

Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories

Committee Hearing – 7 December 2021

Answers to Questions Taken on Notice

Question 1:

CHAIR: With regards to the War Memorial, there seems to have been a fair bit of angst about the trees that have been planted. Can you provide any sort of commentary on that?

Ms Barnes: In the early works package, there was a proposal from the War Memorial to take trees down to allow for some of the works. We've asked them to put in more trees than they're taking out, and they've made sure that they're not the most significant trees. Andrew, would you like to talk more about that?

Mr A Smith: As Ms Barnes described, the initial application for early works, which was excavation and demolition of Anzac Hall and fairly significant works with the setting of the War Memorial, did contain quite a large number of trees. We instigated work with the War Memorial to really test whether or not it was necessary to remove that number of trees. As it turns out, there were a number which could be preserved, and we insisted that that occur. Also, within that, we've made a provision, with regard to the removal of the trees, for a greater number of trees—greater than they had proposed—to be reinstated once the works are completed. I'm sorry, Chair, but I can't recall the exact number of trees we insisted be installed, but we can give you those details once we go back to the office.

Answer to Question 1:

The Tree Removal and Replacement Plan submitted by the Australian War Memorial with the Early Works application indicated that 246 new trees would be planted (including native and exotic species). In its approval of the Early Works application, the National Capital Authority required that a minimum of 250 native trees be planted.

Question 2:

Mr DAVID SMITH: Thanks, Mr Smith and Ms Barnes. We often do reports in this place, and sometimes they take a bit of time to translate into action. I was wondering whether you might be able to give the committee an update on where the National Memorials Committee is at and the reforms proposed in that space. In providing that response, would you be able to provide some detail of how often the existing committee has met over the last couple of years, despite COVID; whether the recommendation to add two Canberrans to that committee has been followed; and, if so, who those Canberrans might be?

...

Mr DAVID SMITH: Just a follow-up on the National Memorials Committee, to take on notice: could the NCA provide details of when meetings have occurred over the last two years and, where possible, minutes for those meetings?

Ms Barnes: Certainly.

Mr DAVID SMITH: Thank you.

Answer to Question 2:

Over the past two years, the Canberra National Memorial Committee have met twice – on 18 February 2021 and 1 December 2021.

These meetings considered a National Memorial for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse and a National Site of Recognition for Thalidomide Survivors and their Families. The minutes for the 18 February 2021 are attached. The minutes for the 1 December 2021 meeting have not yet been finalised.

To date, the Government has not made any specific appointments of Canberrans to the Canberra National Memorial Committee.

As noted at the hearing, we are working with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications on implementing the Government's response to the '*Etched in Stone?*' inquiry and also the review of the *National Memorials Ordinance 1928*, as part of a sunseting legislation process.

National Capital Authority
January 2022

CANBERRA NATIONAL MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

SECRETARIAT USE ONLY

Meeting Date: 1 December 2021

Agenda Item No: 4

MINUTES – 18 FEBRUARY 2021, 9:30AM PARLIAMENT HOUSE

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Canberra National Memorials Committee:

1. **ENDORSE** the minutes from the previous meeting of 18 February 2021.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – MINISTER TO APPOINT AN OFFICER AS A MEMBER TO THE CANBERRA NATIONAL MEMORIALS COMMITTEE, IF REQUIRED

Background

The *National Memorials Ordinance 1928* (the Ordinance) provides for ‘the location and character of national memorials and the nomenclature of divisions of and public places in the Territory’. The Ordinance defines the CNMC membership and powers and does not enable CNMC members to delegate their responsibilities. Three members form quorum at any CNMC meeting.

Procedural Matters

To reach a quorum, the Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories signed an Instrument at the commencement of the meeting appointing Mr Terry Weber, Chair, National Capital Authority to the CNMC.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – MEMBERS TO ELECT A CHAIRPERSON FOR THE MEETING

Background

In the absence of the Chairperson (the Prime Minister) from any Canberra National Memorials Committee (CNMC) meeting, the members present at the meeting elected Assistant Minister Nola Marino to be the Chairperson of the Committee meeting.

Procedural Matters

Mr Simon Atkinson, Secretary Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications proposed the Hon. Nola Marino MP, Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories Chair the meeting.

Welcome

The Chair welcomed members and officially commenced the meeting at 9.36am.

The CNMC:

1. **agreed** by members present that the Hon Nola Marino MP chair the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Chairperson The Hon Nola Marino MP, Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories welcomed members and observers to the meeting

Attendees: Mr Simon Atkinson, Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Mr Terry Weber, Chair, National Capital Authority

Apologies:	The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Leader of the Government in the Senate Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives
Observers:	Ms Sally Barnes, Chief Executive, National Capital Authority Mr Andrew Smith, Chief Planner, National Capital Authority Ms Sophie Beeton, Adviser, Local Government and Territories Mr Jim Burston, Senior Policy Adviser, Minister Ruston's Office Ms Maddie Church, Adviser, Minister Ruston's Office Mr Rob Tindal, Director, Design and Construction, National Capital Authority Mr Adam Deutsch, Project Manager, Design and Construction, National Capital Authority Ms Kate Still, Director, Public Affairs, Education and Marketing, National Capital Authority
Secretariat	Ms Sandy Jacobson, National Capital Authority (apologies). Minutes taken by Ms Sally Barnes, Chief Executive, National Capital Authority

AGENDA ITEM 4 – ENDORSEMENT OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Background

The preceding meeting CNMC was held in Canberra on 13 March 2018.

Procedural Matters

A motion to adopt the minutes was moved by Ms Sally Barnes and was unanimously agreed by the members present, with the minutes standing approved as read.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOR THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF INSTITUTIONAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE – PROPOSED SITE

Background

The Ordinance requires the responsible minister prepare a short report for the CNMC on the status of all proposals for national memorials.

Procedural Matters

Members received a written briefing on the status of proposal memorial to:

- 1) National Memorial for the Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse – Proposed Site

The CNMC:

1. **Approved** the proposed siting of the Memorial.
2. **Approved** the proposed intent of the Memorial.
3. **Approved** reserving the proposed site for the Memorial for a period of three years.
4. **Noted:** the letters of in principle support from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and the National Museum of Australia for the proposed site.
5. **Noted:** the status of First Nations consultation and strategy for ongoing involvement.
6. **Noted:** that a brief for a national design competition is being finalised by the National Capital Authority in consultation with the Department of Social Services and key stakeholders

7. **Noted:** that where a preferred design is identified, resulting from the national design competition process, it will be presented to the Committee for its consideration regarding approval of the proposed character of the Memorial prior to any public announcement.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other business items raised for discussion.

The meeting closed at 9.41am