



**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE
NATIONAL CAPITAL AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES**
Inquiry into the Immigration Bridge Proposal

Chair: Senator Kate Lundy

Report on the Immigration Bridge Proposal

Federal Parliament's National Capital and External Territories Committee has completed its inquiry into the proposal by Immigration Bridge Australia to build a 400m pedestrian bridge across Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin.

The Immigration Bridge Australia (IBA) proposal seeks to commemorate the contribution that migrants have made to Australia. The proposed bridge will cross Lake Burley Griffin in the area of West Basin linking the National Museum of Australia with the parliamentary zone at Lennox Gardens.

The committee was asked by the Minister for Home Affairs Bob Debus in February to inquire into and report on certain aspects of the Immigration Bridge proposal.

"While the objective of recognising the contribution that migrants have made to Australia's development is worthy, the proposal to build a bridge in this location has provoked concerns by parts of the community," committee chair Senator Kate Lundy said.

Submissions to the committee raised passionate views both for and against the bridge, but a unifying sentiment was that the national capital was the appropriate location for commemorating the contribution of migrants.

Senator Lundy said that "the committee's objective was never to adjudicate on whether the Immigration Bridge should proceed or not. The report provides clarity into how the proposal got to this point and what checks and balances are in place as the IBA moves toward making a development application to the NCA."

The committee made three recommendations which it believes, if implemented, will improve aspects of the process. Included in its recommendations, the committee encourages the IBA to reconcile competing issues relating to lake users and the vista and heritage values of the Lake and its foreshores. If the IBA finds that this challenge cannot be met or its development application for the proposed bridge is unsuccessful, then the IBA should consider changing the location of the bridge or propose an alternative memorial to migration.

A copy of the report is available from the committee's website at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ncet/IBA%20proposal/report.htm>

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Senator Kate Lundy, on (02) 6277 3334 (Canberra) or 0419 421 553. There will also be a media doorstop at **11am** on **Friday 29 May** near the **front entrance** to the **Senate** at Parliament House.

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2022, email jscncet@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ncet>