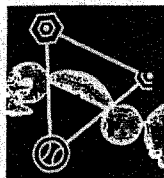


National Capital
AUTHORITY

File No: 02/401

Job No: 11300

Ms Vicki Northey
Project Manager Gallery Development
Australian War Memorial
GPO Box 345
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Northey,

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL EAST BUILDING DESIGN CONCEPT

I refer to the meeting of 7 November 2002 held with representatives of the Australian Heritage Commission (AHC), National Capital Authority, Australian War Memorial (AWM), Denton Corker Marshall (DCM) and Root Projects Australia. At the meeting DCM provided a briefing on the initial design concept for the proposed new East Building. Further information was subsequently provided to the Authority on 21 November 2002.

Development of Design Concept

The Authority has reviewed the initial design concept provided against the National Capital Plan, the *'Australian War Memorial Site Master Plan'*, 1993 and the *'Australian War Memorial Master Plan: Site Design and Building Development Principles'* 1999 (AWM MP 1999) and makes the following comments.

The Authority would like you to review the relationship between the Memorial building, Anzac Hall, the adjacent courtyard and the proposed East Building to ensure that the East Building makes a positive contribution to, and does not dominate, the urban form and character of this space.

Location

It is noted that the proposed East Building is located with its centre line on axis with the Administration Building and the facade width facing the Memorial is proposed to be the same as the Administration Building at 41.6 meters. Your advice is also noted that the East Building will be set at least 35 meters from the east wing of the Memorial, which is less than the setback of the Administration Building, and a slight variation to that included in the AWM MP 1999. This is due to the different topography and geology of the eastern site.

Materials and Finishes

Your intention to use pigmented pre-cast concrete linear 'planks', finely jointed with horizontal coursing, preferably SA precast panels (such as those used on Anzac Hall)

is noted. The Authority has no objection in principle to the material, but would be keen to see an example at an early stage.

The Authority's preference in regards to the colour of the building would be to use a colour already existing on the AWM site, such as matching that of Anzac Hall rather than introducing another colour to the site.

Roof form and material

The roofing is proposed to be charcoal metal deck to match that of Anzac Hall. Please note the Australian Heritage Commission's advice that their preference is for a copper roof and should this not be feasible a roof fabric more in keeping with the quality of buildings and other fabric on the Canberra Land Axis and in the Parliament House Vista is recommended.

No details have been provided on the location of mechanical plant/s or the need for exhaust/vents. A visible roof plant will not be permitted and all services and mechanical plants are to be integrated into the building form.

Building Height

The Authority would prefer the height of the new building to be kept at or below RL 599.970. The AHC have also advised that they recommend a parapet height of RL 599.970. A greater height may only be considered if a greater setback was provided.

Building Character

The Authority would like to see investigation into the possibility of articulation and expression to the elevation treatment fronting the Memorial. This could possibly take the form of an entry (discreet staff entry/lift) or skylight/window to the tunnel link.

Landscaping

The landscaping proposed of native species as per the existing informal nature of the eastern landscape is supported. The landscaping as per the Master Plan should seek to produce a Eucalypt woodland with copses and clearings reflecting the native landscape character of Mount Ainslie. Details of the trees to be removed and the proposed landscaping will need to be provided to the Authority.

Details will need to be provided to the Authority on the 'continuous mesh cover at the facade perimeter that merges with the landscape'.

Service Area

The design concept provided shows the service areas, loading dock and staff entrance provided from the northern elevation and north-eastern car park. It is noted that the previous proposal to have the service area and loading dock off the eastern service road has been abandoned due to the level of the ground and the requirements for a certain grade to the loading dock.

Given that this is a prominent entry area for visitors arriving from the public car park and approaching the central AWM precinct, the AWM should fully investigate alternative options for the service/loading dock access. It would be preferable to have the service/loading dock accessed from the eastern service road as this would appear

to have less of a visual impact, would eliminate the reduction in car parking spaces to the north-eastern car park, and would reduce the likelihood of circulation and pedestrian conflicts.

Details of the intended treatment of the service area and the northern car park will need to be provided to the Authority for consideration.

Underground tunnel

The underground tunnel must not be exposed or visible above ground. The impact on the Main Memorial Building at its interface will need to be minimised and any exits required along its length would need careful consideration.

Future bus and car parking requirements

The proposal for a new East Building should be seen in the context of site planning which includes the possible use of the north-eastern land off Treloar Crescent for bus/car parking. As noted in the letter from the Authority to Major General Steve Gower dated 11 June 2002, "the Authority does not support the use of the south-eastern parkland area for a temporary car park. This area has a prominent visual impact on the setting of the Memorial and the view from Fairbairn Avenue – an important National Capital Approach Route. The carpark should be reinstated as a grassed area under trees as soon as possible. Extensions to existing parking should be contained in the area flanking Treloar Crescent. Modifications to the overland stormwater system may be required".

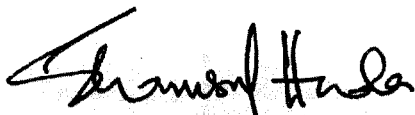
Australian Heritage Commission

As the Australian War Memorial is entered in the Register of the National Estate, the comment of the AHC has been sought on the design concept. A copy of the Commission's advice is enclosed for your information.

Conclusion

The Authority looks forward to receiving details of the project as the design is further resolved. National Capital Authority staff are available for further meetings of the Project Working Group and to discuss the matters outlined above. Should you have any query or require any further advice at any stage please do not hesitate to contact Natalie Broughton on 6271 2867.

Yours sincerely

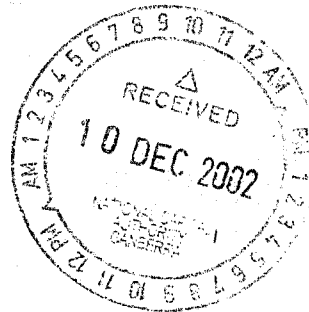


SHAMSUL HUDA
Principal Planner
National Capital Authority

13 December 2002

cc: Grahame Crocket - Australian Heritage Commission

File Nos: 8/1/0/19, 8/1/0/75
Contact Officer: Grahame Crocket
Tel: (02) 6274 2196
CADB No: 7973



5 December 2002

Ms Natalie Broughton
Senior Town Planner
National Capital Plan
National Capital Authority
GPO Box 373
CANBERRA ACT 2601

FILE	02/401
No.	12277
ACTION OFFICER	
N Broughton	

Dear Ms Broughton

Thank you for your letter of 22 November 2002 requesting comment on the design concept for the proposed East Building at the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

The Commission notes that the proposed East Building is the third element completing the composition of buildings that wrap around the AWM and that the proposed East Building reflects the principles set out in the Authority's Masterplan (site design and building development principles) of May 1999. The Commission compliments the AWM for its plan to implement the Masterplan design and development principles. In general, the Commission notes that the building design, siting, landscaping and massing is likely to enhance the heritage values of the AWM and the Parliament House Vista, places entered in the Register of the National Estate.

The Commission acknowledges that the topography and geology of the eastern side of the AWM site imposes constraints on the distance that the East Building can be located away from the AWM. The Commission advises that the location of the proposed building on the axis of the Administration Building, its symmetry about this axis, and the matching dimension of its western façade with the eastern façade of the Administration Building will minimise any potential adverse effect resulting from the fact that it does not exactly match the Administration Building.

Comment on more detailed aspects of the proposal is provided in Attachment A for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact Grahame Crocket on the above telephone number if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'B. Leaver', written in black ink.

Bruce Leaver
Executive Director

Attachment A

The proposed wall fabric of the East Building, if finely jointed would not be likely to detract from the heritage values of the AWM. However, the Commission would welcome the opportunity to consider samples of the external fabric to assess how the colour would complement the AWM fabric.

With respect to the height of the proposed East Building, the Commission recommends a parapet height level of RL 599.970, to match the parapet height of the AWM building adjacent to the dome.

With respect to the landscaping, the Commission notes that some existing trees, in what appear to be good condition, are likely to require removal. The Commission suggests that the landscaping treatment for the eastern side of the site should emphasise native plant material consistent with the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and recommends that the proposed replanting match the species of those to be removed, in a design that replicates the contrived informality of this area of the site.

The Commission notes that long term bus parking is now proposed on the western side of the eastern road. The Commission advises that viewing the AWM 'in the round' is a most important conservation policy in the CMP. Long term parking of buses on the western side is likely to have an adverse effect on the heritage values of the place, because too many parked buses would hinder the possibility of viewing the AWM 'in the round'. The Commission recommends consideration of alternative measures to minimise this adverse effect.

With respect to the proposed underground tunnel, the Commission notes that it will have an impact on the fabric of the 1970s building where it enters the AWM. This fabric, although not the most significant, is still of moderate to high heritage value. The Commission advises that to minimise any adverse effect, the cut into the existing fabric should be limited to the minimum dimensions necessary and that it be undertaken in a manner similar to the cut into the apse for the bridge to Anzac Hall. An additional minimisation measure would be to ensure that the roof of the tunnel and the entry cut is not visible from the service access bridge to Bradbury Hall.

The Commission notes that the roofing for the East Building is proposed to be a metal deck, to match the colour of Anzac Hall. The Commission would prefer the East Building to have a copper roof to match the AWM roof, or if this is not feasible, another roof fabric more in keeping with the quality of buildings and other fabric on the Canberra Land Axis and in the Parliament House Vista.