

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc

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Submission No. 2
(Australian War Memorial:
Eastern Precinct Development)

SL 14/10/08

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

National Servicemen's Association of Australia

Submission

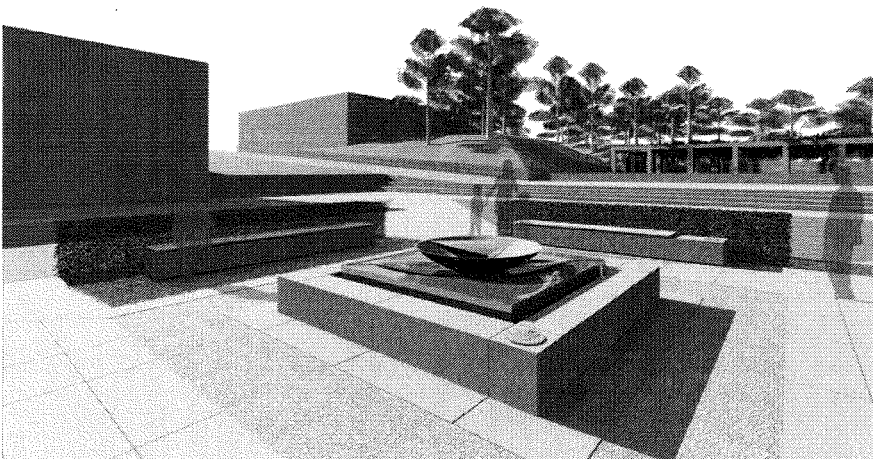
The National Servicemen's Association of Australia supports the submission by the Australian War Memorial for approval of the redevelopment of the Eastern Precinct at the War Memorial.

The Association is involved because the National Service Memorial will form part of the Precinct.

The Memorial will be dedicated to all National Servicemen who served between 1951 and 1972 and will honour the 212 who died on active service in Borneo and Vietnam.

The NSAA has branches in all States and Territories representing the 290,000 young men who were called up for training in the Navy, Army and Air Force.

The Association has raised the estimated cost of between \$300,000 and \$500,000 of the Memorial with donations from the Australian Government, State Governments, Local Authorities, private donors and National Servicemen and their families. The Australian Government gave \$150,000.



The Memorial is a fountain designed by distinguished Australian architect Richard Johnson, of Johnson Pilton Walker. He was awarded the 2008 Gold Medal of the Australian Institute of Architects and currently is redesigning, in conjunction with Joern Utzon, the Opera Theatre at the World Heritage listed Sydney Opera House. The square sandstone base, matching the material of the Australian War Memorial itself, will represent the Army; the reflection of the sky in the polished black granite slab will represent the Air Force and the water in the large bronze bowl will represent the Navy. The

fountain will use recycled water harvested from the roof of the Australian War Memorial but can stand alone as a memorial should the drought continue. The memorial will stand in its own courtyard bounded by matching sandstone paving, seating and box hedges.

The Association sent the concept to all of its 139 branches to vote on and received 99.9% approval. We are happy to be able to say that the one branch that held out now also has approved. At the request of the AWM we also circulated it to the four small kindred National Service Associations, with a combined membership of about 400. They too have approved.

The NSAA stresses that it is building the National Service Memorial for all National Servicemen and all will be invited to the dedication.

Distinguished former National Servicemen included two former Governors-General, Bill Hayden and Dr. Peter Hollingworth; deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer; Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett; Queensland deputy Premier Sir Llew Edwards; businessmen Lindsay Fox and Sir James Hardy; television personalities Clive James and Graham Kennedy and sportsmen Lew Hoad, Doug Walters, Peter Brock and Dick Johnson.

The NSAA supports the redevelopment of the Eastern Precinct because we believe it will be a significant improvement in access to the Australian War Memorial and the public amenity.

The status of the War Memorial as an Australian icon and its role in honouring Australia's servicemen and women in all conflicts has led to a large increase in visitor numbers, as Committee Members would know from your own observations.

However, it also has meant more cars and more buses in particular competing for parking space. The canteen has outlived its capacity to cater for the increase in visitors and the large number of school parties urgently needs an area in which they can have their lunches. The temporary car park does not add to the visual appeal of the Australian War Memorial. We raised with the AWM the question of the removal of trees and were informed that those that had to be removed would be replaced with extra plantings.

We think that the new Eastern Precinct will be of immediate and long term benefit to the War Memorial and its visitors.

Yours sincerely



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