

Crisis time for Lake Burley Griffin and its Foreshore

West Basin & Acton Park belong to our Lake, our community and our nation

- The Lake was completed in 1963 by the Menzies' Government following several years of technical study. The Griffins' 1911-18 plans were modified keeping the edge to East and West Basins and parklands with trees surrounding the entire Lake.
- West Basin has the longest beach on Lake Burley Griffin backed by a central city community recreation resource known as Acton Park.
- West Basin and Acton Park became popular active areas having a jetty, ferry landing, picnic shelters, BBQs, boat ramp, a large parking area with eucalypts and bike and paddle-boat hires.
- At West Basin the Lake edge became a habitat for water birds, while platypus and rakali now forage in its waters.
- Vistas across the Lake to the mountains are a significant feature. The Lake and its foreshores were included in the National Capital Open Space System.



Pictured: Acton Park, West Basin — infill to extend twice the length of the jetty in the background and proposed apartments will cover all the parkland above.

What has been happening to our Lake's foreshore parks

- Since ACT self-government business-driven proposals emerged for the urban development of the Lake's parklands.
- Urban development at Kingston Foreshore forced out community facilities causing negative impacts on Black Mountain Peninsula Park and Grevillea Park.
- Taking over Acton Park and part of West Basin lakebed for a huge apartment estate, was included in the National Capital Plan in 2006.

- Acton Park has been neglected for over 15 years with heritage and environmental values ignored.
- Acton Park was part of the National Capital Open Space System but its zoning has been changed to 'urban'. A grid of streets is planned for the park area.
- The ACT Government claims that the WB proposal is in the Griffin plan. This distorts the Griffins' plan and award winning Menzies' NCDC Lake.
- The ACT Labor-Greens Government has done nothing to protect this important community green space. Lakebed land at West Basin has been acquired and works for an apartment estate covering Acton Park are progressing.

Instead of beautiful lake vistas from City Hill, Vernon Circle and Commonwealth Avenue, there will be vista-blocking apartments like these along Commonwealth Avenue north of the Bridge and covering what is now Acton Park. (LBGG Image)

What will happen to the Lake & Foreshore under the current plans

- Continuing limited community consultation with little or no information to the public on the 2000 apartments planned for Acton Park or proposed traffic circulation.
- Apartments will block heritage vistas and create cold winter shadows across the community lakeside area. Over 200 trees will go. Hundreds of tonnes of rock fill and concrete will destroy the lake beach, water-edge wildlife habitats and foraging fields of the platypus. West Basin will be half the size of East Basin. The City will lose a popular recreation park needed more than ever, for New Acton residents and public health.
- Far more funding than the \$10 million for the lake infill is needed. The bridging of Parkes Way is understood to be many \$100s of millions. Will this be a further cost burden for ACT ratepayers?

A change in the Government plans is needed to stop the devastation

- ACT Labor has in its current platform objectives—to conserve natural environments and ecosystems and achieve a balanced approach to urban development.
- The Canberra Liberals have stated: 'Given the declining state of City Walk and Garema Place, we need a consolidation of the existing areas, not a further expansion of the City. We don't wish to see the waters edge turned into an overcrowded and dense building zone. We would welcome improvements to landscaping in West Basin, the path network and perhaps amenities, such as a cafe or two, but not another precinct. Concentrating additional commercial and residential development in the existing City and Town Centre boundaries is needed.'
- The Community Action Party (CAP) opposes West Basin development. Independents and other political parties have yet to state their policies on West Basin development.

Stop the destruction of our Lake & Foreshore

This brochure is a call to Action.

Please read it and help save our Lake:

- 1. Demand action from your local politician/ candidate to stop damaging our lake and foreshore.**
- 2. Join Lake Burley Griffin Guardians:**
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SAVE OUR GREEN SPACES (SOGS)