

The Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
PO Box 6021, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission in Favour of Immigration Bridge Australia

The Immigration Bridge should go ahead to be a permanent monument in the Nation's Capital to **commemorate** the contributions of migrants to Australia and the opportunities that Australia has gained from the millions of migrants that have enhanced Australia's development as a modern multicultural society.

The Immigration Bridge can **go down in history** as a **gift** to Australia from the many migrants that have settled in Australia since the end of the Second World War even since its foundation in 1788. Migrants from all over Australia are making full use of the golden opportunity to become part of Australian History by registering their names for a place on the handrail of the bridge for just \$110 per person as their contribution to ensuring that this important monument is established in the National Capital by 2013 to coincide with Canberra's Centenary celebrations.

The Bridge will also provide a historical insight to the many countries from which many thousands of people migrated especially over the past 60 years and serve as a wonderful memorial to their children and grandchildren when they see their relatives' names on the hand rail. And of course, this will be complemented by the many **short stories** provided by migrants who were prepared to share their experiences in coming to Australia and their subsequent achievements -all providing valuable input to the making of Australia's multicultural history.

In addition, the design of the classic '*Solar Roof Bridge*' across Lake Burley Griffin in the Nation's Capital (which is self funded) will highlight Australia's architectural and engineering ingenuity. The Bridge would be constructed at a sufficient height so as not to interfere with the users of the lake and in fact should enhance the heritage value of Lake Burley Griffin. The Bridge will also provide a pedestrian walk for members of the public as well as for tourists. It will also **prove to be a huge tourist attraction for Canberra**.

As an Anglo-Indian migrant (and President of the Australian Anglo-Indian Association of Canberra and founding President of the National Federation of Anglo-Indian Associations of Australia) the Bridge will be a lasting and unparalleled showpiece that will bridge all Australians through this link with our multicultural past, present and future. We also need to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of those who had the vision for such a concept and pay tribute to those individuals involved in progressing the Immigration Bridge project to this stage of its development. So let us ensure that the small number of detractors do not become an obstacle and instead applaud the thousands that have already contributed to making the Immigration Bridge a reality in the National Capital of Australia.

With kind regards

Joe Bailey