

MEDIA RELEASE
ACT GREENS
26/05/2021
ACT Greens welcome NCA clarity

The ACT Greens have today welcomed the clear statement from National Capital Authority head, Sally Barnes, that the NCA does have the power to reject proposals, and call on the Authority to use that power to block the appalling and unpopular expansion of the Australian War Memorial.

On questioning at Senate Estimates by Greens Senator Jordon Steele-John, Ms Barnes confirmed that the NCA can knock back proposals that are inconsistent with the National Capital Plan and are shown to be unpopular.

Greens candidate for Canberra, Tim Hollo, said “I’ve not come across a development as widely and wildly unpopular as this awful proposal to transform Australia’s moving and important War Memorial from a place of reflection on the evils of war into a war museum glorifying war and showcasing weapons.”

“It’s the NCA’s most important duty to maintain and enhance Canberra’s symbolic role as the national capital. It’s hard to imagine a starker change in the symbolic value of Canberra than this shift from memorialising to glorifying war.”

“Canberrans don’t want this, as the record number of submissions showed. Veterans don’t want it. Architects don’t want it.”

“The NCA cannot hide behind the ‘early works’ proposal, as the proposal here is so hugely destructive as to make the full development a foregone conclusion.”

“It’s time to end this. The NCA can do so. It must do so.”

Video of the exchange can be found here:

<https://twitter.com/Jordonsteele/status/1397113750252003334?s=20>

*See in particular from 10 minutes in.

Media Alert: Tim Hollo will be available for interviews on request

Statement ends

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