

Appendix 1: Redactions in the August 2022 Agenda Paper as first released in October 2022 to Honest History under FOI

We can compare the unredacted version released in [AO643](#) in September 2023 with [the redacted version released in October 2022](#). The printed papers lack pagination, but we will use the pagination in AO643.

AO643, p. 3: redaction of paragraphs headed ‘Purpose’ and ‘Background’ to remove references to 2021 consideration, Council Chair Nelson’s request for updated paper for this meeting, allocation of 408 square metres for Pre First World War galleries, timing of delivery of this gallery, previous consideration by the Council (since 1979).

AO643, p. 8: redaction of sentence in the middle of listing of names of historians of frontier conflict: ‘These historians are not radicals with an agenda; rather, they have close links with the Australian War Memorial and the Australian Defence Force’.

AO643, p. 8: redaction of paragraph:

‘The fact that there was no declaration of war during the frontier period is not a justification for the Memorial’s stance against including frontier wars in the galleries. The only time the Commonwealth of Australia has formally declared war was during the Second World War (on Finland, Hungary, Romania, Japan, Bulgaria, and Thailand).’

AO643, p. 10: redaction of paragraph describing Geoffrey Blainey’s intervention in 1979. The redacted paragraph is in **Appendix 2** to this post, under the sub-heading, ‘**AO643, pp. 48, 10: major amendment to Geoffrey Blainey’s role in 1979: ... 2022 paper**’.

AO643, p.11: redaction of paragraph:

‘The Council of the Australian War Memorial has formally considered including the story of frontier wars in the galleries on a number of occasions, including 1984, 1999, and 2009. Council’s view, recorded in a statement in 1999, was that “the Australian War Memorial is not the place to recognise those killed in violence between Aborigines and settlers, whether or not that violence is described as war. This is not to say that we are opposed to such recognition, but believe that it should be made in a more appropriate setting such as the National Museum of Australia”.’

AO643: p. 12: redaction of sentence: ‘The statement that colonial-raised units did not participate in frontier violence may need to be reconsidered in light of recent research’.

AO643, p. 14: redaction of paragraph:

‘The Memorial’s most recent National Collection Development Plan [NCDP] includes provision for the Memorial to collect “material related to frontier violence”. Following this guideline, the Art and Military Heraldry and Technology sections have been acquiring such material.’

[\[In March 2023, Honest History published this about the NCDP:](#)

‘The [NCDP, last updated in October 2019](#), sets out the Memorial’s priorities for adding to the National Collection. The NCDP contains just one sentence on collecting material about frontier violence and that is the very last sentence in the 12-page document. By contrast, collection plans for other pre-1914 conflicts are given a full page of text.’ HH]

AO643, pp. 15-18: redaction of almost four pages on ‘Memorial Gallery masterplan’ including masterplan recommendations, allocation of space and scope for new Pre First World War galleries, arrangement of stories. and stakeholder feedback. A space of 408 square metres is envisaged with a possible breakdown – ‘The Pre-First World War stories could follow the arrangement below’ – allowing 198 square metres for ‘Contact, Indigenous resistance and colonial forces’ (from 1788), ‘New Zealand wars’, ‘Sudan’, and ‘Later Indigenous resistance movements’ (1894-97), and the remaining 210 square metres for the ‘Boer (South African) War’ and the ‘Boxer rebellion’. The Boer War is described as a ‘major commitment’ of Australian forces though, in deaths alone, that war accounted for a little over 600 Australians, while the Memorial’s own figures put Frontier Wars deaths at around 20 000. ([The Memorial later revised the total space from 408 to 410 square metres.](#))

AO643, p. 19: redaction of paragraph: ‘Summary of general enquiries and media commentary’.

AO643, p. 24: redaction of sentence: ‘The Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Mr Craig Ritchie, has informally advised the Director that Ngurra **will not be telling the stories of frontier wars.**’ [Emphasis added. HH] See the discussion of this in the post under the heading, ‘Misleading treatment of the Ngurra option’.

AO643, pp. 25-26, redaction of paragraphs under heading ‘Legal Considerations’.

These paragraphs summarise legal advice received by the Memorial in 1992-93 concerning its ability to cover frontier violence and in 2013 concerning the commemoration of peacekeepers on the Roll of Honour. In 1992-93, the advice that frontier wars coverage was legitimate was based on interpretation of the definition of ‘Australian military history’ in the Memorial’s Act. In 2013, coverage of peacekeepers was linked instead to sections in the Act about the power to do all things necessary or convenient for the performance of the Memorial’s functions and about the providing of information about Australian military history. ‘This reading would appear to allow for Memorial treatment of the frontier wars regardless of the establishment of the involvement of military forces as a matter of fact, but on the basis that they were “war or warlike operations in which Australians have been on active service”.’ The 2013 Council Agenda Paper on the inclusion of peacekeepers also said this: ‘The strongest argument in support of a change of policy is simply that it is the right thing to do. It is also much more about the future than the past.’

AO643, p. 26: redaction of Options and Recommendation

See the discussion in the post on defendingcountry.au (forthcoming).

11 November 2023