

Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories

Impact of the proposed Immigration Bridge on the Activities of the YMCA of Canberra Sailing Club

About the YMCA of Canberra Sailing Club

The YMCA of Canberra Sailing Club (YMCASC) is a family orientated sailing club situated on Yarralumla Bay, Lake Burley Griffin. Part of the YMCA of Canberra, the YMCASC is a charitable community service organisation. The club runs sailing races for dinghies, catamarans and trailable yachts as well as training courses for children and adults with no prior sailing experience. With excellent facilities and an active membership, the YMCASC is an ideal place to sail.

Established in 1963, club activities initially centred on Lake George until the filling of Lake Burley Griffin in 1964. The clubhouse was built in ten months by volunteer labour in time for the Heron Nationals that commenced on 31 December 1966. The Boat shed was constructed eleven years later in 1977.

The Club is run by a team of enthusiastic volunteers who are dedicated to the sport of sailing and also to the Club. Club members have been very successful over the years with National Champions in Cherubs, Herons, 505s, Seaflys, 420s, Spirals, Stingrays, Mosquitos, Paper Tigers, Cobras, Maricats, Windrushes, 2.4mR and other Classes.

Where we Sail

The Club conducts races on Saturday afternoons from mid-September to mid-April. Races are sailed in the main basin (West Lake). Most Club races require sailors to complete at least a triangle and (except for novices and trainees) a windward leeward leg. Other club courses are held in the same area. Diagram 1, Appendix 1 shows the course layout used for the majority of club races. As shown in Appendix 1, the race officer tries to set a course where mark 1 is directly upwind of mark 3. Note that at each mark the next mark should be visible.

Diagram 1 shows the alignment of common courses sailed on the Lake. The first step in setting a course is to decide where the wind is coming from. Once that has been established, the race officer lays out a course within the constraints of the shape of the Lake and the position of Islands, particularly Spinnaker Island.

The prevailing wind in Canberra is from the North West. In a Nor' westerly, Black Mountain Peninsula creates a wind shadow. This places a limit as to how far to the Nor' west mark 1 can be placed. Mark 2 should always be placed downwind of mark 1. This can be difficult in a Nor' westerly, as Spinnaker Island gets in the way.

Beating to windward¹ (sailing from mark 1 to mark 2) is difficult when the first leg of a course runs south of Spinnaker Island, between the Island and the Lake shore.

¹ Sail boats cannot point any closer the wind than 45 degrees. Thus, to sail to a windward mark, a skipper has to perform a series of tacks. See Diagram 2, Appendix 1.

Diagram 1

Typical Courses Sailed by the YMCA of Canberra Sailing Club



Impact of the Immigration Bridge on YMCA of Canberra Sailing Club Activities

Racing

Except for our marathon course (once per year), the proposed Immigration Bridge should have little impact on YMCA of Canberra Sailing Club races. In a Nor'easterly or Easterly wind there may be some turbulence around the eastern-most mark, which would detract from present conditions.

Training

YMCA of Canberra Sailing Club training activities are conducted in the area between Black Mountain Peninsula and Yarralumla Bay. Accordingly, they are unlikely to be affected by the proposed Immigration Bridge.

Sailors

Sailors from the YMCA of Canberra Sailing Club participate in races run by the Canberra Yacht Club. Some of these races use a buoy located in West Basin near the southern end of Commonwealth Avenue bridge, particularly in Easterly winds. The narrow gap between the National Museum and Lennox Gardens is a choke point. The addition of bridge piers in this area will further constrain navigation. When there are

large numbers of boats² working their way up to an easterly windward mark this area can get very congested.

If the Immigration Bridge is built, safety concerns mean that it may no longer be possible to have a buoy close to the Commonwealth Avenue. Participation in such races will be affected by the proposed Immigration Bridge.

Conclusion

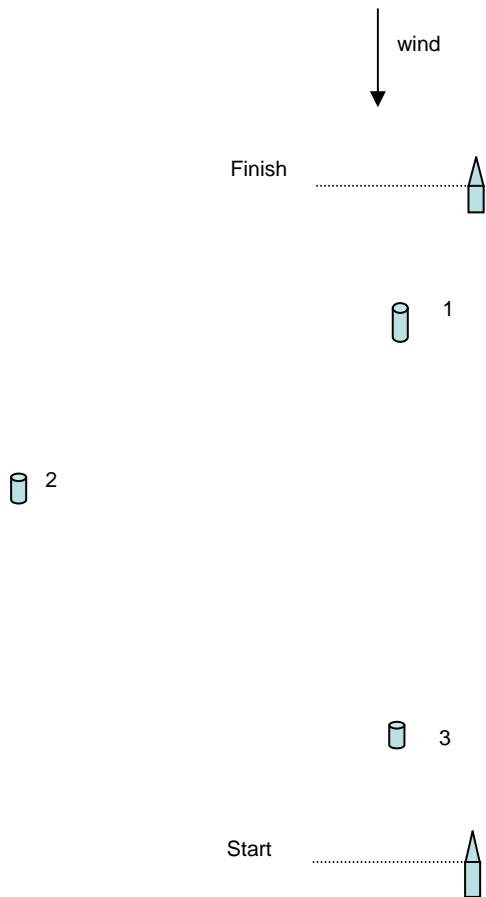
The shape of Lake Burley Griffin and surrounding landscape features place constraints on sailing. A particular constraint is Spinnaker Island. The introduction of a feature which places further constraints on sailing is not a prospect viewed favourably by Canberra sailors.

The proposed Immigration Bridge is unlikely to seriously impact on YMCA of Canberra Sailing Club activities. It will however, impact on sailors from the Club who are participating in events run by the CYC.

² For instance, the ACT Chief Minister's Regatta often attracts over 80 entries.

Diagram 1.

Club courses for Championship and Pointscore Races



The course to be sailed by a division is noted as follows:

- Monohulls with a yardstick of 112 or above (slower dinghies) 123, 13, finish

Diagram 2

Working to Windward

