



Mr William Pender
Federal Parliament
National Capital Territories Committee

Dear Mr Pender

National Memorials Ordinance, 1928

Thank you for the opportunity for the ACT Government to provide comments to the inquiry into the administration of the National Memorials Ordinance 1928. The ACT Government through the ACT Heritage Council regards National Memorials as having intrinsic heritage value that should be conserved for future generations.

The ACT Heritage Council, an independent body established under the *Heritage Act 2004*, has made a separate submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories.

Currently, there is an understanding between the National Capital Authority and the ACT Government that the ACT Heritage Council will be consulted regarding proposals affecting heritage places on Territory Land within Designated Areas, where they are on the ACT Heritage Places Register.

However, the consultation process could be improved to include a mandatory requirement for consultation with the ACT Government for development proposals and memorials. Public consultation should also be undertaken prior to a decision being made by the Canberra National Memorials Committee (CNMC).

The ACT Government has approx 156 memorials in Canberra, mostly relating to War and the ACT Honor Walk. A Memorial Policy has been developed within the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMS) and possible alignment with the National Memorials Ordinance may be appropriate.

The ACT Government recommends that the two vacant positions on the CNMC for ACT representation be filled. It is requested that consideration be given to one member being appointed under a heritage discipline to ensure that heritage issues and impacts to heritage places are considered upfront in the process.

The CNMC may wish to consider developing a policy for future memorials that identifies potential locations, heritage impacts, and the scale and character of any proposed memorials. A Heritage Impact Statement in individual cases may also prove

a useful tool to determine how a heritage place is to be conserved or enhanced by a proposed development.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Memorials Ordinance.

Yours sincerely

Fleur Flanery
Director City Services
Parks and City Services
Territory and Municipal Services

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