

Parliament of Australia
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories Inquiry into
the Immigration Bridge Australia Proposal.

Dear Sirs/Ms:

As a citizen of Australia and resident of Canberra for 30 years, I am vigorously opposed to the proposal to build an immigration bridge over Lake Burley Griffin. The bridge would add clutter to an area and impinge on the beauty of the natural landscape for no useful purpose.

With reference to the Terms of Reference:

1. The advocates of the bridge presumed from the beginning of their campaign that the bridge would be built. They promoted the building of the bridge prior to the announcement of any process for community consultation or information about what would be involved in its building and how a decision regarding the project would be made.

a. The heritage values of Lake Burley Griffin would be compromised by such a bridge because it would impose a built structure on the natural scenic beauty of the lake and its environs. The potential noise that might be generated by bridge users has been overlooked. Most importantly, the damage to the heritage values of the lake would take place because of a structure that has no utility whatever. A bridge is not needed to cross the lake at the site proposed. If an immigration memorial is found to be needed, one should be found that does not interfere with heritage values. An example of what not to do is the long curving line of white stakes planted in Weston Park which interfere with any quiet appreciation of a lake view.

b. All stakeholders using the lake, such as sailors, canoeists, walkers, cyclists and the general public should be canvassed for their views prior to any decision on the bridge.

2. As noted above, it has been and is presumptuous of the IBA to proceed with a campaign without public support and prior to a serious inquiry. The IBA campaign assumes the bridge would be a good thing without any evidence that the community agrees or has been involved in any decision.

3. If an application for approval of the Bridge were received by the National Capital Authority, the public should be well informed as to the design, cost and maintenance together with alternatives to the bridge and alternative designs such that the least intrusive could be considered.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. David E. Pfanner,