

From: Robert h [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2020 9:21 PM
To: Committee, Public Works (REPS) <pwc@aph.gov.au>
Subject: Australian War Memorial Development Project

To the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, regarding the Australian War Memorial Development Project,

Improvements to drainage plumbing is a good idea, as outlined in the report. The changes include gutting the interior of the existing gallery. This seems questionable considering that gallery design was neo-classical, the height of fashion and therefore representative of the times, an important part of the exhibit. I imagine this is to preserve the view from some public servants' window. It will uglify the building with heavy incongruent steel trusses and detract from the character of the building and atmosphere of the exhibits. The irony should not be lost that many Turkish Roman bathhouses were converted into mosques, the columns were removed to make more space for the congregation and crudely retrofitted reinforcements abound, causing the war memorial to resemble, in essence, a Turkish mosque. Wouldn't it make more sense to build a separate modern building for a modern war? The exhibits would then be kept in character with the architecture and exhibit spaces would be readily identifiable by the architectural period of the building. The quest for absolute equity, maintaining absolutely equal space for each conflict an equal distance apart, equally distance from the centre seems a bit pedantic. I would have thought the desire for equal representation was not to be interpreted quite so literally but just as though it's a bit *small*. It's also not a sustainable approach, assuming there will be future conflicts, the gallery will need to be constantly refitted and rearranged.

Robert Heron
[REDACTED]