Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories

Department of the House of Representatives PO Box 6021 Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

SUBMISSION 67

Submission in relation the proposed Immigration Bridge Australia

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide a submission in relation the proposed Immigration Bridge Australia. While I consider the move to recognise Australians history of Immigration laudable, I find the current proposal ill considered and a blight on the ambiance of Lake Burley Griffin.

From the ascetics point of view I consider that the current proposed design is not in keeping with the lakes beautiful natural surrounds. It is a large and extremely high structure of concert steel and glass that is not in keeping with the beautiful natural environment that is currently present at that end of the lake

I have noted with interest that those behind the Immigration Bridge have often cited that Walter Burley Griffins original designs for Canberra showed a bridge in this position and that this provides justification for the sighting of the bridge in this position. I would contend that Walter Burley Griffin would have envisaged a more modest bridge that was more in keeping with the natural environment. I would also suggest that the continued use of Walter Burley Griffins concept as a justification fails to take into account how the use of the lake has evolved since he developed his original concepts for Canberra.

As a regular lake user and an active member of the Canberra Yacht Club I feel that this bridge will impinge on the amenity that the lake provides to those who currently enjoy it for sporting and recreational purposes. The current location of the bridge is right in the middle of one of the most trafficked areas of the lack. It is an area that is regularly used during sailing races / regattas and is also in an area that is regularly used by members of the dragon boat and the rowing community. As a result I feel that while it poses a safety hazard to all lake users, it posses an unacceptable hazard to any for of watercraft involved in competitive racing activities.

Accordingly I request that the committee direct that the bridge not be continued with.

TA

Cameron Tannock