



Archaeology Program

School of Historical and  
European Studies

Faculty of Humanities  
and Social Sciences

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Committee Secretary  
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT 2600  
Australia

### **SUBMISSION TO SENATE INQUIRY INTO MATTERS RELATING TO THE GALLIPOLI PENINSULA**

I am a post-graduate student in the Department of Archaeology at La Trobe University, Bundoora, Melbourne and am currently undertaking research on "Heritage War Sites As Tourism Destinations" using Gallipoli as a case study. The focus of my research is on the transformation of a battlefield landscape from an archaeological perspective and the visitor experience of that landscape from a tourism perspective.

My submission to the Senate Inquiry focuses on the Terms of Reference point (c).

The Gallipoli battlefield represents an important phase in Australia's military history and themes of national identity. The battlefield contains both the physical and human remains of the 1915-16 conflict and as such represents an important cultural and historical archaeological deposit. Although the battlefield is located on foreign soil (as indeed are most of Australia's military activities), it is a highly significant cross-cultural site. This significance has been articulated within various documents such as the Treaty of Lausanne 1923 in which it guaranteed "that the battlefield would not undergo military or commercial development"; the aims of the 1973 National Decree of Turkey in forming the Gallipoli Peninsula National Park; the 1999 Gallipoli Peace Park Plan wherein the plans sought to "protect and preserve the archaeological, cultural and military heritage of the whole Gallipoli Peninsula" and finally, inherent within the Australian Government's initial desire to place Anzac Cove on the National Heritage Register.

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La Trobe University  
Victoria 3086, Australia

Tel: (03) 9479 2385  
Fax: (03) 9479 1881

Web: [www.latrobe.edu.au/archaeology/](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/archaeology/)

ABN 64 804 735 113

The roadworks appear to contradict the aims and objectives of the Treaty, the National Decree of Turkey, and the Peace Park Plan and with respect to Australia, its overall ideology and legislation concerning historically significant sites. Given the stated significance of the battlefield it is important that its overall integrity is maintained and protected for the future. As with any significant historical site, no construction works should be undertaken before a thorough archaeological survey is conducted to identify, record and assess the extant remains and recommendations made concerning such future development activity. The cross-cultural nature of Gallipoli would suggest that the Australian archaeological community should have been consulted concerning these works and their expertise and advice sought.

The recent roadworks have destroyed not only the archaeological fabric of the battlefield, but have also destroyed the important aesthetic nature of the battlefield landscape, thus changing it irrevocably. The dumping of spoil has also damaged the marine archaeological environment and the geological structure of Anzac Cove. The extent of this damage and its impact upon the historical landscape along with that of the marine and geological deposits therefore needs to be assessed. A major recommendation would be that a collaborative project be mounted by the Australian Government to undertake an assessment of this impact. Such a collaborative project should utilise the expertise of the Australian archaeological community as well as that of various researchers and academic institutions with a specified interest in Gallipoli (e.g. T. Smith (Co-Director of the Australian archaeological expedition monitoring the Australian submarine AE2; La Trobe University, Prof. Peter Doyle (U.K. geologist); Dr. David Cameron, University of Sydney; Historians, Dr. Bruce Skates, UNSW).

Battlefield tourism is a growing industry and a major contributor to that growth has been the Australian government with its military heritage programs and its marketing activities. The interest generated in visiting Gallipoli and the need for infrastructure is a prime example of the transformation battlefield sites undergo in meeting growing demand. It is commendable that Australians mark Gallipoli as an important destination however as with many tourism destinations, large crowds create new demands for infrastructure and services, equity of access, and protection of the environment. The Australian Government should, given the Gallipoli example, seize this opportunity to undertake a review of its battlefield sites and develop a strategic management plan for coping with increased levels of tourism activity. With this in mind I have made two sets of recommendations – one designed to address Gallipoli specifically and the other addressing Australia's broader military heritage and strategic management of sites.

I would recommend that the Government consider:

**Recommendations for Gallipoli:**

Immediate

1. Commence dialogue with the Australian archaeological community concerning Gallipoli and its heritage assets
2. Establish a multi-disciplinary team to assess impact of road works upon historical landscape (terrestrial and marine), provide report and recommendations
3. Examine existing Park Management Plans and provide advice based on assessment
4. Enter into a dialogue with Turkey encouraging collaborative research

Short Term

5. Establish a research fund and research agenda for Gallipoli to ensure the ongoing integrity of the battlefield landscape, its heritage assets and its tourism development
6. Establish a review committee to assess research proposals
7. Establish cross-cultural/multi-disciplinary teams to identify, record and assess sites of significance (both terrestrial and marine)
8. Provide advice to Park Management Plans based on findings
9. Establish timeframe for research activity coinciding with commemorative events (e.g. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

Longer Term

10. Create a database of previous and current research activities on Gallipoli
11. Provide input into proposals for establishment of international peace park
12. Assess plausibility of national and world heritage listing and potential implications of such listings (proceed or reject based on findings)

**Broad recommendations for military heritage:**

1. Commence dialogue with the Australian archaeological community concerning military heritage
2. Develop criteria for recording and assessing military sites of historical importance to Australia
3. Assess Government's ongoing future commitment in promoting certain destinations
4. Develop collaborative research agenda incorporating archaeology (terrestrial and marine) and tourism (with an educative component)
5. Allocate research funding

6. Examine existing battlefield protection organisations, their strategies and current activities
7. Develop a strategic management plan for battlefields/sites of conflict designated as attractive for tourism development
8. Develop a cross-cultural strategic management plan for preservation and protection of heritage assets
9. Develop a broader consultation program concerning military heritage assets

I thank the committee for providing me with an opportunity to make this submission to the Inquiry and look forward to receiving feedback on the recommendations made.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Dore  
Postgraduate Student  
La Trobe University

Postal Address:  
13 Eucalypt Grove  
Heathcote Junction, Vic. 3758  
Telephone: (03) 57871278  
Email: [pldore@iprimus.com.au](mailto:pldore@iprimus.com.au)