

Our Ref: A920973  
Enquiries: Justine Warren

04 November 2021

Hon Peter Foster MLC  
Chair, Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament of Western Australia  
18-32 Parliament Place  
West Perth WA 6005



Dear Chair

**PRIVATE - Petition No 032 – RAAF Memorial at Kings Park**

Thank you for your response letter (dated 14 October 2021) and invitation to provide a written submission to expand on the associated issues as part of the Petition.

Currently, Kings Park has fifty-three (53) memorials with not one dedicated to the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and its fellow Commonwealth Air Services.

In January 2018, I commenced this journey with the initial aim to honour WW2 RAAF veterans. As a Community Welfare Volunteer, I assisted in the formation of a working group which consisted of six (6) WW2 veterans with the sole aim to have a public Memorial dedicated to the RAAF erected at Kings Park. Since commencement, the working group has diminished to three (3) WW2 Veterans due to age related illnesses.

One of the driving forces is 99 year old RAAF Warrant Officer (Rtd), Bayden (Bob) Porteous who served in the RAAF during WW2. Bob is getting very frustrated with the buracy and doesn't believe he will be alive to see the Memorial come to fruition. Before his days are done, Bob wants reflect at a RAAF dedicated Memorial, preferably located at Kings Park, and remember and reflect on his service and his WW2 mates.

Also, the proposed Memorial is to acknowledge and recognise all RAAF service men and women that served for Australia in the RAAF in all conflicts, world wars and recent campaigns, those who lost their lives and as a result of their service and are affected by mental health issues. A dedicated RAAF Memorial would also remind the general public of the sacrifices that men and women who served in the RAAF.

The Petition (No 032) contained 542 signatures supporting this initiative and receives great support from the ex-service and the public through out WA.

Since commencing this project, we have raised this initiative with numerous members of government (Local, State and Federal) and whilst support was given it appears to have only been token, and without action or outcome. It appears the majority approve of the concept but are lacking the fortitude or willingness to drive an outcome.

The Working Group raised questions in Parliament in November 2020, but was never satisfactorily answered and in the opinion of the fellow petitioners an investigation by the Committee is justified.

On 31 March 2021, the RAAF marked its 100 years of service to Australia and a RAAF specific Memorial at Kings Park would have been fitting.

The WA RSL HQ has requested a briefing letter be supplied to outline the Petition and request. This will be done as part of this process.

The Minister for Veterans Issues, the Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA, is supportive of this initiative and advised there is money available for projects such as this.

I hope the above assists and supports the petition tabled by Hon Dr Brian Walker MLC in the Legislative Council on 13 October 2021. Also, the Member for the East Metropolitan Region has also written to you fully supporting this initiative.

We would request that the Committee proceed to investigate the above issues. The Working Group would welcome the opportunity to present evidence directly to the Committee and is happy to provide the Committee the names of the other stakeholders who would be interested in giving evidence in person, should the Committee agree to hold an investigation in the coming weeks/months.

I respectfully leave the matter in the hands of the Committee Chair and the Clerks going forward, and would welcome any advice that you may have to offer.

In closing, I would like the Committee to reflect on the two quotes, 'We will remember them' and 'Lest We Forget'.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Justine Warren  
Principal Petitioner