

# Acton Peninsula Precinct Structure Plan

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Australian Government  
National Capital Authority



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**Australian Government**

**National Capital Authority**

## IN COLLABORATION WITH THE PENINSULA PARTNERS



**Australian  
National  
University**



**AIATSIS**  
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF  
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDER STUDIES

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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 (NMA), the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), the Australian National University (ANU), the ACT Government and the National Capital Authority (NCA) 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 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.

01 ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE  
PENINSULA

02 ACTIVITIES AT THE NMA

03 AERIAL VIEW OF THE PENINSULA AND  
SPRINGBANK ISLAND, BLACK MOUNTAIN  
BACKDROP

04 NATIONAL CAPITAL EXHIBITION

05 ART + CULTURAL EVENTS, NMA

06 DJAKAPURRA MUNYARRYUN PERFORMS AS  
PART OF LORRKKON, 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATIONS FOR AIATSIS

07 RESEARCH AT ANU

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

09 CAMPUS LIFE, ANU

10 EXHIBITION AND GATHERING, THE HALL, NMA

11 EDUCATION, ANU

12 EXHIBITION AND EVENTS, THE HALL, NMA

13 A RICH HISTORY OF MIXED USES ON THE  
PENINSULA





01



02



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# 1.0 Overview and Scope

## 1.1 PURPOSE

### 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, the Australian National University and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. In addition, the ACT Government's City to the Lake project proposes major new mixed use developments 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 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 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 strengthen the aspirations and presence of the institutions within the peninsula precinct. It shows how different uses can be integrated into its landscape, and allows for new activities to develop.

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

- heritage
- movement and access
- uses and built form
- public realm
- landscape and streetscape
- details and materials
- energy and resources
- staging and management.



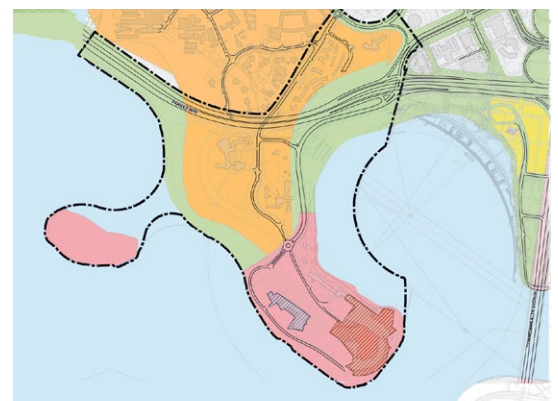
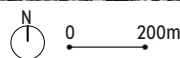
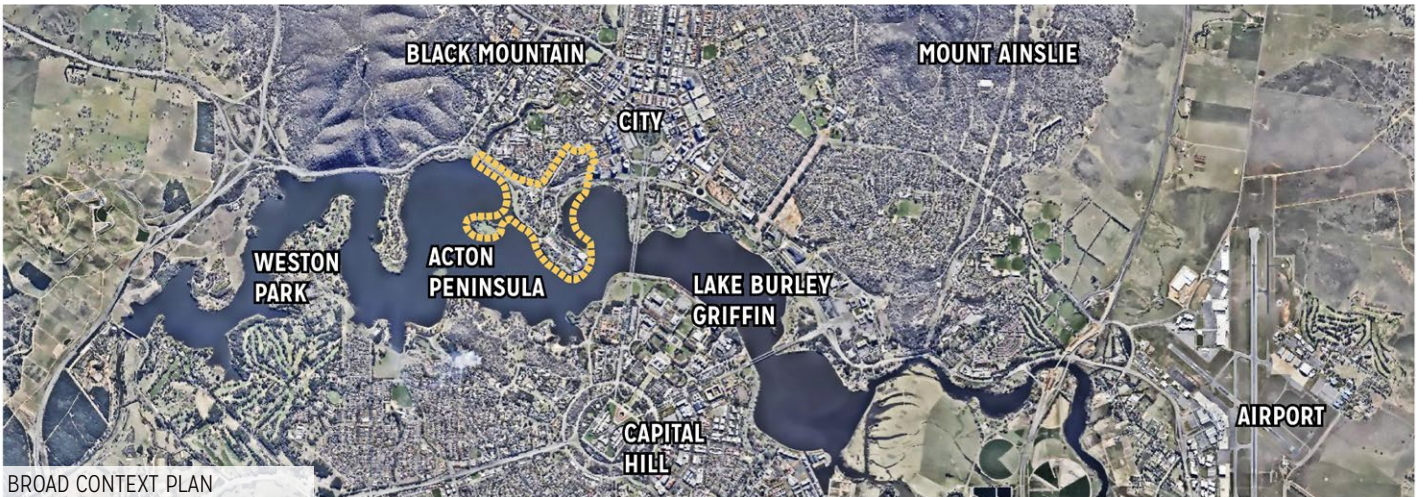
THE ACTON PENINSULA  
PRECINCT STRUCTURE  
PLAN IS DESCRIBED  
THROUGH A SERIES OF  
LAYERS

## 1.2 HOW THIS PLAN WILL BE USED

Key aspects of this structure plan will be incorporated into a draft amendment to the National Capital Plan. Once finalised and endorsed, the amended National Capital Plan and this structure plan will aid in the development of future master plans and detailed planning work that proposes new development on the peninsula, and be used to assess projects submitted for Works Approval.



### 1.3 SITE 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*



## 1.4 SHARED VISION

The Acton Peninsula Precinct 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 Structure Plan vision is to:*

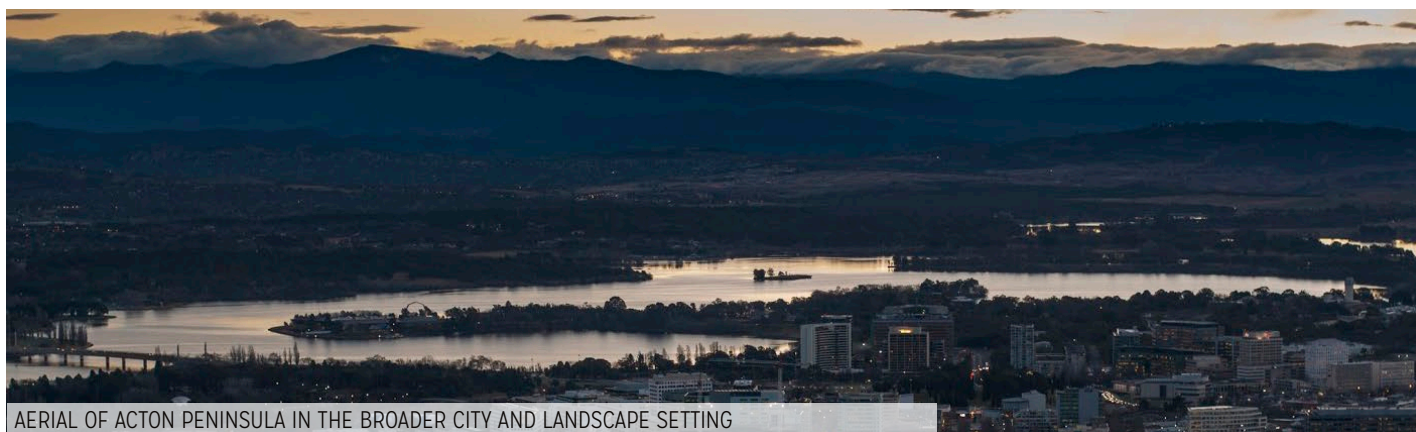
- deliver world-class core functions of education and museum facilities that exceed the expectations of a domestic and international population of visitors and every-day users
- reaffirm Acton Peninsula as one of Canberra's premier gathering places by creating an exciting, connected, active and vibrant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

## 1.5 OBJECTIVES

*The vision will be realised through:*

- **Place Making** – respond to the unique natural and cultural heritage, and topography; integrate built form, landscaping and the public realm to create a cohesive, functioning whole that is people focused.
- **Connectivity** – deliver seamless linkages to activities within the peninsula as well as the surrounding precincts, creating an active dialogue with adjacent uses in Acton, City and the broader Lake Burley Griffin foreshores.
- **Visibility** – maintain key vistas while providing new landmarks adjacent to Lake Burley Griffin, increasing the visual presence of the peninsula and its amenities to engage tourists, business visitors, educators, researchers and locals to explore everything the peninsula has to offer.
- **Flexibility** – support a robust economy that benefits from complementary uses, co-location of facilities and services that can effectively be experienced both day and night, week to week and year to year.
- **Variety** – provide a range of activities and experiences that attracts repeat visitation for all users of the peninsula.
- **Design Excellence** – maintain high standards of design quality; provide signature spaces that open to Lake Burley Griffin and Black Mountain and, in the process, showcase the city and make the peninsula an integral part of the education and museum experience.





AERIAL OF ACTON PENINSULA IN THE BROADER CITY AND LANDSCAPE SETTING



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

# 2.0 Site Summary

## 2.1 THE SITE NOW

### Topography

- Acton Peninsula is a spur extending down from Black Mountain.

### Prominent location

- Liversidge Street marks a ridge separating Sullivans' Creek and the Molonglo River (Lake Burley Griffin).
- 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.

### Disconnected with constrained access

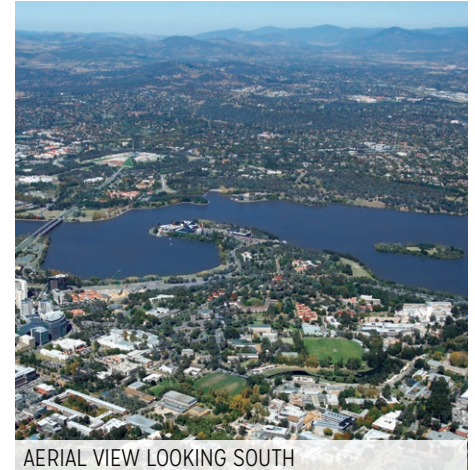
- The peninsula is bisected by Parkes Way and disconnected from ANU and the City.
- Poor legibility, access and arrival to the NMA.
- Some existing built form and the topography restricts continuous public access around the waterfront.
- Limited usable open space, visually dominated by surface car parking and lack of cohesive planning for the peninsula.

### Significant existing landscape areas

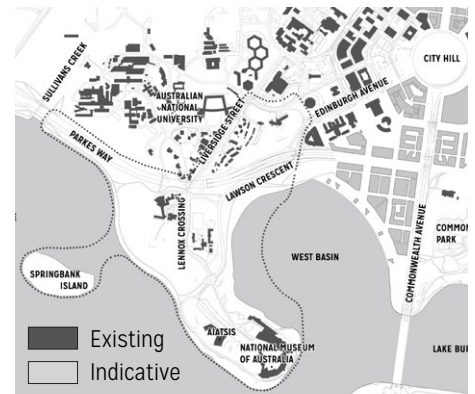
- Significant native tree cover, native grasslands and limestone outcrop.

### Existing and indicative built form

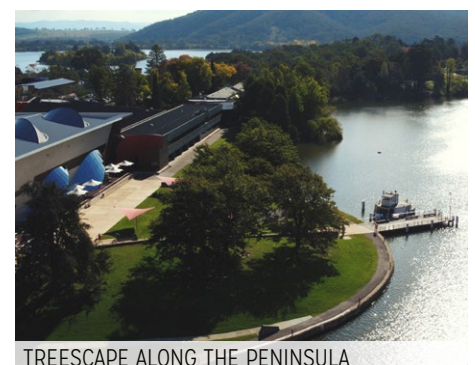
- Existing buildings, including cultural and heritage buildings, range in architectural style and sit in isolation around the peninsula.
- Stage 1 of the ACT Government's City to the Lake project, the West Basin boardwalk, has begun construction. Detailed planning is still to occur, hence built form is indicative only.



AERIAL VIEW LOOKING SOUTH



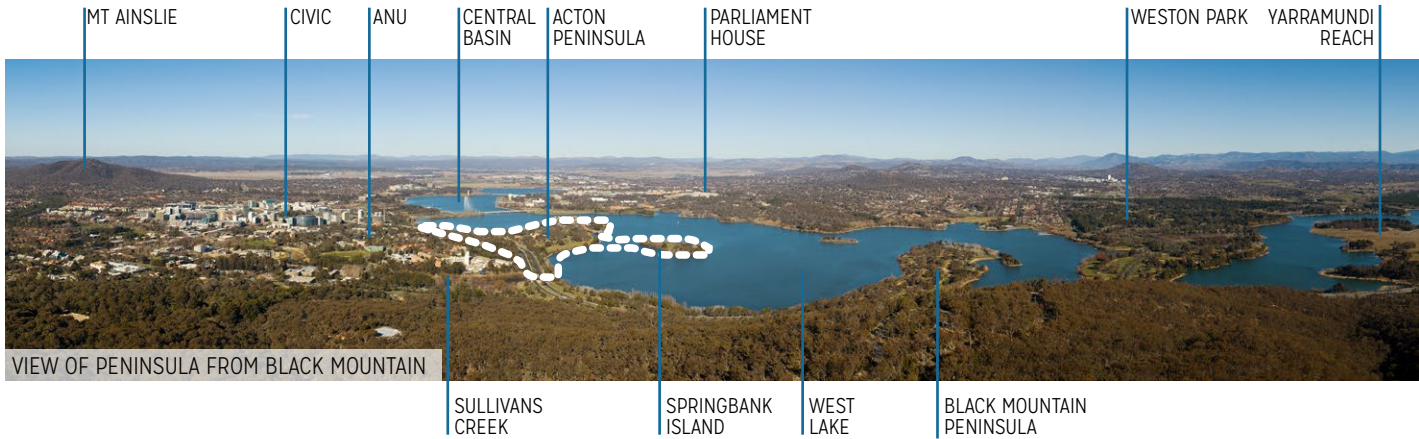
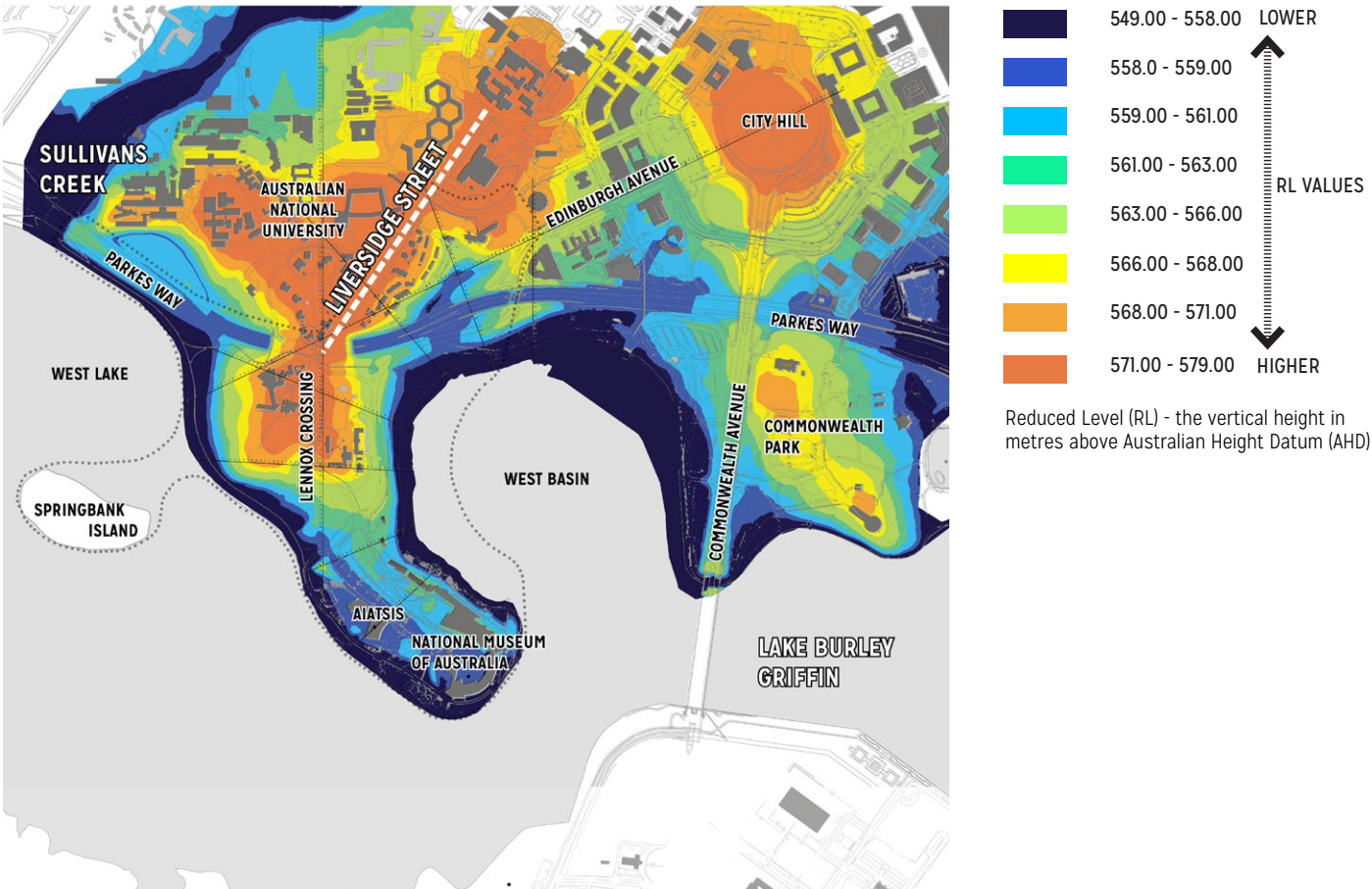
EXISTING AND INDICATIVE BUILT FORM



TREESCAPE ALONG THE PENINSULA

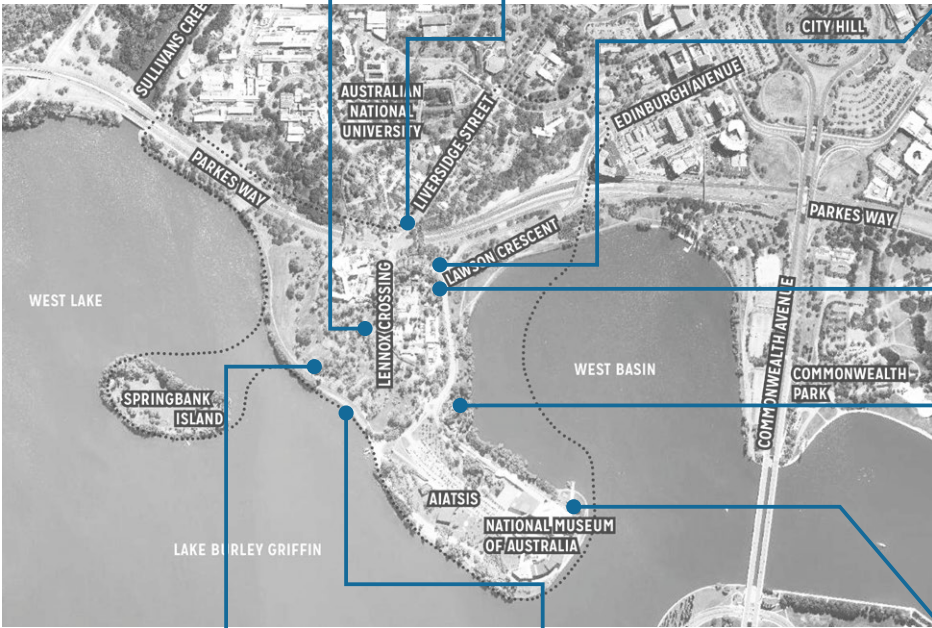


TOPOGRAPHY MAP





EXISTING SITE PHOTOS





## REFERENCES

*Draft Acton Complex Heritage Management Plan; National Capital Authority, ACT (2015)*

*City to the Lake - West Basin Project Stage 1 Indigenous Heritage Assessment, ACT Government (2014).*

*Acton Conservation Area Heritage Management Plan; Australian National University (2011)*

## 2.3 HERITAGE SUMMARY

### Aboriginal history

- Black Mountain and its spur (Acton Peninsula) is a precinct that has Aboriginal cultural history extending back at least 25,000 years. The area was used as an Aboriginal Corroborree grounds.

### Early European occupation

(1824-1911)

### Acton Complex

(2015 Draft Acton Complex Heritage Management Plan applies)

- 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 the former hospital 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.

### Acton Conservation Area

(2011 Acton Conservation Area Heritage Management Plan applies)



ABORIGINAL ROCK ART, NGUNAWAL COUNTRY



HISTORIC CANBERRA HOSPITAL, 1940S



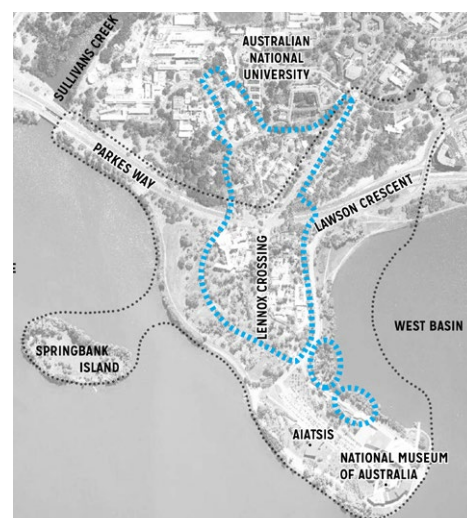
GARDENS ASSOCIATED WITH BUILDINGS

## HERITAGE SUMMARY MAP



Areas of heritage significance

Note: heritage trees not indicated



## PLACE CHRONOLOGY

ABORIGINAL OCCUPATION  
NGUNAWAL COUNTRY  
(CANBERRA REGION)  
AT LEAST 25,000 YEARS

1913  
CANBERRA FOUNDED

2017  
TODAY

1824  
EARLY EUROPEAN  
OCCUPATION

1963  
LAKE FORMED; PENINSULA  
PRONOUNCED

## REFERENCES

*The Griffin Legacy; National Capital Authority, Craftsman Press (2004).*

*Canberra in Occupation; the Canberra Annual, Federal Capital of Australia Press, Canberra (1934).*

## 2.4 GRIFFINS' PLAN SUMMARY

### Framework

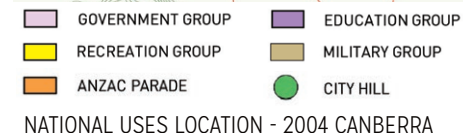
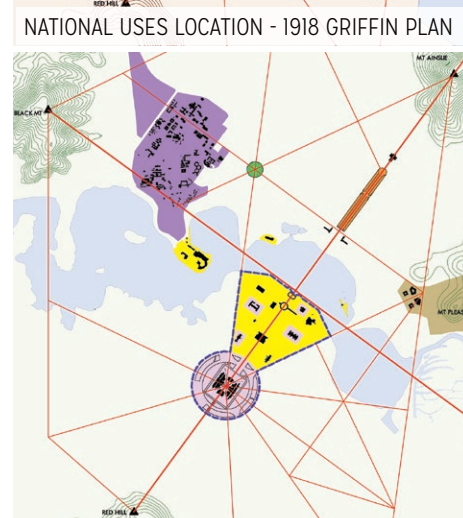
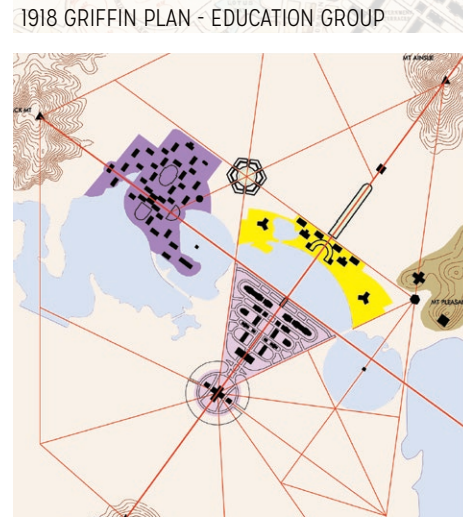
### Education Group

### Campus style

### Unrealised

### Potential

- The Griffin Plan established the Land and Water axes, and the National Triangle as the principal organising frameworks for the National Capital.
- It established the location of the Education Group at the western end of the Water Axis.
- Acton Peninsula, as a prominent ridge, was seen as the seat of learning and culture.
- ANU and the Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies fulfils this role.
- While Griffin originally intended it to be situated in another location, the National Museum of Australia (NMA) has also been situated here.
- Formal campus style layout was intended to have a strong presence on the lake front. The central quadrangle was located on the Water Axis and had a generous landscape setting.
- Responding to the slow progress of the city, Griffin in 1934 commented that 'the water axis will have little significance as long as the formal basins remain unremarked and will depend first upon the terminal and cumulative effect of the architecture of the university development' (1934).
- It is recognised that some of Griffin's designs are no longer relevant or recoverable. This includes the formal layout of the university, the relocation of the NMA and the development of the bridge linking the Education Group to the Government Group.
- There is opportunity to reconnect the university to the city and address the Water Axis leading to Black Mountain.





## 2.5 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 mirror Canberra's development as a city.

### Culture

- Later used as the site for Canberra's public hospital also has great importance for many people.
- Commemoration memorial to the Canberra Hospital is located on the eastern tip and tells an important story of the former use of the peninsula.

### Natural landscape

- Significant native tree cover, protected patches of native grassland communities and limestone outcrop.
- 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.

### Built form

- Any redevelopment of or around heritage buildings and areas will be assessed in accordance with statutory heritage processes and relevant heritage management plans.



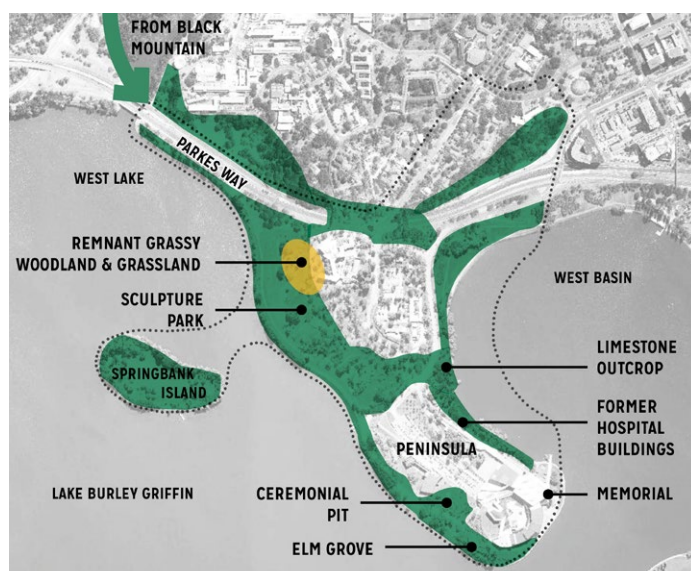
HISTORIC ACTON: MOLONGLO RIVER IN FOREGROUND, BLACK MOUNTAIN IN THE BACKGROUND



CURRENT LANDSCAPE SETTING



CANBERRA'S NATIVE GRASSLANDS






### SITE APPRECIATION

Significant areas of open landscape or open space

# 3.0 The Structure Plan

Grouped into key elements, the structure plan describes an integrated precinct that enables the sharing of facilities and opportunities for research, education and public outreach. Recognising the importance of heritage values, the following principles establish strategies to create a complementary precinct close to the city centre.

3.1 HERITAGE	
Heritage significance	<div><div><div><b>Heritage principles:</b></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- respond to and incorporate adjacent items of heritage significance by aligning built form and open space, proportions, and site coverage</li><li>- protect significant natural heritage features within the public realm</li><li>- acknowledge the <i>Acton Complex Heritage Management Plan 2015</i>, the <i>Acton Conservation Area Heritage Management Plan</i> 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. This may include the removal of buildings to achieve a long term vision</li><li>- establish strategies which effectively interpret and communicate the heritage values inherent within the public realm of the precinct</li></ul></div></div><div><div><b>Landmarks and axes principles:</b></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- maintain and preserve significant view corridors along the peninsula that visually connect West Basin with Lake Burley Griffin</li><li>- retain the dominance of the natural landscape backdrop of Black Mountain and the open natural landscape character of the western reaches of Lake Burley Griffin</li><li>- create a sense of arrival to the peninsula through defined entries from Commonwealth Avenue, Edinburgh Avenue and Liversidge Street.</li></ul></div></div></div> <div><div><div>MOLONGLO RIVER ACTON, 1920</div></div><div><div><div>EXAMPLE OF HERITAGE INTERPRETATION: THE USE OF THE NAME 'COOLAMON' - A MULTI-PURPOSE SHALLOW VESSEL USED BY ABORIGINALS FOR HOLDING FOOD OR WATER</div></div><div><div><div>ACTON PENINSULA AS A LANDMARK</div></div></div></div></div>



## REFERENCE

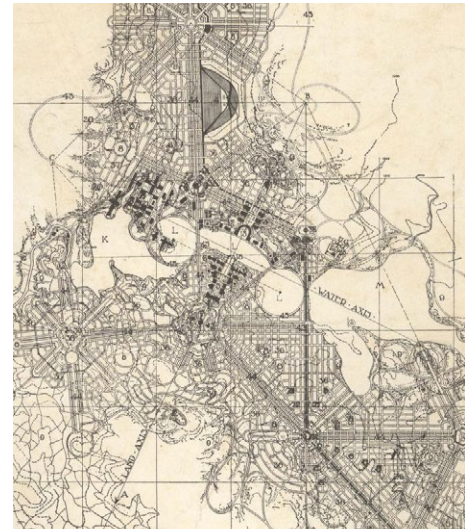
Walter Burley Griffin's 1917  
Plan National Library of  
Australia Digital Maps  
Collection

## Axes

## Geometry

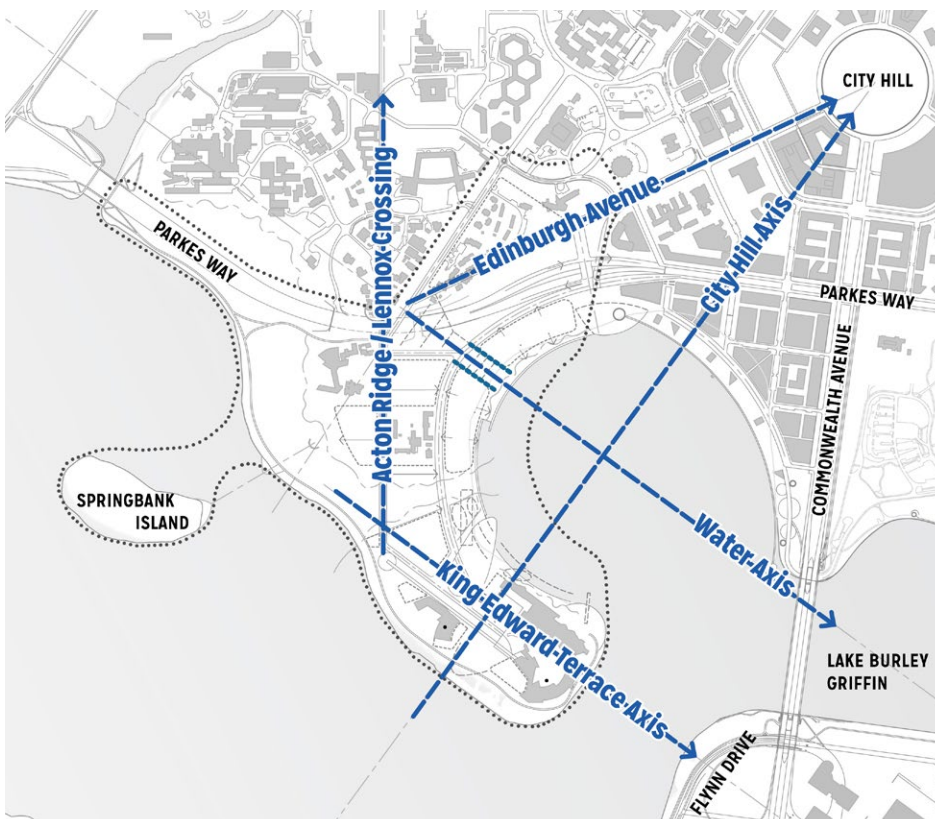
### Landmarks and axes principles:

- emphasise entry from the Water Axis through West Basin, and the City Hill Axis
- a built form arrangement that recognises and extends the Water Axis into ANU
- primary public access along the West Basin promenade, and from ANU along the campus' central spine of Acton Ridge.



CANBERRA LAYOUT BY AXES & LANDSCAPE

## PENINSULA AXES



CONNECTION WITH ANU

An important objective is to improve the legibility of access and arrival to the peninsula by means of public transport, walking, cycling and private vehicles. Internal networks within the peninsula should connect to the broader city networks and enable multi-nodal access, recognising the high numbers of visitors and diverse reasons for visiting the peninsula. Movement and access principles define a pedestrian-focused public realm that connects and integrates the various uses and opportunities for recreation.

### 3.2 MOVEMENT AND ACCESS

#### Considers multi-modal movement

##### *Movement principles:*

- achieve a balance between the requirements for efficient movement by pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, emphasising a safe and attractive environment
- provide choice of route and multiple points of entry and exit to and from Acton Peninsula
- accommodates movement of buses, coaches and service vehicles
- a variety of opportunities for pedestrian and cyclist movement into and through the peninsula
- walking routes that are close to other destinations, comfortable 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

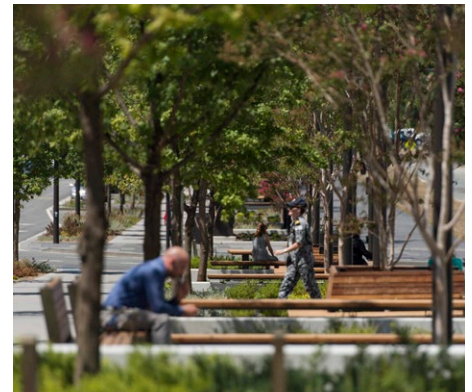
##### *Walking and cycling principles:*

- priority to a pedestrian-oriented environment; for pedestrian and cycle movement throughout the peninsula
- shade and physical amenity along pathways, cycle paths including seating and adequate bicycle parking facilities at key destinations
- direct routes linking principle activities and facilities but also allowing for future uses
- multiple routes to destinations and public transport services
- separation of primary routes from pedestrian pathways
- continuity of the Lake Burley Griffin lake circuit
- direct connections to the existing Marcus Clarke Street and city network and future ANU network.

#### An accessible peninsula

#### Walking

#### Cycling



PEDESTRIAN SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT



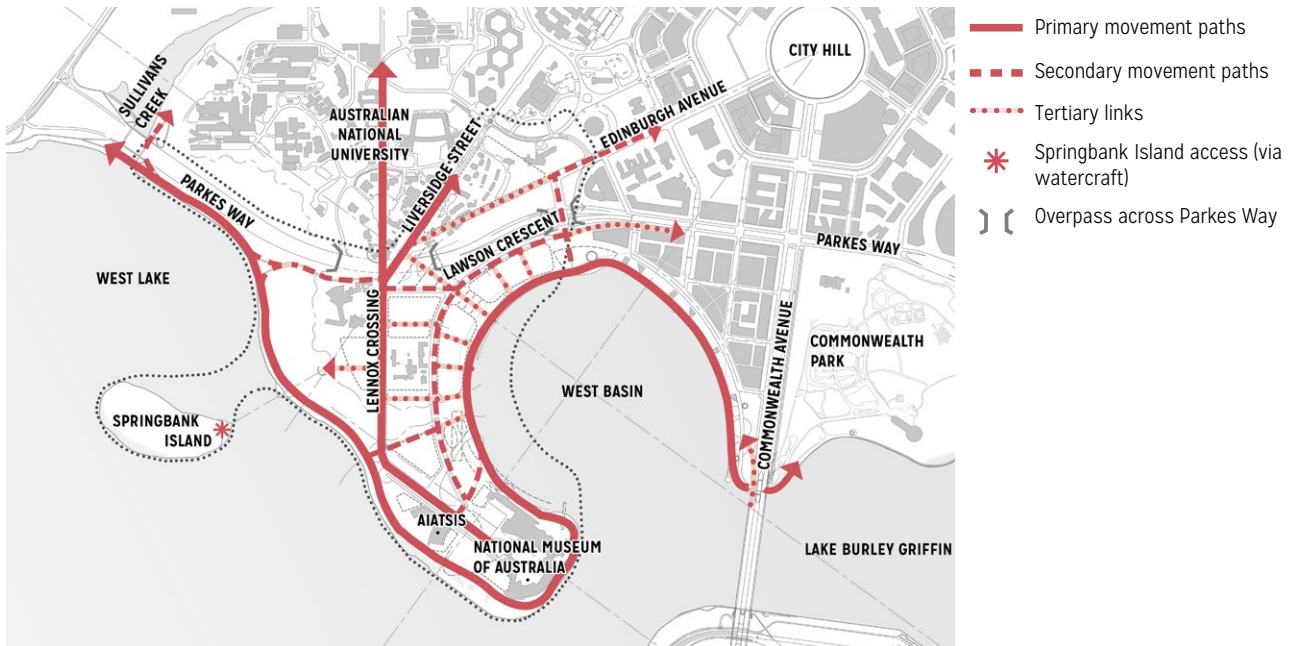
CONNECTED CYCLE ROUTES



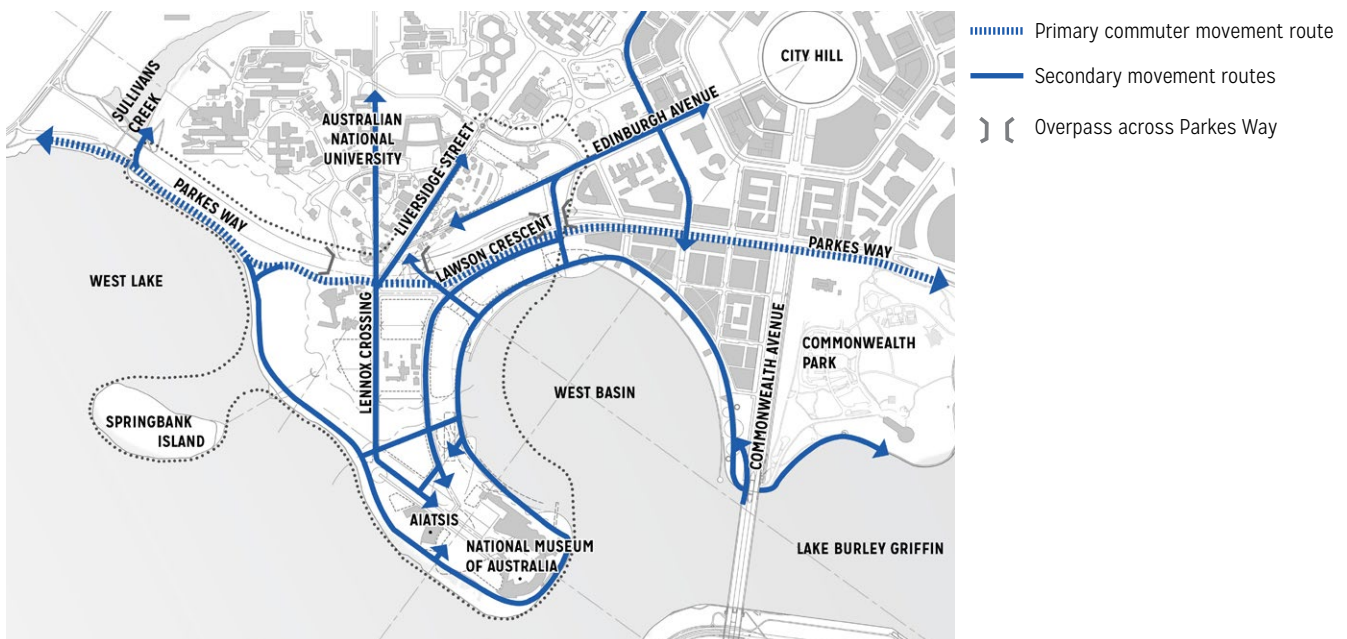
ATTRACTIVE PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY ROUTES



## PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT



## PROPOSED CYCLE MOVEMENT



## 3.2 MOVEMENT AND ACCESS

### Public transport

### Street hierarchy

### Main routes

### Traffic calming

#### Streets and traffic principles:

- a bus route through Acton Peninsula connecting into City and the ANU
- recognise the *Transport for Canberra* recommendations, including the public transport routes along major corridors
- safe bus layby and set down zones with associated facilities
- a connected and regular public transport service to the peninsula
- a hierarchy of streets within the peninsula that clearly identifies a main access route
- secondary streets to achieve permeability and access to car parking 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
- lighting and detail in the street design that offers a high level of amenity and comfort.

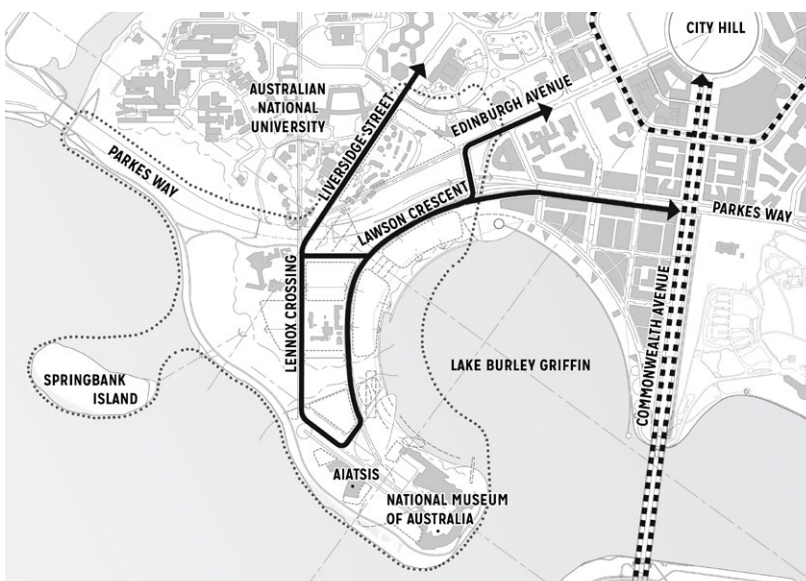


ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

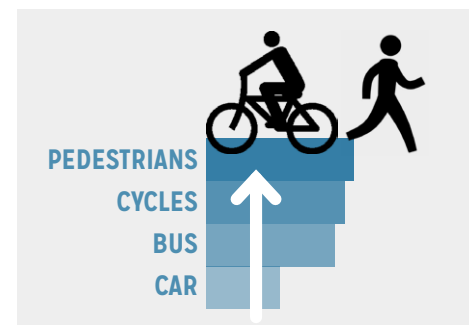


PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY STREETS

### PROPOSED PUBLIC TRANSPORT & BUS SERVICING



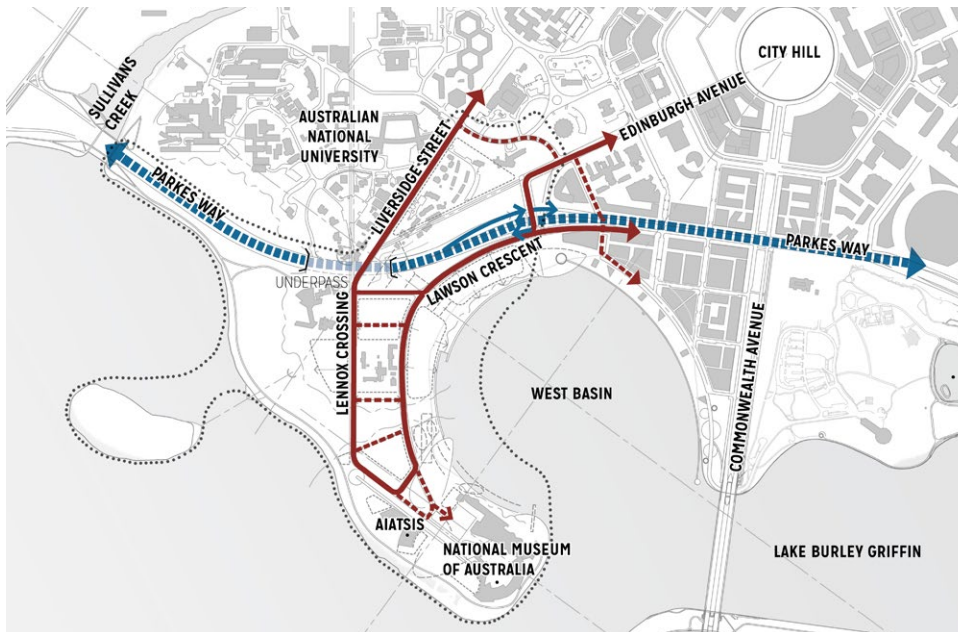
- ← Public transport access
- ← Existing public transport network



PROMOTE ACTIVE HEALTHY CITIES

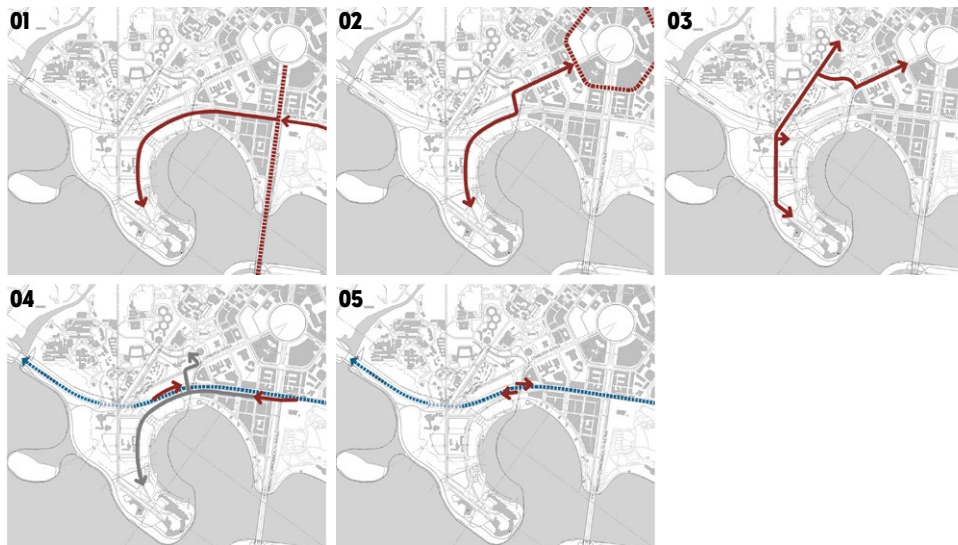


## PROPOSED ROAD & STREET NETWORK



- Primary movement
- - - Secondary movement
- - - Existing arterial movement (Parkes Way)

## ACCESS ROUTES



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

## 3.2 MOVEMENT AND ACCESS

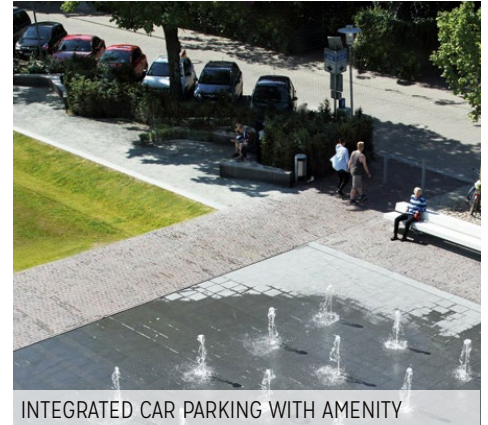
### Car parking

### Shared servicing

### Car parking amenity

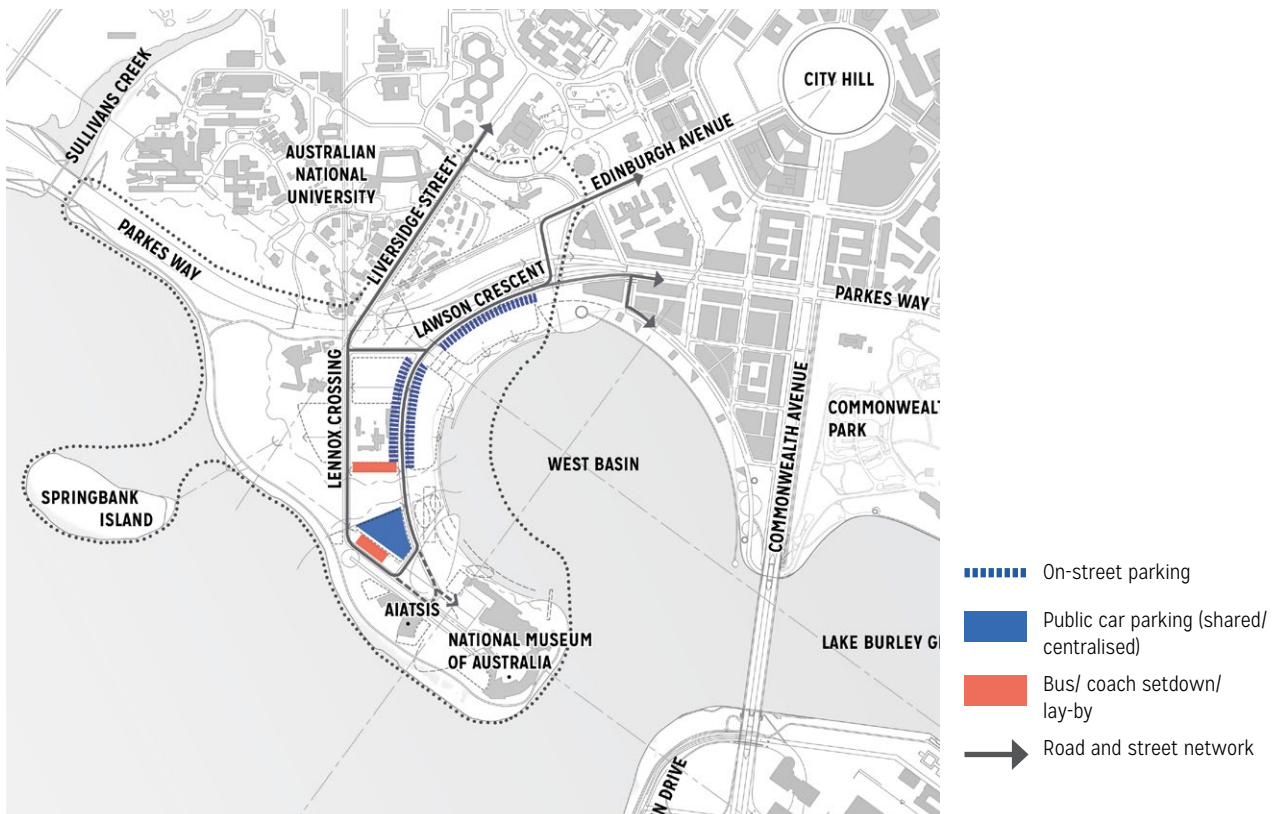
#### *Parking principles:*

- shared car parking provision considering times of use
- car parking 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
- distribution of parking in a way to facilitate ease of access and traffic control for large events.



INTEGRATED CAR PARKING WITH AMENITY

### PROPOSED PARKING

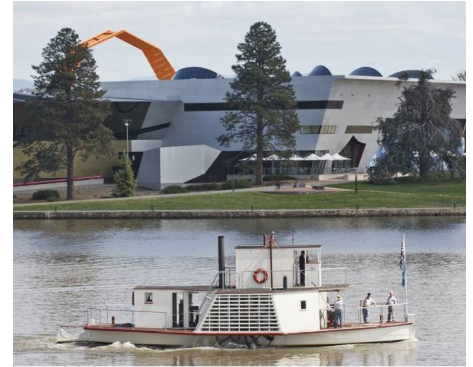




## Access from the lake

### Water access principles:

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

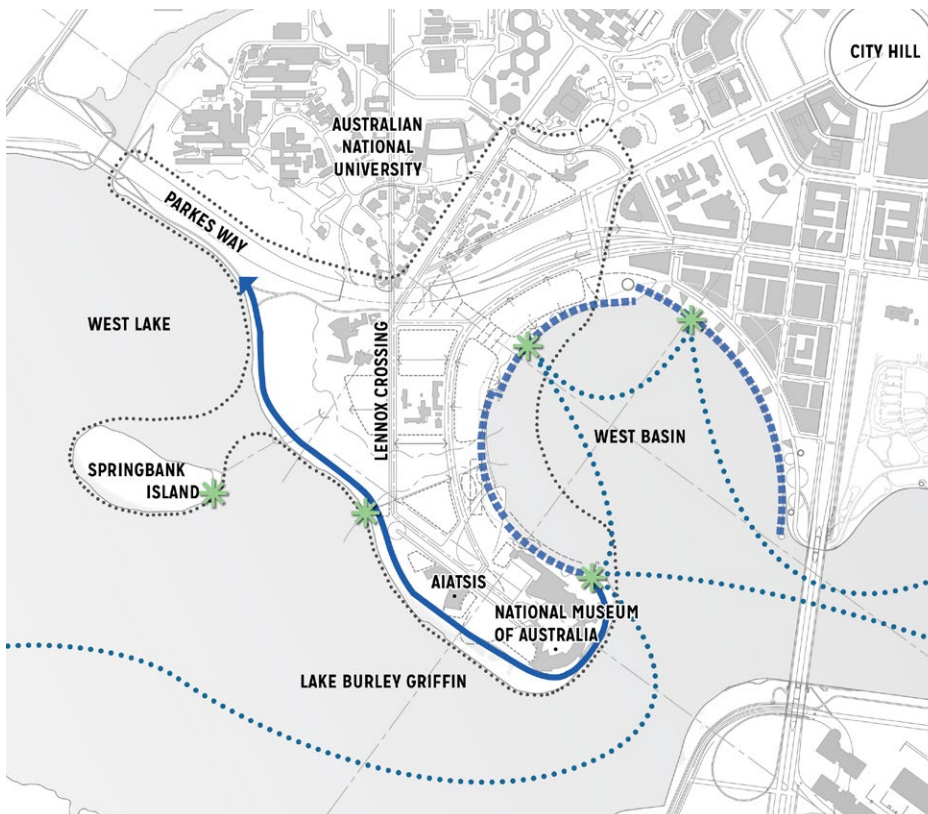


WATERCRAFT USING THE LAKE AND THE PENINSULA



SHARED LANDING FACILITIES

## LAKE ACCESS



- Watercraft access opportunity
- West Basin promenade/boardwalk
- Lake edge path
- Indicative watercraft movements

Attractive and well used places usually have an intimacy and mix of uses that is supported by well-planned local services and facilities. The structure plan encourages a rich layering of uses, facilities and services to create a lively and commercially successful precinct. The height and massing of new built form on the peninsula is influenced by the topography of the peninsula, existing buildings and vegetation.

### 3.3 USES AND BUILT FORM

#### Development zones

#### High exchange

#### Mixed uses

#### Mixed use principles:

- limit the areas of possible development, ensuring open space is maintained and enhance with new uses
- buildings and spaces that enable the interchange of intellectual capital and collaboration between disciplines and professionals
- a range of uses including tourism, educational, research, recreational, cultural, community and commercial activities; along with complimentary ancillary uses such as restaurants and retail
- convention, exhibition and entertainment uses
- stack mixed uses vertically
- courtyards, plazas and landscaped spaces as extending facilities and uses from inside to outside, and vice versa
- active uses facing onto streets and positive engagement of the public realm.

#### Edges

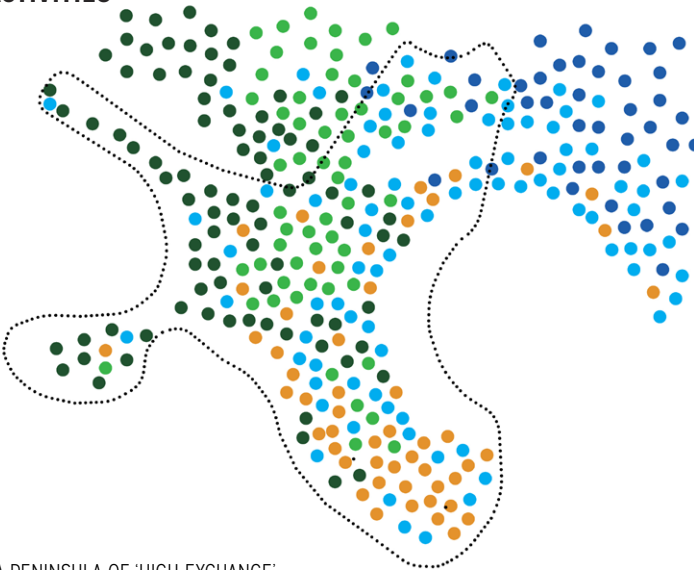


COMPATIBLE MIXED USES



ACTIVE FRONTAGES PROMOTE A LIVELY PUBLIC REALM

#### ACTIVITIES



-  Broad landscape - Black Mountain to peninsula
-  Education & research
-  Recreation, leisure & entertainment
-  Urban mixed use - living & commerce
-  Cultural activities, arts

A PENINSULA OF 'HIGH EXCHANGE'

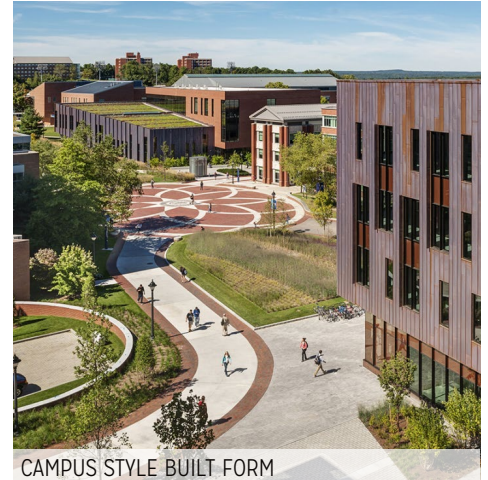


## Density mix

## Incremental build up

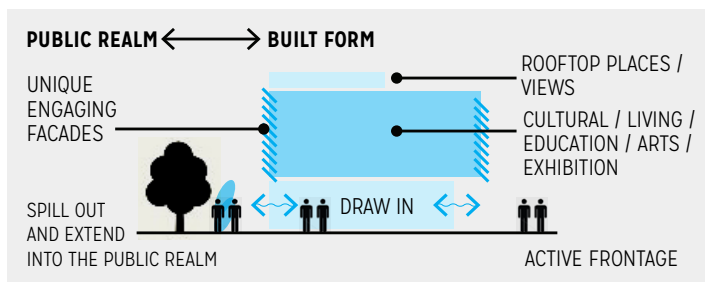
### Density principles:

- an increased density of built form adjacent to the West Basin promenade
- a less-dense campus style of built form on the peninsula spine and extending into ANU
- increased densification of the NMA site through a finer grain of pavilions and linked buildings
- further educational and accommodation uses related to ANU extending down the peninsula to West Basin

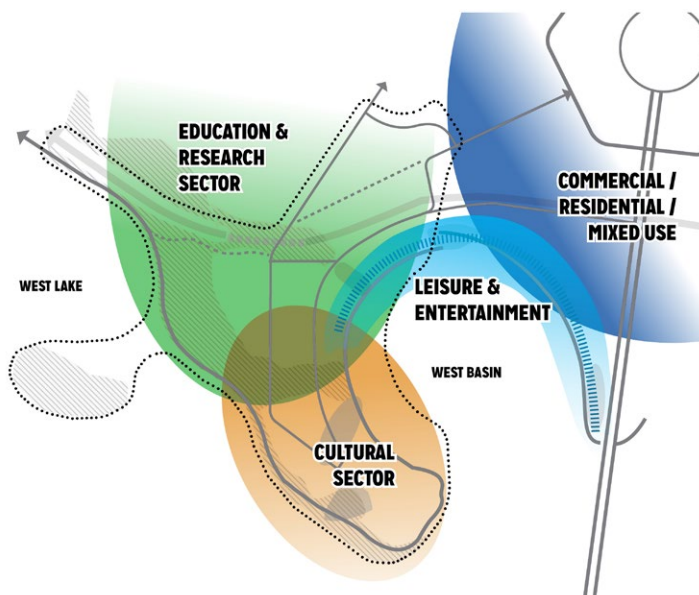


CAMPUS STYLE BUILT FORM

## INTEGRATION



## BROAD SECTORS MAP



EDUCATION & RESEARCH SECTOR / COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL/ MIXED USE



CULTURAL SECTOR / LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT SECTOR

The indicative development zones identify the areas in which new buildings can be built. These areas and any buildings proposed will incorporate new pedestrian connections, landscaped spaces, a range of uses and provide activity to the public realm.

### 3.3 USES AND BUILT FORM

#### Built form character

#### Shared use of facilities and services

#### Responsive architecture

#### *Built form principles:*

- the character of built form, landscape and street infrastructure as one
- new built form that enhances and respects the existing built form
- public-use destinations at regular intervals along routes
- shared use of facilities and services within precincts including car parking, meeting spaces and hospitality
- small block sizes that allow permeability to the lake promenade
- a fine grain of built form rather than monolithic structures
- buildings adaptable for new or changed uses.

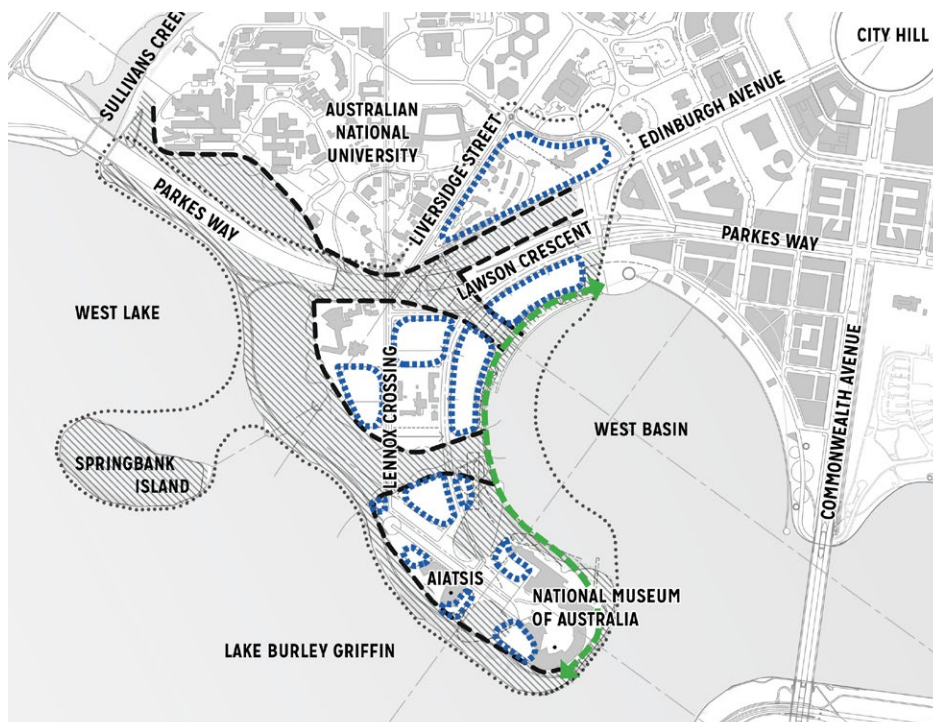


LANDSCAPE, BUILDING AND STREET INTEGRATION



A MIX OF FACILITIES AND BUILT FORM

#### INDICATIVE DEVELOPMENT ZONES



- Possible development zones and existing building extension zones
- 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



## Building context

## Building massing

## Building height

## Coordinated service infrastructure

### **Building size & scale principles:**

- building height and massing appropriate to the existing built form, site context and topography of Acton Peninsula
- views into and from the site maintaining open view lines along the principal geometric axes
- a human scale to the location, orientation and massing of buildings
- built form that complements, rather than dominates, the landscape
- new built form that architecturally respects and complements the existing built form.

### **Service infrastructure principles:**

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



HUMAN SCALE, COMPLEMENTING THE LANDSCAPE



AUSTRALIAN TECHNOLOGY PARK, SYDNEY  
COORDINATION OF SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE

## 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)

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.

## 3.4 PUBLIC REALM

### Social spaces

### Varied scales & flexibility

### Comfort

### Interface

### Surveillance

### Activity

#### *Public realm 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
- spaces for large events and gatherings, and smaller, more intimate spaces
- spaces for permanent and temporary uses;
- night and daytime use
- incorporating active and passive recreation spaces and integration with movement and circulation
- summer shade, winter sun; a mix of enclosed and intimate spaces that are comfortable and attractive to be in
- an accessible and inclusive public realm that can be used comfortably and equitably by all.

#### *Safety and security 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
- night-time use of the public realm, including designation of safe, well-lit, night time routes between destinations such as carparks
- amenity and variety that facilitates use 7 days a week and 14 hours a day.



POPULAR COMFORTABLE PLACES TO BE IN



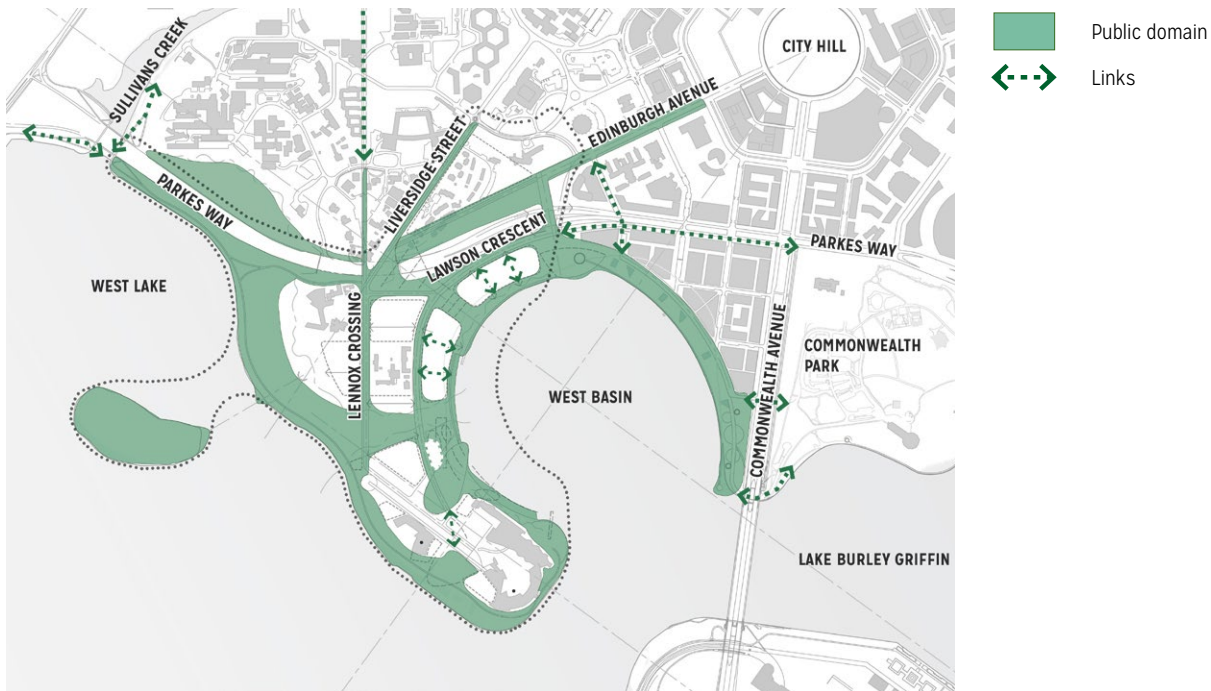
FLEXIBLE USE PUBLIC REALM



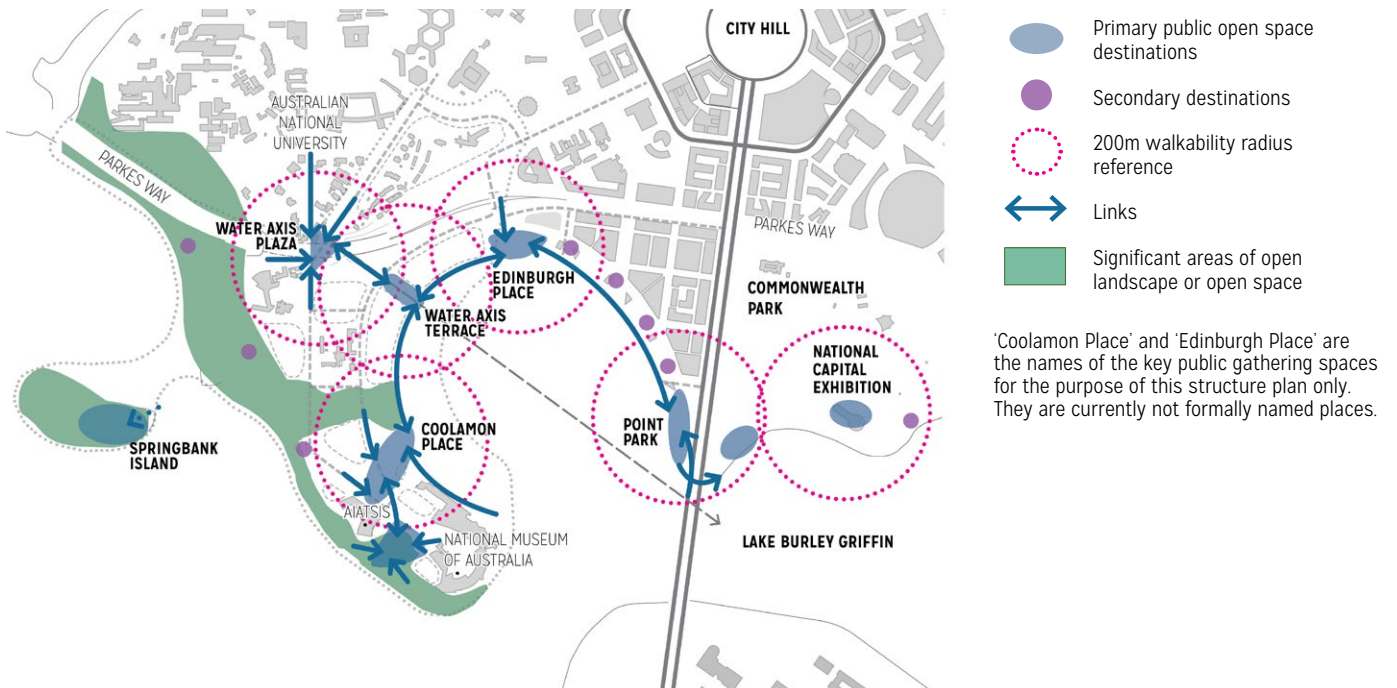
SOUNDScape LINCOLN PARK, MIAMI FLORIDA



## CONNECTED OPEN SPACE NETWORK



## SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC OPEN SPACES AND LINKS



Quality streetscapes and landscape design will contribute towards the appearance, function and overall success of the peninsula as a destination. The landscape is often considered to be the 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.

### 3.5 LANDSCAPE & STREETScape

#### Character and context

#### Integrated design

#### Wildlife and ecology

#### Habitat

#### *Landscape principles:*

- Incorporate 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
- incorporate the landscape and history of the site for outdoor education
- landscape integrated with built form and street design
- use landscape to create open and enclosed spaces providing for a variety of recreational uses at different times of the year
- retention of significant or valuable trees both individual specimens and tree copses
- contributes to Canberra's broader urban forest.

#### *Ecology principles:*

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



DOMINANT LANDSCAPE CHARACTER



ATTRACTIVE, COMFORTABLE PLACES



EXISTING NATIVE GRASSLANDS



## Whole-of-life cost considerations

### *Street furniture principles:*

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



STREET FURNITURE

## Site specific artworks

### *Art principles:*

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



IDENTITY - INTEGRATED ARTWORK

## Curation

### *Signage and wayfinding principles:*

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



IDENTITY - INTEGRATED SIGNAGE

## Identity

### *Public lighting 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
- the use of only sustainable, new technology luminaires and lamps.



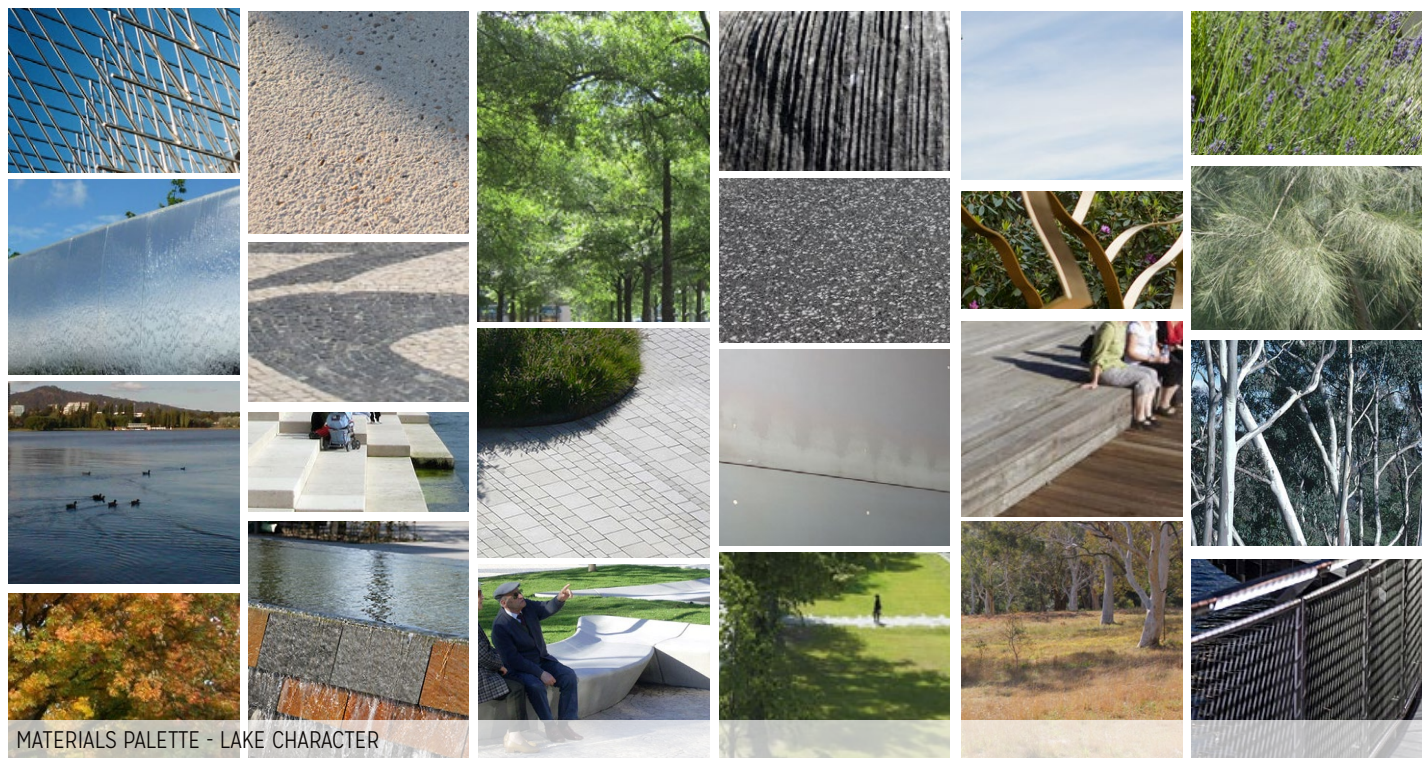
INTEGRATED LIGHTING

## Appearance

## Sustainability

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.

3.6 DETAILS AND MATERIALS	
Precinct approach	<p><b>Material use 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> </ul>
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- use materials that reinforce an identity or sense of place on the peninsula</li> </ul>
Complimentary & consistent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- organisation of buildings, road architecture and the public realm in an integrated way</li> </ul>
Hierarchy of materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- utilise transparent or glazed facades where buildings front onto the public realm</li> </ul>
Pedestrian scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- design details at the scale for pedestrians, and avoid long, non-permeable building facades.</li> </ul>





## Maintenance

## Longevity

## Local materials

### *Quality principles:*

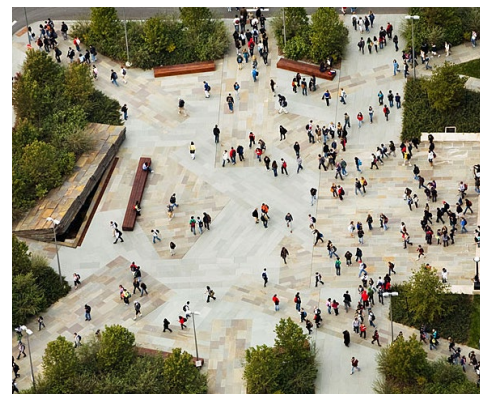
- factor in the whole-of-life costs of materials and construction techniques
- the use only of robust and durable materials and finishes, particularly for the lower base buildings and in the public realm
- use materials that are suited to Canberra's climatic conditions
- integration of landscape and plant materials with building design
- incorporate elements or references of the history and heritage of Acton Peninsula into design
- whenever possible use local or Australian sourced, manufactured/ fabricated materials and products.



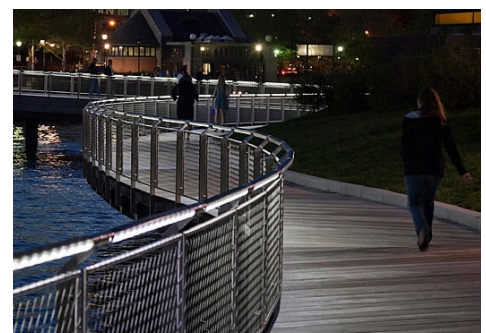
PRECINCT-WIDE MATERIALS + DETAIL APPROACH



CONSISTENT MATERIALS - RG MENZIES WALK



ROBUST FINISHES



SUITABLE MATERIALS FOR THE AREA

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.

3.7 ENERGY AND RESOURCES

Aspect	<i>Environmental principles:</i>
Water	<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><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</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>
Technological enhancement	<p><i>Technology principles:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- a systematic and coordinated approach to technologies and digital networks within the precinct</li><li>- 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.</li></ul>





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.

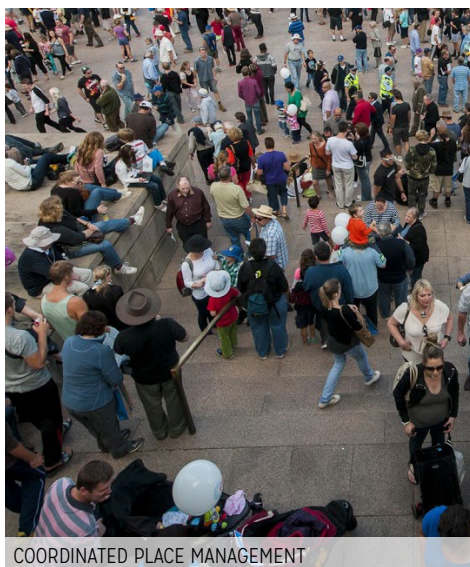
### 3.8 STAGING AND MANAGEMENT

#### Event overlay

#### Flexibility and change

#### *Precinct management principles:*

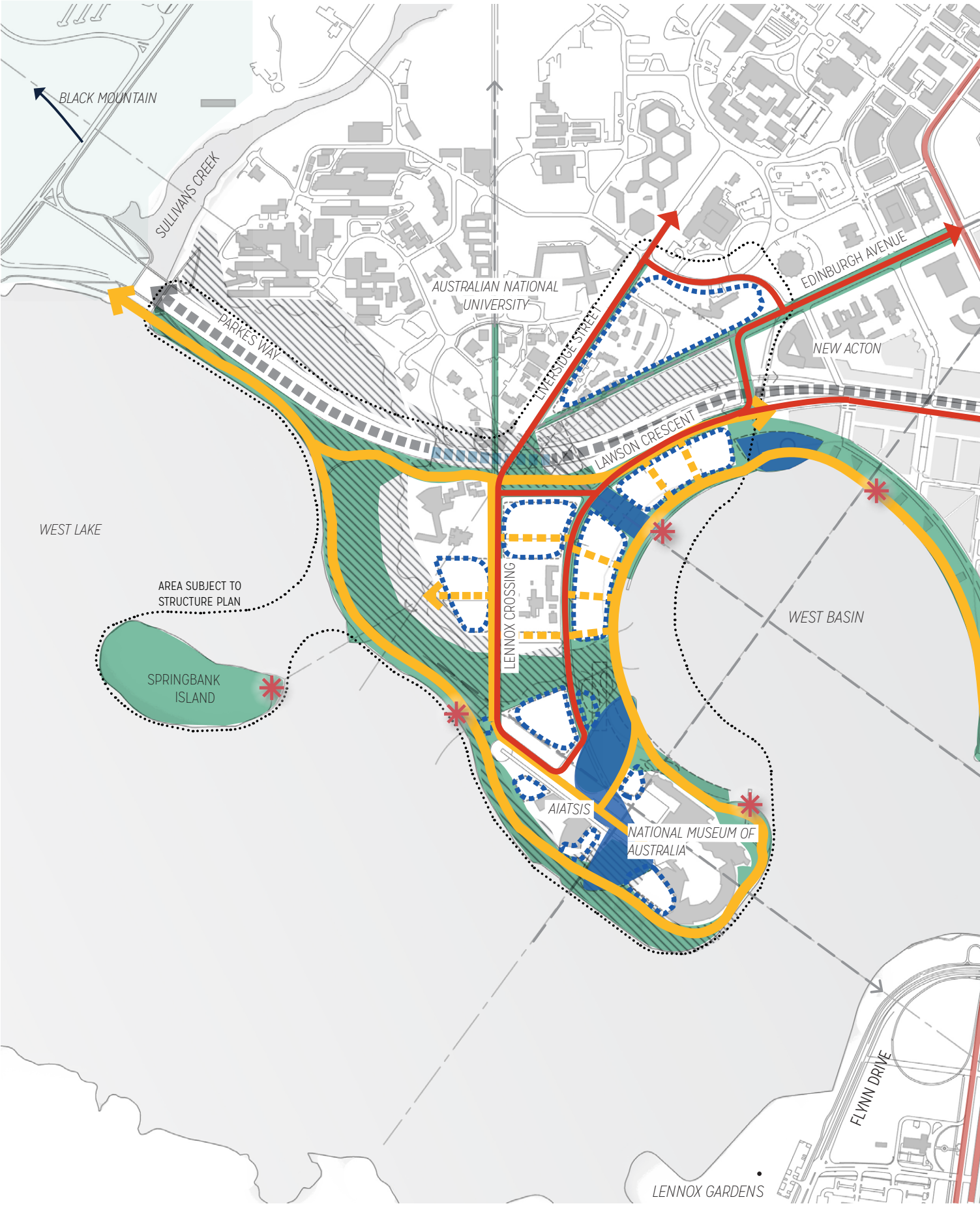
- a consolidated program of events on the peninsula that aims at an even distribution throughout the year
- flexibility and change over time as cultural needs evolve
- a new space on the peninsula - proposed Coolamon Place - that provides a venue for major events and everyday cultural programs.



COORDINATED PLACE MANAGEMENT

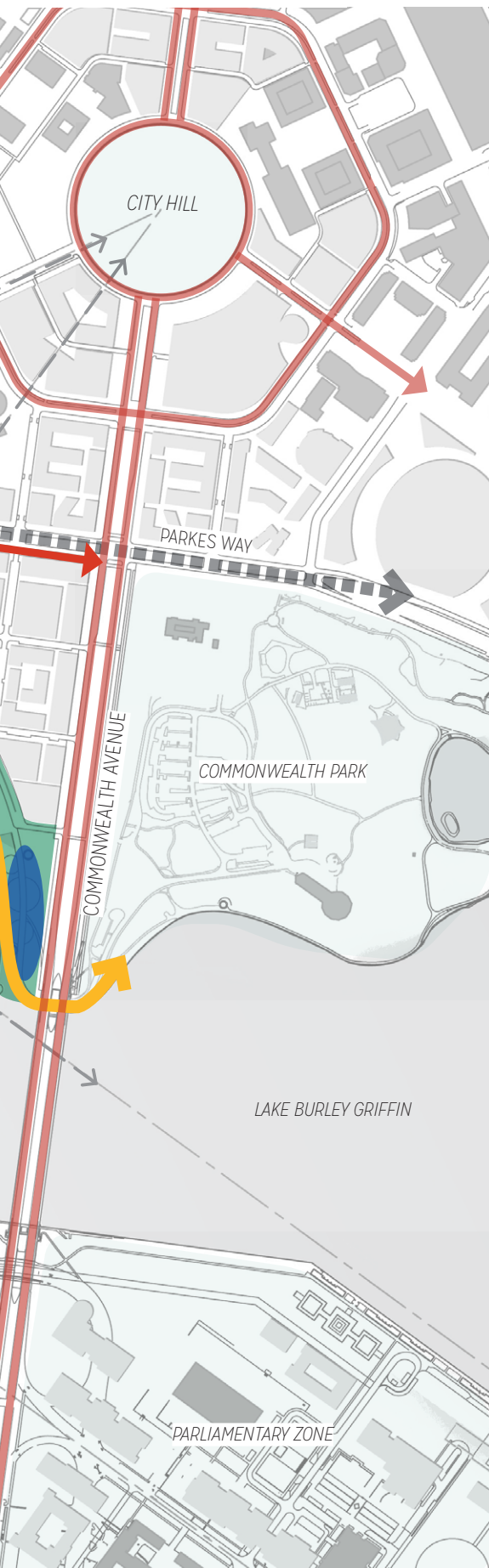


# 3.9 Composite Structure Plan
















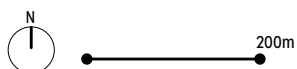


The composite structure plan is a consolidation of the key moves outlined in the Movement and Accessibility, Uses and Built Form, Public Realm, and Landscape and Streetscape principles.



## KEY

-  Main road & street network
-  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
-  Indicative development zones and existing building extension zones
-  Watercraft access opportunity
-  Parkes Way
-  Key axes
-  Existing built form
-  Indicative built form
-  Structure plan area



## 4.0 Conclusion

The Acton Peninsula Precinct Structure Plan outlines a renewed vision for the area - as a world-class cultural precinct that celebrates Australia's national identity and respects Canberra's local heritage.

The plan identifies five key moves to create the character of the Peninsula including:

- creating public spaces on the peninsula for a wide range of uses, day and night, ranging from individual recreation to large event areas
- better connections to the peninsula and to other parts of Canberra including the city and the National Triangle for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists
- consolidating car-parking into one area to reclaim public space and improve the sense of arrival at Acton Peninsula
- consolidating any new buildings into defined areas of a set height that is in proportion to the surrounds and preserving views
- high-quality design throughout the site which includes a consistent approach to materials and landscaping.

This document will guide further planning and design works and be implemented through staged development. Key aspects of the structure plan will be incorporated into the National Capital Plan, as amendments.

The final structure plan incorporated feedback and outcomes based on public consultation. The final consultation report can be viewed on the NCA website.



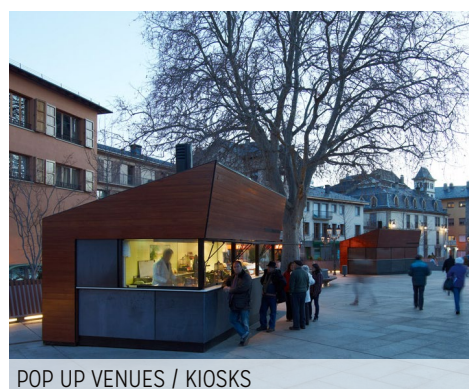
NMA AS A PRIMARY DESTINATION



AN ENGAGING PLACE



OUTDOOR EDUCATION



POP UP VENUES / KIOSKS



## 5.0 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.

