

**Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories Inquiry into the Administration of the National Memorials Ordinance 1928.**

1. The membership of the Canberra National Memorials Committee is a misnomer and out of date. There are no Canberra citizens on the committee and have not been since 1953. Why not if this is a “ Canberra “ committee ? The ACT has had self government since 1988 yet there is no ACT Government person . There are only 2 public servants who are Secretaries of their respective departments but this is not representative of the Canberra region. The committee does not even include a member of the NCDC . Change to the name is needed by deleting the name “ Canberra “ and the make-up of the committee to include citizens resident outside of the ACT to be included as well as experts .
  - 1.1 There are 5 very senior politicians on the committee including the Prime Minister . But they never all appear . Indeed the quorum of this committee is only 3 persons – it is not stated who . Therefore its possible that only one politician need appear with the 2 Departmental Secretaries – this is not representative of the role of this National committee. The quorum needs changing.
- 2.. The process of decision making by the CNMC is not clear. What is it ? The committee should hold public hearings across all Australia as its role is “ National Memorials “ . Experts should be called before the committee. Expert advice beyond that contained in the current application should be made available to the committee. Its deliberations should be made available for comment to all stakeholders before finalization.
3. The public around all of Australia to be made aware of the current application before the committee as it affects everyone.
4. The report to be tabled in the Federal Parliament.
5. The current proposal to have two lakeside memorials built on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin appear to have not complied with due process and therefore should not be proceeded with , and especially not in the proposed location. Indeed their application is has raised much controversy as it is a slight to the role of the Australian War Memorial .

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