



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Chair: Ms Kirsten Livermore MP

Inquiry into new war memorial galleries

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed redevelopment of the First World War Galleries at the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

The AWM's proposal to redevelop the galleries responds to the Australian Government's ANZAC Centenary Program 2014-2018. Approximately \$83.5 million has been committed to this program over seven years. The galleries redevelopment is a key part of the program's commemorative events and initiatives.

The First World War galleries have not undergone any significant redevelopment since the 1970s. They represent one of the last remaining areas to be redeveloped as part of a process of major gallery renewal which began in 1995 with the establishment of the AWM's Gallery Master Plan. The exhibitions have been retained long beyond their useful lifespan.

The estimated cost of the project is \$32.52 million. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of 2014.

The Committee's Chair, Kirsten Livermore MP, said the Committee will conduct an inspection and public hearing for the project in February 2012.

"The proposed work will see the First World War galleries brought up to current museum standards and to the same world-class standard of the Australian War Memorial's other galleries. This important project will be completed in time for the ANZAC centenary. The Committee will scrutinise this project to ensure that the proposed works will meet the need and provide value for money for the Commonwealth" Ms Livermore said.

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/pwc

Submissions to the inquiry close on 24 January 2013.

Details of the public hearing program will be announced soon.

NB the Public Works Committee is neither involved in the tendering process nor the awarding of contracts. Enquiries on those matters should be addressed to the Australian War Memorial.

For interview: Contact the Chair's office on (07) 4922 6604.

For further information, including how to make a submission, the public hearing times, and copies of submissions when they become available, please visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4636.