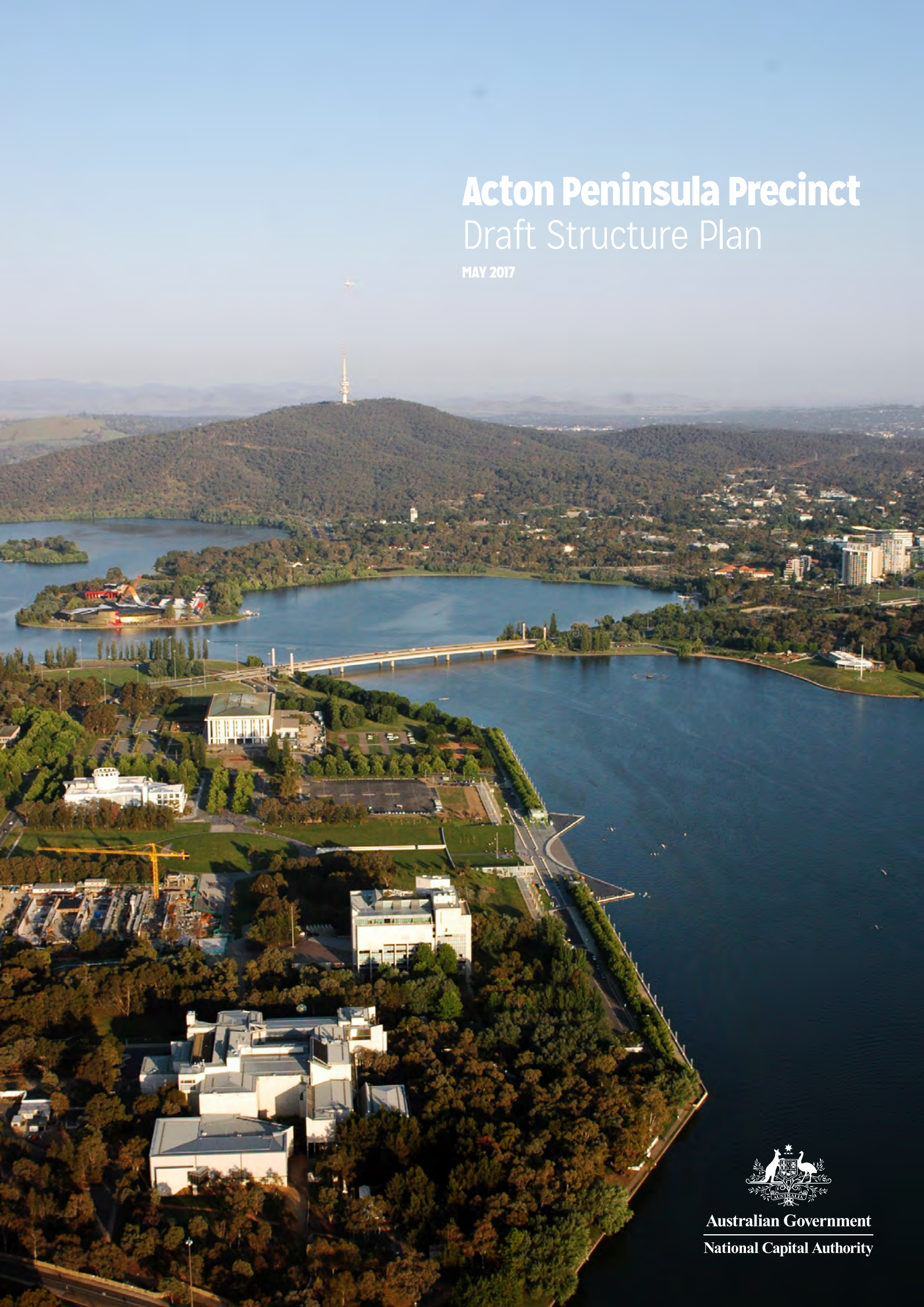


# Acton Peninsula Precinct Draft Structure Plan

MAY 2017



Australian Government  
National Capital Authority

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**Australian Government**  
**National Capital Authority**

**IN COLLABORATION WITH THE PENINSULA PARTNERS**



**Australian  
National  
University**



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# Foreword



***Acton Peninsula is a physically and visually prominent location that is the setting for some of the most important cultural institutions in Canberra. These buildings and the activities they support are significant at both a local and national level, attract substantial visitor and local patronage, and help define the important contemporary appeal of the National Capital.***

Despite this central and important context, the public spaces and environs of the Acton Peninsula are not of a standard commensurate with their significance. The sense of arrival into the peninsula is visually compromised and car dominant. The frontage to Lake Burley Griffin and surrounding views are underutilised. The existing connections are weak between the institutions and adjoining precincts such as the University campus, New Acton and West Basin. The latter is the location for major future mixed use development.

In response to these challenges and at the NCA's instigation, leaders from institutions sited on and around Acton Peninsula formed the Acton Peninsula Partnership as a way to exchange ideas on how to improve the quality of the public spaces around the peninsula and its adjacent areas. Collectively, the National Museum of Australia, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, the Australian National University, the ACT Government and the National Capital Authority agreed to work together on developing a framework that would guide future development and management of the Acton Peninsula Precinct.

The ideas put forward in the Acton Peninsula Precinct Draft Structure Plan are the product of over twelve months of workshops, discussions and exchanges between the peninsula Partners. The outcome of this collaborative effort is an exciting, innovative, creative and ambitious vision for the Acton Peninsula as a potentially world-class cultural precinct that celebrates Australia's national identity and respects Canberra's local heritage. It is a place which promotes the accessibility and exchange of ideas, a blending of uses and promotes the activation of public spaces, all underpinned by development which stimulates economic investment and growth.

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| 01 ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PENINSULA   | 08 THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, HIS EXCELLENCY, GENERAL THE HON SIR PETER COSGROVE AK MC (RETD) AND LADY COSGROVE VIEW A RARE PRINT OF THE FIRST IMAGE OF A MAJOR PUBLIC CORROBOREE IN A BOOK |
| 02 ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA (NMA)  | 09 CAMPUS LIFE, ANU  |
| 03 AERIAL VIEW OF THE PENINSULA AND SPRING BANK ISLAND, BLACK MOUNTAIN BACKDROP                  | 10 EXHIBITION AND GATHERING, THE HALL, NMA   |
| 04 NATIONAL CAPITAL EXHIBITION   | 11 EDUCATION, ANU  |
| 05 ART + CULTURAL EVENTS, NMA  | 12 EXHIBITION AND EVENTS, THE HALL, NMA  |
| 06 DJAKAPURRA MUNYARRYUN PERFORMS AS PART OF LORRKKON, 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS FOR AIATSIS | 13 A RICH HISTORY OF MIXED USES ON THE PENINSULA   |
| 07 RESEARCH AT ANU   |  |



01



02



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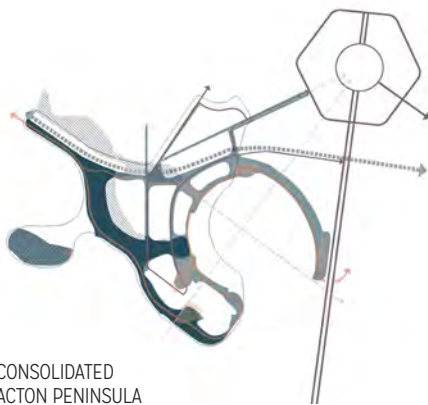
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# Overview and Scope

## I. PURPOSE



CONSOLIDATED  
ACTON PENINSULA  
DRAFT STRUCTURE  
PLAN

### What is a structure plan?

A structure plan sets out overarching principles and policies for the development of urban areas.

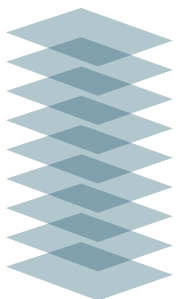
The Acton Peninsula precinct is home to a number of important national institutions including the National Museum of Australia (NMA), the Australian National University (ANU) and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). In addition, the ACT Government's City to the Lake project proposes major new mixed use development on and adjacent to the peninsula. Other initiatives proposed for Canberra also affect the peninsula, including a major rethink of Parkes Way and an urban design strategy for Commonwealth Avenue.

This draft structure plan sets the principles and policies for Acton Peninsula. Taking into account uses in and around the precinct, its aim is to provide clear direction on the physical organisation and future character of the peninsula. The draft structure plan provides a cohesive and long-term framework for future detailed planning and design.

The plan describes the objectives for all the urban design elements that need to be incorporated into Acton Peninsula to create a unique sense of place. The guiding principles in the plan show how different uses can be integrated and allows for new uses to develop.

The urban elements that are considered important to the Acton Peninsula Draft Precinct Structure Plan are:

- Urban Structure;
- Urban Grain;
- Density and Mix;
- Height and Massing;
- Public Realm;
- Streetscape and Landscape;
- Details and Materials;
- Energy and Resources; and
- Staging and Management.



THE ACTON PENINSULA  
PRECINCT DRAFT  
STRUCTURE PLAN IS  
DESCRIBED THROUGH A  
SERIES OF LAYERS

## II. HOW THIS PLAN WILL BE USED

After consultation and endorsement, key aspects of the structure plan will be incorporated into a draft amendment to the National Capital Plan. Once finalised and endorsed, the amended National Capital Plan will be used to assess projects submitted for Works Approval.



III. SITE SUBJECT TO DRAFT STRUCTURE PLAN



BROAD CONTEXT PLAN

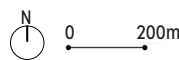


AREA SUBJECT TO STRUCTURE PLAN



EXISTING LAND CUSTODIAN/ LESSEE PLAN

- AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
- LAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
- TRANSPORT CANBERRA AND CITY SERVICES
- ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES
- NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA
- LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN
- NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY



**“It is a place which promotes the accessibility and exchange of ideas, a blending of uses and promotes the activation of public spaces, all underpinned by development which stimulates economic investment and growth”**

*Acton Peninsula Partners*



#### IV. SHARED VISION AND OBJECTIVES

The Acton Peninsula Precinct Draft Structure Plan considers the overall characteristics and qualities of the site within its greater city context. Access to the peninsula is particularly important, as is the protection and enhancement of the heritage and landscape qualities of the peninsula.

*The Acton Peninsula Precinct Draft Structure Plan vision is to:*

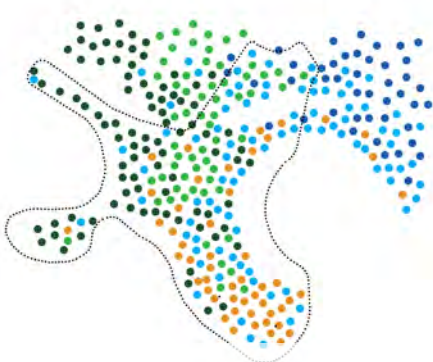
- Deliver world-class core functions of education and museum facilities that exceed the expectations of a domestic and international population of visitors and employees; and
- Reaffirm Acton Peninsula as one of Canberra’s premier gathering places by creating an exciting, connected, active and vibrant precinct that focuses visitors, educators and researchers on Australia’s culture and intellectual capital.

*The vision will be realised through:*

- **Place Making** - integrating built form, landscaping and the public realm to create an integrated, functioning whole that is people focused
- **Permeability** - inviting tourists, business visitors, educators, researchers and locals to explore everything the peninsula has to offer
- **Flexibility** - delivering facilities that can effectively be experienced both day and night, week to week and year to year
- **Variety** - providing a range of activities and experiences that provide something for everyone and attract repeat visitation; and
- **Connectivity** - delivering seamless linkages to each of the surrounding precincts, creating an active dialogue with adjacent uses such as commercial, residential and recreational uses in Acton, Civic and the broader Lake Burley Griffin foreshores.

*The draft structure plan:*

- is prepared in a predominately visual and diagrammatic way that is easy to interpret and use
- is compliant with the specific requirements of the National Capital Plan and relevant supporting documents
- aids development of future master plans and detailed planning work that proposes new development on the peninsula - as such, it acts as a briefing document prior to consideration of new works proposals on the peninsula
- considers access and the provision of service infrastructure in support of uses within the peninsula
- is developed from site analysis and has considered movement, hydrology, geology, vegetation, heritage values and identity, amongst others
- provides guidance on the planning and design of the public spaces within the peninsula and the role well-designed public space has in achieving consistency and positive relationships between built form and uses; and
- strengthens the aspirations and presence of institutions and facilities within the peninsula Precinct.



A SHARED VISION - A PENINSULA OF HIGH EXCHANGE





## V. CONTEXT AND DESIGN EXCELLENCE

*To ensure that the built form and public realm is designed in a manner that integrates with, and enriches, the broader local context, the following techniques are used:*

- Setting an appropriate building height, alignment, form, grain and massing;
- Choosing materials to suit a local area palette;
- Responding to and incorporating adjacent items of heritage significance by aligning built form and open space, proportions, and site coverage;
- Acknowledging the Acton Complex Heritage Management Plan 2015, and the importance of the heritage values, while considering options to reinterpret the buildings, structures, and European and Aboriginal history in a range of ways which may include the removal of buildings to achieve a long term vision;
- Protecting significant natural heritage features within the public realm;
- Establishing strategies which effectively interpret and communicate the heritage values inherent within the public realm of the precinct;
- Providing new landmarks adjacent to Lake Burley Griffin, increasing the visual presence of the facilities located on the peninsula;
- Maintaining and preserving significant view corridors along the peninsula that visually connect West Basin with Lake Burley Griffin, retaining the dominance of the natural landscape backdrop of Black Mountain and the open natural landscape character of the western reaches of Lake Burley Griffin, and enriching the overall composition and relationship between nature and built form;
- Reinforcing the creation of a new complementary precinct in the city centre, already articulated in part in the City to the Lake strategy, one that engages with people at a ground level and enhances the quality of street life through a hierarchy of public spaces;
- Providing day and night time uses through events and a critical mass of users that respond to the existing and emerging new uses on the peninsula; and
- Providing signature spaces that open to Lake Burley Griffin and Black Mountain and, in the process, showcasing the city and making the peninsula an integral part of the education and museum experience.



AERIAL OF THE ACTON PENINSULA IN THE BROADER CITY AND LANDSCAPE SETTING



AERIAL VIEW LOOKING SOUTH TOWARDS PARLIAMENT HOUSE FROM THE PENINSULA

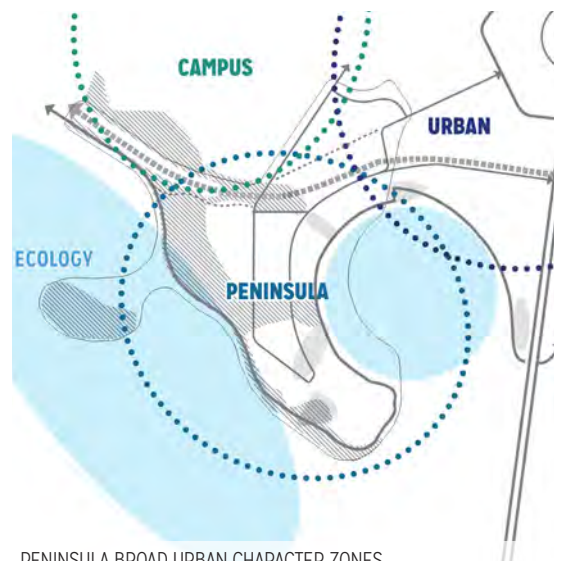
## VI. PLACE MAKING

*The Acton Peninsula Precinct Draft Structure Plan seeks to define a place that:*

- Protects, conserves and interprets Canberra's natural and cultural heritage;
- Provides a readily identifiable address and obvious point of entry to the peninsula and facilities there;
- Creates a clear identity that creates a sense of place of the peninsula;
- Prioritises pedestrian movement and accessibility, followed by cycling and public transport;
- Integrates and links the peninsula with access roads, cycleways and pathways, also tying in with the road and open space network developed for the City to the Lake Project;
- Enriches the public realm, recognising the existing landscape, topography, underlying geology, hydrology, open space networks, movement patterns and heritage of the peninsula;
- Provides a seamless fit of facilities within the broader urban environment through sensitive integration of new buildings and spaces within the existing land uses, built form, landscaping, and the established social, cultural and environmental character of the peninsula;
- Provides opportunities for activation at ground level by the inclusion of complementary uses such as retail, community and civic purposes; and
- Supports a robust economy that benefits from complementary uses, co-location of facilities and services, and multiple attractions for users to the peninsula.



AERIAL LOOKING NORTH OVER THE PENINSULA AND WEST BASIN TOWARDS THE CITY



PENINSULA BROAD URBAN CHARACTER ZONES





**VII. PUBLIC REALM**

*All development on Acton Peninsula must respond to the landscape character of the site to:*

- Reinforce a consistency in building line, height and proportion sympathetic to their context;
- Sit comfortably next to existing building forms, recognising the different aspirations in activating the public realm;
- Address and respond to significant heritage buildings and features;
- Obtain high standards of design quality; and
- Meet current planning objectives and controls outlined in the National Capital Plan.

*The design of the public realm must:*

- Be located to define and activate adjacent and contributing public spaces;
- Include spaces to accommodate gatherings of different scales - from larger gathering spaces to more intimate encounters;
- Minimise visual, acoustic and amenity impacts on adjacent public spaces;
- Ensure that important views to Lake Burley Griffin, Black Mountain and existing buildings are not obscured;
- Comprise of high-quality landscape design comprising street furniture, lighting, paving, wayfinding and signage, and planting;
- Ensure pedestrian, cyclist and traffic movement are well integrated;
- Provide summer shade, winter sunlight and protection from prevailing winds; and
- Create an ambience and sense of place that has a distinctive and (positive) memorable identity.

**VIII. OUTCOMES**

*The objectives for Acton Peninsula will achieve the following outcomes:*

- Re-launch the peninsula Precinct by defining its place within the city as a venue for international museum, cultural and educational and research facilities;
- Create a new place within Canberra to be defined by a unique, recognisable and marketable character;
- Complement other precincts and destinations focused on the surrounding areas and Lake Burley Griffin;
- Ensure multi-functionality of uses with a focus on flexibility, adaptability and sustainability;
- Bring vibrancy to the peninsula that also contributes towards the greater urban fabric;
- Ensure a design quality that provides a unique experience for international visitors, educators and researchers that is embraced and integrated into the lives of the population of Canberra;
- Provide visitors with the opportunity to experience a variety of places at various scales and intimacy on the peninsula with a richness of experience and activities; and
- Increase visitation to the precinct through improved accessibility, legibility and wayfinding.

# The Site

## THE SITE NOW

### Prominent location

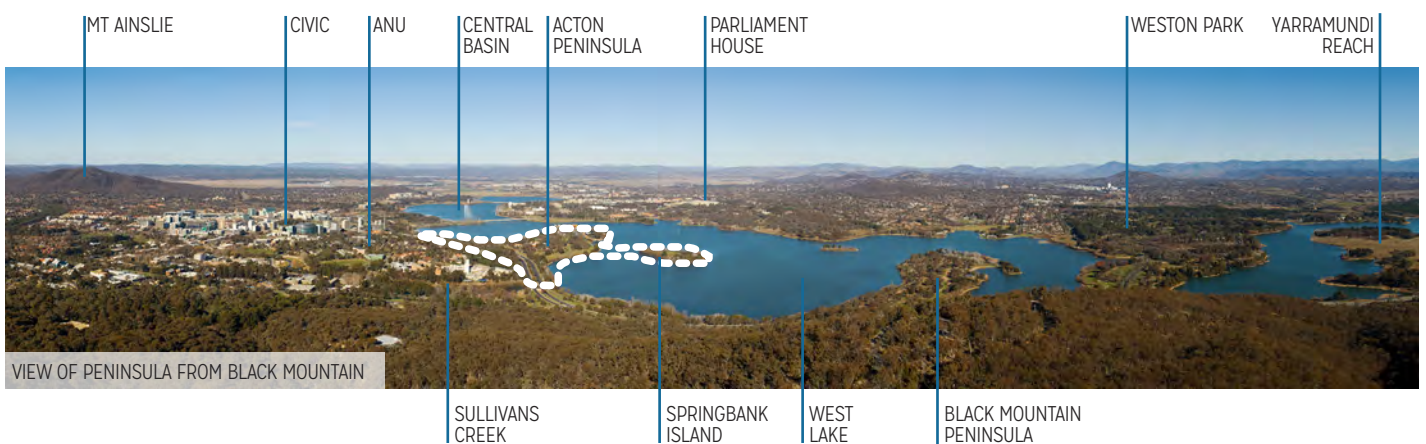
### Disconnected with constrained access

### Significant existing landscape areas

- Visually prominent, overlooked from Commonwealth Avenue and Parkes Way.
- Views from the peninsula internally into West Basin and signature views into the western reaches of Lake Burley Griffin.
- The peninsula is bisected by Parkes Way and disconnected from ANU and Civic.
- Poor legibility, access and arrival to the NMA.
- Some existing built form and the topography restricts continuous public access around the waterfront.
- Limited usable open space, visually dominated by surface carparking and lack of cohesive planning for the peninsula.
- Significant native tree cover, native grasslands and limestone outcrop.



PROMINENT LOCATION - AERIAL VIEW LOOKING SOUTH

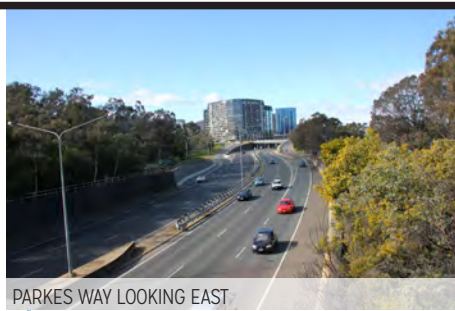


VIEW OF PENINSULA FROM BLACK MOUNTAIN





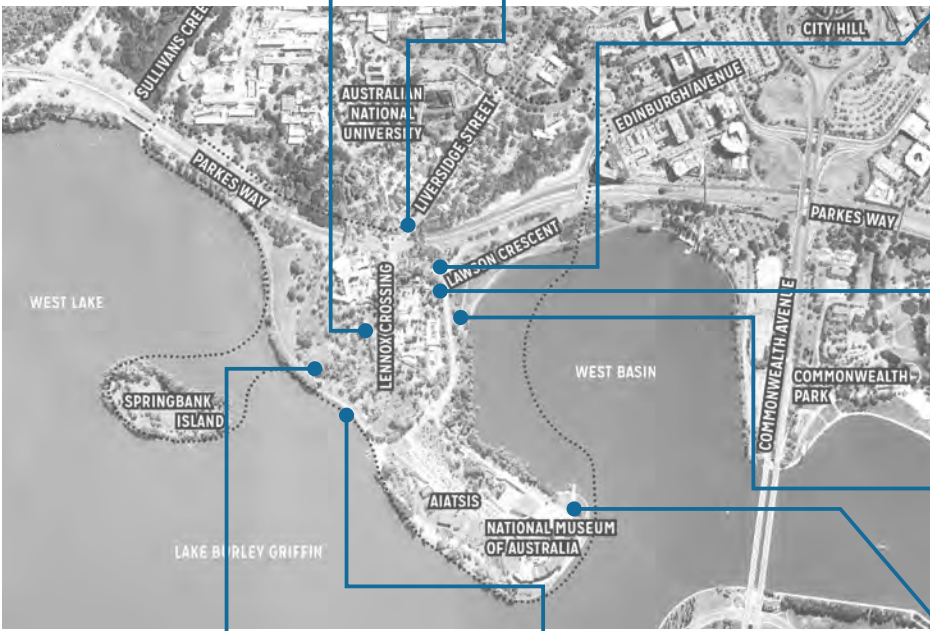
LENOX CROSSING



PARKES WAY LOOKING EAST



BACHELORS LANE FROM LAWSON CRESCENT



LAWSON CRESCENT LOOKING SOUTH



LAKE EDGE, WEST LAKE



GRASSLANDS



LAKE EDGE, WEST LAKE



NMA FORESHORE LAWNS

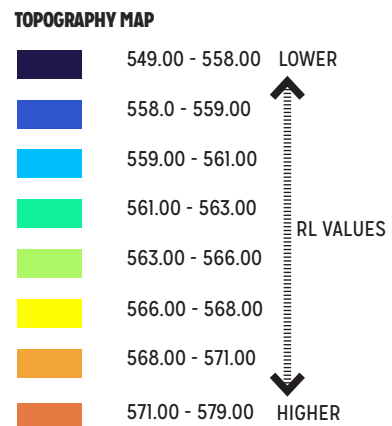
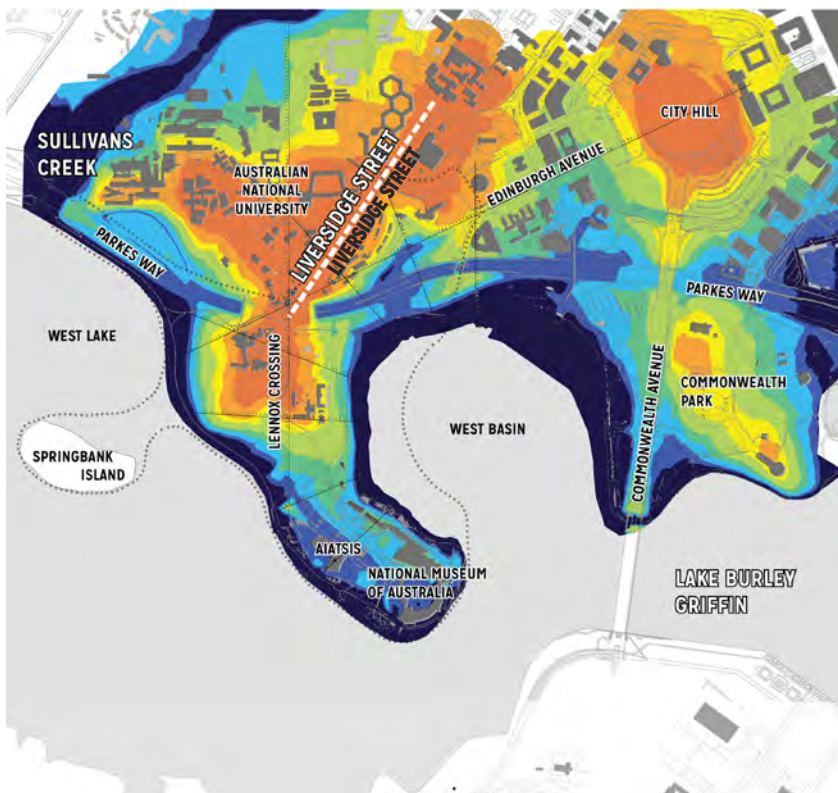
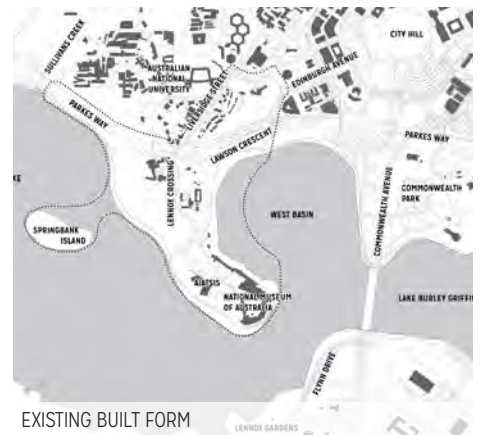
EXISTING SITE PHOTOS

**SITE DEVELOPMENT**

**Topography**

- Acton Peninsula is a spur extending down from Black Mountain.
- Liversidge Street marks a ridge separating Sullivans' Creek and the Molonglo River (Lake Burley Griffin).
- Existing buildings, including cultural and heritage buildings, range in architectural style and sit in isolation around the peninsula.

**Existing built form**





**REFERENCES**

*Draft Acton Complex Heritage Management Plan (2015)*

*City to the Lake - West Basin Project Stage 1 Indigenous Heritage assessment 2014*

*Acton Conservation Area Heritage Management Plan (2011)*

**HERITAGE**

**Aboriginal history**

**Early European occupation (1824-1911)**

**Acton Complex**

**Acton Conservation Area**

- Black Mountain and its spur (Acton Peninsula) is a precinct that has Aboriginal cultural history extending back at least 25,000 years.
- Acton House (now demolished) was the first pastoral homestead sited at the end of Acton Ridge.
- Limestone outcrops reference the Limestone Plains as the site chosen for the National Capital
- Remaining former hospital buildings have heritage value for their role and association with the Royal Canberra Hospital (1943-1991)
- Gardens associated with these buildings shared the same values although they are less intact.
- Significant trees remain including specimens associated with Acton House.
- The Lennox House Complex was built as Bachelors Quarters.
- Old Canberra House (The Residence) for a time accommodated the British High Commissioner.
- Acton Cottages provided accommodation for foreign diplomats and middle and upper level public servants.



ABORIGINAL ROCK ART, NGUNNAWAL COUNTRY



MOLONGLO RIVER ACTON, 1920



HISTORIC CANBERRA HOSPITAL, 1940S

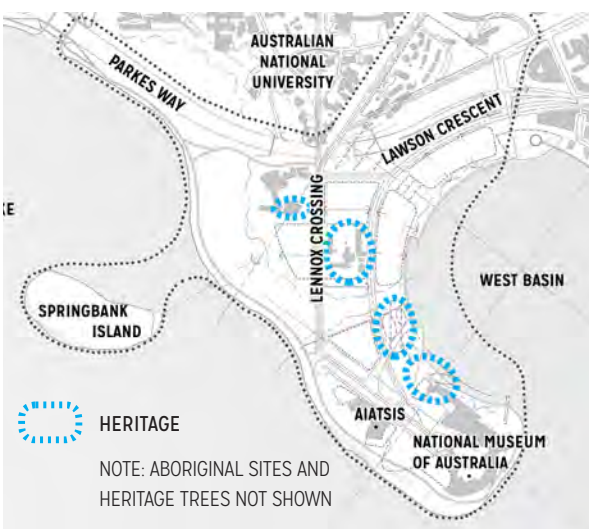


GARDENS ASSOCIATED WITH BUILDINGS



LIMESTONE OUTCROP TODAY

**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**



**PLACE CHRONOLOGY**

- ABORIGINAL OCCUPATION  
NGUNNAWAL COUNTRY  
(CANBERRA REGION)  
AT LEAST 25,000 YEARS
- 1824**  
EARLY EUROPEAN  
OCCUPATION
- 1913**  
CANBERRA FOUNDED
- 1963**  
LAKE FORMED AND  
PENINSULA PRONOUNCED
- 2015**  
TODAY

# 01 Urban Structure

The draft structure plan describes an integrated precinct that enables the sharing of facilities and opportunities for research, education and public outreach. An important objective is to improve the legibility of access and arrival to the peninsula by means of public transport, pedestrians, cycles and private vehicles. Internal networks within the peninsula should connect to the broad city networks and enable multi-nodal access, recognising the high numbers of visitors and diverse reasons for visiting the peninsula. The urban structure defines a pedestrian-focused public realm that connects and integrates the various uses and opportunities for recreation.

## SITE APPRECIATION

### Heritage

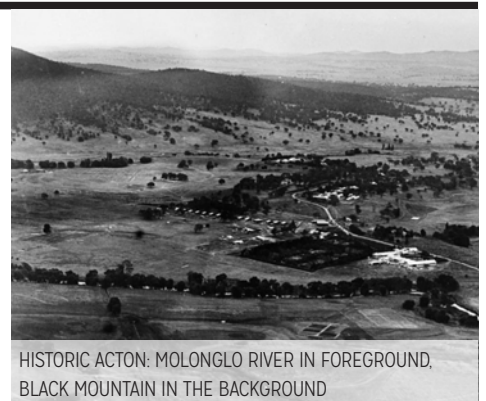
- Acton Peninsula has meaning to traditional owners as a meeting and ceremonial place.
- Significant trees planted from the early days of European settlement of the Limestone Plains mirroring Canberra's development as a city.
- Later used as the site for Canberra's public hospital also has great importance for many people.

### Culture

### Natural landscape

### Built form

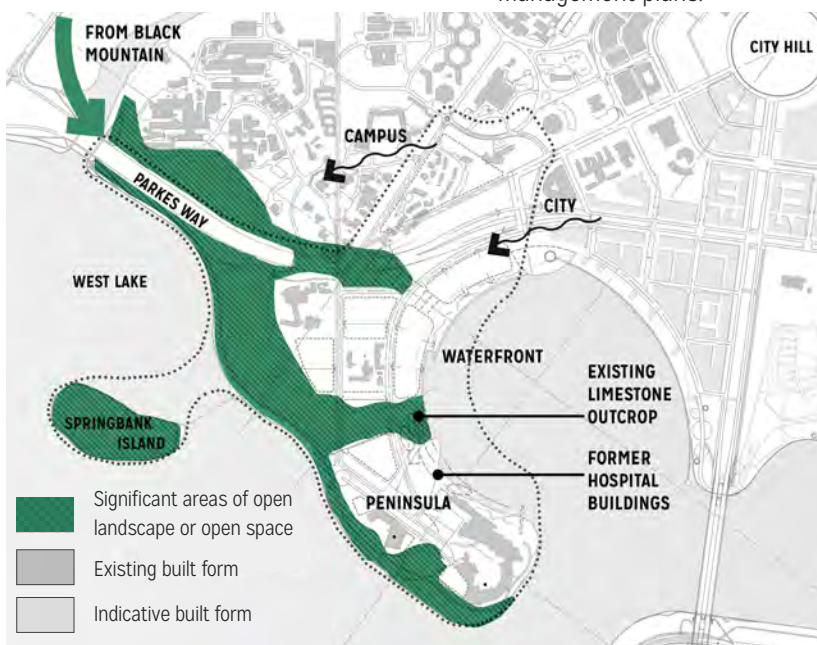
- Significant native tree cover, protected patches of native grassland communities and limestone outcrop.
- Prominent location on Lake Burley Griffin.
- Consideration and reinterpretation of some of the remaining hospital buildings can help to connect West Lake to West Basin and realise the long term vision of creating and linking key public gathering places on the peninsula.
- Any redevelopment of or around heritage buildings and areas will be assessed in accordance with statutory heritage processes and relevant heritage management plans.



HISTORIC ACTON: MOLONGLO RIVER IN FOREGROUND, BLACK MOUNTAIN IN THE BACKGROUND



CURRENT LANDSCAPE SETTING



SITE APPRECIATION



CANBERRA'S NATIVE GRASSLANDS



COOLAMON - A MULTI-PURPOSE SHALLOW VESSEL USED BY ABORIGINALS FOR HOLDING FOOD OR WATER



**MOVEMENT FRAMEWORK**

**Integrate into the existing street network**

**Design for walking and cycling**

**Considers multi-modal movement**

**The draft structure plan:**

- integrates Acton Peninsula to become part of the broader West Basin area, the greater ANU campus and the city street network
- achieves continuity in movement as part of a connected system
- achieves a balance between the requirements for efficient movement by pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, emphasising a safe and attractive environment
- provides choice of route and multiple points of entry and exit to and from Acton Peninsula; and
- accommodates movement of buses and trucks up to 12.5m in length.



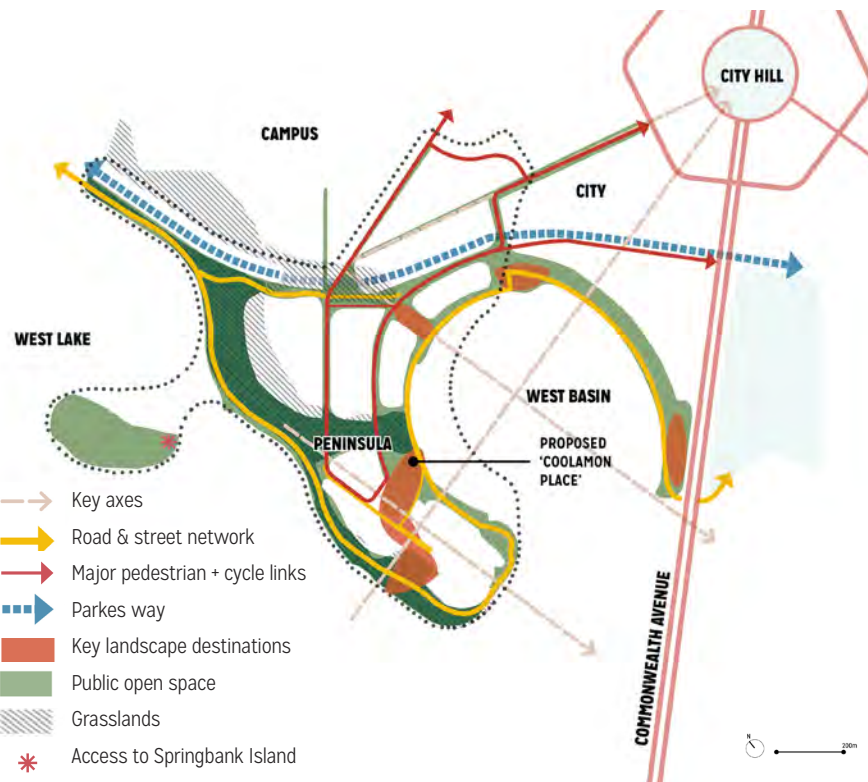
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA IS A PRIMARY DESTINATION



CONNECTION WITH ANU



EXAMPLE: ATTRACTIVE PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY ROUTES



PROPOSED NETWORK

## WALKING

### **Development principles:**

- priority to a pedestrian-orientated environment;
- shade and physical amenity along pathways;
- direct routes linking principle activities and facilities but also allowing for future uses; and
- multiple routes to destinations and public transport services.



PEDESTRIAN SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

## CYCLING

### **Development principles:**

- shade and physical amenity along cycle paths;
- separation of primary routes from pedestrian pathways;
- continuity of the Lake Burley Griffin lake circuit; and
- direct connections to the existing Marcus Clarke Street and civic network and future ANU network.



CONNECTED CYCLE ROUTES

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

### **Development principles:**

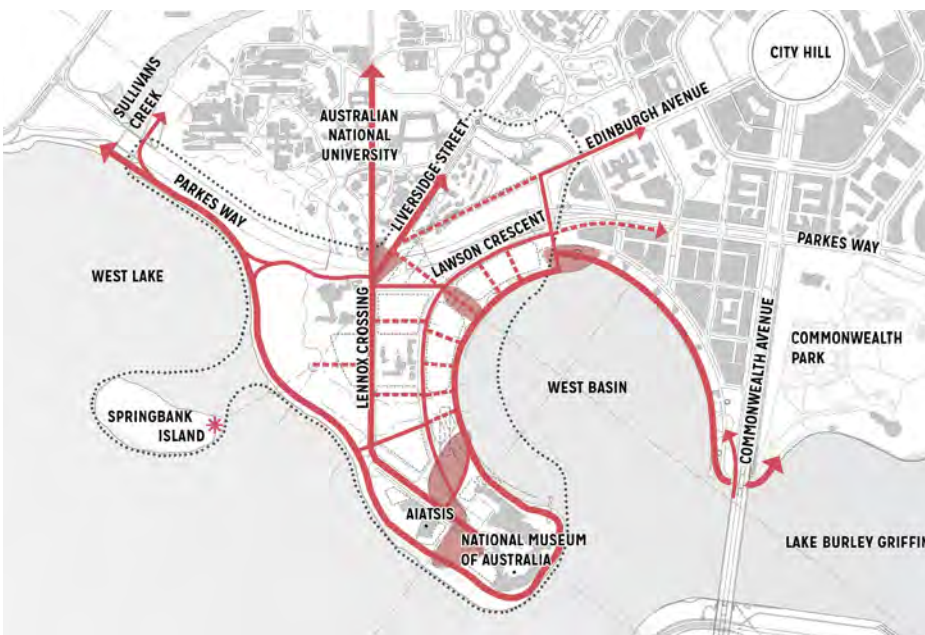
- a bus route through Acton Peninsula connecting into Civic and the ANU; and
- recognise the *Transport for Canberra* recommendations, including the public transport routes along major corridors.



ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

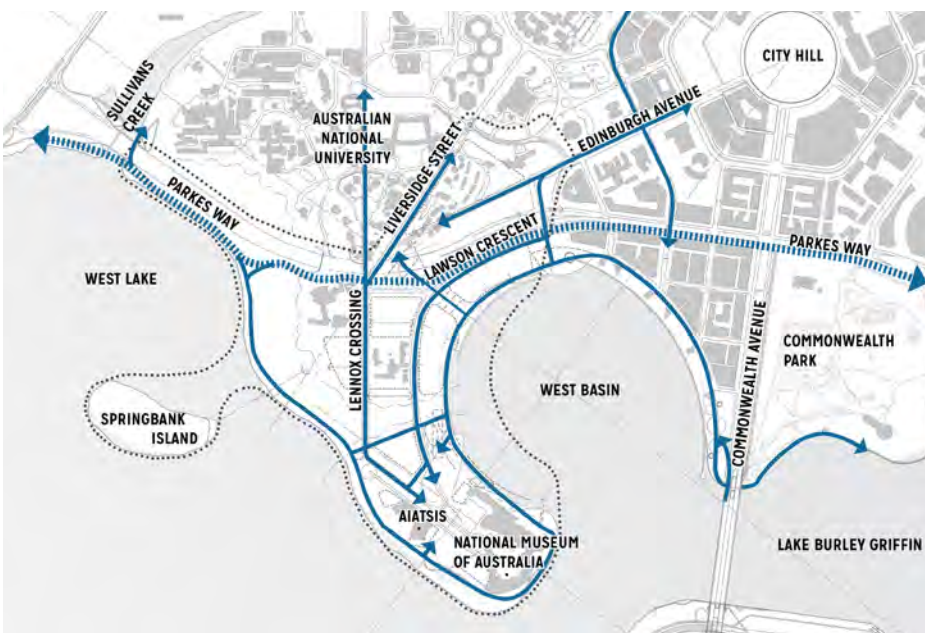


PEDESTRIAN / CYCLING NETWORK



**PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT**

- Primary movement paths
- Secondary movement paths
- Tertiary links
- \* Springbank Island access (via watercraft)
- Primary open space destinations



**PROPOSED CYCLE MOVEMENT**

- Primary commuter movement routes
- Secondary movement routes

# 02 Urban Grain

Urban grain refers to the arrangement of streets, buildings and open spaces, and the inter-relationships between them that comprise the pattern of development on the peninsula. A fine grain of development usually realises places that have great appeal and interest and which invite repeated visitation.

## STREETS AND TRAFFIC

### Street hierarchy

### Entry and arrival points

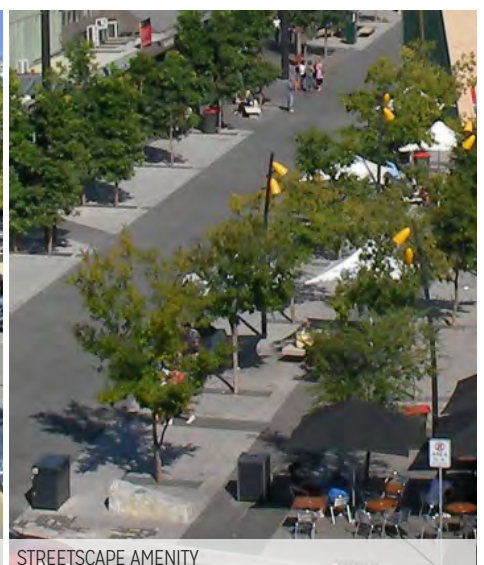
### Main routes

### Traffic calming

### Amenity

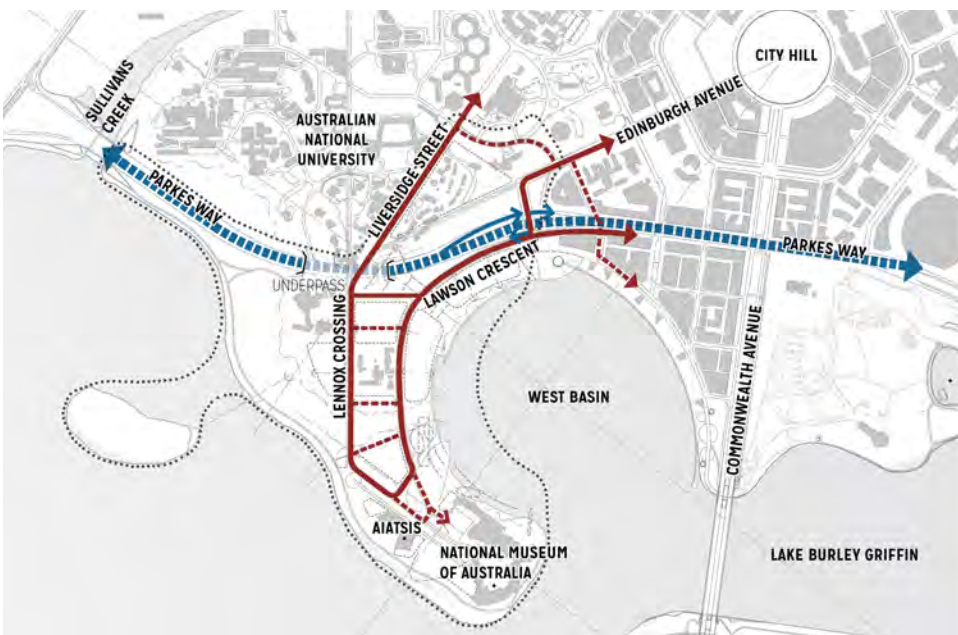
#### **Development principles:**

- a hierarchy of streets within the peninsula that clearly identifies a main access route;
- includes secondary streets to achieve permeability and access to carparking and secondary uses;
- identifiable entry nodes to the peninsula.
- multiple points of entry through alternative routes;
- pedestrian and cyclist friendly streets achieved through traffic calming techniques; and
- shade, lighting and detail in the street design that offers a high level of amenity and comfort.



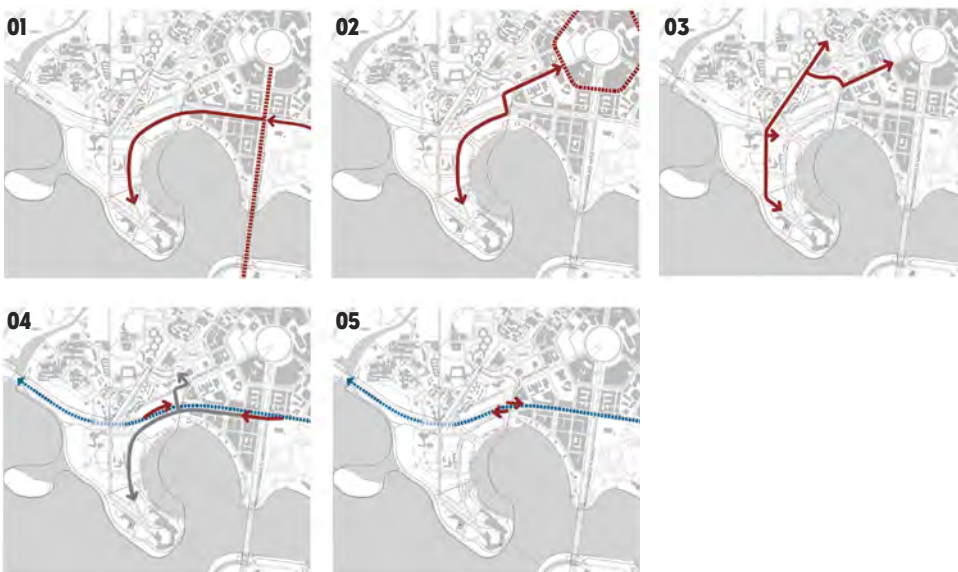


**ROAD NETWORK ACCESS ROUTES INTO AND THROUGH THE PENINSULA**



**PROPOSED ROAD & STREET NETWORK**

- Primary movement
- - - Secondary movement
- - - Arterial movement (Parkes Way)



**ACCESS ROUTES**

- 01** Access from Commonwealth Avenue and Parkes Way via local access road.
- 02** Access via Edinburg Avenue
- 03** Access to ANU via Edinburg Avenue and Liversidge Street
- 04** Access from Parkes Way
- 05** Exiting the peninsula onto Parkes Way

**BUILT FORM & USE**

**Mixed use**

**Shared use of facilities and services**

**High exchange**

**Development principles:**

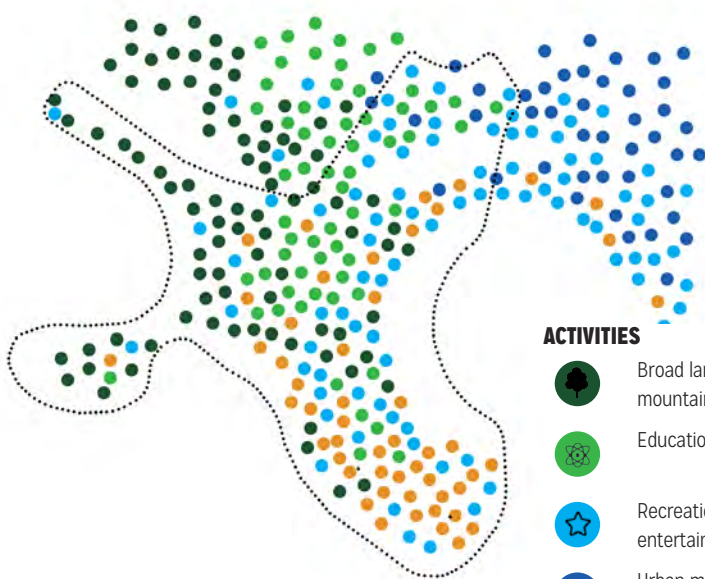
- compatible mixed uses throughout the peninsula;
- public-use destinations at regular intervals along routes;
- active uses facing onto streets and the lake promenade;
- shared use of facilities and services within precincts including carparking, meeting spaces and hospitality;
- small block sizes that allow permeability to the lake promenade;
- a fine grain of built form rather than monolithic structures; and
- buildings and spaces that enable the interchange of intellectual capital and collaboration between disciplines and professionals.



ACTIVE FRONTAGES PROMOTE A LIVELY PUBLIC REALM

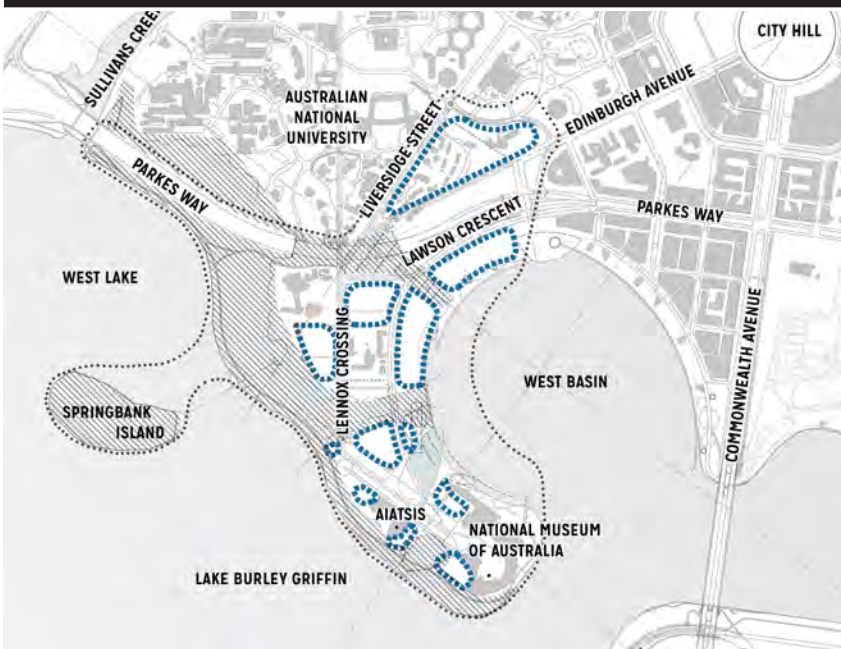


COMPATIBLE MIXED USES





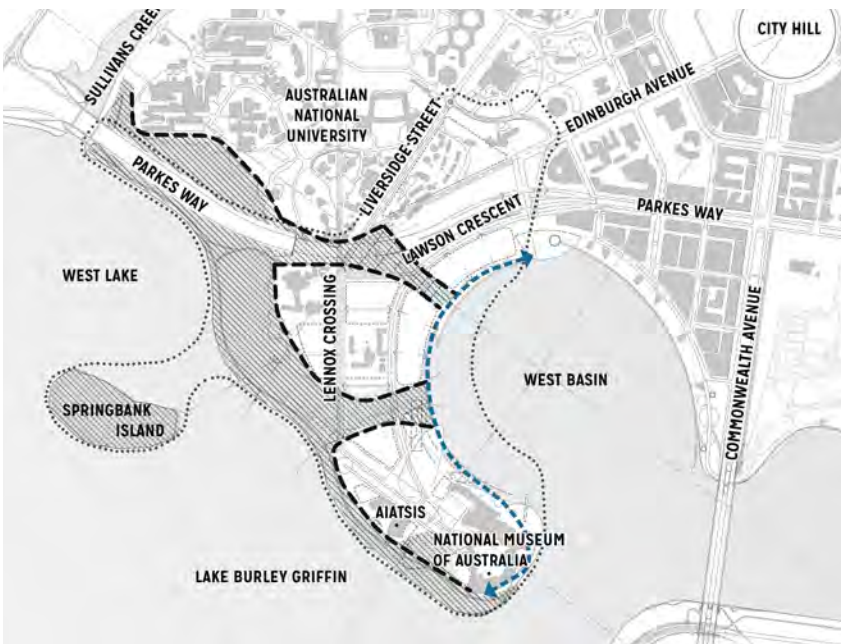
A PENINSULA OF 'HIGH EXCHANGE'








**INDICATIVE DEVELOPMENT ZONES**

-  Possible development zones & existing building extension zones
-  Future public open space



**PROPOSED LIMIT OF FUTURE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT**

-  Proposed limit of future building development
-  Future public open space - broad landscape connections to Black Mountain
-  Waterfront public open space access: public right-of-way

**REFERENCE**

Walter Burley Griffin's 1917 Plan  
National Library of Australia  
Digital Maps Collection

**LANDMARKS, VISTAS AND FOCAL POINTS**

Landmarks

Axes

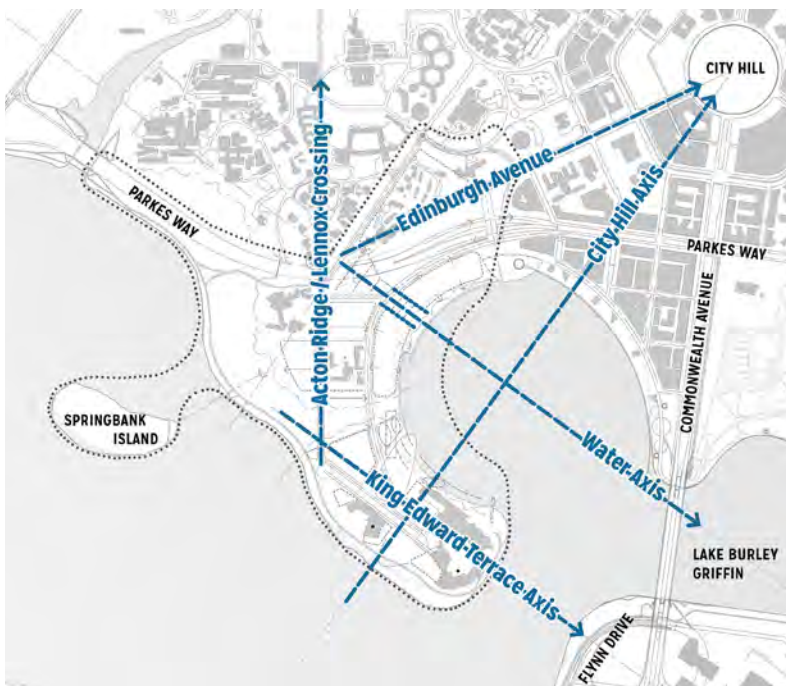
Geometry

**Development principles:**

- a sense of arrival to the peninsula through defined entries from Commonwealth Avenue, Edinburgh Avenue and Liversidge Streets;
- emphasis on entry from the water axis through West Basin;
- a built form arrangement that recognises and extends the water axis into ANU; and
- primary public access along the West Basin promenade and from ANU along the campus's central spine.



PENINSULA AS A LANDMARK



--- Axis



CANBERRA LAYOUT ORGANISED BY AXES AND LANDSCAPE



**PUBLIC TRANSPORT & BUS SERVICING**

**Bus/coach parking**

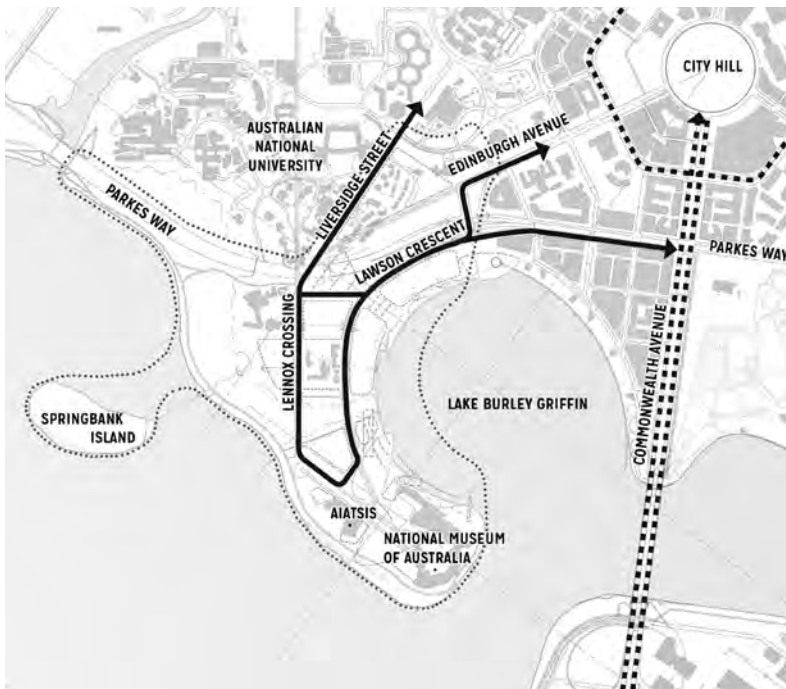
**Public transport networks**

**Development principles:**

- safe bus layby and set down zones with associated facilities; and
- a connected and regular public transport service to the peninsula.



ACCOMMODATES BUS CIRCULATION AND SET DOWN



**PROPOSED PUBLIC TRANSPORT & BUS SERVICING**

- ← Public transport access
- ←···· Existing public transport network

## CARPARKING

Location

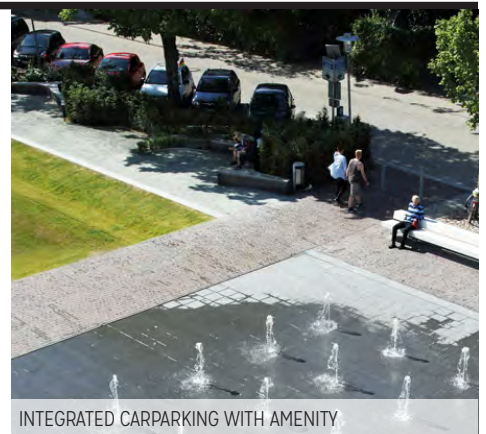
Shared servicing

Integrated

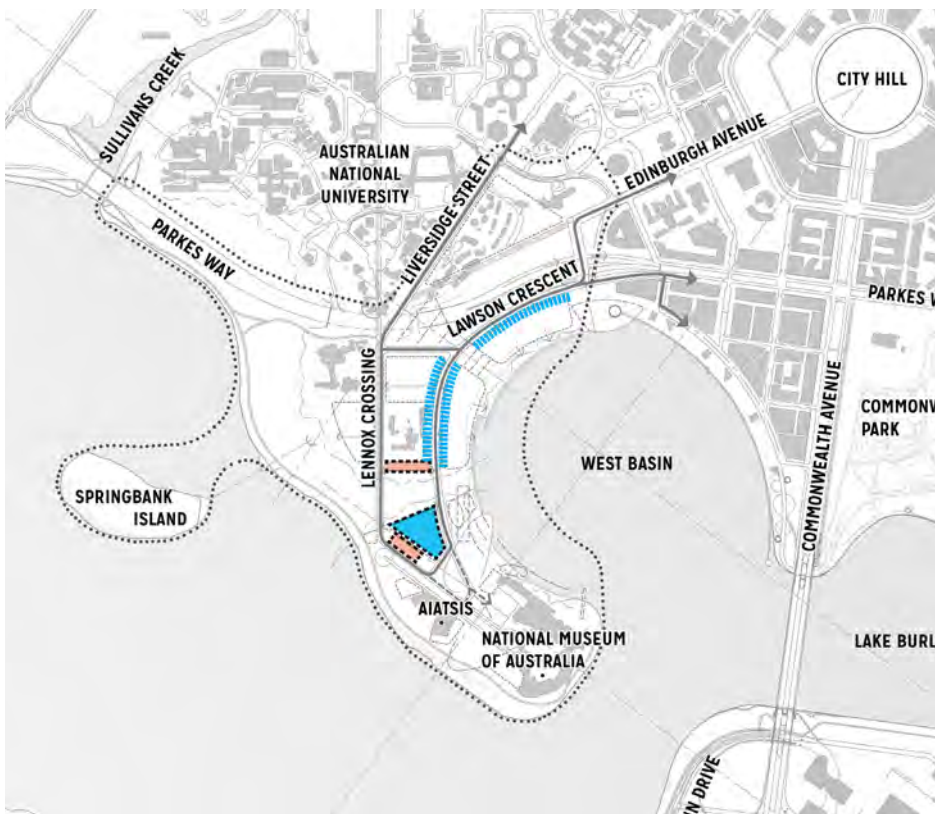
Carparking amenity, shade

### Development principles:

- shared carparking provision considering times of use;
- carparking central within the peninsula is easy walking distance of multiple destinations;
- integration of structured and surface carparks located discretely within the peninsula landscape;
- shade provided as part of the design of surface carparks and shaded routes to destinations; and
- distribution of parking in a way to facilitate ease of access and traffic control for large events;



INTEGRATED CARPARKING WITH AMENITY



### PROPOSED PARKING

- On-street parking
- Public car parking (shared/centralised)
- Bus/ coach setdown/ lay-by
- Road and street network



**SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Coordinated service infrastructure**

**Development principles:**

- a discreet and co-located services infrastructure network;
- forward planning capacity;
- shared use of services between all public and private uses; and
- visually discrete service access points and service buildings; and
- common service routing.



AUSTRALIAN TECHNOLOGY PARK, SYDNEY DEMONSTRATES COORDINATION OF SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE

**ACCESS FROM THE LAKE**

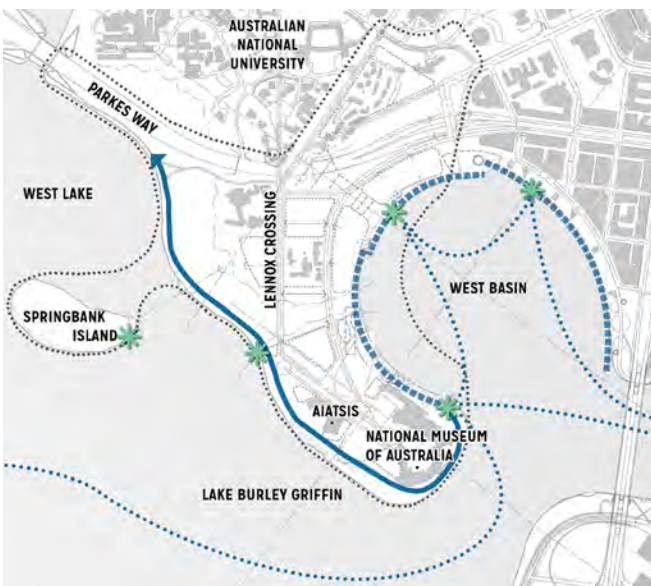
**Watercraft and landings**

**Development principles:**

- multiple landing areas to service the peninsula and suit a variety of watercraft;
- landings / jetties provided to allow access to Springbank Island; and
- shared use of landings, jetties and associated facilities.




WATERCRAFT USING THE LAKE AND The peninsula



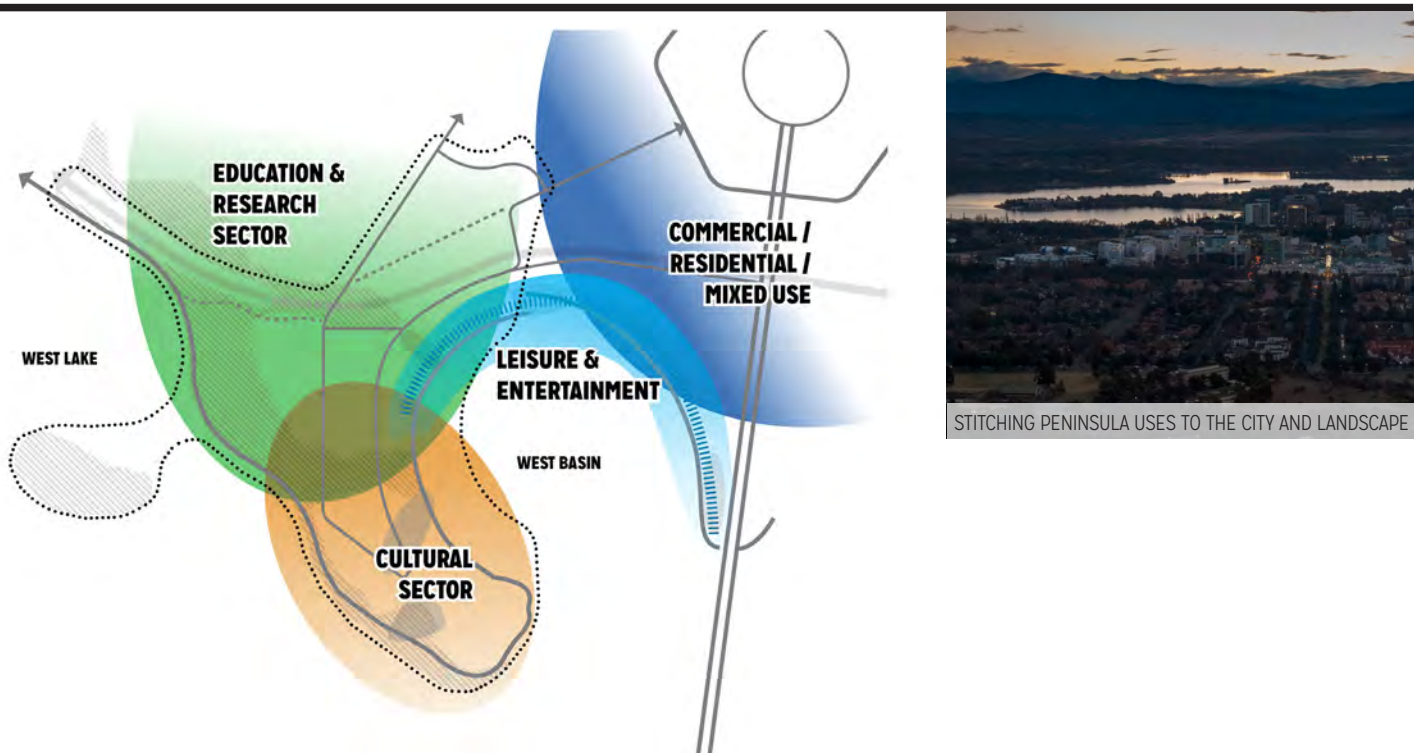
SHARED LANDING FACILITIES

# 03 Density and Mix

Attractive and well used places usually have an intimacy and mix of uses that is supported by well planned local services and facilities. The draft structure plan encourages a rich layering of facilities and services to create a lively and commercially successful precinct.

<b>MIXED USES</b>	<p><b>Development principles:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the character of built form, landscape and street infrastructure as one;</li> <li>- new built form that enhances and respects the existing built form;</li> <li>- a range of uses including tourism, educational, research, recreational, cultural and commercial activities;</li> <li>- collaborative endeavours, bringing together expertise in specialised fields through the shared use of programs, facilities and resources;</li> <li>- convention, exhibition and entertainment uses; and</li> <li>- active building edges and positive engagement of the public realm.</li> </ul>	
<b>Character</b>		
<b>Mixed uses</b>		
<b>Edges</b>		<p>AN ENGAGING PLACE</p>
<b>DENSITY, FACILITIES AND BUILDING FORM</b>	<p><b>Development principles:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- an increased density of built form adjacent to the West Basin promenade;</li> <li>- a less-dense campus style of built form on the peninsula spine and extending into ANU;</li> <li>- increased densification of the NMA site through a finer grain of pavilions and linked buildings;</li> <li>- further educational and accommodation uses related to ANU extending down the peninsula to West Basin; and</li> <li>- a long term view with provision for future, as yet unknown, uses.</li> </ul>	
<b>Mixed densities</b>		
<b>Incremental build up</b>		<p>A MIX OF FACILITIES AND BUILT FORM</p>





BROAD SECTORS MAP



# 04 Height and Massing

The draft structure plan is considered in the context of the broad Canberra landscape and adjacent precincts that include the greater ANU campus, Civic and City to the Lake as well as the broader Lake Burley Griffin foreshores. The height and massing of new built form on the peninsula is influenced by the topography of the peninsula, existing built form and existing vegetation.

BUILDING SIZE AND SCALE	
<p><b>Context</b></p> <p><b>Massing</b></p> <p><b>Building Height</b></p>	<p><b>Development principles:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- building height and massing appropriate to the existing built form, site context and topography of Acton Peninsula;</li> <li>- views into and from the site maintaining open view lines along the principal geometric axes;</li> <li>- a precinct-wide approach to built form massing;</li> <li>- a human scale to the location, orientation and massing of buildings;</li> <li>- built form that complements, rather than dominates, the landscape; and</li> <li>- new built form that architecturally respects and complements the existing built form.</li> </ul>

**MAXIMUM BUILDING HEIGHTS**

- MAX HEIGHT RL 587.0**  
Nominally 4-6 Storeys to Liversidge Street (ANU Campus)
- MAX HEIGHT RL 583.0**  
Nominally 3 storey low rise pavilion style buildings
- MAX HEIGHT RL 577.0**  
Nominally 3 storey low rise pavilion style buildings
- MAX HEIGHT RL 573.0**  
Nominally 3 storey low rise within West Basin

Reduced Level (RL) - the vertical height in metres above Australian Height Datum (AHD)

HUMAN SCALE, COMPLEMENTING THE LANDSCAPE



**BUILT FORM FLEXIBILITY**

**Shared use**

**Development principles:**

- co-location and shared use of facilities and services;
- stacking mixed uses vertically;
- courtyards, plazas and landscaped spaces as extending facilities from inside to outside, and vice versa; and
- adaptability for new or changed uses.

**Adaptability and re-use**



MUSEUM OF OLD AND NEW ART, TASMANIA. BUILT FORM INTEGRATED WITH LANDSCAPE

**RESPONSIVE ARCHITECTURE & PUBLIC REALM**

**Interface**

**Active public realm**

**Development principles:**

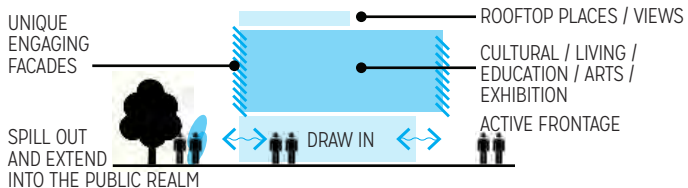
- active building edges;
- building uses that extend into the public realm; and
- a mixed program of use within the public realm.



PUBLIC REALM ACTIVATED BY BUILDING EDGES

**INTEGRATION**

**PUBLIC REALM** ↔ **BUILT FORM**



# 05 Public Realm

A high quality public realm will create an environment where people want to visit, work and live. The public realm is usually successful when it is designed at the same time as adjacent buildings and roads. These spaces are easily accessed, are busy for long periods of the day, are safe and secure to be in, and are designed to be flexible and adaptable for a variety of uses.

## ACTIVE PUBLIC REALM

### Social spaces

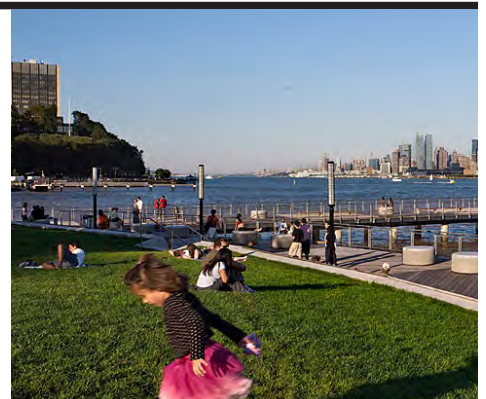
### Edges

### Varied scales & flexibility

### Comfort

#### *Development principles:*

- defined spaces with an identifiable character and function;
- the public realm as social space that facilitates interaction and a varied program of use;
- informal and formal play opportunities for all ages;
- active edges to buildings and adjacent streets and public realm spaces.
- spaces for large events and gatherings, and smaller, more intimate spaces;
- summer shade, winter sun; a mix of enclosed and intimate spaces that are comfortable and attractive to be in; and
- an accessible and inclusive public realm that can be used comfortably and equitably by all.



POPULAR COMFORTABLE PLACES TO BE IN



FLEXIBLE USE PUBLIC REALM

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

### Interface

### Surveillance

### Activity

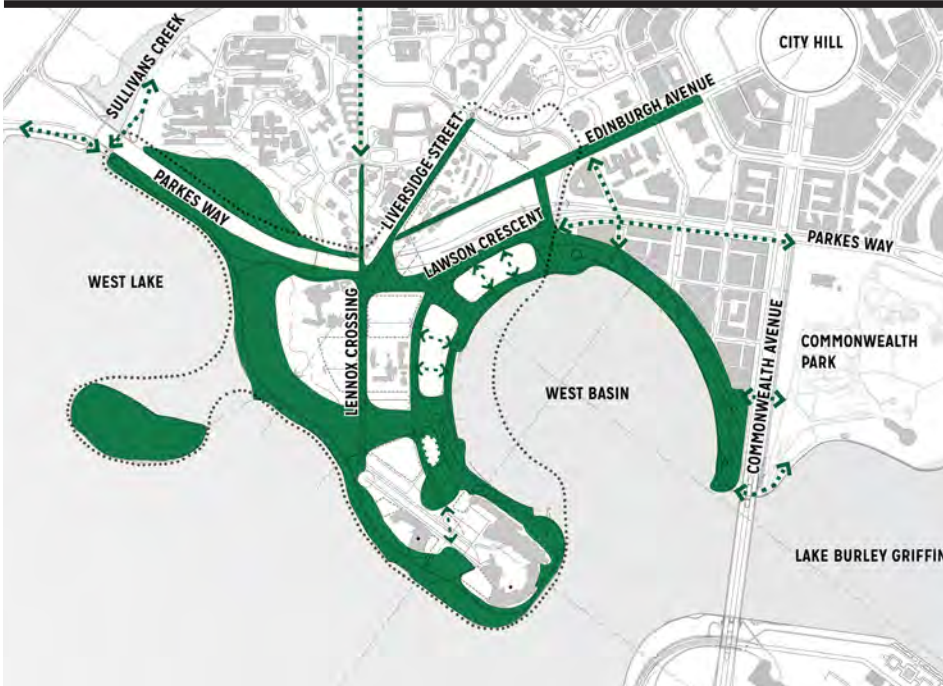
#### *Development principles:*

- a safe and secure public realm that works for all people including the elderly, the young, and people from diverse cultures, including visitors;
- orientation and facade design of buildings that achieves passive surveillance;
- active spaces that are also safe places; and
- night-time use of the public realm, including designation of safe, well-lit, night time routes between destinations such as carparks.



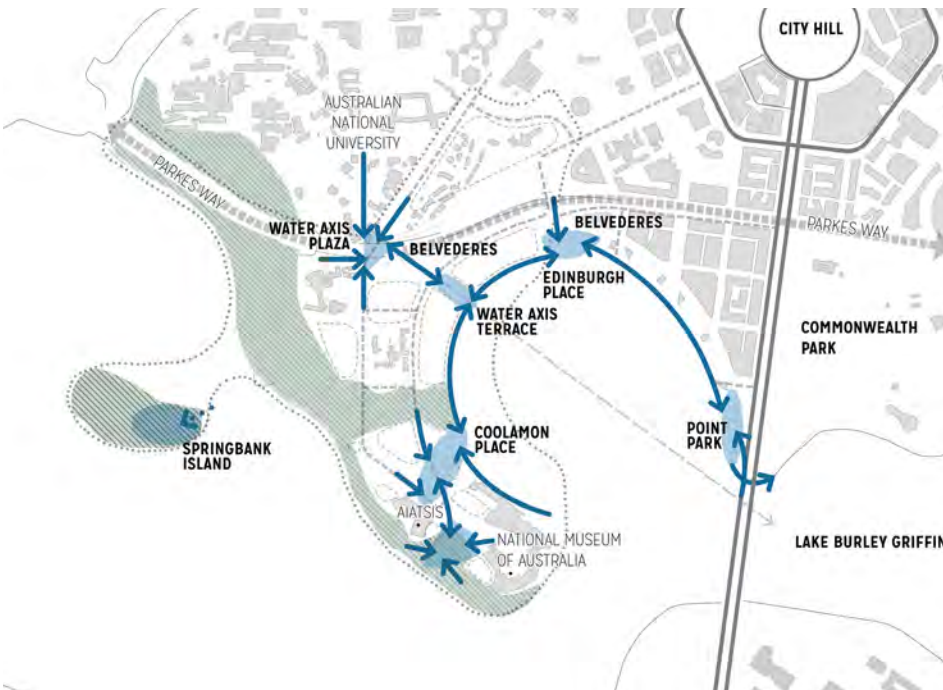
SOUNDSCAPE LINCOLN PARK, MIAMI FLORIDA








**CONNECTED OPEN SPACE NETWORK**

-  Public domain
-  Links



**SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC OPEN SPACES LINKED**

-  Primary public open space destinations
-  Links
-  Significant areas of open landscape or open space

## FLEXIBLE OPEN SPACES

**Flexibility to hold major events and accommodate large crowds on the peninsula**

### *Development principles:*

- spaces for permanent and temporary uses;
- night and daytime use;
- amenity and variety that facilitates use 7 days a week and 14 hours a day; and
- incorporating active and passive recreation spaces and integration with movement and circulation.



ENCOURAGING USE DAY AND NIGHT, ALL YEAR ROUND



VARIED PROGRAM OF USE



OPEN GATHERING SPACES



POP UP VENUES / KIOSKS



OFFERING DAYTIME / NIGHT TIME USES



OUTDOOR EDUCATION



THE LAKE AS AN ACTIVITY SPACE



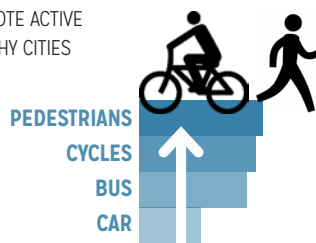
**ACCESSIBILITY**

**An accessible Peninsula**

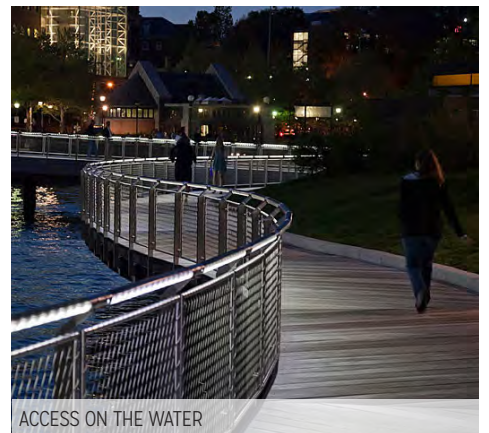
**Development principles:**

- a variety of opportunities for pedestrian and cyclist movement into and through the peninsula;
- walking routes that are comfortable shaded and safe and accessible for all;
- routes that are direct and convenient between destinations and transport;
- other routes that amble and take advantage of points of interest along the way; and
- priority for pedestrian and cycle movement throughout the peninsula
- adequate bicycle parking facilities at key destinations.

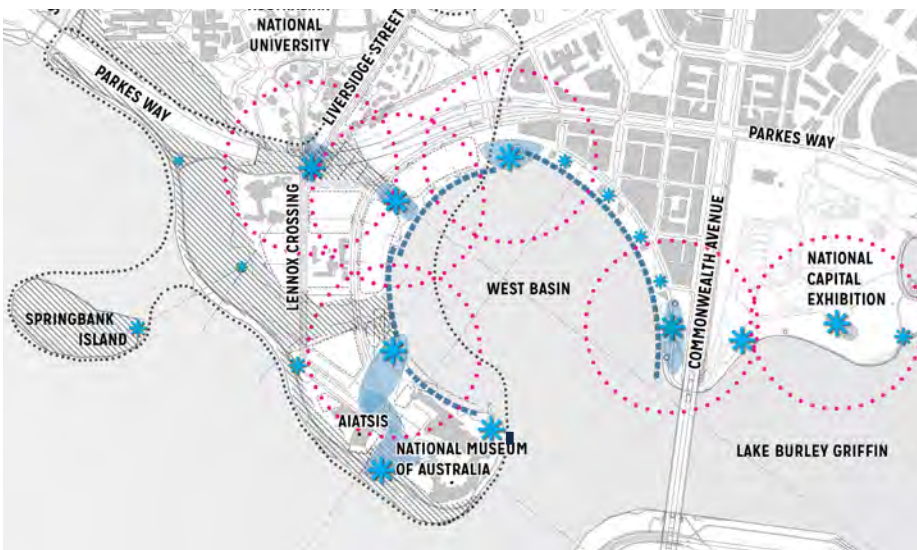
PROMOTE ACTIVE  
HEALTHY CITIES



GENEROUS PATHWAYS



ACCESS ON THE WATER



**KEY OPEN SPACE DESTINATIONS**

- Primary destinations
- Secondary destinations
- Minor destinations
- West Basin promenade
- 200m walkability radius reference

# 06 Streetscape and Landscape

Quality streetscapes and landscape design will contribute towards the appearance, function and overall success of the peninsula as a destination for educational, cultural, recreational and commercial activities. The landscape is often considered to be the gel, a common element, that holds development together. In the case of Acton Peninsula, it is also the element that visually and functionally integrates the peninsula into Canberra's broader landscape.

## LANDSCAPE

### Character and context

#### *Development principles:*

- the landscape of the peninsula in the context of Lake Burley Griffin and Black Mountain;
- a predominance of landscape over built form extending the native planted character of Black Mountain through the spine of the peninsula to the lake;
- a variety of spaces to accommodate large events to small intimate spaces.

### Integrated design

- landscape, built form and streets designed in an integrated way;
- retention of significant or valuable trees both individual specimens and tree copses; and
- contributes to Canberra's broader urban forest.



DOMINANT LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

## COMFORT AND AMENITY

### Environment

#### *Development principles:*

- a well-treed landscape that provides summer shade, winter sun, and wind protection through diversity of species and seasonal colour; and
- open and enclosed spaces providing for a variety of recreational uses at different times of the year.

### Amenity



ATTRACTIVE, COMFORTABLE PLACES

## ECOLOGY

### Wildlife & Ecology

#### *Development principles:*

- a sustainable landscape that is attractive to look at and to use, is ecologically diverse and efficient to manage and maintain; and
- value the habitat of every space, providing different opportunities to support biodiversity; and
- promote opportunities for wildlife movement through ecological open space corridors.

### Habitat



EXISTING NATIVE GRASSLANDS



**STREET FURNITURE**

Context  
Whole-of-life cost considerations

**Development principles:**

- robust, durable and easily maintainable street furniture that complements and does not visually dominate the landscape.



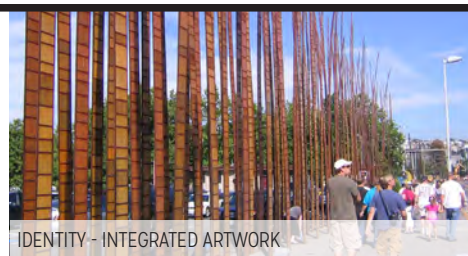
STREET FURNITURE

**ART**

Site specific  
Curation

**Development principles:**

- sites for display and curation of art both within buildings and the public realm;
- interactive public art as well as static displays; and
- variety, flexibility and change in displays.



IDENTITY - INTEGRATED ARTWORK

**SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING**

Identity

**Development principles:**

- reinforcing the character of Acton Peninsula as a specific and identifiable place;
- incorporating markers, both as built form and within the landscape, to identify destinations and points of reference;
- regulatory signage integrated within the public realm design; and
- wayfinding at a macro and micro, site specific scale.



IDENTITY - INTEGRATED SIGNAGE

**PUBLIC LIGHTING**

Appearance  
Sustainability  
Safety & security

**Development principles:**

- road, building and open space lighting in an integrated and complementary way;
- emphasis on lighting routes, event spaces and landmarks rather than floodlighting or over-lighting the peninsula; and
- the use of only sustainable, new technology luminaires and lamps



INTEGRATED LIGHTING

**MATERIALS**

Context  
Durability & robustness


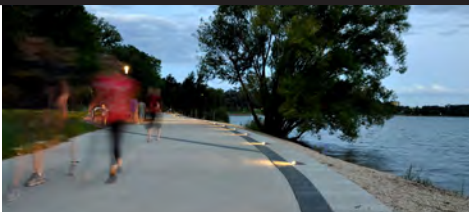
**Development principles:**

- preference for Australian sourced and sustainable materials.



# 07 Details and Materials

The selection of materials and detailing of construction contributes towards the comfort, functionality, appearance and durability of the built form and public realm. Whilst materials and detailing need not to be the same throughout the peninsula, they should always be thoughtfully considered in the context of this site and of high quality befitting a well-used and managed place.

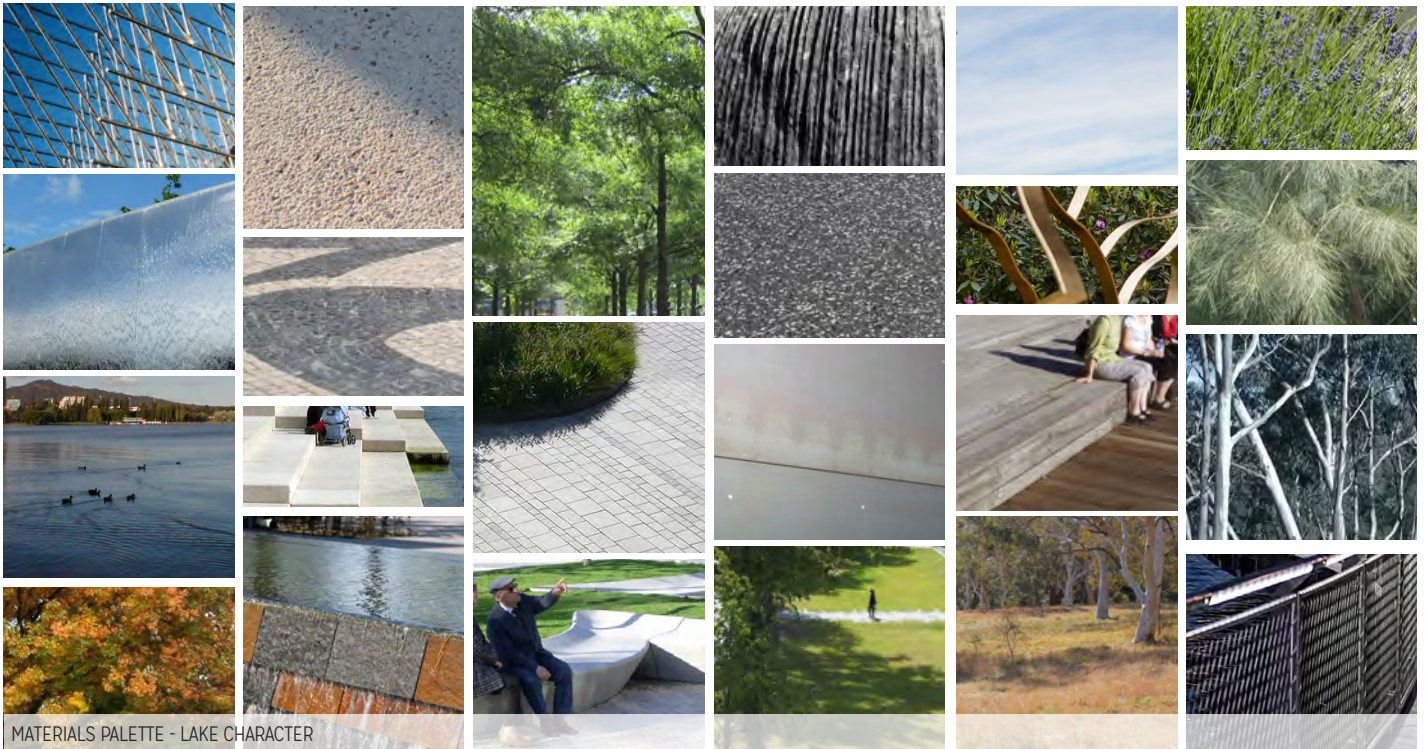
PRECINCT SCALE		
Precinct approach	<p><b>Development principles:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a precinct-wide approach that achieves compatibility between use of materials and construction techniques;</li> <li>- use materials that reinforce an identity or sense of place on the peninsula;</li> <li>- whenever possible use local or Australian sourced, manufactured/fabricated materials and products;</li> <li>- organisation of buildings, road architecture and the public realm in an integrated way;</li> <li>- utilise transparent or glazed facades where buildings front onto the public realm; and</li> <li>- design details at the scale for pedestrians, and avoid long, non-permeable building facades.</li> </ul>	<p>PRECINCT-WIDE APPROACH TO MATERIALS + DETAIL</p>
Identity		
Complimentary & consistent		
Hierarchy of materials		
Pedestrian scale		
QUALITY		
Maintenance	<p><b>Development principles:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- factor in the whole-of-life costs of materials and construction techniques; and</li> <li>- the use only of robust and durable materials and finishes, particularly for the lower base buildings and in the public realm.</li> </ul>	<p>CONSISTENT MATERIALS - RG MENZIES WALK</p>
Longevity		

**LOCAL MATERIALS**

**Character**

**Development principles:**







- use materials that are suited to Canberra's climatic conditions;
- integration of landscape and plant materials with building design; and
- incorporating elements or references of the history and heritage of Acton Peninsula into design.



MATERIALS PALETTE - LAKE CHARACTER

# 08 Energy and Resources

World's best practice should be adopted for all new development on the peninsula ensuring a long term, sustainable future. Both passive and dynamic systems as well as physical and virtual are important, starting with building orientation and massing and promoting innovation in building technology and systems, particularly those developed through research at ANU.

SHARED SERVICES		
Aspect	<p><b>Development principles:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- orientation of buildings and open spaces to capture winter sun and provide shade in summer;</li> <li>- sustainable building and landscape design;</li> </ul>	
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- incorporation of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) techniques to capture and filter stormwater prior to entering the lake;</li> <li>- recycling water for building use and irrigation;</li> </ul>	
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- establishing a precinct-wide waste collection and recycling program;</li> </ul>	
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- co-location and shared use of resources (such as meeting rooms exhibition and display spaces) to avoid duplication and maximise use 24/7;</li> <li>- shared energy infrastructure and networking encompassing both large institutions and smaller buildings within the peninsula;</li> <li>- alternative means of energy generation in partnership with ANU; and</li> </ul>	
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- embed biodiversity within the public realm and overall design and management of the peninsula's landscape.</li> </ul>	
		



ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DESIGN



CO-LOCATION, SHARED SPACES & FACILITIES

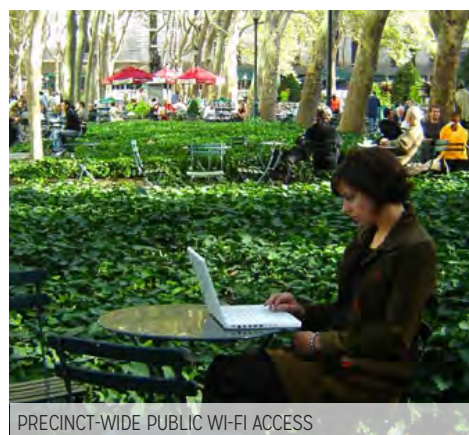


TECHNOLOGY

Technology

**Development principles:**

- a systematic and coordinated approach to technologies and digital networks within the precinct; and
- technologies to support and enhance a range of public realm activities and functions including communications, engagement, place creation, heritage and cultural expression, cultural collection and exhibition, safety and security, environmental monitoring, shared services and infrastructure, digital wayfinding, display and interpretation.



# 09 Staging and Management

The staging of development in consideration of other occupiers of Acton Peninsula is critical in maintaining an attractive and fully functioning precinct. Careful staging and management will ensure new uses and facilities complement those already located on the peninsula and contribute towards a precinct-wide approach.

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## PRECINCT MANAGEMENT

### Event overlay

### Flexibility and change

#### *Development principles:*

- a consolidated program of events on the peninsula that aims at an even distribution throughout the year;
  - flexibility and change over time as cultural needs evolve;
  - a new space on the peninsula - proposed Coolamon Place - that provides a venue for major events and everyday cultural programs; and
  - events generally within West Basin, and further within, Civic, the broader ANU campus and generally associated with Lake Burley Griffin.
-

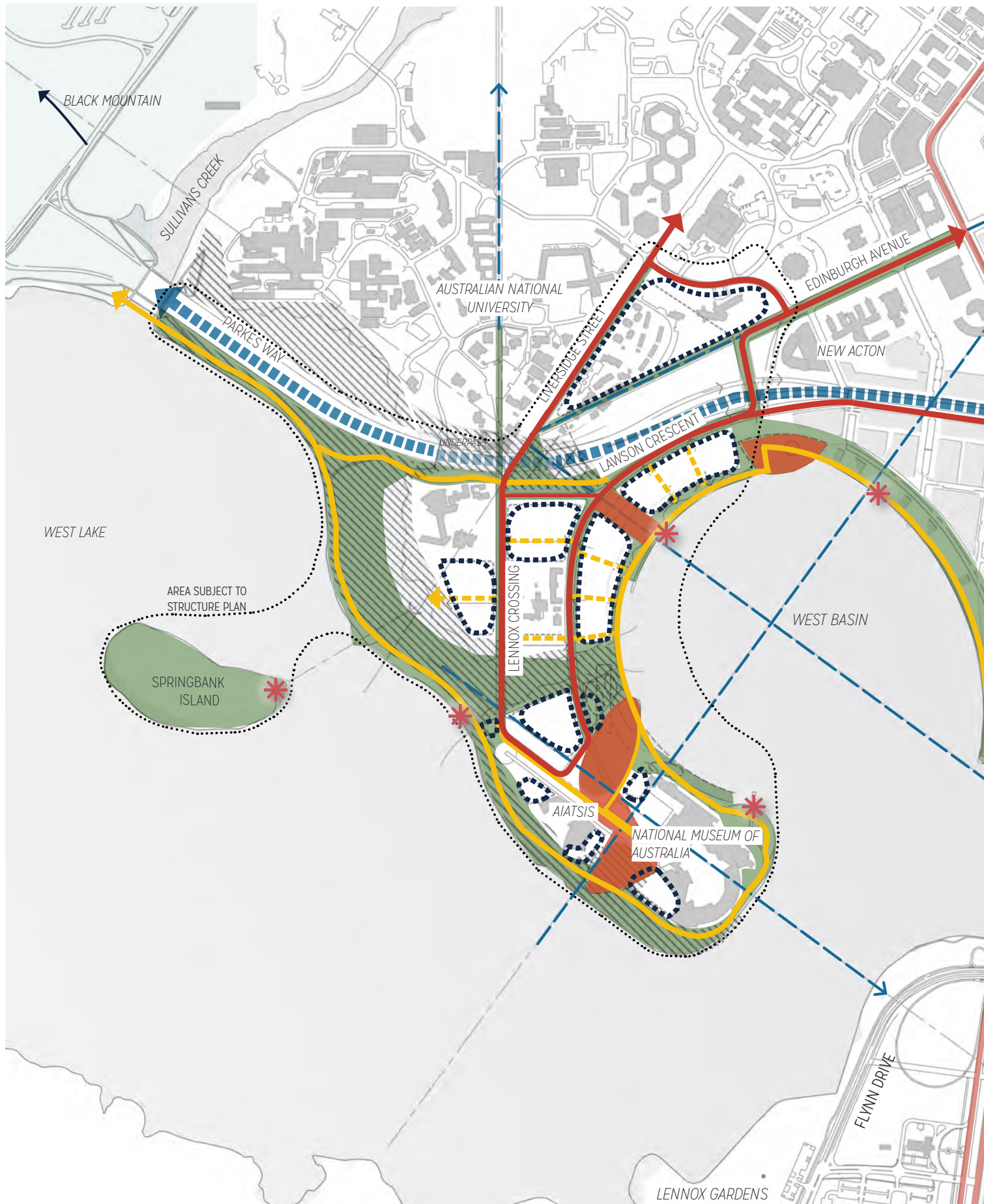


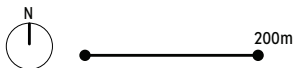
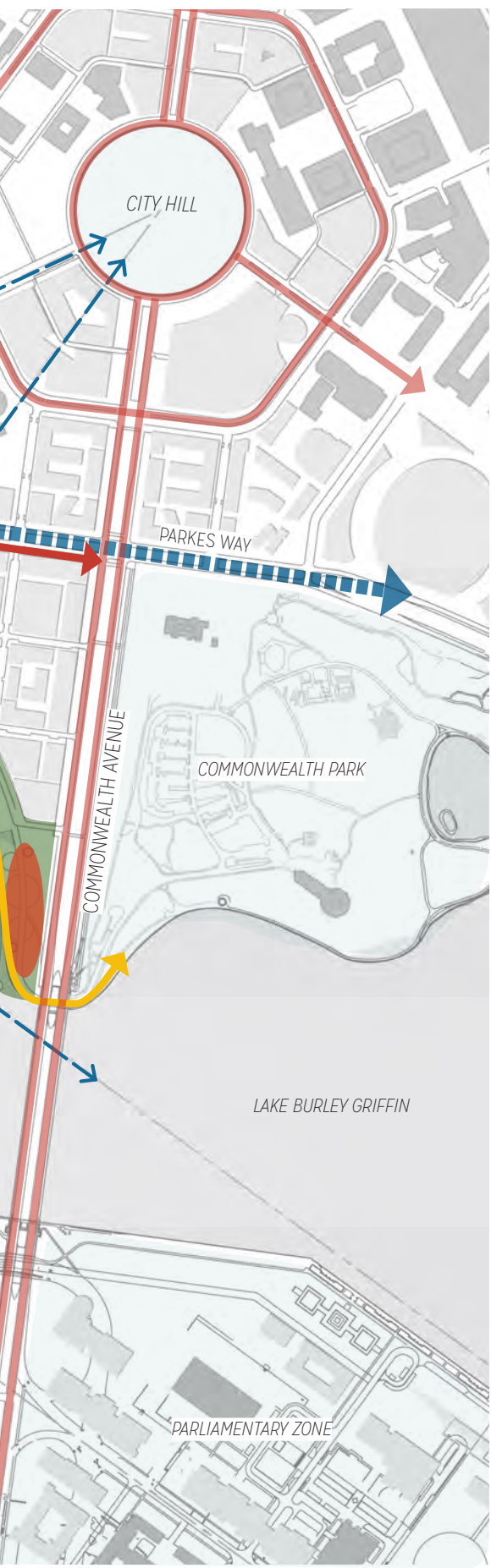
COORDINATED PLACE MANAGEMENT





# 10 Composite Structure Plan





**KEY**

-  Key axes
-  Main road & street network
-  Parkes way
-  Major pedestrian + cycle links
-  Mid block pedestrian links
-  Key landscape destinations
-  Public open space
-  Significant open landscape or open space with connections to Black Mountain
-  Possible indicative development zones & existing building extension zones
-  Watercraft access opportunity
-  Existing built form
-  Indicative built form
-  Structure plan area

# Consultation & Next Steps

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## Public Consultation

Public consultation on the Acton Peninsula Precinct Draft Structure Plan will close at midnight on 13 June 2017.

You can provide feedback in a number of ways:

- Fill out the survey on our website
- Provide comments on our Facebook page or Twitter
- Send an email
- Write a letter to National Capital Authority - Plan Team

More information:

- Visit our website to read the plan and access other information on our website
- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates
- Contact the NCA via email or phone

Following public consultation on the draft structure plan, feedback will be considered and incorporated into the final Acton Peninsula Precinct Structure Plan. Once endorsed by the Authority Board, the consultation summary and final structure plan will be released to the public.

The next step will be to incorporate the structure plan as amendments to the National Capital Plan.

## CONTACT DETAILS

Website: [www.nca.gov.au](http://www.nca.gov.au)

Facebook: [NCA.gov](https://www.facebook.com/NCA.gov)

Twitter: [@nca\\_media](https://twitter.com/nca_media)

Email: [plan.review@natcap.gov.au](mailto:plan.review@natcap.gov.au)

Phone: (02) 6271 2888

Post: National Capital Authority  
Plan Team

GPO Box 373  
Canberra ACT 2601



# Glossary

AIATSIS	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
ANU	Australian National University
Built form	The combined physical elements of a group of buildings including style, size, scale; how they sit in relationship to the street, to other buildings and/or the public domain.
Character	Special physical characteristics of a structure or area (e.g. architecture, landscaping, natural features, open space, types and styles of buildings and landscape structures) that set it apart and contribute to its individuality.
Density	The number of buildings or uses on an area of land
Fine grain	Building and/ or built form that are smaller in size, provides more diverse uses, and allows people to pass through at more regular intervals
Mixed Use	Development that blends a number of uses in one area. Uses permitted in Acton Peninsula are detailed in the National Capital Plan. This includes but is not limited to: National Capital Use, cultural facility, park, tourist facility, cafe, restaurant, recreation.
Massing	The general shape, form and size of a building
National Capital Plan	The strategic plan for Canberra and the Territory. In accordance with section 10 of the Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988 (the Act), the Plan sets out the broad planning principles and policies for Canberra and the Territory, and detailed conditions of planning, design and development for the 'Designated Areas' because of their particular importance to the special character of the national capital.
NCA	National Capital Authority
NMA	National Museum of Australia
Permeability	The extent to which buildings, streets or land uses permit (or restrict) the movement of people.
Passive surveillance	The placement of activities, physical features and people to minimise the opportunity for crime.
RL	Reduced Levels (the height measured above the Australian Height Datum sea level) is used to measure building heights. This approach provides a set height for developments, irrespective of the ground level.
Services infrastructure	Services infrastructure may include waste management areas, electrical substations, communications infrastructure, water and sewage infrastructure, and maintenance access.
WSUD	Water Sensitive Urban Design - a land planning and engineering design approach which integrates the urban water cycle into urban design to minimise environmental degradation.

