Lincoln Fishpool [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 1:04 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

Hi there

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

As a Canberra resident and one who has very recently spent a day at the War Memorial, I was shocked to learn of the proposed developments from a Greens newsletter.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

The war memorial should remain a site of solemn reminders of the horror of war and why peace is so important rather than a plot for private donors to sponsor self-aggrandizing developments and spoil the natural beauty and heritage of the area.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Sincerely
Lincoln Fishpool

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Submission to National Capital Authority
Re. Block 3 Section 39 Campbell – Australian War Memorial

1. I am personally opposed to plans to expand the Australian War Memorial *per se*, for reasons that need no expression here.
2. Plans to expand the memorial are highly controversial and have yet to receive final approval.
3. If the proposed 'preliminary work' gains approval, this carries the implication that the major works are going to proceed – it would amount to a *de facto* approval for the major works.
4. It would therefore be entirely premature and inappropriate to grant approval for these so-called preliminary works.
Such approval should not be granted.
5. I wish to register my objection to the proposed preliminary works, including the removal of trees, excavation of land and the demolition of Anzac Hall.

Sincerely

Nick Deane



April 30, 2021

[REDACTED]

From: Jean Doherty [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 April 2021 2:54 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Submission Re' War Memorial

Categories: Green category, Orange category

I wish to record that I am much against the extension of War Memorial.

It is beautiful as it is and just enough to embrace in the few hours our visitors have. It has been a place conducive to reflection and sorrow for those lost.

It is a place where the Cockatoos screech and the Kookaburras laugh.

I am so sad for the loss of trees already suffered and the news that many more will go.

Surely those lost in the war would wish to preserve that heritage.

The cost is enormous when other institutions such as the National Archives which need funds to preserve some of our great war speeches and the veterans who are in so much need of rehabilitation..

I fervently pray that what is proposed will be STOPPED !

Yours Sincerely , Jean W Doherty [REDACTED]

From: Margaret Clough
Sent: Monday, 19 April 2021 11:34 AM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Application for "early works" for the Australian War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I wish to comment on the proposal for 'early works' submitted to the NCA regarding the redevelopment of the AWM. I am a long term resident of the ACT and feel proud to live in the National Capital with such rich heritage values. Those values must be protected and maintained as any new development is evaluated.

Firstly, the "early works" to be considered are not early works at all. They are considerable works, including the destruction of the highly regarded Anzac Hall, a major excavation at the front of the Memorial and the felling of more than sixty healthy, magnificent eucalypts.

The term 'early works' usually indicates work of a minor nature. The AWM has already made several such applications, for minor issues such as the construction of temporary sheds for building equipment and temporary car parks. Considering the three projects outlined above in isolation and calling them 'early works' appears to be a deliberate attempt to "play them down" to avoid unwelcome public scrutiny and criticism. Australians are increasingly cynical about, and angered by lack of transparency, sleight of hand and outright deception in public life. Approval of this application will certainly contribute to that growing perception.

Secondly, the major excavation and the destruction of healthy trees will undoubtedly damage the heritage value of the site. What was originally proposed as a dignified and significant memorial has over the years been gradually transformed into a war museum, where the people who love weapons and technology visit just to admire such objects and battles. The new, grand, sweeping entrances and huge spaces are designed to impress with the showy technology of destruction, rather than to assist visitors to actually remember the horrors, the valour, and the quiet heroism of our veterans. The memorial is moving closer and closer to a great, tourist-attracting theme park, a War World. The public was told the redevelopment was necessary to create space for veterans to see their field of action represented, not to destroy the very nature of the existing memorial.

If this major reconstruction is necessary to create space for the latest war, what of future wars? There will doubtless be further wars, possibly over food and water scarcity, as the planet grows increasingly hotter. Will there be further construction to accommodate these wars? Museums around the world understand they cannot possibly display the entire collection at once, and manage accordingly.

The Memorial clearly recognises the value of its green surrounds. An aerial view from the summit of Mt Ainslie, for from the other side of Lake Burley Griffin shows the buildings nestled amongst the trees on the mountain and flanked by more trees which continue down Anzac Parade. That leafy environment adds softness to the harsh lines of the buildings and is an essential part of the ambience of the current precinct. New plantings are proposed but it will be close to fifty years before they replace the existing tree cover. The planning architects are fully aware of the value of trees and have taken care to include trees in their rather fanciful drawing of the redevelopment. A more honest, realistic depiction would show some spindly saplings contained within sturdy tree guards, for that is what will exist for the many veterans and visitors who arrive over the next few decades.

Canberra is the "Bush Capital". The ACT Government has recently begun efforts to remedy a massive loss of trees across Canberra, by placing a monetary value on them and planning extensive plantings over the next few years. Trees are seen as an essential part of protecting our city from what we know will be more frequent and more prolonged heatwaves of more than 40 degrees. The mature trees surrounding the War Memorial are valuable for more than their shade. In addition to their Heritage value they are significant carbon banks which cannot be recovered for decades. They should not be reduced to wood chips for such a widely criticised building proposal.

This proposal for "early works" should be rejected and the works specified within should rightly be considered within the context of the entire redevelopment. They are intrinsic to the redevelopment and it is deceptive to consider them as minor, preliminary actions. They will have a significant impact on the Heritage value of the War Memorial for many years to come.

Margaret Clough

A solid black rectangular box used to redact information, likely a name or affiliation, located directly beneath the text 'Margaret Clough'.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 11:20 AM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

The War Memorial should be a solemn place of reflection, and one that reminds society of the horrors and dangers of war; including our current and future leaders, shapers of the economy, and those that wish to conduct business in or with Australia. These people come from the community, so it is the community that should have the say on any proposed developments. This consultation should be earnest, and exhaustive, and maintain the highest levels of integrity. This is something that we ask our soldiers to do, and the community expects nothing less of the institutions whose responsibility it is to honour their sacrifice.

With regards,

Benjamin James
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Debbie Szabo [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 12:11 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

My father was a Changi prisoner of war. He always marched on ANZAC Day to remember his mates who didn't return home. He was president of Legacy in WA and helped many children whose fathers didn't return from war. But he never spoke of his time as a soldier or prisoner. He hated war and I don't believe he would ever have visited the war memorial had he lived in Canberra. The war left him with PTSD. There were many nights that he woke from nightmares and could be heard shadow boxing imaginary shadows in the dark believing he was back in Changi. These nightmares continued into old age and caused him to be locked in a hospital ward and drugged as dementia took hold and he eventually died from pneumonia due to these constraints. The war impacted heavily on this healthy young man's life for the remainder of his life.

I have taken my children to the memorial to show them the horrors and devastating waste of human life that war can wreak. I would never like to think of our beautiful and solemn war memorial ever becoming a place to glorify war. These changes proposed to the war memorial concern me greatly and I do not want them to go ahead. I was ashamed to learn that Australia has been involved in the manufacturing and sale of arms in recent years. Shame on our government for making these decisions.

I hope that more responsible and compassionate heads prevail in the future of the peoples' war memorial.

Yours sincerely,
Deborah Szabo
Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: Christine [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 April 2021 10:53 AM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Plans to extend the War Memorial

Categories: Green category, Orange category

To Those Concern:

I am writing this from the heart and from the prospective of being proud to have had many family members serve. Three of my great uncles served in WW1 and returned home bearing loss of limbs and mental anguish for what they had endured. Our father fought in WW2, mostly in the horrors of New Guinea and for many years post war he had recurring bouts of malaria. Dad hardly spoke of the war experiences he had but focussed on the mateship and support of his men. Our uncles also were involved in Australia and overseas during WW2, contributing what they could do for the war effort.

I am writing to outline my concerns about the proposal to extend the War Memorial. I consider the proposal to extend totally unnecessary for the following reasons:

- The Australian War Memorial was constructed as a place to commemorate those who had fallen in war and those who had served and to be indicative of the impact war has on societies. To achieve that simplicity, a space to quietly reflect is all that is required.
- It seems to realise the plans of the new project tens of trees will be uprooted. During the Dawn Service each year the dawn is heralded by the song of kookaburras and the screeching of cockatoos. I imagine that Australian atmospheric will be lost with the denuding of the landscape. To wander in the grounds of the War Memorial is yet another way to ponder the generosity of those serving women and men. That too will be lost
- I note the building is The Australian War Memorial not the Australian War Museum. To pay tribute a clutter of rooms and paraphernalia is needless
- The huge expense of the considered project is a waste of taxpayers money when it could be more appropriately spent.

Thank you for giving the public the opportunity to raise concerns

Christine Lancaster

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Anna Molan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 April 2021 6:26 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Submission against any work starting on the AWM expansion

Categories: Green category, Orange category

Dear Committee Chair

I am writing to urge the NCA to put a stop to plans for so-called “early works” on the AWM expansion, as these works will cause irreversible damage to the War Memorial and its surroundings, especially the trees.

I am opposed to the expansion altogether, as are so many Canberrans, and I believe the “early works” amount to nothing short of vandalism. Demolition of Anzac Hall would mark a sad day for our city. The trees and grassed areas around the Memorial are essential to its reflective ambience, creating the literal space to consider and feel the weight of war in our history.

If the Memorial is permitted to go ahead with these “early works”, it will amount to an abuse of the process of consultation, showing Canberrans that their views are held in contempt by the promoters of the expansion.

The War Memorial is one of the very few grand heritage buildings we have in Canberra, and it is shameful that it is on track to be ruined by the planned expansion. The fact that it is projected to cost \$500 million adds to the scandal, as this money is so sorely needed for - let us say - veterans’ welfare, to give just one example.

Thank you for your attention to my submission, and please take action to stop this project, and leave the War Memorial as it is.

Sincerely

Anna Molan
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 2:25 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: AWM Proposed 'renovations'

Categories: Orange category

I wish to express my opposition to the proposed renovations to the AWM.

What is being proposed purports to maintain the sensitivity of a memorial to our war dead with an ability to display weapons of war.

I maintain it is not possible to do both sensitively. That is, the memorial is primarily a place to reflect on the sacrifice of our armed forces, not a place for jingoistic promotion of the latest armaments.

As it is currently the AWM displays weapon used, not as a homage to technology, but to those who fell in circumstances of the most dire situations. For example, G for George shows the desperate situations that airmen found themselves – the best available, but not the best that could have been built had the war effort allowed the luxury. Similarly the examples of men in battle, not annihilating the enemy with super weapons but surviving with what was to hand in dire circumstances.

We should not be pandering to the youth of today who may wish to play at war, we should be giving them an appreciation of how terrible it is to be in war, whether WWI or in Afghanistan.

If you want museum, build it elsewhere and separate to a place of reflection.

Regards
Kevin Bell
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Jim Barton [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 April 2021 12:54 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Please stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

To whom it concerns,

I am writing as a resident of [REDACTED] Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

This is a disgusting way to commemorate war and will be an endless re-development with no outcome

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Kind Regards

Jim

[REDACTED]

From: Annette Doran [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 8:44 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

The national capital should have a memorial to our war dead and their families NOT a theme park or even a museum.

A memorial should be a place of quiet reflection and dignity.

These sentiments can be completely lost in a large-scale extravaganza.

(Not to mention the scandalous waste of good taxpayer money involved in the demolition of a perfectly sound, recently constructed , existing building.)

Accountability and common sense are both sadly missing here.

But in my opinion it's never too late to see a mistake and correct it.

Cancel this project as soon as possible.

Annette Doran
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Deborah Price [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 12:19 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

In July 2019 I attended the Last Post Ceremony at the War Memorial as the soldier whose story was shared was my grandmother's first cousin. This moving, solemn event reminded us of the horrors of war and the importance of peace which I consider is the primary purpose of the AWM.

[REDACTED]

From: Linda Welberry [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 25 April 2021 12:42 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: War Memorial "early works" proposal

Categories: Green category, Orange category

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a member of the Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia) and also as a member of the Friends of the National Arboretum. I have been a practising GP in Ainslie for the last 45 years. I am aware of the significance to Canberra of The Australian War Memorial and of the perceived need for expansion and upgrading. However, I strongly believe that any changes should take place only after adequate public and expert consultation, particularly with regard to the Heritage aspects of the building and the site. I understand that a proposal has been made for "early works" to proceed prior to approval of the total redevelopment. I cannot believe that this is ethical, especially as these early works would include the demolition of both a building (Anzac Hall) and numerous trees in a healthy condition, both of which have Heritage status. I am particularly concerned about the removal of beautiful and healthy trees, given the length of time which it has taken for them to grow.

I urge your members to defer making any decision about "early works" and to consider the proposal as a whole. I further urge you to consider the views of many people like myself who would be heartbroken by the wanton destruction which has been proposed.

Yours Faithfully,
Linda Welberry
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Gordon Lucas [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 April 2021 5:13 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Please stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment - particularly the tree clearing

Categories: Orange category, Green category

Dear National Capital Authority,

I am writing as a resident of Campbell, ACT to express my very real concern & opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be ceased until thorough community consultation has been undertaken - having provided clear information on what all the proposals are.

In particular, the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also request that the NCA release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Lucas

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: John Harris [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 10 April 2021 1:11 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: War memorial

Categories: Orange category, Green category

Sirs: In the small town in western New South Wales where I was born, they have a high school called "Hay War Memorial High School" which serves to honor the memory of all those men from around Hay who went off to war and never came back...

Rather than investing in this obscenely expensive expansion of the War Memorial, May I suggest that the money available be invested in better public schools, hospitals, libraries, perhaps dental clinics - each with a board recording the names of fellow citizens who died in war, or indeed the names of all those people, men or women, who left their communities to go off to serve.

John Harris

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Jean Kennedy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 9:58 AM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I am a Canberra resident. I am strongly against the proposed redevelopment of the War Memorial. In particular, I object to the removal of the trees between the buildings and Mt Ainslie.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Respectfully,

Dr Jean Kennedy
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Annette Barbetti [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 April 2021 1:35 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Objection to expansion of war memorial

Categories: Green category, Orange category

To whom it may concern

The war memorial should be left as it is. It is a fitting memorial to the memory of the members of the armed forces who gave their lives in the defence of our country and our values. The proposed expansion would change the war memorial to a place that glorifies war and shows off a lot of military hardware that most of us really do not want to even think about. I have discussed the proposal with my relatives and many other people here in Canberra and I have yet to encounter a single person who thinks that it is a good idea. The general opinion is that it would be a useless waste of money that could be spent more appropriately, for example by providing adequate help to veterans.

Yours faithfully,
Annette Barbetti

[REDACTED]

From: Tina Sicklen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 4:59 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Tina Sicklen
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Ian Wood [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 11:14 AM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial. I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised. I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Ian Wood

[REDACTED]

From: josephine Root [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 April 2021 7:26 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Green category, Orange category

I am writing as a long-term resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped. They just be stopped to ensure that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation. I also believe that the preservation of the eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised. Once they are gone they cannot be replaced.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue. It is imperative there is greater transparency around this whole process.

I look forward to seeing this happen.

Josephine Root
[REDACTED]

Submission to the National Capital Authority

National War Memorial Proposed Extension

Submitted 26th April 2021

It is appreciated that the National Capital Authority (NCA) is not in a position to adjudicate on the costs or political ramifications of the rebuilding of the Australian War Memorial. However, it must be said that there are many aspects of the proposed 'redevelopment' which are not in the interests of the Australian community and if the NCA exists for anything, it is for the protection of those interests, especially in regard to the look and feel of the heart of our National Capital.

It is clear that the proposed 'redevelopment' will take the War Memorial in a direction which is not supported by the War Memorial's own stated objective or its stated mission. Further, despite the proposal being of substantial national import, it has not been through a comprehensive national community consultation process. Even at this early stage the proposal has demonstrated disregard for an increased national awareness in the interests women and indigenous interests.

The apolitical priority of any war memorial must overwhelmingly be the provision of a point of focus for the community to remind it of the folly of war, the misery, rape, pillage, brutality, assault and waste associated with the mind-numbing stupidity of engaging the national psyche in the processes of war and the financial, social and spiritual devastation associated with it.

There is no doubt that the proponents of the new model 'high-tech war games' war memorial might argue that the work of the NCA should not be concerned with the more spiritual aspects of building design, placement, propriety, connectivity, context and suitability. However, I would argue that it is these very 'spiritual' elements which underpin the NCA's principal objectives of People, Place and Plan and the consideration of all three in the context of our National community is essential to the NCA's very existence. Your deliberations are for the benefit of the total National interest - not just a vested few.

Juxtaposed with the NCA's three objective principals the National War Memorial's own objective and mission would seem to sit comfortably, yet we are being forced, by party political considerations, personal interest, career objectives and the lobbying of weapons manufacturers to interpret the War Memorial's role to be that of promotion of equipment improvement and technological application - viz-a-viz the new versus the old.

It is clear that by requesting approval for 'early works' including the destruction of the newly built and award winning ANZAC Hall, the cutting down and removal of more than 100 trees on the site and the commencement of large scale excavations, War Memorial management is attempting to place the project in a circumstance of 'fait accompli'. They are attempting to push the public - we who will be paying for all of this modification of somber reflection of loss into a razzmatazz of technological wizardry - a situation where we will have no other option but accept this disgraceful plan for weapons promotion.

It is clear that the war mongers and weapons salesmen are wanting to turn our memories of the fallen, the slaughter of the innocent and the rape and pillaging of nations into a promotional sales point and opportunity for which the entire nation will pay in cash, kind and reality. The NCA is the only remaining balustrade against this capitalist thuggery and greed.

I demand that the proposal to the NCA for approval for 'early works' be rejected on the following basis:

- Insufficient consultation of the full project at a national level
- Non-compliance with the NCA's objectives of People, Place and Plan
- Unwarranted destruction of ANZAC Hall
- Lack of reverence and consideration for the objectives of war memorials and their role in reflection
- Impact on local flora and fauna both during and after construction
- Impact on the emotional and reflective aspects of Anzac Avenue and surrounds both during and after proposed construction

Gerry Gillespie



From: Holly.Northam [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 10:01 AM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Sincerely,

Holly

[REDACTED]

I acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander custodians of the lands on which I live and work, and pay my respects to Elders, past, present and emerging.

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

Australian Government Higher Education Registered Provider (CRICOS) #00212K
The University of Canberra acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, traditional custodians of the lands where Bruce Campus is situated. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of Canberra and the region. We also acknowledge all other First Nations Peoples on whose lands we gather.

NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER: This email and any files transmitted with it may contain confidential or copyright materials and are for the attention of the addressee only. If you have received this email in error please notify us by email reply and delete it from your system. The University of Canberra accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email.

[REDACTED]

From: Leeanne Mason [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 8:00 AM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Objection to War Memorial

Categories: Green category, Orange category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

I also believe that this funding should be redirected to assisting with Post Traumatic Stress for returned servicemen and women.

Kind regards

Leeanne Mason

[REDACTED]

From: Murphy, Mark [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 April 2021 9:06 AM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: War Memorial expansion proposal [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Categories: Green category, Orange category

UNOFFICIAL

Dear NCA

I am opposed to the Australian War Memorial's proposed redevelopment plans. Its proposal to raze the annex and the surrounding bushland to build a bloated structure filled with huge military hardware is not consistent with the memorial's commemorative role or with its iconic placement within the national capital plan. The funding for this development would be far better spent on other national cultural institutions, such as the National Film and Sound Archive. Unlike the well-feathered AWM, those institutions are having to triage the national heritage due to chronic underfunding.

Sincerely
Mark Murphy

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Babette Fahey [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 April 2021 8:12 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Proposed AWM expansion and redevelopment

Categories: Green category, Orange category

To the National Capital Authority,

I urge you to do everything in your power to stop the proposed expansion and redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial (AWM). The "early works" will cause irrevocable damage to the site, with the removal of ~160 well-established trees as well as Anzac Hall. Changing the appearance of the area around the AWM will destroy its symmetry with Parliament Houses (old and new).

The AWM - as the name suggests - was designed as a memorial. To commemorate those brave souls that lost their lives fighting for our country. It would be demeaning to them and their loved ones who built and paid for the AWM to shift its purpose to displaying our weapons of war. This is a place to reflect upon war and lives lost, not to glorify it.

Please give the entire Canberra community an opportunity to weigh in on the fate of this valuable icon.

Yours sincerely,
Babette Fahey

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Info
Sent: Tuesday, 27 April 2021 10:19 AM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: FW: War Memorial Upgrade [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Categories: Green category, Orange category

OFFICIAL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

 Please consider our environmental footprint before printing this e-mail



OFFICIAL

From: Jan & Denis Appel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 April 2021 8:57 AM
To: Info <info@nca.gov.au>
Subject: War Memmrial

We are writing to object to the extensions at the War Memorial. We believe this development is not necessary & the money could be better spent. As the building stands it is a dignified & suitable. The destruction of trees in itself should stop this proceeding. We hope you will in this case protect our Heritage.

Yours sincerely,

Jan & Denis Appel
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Alasdair Sinclair [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 1:47 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Early works for War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

Dear NCA

I am writing to object to the early works associated with the redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial into a museum for the glorification of warfare. This project is a disgrace, transforming a peaceful space of grass and trees intended for reflection on the folly and human cost of war into a concrete wasteland celebrating killing and weaponry. The museum part of the memorial is there to educate visitors to the memorial, not to become a tourist attraction in its own right, dominating the memorial and relegating it to an embarrassing add-on. If the present building cannot adequately cover all of Australia's wars simultaneously, its managers should do as all other museums do and rotate the items in the collection through the display areas. This encourages repeat visits and shows everything over time (not forgetting the frontier wars against European settlers). If we must have a museum for large items of military hardware then locate it elsewhere, e.g.

Mitchell, far from the war memorial. Funds earmarked for the war memorial development should be reallocated to supporting surviving war veterans and to Canberra's other museums which have been starved of funding. That would do far more to enhance Canberra's status as the National Capital than this grandiose and inappropriate project. It is well known that museum professionals are opposed to it. Australia has only recently spent vast sums on the Villers-Bretteux war museum in France. The early works now proposed and the project as a whole should not proceed. In particular, the trees should remain. They serve to integrate the memorial with the adjacent nature park on Mt Ainslie and are important to the memorial.

Regards, Alasdair Sinclair, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Jan Goodall [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 April 2021 12:57 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Expansion of the War Memorial

Categories: Green category, Orange category

To whom it may concern

I was born in Canberra in 1940, so the War Memorial holds a place in my heart after attending services there for many years.

I am appalled at the idea of a perfectly good hall being demolished to house what amounts to a collection of war armaments ... a "Boys' own" celebration of war.

To me the War Memorial is a sacred place, which is declining into a celebration of warfare, instead of honouring the dead.

The money could be better spent on veterans' health .

Yours sincerely,

Jan Goodall

From: Dillon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 3:34 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF ANZAC HALL

Categories: Green category, Orange category

NCA

PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF ANZAC HALL

To Whom it May Concern

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed extensions at the Australian War Memorial.

What is proposed will radically change the Memorial and make it a museum of weaponry rather than a place for reflection and to honour Australia's war dead.

The proposed changes to Anzac Hall are grotesquely inappropriate and would add a new dimension to a sacred place. This dimension involves jingoism and hyper-nationalism and should be avoided at all costs. The end result would be the Disneyfication of the War Memorial and the glorification of war, where war machines take pride of place.

Numerous critics of the proposed changes have rightly said that the place for Dr Nelson's large exhibits is in a war museum, not in the Memorial itself. Anzac Hall has won numerous architectural awards and was purpose-built. It fulfils its purpose admirably. More recently other critics have also pointed to the needless destruction of trees around the Memorial, trees that add immeasurably to the Memorial's character and history. We stood under one during the Entombment of the Unknown Soldier.

The proposed expenditure is an obscene amount and totally unwarranted. That money should instead be spent supporting veterans.

Yours sincerely,

Ian and Judy Dillon

[REDACTED]

From: ernst Willheim [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 April 2021 5:24 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Block 3 s 39 Campbell

Categories: Green category, Orange category

I make the following submissions in relation to the works approval application relating to the Australian War Memorial

The proposed works involve the destruction of a large number of trees. Destruction of such a large number of trees is clearly inconsistent with the NCA's Draft Tree Management Policy.

If the NCA were to approve works requiring the destruction of such a large number of trees the credibility of the NCA including the credibility of the NCA's Draft Tree Management Policy would be seriously weakened.

The proposed works involve in substance changing the War Memorial from a memorial to a museum. There has been a huge amount of community opposition to this change. There is a place for a war museum but the Australian War memorial is not that place. This prime site in the parliamentary triangle and at the top of Anzac Parade should continue to be occupied by a war memorial. If there is to be a war museum it should be located elsewhere. The NCA should give serious weight to the enormous community opposition to what is proposed.

Ernst Willheim

[REDACTED]

From: Greg Quinn [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 1:37 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I write to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

The preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

This proposed development is a desecration of the War Memorial and its site.

My great uncle Harold Bourke who died at Fromelles agrees with me.

--

Greg Quinn

[REDACTED]

From: Jessica Shaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 11:02 AM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: James Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 April 2021 8:35 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Feedback on Works at Anzac Hall

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of [REDACTED] to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve actual community consultation, and the preservation of the eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Regards,
James Taylor

From: Michael.Walsh [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 April 2021 11:52 AM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: AWM Proposed renovations

Categories: Green category, Orange category

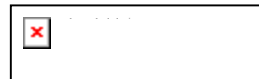
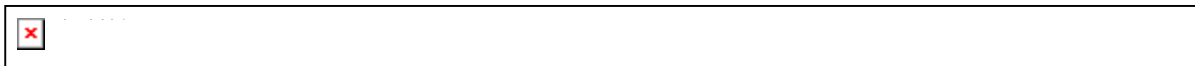
Dear NCA

I write to express my opposition to the proposed renovations to the AWM. The 'early works approval' that is being applied for will, in essence, mean the renovations will ultimately continue regardless of the decision. It is clear to me that a significant number of concerned people have expressed reservations as to what is occurring and I ask you to make your decision carefully and in the interests of all Australians.

Regards

Michael Walsh

Michael Walsh [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Australian Government Higher Education Registered Provider (CRICOS) #00212K

The University of Canberra acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, traditional custodians of the lands where Bruce Campus is situated. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of Canberra and the region. We also acknowledge all other First Nations Peoples on whose lands we gather.

NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER: This email and any files transmitted with it may contain confidential or copyright materials and are for the attention of the addressee only. If you have received this email in error please notify us by email reply and delete it from your system. The University of Canberra accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email.

[REDACTED]

From: Heather & Roger Stewart [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 11:59 AM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: War memorial vandalism

Categories: Green category, Orange category

I'm shocked that the extensive proposed "early works" i.e. vandalism at the war memorial are being considered when they include the destruction of Anzac Hall and removal of heritage trees. If these actions are "early works" what will follow? If approved, these actions cannot be reversed. This is a disgrace and must be denied. It stinks of collusion and cover up. It appears approval for the entire works program has been given the nod in advance and this so called public consultation process is just a fig leaf to cover the guilty tracks. Shame on you NCA!

Heather Stewart
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 April 2021 11:50 AM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission on proposed changes to the Australia War Memorial

Categories: Green category, Orange category

I write to voice my opposition to the proposed redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial on a number of grounds.

a. The War Memorial is a memorial not a museum. The AWM was established for a very clear purpose: to serve as a space for commemorating and memorialising those fallen in wars, and to reflect on war and its impact on Australian society and people. It is very clear, in the AWM's own publications, that it is not to be "a general museum portraying war, much less one glorifying it".

Yet the main reason proposed by proponents of the redevelopment is that the current memorial does not have enough exhibition space. So is the AWM a memorial or a museum? If the AWM wants to place more emphasis on the role of Australian service personnel in more recent conflicts and operations, then the simple solution is to reallocate space within the memorial to more recent military events.

If there is need for more museum space for Australia's military history then the government should be funding a dedicated military museum, not use the current memorial to fill the role.

b. The scope of "early works" is very large and if they were to go ahead before the final plan is approved much destruction of the physical environment around the memorial would occur. It's almost as if they want that part to be approved and commenced so the major stage of the redevelopment can be essentially a fait accompli. Any significant work "early" or otherwise, should be part of the overall approval, not a sneaky way of getting the project launched.

c. Cost. \$500 million (proposed cost, what will the final cost be if other government projects are used as a yardstick?), is huge amount of money for a project that goes against the primary role of the AWM and against the wishes of the original proponents of the AWM. The government claims the redevelopment honours those Australians who have served in more recent military operations, yet I have met a single veteran who supports the plan. The unanimous opinion expressed is that if the government wishes to support recent veterans then use that money to fund support services for veterans to improve their lives, deal with the physical and mental injuries they suffered while serving, and reduce the catastrophic level of veteran suicides. Many of the veterans that this plan supposedly is designed to honour will never have the opportunity to visit the Memorial - while receiving insufficient support for the injuries they suffered that the memorial expansion somehow honours.

d. The AWM honours those Australians who have served the nation. Yet it makes no mention of the countless indigenous Australians who died defending their country from the colonial invaders. In fact more mention is made of Australians who served in the New Zealand wars to dispossess and defeat the indigenous peoples of New Zealand. Surely an institution that exists to honour all Australians who "served" should actually do that.

Thank for the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Janet Russell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 12:15 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Janet Russell

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Andrew Welsh [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 April 2021 7:39 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: early works at AWM site

Categories: Green category, Orange category

The proposed "early works" at the site of the Australian War Memorial will irreversibly change the site, even if the proposed demolition and rebuilding does not proceed.

The Australian War Memorial should be just that: a **memorial**. It should contain only the memorial and research facilities.

All of the museum and displays should be moved to a purpose-build museum at another site.

The proposed development risks the sacred memorial being turned into a theme-park.

The "early works" should not be approved.

Andrew R W Welsh
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Mark Wigley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 1:04 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Furthermore, the level of expenditure on this redevelopment is obscene. I believe this taxpayers funding would be better spent on assisting our veterans.

Mark Wigley

[REDACTED]

From: mandy scott [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 9:17 AM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Early works War Memorial consultation

Categories: Green category, Orange category

To whom it may concern

I understand that that today is the last day to submit community responses to the proposed extension to the nation war memorial so I am writing to express opposition to the early works in preparation for this. I am a resident of Canberra, but believe that as a national monument the proposed demolition and removal of established trees is of concern to all Australians. Those who do not live here or are not frequent visitors may not be fully aware of the extent of the loss that would be incurred so feel it important that us locals speak out clearly.

In addition, all the plans for expansion of the Australian War Memorial should be re-examined in the light of the very different world we now live in compared to when the whole idea was first mooted. Not only are national finances in a very different place, but other priorities have emerged or grown in importance; support for and investment in Australia's research capabilities and more urgent action to mitigate climate change being among these.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped and that any further redevelopment should involve much more open and thorough community consultation. I would appreciate a response to this email and look forward to more opportunities to hear from the NCA directly about future plans for the War Memorial.

Yours sincerely
Mandy Scott

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 April 2021 4:59 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Extension to the war memorial

Categories: Green category, Orange category

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extension of the Australian War Memorial which will require, amongst other things the destruction of Anzac Hall. I believe that the main purpose of the extension is to convert what is currently a place of reflection and commemoration of those who have fought in battles past into a museum for the instruments of war. Glorification of war and the instruments of war is not appropriate.

Please stop this happening by disallowing the first stage of the redevelopment.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED] ■

From: Jennie Grierson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 9:57 AM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Denby Angus [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 April 2021 5:31 PM
To: Works Approval Consultation
Subject: Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

Categories: Orange category, Green category

To whom it may concern

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial. As someone opposed to the redevelopment, I see these hasty early works as unnecessary and divisive.

I support the opposition to the development by many architectural and heritage experts and veteran's groups.

I would much prefer that the grounds be enhanced through further plantings and landscaping to provide more opportunities for reflection rather than increasing the exhibition of weapons and war history. The AWM already provides extraordinary opportunities for education about our war history but this needs to be counterbalanced with extra facilities for healing and support for veterans and their families and the wider community.

Time spent in natural surroundings is shown to enhance wellbeing and the large site has ample room to develop some truly beautiful spaces which would add to the significance and solemnity of the memorial.

I also support the opinions of many veteran's groups who oppose the redevelopment and would prefer increased funding for veterans welfare especially mental health services.

I believe that these works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and that the preservation of the eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

Cheers
Denby

Submission opposing:

Block 3 Section 39 Campbell - Australian War Memorial Redevelopment Project
'Early Works Approval' Application

Submission by: Richard Llewellyn, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Introduction:

1. The Australian War Memorial is an eminent part of Australia's social history that contributes much to anchor Canberra's place in the psyche of the nation. It would be trite, disrespectful and ignorant to suggest that it is just a tourist attraction.
2. Memorial redevelopment documentation plays both the 'tourism' and the 'business opportunities' cards to a disproportionate level. The Memorial's multiplicity of purposes, roles and impacts includes but transcends these aspects.
3. The Memorial redevelopment project documentation ignores that balance; rigorous analysis of the documentation (*#1) shows that it is duplicitous in its arguments and exclusively self-serving in its conclusions.
4. This submission presents five grounds on which the NCA should reject the current redevelopment proposal.
5. **First Consideration: the 'economic' advantages postulated by the Memorial will not eventuate.**
6. The Memorial stridently avows that there is a high level of public support for the project but denies access to source documents to prove that claim. Mere repetition of a statement is not proof of truth.
7. The Memorial alludes to 'surveys' of 'stakeholders' it has undertaken, claiming high levels of support. However, survey responses were selected from multiple-choice options worded so that no response could be negative towards the project. (*#2) It is fundamentally dishonest to claim that agreement with a statement akin to 'do you consider that there should be more representation of modern Veterans?' constitutes approval of the Memorial redevelopment project either implicitly or explicitly.
8. Memorial 'surveys' have been targeted on selected audiences; the bias inherent in this is evident. It has been a prime example of 'push' marketing, a widely discredited practice.

9. Opposition to the project from an expansive cross-section of society (including former Memorial Directors and senior officers, top-level senior Defence persons, eminent Australians and many others) has been published and is available for public inspection. This includes letters (*#3, #4)) and other editorial and general commentary in the media (*#5), a public petition (*#6) and submissions to Parliamentary approval authorities including the Public Works Committee (*#7) and under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act (*#8)
10. The overwhelming majority of openly-sought, publicly-documented, author-identified and absolutely verifiable commentary has been opposed to the project in ratios varying from mid 60% to more than 85%.
11. These commentators must be considered 'stakeholders' as much as any other Australian. By its original intent and development to date, the Memorial has every Australian citizen as a stakeholder.
12. The Memorial deceptively promotes the results of surveying 'stakeholders' it has selected (from groups most likely to be favourable to the proposal e.g. veteran's organisations) as representing the opinion of *all* Australians. In fact, they are a very restricted sample of Australian society. These results are statistically and morally corrupt as indicators of overall Australian sentiment towards the project.
13. **The existing data shows the Memorial redevelopment proposal will deter significantly more than 50% of its potential visitors.**
14. **Second Consideration: the Campbell proposal will not return to Canberra any increase in tourism or spin-off commercial reward.**
15. Loss of support by 50% or more of the Memorial's visitor population equates to a loss of perhaps 500,000 visitors each year to Canberra and a rapidly diminished role for the Memorial both in Canberra and in Australian society.
16. This result will impose a tangible loss of support for the Memorial as a meaningful contributor to a comprehensive understanding of national history and Australia's place in the world, resulting in resistance to future funding requests by the Memorial. Concrete historical evidence of this can be seen from the scarcity of funding when interest in Australian military history was low in the several decades prior to 1993.
17. From the perspective of tourism, the Memorial is the biggest (numerically) visitor drawcard in the ACT, and is of world-wide significance. That position is the direct result of its unique nature, which has hitherto been a widely respected blend of education about warfare, Australian military and conjoined social history, sensitive exhibition of relevant artefacts and dignified remembrance of the sacrifice of those who have died.
18. The redevelopment proposal trashes that unique character to be replaced by celebration of military service, triumphalism and warrior-worship of participation in conflicts irrelevant to Australian society and the display of military hardware, consequent on its availability as discarded Defence materiel – not through informed curatorial decision.

19. Years of high rates of visitor attendance demonstrate that the Memorial is a major priority for visitation; many commentators have expressed publicly that in its current form it is very effective at delivering its mission. Re-purposing that mission is a grossly negative move, contrary to the legislation, the purpose and the ethos of the Memorial.
20. There is growing sentiment world-wide repudiating war and similar activities. The Memorial, by abandoning the balanced and nuanced delivery of its historical and social messages and their replacement with what is frequently characterised as a 'Disney-theme-park' presentation, is obdurately ignoring the prevailing public mood.
21. **When the Memorial loses visitation numbers, the flow-on reduction in commercial benefit to Canberra is inevitable. Memorial claims of such commercial benefit from the redevelopment project are demonstrated to be spurious by the available published data.**
22. **Third Consideration: the Campbell proposal will reduce the respect of the rest of the nation for Canberra as the appropriate location for the most significant Cultural Institutions.**
23. That Canberra has no 'natural' advantages (historical or geographical) as a location for the most nationally-important Cultural institutions (including the National Library, National Archives, National Museum and National Gallery) is unarguable. All of these institutions have created their reputation by their achievements and quality.
24. There is a symbiotic relationship between these institutions and their visitor numbers. Other than for researchers, few Australian or international travellers only visit one of these institutions; exposure of institutions not on the top of the visitor lists creates new / heightened appreciation as a result.
25. The Memorial is the premier drawcard. Politicians histrionically call it things like: 'Australia's most sacred place', or 'the soul of the nation' and are enthusiastic to support even ludicrous expenditure on it.
26. If the proposed redevelopment proceeds, it will result in a place that is frequently referred to in the media as a 'military theme park' version of itself. There have been comparisons drawn with over-blown tourist-magnet constructions such as the 'Big Prawn' or the 'Big Banana'- and not kindly. The reaction of those trenchantly opposed to war is loathing of an overt demonstration of rampant militarism and veneration for military technology.
27. The strictly financial impact on all Cultural institutions and Canberra tourist-related business is obvious. Less immediately obvious but extremely important is that the opportunity to deliver insight and access to highly significant areas of Australian history will be lost to increasing numbers of Australians and our international visitors.
28. The Memorial proposal will shoot itself in the foot and impose collateral damage on the other cultural institutions and on Canberra itself.
29. **The NCA is the last resort to prevent this happening.**

30. **Fourth Consideration: the far better option, that does not devalue the Memorial at Campbell and opens other opportunities for development of tourism and business is the Mitchell Precinct Option.**

31. The Memorial commenced in 2012 to acquire land in Mitchell contiguous with the existing Mitchell Conservation Annex, Mitchell 'B' storage building and the Treloar Centre Storage and Display facility. The Memorial now holds title of a total area of just over 4.5 hectares, designated 'the Mitchell Precinct' by the Memorial. The Mitchell Precinct is the subject of a significant development plan in its own right, that is deliberately almost totally hidden in Memorial documentation supporting the Campbell redevelopment plan.
32. The Memorial's Mitchell Precinct is bordered by conservation / storage facilities of the Australian National Archives and the National Museum of Australia. Together these facilities present a major opportunity for the development of a 'cultural institution back-of-house activities' conglomerate, creating an entirely new tourism and cultural development infrastructure of mutual benefit to the institutions themselves in terms of meaningful public exposure and to the business and commercial activities of Mitchell and Gunghalin at very low cost.
33. The potential conglomerate area at Mitchell would provide adequate room for expansion of both institutional facilities and shared public access support facilities, and benefit from (as well as add validation to) the Light Rail development that literally passes along one boundary.
34. The Campbell development option is neither commercially needed nor socially wanted in Campbell and would provide no possible long-term benefit.
35. In its submission of June, 2017 to the Public Works Committee (PWC) in support of the funding for building the Mitchell 'E' storage facility (*#9) the Memorial stated that one of the 9 *Plan Development Principles* is:

1.11.10 Principle 9 – Strengthen Public Presence

*Strengthen the public recognition of Mitchell Precinct as an integral component of the Australian War Memorial and home to a significant national collection. This can include unified corporate identity and the **potential for public access and display of collection items.***
[Bolding - author]

36. The Memorial repudiated the very existence of its own Precinct Plan principle ***just over thirty days later*** (*#10) and in all subsequent documentation and communication relating to the Campbell re-development plan. However, *Principle 9* remains a published fact and a statement of intent to the PWC of future development at Mitchell.
37. This was not the first statement by the Memorial of intent for Mitchell as a public access site: in 1992, the Memorial obtained PWC approval (*#11) for the construction of the Mitchell 'B' building:

*'The Committee recommends the construction of a **storage-display facility for the Australian War Memorial at Mitchell**, at a cost of \$6.5m'*
[Bolding - author]

38. The Memorial has denied (repeatedly) PWC approval for public access to Memorial relics as a feature of Mitchell past and future development in all documentation related to the re-development proposal – including to the PWC itself. This could be construed as lying to Parliament.
39. The repeated dishonest denials by the Memorial of the existence of the undertakings it has made – over a period of nearly three decades - to effectively utilise and develop the Mitchell site is a clear statement that it has no intention of honouring the commitments it made to PWC in order to secure funds. Yet it undertook a campaign to acquire land for Memorial purposes during that period.
40. **The Campbell re-development project as currently proposed will severely affect all visitor to cultural institutions resulting in a double-loss position of benefits to Canberra.**
41. **Fifth Consideration: the sites contained by the Mitchell Precinct will stagnate in development if the Campbell plan goes ahead.**
42. The Campbell re-development project is slated to occupy the Memorial for at least the next 10 years and the funding approval mandates / is based upon that timetable.
43. The forensic analysis of the Initial Business Case documented in (#1 a:) highlights clearly that the Memorial's calculations of space and functionality requirements are unsupported (and unsupportable) conjecture. Ipso facto any funding breakdown is similarly guesswork and the history of most large-scale building works in Canberra is that initial estimates will be exceeded by multiple percentages – not just fractions.
44. The Memorial is currently the Federal government's poster-child for extravagant expressions of patriotism which divert public attention but the resultant horn of financial plenty has not always been open to the Memorial.
45. There is no guarantee that funding will remain as currently abundant. Additional funding for development at Mitchell will not be forthcoming when works on the Campbell plan go badly over-budget. The potential for not just the Memorial but the adjacent cultural institution sites and Canberra generally to reap benefits from development at Mitchell will be unrealised.
46. **If the Memorial project is allowed to proceed, the NCA would forever be associated with the disgraceful outcome for Canberra.**
47. **Recommendations:**
48. The NCA should not endorse nor support the Memorial re-development plan project in its current form;
49. The NCA should require the Memorial to prepare a responsible proposal for development at Campbell that reflects the Memorial's historical purpose and ethos, is respectful of Heritage implications and adheres to its legislative mandate; and

50. The NCA should require that any future proposal from the Memorial provides a holistic approach to both of its sites to develop an integrated facility that enhances rather than diminishes the Campbell site balance of remembrance, display, and ‘story-telling’ gallery development with Large Technology Object display (in particular) to become a feature of the Mitchell site development.

References/Links:

- (#1): a: Llewellyn, Richard et al: [The Australian War Memorial extensions: a critique of the design choice](#), *Honest History*, 24 June 2019; and
b: Llewellyn, Richard et al: [The Australian War Memorial Redevelopment Program: the “Mitchell Option” reassessed](#), *Honest History*, 22 July 2019
- (#2): Wareham, Dr. Sue, President MAPW: [‘Let’s not allow the Australian War Memorial to become something much uglier’](#), *Canberra Times*, 27 February 2021
- (#3): <http://honesthistory.net.au/wp/opposition-to-war-memorials-498-million-extensions-grows-more-than-80-distinguished-australians-sign-letter/>
- (#4): <http://honesthistory.net.au/wp/stop-this-mad-indulgent-498m-project-at-the-war-memorial-open-letter-to-the-prime-minister-signed-by-over-70-australians/>
- (#5): e.g.: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/jun/16/former-war-memorial-heads-join-call-to-redirect-500m-for-grandiose-expansion-to-veterans> and:
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/postcolonial-blog/2019/sep/05/we-demean-our-history-when-we-turn-the-australian-war-memorial-into-disneyland>
- (#6): <http://honesthistory.net.au/wp/stephens-david-thoughts-of-the-people-against-the-war-memorials-grandiose-extensions-project/>
- (#7): https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works/AustralianWarMemorial/Submissions
- (#8): <http://honesthistory.net.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/1820-EPBC-response.pdf>
- (#9)
https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works/AWMStoreProject/Submissions
- (*#10) GHD: [Australian War Memorial Redevelopment Options Assessment Report , Section 4.2,](#)
[pdf available upon request from author]
- (#11): https://www.aph.gov.au/parliamentary_business/committees/house_of_representatives_committees?url=reports/1992/1992_pp498.pdf

From: Stewart Mitchell [REDACTED]

Subject: **Submission to the National Capital Authority regarding the early works application associated with the redevelopment project at the Australian War Memorial.**

Statement:

The AWM redevelopment proposal represents significant impact on the AWM site and the setting of the AWM within the Canberra National Area under the National Capital Plan.

Approval of this early works application should not occur.

So called 'early works' that entail such significant and irreversible impact on the AWM site - including the demolition of Anzac Hall, demolition of the Parade Ground and the loss of most of the significant Eucalyptus plantings on the site - make obsolete any future NCA consultation process on the impact of this redevelopment. The proposed redevelopment becomes a *fait accompli*. It is extraordinary that the NCA would enter into an early approval process with the AWM, and begin a public consultation for 'early works', that includes these significant determining elements of the overall proposal. This approach to consultation, and the ongoing erection of project infrastructure, site sheds etc on the site prior to the end of the consultation process, makes the NCA's consultation, and management of the Canberra National Area under the National Capital Plan, appear a charade.

Heritage considerations – setting of the AWM within the Canberra National Area under the National Capital Plan:

Even though the NCA has effectively said heritage considerations are for DAWE - who have signed off on heritage - (from the NCA website - '*the approval by Minister Ley satisfies the heritage conditions of the Plan and will guide the NCA's assessment of this matter*'), the NCA has a strong responsibility to independently consider the heritage impacts as it relates to the setting of the AWM within the Canberra National Area under the National Capital Plan.

The NCA, when assessing impacts on the setting of the AWM within the Canberra National Area, should not take on a subordinate role to DAWE (who have concluded the 'impacts were not unacceptable') and must consider the actual impacts identified by the Historic Heritage Section in DAWE (Attachment 1 – HHS advice obtained under FOI) which are clearly major impacts on National Capital Plan aspects, as noted below.

It is also important for the NCA to fully review the mitigative measures associated with Minister Ley's approval. The conditions of approval set by the Minister for the Environment do not remove or substantially reduce the heritage impacts identified by the Australian Heritage Council and DAWE's own Historic Heritage Section. More than a third are standard administrative conditions, others, such as archival recording, training staff to talk about the meaning of the (lost) form of the Memorial now wrapped in the glazed addition, and more reports and approval for any further loss in the commemorative focus - do not reduce or change the actual identified impact. All the impacts identified by the AHC and the HHS remain. [Annexure A - Conditions of Approval](#)

Impacts specifically applicable to the National Capital Plan:

The NCA website lists five key matters to do with the NCP. The AWM redevelopment directly conflicts with three (in *italics*) of these five:

- *Conservation and enhancement of the landscape features which give the National Capital its character and setting, and which contribute to the integration of natural and urban environments.*

The overall scale and bulk of the AWM redevelopment, together with its hardened landscape setting will greatly impact the current integration of the natural and cultural environment; which in this case is expressed by the existing immediate landscape setting of the AWM (trees and grasses) together with the natural landscape of Mt Ainslie and its lower slopes.

- *Respect for the key elements of the Griffins' formally adopted plan for Canberra.*

The Griffin Land Axis, unlike the actual avenues on the key triangle in the Griffin plan (Commonwealth, Constitution and Kings Ave) reflects a foundational line in the landscape connecting high points, that starts at Mt Ainslie, goes through Capital Hill and continues down to Mt Bimberi on the ACT/NSW border. This Land Axis gives voice to the underlying natural landscape around which the plan of the physical city was aligned, but was not meant to destroy. The 1988 Parliament House development respected that by burying the bulk of the building and leaving the hill. The gradual formalisation of Anzac Parade and now the proposed expansion of the AWM Parade Ground and the formal hardening of its surrounds will erode the Griffin Land Axis (that is meant to be a string of sites along a line) and turn it into a monumental avenue visually terminating in the AWM - which it is not meant to do. The AWM redevelopment does not respect the Griffins' formally adopted plan for Canberra.

- *Creation, conservation and enhancement of fitting sites, approaches and backdrops for national institutions and ceremonies as well as National Capital uses.*

The AWM redevelopment greatly impacts the AWM landscape setting by destroying the balance of a discrete formal building in a natural setting. This is what it and other national institutions have maintained — a strong landscape setting around them. The new extent of the Parade Ground and steps and bladed wall etc. will strongly impact the setting of the AWM on approach along Anzac Parade, as will the visibility (totally un-necessary and unacceptable) of the glazed addition in this Parliament House Vista. Oblique views of the AWM as a free-standing national shrine will be destroyed. In views from Mt Ainslie the visible bulk of the redevelopment will impact an appreciation of the Land Axis and also remove the free-standing form of the AWM.

- In a National Capital sense, the work to and around the Parade Ground and the glazed addition will most directly impact the values being protected by the National Capital Plan.

Impacts to the National Capital Plan identified by the Australian Heritage Council:

The Australian Heritage Council does not support the conclusion that the proposed redevelopment of the AWM will not have a serious impact on the listed heritage values of the site.

In addition to identifying the demolition of the existing Anzac Hall, the redesign and expansion of the Parade Ground, the inclusion of the Oculus and external lift, and the significant expansion of the CEW Bean building as negative impacts on listed heritage values, the AHC makes the following points which relate strongly to the NCP (Attachment 2 - letter to the AWM from Dr David Kemp Chair AHC dated 31 July 2020).

- The listed heritage values of the Memorial include its landscape and setting. The impacts on the landscape and micro setting from the accretion of the proposed structural change have not been properly considered for this redevelopment.
- The significant expansion of the CEW Bean Building (to the South), has a negative impact on the heritage landscape and setting through the reduction of 'natural space'. It imposes a considerable impact on and imbalance of landscape design within the site, and compromises the relationship between the natural bushland setting of the Memorial and its continuity with Mt Ainslie.
- The holistic impact of the proposed changes on listed heritage values, including the landscape and setting, is of concern. There is a 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.

Moral rights – Denton Corker Marshall – Anzac Hall:

The obligation on the AWM to consult with DCM, the original design architects for Anzac Hall, has not been properly discharged. John Denton has stated that whilst the AWM has now informed DCM of their intention to demolish the building, and has given them time to come and photograph Anzac Hall before demolition, the AWM never consulted DCM about their proposals for Anzac Hall before proceeding. John Denton has recently (7.30 Report) called the AWM's consultation process with DCM 'a joke'.

In summary:

- The NCA has a strong responsibility to independently consider the heritage impacts as it relates to the setting of the AWM within the Canberra National Area under the National Capital Plan.
- The NCA must consider the impacts identified by the Historic Heritage Section in DAWE which are major impacts on Canberra National Area aspects. The mitigative measures associated with Minister Ley's approval do not remove these impacts.
- *NCP - Character and setting.* The overall scale and bulk of the AWM redevelopment, together with its hardened landscape setting will greatly impact the current integration of the natural and cultural environment; which in this case is expressed by the existing immediate landscape setting of the AWM (trees and grasses) together with the natural landscape of Mt Ainslie and its lower slopes.
- *NCP - Griffin Plan.* The AWM redevelopment does not respect the Griffins' formally adopted plan for Canberra. The gradual formalisation of Anzac Parade and now the expansion of the AWM Parade Ground and the formal hardening of its surrounds will

erode the Griffin Land Axis and turn it into a monumental avenue visually terminating in the AWM - which it is not meant to do.

- *NCP - Fitting sites, approaches and backdrops for national institutions.* The AWM redevelopment greatly impacts the AWM landscape setting by destroying the balance of a discrete formal building in a natural setting.
- *NCP - Fitting sites, approaches and backdrops for national institutions.* The new extent of the Parade Ground and steps and bladed wall etc will strongly impact the setting of the AWM on approach along Anzac Parade, as will the visibility of the glazed addition in this Parliament House Vista.
- *NCP - Fitting sites, approaches and backdrops for national institutions.* Oblique views of the AWM as a free standing national shrine will be destroyed. In views from Mt Ainslie the visible bulk of the redevelopment will impact an appreciation of the Land Axis and also remove the free standing form of the AWM.
- In a National Capital sense, the work to and around the Parade Ground and the glazed addition will most directly impact the values being protected by the National Capital Plan.
- The Australian Heritage Council has stated the redevelopment will have a serious impact on listed heritage values and identifies the negative impact of the redevelopment on the heritage landscape and setting of the Memorial - changes which impact the setting of the AWM within the Canberra National Area under the National Capital Plan.
- The obligation on the AWM to consult with DCM, the original design architects for Anzac Hall, has not been properly discharged.

The NCA is now the final arbiter in this matter. It identifies itself as performing ‘... a custodial role ensuring the unique heritage and culture of Canberra are maintained’. This is a significant responsibility. If the NCA is to remain relevant in the management of the Canberra National Area they must not see their role as necessarily acquiescent to DAWE (or the PWC). The NCA must be in spirit, what they are in name, an (independent) authority; and make a separate, independent judgement on the heritage impact of this redevelopment proposal.

Stewart Mitchell

[REDACTED]

20 April 2021