

**From:** MJ Batten

**Sent:** Thursday, 2 April 2009 12:21 PM

**Subject:** Proposed Immigration bridge for Canberra

Dear Ms Ellis

While I expect it is too late to influence the outcome of the Parliamentary enquiry into the proposed immigration bridge - as I hear that submissions have now closed - I wished to show my support for the proposal.

I admit that I am one of those to have purchased a name place on the bridge (a present for my father's 80th birthday on 1st May), but even if that were not the case I should support the project. I feel that a footbridge would be a real enhancement for those joggers/walkers who like to walk the Lake Burley Griffin circuit. It is certainly not very pleasant to cross Commonwealth bridge as a walker with the noise & petrol fumes from cars. Having a footbridge that people can use to cross the lake will encourage more people to get out and use the lake facilities & I would have thought this was a very positive thing in this age of concern about the environment & obesity.

I also think it is a great idea to have somewhere in Canberra where we can record the history of our immigrant ancestors. Canberra is very much a city of Australian immigrants - for most of us our heritage lies in other Australian cities & there is little else in Canberra that marks this immigrant history. If the bridge does not go ahead, perhaps we could keep the idea alive with an "Immigrant walk" on the foreshores of the lake - perhaps near the National Museum, where people could still have their family details recorded.

Regards

Meredith Batten

Queanbeyan, NSW (but I have lived in Canberra from aged 2 until very recently and my parents live in Canberra)

3/04/2009