



6 November 2016

Mr David Brunoro  
Committee Secretary  
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Brunoro

**Inquiry on the Commonwealth Performance Framework**

Thank you for your invitation to submit the Memorial's contribution to the Committee's Commonwealth Performance Framework Inquiry.

I am responding on behalf of the Director. Should the Committee wish to discuss any of the comments made in the attached submission, I can be contacted on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Ms Leanne Patterson  
Chief Finance Officer  
Acting Assistant Director  
Branch Head Corporate Services

***Here is their spirit in the heart of the land they loved; and here we guard the record which they themselves made.*** C.E.W. Bean

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## Australian War Memorial submission: Inquiry on the Commonwealth Performance Framework

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Terms of reference / reason for referral to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit:

*Any items, matters, or circumstances connected with the following Auditor-General report:*

- No. 6 (2016-17) Corporate Planning in the Australian Public Sector

As noted in Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) Report No.6, the Memorial has produced corporate plans for many years prior to the introduction of the *Public Governance, Performance, and Accountability* (PGPA) 2013 Act.

### *Implementation status update on the key learnings and opportunities for improvement*

As noted in the ANAO report, the Memorial has a mature planning framework to support the development of the PGPA Corporate Plan.

During 2015-16, the first year of the PGPA corporate plan, the Memorial continued to monitor and report performance against the deliverables outlined in its business plan, which provides greater detail on the Memorial's objectives. Quarterly business plan reporting to the Memorial's Corporate Management Group and Council highlights progress against specific activities which contribute to achieving the broader priorities outlined in the corporate plan.

In response to the findings outlined in ANAO Report No.6, the Memorial has implemented a formal monitoring and quarterly reporting process to specifically evaluate performance against the targets in the Corporate Plan. The first report will be presented to the Memorial's Council at its next meeting in early November 2016.

Independently of the ANAO audit observations, the Memorial revised the content and performance measures included in the 2016-17 corporate plan based on updated reference and support material provided by Department of Finance. The document will continue to be reviewed as part of the annual business planning cycle to improve the usefulness of performance information.

### *An outline of future plans and milestones for actions that are still to be completed*

The Memorial is committed to continuing to refine and enhance its strategic performance measures, targets and assessment processes to provide meaningful information on how it will achieve its purpose. This will be achieved through:

- refinements to the current annual planning program to:
  - incorporate early engagement with the senior management group,
  - actively promote the development and annual review of the corporate plan as a responsibility of all members of the senior management group, and
  - increase visibility of agency-wide progress against targets through regular discussion of the results by the senior management group.
- increased capability to develop useful performance information through ongoing participation in Department of Finance forums and use of support materials.

### *Any other changes made due to audit findings or other relevant activity.*

n/a