



Australian Government
National Capital Authority

REPORT ON CONSULTATION

DRAFT AMENDMENT 79 REMOVAL OF WEST BASIN PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

FEBRUARY 2013

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose and background

This report summarises the issues raised during the public consultation process undertaken by the National Capital Authority (NCA) on Draft Amendment 79 – Removal of West Basin Pedestrian Bridge (DA79) to the National Capital Plan (the Plan).

The purpose of DA79 is to remove references to a pedestrian bridge connecting the Acton Peninsula to Lennox Gardens, Yarralumla across the West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin.

DA79 is in response to Immigration Bridge Australia's (IBA) decision to use an alternate site for commemorative purposes.

In 2004, the NCA released *The Griffin Legacy: Canberra the Nation's Capital in the 21st Century* (The Griffin Legacy). The Griffin Legacy included reference to a pedestrian bridge linking Acton Peninsula to Lennox Gardens, Yarralumla. The purpose of the bridge was to link the lakeside promenades and improve pedestrian access between attractions such as the National Museum of Australia (NMA) and national institutions located within the Parliamentary Zone.

In 2006, a number of amendments to the Plan were proposed through The Griffin Legacy. On 5 December 2006, the Plan was amended to include reference to the pedestrian bridge, together with design guidance for the West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin.

On 26 February 2009, the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories (JSCNCET) resolved to inquire into, and report on the IBA proposal. On 29 May 2009, the JSCNET tabled its inquiry report. The report included recommendation that IBA seek to reconcile competing issues relating to Lake users, vista and heritage value of the lake and its foreshores. Further to this, if these issues could not be resolved the IBA consider changing the location of the proposed bridge, or proposing an alternative memorial to migration.

On 9 December 2009, bridge proponents advised the NCA that they no longer wished to pursue the construction of a bridge, and were seeking an alternative site for an immigration monument.

On 10 August 2012, the Authority agreed to draft an amendment removing provision for a pedestrian bridge from Acton to Lennox Gardens from the Plan.

1.2 Existing National Capital Plan provisions

Appendix T9 of the Plan currently refers to the pedestrian bridge and states that national attractions are to be linked:

... with a continuous pedestrian network, including a high-span pedestrian bridge connecting the National Museum and the Parliamentary Zone.

The pedestrian bridge is also depicted in the diagrams on the following pages:

- T7:16 Indicative Development: an aerial perspective looking northwest towards the National Triangle
- T7:17 An artist's impression of City Hill Park looking towards the National Triangle
- T9:7 Indicative Waterfront Promenade
- T9:8 Indicative Cycleways and Ferry
- T9:14 Indicative Development
- T9:15 West Basin – Extending the city to the lake and waterfront promenade' West Basin 'artist's impression

1.3 Effect of the Draft Amendment to the National Capital Plan

The proposed amendments to the Plan will:

- Remove references to a pedestrian bridge crossing West Basin from Acton Peninsula to the Parliamentary Zone.
- Require any future proposals for a pedestrian bridge across Lake Burley Griffin to be subject to detailed consideration.

2 Consultation

On Saturday 3 November 2012, the NCA released DA79 for public comment and a notice was published in *The Canberra Times* on that day ([Attachment 1](#)). On Wednesday 7 November 2012, a notice was published in the *Commonwealth Notices Gazette* ([Attachment 2](#)). A media release was provided to national media outlets advising DA79 was open for public comment.

In accordance with the NCA's 'Commitment to Community Engagement (August 2011)' the period for public comment ran for 30 business days, concluding on 14 December 2012. Hard copies of DA79 were made available to the public at the National Capital Exhibition, as well as the NCA offices. In addition, DA79 and supporting documentation was available on the NCA's 'Have Your Say' website.

Key activities during the consultation period of DA79 included:

- On 1 November 2012, a request for an exemption to undertake a Regulation Impact Statement was sought from the Office of Best Practice Regulation.
- On 7 November 2012, the NCA held a public information session at the NCA offices. In addition to one representative of the NCA, two people attended the session.
- On 14 November 2012, the NCA referred DA79 to the following stakeholders:
 - ACT Government Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate.
- On 29 November 2012, the Office of Best Practice Regulation advised no Regulation Impact Statement would be required for DA79.
- On 30 November 2012, the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate provided a response to the draft amendment. There was no objection to DA79 proceeding.

3 Key issues

The NCA received seven written submissions in response to DA79. All submissions were acknowledged by the NCA.

A summary of the key issues raised during the public consultation process (both in written submissions, and verbally at the public information session) and the NCA's response is outlined below. A summary of each submission is included in [Attachment 3](#) together with a detailed NCA response.

3.1 Bridge removal

Issues

Four submissions supported references to the bridge being removed for the following reasons:

- support removal due to the adverse visual impact on Lake Burley Griffin and impact on water activities
- removal is positive due to findings of the JSCNCET 2009 Inquiry into Immigration Bridge and due to opposition expressed by the community.

NCA response

The above comments have been acknowledged. No change to DA79 is recommended.

3.2 Bridge retention

Issues

Three submissions did not support the removal of bridge references for the following reasons:

- would have been a useful link for cyclists riding on the Belconnen-Parkes axis and provide a shorter alternative to using Commonwealth Avenue Bridge
- would assist with parking issues at the National Museum of Australia
- would provide a useful connection between the National Museum and other national institutions in the Parliamentary Zone. An improved design could have potentially alleviated lake users' concerns.

NCA response

The above comments have been acknowledged, however given the history, JSCNCET Inquiry findings and public opposition to a pedestrian bridge in this location, no changes to DA79 are recommended.

4 Recommended changes

No changes to DA79, as released for public consultation, are recommended.

5 Conclusion

On 3 November 2012, DA79 was released for public consultation. The public consultation period ran for six weeks in accordance with the NCA's 'Commitment to Community Engagement (August 2011)', concluding on 14 December 2012.

Seven written submissions were received in response to DA79. In response to these submissions, no changes have been recommended to DA79.

6 Attachments

1. Notice of release of Draft Amendment 79 for public comment published in *The Canberra Times*.
2. Notice of release of Draft Amendment 79 for public comment published in the *Commonwealth Notices Gazette*.
3. Summary of submissions and NCA response.

Attachment 1 – Canberra Times notice





DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PLAN

DRAFT AMENDMENT 78

STIRLING RIDGE AND ATTUNGA POINT

National Capital Plan Draft Amendment 78 – Stirling Ridge and Attunga Point (DA78) proposes to adjust current land use boundaries within Sections 17, 22 and 128 Yarralumla to accommodate diplomatic land use, to secure Stirling Ridge as an Open Space area and to foster management of Attunga Point as a possible future location for the Prime Minister's Residence.

The draft amendment also seeks to remove the National Capital Use area intended as an extension to Empire Circuit, passing through part of Stirling Ridge and the former West Lake community to connect with Alexandrina Drive.

The proposed adjustment of land use boundaries results in a net increase in open space for the area while fulfilling the NCA's responsibility to provide sites for the purposes of diplomatic use and for a future residence for the Prime Minister of Australia.

A public information session will be held on Tuesday 13 November 2012 at 6pm, at the Yarralumla Uniting Church, Denman Street Yarralumla 2600.

The NCA requests that people who want to attend, register their interest by completing the RSVP form at www.nationalcapital.gov.au/DA78rsvp.

DRAFT AMENDMENT 79

REMOVAL OF WEST BASIN PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

National Capital Plan Draft Amendment 79- Removal of West Basin Pedestrian Bridge (DA79) proposes to remove from the National Capital Plan, all references to a pedestrian bridge connecting the Acton Peninsula to the Parliamentary Zone across the West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin.

DA79 is in response to Immigration Bridge Australia's decision to use an alternate site for commemorative purposes.

A public information session on DA79 will be held on Wednesday 7 November 2012 from 12pm to 1pm at the National Capital Authority, Ground Floor Treasury Building, King Edward Terrace, PARKES ACT 2600.

DRAFT AMENDMENT 80

YARRAMUNDI REACH

National Capital Plan Draft Amendment 80 - Yarramundi Reach (DA80) proposes to remove the development reservation at Yarramundi Reach to more adequately reflect the capacity of the site for development. DA80 will assist in protecting the natural and cultural heritage values of Yarramundi Reach.

A public information session on DA80 will be held on Wednesday 7 November 2012 from 1pm to 2pm at the National Capital Authority, Ground Floor Treasury Building, King Edward Terrace, PARKES ACT 2600.

DA78, DA79 and DA80 of the National Capital Plan have been prepared in accordance with sections 15(1) and 23 of the Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988 and are now available for public inspection and comment.

The National Capital Authority invites interested people and organisations to provide written comments on DA78, DA79 and DA80 by close of business on 14 December 2012 to:

Andrew Smith, Chief Planner, National Capital Authority, GPO Box 373, CANBERRA ACT 2601.
Email: draft.amendment@natcap.gov.au

Copies of DA78, DA79 and DA80 are available from www.nationalcapital.gov.au or

National Capital Authority
Treasury Building
Ground floor King Edward Terrace
PARKES ACT 2600
between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday

National Capital Exhibition
Barrine Drive
Commonwealth Park
between 9am and 5pm weekdays and 10am to 4pm weekends

Further information is available by telephone on [02] 6271 2888 or email draft.amendment@natcap.gov.au.

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WWW.NATIONALCAPITAL.GOV.AU

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Attachment 2 – Commonwealth Notices Gazette notice

Draft Amendments to the National Capital Plan

Draft Amendment 78 – Stirling Ridge and Attunga Point

National Capital Plan Draft Amendment 78 – Stirling Ridge and Attunga Point (DA78) proposes to adjust current land use boundaries within Sections 17, 22 and 128 Yarralumla to accommodate diplomatic land use, to secure Stirling Ridge as an Open Space area and to foster management of Attunga Point as a possible future location for the Prime Minister's Residence.

The draft amendment also seeks to remove the National Capital Use area intended as an extension to Empire Circuit, passing through part of Stirling Ridge and the former West Lake community to connect with Alexandrina Drive.

The proposed adjustment of land use boundaries results in a net increase in open space for the area while fulfilling the NCA's responsibility to provide sites for the purposes of diplomatic use and for a future residence for the Prime Minister of Australia.

A public information session will be held on:

Tuesday 13 November 2012 at 6pm, at the Yarralumla Uniting Church, Denman Street Yarralumla 2600.

The NCA requests that people who want to attend, register their interest by completing the RSVP form at www.nationalcapital.gov.au/DA78rsvp.

Draft Amendment 79 – Removal of West Basin Pedestrian Bridge

National Capital Plan Draft Amendment 79– Removal of West Basin Pedestrian Bridge (DA79) proposes to remove from the National Capital Plan, all references to a pedestrian bridge connecting the Acton Peninsula to the Parliamentary Zone across the West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin.

DA79 is in response to Immigration Bridge Australia's decision to use an alternate site for commemorative purposes.

A public information session on DA79 will be held on:

Wednesday 7 November 2012 from 12pm to 1pm at the National Capital Authority, Ground Floor Treasury Building, King Edward Terrace, PARKES ACT 2600

Draft Amendment 80 – Yarramundi Reach

The purpose of Draft Amendment 80 – Yarramundi Reach (DA80) is to remove the development reservation at Yarramundi Reach to more adequately reflect the capacity of the site for development. DA80 will assist in protecting the natural and cultural heritage values of Yarramundi Reach.

A public information session on DA80 will be held on:

Wednesday 7 November 2012 from 1 pm to 2pm at the National Capital Authority, Ground Floor Treasury Building, King Edward Terrace, PARKES ACT 2600

Draft Amendment 79 – Removal of West Basin Pedestrian Bridge

DA78, DA79 and DA80 of the National Capital Plan have been prepared in accordance with sections 15(1) and 23 of the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988* and are now available for public inspection and comment.

The National Capital Authority invites interested people and organisations to provide written comments on DA78, DA79 and DA80 by close of business on 14 December 2012 to:

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between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday

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Barrine Drive
Commonwealth Park
between 9am and 5pm weekdays and 10am to 4pm weekends

Further information is available by telephone on (02) 6271 2888 or email draft.amendment@natcap.gov.au.

Attachment 3 – Summary of submissions

Note: Details of each submitter have only been reproduced in this table where a submitter has granted permission for their name and/or address to be used by the National Capital Authority for the purposes of the Report on Consultation for Draft Amendment 79.

No.	Details of submitter	Key points raised in submission	NCA consideration
1	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD) on behalf of ACT Government.	The Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD) advised that it supports DA79 and has no comments to make.	Noted.
2	Miller (Twitter)	Pedestrian/cycle bridge should still be considered given the parking issues at the National Museum of Australia.	Noted.
3	Undisclosed	Against removal of bridge in principle as it would have provided a useful connection between the National Museum and other national institutions in the Parliamentary Zone. An improved design could have potentially alleviated lake users' concerns.	Noted.
4	Undisclosed	Against removal as would have provided a useful link for cyclists riding on the Belconnen-Parkes axis, as a shorter alternative to Commonwealth Avenue.	Noted.
5	Undisclosed	Supports references to bridge being removed, given the adverse impacts any bridge would have on the visual amenity of Lake Burley Griffin and on water activities.	Noted.

6	Friends of Albert Hall	Deletion of references to pedestrian bridge a positive response to the 2009 Inquiry by JSCNCET. Supportive of DA79.	Noted.
7	Undisclosed	Supports removal of all references to a pedestrian bridge across Lake Burley Griffin.	Noted.