

Mr Andrew Smith

Chief Planner National Capital Authority

GPO Box 373

Canberra ACT 2601

seaplanes@nca.gov.au

21 June 2021

This submission is in response to the NCA discussion paper 'Seaplanes on Lake Birley Griffin' released by the NCA on 7 May 2021.

I acknowledge that the proposed commercial seaplanes operations on Lake Birley Griffin as a potentially attractive proposition for the ACT Government and the NCA, as well as for the proposed operators and their commercial business. I also see these proposed operations as presenting a very significant risk to:

1. The operational and financial viability of the Canberra Yacht Club (CYC),
2. The amenity of Lake Burley Griffin and its availability as a recreational resource for all; and
3. The safety of lake users when mixing sailing, kayaking and scenic cruising with aircraft operational in the same area.

The West Lake represents the only navigable part of the Lake suitable for sailing, sail training and yacht racing and any ingress into that space by a seaplane is hazardous to all users.

Accordingly, I do not support the proposed seaplane operations on West Lake and would strongly prefer that they do not proceed in that location.

I note that the CYC's long term constructive and significant presence on Lake Burley Griffin, since it was first filled, are an integral part of the social and recreational heritage of the Lake, and hence, are one of the NCA's stated strategies for recreational use of the Lake¹. It would seem counterproductive to affect that stated use by the introduction of seaplane flights.

The CYC operates one of the largest club-based sailing schools in Australia as a not-for-profit organisation and the contribution and value of their very successful inclusion programs, Sailability and Buoyed Up, should not be discounted. In addition, as an example, there are often over 50 sailboats on the water enjoying Sunday spring, summer and autumn recreation and providing large crowds entertainment from the nearby shore.

I trust that other users and uses of Lake Burley Griffin will be considered and that at the very least a broader consultation program will occur, including collegial discussions with the CYC, before any decision is made on the viability of the proposal.

Sincerely,

¹ NCA: Lake Burley Griffin Recreation Policy 2017