

13 March 2009

Penleigh Boyd

The Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the
National Capital and External Territories
P O Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

PROPOSED IMMIGRATION BRIDGE

I am opposed to the proposed Immigration Bridge for the following reasons:

1. The fact that people have to pay to have their or their family's name included on the bridge is divisive and elitist. The whole concept of having to pay for recognition is very un-Australian. Will children of future generations go searching in vain for their family name only to find out that their grandparents were too sensible to fall for this scam? The Immigration Bridge's funding basis is flawed. Enough reason alone to not allow its construction.
2. The proposed design is very ugly. The rigid horizontal span lacks elegance. The bridge has the appearance of a sewer viaduct (and may well be mistaken for one). The design is an insult to the beauty of Canberra's natural setting surrounded by undulating mountain tops.
3. Presumably there are lifts in the pylons at each end to get the elderly and disabled up to bridge deck level as no ramps seem apparent. Who pays for the running and maintenance of these lifts? A bridge with running costs (apart for intrinsic maintenance) is a liability which may well be inherited by the public, when the original promoters have "finished with it". Isolated lifts also become the target of vandalism and the likelihood of broken lifts only further denigrates the lake environs.

Yours sincerely,

Penleigh Boyd

