

Submission to the review of the National Museum of Australia's Exhibitions and Public Programs.

I wish to briefly address some terms of reference for the review of the National Museum of Australia.

1. There have been very high satisfaction levels with the Museum, as expressed by visitors in exit questionnaires. This is a very positive vote of approval of the government's foresight in establishing the Museum. It is also strong support for the philosophy behind the displays and the performance of the Director and her staff.
2. Apparently limited space within the Museum makes it very difficult to display much of the national collection. Nor is it possible to satisfactorily address some major strands of Australia's development. One such major strand is the part played by industry and commerce in the shaping of Australian society. Such an exhibition could canvass the range industrial and commercial development, beginning with the quite extensive trade and industry carried on before 1788 and continuing until the present and into the future. Integral to such a theme would be the development and social effects of Unionism in Australia.

Any new, major development of the Museum would tax the already restricted space available. A new site may need to be developed to supplement the present space. If a site at Yaramundi Reach were to be used, it would also allow for the display of some of the large items in the possession of the Museum.

It would be my recommendation that the present Director would be asked to oversee such a development, either as part of her present task, or as a special contract task.

Using the present Director for such a development would assure that

1. An experienced and very successful officer would be used, and
2. That a new annex would be established with a structure and philosophy compatible with that of the Museum.

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