



MEDIA RELEASE

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Privatising Acton Park is still an issue

Barr Government's Place Plan for West Basin released today in the Canberra Times. does not state how many apartments or the height of the buildings. It does not show or explain any access across Parkes Way or access from Commonwealth Avenue.

Critically, the new plan by consultants does not show how much of our existing park is to be taken by apartments. It can be assumed the apartments are still to fill up Acton Park and block vistas across the lake.

The foreshore will still be changed from a naturalistic beach to a retaining wall. The colourful sketches of the area shown in the plan as parkland are in lake infill area extending into the area that was once designated for an aquatic centre.

All of the 'attractive' park in the plan can be achieved without selling off the public's park or infilling our Lake. In a letter to Fiona Nash Barr acquired by the Guardians under FOI, Barr stated the cost of building the public realm of the development, to be \$100 million. How is this ACT tax-payer money to be spent?

The Guardians are still opposed to the sale of public parkland, the obliteration of the public beach, the loss of lake vistas, and loss of a balanced basin scale with East Basin.

If one can wade through the arrows and dots on the diagrams and the excessive adjectives in the text, this new plan shows nothing new. It appears to be a cynical instrument of Barr's election campaign.

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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.