



SUPPORTING OUR NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The Australian Greens will:

1. Oppose the unnecessary \$498m redevelopment of the War Memorial.
2. Use the funding to reverse cuts to national institutions made by the Coalition Government since 2013, and to properly support these institutions in future.
3. Establish a National Institutions Council.
4. End arms manufacturer and corporate sponsorship of the War Memorial.
5. Commemorate the Frontier Wars and recognise the Tent Embassy.

OVERVIEW

Our National Institutions are cornerstones of our national cultural life and custodians of our stories. After years of so-called 'efficiency dividends', many of our national institutions are now facing further Budget cuts from a Coalition Government that is uninterested in supporting our arts, culture and heritage. At the same time, both major parties are supporting an expensive and unnecessary redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial. The Greens will fix this massive funding imbalance and create a National Institutions Council to make sure that our cultural life is protected and supported for years to come.

ONE: OPPOSE THE UNNECESSARY \$498M REDEVELOPMENT OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

The Australian War Memorial is an important part of our national heritage. It should be well resourced to commemorate Australian involvement in war. However, the Coalition Government's plan to spend \$498m on a massive redevelopment of the War Memorial complex is deeply inappropriate. The War Memorial's mission is to "remember, interpret and understand" Australia's history in war, not to display massive military hardware or narrate current operations.

Community opposition to this expensive project has hardened, in Canberra and across the country, while other public institutions and services have gone without the funding they need.

It has been disappointing to see both major parties support this redevelopment. With a Green MP for the new seat of Canberra, and a Green Senator for the ACT, we will represent the community's views, pull the other parties in the right direction and stop the redevelopment.

TWO: USE THE FUNDING TO PROPERLY SUPPORT OUR NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Funding for our national institutions shouldn't be determined by the political priorities of the Federal Government. While the War Memorial expansion has received attention and funding, precious public institutions like our national gallery, museum, library, archives, film and sound archives, and the Museum of Australian Democracy have faced major staff and service cuts.

Across our national cultural institutions, there has been an average reduction in staffing levels of 11% in the last ten years.¹ Arbitrary annual 'efficiency dividends' are cutting off vital funding to our institutions when they should be supported to flourish and to tell more diverse and less well-known stories. The total efficiency dividend in arts portfolio institutions in 2015-18 alone was \$36.8m.² The National Gallery has only been funded for half of the repairs it needs, and the National Archives still don't have the support they need for digitisation of their collection.³ Our cultural institutions have lost the staff, storage space, digitisation support and other resources they need. Irreplaceable parts of our heritage will be lost without urgent action.

The Liberal Government plans to spend half a billion dollars on one institution over nine years, while cutting budgets and staff at our other national institutions. **The Greens will instead immediately restore \$38m every year in funding across all national institutions to repair the damage done by efficiency dividends over many years and boost funding into the future.**

In total, the Greens will allocate \$152m in national institutions funding to be distributed in the next four years, working with the National Institutions Council to set priorities. The Greens will then work with the institutions and the new Council to ensure that all institutions receive the long-term and growing public support they need after this budget cycle has concluded. **At a minimum, the remainder of the full \$498m currently allocated to the War Memorial project will be dedicated to additional funding for all cultural institutions over the next nine years.**

THREE: ESTABLISH A NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS COUNCIL

The Greens will establish a top-level National Institutions Council to support culture, heritage and the arts across all national institutions. The new Council, similar to the former Collections Council of Australia that was defunded in 2010, would see institutions brought together to collaborate on strategic policy, advocate for collective funding to Government, and coordinate their digitisation processes. The Council would also investigate establishing new institutions.

FOUR: END ARMS MANUFACTURER SPONSORSHIP OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

The Australian War Memorial is sacred ground. It is inappropriate for arms manufacturers like Boeing, Raytheon and Lockheed Martin to sponsor exhibits commemorating the tragedy of war and the experience of Australian personnel. The Greens will end arms manufacturer and other corporate sponsorship of the War Memorial and replace it with public funding. Corporate sponsorship contributed less than \$2m to the War Memorial in 2017-18. The Greens will allocate \$8m to this over the forward estimates.⁴ This plan will not affect personal donations.

FIVE: COMMEMORATE THE FRONTIER WARS AND RECOGNISE THE TENT EMBASSY

The Greens will continue to advocate for a memorial to the Frontier Wars as part of our national memorial precinct, and for the Aboriginal Tent Embassy to be given standing as an national institution. Reconciliation can only be achieved if we accept the true facts of our history – that we live and work on land never ceded. A Frontier Wars memorial and material support for the Tent Embassy would go some way to realising this reality as part of our national story. The Greens will allocate \$8m to this over the forward estimates.

¹ https://www.cpsu.org.au/system/files/cpsu_submission_to_the_national_institutions_inquiry.pdf, p. 11. Excludes the National Portrait Gallery, which was established during this period.

² https://www.cpsu.org.au/system/files/cpsu_submission_to_the_national_institutions_inquiry.pdf

³ <http://theguardian.com/culture/2018/nov/03/years-of-savage-cuts-leave-australian-cultural-institutions-struggling-to-survive>

⁴ <https://www.awm.gov.au/about/organisation/corporate/annual-report-2017-2018>, p. 93.

The ACT Greens first proposed a National Institutions Council, a Frontier Wars memorial, and the recognition of the Tent Embassy as a national institution in a May 2018 inquiry submission.

Policy element	Budget impact over the forward estimates
Oppose the War Memorial redevelopment.	-\$178m
Funding boost to all national institutions.	\$152m
Establishment & running of the new National Institutions Council.	\$10m
Replacing arms manufacturer and other corporate War Memorial sponsorship.	\$8m
Commemorating the Frontier Wars and recognising the Aboriginal Tent Embassy as a national institution.	\$8m

The remaining \$280m of the funds saved by opposing the War Memorial redevelopment will be dedicated to funding these priorities beyond the forward estimates.