

Resolutions from a public meeting on Planning in the ACT, Albert Hall, 10 September 2018, following on from “Canberra Conversations” seminar.

We wish to convey the following resolutions to the Federal Minister for the National Capital and External Territories, the ACT Chief Minister, and the ACT Legislative Assembly, on behalf of the community representative groups and individual concerned Canberrans present:

1. We want to see active and demonstrable community engagement on the vision and reshaping of Canberra, from our Federal and ACT elected representatives, notably on the ACT Government’s planning strategy refresh. We believe there needs to be a pause in the approval of further large-scale developments that will impact on the long-term form of the city until this community engagement is completed.
2. For the vision to become a reality, we urge both the Australian and ACT Governments, under the National Capital Plan and the Territory Plan, to develop precinct codes, local area plans, heritage overlays/management plans, environmental and character values for individual precincts that are both enforceable and enforced in future planning. These planning mechanisms will help with monitoring compliance of developments against both the National Capital and Territory Plans.
3. We expect to see that the Australian and ACT Governments adhere to world’s best practice in their planning and heritage policies and requirements, and to genuinely involve, at an early stage and at key later stages, individuals, Community Councils and community interest groups, and include national groups for the national and designated areas. Community Councils and other representative organisations need to be sufficiently funded and resourced to support their involvement.
4. We urge the ACT and Australian Governments to support heritage listing for Lake Burley Griffin and its landscape setting, to protect this national asset, and to halt all plans to infill part of the lake and appropriate the foreshore for an apartment estate at West Basin.
5. We call for the Australian and ACT Governments to undertake a new international design competition to guide planning for the second century of the Nation’s Capital.