

**Dr Brendan Nelson**  
Director



20 May 2013  
File E2012-01398

Mr David Brunoro  
Committee Secretary  
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Brunoro

**Inquiry into Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Bill 2013**

Thank you for the opportunity for the Memorial to appear before the Committee at the public hearing on this matter later this week. Attached is the Memorial's submission to the inquiry, which will also be provided in electronic format.

Should the Committee wish to discuss any of the comments made in the attached submission, it would be appropriate to contact Leanne Patterson, Chief Finance Officer, on

*Yours sincerely*

Brendan Nelson

# Australian War Memorial submission: Inquiry into Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Bill 2013

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Terms of reference / reason for referral to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit:

*'to ensure that combining the two Acts into a single Act does not impose additional and unnecessary reporting requirements on bodies subject to the Act and does not reduce transparency or remove important oversight where it is appropriate'*

The Memorial notes that the draft Bill incorporates a number of existing provisions currently in the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, and appropriately recognises the distinction between corporate entities (such as the Memorial) and the Commonwealth.

The contents of the draft Bill itself do not appear to impose any additional or unnecessary reporting requirements, reduce transparency or remove oversight. However, the Rules to be prescribed by the Finance Minister that support the high level, principles based content of the PGPA Bill are yet to be developed.

These Rules will contain many of the provisions that have the potential to impact on the Memorial's business, such as cash and investment management, banking arrangements, the appropriation framework, risk management, performance management and reporting, financial reporting, etc.

The Memorial notes that senior officers at the Department of Finance and Deregulation (DoFD) have advised that there will be no change to the status quo for existing CAC agencies, and that the Rules will not conflict with agencies' enabling legislation.

However, at this early stage and with limited information available, the Memorial is unable to comment with certainty that the introduction of the Rules that will accompany this Bill once passed, will not adversely impact the Memorial's reporting and compliance obligations or day to day business operations.

The Memorial's Council notes the new requirement for accountable authorities to consider public resources generally, and DoFD's subsequent advice that this provision is not intended to be restrictive or prevent Council from making decisions in the best interests of the Memorial, provided it considers the broader resourcing implications of its decisions.

The Memorial looks forward to further participation in the consultation process to develop the Commonwealth's financial and accountability framework before the planned 1 July 2014 implementation date.