

National Library of Australia Forecourt Lombardy Poplars

Heritage Assessment

Report prepared for the National Capital Authority

February 2017



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Report Register

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Cover Image: NLA Forecourt Lombardy Poplars from Parkes Place West. (Source: GML, 2016).

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Executive Summary

The National Library of Australia (NLA) and its Forecourt form an iconic and important place located within Canberra's Parliamentary Zone and are included in the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL). The Forecourt is significant as a contributing element to the cultural landscape of Canberra, for its representation of Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical architectural style and design to complement the Library and the east–west axis to the High Court of Australia, and its historical association with the planning of Canberra at a time when a permanent parliament was proposed to sit on the southern shores of Lake Burley Griffin.

The 'National Library of Australia and Surrounds' is included in the CHL but excludes the Forecourt as it is not in the CHL boundary. However, the Forecourt is included in the 'Parliament House Vista' CHL listing and is managed by the NCA as a place with Commonwealth Heritage value.

The National Capital Authority (NCA) commissioned GML Heritage Pty Ltd (GML) to prepare an updated heritage assessment of the NLA Forecourt with a focus on the twin rows of Lombardy poplars (*Populus nigra* 'Italica') that line the main entrance to the Library. The poplars are a dominant feature of the Forecourt, deliberately selected and planted to emphasise and define the Library and its east–west axis. A tree assessment report prepared by Alan Mann, Senior Consulting Arborist from Canopy Tree Experts, has informed this heritage assessment.

GML previously prepared the 2006 Heritage Assessment (2006 HA) for Spackman + Mossop on behalf of the NCA. In recent years, the deteriorating condition of the poplars, particularly to the north side of the Forecourt, is cause for concern and the NCA is seeking advice on how best to manage the trees given their contribution to the significance of the NLA and its Forecourt.

The heritage assessment report has been prepared in accordance with the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013* (the Burra Charter) and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC Act). The report is an update to the 2006 HA and includes a revised assessment of the Forecourt to include the Lombardy poplars. It notes that the Lombardy poplars are integral with the heritage significance of the NLA Forecourt.



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The report includes a tree replacement recommendation and management policies for the NLA Forecourt, focused on the Lombardy poplars. In brief, these policies include:

- adopting the revised heritage assessment for the NLA Forecourt and Lombardy poplars in Section 3.0;
- requesting the Australian Heritage Council to include the NLA Forecourt in the CHL entry for the NLA;
- implementing the proposed management and maintenance regime proposed for the Lombardy poplars in Section 4.0;
- considering replacement options presented in Section 4.3, noting that Option 3 (removal and replacement of the Lombardy poplars) would have the least impact on heritage values in the long term;
- undertaking a HIA to assess the heritage impacts of actions associated with Option 3 (or another alternative) as selected by the NCA;
- undertaking the preparation of a communications strategy to provide an approach for community consultation and media messaging for the replacement of the Lombardy poplars;
- undertaking specific consultation with key stakeholders; and
- submitting a referral under the EPBC Act, accompanied by the HIA and results of consultation.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

The National Library of Australia (NLA) Forecourt is located on land managed by the National Capital Authority (NCA) and is included in the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) under the 'Parliament House Vista' citation (Place ID 105466). The NCA commissioned GML Heritage Pty Ltd (GML) to prepare a revised heritage assessment of the NLA Forecourt with a focus on the Lombardy poplars (*Populus nigra* 'Italica'), which define the east side of the site and were planted at the time of the Library's construction. The NCA has expressed concern over the condition of these trees, their gradual decline, and their long-term suitability.¹

The method of assessment for this heritage assessment (HA) has been drawn from the NCA's brief, which requests an update to the 2006 HA with a focus on the NLA Forecourt Lombardy poplars as a landscape element and integral part of Forecourt's setting.²

The heritage values of the NLA Forecourt have previously been assessed in a GML report from 2006 prepared for Spackman + Mossop on behalf of the NCA. The report found that the NLA Forecourt contained elements that embodied the heritage value of the place and formed an integral part of the NLA.³

Much of the following text has been reproduced from the 2006 HA as it remains relevant and provides essential historical context to the Forecourt and particularly the Lombardy poplars. Additional information regarding the designed cultural landscape of Canberra and its historic plantings has been included to help inform the updated assessment against criteria in Section 3. While the 2006 assessment stands as a continuing reflection of the heritage significance of the NLA Forecourt, this report provides additional commentary regarding the significance of the Forecourt, specifically of the Lombardy poplars, against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria.

The NLA is a landmark building located on the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin within Canberra's Parliamentary Zone. The passing of the *National Library Act 1960* (Cwlth) allowed for the provision of a national library and architectural firm Bunning and Madden, in conjunction with T E O'Mahony, designed the new monumental building in consultation with the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) (now the National Capital Authority). The Library was constructed over four years and was opened by Prime Minister John Gorton on 15 August 1968. The NLA's role was and continues to be to ensure that documentary resources of national significance that relate to Australia and the Australian people, as well as significant non-Australian library materials, are collected, preserved, and made accessible.⁴

1.2 Site Identification

The NLA is located 2.5km south of the Canberra Central Business District and 2km north of Australian Parliament House. The Library is bounded by Flynn Drive to the west, King Edward Terrace to the south, Parkes Place West to the east and the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin to the north. The NLA is located within the Parliamentary Zone in central Canberra. The NLA is accessed via King Edward Terrace and Parkes Place West.

The Forecourt is the central space directly east of the Library's main entrance, bordered by a one-way access road (unnamed) accessed from Parkes Place.

The location of the NLA is shown in Figure 1.1. Aerial images of the NLA and its surrounds are shown in Figures 1.2 and 1.3.



Figure 1.1 Aerial view of the NLA Forecourt identified by the red box. (Source: Google Earth with GML overlay)



Figure 1.2 Aerial view of the NLA Forecourt outlined in red. (Source: Google Earth with GML overlay)



Figure 1.3 Aerial view of Canberra identifying the Parliamentary Zone (broken black line), the National Triangle (unbroken white line) and the Parliament House Vista (unbroken red line). (Source: Google Earth with GML overlay)

1.3 Heritage Status and Significance

The NLA is included in the CHL under the title of ‘National Library of Australia and Surrounds’ (Place ID 105470). The NLA CHL boundary is the building, not the podium or the Forecourt (refer to Figure 1.4). The Forecourt is not individually included in the CHL; but is within the boundary of the ‘Parliament House Vista’ CHL listing (Place ID 105466). These CHL citations can be found at Appendix B.

The heritage values of the Forecourt have also been documented in the 2006 National Library of Australia Forecourt Heritage Assessment, prepared by Godden Mackay Logan (now GML Heritage) in 2006 for Spackman + Mossop. The CHL citation for the NLA implies that the surrounds of the building are integral to the values (note the title of the CHL entry is ‘National Library of Australia and Surrounds’). It also notes that the ‘*approach to the entry of the Library is marked by a paved area with a pond and fountain, all of which is flanked by poplars.*’

The 2012 Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the NLA relates only to the National Library’s area of responsibility (Block 4 of Section 27), which incorporates the podium of the National Library Building, small extensions to the northeast and northwest occupied by services, the entry stairway to the east, an access ramp and steps to the south, the service courtyard to the southwest, and entry road off King Edward Terrace. Noting the various boundaries and responsibilities, the immediate NLA setting—including the Forecourt—is significant as part of the original design of the Library and as an appropriate setting for the building which should be conserved.

Canberra’s central designed and symbolic landscape includes the Land Axis as well as other significant elements and characteristics. The Axis is part of the Parliament House Vista and is the subject of its own heritage management plan (HMP), dated November 2008 and prepared by Duncan Marshall for the NCA. The Vista expresses the core of the Walter Burley Griffin design vision for Canberra and its

landscape embraces the central Land Axis and part of the Water Axis (Lake Burley Griffin) and most of the National Triangle (sometimes referred to as the 'Parliamentary Triangle'), which includes the NLA. The Vista combines urban planning, landscape, and architecture to achieve a grand vision of a symbolic, unified, and visually dramatic place.⁵ It is also distinctive for the generally symmetrical organisation of monumental buildings in the landscape, the large body of water of Lake Burley Griffin, and the parklands and gardens, which contribute to the landscape setting the broader Vista area.

The CHL citation of the NLA and Surrounds provides the following Statement of Significance:

The National Library is part of the significant cultural landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle. It occupies a prominent and strategic location on the western side of the Triangle, making it one of Canberra's landmark features. Its harmonious proportions are accentuated by its reflection in the surface of the lake. Along with several later buildings that front the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin, the National Library contributes to the planned aesthetic qualities of the Parliamentary Triangle.

The library has a richness of cultural features and is important for housing Australia's valuable book collections, manuscripts, printed materials, films, tape recordings, paintings and other treasures. Fine craftsmanship is evident in the internal and exterior details. Built into the building are major artworks by Tom Bass and Leonard French.

The National Library, constructed during the period 1961-1968, the first of the permanent purpose built buildings in the Parliamentary Triangle, fulfils a Federation goal that commenced in 1901, to house a major national institution.

The National Library of Australia is a good example of the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical style and one of the few relatively intact Canberra examples. Key features of this style displayed by the building include the symmetrical facade treatment, horizontal skyline, regular bays of vertical proportion, colonnade, use of columns without bases or capitals and the use of a broad horizontal member at the roof line echoing classical entablature.

The National Library is highly valued by the community for its cultural use as a library, for its national collections and for its exhibitions.

The building is regarded as one of the finest works of the Australian architect Walter Bunning.⁶

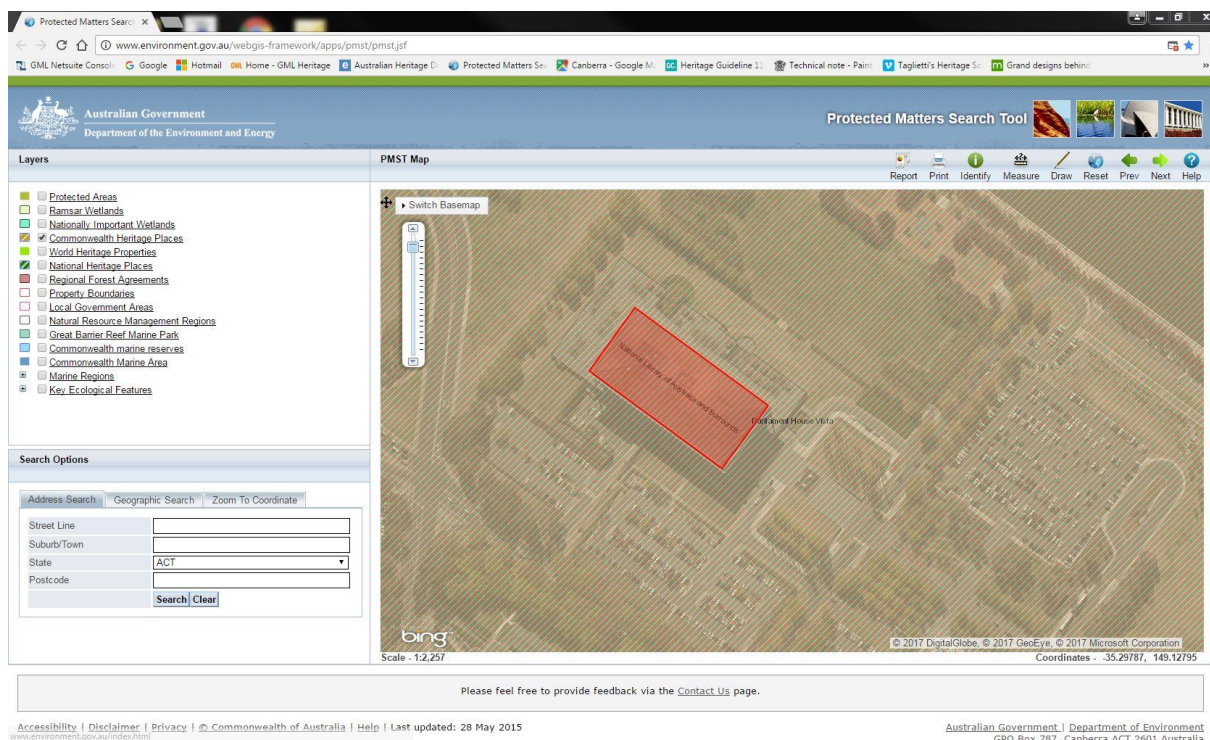


Figure 1.4 The CHL boundary for the 'NLA and Surrounds' is shown as the red hatched rectangle. The NLA Forecourt is outside this boundary, although it is within the Parliament House Vista CHL area, which is hatched brown. (Source: Protected Matters Search Tool, Department of Environment and Energy website), viewed 3 February 2017.

1.4 Legislative Context

1.4.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC Act) was established in part to protect places of significant natural or cultural value owned or controlled by the Commonwealth.

The NLA Forecourt is outside the boundary of the Library. It is managed by the NCA and protected under the EPBC Act as a Commonwealth Heritage listed place as it is within the Parliament House Vista boundary. The EPBC Act requires CHL places to be managed in accordance with Commonwealth Heritage management principles, which encourage identification, conservation, and presentation of a place's heritage values through applying best available skills and knowledge, community (including Indigenous) involvement and cooperation between various levels of government.

Section 341ZC of the EPBC Act states that Commonwealth agencies must not take an action that has, will have, or is likely to have an impact on a place's Commonwealth Heritage values unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative to taking an action, and that all measures that can be reasonably taken to mitigate the impact of the action are taken.⁷

1.4.2 Commonwealth Heritage List

The 2004 amendments to the EPBC Act were established in part to protect and conserve places of significant natural or cultural heritage value, which are owned or controlled by the Commonwealth. The CHL was established under the amendments and, as a statutory list, recognises places of heritage value owned or controlled by the Commonwealth Government.

The NLA is included in the CHL and subject to the provisions of the EPBC Act. The NLA Forecourt is part of the 'surrounds' of the NLA and within the Parliament House Vista, a conservation area included in the CHL.

1.4.3 National Capital Authority and the National Capital Plan

The National Capital Plan forms the strategic planning framework for Canberra and the ACT. In accordance with Section 10(1) of the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988* (Cwth), the National Capital Plan sets out detailed conditions for planning design and development for Designated Areas. The NCA is responsible for planning and development approval within Designated Areas.

The NLA and its Forecourt is in a Designated Area of the Parliamentary Zone identified as Section D—the Humanities and Science campus. This section is built around the NLA and the National Science and Technology Centre (Questacon).

Heritage places and sites within the Designated Areas are also accounted for in the National Capital Plan, which acknowledges their importance and contribution to the capital and provides heritage policies and principles. The National Capital Plan has specific objectives and principles affecting the Parliamentary Zone and its setting and these are explained in Section 4.3 on the Plan.

1.5 Methodology

The HA has been prepared in accordance with the EPBC Act and the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013* (the Burra Charter). The Burra Charter outlines a nationally recognised process of conservation principles and processes, which are closely aligned to the Commonwealth Heritage management principles.

The report has been set out to meet the requirements of the NCA's brief, which is to update the 2006 HA focusing on the Lombardy poplars. Information in the 2006 HA that is not relevant to understanding the context and significance of the poplars has been excluded and additional information has been provided to support the updated assessment against criteria. The HA supports the significance assessment of the 2006 HA and, together with the Tree Assessment Report prepared by Canopy Tree Experts, offers additional discussion and commentary directly relating to the Lombardy poplars that helps understand the heritage values of the trees individually and as a contributing element to the designed cultural landscape of the National Triangle and of Canberra and to their future use and management, which is directly affected by their existing condition. The HA also provides recommendations and policies the NCA can employ to manage the trees at the Forecourt in the immediate future.

1.6 Limitations

The following tasks were not included in the project scope of works and therefore not undertaken:

- public consultation for a social values assessment;
- assessment of natural heritage values; and
- research into Indigenous heritage values or survey of Aboriginal sites.

1.7 Authorship and Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by a GML project team including Hannah Griffiths, Heritage Consultant, Rachel Jackson, Principal, and Alan Mann, Senior Consulting Arborist from Canopy Tree Experts.

GML wishes to acknowledge the assistance of the following people in this project:

- Duncan MacLennan, NCA;
- Anna Wong, NCA; and
- Ilse Wurst, NCA.

1.8 Endnotes

- ¹ National Capital Authority 2016, 'National Library of Australia Forecourt' request for quotation, 21 October.
- ² National Capital Authority 2016, 'National Library of Australia Forecourt' request for quotation, 21 October.
- ³ GML Heritage 2006, National Library of Australia Forecourt Heritage Assessment, pp 47–48.
- ⁴ National Library of Australia 2016 <<https://www.nla.gov.au/about-us/who-we-are>>.
- ⁵ Australian Heritage Database 2016, 'Parliament House Vista, Anzac Pde, Parkes, ACT, Australia'.
- ⁶ Australian Heritage Database 2016, 'Parliament House Vista, Anzac Pde, Parkes, ACT, Australia'.
- ⁷ *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwth), Chapter 5, Part 15, Division 3A, Subdivision E, Section 341ZC.

2.0 Understanding the Place

2.1 Introduction

This section provides a description, summary history and physical context and condition of the NLA Forecourt to inform the assessment of significance including its landscape setting, and key attributes and elements. The physical descriptions have largely been drawn from CHL citations and the 2006 HA, with additions and amendments made to inform and suit the brief from the NCA to focus on the Lombardy poplars.

2.2 Site Description

This description has been reproduced from the 2006 HA with some changes and additions as part of this 2016 update.

The NLA Forecourt was an integral element in the Bunning and Madden design of the NLA.¹ As with classical buildings, the NLA Forecourt is an important intermediary podium to the entrance of the NLA. It allows the visitor to walk around and appreciate the building and enter the Library via a stairway.² The features of the Forecourt reflect the formal architectural qualities of the building and give an appropriate entry and setting for the approach to the monumental Library.

The design and execution of the building is of an exceptionally high standard. The presentation of the NLA as an important national institution meant the design considered more than the function of the building as a public library. High quality materials were used in the public areas of the Library, and impressive stained glass windows were featured on the ground floor. The designed landscape around the building included a sculpture by the internationally renowned artist Henry Moore and, over the entrance of the building, a large horizontal sculpture by Tom Bass.

The NLA Forecourt is symmetrically situated on the eastern side of the NLA and is in the main visual axis from the Library to the National Gallery and High Court footbridge across Reconciliation Place. The NLA Forecourt is a landscaped area set on its own podium, or built-up platform. It is a pedestrian space that is on a transitional level between the NLA podium and Parkes Place West, with a one-way access road surrounding it.

The Forecourt is a rectangular space with two grassed areas on either side of a concrete paved area, and includes a fountain with two vertical jets within a rectangular pool. The fountain pool is edged with a polished trachyte, while the internal walls of the pool and paving around the fountain have a light coloured aggregate surface. On each edge of the paved area is a row of four street lights. The steps, Forecourt walls and fountain base have a darker aggregate facing than the horizontal paved surface and the walls of the pool.

Within the grassed areas are four rows of Lombardy poplars (*Populus nigra* 'Italica') at varying stages of growth. The rows of poplars are approximately 10–15m in length with three to four metres distance between each tree. Some trees have died and been removed, resulting in some gaps. A site visit undertaken on 28 November 2016 identified that the far north row contains seven trees, the mid north row contains nine and the two south rows contain 11 trees each. In recent years, the condition of the poplars has substantially deteriorated, most notably to the north side of the Forecourt and their columnar form, and consistent full leaf coverage, is not as well expressed as some have stunted and lost growth. The trees undergo a removal of deadened wood every six months, approximately twice as much as other trees in the area.³



Figure 2.1 South rows of the Lombardy poplars. (Source: GML Heritage, November 2016)



Figure 2.2 North rows of the Lombardy poplars. A stark difference in the form and coverage to the south rows. (Source: GML Heritage, November 2016)



Figure 2.3 Far north row of poplars. The tree on the far right has been considerably cut back and is not as robust or well-formed as the poplars to the south end. (Source: GML Heritage, November 2016)



Figure 2.4 View looking east down the rows of north poplars. Those on the left are more stunted with less coverage. (Source: GML Heritage, November 2016)

The access or ‘loop’ road around the Forecourt was originally intended for dignitaries to arrive and depart, rather than the present situation, which permits any car to drive around the Forecourt and park between the Forecourt and Library. The original intention was for general visitors to be dropped off on the southern side of Forecourt or in Parkes Place West, and for coach parking to be accommodated on both sides of the Forecourt.⁴

The approach to the NLA from King Edward Terrace via Parkes Place West provides a view corridor to Mount Ainslie across Lake Burley Griffin which provides an ‘on the ground’ experience of being in the planned landscape of the National Triangle, where pedestrians can experience the important views.

In 2006, the NLA Forecourt underwent substantial works resulting from the redevelopment of part of the Parliamentary Zone. The works included the replacement of the Forecourt, relocation of the entry to the NLA’s southern carpark, a redesign of the area between the NLA and Reconciliation Place, and the relocation of traffic to Lake Burley Griffin to pass close to and in front of the NLA.⁵ Details of the works specifically affecting the Forecourt include the removal and replacement of the fountain and the removal of the block walls near the existing Lombardy poplars.⁶

2.3 Historical Context

This section includes a summarised historical context drawn from the 2006 HA that relates to the Lombardy poplars. The full historical context can be found in Section 2 of the 2006 HA.

2.3.1 The NLA Forecourt and Lombardy Poplars (*Populus nigra* 'Italica')

This section has been reproduced from the 2006 HA.

The architectural style of the NLA building is in the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical and is a contemporary derivation of the spirit of Graeco-Roman architecture with strong symmetry, strong repetitive use of columns and carefully considered proportions, but without classical details.⁷

The landscaping of the Forecourt was conceived from the outset to complement the building style, with deliberate choice of Lombardy poplar, *Populus nigra* 'Italica'.⁸ These tall columnar trees were sited in double rows to the north and south of the Forecourt, forming a short avenue approach to the building from the east and presenting a block of vegetation with repetitive vertical elements to extend the columnar effect of the Library building when viewed from the north or south. Lombardy poplars were chosen for their vertical and formal shape to match the building style and direct the eye towards the entrance.⁹ Also, as one of the tallest trees to grow successfully in Canberra (a mature specimen reaching up to 30 metres), they were chosen as an appropriate match to the size of the building.¹⁰

In rural Canberra, before the development of the national capital, some of the successful exotic tree species included English elms, acacias, weeping willows, basket willows, pines, hawthorns, silver poplars and Lombardy poplars.¹¹ The National Capital Development Commission's (NCDC's) chief landscaper and designer of the NLA Forecourt, Richard Clough, favoured the Lombardy poplar since it had demonstrated suitability to Canberra's soils and climate from plantings dating to the earliest settlement of the Limestone Plains in the 1820s. Clough was also influenced by the performance of the Lombardy poplar at other sites in the National Triangle planted by Thomas Weston, notably in the location of the Old Parliament House building.¹²

The matter of landscaping the surrounds of, and especially the formal approach to and from, the proposed National Library building were considered integral to the Library development from the outset of planning the project as is evident in the architectural drawings and models prior to the building's construction. In May 1962 Bunning and Madden were already corresponding with the NCDC regarding estimates of cost for this part of the project.¹³ Throughout the planning process, the landscaping of the area adjacent to the Library was regularly discussed at minuted meetings of the National Library Building Working Committee (NLBWC). This committee included a membership of librarians from the National Library Council, town planners from the NCDC and Walter Bunning from Bunning and Madden. Minutes of the meetings indicate that landscaping was considered as being integral to the Library appearance and presentation, and the provision of the pool and fountain were considered to be items of 'art' as important as artworks directly incorporated into the building. In the minutes of these meetings, the open area directly in front of the NLA building is always referred to as 'the Forecourt', its importance to the overall design indicated by the capitalisation of its first letter.

The area destined to become the site of the NLA was a degraded quarry site, which had been used as a brick pit. Major earthworks were required to prepare the site and both artificial draining channels and topsoiling had to be provided over the solid rock platform to permit landscaping of the area.¹⁴ The importance of implementing the landscaping early in the site development and the need for topsoiling, grassing, irrigation and paving were discussed early in the project.¹⁵ In December 1962 the need for

'early provision of mature planting east of the building' and the necessity of the loop road were added to the list of requirements.¹⁶

In January 1963, the committee reviewed a planting plan devised by the NCDC. Handwritten notes on one of the agenda papers indicate that, as well as Lombardy poplars being advocated, there was discussion about the use of *Ginkgo biloba fastigiata*, a Japanese conifer which is deciduous, losing its leaves after a dramatic show of yellow autumn colour.¹⁷ According to Richard Clough, such a species choice would have been quickly ruled out because of the spreading nature of the mature trees.¹⁸ The notes on the papers do indicate that the final choice of Lombardy poplars—which turn bright yellow in the autumn—was a deliberate aesthetic choice.

In August 1964 Mr Harry Oakman, Director of Landscape Architecture of the NCDC, introduced the Commission's landscaping plan to the NLWBC explaining how it aimed to 'open up space around the Library' with lawn on the raised areas giving unobstructed views of the building, supported by base and boundary planting to provide fine texture and an unaltered colour through most of the year.¹⁹ Mr Oakman told the committee that:

*...the frontal treatment consists of a double row of Lombardy poplars (Populus nigra, variety italica). These tall upright trees will frame the building facade and form vertical elements complementing the columns. From each side of these views can be obtained of the side elevations of the building. Another proposed entrance feature is a pool, possibly with fountains, and two flower beds, one on each side of the main entrance, to provide colour.*²⁰

These planting proposals were accepted by the meeting as a most suitable land use treatment that reflected the formal setting of the building and as 'an integral part of the National Triangle landscape'. Any idea of informality was explicitly rejected.

In April 1965, a double session of the NLWBC was held so that Richard Clough could present the Landscape Plan for the NLA development. This included the proposed planting scheme with open planting, high quality lawn areas and use of advanced stock. This scheme was praised as being 'a continuation of the geometrical formality of the building to the landscape design'. An alternative scheme to the poplar avenues flanking the Forecourt was examined. It proposed clumps of poplars at the four corners of the building with floral or shrub displays set out in a pattern to line up the columns of the building, and was rejected.²¹

Minutes of the thirtieth meeting of the NLWBC held in August 1965 document the recognition of the importance of the Library building and its surrounds as a vital part of the National Triangle landscape, and the importance of its appearance from the northern shores of Lake Burley Griffin.²²

In August 1967 Richard Clough outlined the landscaping intentions for the forecourt to the forty-second meeting of the NLWBC, explaining the choice of poplar species and how the design integrated with the wider park setting of Lake Burley Griffin. This meeting also noted that the first design suggestions for the fountain were unacceptable but that the loop road at the building side of the Forecourt was most desirable.²³

Research into the historical record documenting the original design intent of the NLA building and its immediate landscape setting indicates an integrated and complementary relationship between the architecture of the building and its landscaped formal approach. The NLA Forecourt and the loop road approach were deliberately implemented to contribute to the aesthetic qualities of the building style. The documentary record for this position is detailed below.

It is supported by strongly held views of surviving contributors to the NLA and Forecourt design, Richard Clough, the NCDC landscape architect who contributed to the design of the NLA Forecourt, and Noel Potter, architect in charge of the Canberra office of Bunning and Madden and architects of the NLA.²⁴

On 22 May 2006 the *Canberra Times* published a letter from Noel Potter in which he stated:

I am the sole survivor of the original three partners of the architectural firm of Bunning and Madden, which was commissioned by the NCDC in 1962 to design and supervise the construction of the National Library. As well as the building proper, their commission was also to design the landscaping of the huge area surrounding the library, including the space between the main entrance stairs and Parkes Place. For privacy and safety, a private roadway was designed for direct access by library users and a wide pedestrian walkway provided leading to the forecourt, which included two imposing fountains. To emphasise the significance and provide a grand entrance to this monumental building, twin rows of poplar trees were included as an essential part of the design.

In a 2006 letter provided to the NCA, Noel Potter outlined the design intent of the NLA Forecourt, summarised below:

The simple brief called for the design to be dignified, monumental and of timeless quality and required approval to the total scheme by federal parliament. Any and all proposed changes to the accepted design required the same approval. The height of the building podium as determined by the high water mark of the lake-to-be and in consequence to maintain the dignified proportions of the building's setting a second lower podium of grassed earth was mounded behind a generally continuous perimeter retaining walling.

An essential feature of this second podium was its extension over the entire eastern area between the building and street frontages. This enabled the inclusion of a broad classically formed stairway rising from the street level and then forming a gently sloping and imposing forecourt area of 2000sq metres (approximately) in total area.

The construction of the stairway and forecourt areas effectively stamped the address and public entry point in a manner fitting for the approaches to a building of such importance and visual dominance within the Parliamentary triangle ...

As to trees—every tree within the originally allocated large Library site was carefully typed and positioned, making a point that none were to obstruct the view of the building from the street. The only concession was the placement of twin rows of stately poplar trees to each side to effectively complement the vertical lines of the building and without concealing, direct the eyes towards it.

It was not designed to shyly hide behind a leafy façade and rely on the delights of sudden discovery—it boldly announced its presence from afar ... and there should be no doubt that the existing forecourt and lower podium areas are components integral to the original design.²⁵

2.3.2 Planning Associated with the NLA Forecourt

The period of planning and construction of the NLA and the NLA Forecourt was influenced by the design ideas of Sir William Holford, advisor to the NCDC, who altered Walter Burley Griffin's plans for Canberra to relocate the intended site of the permanent Parliament House from Camp Hill to the southern shoreline of Lake Burley Griffin. In addition, the influences of Holford on Canberra's planning through the NCDC, was Peter Harrison, its first chief planner (Director of Planning, 1959–1967). Recent research by former NCDC employee, Dr James Conner, established that Peter Harrison had a hand to play in the final design of the Forecourt with Richard Clough, as he was not happy with Bunning and Madden's original design for the Forecourt.²⁶

The Parliament House was intended to be part of a three-part building sited along the axis of the lake with a water frontage with a grand forecourt as a public assembly area stretching up to the 1920s Provisional Parliament House (now known as Old Parliament House). It was this approach from a

Parliament Square into the centre of the National Triangle, in which the NLA and the NLA Forecourt were specifically sited, aligned and designed to address with a formal axial avenue flanked by twin rows of Lombardy poplars.²⁷ Likewise, the podium level of the National Library and its raised Forecourt were designed to match the intended entrance levels of the proposed Parliament House and Parliament Square off Parkes Place West.²⁸

The NLA Forecourt, with its strong axial lines of Lombardy poplars, was also designed to contribute to the overall symmetrical layout of the Parliament Triangle. This contribution was recorded by the planners who described the Forecourt as 'that paved area centrally on the Parkes Place West axis in front on the main entrance steps'.²⁹

In the 1965 book *The Future Canberra*, the not yet completed NLA is mentioned in relation to the proposed new parliament.

The Parliamentary Triangle which lies on the south of the central basin of the lake is reasonably level and offers the opportunity for a balanced grouping of buildings and gathering places suitable for a forum atmosphere. ...The National Library which is now under construction and the proposed High Court would flank the Houses of Parliament and, together with their environs, would insulate the parliamentary building from administrative encroachments.³⁰

The proposal of the lakeside Parliament House was overturned in 1968, the year the NLA was completed. Major building in the National Triangle paused for the next decade partly because of the need to restructure the planning approach with the relocation of the Parliament.³¹ The NLA Forecourt is therefore a unique and tangible reminder of the historic phase of the National Triangle design concept envisaged by Sir William Holford as having a lakeside Parliament and Parliament Square, but which was not realised.

The construction of the NLA and its Forecourt initiated a new east–west cross axis within the National Triangle. The visual link to the National Gallery and High Court was created when the lakeside parliament concept was abandoned. Although these buildings are not symmetrical within the Triangle, the visual link and axis from the NLA to the footbridge between the National Gallery of Australia and the High Court was intentional.

The Holford/NCDC liking of asymmetry meant the new Court and Gallery buildings did not have echoes of the Library in form or location. Hence the entrance axes of the High Court Forecourt address the general east-west axis in accordance with the Design Brief [for the Gallery]. The alignment of the lakeside balustrade of the Bridge [footbridge] and the retaining wall west of the High Court Prototype Area are aligned intentionally with the lakeside colonnade of the National Library. The east-west axis has been given greater emphasis by the construction of Reconciliation Place (but as yet only partially built) form has a promenade which encompasses the entrance axes of both the Library and the Gallery.³²

The Forecourt landscaping also has important associations with the historically important figures of Walter Bunning, who implemented the vision of the Forecourt's monumental ornamental fountains, and Richard Clough, the NCDC landscape architect and original designer of the Forecourt planting who had an important influence on the landscaping of the National Capital area around Lake Burley Griffin.

2.4 Design and Landscape Context

2.4.1 Parliament House Vista

The Parliament House Vista—Canberra's central designed and symbolic landscape situated on both sides of Walter Burley Griffin's land axis—is an irregularly shaped boundary, terminating at the Australian War Memorial and Mount Ainslie at the northern end and at Parliament House on Capital Hill at the southern end.³³

The Vista and its heritage values express the core of the Griffin design vision for Canberra. The landscape of the Vista embraces the central land axis, part of the water axis and most of the National Triangle, including the area known as the Parliamentary Zone. It combines urban planning, landscape and architecture to achieve a grand vision of a symbolic, unified and visually dramatic place.³⁴

The Parliament House Vista is considered important for its design pattern and its richness of features. Many individual places within it have heritage significance for their architectural design, historic importance, and plantings, including Old Parliament House and Curtilage, the Old Parliament House Gardens, the Lakeshore Promenade, King George Terrace and the High Court and National Gallery of Australia precinct.³⁵

The CHL citation for the Parliament House Vista emphasises the significance of the avenues of trees, roads and pathways of deciduous, pine, and eucalypt species in providing colour, character and contrast, which in turn emphasise the significance of the formal symmetrical design. It notes that Lombardy poplars form sentinels at key locations.³⁶

The Parliament House Vista is also distinctive for the generally symmetrical organisation of monumental buildings in the landscape, the large body of water of Lake Burley Griffin, and the parklands and gardens that contribute to the landscape setting of the broader Vista areas, such as Anzac Parade and the Canberra Central Parklands (Commonwealth Park, Rond Terrace, and Kings Park).

Plantings in the Vista are referenced in the Parliament House Vista HMP:

*The street pattern associated with the building of Old Parliament House and other Government buildings within Parkes Place is reinforced through formal plantings and garden areas set in large grassed squares in a symmetrical composition. The initial plant selection and planting during the inter war period (1920-1939), apart from the rose gardens, were of a mixture of Australian tree species (Eucalypt and Acacia species) and exotic. Exotic coniferous plants appear to have dominated the mixture generally and with exotic deciduous trees (Poplars) providing accents of contrast with the evergreen walls of foliage. What remains are the survivors of change, yet the symmetry around the Land Axis corridor still influences the overall composition. The scale of the planting matches the scale of the built elements.*³⁷

*The scale of built elements in the zone between King Edward Terrace and the lake tends to dominate the scale of the tree planting, and the prominent buildings are more visually conspicuous possibly partly due to the open character of Lake Burley Griffin.*³⁸

The National Capital Plan states that Canberra's formal tree planting reflects the ground pattern of road and formal spaces and establishes their character and beauty.³⁹ Importantly, the planting is also used to conserve the clarity and character of important spaces and streets such as Parkes Place, and Queen Victoria, King George, and King Edward Terraces.⁴⁰

2.5 Cultural Landscape—Discussion

A cultural landscape is an area that clearly represents or reflects the patterns of settlement or use of the landscape over a long period of time, as well as the evolution of cultural norms, and attitudes toward the land.⁴¹

Canberra is considered a famous example of a 'designed' cultural landscape. That is, one that is created intentionally with features such as gardens, parks, city landscapes and ornamental lakes.⁴² It is significant for the way the design of the city integrates natural hills and an artificial lake as its major features and how the surrounding mountains are connected by long vista spaces. Importantly, the

National Triangle (also known as the Parliamentary Zone) that crosses these vistas is dedicated to Australia's national and cultural institutions spatially set out in the landscape.⁴³

The NLA and Forecourt form part of Canberra's designed cultural landscape within the Parliamentary Zone and is a contributing element to the heritage significance of the site. Managing the cultural landscape of Canberra, particularly within the Parliamentary Zone, requires an understanding of the connectivity between people, places, and heritage items.⁴⁴

In the book *The Future Canberra* the importance of the cultural landscape in Canberra is expressed:

*In Canberra, the design scheme is seen as covering the complete city fabric. The Parliamentary Triangle, for instance, is not just a grouping of buildings, land spaces, road patterns and rows of trees but an environment in which each element has a vital relationship. The sum effect of the small items in such a composition is as important as the more monumental features. By a process of embellishment this area can be given qualities which will add to its pleasantness and interest for visitors and for those who spend their days working there. There are numerous places which will lend themselves as appropriate sites for sculpture, fountains, paved areas and finely detailed steps. ...It will be important, however, not to clutter up the parliamentary zone with small scale features which might at some later date prove an embarrassment. Parkes Place is one area which must receive particular care because it will become the focus for national functions associated with Parliament.*⁴⁵

2.5.1 Canberra Plantings

In 1908, when the site for the federal capital was recommended by the Commonwealth Surveyor Charles Scrivener, the Limestone Plains landscape of what would become modern day Canberra was an undulating grassland with a few scattered local native trees, and some conifer and exotic species used as windbreaks and site markers. Climatically, the Limestones Plains landscape was not a promising location to establish the new Garden City, and the infertile soils and local rabbit infestation contributed to further disadvantages to a horticultural vision of a landscaped city.⁴⁶ Notwithstanding, the new city site plans required plantings for streets and parks to make an attractive landscape according to the ambitious designs of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin. This was necessary not only to produce a capital city for Australians to be proud of, but also to provide an attractive environment to encourage people to populate the city.

Despite plans for a hospitable new city, little was known about the performance of many trees and shrubs in the challenging local climate and soil conditions. A consequence of this need for specific horticultural information was the appointment of horticulturalist Thomas Charles George Weston as Officer in Charge of the Afforestation Branch, where he could test and choose suitable tree and shrub species for landscaping the city. Weston set out to create an arboretum (or botanic garden of trees) to research botanical performance in Canberra, and many of the trees subsequently grown in Canberra's streets, parks and hills were chosen because of their success in Weston's experimental plantings. The effect on the local landscape was a transformation from bare plains to modern city, with the urban forest and surrounding treed hills that are a distinctive feature of Canberra today.

2.5.2 Lombardy Poplars

The Lombardy poplar is an exotic tree species introduced to the Canberra region in the early 1900s.⁴⁷ It can be found in central parks such as Glebe, Bowen, Commonwealth and Kings Park and within the Parliamentary Zone such as around Lake Burley Griffin and Old Parliament House.

The Lombardy poplar is currently considered a weed species and prohibited pest plant under the ACT *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005*. However, it is a common heritage species found in Canberra.⁴⁸ Lindsay Pryor and John Banks in their book *Trees and Shrubs in Canberra* describe the tree species as:

One of the best known and most easily distinguished poplars because of its fastigate habit it is widely planted in Canberra and around the world. The origin of the form is unknown. It has been cultivated for a very long time in Europe and Asia. An outstanding tree, it is well adapted to the Canberra climate and changes to a rich golden yellow in autumn. It is fast growing and lives to at least 100 years. It reaches about 30 m with a crown spread of 7 m and is therefore one of the tallest trees in Canberra, where it has been planted since early settlement. It suckers, especially where its roots are cut or disturbed. It vigorously seeks water and will enter any drain where there is a leak. A striking fastigate tree to produce colour and form in the landscape and useful for tall screening. The male trees produce no seed. It flowers in September. Normally this tree is at its best for colour from the middle to the end of April. There is a fine group in the old Parliament House courtyard. Numerous specimens are along Matina Street and Jerrabomberra Avenue, Narrabundah.⁴⁹

In the book *The Heritage of the Australian Capital Territory*, it is recognised that trees embodying heritage values or contributing to the heritage values of a place is a concern due to their fragility as individual specimens.⁵⁰ It goes on to say that the Lombardy poplars at Old Parliament House are approaching their end of life and need to be removed but does not state if the same species should be planted to replace the existing.⁵¹

2.6 Condition of the NLA Forecourt Lombardy Poplars

The Tree Assessment Report undertaken by Canopy Tree Experts for this HA (included in Appendix A) assesses the condition of the Lombardy poplars—the criteria used includes a combination of the tree's health, structure, and 'Tree Quality Classification' (TQC). While the health of most of the Lombardy poplars is good, the structure of many of the trees is fair due to die-back and their health has not been good in the recent past. A number are unlikely to recover or meet their intended purpose of verticality and form, characteristic of the NLA's architecture. This decline and poor health detract from the heritage values of the NLA Forecourt. Figures 2.1—2.4 show the current condition and structure of the poplars.

Canopy Tree Experts explains that the Lombardy poplars are a good example of the life history pattern that favours fast growth with little long term investment in defence components, such as dense wood, thick bark, and strong compartmentalisation (a defensive response against disease, insect attack or decay entering through physical damage). The trees of this species typically grow fast and die young, living only as long as:

- they can outgrow organisms that threaten them such as decay organisms that infect them (through wounds and dead branch stubs) and disease organisms; and
- conditions are good enough for them to source adequate water for their size and growth.⁵²

When grown in good conditions, which mainly means ample water, trees of this species can outgrow its 'attackers' well enough to survive beyond 100 years despite having the life history strategy of 'spending' little on self-defence'. However, as has occurred with the trees in the NLA Forecourt, if the trees are stressed, usually through drought which needs to be measured against their high water demands, or if they experience significant damage, decay becomes an important factor leading to die back, branch failure and wind throw.⁵³

Further, there are structural defects present in some of the trees that may be hazardous and these include:

- the presence of deadwood, which may fall; and
- the presence of decay in the trunks, which could cause failure.

2.7 Endnotes

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- 21 NLA MS9871, Bunning and Madden papers, Box 8, minutes of twenty-eighth meeting of NLBWC, 1 and 2 April 1965, including presentation of Plan No L90/64, unfortunately missing from the box.
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3.0 Assessment of Heritage Significance

3.1 Introduction

The NLA Forecourt was assessed against Commonwealth Heritage significance criteria in the 2006 HA and was found to meet criterion (a) Processes, (d) Characteristic Values, (f) Technical Achievement, and (h) Significant People. While this assessment stands as an accurate and relevant record of the significance of the NLA Forecourt, this section offers a revision with additional commentary on the role of the Lombardy poplars (*Populus nigra* 'Italica') in the assessment against criteria.

This report provides a review and update of the 2006 HA set out to meet the requirements of the NCA's brief, which is to focus on the Lombardy poplars. The aim of the review is to provide the NCA with an understanding of the heritage values and condition of the Lombardy poplars in 2016. This will inform the recommendations proposed in Section 4.

3.2 Statutory Framework

The 2004 amendments to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC Act) established the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL). The CHL is for those places owned or controlled by the Commonwealth that have been assessed as having significant heritage values against the criteria established under the Act. The threshold for inclusion in the CHL is that the place meets one or more of the criteria for 'significant' heritage values.

Section 528 of the EPBC Act defines the heritage value of a place as including the place's natural and cultural environment having aesthetic, historic, scientific, or social significance, or other significance, for current and future generations of Australians. The EPBC Act therefore covers all forms of cultural significance (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) and natural heritage significance.

Sections 10.01A and Section 10.03A of the EPBC Regulation define the nine Commonwealth Heritage criteria for evaluating, identifying, and assessing the Commonwealth Heritage values of a place.

3.2.1 Management Context of the NLA and the NLA Forecourt

The 2006 HA report explains that the NCA is both the planning and development control agency for external works affecting the NLA building and is the manager of the lands immediately adjacent to and surrounding the NLA including the NLA Forecourt and other open space in the Parliamentary Zone.¹ This regime is still relevant.

The land vested in the NLA is limited to the footprint of the NLA and its podium, a small sealed service area at the lower ground two (LG2) level, an access road off King Edward Terrace, and small extensions to contain services venting to the west and north.² The NCA, therefore, is the consent authority for external changes to the NLA, but not the manager of the NLA building. The NLA Forecourt is managed by the NCA and is separate from the NLA building.³

The ACT Government has no planning control or statutory authority over the NLA or the NLA Forecourt. However, the NLA includes the ACT Heritage Council in its list of government stakeholders as a matter of courtesy.⁴

3.3 Review of the 2006 Heritage Assessment

3.3.1 Review and Commentary

The following table provides the 2006 Commonwealth Heritage assessment of the NLA Forecourt, plus commentary to confirm and update the existing assessment with more specific reference to the heritage significance of the Lombardy poplars. A revised heritage assessment is included in Section 3.4.

Table 3.2 2006 Heritage Assessment for the NLA Forecourt and 2016 Review Commentary Relevant to the Lombardy Poplars.

Commonwealth Heritage Criteria	2006 Heritage Assessment (in italics) and 2016 Review Commentary
Criterion (a) Processes	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.</i></p> <p><i>The historic value of the NLA Forecourt, including its location, design and construction, is integral to the history of the NLA. The NLA was one of the first of the permanent purpose built national institutions in the Parliamentary Triangle and remains as a distinctive and dominant feature of the area.</i></p> <p><i>In particular, the design of the NLA Forecourt responds to Sir William Holford's proposal for a parliament building with a formal entrance and forecourt oriented towards the proposed Parliament Square. The podium level of the NLA and its Forecourt were designed to match the intended entrance levels of the Parliament House and Parliament Square off Parkes Place, and remain a unique and tangible reflection of that scheme.</i></p> <p><i>The NLA Forecourt, as an integral component of the NLA design and as an interpretable remnant of the intended lakeside parliament envisaged by Holford, meets this criterion.</i></p> <p><i>Attributes: The design and location of the Forecourt in its current rectangular and symmetrical orientation within the Parliament House Vista.</i></p>
2016 Review Commentary on the Lombardy poplars	<p>The 2006 heritage assessment against criterion (a), above, is relevant and correct.</p> <p>The following additional commentary is to guide the NCA in future management of the Lombardy poplars.</p> <p>The Lombardy poplars are historically associated with plantings established in the NCDC period in Canberra. The NLA and its Forecourt were sited and built at a time when the NCDC, under Sir William Holford, proposed to build a permanent parliament on the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin. The NLA and its Forecourt were designed to align and address the formal axial avenue (east-west) of the proposed parliament; emphasised by twin rows of Lombardy poplars. Although this proposal did not eventuate, the NLA, and the Forecourt with twin rows of Lombardy poplars are integral with the NLA design and physical reminder of the NCDC planned waterfront/lakeside parliament.</p> <p>The Lombardy poplar is historically linked with the early development of Canberra; an exotic species introduced in the 1900s and planted throughout the city and region as a successful urban landscape element and street tree.</p>
Criterion (b) Rarity	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.</i></p> <p><i>The NLA Forecourt is not an uncommon or rare aspect of Australia's natural or cultural history, as there are a number of monumental buildings in Canberra with a forecourt and address, such as the High Court, Parliament House and Old Parliament House.</i></p>
2016 Review Commentary on the Lombardy poplars	<p>The 2006 heritage assessment against criterion (b), above, is relevant and correct. The following additional commentary is to guide the NCA for future management of the Lombardy poplars.</p> <p>Lombardy poplars are not an uncommon, nor a rare species in Canberra, or the region. They can be found in several Canberra suburbs, parks and lining streets and major roads.</p> <p>Separate to the heritage significance; Lombardy poplars have been identified as a weed species and are a prohibited pest plant under the <i>Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005</i> (ACT).</p>
Criterion (c) Potential for Information	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history.</i></p>

Commonwealth Heritage Criteria	2006 Heritage Assessment (in italics) and 2016 Review Commentary
	<i>The NLA Forecourt does not have the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's cultural history.</i>
2016 Review Commentary on the Lombardy poplars	The 2006 heritage assessment against criterion (c), above, is relevant and correct. No additional commentary on the Lombardy poplars is required.
Criterion (d) Characteristic Values	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:</i></p> <p><i>(i) a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or</i></p> <p><i>(ii) a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>The NLA Forecourt, as an integral component of the NLA, is representative of the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical style with its classical styling. The most important architectural characteristics which represent this style include freestanding buildings in formal settings, monumentality, symmetry, horizontal profiles, colonnades echoing classical peristyles, facades divided into structural bays, repetitive rhythms of columns, reliance of carefully considered proportions and central entrance.</i></p> <p><i>The NLA Forecourt, at a lower level to the NLA podium, as the formal entrance and address to the NLA is an integral design feature of the building which is one of the most successful examples of the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical styles in Australia. The NLA Forecourt meets this criterion.</i></p> <p><i>Attributes: the design and location of the NLA Forecourt, which is a continuation of the important characteristics of the NLA, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• the horizontal platform/podium (mimics the horizontal podium and roofline of the NLA);</i> <i>• rectangular and symmetrical plan (complementary to the planning of the NLA in the Parliament House Vista); and</i> <i>• verticality of the fountain jets and poplars (continuation of the colonnades of the NLA).</i>
2016 Review Commentary on the Lombardy poplars	<p>The 2006 heritage assessment against criterion (d), above, is relevant and correct. The following additional commentary is to guide the NCA for future management of the Lombardy poplars.</p> <p>The formality, column-like appearance, and symmetry of the Lombardy poplars plantings provide a complementary relationship to the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical characteristics of the NLA.</p> <p>As a species, Lombardy poplars are characteristic of Canberra's early landscape and urban design development. The species was deliberately introduced as a suitable planting for the climate and landscape development of central Canberra.</p>
Criterion (e) Aesthetic	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the community or cultural group.</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>The Draft Conservation Management Plan for the NLA explains that:</i></p> <p><i>"The building [NLA] is believed to be regarded by the community as being beautiful as a landscape element, though other than the frequent use of the image of the building as a key landscape element of Canberra, no documented evidence addresses this apparent value."</i></p> <p><i>It is likely that the NLA Forecourt as part of the Parliament House Vista and as a prominent feature of the Lake Burley Griffin foreshore meets this criterion for aesthetic value; however, specific community consultation has not been undertaken and the value the community holds for the aesthetic characteristics of the NLA Forecourt has not been tested.</i></p>

Commonwealth Heritage Criteria	2006 Heritage Assessment (in italics) and 2016 Review Commentary
2016 Review Commentary on the Lombardy poplars	<p>The 2006 heritage assessment against criterion (e), above, is relevant and correct. The following text provides suggested revision for consideration by the NCA:</p> <p>The 2012 NLA CMP explains that:</p> <p><i>“[T]he building is believed to be regarded by the community as being beautiful as a landscape element, though other than frequent use of the image of the building as a key landscape element of Canberra, no documented evidence addresses this apparent value.</i></p> <p><i>The Department of Sustainability, Water, Population and Community [now the Department of the Environment and Energy] has indicated that it interprets criterion (e) in a very narrow way, relating it solely to the community’s regard for the place as being ‘beautiful’, and that this value has to be clearly indicated by evidence. In the absence of such evidence, no claim can be made under this criterion for the National Library of Australia.”⁵</i></p>
Criterion (f) Technical Achievement	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place’s importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.</i></p> <p><i>The NLA, of which the Forecourt is an integral part, is a landmark feature of Lake Burley Griffin foreshore and the broader cultural landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle. It occupies a prominent and strategic location within the Triangle.</i></p> <p><i>The design of the NLA Forecourt is harmonious with the highly successful execution of the classically-derived architectural proportions of the NLA reflecting the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical style. Also, the landscape planning of the NLA site as a whole is an important component within the broader Parliament House Vista, with its strong lines of trees and symmetrical planning that form the Parliamentary Triangle. The design of the NLA Forecourt, as the indicator of the main entrance to the NLA, created a new cross axis within the Parliamentary Triangle. This axis is through Enid Lyons Street, Reconciliation Place to the footbridge linking the National Gallery of Australia and the High Court.</i></p> <p><i>The design of the NLA Forecourt, as an integral component of the NLA, demonstrates a high degree of creative achievement within the broader significant cultural landscape of Parliamentary Triangle and meets this criterion.</i></p> <p><i>The fact that the design was not implemented with its original materials does not adversely impact it’s the [sic] heritage values or significance.</i></p> <p><i>Attributes: important key features of the NLA Forecourt include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the horizontal platform/podium;</i> • <i>rectangular and symmetrical plan;</i> • <i>verticality of the fountain jets and poplar plantings; and</i> • <i>east–west axis (perpendicular to the Land Axis) and views to and from the NLA, through the NLA Forecourt to the footbridge linking the High Court and National Gallery.</i>
2016 Review Commentary on the Lombardy poplars	<p>The 2006 heritage assessment against criterion (f), above, is relevant and correct. No additional commentary on the Lombardy poplars is required.</p>
Criterion (g) Social	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place’s strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</i></p> <p><i>The NLA is highly valued by the community for its cultural use as a library, its national collections and its exhibitions.</i></p> <p><i>Specific research has not been undertaken to assess the social, or community held values of the NLA Forecourt, however the public reaction to potential changes recorded in the media is an indication that the site may have social values for the community.</i></p>
2016 Review Commentary on the Lombardy poplars	<p>The 2006 heritage assessment against criterion (g), above, is relevant and correct. No additional commentary on the Lombardy poplars is required.</p>

Commonwealth Heritage Criteria	2006 Heritage Assessment (in italics) and 2016 Review Commentary
Criterion (h) Significant People	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history.</i></p> <p><i>The design of the NLA and the NLA Forecourt are associated with Walter Bunning and Noel Potter of Bunning and Madden. The NLA Forecourt is also associated with members of the National Library Building Working Committee, including Richard Clough, landscape architect with the NCDC, and Sir John Overall, Commissioner of the NCDC. The NLA Forecourt meets this criterion.</i></p> <p><i>Attributes: the design of the NLA Forecourt including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the horizontal platform;</i> • <i>rectangular and symmetrical plan; and</i> • <i>verticality of the fountain jets and poplar plantings.</i>
2016 Review Commentary on the Lombardy poplars	<p>The 2006 heritage assessment against criterion (h), above, is relevant and correct. The following additional commentary is to guide the NCA in future management of the Lombardy poplars.</p> <p>The Lombardy poplars are associated with NCDC landscape architect Richard Clough. Clough was responsible for much of the implementation of Canberra's plantings and street trees during the 1960s. He deliberately chose the Lombardy poplar species for the NLA Forecourt.</p> <p>Other associations with significant people include Commonwealth appointed NCDC architect and planner Sir William Holford, and NCDC Commissioner Sir John Overall.</p>
Criterion (i) Indigenous	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.</i></p> <p><i>No research into the potential Indigenous values has been undertaken.</i></p>
2016 Review Commentary on the Lombardy poplars	<p>The 2006 heritage assessment against criterion (i), above, is relevant and correct. No additional commentary on the Lombardy poplars is required.</p>

3.3.2 Statement of Significance—2006

The 2006 HA Summary Statement of Significance reads:

The NLA Forecourt was designed as an integral part of the NLA. The NLA Forecourt was designed to complement the classical styling of the building.

The elements of the NLA Forecourt which embody the heritage value of the place are:

- *the horizontal platform;*
- *rectangular and symmetrical plan;*
- *verticality of the fountain jets and poplar plantings; and*
- *east–west axis (perpendicular to the Land Axis) and views to and from the NLA, through the NLA Forecourt to the footbridge linking the High Court and the National Gallery.⁶*

3.4 Revised Heritage Assessment

Table 3.3 2017 Heritage Assessment of the NLA Forecourt and Lombardy Poplars.

Commonwealth Heritage criteria	Heritage Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria
Criterion (a) Processes	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.</i></p> <p>The historic value of the NLA Forecourt, including its location, design and construction, is integral to the history of the NLA. The NLA was one of the first of the permanent purpose built national institutions in the National Triangle and remains as a distinctive and dominant feature of the area. In particular, the design of the NLA Forecourt responds to Sir William Holford's proposal for a parliament building with a formal entrance and forecourt oriented towards the proposed Parliament Square. The podium level of the NLA and its Forecourt were designed to match the intended entrance levels of the Parliament House and Parliament Square off Parkes Place, and remain a unique and tangible reflection of that scheme.</p> <p>The Lombardy poplars are historically associated with plantings designed for the central Canberra landscape and established during the NCDC period. The NLA and its Forecourt were sited and built at a time when the NCDC, under Sir William Holford, proposed to build a permanent parliament on the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin. The NLA and its Forecourt were designed to align and address the formal axial avenue (east–west) of the proposed parliament, emphasised by twin rows of Lombardy poplars. Although this proposal did not eventuate, the NLA and the Forecourt with twin rows of Lombardy poplars are integral to the NLA design and a physical reminder of the NCDC planned waterfront/lakeside parliament.</p> <p>The Lombardy poplar is historically linked with the early development of Canberra, an exotic species introduced in the 1900s and planted throughout the city and region as a successful urban landscape element and street tree.</p> <p>The NLA Forecourt and the Lombardy poplars are integral components of the NLA design and meets this criterion.</p> <p>Attributes:</p> <p>The design and location of the NLA Forecourt in its current rectangular and symmetrical orientation within the Parliament House Vista and the Lombardy poplars.</p>
Criterion (b) Rarity	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.</i></p> <p>The NLA Forecourt is not an uncommon or rare aspect of Australia's natural or cultural history, as there are a number of monumental buildings in Canberra with a forecourt and address, such as the High Court, Parliament House and Old Parliament House.</p> <p>Lombardy poplars are not an uncommon nor a rare species in Canberra or the region. They can be found in several Canberra suburbs, parks and lining streets and major roads.</p> <p>Separate to the heritage significance, Lombardy poplars have been identified as a weed species and are a prohibited pest plant under the <i>Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005</i> (ACT).</p> <p>The NLA Forecourt and Lombardy poplars do not meet this criterion.</p>
Criterion (c) Potential for Information	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history.</i></p> <p>The NLA Forecourt, including the Lombardy poplars, do not have the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's cultural history.</p> <p>The NLA Forecourt and Lombardy poplars do not meet this criterion.</p>
Criterion (d) Characteristic Values	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:</i></p> <p>(iii) <i>a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or</i></p> <p>(iv) <i>a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.</i></p>

Commonwealth Heritage criteria	Heritage Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria
	<p>The NLA Forecourt, as an integral component of the NLA, is representative of the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical style with its classical styling. The most important architectural characteristics which represent this style include freestanding buildings in formal settings, monumentality, symmetry, horizontal profiles, colonnades echoing classical peristyles, facades divided into structural bays, repetitive rhythms of columns, reliance of carefully considered proportions and central entrance.</p> <p>The NLA Forecourt, at a lower level to the NLA podium, as the formal entrance and address to the NLA is an integral design feature of the building which is one of the most successful examples of the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical styles in Australia.</p> <p>The formality, group, column-like appearance, and symmetry of the Lombardy poplars provide a complementary relationship to the architectural characteristics of the NLA.</p> <p>As a species, Lombardy poplars are characteristic of Canberra's early landscape and urban design development. The species was deliberately introduced as a suitable planting for the climate and landscape development of central Canberra.</p> <p>The NLA Forecourt and Lombardy poplars meet this criterion.</p> <p>Attributes:</p> <p>The NLA Forecourt, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the continuation and complementary nature of the architectural characteristics of the NLA; • the horizontal platform/podium (mimics the horizontal podium and roofline of the NLA); • rectangular and symmetrical plan (complementary to the planning of the NLA in the Parliament House Vista); • the fountain and verticality of the fountain jets; and • the vertical, columnar form (continuation of the colonnades of the NLA), symmetry of the grouping of the Lombardy poplars and their seasonal colour.
Criterion (e) Aesthetic	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the community or cultural group.</i></p> <p>The 2012 Conservation Management Plan for the NLA explains that:</p> <p><i>[T]he building [NLA] is believed to be regarded by the community as being beautiful as a landscape element, though other than the frequent use of the image of the building as a key landscape element of Canberra, no documented evidence addresses this apparent value. ... In the absence of such evidence, no claim can be made under this criterion for the National Library of Australia.⁷</i></p> <p>It is likely that the NLA Forecourt and the poplars, as part of the Parliament House Vista landscape and as a prominent feature of the Lake Burley Griffin foreshore meets this criterion for aesthetic value. However, specific community consultation has not been undertaken and the value the community holds for the aesthetic characteristics of the NLA Forecourt has not been tested.</p> <p>The NLA Forecourt and Lombardy poplars do not meet this criterion as it has not been formally tested.</p>
Criterion (f) Technical Achievement	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.</i></p>

Commonwealth Heritage criteria	Heritage Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria
	<p>The NLA, of which the Forecourt is an integral part, is a landmark feature of Lake Burley Griffin foreshore and the broader cultural landscape of the National Triangle. It occupies a prominent and strategic location within the Triangle.</p> <p>The design of the NLA Forecourt is harmonious with the highly successful execution of the classically-derived architectural proportions of the NLA reflecting the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical style. Also, the landscape planning of the NLA in its setting is an important component within the broader Parliament House Vista, with its strong lines of trees and symmetrical planning that form the National Triangle. The design of the NLA Forecourt, as the indicator of the main entrance to the NLA, created a new cross axis within the National Triangle. This axis is through Enid Lyons Street, Reconciliation Place to the footbridge linking the National Gallery of Australia and the High Court.</p> <p>The design of the NLA Forecourt, as an integral component of the NLA, demonstrates a high degree of creative achievement within the broader significant cultural landscape of the National Triangle and meets this criterion.</p> <p>The NLA Forecourt and Lombardy poplars meets this criterion.</p> <p>Attributes:</p> <p>Key features of the NLA Forecourt including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the horizontal platform/podium; • rectangular and symmetrical plan; • the fountain and verticality of the fountain jets; • the Lombardy poplars; and • the east–west axis (perpendicular to the Land Axis) and views to and from the NLA, through the NLA Forecourt to the footbridge linking the High Court and National Gallery.
Criterion (g) Social	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</i></p> <p>The NLA is valued by the community for its cultural use as a library, its national collections, and its exhibitions.</p> <p>Specific research has not been undertaken to assess the social, or community held values of the NLA Forecourt. However, the public reaction to potential changes recorded in the media is an indication that the site may have social values for the community.</p> <p>The NLA Forecourt and Lombardy poplars do not meet this criterion as it has not been formally tested.</p>
Criterion (h) Significant People	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history.</i></p>

Commonwealth Heritage criteria	Heritage Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria
	<p>The design of the NLA and the NLA Forecourt are associated with Walter Bunning and Noel Potter of Bunning and Madden. The NLA Forecourt is also associated with members of the National Library Building Working Committee, including Richard Clough, landscape architect with the NCDC, and Sir John Overall, Commissioner of the NCDC.</p> <p>The Lombardy poplars are associated with NCDC landscape architect Richard Clough. Clough was responsible for much of the implementation of Canberra's plantings and street trees during the 1960s. He deliberately chose the Lombardy poplar species for the NLA Forecourt.</p> <p>Other associations with significant people include Commonwealth appointed NCDC architect and planner Sir William Holford, and NCDC Commissioner Sir John Overall.</p> <p>The NLA Forecourt and Lombardy poplars meet this criterion.</p> <p>Attributes:</p> <p>The NLA Forecourt including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the horizontal platform; • its rectangular and symmetrical plan; • the fountain and verticality of the fountain jets; and • the Lombardy poplars.
Criterion (i) Indigenous	<p><i>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.</i></p> <hr/> <p>No research into the potential Indigenous values has been undertaken.</p> <p>The NLA Forecourt and Lombardy poplars do not meet this criterion as it has not been formally tested.</p>

3.4.1 Statement of Heritage Significance—2017

The heritage assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria concludes that the NLA Forecourt and the Lombardy poplars are significant for their contribution to the heritage values of the NLA. The poplars are significant as a species planted during the NCDC period throughout Canberra as designed elements of the landscape. The NLA Forecourt meets criteria a, d, f, and h.

The NLA Forecourt was designed as an integral part of the NLA. It was designed to complement the classical styling of the building and to reflect the designed cultural landscape of Canberra and the Parliamentary Zone.

The attributes of the NLA Forecourt which embody the Commonwealth Heritage values are:

- the horizontal platform;
- rectangular and symmetrical plan;
- the fountain and verticality of the fountain jets;
- the species of Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra* 'Italica') (not the individual trees);
- the vertical, columnar form, symmetrical layout of the Lombardy poplars and their seasonal colour; and
- east–west axis (perpendicular to the Land Axis) and views to and from the NLA, through the NLA Forecourt and poplars to the footbridge linking the High Court and the National Gallery.⁸

The specific heritage significance of the Lombardy poplars is:

- Historic value—the ‘species of choice’, selected by Richard Clough of the NCDC, in the original design and development of the forecourt. They have been used historically throughout Canberra and are representative of the NCDC’s period of intense development and urban landscape design representative of the design cultural landscape.
- Architectural characteristic—the formal, column-like appearance and symmetry of the two double rows of Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra* ‘Italica’) plantings in front of the Library and the lawn terrace of the Forecourt reflect and complement the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical style of the NLA. The symmetrical planted trees frame and focus the view to and from the entrance of the Library.
- Landscape setting characteristics—Lombardy poplars are characteristic of Canberra’s early landscape and urban design development and were deliberately selected for their symbolism, appearance, and suitability for the climate.
- Association and contributory value—associated with NCDC period of development in Canberra and a physical reminder of the proposed permanent parliament to be located on the southern shores of Lake Burley Griffin, defining the east end of the NLA’s east–west axis.

Potential Heritage Value

- Aesthetic value—the autumnal colour of the tree’s leaves, the composition off the twin rows of poplars, creating a formal, vertical/columnar symmetry complementary to the architectural characteristics of the NLA, a Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical style building. Noting that the aesthetic value held by the community has not been formally tested under the Commonwealth heritage criteria.

3.5 Endnotes

- ¹ GML Heritage 2006, National Library of Australia Forecourt Heritage Assessment, p 10.
- ² Pearson, M and Marshall, D 2012, National Library of Australia Conservation Management Plan, p 49.
- ³ Pearson, M and Marshall, D, National Library of Australia Heritage Strategy, March 2006, p 6.
- ⁴ Pearson, M and Marshall, D, National Library of Australia Heritage Strategy, March 2006, p 7.
- ⁵ Pearson, M and Marshall, D 2012, National Library of Australia Conservation Management Plan, p 34.
- ⁶ GML Heritage 2006, National Library of Australia Forecourt Heritage Assessment, p 45.
- ⁷ Pearson, M and Marshall, D 2012, National Library of Australia Conservation Management Plan, p 34.
- ⁸ GML Heritage 2006, National Library of Australia Forecourt Heritage Assessment, p 45.

4.0 Recommendations and Management Policies

4.1 Management of the NLA Forecourt

This HA maintains that the NLA Forecourt and the Lombardy poplars have Commonwealth Heritage value. The Forecourt contributes to the heritage values of the NLA and the wider landscape setting of the National Triangle and the Lombardy poplars are intrinsic elements of the Forecourt design and define the east–west axis with the Library to the High Court.

The NLA Forecourt is located within a CHL place (the ‘Parliament House Vista’) and is protected through this listing under the EPBC Act. However, it is not protected as an individual Commonwealth Heritage place. The NCA could consider nominating the Forecourt to the CHL if this increases the existing benefits for the future management of the heritage values.

4.2 Maintenance of the Lombardy Poplars

The Lombardy poplars are in a deteriorating condition and have a finite life expectancy. They are unlikely to return to full strength and character as originally intended. The following policies provide guidance for immediate implementation.

- Ongoing maintenance of the poplars should continue regardless of a future decision about the trees. (Refer to Section 4.3.)
- Maintenance should include increased watering, mulching to the bases of the trees or rows to minimise or eliminate damage to roots and trunks from mowers and whipper-snippers, and regular removal of dead wood to minimise risk to the users of the area.
- Consideration and implementation of the recommendations in the Tree Assessment Report (Appendix A) should be made.

4.3 Future of the Lombardy Poplars

The Tree Assessment Report, included in full at Appendix A, identifies the deteriorating condition of the Lombardy poplars and provides four suggested replacement options for the NCA to consider for future management. The options, summarised below, outline a potential action and suitability in terms of potential heritage impacts.

4.3.1 Option A—Retention of Existing Trees

Option A proposes the full retention of the existing poplars in situ. This can also be considered the ‘**do nothing**’ approach.

As identified in the Tree Assessment Report, Option A is unlikely to improve the health of some of the trees in a poorer condition in the immediate future. Furthermore, the existing condition of the poplars is detracting from the heritage significance of the Forecourt and its landscape setting.

By retaining the existing plantings, it is possible that in the medium to long term, more poplars will die and need to be removed and this would incrementally adversely impact the character of the Forecourt.

Returning the existing poplars to the planned consistent form and verticality would require a long term dedicated maintenance strategy. For example, improved strategic maintenance of the trees would

require increased watering and management of the fragility of the trees, such as by ensuring that the bases of the trees are protected with mulch, particularly during mowing.

Option A is not recommended because the existing trees, their varying condition, health, and structure create an inconsistent aesthetic that detracts from the heritage values of the NLA Forecourt as originally intended. Furthermore, some trees have already been lost with another two likely to die soon and another eight moderately likely to fail (refer to Section 4 of Tree Assessment Report). It is likely that an overhaul in the maintenance regime for the poplars will not return the existing plantings to their intended condition. Furthermore, the age of many of the plantings is such that they would require removal in the short to medium term.

4.3.2 Option B—Partial Retention and Replacement

Option B proposes the retention of healthy and good specimen poplars and the replacement of the deteriorating poplars with new semi-mature Lombardy poplar trees. This can also be considered the **'half/half'** approach.

The removal of poplars in poor health and a deteriorating condition with replacement Lombardy poplars, combined with the retention of good condition existing trees, would aim to regain consistency in terms of the health and condition of the trees. However, the height and structure of all the trees may continue to be mismatched.

This option would retain historically significant trees and require less intervention than complete removal (Option C). However, it is understood from the Tree Assessment Report that the competition between established and new plantings would result in slow and uneven growth with an irregular appearance.

Similar to Option A, this approach would not necessarily regain the heritage significance associated with the original consistent form, structure, and height of all the poplars in the NLA Forecourt.

4.3.3 Option C—Removal and Replacement (with Same Species)

Option C proposes the removal of all the existing poplars and replacement with the same species. This can also be considered the **'start again'** approach.

The aim of this approach is for intensive improvements to the ground through the preparation of soil and suitable long term irrigation infrastructure, allowing for the planting of new and young Lombardy poplars.

As outlined in the Tree Assessment Report, the intended outcome would involve:

- reducing the number of trees per row to allow for more root space;
- ensuring good preparation of the soil with appropriate irrigation and drainage installed increasing the ability for better water coverage;
- ensuring regular maintenance including judicious pruning early in the growth of the trees to create the designed form; and
- mulching the areas at the base of each tree or row so that there can be no impact from mowers and whipper-snippers upon tree roots and trunks.

Replacement with new plantings would cause a temporary disturbance as the young trees would not be fully formed and established. Over time the trees would take on form, coverage, and a consistent proportion originally intended for the NLA and Forecourt.

The Option C approach would regain the heritage values associated with the Lombardy poplars planted in the NLA Forecourt. While it is likely that this approach would result in a temporary disturbance to the character of the Forecourt, the long-term advantage would be healthy, well-formed trees with a long-life expectancy.

4.3.4 Option D—Removal and Replacement with a Different Species

Option D proposes the removal of all the existing poplars and replacement with a different species. It can also be considered a ‘**start over**’ approach.

Option D would result in the removal of all existing poplars and the planting on a new species of tree in the same locations. This action would likely affect the heritage significance of the NLA Forecourt by permanently removing the historically important Lombardy poplars from the landscape. It would also result in a temporary disturbance to the designed character of the Forecourt while the trees mature.

Option D is not a preferred approach as it removes the historical association of Lombardy poplars with the Forecourt and with the landscape plantings throughout the National Triangle.

4.4 Recommended Option

Option C, the removal of existing Lombardy poplars and replacement with the same species, is the preferred approach for the reasons outlined below.

- Replanting new Lombardy poplars provides continuity of the historically important species and would regain the intended design and landscape contribution to the Forecourt.
- New trees and dedicated ground preparation would contribute to healthy, well-structured trees that would take on the form and longevity as originally intended.

Because of the identified heritage values (identified in Section 3.0), the proposed removal of the Lombardy poplars is an activity that could raise concerns with the Canberra community, regardless of the arboricultural reasons included in this report. That noted, a communication plan for managing community consultation and media messaging, and a heritage strategy combined with a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) are recommended.

The NCA has experience in undertaking tree removal, new tree planting and managing community expectations through stakeholder and public consultation. A ‘communication strategy’ would provide a strategy for managing potential community concerns. A HIA would address compliance requirements and could form part of an EPBC Act referral to the Department of the Environment.

A referral under the EPBC Act would be a cautious, yet effective approach for the NCA to take.

4.5 Management Policies

The following management policies apply to the NLA Forecourt and Lombardy poplars for the NCA’s future management.

- Adopt the revised heritage assessment in this report.
- Request that the Australian Heritage Council update the NLA CHL entry to include the heritage values associated with the NLA Forecourt, or nominate the NLA Forecourt to the CHL. Noting that the Commonwealth Heritage values of the Parliament House Vista, its listing, and the obligations under the EPBC Act apply and protect the heritage values of the Forecourt.

- Manage the NLA Forecourt and Lombardy poplars in accordance with the identified heritage values, the EPBC Act and its regulations and the Burra Charter.
- Implement the management policies and maintenance regime included in the tree assessment report for the Lombardy poplars.
- Consider all replacement options presented in Section 4.3, noting that Option 3 would likely have the least impact on heritage values in the long term.
- Undertake a HIA to assess the heritage impacts of actions associated with Option 3 (or another alternative) as selected by the NCA, before proceeding with any works to remove or replace the Lombardy poplars (or any works to the NLA Forecourt).
- Undertake the preparation of a communication strategy that identifies an approach for community consultation and media messaging for the replacement of Lombardy poplars (Option 3).
- Undertake specific stakeholder consultation with groups such as the NLA, Transport Canberra and City Services (ACT Government), the National Trust of Australia (ACT), Guardians of the Lake, Pedal Power ACT, and the Walter Burley Griffin Society. Other stakeholders may be identified by the NCA.
- Undertake consultation to formally test criterion (e) aesthetic value and criterion (g) social value held by the community. If found to meet the threshold for listing under either or each criterion, ensure that the heritage assessment is updated to reflect the changes, and the nomination/CHL listing if applicable.
- If recommended in the HIA, submit a referral under the EPBC Act, accompanied by the HIA and the results of the consultation.
- Ensure appropriately qualified personnel, consultants and contractors are engaged in any assessment of proposed actions or works at the site (such as Option 3) that would impact heritage values.
- Inform contractors in contact with the Lombardy poplars, and the Forecourt generally, of the heritage values, and ensure they do not to undertake any action that may harm those values.

Appendices

Appendix A

Tree Assessment Report, prepared by Canopy Tree Experts (Rev C, 1 February 2017).

Appendix B

Commonwealth Heritage List citations ('National Library of Australia and Surrounds', and 'Parliament House Vista').

Appendix A

Tree Assessment Report, prepared by Canopy Tree Experts (Rev C, 1 February 2017).



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A Report on Assessment of the Lombardy Poplars (*Populus nigra* 'Italica') in the Forecourt of the Australian National Library

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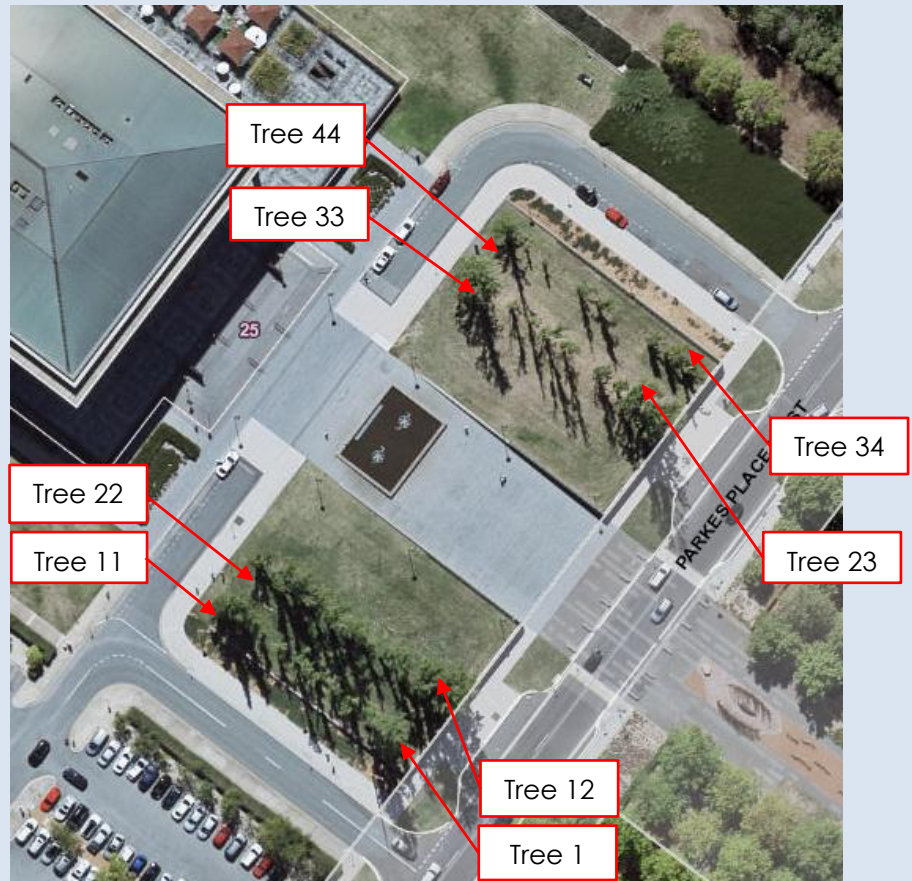


Figure 1 Aerial Image of the National Library Forecourt Poplars (www.actmapi.act.gov.au accessed 9 December 2016, image dated March-April 2016) to indicate the tree numbering used in this report

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1. Species Notes

Populus nigra 'Italica' (Lombardy Poplar) Prepared by Alan Mann

This is a **weed species** in the ACT (more specifically it is a Prohibited Pest Plant under the *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005*).

L D Pryor and J C G Banks

In '*Trees and Shrubs in Canberra*' (Little Hills Press, Canberra 1991) **L D Pryor and J C G Banks** state that this species 'is one of the best known and easily distinguished poplars because of its fastigiated habit and is widely planted around Canberra...It has been cultivated for a very long time in Europe and Asia...it is well adapted to the Canberra climate...It is fast growing and lives to at least 100years. It reaches about 30m with a crown spread of 7 m...it has been planted (in the district) since early settlement. It suckers, especially where its roots are cut or disturbed. It vigorously seeks water and will enter any drain where there is a leak.

David Lonsdale

Says of the 'Populus spp:

In '*Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management*' Sixth Impression (Forestry Commission/The Stationery Office, London 2008) **David Lonsdale** states 'the heartwood of *Populus* spp. is not very durable and is readily colonised by decay fungi when exposed by injury or dieback'.

And...

'Populus spp. generally have wood of low density, and many of them can reach a great size. With this combination of characteristics, specimens exposed to strong winds are often affected by the breakage of tops and branches or the development of permanent bending of the main stem. Extensive decay occurs in pollarded trees and it is essential that they are re-cut periodically so as to prevent the development of excessively long or heavy new growth'.

Roger Spencer

In '*Horticultural Flora of South-eastern Australia Volume 2, Flowering Plants, Dicotyledons, Part1: The identification of Garden and Cultivated Plants*' (UNSW Press 1997), **Roger Spencer** states 'This is a male clone...It is a strongly suckering tree that has naturalised in the Upper Genoa River, Victoria and also in parts of NSW'.

Flemings Nursery

Flemings Nursery wrote of this cultivar:

'The well-known, towering Lombardy poplar is a common sight around rural Australia and New Zealand. It is a fast growing, columnar tree, best restricted to planting as a specimen in large lawn areas in parks and properties or in a row as a large windbreak or screen.

Performs best in moist soils and in full sun, but is quite tolerant of dryer sites and soils of various pH values. Susceptible to poplar rust (*Melampsora* spp.).

Propagated onto minimal-suckering rootstock and will generally not produce suckers unless the roots are damaged. Poor wood compartmentalisation can be a problem. Increasingly being superseded by newer selections and hybrids'.

http://www.flemings.com.au/ornamental_details.asp?CULT_ID=NIGRAPOP (accessed 10 April 2015)

'Poplars are excellent for use in soil conservation areas for erosion control, are tolerant of air pollution and coastal areas and can be used in exposed sites'.

http://www.flemings.com.au/ornamental_listing.asp?variety=Populus (accessed 10 April 2015)

Robert Smart

Robert Smart quotes the following, in '*Berridale Poplar Avenue Tree Assessment and Management Report*' 12 November 2013 Revision A; ARTERRA DESIGN PTY LTD, EPPING NSW

Although the Lombardy Poplar is described as having moderate to good tolerance of site disturbances generally, and is tolerant of minor amounts of fill it is noted as being intolerant to changes in soil moisture and may be susceptible to wind throw. (Matheny and Clark 1998).

Matheny, Nelda P and Clark J.R., 1998, '*Trees and development - a technical guide to preservation of trees during land development*', International Society of Arboriculture, Illinois, USA.

They are also susceptible to multiple pests and diseases particularly stem cankers, leaf spots and rusts, powdery mildew, and poplar borer. Typically they are not recommended due to nuisance factors and hazards due to brittle wood failures and susceptibility to pests (Dirr 2009).

Dirr, M.A 2009, *Manual of woody landscape plants - their identification, ornamental characteristics, culture, propagation and uses*, Stripes Publishing, Champaign Illinois, USA.

My Observations of the species

Following Loehle, C. 1988 who, in the paper 'Tree life history strategies: the role of defences' in the Canadian Journal of Forest Research 18:209-222, described two broad patterns by which trees allocate resources such as carbohydrate and mineral elements according to broad developmental strategies known as their life history pattern.

I see Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra* 'Italica') as a good example of the life history pattern that favours fast growth with little long term investment in defence components, such as dense wood, thick bark and strong compartmentalization (a defensive response against disease, insect attack or decay entering through physical damage). The trees of this species typically grow fast and die young, living only as long as:

- They can outgrow organisms that threaten them such as decay organisms that infect them (through wounds and dead branch stubs) and disease organisms;
- Conditions are good enough for them to source adequate water for their size and growth.

When grown in good conditions, which mainly means ample water, trees of this species can outgrow its 'attackers' well enough to survive beyond 100 years despite having the life history strategy of 'spending' little on self-defence'.

However, if the trees are stressed, usually through drought which needs to be measured against their high water demands, or if they experience significant damage, decay becomes an important factor leading to die back, branch failure and wind throw. Wind throw fairly regularly occurs as a result of root damage due the propensity for major roots to grow on, or close to, the soil surface and traffic or mowers inflict wounds which cause decay that can become extreme and lead to lower trunk or root plate failure.

2. General Observations

Health

At present the foliage is free from disease and shows every sign of growing vigorously hence the health of all trees has been assessed as 'Good'. There may be some contention with this assessment as many of the trees currently have some foliage dying back. As this die back is adjacent to the lop-points¹ or already dead branches, it is likely to be as a consequence of the proximity to these rather than to poor general health of the tree.

There is ample evidence from the die-back of the trees that the trees' health has not been good in the recent past. The die-back of the trees is generally worse the closer they are to the high north retaining wall, which is also where the soil level has been raised most above the surrounding natural level.



Figure 2 This image of the northern row, adjacent to the high retaining wall, is from Google maps street view, accessed 11 December 2016 but dated Dec 2007, shows that the trees were in quite good condition at that time.

Structure

The structure of the trees is mostly quite good although it is less so for the trees showing more die back. Structural defects present in some of the trees that may be hazardous are:

- The presence of deadwood, which may fall,
- The presence of decay in the trunks, which could cause failure.

¹ Points where branches have been removed other than at branch unions. In this case the lopping is probably due to deadwood removal where the upper sections of the trees have died back due to drought.

Surprisingly no extensive decay was detected in the mower damaged roots contrary to expectations, it being a common problem in Lombardy Poplars that sometimes leads to wind throw.

The few trees that had multiple leaders did not show signs of structural problems at the forks.

The Environment

The lawn area in which the trees are situated was quite dry (Figure 8) at the time of this assessment even though there has been ample rain this year; however, it has been mostly dry for the last few weeks. The current irrigation regime applies water over the site through an in-ground irrigation system with standard pop-up gear driven sprinklers. The system was running for 30 minutes per day five days per week. This appears to be insufficient to maintain the lawn and trees in healthy condition. The NCA has increased the operation of the system to 60 minutes per day five days per week.

The natural slope of the area is down to the east and to the north. Retaining walls are around the lawn area to produce a more or less level area. The walls phase out in the south east corner and are highest in the northeast corner. There are no retaining walls on the western side. The lawn area is split into two by a broad sloping path down the 'central axis'. Retaining walls are also present beside this path to ensure the near level area for the lawn and Poplar plantings.

There are deep drainage sumps adjacent to the eastern wall between the rows.

Some root suckers of Lombardy Poplar can be seen emerging in the garden area outside the southern retaining wall, but generally the forecourt is free of root suckers.

Falling Branches

There had been moderately strong winds in the days before the assessment which resulted in there being an amount of debris from the trees on the lawns. This was exclusively small live branches (Figure 7) and small deadwood. The deadwood was mostly light and broken into pieces presumably at the impact with the ground.

3. Discussion/ Conclusions

Suitability of the Lombardy Poplar for this Use

The 'weed' (Pest Plant) status of the cultivar does not affect its suitability for use in this area as it is a dioecious plant with only the male clone occurring in Australia (Roger Spencer, as quoted in the 'Species Notes' above), therefore it will not spread by seed. It is a weed because it spreads by root suckers. In a highly maintained area such as this, this problem is averted by constant de-suckering the area.

It is the high water requirements that mostly make this species unsuited to this use. In the past a higher level of irrigation seems to have been available and the trees survived quite well, however construction works and a relatively low water regime may have been responsible for some of the decline that is observed.

The fragility of the wood of the poplars, which can be seen from the branches (twigs) that had fallen in the days before this assessment, might be a reason for assuming that the cultivar is an unwise choice for public places; however there are a number of factors that ameliorate the risk:

- The observed fallen branches are small and unlikely to cause significant harm;
- The observed fallen branches tend to be those that have grown out from the fastigate form as the trees mature and broaden, a problem that could be managed by occasionally pruning out of this type of branch: this would be in keeping with the original concept of columnar plantings.
- It is likely that the fragility is less of a problem if the trees are actively growing. That is they require a continual good supply of water and well drained soils;
- The fragility does not cause the great risk to public safety as it might seem, as the lawns are generally unoccupied, although occasionally used by picnickers (personal communication - Duncan MacLennan). In the time that it took to do this assessment not one person ventured onto the lawns. The path ways are generally further from the trees than the drop zone for breaking branches as these are generally of small and short nature.

The cultivar is likely to be less likely to be appropriate in the future as the climate dries, particularly if irrigation is less used in broad areas in the National Capital area.

Risk

As indicated above the fragility of the trees does not cause high probability of injury or damage.

There is the possibility of whole tree wind throw which may cause impact with persons, infrastructure or vehicles but these should be pre-empted by regular arboricultural inspection. The current inspection identified two trees (30 & 42) that were decayed enough to indicate that wind-throw or failure at points low in the trunks is possible. These could be removed or monitored. The particular trees identified are not of great concern as they are short and unlikely to affect regularly occupied areas in the case of such failure.

Factors contributing to the decline of the Poplars

The Millennium Drought (also called The Big Dry <http://www.ecology.com/2012/05/17/after-big-dry-drought-canberra-transformed/>) from 1997- 2009 undoubtedly contributed to the trees' die-back and decline. It is unfortunate that the replacement of the retaining walls occurred late in that period (2008) which caused the loss of a significant amount of absorptive roots particularly on the northeast corner and elsewhere where the walls are highest. A Tree Management Plan was prepared for some of this work that recommended irrigation be used to compensate for this root loss. It is likely that that part of the plan was not implemented.

The landscaping consisting of raised lawn areas does not supply more natural rainwater than actually falls on the lawn and this may drain off quite quickly as there are drainage sumps at the low points of the lawns.

It is not known what the nature of the soil used to raise the area was but this may also be a factor.

The Continuing Die Back of Branches

The observed continuing die back that is present even though the trees display generally good health following the better than average rainfall so far this year, is associated with the not very durable nature of the heartwood of poplars. This allows colonisation by decay fungi when exposed by pruning, injury or dieback. The continuing die back occurs adjacent to dead branches or pruning cuts where fungal penetration is likely.

Possible Management of the Poplars into the future

It is noted that GML Heritage's Report provides 4 options. Some discussion of the 4 options from the arboricultural point of view is warranted.

Option A – Retention of existing trees

It seems unlikely that the amount of water required to return most of these trees to good condition is going to be available.

Even if the water were to be available, the dieback of those trees that are affected seems likely to continue as the infection points for fungal decay and die back are present due to the damage that has already occurred. The comment by David Lonsdale, quoted in the 'Species Notes' above, that 'the heartwood of *Populus spp.* is not very durable and is readily colonised by decay fungi when exposed by injury or dieback' is relevant here. It is generally possible in most tree species to reduce the risk of such colonisation by decay fungi by improving the growing conditions, but the observations on site and the species notes indicate that it is not completely the case with poplars.

The indications are that retaining and managing these trees would entail managing the gradual decline of most of the trees, the exception being those that have not yet shown any dieback and have not been subjected to pruning. This would result in trees of various sizes and shapes which would not reflect the regular columnar appearance of the rows which was one of the reasons for this cultivar's selection for use here.

Any proposal to prune out the wider branches and of shortening the taller trees to achieve a more uniform appearance seems fraught as that would inflict more wounds on the trees thereby creating more points for colonisation by decay fungi.

A proposal to remove of some trees, say, every second tree, to increase the root space available for each retained tree has some merit in that it would probably improve the general health of the retained trees and emphasise the columnar appearance of the individual trees, but appears to be unlikely to prevent full decline of the worst affected trees.

Option B—Partial Retention and Replacement

This is an option if the heritage value of the existing trees is more important than the value of a uniform columnar appearance per se or a uniform planting of this cultivar.

The competition between the well-established trees and new plantings would mean that the new plantings will suffer a slow and uneven growth rate so that the non-uniform size and appearance of the trees will be likely to continue indefinitely.

The removal and non-replacement of some of the trees to achieve more space per tree, as discussed in option 1, would assist in achieving better growth of the new plantings.

Another option could be to use the partial replacement as a step on the way to achieving a full replacement with a program of further removals and replacements to follow once some growth of the new plantings is achieved. This again would mean having a non-uniform appearance for some time.

Option C—Removal and Replacement with same species

The most practical approach for the future seems to be the removal and replacement particularly given the ever increasing cost and need for repeated deadwood removal that is now a fact. (Personal communication – Duncan MacLennan)

This would have a number of advantages:

- It would allow the spacing between trees to be changed, provided that the current spacing is not an important heritage consideration, thereby allowing better and more uniform growth of the individual trees;
- It would allow good preparation of the soil and appropriate irrigation and drainage to be installed;
- It would produce a landscape that is more reminiscent of the original landscape as the younger trees tend to be more narrowly columnar than the older trees;
- It would allow some judicious pruning to create the desired form by pruning out twin leaders and major forks while the trees are very young. This should give less risk of fungal colonisation than pruning of older trees does.

The problem with this option is that it assumes that the high water requirement of the cultivar can be addressed.

A possible variation of this could be to grow the replacement trees in large containers that could be dropped in when the trees are large enough to give the intended appearance. It may be possible to have a program with replacement trees ready to be 'dropped-in' at a later time².

Option D—Removal and Replacement with a different species

There are a number of tree species for which fastigiate cultivars available.

These include the deciduous trees: *Liriodendron tulipifera* 'Fastigiata', *Fagus sylvatica* 'Dawyck' (3 different leaf colours), *Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata', *Ginkgo biloba* 'Princeton Sentry', *Populus tremuloides* 'Erecta', *Betula platyphylla* 'Fargo' (Dakota Pinnacle), *Acer Platanoides* 'Columnare', *Prunus cerasifera* 'Oakville Crimson Spire', *Quercus robur* 'Fastigiata' (Figure 13) and *Quercus palustris* 'Pinegreen' Green Pillar® (Figure 12).

Most of these have higher water needs than would be practical. The best of these in terms of dry tolerance would be the *Quercus robur* 'Fastigiata' but it tends to be narrow conical rather than narrow columnar. There is a form of this called *Quercus robur* 'Fastigiata Koster' which appears to be more columnar but its availability in Australia is doubtful. The *Quercus palustris* 'Pinegreen' Green Pillar® may be quite good but has not been extensively grown in Australia as yet so it may prove not to be as dry tolerant as the parent species, or may not age to be as narrow columnar as it ages as it appears to be when young. It does hold many of its leaves over the winter which may not be a required look.

There are also a number of evergreen conifers that are columnar to varying degrees. The pick of these is probably *Cupressus sempervirens* 'Swane's Golden' (The Golden Italian Cypress) (Figure 14) which tends to remain quite columnar and to be reasonably drought hardy.

The choice of a replacement species will be a balance between matching the original criteria and establishing what level of irrigation will be available in future.

² I came up with this idea while travelling in the Bega Valley and observing that the younger trees were more distinctly narrow columnar at the scale of the NLA building whilst the large trees only give that appearance when viewed from the distance.

Possible Management of the Poplars into the future

Regardless of species selected some management changes could be adopted to enhance the longevity of the plantings:

- Reduction of the number of trees per row to give the trees more root space;
- Increasing irrigation during dry periods and in summer;
- Redesigning the area to ensure as much retention of rainfall water on the site as is possible;
- Mulching an area around each tree or row so that there can be no conflict between mowers and whipper-snippers with the tree trunks.

4. Tree Assessment³

Tree No.	Height	Canopy Spread				Health	Structure	TQC	Comments	Risk Assessment ⁴			Circ. ⁴⁹⁷⁰	TPZ ⁴⁹⁷⁰ Radius	D10 ^{TPZ}	SRZ ⁴⁹⁷⁰ Radius	Tree No.
		North	East	South	West					Risk of Failure	Risk to Property	Risk of Injury					
1	9	0	2	0	0	Good	Good	Medium	New planting; leaning to east due to shading, large wound in the base - (repeated wounding), no decay as yet, no lopping as yet	Low	Low	Low	0.40	1.5	1.0	1.80	1
2	26	4	6	2	2	Good	Good	High	Mower wounds to roots at root flare, no decay as yet, many branches hanging out of form, minor deadwood, no lopping as yet	Low	High	Moderate	2.13	8.1	5.5	3.04	2
3	21	1	3	1	1	Good	Fair	Medium	Mower wounds to roots at root flare, no decay as yet, some branches hanging out of form, minor deadwood, one major branch lopped	Low	Moderate	Moderate	1.22	4.7	3.1	2.40	3
4	11	1	1	4	3	Good	Fair	Low	Several mower wounds to roots at root flare and trunk, no decay as yet, some branches hanging out of form, minor deadwood, crown lopped at 2m above top live shoot, continues to die back despite good health otherwise	Low	Low	Low	1.17	4.5	3.0	2.36	4
5	8	1	1	4	1	Good	Fair	Low	Old mower wounds to trunk, some branches hanging out of form, minor deadwood, crown lopped at 1m below top shoot, small patch of decay around an old branch stub, Ash tree growing at base	Low	Low	Low	1.05	4.0	2.7	2.26	5
6	16	1	1	2	1	Good	Fair	Low	2 mower wounds to roots at root flare, no decay as yet, many branches hanging out of form, minor deadwood, main stem dead 3m below top live tip -will need lopping, continues to die back despite good health otherwise	Moderate	Low	Low	1.09	4.2	2.8	2.29	6
7	20	1	2	4	1	Good	Fair	Low	Some mower wounds to roots at root flare, no decay as yet, many branches hanging out of form, minor deadwood, side branches have been lopped	Low	Moderate	Moderate	1.12	4.3	2.9	2.32	7
8	10	1	2	2	1	Good	Fair	Low	Some mower wounds to roots at root flare, no decay as yet, many branches hanging out of form, minor deadwood, main stem lopped 3m above top live tip -will need re-logging, continues to die back despite good health otherwise	Low	Low	Low	1.09	4.2	2.8	2.29	8
9	9	1	1	2	1	Good	Fair	Low	Some mower wounds to roots at root flare, a moderate patch of decay in lower south side of trunk, many branches hanging out of form, minor deadwood, main stem lopped 0.5m above top live tip, continues to die back despite good health otherwise	Low	Low	Low	1.41	5.4	3.6	2.55	9
10	19	3	2	4	2	Good	Good	Medium	Some mower wounds to roots at root flare, no decay as yet, many branches hanging out of form, minor deadwood	Low	Moderate	Moderate	1.08	4.1	2.8	2.28	10
11	19	4	3	5	4	Good	Good	High	Some mower wounds to roots at root flare, a wound on trunk, no decay as yet, many branches hanging out of form, very minor deadwood, no lopping as yet, mower damage to roots in lawn.	Low	High	High	1.70	6.5	4.4	2.76	11
12	27	7	4	2	6	Good	Good	High	Some mower wounds to roots at root flare and to roots in lawn, no decay as yet, except in roots, many branches hanging out of form, minor deadwood, some lopping of side branches	Low	High	High	3.62	13.8	9.3	3.79	12
13	27	4	2	3	3	Good	Fair	High	Some mower wounds to roots at root flare and to roots in lawn, no decay as yet, except in roots, many branches hanging out of form, minor de, twin leader structure but o indication of poor bonding between	Low	Moderate	Moderate	1.79, 1.33	8.5	5.7	3.09	13
14	19	5	2	4	1	Good	Fair	Medium	Some mower wounds to roots at root flare, no decay as yet, many branches hanging out of form, minor deadwood, twin leader structure but no indication of poor bonding between- however there were old fruiting bodies in the fork, recent branch death despite good health otherwise	Moderate	Low	Low	1.01, 0.65	4.6	3.1	2.39	14
15	18	1	1	1	1	Good	Fair	Low	Some mower wounds to roots at root flare, no decay as yet, some branches hanging out of form, some dieback at top despite good health otherwise, no lopping as yet	Low	Low	Low	1.08	4.1	2.8	2.28	15

³ See Appendix 1 for an explanation of the terms used in this assessment

⁴ The Risk to Property and Risk of Injury are indications of likely consequence if failure does occur and not the overall risk

Tree No.	Height	Canopy Spread				Health	Structure	TQC	Comments	Risk Assessment ⁴			Circ. ⁴⁹⁷⁰	TPZ ⁴⁹⁷⁰ Radius	D10 ^{TPZ}	SRZ ⁴⁹⁷⁰ Radius	Tree No.
		North	East	South	West					Risk of Failure	Risk to Property	Risk of Injury					
16	10	1	2	1	1	Good	Fair	Low	Some wounds due to sucker removal - damage to roots at root flare, possible minor decay on north side of base, some branches hanging out of form, some minor deadwood, no lopping as yet but top is dead and continues to die back despite good health	Low	Low	Low	0.70	2.7	1.8	1.90	16
17	20	3	3	1	1	Good	Good	Medium	Some mower wounds to roots at root flare, no decay as yet, some branches hanging out of form, some deadwood, no lopping as yet	Low	Low	Low	1.28	4.9	3.3	2.50	17
18	23	5	2	2	4	Good	Fair	Medium	Some mower wounds to roots at root flare, no decay as yet, some branches hanging out of form, some major deadwood, no lopping as yet, twin leader from fork at 2m - no indication of weakness in the fork	Moderate	Low	Low	2.14	8.2	5.5	3.00	18
19	18	3	1	1	1	Good	Fair	Low	Some mower wounds to roots at root flare, no decay as yet, some minor deadwood, no lopping visible but shape suggests it has been	Low	Low	Low	0.94	3.6	2.4	2.20	19
20	22	6	1	2	1	Good	Good	Medium	Some mower wounds to roots at root flare, no decay as yet, many branches hanging out of form, minor deadwood, some dieback at of side twigs despite good health otherwise, some lopping of side branches	Low	Low	Low	1.46, 0.70	6.2	4.2	2.71	20
21	21	4	3	3	1	Good	Fair	Medium	Some mower wounds to roots at root flare, no decay as yet, many branches hanging out of form, minor de, twin leader structure but no indication of poor bonding between, Lopping of some side branches and minor dieback continues despite good health overall	Low	Moderate	Moderate	1.28	4.9	3.3	2.45	21
22	10	3	1	1	1	Fair	Fair	Low	Some mower wounds to roots at root flare, no decay as yet, many branches hanging out of form, minor deadwood, has been extensively lopped, continues to die back from lop	Low	Moderate	Moderate	1.40, 0.58, 0.71	6.4	4.3	2.74	22
23	26	2	6	5	2	Good	Fair	Low	Some minor damage to the root flare but no decay as yet, extensively lopped due to dieback, privet growing at base, continues to dieback despite otherwise good health, large deadwood present	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	3.01	11.5	7.7	3.51	23
24	26	4	2	5	2	Good	Fair	Low	Some damage to the root flare but no decay as yet, extensively lopped due to dieback, continues to dieback despite otherwise good health, large deadwood present	Low	Moderate	Moderate	2.43	9.3	6.2	3.21	24
25	16	1	1	1	1	Good	Fair	Low	Some damage to the root flare but no decay as yet, extensively lopped due to dieback, continues to dieback despite otherwise good health, deadwood present, deadwood above top live tip	Moderate	Low	Low	1.22	4.7	3.1	2.40	25
26	16	2	2	2	1	Good	Fair	Low	Some damage to the root flare but no decay as yet, lopped due to dieback, continues to dieback despite otherwise good health, deadwood present, deadwood above top live tip	Moderate	Low	Low	1.78	6.8	4.6	2.81	26
27									Tree is missing								27
28	18	1	1	1	1	Good	Fair	Low	Some damage to the root flare but no decay as yet, lopped due to dieback, continues to dieback despite otherwise good health, deadwood present, deadwood above top live tip	Moderate	Low	Low	1.21	4.6	3.1	2.39	28
29	23	1	1	1	1	Good	Fair	Low	Some damage to the root flare but no decay as yet, lopped due to dieback, continues to dieback despite otherwise good health, deadwood present, deadwood above top live tip, some cambium death on west side of trunk at 2-2.5m above ground level	Moderate	Low	Low	1.62	6.2	4.2	2.71	29
30	12	1	1	1	1	Good	Fair	Poor	Some damage to the root flare, extensive decay on lower north side of trunk, lopped due to dieback, otherwise good health	High	Low	Low	1.34	5.1	3.4	2.50	30
31	14	1	1	1	1	Good	Fair	Low	Some damage to the root flare due mowers, lopped due to dieback, some cambial death on west side of trunk at 0.5m above ground level.	Low	Low	Low	1.72	6.6	4.4	2.77	31
32									Tree is missing								32
33	26	5	5	7	6	Good	Fair	Medium	Some damage to the root flare due mowers, some branches lopped due to dieback deadwood present	Low	Moderate	Moderate	2.10	8.0	5.4	3.02	33
34	7	2	3	4	3	Good	Poor	Poor	Some damage to the root flare due mowers, extensively lopped due to dieback, remaining top trunk continues to dieback, deadwood present, branches continue to dieback despite otherwise good health	Low	Low	Low	2.50	9.6	6.4	3.25	34

Tree No.	Height	Canopy Spread				Health	Structure	TQC	Comments	Risk Assessment ⁴			Circ. ⁴⁹⁷⁰	TPZ ⁴⁹⁷⁰ Radius	D10 ^{TPZ}	SRZ ⁴⁹⁷⁰ Radius	Tree No.
		North	East	South	West					Risk of Failure	Risk to Property	Risk of Injury					
35	9	1	4	1	1	Good	Fair	Low	Some damage to the root flare due mowers, lopped due to dieback, some branches continue to dieback despite otherwise good health, deadwood present	Low	Low	Low	1.16	4.4	3.0	2.35	35
36	8	2	1	1	1	Good	Fair	Low	Some damage to the root flare due mowers, side branches lopped due to dieback, deadwood present, some branches continue to dieback despite otherwise good health	Low	Low	Low	1.21	4.6	3.1	2.39	36
37									Tree is missing								37
38									Tree is missing								38
39	11	3	1	1	1	Good	Fair	Low	Some damage to the root flare due mowers, extensively lopped due to dieback, minor deadwood present, trunk probably hollow	Low	Low	Low	1.10	4.2	2.8	2.30	39
40	9	1	2	1	1	Good	Fair	Low	Some damage to the root flare due mowers, extensively lopped due to dieback, minor deadwood present, some branches continue to dieback despite otherwise good health	Low	Low	Low	1.32	5.0	3.4	2.48	40
41									Tree is missing								41
42	5	1	1	1	1	Fair	Poor	Poor	Some damage to the root flare due mowers, extensive decay in lower trunk, extensively lopped due to dieback, minor deadwood present, this tree could be pushed over by hand, branches continue to dieback despite otherwise good health	Very High	Low	Low	0.92	3.5	2.4	2.13	42
43									Tree is missing								43
44	19	3	1	1	1	Good	Fair	Low	Some damage to the root flare due mowers, side branches extensively lopped due to dieback, minor deadwood present, branch dieback continues despite otherwise good health	Low	Moderate	Moderate	1.66	6.3	4.3	2.73	44

5. Photos
Southern row



Tree 11



Tree 10



Tree 9



Tree 8



Tree 7



Tree 6



Tree 5



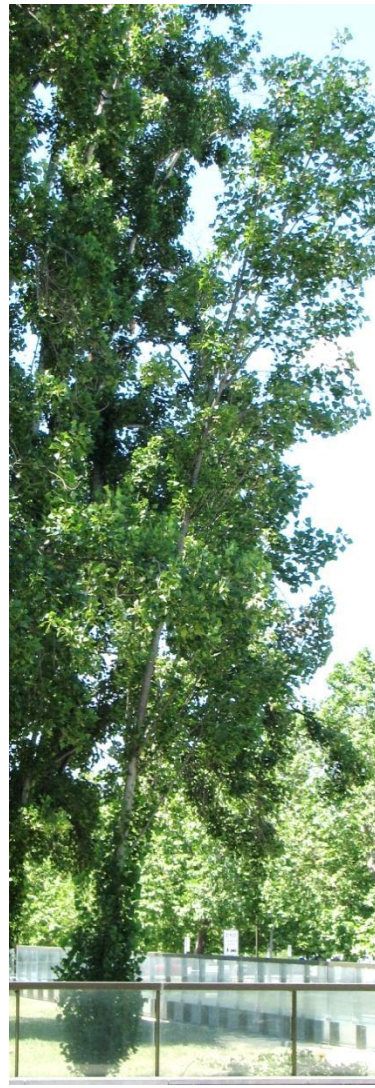
Tree 4



Tree 3



Tree 2



Tree 1

Second row from South



Tree 12



Tree 13



Tree 14



Tree 15



Tree 16



Tree 17



Tree 18



Tree 19



Tree 20



Tree 21



Tree 22

Second row from North



Tree 33



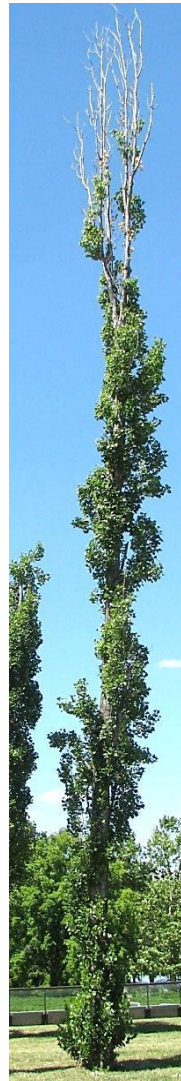
Tree 31



Tree 30



Tree 29



Tree 28



Tree 26



Tree 25

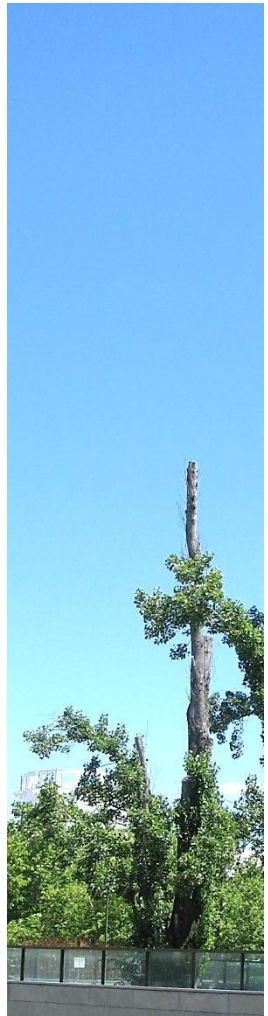


Tree 24



Tree 23

Northern row



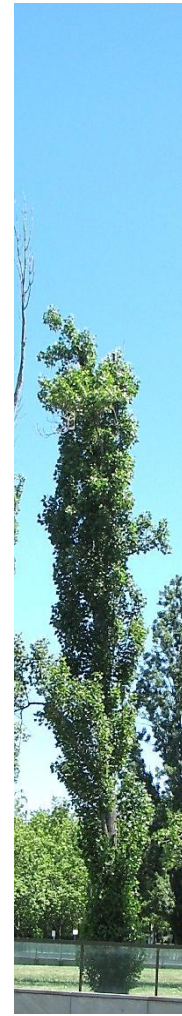
Tree 34



Tree 35



Tree 36



Tree 39



Tree 40



Tree 42



Tree 44

6. Photo Gallery



Figure 3 Decay has entered an old wound caused by mower impact. There are many new wounds in the trees from recent mower impact and whipper snipper use.



Figure 4 Extensive decay in the base of tree 42



Figure 5 The decay that led to the hollowing out of this cut-off sucker is illustrative of the type of heartwood rot that causes the die back of branches near damaged wood in these poplars



Figure 6 Mower damage to a surface root and suckering from the root.



Figure 7 The fallen debris from the winds in the week preceding the assessment consisted of small live branches and deadwood.



Figure 8 Three dryer weeks has taken its toll on the 'lawn'. It is indicative of the problems faced by the Poplars which have a high water requirement.



Figure 9 The walkway down the central axis of the forecourt showing the slope and the retaining wall that creates a near level planting area for the poplars.



Figure 10 The NE corner where the retaining wall is highest, the trees suffered more root loss during the wall replacement and the trees are suffering most.



Figure 11 Suckers invading the shrub bed outside the southern retaining wall.



Figure 12 *Quercus palustris* 'Pinegren Pillar'

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Quercus_palustris_'Pringreen'.jpg



Figure 13 A group of *Quercus robur* 'Fastigiata' at the former Village Creek School site



Figure 14 *Cupressus sempervirens* 'Swanes Golden'

Appendix 1 Explanations of Terms Used in the Tree Assessments

This Assessment form has been developed to conform to the requirements of The 'Notifiable Instrument NI2007-422', and; The AS4970-2009 'Protection of trees on development sites'

1. Tree Number

These are unique sequential identification numbers allocated to the trees located on the block. The numbers are allocated on the drawing on the title page.

2. Species

The binomial species name and a common name are given.

3. Height

The tree height expressed in metres to the nearest metre. Tree Heights were estimated or measured using a clinometer from a 15 or 20m offset. A clinometer was used to confirm the estimates for some trees

4. Canopy Spread

Canopy radii were taken at 90° intervals starting at north

The four radial canopy diameters are shown (in meters) in the 'Directional Canopy Radii' table.

5. Health

Is an indication of the tree's health and vigour. It has been judged against the following range:

Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor, or Very Poor

General comments on the tree's health and vigour, and specific comments on evidence of **insect** infestation or **disease** presence in the tree may be included.

6. Structure

The structural integrity of the tree. It has been judged against the following range:

Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor, or Very Poor

General comments on the tree's structure and specific comments on evidence of **Root Zone Disturbance** and **Structural Damage** to the tree will be included in the **Comments Column**

7. Stage

Growth stage is classified as one of the following:

J -Juvenile, **EM** -Early Mature, **M** -Mature, or **V** -Veteran

This is required under the AS 4970-2009 but is not very definitive as trees don't necessarily follow a set time frame of aging.

8. Tree Quality Classification

Poor – A poor quality tree is of poor structure or health or is likely to represent a significant safety hazard

Low - A tree that does not have significant amenity value at the time of the assessment.

Medium - A medium quality tree is one of reasonable form, structure and health and is not likely to represent a significant safety hazard.

High – A high quality tree is one that is of good form and condition and without structural defect. It should not represent a significant hazard.

Exceptional- A tree may be considered exceptional on the basis that it is an important part of the landscape due to factors such as prominence of location, contribution to the surrounding landscape and its general appearance. An exceptional tree should be free of any defects that cannot be addressed by

remedial treatment. A tree may also be assessed as being exceptional for its botanic, scientific and cultural and natural heritage values.

These classifications are based on the guidelines in the 'Draft Guidelines for the Preparation of Tree Management Reports for Development on unleased Territory Land 2004 Draft'.

9. Comments

Any comments that are relevant are recorded in this column especially those related to health and structure

10. Risk Assessment

Three aspects of the risk assessment were each independently allocated a rating from

Very Low, through **Low**, **Moderate**, **High**, to **Very High**.

Risk of Failure represents the risk of actual failure of branches, roots or trunk leading to falling of part, or the entire tree without any input as to the possibility of it contacting a person or property.

Risk to Property represents the risk of property damage occurring if tree failure occurs and includes an element of the likely seriousness of that damage.

Risk of Injury represents the risk of personal injury occurring if tree failure occurs and includes an element of the likely seriousness of that injury.

As these are subjective the classifications are of little value for comparisons of risks from other sources.

11. Circ⁴⁹⁷⁰

Trunk Circumference (for calculation of the Tree Protection Zone as per AS4970-2009 = TPZ⁴⁹⁷⁰) (Australian Standards 2009) is the trunk circumference at 1.4m above ground level (AGL), is expressed in millimetres and lists the individual trunk circumferences if there are more than 1 trunk at that height. These are used to calculate the DBH and subsequently the Radius TPZ⁴⁹⁷⁰. Where there is more than one trunk at 1.4 m AGL then the DBH is calculated by the formula presented in AS4970-2009. (Branches, c.f. trunks, are not included).

12. Radius TPZ⁴⁹⁷⁰

The radius of the Tree Protection Zone as recommended by the AS4970-2009

13. D10^{TPZ}

The distance from the trunk to a straight line excavation past the trunk that would excise 10% of the TPZ⁴⁹⁷⁰. This is an indication of how much root loss may occur but should be interpreted in conjunction with on-site observations as to where active absorptive roots are likely to be, species knowledge and water availability.

14. SRZ⁴⁹⁷⁰ Radius

The radius of the Structural Root Zone as recommended by the AS4970-2009

Appendix B

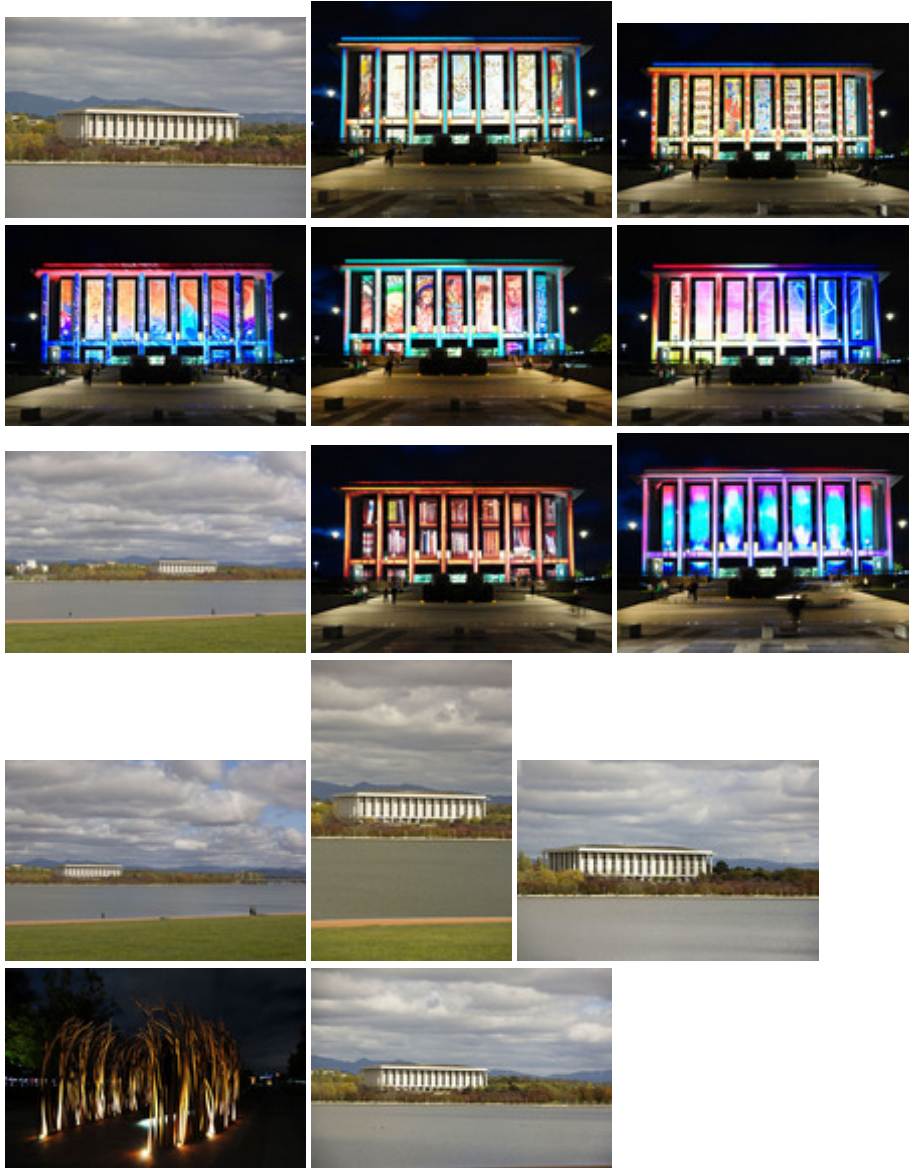
Commonwealth Heritage List citations ('National Library of Australia and Surrounds', and 'Parliament House Vista').

Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

National Library of Australia and Surrounds, Parkes Pl, Parkes, ACT, Australia

Photographs



List	Commonwealth Heritage List
Class	Historic
Legal Status	Listed place (22/06/2004)
Place ID	105470
Place File No	8/01/000/0073

Summary Statement of Significance

The National Library is part of the significant cultural landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle. It occupies a prominent and strategic location on the western side of the Triangle, making it one of Canberra's landmark features. Its harmonious proportions are accentuated by its reflection in the surface of the lake. Along with several later buildings that front the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin, the National Library contributes to the planned aesthetic qualities of the Parliamentary Triangle (Criteria F.1 and E.1, Australian Historic Theme 8.10.4: Designing and Building Fine Buildings).

The library has a richness of cultural features and is important for housing Australia's valuable book collections, manuscripts, printed materials, films, tape recordings, paintings and other treasures. Fine craftsmanship is evident in the internal and exterior details. Built into the building are major artworks by Tom Bass and Leonard French (Criteria A3 and F1, Australian Historic Theme 8.10.3: Creating literature).

The National Library, constructed during the period 1961-1968, the first of the permanent purpose built buildings in the Parliamentary Triangle, fulfils a Federation goal that commenced in 1901, to house a major national institution (Criterion A4, Australian Historic Theme 4.3: Developing Institutions, 7.4: Federating Australia)

The National Library of Australia is a good example of the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical style and one of the few relatively intact Canberra examples. Key features of this style displayed by the building include the symmetrical facade treatment, horizontal skyline, regular bays of vertical proportion, colonnade, use of columns without bases or capitals and the use of a broad horizontal member at the roof line echoing classical entablature (Criterion D.2).

The National Library is highly valued by the community for its cultural use as a library, for its national collections and for its exhibitions (Criterion G1).

The building is regarded as one of the finest works of the Australian architect Walter Bunning (Criterion H1)

Official Values

Criterion A Processes

The library has a richness of cultural features and is important for housing Australia's valuable book collections, manuscripts, printed materials, films, tape recordings, paintings and other treasures.

The National Library, constructed during the period 1961-1968, the first of the permanent purpose built buildings in the Parliamentary Triangle, fulfils a Federation goal that commenced in 1901, to house a major national institution.

Attributes

The whole building for being the repository of many of Australia's valuable books, its rich collection of cultural features, plus its setting and location within the Parliamentary Triangle.

Criterion D Characteristic values

The National Library of Australia is a good example of the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical style and one of the few relatively intact Canberra examples. Key features of this style displayed by the building include the symmetrical facade treatment, horizontal skyline, regular bays of vertical proportion, colonnade, use of columns without bases or capitals and the use of a broad horizontal member at the roof line echoing classical entablature.

Attributes

Its Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical style evidenced in the features outlined above.

Criterion E Aesthetic characteristics

The National Library is part of the significant cultural landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle. It occupies a prominent and strategic location on the western side of the Triangle, making it one of Canberra's landmark features. Its harmonious proportions are accentuated by its reflection in the surface of the lake. Along with several later buildings that front the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin, the National Library contributes to the planned aesthetic qualities of the Parliamentary Triangle.

Attributes

Its prominence, location and proportions in the context of the other southern foreshore buildings and in its planned setting within the Parliamentary Triangle adjacent the lake, and as a Canberra landmark.

Criterion F Technical achievement

The National Library is part of the significant cultural landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle. It occupies a prominent and strategic location on the western side of the Triangle, making it one of Canberra's landmark features. Its harmonious proportions are accentuated by its reflection in the surface of the lake. Along with several later buildings that front the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin, the National Library contributes to the planned aesthetic qualities of the Parliamentary Triangle.

Fine craftsmanship is evident in the internal and exterior details. Built into the building are major artworks by Tom Bass and Leonard French.

Attributes

Its fine craftsmanship plus its prominence, location and proportions in the context of the other southern foreshore buildings and in its planned setting within the Parliamentary Triangle adjacent the lake, and as a Canberra landmark.

Criterion G Social value

The National Library is highly valued by the community for its cultural use as a library, for its national collections and for its exhibitions

Attributes

Its use as a public library with the particular attributes being the publicly accessible parts of the building.

Criterion H Significant people

The building is regarded as one of the finest works of the Australian architect Walter Bunning.

Attributes

The building's architectural design.

Description

History

The National Library began after the creation of the Commonwealth in 1901 as part of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library. In 1960 it was created as a statutory body separate from the Parliamentary Library. The

National Library of Australia building was designed by Walter Bunning of Bunning and Madden, in association with T E O'Mahoney in 1964-68. The building was opened in 1968 by Sir John Gorton. It cost \$8 million to build and a further \$600,000 to furnish and equip. It was the first of the permanent national buildings within the Parliamentary Triangle and set a high design standard.

The stained glass windows in the lobby are the work of the Melbourne born artist Leonard French. They were commissioned by the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) and installed in 1967. The inspiration for the work was the planets, to fit in with the overall theme of the foyer which represents the classical elements of water, earth and sky. The Library is the largest in Australia and is an important National cultural institution.

Physical description

The National Library is a prominent feature of the Parliamentary Triangle. This large rectangular building sits on a podium on the western side of the Triangle near the edge of Lake Burley Griffin. It features in views of the Triangle from the Commonwealth Avenue approach and generally in views from the northern shore of the Lake. The approach to the entry of the Library is marked by a paved area with a pond and fountain, all of which is flanked by poplars. The building is marble clad, colonnaded, rectangular in plan and has similarities to the design of the Parthenon in Greece. The podium is clad in rock faced grey trachyte in contrast to the light marble of the building above. The podium contains two basements and the building above has five storeys. The building has a low pitched metal roof. There are forty tonnes of copper in the Library's roof, and the building's exterior is clad with marble, granite, bronze, slate and copper, while its interior has fine Australian timber finishes.

The building is in the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical style. Key features of this style displayed by the building include the symmetrical facade treatment, horizontal skyline, regular bays of vertical proportion, colonnade, use of columns without bases or capitals, and the use of a broad horizontal member at the roofline echoing classical entablature.

The National Library building provides a range of facilities including storage areas and reading rooms for a wide range of materials which comprise the Library's collection, a visitor centre, catalogue areas, exhibition spaces, a theatre, offices, a shop and eating facilities.

The building features a large horizontal copper sculpture by Tom Bass over the public entrance to the Library. The beaten copper bas-relief entrance sculpture represents in cuneiform the words 'ark', 'sun' and 'tree'. In the grounds of the Library is the Henry Moore sculpture Two Piece Reclining Figure Number 9. The stained glass windows are decorative features within the entrance lobby of the Library. There are sixteen windows in total, six pairs of windows and four single windows made from Saint Gobain dalle de verre glass. These 50mm thick glass pieces are each cut to maximise light refraction. Every panel comprises four sections with the dominant images of crosses, stars and mandalas. The panels range through the colours of the spectrum, with blue representing the planet Venus and red the planet Mars. Each window has four 330cm high sections and is 125cm wide. The lobby also features three Aubusson tapestries designed by the French artist, Mathieu Mategot, with woven images of Australian flora and fauna and man made landmarks.

Discussion of significance:

Style

The National Library is an example of the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical style. Other notable Canberra examples of this style include the following buildings: Canberra Centre (Monaro Mall) (1963) Law Courts of the ACT (1961) Reserve Bank (1961) ACT Police Headquarters (1961) Blocks F and G, Russell Offices (1966) Hinkler Building (1962) The Law Courts building is a good example of this style displaying many of the same features as the National Library. However, the lightweight columns of the Law Courts building suggests a measure of playfulness in the application of the style. The Law Courts building is relatively intact but the Canberra Centre has been changed externally by a development to one side and internal modifications. In this context the National Library is a good Canberra example of the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical style and one of few relatively intact buildings in the style in the national capital. The National Library is part of the significant cultural landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle. It occupies a prominent and strategic location marking the western corner of the Triangle.

The building is of historic and cultural interest as the home of the National Library of Australia. It is a storehouse, a vault and repository for some of the nation's most valuable book collections, manuscripts, printed materials, tape recordings, paintings and other treasures. It is a public building and open to the public 361 days a year. It is valued by the community as a library, for its collections and for its exhibitions.

The two major artworks incorporated in the building, the stained glass windows by Leonard French and the entrance sculpture by Tom Bass, are also of some interest. In particular the windows are the smaller of two monumental installations by French, the larger being at the National Gallery of Victoria. French is regarded as one of the world's

leading early post war glass designers (Zimmer 1984).

Aesthetic Quality

The building is recognised for its harmonious proportions and monumental colonnade. The lakeside location allows reflection of the building on the lake surface, enhancing its grace. Its prominent setting on the lake edge makes it a visual landmark of the city. Along with several later buildings which front the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin, the National Library contributes to the planned aesthetic qualities of the Parliamentary Triangle.

The Parliamentary Triangle has been separately registered and a full description of its values is contained in the Register citation for that place

History Not Available

Condition and Integrity

The Library is in generally good condition and the exterior is largely intact. The podium has been extended and modified although these changes are subdued. There have been a number of internal alterations to the building. These have improved access to Library services and enhanced the role as well as significance of the place to clients. They include construction of a restaurant and bookshop, upgraded exhibition gallery and refurbished reading rooms.

(March 2002)

The library is in sound condition.

Location

Parkes Place and King Edward Terrace, Parkes.

Bibliography

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Rickard, S (1999) "A Distinguished Building", in National Library of Australia News.

Report Produced Mon Dec 12 17:26:40 2016

Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

Parliament House Vista, Anzac Pde, Parkes, ACT, Australia

Photographs



List	Commonwealth Heritage List
Class	Historic
Legal Status	Listed place (22/06/2004)
Place ID	105466
Place File No	8/01/000/0075

Summary Statement of Significance

Design Importance

The Parliament House Vista is the central designed landscape of Canberra, that expresses the core of the Walter Burley Griffin design vision for Canberra. It is highly significant for its symbolic representation of the democratic interchange between the people and their elected representatives and its use of the natural landforms to generate a strong planning geometry. It expresses a masterly synthesis and ordering of topographical features and administrative functions to meet the needs of a national capital. The vista landscape embraces the central land axis and part of the water axis and most of the Parliamentary Triangle including the area known as the Parliamentary Zone. The significance incorporates Walter Burley Griffin's vision for the area, as the focus of Commonwealth parliamentary and governmental activity as well as national cultural life. This vision has been partly realised and the place is the setting for major, government, judicial and cultural institutions. The northern extent of the vista of Anzac Parade and the Australian War Memorial, despite differing from the original plan, are significant for memorial purposes developed in response to the needs of the people. Despite being modified to a lesser degree to accommodate the impact of wars on Australians, the Vista now presents as a philosophical concept expressed in urban planning, landscape and architecture, to achieve a grand vision of a symbolic, unified and visually dramatic place (Criterion F.1)

(Australian Historic Themes 7.4 Federating Australia, 8.10 , Pursuing excellence in the arts and sciences)

The Parliament House Vista incorporating the central national area, is the core of the most ambitious and most successful example of twentieth century urban planning in Australia. It is important for its design pattern with large landscape and waterscape spaces with their enframement by treed avenues and at the lake by bridges, the terminal vista features of the Australian War Memorial and Mount Ainslie at the northern end and Parliament House at the southern end, with the Carillon and Captain Cook Jet creating balanced vertical features in the water plane (Criterion F.1).

The spatial setting of the buildings as features in the landscape reflects Beaux Arts planning concepts and the building masses and their careful location complement the significance of the overall landscape pattern. Across the Parliamentary Triangle, the buildings of Old Parliament House, and East and West Blocks provide a distinctive Stripped Classical architectural patterned horizontal band, that contributes to the symmetrical overall patterning of the landscape. At a higher elevation, Parliament House is a significant feature terminating the southern end of the land axis, culminating the classical landmark image of the triangle apex. The John Gorton Building (the former Administrative Building) and the Treasury Building balance the composition on King George Terrace while at the Lake edge the post-war architecture of the National Library of Australia and the High Court - National Gallery Precinct are prominent modern architectural forms and have a significant historical layering effect. The Portal Buildings provide balanced building massing at the southern end of Anzac Parade (Criterion F.1).

Avenues of trees along the terraces, roads and pathways of deciduous, pine, and eucalypt species provide colour, character, and contrast, emphasising the significance of the formal symmetrical design. Lombardy Poplars in groups of four, form sentinels at key locations. Water fountains, and statues also reinforce the significance of the total design pattern of the place. On the northern expanse of the vista the landscape pattern is the wide sweeping avenue space emphasised by red scoria gravel in the central strip and edged by large Blue Gums (Criterion F.1).

The vista landscape is significant for its richness of features. Many places in the Vista area have individual heritage significance for their architectural design and historic importance. These include Old Parliament House and Curttilage, East Block Government Offices, West Block and the Dugout, John Gorton Building, the National Library of Australia, the High Court of Australia, the National Gallery of Australia, Blundells Farmhouse, Slab Outbuildings and Surrounds, the Australian War Memorial, the Portal Buildings, The High Court - National Gallery Precinct, the Carillon, and King George V Memorial (Criteria F.1 and A3).

Within the area are important parklands and gardens enhancing the significance of the landscape setting. These include the Gardens of Old Parliament House (the former Senate and House of Representative Gardens), important for expressing their history in plantings, sports facilities, modest features and layout pattern. Also important is the Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery, a significant native style garden, and the National Rose Gardens. Commonwealth Park, the Peace Park, the Lakeshore Promenade and Kings Park are important landscapes for their design and popular use (Criteria F.1 and A3.)

Adding to the richness of the place is the manner in which Griffin's vision of democracy has also been emphasised, as places within the area have become identified with political protest actions by people, as exemplified in the significant Aboriginal Embassy site (Criteria F.1 and A3).

Historic Importance

The central national area of Canberra is strongly associated with the history of politics and government in Australia and the development of Canberra as the Australian National Capital. It is significant as the home of the Commonwealth Parliament, the focus of the Federal Government since 1927, initially in the Old Parliament House and from 1988 in the new Parliament House. The various government buildings in the area reinforce the association with Australian government and political history, including East and West Blocks, the Administrative Building, the Treasury Building and the High Court. The latter, being set apart from Parliament House but facing it is symbolic of the judicial role of the High Court as a physical representation of the separation of powers (Criterion A.4, Australian Historic Themes: 7.2 Developing institutions of self-government and democracy).

The central national area has strong links with the planning and development of Canberra as the Australian Capital. The relocation of Parliament to Canberra and the central national area in 1927 was the focus of an intense period of development of the new city and gave purpose to Canberra as the Nation's Capital. Over time this association has been reinforced by the construction of major government buildings in the area, such as the Treasury Building, the Administration Building (now John Gorton Building), the Portal Buildings and latterly the new Parliament House, as well as the construction of major cultural institutions. The area as intended has become the focus of Commonwealth parliamentary and governmental activity as well as, to some extent, national cultural life. (Criterion A.4) (Australian Historic Themes: 4.1 Planning urban settlement, 7.2 Developing institutions of self-government and democracy, 7.3 Federating Australia).

The area has been associated since 1941 with the development of Australian cultural life and national identity through the presence of such institutions as the Australian War Memorial, the National Gallery of Australia, the National Science and Technology Centre and the National Library of Australia. The national cultural institutions reinforce the national character of the area and are an important symbolic group in Australia's national cultural life. The Australian War Memorial and Anzac Parade memorials and, to a lesser extent, the other memorials have and continue to play a very important role in fostering aspects of national identity, in particular the Australian War Memorial through its role as a National Shrine for all Australians (Criterion A.4, Australian Historic Themes 8.8 Remembering the Fallen).

Social Importance

The area has strong and special associations with the broad Australian community because of its social values as a symbol of Australia and Federal Government. The values have developed over many years since Canberra's creation and the relocation of the Parliament in 1927 gave them a special focus. The special association is reflected in the use of the area as the location for national memorials, the number of tourists who have and continue to visit the area, the media portrayal of Canberra and federal politics and the continuing use of the area as the venue for occasional ceremonies and political protests by sections of the community. Memorial features include sculptures, plaques, commemorative trees, water features and gardens. The collection of sculptures, associated art and design which comprise the Anzac Parade Memorials, give expression to key aspects of the history of Australia's armed forces and Australia's war involvement, and possess high social value (Criterion G.1, Australian Historic Themes 8.8 Remembering the fallen, 8.9 Commemorating significant events and people).

The special association for the community is also the use of the area by people demonstrating against government decisions. The central national area, particularly Parkes Place in front of Old Parliament House, has been used for countless demonstrations (Criterion G.1).

The landscape spaces are important for social activities of visitors and Canberra residents and these include Canberra festivals, water events, national events and parades such as Anzac Day Parade and the Dawn Service, and other commemorative services (Criterion G.1).

Aesthetic Value

The place has high aesthetic significance due to the visual impact of the extensive open sweeping vista along the land axis that can be experienced in two directions, the designed axes set within natural features of forested hills, patterns and textures of architectural massing accentuated by planned open spaces, water planes and tree plantings that are arranged across the area. The vista is significant for its visual drama with its ability to engage viewers in the visual perspective of the sweeping vista to the terminal features. The aesthetic significance is also a result of the large scale qualities of the axes, including the open green spaces, combined with patterns and symmetrical characteristics of the road networks and numerous designed smaller attributes. These include the rose gardens, the Old Parliament House Gardens, Commonwealth Park, the street tree plantings, the lake-land interface and the Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery, and many intimate spaces rich in texture, colour, fragrance and in some cases, art works and water features (Criterion E1).

Associational Value

The central national area has a special association with its designer, Walter Burley Griffin. Griffin is an important figure in Australia's cultural history for his overall design of Canberra as the Nation's Capital. The special association between the central national area and Griffin results from the area being the centrepiece of the planning geometry for Canberra and perhaps the only part of his Canberra plan to survive relatively intact. The area has a strong association with Marion Mahoney Griffin who prepared the perspective drawings of the Vista. The Vista area has a strong association with numerous architects and planners, in particular John Smith Murdoch, Chief architect of the Commonwealth Government, and Thomas Charles Weston, Superintendent of Parks, Gardens and Afforestation in Canberra, and notable planners of the National Capital Development Commission such as Sir John Overall, Peter Harrison and Paul Reid (Criterion H.1).

Official Values

Criterion A Processes

The central national area of Canberra is strongly associated with the history of politics and government in Australia and the development of Canberra as the Australian National Capital. It is significant as the home of the Commonwealth Parliament, the focus of the Federal Government since 1927, initially in the Old Parliament House and from 1988 in the new Parliament House. The various government buildings in the area reinforce the association with Australian government and political history, including East and West Blocks, the Administrative Building, the Treasury Building and the High Court. The latter, being set apart from Parliament House but facing it is symbolic of the judicial role of the High Court as a physical representation of the separation of powers.

The central national area has strong links with the planning and development of Canberra as the Australian Capital. The relocation of Parliament to Canberra and the central national area in 1927 was the focus of an intense period of development of the new city and gave purpose to Canberra as the Nation's Capital. Over time this association has been reinforced by the construction of major government buildings in the area, such as the Treasury Building, the Administration Building (now John Gorton Building), the Portal Buildings and latterly the new Parliament House, as well as the construction of major cultural institutions. The area as intended has become the focus of Commonwealth parliamentary and governmental activity as well as, to some extent, national cultural life.

The area has been associated since 1941 with the development of Australian cultural life and national identity through the presence of such institutions as the Australian War Memorial, the National Gallery of Australia, the National Science and Technology Centre and the National Library of Australia. The national cultural institutions reinforce the national character of the area and are an important symbolic group in Australia's national cultural life. The Australian War Memorial and Anzac Parade memorials and, to a lesser extent, the other memorials have and continue to play a very important role in fostering aspects of national identity, in particular the Australian War Memorial through its role as a National Shrine for all Australians.

The vista landscape is significant for its richness of features. Many places in the Vista area have individual heritage significance for their architectural design and historic importance. These include Old Parliament House and Curtilage, East Block Government Offices, West Block and the Dugout, John Gorton Building, the National Library of Australia, the High Court of Australia, the National Gallery of Australia, Blundells Farmhouse, Slab Outbuildings and Surrounds, the Australian War Memorial, the Portal Buildings, The High Court - National Gallery Precinct, the Carillon, and King George V Memorial.

Within the area are important parklands and gardens enhancing the significance of the landscape setting. These include the Gardens of Old Parliament House (the former Senate and House of Representative Gardens) with their surviving layout, the Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery, the National Rose Gardens, Commonwealth Park, the Peace Park, the Lakeshore Promenade and Kings Park .

Adding to the richness of the place is the manner in which Griffin's vision of democracy has also been emphasised, as places within the area have become identified with political protest actions by people, as exemplified in the significant Aboriginal Embassy site.

Attributes

The concentration of buildings, parklands and gardens that support Commonwealth parliamentary and governmental activity as well as, to some extent, national cultural life. These include Old Parliament House and Curtilage, East Block Government Offices, West Block and the Dugout, John Gorton Building, the National Library of Australia, the High Court of Australia, the National Gallery of Australia, Blundells Farmhouse, Slab Outbuildings and Surrounds, the Australian War Memorial, the Portal Buildings, The High Court - National Gallery Precinct, the Carillon, King George V Memorial, Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery, the National Rose Gardens, Commonwealth Park, the Peace Park, the Lakeshore Promenade and Kings Park and the Aboriginal Embassy site.

Criterion E Aesthetic characteristics

The place has high aesthetic significance due to the visual impact of the extensive open sweeping vista along the land axis that can be experienced in two directions, the designed axes set within natural features of forested hills, patterns and textures of architectural massing accentuated by planned open spaces, water planes and tree plantings that are arranged across the area. The vista is significant for its visual drama with its ability to engage viewers in the visual perspective of the sweeping vista to the terminal features. The aesthetic significance is also a result of the large scale qualities of the axes, including the open green spaces, combined with patterns and symmetrical characteristics of the road networks and numerous designed smaller attributes. These include the rose gardens, the Old Parliament House Gardens, Commonwealth Park, the street tree plantings, the lake-land interface and the Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery, and many intimate spaces rich in texture, colour, fragrance and in some cases, art works and water features.

Attributes

The extensive vista along the land axis, the forested hills, patterns and textures of architectural massing accentuated by planned open spaces, water features and tree plantings, art works, the terminal features plus the interplay of scale and texture in the designed landscape.

Criterion F Technical achievement

The Parliament House Vista is the central designed landscape of Canberra, that expresses the core of the Walter Burley Griffin design vision for Canberra. It is highly significant for its symbolic representation of the democratic interchange between the people and their elected representatives and its use of the natural landforms to generate a strong planning geometry. It expresses a masterly synthesis and ordering of topographical features and administrative functions to meet the needs of a national capital. The vista landscape embraces the central land axis and part of the water axis and most of the Parliamentary Triangle including the area known as the Parliamentary Zone. The significance incorporates Walter Burley Griffin's vision for the area, as the focus of Commonwealth parliamentary and governmental activity as well as national cultural life. This vision has been partly realised and the place is the setting for major, government, judicial and cultural institutions. The northern extent of the vista of Anzac Parade and the Australian War Memorial, despite differing from the original plan, are significant for memorial purposes developed in response to the needs of the people. Despite being modified to a lesser degree to accommodate the impact of wars on Australians, the Vista now presents as a philosophical concept expressed in urban planning, landscape and architecture, to achieve a grand vision of a symbolic, unified and visually dramatic place.

The Parliament House Vista incorporating the central national area, is the core of the most ambitious and most successful example of twentieth century urban planning in Australia. It is important for its design pattern with large landscape and waterscape spaces with their enframement by treed avenues and at the lake by bridges, the terminal vista features of the Australian War Memorial and Mount Ainslie at the northern end and Parliament House at the southern end, with the Carillon and Captain Cook Jet creating balanced vertical features in the water plane.

The spatial setting of the buildings as features in the landscape reflects Beaux Arts planning concepts and the building masses and their careful location complement the significance of the overall landscape pattern. Across the Parliamentary Triangle, the buildings of Old Parliament House, and East and West Blocks provide a distinctive Stripped Classical architectural patterned horizontal band, that contributes to the symmetrical overall patterning of the landscape. At a higher elevation, Parliament House is a significant feature terminating the southern end of the land axis, culminating the classical landmark image of the triangle apex. The John Gorton Building (the former Administrative Building) and the Treasury Building balance the composition on King George Terrace while at the Lake edge the post-war architecture of the National Library of Australia and the High Court - National Gallery Precinct are prominent modern architectural forms and have a significant historical layering effect. The Portal Buildings provide balanced building massing at the southern end of Anzac Parade.

Avenues of trees along the terraces, roads and pathways of deciduous, pine, and eucalypt species provide colour, character, and contrast, emphasising the significance of the formal symmetrical design. Lombardy Poplars in groups of four, form sentinels at key locations. Water fountains, and statues also reinforce the significance of the total design pattern of the place. On the northern expanse of the vista the landscape pattern is the wide sweeping avenue space emphasised by red scoria gravel in the central strip and edged by large Blue Gums.

Many places in the Vista area have individual heritage significance for their architectural design and historic importance. These include Old Parliament House and Curtilage, East Block Government Offices, West Block and the Dugout, John Gorton Building, the National Library of Australia, the High Court of Australia, the National Gallery of Australia, Blundells Farmhouse, Slab Outbuildings and Surrounds, the Australian War Memorial, the Portal Buildings, The High Court - National Gallery Precinct, the Carillon, and King George V Memorial.

Within the area are important parklands and gardens enhancing the significance of the landscape setting that include the Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery, a significant native style garden, and the National Rose Gardens. Commonwealth Park, the Peace Park, the Lakeshore Promenade and Kings Park are important landscapes for their design and popular use.

Adding to the richness of the place is the manner in which Griffin's vision of democracy has also been emphasised, as places within the area have become identified with political protest actions by people, as exemplified in the significant Aboriginal Embassy site.

Attributes

The whole of the vista, including all elements and features contained within it, as well as the natural wooded hills beyond.

Criterion G Social value

The area has strong and special associations with the broad Australian community because of its social values as a symbol of Australia and Federal Government. The values have developed over many years since Canberra's creation and the relocation of the Parliament in 1927 gave them a special focus. The special association is reflected in the use of the area as the location for national memorials, the number of tourists who have and continue to visit the area, the media portrayal of Canberra and federal politics and the continuing use of the area as the venue for occasional ceremonies and political protests by sections of the community. Memorial features include sculptures, plaques, commemorative trees, water features and gardens. The collection of sculptures, associated art and design which comprise the Anzac Parade Memorials, give expression to key aspects of the history of Australia's armed forces and Australia's war involvement, and possess high social value.

The special association for the community is also the use of the area by people demonstrating against government decisions. The central national area, particularly Parkes Place in front of Old Parliament House, has been used for countless demonstrations.

The landscape spaces are important for social activities of visitors and Canberra residents and these include Canberra festivals, water events, national events and parades such as Anzac Day Parade and the Dawn Service, and other commemorative services.

Attributes

Memorial features including sculptures, plaques, commemorative trees, water features and gardens. Also, recreational landscape spaces and gathering spaces in which the community may demonstrate.

Criterion H Significant people

The central national area has a special association with its designer, Walter Burley Griffin. Griffin is an important figure in Australia's cultural history for his overall design of Canberra as the Nation's Capital. The special association between the central national area and Griffin results from the area being the centrepiece of the planning geometry for Canberra and perhaps the only part of his Canberra plan to survive relatively intact. The area has a strong association with Marion Mahoney Griffin who prepared the perspective drawings of the Vista. The Vista area has a strong association with numerous architects and planners, in particular John Smith Murdoch, Chief architect of the Commonwealth Government, and Thomas Charles Weston, Superintendent of Parks, Gardens and Afforestation in Canberra, and notable planners of the National Capital Development Commission such as Sir John Overall, Peter Harrison and Paul Reid.

Attributes

The whole of the vista, its planned layout, and the view from the top of Mount Ainslie which illustrates the realisation of Marion Mahoney Griffin's perspective drawing.

Description

HISTORY

The Australian Constitution left the location of the Capital to be decided by the new Federal Parliament. It declared that Melbourne would be the temporary home for the Federal Parliament and public servants until a new city was built at least 100 miles from Sydney. An agreed territory of 903 square miles included the water catchment of the Cotter River and the river valley of the Molonglo for the setting for the city. The Department of Home Affairs commenced works for services and city planning. In 1910 the Secretary of the Federal Department of Home Affairs, David Miller requested permission of Minister O'Malley to conduct a design competition to elicit ideas for the city. At the time the Federal Capital area was proclaimed, the river flats of the Molonglo, Mount Ainslie, Camp Hill and Kurrajong Hill had been extensively denuded of vegetation from a long period of clearing and grazing. Some exotic trees were established in parts of the area, around structures such as Blundell's cottage and St Johns Church and graveyard.

The Canberra Plan

Walter Burley Griffin won the competition for the design of Canberra in 1912. The plan was expressed in beautifully rendered illustrations prepared by Griffin's wife Marion Mahoney Griffin as plans, elevations and sections painted on silk.

The order of the city was for a great triangle aligned with the mountains which rose above the site. The triangle was to be defined by tree-lined avenues and spanned the central basin of an impounded lake. The triangle would consist of a series of terraces arranged in the functions of government and representing democracy. It was a synthesis of function and design where the Order of the Site (the natural environment) and the Order of Functions (the needs of the people) are perfectly integrated by specific geometry (Reid 2002). The Capitol was a main feature of the design

In terms of vistas, the Griffin vision was represented in two renderings drawn by Marion Mahony Griffin. In the rendering looking from Mt Ainslie towards the Capitol, the drama of the vista focuses on the Capitol, the building representing the aspirational forces in Australian national life, with the final termination in the mountains beyond. Below the Capitol, the Parliament House and the Government departments are terraced down to the Lake providing a

symbol of a transparent democracy in action. The observer is standing at Mt Ainslie, a point representative of the power and influence of nature and the highest point of the vista. Griffin's plan for the ideal city, the philosophical triumvirate of humanity, democracy and nature is iconographed along the land axis which together with the water axis is the ordering geometry of the vista and the city. Griffin envisaged a dense city with a coming together of the population in a Casino (something akin to the recreational city gardens in pre war Berlin, Copenhagen, and Stockholm) and Plaisance descending from the foot of Mt Ainslie. Intersected by a busy commercial street, Constitution Avenue, the Plaisance unfolded to the area designated for cultural activity from which the people could look across the lake (or water axis) to the area of national government that was climaxed by the building symbolic of national achievement and aspiration, the Capitol.

Griffin's 1913 land use plan for the central National area indicates his intentions. Moving from north to south along the land axis, he proposed a park at the northern end of the land axis, public gardens on the north side of the lake, the lake itself (now Lake Burley Griffin), government buildings flanking a central terrace court to the south of the lake, Parliament House on Camp Hill, the Capitol building on Capital Hill flanked by the Governor General's residence to the west and the Prime Minister's residence to the east. The Capitol building was not intended to be the Parliament but rather to be for popular reception and ceremonial activities or for archives or otherwise to commemorate Australian achievements. Griffin's philosophical vision expressed in a remarkable urban planning form has been affected by the realities of Australian political and cultural life as well as by the circumstances and juxtapositions of historic events. Australian planners following Griffin have rearranged the icons to reflect the dominant realities and meanings of Australian life.

Griffin's various plans for the central National area of Canberra all included a basic planning framework, which has been constructed and survives to the present. This framework includes the land axis, joining Capital Hill and Mount Ainslie, the water axis, the radiating avenues from Capital Hill, Commonwealth and Kings Avenues, the arc of Parkes Way, the northern punctuation of the land axis by the Australian War Memorial, the roads encircling Capital Hill, State and Capital Circles and the southern punctuation of the land axis by the Parliament House of 1988. In addition to the alignment of axes and avenues which defined Griffin's city plan the triangle was a basic element on which the whole city was built. In his design Griffin had created three urban centres connected by main avenues. Capital Hill as the government centre, Mt Vernon as the municipal centre and Mt Pleasant as the market centre were integral to the plan. The northern avenue, Constitution Avenue, was the municipal axis.

Griffin prepared a preliminary plan in 1913 and a revised plan in 1918 following which the Official Plan was gazetted in 1925. Griffin left in 1920 leaving development under the control of the Federal Capital Advisory Committee (FCAC) chaired by the planner, John Sulman. The Committee had been appointed to complete sufficient permanent buildings to enable Parliament to move from Melbourne to Canberra.

Development

Tree planting began in the early years of Canberra's development, and by 1921 some 17,000 trees were planted (Hendry). Within the Vista area tree planting commenced around 1923 in Prospect Parkway, now known as Anzac Parade. Early images show tree planting in a scalloped arrangement along the length of the avenue. For 3 years from 1925, trees were planted in association with the construction of the Provisional Parliament House. The formal structural planting around the House including Cedars, Cypresses and Lombardy Poplars was completed for the opening (Hendry). The planting proposals were finalised by Charles Weston, Superintendent of Parks, Gardens and Afforestation, and from 1926, carried out by his successor Alexander Bruce. The planting design aimed to create through the use of a balanced mix of evergreen and deciduous trees, formally shaped grassed vistas and 'outdoor rooms' in scale with the Provisional Parliament House. The formally arranged groups of Lombardy Poplars to achieve 'sentinel' features at the entrances and the pedestrian reference points in the landscape, is attributed to the involvement of John Smith Murdoch, Chief Architect for the Commonwealth Government, in the design. Cedars were used at right angles to the Land Axis. Most of the trees planted in Parkes Place were exotics with the only eucalypts planted adjacent to the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens (Gray 1995). The first major structure to be placed within the area was the Old Parliament House, then called the Provisional Parliament House. In 1923 the Commonwealth Parliament agreed to the proposed building which was sited in front of Camp Hill, Griffin's intended location of the permanent Parliament House. At the time, Griffin protested recognising that if built, the provisional building would remove any possibility of a permanent Parliament House being built on Camp Hill. Nonetheless the Commonwealth proceeded. In 1925 the Federal Capital Commission (FCC) was established under Sir John Butters. The Commission replaced the FCAC. The FCC was responsible for moving the public service to Canberra and otherwise establishing the city in time for the opening of Parliament House. A number of other significant projects were undertaken at the same time as the construction of (Old) Parliament House, which was designed by John Smith Murdoch and completed in 1927. Either side of the Parliament House, private gardens were established for the use of Members of Parliament. On either side of Camp Hill, two government office buildings were constructed, known as East and West Blocks and these were also completed in 1927. East and West Blocks were also designed by Murdoch in a similar style to Old Parliament House.

In 1926 a delegation of the Empire Parliamentary Association visited the new Parliament House and planted an avenue of 12 commemorative trees, to mark the event of the first use of the House of Representatives. Ten Roman

Cypresses (*CUPRESSUS SEMPERVIRENS* 'STRICTA') were planted at right angles to the House with each tree planted by a delegate and marked by a brass plaque. To commemorate the opening of Parliament House in 1927, the Duke of York planted a Bunya Pine (*ARUACARIA BIDWILLI*) near Kings Avenue. The Marquis of Salisbury and Mr Arthur Henderson planted the Lombardy poplars in the courtyards of the Provisional Parliament House (Pryor and Banks 1991, Gray 1995).

In 1927 the Canberra National Memorials Committee named the area in front of Parliament House - Parkes Place, to commemorate Sir Henry Parkes. King Edward, King George and Queen Victoria Terraces, and Langton and Walpole Crescents were named for links to the first 50 years of Federation (Gray 1995).

The Gardens designed and constructed as part of the Old Parliament House Complex was conceived by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee in the early 1920s and constructed by the Federal Capital Commission from the mid 1920s in time for the opening of Parliament in May 1927. Formal enclosed gardens were the style of the time and James Orwin of the Sydney office of the Director of Works for NSW prepared sketch plans that were finalised by Murdoch. Most of the trees for the Parliamentary gardens were planted by late 1925. Around the same time road patterns for the Parliamentary area following Griffin's concepts were prepared.

Formal rose gardens in front of the House were first proposed by Weston in 1924. The idea was finally realised when the National Rose Gardens were established in 1933 by the Canberra Horticultural Society in association with the Department of the Interior. The design was developed by A. Bruce based on the plan of petals of an open bloom with colours arranged from deep red in the central area progressing through yellow, white pink and coppery shades. Rose gardens were also commenced around the same time in the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens. By 1938, these gardens were established with formal garden beds and recreation courts, and surrounded by young cypresses which were later clipped into hedges (Patrick and Wallace).

Following the opening of the Provisional Parliament House by the Duke of York on 9 May 1927, the area in front of the House was used for official ceremonies for Anzac and Remembrance Days with a temporary cenotaph, until the opening of the Australian War Memorial in 1941. Initially this area had simple landscaping treatment of lawns. Rose gardens were added in the 1950s, and the car parking area in the forecourt added in the 1960s.

Weston and Murdoch were both given British Empire Awards in 1927 for their contribution to the nation.

In 1946 a major tree thinning of the Parliamentary Zone was initiated by Lindsay Pryor, Superintendent, Parks and Gardens. All the golden cypresses, white poplars, pin oaks and Lawson's cypress on King George Terrace were removed (Gray 1995).

In order to accommodate other government departments, a competition was held in 1924 for the design of the Administrative building, flanking the land axis in Parkes, which was to house about eight departments. The building was to be the first in the Parliamentary Triangle and its design was considered important because it would influence future buildings in the central National area. In 1924, G Sydney Jones won the competition. Work started in 1927 and the foundations were completed in 1928. However, work was stopped at this point because of the Depression. There were then many delays. The design of the proposed building was modified in 1946, construction started again in 1947 and the new design required the demolition of the original foundations. The building was substantially completed in 1956. The building is claimed to have been the largest Australian office building when completed. It was renamed as the John Gorton Building in 1999.

The major development at the northern end of the land axis was the construction of the Australian War Memorial. The site was agreed in 1923 and in 1928 Griffin expressed the view that the proposed site was suitable for the memorial. Construction began in 1928 but was not completed until 1941.

Although a memorial to King George V was proposed in 1936 it was not until 1941 that the architectural part was constructed but the bronze figure was not developed until after World War II. It was unveiled in 1953 but attracted criticism for blocking the vista to the Australian War Memorial. In 1968 King George Terrace was realigned and the memorial was moved to its current location west of the land axis, on a corner of the western part of the National Rose Garden.

In 1955 a Select Senate Committee of Inquiry urged tree planting and landscape works to be undertaken in Canberra under the direction of the National Capital Development Commission. The Commission sought guidance from landscape designers including Lord William Holford and Dame Sylvia Crowe. Holford recommended that a predominantly Australian character be retained around Lake Burley Griffin with autumn coloured foliage trees used in a dramatic way. Parliament House was to be built on the lakeside with a great forecourt. In 1968 the lakeshore location was rejected in favour of Camp Hill or Capital Hill. During the 1960s, the landscaping of the Parliamentary Triangle was modified to create more formality in Parkes Place. This included realigning roads, installing the four fountains in the pools in the land axis, paving and the relocation King George V statue.

The National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) Act of 1957 set in motion a significant phase in the development of Canberra with the support of Robert Menzies Liberal government. The report of British Town Planner

Sir William Holford stressed the need for 'unified design' for Canberra. This view was supported by the Senate Select Committee which propagated Holford's concept of a 'park like landscape...in the heart of Canberra, in which monumental buildings functioned both as symbols of government and of Australian unity'. The visual design of this landscape, the views along the main axial lines and avenues as well as the grouping of monumental buildings were considered to be the elements upon which the success of Canberra as a city of world standing depended. Holford's recommendations included siting the future houses of parliament on the lakeside and developing two monumental buildings on the municipal axis north of a new road connection, which became Parkes Way. The NCDC's acceptance of the Holford vision set the design context for the completion of Anzac Parade and the construction of the Portal Buildings under the direction of NCDC architects and planners. The Portal Buildings have heritage significance.

After a number of schemes for Canberra's lake, detailed planning of the Lake edges was begun in 1954. Lake Burley Griffin was created in 1964 by the damming of the Molonglo River by Scrivener Dam. It reached its predicted level of 556 metres in the same year. The northern shore of the lake between Commonwealth and Kings Avenues was landscaped from about this time to create Commonwealth and Kings Parks. In 1970, two vertical features were opened in the central basin of the lake. The Carillon, located on Aspen Island in the eastern part of the central basin, was a gift from the British Government to mark the fiftieth Jubilee of the founding of Canberra in 1963. In the western part of the central basin is the Captain Cook Memorial water jet commissioned by the National Capital Development Commission as part of the Cook Bicentenary year. In 1968 a small restaurant was built on a corner of the western part of the National Rose Garden.

NCDC architect and landscape architect Gareth Roberts and architect and landscape architect Richard Clough collaborated on the design of Anzac Parade and its architectural elements at this time. The two Portal Buildings, Anzac Park East and Anzac Park West, were completed in 1965 and 1966 respectively. With the establishment of the Australian War Memorial in the 1940s, the surrounding landscape was imbued with an associated symbolic character. This included the creation of Anzac Park and Anzac Parade. Anzac Park became the setting for a series of memorials commemorating Australian involvement and sacrifice in war. Anzac Parade was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Anzac Day 1965, the fiftieth anniversary of the landing of the Anzacs at Gallipoli. It is the setting for a series of memorials commemorating Australian involvement and sacrifice in war and is the major national venue for the Anzac Day March and other ceremonies to commemorate those who served Australia in times of conflict. It has a deep symbolism for many Australians and its vista, linking the Memorial with Parliament House, adds aesthetic and emotional value to the place, which has become part of one of the major cultural landscapes of Australia. The notion of a ceremonial space of this grandeur is not found elsewhere in Australia.

Over time the spaces flanking the land axis to the south of the Lake have been filled with government buildings of varying character. These include the Treasury Building established 1967-70, the National Library in 1968, the High Court in 1980, National Gallery in 1982 and the National Science and Technology Centre in 1988. Associated with the Gallery is the extensive and significant Sculpture Garden established in 1982.

In 1972 an informal Aboriginal Embassy was established in front of Old Parliament House. The Embassy became the focus of a campaign for land and other rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In 1992 the Embassy was re-established.

The most recent major change to the central National area was the construction of a new Parliament House on Capital Hill. In 1974, The site of Capital Hill for Parliament House, was chosen by a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament. An Act of Parliament extended Parliamentary jurisdiction over work in the Parliamentary Triangle, henceforth known as the Parliamentary Zone. Completed in 1988, the building has resulted in a number of significant changes to the area. The relocation of the Parliament to the new building left the Old Parliament House without its original use. The construction of the building also resulted in the levelling of Camp Hill, Griffin's intended location for a Parliament House and its incorporation into the broader formal landscape of the new Federation Mall. Finally, the new Parliament House involved the construction of a large complex of buildings and extensive new landscape areas. The changes affected most of Capital Hill. The winning design, by Mitchell, Giurgola and Thorp Architects, considered the land axis of Canberra as the fundamental gesture of the City, a line around which all other design has evolved in circular and radial directions (Reid 2002).

During 2001-2002 new designed features were constructed across the Land Axis of the Vista landscape. These are Commonwealth Place and Reconciliation Place. In addition, a rotunda with exhibition, called Magna Carta Place is located to the west of the former Senate Garden.

Following the construction of Parliament House, emphasis was placed on the landscape of the Parliament Zone. The development of Federation Mall with its trees and central space was to balance Anzac Parade and to complete the visual Land Axis from Capital Hill to the War Memorial.

Use

By the turn of the century (2000-2001), the area was used for countless public events. These include memorial services such as the Anzac Day March and the Dawn Service, public protest demonstrations, celebration events, sporting activities, water races, art displays, fireworks and large-scale concerts. In addition it is used by people informally for weddings, picnics, and fairs. The area is a popular destination for tourists and schoolchildren.

DESCRIPTION

The central National area of Canberra is an extensive cultural landscape comprising buildings, roads, parks, tree plantings and a lake. The area is designated for Parliamentary and National Capital uses. The major features of the area include: Parliament House with its gardens and paved areas, State Circle Cutting (geological feature), Old Parliament House and curtilage, East Block, West Block and the Dugout, the John Gorton Building, the National Gallery of Australia, the High Court of Australia, the High Court - National Gallery precinct, National Science and Technology Centre, the National Library of Australia, Treasury Building, National Rose Gardens, The Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery, King George V Memorial, Aboriginal Embassy, the Portal Buildings, Australian War Memorial and memorials along Anzac Parade, Aspen Island, the Carillon, Kings Park, HMAS Canberra Memorial, Merchant Navy Memorial, Blundell's Cottage, Commonwealth Park, Kings Park, the Peace Park, Regatta Point Exhibition Building and Restaurant, Captain Cook Memorial Water Jet, the Lakeshore Promenade, and extensive mature plantings and avenues of trees such as those along Anzac Parade. The area also includes fountains, roads, car parks, landscaped areas, a restaurant, kiosk and the residence of the Catholic Archbishop. The spaces, particularly the Land Axis, are a major feature.

The central National area has a strong sense of symmetry based on the land axis. The Parliament House, Old Parliament House and Australian War Memorial are located on the axis. In addition, the landscape features of Federation Mall, Parkes Place (the landscape feature not the roads) and Anzac Parade are also located on the axis. Other major features in the area are generally balanced about the axis such as: East and West Blocks, the gardens of Old Parliament House, the Portal Buildings, the eastern and western parts of the National Rose Gardens, Administrative and Treasury Buildings, the National Gallery/High Court group and the National Library/National Science and Technology Centre group, as well as the Carillon and Captain Cook Memorial water jet. The road system also generally reflects the symmetrical planning of the area based on the land axis.

The Anzac Parade Memorials comprises two main components, Anzac Parade and Anzac Park. Either side of Anzac Parade is bounded by Anzac Park. Treed sloping grassy strips contain 10 symmetrically placed aprons prepared for national memorials. In 2002 there were 11 memorials on Anzac Parade, tributes to the men and women of the Australian military. These memorials are: (1) the Australian Hellenic Memorial, Limestone Avenue intersection, (2) the Australian Army Memorial, near Currong Street, (3) the Australian National Korean Memorial, near Currong Street, (4) the Australian Vietnam forces National Memorial, opposite Booroondara Street, (5) the Desert Mounted Corps Memorial, opposite Amaroo Street (commonly known as the Light Horse Memorial), (6) the New Zealand Memorial (7) the Rats of Tobruk Memorial, opposite (5), (8) Royal Australian Air Force Memorial, opposite Page Street, (9) the Australian Service Nurses Memorial, (10) the Royal Australian Navy Memorial, and (11) Kemal Ataturk Memorial, Fairbairn Avenue intersection.

The array of mature tree plantings are all regarded as important. Some are classified as notable by Pryor and Banks (1991) and these include CALOCEDRUS DECURRENS on King George Terrace planted in 1927, CUPRESSUS ARIZONICA planted in 1926 on King George Terrace, EUCALYPTUS GLOBULUS at the Australian War Memorial, E. MAIDENII group planted c 1927. Commemorative trees in the Parkes area, include the CUPRESSUS SEMPERVIRENS 'Stricta' planted in 1926 by nine members of the Empire Parliamentary Association, ARAUCARIA Bidwilli PLANTED BY THE duke of York in 1927 to commemorate his visit to Canberra to open the first Parliament House and CUPRESSUS ARIZONICA, planted by the wife of the then United States President, Mrs Lady Bird Johnson, at the time of their visit to Canberra in 1966. Within Commonwealth Park are a QUERCUS ROBUR planted by Princess Marina in 1964, and a CUPRESSUS GLABRA planted by Mrs Lady Bird Johnson. Within the curtilage of the Australian War Memorial is a PINUS HALPENSIS planted by the Duke of Gloucester in 1934, believed to have been raised from seed from a cone collected from Lone Pine Ridge, Gallipoli in 1915. Also in curtilage is a EUCALYPTUS NICHOLII to replace the E. PAUCOFORA planted by Queen Elizabeth in 1954 to mark the beginning of the Remembrance Driveway to Sydney (Pryor and Banks 1991).

History Not Available

Condition and Integrity

The central National area is an extensive cultural landscape with a variety of landscape and building features. Individual elements vary in their condition and integrity. At a general level, the area is in fair to good condition. The values relating to the cultural landscape design and special association with Griffin are degraded by the changes made over time to Griffin's plan. The location of Old Parliament House, removal of Camp Hill, location of the new Parliament House and parts of the road layout as constructed are all variations from Griffin's plan. Given these changes, the area displays only a poor to medium level of integrity with regard to these values. In 1994 the National Capital Planning Authority released details of the Central National Area Design Study. This includes proposals for significant changes to the area.

Location

About 260ha, comprising the whole of the area bounded by the northern alignment of State Circle, the western alignment of Kings Avenue, the southern alignment of Parkes Way and the eastern alignment of Commonwealth Avenue, excluding the Archbishops Residence and grounds being Block 1 Section 2 Parkes; the whole of Anzac Parade and Anzac Park and the whole of Section 39, Campbell.

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