



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 25 June 2015

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Chair: Senator Dean Smith

Public hearing into Sir John Monash Centre, Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France

The Public Works Committee is conducting a public hearing into the proposed construction of the Sir John Monash Centre (SJMC) to be located adjacent to the Australian National Memorial in Villers-Bretonneux, France.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has told the Committee that the building will be partially concealed under the landscape in order to remain respectful of the site's existing cemetery and memorial and the surrounding battlefields.

The SJMC will complement the Australian Remembrance Trail, the Australian National Memorial and the Franco-Australian Museum in Villers-Bretonneux, all of which commemorate Australia's service along the Western Front during the First World War. The design will offer visitors an interpretive experience not found elsewhere on the Western Front.

Construction and fit-out of the SJMC is expected to be completed in February 2018 in time for the centenary of the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux in April 2018. The estimated cost of the project is \$93.2 million.

Public Hearing Venue: Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra
Date: Friday, 26 June 2015
Time: 10.00am to 11.00am

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Full details on the project are available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/pwc

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 office of Senator Dean Smith, Chair, 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.