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**From:** Peter Sherman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 April 2021 10:22 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Proposed \$500m expansion of AWM : Objection from Peter H Sherman, [REDACTED] ACT 2614

**Categories:** Green category, Orange category

Dear NCA CEO, Ms Sally Barnes, and Board members,

I plea that you honour and respect those who have gallantly sacrificed their physical and mental health, and their lives, in WWI and conflicts since then by vetoing the government's outrageously wasteful \$500 million proposal to expand the Australian War Memorial for the puerile purpose of being a "...*low-rent, toy and medal theme park*". (Jack Waterford's article in the April 17, 2021 edition of "The Canberra Times" refers [REDACTED] : "*Will secrecy trump justice for Afghans? The war in Afghanistan was a military, moral, social and economic disaster, having nothing whatever to do with freedom. It certainly has not secured it*".

My great uncles, uncles, grandfather and father served in WWI and WWII and if they were alive today I'm sure that they would be urging the government to spend this money helping the poor men and women who are battling with post-traumatic stress syndrome. The incredible suicide rates are simply unacceptable!

Past conflicts have extracted an awful cost to our nation so please don't allow the government to accentuate this loss by wasting \$500 million on such a frivolous project.

Mr Matt Anderson's shameless, audacious, sneaky attempt on behalf of the Morrison government to have the award-winning Anzac Hall demolished and the magnificent, historic WWII-era trees cut down as part of the "early works" program proves to me he has lost his moral compass and is definitely not worthy of having a Public Service Medal, as his advocacy of this project clearly conflicts with the "...service excellence to the public" PSM criterion.

The demolition of Anzac Hall is inseparable from the project as a whole - indeed the project depends upon it happening - and it should be considered as part of the total package, not snuck through as an 'early work'.

The proposed massive excavation south of the existing Southern Entrance and across the Parade Ground would fundamentally change the look of the Memorial and cannot possibly be considered an 'early work'.

Designating these steps as 'early works' is an abuse of process, a travesty, and an insult to the NCA and to the Parliament that established it. These 'early works' will cause permanent damage to the Heritage-listed Memorial and its surrounds.

Mr Anderson is encouraging the NCA to indulge in 'salami slicing', as having 'early works' of such importance approved it will be impossible for the NCA to veto the whole project when their decision-making time comes.

The NCA should defer consideration of these 'early works' until it has received a Works Approval applications from the Memorial for the rest of the project. It could then consider all components of the project as a single package.

Please don't allow the AWM Chairman, Mr Kerry Stokes, and the CEO, Mr Anderson, to desecrate the AWM.

This sacred site belongs to the general public, not to them or to the AWM's financial sponsors who manufacture military hardware and equipment.

Mr Stokes should never have been appointed as Chairman as he hasn't served in the Air Force, Navy or Army. He is therefore clearly unsuited to have any role in planning the AWM's future.

The pervasive influence of the AWM's official sponsors was patently obvious when Boeing appointed Dr Brendon Nelson to lead their oceania operations. (See below announcement).

Frankly, Dr Nelson's blatant conflict-of-interest disgusted me and I strongly recommend that the government bans former AWM CEO's from being 'headhunted' by any of the AWM's financial sponsors.

Yours sincerely,  
Peter Sherman



## Dr Brendan Nelson AO to lead Boeing's Oceania operations

**SYDNEY, Australia, January 20, 2020** - The Boeing Company [NYSE: BA] has appointed Dr Brendan Nelson AO as the next president of Boeing Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific, to continue strengthening the company's local presence and business portfolio in the region. After forty years of accomplishments in the aerospace industry, Maureen Dougherty, who has served as the company's president for the Oceania region since 2014, will retire in March after a transition with Dr Nelson.

Effective 11 February, Dr Nelson will become chairman of the board for Boeing Australia Holdings and the company's senior leader for its 3,800 employees working across commercial airplane manufacturing, defence systems, services, research and development, and autonomous systems. He will also execute the company's strategy for community engagement, focusing on STEM and veteran outreach efforts.

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**From:** Anne Forrest [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 12 April 2021 4:02 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.

Anne Forrest  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

# Australian War Memorial

Block 3 Section 39 Campbell

Application for Works Approval

[WAconsultation@nca.gov.au](mailto:WAconsultation@nca.gov.au)

The Australian War Memorial is recognised as a sacred place in the heart of our nation. It is primarily a memorial, not a museum. The architecture, in the form of a cross, presents as a place of contemplation and reflection. The names of those who have lost their lives in conflicts far from our shores are quietly acknowledged within the walls of the building. The tomb of the Unknown Soldier provides a focal point within the Hall of Memories. National Heritage Legislation protects the War Memorial and its charter for the nation.

This submission is in response to an application for Stage 1 works approval, seeking to commence work which would irrevocably alter the War Memorial. The application includes the demolition of Anzac Hall and early works excavation for the Bean Building, Anzac Hall, and Glazed Link corridor.

The information in the public sphere indicates that the Memorial is not adequately representing the Australian Armed Forces because there is insufficient space to display war machines and related materials. Background supportive documents refer, in part, to the average Australian's lack of awareness of the Australian Defence Force operations in the last few years. Therefore, it is argued, "*new, expanded galleries (are) necessary*" to educate the general public. Evidently, this approach to the future of the Australian War Memorial is intended to emphasis the role of the building as a museum. I strongly believe that this proposed change will seriously erode the role of the building as a National Memorial. Have the custodians of the Australian War Memorial lost their way?

I should point out that my family and I lost a dear friend in the Vietnam War. However, the Vietnam exhibition, including a helicopter with flashing lights, voice-overs and loud sound effects, is confronting and misleading. The dead soldier's name on the commemorative wall alongside his fellow dead is tribute enough.

Information readily available on the National Capital Authority website states:

"The Authority of the National Capital Authority reaffirms its strong commitment to engage with the community, as part of its decision making. The Authority recognises that inclusion and engagement, particularly at the early and formative stages of projects and proposals, are vital to building and maintaining community trust."

However, to date the 'engagement' process appears to have been fragmented, full of spin and carefully targeted. In fact, many veterans, their families, and the majority of Australians have little idea of the proposed changes.

Bizarrely, the Application for Works Approval contains a statement, presumably intended to guide the decision makers in the National Capital Authority, as follows:

This report has not addressed Detailed Conditions of Planning, Design and Development within the NCP because the works proposed are not of a nature which may be assessed against design-based guidelines. Based on the information contained in this application and this planning report, **the NCA can support this application for Works Approval. [my emphasis]**

On the contrary, the proposed work to the Australian War Memorial must be placed on hold. The application, in its entirety, must be reviewed. And, the concerns of the many professionals, experts, Defence Personnel and members of the public must be given proper consideration. This process must be open to public scrutiny.

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**Stage 1, including demolition and removal of a significant portion of the treed landscape, must be refused. The National Capital Authority cannot, as custodian of the National Capital Plan, provide consent for this proposal to proceed in its present form.**

Anne Forrest



30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Note: I request that my submission be published