

The Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to express my opposition to the Immigration Bridge Proposal and support the excellent arguments made in other submissions opposing the proposal.

Other submissions set out the flawed process and public misinformation which has allowed this development proposal to get as far as it has. As with the proposal for a World War I and II memorial, this is a case of major misappropriation of national estate on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. The Joint Committee needs to consider the very bad precedent being established by having private groups promoting development of this type. What is more it puts our elected representatives in an invidious position which should not be allowed or repeated. If this proposal is not stopped there will be a rash of others.

In relation to the Terms of Reference:

- 1) The process for the design is clearly flawed. There is no need for such a structure, it is very ugly, and it will destroy a beautiful view. It will also detract from genuine usage of the lake and is unlikely to be completely unused for the cold months of the year. The proposed bridge completely undermines the design integrity of one of the most beautiful parts of Walter Burley Griffin's legacy to the nation.
- 2) The process by which the IBA has raised funds. I agree with other submissions which describe the flaws in this process which has been highly inappropriate and misleading.
- 3) The application process. At one point I recollect the proposal was being driven by the NCA and now it appears to be being driven by a private group. The NCA should not be promoting or allowing this type of development of the lake shore or the lake itself, nor should it be supporting applications from any group or individual wishing to do so.

I am saddened by the small number of submissions to this enquiry. Most people I speak to in Canberra and elsewhere think that the bridge will be an eyesore and are concerned about the complete lack of proper process for protecting the beauty of our national capital. Few of them have made a submission as they feel a) surely commonsense will prevail and the bridge will be stopped b) it is unclear what they as individuals can do to stop it.

This area of the lake and the view to the Brindabella mountains from Regatta Point is a national treasure. I urge the Joint Standing Committee to do what it can to protect it.

Beth Slatyer