

SUBMISSION ..... 39

23 July 2004

Mr Quinton Clements

Inquiry Secretary

Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories  
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Our Ref: Mawson's Huts 2004

**Re: Adequacy of Funding for Australia's Antarctic Program**

Dear Mr Clements,

We refer to the above Inquiry and the evidence given by Dr Tracy Ireland on behalf of Godden Mackay Logan Heritage Consultants at the public hearing on the 23 June 2004. During the evidence given by Dr Ireland, the Chairman, Senator Ross Lightfoot, requested further information regarding the manner in which \$500,000 was expended on the conservation of Mawson's Huts Site. We wish first to clarify that this figure was not included in the submission made by our firm, which related to general principles of heritage management, the AAD's obligations under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the need to make adequate financial provision for the Division's future heritage management obligations.

In his evidence to the inquiry, Dr Tony Press, Director, AAD, had stated that past conservation expeditions to Mawson's Huts site, cost in the order of \$500,000. This is perhaps the figure to which Senator Lightfoot was referring in his question on notice to Godden Mackay Logan. The AAP Mawson's Hut Foundation has raised in excess of \$2M from the public and corporate sector in order to fund past conservation expeditions. These expeditions have aimed to stabilise the structures, to understand the issues involved in their long term conservation, and to delay the effects of ongoing deterioration. It is important to note that a base camp was established by these expeditions, so the fact that this infrastructure is now established may defray future costs for regular maintenance and monitoring. Past expeditions have also undertaken extensive 'catch up maintenance'. Future works should aim to maintain this level of maintenance.

Mawson's Huts site was recently announced as a place on the new Commonwealth Heritage List established under S341Cff of the EPBC Act 1999. The past works funded by the AAP Mawson's Huts Foundation and government, and the preparation of the Conservation Management Plan, means that future conservation works can be planned and implemented according to a sound analysis of the data and conservation issues. This will form an appropriate footing for the preparation of a 'management plan' which is now a statutory requirement for this place and all places on the Commonwealth Heritage List.

We trust that this further information will assist the Committee in its deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

**Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd****Prof. Richard Mackay, AM**  
**Managing Director**