

23 March 2009

Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
Department of House of Representatives
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CANBERRA, ACT 2600
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Objection to - Immigration Bridge Proposal

The Secretary,

I make this submission as a citizen of Canberra whose sporting field is Lake Burley Griffin. I am a member of the Canberra Yacht Club, and I am proud of its long history on Lake Burley Griffin. Both the CYC and the YMCA Sailing Clubs contribute to the community, in facilitating the healthy and environmentally friendly sport of sailing. The CYC conducts theoretical and practical training for all ages to encourage a greater participation of sailing for the residents of the Canberra Region.

I object to the fact that The Immigration Bridge has been widely publicised as a fait accompli before it has official approval. There appears to be no apparent objection, and a great deal of support for some form of memorial to Immigrants. I, however, wish to submit that there is considerable resentment to the bridge for its potential impact on lake users in further restricting this valuable community resource.

The promoters of the Immigration Bridge have attempted to minimise the impact of the bridge on Lake users by making the structure taller and the pylons slimmer. This may minimise the impact but would not eliminate that impact. The structure if built, would create resentment of Lake Users as it would if it impacted in any way on other sporting fields. One can only imagine the uproar if a proposed monument cast the slightest of shadows on a football or cricket ground.

The amenity of our National Capital would be reduced to current residents and those who may be posted here in future. Canberra is a city of monuments that provoke pride in our Nation and all who have contributed to it. A monument to immigration would be welcomed if it added to this city and not diminished it.

I would ask the promoters of an Immigration Memorial to consider the many other sights available to them and not pursue the bridge as the one and only option.

Sincerely,

Peter Barter