



**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AND
EXTERNAL TERRITORIES**

**Inquiry into Commonwealth and Parliamentary approvals for the proposed Stage
2 of the Australian Capital Territory light rail project**

Public Transport Association of Canberra

**Responses to questions on notice from public hearing
28 June 2018**

Received 13 July 2018

Question: Did any Griffin plan for Canberra include a tramway running through the Parliamentary Zone?

Answer: The Griffins did not include a tramway through the Parliamentary Zone because they did not plan for the area bounded by Kings and Commonwealth Avenues to be “The Place of the People” containing museums, galleries and public attractions. It was instead to be the “Government Group” containing “Representative Government in all its ordinary functions” located in an “accessible but still quiet area”.¹ **These land uses have fundamentally different public transport requirements.**

The functional and symbolic differences between today’s Parliamentary Zone and the Griffins’ Government Group should be taken into account when considering any potential heritage impacts of light rail stage two. More detail on these differences is included in Table 1, Figure 1 and Figure 2.

Table 1: Purpose and Contents of the Parliamentary Zone and the Griffins’ Government Group

Area	Purpose	Contents
Parliamentary Zone	“The Place of the People” ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parliament House • National Archives of Australia • Hotel (forthcoming) • Museum of Australian Democracy • Aboriginal Tent Embassy • Department of the Environment and Energy ✓ Treasury, Bureau of Meteorology and National Capital Authority • National Gallery of Australia • National Portrait Gallery • National Science and Technology Centre • National Library ✓ High Court
Government Group	“For Quiet Deliberation” ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Capitol • Prime Minister’s Residence • Governor General’s Residence ✓ Parliament House • Prime Minister’s Department ✓ Treasury and Commonwealth Bank • Department of External Affairs • Department of Home Affairs • Department of Defence • Department of Trade and Customs ✓ Two Unnamed Future Departments • Attorney General • Postmaster General ✓ Courts of Justice

Note: ✓ = Present in both areas, • = present only in that area.

¹ Walter Burley Griffin, *Report Explanatory of the Preliminary General Plan*, Commonwealth of Australia Department of Home Affairs, Melbourne, 1913, p.5.

² *National Capital Plan*, National Capital Authority, Canberra, 2016, p. 50.

³ Paul Reid, *Canberra Following Griffin – A Design History of Australia’s National Capital*, National Archives of Australia, Canberra, 2002, p.262

Additional Notes

1. The Griffins **did locate a tramway in the area of the city designed to contain many of the national institutions that today reside within the Parliamentary Zone**. This “Recreation Group” between Capital Terrace (Constitution Avenue) and the north shore of the lake was designed to be the “show place of the City”⁴ and contained museums, galleries and other public attractions in a parkland setting. From a functional and symbolic perspective, the Griffins’ Recreation Group had far more in common with today’s Parliamentary Zone than the Government Group (see Figure 1).
2. The Griffins **had no issue with rail infrastructure crossing the view corridor between Mount Ainslie and Capital Hill**. The 1912 competition plan included tramways crossing the corridor along Capital Terrace (Constitution Avenue) and Garden Circuit, while the 1918 plan included tramways along Capital Terrace and the intersection of Prospect Parkway (Anzac Parade) and Canberra Avenue (Limestone Avenue). Technological limitations at the time would have required these tramways to use continuous overhead wiring and would have been far more visually intrusive than the wire-free running in the Parliamentary Zone planned as part of light rail stage two.
3. The Griffins’ tramways were **not restricted to the main avenues**. Their plans featured tramways running along a number of streets that would not be considered “main avenues”, such as the local streets bordering Waratah Pathway (Telopea Park) and Prospect Parkway (Anzac Parade).

⁴ Walter Burley Griffin, *Report Explanatory of the Preliminary General Plan*, Commonwealth of Australia Department of Home Affairs, Melbourne, 1913, p.7.

Question: What are the heritage values of Kings Avenue and Commonwealth Avenue Bridges?

Answer: The heritage values and attributes of the two bridges are outlined in the *Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands: Heritage Management Plan Volume 4 – Dam and Bridges*, pages 28 to 34. They have been reproduced in Table 2.

Table 2: *Heritage Values and Attributes of Kings Avenue Bridge and Commonwealth Avenue Bridge*

Bridge	Attributes	Heritage Values
Commonwealth Avenue	The elegant, designed form of the bridge, including its slim octagonal piers, spaced to provide views to West Basin, aluminium railings with strip lighting, the white colour of the precast concrete and the Waterloo Bridge stones.	A, B, E, F, G, H
Kings Avenue	The distinctive 'slim line', designed form of the bridge and its approaches, including its railings with strip lighting, the spacing of its piers, the colour of the precast concrete	A, B, E, F, G, H

Table 3: *Commonwealth Heritage List criteria (relevant sections highlighted)*

Commonwealth Heritage Values		
A	<i>Historic</i>	The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history
B	<i>Rarity</i>	The place has significant heritage value because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history
C	<i>Scientific</i>	The place has significant heritage value because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history
D	<i>Representative</i>	The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or 2. a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments
E	<i>Aesthetic</i>	The place has significant heritage values because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics values by a community or cultural group
F	<i>Creative / Technical</i>	The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period
G	<i>Social</i>	The place has significant heritage value because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons
H	<i>Associative</i>	The place has significant heritage value because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history
I	<i>Indigenous Tradition</i>	The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition

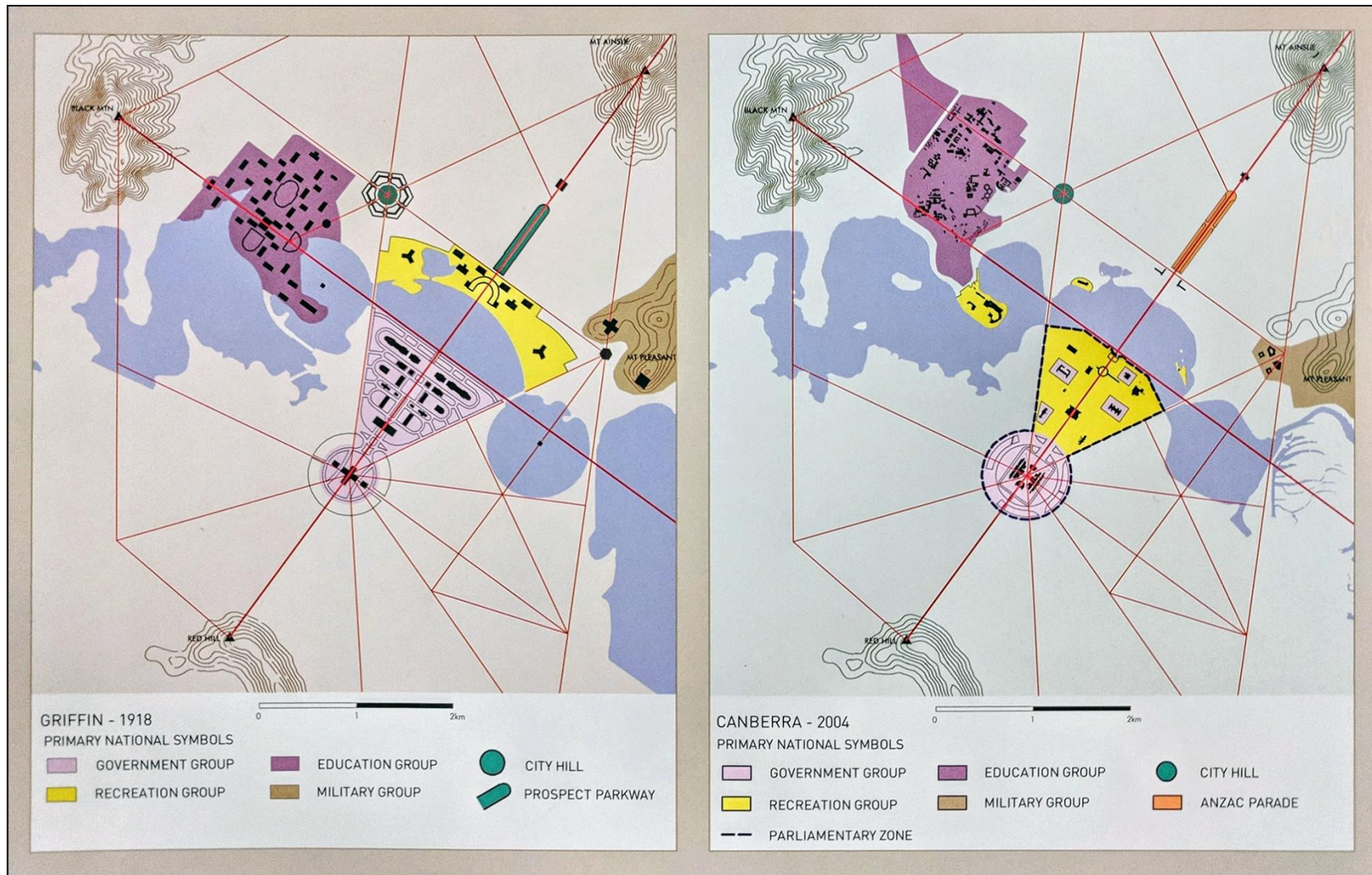


Figure 1: Parliamentary Zone (Government Group) and Land Axis – Griffin 1918 and Canberra 2004

Source: *The Griffin Legacy: Canberra, the Nation's Capital in the 21st Century*, National Capital Authority, Canberra, 2004, p. 120.

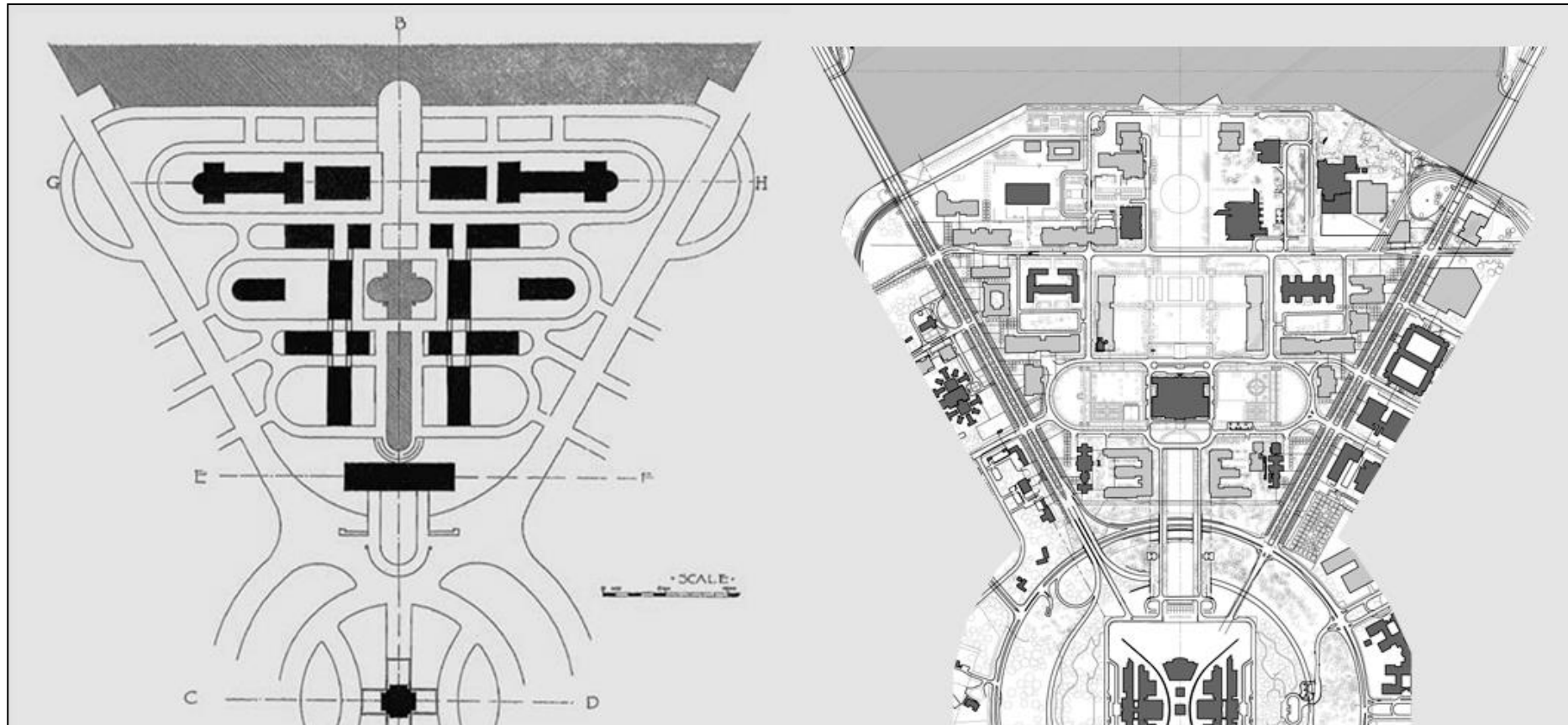


Figure 2: *Government Group Site Plan* (left, Griffin 1914) and *Parliamentary Zone Indicative Development Plan*, with existing buildings shown in dark grey and future structures in light grey (right, National Capital Authority 2017)

Source: *The Griffin Legacy: Canberra, the Nation's Capital in the 21st Century*, National Capital Authority, Canberra, 2004, p.50 and *Kings and Commonwealth Avenues – Draft Design Strategy*, National Capital Authority, Canberra, 2017, p.47.