

SUPPORT FOR AN INQUIRY INTO THE HANDLING OF THE FROMELLES DIG AND AGGREGATION WAS SOUGHT FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GREENS IN AN EMAIL TO SENATOR BOB BROWN ON 28 OCTOBER 2009, SENATOR BROWN BEING THE PARTY'S SPOKESPERSON FOR DEFENCE, DEMOCRACY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. OTHER GREENS SENATORS TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE EMAIL SHOWN BELOW, WERE CHRISTINE MILNE, SCOTT LUDLAM, SARAH HANSON-YOUNG AND RACHEL SIEWERT, WHO IS SAID TO HAVE PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE WITHIN THE PARTY MENTIONED.

SENATOR BOB BROWN, THE AUSTRALIAN GREENS, GPO BOX 404, HOBART, TASMANIA. 7001—CANBERRA OFFICE, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, A.C.T.

Dear Senator Brown,

Fromelles Discussion Group is gravely concerned about the conduct of forensic investigations at Pheasant Wood where the physical remains of more than 190 missing Great War Diggers have been located. Group affiliates believe questions should be raised about the conduct, operation and management of the dig which has just concluded. Besides widespread criticism as to the way the forensic and archaeological examination has been handled by the authorities, there have also been suggestions the potentiality of DNA testing has been compromised and the construction of the new Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery has been unnecessarily hurried.

Since the Greens claim to support Grassroots Democracy and Social and Economic Justice among other things, Fromelles Discussion Group has been surprised by the lack of comment and policy emanating from the party, particularly when the Commonwealth Government has failed to consult broadly on the subject and so many other fallen members of the Fifth Division AIF who participated in the attack, have thus far been left out of the recovery project. Further background on the need to aggregate all missing and unidentified Australian soldiers from the assault which occurred on 19 / 20 July 1916 can be found on our website FromellesDiscussionGroup.com, as can a number of Discussion Papers, Contributions, Resources and Biographical Databases.

We therefore encourage you as Leader of The Australian Greens, as well as fellow Senators, Christine Milne, Rachel Siewert, Sarah Hanson-Young and Scott Ludlam, and all your party functionaries and supporters, to become better acquainted with the campaign to give voice to Australia's war dead from this ill-conceived engagement during World War I. In addition we humbly and respectfully ask the Greens to validate calls for the Federal Government to establish a permanent US-style JPAC agency now the International Red Cross has proposed to digitize its 1st World War records.

It is our belief the authorities should retrieve and identify the other 1,131 bodies left from the assault which are currently interred in local cemeteries around the old battlefield. In requesting the Greens to look at this matter I would ask all members

who uphold peace and non-violence to remember to place the battle in historical context, as these men did their duty, fought for King and Country, and therefore should not be forgotten by future generations.

To be properly commemorated during the 93rd Anniversary funeral service being hosted by the CWGC in 2010 all unknowns should be identified and individually memorialized. Reinterments from the mass grave that was recently discovered at Fromelles will start on 30 January 2010 so there is still time to undertake aggregation if sufficient support can be obtained.

Should you require further background on the work of Fromelles Discussion Group or the campaign just mentioned please feel free to contact me on the Email address listed.

**Kindest regards,
Grant Triffett, Convenor/Administrator, Fromelles Discussion Group**

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