

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
Department of House of Representatives
email: jscncet@aph.gov.au

Submission to the Inquiry into the proposed Immigration Bridge

Dear Sir/Madam

As an immigrant who arrived in Australia in 1959, thank you for the opportunity to place on the record my strong opposition to the proposed "Immigration Bridge".

There are so many reasons for not building this unnecessary and inappropriate bridge, it is hard to know where to start. The bridge will destroy nationally important vistas, when viewed from all angles; it will seriously impact on the Canberra Yacht Club's sailing operations and the Club's ability to host national and international sporting events; it will cut across the most congested part of the lake and create a navigational hazard for the many users of the lake, including the sailors, rowers, and dragon boaters; it will require an enormous unsightly structure on an unbuilt area of the Albert Hall precinct foreshore; it is an inappropriate way of acknowledging the contributions made to this country by immigrants; its financials are absurdly unrealistic and don't seem to take into account the enormous costs of ongoing maintenance; the proponents do not seem to have followed due process and are now engaged in a misleading national television campaign to raise more funds; and those in receipt of the funds that have already been raised have been rude and dismissive and have left me in no doubt that, for some of the proponents at least, this is merely a money making venture dressed up in high ideals.

This hair-brained scheme must not be allowed to go ahead.

Yours faithfully

Paul Pfluger
27 March 2009