



MINISTER REPRESENTING
THE MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Senate

Parliamentary Question

Question Number: 1979
Question Date: 12 April 2023
Table Office Due date: 12 May 2023

Senator David Shoebridge asked the Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs in writing, on 12 April 2023:

With reference to the Australian War Memorial (AWM) redevelopment:

1. Why have the AWM's estimates of 'new space' produced by the current development project changed so significantly since September 2020.
2. Does the reduction in 'new space' reflect an objective to contain costs.
3. Is the project expected to be delivered to its current budget of \$500 million; if not, what are the current estimates for budget overruns.
4. Is the project estimated to be delivered to existing timelines; if not, what are the updated estimates for completion.
5. What is the current total budget for the AWM redevelopment, and how does this compare to the original budget when the project was first approved.

Minister Representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

1. Estimates for 'new space' have not changed significantly. An error in the Memorial's October 2022 submission to the Parliamentary Works Committee (PWC) incorrectly described 'new' space in the Captain Charles Edwin Woodrow Bean Building as 'refurbished space'.

The table below details 'new space' to be delivered by the Project as at September 2020 at 'concept design' stage and the final 'for construction' figures from October 2022.

Location/Description	September 2020 m2 (Concept Design)	October 2022 m2 (For Construction)
Anzac Hall & Glazed Link	13,996	13,297
Lower gallery	2,964	3,085
Main level gallery	3,448	3,604
Mezzanine gallery & Viewing space	465	799
Glazed Link public space	2,176	2,308
Respite, amenities, circulation, back of house etc.	4,943	3,501
New Southern Entrance	3,450	3,450
Captain Reg Saunders Gallery	260 (included above)	260 (included above)
CEW Bean Building new research centre, archive and collection support	7,299	1,036
Total new space for collection support functions	(included above)	6,009
Total refurbished space for collection support functions	2,944	0
Total New Space	24,745	23,792
Total Refurbished Space	2,944	0
Total New Gallery Space	7,137	7,748
<i>This table does not include refurbishment of space, including galleries, in the Memorial Main Building which is currently under design, and hence figures are not available, as part of the overall Development Project.</i>		

2. There has been no significant change in 'new space' delivered by the Project.
3. The current project budget is \$548.7 million, the Memorial is on track to complete works within this figure.
4. Yes.
5. The current project budget is \$548.7 million.
The original budget of \$498.7 million was supplemented by the previous Government in March 2022 to the amount of \$50 million, in order to meet unprecedented, and growing, increases in construction industry market prices due to factors including COVID-19, global supply chain disruptions, commodity and transport prices and the availability of trades.