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PATRON: The Hon Margaret Reid AO

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Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The National Trust of Australia does not support the proposed development, particularly the new southern entry and the replacement of Anzac Hall.

The proposal seems to represent a need for monumental buildings for museums as opposed to maintaining the heritage values of the existing building by:

- Demolition of a nationally acclaimed and significant Anzac Hall which is part of the significance of the place;
- Total reconstruction of the southern entrance with its impact on the forecourt and Anzac Parade;
- Ignoring the fact that the existing significant place is a combination of buildings and site. The existing HMP articulates these values. Despite this the values seem to have been overlooked in the demand for more space.

The AWM was the first place classified by the ACT National Trust. The ACT National Trust considers the current proposals to have an adverse impact on the significance of the place.

The southern entrance involves a new profile of the area resulting in a major change to how the forecourt of the AWM will be viewed to and from this iconic and significant view.

This will add a hard physical and structured forecourt in lieu of a soft landscape and will have an adverse impact. The side views which are also important views to the building will be substantially altered.

The new Anzac Hall gives little consideration to the existing building and little consideration to the view from Mt Ainslie and will become a dominant element.

In consideration of the impact on the official heritage values and attributes from the National Heritage Citation the following comments are made:

Criterion A Processes

The entire building and setting are adversely affected.

Criterion D Characteristic Values

The architectural styling and design are adversely affected.

Criterion E

The terminating building at the northern end of the land axis is adversely affected by the new modified entrance.

Criterion F Technical Achievement

The massing is affected especially when viewed from Mt Ainslie.

Criterion M Significant People

The architectural form and original design by Sodersteen and Crust are adversely affected by the proposal.

We are aware that the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act referral form found that the proposed redevelopment will have a significant and adverse impact and yet it is still being considered. Our heritage needs better protection than this.

The National Trust does not support this proposal.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. J. Martin', written in a cursive style.

Eric J Martin, AM