

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY)
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The Secretary of the Committees
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SUBMISSION FOR THE INQUIRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NATIONAL MEMORIALS ORDINANCE 1928

The National Trust welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission for the inquiry into the administration of the National Memorials Ordinance 1928 (the Ordinance).

The ACT National Trust, with a membership of over 1,500, is part of the National Trust movement in Australia representing 80,000 members. Our charter states:

- Our Vision is to be an independent and expert community leader in the conservation of our cultural and natural heritage.
- Our purpose is to foster public knowledge about, and promote the conservation of places and objects that are significant to our heritage.
- Our organisation is a not-for-profit organisation of people interested in understanding and conserving heritage places and object of local, national and international significance in the ACT region.

In the interest of conserving the heritage of the National Capital we have the following comments on the terms of reference for the enquiry:

Our main concern regards the lack of transparency associated with the administration of the Ordinance, especially with the membership and decision making of the Canberra National Memorials Committee (CNMC) and the general lack of public involvement and inclusion in the development of National Memorials as is highlighted by the recent events surrounding the proposed Rond Terrace War Memorials.

We believe that in order for any proposed memorials on National Land to truly reflect and symbolise Australia's heritage, values and aspirations the process of decision making by

the CNMC and the development of proposed National Memorials needs to be done in constant consultation with the public. This consultation can then assist in gauging the public's level of interest and therefore its representativeness of the nation. Public comments should be sought from the outset of any project or decision and consultations continued throughout the process.

Along with public opinion, the Minister and CNMC should seek expert advice from a wide variety of sources on all potential issues related to any proposal including Heritage before committing to any project or development. This advice could come from individuals with relevant expertise in the area or local or national businesses and organisations and also be subject to public consultation. The National Trust, for example, is able to draw on the extensive knowledge of its members on matters of local significance and is willing to offer advice to anyone who asks, especially when it comes to ACT heritage matters.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Martin', written in a cursive style.

Eric Martin
President
National Trust ACT
9th September 2011