

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Seaplanes](#)
Subject: Seaplanes on Lake Burley Griffin - in principle support for the proposal
Date: Monday, 21 June 2021 3:14:28 PM

My name is Colin Hill. Together with my wife, Linda, I have been a [REDACTED] resident since 1997. I was born in Canberra in 1950, as was my father before me (in 1927). His parents came to Canberra in 1917.

These facts give me no special status other than my extended family and I have grown up with the National Capital and have embraced change when it has had positive benefits for Canberra and its community. Those with an historical perspective will recall the stern resistance to proceeding with the development of Lake Burley Griffin itself - where would we all be today if that unfathomable opposition had prevailed? Many will remember the difficulties Gus Petasilka faced when trying to expand his Garema Place cafe/restaurant onto the adjacent walkway. Too many great ideas in the past have suffered from an all too conservative and often over protective view of what Canberra is and could be. I say this while having enormous respect for the original Walter Burley Griffin plans and for the community's ongoing commitment to the Griffin legacy.

I admit I have no expertise that qualifies me to comment specifically on the technical aspects of the Seaplane proposal or on the economic, environmental and social aspects. However, having seen a draft submission on the Seaplane proposal prepared by the Yarralumla Residents Association (which was unremittingly negative in its commentary) I have felt compelled to make my own submission. In short, I believe the proposal represents an exciting new initiative for Canberra. It would be a great pity if such an initiative was to be turned aside without thorough and open minded investigation and I welcome the NCA's public consultation process. I would suggest that where there are concerns and hesitations about various aspects, the proposers and/or the NCA might be well advised to provide better information and better assurances so as to illuminate the public consultative process. Hopefully these will emerge in due course.

There is no doubt that there are already many users and uses to which our lake is put in different areas, including rowing and dragon boating, sailing and recreational and competitive swimming to name some. And there is no disputing that there will be unavoidable additional noise levels effecting the serenity of the lake environs during seaplane landings and take-offs. However, I cannot agree that this important prospective new activity is such an anathema to established environmental and heritage values and current lake usages that no accommodation can be made. I have seen the detailed map included in the Yarralumla Residents Association draft submission which shows various current lake usages upon which the seaplane flight path and landing zone is superimposed and, put simply, I cannot agree that the proposal represents an irreconcilable imposition on current activities or that it fails to offer any redeeming economic merits for Canberra and our region. Surely, we as a community have to allow that, as time goes by, new possible lake uses can emerge for which accommodations could be made so that a wider

range of diverse community interests might be served.

I have to say that, in respect to the established Lake recreational policies and management plans, it has occurred to me that at the time these were written there was no likelihood of any seaplane activity. I would also have to say that indicated plans to land and take off twice daily (from Sydney) and perhaps also once daily from the South Coast probably should be regarded as the limit of acceptability if all current interests are to be respected. This limited addition to our daily lives would offer an attractive (presumably predominantly international) tourism opportunity on a year round basis as well as the novelty value of the service from the South Coast of NSW.

I believe we should all find ways to embrace the sea plane proposal, at least in principle, as one means for Canberra to burnish its image as a "go to" destination, hopefully as we emerge from the COVID challenges in the period ahead.

Colin Hill

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