



Mick Gentleman MLA

Member for Brindabella

Manager of Government Business
Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister for the Environment and Heritage
Minister for Planning and Land Management
Minister for Urban Renewal

Obj 17/33606

Mr Tom Duncan
Clerk
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 30 November 2017 regarding petition No. 30-17 lodged by Ms Lee MLA on behalf of certain Australian Capital Territory residents.

I understand that the petition draws to the attention of the Assembly the following:

- lack of Heritage protection for Lake Burley Griffin and all its surrounding lakeshore landscapes;
- repudiate as unacceptable the infill of part of West Basin's lake waters and the appropriation for private development of ACT public parks and open spaces surrounding Lake Burley Griffin, particularly West Basin, for either residential or commercial development; and
- rejects the Government's right to proceed any further with these and related proposals.

Heritage protection of the Lake area relates to matters that are the subject of nominations to the National or Commonwealth Heritage Lists and are in the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth and the Australian Heritage Council. As such, the National Capital Authority (NCA) developed the *Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands Heritage Management Plan* in 2009, in accordance with the heritage management principles and requirements for management plans set out in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to define the Lake's heritage values and how to protect them. During the process of developing the plan a draft was available for two months for the public to make comment.

The plan includes a range of conservation policies and recommendations to conserve, interpret and manage the heritage values of Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands to ensure that the future use and enhancement of the Lake is informed by the heritage values, by promoting a holistic approach to the future management of the Lake as a cultural landscape. The developments to the area were informed by the plan and approved by the NCA.

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A copy of the plan can be found at: <https://www.nca.gov.au/heritage-management-plan/lake-burley-griffin-and-adjacent-lands-heritage-management-plan-0>.

Canberra is a growing modern, vibrant city. It has changed significantly in its first 100 years, and particularly over the past 10 years. As it has grown it has kept true to the vision the original designers, Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin, while reflecting the evolving nature of a modern city and the people who call it home. This vision, and their planning legacy, is enshrined in the National Capital Plan (NCP) which is administered by the National Capital Authority, a Commonwealth authority. The plan sets out the development controls and requirements for defined areas, including West Basin.

At the centre of that original vision was Lake Burley Griffin. The lake is an important and iconic part of Canberra and its character. Its 40km waterfront with many and varied parks and public areas make it one of the key features that make Canberra such a beautiful city and wonderful place to live and visit.

The Griffins' original plan intended the city's grid structure and form would continue down to the lake in West Basin, ultimately connecting the city centre and lake. To achieve this vision, the planning for West Basin involves the reclamation of a small portion of the lake bed to adjust the edge to the Griffins' intended, formal structured alignment.

The majority of West Basin is currently carpark but the ACT Government is committed to transforming it into a precinct where people come to meet, celebrate and have fun.

That transformation includes a new public park on the West Basin headland. The next stage is the reclamation of a small area of lake bed to create a formal lake edge and boardwalk. A future final stage will see the development of a 55 metre wide public promenade which will include purpose built pavilions for cafes and tourist facilities, playgrounds and water play areas. The West Basin waterfront currently consists of three hectares of surface parking but when redeveloped it will have four hectares of public park and promenade.

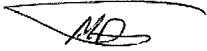
Mixed-use land release is also proposed in West Basin between the promenade and the city, with a range of retail, residential and recreational spaces to provide a vibrant precinct, supported by a wide range of amenities and public infrastructure.

Detailed planning for the West Basin estate, comprising the mixed-use land release, has not yet started as the ACT Government's priority is delivering the public waterfront and how to best resolve connectivity issues between the City and Lake Burley Griffin presented by Parkes Way. The ACT Government intends to broadly deliver the West Basin precinct as outlined in the National Capital Plan and The City Plan. These plans provided the concept planning and permit a range of building heights in the West Basin precinct, with taller buildings towards the city centre (up to 25m) and lower buildings closer to the waterfront promenade (no more than four storey).

The ACT Government will continue to progress planning of this area in order to realise the Griffins' vision, and in a manner consistent with the National Capital Plan. The detail of these plans will be open to public consultation.

As areas of this petition fall within the responsibility of the National Capital Authority I have forwarded a copy of this petition on to them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MG', enclosed within a simple, hand-drawn oval shape.

01 MAR 2018

Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for the Environment and Heritage

