

**Australian Government****Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts**

Reference: 8/01/000/0520

Mr Stephen Boyd
Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital
Department of House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Boyd

I refer to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital inquiry into the Immigration Bridge Australia Proposal and possible heritage implications.

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has identified Lake Burley Griffin Conservation Area, as a place that may contain heritage values, for inclusion in the Commonwealth Heritage List. It is yet to be formally assessed against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria.

Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands is currently the subject of an assessment by the National Capital Authority, as part of its obligations under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), to identify places that may have heritage values. A preliminary draft assessment of the place has been considered by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and comments provided to the Authority.

The design and construction of a pedestrian bridge in the location proposed by Immigration Bridge Australia would appear to have the potential to impact on possible heritage values of Lake Burley Griffin. Pursuant to section 26 of the EPBC Act, proponents of a proposal to construct a bridge in this location should therefore consider whether the design is likely to have a significant impact on the environment of Commonwealth land. A proposal that is likely to have a significant impact should be referred to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts for consideration under the EPBC Act.

Yours sincerely

Theo Hooy
Assistant Secretary
Historic Heritage Branch
March 2009