

RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE



LITHGOW CITY SUB-BRANCH

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Dear Matthew,

As previously discussed, we in the Sub-Branch believe and all agree that that there is only one place that the 5.5 Inch Gun should be located and that is in Queen Elizabeth Park, right next to the existing 25pdr (it should also be noted that the 5.5 Inch gun, is not an Anti-Aircraft Gun, it is an Artillery Piece). We view that this positioning is important for several reasons.

First: The Australian Army used this weapon from 1943 until 1984, which also lends to the probability that men from Lithgow had used this type of weapon, during their service in the Royal Australian Artillery (R.A.A). Our late President; John Barlow O.A.M. is a case in point as he was a member of the R.A.A, and he started his Artillery service on the 5.5 Inch before transferring to the 25pdr, and as John was a relatively well known personality within Lithgow, we think that this would also be a fitting tribute to him and his service, not only to Australia but the greater Lithgow community in general.

Second: From a tourism standpoint, most if not all of the regular tourist buses/coaches, not to mention numbers of other road traffic which transit through Lithgow, stop at Queen Elizabeth Park for a break, not Endeavour Park and everyone who stops has a look at the Cenotaph and the plaques, plus has a look at the 25pdr, name boards, etc. and it shows the visitors that not only do we take pride in honouring our Veterans, we also take pride in preserving our military history and the visitor themselves also receive a free history lesson.

Third: There is little tourist traffic which stops at Endeavour Park and we would be quite hesitant about that location as there are no adequate security measures in place, which makes the gun vulnerable to various kinds of damage, which would be quite disappointing as there are only Eight (8) examples of this weapon in NSW which *are not* on Defence Force Establishments, so even from that point it is a coup in its own right and placing it in Queen Elizabeth Park would be fitting and proper considering the guns rarity, outside of Defence Force Establishments.

We hope that this adequately explains our views regarding the guns' positioning and we hope it can be in place by ANZAC Day 2021.

Kind Regards

Michael Cuthbert JP
Honorary Secretary

*The Price of Liberty Is Eternal Vigilance
Lest We Forget*