



Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
Department of the House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Attention: Ms Cathryn Ollif
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Inquiry into the Immigration Bridge Australia Proposal

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this inquiry. As noted in my email of 23 March 2009, neither the Minister for planning, Andrew Barr MLA nor I will not be appearing at the hearing on 30 March 2009; however, on behalf of the Minister, I am providing this short submission to outline the ACT Government's position.

Having regard to the particular proposal that has been put forward by the Immigration Bridge Group, the ACT Government determined in 2006 to agree in-principle to cede Territory land to the Commonwealth Government, subject to confirmation of the intention to construct the bridge.

It was determined that this would represent the Territory's only contribution to the development of Immigration Bridge, but that in doing so the following would apply:

- to review its in-principle support if the decision on whether or not to build the bridge has not been made or acted upon before 2009;
- that in the event that the Territory proceeds to cede the land there will be a need for the Commonwealth Government to provide some form of peppercorn compensation if the land is to be declared National Land; and
- that appropriate recognition will be requested of the Immigration Bridge Group for the Territory Government's contribution if the bridge proceeds.

It was also noted by the Government that there is a strong desire, shared with the National Capital Authority, for the design of the bridge to be iconic, give the appearance of a light weight structure, maintain uninterrupted pedestrian access along the shores of the lake and maintain boating activities in West Basin.

The decision acknowledged the advantage of land at both ends of the bridge being in one ownership would remove any difficulties associated with duplicate administrative arrangements, including maintenance, and that there was a prospect that the southern anchor for the bridge, where the land would be ceded, may comprise some form of café or small tourist shop.

The ACT Planning and Land Authority has indicated that it would be pleased to participate with the National Capital Authority in the design analysis process for the bridge and any development approval process which might be handled if the land has not been transferred to the Commonwealth Government beforehand.

Yours sincerely



Neil Savery
Chief Planning Executive

27 March 2009

Copy to: Mr Andrew Barr MLA
Minister for Planning
ACT Legislative Assembly