



MEDIA RELEASE

ABN 50 797 949 955
Phone 02 6230 0533
Fax 02 6230 0544
Email info@act.nationaltrust.org.au
Web www.nationaltrustact.org.au

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ACT National Trust welcomes National Capital Committee review of proposed Immigration Bridge over Lake Burley Griffin

The ACT National Trust welcomes the announcement by the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital of a review into the proposed Immigration Bridge across Lake Burley Griffin.

The proposed bridge will span the Lake from Lennox Gardens to the National Museum of Australia on Acton Peninsula. The bridge is being proposed by a consortium, Immigration Bridge Australia (IBA), which has been raising public funds by offering immigrant families and their descendants the opportunity to pay to have their names engraved on the handrails of the bridge.

Of major concern to the National Trust is the unknown final design of the proposed bridge and the impact it will have on the heritage and social values of Lake Burley Griffin and its foreshore.

Dr Peter Dowling, National Trust Heritage Officer, stated today, "While we do not support the present proposal for the bridge the Trust would hope for a balanced review. As well as the impact on heritage values the bridge would have on the Lake, all other issues such as the interests of lake users and those who enjoy the foreshores of the Lake, should be taken into account by the review."

The Trust is currently conducting a public survey on the social and landscape values of Lake Burley Griffin because of its long-held concerns of inadequate planning and inappropriate development around the Lake's foreshores. Dr Dowling stated that the Trust's survey, which has been running now for two weeks, has attracted over 600 responses. "While the responses are yet to be analysed, the high number indicates quite clearly the importance the Lake has to Canberrans."

The ACT Trust will be developing a submission to the Joint Standing Committee Review which will be built around the responses we have received from the survey.

The survey can be found at <http://www.nationaltrustact.org.au/survey/>

For further information contact

Dr Peter Dowling

Heritage Officer

(02) 6230 0533 or 0417 233 194