

Senate Committee for Finances and Public Administration

Response to request of 22 August 2005



Issue

The committee received a letter from Mr Bill Sellars claiming that there were Turkish plans to build viewing platforms on the Anzac battlefield area. Mr Alistair Sands, secretary to the committee, requested comment from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Response

The Australian Government shares Turkish concerns that unrestricted public access may cause damage to the historical and environment values of the Anzac area. The Turkish authorities have advised that they may have to consider options to contain and minimise this impact, including protection measures such as boardwalks and viewing platforms. Turkish authorities have advised that they will consult closely with the Australian Government about the development of any measures or works in the Anzac area. This is consistent with the agreement reached between Prime Ministers Howard and Erdogan regarding close cooperation and consultation between the two governments on the protection and preservation of sites in the Gallipoli Peace Park.