

## THE ROLE OF LARGE TECHNOLOGY OBJECTS IN THE AWM REDEVELOPMENT

The AWM has repeatedly emphasised the importance of Large Technology Objects (LTOs) in the whole redevelopment. For example:

1. The capacity to display LTOs was a key reason for the choice to destroy the existing Anzac Hall. [The Memorial's Final Preliminary Documentation under EPBC](#), especially section 4.6.2 "*Why the Solution that retained Anzac Hall was not selected*", makes this clear.
2. [The Memorial's submission to the Public Works Committee](#) listed the display of LTOs as one of the key drivers of the project, under the heading '*Need for the project*'; see paras 2.6.1 and 2.6.3.

[The PWC report at para 2.17](#) stated: "*The AWM told the Committee the project need has been divided into three categories:*

1. *Spatial constraints*
2. *Lack of capacity to display large technology objects*
3. *Visitor circulation challenges and compliance issues related to the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.*"

Paras 2.24 and 2.25 of the PWC report (drawn from the Memorial's submission) listed the following, along with the AWM's statement that these items are "*necessary to enable the stories of Australians who served in conflicts and operations*":

1. AP-3C Orion maritime surveillance aircraft;
2. Components from HMA Ships *Sydney (IV)* and *Tobruk*;
3. S-70A-9 Blackhawk helicopter;
4. Two F/A-18 A Hornet fighter aircraft;
5. Two Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicles;
6. Two Australian Light Armoured Vehicles; and
7. RF111C Reconnaissance Aircraft.

The Memorial elaborated: "*It is important that these objects are part of a conflict or operation gallery where they are a key element of the story, and not simply be displayed in a group of large technology objects away from the conflicts.*" Para 2.96 of the report says that, after the redevelopment, the number of LTOs will increase from 52 to an estimated 62.

3. In [the Memorial's NCA documentation \(Planning Report\)](#) "*large technology objects*" are mentioned at least five times.

4. As far back as October 2018, even before the funding of \$498m had been announced, it was clear that space considerations and LTOs were intimately connected. In [Senate Estimates on 24 October 2018 \(p. 167\)](#), in the context of an exchange with senators about the Memorial's need for more space, then AWM Director Dr Brendan Nelson said "*We're also acquiring a lot of very large objects from Defence that are being decommissioned at the moment, from C-130 Hercules to CH-47s and so on*". [This article](#) in ASPI's *The Strategist* also reinforces Dr Nelson's promotion of the need for more space for LTOs, something he did regularly. On another occasion, [he stated](#) that the F-111 would have "*pride of place*" in the new galleries.

5. Acting Director Tim Sullivan [stated](#) (as reported in early 2018) that a Chinook helicopter, a Seahawk aircraft and two F/A18s would be displayed in the proposed new space.

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