

13/03/09

The Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee of the National Capital and External Territories

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re Inquiry into the Immigration Bridge Australia proposal

The following comments do not offer disrespect for the Immigration Bridge Australia personnel responsible for bringing up the proposal for the bridge. They are certainly entitled to submit the proposal and try to get it established. But I comment as follows.

- 1) It represents the interests of a particular group of people and not necessarily the community as a whole.
- 2) What is to stop other interested groups asking for similar memorials? How will you refuse them once the bridge is built? How many "private" bridges can we have?
- 3) I do not think the bridge is necessary from the general public point of view. How many people are going to use it and won't it create a parking problem at either end?
- 4) I am not a great user of the lake itself, but I can think of many groups who might find the bridge an obstacle to their use of the lake eg the sailing fraternity.
- 5) Can you successfully enforce the requirement that the IBA be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the bridge, which could be quite costly, or will it be up to the rest of the city to pay for it? Pedestrian bridges can prove quite costly, for example one is reminded of a pedestrian bridge built across the river Thames in London, from near St Pauls to near the Tate Modern Art Gallery. Walking across the bridge caused great giddiness for many people. There had to be costly reconstruction before it was comfortably navigable.
- 6) Finally, again, is it in the genuine interests of the community and ratepayers or only a special group? What are most of us going to get out of it?

