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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL REFERRAL

EPBC Referral 2019/8574 Australian War Memorial/Commonwealth/Campbell/Australian Capital Territory/Australian War Memorial Redevelopment

The National Trust of Australia does not support the proposed development, particularly the new southern entry nor the replacement of Anzac Hall.

There appears to be a misguided desire to display objects when the main value to veterans and family is the archive and historic records.

The proposal seems to represent a need for monumental buildings as opposed to maintaining the heritage values of the existing building by:

- Demolition of nationally acclaimed and significant Anzac Hall
- Total reconstruction of the southern entrance with its impact on the forecourt and Anzac Parade
- Ignoring the fact that the existing significant place is a combination of buildings and site. The existing HMP articulates these values. Despite this the values seem to have been overlooked in the demand for more space.

The Australian War Memorial was the first place classified by the ACT National Trust. The ACT National Trust considers the current proposals to have an adverse impact on the significance of the place. No amount of recording of the building to be demolished will conserve its heritage values as expounded by the Burra Charter.

The AWM consultation report has a number of issues of concern:

- While the proposal may be supported by the Detailed Business Case (DBC) it destroys heritage values. The impact on heritage values appears not to have been given appropriate consideration for a Nationally Listed place in preparing the DBC.
- The southern entrance involves reprofiling and will result in a major change to how the forecourt of the AWM will be viewed.

- New Anzac Hall gives little consideration to the existing building and little consideration to the view from Mount Ainslie where it will become a dominant element. Extra space could have been achieved by a glazed connection to the existing building and original building if desired.

The report acknowledges the impact of the proposed project on the heritage values then proceeds to ignore or devalue them. We do not agree with the comment that there are values in stories that are more significant than the current values and even if the stories were more significant they can be told without destroying the other values of the place.

References to retaining 'original features as far as practical' gives no confidence of retention of important values given what is in the proposal. Suggestions that the proposed works will not denigrate or damage its National Heritage values are farcical.

Suggestions that the large mass of Anzac Hall is complimentary and recessive to the main memorial building lacks substantiation.

Also the suggestion that the southern entrance will not "obscure any of the sight lines" is not correct as it will do so from the forecourt.

Statement 2.7 states that that the proposal is not on or near Commonwealth Land, which is incorrect and which casts doubt on the whole report.

Statement 6.3 is ticked 'yes', and we question this as it is hard to believe that the corporation's environmental policy and framework would allow for destroying national heritage places.

The heritage impact assessment table 7 indicates that the action will not diminish heritage values of the place, which appears contrary to removing key heritage components of the place especially as it also acknowledges that the proposal will substantially alter the setting.

The southern entrance adds a hard physical and structured forecourt to a previously soft base to the AWM and will have an adverse impact. The side views of the AWM are dramatically altered and the focus is totally removed from the existing nationally significant building.

The north eastern perspective illustrates the impact of the new Anzac Hall which dominates the view in lieu of the existing building.

It is interesting to note that other than the glazed courtyard, the internal space with the new building appears not substantially larger than the existing.

Yours sincerely



Eric J. Martin