

Question on notice no. 175

Portfolio question number: 1

2021-22 Supplementary Budget Estimates

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, Defence Portfolio

Senator Jordon Steele-John: asked the Australian War Memorial on 27 October 2021—

[Context] The 2011 Heritage Management Plan and the draft Heritage Management Plan dated 2019 both assume that Anzac Hall will be retained as a key part of the Memorial's heritage value. The Heritage Management Plan is well overdue and needs to be hurried along. Apparently, the Australian Heritage Council recommended they complete it before the development progressed, but that was ignored.

[Sources]

-Estimates Hansard: 2 June 2021, p. 134

Mr Anderson: I was asked out of session for an update on the heritage management plan, so I just want to update the committee to advise that we're continuing to work in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on the memorial heritage's management plan. It has been updated to address the changes that we hope will be brought in with the memorial's development project and how these new facilities are going to be managed from a heritage perspective. That will be submitted to the Australian Heritage Council for their consideration and approval in the coming months.

- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

341X Review of plans at least every 5 years

(1) At least once in every 5 year period after a plan for managing a Commonwealth Heritage place is made under section 341S, the Commonwealth agency concerned must cause a review of the plan to be carried out.

(2) The review must:

(a) assess whether the plan is consistent with the Commonwealth Heritage management principles in force at the time; and

(b) assess whether the plan is effective in protecting and conserving the Commonwealth Heritage values of the place; and

(c) make recommendations for the improved protection of the Commonwealth Heritage values of the place.

(3) [procedure for public comment]

(4) [requirement to consider public comments].

[Questions]

- What is the current status of the War Memorial's Heritage Management Plan?

- Has the Memorial received the Australian Heritage Council's approval of the Plan?

- When will the Plan be made publicly available?
- What will the Plan say about Anzac Hall?
- = Why has it taken the Memorial ten years to update the Plan when the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act requires five-yearly updates?

Answer —

Answer attached

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2021 – 27 October 2021
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

Question 1

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Australian War Memorial Heritage Management Plan

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator Jordon Steele-John asked:

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Answer

1. The Australian War Memorial's (the Memorial) Heritage Management Plan (HMP) 2021 was submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for consideration by the Australian Heritage Council (AHC) in July 2021. The AHC will consider the draft at their next meeting in December 2021; the Memorial awaits the response of the Council to the update.
2. No.
3. The Memorial will publish the Heritage Management Plan 2021 to its website once approved by the Australian Heritage Council.
4. The plan acknowledges the history of Anzac Hall as part of the Memorial and notes its replacement as part of the Memorial's Development project in accordance with the project's *Environmental Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) Referral, Approval and conditions (see: EPBC 2019/8574).
5. The EPBC Act requires the review of heritage management plans every five years, not the update of plans at five year intervals. The Memorial's most recent review commenced in 2017 rather than 2016 due to operating pressures generated by the Centenary of the First World War commemorations period. Extended periods of drafting are common for HMPs. For example, the first draft of the Memorial's HMP 2011 was completed in 2008 prior to 2011 certification.