



LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN GUARDIANS

Simon Corbell MLA
Deputy Chief Minister
Minister for the Environment
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Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for Planning
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Dear Ministers Corbell and Gentleman

Lake Burley Griffin Guardians

We write to introduce Lake Burley Griffin Guardians (LBGG), a newly formed not for profit group of individuals concerned about the Lake and its landscape setting. Our mission and objectives are attached.

The following paragraphs note our major concerns all of which relate to upholding the values of the Lake and lakeshore landscape for future generations.

Status of Heritage Listing

The LBGG believes there is an urgent need for a heritage listing of Lake Burley Griffin and its surrounding landscape, covering its social, aesthetic, historic and scientific values identified in several heritage nominations recorded in the Australian Heritage Database: (<http://www.environment.gov.au>).

There are a number of individual heritage listings of selected Lake Burley Griffin parks and wetlands, but currently there is no whole of Lake and lakeshore landscape listing for this significant national feature. As a result there is only piecemeal protection, no whole of lake management plan and no certainty for conservation or appropriately identified zones for essential developments.

With regard to the proposed National Heritage listing for Canberra, Federal Minister Hunt informed our colleagues in late 2013 that the Commonwealth is working with the ACT Government on management guidelines prior to finalising of the National Heritage Listing of Canberra.

Can the Minister please advise us on the status of the National Heritage management guidelines for the Canberra National Heritage Listing?

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Would the Minister support a heritage assessment and listing for Lake Burley Griffin and surrounding landscape for the National Heritage List?

Planning for the Next 50 Years

The LBGG believes that sound master planning with a strong emphasis on management for the entire Lake landscape is essential. This should safeguard essential heritage features, delineate suitable recreation zones and accommodate the needs of all lake users. Such a durable base is essential for formulating the course of the next 50 years of Lake and lakeshore management.

Can the Minister assure us he will confer with the National Capital Authority to commence this important process at the earliest opportunity?

Grevillea Park – proposed development of recreational facilities

Low impact watersport on the Lake is very important to the Canberra community and has generated a high demand for facilities. However the LBGG is most concerned that the development as currently proposed will have an adverse impact on the Lake's scenery, aesthetic value, and the Park's informal land use. The LBGG supports a reduced number of sheds in Grevillea Park to ensure space is retained for green scenery and informal community use such as picnicking, special car meetings, and triathlon use.

The LBGG notes the following concerns about *Grevillea Park Master Plan* (May 2014) and offers suggestions:

- Community consultation. There is a considerable body of interest in the Lake and how it is used and regulated, yet the Master Plan shows little evidence of adequate consultation and therefore does not reflect the needs of all stakeholders. The public exhibition period was far too short for amateur groups to compile a sensible response. No plan can be sufficient without acknowledging the full range of issues from all community members and groups with an interest in the lake. All of whom must be consulted directly to ensure they are fully aware of demands for the land, alternative sites, land allocation, environmental impact assessments and future planning to meet the recreation and other use demands.
- Item 2.2 of the *Grevillea Park Master Plan*, in its summary appears to misinterpret the Land Use Policies for Parkland Recreation in the National Capital Plan (pages 42–43). That section does not mention Grevillea Park as a location for boatsheds or clubhouses.
- The shared zone for pedestrians, cyclists and rowers, accessing the lake is an area of likely conflict that could lead to serious accidents.
- We believe some significant changes to the layout are needed to rectify the shared zone situation, shared use and other perceived shortcomings of the Plan.

Cooperation

Our Group desires to work positively with the ACT Government and other Lake authorities. Our membership embraces a range of professional skills and we wish to contribute where we can toward helping the ACT Government in achieving the best outcomes for Lake Burley Griffin and its surrounds.

We request an opportunity to meet with you to further discuss our interests and concerns and how we might liaise and cooperate with the Government.

Yours sincerely



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Lake Burley Griffin Guardians

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1 About the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians

The Lake Burley Griffin Guardians were formed at a meeting on 5th February 2015.

We are a non-profit community group committed to safeguarding Canberra's greatest treasure, the open space of Lake Burley Griffin and its lakeshore landscape setting.

2 Our Mission

We intend to safeguard the social, aesthetic, historic and ecological values of the Lake and lakeshore landscape and strive for a National Heritage Listing as the most suitable protection from adverse impacts.

We support development that serves the needs of **all** the Lake's users but also retains and improves the social, aesthetic, and ecological values of the Lake and lakeshore landscape setting.

We believe the aesthetic and ecological qualities of the Lake and its lakeshore landscape, cherished by locals and visitors, is being incrementally diminished by successive developments and land use practice. This continual loss can be minimised more sensitively designed solutions. Therefore the area of our concern lies with any parcel of land where activities may adversely impact the Lake's aesthetic, social and ecological values including its water quality.

3 Our Objectives

- 3.1 To raise awareness of the significance of the Lake and its lakeshore landscape as a major asset for Canberra, the Nation and future generations by promoting better understanding of its ecological, aesthetic, historic and social value through research, community education and other measures.
- 3.2 To promote the need for an overarching management regime for Lake Burley Griffin and its wider landscape.
- 3.3 To advocate the best environmental, heritage and management practice that could apply to Lake Burley Griffin and its lakeshore landscape development proposals are critically reviewed, in the light of existing documentation research.
- 3.4 To interact with any organisation involved with management or use of the Lake, to better acquaint with their roles and needs.
- 3.5 To seek co-operation with organisations in achieving the best outcomes for the Lake and its surrounding landscape
- 3.6 To promote a healthy ecology and a broad biodiversity for the lake as a whole.
- 3.7 To ensure all community interest groups are included in development proposal consultations.