

## **Submission opposing works at Block 3 Section 39 Campbell - Australian War Memorial**

The consultation and this objection relate to “a works approval application from Knight Frank Town Planning for early works associated with a redevelopment project at the Australian War Memorial (AWM). The early works that form part of the application include demolition, excavation, services relocation, temporary hoarding and tree removal.”

<https://www.nca.gov.au/consultation/block-3-section-39-campbell-australian-war-memorial>

However the “early works” are so extensive that it will inevitably pave the way for the full proposal for redevelopment and **must be assessed in that context**. The impact of the total redevelopment proposal **must be considered at this stage**.

In addition, the “early works” at the centre of this consultation are very extensive and warrant a process whereby the Australian public has a chance to object to these “early works” on a **variety of criteria** and not just **consistency with the National Capital Plan**.

**Both the proposed “early works” and the current redevelopment proposal conflict with most of the guiding principles and key matters of national significance National Capital Plan namely:**

- *The pre-eminence of the role of Canberra and the Territory as the centre of National Capital functions, and as the symbol of Australian national life and values.*
- *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.*
- *Creation, conservation and enhancement of fitting sites, approaches and backdrops for national institutions and ceremonies as well as National Capital uses.*
- *The development of a city which both respects environmental values and reflects national concerns with the sustainability of Australia’s urban areas.*

### **1. *The pre-eminence of the role of Canberra and the Territory as the centre of National Capital functions, and as the symbol of Australian national life and values.***

The Australian War Memorial is currently consistent with Australian values of:

- respect for others
- valuing the contribution that Australians and other individuals have made to protect Australia and Australians jointly and severally
- valuing the contribution that Australians and other individuals have made to assist people in other countries to have a life of safety and freedom and assisting them to overcome natural and man-made misfortunes
- looking after your mate and covering each others’ backs
- valuing learning from history
- valuing a knowledge of the events and people that forged our country as a nation
- sharing the good times and the bad
- celebrating victories and sharing the sadness of defeat, and death and misfortune

- an ability to come together and commemorate.
- respectfully remember.

But not:

- Celebrating war
- Glorifying war
- Celebrating and promoting war weapons and other tools of war

The proposed development will lead to the AWM being not to being "a general museum portraying war, and glorifying it". This must not be permitted to happen and the proposed development in its current form, should stop now. A smaller extension to the AWM could happen that is consist with the National Capital Plan.

**2. *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.***

These early works will spoil the *landscape features which give the National Capital its character and setting, and which contribute to the integration of natural and urban environments*. The NCP says these must be conserved – not destroyed.

The AWM is part of the fabric of Canberra. It is a betrayal to the Bush Capital to cut down so many trees for this development. And excavate the beautiful lawns surrounding the AWM which give the AWM much of its beauty, as well functionality for its purpose of celebrating and remembering those who have given so much for us. This is the heart of the AWM and what is most on display to the public who are visiting this city.

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

Similarly, the early works and the proposed full development will be contrary to the *enhancement of fitting sites, approaches and backdrops for national institutions and ceremonies*. The current AWM and grounds are particularly good for the relevant ceremonies and the works will adversely affect this nationally important role of the AWM.

**4. *The development of a city which both respects environmental values and reflects national concerns with the sustainability of Australia's urban areas.***

The early works and the proposed full development also conflict with the and key matter of national significance of *which both respects environmental values and reflects national concerns with the sustainability of Australia's urban areas*.

Canberra has a goal of reducing its greenhouse gas impact. Cutting down trees and using tonnes of concrete for this development are not consistent with this goal. This does not respect the environmental values for which Canberra is justly known. This is not sustainability.

**In addition**

The proposed development is not consistent with the Memorial's historical objectives. It duplicates other Memorial facilities and does not represent value for money.

The destruction of the award winning ANZAC Hall and the felling of more than 150 trees and the excavation at the front of the AWM are particularly objectionable.

The projected cost of the development is in the order of \$500 million. And there will of course be large cost blow outs which will mean it will cost the Australian public much more than this.

Other key National Institutions such as the NGA are in sorely need of funds for restoration and ongoing maintenance. These funds should be more equitably used to support Australia's other key institutions in Canberra.

### **Summary**

The early works and full proposal are not consistent with the key national values of the National Capital Plan and should not be approved.

At the least allow the consultation for the full development to be completed before any of these "early works" occurs.

Lesley Hodges  
30 April 2021

**From:** [Jim Windeyer](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Early Works at the Australian War Memorial  
**Date:** Friday, 23 April 2021 9:08:02 PM

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The National Capital Authority

Dear Sir

**Re the 'Early Works' application for the Australian War Memorial development.**

I have in previous correspondence expressed my opposition to the proposed development at the Australian War Memorial. That is an opposition to the product.

This is an opposition to the process. How is it justifiable that so called 'early works' be approved before the overall project is approved? If the overall project is not approved will the ANZAC Hall be rebuilt? The idea is either laughable or simply a massive contempt for proper process. The early works application should be rejected.

Yours faithfully  
JB Windeyer

**From:** [Libby Robin](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Please retain the trees!  
**Date:** Monday, 5 April 2021 5:45:54 PM

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To whom it may concern

Block 3 Section 39 Campbell AWM extension

Some of the wonderful memorials to service people all over Australia are “Avenues of Honour” and gardens of remembrance. This extension to the national war memorial is out of keeping with both the existing building and the national spirit so evident all over regional Australia. Gardens of reflection, mature trees and spaces to think are all more valuable to war veterans and their families than bricks and mortar. The AWM has a splendid dignity created by the space around it, space that is crucial to formal ceremonies and also to quiet informal ones.

This proposal is entirely contrary to the spirit of commemoration that is dispersed widely around the country and is likely to divide rather than unite the nation. Let’s honour our veterans and those who did not return with dignity and support for PTSD and the other wounds of combat. Not with a monument that is contrary to the long history of remembrance. Especially, let us not see trees cut down to achieve this.

Libby Robin, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Alison Lee](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 2:38:39 PM

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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

**From:** [Diane Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 8:32:03 PM

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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.

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Diane Johnson



**From:** [Rosalind Lambert](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 11:36:19 AM

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I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial. It should remain a Memorial NOT A THEME PARK!!

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.

Roz Lambert

Sent from my iPad



**From:** [Kevin Brann](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** War memorial  
**Date:** Friday, 30 April 2021 12:29:27 PM

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We the undersigned object to the proposed redevelopment. The current proposal will destroy a very modern, functional and beautiful building and destroy all the mature trees on the site. It is wasteful and the funding would be better deployed to supporting veterans health.

thank you

Kevin Brann, Dorothy Brann, Jean Lane



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** "early works" proposal re AWM  
**Date:** Wednesday, 28 April 2021 1:08:39 PM

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Dear National Capital Authority,

We are writing to express our concern over the 'early works' proposal concerning the redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial.

We believe the whole development is wrong, but are very upset at the destruction of the Anzac Hall and the removal of so many beautiful old trees.

The role of the NCA is to check that developments are consistent with the values of the Nation's Capital.

Our War Memorial was established as just that, a 'memorial' not a 'museum'.

The environs of the memorial are spectacular, as is Anzac Hall. It seems sacrilege to remove the building and the trees.

We ask that you consider carefully your deliberations in the light of the national significance of the building, its heritage and geography.

Thank you

Jeff and Lynette Stewart

**From:** [Jane Aitken](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Expansion of War Memorial  
**Date:** Wednesday, 28 April 2021 6:40:26 PM

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I am writing as a long standing [REDACTED] resident concerning the proposed expansion of the War Memorial. I understand it is not in the scope of the NCA to make judgements about the ridiculous waste of \$0.5 billion of taxpayers money - funds which could be far more usefully directed to assisting living veterans to address mental health issues, including suicide.

I find it in incredibly disheartening that instead of maintaining the current function of the War Memorial as a memorial and tribute to Australians who have lost their lives in war - such as my grandfather who died at Gallipoli - the proposed expansion seems to be about creating a museum of large weapons of destruction that have no place in remembrance of the dead and those whose lives have been so drastically affected by war. Let's keep the footprint of war confined to the current structures and not defer to militaristic and jingoistic interests such as weapons and arms manufacturers who want to create a Disneyland for war.

To destroy an award winning hall that has been funded by public money, has been constructed as a low lying and subtle building in keeping with the need to not impact on the profile of the War Memorial and has been in existence less than two decades is absolutely appalling! I personally do not want to see the open space and the view of the memorial impacted any further.

I am also thoroughly dismayed by the trees that are going to be destroyed in this process. It takes 80 years or more before trees can provide hollows for mammals and birds yet it is proposed to destroy so many mature native trees in the face of climate change and the ever decreasing tree cover in Canberra. There is absolutely no excuse for this environmental destruction.

I urge the NCA to stop this bloated, destructive and environmentally insensitive expansion.

Yours sincerely

Jane Aitken

**From:** [Tori and David](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** A position on the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 12:20:09 PM

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Hello team,

As a resident of Canberra I am opposed to the plans proposed for be expansion of the War Memorial. I respect and enjoy the war memorial and recognise it has a place in our nation's historical fabric, however an expansion should be based on the values of the community.

Any redevelopment plans must involve meaningful community consultation and cannot come at the expense of the natural surroundings of the memorial. Decisions should be made by Australians, not by manufacturers of materials that benefit from the glorification of war.

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

Thanks for taking the time to read my correspondence.

Tori Lamb

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ben Williamson](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 10:50:05 AM

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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.

**From:** [Mandy C](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** War Memorial - early works  
**Date:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 8:49:28 AM

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*Please* do not approve the “early works” for the war memorial – they and the overall plan are not going to improve the war memorial but wantonly destruct this solemn building. Once this work is done, there will be no turning back on plans that are still heavily contested by the voting public who are not going to roll over down and let this development happen especially for the price tag currently quoted.

I had not fully appreciated the extent of changes planned for the memorial until recently and regret not making my feelings heard earlier. I was horrified to learn that the plans included changes to the face of this building – namely the new entry and removal of the beautiful trees. In addition I watched the “fly through” of the planned changes and noticed a lot of wasted space, which hardly matches the plan to expand display space.

Lastly I ask, how many more extensions will we need? we keep fighting someone or other...so how long can we keep expanding the war memorial? Perhaps it makes sense to look to developing an “annex” elsewhere in the parliamentary triangle. The two could be connected by a shuttle.

Yours hope that commonsense might prevail before things get out of hand.

Mandy Cox

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [Robyn Boyd](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Friday, 30 April 2021 9:50:41 AM

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Dear NCA

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 not be approved and that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation. The eucalypts that surround the area at the front of the War Memorial must be preserved and the award winning Anzac Hall should not be demolished.

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

Robyn Boyd

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Peter Hutchinson](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 10:13:38 AM

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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



**From:** [Catherine Ikin](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 9:42:12 PM

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I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial. The work includes the demolition of Anzac Hall, severing the links the War Memorial has with Mt Ainslie, including the destruction of over 100 ancient eucalypts that surround the area. I am a regular walker on the slopes of Mt Ainslie and enjoy its unique flora and fauna. Since becoming a nature reserve, it has gradually been restored to its original habitat. I do not think this restoration should be destroyed.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation.

The initial purpose of the War Memorial was to remind us of the tragedy, wretchedness and horrors of war and the importance of peace. To be used as a trade fair for weapons manufacturers is to commercialise this place of reflection into a showcase that glorifies war rather than a solemn place of reflection.

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

Catherine Ikin  


**From:** [Marianne Albury-Colless](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Monday, 12 April 2021 7:21:41 PM

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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 also strongly suspect that all the previous submissions have been completely ignored.

Marianne Albury-Colless

National Capital Authority

**Re: AWM works approval application, Block 3 Section 39 Campbell, ACT**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Australian War Memorial (AWM) 'early works' approval application. As a resident of [REDACTED], a former employee of AWM and the daughter and granddaughter of veterans and cousin to men cited on the Role of Honour, I oppose this 'works approval application from Knight Frank Town Planning for early works associated with a redevelopment project at the Australian War Memorial (AWM)'.

These proposed 'early works' on Block 3 Section 39 Campbell, ACT risk undermining Australia's environment and heritage laws. 'Demolition, excavation, services relocation, temporary hoarding and tree removal' are very likely to have perverse effect on our environment and heritage laws by diminishing their authority and the investment in resources that established these laws and regulations.

Cutting down mature trees of heritage and environmental value not only diminishes the ACT, but also Australia, when we are endeavouring to establish urban forests and tree replacement on a broad scale. This is a particularly sensitive issue after the 2020 bushfires which decimated our bushlands. On a personal note, my father, a veteran of WW2, imposed caveats restricting the removal of trees whenever he sold land and I am sure would be horrified that AWM expansion would be destroying these trees.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough consideration of the heritage matters on a genuinely national scale. At present the heritage values cited below in the National Heritage List appear to have been totally overridden:

*Bean's vision of a war memorial as a place to house the objects made sacred by their direct association with the events and sacrifice of Australians at war was embodied in the establishment of the AWM. A purpose built repository, the AWM is a place where the nature of commemoration was based on an integral relationship between the building, commemorative spaces and the collections of objects and records. This is rare in Australia and uncommon in the world. The AWM has a unique and important function in collecting and displaying objects and records of Australians' experience of war. It has the potential to yield information that will contribute to Australia's social, political and military history. community consultation, and the preservation of the eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.*

*The surrounding landscape design, indigenous and exotic plantings and setting and sympathetic location of associated structures and the symmetry of land axis have maintained the importance of the views of the AWM and its dominance in the landscape. As the terminating building at the northern end of the land axis of Griffin's plan for Canberra, the AWM makes a major contribution to the principal views from both Parliament Houses and from Mount Ainslie. Major features of the original site include: the main building; the external fabric; the ceremonial landscape including indigenous and exotic plantings immediately in front of the main building; the Lone Pine tree; and displays and sculptures.*

[www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place\\_detail;place\\_id=105889](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;place_id=105889)

The very essence of these heritage values will be eroded forever if these works proceed. Further, it is absolutely extraordinary that this unique place has not be given World Heritage Listing. Instead, it appears to be treated as lightly as a place under Commonwealth Heritage listing i.e. as a play thing subject to whims of an esoteric few or those with agendas very different from the fundamental and founding spirit that inspired the establishment of this national and international icon.

I strongly endorse the National Trust (ACT) submission on these proposals <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/20191213-ltr-re-AWM.pdf> and the Australian Institute of Architects: <https://www.architecture.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Australian-Institute-of-Architects-Submission-AWM-Development-Project-Public-Works-Committee.pdf>

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives and that the consultation processed be re-examined.

Marianne Albury-Colless



30 April 2021

**From:** [Julia Nicholls](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Expansion of the Australian War Memorial  
**Date:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 8:22:41 PM

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Sirs – I urge the consultation committee NOT to permit the currently suggested “early works” of the expansion of the Australian War Memorial to go ahead.

The planned destruction of the beautiful, only 20 year old, Anzac Hall and the decimation of the grand trees around the planned extension would be an act of gross negligence, the combination of which would completely alter the peaceful ambience of the Memorial.

In permitting the extension as it stands, the Memorial would forever be changed from a place of sophisticated remembrance and hallowed peace to a museum-like building dangerously intertwined with the glorification of war.

If permission were to be given for the plans to progress unchecked then the NCA has no right to any respect from the Canberra community.

Julia Nicholls

**From:** [Carol Keil](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Tuesday, 13 April 2021 12:23:46 PM

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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. ANZAC Hall is a splendid space and we do not need to display more machines of war. I hope 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.

Regards

Carol M Keil

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

**From:** [Eric Pozza](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** AWM redevelopment  
**Date:** Monday, 26 April 2021 11:08:21 AM

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I wish to state my opposition to extensive redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial. I have these points to make.

1. The redevelopment will turn the AWM from a meditative space to a museum of war. My comment is this. I remember travelling in Europe and visiting a war museum in Spain. I found the experience distant and war-mongering and deeply unsatisfying. Alternatively, I have visited the AWM and found it touching and relevant. Sadly, that relevance is dropping. My recent visits have given me a different feeling, more war-promotional. Not least the fact that I sat in a theatre named after a major supplier of weaponry. I fear for this change and feel it undermines the sanctity of the traditional, much loved building.
2. I have visited the AWM annexe and consider it quite apt for display of large military tools and materials. This serves the purposes of a museum without undermining the sanctity of the memorial space.
3. I fear the culture war aspects of what is spoken as our "Anzackery". Large monies have been spent on WW1 commemorations. Australia overspent the next largest spending country, Germany, by many times, ~4x). Now the same government seeks to spend a similar amount on this AWM redevelopment while ever-ready to weep for Anzacs (viz. Scott Morrison) and undermine proper military processes (Dutton and awards for an SAS division). Note also the claims of free speech but the readiness to question expressions when it suits (viz. SBS broadcaster and around a recent ANZAC day).
4. The deep meaning and importance of the AWM as a historical building and as a representation of the mourning of Australians, esp after WW1/WW2. Included in this is a real questioning of war and Australia's readiness to attend others' wars. WW1 is a prime example of doing others' business where the business itself was deeply questionable. Vietnam is widely recognised that way too. there are similar others. And let us not forget the Australian colonial wars which the AWM refuses to recognise. They may not be formally recognised, but neither were several other wars by Parliament.
5. The expenditure of vast monies on changing the nature of the Memorial at the very time that other national institutions (NGA, NPG, NLA, NMA, as well as other major institutions, ABC, NAA) suffer such funding problems. I used to work at the National Library. From my time (~1990), the staffing has reduced from ~650 to 365 ( <https://www.nla.gov.au/facts-and-figures> )
6. The broad public disquiet and open disagreement with this development, the lack of real, honest, open consultation by government and the implications of such a process for our democracy. This at a time that democracy is widely seen to be suffering throughout the world and while crony capitalism is under serious discussion as a source of corruption of federal political processes (viz. climate, media and more).

I trust you will give due consideration to my concerns and hope you will decide against approval of further work on the AWM redevelopment.

Eric Pozza  






**From:** [Margaret](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Comments: Works Approval Application: Block 3, Section 39 Campbell - Australian War Memorial  
**Date:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 10:18:40 PM

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Mr Andrew Smith

Chief Planner

National Capital Authority

Treasury Building

King Edward Terrace

PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Mr Smith

**Re Works Approval Application: Block 3, Section 39 Campbell - Australian War Memorial**

I am writing to provide comments on behalf of the Campbell community. As you know, Campbell is the suburb in which the Australian War Memorial is located.

In recent days the Campbell Community Association has received comments from many residents expressing concern at the proposed removal of over one hundred established and healthy trees according to the plans presented in the Works Approval application. Community members do not understand why this is necessary and suggest that with better advice and planning, a substantial number of trees could be retained. And the trees should be retained because they are part of what is valued about the Memorial and its surrounds and how it integrates with Anzac Parade and Mt Ainslie and the Parliament House vista.

I understand many of the trees are original plantings from the time the Memorial was built.

Residents of Campbell have also commented that the removal of these trees comes hot on the heels of the removal of a large number of trees on the east side of the Memorial; the removal of trees to make way for the Treloar Street temporary car park on the west side of the Memorial at Campbell; the removal of numbers of mature trees at the Academy Close site in Campbell and which the community believed were to be retained; the neglect and subsequent removal of over 30 tall trees at the 71 Constitution Avenue site; the neglect and death of numerous trees around the perimeter of the Anzac Park East site at Campbell; the proposed removal of trees at Wendouree Drive opposite Blundell's cottage, to make way for a carpark, and the removal of trees for the DOMA Foothills development in Campbell.

In all, this amounts to hundreds of trees removed, or soon to be removed, from Campbell, in less than a year.

Residents of this suburb, throughout the drought and the C5/Hindmarsh construction, worked hard as volunteers on streets, in the bush and in parks to retain and improve the green cover that makes this suburb a good place to live. But they are now saying why bother if the vision for our suburb is high density apartments, car parks and a national heritage without the beauty, the biodiversity and the bio-thermal benefits of trees. We are very surprised at this lack of consideration given the numerous studies highlighting the benefits of trees to the mental health of everyone, including veterans.

The Campbell Community traditionally works in hand with, and supports the Australian War Memorial. For us to write with our concerns is an indication of how serious this issue is for the Community.

The Campbell Community urges the NCA not to approve the removal of the trees proposed in this works approval. If our community can work successfully with the ACT Government to protect trees in residential re-developments, surely the War Memorial and its developer can do better than what is proposed in this application?

Yours sincerely

Margaret Henderson



Campbell Community Association/  
North Canberra Community Council

Please treat this submission as an objection to the application for the so-called 'early works' as part of the redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial (AWM) at Block 3, Section 39, 20 Treloar Cres, Campbell.

### **Demolition of Anzac Hall**

Anzac Hall is just 20 years old, opened in 2001. It has won architectural awards. No doubt it cost millions to build back in the late nineties, and now it is going to be knocked down? What a waste of taxpayers' money, for such a grand building to last just 20 years. What a waste of architectural talent and the loss of a building of national significance.

The reasons given for this wanton destruction is that Anzac Hall is now too small, to make room to tell stories of modern conflicts, and to display planes and tanks, referred to in the application documents as 'large technology items'.

Have any alternatives been considered? Here are a few.

Firstly, Australia needs to stop following the US into wars that aren't ours. Then there would be no need to tell the stories of Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria et al, and who knows what future conflicts. But with the secretary of the Dept of Home Affairs (not even Defence) having just all but announced the start of World War Three, that is unlikely to happen.

Secondly, call in the experts from Coles and Woolworths to rearrange the current exhibits to make room for the post-WWII conflicts. They are always changing around the shelves in the supermarkets to fit more stock in, without needing to knock down the shop and build another one. Or ask the assistance of the curators from the National Gallery of Australia and the National Museum of Australia on how to rotate exhibitions, they do it all the time without rebuilding. If these shops and collecting institutions can manage with what they have, I don't see why the AWM can't.

Thirdly, all the AWM wants for its 'large technology items' is a bigger shed. Build a storage facility elsewhere in Canberra for the planes and the tanks, that will give both residents and interstate visitors two AWM sites to visit. There may be an empty hangar at the airport that would do for the planes.

Alternatively, locate the new shed elsewhere in Australia, I'm sure any of the state capitals would welcome it. This will have the added benefit of providing an alternative AWM for visitors who cannot -or do not want to -travel to Canberra.

On the other hand, do we really need to ogle at planes and tanks to remember the fallen? The AWM is a place of commemoration and reflection, not a museum for war machines.

Even the developer's Heritage Impact Statement recognises the demolition of Anzac Hall is a significant loss of value, has a substantial negative impact on the heritage significance of the AWM and is the most detrimental aspect of the entire development proposal. Yet it considers this loss to be reasonable.

I strongly disagree, this massive loss is not reasonable and is avoidable.

Lastly, why not spend the half a billion dollars this development is costing us (the taxpayers) on the members of the Defence Forces themselves, those for whom the AWM says it is doing all this?

For example, treat our returned servicemen and women for the PTSD they all seem to come back with. Fund preventative measures to stop them committing suicide. Assist those personnel who seem to turn into murderous monsters and commit heinous war crimes. Improve the budget and the staffing of the Dept of Veterans' Affairs to process the claims of the Defence Force members in a timely and compassionate manner, instead of making them wait years.

I am not joking; these are very serious issues that affect not only the servicemen themselves but their families and communities as well. Spending the money on the Defence Force members who have served Australia would have far greater benefit than building a big shed.

### **Extension of the Bean building**

Does the Bean building really need to be extended? This extension, the new research centre and the central energy plant will result in the loss of a large number of trees (see below) and the car park on Treloar Crescent.

There is nothing in the application documents (that I can see) to indicate the lost car park spaces will be replaced, for example with underground parking. If, as is assumed, this development is to cater for an increased number of visitors, where will they park? They won't all ride their bikes or catch the bus. Many of the visitors will be disabled or mobility-impaired and will need to drive (or be driven) to the AWM.

### **Destruction of trees**

The application documents do not specify the number of trees to be destroyed. Media reports estimate that up to 116 trees are to be chopped down. I counted about 60, after painstakingly counting the red circles on one diagram, and comparing that to the number of trees 'likely to be cut down' on another list.

Yet this count is only for trees numbered 123 and above. What happened to the 122 trees that came before? Have they already been cut down? That would total more than 180 trees destroyed (60 + 122).

How many trees will be destroyed during this development, and why is the developer refusing to provide the exact number?

From the list provided in the application, only one tree (tree 152) is to be retained. A further 12 trees are unlikely to be affected, or will require tree management (whatever that means). Just thirteen trees out of 201 will not be chopped down. This is disgraceful, and is nothing more than wanton vandalism.

Some of these trees are as old, or older, than the AWM itself, which would make them at least 80 years old. They are home to countless insects and provide food and habitat for birds. Most of the trees slated for destruction appear to be growing on the site for the Bean building extension. There is no need to destroy the trees on the western and southern sides of the AWM, as there is no building to be done there.

The application documents do not contain any proposals to replace the lost trees. There is no landscape plan for when the development is completed. Does this mean the AWM will stand in a treeless expanse of grass? This cannot happen.

Canberra was designed to be a city in the landscape. The NCA is, this year, celebrating the life and work of Marion Mahony Griffin, yet at the same time is hypocritically destroying the very ideas of plantings and landscape integrated with buildings that she and her husband espoused. This green infrastructure is essential to reduce the heat island effect, to retain the biodiversity we do have and to deal with climate change.

The city has already lost thousands of trees from its urban forest, and now the AWM is proposing to get rid of hundreds more. Northbourne Ave, over 1,000. Yarralumla dog park, 90. West Basin, 120. Curtin Horse Paddocks, thousands. Watson, 440. And countless others throughout the suburbs.

A recent study found Canberra has suffered the worst decline in green infrastructure of any Australian capital city. The ACT Government has promised to plant half a million trees under its Urban Forest Strategy, with a goal of a canopy cover of 30%.

Surely the best place to start is to stop destroying the trees we do have.





**From:** [Darryl Fallow](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Public Consultation - Block 3 Section 39 Campbell - Australian War Memorial.  
**Date:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 8:02:10 PM

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Please refer to the email below, previously sent to [info@nca.gov.au](mailto:info@nca.gov.au), as I had not located an email address for consultations regarding the Block 3 Section 39 Campbell - Australian War Memorial.

I note that “The need for the expansion or the cost of the development are not matters for the NCA to consider.” However, the removal of mature trees is a separate matter particularly towards the front of the Memorial are something that the NCA should consider based on heritage value, even though Minister Ley has approved the plan based on heritage grounds. However it is not clear the grounds on which the Minister based her decision with respect to heritage issues.

The trees may not have any significance in terms of Threatened Flora or Threatened ecological communities under the EPBC Act. However, I note that The Australian War Memorial appears on the Commonwealth Heritage List as part of the EPBC Act lists. The removal of mature trees will completely change the look of the front area of the War Memorial and, as a Heritage Listed Place, the removal of these trees should be taken into consideration.

A question that should be asked is “Is it necessary for the trees to be removed and if so on what grounds? Do ALL of the trees need to be removed? It would seem desirable that at least some of these trees should be retained. While I understand it is the intention to replant the trees, they will take a significant time to grow. Consequently, as many trees as possible should be retained. It may be possible to retain at least a majority of the trees, which replacing any that absolutely need to be removed.

For your serious consideration, together with other submissions. It would be a travesty if the National Capital Authority should act as a rubber stamp in the approval process. My personal view is that the development should not proceed at all, but I acknowledge, unfortunately, that that seems highly unlikely.

I would appreciate acknowledgement of receipt of this submission.

Yours sincerely

Darryl Fallow  


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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Darryl Fallow   
**Subject:** Public Consultation - Trees at Australian War Memorial



**Date:** 29 April 2021 at 2:19:28 pm AEST

**To:** [info@nca.gov.au](mailto:info@nca.gov.au)

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand that The Australian War Memorial is planning to remove ~100 mature trees at The Australian War Memorial. Many of these are at / near the front of the Memorial.

I would like the National Capital Authority to use its 'Authority' to prevent the removal of these mature trees. What is being proposed is scandalous. I understand that the trees may be removed before receiving final approval from the Authority. New trees will take a significant period of time to be established.

I would go further, the redevelopment of the War Memorial is scandalous, particularly at the estimated cost of \$0.5 billion. The War Memorial is a 'memorial' and should not be seen as a 'museum to war'. While this may not be an issue for the Authority, the money would be better spent elsewhere.

Why do the trees need to be removed?? Put bluntly - leave the trees and scrap the extension. The Authority should not in my opinion allow this project to proceed. Please listen to the objections being raised and make a fair and independent assessment.

See: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7199244/these-trees-have-seen-more-anzac-days-than-any-of-us-fight-to-save-wwii-era-trees/>

Yours sincerely

Darryl Fallow

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [A Chorus of Women](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Australian War Memorial (Block 3 Section 39 Campbell) - proposed redevelopment and "early works" should not proceed  
**Date:** Sunday, 2 May 2021 8:35:14 PM

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## To National Capital Authority

As members of A Chorus of Women and citizens of Canberra, we plead with the National Capital Authority not to give approval to the proposed expansion of the Australian War Memorial and therefore to 'the early works'.

The Australian War Memorial was built and has remained for nearly eighty years a symbol of the tragic loss of people's lives in many wars. It has become a place almost of pilgrimage where we can remember those who have taken part in these wars and honour those who have sacrificed much in the hope of eventually achieving peace. The Hall of Memories and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier stand at the heart of the Memorial, a sacred place to mourn and to perhaps face terrible trauma. Many children come to the Memorial to learn about the harsh realities of war, and to ask questions about why Australia has been part of so many wars in its history. We hope they learn about the need for tolerance and about ways to achieve peace including through peacekeeping, an important part of Australia's military expenditure.

However, we believe the proposed extensions to the AWM would make a profound change to its nature. The proposed extensions to the AWM would make it more a military museum than a war memorial because they are intended to give more space to the display of military hardware and, thus, to the companies that produce it. Rather than giving war veterans more space to tell their stories, we, and many critics of the proposed extensions, believe that they would make the AWM more of a theme park displaying 'war toys' than a genuine memorial. Further, the proposed extensions would destroy more than a hundred mature trees which provide a beautiful park-like environment that encourages reflection and helps to preserve coolness in an increasingly hot climate. We understand that many of these trees were planted around the time of the opening of the Memorial in 1941, which makes their potential removal particularly tragic.

As we all know, the Australian War Memorial stands in a crucial site on the parliamentary axis, and as part of the Griffin Plan. It faces the Australian Parliament across Lake Burley Griffin as a constant reminder to our representatives of their responsibilities to preserve peace in Australia and the World. We believe that the half billion dollars which the Parliament has voted to spend on the extensions could be much better spent, for example on veterans' health, especially in the face of rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among veterans, their high rates of suicide and of domestic violence in some veterans' families.

We therefore, along with many other citizens, strongly appeal to the National Capital Authority not to give approval to the proposed extension and profound changes to the nature of the Australian War Memorial. We appeal to you to make a strong decision now so that the 'early works' can be stopped before it is too late to act.

Regards

Helen Pilkinton

for A Chorus of Women

[www.chorusofwomen.org](http://www.chorusofwomen.org)

**From:** [Lauren Sette](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 11:01:29 AM

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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,  
Lauren Sette

**From:** [John Howard](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** War Memorial  
**Date:** Saturday, 1 May 2021 9:32:37 AM

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Dear sir or madam,

I oppose the demolition of Anzac Hall.

I oppose the destruction of the mature trees surrounding the War Memorial.

I oppose moving exhibits from Mitchell to Campbell.

Even as I write, a new light rail stop is being built 50 metres from the Mitchell facility. Why wouldn't the AWM utilise it to get visitors to that facility rather than the other way around?

Yours sincerely,  
John Howard

**From:** [Lynne](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop filling the war memorial with war toys  
**Date:** Wednesday, 28 April 2021 8:10:40 AM

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This is my submission to the consultative process.

I do not support the demolition of the annex

I do not want trees demolished.

I do not want big international corporations being showcased in an expanded war memorial.

It takes a week to see the correct collection as is we do not need more war toys.

The memorial will lose its quiet reflective status among the gum trees. Stop this travesty.

Cheers

Lynne Bliss



**From:** [Jill & Craig](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Comments re: Block 3 Section 39 Campbell - Australian War Memorial  
**Date:** Friday, 30 April 2021 10:02:29 AM

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Dear National Capital Authority

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the works approval application connected with the redevelopment at the Australian War Memorial.

The desecration that is envisaged for the Memorial needs to be viewed not just in a planning context but in the overall arc of what is happening in society. If it proceeds, this project will reinforce the trajectory that has seen all things militaristic take on a cult-like, frenetic quality in Australia – from flag-draped nationalism to the “on water matters” of Operation Sovereign Borders to the go-to pool for selecting Governors-General. This feverish desire to turn the Memorial into some sort of public entertainment venue is completely at odds with both the solemnity of the current precinct and Charles Bean’s view that war should not be glorified.

The massive expenditure of public funds to butcher a much-loved public institution is an atrocity. The National Capital Authority plays a crucial role in maintaining or enhancing the character of our National Capital. To do this, it is essential that the NCA take a long view when considering the impact of individual proposals. I can’t see how it would be possible for the NCA to approve what will constitute half a billion dollars’ worth of works at the Memorial while at the same time overseeing the steep decline in utility that is happening at our other cultural institutions. Art spaces have been closed, exhibitions have been curtailed, the archival of records is under threat, and jobs have been lost. What point will there be to visiting Canberra if looking at a tank or a plane subsumes all the other stories that our capital should tell?

I implore the NCA to conduct a thorough consultation process with the Australian population before any decision on further works at the Memorial is made. The National Capital belongs to all Australians and the health and vibrancy of ALL of our institutions must be the NCA’s prime consideration.

Not only do I strongly oppose the early works that will include the loss of many trees at the Memorial, I in no way support any aspect of the vandalism that will see the demolition of ANZAC Hall. The cost and scope of this redevelopment is both obscene and unnecessary.

Your sincerely

Jill Peterson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** objection to Australian War Memorial redevelopment proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 10:42:55 PM

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I wish to register my objection to the Australian War Memorial redevelopment proposal.

I object on the grounds that:

- The Australian War Memorial is on the National Heritage listed. According to the listing, “National Heritage listing for the Australian War Memorial and the Memorial Parade ensures the spirit of these of places, their embodiment of the Australian experience of war and their iconic role as national places of commemoration are nationally recognized and protected under national environment law.” How does the proposed redevelopment, which completely overwhelms the original plan for the Australian War Memorial, meet the requirement for protection of the Australian War Memorial under national environment law?
- National Heritage Listing of Anzac Parade refers to “the red gravel and the mixed plantings of Australian blue gums and New Zealand Hebe species provide a landscape setting that demonstrates the bond between Australia and New Zealand forged in war.” In addition to the tress of Anzac Parade, the Australian War Memorial itself has trees of historic value. How is the wanton destruction of over 100 healthy trees, many of which were planted at the Australian War Memorial’s opening in 1941, consistent with the concept of National Heritage Listing? How do we ever have anything of heritage value when we are so bent on destroying our built and environmental past?
- How is a violation of National Heritage Listing compatible with upholding the National Capital Plan? Surely the National Capital Plan encompasses, values and protects sites of National Heritage, yet the scale of the proposal seeks to completely transform the original concept of the Australian War Memorial such that its original spirit and intent – the promotion of remembrance and peace through quiet and humble respect of those who have made sacrifices for Australia – is destroyed by a vulgar monstrosity which dwarfs the original building and diminishes the grounds to showcase the machinery of war.
- The Australian War Memorial is meant to be a memorial to our heritage. How ironic it would be for the heritage of the memorial itself to be desecrated. What does that say about Australian “values”, history and traditions? It says that they are temporary and superficial, not permanent and deeply held, and able to be swept away by the decisions of a few who purport to represent the many but really represent themselves and each other.
- The many are not represented because the “consultation” process has been perfunctory and designed to exclude contrary views. There is every sense that the decisions have been made long ago, and that the consultation process is a charade, simply to say that the box has been ticked.
- The charade is borne out by the euphemistically labelled “early works” which really means the irrevocable destruction of the grounds, trees and Anzac Hall. “Early works” are designed to bulldoze the project through, literally. Both proponents and objectors are



very clear on this point.

- The scale and significance of the proposal warrants extension of the 30 April deadline so that more Australians are aware of the proposal and its consequences, and able to have their say before “early works” commence.

Additionally, I object to:

- The waste of an estimated \$500 million plus (for surely there will be delays and cost overruns) on vandalising our built and environmental heritage, at a time when there are so many more important priorities for our country. What are the more cost effective alternatives to remembering our veterans and why are they being rejected in favour of extravagant housing for the machinery of war? This is not to say that war relics are not important to our history, but preserving and showcasing them is a different proposition too easily confused with remembering our veterans.
- The absolutely obscene waste of destroying Anzac Hall, built at great taxpayer expense and opened only twenty years ago. Many of our veterans knew hardship all too well and waste was anathema to those generations. What would they think of this extravagance and waste?
- The inequitable distribution of funding to protect our national heritage. Why is funding being wasted on a destructive project when Australia’s history is disappearing for want of funding to the National Archives of Australia?

What will the National Capital Planning Authority do? Will you be the independent, objective and courageous voice of reason and decency and protect the National Capital Plan and our National Heritage, or will you rubber stamp the proposal and be party to the irrevocable abuse of one of our most beloved national institutions?

I ask that you stand up for what is right for our national heritage and the heritage of Canberra and reject the proposal in favour of a more sympathetic and cost-effective solution which prioritises remembrance of our veterans, rather than submitting to this vulgar, wasteful shrine to the arrogance, power and recklessness of a few.

Thank you

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(Personal details not for publication.)

**From:** [Peter Fuller](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to NCA: reject proposed redevelopment at the Australian War Memorial  
**Date:** Friday, 30 April 2021 3:49:11 PM

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I write to urge the National Capital Authority **not** to approve the projected destruction of Anzac Hall and related plans to replace it with a larger exhibition area. There are several reasons why this project, the Australian War Memorial Development Project, should be rejected.

1. It would destroy the heritage values of the Australian War Memorial site, of Anzac Parade, and the long vista across Lake Burley Griffin. The AWM is the northern focal point of the vista that extends from the new Parliament House. It has become – to call on an over-used word – an iconic panorama, one that helps to define Canberra in the Australian public mind. The proposed redevelopment would disfigure this vista. Although placed behind the memorial building, the new, larger structure would loom behind the memorial in a way that would distract from the present open and balanced cityscape.
2. It would also destroy heritage values by removing a large number of mature trees from around the memorial. The trees on the memorial site are part of a continuous array of long-established trees that begins on Mount Ainslie and proceeds down Anzac Parade, creating a complete and appealing urban landscape that connects the parliamentary triangle to the surrounding bushland. Clearing the site will lay waste to the crucial central element of this vista.
3. The proposal is the thin end of the wedge. It stems from continuing confusion over whether the Australian War Memorial is (as its name implies) a place of remembrance, or whether, by contrast, it is a war museum, an institution where relics of Australia's involvement in foreign wars can be displayed. While the AWM has long had displays to explain events in Australia's military history – the World War I dioramas are an example – in recent decades there has been a policy to exhibit large items of left-over military equipment (tanks, 5-inch gun turrets, aircraft) at the site. These items might be worthy of display, but exhibition space at and around the AWM cannot be expanded endlessly. If the development project is given approval, we can be quite sure that further demands for more exhibition space will follow, which will lead to a further erosion of heritage values. If Australia wishes to have a war museum, it would be better to have something purpose-built, perhaps building on the existing repository at Mitchell.
4. The redevelopment project would detract from the Australian War Memorial as a place of reflection and remembrance – a critical element in Australian's national heritage. The commemorative area, with its pool and panels recording the names of those who fought and died, is a place which allows Australians to remember and pay tribute to those who have served. Extending the amount of old military equipment on display would turn the memorial site into a kind of Disneyland for tourists. It would cheapen and erode the AWM's heritage values.
5. Finally, though it is outside the Authority's purview, it should be noted that the redevelopment would be a disgraceful misuse of public funds. The existing, award-winning

Anzac Hall is only two decades old, and structurally sound. With so many other demands on government finance, it is extraordinary that the taxpayer should be asked to outlay \$500,000 to demolish a perfectly good building and replace it with something that would serve essentially the same function. In short, the proposal would be a waste of money.

In summary, I believe the Authority would be performing a national service by rejecting the proposed redevelopment.

Peter Fuller,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [M. Kearney](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Saturday, 10 April 2021 12:43:03 PM

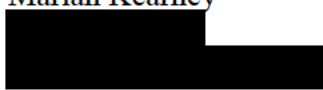
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I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

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.

Regards  
Marian Kearney



**From:** [Angela Barnes](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Please protect the Australian War Memorial  
**Date:** Friday, 23 April 2021 2:33:26 PM

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Dear NCS,

Please oppose the proposed 'early works' towards the 'expansion' (destruction) of the Australian War Memorial.

The expansion is unnecessary, and the early works will result in the destruction of Anzac Hall, as well as 100 mature trees. This will render any further considerations made by the NCS void, as it will be too late.

Please do not allow this destruction and say no to any early works going ahead.

Sincerely,  
Angela Barnes

**From:** [Alison Broinowski](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Demolition work  
**Date:** Sunday, 25 April 2021 4:33:16 PM

---

I wish to record my strong objection to the way the AWM is proceeding with 'preliminary' onsite work which is in fact irreversible and includes acts of vandalism on properties that belong to the Australian people. It may have escaped your notice that conspiring to damage Commonwealth property is included in new laws against terrorism. It is certainly unlawful for you to disregard or pre-empt the decision of the National Capital Authority. The AWM appears to have deliberately conspired to do this, to have deceived the public about its intentions, and to have engaged in fake 'consultations' about decisions on which it is already acting.

All this sets a bad precedent for others wishing to get around the law and commit improper conduct in public office. The vandalism of AWM will be a shameful memorial to this process.

Alison Broinowski



**From:** [Jillian Farrer](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 5:14:08 PM

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I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works that include the destruction of over 100 trees proposed at the War Memorial.

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

The destruction of the trees will visually and environmentally sever the connection of the Memorial to Mt Ainslie and to the trees on Anzac Parade, which at present creates a wild life corridor. Important habitat will be tragically lost and instead of the Memorial nestling into the slopes of Mt Ainslie, it will be a dominant eyesore.

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

Yours sincerely  
Jillian Farrer

**From:** [gwenyth75](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Friday, 9 April 2021 3:16:17 PM

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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.

On Wednesday I took part in tying ribbons around some of the gum trees on each side of the War Memorial parade ground. Some of those trees are 80 years old and I consider it criminal to remove them for extentions that most people consider unnecessary and an irresponsible use of tax payers money.

Your sincerely

Gwenyth Bray

Sent from my Galaxy



**From:** [Chris Windsor](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** AWM Expansion  
**Date:** Wednesday, 28 April 2021 8:01:01 AM

---

Dear Ms Barnes  
CEO, NCA

Please do not approve the expansion of the Australian War Memorial

I believe that it is a privately promoted publicly funded outrageous proposal which would forever alter the purpose, gravitas, and meaning of the War Memorial and would be a gross insult to the past and present serving personnel.

My father was young naval officer who among many other experiences survived the sinking of the HMAS Canberra. As a family we moved to Canberra as part of the overall Defence move from Melbourne in 1962. The War memorial was the first place we took visitors and all were in awe of its beauty and serenity, highlighting the human tragedy of war. My Dad died in 2009 and he would be horrified at the changes proposed.

I have been lucky to have travelled extensively with my husband who as both a competitor and administrator has been and remains involved in International Sports. We have had many guests from different countries come to visit and we have always taken them to the War Memorial. Our friends have been amazed, again at the beauty, subtlety and the honouring of people lost to war. A human side rather than a boastful display of war mongering.

We have ourselves visited war museums in some other countries and have been distressed at the very different environment in some of them which have an emphasis on conquering and the (so-called) glory of war.

Please do not let this gross, insensitive, inappropriate and expensive expansion proceed, it is especially horrendous given the problem Veterans are experiencing and the lack of funding to the public service to provide support and assistance to suffering returned personnel.

Yours faithfully

Christine Windsor

Chris Windsor



**From:** [Kevin Dunshea](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** The Australian War Memorial  
**Date:** Sunday, 4 April 2021 3:44:14 PM

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The Australian War Memorial is a unique and remarkable entity which Australians by and large are greatly proud of. I grew up in Canberra and am very fond of the way it commemorates the sacrifices of our armed forces and shows a lot of what it was like for those in war at home and overseas.

Over time it has managed to strike a good balance between military achievement and the often inspiring weaponry involved against the suffering, waste and horror of war. I actually believe it was instituted largely to try and prevent war ever breaking out again. I am actually horrified by the prospect of it now becoming a 'theme park' tourist attraction, which is where I see this redevelopment heading. We risk losing the spiritual heart of the Memorial with over expansion - more is not always better.

My fear is that the large sums of money spent will diminish what is essentially the best of this treasure and achieve little less than grandiloquent vandalism.

Will the NCA please stand up and stop political meddling with something so important to the spirit of our nation.

"If it aint broke then don't fix it"

Kevin Dunshea



**From:** [Alison Clugston Cornes](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** AWM planning  
**Date:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 7:54:15 AM

---

Dear NCA team

I strongly oppose the initial preparation works for the AWM redevelopment currently under consideration. Even these initial works will desecrate the nature of the Memorial. I also strongly oppose the obscene cost of the total project and destruction of this important National place of reflection.

Please reject this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Alison Clugston Cornes

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A long black rectangular redaction box covering contact information.

**From:** [Bernadette](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 12:51:31 PM

---

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:** [J.K](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Wednesday, 14 April 2021 5:43:11 PM

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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.

Sincerely  
Dr J Kennedy

**From:** [Margot Keast](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 10:09:25 AM

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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.

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 also have grave concerns about the negative effects the proposed redevelopment will have. Our War Memorial as it stands is a fitting memorial to those lost at war but it should never become a place for people who get excited by guns and death.

Sincerely  
Margot Keast

**From:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** FW: Expansion of WMA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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**From:** Muriel Brookfield  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 4:54 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Expansion of WMA

### **Submission on re-development of WMA**

I wish to register dissent to what appears to be the final proposed re-development to the WMA to take place almost immediately in this year 2021. The NCA have now shut their email site relevant to the early work on the site. Does this mean they are now going ahead? This would leave the bulk of the Australian public unaware as the full report on the AWM plan only became available on the internet just over one month ago. It has not been widely advertised and has not given the public sufficient time to catch up with its implications.

I write as a 94 year old Australian citizen deeply concerned that this country's culture should be accurately presented both here and globally. To that end I'll itemise some of my concerns.

1. Australians prefer peace to war; they honour the dead but do not seek repetitious showing of weapons of war at their shrines. The present War Memorial is a splendid shrine to the fallen and is globally recognised. Its message is clear. There is no need to keep showing new weapons of war on site every few years in what one submission describes as an 'apparent vision of infinite expansion'. The LTOs (Large Technical Objects) such as the several aircraft and armoured vehicles more recently collected are best exhibited elsewhere.
2. What is lacking is acknowledgement of the human cost of loss to families and to surviving veterans and to the nation generally. With the almost limitless capacity of modern digital storage all human stories and more could be held in the existing Anzac Hall and made accessible in innovative ways. No valuable personal data need be lost and a valuable educational tool would be gained. Suitable reflection areas would be necessary.
3. The availability of this new resource should be sign-posted in the AWM. This could accompany a better-curated overhaul of some parts of the Main shrine.
4. All of this is achievable and without costing the over- half -a- million dollars required in the present suggested upgrade. Nor would there be a 9-year wait for completion.
5. No trees need be sacrificed and the calming environmental surrounds would remain, as also the magnificent vista across this heart of Canberra and Lake Burley Griffin to the seat of Government. There would be no interference of solid building blocks on the main site.
6. It would be unwise to ignore that there will be effects of the current hideous pandemic and future pandemics. And of the threatened world climate disaster. Most Australians recognise there will have to be a reckoning.

Over to you.

Muriel Brookfield  
[REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Submission - Block 3 Section 39 Campbell - Australian War Memorial  
**Date:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 10:58:56 PM

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Dear WA Consulting

Australian War Memorial Expansion

I wish to register my objection to the proposed plans to expand the Australian War Memorial. I have viewed the proposed early works available online. I am totally opposed to the wholesale removal of trees around the site. When I have attended services at the Memorial, particularly at dawn, I have gloried in the chorus of bird calls that accompany the changing light. Without the large trees, there will be no cockatoos, kookaburras or magpies to remind me that I am standing in a very special part of Australia.

From my analysis of the plans, it seems that the trees marked for removal along Treloar Crescent are outside the site boundary. They should not be removed. The trees at the front appear to be in danger of removal to provide entrances for VIP vehicles and possibly a larger parade ground. In my opinion this is totally unnecessary and should be reviewed to ensure the existing trees remain.

My husband is a Vietnam veteran. I have always considered the Memorial to be a place of reflection where I remember the generations of Australians who have given their lives for this country. The demolition of the award winning Anzac Hall building should not be approved. I am not in favour of it becoming a bigger and better war museum. War machinery should be housed separately, especially the huge aircraft, tanks and weapons. Displaying these items in what I consider to be Australia's war cemetery is totally inappropriate.

Yours sincerely  
Moir Castle

**From:** [John G](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Sunday, 11 April 2021 7:31:20 PM

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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.

**From:** [Brendon Kelson](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** AWM Redevelopment  
**Date:** Wednesday, 28 April 2021 10:27:21 PM

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By email of 19 March, 2021, WorksApproval informed me, inter alia, that “ the need for the [AWM] expansion or the cost of the development are not for the NCA to reconsider”.

The email went on to say, "The NCA will assess this work approval application and determine the consistency of the works with the National Capital Plan (the Plan). **The Plan focuses on planning matters and the quality of design. These policies ensure that Canberra is a city worthy of its status as the national capital**" (my emphasis).


Over more than two years the Australian Institute of Architects, Australian and overseas museum professionals - including the institution's two long-experienced previous directors - leading Australian historians, heritage authorities and, most recently the Government's own National Heritage Council, have argued against this development on cost, need **and** design. **Next to the Parliament, the Memorial is the capital's most historic and iconic symbol of what the nation stands for.**

The entombment of the Unknown Australian Soldier in 1993 brought to completion Charles Bean's vision of a memorial to those who had died in the Great War and, by extension, all who have died in the nation's wars since. From that point on the Memorial took on a sacred status in the eyes of many and, if there were ever any doubt, the unquestionable centre of commemoration and reflection on the costs of war to Australia and its people. It stands beside Westminster Abbey and the Unknown Warrior, The Arc de Triomphe and the unknown poilu, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, New Zealand's Unknown Warrior, other memorials to the unknowns and the many millions, on all sides, who have perished in war.

The proposed redevelopment strikes at the very heart of everything the Memorial has stood for from its inception on the Western Front in 1916, to its opening in 1941, to 1993 and up to the present. The AWM's own publications state it is not a “general museum portraying war, much less one glorifying it”. On what justifiable grounds should the Memorial be turned on its head into a showcase for massive military hardware? It is not necessary to tell the stories of recent conflicts and the international quality Mitchell complex was established as long ago as 1993 for just such large military hardware.

The Memorial has throughout its history endeavoured to point to the costs and evils of war. Veterans of WWI and II used to repeat over and over “never again”. Must that now give way to the showy display of military hardware, serving no commemorative function, backed as often as not by the manufacturers of weapons of war and destruction? How does this redevelopment, overturning all the Memorial has stood for in Australian values and life, square with policies to ensure "**Canberra is a city worthy of its status as the national capital**"?

The NCA's task is not an easy one, but if it fails to halt this project it will be a national tragedy and those responsible should hang their heads in collective shame.

Brendon Kelson  


(May I refer you to the Canberra Times, Wednesday April 28, 2021, pp18 and19 for the

opinion piece from Tim Hollo: *AWM we choose says much of us.*)

**From:** [Dr Mary Edmunds](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** War Memorial "early works"  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 10:54:00 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I lived in Canberra for fifty years. For the first twenty or so, I refused to visit the War Memorial because I thought that it would glorify war. When I finally agreed to go, I found I had been mistaken. The War Memorial is not only a memorial to those who have fought and died in wars, as set out in its Service Charter: **The Australian War Memorial is committed to commemorating in a fitting and dignified fashion the sacrifice of Australians who have died in war or on operational service and those who have served our nation in times of conflict.**

It also offers an attempt to understand war and is therefore an invitation to peace. These should remain its key messages. The overall extension project, not yet approved by the NCA, is completely out of kilter with the responsibility of commemoration 'in a fitting and dignified fashion'.

The current proposed 'early works' are of a scale that pre-empt the Works Approval and therefore commit the NCA, and the Memorial, to what will in effect be a glorification of war. I doubt that any of those with immediate experience of the horrors of war would want that. At least the 'early works' should not go ahead without that final approval. And one would hope that that approval will not be given.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Edmunds

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Dr Mary Edmunds](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Supplementary submission on proposed "early works" for the War Memorial  
**Date:** Friday, 30 April 2021 4:33:16 PM

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Further to my submission of Tuesday April 27, I would make one further point: the focus of the War Memorial as it currently is is on people, not on objects, and that is as it should be and what makes it a memorial. The proposed expansion will shift that focus to objects, in this case, weapons, and turn it into a museum of war. That will be a travesty of what it stands for and the people whom it was built to honour. It also sends a very wrong message to newer generations. The expansion, and most certainly the 'early works' should not go ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Edmunds

[Redacted signature block]

**From:** [Brittany SHAND](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Cc:** [Brittany Shand](#)  
**Subject:** Block 3 Section 39 Campbell - Australian War Memorial [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 12:26:26 PM

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**UNOFFICIAL**

Good afternoon,

I would like to express my protest in the 116 trees that will be sacrificed as part of this development.

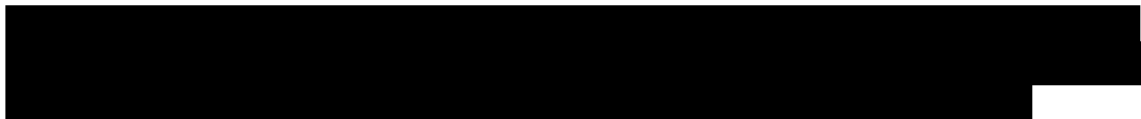
The plan should be revised so that the amount of trees affected is **significantly** reduced.

Kind regards,

Brittany Shand



**UNOFFICIAL**



**From:** [Majella Kesby](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed early works - AWM  
**Date:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 5:14:13 PM

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I strongly object to any preparatory work being carried out on the Australian War Memorial site.

I also strongly object to the proposed expansion of the Australian War Memorial. I find that there are far too many exhibits already to be able to truly reflect upon the consequences of each of the wars that Australian soldiers have been sent to, when visiting. The office should concentrate on consolidating some of the current displays to allow room for exhibits about more recent engagements.

Perhaps the Federal Government could look at funding War Museum further down the track. Maybe after they can adequately fund current federal institutions.

regards,  
Majella Kesby



**From:** [Bill Book](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed expansion of the AWM  
**Date:** Wednesday, 28 April 2021 8:58:35 PM

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The proposed expansion of the War Memorial is quite quite distressing as such an expansion runs contrary to the values espoused as our own. The objections to such an expansion are mixed as one would expect but the Memorial as it is, sits on consecrated ground. The millions of visitors each year whether they are Australians or international guests approach with respect, a sense of awe and reverence. The wars memorialised were horrors of another century and were special each in their own way. To include the wars we have been involved in this century threatens to turn the memorial into an enterprise based on the glorification of war. Afghanistan and Iraq are significantly different as we were the invaders for whatever good or weak reasons and that throws a different light on the memorial.

There are numerous sites that could be identified around the lake or elsewhere in the Territory that would be better suited for a memorial to those modern servicemen and women who have made sacrifices and given their lives under the Australian flag. However, to permit the expansion proposed, to destroy the approach and ethos of the Memorial with grandeur and crassness runs against the grain. A bigger 'theme park' approach would be a travesty; when it comes to developments, bigger is not often better.

W Book



**From:** [Cathy Schmidli](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Submission regarding War memorial "Development"  
**Date:** Friday, 30 April 2021 3:41:43 PM

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I wish to make a submission regarding the proposed changes at the war memorial, including the so called early early works approval. I note from the NCA website that submissions are closed, and also that they close at the close of business today. As I write this is 3.05pm on 30th April 2021. This seems an early hour for business to be closed. No doubt you are all busy but I write in hope that my submission will be allowed. 5 pm is the close of business for most of us, and I do hope that the fact that submissions have according to the website closed somewhat earlier is not to avoid the many last-minute submissions that may be made thereby declaring them irrelevant..

I hope very much that the so called "early works" will not be approved. Given that as I understand it the development of the war memorial including the demolishing of Anzac Hall has not yet been approved the approval of the early works, should it occur, would imply a lack of due process and a mockery of public consultation implying a fait accompli. No doubt this would please some with vested interests such as arms manufacturers. It is not transparent nor how things should proceed in a democratic society.

I believe this development is completely inappropriate. The purpose of the war memorial has been to commemorate our veterans and their sacrifices, and those of their families, and to reflect on the horrors of war. I fear that expanding the space in order to accommodate war machinery such as submarines and planes is detracting from the human stories. If it is deemed necessary to display military hardware (which in my view it certainly is not) then a museum for this purpose should be constructed elsewhere, maybe in regional Australia. The memorial should not be a place to glorify war, or a recruitment tool for the defence forces. War is not to be sanitized but to be prevented and I do not understand how the proposed development will do this.

Demolishing the Anzac Hall is wasteful ,unnecessary and an insult to those who were responsible for and contributed to its construction. In these days of climate change we should be using the resources that we have. The architects reporting on the heritage aspects note that the demolition is a negative part of the project. It is indeed. And I am very disappointed that it is proposed that so many mature trees will be cut down. This is bad for the environment, wildlife and aesthetics.

I hope the NCA will not be a rubber stamp to this ill conceived project, but will show it has some balance and oppose it.

I am a Canberra resident, I have visited the war memorial on a number of occasions but am unlikely to do again should these changes go ahead. I know many many other people in Canberra share my opposition to the proposals.

Catherine Schmidli



**From:** [Matt Bennett](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** AWM redevelopment  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 9:45:55 AM

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Good morning

I wish to register my objection to the proposed works to be undertaken around the AWM. There does not appear to be sufficient merit in the proposal to allow it to proceed.

The destruction of Anzac Hall is not consistent with the original goal of the AWM and the removal of other infrastructure and flora will reduce the visual and aesthetic impact of the Memorial in its distinct location.

The excessive cost of this overall project is difficult to justify when other more deserving projects are desperate for cash.

I would request that the relevant authorities reconsider the aim of this work with greater consideration given to the community and social gains from a more wise use of public and private funds.

Thank you  
Matt Bennett

Submission to the National Capital Authority

Australian War Memorial - Early Works  
Application for Works Approval - B3 S39 Campbell - 546049.03<sup>1</sup>

This submission records my objection to the application from Knight Frank for NCA approval to undertake early works in preparation for a proposed major redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial ([Planning Report 5.pdf \(nca.gov.au\)](#)).

The NCA has yet to receive an application for the major works required to redevelop the site. The current application for early works does not make a case for why these works should proceed in advance of the NCA's receipt and consideration of the application for the major redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial. Indeed, the case for early works seems entirely based on a reprise of the current plans and the presumption that the NCA's approval for the full redevelopment proposal is a foregone conclusion.


The early works proposed will result in extensive destruction of existing built and landscape assets that will be impossible to restore irrespective of whether or not the proposed redevelopment is consistent with the National Capital Plan. Approval of the current application will necessarily therefore predispose the NCA to approving the current plan for the redevelopment of the site with only minor amendments, if any, being feasible. In this way, approval of the application for early works, will function as a 'back door' to approval for the whole redevelopment.

Having read the documentation carefully, I also wish to flag that there are some issues with the storage and maintenance of large, albeit decommissioned, mechanical and industrial objects which would appear to be incompatible with the land use principles listed for the designated precinct at Section 4.8 in the National Capital Plan. The current redevelopment documentation does not address these issues. I will elaborate on these issues in a further submission when the NCA is in a position to invite comment on a more comprehensive development application for the major works associated with the AWM redevelopment.

In the meantime, I urge the NCA to withhold approval for the AWM early works application from Frank Knight.

Please contact me if you have any queries about this submission.

Dr Martha Kinsman



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<sup>1</sup> NCA reference: [Block 3 Section 39 Campbell - Australian War Memorial | National Capital Authority \(nca.gov.au\)](#).

**From:** [Kevin O'Brien](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Misuse of Public Money  
**Date:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 8:40:09 PM

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I would like to express my disgust at the proposed \$498 million “rebuild” of the Australian War Memorial. In today’s society there are far greater benefits to be provided by such an enormous amount of money to be wasted on a knock down rebuild of such an iconic building. To highlight how better to allocate the largess one needs to look no further than the horrific oversight of the Aged Care Homes debacle during the pandemic and also the deliberate attempts to reduce the NDIS budget. In both cases, money such as the \$498 would provide for a far greater contribution to the lives of the senior and disabled people in these sectors than the glorification of the Brendan Nelson memorial. The members of both parties Liberal and Labour need to be ashamed that they have provided support to this proposal and should re-examine their priorities in that the waste of such money is surely an example of their lack of foresight in what is important to the population of this country.

The claim by Mr Nelson that it was supported by the Australian community is similar to the poll that gifted West Papua to Indonesia – an utter nonsense.

I suggest that this project should be stopped and the political partisanship demonstrated by the government for one of their failed leaders cease.

Kevin O’Brien  
Canberra

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Australian War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Friday, 30 April 2021 3:41:03 PM

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Dear NCA

I am writing to express my opposition to the so-called 'early works' proposed at the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

The early works should not go ahead before thorough community consultation.

The AWM has misled the public in its public consultation process by labelling this, in fact significant redevelopment, as 'early works'. Once it is done there is no going back from doing the rest.

The redevelopment proposals exceed the remit of the AWM in the sense that they do not fit with the AWM's legislation. They provide space to house large items of technology used in war and elsewhere, like Blackhawk helicopters, that are not needed to do what the AWM is required to do, that is, to commemorate those who have died on, or as a result of, active service. The AWM needs to be called out on this, and the poor consultation process thus far doesn't seem to allow anyone to be called to account on that either. Further the NCA's National Capital Plan is there to make sure that there is a resonance in the capital's layout, and the institutions that are there, with values accepted by Australians and reflecting Australia. However, it seems that the display of large items of technology used in war is what the AWM is changing to become. These items are mostly 'wow' factor items and are not about commemoration and honouring service. They are tourist drawcards and reflect global values of commercialisation and investment in war technology, not values specific to Australians or which most Australians would be proud to support.

The heritage approval given to the AWM was against the advice of the Australian Heritage Council.

Public Works Committee (PWC) approval was given despite well over the majority of submissions to it (77) being against the redevelopment.

Many eminent Australians oppose this redevelopment and those in favour are few.

The AWM has misrepresented community support for the redevelopment using results from a survey in February that asked them only asked people what type of things they would like to see in the AWM, not about their support specifically for the redevelopment.

There is an obscene amount of money (a bit less than \$500 million) being spent on the AWM for this redevelopment, including to demolish the existing ANZAC Hall, despite it having had only about 20 years of life. Meanwhile other cultural institutions in the Parliamentary Triangle are receiving a lot less attention in terms of any kind of 'works'. If the NCA is there to ensure that the Parliamentary Triangle is maintained as a precinct worthy of the nation, then this kind of favouritism must be a concern.

The excavations required for the southern entrance that will change the Parade Ground significantly. There appears to be an elevation change which could affect the vista from across Lake Burley Griffin up to Mt Ainslie. The architectural drawings given do not show any side views so it is difficult to be sure about this.

I would like the NCA to provide a publicly released response to the submissions it receives about this redevelopment.

Thank you for your time.

Regards





**From:** [Clancy Barnard](#)  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** War Memorial redevelopment  
**Date:** Friday, 30 April 2021 1:08:56 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the early works proposal at the Australian War Memorial.

I believe the proposed early works irrevocably damage the site, particularly the destruction of 116 trees, making the full redevelopment a foregone conclusion. I believe that this is inconsistent with the stated purpose of early works.

Kindly,

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[Clancy Barnard \(he/they\)](#)

I acknowledge the land upon which I write is Aboriginal land, that sovereignty has never been ceded, and pay respect to elders Elders past, present and emerging.

I acknowledge my role as a beneficiary of the ongoing process of colonisation, and accept my responsibility to challenge the colonial project.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Works Approval Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Australian War Memorial al so-called "early works"  
**Date:** Friday, 30 April 2021 4:22:58 PM

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To: National Capital Authority  
Re: Australian War Memorial 'early works'

Our national institutions are custodians of our stories. They have the power to shape our collective identity, values and beliefs.  
The Australian War Memorial was designed as a place of solemn reflection, to remind us of the horrors of war and the importance of peace.

I am writing today to oppose the approval of the so-called 'early works' because these works should not be even considered until due process has been followed in connection with the proposed extensions of the AWM, which is not yet the case.

The 'early works' include the demolition of Anzac Hall, the severing of the link the War Memorial has with Mt Ainslie, and the destruction of more than 100 mature trees that form such a critical part of the reflective, solemn atmosphere of the space. These actions are permanent and destructive and totally preemptive of any decision to extend the Memorial.

Therefore, all early works should be halted immediately and any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation so that the War Memorial maintains its initial purpose - to remind us of the tragedy, wretchedness and horrors of war, and the importance of peace.

Sincerely  
Dr Janet Salisbury

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**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]