



# CANBERRA URBAN LAKES AND PONDS LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

## REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

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**While the 2001 Canberra Urban Lakes and Ponds Plan of Management (POM) is overdue for review, it remains a contemporary document.**

An extensive review of the 2001 POM has been undertaken and was released for public consultation on 21 February 2020.

The 2001 POM remains a contemporary document, with most updates being references to legislation and ACT Government agencies. The three substantial areas of change from the 2001 POM are:

- Greater consideration of climate change impacts in the management of lakes and ponds
- Greater emphasis on heritage values
- Incorporation of the many urban ponds and wetlands that have been developed since 2001.



### THE CONVERSATION

**The ACT community was engaged through various means.**

A joint media release was issued by the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman MLA, and the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel MLA, inviting public comment on the Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan (LMP).

Key stakeholders, including environmental, fishing and other recreation groups, community councils, relevant statutory position holders, government agencies and advisory committees, were directly invited to comment on the draft LMP. Signs were erected at every lake, pond and wetland, in libraries and the YourSay website included a page inviting comment.

COVID-19 saw the public consultation put on hold in March and recommencing on 28 August 2020, resulting in an additional week's public consultation beyond the statutory six week consultation period, until 11 September 2020.



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### WHO ENGAGED

Over the seven-week consultation period spanning, 21 February 2020 to 31 March 2020 and 28 August 2020 to 11 September 2020, forty-one submissions were received.

Submissions were also received from the ACT Conservator of Flora and Fauna, the ACT Environment Protection Authority and ACT Health Protection Services. Other comments came from individual community members, with fourteen email submissions and twenty-five individual contributions via the YourSay page, from 644 visitors.

When asked how well the draft LMP adequately reflected Canberra's urban waterbodies and the desired management, the response was generally favourable with a weighted average of 6.17 out of ten.



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### Key insights from the community

#### Asset maintenance

1. There is strong support for better maintenance of particular waterbodies.
2. Support also exists for better waste removal from waterbodies.
3. A range of additional suggestions were also made on etiquette on the shared pathways.

#### Fauna habitat

4. Habitat protection/enhancement for native fauna was a primary consideration for one submission.
5. The stocking of waterbodies with only native fish and yabbies was raised.

#### Waterbody drying and weed control

6. It was suggested that waterbodies could be managed to dry out to help control aquatic weeds.
7. Additional comments regarding the prevalence of aquatic weeds were also received.

#### Recreation

8. Recreational opportunities such as kayaking, canoeing, swimming and outdoor gyms were also raised.
9. Fishing facilities were also raised as an area of interest.

#### Urban development

10. Some submissions raised concerns about the increasing urbanisation of land in close proximity to Canberra's lakes, ponds and wetlands.

#### Language and formatting

11. Several comments/suggestions were made about formatting.
12. Additional comments were received about language and word choice in the draft LMP.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

**The community voice has been key to further reviewing and updating the LMP. The community's interest in the management of these public spaces is evident. The ideas and actions that emerged from this consultation will inform the finalisation of the revised LMP.**

The ACT Government will now consider the outcomes from this community engagement along with outcomes of other key government consultations. A full community engagement report will be released in coming months.

To find out more about Canberra Urban Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan review and other initiatives, policies and projects in Canberra visit [www.yoursay.act.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au) or follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/EnvironPlan> or at <https://www.environment.act.gov.au/>.



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### Key Timings

21 February 2020 – Draft LMP released for public comment

31 March 2020 – Public consultation closed due to COVID-19

28 August 2020 – Public consultation reinitiated

11 September 2020 – Public consultation closed

22 February 2021 – Referral to the ACT Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

16 March 2021 – YourSay report released

25 March 2021 – Community Engagement Report released

September 2021 – Consideration of ACT Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services response

November 2021 – Revised LMP released as a finalised document

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

**1,431**

People were reached via  
YourSay

**1,022**

People visited the  
YourSay page

**42**

Submissions were  
made

**39**

Key stakeholders were  
invited to provide comments

**1,990**

People were reached via  
social media

**34**

Likes, comments and shares  
were gained via social media