

Basic Background Information Document

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (NHRA), ACT 25 OF 1999: PROPOSED MEMORIAL ON ERF 95135, DELVILLE WOOD MEMORIAL GARDEN IN THE CAPE TOWN COMPANY'S GARDEN

October 2021



Source: IWM Q 52398

THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The intention of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide **basic information about the proposed project**, and give you an opportunity to raise any issues or comments about the proposal.

WHAT IS THIS PROPOSED PROJECT ABOUT?

The **Commonwealth War Grave Commission (CWGC)**, funded by six Commonwealth member governments, including South Africa, intends to **honour the many black South Africans who lost their lives during the First World War** (and who have not yet received public acknowledgement for their sacrifice).

The intention is to build a war memorial to remember these men.

WHY IS THIS PROPOSED PROJECT IMPORTANT?

A number of war memorials built by the CWGC in the aftermath of the First World War are now known to be missing the names of certain casualties. In the case of South Africa, the majority of these casualties were black personnel serving with labour units. The CWGC wants to fix this imbalance by honouring these previously unacknowledged black South African men with a memorial.

The proposed memorial aims to:

- **Redress** (balance) omissions in our nation's history;
- **Embrace** the silent fallen of WW1 into the nation's memory;
- **Educate** and **inspire** future generations;
- **Help build a nation** that is inclusive and caring; and
- **Provide** a place of reflection and contemplation.

It is expected that at least **1666 black South African servicemen** who lost their lives will be honoured through this memorial. It is believed these men are buried in South Africa, elsewhere in Africa or died at sea. The CWGC has been doing research to locate the names of the men who lost their lives so that their involvement and their stories can be remembered.

WHERE IS THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF THIS PROJECT?

The CWGC held three workshops with key stakeholders in South Africa throughout 2019, to explore the most appropriate location for the memorial. Initial consideration was given to potential sites in Pretoria and Johannesburg, however, they were deemed unsuitable due to reasons such as lack of free access and questionable historical context.

It was proposed by the Military Veterans and supported by all other stakeholders, that Cape Town offered a unique location because the casualties, who are to be memorialised, both enlisted in the city and sailed from it to join their comrades in other parts of the world.

The 3rd workshop held in Cape Town on 30th September 2019, focussed principally on the specific sites within the city that could be considered for the project. After an informed and extensive debate, it was felt that the Company's Gardens offered the best of all locations when judged against the following criteria:

- It must be in a dignified place appropriate for contemplation;
- In a prominent position;
- Accessible to all people;
- Under full public ownership;
- A safe position, preferably with management or security already in place;
- Has a general connection with/or relevance to the subject;
- Within a military or memorialisation context;
- The potential to become a destination or contribute to creating a destination;
- Location can promote redress and social cohesion;
- Supports upliftment and economic spin-off;
- Has great tourism potential but with a need for external funding to ensure sustainability; and
- A site that will generate a high tourist footfall and satisfy the sponsor.

The subject of this public participation process is **Erf 95135, Delville Wood Memorial Garden** in the Cape Town Company's Garden. **Refer to the map below.**



LOCAL/ DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY: City of Cape Town Municipality

STREET ADDRESS: In the Company's Garden off Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town

WHAT IS THE LEGAL PROCESS THAT IS REQUIRED?

The Company's Garden, where this project is proposed is a Provincial Heritage Site. This requires an application to be made to Heritage Western Cape in terms of section 27 of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999). The law requires that this application be subjected to a public participation process. The application is now available for public review.

The establishment of a public memorial must also adhere to the City of Cape Town's Memorialization Policy (Policy 12777). This policy additionally requires a public participation process.

Chand Environmental Consultants have been appointed by the CWGC to assist in conducting the required public participation process.

WHO ARE THE KEY ROLEPLAYERS?

Commonwealth War Grave Commission

This organization honours and cares for the men and women of the Commonwealth who died in the First and Second World Wars, ensuring they will never be forgotten. Funded by six Member Governments, their work began more than a century ago building cemeteries at 23,000 locations all over the world. Today, over a century after they first began, their work continues through staff, supporters and volunteers who preserve their unique cultural, horticultural and architectural heritage and ensure that the stories of those who died are told.

City of Cape Town

The City of Cape Town are the owners and managers of the Company's Garden.

Heritage Western Cape

Heritage Western Cape is a provincial heritage resources authority. Their role will be to review the application made by the CWGC and make a decision on whether or not to grant permission for this proposed project.

A project team has been assembled to guide the CWGC in their pursuit to establish a memorial

Meyer & Associates	Competition Design Brief and Guidelines
Cindy Postlethwayt	Heritage Impact Assessment Practitioner
OvP Associates	Landscape Condition Assessment
Paul Kotze and Mark Schaerer	Architectural Competition Administrators
Chand Environmental Consultants	Public Participation Facilitator

WHO WILL DESIGN THE MEMORIAL?

It is intended that a **national architectural competition** be held for the design of this memorial. The competition guidelines will include information that is provided by the heritage study and relevant comments gathered through the public participation process. It is expected that this competition will take place in **early/mid 2022**.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Should you, or your organisation wish to provide comment on this Basic BID and/or the application, please do so before **25 November 2021**. There is a comment sheet accompanying this BID, and the application is available for download on www.chand.co.za/the-know-how/#projects_review

The following contact details can be used to provide your comment and/or if you wish to register another party onto our database:

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Note that there will be Focus Group Meetings held with key I&APs and a public Open House for broader engagement over the course of October/November 2021.