



LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN  
GUARDIANS INCORPORATED

## MEDIA RELEASE

11 September 2018

### CANBERRA COMMUNITY GROUPS WANT BETTER PLANNING AND EARLY INVOLVEMENT

Around 450 citizens demonstrated concern with the state of planning in the nation's capital at Albert Hall on Monday 10 September. Not only was there a large crowd present, but also several executives of national heritage organisations representing a combined membership of over 3500.

Four community groups, Lake Burley Griffin Guardians, Campbell Community Association, Woden Community Council and Inner South Community Council made presentations decrying the state of ACT's urban planning. Featured among their concerns was the apparent complicity between the ACT Government and developers with developers having more influence than the community. These actions were producing distortions in the urban landscape and liveability, destruction of green space and trees, lack of democratic planning structures to ensure effective community participation and also, the absence of critical heritage listings and respect for heritage.

The groups vigorously expressed the breakdown in trust for both the ACT and Australian Governments, the latter having a role in approving developments in Canberra's Designated Area. A cynicism relating to token tick-the-box consultation and dismay about what is happening to the city they love emerged from all speakers

The meeting was hosted by Canberra University's Institute of Governance and Policy Analysis (IGPA), whose leader, Professor Mark Evans, presented on principles for public participation bringing forth questions from the public and making suggestions for better and continuing public involvement.

Participants contributed to a set of resolutions wanting engagement in the reshaping of Canberra from the ACT and Federal Government, a strong commitment to planning mechanisms following best practice and community participation, as well as a national planning competition to cover the next 100 years. A final, and well-supported resolution was the protection of Lake Burley Griffin and its landscape setting with a halt on plans to infill part of the Lake and appropriate its parklands for apartments.

ENDS

**Media contact:** First contact: Mike Lawson 0414 404 402; other contacts: Juliet Ramsay 0498 034 555; Richard Morrison 0413 581 613

(Members of the Guardians will be happy to discuss the meeting and do interviews).

---

**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](http://www.lakeburleygriffinguardians.org.au) for detail, maps and information about Walter Burley Griffin's vision.