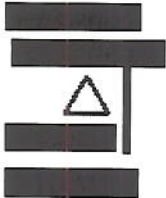


## SUBMISSION 28

**From:** Enrico Taglietti  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 March 2009 4:10 PM  
**To:** Committee, NCET (REPS)  
**Subject:** INQUIRY INTO I B A PROPOSALxxx



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### **Inquiry into the Immigration Bridge Australia (IBA) Proposal**

Terms of reference to inquire and report on:

1. *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.**
2. *The process that has been adopted by IBA to raise funds for the construction and ongoing maintenance of the Bridge.*
3. *The approval process required under the Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988 if an application for approval of the Bridge were received by the National Capital Authority.*

1. The process adopted by IBA to settle the Bridge design suggests that no consideration was given to the heritage value of Lake Burley Griffin, its foreshore, the national significance of designated areas, the Territory Plan constraint or to existing recreational activity. The design of the Bridge structure has been proposed as the key factor for approval with no reference to the concept of it.

2. The process adopted by IBA to raise funds is dubious in respect of revenue to cover the capital cost and will be totally inept to raise money for ongoing maintenance of the Bridge.

National projects should never become tainted by funds supplied by private organizations and their affiliations. Furthermore, inscription of immigrant names on the handrail through monetary payment is offensive, immoral and divisive. Money should not provide the pathway to memoriam.

**Recommendation:**

Any *Applicant* seeking approval for projects of National Significance should in the first instance submit to Parliament a concept statement of aims for their proposal. No physical details or design should be considered at this first stage, Parliament should only consider the worth of the concept not the nitty gritty of the design.

Parliament should adopt guide lines and possibly appoint a Parliamentary Architect to help assess the concept proposal.

As an example of concept proposal guide lines I would suggest that the following four basic questions need to be answered:

- a) Is the proposal of National Significance?
- b) Does the proposal consider the requirements of the designated areas in the Capital's Plan?
- c) Was a similar proposal included in any of Burley Griffin's Plans?
- d) If not, does the proposal enhance the uniqueness of the Australian Capital, Canberra?

In answering the concept proposal guide line questions Parliament would then be in an easier position to consider in principle the proposal or to reject it.

In the event of positive consideration the Applicant should then be asked to lodge with the N.C.A an application for approval of the full detailed project inclusive of design.

If the N.C.A. approves the project the Australian Capital Territory's function will be to make sure that the building conforms to the building codes and other Territory laws.

In conclusion, the concept of the proposed bridge is parochial. It does not embrace all immigration or all immigrants and can not be considered of National Significance. I suggest that if an immigration bridge is to be considered and to have National Significance it should spring from the site of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy over old Parliament House and land at new Parliament House.

For the Capital this would be of National Significance as it will not record the many tens of millions immigrants landing on this shore but remind Australians of the Terra Nullius assumption, the assimilation experiment, the white Australia policy, the aboriginal becoming voting citizens, and the recognition of past and present values of immigration. It would need of course also to be a visually arresting structure.

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Canberra 24 March 2009