



Australian Government
Australian Heritage Council

12 December 2019

Referrals Gateway
Department of the Environment and Energy
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

To whom it may concern,

EPBC Referral 2019/8574: Australian War Memorial Redevelopment

I am writing on behalf of the Australian Heritage Council to provide a submission on the proposed Australian War Memorial Development, recently referred for decision under the EPBC Act.

The Australian Heritage Council has reviewed the referral documentation submitted by the Australian War Memorial, in particular the Heritage Impact Assessment. Based on the information provided, the Council believes the action is likely to have a significant impact on the listed National Heritage and Commonwealth Heritage values of the Australian War Memorial.

The works to the Southern Entrance of the War Memorial as currently conceived will detrimentally impact both the original fabric of the building and the experience of visitors who now enter the building through the inspiring entrance to the memorial spaces, as designed by the original architects. The addition of the rear glass atrium will also impact on the original fabric of the building, although unfortunately the design progression in the referral documentation is not sufficiently detailed to allow a clear understanding of the extent of their impact on listed heritage values. The demolition of Anzac Hall will remove a significant contributory element of the identified heritage values. In combination, and as acknowledged in the referral documentation, there is likely to be a significant negative impact on the heritage values of this outstanding Australian heritage place. The Australian Heritage Council suggests the impacts of the project on heritage values need to be more clearly articulated to allow a rigorous assessment of their effects.

The Australian Heritage Council also notes that the submission of the referral without the completion and endorsement of the 2019 Heritage Management Plan further obscures the best outcomes for the listed heritage values of the Australian War Memorial.

The Australian Heritage Council recommends that an informed assessment of impacts on the National and Commonwealth heritage values of the War Memorial would be best managed through a controlled action decision which allows for further assessment and approvals processes to be undertaken.

The Australian Heritage Council encourages the Australian War Memorial to continue to work with the Department of the Environment and Energy to ensure the proposed

redevelopment works respond appropriately to the outstanding heritage significance of the Australian War Memorial.

Should the Minister for the Environment or her delegate have any further questions about the Council's submission, please do not hesitate to contact the Australian Heritage Council at AHC@environment.gov.au

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DKemp', written in a cursive style.

Dr David Kemp
Chair, Australian Heritage Council