



MEDIA RELEASE

15 February 2018

EMERGENCY HERITAGE NOMINATIONS FOR LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN

The Lake Burley Griffin Guardians are delighted that the Federal government has commenced reviewing our submission for emergency heritage listings of Lake Burley Griffin and its Lakeshore Landscape. "We thank the Minister for the Environment and Energy, Josh Frydenberg, for acting and asking his department to conduct the heritage assessment", said convenor Juliet Ramsay.

This assessment will consider if the two Emergency Nominations for National and/or Commonwealth Heritage listing meet the heritage values criteria set in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act); and whether heritage values are under threat of a significant adverse impact and the threat is likely and imminent.

Clearly the heritage values of Canberra's iconic Lake and Lakeshore Landscape are highly significant in this unique garden city. "We are confident that thresholds for both Heritage Lists are met. Our skilled volunteers conducted extensive preparation work for these nominations."

The imminent threats are pending the licensing and approvals sought from the Commonwealth by the ACT government. This is at West Basin - the Lake and shore area tucked between Commonwealth Bridge and the ANU.

"The Barr-Rattenbury Territory government wants to turn public parklands plus part of the Lake itself into another large private apartment estate. The planned works, to commence soon, are to fill in quite a large area of Lake to fit more development and thus obliterate Acton Park including related vistas across the Lake extending to distant ranges. Also planned is commercial development. Perimeter public space would be built on a new manmade lake edge street," said Ms Ramsay.

"The outstanding 1960's lake system masterwork was created through Sir Robert Menzies' National Capital Development Commission integrating necessary technical design changes with the Walter Burley Griffin plan. The loss of significant views across the lake along with infilling the Lake and the proposed foreshore works at West Basin are threats to our magnificent Lake that belongs to all Australians and is internationally admired."

The Guardians encourage the Minister to provide interim and then permanent protection as a matter of urgency. Then Lake Burley Griffin's heritage values will be conserved for current and future generations, as they deserve to be.

ENDS

Media contact: Juliet Ramsay 0498- 034 555 or Penny Moyes 0403879395 (Members of the Guardians will be happy to discuss the emergency nominations and do interviews).

The Emergency National Heritage List nomination is at:

<http://lakeburleygriffinguardians.org.au/media/LBGLL-Emergency-NHL-Nomination-12.1.18.pdf>

The Emergency Commonwealth Heritage List nomination is at:

<http://lakeburleygriffinguardians.org.au/media/LBGLL-emergency-CHL-nomination-12.1.18-docx.pdf>

About: *The Lake Burley Griffin Guardians are a local group of volunteers concerned to protect the landscape and heritage values of Canberra's iconic lake and its foreshore. The Guardians are not anti-development but they are very concerned about the ACT Government's plan to alienate public open space for private commercial and apartment development at Acton Park at the West Basin foreshore. This land is of value to all Australians and lies within the designated area of the National Capital due to its national significance.*

Follow us on Facebook and see www.lakeburleygriffinguardians.org.au for detail, maps and information about Walter Burley Griffin's vision.