



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories

MEDIA RELEASE

17 August 2011

COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE NATIONAL MEMORIALS PROPOSED FOR CANBERRA

The Committee is to conduct an inquiry into the administration of the National Memorials Ordinance 1928 which covers the building of memorials of national significance in Canberra.

“The administrative processes supporting the Ordinance have been criticised recently and need to be examined,” said Senator Louise Pratt, Committee Chair.

“There are a number of current proposals for National Memorials and some of these have attracted public interest,” she said.

“The inquiry will allow us to set the framework for how the National Memorials Committee should operate.”

Senator Pratt added that the inquiry will also look at how to improve transparency in the administration of the Ordinance.

The National Memorials Ordinance 1928 defines the membership and responsibilities of the Canberra National Memorials Committee (CNMC).

The CNMC has the power to approve the location and character of National Memorials. Membership of the CNMC consists of the Prime Minister, the Minister responsible for the Ordinance, the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of the Opposition in both the House and Senate and two residents of the ACT.

Senator Pratt called for submissions by 9 September 2011. Terms of reference are attached.

It intends to make its findings public by the end of the year.

Further information: Senator Louise Pratt 02 6277 3127
Dr Bill Pender, Inquiry Secretary, 02 6277 2329

Inquiry into the Administration of the *National Memorials Ordinance 1928*

Terms of reference

The Committee has been asked by the Hon Simon Crean, Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government:

1. To inquire into, and report on:
 - The administration of the National Memorials Ordinance 1928 (the Ordinance), with particular reference on:
 - The membership of the Canberra National Memorials Committee (CNMC);
 - The process for decision-making by the CNMC;
 - Mechanisms for the CNMC to seek independent, expert advice; and
 - Opportunities for improving transparency in the administration of the Ordinance.
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 - The appropriate level of parliamentary oversight for proposed National Memorials.
 - The appropriate level of public participation in the development of proposed National Memorials.
2. If changes to current arrangements are recommended, inquire into and report on transition provisions for current proposals for memorials which have not yet been constructed.

The Minister has asked the Committee to report by the end of 2011.