

31 March 2009

The Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories  
Parliament House  
Canberra

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Inquiry into Immigration Bridge Australia proposal**

I wish to register my strong objection to the proposal to construct an "Immigration Bridge" across Lake Burley Griffin.

1. I find the whole concept in fact to be quite unethical: except for our indigenous people, we are all immigrants to this country. Why are we going to recognise just the people who want their name up in lights? Our lake is not there for abuse, for exhibitionists who don't live here to erect memorials to themselves which they'll visit once and never bother with again.

My other objections are aesthetic, and practical:

1. What makes Canberra special and different from most other cities in the world is its openness, the feeling of space, peace and tranquility the lake engenders in particular. We Canberrans really prize and appreciate this. Our lake is not an empty space to be filled up with stuff, especially other people's stuff. The proposed bridge will spoil forever the gorgeous vista from Commonwealth Avenue across the water towards the Brindabellas. Once gone, gone forever. The bridge proponents say it won't spoil the view, **but it will**, and **they don't live here** (nor I might add, do most of the people who support the idea).

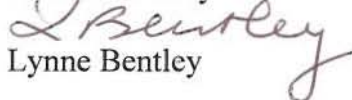
2. The design is tacky and tawdry – a covered walkway! Yuk!

3. I'm also a sailor on Lake Burley Griffin. It's already crowded and difficult enough out there and we don't need another obstruction to navigate past. But this is the least important of my objections.

My main objection is that this concept panders to the whim of people who don't live in Canberra, who don't care about Canberra, and don't have to see this tacky piece of furniture every day ruining our beautiful, beautiful lake. If this mob can get away with this, why can't we all start collecting money and erecting monuments to ourselves all over the place? Why not?

Please, don't be conned into this horrible idea, and leave our lovely lake alone.

Yours sincerely

  
Lynne Bentley