

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

3 March 2009

Committee Secretary,

Please find below my submission to the **Review of building an immigration bridge over Canberra lake.**

I am a regular user of the lake foreshore area and its surrounds. I enjoy riding my bicycle around the lake as a recreational activity. I use both Commonwealth and Kings Avenue bridges to commute across the lake by bicycle.

It concerns me that the structure proposed by Immigration Bridge Australia (IPA) is referred to as a 'pedestrian bridge'. The proposed design of the bridge which appears on IPA's promotional website appears to be accessible only by flights of stairs.

This would render the bridge unusable by cyclists. It will also discriminate against people with disabilities. This could be a breach of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (which Australia has ratified).

The bridge should be a community asset that can be used by all lake users, not just pedestrians.

I raised these issues in an email to IBA on 4 August 2007. I received no response.

When will IBA release its final plans for the bridge? Media reports indicate that the bridge design has been changed, presumably as a result from lobbying by sailing and rowing groups.

When will I be able to have my say? Will the NCA conduct a proper and transparent consultation process? Or will they simply accept the design that will be put forward by IBA?

I am concerned that the only people that have been given the opportunity to modify the design of the bridge are organisations and not individuals like me who have simply been ignored.



Regards,
Daniel Gleeson