

23 August 2011

The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital
and External Territories

Submission to the Inquiry into National Memorials proposed for Canberra

Summary

The proposal to erect two towers on ANZAC Parade has been put forward with insufficient public debate and in contravention of Section 6 (1) of the National Memorials Ordinance 1928 (amended), which requires the Minister to consider **all matters referred to him by the Committee...with regard to the location or character of national memorials in the Territory and for that purpose the Committee shall refer to the Minister all such communications, representations and recommendations made to the Committee.**

ANZAC Centenary and Commemoration

The proposed towers are out of sympathy with the landscape. To mark the centenary of Australia's participation in the First World War and to honour the memory of the ANZACs the Light Horse Memorial should be moved to the centre of ANZAC Parade. The current Canberra memorial is a copy of the original which was erected at Port Said in 1932 but which was destroyed in 1956.

This was the first national memorial to the AIF and is contemporaneous with the War Memorial which was commissioned in 1927. It is a magnificent and striking sculpture which should stand in the open where it could be seen and fully appreciated from all sides. Repositioned close to the base of ANZAC Parade it could be floodlit at night adding a new civic adornment to the National Capital. Modest in size and height it would not detract from the overall vista from the War Memorial to Parliament House but would complement it.

As the premier monument to the Australian military it symbolically stands for all Australians who fought in both World Wars. The First AIF

was formed on 15 August 1914. Moving the Light Horse Memorial to the centre of ANZAC Parade in 2014 would be the most appropriate way to honour the memory of all those who served their country from 1914 to 1918 and those who followed from 1939 to 1945 and beyond.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'C. H. Stuart'.

C. H. Stuart