



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories

MEDIA RELEASE

13 September 2011

MEMORIAL ORDINANCE CRITICS TO APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEE

The Parliament's National Capital and External Territories Committee has begun its inquiry into the administration of the National Memorials Ordinance 1928, which covers the building of memorials of national significance in Canberra.

At the inquiry's first public hearing, the committee will meet with the Walter Burley Griffin Society (Submission 7) and the Lake War Memorials Forum (Submission 27).

The public hearing will be held in **Committee Room 1R2**, Parliament House Canberra, on Wednesday 14 September, at **12.30pm**.

In its submission, the Walter Burley Griffin Society argues that the National Memorials Ordinance is obsolete and dysfunctional. It calls for a radical overhaul of the structure and processes surrounding the assessment and approval process for national memorials.

Likewise, the Lake War Memorials Forum highlights the lack of effective oversight and public consultation inherent in the assessment and approval process, and calls for radical change.

Committee chair Senator Louise Pratt said it was timely for the committee to investigate these matters given recent criticism of the planning process for national memorials.

"Already we have received a number of proposals for reform of the Ordinance which the committee will examine more closely," she said.

PUBLIC HEARING—Canberra, Wednesday 14 September 2011

WHERE: Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra
WHEN: Wednesday 14 September 2011, 12.30pm
WEBCAST: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Senator Louise Pratt, on (02) 6277 3127

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4355, email jscncet@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ncet>