

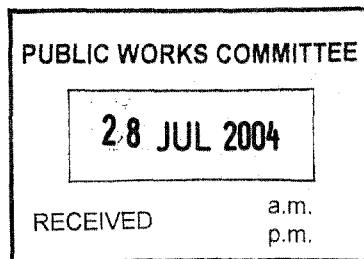


Australian War Memorial

SUBMISSION 4

27 July 2004

Ms Vivienne Courto
 Secretariat
 Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
 Parliament House
 CANBERRA ACT 2601



Dear Ms Courto

The Australian War Memorial wishes to submit this response to the submissions received by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in respect to the construction of East Building from National Capital Authority and Environment ACT.

National Capital Authority

The National Capital Authority and the Memorial have a good working partnership in planning and delivering all new buildings and developments on the site. The Site Masterplan, Heritage Conservation Masterplan and other planning documents provide clear guidelines and frameworks for architects and designers. Its comments on this project are noted and have been the subject of a number of consultation meetings at the working level.

The Memorial would like to emphasise that it has complete confidence in the expertise of the architects, Denton Corker Marshall. They have designed both the Administration Building and ANZAC Hall, both realizations yielded superior, award winning buildings. Their scheme for East Building is viewed strongly as a most fitting addition to the overall precinct with materials that are not only complementary to the Memorial but to all the other buildings. The Memorial and its design team will ensure that issues raised by the NCA in their submission can be resolved satisfactorily, as has been previously undertaken.

Samples of all materials (including pre-cast concrete, roof material and mesh), landscape schemes and building plans will be submitted as part of the final consultation and works approval process. As these materials have already been approved for use on ANZAC Hall the Memorial does not envisage any issues for approval.

As the Committee may recall, the appropriateness of using grey metal deck roof material was raised in the ANZAC Hall approval process. Then, as now, there is a project cost imperative which must be adhered to. However the roofing material that is used must downplay its overall impact to ensure that there is not a shiny surface which would be obvious from Mount Ainslie. In that regard it is strongly held that the Memorial building itself must dominate the site from all aspects. A copper roof on the East Building would be highly incongruous. This very same issue was raised for ANZAC Hall at a previous PWC hearing, and a copper type roof was not then seen as appropriate. The situation for this project is no different.

The Memorial believes that any issues relating to future site works (car parking and bus parking) should be dealt with separately and not part of this building project. The Memorial has future projects which will adequately and sympathetically deal with these matters. As regards the temporary car park, this will be required until the end of 2007 to ensure there is sufficient visitor parking spaces during the construction phases of the East Building and Gallery Redevelopment projects. An abnormal demand for parking space for workmen can be expected during this time.



HALL OF
 FAME
 2000-2003
 AUSTRALIAN
 TOURISM AWARDS

The Memorial sought a response from DCM to the other design issues raised by the NCA, and a copy follows for your information.

"Western Elevation & Possible Further Articulation

- 1. It is important that the building is considered as minimal object to resonate with the monumental tri-partite character of the master plan elements. The East Building context is a form embedded in the hill. While symmetrically related to the western Administration building, this in-ground landscape context provides an appropriate "recessive" character, and a "descaling" of the building that can respond differently to the West building, and maintain its complimentary monumental imperative.*
- 2. The rhythm of the façade strip windows and panels reflects the descended rhythm of the western Administration building. The minimal recessive character ensures deference to the Memorial building, the dominant form on site. Further articulation of the west elevation would detract from this formal reading of the buildings and context.*
- 3. The East Building archival and support functions are specifically non-public and as such, there is no actual "front door" reading. Architectural devices signalling public address or small scale attention have been deliberately avoided to prevent confusion as to its functional and physical relationship behind a dominant stone embankment.*

Where the western Administration building is a visible form on an open landscape with formal access, the East Building is a more closed form embedded within the landscape. Further articulation of the west elevation would detract from the intention to maintain the formal relationships established in our proposal.

- 4. The tunnel is below the lower floor level, well below ground. Provided a window for natural light is difficult in this situation. The tunnel function as a link to transfer archive material rather than function as staff entry corridor, therefore artificial light is considered acceptable."*

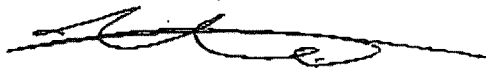
Environment ACT

During construction the contractor will be required to either; hold an Environmental Authorization or enter into an Environmental Protection Agreement with Environment ACT prior to commencing work on site.

The Memorial is aware of the storm water retention requirements and a tank with retention capacity of 1.3kL/100 sqm of hard impervious area as nominated by Environment ACT will be installed at the rear of the building. Measures to reduce demand on potable water will include Dual flush toilets with 2.5/4 litre flushes if available in time; minimum of "2A" taps and showers and waterless urinals will be considered.

The Memorial is prepared to answer any other issues which may arise from these submissions during the hearing .

Yours sincerely



Vicki Northey
Project Manager Gallery Development