

**ACT Rowing Association submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories (NCET) Inquiry into the Immigration Bridge Australia proposal**

Member clubs of the ACT Rowing Association have been active users of Lake Burley Griffin since it was first filled with water. The Association has considered the Immigration Bridge proposal and makes the following submission to the NCET Inquiry:

- The Association notes that the bridge will obstruct water traffic during the envisaged two year construction period and on completion. Rowing boats travel backwards and any additional structure on the lake is a hazard to rowing.
- The Association asks whether demand for a footbridge between the two points proposed has been established. Without such demonstrated demand a bridge would serve no practical purpose, but would continue to be a hazard to lake user traffic.
- The Association notes that while the bridge is envisaged to celebrate the arrivals of some 200,000 families, the number of migrant arrivals is in the millions and is a continuing process. A project seeking to capture the detail of a small proportion of new arrivals does not provide recognition to those not included in the initial 200,000 subscribers.
- While applauding the proposal to celebrate the contribution of migrants to the development of Australia, the Association questions whether the proposed bridge construction will achieve that objective.