

From: Hamish Lindsay
Sent: Tuesday, 24 March 2009 1:54 PM
To: Committee, NCET (REPS)
Subject: Proposed Immigration Bridge across Lake Burley Griffin

The Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital
Parliament House.

Dear Sir

A Bridge from Nowhere.

I have been a regular user of the lake for over thirty years and am strongly against the proposed Immigration Bridge across Lake Burley Griffin for the following reasons:

1. The structure will be an eyesore in a very visible part of the centre of Canberra, and the design clashes with the existing graceful Commonwealth Bridge. The present proposed design will have to be an intrusive height to allow water craft under, and the design as shown is quite an architectural monstrosity to my eyes. If a roof with solar panels were added it would look even more monstrous. And how long would such a vulnerable and exposed structure survive before needing costly repairs?

2. It will be a navigational hazard to water traffic, particularly sailing craft. The prevailing breezes are from the west, and in the late afternoon the sea breeze is from the north east. These breezes mean that a sailing boat cannot just steer a straight course through the bridge, but will have to tack to get through the pylons, so the pylons would have to be spread well apart. Access to West Basin by water craft is important for viewing the regular firework displays, as well as an area used by the Canberra Yacht Club for races.

What if there were an accidental collision by a larger ferry (remember the bridge across the Derwent in Hobart?). A collision with the substantial Commonwealth Bridge would not cause a bridge disaster, but a collision with a large ferry with this frail-looking structure could have disastrous consequences.

3. It will interfere with the view of the National Museum from the Lennox Garden side of the lake. In the evening the walls of the Museum are lit by changing coloured lights. Part of this view would be blocked by the proposed bridge.

4. The bridge would provide a means of throwing bricks or litter onto passing yachts and ferries.

5. How many people would use the bridge to view the immigration plaques when they have to climb up a height of 12 metres to walk across it, and then walk back to their car? Young people would probably tackle it, but it is unlikely the older generation would. If elevators were used, they would require power and maintenance costs, and would add further to the ugliness of the structure.

I would imagine visitors to the Museum, particularly from out of town, would want to park as near to the museum entrance as they could. When the weather is cold or blustery (and the rare moments of rain), I am sure visitors to the museum would not want to brave exposure to the elements just to visit the museum.

6. Where are the car parks for the visitors to the bridge? If it did become popular, how would visitors, particularly the older generations, access it? It's a bridge from nowhere to the museum.

I am sure there are plenty of suitable areas available around the lake to mount plaques or boards where vehicle access and parking is available. I think it would be appropriate to have an area on the lakeshore set aside close by the museum.

Hamish Lindsay