

Submission on the draft of the Australian Capital Territory (National Memorials, Public Places and Territory Divisions) Ordinance 2022

It is some 93 years since the *National Memorials Ordinance 1928* came into force and it is understandable that some of its provisions may need to be amended in light of the development of the National Capital since 1928. Nonetheless, I would think that the principal considerations that gave rise to the Ordinance in its original form would still apply today and should not be varied or weakened lightly. Before making the following comments it would have been helpful to have had the time to compare in detail the Ordinance against the draft Ordinance. The time between the calling for submissions and the deadline for their lodgement has not been sufficient to do this.

Having lived in Canberra for nigh on 70 years, it is my perception that the number of proposals for recognition of events, persons or achievements in the National Capital has steadily grown over the last 20-30 years. That is understandable as Australia is now 70 years older, it has fought in a Second World War and in a number of other conflicts and it has faced and overcome other challenges. It is a larger and a different country from what it was in 1928.

My perception is that in recent times, with the increase in the number of applications, the number of approvals has increased and the benchmark for approving suggested memorials has been, to a degree, lowered. The Ordinance in its current form seeks to perpetuate the memory of events, persons and achievements. I would caution against widening the scope of the Ordinance to embrace causes which it could be argued have not as yet reached a level of achievement that justifies recognition.

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25 February 2022

Re-submitted 11 March 2022