



## MEDIA RELEASE

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THE HON DAN TEHAN MP  
MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE CENTENARY OF ANZAC  
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE MATERIEL

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Sunday, 28 February 2016

### **Statement on Lone Pine Commemorations**

Following my appointment last week, I asked the Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide options to appropriately recognise the sacrifice of Lone Pine.

On 6 August 1915, Australians attacked at Lone Pine in Turkey in an epic, but ultimately tragic, battle. Just four days later there were 2,300 Australian casualties, 7,000 Turkish casualties and seven Australians would be awarded our highest military honour, the Victoria Cross.

It is therefore important to pause to remember the service of the Australians who lost their lives at Lone Pine and reflect on their stories of bravery.

In recognition of this, I have asked the Department of Veterans' Affairs to plan a wreath laying ceremony at Lone Pine on the afternoon of 24 April 2016. Australians and other visitors will be welcome to attend this simple, dignified and solemn commemoration.

On Anzac Day, Lone Pine will be open to all visitors to lay wreaths and reflect in their own time on the significance of the battle. This will mean that visitors can also visit Chunuk Bair for further commemorative services.

As we did for the centenary of the Battle of Lone Pine, on 6 August we will hold a formal Lone Pine commemorative service for those who wish to pay their respects at the time and place the battle began.

Holding the service on the appropriate anniversary gives it proper recognition and ensures the wider public has a greater understanding and acknowledgement of the importance of this battle.

### **Media enquiries:**

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