

To Whom It May Concern

I would like to lodge my objection to the Immigration Bridge Proposal.

I am a regular user of the lake and currently enjoy the ability to sail unobstructed in the West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin. My yacht is 23 foot long and approximately 9m off the water so it would be more difficult and perhaps dangerous to pass under the proposed bridge, when you consider that the winds passed the Museum are fluky at best, without any further disturbances of a structure above the lake.

Depending upon the wind direction, the Canberra Yacht Club (CYC) will often place a rounding buoy near the Commonwealth Ave Bridge (eg at the Dec Canberra Yacht Club Weekend Sailing Regattas) therefore this would force the club to shorten the racing course. At my yacht club (the CYC) we can often have 50 to 100 boats on the lake at once and therefore there is a need to spread out the racing course as much as possible to give the yachts plenty of room.

As well as racing, my family and I enjoy just generally cruising around the West Basin, which includes stops at the ice cream shop at the boat hire shed on a Saturday afternoon and to have to navigate this bridge would be a nuisance and potentially danger to my family. Due to the low height of the existing bridges, we are limited to only sail in the West Basin. I have launched my boat in the East Basin, but have found that it is too shallow for our keel and therefore I have abandoned this idea. Adding a structure to the West Basin would potentially further limit our sailing area and sailing on the lake is one of the reasons we chose to stay and live in Canberra.

I would rather see the money spent on making a world class boat marina with cafés, shops and restaurants along the shores of the West Basin allowing immigrants to purchase plaques and mount them on the marina. A lot of the early immigrants arrived by boat, so I feel that would be befitting of their legacy. Lake Burley Griffin already has many bridges which can be walked and driven over, so another bridge would not add anything special.

I invite the any member of the Parliamentary Committee to join me in cruise on my yacht around the lake, to better appreciate the impact a new structure such as Immigration Bridge would have on our use of the lake.

Regards

Simon Wallis

4/03/2009