

From: Stewart Mitchell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2020 3:50 PM
To: Committee, Public Works (REPS)
Subject: Supplementary Submission from MAJGEN Steve Gower and Stewart Mitchell - 'Australian War Memorial Development Project'

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Inquiry into 'Australian War Memorial Development Project'

Supplementary Submission from MAJGEN Steve Gower and Stewart Mitchell

We would like to make a supplementary submission for consideration by the Committee. The reason for this is to bring to the Committee's attention statements contained in the evidence presented by the Australian War Memorial 14 July 2020 that we know to be incorrect or inaccurate and that we feel are therefore misleading.

Page 36 3rd paragraph (Mr Anderson) Quote: "... I have met, **at my request**, with Major General Steve Gower AO AO (Military). I have met, in the Australian War Memorial, with the medical practitioners against war, and I've met, via Zoom, with the Australian Institute of Architects. I've also met with Heritage Guardians and the Honest History people. **Again, that was all at my request**, so that I can understand where they're coming from and what their interests are."

Statement. This statement is inaccurate. A meeting between General Gower and Mr Anderson occurred but it was NOT at Mr Anderson's request. General Gower wrote to Mr Anderson late April 2020 congratulating him on his appointment and suggesting a meeting to discuss the development project. Mr Anderson later accepted General Gower's offer and they subsequently met. Consultation and who initiated it was a prominent line of questioning by the Committee and it is felt important to get this right.

Page 38 9th paragraph (Mr Hitches) Quote: "Also, the lift to get into the main building from the front entry is not a lift where you can just go and push a button, and up you go; a visitor services officer needs to come down and assist with the use of that lift".

Statement. This statement is incorrect. This lift does not need visitor services assistance. It is independently operated by the user for building entry to the Front Foyer and exit from the building via the Front Foyer. It also provides independent access (from the Front Foyer) to the lower ground floor museum level (as does a large modern lift at the central stair area inside the building). This arrangement may have changed due to COVID 19 restriction however the front lift was designed for independent access and was fully code compliant and accessible when installed as an upgrade to the pre-existing lift (to address the very issue of accessibility) sometime in the early to mid 2000s. Access issues were a line of questioning by the Committee and accessibility is referred to by the AWM (but without detail) in their PWC submission and their EPBC Act submission; it is felt important that misleading statements such as this are corrected. General Gower's and Stewart Mitchell's submissions also mention code compliance and accessibility work undertaken at the Memorial over many years and during gallery redevelopment.

Yours sincerely

Steve Gower, Stewart Mitchell