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MEDIA RELEASE

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ACT National Trust welcomes decision to abandon Immigration Bridge proposal

The ACT National Trust welcomes the decision by Immigration Bridge Australia to abandon their plans for a bridge spanning the West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin.

National Trust Heritage Officer, Dr Peter Dowling, said today that it was a sensible decision given the impact the bridge would have had on the heritage values of the Lake and the amount of opposition by local organisations and individuals.

“While not opposing the concept of a monument to the immigrants who have arrived in Australia and contributed to our culture and society, the National Trust strongly opposed the erection of a bridge across West Basin.”

“We made our objections clear to the Joint Standing Committee Inquiry into the Immigration Bridge Australia Proposal held last year. Our primary concerns were the intrusive nature of the bridge clashing with the design of Walter Burley Griffin, the impact on the present vista of the Lake and the use of West Basin.”

In 2009 the Trust commissioned a survey on the heritage and social values of Lake Burley Griffin. The survey received 758 responses and the viewscape across West Basin was among the top five most appreciated and favoured values of the Lake.

For further information contact: Dr Peter Dowling 6230 0533 or 0417 233 194