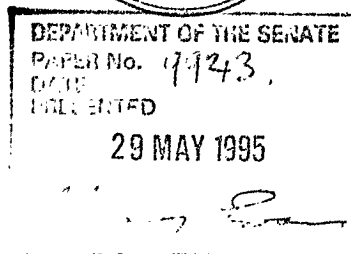
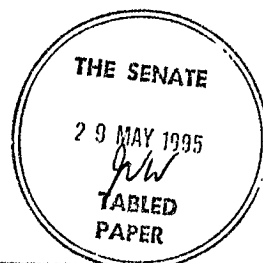




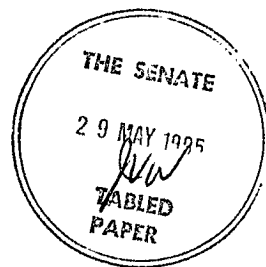
**Report of the Joint Standing Committee on the
National Capital and External Territories**



KING GEORGE V MEMORIAL

May 1995

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia



KING GEORGE V MEMORIAL

Report of the Joint Standing Committee on the
National Capital and External Territories

May 1995

Commonwealth of Australia 1995

ISBN 0 642 22787 X

Membership of the Committee

37th Parliament

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Deputy Chairman

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Senator Margaret Reid

Members

Mr Eoin Cameron, MP (from 29 June 1994 to 30 March 1995)
Mr Harry Jenkins, MP
Mr John Langmore, MP
Hon Leo McLeay, MP
Mr John Sharp, MP
Mr Brendan Smyth, MP (from 30 March 1995)
Senator Robert Bell (from 19 August 1993)
Senator John Coates
Senator Mal Colston
Senator Noel Crichton-Browne (from 17 August 1993)
Senator Ian Macdonald

Committee secretary
Inquiry secretary
Administrative officer

Ms Meg Crooks
Mrs Cheryl Samuels
Ms Kate Wallace

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Chapter 1 The Inquiry

Introduction

1.1 The King George V Memorial (the Memorial) commemorates King George V, monarch at the time of the opening of Old Parliament House, and symbolises the link between the monarch and the major formative period of Canberra.¹

1.2 The Memorial is located in Parkes Place, Canberra and consists of a central brick pylon faced with sandstone blocks. There is a 4.5 metre copper alloy sculpture of King George V facing east and a sandstone figure of St George on horseback facing west. Ten commemorative inscriptions are inscribed on the sandstone, both at the base and high on the pylon, and nine copper alloy bass-relief plaques have been placed around the work.

1.3 Originally standing on a large podium directly in front of Old Parliament House, the Memorial was moved in 1968 to its present location west of the front of Old Parliament House and north of King George Terrace. The large podium was replaced at that time by a narrow two step granite platform.

1.4 On its present site, the Memorial is surrounded by a granite paved area and flanked by two mature Lombardy poplars (*Populus nigra* 'Italica').

Terms of reference

1.5 On 2 March 1995 the Hon Brian Howe MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Housing and Regional Development, referred the proposed restoration of the King George V Memorial to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories for inquiry and report (see appendix A).

1 Letter from the Hon Brian Howe MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Housing and Regional Development dated 2 March 1995 (appendix A, p. 13).

1.6 The Minister believes that compelling reasons exist for the proposed restoration to be carried out:

- the Memorial is classified by the National Trust of Australia (ACT) and has been entered on the Register of the National Estate as significant within a Registered Area: the Parliamentary Zone...;
- the revamp of Old Parliament House as a museum and exhibition space is attracting increasing visitor numbers to the area...The proximity of a National Memorial in poor repair and currently inaccessible to the public, reflects negatively on the National Capital;
- the current condition of the Memorial is such that public access has not been possible for more than two years because of concerns about public safety and continuing damage to the Memorial. The monument has been fenced off to protect the public from falling stonework and uneven and broken paving; and
- the rate of deterioration of the Memorial has accelerated. Delays in maintenance will further damage the original fabric of the Memorial ultimately making restoration more expensive.²

Work in the Parliamentary Zone

1.7 Section 5 of the *Parliament Act 1974* sets out the following provisions for parliamentary control of erection of building or other work within the Parliamentary Zone:

- (1) No building or other work is to be erected on land within the Parliamentary Zone unless the Minister has caused a proposal for the erection of the building or work to be laid before each House of the Parliament and the proposal has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (2) Sub-section (1) does not prevent the carrying out of work by way of maintenance or repair of buildings or works situated on land within the Parliamentary Zone, or by way of internal alterations to those buildings or works.

1.8 The proposed restoration of the Memorial falls within subsection 5(2) of the *Parliament Act 1974*, and as such does not require parliamentary approval. However, in order to prevent further damage to the Memorial, the proposed restoration includes the removal of the two Lombardy poplars mentioned earlier in this chapter. Subsection 5 (1) of the *Parliament Act 1974* applies to this aspect of the proposed restoration and forms the basis of the Committee's Inquiry.

² Appendix A, pp. 13-14.

Role of the Committee

1.9 In May 1993 the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories was established by resolution agreed by the House of Representatives and by the Senate.

1.10 As a joint committee, the Committee has members from both Houses of Parliament (House of the Representatives and Senate) and reports to both Houses. As its name suggests, the Committee has responsibility for matters particularly relevant to the National Capital and external Territories (Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Australian Antarctic, Coral Sea Islands, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Heard Islands, McDonald Islands and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island).

1.11 In relation to the National Capital, paragraph 1(a) of the Committee's Resolution of Appointment provides for the Committee to inquire into and report on:

matters involving the Parliamentary Zone and coming within the terms of section 5 of the *Parliament Act 1974* as may be referred to it by either House of the Parliament, the Minister responsible for administering the Parliament Act or the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate.

1.12 The Government's policy is to respond in Parliament to Committee reports within three months of their presentation (including any dissenting report).

1.13 In his letter of 2 March 1995, the Minister indicated that the Committee may wish to inquire into and report on the proposed work. The Committee resolved to accept the Inquiry and the Minister was advised accordingly.

1.14 As outlined above, the Parliament has only limited jurisdiction over the proposed restoration of the Memorial. The advanced state of disrepair of the Memorial also makes it essential that an early decision be made on the proposed restoration. Therefore, the Committee decided not to conduct public hearings or call for submissions to this Inquiry, except from the National Capital Planning Authority (NCPA). A copy of the NCPA's submission appears at appendix B and details of exhibits received are at appendix C.

Historical overview

1.15 In their historical account of the commissioning and design of the Memorial, Freeman Collett and Partners³ reported that, on 10 March 1936 cabinet agreed that:

- the memory of the late King George V be perpetuated in Canberra by a group of symbolic statuary in bronze;
- the site be on the vacant square immediately in front of Parliament House;
- the statuary should be of such a nature as to be symbolic of the association of the King with the birth and first 25 years of Federation, the growth of the idea of Empire unity as a Commonwealth of Nations owing allegiance to one sovereign, and the main events of Australia's national life; and
- the statuary be known as the King George V Memorial.⁴

1.16 In March 1937 a design by Sydney sculptor, G Rayner Hoff, was accepted. The architectural proportions of the Memorial were completed in 1941, however, the casting of bronzes by the Morris-Singer Company in London was delayed by World War II. As a result, the finished Memorial was not unveiled until 4 March 1953.

1.17 Questions over both the siting of the Memorial and the ongoing need for repairs have dogged the Memorial for over fifty years.

³ Freeman Collett and Partners (architects & planners), David Young (masonry conservation consultant) and Colin Pearson (metals conservation consultant) were commissioned by the NCPA to undertake a conservation study of the Memorial. Their report, *King George V Memorial Conservation Study*, Volumes 1 & 2, January 1994 and Volume 3, February 1994, is listed as Exhibit No. 1 to this Inquiry.

⁴ Exhibit No. 1, pp. 3–4.

Location

1.18 Freeman Collett and Partners noted that the Memorial was one of the most photographed monuments in the country:

It is stuck in family albums all over Australia, appears on postcards and official photographs, and when not being photographed serves as a focal point for every demonstration and rally aimed at Parliamentarians.⁵

1.19 As mentioned earlier in this chapter, the Memorial was originally located in front of Old Parliament House, 46 metres from the centre of the present alignment of King George Terrace. However, concern was expressed in Parliament about its location in 1941 and again in 1943. In 1949 the National Capital Planning and Development Committee recommended that in view of the urgent need for repairs, the Memorial be shifted.

1.20 In 1965 Lord Holford also proposed removing the Memorial from its site immediately in front of Parliament House. A newspaper article dated 7 October 1965 stated that the reason for growing public dissatisfaction with the siting of the Memorial was that its location and size blocked the view of Old Parliament House and the War Memorial.⁶

1.21 The architect of the Memorial, Fosskett, was reported to have said in the 1960s that neither he nor Hoff were happy with the original siting, and that their preference was for a flanking site.⁷

1.22 The Memorial was moved to its present site in 1968. Relocation was again considered in 1983 as part of a National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) review of the Parliamentary Zone but no action was taken.

⁵ Exhibit No. 1, Volume 1, p. 8.

⁶ reproduced in Exhibit No. 1, Volume 2, Figure 17.

⁷ Exhibit No. 1, Volume 1, p. 7.

1.23 Freeman Collett and Partners believe that the present siting of the Memorial has compromised the structure because:

- The massive pylon, pedestals and sculptures are completely out of scale with the small area between the poplars;
- The tall poplars dwarf the Memorial and prevent appreciation of its massive scale;
- It cannot be viewed from side-on;
- The 45° diagonal view is mostly blocked: this view was important to Hoff because first views of the Memorial in its original siting were on the diagonal; and
- The Memorial intrudes on the surrounding plantings disrupting their formal landscape qualities.⁸

Proposed restoration

1.24 An outline scope of works, as proposed by Freeman Collett and Partners, appears at appendix D. Problems that require urgent treatment include:

- opening of joints in the stonework which allows the entry of water;
- lifting of paving;
- root invasion by adjacent poplar trees;
- lichen growth; and
- corrosion of bronze elements.⁹

1.25 Restoration will be carried out under the direction of the National Capital Planning Authority (NCPA) and is expected to take approximately four months at an estimated cost of \$226 905.¹⁰ This amount includes tree removal and reinstatement of the area with new plants.

8 Exhibit No. 1, Volume 1, p. 17.

9 Appendix A, p. 14.

10 Appendix B, p. 20.

Chapter 2 The Issues

2.1 The Committee recognised that:

- the proposed restoration requires the removal of two Lombardy poplars; and
- considerable restoration is required, possibly due to long delays in much needed maintenance.

Proposed removal of Lombardy poplars

2.2 Freeman Collett and Partners commented that:

Although the official words were that the *established group of poplar trees provide a fine setting*, it is hard to see that today, because the Memorial and the adjacent poplars appear to jostle for position. The poplars have grown in the last 25 years but they were large mature trees in 1968. Indeed, the elevational sketch produced at the time could be read as indicating that the conflict between the trees and an easily viewed Memorial was problematic even at that stage.¹

2.3 In his letter of 2 March 1995, the Minister noted that the root systems of the poplars have caused damage to paving surrounding the Memorial, representing a tripping hazard and fine roots have penetrated the stone work of the Memorial's plinth. Access to the Memorial for maintenance work is restricted by location of the Lombardy poplars.²

1 Exhibit No. 1, p. 9.

2 Appendix A, p. 14.

2.4 The Minister also noted that the proposed removal of the Lombardy poplars has been the subject of considerable discussion between the NCPA and the Australian Heritage Commission (the Commission). Initially, the Commission advised against removing the poplars and recommended the installation of root barriers to combat the root invasion problem. Following further discussions with the NCPA, the Commission agreed that there appears no prudent or feasible alternative to the removal of the Lombardy poplars.³

Restoration and maintenance

2.5 The NCPA's main concern about the Memorial is that:

- ...the condition of some elements of the Memorial is already approaching irreparable. Any delay in critical short term consideration works will further jeopardise the very fabric of the Memorial. The continued opening of joints through root damage, the resultant water penetration and expansion of the brick core is eroding the sandstone. Only so much can be done using an epoxy strengthener to repair the sandstone, before the structural integrity of each block will be lost. The location of replacement sandstone will be difficult and expensive; and
- at this stage the fabric can be saved through restoration. Any delay may necessitate the replacement of major elements which will be a much more costly exercise. It is critical that the Memorial fabric is restored and stabilised before the much longer process of relocation is embarked upon.⁴

2.6 As mentioned in chapter 1, public access to the Memorial has not been possible since 24 October 1991 because of concern about public safety and continuing damage to the Memorial. The Memorial is fenced off to protect the public from falling stonework and uneven and broken paving.

3 Appendix A, p. 16 & p. 18.

4 Appendix B, p. 21.

2.7 A chronology of events compiled by Freeman Collett and Partners indicates a long history of delays in maintenance to the Memorial. For example:

- 1951 – repairs to foundations as a result of subsidence
- 1962 – the need for substantial repairs to stonework identified
- 1965 – repairs tendered by the Works Department but not proceeded with
- 1968 – repairs possibly undertaken during relocation
- 1984 to 1993 – several studies undertaken on the condition of the Memorial.⁵

2.8 As can be seen from the above list, several studies were undertaken into the condition of the Memorial. Based on the evidence, it seems likely that problems identified in these studies were not rectified, and no maintenance has been carried out on the Memorial since 1968.

2.9 The Committee is concerned that the failure to carry out maintenance on the Memorial since 1968 has contributed to the urgent need to undertake restoration before a decision has been made the permanent location of the Memorial.

Location of the Memorial

2.10 In his letter of 2 March 1995, the Minister noted that a preliminary assessment indicates that costs for the reconstruction of the Memorial in its original form on a new site would be in the order of \$625 000. The Minister added that, even if the Memorial is eventually relocated, this is unlikely prior to the turn of the century.⁶

5 Exhibit No. 1, Volume 1, appendix 1, p. 1.

6 Appendix A, p. 14.

2.11 The Committee sought clarification from the NCPA as to why the final location of the Memorial could not be resolved now, rather than some years in the future. The NCPA responded that relocation funding has not been formally sought through the Budget process because informal discussions with the Department of Finance have been unfavourable. The NCPA believes that the relocation of the Memorial is not a straightforward matter because:

in cultural heritage terms, the significance of the Memorial is changing in a climate of national consideration of Australia's constitutional future. The recent listing of the nearby 'Aboriginal embassy' on the Register of the National Estate is also a complicating factor.⁷

Chapter 3 Conclusions and Recommendations

Location of the Memorial

3.1 The Committee considers that the present location of the King George V Memorial is appropriate for the following reasons:

- the Memorial has been located on this site for the majority of its existence; and
- the issue of changing its location would be difficult to resolve.

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the King George V Memorial remain on its present site as its permanent location.

Restoration and maintenance

3.2 The restoration and maintenance of the Memorial falls within the meaning of subsection 5(2) of the *Parliament Act 1974*. Under this subsection, the NCPA is able to undertake the proposed restoration without approval by resolution of each House of Parliament.

3.3 The Committee is concerned, however, that maintenance has not been as regular nor as timely as has been needed to keep the Memorial in a sound condition. Once the proposed restoration has been carried out, the Committee believes that the condition of the Memorial should be reviewed on a regular basis and maintenance carried out promptly so that the current level of deterioration is not permitted to reoccur.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the required restoration of the King George V Memorial proceed on the basis that its current location is permanent and that restoration be completed to a standard commensurate with the permanent siting of the Memorial.

Proposed removal of Lombardy poplars

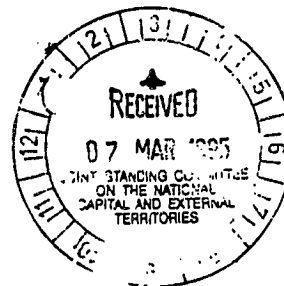
3.4 Based on the evidence, the Committee accepts that it is necessary to remove the Lombardy poplars, although the Committee regrets that such a problem was not foreseen when the Memorial was moved to its present location.

3.5 Recommendation 3

On the basis of Recommendations 1 and 2, the Committee recommends that the proposed removal of the two mature Lombardy poplars be approved.



R L Chynoweth MP
Chairman



DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: (06) 277 7680
Facsimile: (06) 273 4126

- 2 MAR 1995

Mr R. L. Chynoweth MP
Chairman
Joint Standing Committee on the
National Capital and External Territories
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Chynoweth,

I write to advise the Committee of restoration to be carried out by the National Capital Planning Authority on the King George V Memorial in Parkes Place. Restoration requirements for the Memorial have been identified following a detailed Conservation Study in three volumes on the condition of the memorial by Freeman Collett and Partners Pty Ltd and specialists in masonry and metal conservation (Attachment A). The report indicates the necessity to remove two trees. The proposal to remove the trees as part of the restoration will require Parliamentary approval under the *Parliament Act 1974*. The Committee may wish to inquire into and report on the proposed work.

The following points underscore the importance of this Memorial and compelling reasons for the proposed maintenance to be carried out:

- the Memorial is classified by the National Trust of Australia (ACT) and has been entered on the Register of the National Estate as significant within a Registered Area: the Parliamentary Zone. "The Heritage of the ACT" (National Trust of Australia [ACT] 1992) states:

The statue commemorates King George V, monarch at the time of the opening of the Old Parliament House, and symbolises the link between the monarch and the major formative period of Canberra;

- the revamp of the Old Parliament House as a museum and exhibition space is attracting increasing visitor numbers to the area. In 1994, visitors to Old Parliament House totalled 194,125. The proximity of a National Memorial in poor repair and currently inaccessible to the public, reflects negatively on the National Capital;
- the current condition of the Memorial is such that public access has not been possible for more than two years because of concerns about public safety and continuing damage to the Memorial. The monument has been fenced off to protect the public from falling stonework and uneven and broken paving; and,

- the rate of deterioration of the memorial has accelerated. Delays in maintenance will further damage the original fabric of the Memorial ultimately making restoration more expensive.

There has been some discussion about the relocation of the Memorial. Preliminary assessment indicates that costs for the reconstruction of the Memorial in its original form on a new site would be in the order of \$625,000. Detail of this assessment is provided at Appendix 1, page 1-5, of Volume 3 Conservation Study by Freeman Collett and Partners Pty Ltd (see Attachment A). Several other options are also canvassed and costed in Appendix 1 of this Volume. Even if the Memorial is eventually relocated, it is unlikely prior to the turn of the century. Relocation funding has not been sought through the Budget process because of other priorities in the Authority's Restoration and Replacement Program for Commonwealth Assets in the National Capital.

The proposed removal of two Lombardy poplars (*Populus nigra* 'Italica') in the quadrant of trees immediately adjacent to the Memorial, has been the subject of considerable discussion between the National Capital Planning Authority and the Australian Heritage Commission. In an initial response of 6 December 1994, the Commission advised that the trees should not be removed (see Attachment B). The Commission proposed instead that a root invasion problem be dealt with through the installation of root barriers. The installation of root barriers would necessitate considerable cutting of the tree's root systems and technical advice indicates that this would cause the loss of stability for the trees as well as loss of vigour.

The current height disparity of the trees in this quadrant is also an issue. Two of the trees are immature (approx. 4 metres high) having been planted several years ago to replace original trees previously removed from the western side. The two trees of the quadrant closest to the Memorial, are post-mature and these are the two proposed for removal. Their root systems have caused damage to paving surrounding the Memorial, presenting a tripping hazard. The stone work of the Memorial's plinth has been penetrated by fine roots which have matted and continue to grow in the cool moist environment. These two larger trees also restrict access to the Memorial for maintenance work.

The NCPA and the Australian Heritage Commission have now reached agreement on these and other issues and the Commission has advised that "it appears that there is no prudent or feasible alternative to the removal of the two Lombardy poplars adjacent to King George V Memorial". A copy of the Commission's letter of 3 February 1995 is at Attachment C.

As indicated in the Conservation Study Report by Freeman Collett and Partners Pty Ltd, it is essential that this work is carried out to prevent further damage to the stone and metal elements of the Memorial. Problems to be treated include: opening of joints in the stonework which allows the entry of water; lifting of paving; root invasion by adjacent poplar trees; lichen growth; and, corrosion of bronze elements. It is expected that the restoration process will take approximately four months and be carried out during the Autumn or Spring of 1995 to limit extremes of temperature.

I would be grateful if you could advise if the Committee wishes to inquire and report on this proposal. As usual, the National Capital Planning Authority will be pleased to provide a presentation on the condition of the Memorial and the scope of works necessary for its restoration. Arrangements for a presentation or further information can be made by telephoning Diana Williams on 271 2880.

Yours sincerely

Brian Howe

BRIAN HOWE



AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE
COMMISSION

File: 8/1/0384
Contact: Lynden Ayliffe
Juliet Ramsay

Appendix A, Attachment B

Exhibit No. 2 to the Inquiry into
the King George V Memorial

6 December 1994

Mr G Prattley
Acting Chief Executive
National Capital Planning Authority
GPO Box 373
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Prattley

Re: Parkes Place Tree Management and Replacement Strategy & Restoration of
King George V Memorial

Thank you for your referral and for the explanation of the proposed works by Janet Hughes and Ros Ransome to Juliet Ramsay. This is a complex matter which links to a number of other heritage issues. After consideration of your proposals and consulting with a number of experts, the Commission makes the following comments.

- **Restoration of King George V Statue**

It is apparent that the statue is inappropriately located and as explained by NCPA staff, a short term management option has been chosen until an appropriate site for relocating the statue can be agreed. The proposed restoration also involves the removal of the two adjacent poplars and replacement of the trees after restoration program. The Commission therefore recommends the following:

(i) If relocating the statue is not a feasible option at this time then carrying out restoration of the statue in situ is appropriate. The two poplars on either side of the statue do not have dieback according to the Prue Buckley report. The trees and the statue, as part of the Parliamentary Vista heritage area, need to have their management considered within the context of that place. A conservative approach to the works should be taken until a heritage conservation management plan of the significant landscape is carried out.

In the interim the Commission therefore advises that the trees remain and root barriers installed to protect the statue. The tree vigour can be monitored and, if they are considered unsafe, metal stays installed until the conservation management plan is complete and the tree management program based on that report commenced. The trees should not be removed at this stage unless there is no prudent or feasible alternative.

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GPO BOX 1567 CANBERRA ACT 2601 AUSTRALIA

(iii) The Aboriginal Embassy adjacent to the poplars has been nominated to the Register of the National Estate and although there will be no direct impact from the proposed works, the Commission recommends that NCPA consult with the Embassy group to explain the proposed works. Consultation with the ACT Heritage Unit is also appropriate, as the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* gives protection to all Aboriginal places in the ACT.

- **The Tree Replacement Program**

The draft strategy outlines a management program for all the trees in the southern section of Parkes Place. This strategy sets out a new planting program, removal and replacement of trees based on the expected longevity of the trees. Although a heritage study of the plantings has been undertaken this has not been presented in the report and there is no rationale to support the proposed strategy.

Usual planning practice for planning for heritage places involves a *conservation management plan* which summarises the heritage value and all the elements which contribute to the heritage significance. From this, conservation policies can be developed and possible future options outlined, followed by the management recommendations.

Although the Commission recognises that the Parliamentary Triangle has scope for incorporating new design elements be they new plantings, pathways, gardens or hard elements, this should be done only within the context of a comprehensive heritage conservation management plan for the entire heritage precinct which is the Parliamentary Vista.

There are other considerations which may arise from the conservation plan such as the social and aesthetic importance of aged trees, that convey a time depth (this is particularly relevant for the commemorative *Cupressus sempervirens*). The replacement of trees to create an aesthetic of even sized trees of a desired maturity needs careful consideration. It may be appropriate for some trees but not necessary for others, particularly as there will always be loss of trees from the forces of nature, and there will also be uneven growth due to different soil conditions and genetic stock. Although there may be a need to rationalise the design, the options of replacing all of one group, or keeping a few of the big good specimens needs to be considered from the research.

Therefore the Commission recommends that a heritage conservation management plan for the entire parliamentary vista is undertaken prior to the implementation of any tree replacement strategies.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Sullivan

Sharon Sullivan
Executive Director



Appendix A, Attachment C

Exhibit No. 3 to the Inquiry into
the King George V Memorial

File: 8/1/0384
Contact: Kaye Legge 271-2199

3 February 1995

Mr Rohan Dickson
National Capital Planning Authority
10-12 Brisbane Ave
BARTON ACT 2600

Dear Mr Dickson

Thankyou for your response of 20 January 1995 regarding the issue of the removal of two Lombardy poplars located adjacent to King George V Memorial.

In light of the further information you provided, it appears that there is no prudent or feasible alternative to the removal of the two Lombardy poplars adjacent to King George V Memorial.

As recommended in previous correspondence (6 December 1994), the Commission stresses that a Heritage Conservation Management Plan for the entire parliamentary vista is conducted prior to the implementation of the Parkes Place Tree Management and Replacement Strategy.

Yours sincerely

Alex Marden

for Sharon Sullivan
Executive Director



National Capital Planning Authority

Professor the Hon. E.H. Walker (Chairman)
Mr G.N. Prattley (Acting Chief Executive)
Professor P.S. Reid
Dr C.J. Bull

Ms Meg Crooks
Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the
National Capital and External Territories
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Crooks

Thank you for your letter of 30 March 1995 seeking further information about the proposed restoration of the King George V Memorial. Answers to all questions are provided below.

- Q1. The approximate cost (dollars, time and staff) required to:
- complete the necessary restoration and maintenance of the Memorial; and
 - remove the two poplars.

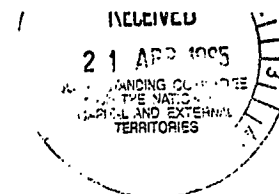
A1. The works proposed to the Committee are for restoration only. Ongoing maintenance of this Memorial will be managed through the Authority's Maintenance of Commonwealth Assets Program. Details of the preferred restoration option (Option 2a) are provided at Appendix 1 and Appendix 5, Volume 3 of the Freeman Collett and Partners Conservation Study and Analysis. Option 2a is for in-situ conservation of the Memorial with a minimal scope of works. The details and figures were prepared in February 1994 and subsequently revised in late 1994. The later development of Option 2a as accepted by the National Capital Planning Authority and the Australian Heritage Commission, allowed for the removal of the two mature poplars. This updated version is costed below. This Option also assumes a 'forward' plan and program for the eventual relocation of the Memorial. It is expected that the project will take three months to complete.

Restoration of King George V Memorial

	\$
Tree removals and reinstatement of area with new plants	7,523.00
Scaffolding and internal access	4,500.00
Internal excavation	4,400.00
Drainage and ventilation	9,250.00
Stonework (repointing, coping, stone repairs, plinth joints, remove lichen)	45,500.00
Bronzes (clean and resurface)	22,000.00
Sub Total	133,173.00

Appendix B

Submission No. 1 to the Inquiry in
the King George V Memorial



	\$
Preliminaries (site set up, power, fencing, access etc)	34,500.00
Professional fees	37,276.00
Contingencies	9,063.00
Sub Total	<u>80,839.00</u>
Staff costs for the National Capital Planning Authority	
1 X Senior Professional Officer Grade C - @ half time for three months	7,447.00
1 X Administrative Services Officer 6 - @ half time for three months	5,446.00
Sub Total	<u>12,893.00</u>
Total	<u>226,905.00</u>

Q2. What would need to occur (processes and cost) if the question of the memorial's final location was decided at this time prior to the work in item 1 above?

Q3. What difficulties would it create to seek to resolve the final location of the Memorial at this time, rather than some years in the future?

A2&3. The relocation of this Memorial is not a straight forward matter. In cultural heritage terms, the significance of the Memorial is changing in a climate of national consideration of Australia's constitutional future. The recent listing of the nearby 'Aboriginal embassy' on the Register of the National Estate is also a complicating factor. The answers to both questions are inextricably linked and are as follows:

- a decision on a new location would need to be made by the Canberra National Memorials Committee which is chaired by the Prime Minister;

- the NCPA would need to determine a schedule of viable alternative sites for consideration by the Memorials Committee taking financial, community and professional concerns into consideration;

- the Authority believes that the choice of a new site and relocation of this Memorial will generate strong community and professional debate. Our estimate is that the process would take a minimum of eight months and more likely a year to complete. It would be necessary to allocate one officer full time for at least six months on this project;

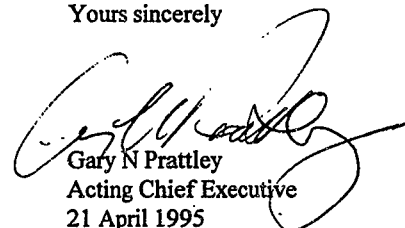
- a decision on a new location would be predicated on the provision of funding through the Department of Finance. The Freeman Collett report indicates costs of the order of \$625,000 to reconstruct the Memorial on a new site. Informal discussions with the Department of Finance have been unfavourable. Relocation funding has not been formally sought through the Budget process because of other more pressing priorities in the Authority's Restoration and Replacement Program for Commonwealth Assets in the National Capital. The Authority has already had to seek additional funding for this Program to compensate for its inability to draw revenue from pay parking in the Parliamentary Zone. This does not auger well for additional funding being made available to relocate one memorial;

- the main concern is that the condition of some elements of the Memorial is already approaching irreparable. Any delay in critical short term conservation works will further jeopardise the very fabric of the Memorial. The continued opening of joints through root damage, the resultant water penetration and expansion of the brick core is eroding the sandstone. Only so much can be done using an epoxy strengthener to repair the sandstone, before the structural integrity of each block will be lost. The location of replacement sandstone will be difficult and expensive; and,

- at this stage the fabric can be saved through restoration. Any delay may necessitate the replacement of major elements which will be a much more costly exercise. It is critical that the Memorial fabric is restored and stabilised before the much longer process of relocation is embarked upon.

Please contact me by telephone on 271 2814 if I can provide any further information.

Yours sincerely


Gary N Prattley
Acting Chief Executive
21 April 1995

Appendix C

List of Exhibits

- 1 Freeman Collett & Partners, David Young and Colin Pearson, *King George V Memorial Conservation Study*, Volumes 1 & 2, January 1994, and Volume 3, February 1994.
- 2 Letter from Ms Sharon Sullivan, Executive Director, Australian Heritage Commission dated 6 December 1995 to Mr G Prattley, Acting Chief Executive, National Capital Planning Authority, concerning Parkes Place Tree Management and Replacement Strategy & Restoration of King George V Memorial.
- 3 Letter from Ms Sharon Sullivan, Executive Director, Australian Heritage Commission dated 3 February 1995 to Mr Rohan Dickson, National Capital Planning Authority concerning the removal of two Lombardy poplars.

Appendix D

KING GEORGE V MEMORIAL King George Terrace, Parkes ACT

Outline Scope of Works

Option 2a:

In situ conservation with minimal scope of works

Introduction

This option anticipates the relocation of the Memorial in the near future (ie 1.5 to 5 years) and does not propose works deemed suitable for a permanently relocated Memorial, ie

- . application of internal sacrificial render
- . deep repointing and/or
- . specific 'plastic' repairs to lost stone.

Scope of Works

Preparatory

- Clean the roof drain with an electric eel from the street sump end. Blockage in the vicinity of the poplar tree roots is suspected.

Short Term Interior Works

- Construct an improved system of access to the interior. This should provide for transport of workers and building materials (such as buckets of mortar) and allow for access to the interior wall surfaces.
- Remove of earth and building rubble in the core space, to expose the inside face of the footings to a minimum depth of 100 mm all round. This will require removal of 7 - 8 cubic metres of material.
- Upgrade ventilation of the interior space by:
 - . installing vent and cowl in a new hatch, and

- by inserting grated openings through brick core and outer concrete stepped plinth. Second stage to be undertaken in conjunction with complete replacement of internal drainpipe (see below).
- Geotechnical advice should be sought as to any risks that may be associated with the ventilation of the interior space upsetting the long term sub-soil moisture balance now established beneath the memorial.
- Completely replace the internal drainpipe in sealed PVC, extending from the roof to the stormwater sump in King George Terrace. This will require excavation through the concrete underlying the surrounding granite paving, and possibly removal of one section of the outer concrete stepped plinth and its granite paving and cladding.
- Interior brickwork below the DPC is to be thoroughly washed down to remove accumulated dirt and salt efflorescences in order to provide a sound base for rendering. Apply a sacrificial render (approximately 2 m high x 25 m long) in two 6 mm coats of lime mortar. The purpose of the render is to allow salt attack to decay the render in preference to the underlying brickwork. Salt attack, which is presently occurring on a small scale, is expected to increase significantly with the necessary ventilation of the interior space.

Short Term Exterior Works

- Erect long-term scaffolding with stair (not ladder) access and a hoisting device; the scaffolding to provide ready access to all external surfaces of the memorial.
- Repoint with a suitable mastic the upper surfaces (only) of joints in the copings (courses 1 & 2 from the top) in order to minimise water penetration into the stonework.
- Redress scaled areas of stonework. There are small areas (particularly on the south face of the pylon) where a 1 - 2 mm thick case hardening has scaled off. These areas do not appear to be rapidly eroding: the underlying stone in

most cases is not friable to the touch. A simple but careful tapering of the edges of these areas is recommended to reduce the likelihood of trapping water behind the case hardening: this work should be done by a stone conservator.

- Removal and re-attachment of small pieces of stone (particularly delaminated face material) with epoxy resins.
- Injection of epoxy resins into some cracks in stones.
- Because of their exposed position, heavy encrustations of lichens, and lack of maintenance of jointing, the eight coping stones are more severely deteriorated than the rest of the masonry. To provide valuable long term field evidence of the performance of chemical consolidants, consolidation trials should be undertaken on the coping stones as part of these works.
- Removal of lichens from all areas of stonework - particularly the horse's head and the coping stones and upper surfaces of the second course from the top - using quaternary ammonium based biocides.
- Judicious cleaning of parts of the stonework where water run-downs have encouraged algal colonisation leaving unsightly black stains. Techniques may include use of biocides as above, and washing or poulticing combined with gentle brushing.
- Cleaning of copper corrosion products staining sandstone immediately below the bronze plaques. This will require careful poulticing techniques and should be undertaken by a stone conservator.
- Coating of upper surfaces (only, and not including the copings if consolidation trials are undertaken) with silicone water-repellant. The coating should penetrate only 2 or 3 mm into the stone and should be applied thinly, so that the properties of the coated surface (such as thermal expansion) are not too different from those of the stone beneath. The aim should be to apply a very thin coating to the individual sand grains in the stone,

and not to produce a paint-like coating of the whole surface, nor to achieve any significant consolidation.

- Short term works as per Metal Conservation Specialist's report, Appendix 3.
- Remove scaffolding.
- Re-lay and re-fix granite paving and cladding to stepped plinth. Some replacement stone will be required, and accurate matching to existing granite may be difficult.
- Re-grout in a cement : lime : sand mortar all joints in the granite of the plinth except the expansion joints on the axes of the memorial and the junction between granite paving and sandstone walling, the latter are to be grouted with a suitable mastic.
- Where grade of surrounding paving is unsatisfactory, remove the granite slabs and underlying reinforced concrete if necessary. Replace concrete and relay paving to correct grades. Half to two-thirds of the paving may require relaying - on account of grade corrections and tree root cut-off trenching.
- Re-grout in a cement : lime : sand mortar all joints in the granite of the relaid paving and any others requiring regrouting except the junction between the paving and the granite risers of the plinth, the latter are to be grouted with a suitable mastic.
- Develop and implement a maintenance plan that provides for ongoing monitoring, maintenance and minor repairs.

Source Exhibit No. 1, Volume 3, appendix 5.