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THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

ABN 63 008 488 097

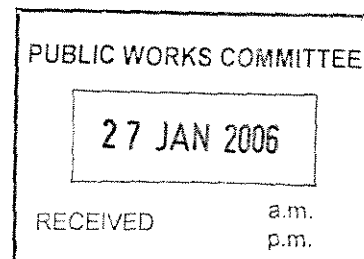
From: Major General WJ Crews AO (Retd)
National President

SUBMISSION3.....

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27 January 2006

NP010/06

The Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



REDEVELOPMENT OF POST 1945 CONFLICTS GALLERIES AND DISCOVERY ROOM FOR THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

The Returned & Services League of Australia welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on the above subject.

Background

In November 2003, the Returned & Services League of Australia made written representations to the Prime Minister urging the Government to provide sufficient funds to the Australian War Memorial to allow the proper development of post World War II galleries.

The basis of our submission was our concern that the present displays in the Memorial do not do justice to the service of Australians in the Korean War, Malayan Emergency, Indonesian Confrontation, Vietnam War, Gulf War, Iraq and peacekeeping and peacemaking operations.

Considerations

The Memorial performs both commemorative and educative functions. Significant numbers of Australians and overseas visitors visit the Memorial each year, including many young Australians. It is a reflective and instructive experience for all.

It is now appropriate to provide a more balanced presentation of those conflicts and actions involving Australian Servicemen and Women in the 60 year period since the Second World War. The younger visitors to the Memorial in particular could consequently gain a greater appreciation of the enduring nature of military operations and events which have occurred within their life time or that of their immediate family. We would not wish to see this expanded coverage provided at the expense of the displays of Australia's involvement in the major global conflagrations of the twentieth century which had such a significant impact on the shaping of our nation.

LEST WE FORGET

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Our Position

The Returned & Services League of Australia consequently supports strongly the proposed construction of the Post 1945 Conflicts Galleries and Discovery Room for the Australian War Memorial.

We have valued greatly the excellent consultative process undertaken by the Australian War Memorial and involving the wider veteran community in developing the content of the galleries.

We support the submission from the Australian War Memorial on the detailed development of these facilities.

Yours sincerely



Bill Crews

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