



# Draft East Lake Place Plan

## REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

**The ACT Government is continuing to work collaboratively with the community and key stakeholders to finalise the draft East Lake Place Plan.**

The draft place plan outlines a shared vision for the renewal of East Lake, including The Causeway, Canberra Railway Station, and the Mildura Street precincts.

An initial stage of community engagement was undertaken in July and August 2022 to understand community's connection to East Lake, as well as their aspirations, ideas, and vision for its future.

These community insights, combined with significant research, previous planning work and technical advice, contributed to the development of the draft East Lake Place Plan. The draft place plan was then released for community feedback between March and May 2023. Community insights from this engagement are summarised below.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON THE DRAFT PLACE PLAN

The ACT Government invited the community to provide feedback on the draft East Lake Place Plan from 30 March to 18 May 2023. Engagement focused on the vision, place principles, and key proposals in the draft plan.

We included a range of communication and engagement activities designed to reach a diverse and broad section of the community and invited them to further contribute to the development of the place plan. This included:

- > delivery of more than 8000 postcards to residents and businesses in the Inner South
- > delivery of letters and a summary place plan to residents in The Causeway
- > presentation to the Inner South Community Council
- > emails to stakeholders
- > social media posts throughout the process
- > information on the ACT Government's Yoursay page.

The community provided feedback through several online and in-person activities, including pop-up stalls, surveys, online 'quick comments', written submissions, phone conversations, and meetings.

## WHO WE ENGAGED

Feedback was received from 185 people across the ACT including Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, residents, businesses, South Canberra community groups, key stakeholders and the wider Canberra community.

More than half of the respondents lived in the Inner South District and most respondents were aged 25–44 years old. Overall, there were slightly more female participants than male across the engagement.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

**40,000+**

We reached more than 40,000 people through social media

**8000+**

We delivered more than 8000 postcards in the Inner South

**67**

67 people contributed to activities across our 3 pop up stalls

**1711**

The draft place plan was downloaded 1711 times via YourSay

**185**

We received feedback from 185 individuals

**85 (33)**

We received 85 online contributions and 33 email submissions

**5,926**

We reached 5,926 people via YourSay (Nearly double the first stage of engagement)

**1**

We presented at Inner South Canberra Community Council

## KEY COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

The surveys and pop-up stall activities sought responses to questions on draft place plan’s vision, nine place principles and key proposals for East Lake.

- > 54% of respondents agree with place plan vision.
- > 92% of respondents agree to one or more place plan principle.

We asked people if they agreed with the draft plan’s key proposals. More than 80% of individuals agreed with the key proposals for an upgraded railway station/ transport hub, visitor information centre as a gateway to Jerrabomberra Wetlands, innovation precinct around CIT Fyshwick, and introducing new recreational activities in the former landfill site.

We asked people to rank the key proposals in the draft place plan. The top ranked proposal was the transport hub with a mix of land uses, closely followed by improved streets and public spaces and diverse housing choices. Refer Figure 1.

Rank	Proposal
<b>1</b>	<b>Transport hub with a mix of land uses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 77% ranked important</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Improved streets and public spaces</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 76% ranked important</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Diverse housing choices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 71% ranked important</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Recreational activities (e.g., walking trails)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 63% ranked important</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>Improved active travel connection</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60% ranked important</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>New visitor information centre for wetlands</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40% ranked important</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<b>Relocate railway mesuem to transport hub</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38% ranked important</li> </ul>

Figure 1: Key proposals ranked by impotence



## THEMES AND KEY ISSUES

Community feedback was gathered through online and in-person activities and has been grouped into the following key themes.

### Key insights from the community

#### Upgrading and relocating the Canberra Railway Station

1. We heard strong support for upgrading the railway station as a **mixed-use** multi-modal transport hub. Several respondents went further to say they would like to see the station upgraded with links to a future light rail and faster rail between Canberra and Sydney.
2. We heard most respondents support the draft plan's proposed location for an upgraded railway station, close to where people live. However, there were a few suggestions to relocate the railway station further east and outside of the East Lake precinct.

#### Relocating the railway museum

3. We heard a majority support for co-locating the railway museum with the upgraded railway station as it is a more prominent location that could help increase visitor numbers.
4. There were also some concerns raised about providing space for operating heritage railway and static displays.

#### Diverse housing

5. We heard strong support for diverse housing options including social and affordable housing. We also heard suggestions for demonstration housing in the precinct to provide greater housing diversity and sustainability.
6. We heard concerns about staging of development and relocation of existing public housing tenants, particularly a desire to better understand timing and process for tenant relocations.

#### Mixed land use

7. We heard strong support for mixed-use development in the railway precinct and the need for more diverse housing. You made suggestions to uplift parts of the Mildura Street light industrial area to a mixed-use precinct, specifically for land around Hume Circle.
8. We heard concerns about the need to mitigate potential noise between noisy mixed-use areas and residential.

#### Heritage

9. We heard that the draft place plan recognises the history and cultural heritage of East Lake including integration of the Causeway Hall, limestone fossil, Cargill's Cottage, rail museum and Locomotive 1210, rail remnants and Dairy Farmers building.
10. You suggested to include Cargill's Cottage in the heritage register and consider lower buildings for development adjacent the wetlands to minimise potential impacts.

#### Public transport and active travel network

11. We heard strong support for the proposed multi-modal transport hub, cycleway linking to Dairy Road, cycle parking, Kingston Foreshore and Jerrabomberra Wetlands. We also heard strong support for the proposed active travel routes through East Lake that connect to the existing networks.
12. We heard you would like safer streets for everyone regardless of age. We also heard there is a desire to reduce traffic congestion around Hume Circle and Canberra Avenue.



### Visitor information centre

13. We heard support for the proposed visitor information centre as a gateway building to the wetlands and that recognises First Nations culture and heritage. You suggested visitor centre parking close by and that you would like a community hub with a library and recreational amenities as part of a new visitor centre.

### Industrial land use

14. We heard support to retain most of the light industrial land to meet the needs of broader growth of Canberra and allow for parts of the precinct to be used for mixed use, specifically around Hume Circle.

15. It was suggested that industrial land needs to be supported by appropriate infrastructure, otherwise it may decline over time with industries moving out. We heard you wanted the draft place plan to strengthen discussion around how Mildura Street light industrial area delivers employment creation in Inner South District, particularly when considering the timeframe (2023–63) for the Inner South District Strategy and opportunities to link with the Eastern Broadacre study.

### High quality public realm

16. There is strong support for proposals to celebrate the area's history, creating a destination, enhancing neighbourhood character, and celebrating community spirit through public spaces and places. We heard you want to include safe pedestrian and cycle crossing.

17. You would like to include more recreational parks, men's and woman's sheds and more green spaces/play spaces linked to active travel routes. We heard that you would like to include a fenced dog park.

### Sustainability

18. There is strong support for sustainable development through mixed land uses, sustainable housing, and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD). You noted the importance of protecting Jerrabomberra Wetlands and prioritised walking and cycling over the use of private vehicles.

19. You would like to seek innovative solutions to ensure infrastructure is designed and built to adapt to changing climate. We heard that you want to include sufficient vegetation to mitigate heat island effect, and retain ecological systems and our bush capital image, not just the wetlands.

### Infrastructure

20. We heard support for the proposed WSUD to maintain water quality prior to discharge to wetlands but wanting this to be shown as a more natural landscape.

21. We heard that service providers are planning to upgrade water and sewer services to meet long-term servicing options for growing population. We heard you wanted the place plan to include opportunities for future digital technology infrastructure and smart city initiatives.

### Education

22. We heard strong support for a proposed school. We heard concerns about school proposed on a high land value area, which may be better suited for residential use. It was also suggested if the school site were moved to the east to allow for a playing field on the former landfill site.

### Maps

23. We heard there were some concerns about the difficulty to understand maps in the draft place plan. You suggested more annotations, street names and clear/simplified legends.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

We are using your feedback to finalise the East Lake Place Plan and guide planning changes and urban renewal activities in the East Lake precinct.

The next steps are to finalise the East Lake Place Plan and technical assessments before the end of 2023. Then we will conduct further community consultation for an amendment to the Territory Plan (likely late 2023) and prepare an Estate Development Plan (likely through 2024 and 2025).

To find out more about the East Lake urban renewal precinct, the next steps and other project updates visit [www.yoursay.act.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au) or follow us on EPSDD and ACT Government social media channels and websites.

Register to receive project updates by emailing: [EPSDDComms@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDDComms@act.gov.au)



*Figure 2: Image of the pop up stall at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands*