

**Mr Matt Anderson PSM**  
Director



5 November 2020  
EXEC10041-010514

Dr David Stephens  
4/10 Oriel Road  
Ivanhoe VIC 3079

Dear Dr Stephens,

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 October 2020, originally directed to the Prime Minister, regarding the Development Project at the Australian War Memorial. Your correspondence has been referred to me as I have responsibility for this matter.

The Memorial has acknowledged, and responded to, the concerns raised by the Australian Heritage Council (AHC), and the broader Australian community, through its Environmental Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) 'Final Preliminary Documentation'.

Changes made in response to those concerns include modifications to the Glazed Link to preserve the ability of visitors to appreciate the current form of the Memorial 'in the round' and committing to delivering an appropriate balance of built and landscape elements through the completion of a detailed public realm design in co-operation with authorities such as the National Capital Authority.

I believe these changes, and the others documented in the 'Final Preliminary Documentation' for the project are substantial and appropriately address a number of the issues raised by the AHC and subscribed to by the signatories to your letter to the Prime Minister.

I acknowledge, however, that these changes will not necessarily address all the issues raised to everyone's satisfaction and that concerns continue to be held by yourself and your co-signatories. I thank you and those you represent, for your continued passion and for the genuine shared desire for the best heritage outcomes for the Memorial.

I am confident that the proposal now put forward by the Memorial is the best solution to meet the needs of Australians now and into the future as the centre of national commemoration for all who have served in our armed forces. This conclusion has been arrived at by detailed examination of many complex and interlinked issues, with a high priority on heritage – both physical and social – as laid out in our 'Final Preliminary Documentation'.

The Development Project's environmental and heritage impacts are now under consideration by the Department of Agriculture, Water and The Environment. Its overall suitability and cost effectiveness are more broadly under consideration by the Parliamentary Works Committee.

*Here is their spirit, in the heart of the land they loved; and here we guard the record which they themselves made.* C.E.W. Bean

GPO Box 345  
Canberra ACT 2601  
tel: (02) 6243 4262  
web: [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

These considerations, and the Memorial's current proposal, are underpinned by extensive community input above and beyond the norm afforded through these processes. The views of those who support the project and those who oppose it have been heard and considered respectfully. Commentary from both sides has positively influenced the overall outcome of the design process.

I would, however, urge all involved to acknowledge that the relevant processes have been followed fully and properly and to await the decisions of these two bodies on the project.

I look forward to further engagement with yourself, your co-signatories and the broader community once those decisions have been made, whatever the outcome may be, to continue to make the Memorial one of the world's finest memorials and museums as a place of continuing national relevance and meaning.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Anderson', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Matt Anderson