



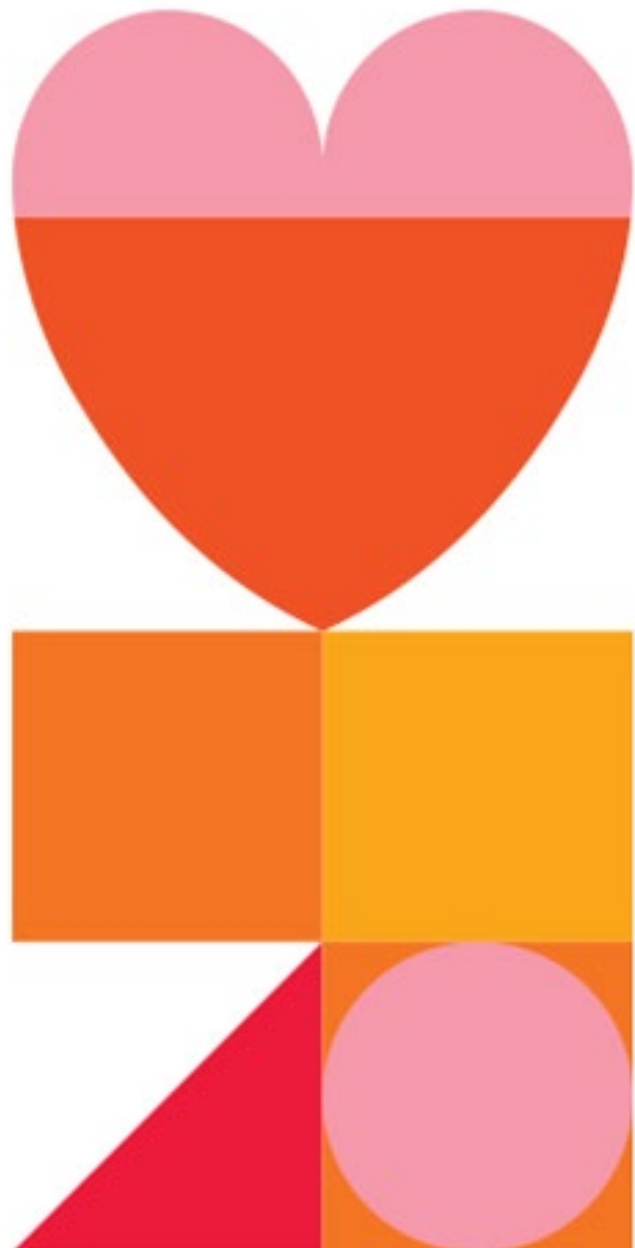
ACT
Government

**CITY
RENEWAL
AUTHORITY**

Consultation Report

Acton Waterfront Park Design: Phases 1 and 2

March–December 2022



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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.



Executive summary

To advance the Griffin Legacy, the City Renewal Authority (the Authority) is progressing with the multi-year Acton Waterfront project in consultation with the community and stakeholders.


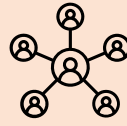

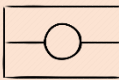


The Acton Waterfront Park design builds on a significant body of consultation and work starting in 2004 when the Authority published the Griffin Legacy.

The culmination of that work was realised in August 2020 with the Acton Waterfront Place Plan. The plan is the framework for creating Acton Waterfront Park and guides the future development of the Acton Waterfront precinct.

In May 2022, the Authority undertook community and stakeholder engagement to inform the development of the park's design principles and initial concepts. The process and detailed feedback for the engagement is outlined in this report.

Key themes

Key themes that emerged from consultation with equal priority through the consultation were delivering a park that:

 <p>Supports a wide range of activities</p>	 <p>Easy to get to and is connected to its surrounds</p>	 <p>Has water featured and celebrated</p>
 <p>Honours Ngunnawal culture</p>	 <p>Is accessible and inclusive</p>	 <p>Is safe and has a very high level of amenities</p>

The Authority and the design team used the feedback gathered in Phase 1 to develop more detailed plans for the park, which were put out for Phase 2 consultation from 31 October through to 12 December 2023. The intent of engagement in Phase 2 was to seek broad feedback on the following:

- Detailed designs.
- Preferences to inform project staging.
- Temporary activation opportunities.

These consultation activities included stakeholder briefings, government and community workshops, targeted focus groups, outreach “pop-up” events and an extensive online engagement process.

Several engagement activities covered planning for the park and the proposal to develop the adjacent estate. This report only reflects feedback relevant to the park component of the planned renewal of the precinct.

Opposing views

The engagement program yielded quite divergent feedback. While the bulk of feedback indicated general support for the design and plans for the park, some of the feedback was opposed to the park based on the following:

- Its interdependency with the adjacent estate redevelopment.
- Incompatibility with the Burley Griffin vision.
- The already constructed concrete boardwalk.
- Token Indigenous theming.
- Over design and overactivation of a three-hectare space.
- Loss of open space and established trees.
- Inadequate park size and incorporation of Barrine drive within the parkland area.
- Expense and extended timeframe for delivery.

Supporting views

Where people supported the concept and design of the park, they commonly cited the following reasons:

- Canberra already has a large amount of natural parkland, and the waterfront would provide a more urban, active outdoor gathering place catering for a wide range of uses.
- Support for recognition and integration of Ngunnawal culture.
- A new central event space for the city that would be a destination for Canberrans and visitors.
- The focus on active nature-based play.
- The park would open the lake to greater use.
- An outdoor park in proximity to dining and retail.





Common themes across feedback

Some common themes across feedback included:

- A desire to see the park's size increased beyond the minimum 50 metres.
- Look at reducing the amount of hard surfaces and hard stand areas.
- Bringing in more trees and planting for shade, cooling and supporting wildlife.
- Addressing weather protection in summer and winter.
- Conclusively addressing the separation of cycling and e-scooters from pedestrian areas.
- Ensuring ample provision of affordable longer-stay car parking to support access for those who do not have convenient public transport.
- Address concerns about potential use conflict between an active event-based parkland near a residential area.
- Ensure good pedestrian access from Civic and surrounding areas.

First Nations engagement

There was strong support among First Nations people for the proposed designs for the park. Feedback noted the importance of the new park as a place of ceremony and a place to share and learn about Ngannawal culture. Several suggestions were received about how this may be achieved. First Nations stakeholders also commented favourably on the design, the use of natural materials, and the focus on planting endemic species.



Introduction

History of the project

Lake Burley Griffin is a much-loved and defining feature of Canberra. Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin's original plan intended for the road and pedestrian access to continue to the water, connecting it to the city centre.

The Authority is progressing with the multi-year Acton Waterfront project in consultation with the community and stakeholders so that this new city precinct reflects Canberrans' vision for their city, connects the City Business District (CBD) to the lake and provides unrestricted, public access to the lakefront.

The project has a long history based on its centrality to the Griffins' original vision and plan for this area, as highlighted in Table 1.

Table 1. History of Acton Waterfront

Year	Activity
2004	<p>The Authority published the Griffin Legacy, which set a new course for Canberra's development.</p> <p>The Griffin Legacy prompted changes to the National Capital Plan, resulting in Draft Amendment 61. The Draft Amendment included provisions for developing West Basin, such as reclamation of part of the lake edge, cafés and tourist facilities, and water sensitive urban design strategies.</p>
2006	<p>Amendment 61 was approved by the House of Representatives and Senate and incorporated into the National Capital Plan.</p>
2012	<p>A Project Reference Group was established to support the City to the Lake Project, including representatives from the Canberra Business Council, the National Museum of Australia (NMA), the Australian National University (ANU), the National Trust, the Lake Users Group and others. At this time, the National Capital Authority also established a Design Review Panel to provide independent design critiques of proposals for West Basin.</p>
2013	<p>Public consultation was undertaken on the City to the Lake Vision by the Land Development Agency. Comments received specifically concerning Acton Waterfront highlighted the community's importance of public access to the lake. While embracing the City to the Lake proposal, existing lake users indicated they wanted to continue to use walking and cycling tracks at West Basin and enter the lake for water sports without impediment.</p>
2014	<p>The Land Development Agency devised designs for the West Basin waterfront in close consultation with the Authority and the National Capital Design Review Panel. This included a series of design workshops on the overall public realm strategy and two presentations to the National Capital Design Review Panel. The</p>



Year	Activity
	Project Reference Group was expanded to include a broader range of interests in the project.
2015	The community was invited to provide feedback on the draft City to the Lake Strategic Urban Design Framework and the types of commercial activities, community facilities and events they would like to see at the West Basin waterfront in the future. 78% of respondents indicated the proposed design fits with their idea of a liveable Canberra and the city they want for the future. 75% of respondents indicated that the proposed design recognised the site's unique qualities, significance and prominence. Community feedback showed that creating public areas before any private building development occurred was preferred for this area.
2016	The Authority granted Works Approval for the West Basin Point Park (later renamed Henry Rolland Park). Construction began in October of that year with the first 150 meters of the boardwalk.
2017	Consultation on the name of West Basin Point Park was undertaken.
2018	Henry Rolland Park opened to the public, with around 10,000 people attending the official opening. The Authority granted Works Approval for the boardwalk extension as part of the Acton Waterfront works.
2020	The Acton Waterfront Place Plan was released. This plan is the framework for realising the final design solutions for the park and guides the future development of the Acton Waterfront precinct. Ongoing targeted engagement regarding the construction (including the temporary cycle paths and Acton Waterfront beach) occurs with several stakeholders, such as the Lake User Group, Pedal Power, and Triathlon ACT.
2022	<p>The Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee and the Authority's Board meet to define principles to guide Ngunnawal engagement on the project.</p> <p>In March 2022, the beginning of the design phase for Acton Waterfront Park commenced. During May–June 2022, Phase 1 engagement on initial concepts to inform the development of design principles and subsequent detailed designs launched. Throughout October–December 2022, Phase 2 engagement was delivered on detailed designs for the waterfront park and adjacent estate development.</p>



Rationale for the project

The Authority is working to implement Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin's vision by progressing the multi-year Acton Waterfront project in consultation with the community and stakeholders so that this new precinct reflects Canberrans' vision for their city, connecting the CBD to the lake and providing unrestricted, public access to the lakefront.

Supporting that vision and work, this Consultation Report captures the first workshops to establish the design principles that will inform the Acton Waterfront Park.

The new Acton Waterfront Park will be adjacent to the boardwalk, on land reclaimed from Lake Burley Griffin as part of the previous stage of works.

The new park will provide a tourism and recreation destination, offering space for events, exhibitions, community gatherings and activities in a high-quality setting that is easily accessible. The site has the potential to provide a recreational and cultural focus to the lake's West Basin and be a popular destination for Canberrans.

Note: Imagery in this document is indicative and was used throughout engagement



Phase 1 engagement program

Overview of workshops

As a part of the Phase 1 engagement, three workshops were held over two days on 16 and 17 May 2022. Each workshop was targeted at different groupings of participants:

- Caring for Country (First Nations)
- Government (government organisations and ACT Government)
- Community (community groups)

The Caring for Country workshop was facilitated by Yerrabingin, a specialist Indigenous design and cultural consultancy. Caring for Country workshop was followed up with presentations to the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee on 15 June 2022 and 23 July 2022. The community and government representative workshops were facilitated by WSP with support from the design team at Aspect Studio, Authority project team members, and Communication Link.

More than 85 invitations were sent to local community members and associates. The following organisations attended the various workshops:

- Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee
- ACT Government agencies, including Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, Major Projects Canberra, Transport Canberra and City Services, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, ACT Events
- National Museum of Australia
- Australian National University
- ACT Council of Social Service
- Pedal Power
- Lake Burley Griffin Guardians
- LGBTIQ Advisory Council
- Molonglo Group
- National Trust

Participants brought a broad range of expertise and experience to these design sessions.



Types of feedback

The feedback captured through the course of the initial round of consultation falls into six categories:

1. Content from discussions (as captured by consultants supporting the Authority).
2. Emerging themes and ideas (as captured by graphic illustration).
3. Raw material (as captured by participants during the workshop exercises).
4. Feedback from the stakeholders in the area who have been notified of the beginning of the design process.
5. Feedback from the broader community through engagement with the relevant YourSay page.
6. Feedback from the broader community through social media interactions.

Notification of Phase 1 consultation

Through the workshop, flyers were also delivered to all neighbouring residents and businesses. This mailout included all residential dwellings and commercial facilities in the area bounded by London Circuit, Gordon Street, Marcus Clarke Street, Edinburgh Avenue and Parkes Way. Or in other terms, all businesses and dwellings within the New Acton precinct and the 4 buildings of the Metropolitan development.

In all, including bundles left at cafes and other retail businesses, the team distributed approximately 1,200 flyers. The flyer that was distributed is included in [Appendix 1](#).

Corflute boards highlighting the project and consultation via the YourSay page were also placed around the Acton Waterfront area.



YourSay engagement

Following the workshops, the Authority provided a summary of the workshops to the community through the YourSay page and social media. The release of information was intended to provide the broader community with an opportunity to hear about the discussion that transpired through the workshops and provide an opportunity for further input into the design process.

As envisaged, the workshop release did prompt many additional ideas and comments by various members of the community, which are also included in this report.

Specifically, the launch of the YourSay page on the Acton Waterfront Park Design triggered a considerable amount of activity and discussion. See [Appendix 2](#) for the detailed responses.

Table 1 below summarises the YourSay engagement from 16 May 2022 to 20 June 2022.

In addition, there were 82 further unique submissions and comments through that period. These are included in [Appendix 3](#).

Table 2. YourSay activity snapshot in total

Views	Visits	Visitors	Contributions	Contributors	Followers
2895	1665	1439	147	46	19



Phase 1 Engagement outcomes

The emerging key themes discussed below incorporate views and ideas from the workshops, social media coverage YourSay activity and emails. The themes are not in any order of priority and reflect matters that were consistently heard throughout the initial engagement.

Emerging key themes

A park that supports a wide range of activities

- The future design must create an urban space for structured and unstructured activities. These could range from large-scale events to just visiting the park and reading a book outdoors. The park scale should enable large events and simple everyday “low-key” use. This would entail diverse spaces, from busy and interesting urban spaces, to quiet and tranquil natural places.
- As a major civic space, the park should be the “go-to” place for community events but also have plenty of green areas for low-key community use and not be dominated by infrastructure, roads, paths and hard surfaces. Larger gathering and events spaces would be best located near the urban interface rather than more natural parkland areas.
- There was a desire to see this underutilised and unengaging lake edge alive with people of all ages and to support active and healthy living. Many suggestions about the varied activities could be facilitated through the design. These include an amphitheatre with an outdoor screen, skate friendly design, bike paths, cafes, library/meeting rooms, pavilions, wi-fi, child water and nature play and climbing structures.
- Event infrastructure should be seamlessly incorporated into the park environment for a wide range of community uses (small and large). This infrastructure should also be resilient to cope with the impacts of large events.
- It was also noted that the development would be adjacent to the waterfront park. The broader public’s use and enjoyment of the park and the waterfront area should not be curtailed by any future residential use.



A park that is easy to get to and is connected to its surrounds

- A common theme in feedback was that Acton Waterfront is uniquely an urban park where the city meets nature and the water. However, the area is currently quite disconnected from its surrounds.
- Participants noted the importance of connecting the park back to the CBD, National Museum of Australia, ANU and the Botanic Garden through good access and wayfinding and ensuring the park was inviting and intuitive to navigate.
- While proximity to the future light rail was beneficial, Parkes Way was seen as a physical and psychological barrier.
- Within the park, concerns were expressed that the proposed street reduces the area allocated for parkland and could become a place of conflict between vehicles, pedestrians, scooters/skaters and bicycles. Some also noted that without management, there is potential for the boardwalk to become a place where there is a conflict between pedestrians and cyclists/scooters/skaters.
- Within the park precinct, pedestrians should have priority over cars.

A park where water is featured and celebrated

- Many contributors saw water as an integral element of any design, and this went beyond just having water as something to be looked at.
- Water was also seen as both peaceful and enlivening and critical for biodiversity by providing habitat for native plants and animals.
- There was strong support for features/ infrastructure that would facilitate greater interaction with the water. This included boardwalks over the water and steps into the water, aquatic plantings, water play for kids and facilities for kayaks and other water-based leisure activities.
- By bringing water up into the park, there is also potential to soften and cool the park.
- Water is also an important contributor to biodiversity. Provision for natural treatment of urban runoff through reedbeds and rain gardens would ensure healthier water enters the lake.
- Some concerns were expressed that the present edge of the boardwalk does not allow animals that fall into the lake to safely get out of the water and, with its substantial overhang, may not support biodiversity.
- The original Molonglo River and water are also key elements of the Ngunnawal story of this area.



A park that honours Ngunnawal culture

- Ngunnawal culture and understanding of Country must be the foundation of place so that the park is a space of respect, sharing and learning.
- Acton Waterfront Park should be a place where we all connect with Country, connect with culture, and connect with each other.
- The park can be a place where Ngunnawal culture is embodied in design through the incorporation of Ngunnawal stories and truth-telling about the process of colonisation and Ngunnawal resilience. Key to this is the Molonglo River that was flooded to form Lake Burley Griffin.
- This way, the park can be a place of healing and a place where all people can genuinely come together, be with and learn from each other. Historically the river valley was a place where people would meet.
- Planting within the park should highlight endemic and native plants, bush tucker, and provide habitat for native animals.
- Using aquatic plants to treat water before it enters the lake will help heal the basin and consider placing plants within the water to increase habitat and bring life back into the West Basin.
- Play and discovery were seen as ways to promote intergenerational learning about culture and country.
- Technology and art should also be used in telling and interpreting Ngunnawal stories. This should be much more creative than just placing signs around the park, and the process of choosing and telling stories should be led by Ngunnawal elders.
- The creation and operation of the park should provide opportunities for Indigenous enterprise.

A park that is accessible and inclusive

- A strong view emerged that the park should be for all people. It should be an inclusive and safe place where people feel they belong.
- To achieve this, it should respond to the needs of the broadest possible cross-section of the Canberra and Australian communities since the lake, and this park are on the national stage.
- All parts of the waterfront and edge should be accessible to everyone and not privatised for restaurants or other commercial use.
- A park in this central location has the potential to be “the” place where Canberrans can meet each other and visitors to the ACT can “meet Canberra”.
- Different activities and ways of using the park should be catered for. However, the park shouldn’t be over-programmed. It needs some capacity to evolve and be a place where people can make their own.



- The park should be truly accessible to all and work well for people with disabilities. This is not just about access but also signage, amenities, wayfinding, all-abilities play and gender-neutral toilets.
- People should be able to enjoy themselves here without spending money, and commercial and residential interests from within the new adjacent development should not dominate.

A park with high levels of amenities

- The basics need to be done well, with facilities that make the park easy to use and a place where people will want to spend time. This includes clean, accessible toilets, drinking fountains, shade structure, barbeques and recycling bins.
- Park infrastructure should be sustainable, robust and resilient to withstand high use levels over time.
- Ensure the interface with the adjacent planned development is human scale and prioritises the amenity of the waterfront park.
- Consider creating community facilities in the adjacent development that can interface with, and add to, the community utility of the park.
- Easy access to food at various price points in the nearby development area.
- Without being too formal or piecemeal, there needs to be different zones for events, more active uses, and places for low-key passive use. This way, people can go to an area that works for them and what they want to do. Not everywhere in the park needs to be “activated”.
- Provide access to small-scale event infrastructure so community and cultural groups can stage their events within the park at a low cost.
- The design needs to respond to the microclimate of the basin and Canberra’s extremes to ensure the park is comfortable across the seasons.
- Some concerns were noted about the extent of hard surfaces (roads and the boardwalk) proposed for the park and that these were not conducive to a sense of amenity or safety.
- The design should explore ways to reduce the intrusion of noise from traffic on Parkes Way into the park area. This could include planting, changing landforms and placing buildings in the development area.



A park that is safe

- Some feedback focused on the safety challenges of cyclists and pedestrians sharing bike paths through the waterfront.
- There were also suggestions around having the right surfaces for the right activities so children playing in playgrounds, for instance, could safely play.
- Use planting and changes in level to create zones where kids can safely and freely play.
- Place steps to and from the water in locations along the boardwalk.
- Make the park safe at night with animal friendly lighting and evening activation.
- Manage interaction between pedestrians, vehicles, scooters and cyclists and prioritises pedestrians, not cars.

These high-level themes are a distillation of a large amount of feedback and bring together things commonly and consistently heard through the initial stages of engagement. A graphic artist also visually captured feedback during workshops; these outputs are included in Appendix 4.

Suggestions for facilities and amenities

Within the feedback we received, there were some very specific suggestions as to what could be incorporated into the new park. Some of these include:

- All abilities and all ages play
- Water play and swimming areas
- Fountains
- Exercise and climbing equipment
- A ferry wharf
- Small watercraft for hire
- A native food garden
- A small amphitheatre for outdoor performances and music
- Outdoor live screens
- A small market area where local artisans and producers can sell their wares
- Food and beverage to provide outdoor and lakeside dining options
- Design in wind protection and shade
- Undercover bike storage and repair station
- A wide pedestrian and cycle land bridge over Parkes Way
- A pedestrian tunnel from Commonwealth Park under Commonwealth Avenue
- Segregated lanes for cyclists that skirt the park and are away from the boardwalk
- Green and leafy space, particularly for shade
- Link the park into bike routes to the arboretum and through to Tuggeranong



Places to emulate and/or learn from

We also received several references to exemplar public spaces and parks around the world. Some of these included:

- Salamanca — markets food /beverage and activity.
- Culdesac Tempe — a car free community.
- Bergen Port or Copenhagen-style water houses — the building typology for the interface between the development and the waterfront park.
- European waterfront promenades — Porvoo in Finland, Sweden and Holland.
- Henry Rolland Park — quality and robustness of finishes.
- Southbank beach — water play.
- Create a wide shared path (like Vondelpark in Amsterdam) from the park to the Museum.
- Avoid the very constrained public access to the waterfront as has occurred in Kingston's foreshore development.

Note: Imagery in this document is indicative and was used throughout engagement



Phase 2 engagement program

How we engaged during Phase 2

The conversation about detailed designs for the Acton Waterfront Park occurred through activities and platforms from 31 October 2022 to 12 December 2022. Given the project's significance to the ACT, an extensive program of engagement be undertaken, and a diverse range of Canberrans have an opportunity to have their say on this important project. Activities throughout the six-week consultation period included:

- Ongoing consultation with First Nations stakeholders undertaken by Yerrabingin
- Site visits with Lake User groups and the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians
- Two focus groups with Canberrans from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- One focus group with parents and carers of children from suburbs across Canberra
- Series of pop-ups in Civic and at Henry Rolland Park
- Online workshop with ACT disability and access organisations
- Two Government stakeholder workshops
- In-person community workshop
- Online community workshop
- YourSay platform and survey
- Detailed submissions
- Shorter email submissions

Further detail of these activities and feedback received is outlined in the following chapter. The Authority and the design team are thankful for the constructive and thoughtful guidance stakeholders provided.

Notification of Phase 2 consultation

The community and stakeholders were notified of the Phase 2 consultation program through a range of means, including:

- Emails to registered stakeholders and community groups
- OurCanberra newsletter
- Signage placed around the Acton Waterfront site
- Social media, including LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- YourSay page
- Invitations to workshops/briefings



Engagement activities undertaken across Phase 2

Table 3 highlights all the activities, timings and participants involved for each part of Phase 2 engagement throughout 2022.

Table 3. Phase 2 engagement activities

Activity	Date (2022)	Participants
First Nations Engagement		
Ngunnawal Elders Walk on Country and Feedback Session	23 July	5
National Capital Design Review Panel meeting	10 August	9
Online feedback session	3 November	44
Focus groups		
Culturally and linguistically diverse community members	26 October	5
Culturally and linguistically diverse community members	26 October	6
Parents and guardians of children 18 years and younger	28 October	11
Government representative workshops		
Government Workshop 1 – in person	1 November	7
Government Workshop 2 - online	2 December	25
Pop-ups		
Garema Place	18 November	17
Henry Rolland Park	19 November	27
Community focussed stakeholder engagement		
Site visits with Lake User Groups	July	13
Site visit with Lake Burley Griffin Guardians	July	23
Online workshop with community organisations focused on disability, access and inclusion.	27 October	2
Community workshop – in person	26 November	16
Community workshop – online	1 December	11

YourSay activity in Phase 2

From 31 October, the Authority placed information on the Phase 2 design ideas on the ACT Government YourSay platform. This information was intended to provide the broader community with an opportunity to provide further input into the design process.

The launch of the YourSay page on the Acton Waterfront Park design from 30 October through to 12 December 2022 triggered a considerable amount of activity, as summarised in Table 4.

Lodgement of submissions with 4 long-form submissions and 10 email submissions received. These are included in [Appendix 5](#).

Table 4. YourSay activity snapshot

Views	Visits	Visitors	Contributions	Contributors	Followers
4503	2012	1581	30	25	6

Note: Imagery in this document is indicative and was used throughout engagement



Phase 2 engagement outcomes

What we heard by activity

The following section highlights what we heard from each activity and the insights the stakeholders and community provided throughout:

- First Nations engagement
- Government workshop
- Community workshops
- Pop-ups
- Focus groups
- Long form submissions
- Email submissions.

First Nations engagement

Table 5. Ngunnawal Elders Walk on Country and Feedback Session themes and insights

Theme	Insights
Celebration and Prominence of Ngunnawal Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ngunnawal culture should be incorporated throughout the entirety of the development. – There needs to be something under your feet, a place to ground to Country. – Quiet nodes for weaving, smoking ceremonies and music. – Include an introductory paragraph in Ngunnawal language. – Landscape orientation, using design to highlight the continued existence of the Molonglo River and how it was used by Ngunnawal People. – Country is holistic and interconnected by nature, and it is a living web Silk of a spider that is so strong and powerful, but only once it is woven together. Speaks to the strength of the community. – Important to provide social outcomes for future generations of Ngunnawal People, e.g. employment opportunities, cultural practices, healthy Country. – Create a Ngunnawal timeline; honour significant ancestors, dreaming spirits and present day community champions. – Naming in Ngunnawal language. – Children were told to stand beneath a snow gum if they ever got lost. This is because they were easy to find. Parents would know to come and look for them there. This is a cultural practice that everyone can take part in. – Importance is made from what people do in a place and what meaning they give it. Storytelling will make this space the heart or central hub of Canberra.



Theme	Insights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ngunnawal People are warrior people who continue to fight for justice and visibility. Our communities and families are still here today because of this love and care. This should be celebrated. – Need to design with future generations and our youth in mind. They are the continuation of our culture. Opportunities for cultural learning are integral. – Sensory learning experiences and nature play. Ensuring that parents can learn something about Ngunnawal culture as well. – Shift the Canberran identity to one that is embraced by Ngunnawal culture, creating a sense of awareness, pride and belonging with us. Many people are looking to find out who they are — we want to help them but also have them understand us.
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The design style should be consistent throughout the entirety of the development, and it should flow rather than feel disjointed. The space should look natural. – Utilise local materials – Utilising the spaces between the buildings and creating communal moments within these, expanding into nearby buildings. – Referencing and celebrating Ngunnawal People's connection to the water throughout the design and using water to draw people into and guide them throughout the space.
Uses and amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Create a space that can be the connective tissue between the surrounding areas. – There should be space that allows for the community to come together and showcase living culture: language, song, and art. – Creating a space that fosters community activity (events, jobs, programming) not just for Ngunnawal People, but for everyone. – Consider public amenities, bathrooms, food, etc. – Stone boulders for seating. Aboriginal families are large and usually can't find enough seating
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Support native insects, animals and endangered species; pollinator-friendly plants should be included.



Table 6. Online First Nations Feedback Session themes and insights

Theme	Insights
Celebration and Prominence of Ngunnawal Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Use of Ngunnawal language to name key areas across the site. – Language to educate people coming to the site. – Where can we have ceremonies? – Have a place specifically for telling stories. – The architecture of the shelter reflects stories and provides views of the surrounding landscape.
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Connection to the sky. Where is there a safe place to see the sky? – The site is very connected, which is good — lots of walking paths. – Walking close to the water will be a nice experience. – Love the organic shaped shelters. – Natural materials used are really nice.
Uses and Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water play for the children. – Will there be a few amenities across the site? – Weaving spaces. – Shade is needed for the hot summer days. – Love the BBQ and bush tucker space, and it will be great to get native herbs for the cook-ups. – The amphitheatre will be a great space for events. – There seems to be a lot of experiences to be had here – awesome! – Looking out to the water from the shelters will be great. – Places need to be easy to access.
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Endemic species interpretation, e.g. sculpture, texture, form. – It's great to see that endemic planting is going to be proposed across the site.



Government workshops

Table 7. Government workshops themes and insights

Theme	Insights
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There was discussion around prioritising the use of public transport, noting light rail and key bus routes are adjacent to the site. It was also noted that planning needs to provide ready access for emergency services vehicles to and from the precinct. – There was support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Not running buses directly through the Acton Waterfront neighbourhood. » Reducing rates for the provision of car parking to encourage the use of public transport. » Reducing car usage through transport planning and building design. » Increasing usage of electric scooters and bikes.
Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cycling infrastructure should be designed to manage access and minimise conflict with pedestrians. Noting the experience from Kingston Foreshore, a separate cycle path will be needed to accommodate commuter cycling. Ideally, this could be located at the rear of the buildings facing the lake in an accessible, efficient, prominent and safe location.
Planting and landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There was discussion around planting options and the impact these could have on infrastructure and water quality. The MIS25 Planting list was mentioned as a reference for developing the planting schedule. – Other suggestions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increasing tree plantings in streetscapes and open spaces to meet canopy targets. » Showcasing sustainability through climate-wise landscaping. » Effectively integrating outdoor dining and public spaces to link with the lake, waterfront edge and built form (including commercial and community use). » Integrating wind and weather protection into the public space and the design and arrangement of developments to minimise wind tunnel effects between buildings. » Lighting that is full cut-off and designed in line with NCA’s Outdoor Lighting Policy. » Considering the time it will take for landscaping to establish. While TCCS prefer 1m stock to establish Eucalyptus trees —this could take several decades to develop sufficient shading and landscape character. A mix of other tree species that could suit advanced,



Theme	Insights
	<p>mature planting to provide improved amenities, cooling, and shade and mitigate the visual impact of built form from the lake should be explored. Where possible, retaining mature trees across the site should be explored and if not viable, then relocation or replacement with equivalent canopy coverage.</p>
<p>Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water management and stormwater options (particularly in relation to access and maintenance of assets) need to be considered in further detail as the design develops. It was felt that all aspects of the development provide an opportunity to showcase sustainability with renewables, urban heat mitigation and net zero carbon footprint. – Other areas to be explored include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Living infrastructure can play a key role in Improving water quality and providing other water amenities for the area. » Providing additional community power services (which could be solar) for activities like markets.
<p>Destination, character, and land uses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To make this a drawcard for tourism, events and public activity – an economic planning assessment with community needs assessment, and retail study would assist in identifying land use requirements (including education/child care etc.) and opportunities for commercial uses, events, and sharing of public space management (e.g. pools, beaches, lawns). – Consideration could be given to creating a pool in West Basin at some point in the future.
<p>Heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – On the edge of the West Basin area, there is a limestone outcrop and potential remnants of lime kilns used in the early construction of Canberra



National Capital Design Review Panel

To ensure a higher standard in design, on 10 August 2022 the Authority submitted park designs to the National Capital Review Panel (NCDRP) to seek advice around accessibility, functionality and how well the design integrates into its existing and future context (including Commonwealth Avenue Light Rail stop and future estate development).

While this is not a requirement, the Authority undertook this process in the interest of design excellence and to explore every opportunity for refinement and critical review for the park. The table below highlights the advice received from the NCDRP and the Authority's response.

Table 8. Summary of advice and response

Summary of NCDRP advice	The Authority's response
<p>The Panel commends the Acton Waterfront proposal which reinstates Walter Burley Griffin's 1918 plan for West Basin, however, suggests that there is an opportunity for the proposal to think more broadly beyond the Griffin Legacy such as acknowledgement of the history of the natural systems including the Molonglo River. The Panel considers that the proponent's integration of connection to Country is important however also suggests the project response could tell the story of the healing of Country rather than a literal application of an interpretation.</p>	<p>The arc geometries repeated through the park aim to strengthen the connection to the Griffin Plan and future links connecting the lake to the city aim to realise the Griffins vision for Canberra. Regarding Connections to Country, we have incorporated the extents of the flooded Molonglo River within the play space to pay homage to Country prior to the construction of the Bush Capital. We are engaging with the Ngunnawal community and local Ngunnawal creatives to extract truths and stories of their peoples to be integrated into the landscape through Ngunnawal designed artworks.</p>
<p>The Panel recommends further work is undertaken to integrate the proposal with public spaces, connections to and from the space, and to articulate the future street character. The Panel emphasises the need to retain the Waterfront Park as a public space and not privatised by adjacent uses. As such the Panel recommends and looks forward to a further design review for this important proposal.</p>	<p>The design team paid great attention to developing a design which allows for equitable access to all public spaces within the park. Furthermore, through extensive engagement with the key members of the Major Projects Canberra Light Rail teams, the National Capital Authority Commonwealth Park teams, key event teams and local residents; we have explored ways to refine the design to ensure all key stakeholders concerns were considered. Through this process, we refined the design to ensure safe pedestrian access, direct sightlines and heritage vistas were preserved and adequate space was preserved for future events and activations.</p>



Summary of NCDRP advice

The proposed landscape and selected species are considered by the Panel to be an important element for this proposal. The Panel notes that the proposal currently includes indigenous planting adjacent the lake foreshore with exotic planting proposed along Barrine Drive. The Panel recommends the proponent considers the use of indigenous planting throughout the proposal including Barrine Drive to provide a sense of place with linkages to the natural environmental heritage and connection to Ngunnawal Country.

The Panel notes that this proposal is in open space adjacent to Lake Burley Griffin, facing southwest, often in shadow and exposed to the elements. Throughout the warmer months shade is highly desirable in this area and during the colder months shelter from the prevailing winds is required. The Panel considers that the proposed tree coverage for the proposal to be low and recommends the inclusion of additional shading means such as shading structures and increased tree canopy cover for the area.

The Panel considers the spaces in the Waterfront Park proposal to be over programmed and to be overly detailed at this stage. The Panel suggests that the proposal may benefit from the simplification of spaces and elements in the proposal to provide clear legibility.

The Authority's response

Throughout the parkland the design team have looked to develop a planting palette that is climate resilient and endemic to country. Whilst some exotic plants have still been considered at the future road interface, to ensure integration with the contextual planting found all throughout Canberra, these species will not be delivered in these first stages of work and will have to be considered through future engagement with the Ngunnawal and the Urban Treespaces Unit at TCCS.

Through the design of permanent built structures, temporary shade structures and an increase tree canopy above 33%, the revised design has considered all the seasons Canberra experiences and have look to create an accommodating parkland through these design and environmental measures.

A detailed Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) expert was engaged by the design team to review the current design and to analyse any risks that may eventuate from the current design. Through this work, we highlighted several key interfaces that created an unsafe environment for users. These interfaces where re-designed to ensure a safer environment would be realised, by including gender neutral toilets, provisions of vehicle collision prevention integrated into the landscape design, and finally setting back high walls to protect sightlines and remove barriers.



Community workshops

Table 9. Community workshops themes and insights

Theme	Insights
Scale, location and character of the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expanding the width of the park to greater than the NCA minimum of 50 metres. – Considering the scale of the estate development and how this may impact the amenity and feel of the park.
Landscaping and vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased the vegetation and canopy cover, preferably with native species. – Shade is a key consideration in Canberra. – Lessen the area currently given over to hard surfaces with more grassed areas and increase tree and shrub cover.
Transport and access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensure adequate and affordable parking capacity. – Providing good transport access, including those for buses and emergency vehicles. – Reducing the potential for pedestrian and cyclist conflict.
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Priorities for initial delivery were for the community park and playground to be built first, ahead of the arrival point, lake structures, terraces and plaza. – Suggestions to temporarily activate the future park site prior to construction commencing included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » BBQ/picnic areas » Pop-up market » Food festivals, coffee/food vans » a sports area (e.g. volleyball) » Concerts/festivals » Cycling events – Other suggestions to be considered in the final design for the park included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Water features and fountains » Charging stations for electric bikes and cars » LGBTIQ+ inclusive signs and artwork » Gender-neutral toilets



Pop-ups

Table 10. Pop-ups themes and insights

Theme	Insights
Scale, location and amenities of the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensure high design quality in the park and adjacent development. New Acton has set a high standard. – It is important to include quiet spaces for contemplation and busier spaces for events and activities. Quiet places in the city are critical for overall mental health. – Need shade and shelter — the boardwalk is hot and completely exposed. – Make provision for coffee carts and other similar activities. – Noise from traffic on Parkes Way may impact the park's ambience — consider reducing the speed limit on Parkes Way. If not, the designers will need to consider using the land and vegetation as a noise buffer. – The park and facilities need to be designed for easy maintenance – some parks in the ACT, such as Commonwealth Park, are not well maintained. – Consider some flexibility in the design to allow the space to adapt over time.
Landscaping and vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maximise plantings and the sense of being in nature. – Support the incorporation of more natural spaces in the terraced area. – Need to make sure there are plenty of softer landscape elements — it currently looks like there may be many hard surfaces. – Look at planting larger trees where there is more soil depth. – Focus on natural play rather than structured playgrounds — kids need adventure play and to use their imagination.
Transport and access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Accessibility is important. It would be good to see more ramps and as few steps as possible. – Ensure accessible connections throughout the park. – Clear wayfinding for users of the park. Identify where users go to get off the lake into the park, where toilets are, local amenities etc. – Need to widen the pedestrian bridge — currently, it is too narrow for cyclists and pedestrians. – Need more pedestrian crossings on Parkes Way so pedestrians can have multiple ways to cross and get into the park. – Need careful consideration of parking for events. – With the lake structures, consider that several different types of lake users will want to access the park from the lake. Moorings, piers and pontoons will need to safely accommodate different types of craft at the same time. – Make the piers available for public use and not just commercial use.



Theme	Insights
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Suggestions to temporarily activate the future park site prior to construction commencing included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Food trucks and coffee carts on weekends » Low-key nature play – Other suggestions to be considered in the final design for the park included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Incorporation of business opportunities like a place to hire kayaks. » If the wharves/piers are to accommodate power boats, cleats will be needed on the piers. » Go Boat and commercial uses but also ensure wharves/piers are available for kayakers and boaties. » a Ferris Wheel or Zip Line. » Paddle boats.



Focus groups

Table 11. Focus groups: People from CALD backgrounds, themes and insights

Theme	Insights
Scale, location and character of the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Look at opportunities to increase the width of the park. – Ensure that as well as active programmed areas, there are some quiet places as well. – Like the idea of focusing and concentrating different activities in different areas. – Design in ease of maintenance — otherwise, it may become unattractive to use over time. – Concerns about neighbouring residential development — “We don’t want to feel we are in a space owned by somebody else”. – Support for lake structures to facilitate safe interaction and access to and from the water. – Design in more weather protection for hot summers and Canberra’s winters. Many felt that wind would be a problem along the waterfront.
Landscaping and vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Many participants noted that while it is an urban space, it would be good to see more planting. It was accepted that areas such as the pathways, market plaza, arrival area and play areas would need to be resilient and accommodate heavy use. Still, it would be good to see grassed and vegetated areas being maximised. – There were some concerns about how long it would take for shade trees to grow and the lack of amenities and comfort in the interim. – There was an overall preference for a mix of native and introduced plants, as deciduous trees allow light in winter. – Some questioned the extent to which planting would cater to the needs of native wildlife. – Nature-based play was strongly supported – with a view that these facilities should not just be for young children but also appealing and attractive to older children.
Transport and access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The car will be the predominant mode of access for some from most parts of Canberra. – While it is good that consideration is given to public transport, adequate parking will need to be provided. The reality is that many people, particularly those with a disability, large families and/or young children, will need to drive to access the park. – Parking charges would need to be affordable, given that people would likely visit for half a day or longer.



Theme	Insights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – More needs to be done to minimise the potential for pedestrian cycle conflict. While some supported low-key recreational cycling within the park, others were concerned that in areas such as the boardwalk and the internal access pathway, bikes, e-scooters, and skateboards were not compatible with the high level of use that the park would receive. A few participants expressed a desire that, except for people in wheelchairs and mobility vehicles, the boardwalk should be pedestrian only. – Ferry access would be good.
<p>Amenities, activities and programming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There is a very strong desire for people to learn more about Indigenous culture. Participants supported making the park a place for First Nations people to share their culture and understanding of Country. – Don't lose focus on the basics. Water bottle fillers, dog poo bags and receptacles, clean and accessible toilets, rubbish bins, BBQs and picnic shelters and facilities. All these should be provided but also well maintained. – There were mixed views on gender-neutral toilets. While it was agreed they should be provided, it was also noted that women-only options should also be available due to safety and cultural appropriateness concerns. – Provide free wi-fi across the precinct. – With more people in apartments, children's birthday parties and large group gatherings /celebrations are now being held in parks. Make it easy to book and then find allocated spaces for these. – Spaces for activities such as concerts are good, but these need to be well programmed and advertised so people need to know what is on. – Place information online so people can plan their visit and know where facilities and amenities are. – A park that is open and active into the night will be a real point of difference from many other parks in Canberra. Lighting and security will be important. – Safety and security at night need to be considered in detailed design and how the park is operated. – Concerns were noted that three safety spots might not be sufficient, given the park's length. – While the market area is good, will there be enough places and amenities for people who want to picnic here? – The food offer should work across all price points. – Consider vending machines in areas away from the dining precinct.
<p>General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Priorities for delivery were to create the play space and community park first. – Suggestions to temporarily activate the future park site prior to construction commencing included:



Theme	Insights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Food trucks. » Dog walking. » Temporary outdoor cinema. » Lakeside access for kayaks, paddleboards etc. » Support the idea of planting out and providing access to the park area while the soil is settling. » Integration with the beach. – Other suggestions to be considered in the final design for the park included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Exercise equipment in the park. » Address the gap in activities for young people between 10 to 16. » Bring back the paddle boats.

Table 12. Focus group: Parents and carers of children themes and insights

Theme	Insights
Scale, location, and character of the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Resolve the potential conflict between the park as a city wide public asset and the fact that there will be a large number of residents in very close proximity. – Look at opportunities to increase the width of the park. – It is good to have a place where people can safely get down to and interact with the water. – Ensure that there are quiet places as well as active areas. – While it is good to have such a programmed space, be wary of packing too much into a relatively small area – In Canberra, there are plenty of places to be in nature but not a lot of places where you can sit and watch and be amongst people. The terraces plaza and community park will be great for people watching. – The idea of focusing and concentrating on different activities in different areas is a good one. – Support the idea of a park made of lots of rooms and break-out spaces. – Younger children are quite well catered for with playgrounds it would be good to have a place that works well for older children and young people. – Strong support for nature-based play for people of all ages. – The park needs to be dog friendly. – Design more shade protection for punishingly hot summers and wind protection for winters. – Ensure safety around the water for young kids.



Theme	Insights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Place barriers (not necessarily fences) that can separate park and play areas from the roadway and boardwalk.
<p>Landscaping and vegetation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – It would be good to see more grass and plantings - there may be a little too many hard surfaces and landscaping. – There were some concerns about how long it would take for shade trees to grow and the lack of amenities and comfort in the interim. – Nature based play was very strongly supported – with a view that these facilities should not just be for young children but also be appealing and attractive to older children as well.
<p>Transport and access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Car parking will be needed for some time, and it should be easy to get in and out of with ready access points to park. – Many parts of Canberra won't have light rail, so bus stops close to the park will need to be created. – Adequate and affordable parking will need to be provided, as many people (particularly those with children) will need to drive to access the park. – More needs to be done to minimise the potential for pedestrian, bicycle and e-scooter conflict. – Separate out a route for faster commuting cyclists. – It is good that there will be access from the water.
<p>Amenities, activities, and programming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There is a very strong community interest in Indigenous culture. Having the park as a place for First Nations people to share their culture and understanding of country is exciting. – Cafes with quality food at a range of price points are essential. – Nature play is great — kids need to be safely challenged and encouraged to use their imagination. – Clean and accessible toilets, rubbish bins, BBQs and picnic shelters and facilities. All these should be provided but also well maintained. – Be bold with public art. – Active programming and evening events are needed. Now nightlife in Canberra is focused on suburban eating precincts, and it would be good to have that level of amenity, activity and great food all in proximity to a park. – Having places for performances is great, but you need good programming. – Bring in things for 12–18-year-olds, who are typically hard to cater for. This could be relatively informal active play equipment such as table tennis, small sand courts for volleyball, and a skate area.

Theme	Insights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide access to good changing facilities near the water play area. Preferably with warm showers, as kids can get very cold after playing, even in summer. – Think about activities such as geocaching the park. – Utilise the water for activities – dragon boats, kayaking, hire of paddle boats. – Need to think about winter activities/events that will keep people coming here when things are cold. – As a parent, it would be good to know you could turn up with your kids, and there would always be some interesting event happening.
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Priorities for delivery were to create the community park and play spaces first. – Suggestions to temporarily activate the future park site prior to construction commencing included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Paddle boats. » Public art. » Interim events. » Night markets. » Culture walks hosted by Ngunnawal people. » Lake based activities. » A nursery for plants that will eventually go into the park. » Involve students in planting out the native meadow on the temporary earthworks. – Other suggestions to be considered in the final design for the park included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Really push the mix of urban and natural park. » Be genuine about the Ngunnawal connections — it could be something unique for the ACT and Australia. » Ensure the park is seamlessly integrated with the retail dining in the estate development. » Keep event spaces very flexible so that different types of events can be readily provided for. » Cafes and pavilions should be well protected from wind. This is a challenge as any structures need to provide shade and breeze in summer but let in light and keep out winds in winter. » Look at “integrating” the waterfront parkland with Acton Peninsula and the Botanical Gardens to link the gardens to the water. » Provide good pedestrian connections back to NewActon and Civic.



Table 13. Online stakeholder workshop: Disability, access and inclusion themes and insights

Theme	Insights
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The use of shared zones along Barrine Drive is discouraged. The team should consider very frequent, well-defined pedestrian crossings instead. These crossings should have signalised lights with appropriate timing, auditory signals and tactile indicators. The street should be at the same level as the footpath. – Barrine Drive needs to be a well signed and recognised slow area - this also goes for the bike paths. – E-scooters are an emerging safety problem. Ideally, they shouldn't be allowed in the park. – There should be on-grade disability parking distributed along the length of Barrine Drive so people can readily get to the section of the park they want to access. Maximum separation should be 100 metres with ample shade along the access route. – Try not to put disability parking in the lower levels of the basement as it is too dependent on lifting. Where possible, it should be a level entry or a low incline ramp with a clear, seamless path of travel. – Ensure terraces and lawn areas in the park have relatively flat access off the main linking internal pathway. – Pontoons should have a railing on at least one side and a lip on all sides so people with disability can also interact safely with water. – Provide a beach mobility device in the newly created beach area. – The design appears to incorporate seamless paths of travel and multiple points of entry which is very encouraging. – Provide and promote information online about disability access and amenities so people can confidently plan their visit.
Toilets and amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Accessible toilets should be created using the Changing Places guidance tool. https://changingplaces.org.au/build-a-facility/build-a-toilet/ – Ensure reasonable space within toilets. – Provide both left hand and right hand toilets across the park's length. – Accessible toilets should not have an MLAC key. – Ensure easy access and clear visibility to amenities. – Design shelters to be disability friendly with ample space for people to move around under the shelters. – Avoid fixed benches on all sides so that a wheelchair can pull up and be part of the gathering at a table.



Theme	Insights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inclusive seating — leave spaces between seating so a person in a wheelchair can sit alongside and between others and not always be stuck at the end. – The height of some seating and tables should also be suitable for people of shorter stature. – Support the provision of seating along and close to pathways. – Ensure grab rails and fences don't block views for people in wheelchairs.
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Think about wheelchair swings and places where children in wheelchairs can safely get down among the nature play area and be part of the activity. – If you are making cubby houses, design them so kids in wheelchairs can go inside them. – Use subtle barriers such as landscaping and level changes or fences hidden by planting to create safe but not visibly confined spaces for kids to run around. – Create quiet, time out spaces for children who find busy, noisy environments challenging. – Don't separate kids with additional needs. – Ensure that playgrounds are near cafes and facilities. – Water play allows for good visibility so kids can be supervised from a distance. – Make sure the mechanics of waterplay are easy for kids with disabilities to manipulate. – Place some taps in accessible locations so kids in wheelchairs or with limited mobility can operate them and participate with their peers. – Like the approach to creating a safe barrier that separates play areas and the actual waterfront.



Long form submissions

Table 14. Long form submissions insights

Submission	Insights
<p>Submission 1: Traditional Boat Squadron</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The lake has been used for commercial and recreational boating for 60 years. – Support the incorporation of boating facilities for smaller vessels to access the waterfront. – Funding for these facilities should be a priority. – Waterside activities can add to the ambience and attraction of the shoreside destination. – The current plans predominantly address shore aspects of the park, and the plans require a greater waterside focus. – The design and location of vessel access points need to consider exposure to winds, a water depth of at least 1.5 meters, and ensure adequate separation between larger and smaller scale vessels. – Floating pontoons are the preferred infrastructure. – Placing one large and one smaller pontoon perpendicular to the shore and joined to the boardwalk by a gangway. (The submission details the preferred location of these). – Protection be considered for the edge of the concrete boardwalk.
<p>Submission 2a and 2b: Lake Burley Griffin Guardians Incorporated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Two submissions were received. The first following an onsite consultation in July, focuses on issues relating to the boardwalk and notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » There is a need to clarify some of the definitional matters relating to the boundary of the lake, given the water comes in 2 meters under the boardwalk, and this may have potential implications for Commonwealth Heritage Listing. » Current proposals are inconsistent with the Heritage Management Plan. » The creation of water infrastructure may trigger the need for EPBC referral. » There is not sufficient consideration of natural environment impacts in the current proposals, and these will need to be addressed. » The boardwalk has too many lighting fixtures, and this is visually intrusive. » Safety concerns regarding water quality at the City Beach, given the area’s proximity to a stormwater outlet. » Notes the dominance of hard surfaces along the boardwalk and that a 35-meter-wide park will be sandwiched between a hard boardwalk and a paved road corridor adjacent to the development area.



Submission	Insights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Concern about the capacity to ensure safe and adequate separation of vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians within these corridors. – The second submission received in December 2022 notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Opposition to park proposal and estate redevelopment. » Concern about the lack of detailed information (including the business case) to make a fully informed assessment of the proposal. » That as it stands, the redevelopment is not compatible with the Griffin vision of a lake surrounded by expansive natural open space. – Key matters related to the park within the submission include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Overall loss of public space in proximity to the busy city centre. » The waterfront park is too narrow and suggests it be expanded beyond the NCA’s minimum 50 requirements. » The inclusion of a road within the waterfront park further reduces available park space. » The park is “overcrowded” with too much packed into it. » Token Indigenous theming is based on narrow consultation with First Nations stakeholders and prepared by a Sydney-based consultancy. » Usage conflict between the park as a significant event space and the immediately adjacent residential development. » The estate development creates a barrier between surrounding areas and the waterfront. » The lengthy delivery timeframe for the park.
<p>Submission 3: Pedal Power ACT Advocacy Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pedal Power looks forward to seeing separated bicycle routes as envisaged in the documentation and notes these need to be consistent with TCCS standards and informed by the Active Travel Practitioner Tool maps. They also state that cycling is growing in popularity, and plans need to accommodate growth. – Other comments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » It is good that a separate bicycle route is being created clear of the estate development area. As a principle route for high-speed commuter cycling, this route should be ideally 5.00 meters wide and at minimum 4.00 meters as per TCCS Guide MIS05 for ‘bicycle-only paths’ suitable for two-way traffic. » Bicycle parking facilities will be important. It would be good to see greater detail on these in future plans. » The path from the new city beach to the National Museum needs to be formalised.



Submission	Insights
<p>Submission 4: Resident of New Acton</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » In the documentation, there is slippage in the use of the terms “paths” and” lanes”. This language needs to be more consistent and follow TCCS definitions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In the submission, the correspondent notes their disappointment with the status of plans after 15 years of consultation, noting the community is still being presented with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Lake infill » A narrow strip of park » A concrete promenade that presents a hard edge to the lake. – They also express concern about costs, timeframes for delivery and a considerable amount of engineering that is yet to occur. They also suggest consideration be given to the following improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » a Women’s Art Walk. » Drop off, access and parking for the large numbers of school children who will visit the park to learn more about Ngunnawal culture. » Extend the park beyond the 55 m minimum to 80 metres. » Ensure design quality and thematic integrity. » Plant trees closer to the promenade and utilise running water to cool this hard area. » Think more about shelter from winter winds. » Construct a proper ferry wharf. The proposed landing places are too small and too shallow to work. » Address a number of safety and amenity concerns, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Depth markers in the lake. – Pandemic safety makes it attractive and safe to be outdoors by allowing for greater separation between groups and encouraging outdoor working with wi-fi. – Prohibit bikes and e-scooters from the waterfront promenade. – Limit alcohol sales and consumption in the public realm. – Provide a fenced-off dog area. – Improve linkages along the western edge of the basin around the National Museum. This includes expanding upon the proposed 10 mete provision for public waterfront access. – Create a specialised night market that is family friendly. Don’t just rely on food trucks or another evening drinking and dining precinct in the adjacent development. – Avoid noisy night-time concerts.



Submission	Insights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – More needs to be done to address how up to 10,000 people will access events in the precinct. – Car parking will be key for people from outer Canberra who wish to access the park. – Expand on active play and create several playgrounds.

The detailed long form submissions can be found in [Appendix 6](#).

Email submissions

Table 15. Email submissions insights

Submission	Insights
Email 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – This email was from a participant in the government workshops. Comments relevant to the park have been included in the summary of the government workshop outcomes.
Emails 2 and 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Two emails requested that the area on the western side of the basin be preserved from future redevelopment. They noted that this area formed an extension of the green waterfront and had established trees that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Provided shade » Formed important wildlife habitat » Protected the basin from road noise – One email correspondent also suggested a music performance facility be considered for the new development.
Emails 4 and 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – These two emails commented on the provision of facilities at the beach and along the boardwalk, noting more needed to be done in terms of providing shade, seating, water bubblers and rubbish bins.
Email 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – This email expressed concerns that little is being done to separate cyclist, pedestrian, and vehicular traffic. The correspondent noted that there is a significant number of cyclists using the boardwalk, and this is not a good outcome for pedestrians. They suggest that signage be put in place to discourage cyclists from using the boardwalk and that better signage and linkages to actual cycling routes be provided. – They also note that they are disappointed with the amount of canopy cover being proposed. They requested that a clear working definition of canopy cover be provided, and it has been provided and concern that new trees will take a long time to grow.



Submission	Insights
Email 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The correspondent noted a discrepancy in the imagery provided and the present reality of the concrete boardwalk. They felt overall, the design concepts had too many hard surfaces and that there needed to be more planting and vegetation to soften the area and reduce the heat island effect. – They noted not enough has been done to plant for wildlife, particularly moths, butterflies, and other insects for which the basin is an important habitat. – They also noted that excessive lighting was not compatible with maintaining habitat for wildlife. – They felt the park was designed around the development and not focused on responding to the community's needs. They also requested the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Large existing trees throughout the proposed park and development area be retained. » Greater prominence be given to connecting the waterfront via the existing walkway bridge. » Car parking be provided as Canberrans from the outer suburbs will need to use cars to access the park.
Emails 8 and 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – These emails looked at the parkland in the context of the overall redevelopment of the waterfront. They were firmly opposed to the existing plans, which they saw as being driven by development outcomes at the expense of community outcomes. They noted that high-density residential development should not be part of the park proposal and is inconsistent with the Griffin vision for the lake and inner Canberra. – Email 8 requests that the proposal be fully rethought with the waterfront retained as an expansive greenbelt and expanded beyond the proposed 45 metres width. They express concerns that the estate development will block sunlight to the waterfront and reduce access from surrounding areas. – Email 9 notes that with the construction of the boardwalk, the form of the lake and basin has been destroyed. They state that the waterfront park proposal is a “playground with too much concrete” and is not responsive to community needs, and fails to meet sustainability goals. They believe the park as proposed will be used predominantly by new residents of the development and that the proposal as it stands does not serve the community and destroys the heritage of the lake. The proposal and adjacent development need to be rethought with a much greater focus on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Preservation of views to and from the lake. » Connecting the area to public transport networks so it isn’t just used by a small group of local people.



Submission	Insights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Creating outdoor venues for live events, eating, sports, and other activities would deliver a community place and foreshore for the people.
Email 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – This short submission from a commercial ferry operator supports the provision of vessel facilities and is keen to ensure these are delivered. They note the boating community will be major users of the park and facilities, and the presence of watercraft will add to the attraction of the park. The design and construction of landing facilities at Acton should learn lessons from the Kingston Foreshore development. They support the views the ACT Traditional Boat Squadron put forward but note a preference not to have pontoons directly perpendicular to the boardwalk based on 15 years of experience operating ferries in the West Basin and out of the old Acton Wharf.

Detailed emailed submissions can be found in [Appendix 7](#).



Survey findings

A total of **36 people** participated in the online survey on YourSay. The following demographic and summary information formed part of the survey:

- 56% are residents of the Inner North, 17% are residents of Inner South, and 11% are residents of Belconnen.
- 34% of respondents aged 35-44, 17% aged 55-64 and 14% aged 25-44.
- 66% identified as male and 34% as female.
- 69% were new to the consultation process.
- Over 70% were frequent users of the waterfront area. Of this cohort, 72% used the waterfront for active purposes (running, exercise or cycling), and 22% used the area for rest and relaxation.

In terms of reflecting the stated themes from the previous consultation:

- 58% of people felt the current design did this well or very well.
- 26% were neutral.
- 15% felt the current designs did not do this well or not at all well.

Survey priority findings

Weighted and ordered priorities from the survey for staging were (with a lower number indicating the highest priority):

- Community park: 2.78
- Playspace: 3.08
- Plaza: 3.17
- Terraces: 3.61
- Arrival: 4.13
- Lake structures: 4.13

A total of 95% of respondents supported the provision of gender-neutral toilets.

Insights on park designs

Respondents provided insights into areas of the park designs, including what they liked and didn't like about the park designs. Six out of the 29 respondents to this question noted that there wasn't anything, in particular, they disliked about the proposed design.



Table 16. Insights on survey respondent views on park designs

Themes	Insights
Things people liked about the park designs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – First Nations recognition and integration of Ngunnawal culture. – Integration with surrounding areas. – Variety and diversity of spaces, uses, and activities in one location. – Proximity to cafes and dining. – Separation of cyclists. – Nature based play and water play. – Lake structures will promote water access and water activities. – Community focus within a green space. – Beauty, quality, and innovation of design.
Things people disliked about the proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Narrowness of the park – make it wider and bigger. – Extent and scale of proposed adjacent development. – Too much activity packed into a small area. – Design is over-elaborate. – Long timeframe for delivery. – Expense of creating the park. – Concerns about the safety of children in proximity to water. – No separation of bicycle traffic. – Lack of connections – walking, cycling and public transport. – More work needs to be done on integrating the precinct into the surrounding networks. – Not enough car parking. – Too much car parking - promote active transport. – It seems over-commercialised. – Not enough quiet spaces; there is too much focus and activation and children. – Places for informal recreation, i.e. just kicking a ball around. – Not a skate friendly place. – Amount of hard surfaces.



Themes	Insights
<p>Other comments identified through the survey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensure good amenities and facilities: – Bins, toilets, water. – Shelter, shade trees and weather protection. – BBQs picnic areas. – More shade and trees (use deciduous trees and bring trees down closer to the lake’s edge). – Character: – Expand the park beyond its current size. – Bring in more planting. – Reduce the amount of hard surfaces. – Create dedicated quiet areas for being in nature, meditation and contemplation. – Activities: – Do more to promote water-based recreation in the Basin — marker buoys for swimming, triathlon access to the beach, and boat and kayak storage. – Recreation for teenagers and young adults — skate park, volleyball and basketball hoops. – Dog park. – Access: – Better integration with the broader bike network Henry Roland’s Park and Acton peninsula. – Make sure there is enough car parking. – Facilitate better pedestrian access across the surrounding busy roads. – Other: – Keep the whole area for park and community use. – Timeframe for delivery is too long.

Detailed survey findings can be found in [Appendix 5](#).



Next steps

Feedback from consultations has been instrumental in informing concepts for the park and refining the design. The following table shows how the eventual design responds to some key feedback provided.

Table 17. Next steps

Comment	Response
A park that honours Ngunnawal culture / Culture, community and Traditional Custodians	
Recognise and acknowledge Ngunnawal culture and heritage	We will collaborate with Traditional Custodians to create integrated artwork, native landscaping, and educational play spaces throughout the estate and the park.
A park that is easy to get to and is connected to its surroundings / A park that is accessible, safe and inclusive	
Genuine inclusion and accessibility across all	The precinct has been subject to DDA reviews to ensure high-quality accessibility across the whole site. We will sustain this approach throughout the project.
Potential for pedestrian and cyclist conflict and a desire to see the separation of cycling and e-scooters from pedestrian areas.	In response to this feedback, we have widened the proposed shared path in the park from 3.5m to 4m along the adjacent road, enhancing the principal shared path in this area. The detailed design phase for the estate will include further work on active travel networks, wayfinding and signage.
Ensure good pedestrian access from Civic and surrounding areas.	Planned. Connectivity is a founding design principle for the Acton Waterfront. Connections to the park and the future estate development have been tested, and provision is made for active transport, pedestrian and cyclist loops.
Concerns about the safety of crossings on the road between the park and the estate.	Multiple traffic control methods will be adopted to ensure pedestrian safety in this area, such as traffic-calming pinch-points and varied paving to slow down vehicle speed around pedestrian crossings and shared zones.
Ensure ample provision of affordable longer stay car parking to support access for those who do not have convenient public transport.	As the park is delivered parking will be reviewed as part of other major infrastructure projects in the area. Parking will be included within the future Estate Development site.
Green and Sustainable / Sustainability, climate cooling and net zero	



Reduce the amount of hard surfaces and hard stand areas by including more trees and planting for shade, cooling and supporting wildlife.

Planned. The current park design comprises:

- 87% permeable surfaces, including Temperate Native Grassland, Mass Planting, Lawn and Deco granite for a pop-up event venue.
- 31% Canopy, including Tree Canopy, Building and Shade Structure Canopies.

This feedback has also been noted for the next phase of estate planning.

Ensuring safety of the park at night, balanced with the impact of lighting on wildlife.

Planned. All major paths are to be illuminated with standard lighting. Spaces throughout the park will create an urban woodland and potential small animal habitat where minimum lighting occurs.

A park that supports a wide range of activities

The extent and diversity of activities offered within the park and the potential for over-activation.

The Acton Waterfront precinct aspires to provide more event and recreation opportunities for the precinct. The ratio of designated function areas, flexible event space and passive recreational areas will ensure the overall site can readily accommodate multiple activities and user groups simultaneously.

Introduce facilities to provide weather protection in summer and winter.

Temporary shade cover will be provided until significant canopy coverage is achieved. There are two major permanent shade structures planned for the park:

- Arrival Pavilion 1: enclosed / under-roof dining spaces and weather-proof roof seating spaces.
- Playspace pavilion 2: A semi-enclosed changing room and weather-proof roof seating spaces.

This feedback has also been noted for the next phase of estate planning.

The Authority will submit documentation reflecting the final design to support a works approval from the National Capital Authority later in 2023.

The Authority would like to thank all participants who took the time to provide their thoughtful feedback on the proposed park design.



Attachments

Attachment 1

Acton Waterfront Park Design Phase 1 and 2 Appendices:

Phase 1 engagement

- Appendix 1 – Mailout content
- Appendix 2 – All comments from YourSay page
- Appendix 3 – Additional submissions and comments received from Phase 1
- Appendix 4 – Visual notes from workshop sessions

Phase 2 engagement

- Appendix 5 – YourSay survey results
- Appendix 6 – Longer-form submissions
 - Submission 1 – Traditional Boat Squadron of Australia
 - Submission 2 – Lake Burley Griffin Guardians
 - Submission 3 – Pedal Power
 - Submission 4 – Resident of New Acton
- Appendix 7 – Email submissions

Attachment 2

National Capital Design Review Panel – The Panel’s Advice: Block 26 Section 33 Acton – Second Session, Acton Waterfront Park

