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AWM redevelopment breached guidelines

- **Letters to the Editor**

The Australian Institute of Architects believes the Australian War Memorial (AWM) director, Matt Anderson, is continuing to make statements that are not correct regarding the AWM redevelopment project.

The original expression of interest required designs that included the demolition of Anzac Hall. This meant any compliant design would breach the site's heritage requirements, outlined in the heritage management plan on the memorial's website, which requires the retention of Anzac Hall.

Extremely limited consultation commenced in August 2018, three months (not three years) before the Prime Minister announced the redevelopment plans which included the requirement to demolish Anzac Hall; something not covered in the preceding consultation.

The AWM board and management do not appear willing to concede that their processes have been grossly deficient, or even acknowledge the broad-based community concern over this project. The Australian people deserve better from the custodians of this unique institution and hugely significant site.

We will continue our *#handsoffAnzacHall* campaign, commenced by Clare Cousins during her presidency and continued with the full backing of our current national president, board, and council. With more than 12,500 members, including five working on the redevelopment project, the AIA does not purport to represent the view of each individual on every issue. But we do have a clear duty to act in the interests of the profession as a whole, and uphold commonly accepted principles, including the protection of heritage sites, that form part of our responsibility to the community.

Julia Cambage, CEO, Australian Institute of Architects, Canberra

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