

The Committee Secretariat of the JSCNCET,

I write to express my opposition to the proposed World War 1 and 2 Monuments: not only is their siting inappropriate and invasive to the Lake Burley Griffin site, but their design and scale are too large and overbearing. I believe the Australian War Memorial (AWM) is already the most fitting commemoration of all Australians who have served our nation in time of war - particularly WW1 and WW2. If further symbolic recognition for these two conflicts is desired, then locating them within the grounds of the AWM seems to me to be the most appropriate setting.

Locating them in such a prominent site, close to the foreshores of Lake Burley Griffin as proposed, would create two huge and imposing physical and visual interruptions to the important and significant vista between the AWM and Parliament House as well as compromising the recreational nature of that side of the lake. The proposed monuments would impose their bulky solemnity over these parklands, with their formal setting and associated paved and commemorative areas, being a further unwanted intrusion to the grassy foreshores, that is not in keeping with their passive and recreational use.

I urge the Joint Standing Committee to recommend against this proposed scheme.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Thomson