



Dan Tehan MP
Member for Wannon

House of Representatives - Parliament of Australia

26 June 2020

Mr Tony and Mrs Anne Maree Cornell
[REDACTED]

DRUMBORG VIC 3304

Dear Tony and Anne Maree

Thank you for your emails regarding Ordinary Seaman Edward "Teddy" Sheean.

Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean was an extraordinary Australian and Australia will remain eternally grateful for his service, dedication and sacrifice.

The Government's view and policy is that consideration of the awarding of a retrospective Victoria Cross would only occur in light of compelling new evidence or if there was evidence of significant maladministration.

Given there are different views on whether there is compelling new evidence about Teddy Sheean's actions in 1942, an expert panel has been commissioned to provide advice as to whether the 2019 review by the Defence Honours and Awards Appeal Tribunal had any significant new evidence, not available to the previous reviews and otherwise available, that is compelling enough to support a recommendation by the Government that Sheean's Mention in Despatches be replaced by a Victoria Cross.

The Victoria Cross for Australia is our pre-eminent Australian gallantry decoration. The evidentiary standards for recommending the award of the Victoria Cross are the highest. The Government will continue to apply this very high standard

~~The Government is committed to reviewing the awarding of the Victoria Cross in light of the Prime Minister's, the Honours and the Government.~~

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Yours sincerely


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