



ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes
ICOMOS-IFLA Comité Scientifique International des Paysages Culturels
ICOMOS-IFLA Comité Científico Internacional de Paisajes Culturales

Hon Greg Hunt MP
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

28 January 2016

Dear Minister Hunt

Lake Burley Griffin and Lakeshore Landscape

I write on behalf of the ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes (ISCCL) to support the nomination of *Lake Burley Griffin and Lakeshore Landscape* to the National Heritage List (NHL).

The ISCCL is one of 28 International Scientific Committee's of ICOMOS, with members drawn from ICOMOS and IFLA (International Federation of Landscape Architects). Currently the ISCCL has 148 members representing 51 countries. An objective of the committee is to 'promote understanding, conservation and wise use of landscape heritage for public and private benefit, and with the general purpose of sustaining and improving the quality of life.'

The ISCCL held its 2013 Annual Meeting in Canberra. That meeting expressed concern regarding the non-listing of Canberra on Australia's NHL, and indeed to Australia's World Heritage Tentative List as an outstanding twentieth century designed cultural landscape. A member of the ISCCL, Emeritus Professor Ken Taylor, nominated Canberra to the NHL in February 2009.

The ISCCL is concerned that the values statement, prepared in relation to the 2009 NHL Canberra nomination, by the Australian Heritage Council has not been made available to the public or to Australia's foremost heritage organisation - Australia ICOMOS. It is therefore unknown if that assessment contained sufficient detail to protect the attributes and significant heritage values of *Lake Burley Griffin and the Lakeshore Landscape*.

The 2016 nomination document for *Lake Burley Griffin and Lakeshore Landscape* provides a comprehensive description of the significant heritage values of this cultural landscape. Concern regarding incremental adverse impacts on central Canberra and its lake system led the ISCCL, with Australia ICOMOS, to prepare a

'Declaration on the Heritage Listing and Heritage Conservation of Canberra's Cultural Landscape' in 2013, Canberra's Centenary year. The Declaration was provided to you at the time.

The heritage values of the lakeshore landscape have been impacted in recent years. They are currently under further threat from a large building estate proposed for West Basin. As well as appropriating West Basin's public parkland, the development will alter vistas from the significant symbolic route of Commonwealth Avenue to Parliament House.

The ISCCL supports the nomination of *Lake Burley Griffin and Lakeshore Landscape* to the NHL. The ISCCL also supports the use of this nomination document to upgrade the Commonwealth Heritage List assessment of 'Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands' to include its full scope of heritage values. Finally, if the ISCCL can assist further with the progress of the NHL nomination, within what is allowable by the legislative framework, then it would be pleased to do so.

Yours sincerely



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