

Subject: Immigration Bridge proposal

Dear Committee Members,

I have serious reservations about the proposal to build this bridge.

In the absence of any clear need for a bridge in this location, I conclude that it is being conceived as an object in its own right, rather than as a means of getting from one place to another, as is generally the case with bridges.

Whatever the eventual design, I can't see how such a bridge could fail to adversely affect the visual amenity of Lake Burley Griffin, in particular the fine panorama when one looks west, south and east across the lake from Acton Peninsula. Our lake is a feature of great beauty, conceived and created by a fine imagination and executed with appropriate surveying and engineering skill, and it would be a tragedy to trifle with it in such a way.

Immigration is integral to the Australian psyche. We are all immigrants (myself included) or the descendants of immigrants, and I can't see the point of erecting an artificial structure whose sole purpose seems to be to celebrate the fact.

I am proud to have been an immigrant, and subsequently to have become an Australian citizen, and I often celebrate the fact, mainly tacitly. Thus I don't feel the need for this feature to help me do it.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander Paine