

22 June 2021

Sally Barnes
Chief Executive
National Capital Authority
Treasury Building, King Edward Terrace
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Ms Barnes

Re: Seaplane proposal to land on Lake Burley Griffin.

I write on behalf of the Canberra Region Tourism Leader Forum (the Forum) in regard to the proposal to allow seaplane operators to land on Lake Burley Griffin. We understand at this stage one operator wishes to provide a return commuter service from Rose Bay Sydney three times a day, and the other flying tourists from the South Coast to the National Capital up to twice a week.

Our Forum, representing a broad and comprehensive cross section of all businesses involved in tourism, hospitality and associated sectors in Canberra and the Region, wishes to express its strong support for this initiative. The activation of the Lake has always been a priority for our industry and business generally in the ACT. Offering a new alternative transport option for Canberrans travelling to Sydney, and those wishing to visit Canberra is therefore very appealing.

There are benefits for business people and tourists to avoid the airports in both cities and arrive in the centre of Canberra, particularly when commuter time is a major consideration. South Coast tourists and residents will also have the ability to use a direct transport service to and from Canberra, one that is currently not available.

Benefits flow to the ACT in a number of ways: through a boost in visitor numbers and the subsequent positive impact on the visitor economy and in the increase in marketing and promotional exposure the National Capital will receive as a result of these services. Partnerships between the seaplane operators and the tourism and hospitality sectors in Canberra will drive this lift in exposure the ACT will receive both nationally and internationally

I have personally spoken to the operators of Sydney Seaplanes about the safety of landing on the Lake and the potential impact on current Lake users. Their highly experienced pilots continually navigate extremely busy waterways and Rose Bay is no exception. Having operated on this section of Sydney Harbour without incident for many years is testimony to their total priority on safety, and they have no concerns on landing on Lake Burley Griffin at any time of the day.

The endeavours of the National Capital Authority to maximise the usage of the Lake as one of Canberra's most significant assets is to be commended.

We understand the importance of the Lake to Canberra residents. It provides a magnificent venue for sporting events and recreational water users. It is also one of the most underutilised resources we have in the National Capital.

Whilst we acknowledge the concerns current users have on any proposal to increase activities on the Lake, we have been assured by the seaplane operators they will respect those who rely on this body of water for training and recreational purposes.

The Tourism Leaders Forum is happy to provide this letter of support and would be pleased to participate in further discussions if this would assist your deliberations.

Yours Faithfully



David Marshall
Chair
Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum