

National Capital Authority

## RE: Seaplanes and Lake Burley Griffin

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the idea of seaplanes operating on Lake Burley Griffin (the Lake).

- What is your initial response to the idea of seaplanes operating on Lake Burley Griffin?

Multiple risks to a magnificent, naturalising, albeit artificial, Lake.

- What are the top three things the NCA should consider in making a decision regarding seaplane operations on Lake Burley Griffin?

The three top 'things' that NCA should consider all involve RISK to the following:

1. the environment – this is a naturalising freshwater environment and should not be exposed to the possibility of aviation spillage.
  2. the people – safety for all Lake users can be seriously compromised.
  3. the amenity – noise pollution concomitant with flight path, landing and takeoff will impact the tranquillity and beauty of the Lake.
- Has the NCA appropriately covered the range of issues requiring consideration before making a decision concerning seaplane operations on Lake Burley Griffin?

No: further consideration should be undertaken into the naturalising of the Lake and its freshwater environment and its capacity to continue to flourish under continuous climate change impact – an indicator species, platypuses, do actually forage in the Lake! An independent comprehensive environmental assessment is urgently needed.

Further, the waters from the Lake flow through to the Murrumbidgee thence the Murray, one of the major contributors to the Murray–Darling Basin. This would be contrary to the efforts to improve ACT water health with projects worth close to the recent spend of \$90 million (Commonwealth and ACT governments) to reduce pollution of these waters with Healthy Waterways project: [www.environment.act.gov.au/water/ACT-Healthy-Waterways/healthy-waterways/act-healthy-waterways-project](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/ACT-Healthy-Waterways/healthy-waterways/act-healthy-waterways-project)

Why compromise these efforts by imposing another potential risk to the health of not only the Lake but also Basin waters?

What human and monetary resources (including indemnity insurance etc.) will be required, and allocated, for appropriate management and compliance of all the necessary activities involved? What other more pressing and important ways should these resources be spent?

The ACT Government is endeavouring to replace fossil fuel usage with renewable energy. Is there any real reason for inflicting yet more fossil fuel air/water vehicles on the Lake?

Introducing seaplane operations on the Lake, at this point in time, has the potential to reduce heritage values and compromise the National Listing of the Lake.

- Could seaplane operations assist in raising awareness of Canberra as the National Capital and how could this benefit Australians?

No: seaplanes would be better off operating in an appropriate part of Jervis Bay, which is, in reality, part of a sea, the Tasman Sea and, of course, only if the people of the Bay wished it.

There are many more appropriate ways in which raising awareness of Canberra as the National Capital, including being the national leader in best/better planning, environmental and engagement/consultation practice – I would be happy to elaborate on this or any other of my comments.

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