

**Question on notice no. 597**

**Portfolio question number: 3**

**2023-24 Budget estimates**

**Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, Defence Portfolio**

**Senator the Hon. Matthew Canavan:** asked the Australian War Memorial on 31 May 2023—

Senator CANAVAN: Moving on, minutes from meeting 179 on 10 November contained an agenda item 3 titled 'Confirmation of minutes'. That item said that council requests amendments to item 12, frontier violence, and confirmed the remaining minutes of 177. Does that mean that 179 and the meeting at 179 amended the minutes of 177? I want to understand what amendments were made.

Mr Anderson: I'd need to take that on notice

Senator CANAVAN: Okay. Thank you. Could the committee get a copy of the original minute that was drafted before amendment?

Senator MCALLISTER: Let us take it on notice, because the approach to that may be something that others who were present at the meeting may wish to contemplate.

**Answer —**

Answer attached.

**Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**  
**Budget Estimates 2023-24 – 31 May 2023**  
**Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio**

**Question 3**

**Outcome: All Program: All**

**Topic: Council Minutes - Meeting 179 - 10 November 2022 - amendments**

(FADT Hansard Proof 31 May 2023, p 112)

**Senator Matthew Canavan asked:**

Senator CANAVAN: Moving on, minutes from meeting 179 on 10 November contained an agenda item 3 titled 'Confirmation of minutes'. That item said that council requests amendments to item 12, frontier violence, and confirmed the remaining minutes of 177. Does that mean that 179 and the meeting at 179 amended the minutes of 177? I want to understand what amendments were made.

Mr Anderson: I'd need to take that on notice

Senator CANAVAN: Okay. Thank you. Could the committee get a copy of the original minute that was drafted before amendment?

Senator MCALLISTER: Let us take it on notice, because the approach to that may be something that others who were present at the meeting may wish to contemplate.

**Answer**

Extract of original draft minutes from Council meeting No. 178 (19 August 2022):

**12. Frontier Violence**

Squadron Leader Gary Oakley (by phone) and Indigenous Liaison Officer Michael Bell joined the meeting.

A brief summary of the paper was provided, which is an update from AWM Council meeting no.174 (August 2021).

Squadron Leader Oakley was invited to speak on Frontier Violence, and then exited the meeting.

Council members discussed Frontier Violence and **agreed** that a further option for the scope of the new Pre First World War galleries regarding Frontier Wars is required. This outcome falls between options (1) and (2), and Council will be kept informed during the gallery development process.

It was agreed that Frontier Violence perpetrated against Aboriginal Australians would, as in the colonial galleries previously, be presented in the new galleries. It would be larger in scope, wherever possible relate to subsequent Indigenous service to Australia and remind visitors of the other significant institutions that tell the story.

Council acknowledged the significant contribution of ADNC and his team on Frontier Wars.

Note: the draft minutes from Council meeting 179 (10 November 2022) had a typographical error incorrectly referring to confirmation of the minutes from Council meeting 177, instead of meeting 178. The error was corrected in the final minutes for meeting 179.

Extract of confirmed minutes from Council meeting No. 178 (19 August 2022):

## **12. Frontier Violence**

Squadron Leader Gary Oakley (by phone) and Indigenous Liaison Officer Michael Bell joined the meeting.

A brief summary of the paper was provided, which is an update from AWM Council meeting no.174 (August 2021).

Squadron Leader Gary Oakley (by phone) and Indigenous Liaison Officer Michael Bell joined the meeting.

Squadron Leader Oakley, on behalf of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services and Veterans Association was invited to speak on 'Frontier Wars', and then exited the meeting.

Council considered the representation of Frontier Violence in the Memorial's redeveloped galleries.

It was **agreed** that Frontier Violence perpetrated against Aboriginal Australians would, as in the previous Colonial Galleries, continue to be presented in the new Pre-1914 galleries.

It would provide a broader and deeper depiction and presentation of the violence perpetrated against Indigenous Australians.

Wherever possible it would relate to and inform, subsequent Indigenous military service to Australia, providing a context for that service.

The gallery will inform visitors of the significant institutions whose charter it is to tell the full story of Frontier Violence.

The gallery will be developed in full consultation with the Council throughout its development.

Council acknowledged the significant contribution of ADNC and his team on Frontier Violence.