



AUSTRALIAN
PEACEKEEPING
MEMORIAL
PROJECT

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7th February 2007

The Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Suite S 1.57
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Kathleen Dermody,

Inquiry into Australia's Involvement in peacekeeping operations

Thank you for advising me about the Inquiry into peacekeeping operations and the opportunity to comment to the Committee. Peacekeeping has involved many Australians, government Departments and companies. The aim on the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project (APMP) is to ensure that the contribution and sacrifice made by Australians on peacekeeping operations over the last 60 years is appropriately honoured through the construction of a Peacekeeping Memorial in Canberra. The preferred location for the Memorial is on ANZAC parade, and this preference is supported by the Australian Defence Force, Australian Police Forces, the RSL and peacekeeping veterans.

I attach a brief on the APMP, and further information on the aims, vision and progress of the Project can be viewed on our website at: www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au. The Canberra National Memorials Committee will consider a site for the Memorial soon and we have approached Treasury to gain "Designated Gift Recipient" status for the Project. We are seeking support from a range of sponsors from the private sector who will be suitably recognised in the project, in addition to funding from Government.

I would be happy to provide further information to the Committee if required, and I can be contacted at the above address or on telephone at 0408 029 295.

I wish the Committee all the very best for a comprehensive and productive Inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Major General (Retd) Tim Ford, AO
Chairman

Attached: APMP Brief

PATRONS: ● John Sanderson, AC ● Geraldine Doogue, AO ● Michael Keelty, APM



PROPOSAL FOR AN AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPING MEMORIAL IN CANBERRA

Background

Australia has been continually and actively involved in peace operations for over fifty years, although our military and police contributions have increased significantly over the last decade. Our involvement has covered the complete spectrum of peace operations and personnel from a number of Federal, State and Territory government agencies have also participated in these peace initiatives.

Over the last few years a proposal has been developing that a national peacekeeping memorial should be established in Canberra to represent all Australians who have and will continue to serve on peacekeeping operations. This includes those from the Defence Force, the Federal, State and Territory Police Forces and those from government agencies who have served on peacekeeping operations which are commanded or authorized by the United Nations, or are sanctioned by the Australian Government. This proposal has now developed into the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project (APMP).

The Memorial will commemorate and celebrate Australian peacekeeping. It will commemorate the sacrifice, service and valour of Australian peacekeepers given in the same spirit as in other conflicts honoured in cenotaphs and memorials across Australia and on ANZAC Parade. It will also celebrate Australia's positive contribution to international peacekeeping since its commitment to the first UN peacekeeping mission on 14th September 1947, and the excellent achievement and reputation of Australia and our peacekeepers in international peace and security.

Memorial Requirements

The National Capital Authority (NCA) controls and coordinates memorial locations on ANZAC Parade and throughout Canberra. Proposals are considered by the Canberra National Memorials Committee (CNMC) chaired by the Prime Minister.

A formal application outlining our proposal is being developed in conjunction with the NCA. It is understood that the CNMC will consider reservation of a site for the Memorial in March 2007. Experience indicates that about \$2.7m is required to fund major national memorials in Canberra.

For this memorial proposal to be successful, it will need to demonstrate the national significance of international peacekeeping to meet the values and aspirations of the Australian people. It will be important that the APMP is well supported by Government, the Australian Defence Force (ADF), the Australian police forces, peacekeeping veterans, ex-services and police organisations, the RSL and the

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Australian public. It will need to encompass a broad range of interest groups and attract significant community and corporate funding.

Progress to Date

The Federal Government, through the Department of Veterans Affairs, has indicated support for this proposal and has provided an initial grant of \$200,000 to assist construction of the Memorial.

Meetings have been held with the leadership of the Australian Defence Force, the Australian Federal Police, peacekeeping veteran organisations and the ex-services community which have confirmed that there is a strong conviction and need for a national peacekeeping memorial to be built in Canberra. All supporting organisations, the ADF and the AFP have indicated that they believe the Memorial should be located on ANZAC Parade.

A committee for the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project has been convened with duly elected office bearers and representatives from the Australian Defence Force, the Australian Federal Police and peacekeeping veterans. The former Western Australian Governor and peacekeeper, Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC, well known ABC Presenter Ms Geraldine Doogue AO, and the Australian Federal Police Commissioner, Mick Keelty APM, have graciously agreed to be patrons of the APMP.

The APMP is established as a public non profit organization under a constitution as a business incorporated in the ACT. A membership appeal was launched in September 2006 and fund raising activities will commence soon. Details on the Project vision, purpose and structure are outlined on the APMP website at www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au



Major General (Retired) Tim Ford, AO
Chairman
Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project Committee

5th February 2007