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NCA APPROVAL OF DESTRUCTIVE MEASURES AT THE WAR MEMORIAL DEFIES THE WISHES OF THE COMMUNITY.

DOCTORS GROUP CALLS FOR RESPECT FOR DEMOCRACY

The NCA today announced that “early works” at the AWM - in the form of the destruction of Anzac Hall, the removal of 140 trees, and major excavation at the front of the memorial - have been approved.

Dr Sue Wareham, President of the Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia), which has been prominent in opposing the proposed redevelopment, said today, “The whole consultation process has been an absolute disgrace, a sham from start to finish.

With the “early works” approved and the AWM reduced to a building site, the next step will be for the NCA to decide whether rebuilding should occur. One could not imagine a more ludicrous situation.”

The NCA’s own report released today stated that the recent consultation process received 601 submissions, of which 3 (three) supported the works. That’s ½%. The other 99.5% who expressed concerns, including a large number of authoritative voices, have been over-ruled.

The Chief Executive of the NCA, Sally Barnes, recently told Senate Estimates that the NCA’s role is “to maintain Canberra as a capital that all Australians can be proud of and that reflects the national value”.

Dr Wareham said, “How can we be proud of a national capital where decisions are made by powerful people behind closed doors, and public opinion is trampled on? That’s how autocracies behave, not democracies.”

Dr Wareham was also very critical of the great speed with which 601 submissions were assessed and a decision made. “From our communication with the NCA, we understand that the Agency was struggling to properly handle such a large number of submissions, but within a very short space of time a decision has been made.”

The AWM has consistently lied about the extent of public support for their proposal, and the NCA is now complicit.

Dr Wareham said, “The fact that we’re talking about the commemoration of those who died for our democracy, makes the situation particularly damning.

This is a very sad day for Australia. This decision must be reversed, and the NCA reformed, so that it reflects the views of the Australian people whom it is meant to represent.”

ENDS

AFFILIATE



FOUNDER

