

Draft of the Australian Capital Territory National Land (Lakes) Ordinance 2022

Submission

The rules regulating the use of Lake Burley Griffin since its inception almost 60 years ago have served the country and the local Canberra community extremely well. They have ensured that the natural beauty of the central areas of the National Capital set against the backdrop of the Brindabella Range has not been spoilt by commercialisation or unwarranted noise. These aspects of the regulations should remain unchanged.

Given the time given to make submissions on the draft, it would have been helpful to have had access to details of the proposed changes and to the reasons offered in support of the changes.

Given this information is not readily and publicly available, I suggest the existing *National Land Ordinance 1989* be continued in force while this deficiency in the revision process is rectified and a further time provided for submissions to be received.

I would not be surprised if some of the changes envisaged in the current draft have been included as a result of advocacy from local interests. The national interest should be the stronger and determining factor in these considerations. Just as the central features of other national capital cities are protected against short-sighted change, so too should the central element of Canberra – Lake Burley Griffin, around which the national institutions of state are, and in the future, will be located.

Further consideration needs to be given to the title of the draft Ordinance. The name “Australian Capital Territory National Land” suggests there is such a thing as Territory National Land. It might more accurately be titled National Land (Australian Capital Territory Lakes) Ordinance”