

Letters: War memorial stoush reveals Brendan Nelson's one eye

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Tom McIlroy is to be congratulated for revealing Brendan Nelson's latest diatribe in defence of the \$500 million expansion plan for the Australian War

Memorial (["Motivated by resentment': verbal grenades in War Memorial battle"](#), August 11).

The former director has undoubtedly meant well, but we need to recognise we are dealing with the very future of this heritage-listed site, embodying founder Charles Bean's vision.

To date, the Memorial's council, led by recent one-year appointee Kerry Stokes, and Dr Nelson, have not ensured that the provisions of the endorsed Heritage Management Plan have been fully adhered to. That failure is regrettable. The plan deals with the future of the site. At present, it is in danger of damage, if not destruction. This cannot be permitted.

The memorial needs extra space for recent conflicts, of course, and that can be achieved with due sensitivity to heritage matters and, I believe, at a lesser cost as well. What is the problem with accepting that?

With Dr Nelson's apparent lack of respect, and his colourful denigration of alternative views in the community, perhaps the former member for Wentworth did us all a favour when he took Dr Nelson's place some years ago.

It's time to hear from the new director regarding his respect for heritage matters. Surely he can see the need for compromise!

Major-General Steve Gower, AO