



Acton Waterfront Workshop reports

Appendix 1 Acton Waterfront Workshop 1 Outcomes Summary Report

Context

On the evening of 16 October 2019 between 5pm and 9pm, a community and stakeholder workshop was held to consider and provide feedback on key aspects of the current progress by the team undertaking the place planning for the Acton Waterfront for the City Renewal Authority and the Canberra community. The workshop was held at CIT Reid.

This report provides a record of the workshop and is provided to participants, the City Renewal Authority and also to the Hames Sharley-led team. This report will provide critical information for the final place plan, being prepared by Place Laboratory, Mantra Studios and Hames Sharley.

The community workshop will reconvene on the 27 November to critique the draft place plan being prepared – specifically to undertake an analysis about how well it meets the community needs / aspirations for the site.

The group composition

- Canberrans
- New Acton residents
- Stakeholders – businesses / community groups / advocacy groups and other interested stakeholders

Information is provided at Attachment A about who attended, including a stakeholder list.

Recruitment of the community members was undertaken by contacting a democracyCo list of 250+ Canberrans who had previously expressed an interest in being involved in a deliberative experience. This was supplemented by a mail drop to 500 residents of New Acton. All those who received an invitation were asked to RSVP – of which 58 did so.

The final group of 12 New Acton residents & 15 other Canberrans was selected (using random stratified sampling) with key demographics of age, location and gender considered to achieve a broad mix of backgrounds.

Stakeholders were invited by the City Renewal Authority. Of the 24 community members recruited and confirmed, 21 attended. Six other stakeholders attended, many others that were contacted noting their preference to talk to City Renewal Authority directly.

Purpose

The purpose of the community and stakeholder workshop was to consider key elements of the place planning for the Acton Waterfront / West Basin area. Specifically, the aims were to:

- Continue a long standing dialogue with the community
 - understand and confirm the relevance of the previous community engagement results related to this project and identify any gaps.
- Provide input to and feedback on:
 - The place themes – and their importance
 - The future users – and how the place needs to be designed for them.

The experiential aims of the process were to ensure that the stakeholders and community had a productive and positive dialogue – recognising some of the previous challenges in engagement about West Basin. This process was designed to assist participants to be thinking about the future, and not the past or current challenges and issues with the area.

Process

democracyCo designed and facilitated the workshop, as part of the Hames Sharley team.

The workshop had three “movements”:

1. A session devoted to sharing the engagement efforts and outcomes to date – going right back to 2015 and checking the relevance of what the community said back then, with what they think is important now; recent Kingston Waterfront engagement results were also included.
2. A session introducing participants to the future users of the Acton Waterfront – and obtaining the panel’s feedback on the ways on which the place should be designed for them.
3. A session where the 5 place themes were shared with the group – and they were asked to provide feedback on their positives and negatives, as well as to share their ideas for how each theme could be brought to life in a uniquely Canberra/Acton way.

The consultant team from Hames Sharley, Place Laboratory and Mantra Studios presented information to the group on each of the above outlining their early research, review and place thinking and democracyCo facilitated the workshop sessions/activities. Key staff from the City Renewal Authority and Transport Canberra and City Services attended and hear their input direct.

The agenda and timing for the evening was as per the following table.

Overview of outcomes

Significant outcomes of the workshop included:

- High levels of support for the development of the Acton Waterfront.
- High levels of support for a focus on the public realm at Acton Waterfront.
- Extremely high levels of support for a place based approach – life first, then place, then buildings.
- A shared desire to see the Acton Waterfront as inherently connected to the lake, that promotes a sense of community, wellbeing and connection to nature.
- High levels of support for a development that promotes inclusivity for all and connection to and through the site (including connectivity to the rest of Canberra).

A desire to have flexible and safe places at Acton Waterfront.

- A desire to achieve blends of vibrancy and tranquility – day vs night, mix of use, visually vibrant, open space vs cosy nooks.
- High levels of support for a sustainable place (clean and green) which has world class systems in place for waste management / renewables etc.

What we already know

In response to the presentation that summarised the outcomes of past engagements and the Kingston Foreshore interviews that were undertaken September 2019, the group was asked:

“What seems to be missing from what the community have said so far regarding what’s important for the Acton Waterfront?”

WORKSHOP AGENDA

TIME	DISCUSSION TOPIC
5pm	Welcome
5:15pm	Setting the Scene Part 1: Project Background & Context
5:30pm	Setting the Scene Part 2: What we already know, waterfront usage & design
5:40pm	Workshop & Discussion
6:10pm	Dinner
6:30pm	Introducing the future users of Acton Waterfront: Who will be here?
6:45pm	Workshop & Discussion
7:15pm	Place Themes
7:40pm	Workshop & Discussion
8:30pm	Open Discussion & Reflection
9pm	Finish



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- Design for wellbeing
 - How the area improves the environment
 - Linkages beyond Acton Waterfront – into the rest of Canberra
 - Don't highly curate the whole site – leave some to nature
 - Opportunity for collaborative space between both nearby Universities (ANU and UNSW)
 - Access and mobility seems to be not considered
 - How does the development cater for all socio-economic groups?
 - Uses of the water – in many different ways
 - Access points – how do you come to be there? Keen for many access points
 - Amenities for the community – public toilets / gym / libraries / waste
 - A place for young people – they don't seem to be being considered. Also how have young people been involved so far?
 - School / childcare / early learning needed
 - Parking – a major problem and needs to be central to the design
 - Adaptability to our changing climate – how is climate change being incorporated?
 - Swimming in the lake?
 - Scale of the development – want it at a human scale
 - Open, usable green spaces
 - Is there a significant, monumental building planned – iconic?
 - Integrity – if we are constructing on swamps, ensuring the development has structural integrity
 - Cycling and walking – it's important to get it right how they interact
 - Price point – multiple options for people to live/be there – including free things
 - Kingston is an enclave – Acton Waterfront should be for all Canberrans
 - Waterfront exposure is critical

USER GROUP	WHAT WILL THEY BE DOING		PLACE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS
WORKERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting people • Place to eat lunch and have coffee • Shopping • Commuting • Exercising • Swimming at lunchtime • Being inspired • Seating • Parking • Group exercise at lunch • Eating • Parking a car to walk to civic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurants • Conference facilities / meeting spaces / function rooms • Cheap lunch food • Pub • Supermarket • Childcare • Shared co-working meeting space • Pathways for a nice stroll for “a walking meeting” • Shared areas where groups can exercise • Makeshift works as public space • Garden space • Trees to encourage bird life • Natural light / views / vista from inside and outside • Shade and shelter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of intimate spaces and expansive spaces • High ratio of public land • Nature play for grown ups • Walking tracks • Bike riding / bike parking • Transport and access, affordable parking, connection to public transport • Better connection to the city • Dedicated pedestrian and cycle paths – with a concrete barrier so each stay on their own space • Small footprint multi-storey carpark • Place to shower after exercise (riding / running to work) • Gymnasium • Renewable energy used throughout

USER GROUP	WHAT WILL THEY BE DOING	PLACE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS	PLACE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS
BROADER CANBERRA COMMUNITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coming for a BBQ • Walking their dog • Socialising • Charity events – fun run, triathlon • Children playing • Walk for special needs – outdoor exercise • Dining • Clubs (sport / interest) • Playgrounds • Fishing • Weekend destination • Exercise • Transit • Taking visitors to show off Canberra • Cycling, running, swimming, kayaking • Attending lectures – outdoor • Finding quiet places • Relaxing • Walking • Reading • Generating waste and throwing away items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat and kayak access – paddle bikes • Built out over the water – Pier waterfront café / restaurant • Water views / vista • Access in and out of water for swimmers and kayakers • Recreational storage • Gardens • Bridge to connect museum to triangle (Nara Peace Park) – allow longer bridge to bridge walk / cycle • Wilderness walk • Public transport connections • Separate cycling and walking paths • Easy access / free parking • No timber boardwalks • Lighting • Recycling facilities • Disability friendly – no heights, tiling, paving, central ramp (not at the end of an area) – see tourist sheet about accessibility (bathrooms, parking) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise stations • Shade • Recline / quiet space • Parents room – not just for mothers • Free BBQs • Food • Smoking and non-smoking areas • Event spaces for programs • Music festivals • Major lakeside events – parking, bike riding, fireworks, fishing • Pet facilities – walking the dog, bike riding • Safe and inclusive environment – sensory garden • Signage for water quality on any given day, water sensitive urban design • Solar lighting • Water tanks

USER GROUP	WHAT WILL THEY BE DOING	PLACE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS	
TOURISTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commuting through the area • Looking for a good view of Canberra • School excursions • Accessing the Lake to swim, sail or paddle • Eating and drinking • Late night activities • There in all 4 seasons • Getting a glimpse from Commonwealth Ave bridge which entices them over • Walking between iconic venues • Art and photography • Water therapy • Parking their van • Walking and riding through as part of an around the lake experience • Festivals • Snacking • Entertainment and events • Time out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information centre and maps • In-situ maps to navigate the area • Activities for each season outdoors (ie cinema) • Water travel / taxi • Ability to hire water activities – kayaks etc • Satellite events for EPIC • Exercise stations • Inclusive environment – sensory garden, mental health • Hotel / backpackers accommodation • Artwork 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting - user centred design • Event programming • Cafes / restaurants / bars • Shade covered areas • Wind proof • Water sensitive urban design and how to fill a lake • Coach parking • No traffic lights on the way • Don't block vista from bridge • Bridge – pedestrian and cycle • Accessible (amenities, parking, pathways, lighting, heights, ramps) • Museum to Commonwealth and Nara parks

USER GROUP	WHAT WILL THEY BE DOING	PLACE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS	
RESIDENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting friends / others • Relaxing • Dog walking • Jogging • Swimming • Having a variety of choices • Accessing it by foot or by car • Cycling / e-scooters • Sleeping • Socialising / dining out • Storing things at the waterfront (kayaks) • Grandparents playing with their kids / caring for them • Art • Attending events • Entertaining visitors and friends • Gardening • All ages • Kicking the footy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terraces / private spaces • Green walls / roof for spaces to meet • Lack of noise and air pollution • Seasonally adjusted • Articulated buildings • Colourful friendly spaces • Benches / shade / public water fountains • Place to skate • Exercise stations • Water play • Sensory garden • Open-space access • Car parks • Beautiful things • Pet play areas • Rotating public art • A sound shell and performance space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canopies • Keep current ACT events • Supermarket / mini mart • Medical facilities • School • Children's play space • Public toilets • Cinema / clubs • Community garden • No wind tunnel • Noise prevention • BBQs • Oval • Reclining areas in nature / backyard • Education • Smorgasbord of retail / commercial

Feedback on themes

The five place themes the workshop group considered were:

1. Tale of two scales
2. Contemporary garden city
3. A community place
4. Foreshore for people
5. Connections as journeys

Tale of two scales

What excites you about this theme?

- Flexibility of activities
- Griffins' sacred geometry being honoured
- Active, different and interesting
- Like the four points

What concerns you about this theme?

- Dictated by geometry
- Could result in areas as high density construction
- Empty spaces could feel like dead spaces
- Dictated by geometry

What excites you about this theme?

- Seeing this as a journey
- Creates hubs of activity
- Wide open space in between nodes
- Dining on the lake and enjoying the views

What concerns you about this theme?

- As you walk around the green space there is nothing to do
- Is it affordable?
- Would like to have more of a natural feeling, not too much concrete city feelings
- Could look cheap – offers a cheap option
- Nodes would be like Commonwealth bridge Park – equipment rarely used
- You're blocking the vista from the bridge – turn the picture around and you won't have a view except the back of the bridge

How do we bring this theme to life in a uniquely Acton Waterfront / Canberran way?

- Street dining
- Changeable from dining and relaxing space to entertainment precinct
- Free shuttle buses around the nodes
- Make it quirky
- Themed journey – i.e. Australia's north, south, east and west
- Artwork
- Decorative foot bridge from the Nation Museum of Museum to Hyatt
- Indigenous

Is there something we have missed in this theme?

- Beach
- There is a lack of access
- Playgrounds along the way
- Easy connection across the nodes
- Bridge to connect – feels like circuit but you must backtrack to start again
- How does the flow happen between nodes?

Contemporary garden city

What excites you about this theme?

- Nice feel
- Wildlife
- Green
- Would be nice to travel through
- Native / wild
- A brilliant idea!
- Tree canopy
- Family friendly
- Beautiful idea
- Green plants / wildlife
- It maintains some of the beauty that is there now

What concerns you about this theme?

- Upkeep of the space – who pays to maintain?
- Is it just a through way?
- Water?
- Sustainability
- How to keep it safe at night
- Paths (shared) are too narrow
- Deciduous tree canopy to ensure shade in summer and sunshine to warm in winter
- Cost of tree maintenance
- Climate resilience

What excites you about this theme?

What concerns you about this theme?

- There are already lots of green spaces with flora and fauna in Canberra. This is good but keep it simple – open green space
- Could be implemented in different ways so needs to be in the right context

How do we bring this theme to life in a uniquely Acton Waterfront / Canberran way?

- It's the bush capital – stick with natives
- Art
- Immersive / interactive art
- Extension of National Gallery of Australia / Botanic gardens
- Good strong legislation to control the developers
- Indigenous design merged with urban synergies group (Gregor Mews) consultations
- Do it with the National Gallery

Is there something we have missed in this theme?

- Has there been input with the Aboriginal community?
 - Getting across Parkes Way
 - Balance of green vs visibility / open spaces
 - How do we connect this with Botanic Gardens and National Gallery Sculpture Gardens – a nature walk in between?
 - Food forest
 - Wildlife refuge and transit
 - Safety / security lighting
 - Shade and covered areas / event space
-

A community place

What excites you about this development?

- I love it because it says it all – as this place should be
- The personal connections with people
- Village feel
- Flexibility and wellness
- Provides social opportunities
- Active transport
- People are moving
- Brings people in
- Connection and community

What concerns you about this development?

- Not being tolerant
- Same as Commonwealth Park
- Noise
- Could be polarising
- Could be manufactured
- Difficult to hold mass participation events
- Community cannot be created – and if we try to do too much here we could create a community ghetto
- Busy / noisy

What excites you about this development?

- Will make residents and visitors feel a sense of ownership
- The village feel
- Socialise and meet new friends
- Very inclusive

What concerns you about this development?

- Polarising – old people or young kids
- Too much governance
- Too many people all close together – need space to be apart
- Potential lack of organic evolution could result in too many “fills” in all the spaces
- Safety / security – unsupervised teens / groups

How do we bring this theme to life in a uniquely Acton Waterfront / Canberran way?

- Get local markets / artists to help build this
- Diversity of socio-economic profile / people
- Catering for different people, not just one class
- Pop-up markets and events
- Let people get creative with it
- Good food and coffee
- Chess in park
- Food trucks
- Buskers / entertainers
- Festivals
- Not to make fit every need – co-ordinated activities (e.g. sports demonstrations for teenagers / kids)
- WIFI free space – this means no WIFI in some spaces, except for in student areas
- Outdoor lecture theatre for ad-hoc open learning / community events
- Indigenous sculpture walk bringing our Indigenous history to the precinct. It could be by way of holding a competition and choosing the best to be a permanent fixture along the waterfront.

Is there something we have missed in this theme?

- Access for all
- Parking
- Cycling
- Safety – community needs to feel safe
- Density will be hard to generate – especially given transport and parking

Connections as Journeys

What excites you about this theme?

- Junction making helps with community / human connection
- Slower Parkes Way
- Art
- Safety
- Encouraging walking and other modes of transport

What concerns you about this theme?

- Have to give people a reason to go on the journey – what is along the way?
- Distances / transport / walkability
- Community will pass through to park, walk, drive past without delay

What excites you about this theme?

- Critical. Understand through design how things (people, cars etc) move with and around and bypass the area – it should not impact on current users

What concerns you about this theme?

- Integration with and impact on surrounds – and those people and places
- Loss of bush capital feel
- Inconvenience – commuting is too slow
- Horribly urbanised feel
- We lose the natural feel of the Acton Waterfront area
- Lots of wasted space
- Throughway only
- Cheap
- Boring! Unless fitness / travel oriented, I wouldn't visit – waste of a natural resource
- Ugly
- Wasted expense

How do we bring this theme to life in a uniquely Acton / Canberra way?

- Natural connection to the city via a large green overpass over Parkes Way
- Connect with existing institutions around
- Active people with space for all users
- Make bike paths safe in line with how the city areas have done it
- Community gardens / food forest / art installations / public art workshops / artists creating – along the journey!
- Put it in the e-bike zone / e-solar zone
- Separate people and bikes

Is there something we have missed about this theme?

- Ensure flow of Commonwealth Ave maintained
- No intersection on Commonwealth Ave causing congestion – bridge over, use existing underpass to connect / provide access to Acton
- Boring – dead space?
- Nothing to do
- A photo that truly shows the idea

Which theme is most important to get right, and why?

Tale of two scales

Three people said this was the most important to get right because:

- Exploring the nodes on the journey is exciting
- Vibrancy / different stories
- Makes it interesting
- Recapturing of the Griffins' arc, paying homage to Griffin legacy

Contemporary garden city

Five people said this was most important because:

- Greenery reduces stress
- Garden city movement - Canberra a successful example of it
- Seasonal change
- We are the bush capital
- Don't lose green / bush space – deciduous
- Don't impact views – don't commercialise too much

A Community place

Eight people said this was the most important to get right because:

- New Acton residents spoke of belonging, being part of something – they felt this very strongly
- Ageing population, mental wellbeing – all can only be dealt with properly in a community
- Safety
- Talking to people and connecting

Foreshore for people

Eight people said this was most important to get right because:

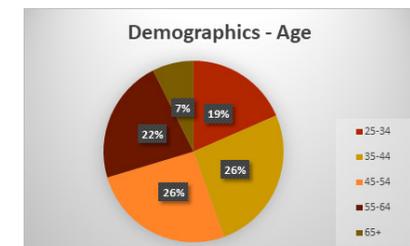
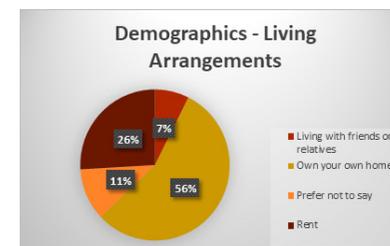
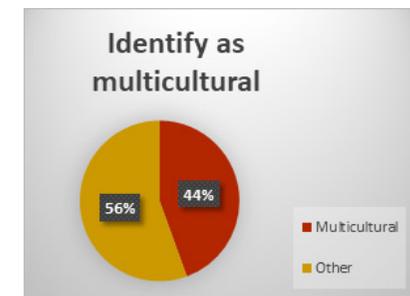
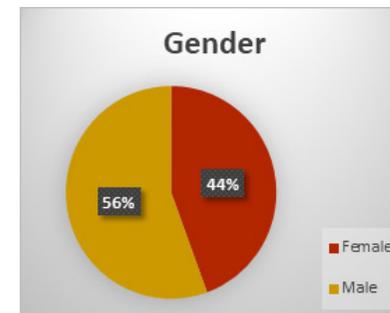
- Utilising the foreshore and making it successful is so important
- We want to be able to get on the lake
- Acton Waterfront needs to be more than a thoroughfare
- It will make it inclusive and social
- The lake represents the simple things in life – looking after our mental health is so important
- Canberrans are entitled to the lake – it needs to be kept in the public realm.
- Triathlon, swimming, surf lifesaving, water sports

Connections as journeys

Two people said this was most important because:

- We need to get the divisions of big roads and traffic right with people / pedestrians / cyclists
- Commonwealth Ave doesn't need lots of sets of lights – we need to maintain the integrity of the avenue.

Attachment A: The Community Participants Demographics



Attachment B: Stakeholders

The following is a list of stakeholder organisations invited – those with an * attended.

- * ACT Heritage Council (David Flannery)
- * Public Transport Association of Canberra (Ryan Hemsley)
- * Pedal Power (Mark Boast)
- * Guardians of Lake Burley Griffin (Mike Lawson)
- * Triathlon ACT (Craig Johns)
- * Heart Foundation (Annie Kentwell)
- ANU
- ANU students association
- QT Hotel
- Peppers Hotel
- Lake User Group
- North Canberra Community Council
- Inner South Community Council
- National Museum of Australia
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- Multicultural Advisory Council
- Youth Advisory Council
- Advisory Council on Women
- LGBTIQ Council
- Ageing Advisory Council
- National Capital Authority
- SeeChange
- School kids

Appendix 2 Acton Waterfront Workshop 2 Outcomes Summary Report

Background

The future of the Acton Waterfront has entered a place planning and urban design phase. The City Renewal Authority have embarked on the development of a place plan and special master plan with a new kind of approach - one that starts with the community, understands the patterns that structure their lives, how they want to spend their time (not just working, but living!) and maximises the potential of every moment and every interaction.

“First Life, then spaces, then buildings – the other way round never works” Jan Gehl

The process to gain an insight into what the community wants and needs has been an ongoing one. Significant engagement has occurred with community and stakeholders over many years about the Acton Waterfront at West Basin. Starting from the vision of Walter Burley Griffin right through to 2019 – a range of plans, concepts and discussions have occurred. The process to develop this new place plan starts from this extensive base. “Rather than revisit and restart these conversations it is important that we start from what we already know.”

In mid-2019, a process to gain a deeper understanding of the community and what they need began to add further

insight into previous engagements. Conversations were held with local residents and visitors at Kingston Foreshore to understand what was done well in that development and what to avoid. In addition to this, a workshop was held with community and stakeholders to delve further into their needs for the Acton Waterfront. This group was randomly selected to come together, using stratified random sampling by a process undertaken by independent agency democracyCo, and involved people from across Canberra, including a group selected to participate from the neighbouring New Acton area – more information about the group is below.

The group met on the evening of 16 October for the first time and convened again on the 27 November to provide more detailed and targeted feedback on the place principles and the future place character elements. Both workshops were held at CIT Reid.

This report provides a record of the workshop on the 27 November – and is provided to participants, the City Renewal Authority and to the Hames Sharley led team. This report will provide critical information for the final place plan, being prepared by Place Laboratory, Mantra Studios and Hames Sharley.

Purpose

The purpose of the community and stakeholder workshop was to consider key elements of the place planning for the Acton Waterfront / West Basin area. Specifically, the aims were to:

- Provide input to and feedback to Hames Sharley team on their draft place plan, associated experiences and key design aspects being considered.
- Check that the place intent reflects what is most important to the community.

The experiential aims of the process were identical to the first workshop, namely ensuring that the stakeholders and community had a productive and positive dialogue – recognising some of the previous challenges in engagement about West Basin. This process was designed to assist participants to think about the future, and not the past or current challenges with the area.

Input from the workshops will inform the a spatial master plan. It must be noted that community ideas will need to be tested and considered as the spatial master plan process is refined for viability and suitability against engineering constraints.

The group composition

- Canberrans
- New Acton residents
- Stakeholders – businesses / community groups / advocacy groups and other interested stakeholders

Information is provided at Attachment A about who attended, including a stakeholder list.

Recruitment of the community members was undertaken by contacting a democracyCo list of over two-hundred-fifty Canberrans who had previously expressed an interest in being involved in a deliberative experience. This was supplemented by a mail drop to five hundred residents of New Acton. All those who received an invitation were asked to RSVP – of which fifty-eight did so. The final group of twelve New Acton residents and fifteen Canberrans was selected (using random stratified sampling) with key demographics of age, location and gender considered to achieve a broad mix of backgrounds. Of the twenty-four community members recruited and confirmed, thirteen attended along with six six stakeholders.

Process

On Wednesday 27 November, the Acton Waterfront community and stakeholder group that convened six weeks prior met for a second time at CIT Reid. It was a follow-on step from the place themes and future users session held previously with them in October. The Hames Sharley consultant team had advanced and refined their place plan thinking in the interim with CRA input and the aim of the workshop was for the attendees to provide some final more detailed feedback.

The specific areas discussed were the proposed place principles to deliver the five place themes and the future place character of potential key nodes of activity at the Acton Waterfront. The information and comments gleaned from the session are to be considered by the consultant team and will assist in finalising a place plan and inform a spatial master plan phase ahead.

The group were given a presentation by Hames Sharley and Place Laboratory which re-capped the findings from the previous workshop and how these have been incorporated into their work. They detailed the progress of their principles

developed to guide the place plan and overall design thinking. The group then explored the four key places or “destinations” proposed for Acton Waterfront namely:

- Community Heart
- Cultural Landscape
- Vibrant Streets
- Henry Rolland Park

A copy of the agenda for the workshop is provided below:

WORKSHOP AGENDA

TIME	DISCUSSION TOPIC
5pm	Welcome
5:15pm	Briefing & Update - Workshop 1 Findings
5:30pm	Place Principles, Program & Experiences
5:45pm	Workshop & Discussion
6:20pm	Dinner
6:40pm	Introduction to Future Place Character
6:50pm	Future Place Character - World Cafe Session 1
7:20pm	Future Place Character - World Cafe Session 2 (move tables)
7:50pm, 8:00pm	Future Place Character - World Cafe Sessions 3 & 4 (move tables)
8:30pm	Final thoughts / Finish

Overview of Workshop 2 outcomes

Significant outcomes of the workshop include:

- There is full support for the place-based design approach of City Renewal Authority and adopted for this project's methodology – “first life, then spaces, then buildings”.
- The community want a public realm dominated outcome at the Acton Waterfront.
- Green natural spaces, views and vistas should be a significant feature of the site – trees, wetlands, grass, green roofs and bridges = cool, comfortable place.
- Good quality, lasting/timeless, thoughtful design and materials are preferred for the site – “less is more”.
- The community shared a vision for an architecturally beautiful space – which is unique in Canberra and a destination/attraction in its own right. This includes smart design and the incorporation of emerging technologies and sustainable solutions into the public realm and buildings.
- Getting the balance right between commercial, residential and public spaces comes down to how the community (even tourists) will want to experience the site – and the community want it to be a place where they can live, relax, be inspired, be busy, be together and be safe.
- Weather protection emerged as an issue with the attendees reflecting on the cold/wet seasons of Canberra and the hot sunny summers. Having the ability to escape from the elements was supported as a key design feature.
- There is support for the boardwalk – most agreed that this would go a long way to making the Acton Waterfront area highly accessible and well used.
- Accessibility and inclusion were also strong theme – access a key issue but more subtle inclusivity design might include more areas for large family gatherings which enable people from all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds to use the place in the way they want.
- There is very strong support for the incorporation of Indigenous cultural elements, stories, learning at Acton Waterfront – however equally strong concern that Aboriginal people have not been engaged in the process at this time. The group felt that to go any further on this it needs Aboriginal involvement as a priority.
- Some elements of design (dog park, natural swimming

pool) are contested – with support from some and not from others. Therefore, if they are incorporated in the Acton Waterfront plans they need to be designed in a way that is sensitive to all not just those using the element.

- While the community was focused on the Acton Waterfront site for this work, they were also thinking about the broader Canberra transit environment which will impact on the site. Key to this were things like light rail design and implementation, congestion across the city, cycling commuters and connections from the North and the South for pedestrians. It was thought that links from the Acton Waterfront across busy surrounding roads (Parkes Way and Commonwealth Avenue) that are safe and easy to use will prevent it from becoming a disconnected “island”.
- Across many of the conversations the community was discussing “adaptability”. Given that the development may take many years – there was a sentiment to design spaces in flexible ways. An example of this might be a car park, which could be transformed into apartments when cars are no longer used.
- Stormwater emerged as a challenge requiring some inventive responses – namely that the community did not think it would be appropriate and/or safe for stormwater outlets to be in amongst areas where people might interact with the water e.g. for swimming and water sports.
- There is a strong desire by the community to continue to include them in the design phases as well as the implementation/construction phases. The group indicated that there doesn't have to be a combative environment created during the disruption of construction and that they would like to be engaged in the process and approach to how this is done.

Destinations – key feedback

The group considered the following proposed “destinations” in-depth and provided the below feedback on them.

Community Heart

Cultural Landscape

Vibrant Streets

Henry Rolland Park



Community Heart

Safety, iconic and unique were verbs used that summarised what the community thought was important for the Heart area of the Acton Waterfront.

This was arguably one of the most important areas in the entire site that the community wanted to make sure was done "right".

Residents and workers will use this area on a daily and weekly basis, with tourists and other Canberrans coming to the area monthly and for events and occasions.

Elements the community supported included:

- Event lawn – which is flexible and able to be used for multiple purposes.
- Sculptures – not just confined to this area but integrated and connected throughout the entire journey of the Acton waterfront.
- Plaza / square – which enables clear pathways between cafes/restaurants/buildings.

COMMUNITY HEART



Place Character:

- Vibrant
- Sociable
- Intergenerational
- Energetic
- Dining + Shopping

-
- A community room – bookable space which is educational in nature, has vibrancy and allows for community connection. Could consider some “open-space” in this room.
 - Dining – but back from the waterfront so as not to interrupt the vistas.
 - The participants also wanted to make sure that this area:
 - Was not monetised
 - Allowed for shared picnic/BBQ spaces (not just for those purchasing food/drinks)
 - Not cluttered by temporary food trucks
 - Not in the 55m zone
 - Not like Emu Bank, Kingston Foreshore or Tuggeranong
 - Need vistas to Brindabellas
 - BYO food or buy a coffee on the edge of the Lake
 - Can bring own chairs to set up and enjoy the public spaces
 - Have long tables to share with others – community dining concept

- Shopping / retail – perhaps further back in blocks/streets behind waterfront or on the first floor. Important not to monetise the space at front too much.
- Amenity building – should be there for the public to use (toilets / change rooms etc) but must be in a covered space for inclement weather.
- Playground – support for it here, if it doesn’t dominate the space. Preference for a nature play style, low to the ground within the landscape design. No support for adult gym equipment here.
- Food trucks area – a place to enable small businesses in a pop-up style. Though must be situated back away from the water vistas.

The workshop participants felt that stormwater treatment areas, floating wetlands, ferry jetty and a natural swimming pool are not appropriate for this destination.

In terms of what would make the Community Heart uniquely Canberran:

- Barangaroo architecture, shapes and diversity needed
- Get IGA / retail / supermarket a bit later in the development timeline to ensure there are people to support it. Currently the city doesn't have big enough supermarket so having one here for residents and workers would be important.
- Basement supermarket using an innovative design would be best – doesn't need windows etc.
- Noise complaints and covenants on apartments – make sure they know when purchasing that it is a mixed-use area and how many hours some of the businesses are permitted to operate.

Other thoughts / ideas about the Community Heart:

- How do we encourage tourists and other Canberrans to come down to this area? To get the area used more regularly.
- Free water stations (fill own water bottles, fountain and doggie bowls).
- Use natural landscape to create amphitheatre in one or more locations.
- Accessibility e.g. cement path / slab and weather protection for concerts.

Cultural Landscape

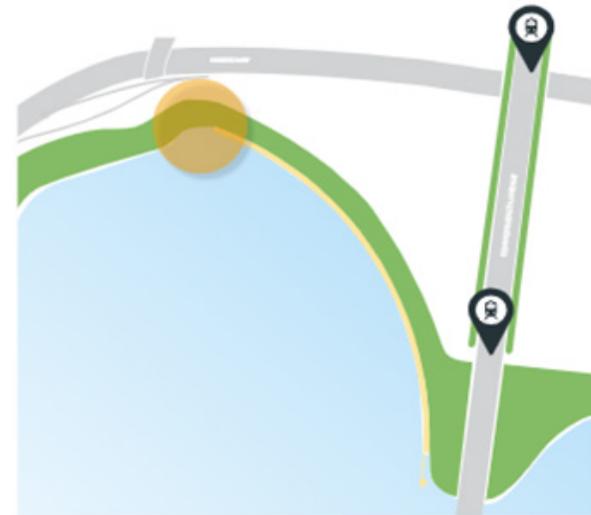
The most significant piece of feedback that emerged from the concept of the Cultural Landscape was that it must be co-designed with First Nations communities.

The Cultural Landscape was seen as a destination that would attract all users for large / special events, and have very high daily use by workers, residents and tourists. It enjoyed strong support for this area being the "quiet", "de-stress" area of Acton Waterfront – the place you go to escape or reconnect with nature.

Elements considered as appropriate for this destination were:

- Swimming cove/water sports – need to ensure there is good water quality/filtration. This area could be used for:
 - Triathlon/sports events
 - Paddle boats
 - Pet beach
 - Kayaks etc – but would need parking to enable use, as well as ferry steps/small craft tie-ups
 - Water taxis and small-scale water based public transport
- Food experiences – hands-on bush tucker, non alcoholic experiences

- Connections to the environment centre at ANU – provides an opportunity to build partnerships with the National Museum, ANU and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. Theme could be ‘gateway of history’ (Indigenous and post colonial)
- A playground, Indigenous inspired could complement the space – but it should be high quality (like the National Arboretum)
- Pavilion/amenity building – could this include a kayak storage area? Could the boat shed be relocated? Must include change rooms / toilets – all accessible.
 - Could this include a small space to hire for small events/ performances?
- Dining was slightly contested at this site. Comments included:
 - Would it be more appropriate to focus on the cultural aspects and leave dining to other areas?
 - Hands-on bush foods area could work
 - Pop-up/mobile vans – summer ice cream and in winter coffee/hot chocolate
 - Perhaps make this a non-alcoholic area – family friendly
 - Quirky/one-off dining experiences to attract people from Nishi/National Museum
 - Should be able to change/rotate/use flexibly
- An interpretive trail was fully supported



Place Character:

- Immersed in nature
- Swimming + water sports
- Indigenous cultural trail & education

Ways to make the area specifically Canberra and uniquely cultural included:

- Association to the original Molonglo River
- Culturally safe place to visit – regardless of your culture
- Open for all ages and therefore all people could learn about our Indigenous history
- Escape the city – jog, bush-walk, meditation
- Remove European fauna and flora - replace with significant Molongolo river flora and fauna
- Incorporate flora and food plants into the boardwalk
- Trees
- Contrast
- Contemplative
- Schools / groups can go there to learn
- Safe and well lit
- Natural amphitheatre – how could we use this?
- Don't overcrowd – don't do too much
- Expand the areas towards the National Museum – link the cultural experience right through

The group felt that stormwater outlets were not compatible with this site and should instead be located at Henry Rolland Park where there is not human contact promoted with the water. There was support for storage of water to be used for irrigation in this area.

This was a potential place where off leash dog runs could be incorporated – as long as they were done with sensitivity and didn't become dust bowls.

A natural swimming pool could also be considered for this site – making it a fabulous place to swim safely, relax and have fun! Some other considerations about the natural swimming pool included:

- It needs its own space
- Expensive – should it be located elsewhere?
- Consider climate – limited opportunity
- Link to beach front and rowing shed
- Sheltered weather area near the cultural landscape – so it's a good area for a pool
- Also, the cleanest water will be here too
- Could the pool be placed along the boardwalk between the Cultural Landscape and the Community Heart?

Vibrant Streets

Participants reflected a strong desire to have vibrant human-scale streets that are green and allow for an active journey – either into, through or out of Acton Waterfront.

They reflected that all users would use the streets all the time – so they were a key destination to get right.

Limiting vehicle access and having active street fronts were considered effective ways to promote the sense of vibrancy – and to give the streets a uniquely Canberran feel.

Elements which should be included in the streets of the site included:

- Dining and shopping – need to decide on which streets and where, mix of precincts and having purpose-built spaces. There was a strong view that having a retail strategy and ensuring it was well considered could ensure that dining and shopping wouldn't dominate the street scape.
- Plazas and squares could be incorporated if their intent was clear and there was a hierarchy of squares / plazas and users. They need to be the correct size – no separation.
 - Participants noted that there are no good examples of vibrant streets in Canberra but some in other places – laneways etc.



Place Character:

- Sociable
- Vibrant
- Green
- Active Travel Priority

- Enclosed streets?
- Adult sports in streets – volleyball, basketball...not for kids though.
- Water sensitive urban design - vegetation drains and green rooftops and walls.
- Cultural themes were also supported with participants suggesting:
 - Themed areas
 - Public art
 - Local history
 - Unique design that makes people come back

Other important aspects of vibrant streets included:

- Streets, not wind tunnels.
- Vibrant lanes, not vibrant streets – create unique streets with a surprise around every corner.
- Rat running removed.
- Wider footpaths to future proof the site – for scooters, e-bikes etc.
- Consider finished surface of streets – cobblestones?
- Design for emergencies – especially to make it easy for emergency services to get in during large public events.
- Limited vehicle access in streets: i.e. vehicles in the outer

streets and boundaries / people inside. No through streets.

- Streets should be designed for people as the priority not cars.

Integrated thinking about future movement modes (i.e. ride share hubs)

- Perimeter cycle network from underpass at ANU, along Parkes Way and Commonwealth Ave therefore avoiding the waterfront areas.
- Embed universal access design.
- Optimised service delivery routes.

In regards to car parking participants said:

- There should be no on-street parking.
- Preferences for all underground carparks.
- Car free zones for some roads within this precinct.
- Car parks as magnets.
- Adaptable carpark – now a car park, later turn it into apartment blocks if cars become obsolete.
- Extra public transport available to service large events/peak times.

Henry Rolland Park

Participants were informed that the newly built area at Henry Rolland Park is not proposed to be changed in the development of the site – so considerations included that assumption as a basis.

Overall, participants reflected that this destination (as opposed to the other destinations) did not have an obvious theme – but they felt it should be a theme of “movement” or “junction” especially due to the future light rail stop planned adjacent. Henry Rolland Park was seen as the busy, moving, transiting part of the site.

In terms of elements that participants agreed would be well suited to the destination, these included:

- Pavilion/amenity building – as this will be near the light rail stop it makes sense for a significant public amenity building to be here – for shelter, toilets, change rooms, bike storage – an understated transit area.
- The exercise area/play space – it’s already existing, but people commented on the amount of children who use the spaces – so it makes sense to include a play space here. If this was done there would need to be areas where people



Place Character:

- Family space
- Sociable
- Relaxing
- Exercising
- Pet friendly

could eat/get a coffee close by. There were ideas that this could/should include tennis, basketball and chess.

- Ferry jetty – overwhelmingly the group felt the ferry jetty makes sense to be located here – as a launching pad for access to the Lake. This should include:
 - Public transport – water taxis for commuters
 - Tourist ferry operations – to the National Museum, Kingston and beyond.
 - A small pier as opposed to a large terminal building
 - The perfect size of the boat is the same as the small coloured boat which used to be used on the Lake
 - Blend of express routes (water Uber/taxi) and relaxed slower water transport (ferry/electric boats)
- Stormwater – participants felt this was the logical place for stormwater, from a water quality driver. Having stormwater outlets off the point or near Henry Rolland Park would ensure that water quality near the Cultural Landscape was not negatively impacted. There were other comments and concerns which included:
 - Drainage from major storms is of poor quality due to poor road sweeping systems.
 - Solution should lie upstream.

- Needs a very large pipe – or multiple pipes
- Will encourage bird life and fish.
- A floating wetland should not be at this site – that belongs within the Cultural Landscape.

- Lawn for events / sculptures
 - This was deemed as a “great if we can do it” element.
 - Participants felt this could be best achieved between the proposed Community Heart and Henry Rolland Park.
 - › A place for fireworks / hot air balloons.
 - › Lawns protect the vista.
 - › Needs to be accessible – for narrow wheels on wheelchairs, and prams.
 - › Amphitheatre / outdoor theatre space?

This destination would be used daily by a range of all users – tourists, commuters, residents and other Canberrans. Predominantly Canberran visitors and tourists would be accessing this site due to public transport options. It was felt that this destination – especially the inclusion of the ferry – would mean that it would be a gateway for the lake / National Museum.

Other comments in relation to the design / use of Henry

Rolland Park included:

- No cycling for commuters around the park – they want to get to work using the fastest route
- It looks like being a hard environment – with little or no habitat. How can we achieve some natural graduation?
- This area would need great signage
- Nervous about hot air balloons as a result of this development – need to consider the rules they have for operation around the oake
- Sculptures should be all the way along the lake – and even right around to the National Museum
- Kiosk – a spot which encourages people to linger
- Food trucks would be ideal here – regular activation
- Need to be able to guarantee irrigation – across the whole site
- Underpass – could this be built to take people from the road straight down to the park – this would be good for cyclists and would also promote safety for all people
- Shade – we need more of it
- Covered areas – Canberra is either really hot or really cold – so we need to find a way to incorporate covered areas
- A couple more BBQs could be included here – to encourage people of all cultures to come and use it
- Modern design – smart benches, AEDs (defibrillators)
- Sewerage – there is a pump station right there, and it sometimes smells – so how do we mitigate against this?

Summary feedback

The following comments reflect the final session of the workshop – where participants were asked for their general reflections.

What are you excited about/supportive of?

- Ferries/boats at Acton Waterfront, this would be a wonderful way to connect destinations and would be used by both locals and tourists.
- Green bridge to connect/link over Parkes Way.
- The Cultural Landscape.
- The opportunity to produce something really special and unique here (not tokenistic).
- The addition of more exercise stations along the foreshore all the way around to the National Museum.
- Varied places and styles as you move through the place: can be in swimmers and thongs/casual attire in the Cultural Landscape swimming area, then get changed at a pavilion and go into the Community Heart for lunch or a drink and then walk down to Henry Rolland Park or to the north and catch the light rail – lots of options and opportunities for varied experiences.

What are you concerned/thoughtful about?

- Where to put the dog park – seems we can't agree on where. Can we say no? Safety is key, so is the look of the dog park (i.e. could become a dustbowl). It's an exclusive use for some people, not for all.
- Too much proposed in too smaller space – are we trying to do too much? Is this big enough to cope for the population of the future?
- Continuity of infrastructure (i.e. exercise stations all the way along the foreshore).
- Commuter cyclists route – how do we solve this during construction.
- Parkes Way is a problem as it divides the site. Could we have a grass bridge near the top?
- Stormwater outlets and lake quality – needs figuring out, especially when the intention is to get people on and in the water.
- Emergency access/services important, especially during large events.
- Mix of pedestrians and cyclists – conflicts with garbage trucks.
- Height limits of buildings – and a graduated approach back from the water – need to make sure we keep this.

Parting thoughts to the design team:

- I want to continue to be involved in the process.
- Jan Gehl quote is key.
- Quality and interesting buildings, 'wow' architecture, not blocky like elsewhere in Canberra.
- World class, best practice internationally.
- Keep it unique to Canberra.
- Future engineering and design solutions.
- Temporary activations in space during construction.
- Make it look good.
- Don't monetise the foreshore.
- Don't compromise on quality.
- Don't ruin my view (Nishi resident).
- Think about design features for the future and not for the past.
- Future-proof the site.
- Create a happy place could become the wellbeing capital of the world.
- Green roofs and walls to overlook on to.
- Safe place - any time of the day or night for everyone.
- Access – I want to be able to go where I want to go in my wheelchair. Open to all, no steps in streets. Good accessibility is more than a handrail or a ramp.
- Don't forget connections to wider Canberra – parking and commuters need respect.
- No bits and pieces approach – consistency throughout Acton Waterfront.
- Respect the place for what it is now.
- Make development follow through on the intent of the spatial master plan – don't chip bits away and off the nuanced design as this is where problems arise.
- Public engagement must be ongoing.

Attachment A: The Community Participants Demographics



Stakeholders

The following list is a list of stakeholder organisations invited - those with an * attended.

- ACT Heritage Council (David Flannery)
- Public Transport Association of Canberra (Ryan Hemsley)*
- Pedal Power (Mark Boast)*
- Guardians of Lake Burley Griffin (Mike Lawson)*
- Triathlon ACT (Craig Johns)*
- Heart Foundation (Annie Kentwell)
- ANU
- ANU students association
- QT Hotel
- Peppers Hotel
- Lake User Group
- North Canberra Community Council
- Inner South Community Council
- National Museum of Australia
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- Multicultural Advisory Council
- Youth Advisory Council
- Advisory Council on Women
- LGBTIQ Council
- Ageing Advisory Council
- National Capital Authority
- SeeChange
- School kids

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