



**Australian Government**

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**Department of Infrastructure and Transport**

# State of Australian Cities **2013**

Department of Infrastructure and Transport  
Major Cities Unit

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Front cover: Parliamentary Triangle, Lake Burley Griffin, aerial image of Canberra, courtesy of Australian Capital Tourism. Photographer: Chris Holly.

Back cover: Plan for Canberra – City and Environs: The back cover image is a drawing by Marion Mahony Griffin as part of the winning entry in the Federal Capital City Design Competition for Canberra. The drawings are listed on UNESCO's Australian Memory of the World register. In May 1912, Walter Burley Griffin won the competition to design Australia's capital city. Although submitted in Walter's name, the plan was formulated in collaboration with Marion Mahony Griffin. The plan is an overview of the Griffins' concept of a city located centrally between three hills – Black Mountain, Mount Ainslie and Mugga Mugga – and north and south of an ornamental lake made up of a series of linked basins. The new national capital was a key step in building a democracy from the ground up, and the Griffins' design promised harmony with its site. Other competitors in the national capital design competition had treated the site as a blank page, but the Griffins were sensitive to the site's natural features. The plan worked along two axes – a land axis, aligned with mountain peaks, and a perpendicular water axis, along which the lake would stretch. Atop the highest hill (which Parliament House now occupies) the Griffins had planned for a ceremonial public building to celebrate the achievements of the Australian people. *Source: National Archives of Australia: A710, 38, <http://naa.gov.au/about-us/partnerships/unesco/griffin-drawings.aspx>.*

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Director — Publishing and Communications Section  
Department of Infrastructure and Transport  
GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

Email: [publishing@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:publishing@infrastructure.gov.au)

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