MEDIA RELEASE

Hon Charles Smith MLC
One Nation WA Member of The Legislative Council

Smith Calls for Protection of War Memorials

1 November 2018

Member for the East Metro Region, Hon Charles Smith MLC has called on both sides of politics to come together and show their support for veterans and their families in order to honour Australia’s fallen heroes with the Criminal Code Amendment (Desecration of War Memorials) Bill 2018.

Mr Smith submitted to Parliament a Bill which seeks to make it an offence to desecrate a war memorial in Western Australia. People who damage or vandalise a war memorial will be liable for imprisonment and be required to pay for the cost of clean-up and repair.

“Memorials are solemn reminders of the sacrifices there brave men and women made. They are a symbol of bravery, of sacrifice, honour and freedom. They are held in reverence by the Australian public and as such, are rightly deserving of protection.” Mr Smith said.

“People who desecrate these memorials and monuments spit in the face of the Australian service personnel, both past and present, and the faces of the Australian public too. It is an insult to this great nation and its people.”

Mr Smith stressed the importance of protecting war memorials in light of recent instances of vandalism, such as when a protestor poured his faeces on the Fremantle ANZAC War Memorial prompting Mr Smith to echo the President of the United States stating he now wanted to, “build a wall” around Fremantle.

Mr Smith concluded, “There is no better way for Parliament to honour the spirit of these Australian men and women than to protect that sanctity in law. It is important that we protect these symbols of our freedom so that we, and future generations, may be reminded of how fortunate we are.”

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