



LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN GUARDIANS INCORPORATED

West Basin Values, Principles for Development and Acceptable proposals

1 Values of West Basin that should be respected

1.1 West Basin's landscape is an integral and critical, contributing component of the parkland character and setting of the nationally significant Lake Burley Griffin. Lake Burley Griffin, including its inseparable setting, is at the heart of Canberra and the nation has won national awards for landscape design and engineering. It is an inter-generational responsibility to the Nation that this public parkland be conserved.

1.2 West Basin's great value and potential is to provide rare, public outdoor recreation and an urban green space to Canberra City.

1.3 Vistas across West Basin to the mountain ranges beyond from City Hill and the glimpse vistas from Commonwealth Avenue (also from other areas across the Lake to West Basin and beyond) are highly valued by the community and visitors and should be retained and enhanced. The Water Axis vista experienced from the western area of the basin is a major original Griffin design feature to and from Black Mountain (known at one time as the nature vista) that should be protected and enhanced.

1.4 The 1960's completed plan and works for the Lake Burley Griffin is of major importance in that it respects the inherent and fundamental importance of Griffin's 3 lake basins, but modified their edge configuration due to technical, topographic and hydrological reasons. The causeways on Griffin's basins were deleted and West Basin became a horseshoe formation edged by Acton Peninsula.

1.5 West Basin provides a predominantly natural environmental respite. It has wetland habitat for waterfowl and during the last 12 months a platypus has been videoed twice in the Basin waters.

1.6 The Australian Government is undertaking a heritage listing of the Lake.

2 Principles for Any Development in West Basin

2.1 Rescind the development plan proposed in the National Capital Plan's West Basin Precinct proposal following the 2006 Amendment 61 and the ACT Government's *City to the Lake*. Amendment 61 and the City to the Lake proposal damages all the Values noted above, particularly the community's recreation resource, the vistas and the lakeshore and riparian habitat with a naturalistic edge.

2.2 All land and lake-bed in the area must remain in its current form as a public resource, government-owned and not be parcelled out to commercial interests.

2.3 No development in West Basin should occur unless it respects the social, heritage, aesthetic and natural values that now exist and these principles.

2.4 A commitment to Community involvement in West Basin planning including a credible, comprehensive public participation procedure for decision-making or development.

2.5 Low key recreation features for children, including a water play area, should be encouraged.

2.6 West Basin should remain free of through traffic and, essentially, be more accessible to Civic by foot traffic and cyclists.

2.7 Remedial landscape treatment undertaken to upgrade the water edge riparian vegetation, restore the natural, restful character, connect to the National Museum with a green canopy and on its western side link to the vegetation of Black Mountain. West Basin landscape should assist in the amelioration of global warming with large canopy trees and grasslands.

2.8 High quality design parameters for any new development —landscaping and structural—that do not turn their back on the lake and ensuring that cold winter shadows do not invade the major recreation spaces.

2.9 Any structures erected in the Basin, including small picnic pavilions, should be of a high design quality that will last well into the future and also be environmentally sensitive.

2.10 Structural elements should have a public purpose, be low level, few, and reliant on limited parking areas. All structures should utilise photovoltaic canopies. Anti-noise mounding alongside Parkes Way is encouraged.

2.11 A new pedestrian linkage between Civic and the northern lake shoreline should be developed as a structural feature.

2.12 Landscape paving should vary with stone, pavers, wood platforms and have minimal long stretches of concrete.

2.13 A master plan for West Basin must be initiated to ensure any development is consistent with the values and principles noted above. Suggested points for a master-plan are noted on the LBG site ://lakeburleygriffinguardians.org.au/media/Charter-for-WB-18.8.pdf

Acceptable developments set out according to a master plan may include the following and other suggestions that follow the values and principles:

- upgraded landscaping particularly at the lake edge with native riparian species
- a children's park with water play activities
- café/kiosk
- upgraded beach areas for community use
- bike, paddle boat and paddle board hire facilities
- separate bike and pedestrian paths, the latter with varied surfacing linked to landscaped seating/picnic/BBQ areas
- limited car parking, perhaps underground with a landscaped area above (eg Bangaroo, Sydney).