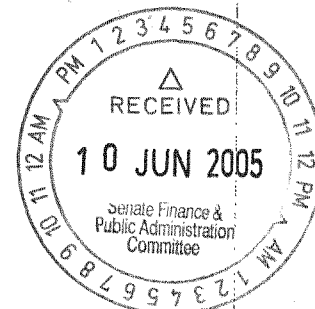




Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology

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



Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Inquiry into matters relating to the Gallipoli Peninsula

The *Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology* (AIMA) wishes to comment on the heritage protection of ANZAC Cove, Gallipoli, Turkey.

This Institute is the recognised leading advocacy group in Australia for promoting sound protection, management and education related to the preservation and interpretation of underwater cultural heritage. It is strongly supported by the Commonwealth *Historic Shipwrecks Program*, administered by the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH).

In its role as an independent specialist group providing advice to the Commonwealth on heritage management issues, AIMA was alarmed by the recent damage to this near-pristine archaeological site. The current works program has done more than compromise the archaeological integrity of fragile relics situated along the length of the affected road area. The dumping of spoil onto ANZAC Cove and into the sea may have impacted on archaeological remains within the near-shore areas. AIMA also fears that the remediation of the work site, if allowed to proceed as reported in the media, will cause further damage.

If the current management practices are allowed to continue more of Australia's and Turkey's cultural heritage will be lost. The archaeological heritage of the Gallipoli battlefields is a non-renewable and extremely significant cultural resource.

Much of the archaeological heritage of Gallipoli remains unrecorded, identified or assessed for its significant characteristics. AIMA fully supports the proposed joint historical and archaeological survey of ANZAC Cove. Such an initiative would form the basis for the effective management of the site for the present and for future generations.

AIMA recognises the complexities the regarding management of ANZAC Cove arising from its location in another country. Archaeologists by the very nature of their discipline deal with cultures other than their own. Australia archaeologists regularly work overseas under the direction of the laws, practices and attitudes of other countries. Australian archaeologists as a result have earned a reputation for cultural sensitivity and professionalism when working on collaborative projects with the archaeologists of another culture. Australian archaeologists, as with our Turkish colleagues, work in an environment where there are limited resources for the management of the nation's heritage places. Such a reality results in the prioritisation of resources. AIMA recognises that though both Australians and Turks revere Gallipoli for similar tragic reasons, resourcing priorities may differ. From media reports also there appeared no indication that the Turkish authorities were unsympathetic to the significance Australians' place on Gallipoli. It appears on first reading that the planning and conduct of the road construction and ancillary works had more to do with the amount

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of resources allocated to the project by the two Governments rather than in any real differences in cultural resource management practices. Such recognition can only lead to the better and successful management of this very important place.

The relics, sites and associated historic shipwrecks provide a tangible focus for the interpretation of the campaign, and a direct visual link to the enormous human suffering witnessed in 1915. The personal items, structures, human remains, and related cultural sites, form part of the world's cultural heritage bank. Myths and perceptions of the Gallipoli experience will change over time in accordance with ephemeral political and social attitudes. However the truth behind the Gallipoli story, the source as it were, lies in the physical character, and associated archaeological relics, of the place. It must become the responsibility of Australians living today to strive to preserve the Gallipoli battlefields for future generations. AIMA asks that the Inquiry consider and recognise;

- *The understanding of the true meaning of one of the most significant events in Australia's history relies on experiencing the physical nature of ANZAC Cove and how it closely resembles the place as it was in 1915.*

Archaeologists are an integral part of Australia's cultural resource management milieu. They can read and interpret the ground as historians read and interpret words. They fill in the gaps left in the historical record. On occasion they prove the historical record wrong. All this adds meaning and knowledge to our understanding of past events. AIMA can't see why archaeologists should not be involved in the management of Gallipoli in the same way as they are involved in the management of cultural heritage places in this country. AIMA asks that the Inquiry consider and recognise;

- *The critical role that archaeologists can play in the cultural resource management of ANZAC Cove.*

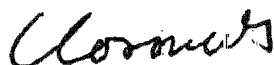
The effective management of significant cultural sites is a multi-discipline and consultative effort. It would appear from media reports that the cultural resource management practices that are applied in this country were not applied to a site of critical significance to most Australians. AIMA asks that the Inquiry consider;

- *the formation of an entity, whether a standing Parliamentary Committee or an advisory body which would be charged with advising on the management not only of ANZAC Cove but also other overseas battlefields such as Kokoda, Tobruk, Western Front, etc.... This entity would have as its members representatives of the relevant Commonwealth Departments but also experts such as historians, engineers, archaeologists, landscape architects etc...*

It is important for future generations of Australians that the apparent grave and irreversible mistakes that took place in the months leading up to April 25th 2005 should not be repeated. We are talking about Gallipoli after all.

I would be happy to discuss these and other issues and thank you for your time with this matter.

Yours sincerely



COSMOS CORONIDS

AIMA President

10/06/2005 3:35:20 PM

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