WEST BASIN WATERFRONT
CONSULTATION REPORT
JUNE 2015
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between 5 and 29 June 2015, the community were invited to provide feedback on the proposed design for the West Basin waterfront, and have their say on the types of commercial activities, community facilities and events that would bring them to the precinct in the future.

3,795 public interactions occurred during the community engagement period. These interactions included feedback provided via social media, face to face discussions, via a ‘consultation map’, survey and written submissions.

A cross section of the Canberra community took part in the consultation, with the largest response received from the 25 to 34 year age bracket (30 per cent), and followed closely by the 35 to 44 year age bracket (28 per cent).

A variety of ways to give feedback were provided, including traditional consultation mechanisms such as written submissions, through to interactive communication tools.

381 people completed the online survey.

78 per cent of survey respondents indicated that the proposed design fits very well (37 per cent) or well (41 per cent) with their idea of a liveable Canberra and the city they want for the future.

75 per cent of survey respondents also indicated that the proposed design recognises the unique qualities, significance and prominence of the site very well (28 per cent), or well (47 per cent).
• Of the 894 unique users of the consultation map, 28 comments were added and a further 264 people agreed (210) or disagreed (54) with these statements.

• Ten written submissions were received during the consultation period. Several of these submissions felt there was insufficient information provided to enable comments on the heritage aspects of the proposal.

• There were 426 interactions on Facebook and 88 on Twitter during the consultation period.

• 500 people attended a community drop in session, and a further 19 people attended a briefing session.
INTRODUCTION

Background
On 5 June 2015, designs for an enlivened waterfront on the shore of West Basin at Lake Burley Griffin were released for public comment.

The West Basin waterfront is a central component of the City to the Lake project.

It is positioned on the northern shore of Lake Burley Griffin, bounded by Commonwealth Avenue and Parkes Way. When complete, the waterfront will be a vibrant destination, where people meet, celebrate and socialise. The precinct will include new parks, cafes, restaurants, plazas and streets for the community to use and enjoy.

Some of the proposed design features include:

- A generous boardwalk, positioned just above the water level
- Purpose built pavilions for cafes and tourist facilities along the promenade
- Playgrounds, new recreational areas and a water play space
- Jetties for commercial boat operators and berthing facilities for recreation craft
- A central events plaza
- New trees and other plantings which highlight the changing seasons
- Water sensitive design features to filter storm water before it enters Lake Burley Griffin
- Dedicated ‘Copenhagen-style’ bike lane adjacent to the shore
- A new lake wall on the Eastern section of West Basin returning to Walter and Marion Griffin’s 1918 design for West Basin. Portions of the lake will be reclaimed to maximise public space.

Image: Illustrative master plan of West Basin Waterfront
Community Engagement

The ACT Government is committed to open and ongoing conversations with the community throughout the development of the City to the Lake project.

From 5 to 29 June 2015, the community was invited to provide feedback on the waterfront design, and have their say on the types of commercial activities, community facilities and events they would like to see down at West Basin in the future.

The design released for public comment was revised to incorporate community feedback provided during two earlier consultation processes in 2013, as well as stakeholder input from:

- Canberra Business Council
- National Convention Centre
- Canberra Convention Bureau
- Canberra CBD Ltd
- National Museum of Australia
- Australian National University
- Property Council of Australia
- Australian Property Institute
- Planning Institute of Australia
- Australian Institute of Architects
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
- National Trust of Australia - Australian Capital Territory (ACT National Trust)
- Lake Users Group
- Heart Foundation
- National Capital Authority, and its Design Review Panel
- Pedal Power
- Triathlon ACT

Image: Bird’s-eye view looking west over Point Park from Commonwealth Avenue
Purpose
This report summarises the key themes expressed by the ACT community during the 2015 consultation period. It outlines the consultation methods used, and how the engagement process was promoted.

Feedback received during the consultation process, will inform the Land Development Agency’s works approval application to the National Capital Authority for the waterfront.

The focus of this community engagement process was on a proposed waterfront design at West Basin. However, comments were received on elements of the broader City to the Lake project, such as the lowering of Parkes Way, the City Stadium and building heights adjacent to the Commonwealth Avenue. These topics are out of scope for this current consultation process, however will be discussed with the community feedback in the future.

Previous Engagement
In 2013, the Land Development Agency sought community feedback on the City to the Lake proposal, during two consultation periods. Feedback received specifically in relation to West Basin waterfront highlighted the importance the community placed on public access to lake.

While embracing the City to the Lake proposal, existing lake users indicated then they wanted to continue to use walking and cycling tracks at West Basin, and enter the lake for water sports without impediment.

As a result of that initial feedback, the ACT Government has ensured that continuous public access to the lake edge will not only be maintained in the precinct, but enhanced to improve user experiences.

In 2006, the National Capital Authority also sought comments from the community on Draft Amendment 61 to the National Capital Plan, which included provisions for:

- Reclamation of a part of the lake edge at West Basin
- Extension of the city to the lake front via streets and pathways creating direct pedestrian access.
- The release of development blocks fronting the public promenade at West Basin for development to create a new city neighbourhood.
- Cafes and tourist facilities along the promenade at West Basin
- A range of building heights with taller buildings towards the city centre and lower buildings facing the waterfront promenade
- One and two storey pavilions at the water’s edge for cafes bars and galleries.
- Implementation of water sensitive urban design strategies including, bio-filtration systems integrated with street and landscape design, to protect lake water quality.

On 5 December 2006, Amendment 61 was approved and incorporated into the National Capital Plan.
ENGAGEMENT METHODS

Overview

On Friday 5 June 2015, the ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr, MLA launched the commencement of consultation on the West Basin waterfront.

Information was disseminated to the community through multiple channels, to ensure a broad range of stakeholders were reached.

A variety of ways to provide feedback were provided, including traditional consultation mechanisms such as written submissions, through to interactive communication tools.

Approximately 3,795 interactions from the public occurred during the community engagement period. These interactions included feedback provided via social media, face to face discussions, on the consultation map, survey and written submissions.

Consultation concluded on Monday 29 June 2015.

Promotional Tools

Consultation was promoted via the following channels:

- On 5 June 2015 and 19 June 2015, the ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr, MLA distributed media releases.
- On 12 June and 18 June 2015, articles featured in the ACT Government’s Our City, Our Community newsletter.
- From 5 June to 29 June 2015, information was available on the ACT Government’s Time to Talk consultation website.
- From 5 June to 29 June 2015, information was available on the City to the Lake website.
- On 16 June 2015, a notice was distributed to all ACT Government employees via the Whole of Government message.
- On 19 June and 21 June 2015, drop in sessions were held at Westside Acton Park.
- From 10 and 29 June, a sign was installed at Westside Acton Park.
- On Saturday 13 June 2015, information was included in the ACT Government’s Community Noticeboard advertisement featured in The Canberra Times.
- On 5 June, 12 June and 24 June, e-newsletters were distributed to 497 City to the Lake website subscribers.
- From 3 June to 9 June, letters were distributed to 64 stakeholder groups.
- Multiple posts were distributed via Facebook and Twitter from social media accounts managed by Land Development Agency, Chief Minister, ACT Government, ACT Environment and Planning Directorate, Events ACT, Westside Acton Park, and New Acton Precinct. A total of 18,546 people were reached over Twitter, and 37,227 people on Facebook.
Engagement Tools

The 24-day consultation period utilised qualitative and quantitative social research methods.

The community could provide feedback via:

- Online survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CITYTOTHELAKE
- Consultation map: https://www.collaborativemap.com/CityToTheLake
- On social media: #CityToTheLake
- Written submissions: citytothelake@act.gov.au or via post
- Drop in sessions: at Westside Action Park on 19 June and 21 June 2015

3,795 interactions from the public occurred during the community engagement period. A breakdown is provided at Table 1. An analysis of the outcome of feedback is provided in the ‘Key Themes’ discussion below.
Table 1: Community Engagement Interactions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engagement Methods</th>
<th>People Involved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation map</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\hspace{1cm} Comments</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\hspace{1cm} Agree</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\hspace{1cm} Disagree</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook interactions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\hspace{1cm} Comments</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\hspace{1cm} Like</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\hspace{1cm} Share</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter interactions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\hspace{1cm} Comments</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\hspace{1cm} Favourites</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\hspace{1cm} Re-tweets</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written submissions</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibition and Drop-In Sessions</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website (unique users)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\hspace{1cm} City to the Lake</td>
<td>1,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\hspace{1cm} Consultation Map</td>
<td>894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder presentation meetings</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,795</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A cross section of the Canberra community took part in the community consultation process, with the largest response received from the 25 to 34 year age bracket (30 per cent), followed by the 35 to 44 year age bracket (28 per cent). A breakdown of consultation participants is provided at Table 2.

Table 2: Survey and Consultation Map Participants (by age)

![Age breakdown chart]
Inner North residents made up the majority of people who took part in the online survey (21 per cent), followed by Belconnen (17 per cent) and Woden/Weston Creek residents. A breakdown of survey participants by geographic area is provided at Table 3.

Table 3: Survey Participants (geographic area)

Survey
The online survey was conducted by the Land Development Agency to better understand the community’s opinions of the proposed waterfront design at West Basin, and to gain feedback on what activities would encourage them to use the precinct in the future.

The community was encouraged to look at the proposed design on the City to the Lake website prior to completing the survey.

The survey consisted of 13 questions and took approximately five minutes to complete.

A total of 381 people completed the online survey during the consultation period.

A copy of the online survey is available at Attachment A.

Consultation Map
The consultation map allowed the community to post a comment, using a marker, under the consultation topics ‘commercial activities’, ‘community facilities’, ‘events’, ‘transport’ and ‘general comments’. The number of comments posted by topic is represented at Table 4.

Using the same functionality as Google maps, users could zoom in to see more detail in the design. Artist impressions were also overlayed in the design, so people could get a sense of how the project would look when completed in full.
Users could drop a marker directly onto the design and provide a comment for everyone to see, or it could be posted privately if preferred. Other users were able to agree or disagree with any of the public comments.

**Table 4: Comments by topic on consultation map**

During the consultation period, 28 comments were added to the map, with a further 264 people agreeing or disagreeing with these statements. 210 votes were made in support and 54 votes disagreed with the comments posted.

A report of community comments posted on the consultation map, and the number of people who agreed or disagreed with the comment is at [Attachment B](#).

**Social Media**

Social media was a key promotional and engagement tool utilised to reach a broad demographic. The community were encouraged to include the hashtag #CityToTheLake on social media messages, or respond to messages posted via social media accounts managed by Land Development Agency, Chief Minister, ACT Government, ACT Environment and Planning Directorate, Events ACT, Westside Acton Park, and New Acton Precinct.
Table 5: Social media post example from Land Development Facebook account

On Facebook, 73 comments were recorded, 342 likes and 11 people shared posts. On Twitter, seven comments were made, 31 favourites and 44 re-tweets.

Social media posts received during the consultation period is at Attachment C.

Written Submissions

Ten written submissions were received from individuals, key community groups and peak bodies.

Responses were received from:

- Brett Odgers, Canberra Chapter of the Walter Burley Griffin Society (Attachment D)
- Scott McAlister, President, ACT National Trust (Attachment E)
- Tony Hedley, Chairman, Board of Directors Canberra CBD Limited (Attachment F)
- Duncan Marshall (Attachment G)
- Juliet Ramsay and David Mackenzie, Lake Burley Griffin Guardians (Attachment H)
- Bryn Challis, Pedal Power (Attachment I)
- Tony Stubbs Chief Executive Officer, Heart Foundation (Attachment J)
- Emma Robertson, Director of the Youth Coalition of the ACT (Attachment K)
- Two submissions that did not agree to be publicly released.
Public Exhibition and Drop in Sessions

A public exhibition was displayed at Westside Acton Park from Friday 19 June to Sunday 21 June 2015. Twenty four exhibition boards were on display over the weekend, with information on the design principles guiding the development of the West Basin waterfront. In addition, four iPads were available for the community to access the City to the Lake website, and provide comments on the design as part of the formal community engagement process.

Image: Drop-in session and exhibition

The City to the Lake project team were available to answer questions at two drop in sessions on Friday 19 June and Sunday 21 June. The session times were selected so the community had the opportunity to visit during a lunch break, after work on their way home, or on the weekend.

Approximately 500 people attended the drop in sessions.

Stakeholder Presentation Meetings

From 3 June to 9 June, letters were distributed to 64 stakeholder groups offering briefings on the West Basin waterfront.

Pedal Power and the Bicycle Action Group accepted the invitation, and presentations provided on 12 June and 19 June respectively. Nineteen people attended the briefing sessions.
KEY THEMES

Overview

The key themes raised during the consultation period have been broken down into the five consultation topics:

1. Proposed Design
2. Commercial Activities
3. Community Facilities
4. Events
5. Transport

Both qualitative and quantitative social research methods were utilised to collect community feedback. Quantitative analysis was taken using information collected from the online survey, and the qualitative analysis was received via submissions, verbal feedback, comments on the consultation map and open responses in the online survey. The quantitative data collected, consistently supports the qualitative assessment.

Seventy-seven percent of survey respondents currently use West Basin, with the majority visiting a few times a year (38 per cent).

Of those that visit the precinct, the main reasons are for walking / running (60 per cent), cycling (43 per cent) followed by quiet contemplation (23 per cent), barbeques and picnics (22 per cent), Westside Acton Park (21 per cent) and for organised events (20 per cent). Nineteen per cent of survey respondents indicated they visited the area for “other” reasons, including parking and water sports.
Proposed Design

Constructive feedback on the proposed design for West Basin was provided by the community, with the majority of participants indicating support for the project.

Of survey respondents, 78 per cent indicated that the proposed design fits very well (37 per cent) or well (41 per cent) with their idea of a liveable Canberra and the city they want for the future.

Seventy-five per cent of survey respondents also indicated that the proposed design very well (28 per cent) or well (47 per cent) recognises the unique qualities, significance and prominence of the site.

Some of the positive comments provided by the community include:

“Seems to fit well with the current design style of Canberra, without distracting from what makes Canberra great – the big country feel, surround by bush.”

“I think the plan is modern and provides facilities that need to be provided close to the city. I think the project will give a positive vibe to the area.”

“West Basin is the most appropriate area to develop close to Civic and the wonderful New Acton area and is long overdue. I look forward to this development for myself, my family, my grandchild and my interstate and overseas visitors.”

Public Realm

These positive sentiments are supported by written submissions received by the Heart Foundation ACT and the Youth Coalition of the ACT.

The Heart Foundation ACT supports the development of a high quality public realm at West Basin to encourage people to be more physically active, and in turn improve the health and well-being of the community.

‘We look forward to the development of West Basin waterfront and the entire precinct as a vibrant destination that supports active living and reduces car dependent lifestyles.’

(Tony Stubbs, Heart Foundation, 25 June 2015)

The Youth Coalition of the ACT highlights the importance public spaces are for young people, as they often use these spaces as social places in lieu of access to their own private spaces.

‘(Young People) use public space for a variety of reasons, including to sustain friendships, to socialise, to entertain themselves, to act as an alternative to paid events and places, to make new friends and social contacts, and to act as an escape.’

(Emma Robertson, Youth Coalition of the ACT, 23 June 2015)
Economic Analysis

However, Canberra CBD Limited does not support the development of a new precinct at West Basin, without further long term economic modelling demonstrating that the investment is justified at this time.

‘The health of Canberra’s CBD is patchy with the older mid-city precinct needing revitalisation. It is pleasing that government has a strategic focus on the CBD but opening another fringe precinct will exacerbate current weaknesses.’

(Tony Hedley, Canberra CBD Limited, 24 June 2015)

Cafe Seating

Several people provided feedback that seating for cafe/restaurant patrons should not be allowed to encroach into the cycleway or pedestrian pathways. This was expressed particularly at public drop-in sessions and via the online survey.

The proposed design ensures continuous access is maintained for pedestrians and cyclists, with dedicated outdoor dining areas identified in the design.

Heritage, Environment and Landscape

Comments on heritage were raised in written submissions by the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians, Walter Burley Griffin Society, ACT National Trust and Duncan Marshall. Overall, these submissions felt there was insufficient information provided to date to enable definitive comments on the heritage aspects of the proposal.

The Walter Burley Griffin Society provided commentary on Walter Burley and Marion Mahony Griffin’s vision for West Basin, and suggests the current plan drifts from that original vision.

“The National Capital Plan comes into play when the ramifications of City to the Lake threaten the composition, geometry, symbolism and principles of the National and Parliamentary Triangles, City Hill, Commonwealth Avenue and the Water Axis. These National Capital design assets are at risk of degradation from City to the Lake as currently planned.”

(Brett Odgers, Walter Burley Griffin Society, 28 June 2015)

Similarly, the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians raised questions about the public open space, landscape design, heritage considerations and water quality management at West Basin. Many these issues were out of scope for the current consultation process, however have been considered by the project team and will be considered in the design. Detailed information on the materials to be used, the landscape plantings, heritage impacts, building heights and environmental impact will be released for public comment as part of the works approval process.

Within the consultation scope, the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians raise concerns about the loss of existing public open space at West Basin and access to the parkland including parking. They also suggest some ground tracks could be used for parts of the waterfront, instead of a boardwalk. The Lake Burley Griffin Guardians highlighted the significant location of West Basin, and the importance that the character is consistent with values of the National Capital:
“The parkland should provide an attractive landscape for Canberrans but importantly the area is part of the Central National Area and therefore a destination for visitors to the National Capital. However, until the public access and parking is clarified it is impossible to state whether we as individuals and other visitors to Canberra would use the proposed park.”

(Lake Burley Griffin Guardians, 26 June 2015)

Duncan Marshall requested additional information in relation to the heritage considerations for the West Basin waterfront. As mentioned, a heritage impact statement will accompany the works approval application and will be subject to further public consultation.

Duncan Marshall also raised concerns about setting a precedent for land reclamation at Lake Burley Griffin:

“Future governments might view the lake as a development opportunity with additional minor or major reclamations to yield funding for other activities.”

(Duncan Marshall, 17 June 2015)

The proposed land reclamation was an issue also raised by the ACT National Trust. In its written application, the ACT National Trust states that the proposed design is selective in choosing elements of the Griffin plan.

“The proposal is highly selecting in evoking the Griffin plan, choosing one small feature but ignoring others. For example the character of the parks and urban development north of the basin in Griffin’s plans are very different to that now proposed.’

(Scott McAlister, ACT National Trust, 22 June 2015)

Commercial Activities

Image: View looking south from Marcus Clarke Street towards Marcus Clarke Square.
The community were asked what commercial activities would encourage them to visit West Basin into the future.

Eight-eight per cent of survey respondents suggested restaurants and cafes would bring them to the area, followed by live music venues (64 per cent) and cultural facilities (55 per cent).

Some of the frequent responses listed under ‘other’ included markets, playgrounds, water play spaces and accommodation.

There were also a few comments from respondents that they do not want any commercial activities at West Basin, however this was limited to five responses out of the 370 responses. A breakdown of survey respondents is provided at Table 6.

Table 6: What commercial activities would encourage you to visit West Basin into the future?
Two suggestions were posted on the consultation map in relation to commercial activities:

*A café overlooking the lake and the playground so parents can watch the kids and enjoy something too. Also good to have somewhere close by to grab a drink/food if the little ones get thirsty/hungry, either in case you forget to bring your own or so you don’t have to pack too much.*

(Comment, Community Member)

*Be great to have a pub or bar around here - somewhere casual that encourages people to enjoy the space into the evening.*

(Comment, Community Member)

Both these comments received strong support from other users of the consultation map, with 21 agreeing with the first statement and 17 agreeing with the second. One vote, disagreeing with the comment posted, was received for each statement.

**Community Facilities**

Image: View looking east over the Western Park and Playground.

The community were also asked what community facilities would encourage them to visit West Basin into the future.

The top responses included barbeque facilities (68 per cent), playgrounds (57 per cent), waterplay facilities (55 percent) and public art (52 per cent).

Some of the frequent responses listed under ‘other’ included picnic spaces, bike hire facilities and skate parks.

Five respondents, out of 367 indicated they did not want any community facilities added to the precinct. A breakdown of responses is available at Table 7.
Table 7: What community facilities would encourage you to visit West Basin into the future?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterplay facilities</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbecues facilities</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor chess</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table tennis</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bocce court</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor fitness</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pet friendly facilities</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public art</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat mooring and berthing...</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify):</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Events

The top responses to the types of events that encourage the community to visit West Basin into the future included food markets (81 per cent), performances on the lake (70 per cent), art festivals (65 per cent), large community events (60 per cent) and fireworks (56 per cent).

Some of the frequent responses listed under ‘other’ included craft markets, music festivals and outdoor cinema.

Eight people, out of 366 respondents indicated no events would encourage them to visit West Basin. A breakdown on the type of events is provided at Table 8.
Table 8: What events would encourage you to visit West Basin into the future?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large community...</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food markets</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts festivals</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporting events</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fireworks</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performances on the lake</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Noise**

Conflicting feedback was provided by the community in relation to noise at West Basin. Some members of the community wanted to see increased nightlife activities, live music venues and commercial activities. Others raised concerns about the level of noise at West Basin now, and did not want these levels to increase. Strong views were held by both groups.

“Get some things like the Myer Music Bowl concerts! I want plays in the park and bands in the afternoon for picnics.”  
(Comment, community member)

“I absolutely DO NOT WANT live music venues, as I live nearby. The apartments were not built to withstand the constant noise from live music.”  
(Comment, community member)

**Transport**

The most frequent response received from survey recipients on how to improve the proposed design for the waterfront, was transport. This included feedback on the road network, public transport, parking facilities, footpaths and cycleways. A transport strategy will be developed for the City to the Lake precinct, taking into account this feedback.
**Parkes Way**
Consistent with the broader *City to the Lake* design, support remains for the lowering or realignment of Parkes Way. Although this was out of scope for the current consultation process, many linked the success of the waterfront with the land connection over Parkes Way.

**Commonwealth Avenue Intersections**
The waterfront design proposed two new intersections on Commonwealth Avenue, to improve access into the West Basin precinct and Commonwealth Park. The impact this will have on traffic, particularly through peak times, was a concern for some people.

**Public Transport**
Community feedback indicated that public transport to the precinct is considered inadequate at the moment.

One comment posted on the consultation map suggested the light rail could be extended, with a stop located on Commonwealth Avenue. This was supported by 16 other users, and not supported by five.

Some consultation participants felt the design would be great for those living within the city precinct, however believed the area would only be utilised by the broader Canberra community if public transport was improved.

> “Unless there is some serious thought as to how to get people to this area from the outer “cities” in Canberra (day/ night & weekends) via public transport it will not work.”

(Comment, Community Member)

**Parking**
Consultation participants sought reassurance that there would be sufficient car parking in the precinct.

> “It appears to take away more city parking and does not provide any new parking. In the past, the great beauty of Canberra was that you could go anywhere and park your car without a hassle and great cost. There is no way I would take/make the time to try and get to the place on a weekend (or even during g the week) if I had to try and get there by bus.”

(Comment, Community Member)

Some survey respondents indicated the main reason they currently visit West Basin is to park their car. These respondents raised concerns about parking in the precinct and broader city area in the short, medium and long term.

Several people who attended the community drop in sessions articulated the need for a parking strategy to be developed in the short and medium term, to manage parking needed during construction. They also called on long term parking management to be considered during the planning phases of the project.
**Commuter cyclists**

The current path network through West Basin is utilised by commuter cyclists each day. It is the main cycle route into the city, Australian National University and north Canberra for south Canberra cyclists. A dedicated cycleway, free from recreation users such as pedestrians and slower cyclists would be welcomed.

**Cycleways and footpaths**

A frequently raised issue of concern from the community was for there to be clear differentiation between cycleways and footpaths at West Basin to reduce potential conflict between all users including pedestrians, runners, cyclists (of varying speeds) and motorists.

“Provide for a separate cycle-only facility to remove the potential for conflict between pedestrians and cyclists.”

(Consultation Map comment, Community Member)

The proposed design includes a boardwalk, dedicated footpath, Copenhagen style cycleway and shared zone. Pedal Power suggests visual cues, such as differing surfaces and kerb treatments, could assist in guiding user behaviour across these spaces.

“We are all conditioned from an early age to look both ways before crossing a road, and not to stand or walk in the middle of a road, it is important to harness this conditioning to guide user behaviour in the design.”

(Bryn Challis, Pedal Power, 15 June 2015)

Pedal Power also asks for the paths to be wide enough to cater for all types of cycling and high volumes of bicycle through traffic. They suggest cycle paths should be four metres in width, and the medium between the cycleway and the road should be 1.5 metres.

*Image: View looking east from the Waterfront.*
The ACT Government wishes to thank everyone that participated in the consultation process. The feedback received will inform the design of the West Basin waterfront, and assist in developing a place making strategy for the precinct.

The community will be provided with another opportunity to comment on the proposed waterfront design, as part of the National Capital Authority’s works approval process. The works approval application will include detailed information on the materials to be used, the landscape plantings, heritage impacts, building heights and environmental impact.

This information will also be made available on the City to the Lake website—www.citytolake.com.au. You can also subscribe to receive information on the project, including notification of upcoming consultation via the website.
ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A – Survey

WEST BASIN WATERFRONT SURVEY

This survey is being conducted by the Land Development Agency to better understand the community’s opinions of the proposed waterfront design at West Basin. The waterfront is the first stage in the ACT Government’s plans to connect the city centre to Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra.

Prior to completing the survey, take a look at the proposed design on the City to the Lake website.

Feedback received during two consultation periods in 2013 has informed the design of the waterfront. This survey is to check that the Land Development Agency is on the right track. All comments received will be included in a consultation report. This report will be publicly available on the City to the Lake website, and will support the Land Development Agency’s works approval application to the National Capital Authority.

The survey will take approximately five minutes to complete.

WATERFRONT USE

1. How often do you currently use West Basin?
   - Never
   - Everyday
   - A few times a week
   - A few times a month
   - A few times a year
2. What are the main reasons you go to West Basin? (tick as many as apply)

- Quiet contemplation
- Barbecues and picnics
- Westside Aston Park
- Walking / running
- Cycling
- Organised sport (e.g. triathlons)
- Paddleboats
- Bike hire
- Feed the ducks / swans
- Organised events
- Other (please specify):

3. What COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES would encourage you to visit West Basin into the future? (tick as many as apply)

- Restaurants and cafes
- Cultural facilities (e.g. galleries)
- Bike hire
- Segways
- Paddle boat / canoe / kayak / paddle boarding hire facilities
- Retail shops
- Olive institutions (e.g. libraries and community centres)
- Live music venues
- Function centres
- Other (please specify):
4. What COMMUNITY FACILITIES would encourage you to visit West Basin into the future? (tick as many as apply)

- Playgrounds
- Waterplay facilities
- Barbeque facilities
- Outdoor chess
- Table tennis
- Volleyball
- Booze court
- Outdoor fitness
- Pet friendly facilities
- Public art
- Boat mooring and parking facilities
- Other (please specify):

5. What EVENTS would encourage you to visit West Basin into the future? (tick as many as apply)

- Large community events
- Food markets
- Arts festivals
- Sporting events
- Fireworks
- Performances on the lake
- Other (please specify):
6. Have you seen the proposed design for the West Basin waterfront?
- Yes
- No

7. How well does the proposed design fit with your idea of a liveable Canberra and the city you want for the future?
- Very well
- Well
- Neither well nor OK
- Not well
- Not at all

Tell us why:
8. How well does the proposed design recognise the unique qualities, significance and prominence of the site?

- [ ] very well
- [ ] well
- [ ] Neither well nor not well
- [ ] Not well
- [ ] Not at all

Tell us why:

---

9. What do you like about the proposed design?

---

10. How could the proposed design be improved?

---
11. Do you have any further comments?

- No
- Yes

Comments:

12. What is your age?

- Under 10
- 10 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 or older

13. What is your postcode?

Thank you for your participation in the survey, and your contribution to the City to Lake project.

To receive regular updates about the City to Lake project, please complete the registration form here.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category Name</th>
<th>Short description of your comment</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commercial</strong></td>
<td>A café overlooking the lake and the playground so parents can watch the kids and enjoy something too. Also good to have somewhere close by to grab a drink/food if the little ones get thirsty/hungry, either in case you forget to bring your own or so you don’t have to pack too much.</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commercial</strong></td>
<td>Be great to have a pub or bar around here - somewhere casual that encourages people to enjoy the space into the evening</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community</strong></td>
<td>Plenty of public seating need to be available so we are not forced to buy cafe food to enjoy area.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community</strong></td>
<td>Put an enclosed dog exercise/play area in somewhere - dogs can go for a run with their owners around the lake then unleash in a safe space!</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community</strong></td>
<td>Next to stores, a proposal for small pop-up marketplace for ppl to sell boutique gifts and wares-with a wide variety of stores-sundayoutdoor</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community</strong></td>
<td>A base for water activities! Kayaks, those balls that move on water, small water slide for kids &amp; facilities for ice cream/hot dog vendors</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community</strong></td>
<td>Base for water activities! Kayaks, those balls that you can move on water, slide for the kids &amp; facilities for ice cream/hotdog vendors</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community</strong></td>
<td>Beach w volleyball? wharf area with fish n chips. beach at Brisbane southbank and Melbourne Bay works, sand for kids to play, BBQs</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community</strong></td>
<td>Kayak facilities including storage so paddlers can walk to work in Civic and also paddle to the foreshore on weekends</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community</strong></td>
<td>Toilets??? Somewhere??? Toilet facilities???</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Events</strong></td>
<td>Not sure where the best space would be, but a Deck Chair Cinema like in Darwin would be a great event to run through the warmer months.</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Events</strong></td>
<td>Such a great vantage point. Make it a space to watch performances/displays on the water. Do something courageous!</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General comments</strong></td>
<td>This looks amazing, it will be great for the kids, please make this happen!</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General comments</strong></td>
<td>Can we bury Parkes Way and add underground carpark and ACTION busstop so that there is uninterrupted access from ANU etc</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General comments</strong></td>
<td>Is there room for a jetty with a big Ferris Wheel at the end? It will attract people from afar out of curiosity.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General comments</strong></td>
<td>A stage for live music would make this a space that people could settle in and enjoy, on a lazy weekend or even at night to complement a bar</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General comments</strong></td>
<td>Parking is important! Managing parking is going to be one key to success. For the foreseeable future people will need to take their car, and park it. By all means have pay parking, but have enough to cope with the projected usage. Underground would be nice, if a tad expensive perhaps - we don’t want to blight the whole place with acres of untidy car parks. Kingston Harbour already suffers from parking problems, which will only get worse with time.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General comments</strong></td>
<td>North East boundary needs to be moved to at least Parkes pl to preserve the integrity of the public domain</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General comments</strong></td>
<td>The free flow around the lake for pedestrians, cyclists etc must be retained unencumbered by &quot;planned&quot; &quot;events&quot; &quot;performances&quot; &quot;cafes&quot; etc. Remember that the lakefront is not, should not, be made into something that is &quot;planned&quot; for &quot;events&quot; &quot;performances&quot; &quot;cafes&quot; etc one of the great joys of Canberra is this open air heart where people can walk, picnic, cycle without too much congestion or artificial structure. To augment this recreational use of the city and lake will be fabulous, but interrupt the flow of people and bicycles around the lake with development and commercialisation targeted primarily at financial gain and you could rip the heart out of Canberra.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General comments</strong></td>
<td>Buildings should not be too high (2 stories max?) as it would block the view of the lake.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General comments</strong></td>
<td>This is an outstanding project, well done. I’d like to make just one suggestion. I’d love to see the the use of human scaled laneways, as seen</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
in the Melbourne CBD, incorporated into the urban area of the project. Otherwise, this is an outstanding project, and the people responsible should be thoroughly commended for excellent strategic foresight. Well done.

The built edge adjacent the park is just as important to making it work as the park itself. Fundamental to the success of this project is an active urban edge that has strong links back to the city but brings development down to the lake edge. There is a minimum amount of development required to make the park work as a destination. Examples exist throughout Australian and the world of developments beside water that attract people and the best ones all have one thing in common - a built urban edge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General comments</th>
<th>Transport</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The built edge adjacent the park is just as important to making it work as the park itself. Fundamental to the success of this project is an active urban edge that has strong links back to the city but brings development down to the lake edge. There is a minimum amount of development required to make the park work as a destination. Examples exist throughout Australian and the world of developments beside water that attract people and the best ones all have one thing in common - a built urban edge.</td>
<td>Light rail extension, with a stop about here?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improved car parking around this area to allow people with kayaks to easily get from their cars to the kayaking area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>keep bikes away from the lake front as this conflicts with the pedestrian nature. Allow bike travel further back from the promenade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C'wealth Bridge &amp; pedestrian Bridge to Marcus Clarke St is a main cycle highway into the city, ANU &amp; N Canberra for all S. Canberra Cyclists. Free flowing cycle paths without too many casual walkers, dogs, café tables, children are important for fast bicycle traffic on this route which is the main cycleway from south Canberra to the City, ANU , N Canberra and beyond. Many commuters use this route daily and there are no alternatives. The Marcus Clarke route has been significantly improved and it would be a shame to waste it. That said, there is no reason a dedicated cyclepath need be right on the lakefront in this location - it is as much about commuting as about recreation here.</td>
<td>Bury Parkes Way! Get Parkes Way underground, early &amp; properly so that the City can flow to the lake. Fail to do this &amp; the project fails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provide for a separate cycle-only facility to remove the potential for conflict between pedestrians and cyclists.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Land Development Agency

Profile summary

Land Dev Agency @ladcanberra
The Agency responsible for developing and selling land on behalf of the ACT Government.

470 Northbourne Ave, Dickson - lda.act.gov.au

Land Dev Agency @ ladcanberra - Jun 17
Post comments directly onto the West Basin design using #CityToTheLake consultation map. Comments close 25/6 bit.ly/1FToexx

Land Dev Agency @ ladcanberra - Jun 16
A cafe with playground & scenic views is suggested for West Basin waterfront. Do you agree? #CityToTheLake bit.ly/1FToexx

Land Dev Agency @ ladcanberra - Jun 4
Have your say on the activities, facilities and events you want to see at the #CityToTheLake waterfront in #CBR - citytolake.com.au

Land Dev Agency @ ladcanberra - May 28
Today @ABarrMLA announced funding to commence the transformation of West Basin at Lake Burley Griffin #citytothelake

Land Development Agency

LAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Attachments C - Social Media Posts
One of the suggestions received so far for the West Basin waterfront consultation is a cafe with a playground, and a view across Lake Burley Griffin. Do you agree?

Consultation closes 9am, 29 June 2015.

Use the new interactive map to have your say on the West Basin design. You can post a comment directly onto the design for everyone to see, or leave your comment private. You can also agree or disagree with other comments posted with just a click of the mouse. Consultation closes 9am, 29 June 2015.

https://www.collaborativemap.com/CityToTheLake.
ACT Government

Have your say on the transformation of West Basin at Lake Burley Griffin. The waterfront is the first stage in the ACT Government’s plans to connect the city centre to Lake Burley Griffin. #CityToTheLake svy.mk/1KFMKBg

Like · Comment · Share

ACT Government
June 15 at 1:39pm · 4

Find out more about the proposed designs for an enlivened waterfront on the shore of West Basin at Lake Burley Griffin, as part of the #CityToTheLake project.

The proposed design will be on display at two drop-in sessions being held at Westside, Barrine Drive, Acton Park. The sessions will be held tomorrow, Friday 19 June, 4.00pm to 6.00pm and Sunday 21 June, 11.00am to 2.00pm.

For more information on the #CityToTheLake project visit bit.ly/1EpSQk9

Like · Comment · Share

Glynis Rathbone likes this.

ACT Government
June 5 at 10:00am · 4

West Basin waterfront drop-in session
Visit Westside Acton Park this weekend to find out more about the proposed designs for an enlivened waterfront on the shore of West Basin at Lake Burley Griffin.

View on web

RETWEETS FAVORITES
2 2

9:26 PM - 17 Jun 2015 · Details

ACT Government
June 8

Have your say on West Basin waterfront. tinyurl.com/o4rkrkr #CBR

Like · Comment · Share
Construction of the West Basin waterfront is scheduled to commence in late 2015. Stage one was funded in this week’s ACT Budget. It has a bold design that has been further developed since receiving the 2013 Australia Award for Urban Design.
Andrew Barr
June 6 at 11:03am

Community feedback invited on the West Basin waterfront design.
Online survey here:
http://www.liv.act.gov.au/n/.../have-your-say-on-west-basin/374

Andrew Barr
@ABarMLA
Jun 10

Have your say on the activities, facilities and events you want to see at the #CityToTheLake waterfront in #CBR - citytolake.com.au

Andrew Barr
@ABarMLA
May 28

Photo: New West Basin public park #CitytotheLake stage one Funded in the 2015 #ACTBudget
facebook.com/ABarrMLA/posts...
#CBR
#NewPublicPark
#WestBashBoardwalk
Come down to Westside Acton Park on Friday 19 June or Sunday 21 June to find out more about the proposed designs for an enlivened waterfront on the shore of West Basin at Lake Burley Griffin. The proposed design will be on display at two drop in sessions being held at Westside Acton Park.

Something on your mind? The City to the Lake team will be available to answer your questions about the project. You will also have the opportunity to complete a short five minute survey or post a comment on the interactive consultation map.

WHAT: Community Drop-in Sessions
WHEN: Friday 19 June, 4pm to 6pm and Saturday 21 June, 11am to 2pm.
WHERE: Westside, Barrine Drive, Acton Park.

While you are there, explore the area and enjoy the elevated view of Lake Burley Griffin from the vertical village.
Environment and Planning Directorate

City to the Lake | Home
The Land Development Agency (LDA) is an ACT Government agency within the Economic Development Directorate. Its core business is developing and selling land on behalf of the ACT Government.
LDA.ACT.GOV.AU

Like · Comment · Share

Environment and Planning Directorate via Land Development Agency
June 14 at 2:06pm ·

City to the Lake | Home
Be part of the design for the shore of West Basin #CBR #CityToLake

Like · Comment · Share

Events ACT

City to the Lake | West Basin Waterfront
The Land Development Agency (LDA) is an ACT Government agency within the Economic Development Directorate. Its core business is developing and selling land on behalf of the ACT Government.
LDA.ACT.GOV.AU

Like · Comment · Share

Events ACT (@EventsACT) - Jun 9
Have your say. The West Basin waterfront is the first stage in the ACT Government’s plans to connect the city...
fb.me/3Qr1uLYdu
Westside Acton Park

Community consultation on proposed design for West Basin waterfront takes place 4pm-7pm Friday 19th June and 11am-2pm Sunday 21st June @ Westside. #CityToTheLake

Have you had your say? Community consultation for West Basin Waterfront today 11am-2pm @ Westside.

Westside Acton Park

Westside Acton Park

Westside Acton Park

Westside Acton Park

Westside Acton Park
City to the Lake Project Update

The Walter Burley Griffin Society appreciates the June 2015 opportunity to comment on proposed designs for the West Basin waterfront. Members of the Canberra Chapter of the Society felt that there was no need on this occasion to take up your offer of a briefing from Melanie Skinner as the projected first and second stages of the waterfront development require, in response to the plans on LDA’s website, a reaffirmation of fundamental values and principles.

We believe that this reaffirmation continues to have vital relevance to the Project as it comes ever closer to construction, infrastructure works and transformation of West Basin.

There is a kernel of Walter Burley Griffin’s and Marion’s vision in the City to the Lake concept, but its public and private developers should not assume or overplay the connection as the current Plan strays a lot from that vision. The National Capital Plan comes into play when the ramifications of City to the Lake threaten the composition, geometry, symbolism and principles of the National and Parliamentary Triangles, City Hill, Commonwealth Avenue and the Water Axis.

These National Capital design assets are at risk of degradation from City to the Lake as currently planned. The risk is compounded by the uncertain approach of the National Capital Authority at this stage regarding their review of Commonwealth Avenue and plans for City Hill. Griffin envisaged a lateral Central National Area with clear observation of Australian federation and democracy, low rise and low density buildings set in the natural landscape, with all round and long range vistas. Avenues, foreshores, hills and ridges were not to be defined by buildings and structures of a densely built up urban estate, but by parkland.

The extensive parklands on the northern foreshores were to be entirely accessible to the people and assigned to recreation, sports, culture, performing arts and national institutions. His formal central Lake foreshores were continuous public parkland without buildings frontage. The Water Axis, bisecting the Land Axis, provided a potent landscape reference that embraced the natural components of water, foreshore, gardens, ridge, mountain and terraced tree cover with, at the western end, views of the university buildings. A dominant buildings emphasis was never envisaged.

There is thus a strong case, with respect to Griffin’s Plan, for preservation – or, if necessary, restoration - of the basic landscape character, natural aspects, all round vistas, formal National Capital design of the Basin and Water Axis elements at West Basin. The Commonwealth heritage-listed Parliamentary Vista should also be a constraint on the scale, height and density of the West Basin development. The lay out of buildings and structures and the filling in of a section of the Lake similarly require the highest standards of design.

This degree of preservation could furnish a strong contrast to the build-up of Civic Centre, instead of predominant, continuous urban development. With regard to residential estate and apartment blocks in particular, Griffin did not plan urban development on the lakefront in this location.
The NCA’s Griffin Legacy – Canberra the Nation’s Capital in the 21st Century (2004) proposed a green edge to the West Basin Development comprising a promenade set in grass and trees around the north-east quadrant, a small ferry terminal and a tree-lined grass amphitheatre on the Water Axis at Acton. The eventual Amendment 61 - West Basin (2007) represented a significant shift in the scale and intensity of development, although the minimum set back of buildings was 55 metres and the height limit 16m (4 stories). Yet there are indications that permitted building heights may exceed 25m for the apartments closer to Commonwealth Avenue, posing issues for the NCA with their National Capital Plan responsibilities.

The Society has previously emphasised the importance of the visual relationship between Parliament House and City Hill. We argued successfully for the reduction in scale and heights of permitted redevelopment on Rottenbury Hill in Barton (Draft Amendment 57, Section 9 Barton, subsequently withdrawn), where significant vistas towards Parliament House could have been compromised. The West Basin Project raises similar issues of protecting the clear Parliament House – City Hill – Commonwealth Avenue vista.

In the development of the Museum of Australia on Acton Peninsula, many heritage listed trees and the relationship of 1960s tree plantings to the symbolism and integrity of the Lakeside were lost. Heritage is also a major consideration with respect to the indigenous, early National Capital days and geological stories of West Basin. Indigenous heritage was highlighted in Professor Weirick’s submission to the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital February 2007 hearing on the Griffin Legacy – paragraphs 5.27-32.

Your careful consideration of our submission will be appreciated.

Brett Odgers
on behalf of the Canberra Chapter of the Walter Burley Griffin Society

28 June 2015
22 June 2015

City to the Lake Team
Land Development Agency
GPO Box 158
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Madam or Sir

Proposed West Basin Waterfront Development

The National Trust welcomes the initial opportunity to comment on the proposed development at the West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin.

West Basin is an important part of the lake, and the lake is a vital part of the planned national capital. It has substantial heritage values which have been recognised in the 2009 heritage management plan prepared by the National Capital Authority. It is suspected these values have also been acknowledged in the Australian Heritage Council assessment of the Canberra National Heritage nomination, although the assessment remains confidential. Regrettably, there is still no Commonwealth Heritage listing for the lake despite a nomination and the evidence of values being strong and clear, and it is equally regrettable the National Heritage listing has not been finalised. Both listings would have provided greater certainty to the current process.

Unfortunately, the documentation available on the current proposed development is not adequate for public consultation, does not enable the community to understand the heritage values involved, does not enable an understanding of impacts or options, and does not enable the National Trust and others to make definitive comments on the proposal. The only plans available are schematic and are at a low resolution on a website, they do not compare the existing landscape with the proposed, they do not indicate the excavation, reclamation and other changes required, there is no indication about the heritage values considered, and there is no credible, independent, expert impact assessment available. The reclamation of the lake and change to the shoreline is presented as achieving what Griffin intended for the lake, but this is not substantiated by plans comparing the Griffin plans with the current proposal, nor is it argued in heritage terms. The proposal is also presented as the first stage in a larger development, but there is little indication about the nature, scale and impact of the whole development (ie. Stages 1 and 2, as well as suggested additional stages).
As an initial comment, the Trust would also note that the proposed reclamation of the lake and change to the shoreline is not consistent with the heritage management plan for the lake. The Trust is also very doubtful about the argument for reclamation as achieving what Griffin planned. This is a fragmentary attempt to create a small part of a plan which was ignored in its detail when the lake was realised. It seems more driven by the need to yield funds through development for other planning and development changes. In this sense, it sacrifices the lake. In addition, the proposal is highly selective in evoking the Griffin plan, choosing one small feature but ignoring others. For example, the character of the parks and urban development north of the basin in Griffin's plans are very different to that now proposed. The arguments relying on the Griffin plan currently lack integrity and coherence, based on the limited information available.

The National Trust recommends the preparation and public release of additional information to address the above concerns, and an extension of the consultation period to allow meaningful consultation on this very substantial change proposed for a precious part of Canberra's heritage.

Yours sincerely

Scott McAlister  
President
24 June 2015

Lake to the City Team
Land Development Agency
GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Sirs,

Public comment on the proposed West Basin waterfront design

A tourist or potential investor will measure the economic and socio-cultural health of the whole of the city by its CBD. The health of Canberra’s CBD is patchy with the older mid-city precinct needing revitalisation.

It is pleasing that government has a strategic focus on the CBD but opening another fringe precinct will exacerbate current weaknesses.

The City Plan and its two projects, Lake to the City and Capital Metro, focus on unleased territory land causing disconnected experiences, walkability and orientation.

Without a clear and multi-dimensional vision and accompanying regulatory and planning support, the CBD will continue to express pockets of poorly performing urban fabric.

Without a metropolitan response and the current ad-hoc response to delivering the City Plan, we can expect continuing record-high vacancies, declining land and property values, absence of potential tenants, stressed rates payers, declining revenue to government, dismayed industry groups, disoriented tourists, conflict between residents and noise generators, stretched municipal services and revenue going elsewhere because of inequitable problems such as parking.

Without recurring financial commitment to delivering the City Improvements Program and higher levels of City Services, unfortunately the existing CBD’s look-and-feel will be further compromised.

Government owns the underdeveloped centre in the CBD; City Hill, Vernon Circle, Northbourne, London Circuit, bus interchange and surrounds. Government has approved pockets of residential
development; Constitution Avenue, ABC flats, is keen to get Northbourne Avenue underway and has allowed Braddon, City West and New Acton to respond to the market.

There are many public assets still to be developed and improved; there are many private buildings and public spaces in need of adaptation or renewal.

The City Plan is two dimensional and narrowly focused on land use. Without an Infrastructure Priority Plan and Economic Development Plan, the business case for West Basin is uncertain.

The CBD is comparatively widespread stretching from Haig Park to the lake-edge parklands and from the ANU to the CIT. Without a Travel and Parking Sequencing Plan informed by an Access and Movement Master Plan, the precincts will remain disconnected and West Basin will add to existing problems.

Another construction frontier will exacerbate existing and unique problems that penalise the CBD compared to the town centres. Jointly fixing growing heritage, height, setbacks, taxes and charges, user and visitor experiences and consumer and investor demand is preferable rather than selling our precious parkland.

Canberra CBD Limited looks forward to continuing this conversation and strongly objects to the creation of West Basin without government demonstrating the investment is timely, based on long term economic modelling which is rewarding for the existing CBD and accounts for the whole of Canberra. Irrespective of the level of refinement, the consultant plans for the Commonwealth Avenue intersections and associated landscaping should be delayed and the money redirected to raise the value and attractiveness of the CBD.

Yours faithfully

Tony Hedley
Chairman, Board of Directors Canberra CBD Limited

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17 June 2015

City to the Lake Team
Land Development Agency
GPO Box 158
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear City to the Lake Team

West Basin Waterfront Comments

I write to provide comments on the LDA’s proposals for the West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin.

There are important heritage issues related to West Basin. It is an important part of Lake Burley Griffin, and the lake is obviously a central planning and landscape feature of Canberra as the national capital. The heritage values of the lake are identified in the 2009 heritage management plan prepared by the National Capital Authority. Based on the public consultation material issued by the Australian Heritage Council, it is apparent the lake is also recognised in the National Heritage assessment of Canberra. I note a decision on National Heritage listing is yet to be made, unfortunately.

Regrettably, the documentation provided on the LDA’s website makes little reference to these heritage values, what they are, how they are to be protected, and how they will be impacted by the proposed development at West Basin – unless I have overlooked such references. There is also no reference to the 2009 heritage management plan, and whether the proposed works are consistent with the plan. The plans provided on the website are also not very helpful in understanding heritage issues and impacts. A key piece of research would be a heritage impact statement, but there is no indication this has been undertaken, and if already prepared, it is not apparently available on the website.

It is apparent from the documentation available that the current proposals are part of more extensive changes anticipated for West Basin. In a heritage context, it is not desirable to consider only one part of a much larger project as this would be to ignore possible cumulative impacts. While full details of later stages may not yet be known, an indication should be given of the entire West Basin project, and the overall impact on heritage values considered.

In summary, the information provided is too limited to enable any meaningful comment on the actual works, and this compromises the value of the public consultation.

If better information is available, I would be grateful if someone could advise me.

As a final comment, I am extremely doubtful about the precedent of reclaiming land at the expense of the lake. While the reference to the Griffin plan is noted, I am not sure this has any validity in heritage terms. In addition, the reclamation seems to have more to do with increasing development
yield. If so, this would be a very bad precedent to set. Future governments might view the lake as a development opportunity with additional minor or major reclamations to yield funding for other activities. Again, incremental impacts might be the key issue, with the long term result being a diminished lake and landscape. Accordingly, great care is needed, and a robust justification provided before any decision is taken.

Yours sincerely

Duncan Marshall
B Arch (Hons), BA, MICOMOS
Bathurst Macquarie Heritage Medallist 2015
Dear City to Lake Team

Comments on the West Basin Waterfront Proposal
By Lake Burley Griffin Guardians

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the proposal. Representatives of Lake Burley Griffin Guardians attended a briefing by your planner, Ian Wood-Bradley about the waterfront landscaping and water plantings on 4 March 2015.

For this consultation we note that there was an illegible lack of information provided. Firstly, the web based illustrative concept part of the City to Lake development would not operate on some computers. Although the landscape plan is only part of the scheme, in order provide sensible constructive comments we needed to consider the landscape proposal in the context of the whole of the West Basin development proposal even if the development is to be conducted in stages spaced by years.

After many approaches by our members to your team more information was provided. We relied on the The City Plan and City to the Lake Consultation Summary (Consultation Summary) 2013, and The Draft City to the Lake Strategic Urban Design Framework (the Framework) 2015 (CLSUDS) as well as the Griffin Legacy Plan 2004. We are grateful to Ms Skinner who was able, at the 11th hour, to provide material to allow us to compare the existing and the proposed shorelines. We note other contributors may not have had the benefit of this additional material. We also note that there was insufficient time in this consultation for volunteer NGO groups to research and prepare comments.

1 General comments

Overcoming the barrier of the Parkes Way in the City to the Lake is a desirable goal. Providing a diverse landscaped lake shore is also desirable and may reduce the impacts on Commonwealth Park. However we strongly note that the West Basin development proposal is a huge loss of existing public open space, that currently provides important amenity such as access for people, car parking, vistas across the Basin and the western Lake from Commonwealth Bridge and to and from City Hill. Although the proposal makes reference to the Griffin 1918 Plan, that plan allowed for much greater landscape area with open areas to the lake.

2 Landscape Design

2.1 The proposal is for a highly designed landscape with urban style landscape pockets. There is no information on the planting or the effects of the developments on existing vegetation. Is the visual landscape connection with Black Mountain, the tree planting along Acton Ridge and the connection to ANU considered in the design?

2.2 The conceptual plan illustration notes key features but provides no explanation of what those features are. For example what is the bridge point

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gateway?

2.3 Apart from the streamlined edge shown on the master plan diagram, other information also shows the Aquatic Centre and a Cultural Centre as huge structures projecting into the lake. The Griffin Legacy Plan p.125 states it is a 21st Century opportunity to have the water axis recognised and enhanced in West Basin. How will the Water Axis be expressed in relation to these buildings.

2.4 The Griffin Legacy Plan illustration for West Basin provided a stadium-like space, important for viewing events and conducting special events. This appears to no longer exist in the Framework.

2.5 At least an equal amount of board walk on the southern side of the basin is proposed. If diversity of design is desired why not less board walk and some on ground tracks. The boardwalk is overly long and although it may be appealing for some walkers it could also be monotonous particularly when there is no shade or trees to pass through. The plan shows only a few trees extending a little way over the walkway and therefore it could be very hot in summer. This would reduce the success of the park. Is it shared with cyclists, runners and walkers? There is no information on its fabric, such as if it is all concrete or wood or mixed fabric.

2.6 The proposed high apartment buildings in West Basin will throw shadows across the proposed landscape strip particularly in winter.

2.7 The key to success of a large public parkland is access and parking. There appear to be two road entries to the area from Commonwealth Bridge. Are these the only public access points and where is the parking for visitors? Where does the City to the Lake route access the park. Is bus parking provided? Will electric people movers be provided for visitors with small children or the aged.

3 Heritage study

3.1 Has there been a heritage study of West Basin with the possible impacts of the proposal on Canberra's heritage features? Other heritage studies such as the Lake Burley Griffin Heritage Assessment Report 2003 for the NCA by GML and the Acton Complex Heritage Management Plan (Draft 2015 for the NCA) by Marshall et al note Indigenous heritage values on Acton spur. Have those values been considered? How will the streamlined shape balance the whole of the lake's physical expression as conveyed in its NCDC master plan of 1963.

3.2 Motorists and walkers enjoy the unfolding of vistas along Commonwealth Avenue to City Hill which is one of the major vertices of the National Triangle. Views over the western Lake, sometimes with sailing or other boats, toward the Bullen and Brindabella Ranges and some Inner Hills extend the Welcome to the Nation's Capital along Northbourne Ave from Anitll St to Vernon Circle leading on toward Parliament House. This is all lost by the dramatic interspersion of tall buildings blocks turning the driving into an ordinary concrete cityscape. Currently there are splendid views from Commonwealth Avenue across West Basin and the lake. Building heights need to match the carriageway elevation and not block this valuable view.

3.3 The proposed West Basin development introduces a loss of significant vistas to and across Lake Burley Griffin from key landmarks such as Commonwealth Bridge, along axes, to and from the hills that create the vertices of the National Triangle and are of heritage significance. The Consultation Summary as background to the proposal notes as one of the major themes:

  maintain human scale in the city centre and access to views, vistas and trees, respecting the Griffin heritage (Consultation Summary page 8).

3.4 The Griffin Legacy Plan introduced the concept of the reduced water areas in
the basin and apartment development surrounding the basin which was far too much infill in the open spaces that did not reflect the Griffin 1918 plan. However, while the illustrations in the Griffin Legacy Plan show the apartment blocks, the illustration in the Framework (page 1) shows high blocks of buildings that will create a concrete wall against Commonwealth Bridge. Fig. 1.2 of Framework shows local visual connections from Commonwealth Avenue across West Basin. There will be no view from Commonwealth Avenue except from about where Point Park begins.

3.5 Very high buildings shown in the Framework near City Hill will narrow the vista to City Hill to a glimpse of a flagpole and block views from it to key locations, particularly the Lake and hills beyond. The West Basin proposal is highly detrimental to City Hill and has it disappearing to become a courtyard for high building surrounds.

4 Water Quality
4.1 West Basin’s semi-closed shape minimises its waters mixing with the main expanse of open water in the Lake to disperse and dilute pollutants. Additional runoff from the proposed developments west of Commonwealth Avenue can only exacerbate the situation if pollutants are not fully stripped from it before entry. The water sensitive urban design comments in Place Points No.6, p.24 of the Framework need to be augmented to insist that exemplary engineering design provides the highest achievable efficiencies; “best practice” answers to cost before efficiency and should not be the standard. Treatment units need to be distributed along the drainage lines to spread peak runoff loads and minimise overflow.

4.2 Has an environmental impact study been undertaken?

The parkland should provide an attractive landscape for Canberrans but importantly the area is part of the Central National Area and therefore a destination for visitors to the National Capital. However, until the public access and parking is clarified it is impossible to state whether we as individuals and other visitors to Canberra would use the proposed park.

A heritage survey is required to establish what features should be retained including water basin size, open space, building height limits, building extent of the nearby proposed apartments and access to vistas from and to City Hill and the Lake.

The need for claiming so much of the open space of the lakeshore landscape for apartments that block vistas and reduce lakeshore landscape is strongly opposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for providing additional maps and reports.

Juliet Ramsay
Convener

David Mackenzie

on behalf of Lake Burley Griffin Guardians
26 June 2015

lakeburleygriffinguardians@gmail.com
Hi Ian and Melanie

Thank you for meeting with Roger and me and showing us the detailed plans. Attached are the documents we left with you and a few additional photos of separated cycleways that may be relevant. Just to summarise our comments today, we broadly support the design and think it will work well for people cycling, provided the details are right. The success or failure of cycling infrastructure often rests on details of design and execution.

There are two points of design we feel are particularly important:

1. Sufficient differentiation between the cycleway and footpath areas to avoid conflict between users.
2. Sufficient widths to cater for all types of cycling and high volumes of bicycle through traffic.

On the first point, it is evident that the nature of the planned foreshore space and adjacent development will generate a great deal of pedestrian traffic across and alongside the cycleway, with potential for conflict which needs to be mitigated as much as possible by the design. As we are all conditioned from an early age to look both ways before crossing a road, and not to stand or walk in the middle of a road, it is important to harness this conditioning to guide user behaviour in the design. The cycleway should be clearly differentiated from footpath areas by surface material and by a low lay-back kerb on both sides. It must look like a little road for the conditioning to kick in. If done properly, pedestrians will instinctively look both ways before crossing the cycleway, and will not stand or walk along in the middle of it. This is a fundamental and well-proven design principle for cycleways overseas.

We emphasised the importance of separating walkers and joggers from bicycles on high-volume paths such as those making up much of the LBG circuit, especially at West Basin, where the main cycling link between north and south Canberra crosses and overlaps with the very busy Lake Burley Griffin circuit. At busy times, sharing many sections of the LBG path is highly stressful and dangerous for all users, and creates constant antagonism between user groups. This currently is a deterrent to cycling, walking and overall recreational use of the central parklands. It is also a deterrent to cycling as a means of transport, as the LBG circuit is the core of Canberra’s off-road cycling and walking network and serves key employment areas. It forms part of many important commuter routes.

Our view on shared zones in general is that there are two situations where they work well for cycling:

- destination areas where there is very little through traffic, such as shopping streets and public squares (like Bunda Street or many European town centres). People can mingle at low speeds, park, duck into shops, sit down for a coffee etc. in these areas. It sounds like your proposed promenade on the shoreline and the public plazas will be this kind of space.

- linear routes where there are very few pedestrians and no cross-traffic (like most of Canberra’s existing...
cycle path network). At West Basin there is already far too much pedestrian activity for shared paths to work without conflict between users.

The ACT Government has for the first time made separation between bicycles and pedestrians in high-traffic areas an official policy, with the recent release of the Active Travel Framework.

On the second point, width of cycleways should be about 4 metres to allow:
- cycling as a social activity, allowing people to ride side by side without crossing into the path of oncoming traffic
- safe use by both fast and slow riders of all ages, allowing overtaking without crossing into the path of oncoming traffic

West Basin is ground zero for conflict between users with differing needs. In addition to high volumes of walkers and joggers, the path is simultaneously used by all the different types of cyclists. There are cycle commuters, who just want to get between home and work as efficiently, predictably and pleasantly as possible. There are slow-moving recreational cyclists including young children riding their own bikes or in trailers. There are the wide pedal-cars, usually hired by tourists. There are fast-moving lycra-clad individuals doing training or exercise runs around the lake. And there are also utility cyclists - people for whom the bike is just the handiest and most pleasant way to get from A to B, such as students going to university or CIT, people going shopping, or to the library, galleries or museum. Cycle paths must be wide enough to allow all these users to coexist, and 4 metres is the standard that has been found to work overseas.

Regarding the width of the median between the cycleway and the road, we recommend it should be at least 1.5 metres wide to allow room for signs etc. to be located next to the carriageway while still allowing the required minimum 1 metre clearance between fixed obstacles and the edge of the cycleway. This width also allows for pedestrians to comfortably wait to cross the road, without standing on or too near the cycle path.

Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to comment on the design and look forward to seeing the project as it progresses.

Cheers
Bryn
25 June 2015

Mr Dan Stewart
Coordinator General
Urban Renewal
GPO Box 158
Canberra ACT 2601

City to the Lake Project – West Basin Waterfront

Dear Mr Stewart,

The Heart Foundation ACT Division would like to thank you for the opportunity to be involved in current consultation for the West Basin Waterfront. We have appreciated being involved in the Project Reference Group and look forward to continuing to be involved in this capacity.

As you would be aware Active Living is a fundamental part of improving the health and general wellbeing of the community and evidence suggests that the environment can be modified to make it easier for people to become more physically active. Physical inactivity remains a significant independent risk factor for being obese, overweight and for some chronic diseases.

Within Canberra the issue of healthy weight, of people being either overweight or obese, has reached pandemic proportions. In just 10 years our rates of being overweight have risen from 47% in 2004 to 63% in 2014. Left untreated, this issue will be the major contributor to the burden of disease and death within this city. Cardiovascular disease continues to be the number one killer of Canberrans with the disease accounting for nearly 30% of mortality and almost one in five people being affected by the disease.

The Heart Foundation supports the inclusion of Active Living Principles within planning, design and development, as we believe the mounting evidence around Active Living is compelling. Ensuring easy access to walking, cycling and integrated public transport options will make a big difference to how people choose to move around and within Canberra. In this respect we support the development of a high quality public realm at West Basin that supports Active Living Principles. We also strongly support the ongoing integration of Active Living Principles throughout the development of the City to the Lake project and believe these should be used as guiding principles for the development (see Attachment A for Active Living Principles based on recent work by the Heart Foundation ACT).

We look forward to the development of West Basin waterfront and the entire precinct as a vibrant destination that supports active living and reduces car dependent lifestyles.

Should you have any questions or require further information please don’t hesitate to contact Anthony Burton on 02 6222 2031 or Anthony.Burton@heartfoundation.org.au

Yours sincerely,

Tony Stubbs
Chief Executive Officer
Heart Foundation ACT
Attachment A

ACT Active Living Principles

1. Connected Places - all transport networks should provide interconnected and continuous safe routes, particularly to major destinations and community uses such as shopping centres, schools and health facilities.

2. Open Space - good quality, accessible, connected open space provides the opportunity for people to undertake physical activity. Exposure to natural spaces (everything from parks and open countryside to gardens and other greenspaces) has generally been found to have positive benefits for mental and physical health.

3. Mixed Land Use and Density - a mixture of land uses and densities creates variety, interest and multiple destinations for users. Clustering of related land uses can improve accessibility and reduce travel distances. Good design can ameliorate conflicts between different land uses such as noise.

4. Safe and Attractive Places - all public places should be safe and attractive, this includes people's perception of safety and natural surveillance, through the provision of adequate lighting, active frontages and limiting blank walls at ground floor level. In the context of urban environments, aesthetics relates to the attractiveness of an area and in particular the combined effects of various elements such as the quality of the architectural and landscape design, the quality of views and vistas, and the arrangement of elements such as furniture in the public realm. Attractiveness is also associated with the overall experience and use of the area, including how pleasant it is to sit, walk, cycle, view and talk.

5. Supportive Infrastructure - facilities that support physical activity can enhance people's experience and encourage regular activity. This includes infrastructure such as street furniture, shading, water bubblers, signs, bike lockers and bus shelters.

6. Environments for All - all spaces should be designed to allow easy access and use by all people, regardless of age, ability or transport mode.
Mr Tim Xirakis  
Project Director, City to the Lake  
Land Development Agency  
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate  
ACT Government  
tim.xirakis@act.gov.au

23 June 2015

RE: West Basin Waterfront

Dear Mr Tim Xirakis,

On behalf of the Youth Coalition of the ACT (the Youth Coalition), I would like to thank the Land Development Agency for the opportunity to provide input into development of the West Basin Waterfront.

Unfortunately, we do not have the resource capacity to develop a full submission in the time frame required, however, the Youth Coalition is committed to ensuring that young people are involved in the planning, design and development of their city. We believe that the development of public space is an opportunity for the ACT Government to progress its commitment to a Child and Youth Friendly City as outlined in both the ACT Children’s Plan¹ and the ACT Young People’s Plan.²

Public space is a significant issue for young people. Young people do not always possess their own private spaces and therefore seek to use public space for many of their activities. They use public space for a variety of reasons, including: to sustain friendships, to socialise, to entertain themselves, to act as an alternative to paid events and places, to make new friends and social contacts, and to act as an escape.³

The Youth Coalition believes it is important that planning, design and development of public space include a youth perspective. As such we would be interested in your feedback regarding the strategies the City to the Lake team is employing to engage young people in the consultation on the West Basin Waterfront. Additionally, once the consultation period has ended, we will also follow up with you regarding how many young people participated in the consultations, and how their views have shaped the final outcome.

About the Youth Coalition of the ACT

The Youth Coalition is the peak youth affairs body in the ACT. The Youth Coalition is a membership-based organisation responsible for representing and promoting the interests and wellbeing of young people aged 12 to 25 years and those who work with them.

The activities of the Youth Coalition fall under four key themes: policy; sector development; advocacy and representation; and, projects that respond to ongoing and current issues. A key role of the Youth Coalition is the facilitation and development of strong linkages and collaboration between the community, government and private sectors to achieve better outcomes for young people in the ACT.

Youth participation in decision making

The Youth Coalition believes that young people have the right to participate in decisions that affect them and the life of their community. Participation gives young people the opportunity to have a say about what is important to them, allows them to make their own decisions about their lives, increases self-confidence and skills, and empowers them to be a full and valued part of the community.

Without specific youth participation measures, young people’s voices are less likely to be heard in discussions about public space. When engaging young people in consultations, the Youth Coalition encourages the City to the Lake team to refer to the ACT Government’s Community Engagement Toolkit (found online at www.timetotalk.act.gov.au). The Toolkit includes a section about engaging with children and young people and provides guidance and practical considerations for effective and meaningful youth participation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6247 3540 or via director@youthcoalition.net if you wish to discuss this invitation further. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Emma Robertson
Director
Youth Coalition of the ACT
Phone: (02) 6247 3540
Email: director@youthcoalition.net