

23 March 2009

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories  
Department of House of Representatives  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

**SUBMISSION to the INQUIRY INTO THE IMMIGRATION BRIDGE  
AUSTRALIA PROPOSAL**

This submission is a response to:

*The process adopted by Immigration Bridge Australia (IBA) to settle the design for the Immigration Bridge (the Bridge) taking into account:*

- a. the heritage values of Lake Burley Griffin and its foreshore, and*
- b. the interests of users of the Lake.*

As a regular lake (and associated areas) user through sailing, canoeing, swimming and cycling I believe that the process in developing the Immigration Bridge has not adequately addressed the current and future interests of lake users.

It will restrict the only area of Lake Burley Griffin that is suitable for large sailing boats, mainly operating from the Canberra Yacht Club. Before the bridge goes ahead there should be careful consideration of the impact its construction would have on sailing, particularly for local and national sailing regattas; events, that typically bring visitors to Canberra. Those types of events also provide an opportunity to showcase Canberra in magazines and reports of those events.

The bridge as proposed will not enhance the view for either on-water or off-water persons using the lake and its surrounds.

I am also concerned the perceived benefit for pedestrian and other expected users of the proposed bridge has not been adequately tested or validated by any study.

An immigration memorial is an appropriate national aspiration; however, I believe that the bridge as conceived is flawed. There are other areas around the lake that would benefit from a less obtrusive structure or a boardwalk or promenade that could include information pavilions detailing the immigration story. Such an area would be an enhancement to the lake and surrounds.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.