

## **Seaplanes on Lake Burley Griffin**

As it is the responsibility of the National Capital Authority to foster 'an awareness of Canberra as the National Capital' and 'work with other stakeholders to encourage people to visit' it is understandable that approaches from businesses which may attempt to fulfil this role would be considered. I welcome the opportunity to comment on the discussion paper regarding the landing of seaplanes on Lake Burley Griffin.

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

- A major concern is the safety of the regular users of the lake. Although the more formal sailing/rowing clubs may be made aware of flight timetables and able to organise their activities accordingly, other independent kayakers, canoeists and sailboarders might not so easily be attuned to the plane's arrival or departure. It is imperative that the NCA pays attention to these Lake users who may not be able to avoid an incoming or outgoing plane.
- I am also concerned that this high emissions activity would take precedence over the many healthy sporting pursuits which are now undertaken on and around the lake by many Canberrans of differing ages and abilities. As Canberra attempts to achieve a zero emissions target with an emphasis on public transport, this activity catering for a wealthy few does not fit with current ACT values. Noise pollution, even if intermittent, may also impact on people and wildlife.

### **Has the NCA appropriately covered the range of issues requiring consideration before making a decision concerning seaplane operations on Lake Burley Griffin?**

The trial seaplane demonstration as described in the media was not the same aircraft which would be bringing the potential tourists and business persons. It is now proposed to have a larger twin engine plane with different take off, landing and docking locations. This issue needs to be examined and more trials carried out before a licence is granted.

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

It is hard to envisage how this service catering to a small number of affluent patrons on a joyride or a business trip from Sydney would enhance Australians' awareness of Canberra's status as the National Capital. A visit to the Regatta Point exhibition should be part of the day's itinerary to raise awareness of the city's history.

Sue Byrne