



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

**Chair: Senator Dean Smith**

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## **Inquiry into Sir John Monash Centre, Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France**

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into proposed construction of the Sir John Monash Centre (SJMC) to be located behind the Australian National Memorial site in Villers-Bretonneux, France.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs told the Committee that the SJMC will comprise of an interpretive centre and gallery which will showcase Australian materials, craftsmanship, culture and technology. The project will include site infrastructure, landscaping and grounds maintenance and feature lighting for the Australian National Memorial.

The SJMC will use leading-edge integrated multimedia systems and interactive displays to provide an overview of, and context for, Australian operations during the First World War, creating a lasting legacy from the Anzac Centenary.

The SJMC will tell the story of the extraordinary efforts of the 290,000 Australians who served on the Western Front with such distinction. It will offer an evocative and educational experience for visitors of all nationalities and will honour Australian service and sacrifice in France and Belgium during the First World War.

The Committee Chair, Senator Dean Smith, said the Committee will conduct public and in-camera hearings for the inquiry in Canberra in June 2015.

The estimated cost of the project is \$93.2 million.

Full details on the project are available on the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc)

### **Submissions to the inquiry close on 10 June 2015.**

Full details of the public hearing will be available soon.

**NB** the Public Works Committee is neither involved in the tendering process nor the awarding of contracts. Enquiries on those matters should be addressed to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

**For interview:** Contact the Chair's office on (08) 9481 0349.

**For further information**, including how to make a submission, the public hearing times, and copies of submissions when they become available, please visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4636.