



The Hon Linda Burney MP
Minister for Indigenous Australians

Reference: MC22-002518

Mr David Stephens
admin@honesthistory.net.au

Dear Mr Stephens *David*

Thank you for your correspondence of 17 June 2022 regarding your proposal for Frontier Wars Gallery at the Australian War Memorial and offering your congratulations on my appointment as the Minister for Indigenous Australians.

It is an honour to take on the role and I look forward to pursuing positive outcomes for First Nations peoples. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, we are prioritising First Nations policy. We are elevating First Nations Voices, to remove barriers to full participation in our national life, and to close the gap in social outcomes.

I will be joined by Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy as Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians, and Senator Patrick Dodson as Special Envoy for Reconciliation and the Implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Together we look forward to working in partnership with First Nations people: the people who hold the solutions and who should lead the way on the legislation and policies that affect them.

I acknowledge your proposal for the establishment of a Frontier Wars Gallery at the Australian War Memorial. I suspect we would agree that to understand the challenges of the present, we must understand their roots in past trauma. Supporting processes of truth-telling, including about the Frontier Wars, is a vital part of the Government's commitment to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full.

I would encourage you to continue to engage with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Matt Keogh MP about this issue. I understand that Minister Keogh is committed to monitoring the Australian War Memorial expansion closely.

I note that Australia's national collecting institutions all play a part in telling our national story, of which First Nations heritage lies at the foundation.

You may also be aware that the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) is currently undertaking an architectural design competition for the Ngurra Cultural Precinct, a proposed national institution, in the Parliamentary Triangle, focused exclusively on the history and cultures of First Nations people. This proposal will be considered by Government following the completion of the design competition. Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Burney', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Hon LINDA BURNEY MP
Minister for Indigenous Australians

28 / 7 / 2022