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Lake Burley Griffin Conservation Area, Lady Denman Dr, Yarralumla, ACT

Photographs: None
List: Commonwealth Heritage List
Class: Historic
Legal Status: [Indicative Place](#)
Place ID: 105230
Place File No: 8/01/000/0520
Summary Statement of Significance: Not Available
Official Values: Not Available
Description:
Planning History

Coinciding with the opening of Parliament in 1901 was the 1901 congress of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Others Interested in the Building of the Federal Capital of Australia. The congress advocated that the site for the Federal Capital should have an abundant water supply to furnish the creation of lakes, gardens and fountains.

The government surveyor Charles Scrivener investigated a number of possible sites for Australia's federal capital and recommended the Canberra site on the Molonglo River because of the ability to utilise waters of the Molonglo and Queanbeyan Rivers for ornamental waters for the city. This site for the city was agreed by the Prime Minister and the Premier of New South Wales. The Commonwealth then negotiated rights over the Molonglo and Queanbeyan Rivers. In order to incorporate a lake in the city planning, gauging weirs were established on the Molonglo near Yarralumla Dairy and on the Queanbeyan River near Bradley's Creek.

In 1911 a design competition for planning the federal capital city in the Molonglo Basin, was launched with requirements for ornamental water, parks and gardens. Locations for weirs and river gauging flow stations were included. A thousand copies of the conditions and design material were sent to 10 cities around the world and 137 design entries were received, including 42 Australian entries.

At the time of the competition, two major urban planning philosophies 'City Beautiful' and 'Garden City' coincided. The City Beautiful style consisted of a conceptualised city with integrated classical style urban buildings, public parks and tree lined streets building as a campaign against city ugliness. The style was a mix of natural beauty, formality, axes neo-classicism and the Beaux Arts in its combination of architecture, landscape, sculpture and water features. (Freestone p160-163). Garden City planning was initiated by Ebenezer Howard to combine the best features of town and country and interpretations of the style were implemented in Australia's early Twentieth Century suburbs. These styles set the concept for landscape and water being dominant in the design for the Federal Capital.

The engineer, JA Smith, was one of the majority of judges who awarded first prize to

Walter Burley Griffin in 1912 for his entry in the Federal Capital Design Competition. The other two judges (an architect and a surveyor) were divided about Griffin's entry, and Minister King O'Malley accepted the majority view.

The original design for the lake presented in Walter Burley Griffin's award winning plan for Australia's capital city, consisted of a formal central water bay of circular and curved edges with informal basins to the east and west. The water body formed part of Griffin's geometry for the Canberra Plan, forming an east west axis that crossed the major land axis of the plan. The east basin was at a higher level and was planned to be fluctuating so that the central basins levels could be maintained. Griffin's plan was superior to other competitors, blending the mountains and hills as features of the geometric layout, and incorporating his philosophy of equality, democracy and progress. The water feature of the lake cut across a grand triangle which linked the functions of the city and had three minor hills as its vertices (Firth, 2000).

The Department of Works commenced implementing the city plan but greatly modified Griffin's design. In 1913 Griffin was invited to Australia by Prime Minister Joseph Cook and appointed Federal Capital Director of Design and Construction. Investigation and planning for the lake commenced with Percy Owen, Director General of Works. In 1915 they recommended that the eastern lake be postponed. After World War I, the Federal Capital Advisory Committee was established chaired by Sir John Sulman. As an advocate of the Garden City principles, Sulman focused on the development of suburbs to accommodate public servants. Griffin left his position in Canberra in 1920.

From 1925 the Federal Capital Commission headed by Sir John Butters took control of development of Canberra with greater statutory powers. A proposal to construct a dam in 1926 was postponed. Extensive planting under the office of Parks and Afforestation was undertaken, and Griffin on a visit to Canberra in 1926 pleaded for more native flora planting. Issues regarding the development of the lake were managed by Owen, the first Director General of Works.

Engineering research and analyses over the next 50 years considered how to implement Griffin's concept of central unifying bodies of water in the Molonglo flood plain. The Depression delayed the development of Canberra.

In 1938 the Minister for the Interior announced in Parliament, the appointment of a board of architectural experts, the National Capital Development and Planning Commission (NCDPC) to monitor the development of Canberra. The development of the lake was suggested on a few occasions. The NCDPC removed the East Lake basin and the railway connection to North Canberra as designed by Griffin, from the plans for the Lake.

Post World War II History

By the 1950s, Canberra had a generation of residents and consisted of well spaced suburbs that included extensive gardens and tree planting, with the north and south areas separated by the Molonglo river flats. A number of schemes for Canberra's lake were proposed such as the Ribbon of Water Scheme in 1953 and the Molonglo Lakes in 1953 as an alternative to West Lake with a dam at Acton (Hince p.183, 1994). The Senate Inquiry 1954 - 55 'to inquire into and report upon the development of Canberra in relation to the original plan and subsequent modification and matters incidental thereto' reversed the decision for a chain of lakes and West Lake was found to be desirable, and the racecourse and golf links in the flood plain were removed. The Inquiry Committee also recommended a single authority to control Canberra headed by a Commission with guaranteed funding, a central park to be developed, access to Canberra's vistas and look-

out points, and a body of experts to advise on aesthetic standards (Reid 2002, p.134).

Prime Minister Robert Menzies, during the 1950s, appointed Sir William Holford, a British planner to advise on how to proceed with the planning and building of Canberra. William Holford was invited by Menzies in 1957 to review the Griffin plan (Firth p.145). Holford proposed a slight reduction in the size and formality of Griffin's plan for the lake, in order to follow the natural contour. The National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) Act was passed in 1957 and John Overall was appointed the Commissioner in 1958 (Reid 2002, p.249).

With regard to civil engineering design, Australians were greatly influenced by American schemes for harnessing water to achieve soil conservation, irrigation, flood control and hydro power. The Snowy River Scheme had a significant effect on Canberra. It provided considerable technical expertise and the organisation of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Authority was used as a model for the statutory authority of the NCDC. The NCDC had full responsibility for the lake and the planning team consisted of Clive Price, Executive Engineer (Design), Bill Minty, Lakes Project Engineer, Peter Harrison, Chief Town Planner and Richard Clough, Landscape Design. During 1959 contracts were let for Scrivener Dam and work had commenced on the bridges. The main agencies for the design of the Lakes Scheme were William Holford and Associates, Guy Maunsell and Partners, the Department of Works, and Rankine and Hill.

The lake earthworks and dam were commenced in 1960 and works proceeded at great speed. By July 1962 the work on the dam was almost completed, the lake edge construction was nearly finished, top soiling and grassing of the parkland progressing, the ponds and footbridge in the Central Park, and the Rond Point Pool and jets completed (Altenburg 1993, pp 39). Cutting and filling in the West Lake area was used to form an island where Springbank homestead once stood. Another island was formed by cutting through a finger of land at Yarralumla, and an island in the Central Basin was formed near Kings Avenue Bridge. Extensive tree planting was undertaken with native and exotic species.

Kings Avenue Bridge was opened in 1962. Commonwealth Avenue Bridge incorporating stones from Waterloo Bridge, a gift from Britain, was opened in 1963. Despite encountering some difficulties in the dam foundations in 1962, Scrivener Dam was completed with the gates being officially closed on 20 September 1963 and the official impounding begun. The water reached the final level of 556 metres on 29 April 1964 and in April 1964, it was officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Menzies.

The lake was named to commemorate the original designer of the city, Walter Burley Griffin. By giving Griffin's name to the most visually prominent element in the city the Government confirmed its confidence in the NCDC to interpret Griffin's plan (Firth p183). The cost of lakes scheme was given as \$5,039,050 for the cost of the dam, the crest gates, control building and ancillary services, the relocations of power lines, tree removals for the lake floor, the formation of lake basins and edge construction.

After the lake filled, recreation developments including a tourist ferry terminal, picnic facilities were constructed. In 1966/67 the Water Police Headquarters building was completed. A report An Open Space System for Canberra in the 1970s resulted in increasing the recreational use of the of the lake. Two vertical memorials were installed in the lake a mile apart on either side of the land axis. The water jet is a memorial to James Cook (completed in 1969) and the Carillon (RNE 018373) completed in 1970, was a gift from the British Government to mark the 50th Jubilee of the founding of Canberra.

Hydrology

Although it had been suggested 1908 that the Commonwealth secure the water catchment for Canberra's proposed water features that never occurred. The Lake Burley Griffin Catchment Protection Scheme was established in the early 1960s due to concerns that the new lake could be subject to high levels of sedimentation due to the degraded state of much of its rural catchment. A tripartite scheme between the Commonwealth and State governments was designed to reduce siltation and ran from 1965 - 1998 covering the Molonglo and Queanbeyan River catchments and tackled the degradation of rural land which began in the 1820s with the destruction of the 'chain of ponds' drainage networks and continued with tree clearing and overstocking.

Between and 1920's and 1950's, a number of reports to parliament were prepared on the form of future development of Canberra and hydrological data was collected about the Molonglo River flows with input from engineers. The NCDC recognized the importance of the lake, and was able to draw on the earlier studies and on the technical resources and hydrological data available through Commonwealth departments and authorities regarding the behaviour of the lake in terms of floods and droughts and of scour and siltation. Other studies provided information on water quality, effects of climate and health, hazards of unsightly margins, mosquitoes and midges and the possible disbenefits from changes in land uses.

Following the construction of and filling of the lake, work began to realign the Jerrabomberra Creek Waterway in 1968-69 to provide a bed load trap to minimise saltation into the Lake. In 1978 the Lake reached a critical condition of water quality with a major pollutant being Queanbeyan sewage effluent.

The regulation of flow into Lake Burely Griffin was improved with the construction of Googong Dam on the Queanbeyan River, inaugurated in 1979. However, the original proposal for a regulating Dam on the Molonglo river has never been implemented.

Landscape Development

Although Griffin brought new ideas in terms of landscape design to Canberra. These were mostly in terms of broad concepts. The Molonglo River flats contained eucalypts, grasslands, exotic trees and pasture grasses. Specific lake edge planting commenced in Canberra by Charles Weston, Superintendent of Parks, Gardens and Afforestation (1913-16) with planting along the shores of the future lake. Weston was given power to choose the nature of the trees to be planted and the style of planting. From 1922, he established a framework of trees on the western ridge behind what is now known as Regatta Point, using exotic and indigenous confers. The Federal Capital Commission in 1923 recommended that tree planting should be in clumps to create the effect of copses (Gray, 1999 p 186), and Weston undertook informal tree plantings in other lakeshore areas, including clumps of trees and windbreaks in Weston Park above the 1825 ft contour. Tree plantings around the lake were continued by Lindsay Pryor and David Shoobridge. Planting done by Pryor included the Westlake area, now known as Yarramundi Reach where advanced stock of deciduous trees was planted on the extensive grassland (Hince 1994).

Harry Oakman was appointed the first Director of Landscape, with an aim to provide facilities and landscapes at the suburban level in playgrounds, open spaces street trees, sport centres and roads, and at the Capital City level in lookouts, Lake and Parliamentary surrounds. Oakman was succeeded by Richard Cough who regarded broad landscape issues such as relating urban edges to landforms and the natural landscape of great

importance (Altenburg 1993 pp.32-33).

The design of the central area was essentially a formal composition in which the lake basins, ridges, avenues and buildings are to be framed and embellished by a strong pattern of planting. The NCDC accepted that: the character of natural landscape should be maintained; the existing brown-grey colour of the landscape should predominate but light fresh green should be used around the lake margins and darker confers for boundaries and backgrounds; autumn colours should be fully exploited for the formal and dramatic parts of the landscape; flowering trees and shrubs should be massed in small enclosures; the Central Axis and Kings and Commonwealth Avenues should be planted formally; the scale of the planting of open spaces should be related to the expected use; and while preserving a sense of unity, the design should aim at creating recognizable character in specific areas (Altenburg 1993 p. 37).

The landscape around the lake was planned as a huge recreation park. Richard Clough using Holford's recommendation and his own studies produced an overall plan showing the extent and treatment of the lakeside parklands. It was the largest landscape project undertaken by the NCDC and implemented by the Parks and Gardens Section of the Department of the Interior. It was done in 2 stages, the first involved the establishment of major planting in more than 400 ha of lakeside parklands in conjunction with the engineering construction of the lake. Quantities of topsoil were removed from the river flats and spread on sports grounds, streets verges and stockpiled. The second stage involved the development of public and service facilities, landscape design around buildings, aquatic planting, installation of lawn irrigation and horticultural park development (Altenburg 1993 p. 37).

The western basin was most suitable for boating activities and recommended as an area that should be kept free of any non-conforming features. Activities proposed for the Lake included a triangular sailing course for West Lake, an Olympic rowing course, starting in East Basin near the Power house and finishing in the Central Basin, water skiing in East Basin and a boat harbour near Kingston. Lotus Bay and Yarralumla Bay were thought to offer the best facilities for yacht anchorage and related activities. In addition, boat hire, toilets, kiosks and restaurants, ramps, jetties and wharves were proposed.

Scientific aspects of aquatic plants and marine life were also investigated with the assistance of CSIRO. Water edge experimental plantings were commenced by Dr Betty Philips, who had been an ecologist with the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Scheme in the 1950s and was appointed Botanist at the Canberra Botanic Gardens, in June 1960.

The concept of the Central Park (later renamed as Commonwealth Park) was set in the Holford report, including the shape of the shoreline and the Aquarium Pond. In 1964 Dame Sylvia Crowe advised the NCDC on Commonwealth Gardens and presented 'Recommendations on the Development of the Lakeside Landscape'. Within the park are 200 cherry trees donated by the Japanese Prime Minister Ohira in 1980. A spring floral event named Floriade was developed as a Bicentennial celebration in 1988 and was such an outstanding success it has been an annual festival since that occasion.

Structural Engineering Works

The original concept of Burley Griffin's series of formal basins with informal bodies of water up-stream and down-stream, became one large lake (with surface level as suggested by Scrivener 50 years before), impounded and controlled by a single dam structure, and crossed by two major bridges.

Maunsell and partners in association with William Holford and Partners were the engineering consultants for the supervision of the Ponds area , all the central road works and the fountains at the rond point. Messrs. Rankine and Hill were the consultants on the West Lake and West Basin areas. The Department of Public Works were responsible for the lake dam and East Basin. The contract for the dam was awarded to Citra.

Faults in the foundation bed-rock of the river-bed at the dam site could have greatly delayed or increased the cost of the structure, but for post-tensioning techniques recently developed. The control of the water at the 556 metre level (1825 feet) determined by the model test, was only possible with the new "fish belly" crest gates built in Germany. These gates also freed the dam from an awkward superstructure treatment, and allowed a road to run over it.

Apart from the dam wall, Commonwealth and Kings Avenue bridges constructed to span the lake, were feats of engineering accomplishment. Both were constructed with an elevation of a single geometrical arc formed by a continuous prestressed concrete box girder having a uniform depth of nine feet. Commonwealth Avenue bridge as the major route to the Parliamentary Triangle, included design features of pillars in an Art Deco style. Kings Avenue Bridge was opened by Prime Minister RG Menzies ,10 March 1962. Commonwealth Avenue Bridge was opened to traffic in November 1963 and formally opened by Prime Minister RG Menzies, October 1964.

An artificial wall was needed on the south bank with splays at right angles to Kings and Commonwealth Avenue bridges to facilitate the flow of the river through the half -circle it made from Fyshwick to Acton.

The Aquarium Pond (later Nerang Pool) footbridge was constructed as a two span in-situ concrete beam continuous over central pier and

Despite the success of the lake, the design for East Lake by Griffin has never been implemented, and the flood plain at Jerrabomberra wetland has been difficult to control although a wetland with rich bird life has developed from the series of natural and artificial drainage channels when the creation of Lake Burley Griffin obstructed and regulated the flow of the Molonglo River and Jerrabomberra Creek. It was designated as a Nature Reserve in 1990. The causeway included in the Griffin Plan that separated the East and Central Basins has never been developed.

Description

Lake Burley Griffin conservation area is a designed landscape that includes three formal water basins (Central, West and East Basins), islands, Scrivener Dam, Commonwealth Avenue and Kings Avenue Bridges, and the lakeshore parklands. Several RNE listed features are adjacent to or are included in this heritage area, these are Parliament House Vista (RNE 13371), Blundells Farmhouse (RNE 13324), the Carillon (RNE 18373), the High Court - National Gallery Precinct (RNE 102721), the National Library of Australia (RNE 13369), Weston Park (RNE 17934), Westbourne Woods (RNE 1337), Yarralumla and Surrounds (RNE 14304) and Stirling Ridge (RNE 13359).

Lake Burley Griffin covers an area of some 634 hectares and has a total volume of about 33,000 mega litres. It has a length of about 9 kilometres, an average depth of 4.5 metres and a maximum depth of 20 metres. Shore length is approximately 40.5 kilometres. The Lake surface is maintained at 556 metres (1825 feet) above sea level subject to temporary variations due to flood management requirements and other catchment inflow effects. The lake is also a sediment trap, that helps protect the Murrumbidgee River and

Burrunjuck Reservoir from excessive siltation. The flooding of Lake Burley Griffin has resulted in the creation of wetland habitats - the Jerrabaomberra Wetlands.

Lake management is a Commonwealth responsibility administered by the National Capital Authority, with day-to-day management undertaken by arrangements with various agencies within A.C.T. Territory Government. Catchment protection in NSW was undertaken until 1998 under a Commonwealth -State Agreement.

Scrivener Dam is a concrete gravity dam, 33 metres high and 235 metres long. Three sluice valves at the base of the dam are used to maintain the lake level. During low flow periods, water is released from Googong Dam to maintain the lake within .25 metres of the its normal level (NCPA 1995). Its spillway consists of 5 bays of free overflow crest, controlled by hydraulically operated "fish belly" flap gates, with capacity of 8,500 cubic metres per second (Smith and Coltheart, and C.J. Price)

The dam structure incorporates a roadway that provides one of three crossings of the lake. The others, at Commonwealth and Kings Avenues, are major bridges. Each is a twin structure, with separate parallel carriageways. Kings Avenue parallel structures use longitudinal precast prestressed concrete T beams forming separate carriageways, each of 7 spans totalling 270 metres. Underpass roads for exit and entry are provided at the south end only within the bridge spans. Kings Avenue Bridge was designed with wide piers to block out East Basin, viewed at the time as 'not so attractive'.

Commonwealth Avenue bridge structures are of 5 spans totalling 310 metres, of fully continuous prestressed design. It has a higher camber than Kings Avenue Bridge, a design feature to allow for yachts to sail beneath. The end pylons give added importance to the bridge as the main route to Parliament House. To provide an exit and entry clover leaf layout, separate structures are built on the main bridge's south approaches, totalling 49 metres each, in 4 approximately equal spans.

Original woodland trees and pre-Canberra plantings from pastoral properties remain in scattered locations in the lakes parklands. These include EUCALYPTUS BLAKELI, E. MELLIODORA(Yarralumla), E. BRIDGESIANNA (Acton Peninsula) PINUS RADIATA, SALIX (Duntroon), PINUS RADIATA, CEDRUS DEODARA (Yarralumla), CUPRESSUS MACROCARPA (Yarralumla and Lennox Gardens), POPULUS NIGRA 'Italica' (near the Hyatt Hotel), SALIX BABYLONICA (near Blundells Cottage and at Molonglo Reach).

Several of the groups of trees planted for the lake edge have been recognised as notable trees (Pryor and Banks 1991) and include TAXODIUM DISTICHUM (Weston Park and Nerang Pool), SALIX FRAGILIS (Acton Park).

The Lake's foreshores contain extensive parklands that offer a range of passive and active recreation opportunities, some of which is developed as designed gardens and formal landscaping such as Commonwealth Park, Kings Park, the Sculpture Garden, the Peace Park, Parks Place foreshore area, Lennox Gardens, Yarralumla (the Governor General's Residence). Parklands and recreation areas with designed but more informal landscaping such as Aspen Island, Bowen Park, Weston Park, Yarramundi Reach, Acacia Inlet, Springbank Island , Spinnaker Island, Stirling Park, Gevillea Park , Molonglo Reach. Black Mountain Peninsula and Stirling park have native woodlands, and Canberra Nature Park - Jerrabomberra Wetlands is a created wetland for native fauna. The lake water is also used to irrigate some of the nearby parklands and the Royal Canberra Golf Course.

Natural Environment Values

In ecological terms, the lake has created valuable wetland habitats, offers some protection against excessive siltation downstream, and the Dam fills an important flood control function. However, Lake Burley Griffin does not provide the necessary environmental conditions for the successful breeding of many introduced and native fish species and as a result does not maintain viable fish populations without regular restocking (Environment ACT 2000). Although the 1995 Lake Burley Griffin Management Plan recognizes that despite being artificial in origin, the lake has become one of the most significant aquatic ecosystems in the ACT, many of its natural values are contained within the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve.

Despite the presence of exotic plants, the margins of the main waterbodies of Jerrabomberra Wetlands provide significant aquatic habitat with a mix of rushes and sedges growing in conjunction with mainly exotic tree species such as willows *Salix* spp. and poplars *Populus* spp. Some amenity plantings of native species have been undertaken around the public use areas. Key habitat features of the area include large parts of Dairy Flat (a depositional floodplain of the Molonglo River), as well as open water areas such as Jerrabomberra Pool, Jerrabomberra Reach, Kelly's Swamp, Shoveller Pool and Molonglo Reach. The wetlands also provide areas of reed beds, marshlands, mudflats, gravel beaches, grasslands and drowned trees, all of which add to the area's high level of habitat diversity.

Seventy seven species of waterbird have been recorded within the Nature Reserve. This represents most of the waterbird species that are found in south-eastern Australia. Sixteen of these species use the area to breed. Notable amongst the waterbirds to use the area are the Latham's snipe *GALLINAGO HARDWICKII*, the common greenshank *TRINGA NEBULARIA*, the red-necked stint *CALIDRIS RUFICOLLIS* and the sharp-tailed sandpiper *CALIDRIS ACUMINATA*, all of which are protected under the Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement and the China Australia Migratory Bird Agreement.

Ninety six species of terrestrial birds have also been recorded within the wetland area. They generally utilize the reed beds on the shores of the open waterbodies. In addition, platypus *ORNITHORHINCHUS ANATINUS*, eastern snake-necked tortoises *CHELODINA LONGICOLLIS* and eastern water-rats *HYDROMYS CHRYSOGASTER* have also been recorded in the area.

Social and Aesthetic Importance

The Lake unifies the central precincts and national areas of Canberra and gives central Canberra a high aesthetic quality. It successfully expresses the water axis- a major component of the Walter Burley Griffin design concept.

The Central Basin is the centrepiece of the National Area, in the immediate foreground of the Parliamentary Zone, and unites the wider city-scape and public spaces on its foreshores in which are set major national buildings. The completed project brings into focus the natural beauty of distant mountains and adjacent hillsides and visually unites them with a created setting for public institutions, complemented by low profile bridges.

The lake is a most admired component of the Canberra plan- providing a reflective setting for public buildings, a tranquil nucleus for Canberra City. It provides extensive ephemeral aesthetic qualities. It is a major feature of Canberra's viewpoints at Black Mountain, Mount Ainslie and Red Hill

Buildings enhanced by the lake setting include the National Library, Commonwealth Place, the High Court and the National Gallery. Cultural landscape features that enhance the lake's aesthetic qualities include Commonwealth and Kings Avenue bridges, Captain

Cook Jet, the Carillon, all the water edge plantings including the poplars at Yarramundi Reach, the Swamp Cypresses at Weston Park, the Cypresses at Acton Peninsula, Weeping Willows, and planted and existing eucalypts.

Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve continues to provide an important environmental education resource. Bird hides and paths have been constructed near Jerrabomberra Pool and Kelly's Swamp for community recreation and education. Dairy Road, the main access point for the Jerrabomberra Wetlands, was altered to prevent through-traffic. This has greatly reduced the amount of background noise in the immediate area and has enhanced the wildlife experience for visitors to the wetlands.

Within the Lake and on the foreshore parklands are numerous memorials. The National Carillon (RNE 18373) on Aspen Island was a gift from the British Government to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the National Capital of Australia.

The water surface and foreshores provide the city with many venues for recreation, social and public events and community gathering and present easy access to national buildings set in adjacent landscape. A great range of water sports is conducted on the lake and boat sheds or clubhouses are located at Yarralumla Bay, Orana Bay, Lotus Bay and Black Mountain Peninsula and there is a ferry terminal at Acton.

Commonwealth Park is used for events and festivals such as the Canberra Day, fun runs, the hugely successful Floriade, Australia Day citizenship ceremonies, and fireworks displays events and contains many arts works and memorials. A display centre has been developed at Regatta Point.

History: Not Available

Condition and Integrity:

The dam is in a reasonable condition, is well maintained and has not been modified during its lifetime. It is currently being subjected to a review due to criteria changes which may result in some modifications. It was originally built to impound a recreation lake and this has not changed.

The lake is in sound condition and carefully managed.

Most of the Jerrabomberra Wetland area is situated on the Dairy Flat floodplain, an area that has been used for grazing and cropping for decades. As a result, the terrestrial areas of the wetlands are mostly degraded pastures containing exotic species.

Cypress and pine plantations in the Yarramundi Reach area were extensively damaged by bushfires December 2001. (2003)

Location:

About 6640ha, comprising Scrivener Dam and the impounded waters of the Molonglo River, forming Lake Burley Griffin.

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