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**To:** FPA, Committee (SEN)  
**Subject:** Inquiry into matters relating to the Gallipoli Peninsula

I would be pleased if the Committee considers the following submission in regard to the late, regrettable incident at Anzac Cove.

It would appear that many of the problems associated with the works in the Çanakkale - Gelibolu Peninsula Historical Park occurred as a result of the absence of a Commonwealth body with sufficient experience and expertise to frame advice that conform with current world best-practice. A model for such a body is the British Parliament's **Westminster All Party War Graves & Battlefield Heritage Group** (contact - <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmparty/050411/memi433.htm>)

In the Australian context any similar group should be driven principally by heritage concerns with oversight and advice provided by representation from the Australian Heritage Council. 'The Australian Heritage Council is the principal adviser to the Australian Government on heritage matters' <http://www.ahc.gov.au/>

Such a body should be prepared to function as advisor to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Attorney-General's Department, the Office of Australian War Graves and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet when actions arise in the future. Operational matters might be undertaken through the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH). Stakeholders who should also have some representation within the advisory body include the CWGC, the RSL and the AWM.

The Anzac Cove incident serves as a pertinent reminder that a considerable number of extra-territorial sites of significance to Australia may be subject to treatment considered inappropriate by Australian conservation standards and contrary to Australian sensibilities. Their future survival can possibly be best achieved by forward planning and liaison with the Governments in whose territories these sites are located, rather than reacting to incidents when they arise. It may be appropriate in this situation to prepare a Register of extra-territorial sites in which Australia has an interest s that dialogue between Governments can be established before issues arise.

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