

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Seaplanes](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Seaplane activities on LBG  
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As a regular kayaker in training on Lake Burley Griffin for the past 12 years I have very, very serious concerns about the proposed seaplane access to the lake. I'm out paddling on the lake between 2 and 4 times a week, every month of the year. I often paddle the 20km course from Molonglo Reach to Scrivener Dam and return which I notice from the proposed runway location, is EXACTLY on this well known (to local kayakers) and very well traversed path. In other words, on my return trip from the dam, heading west to east, I will be paddling down the middle of the runway at 12km/hr, with my back to an approaching plane travelling at around 100km/hr. The pilot would also have the sun in their eyes on the morning landing approach. This is a fatal accident waiting to happen. How the hell can this be safe? What about fog? What about non-local lake users who have no knowledge of a seaplane runway? What about kids flying drones? What about fisherman that drift onto the runway? What about the marathon swimmers I commonly pass by in the summer months training in the lake?

One of the truly unique qualities of LBG is that it is the largest body of STILL water that is in the middle of an Australian city. I don't know anywhere else in the country that can claim the same because they all allow the use of motorised watercraft. K1 kayaks are extremely unstable craft and require a lot of skill even to stay upright on flat water. They are designed to be used on flat water. One of the big problems already encountered by K1 paddlers on LBG is the use of motorised tinnies by the coaches of rowers. You have no idea how disruptive even a tinnie motoring along at almost 20 km/hr on the lake can be. I have to stop paddling and turn all of my attention on trying not to fall in (which sometimes happens) as the wake of waves caused by the tinnie passes by. The resulting rebound of waves from the concrete walls across the lake often doesn't settle for about 15mins. Perhaps the operator of this seaplane company would like to come along and sit in a K1 kayak about 100mtrs from their proposed runway and see what happens to them when one of their seaplanes touches down? Presumably, they will be providing a small fleet of powered rescue boats to come and rescue all the paddlers and rowers they will tip into the water? I have been tipped out on a few occasions over the years in the vicinity of the proposed runway, you cannot remount a K1 in mid water, you have to swim to shore (up to 1km) to remount. I wonder if the seaplane company will be liable if one of their planes tips out a paddler in the middle of the lake, mid winter and they die of hypothermia?

Seaplanes on LBG is a dumb idea. This will only benefit a handful of travellers and has more to do with a novelty fun fair ride than any actual advantage in travelling from Sydney to Canberra. How long will the flight take?... A LOT MORE than the 45mins it now takes to fly from Canberra Airport to Sydney Airport via an existing commercial flight, that's how long it will take. So, one has to honestly ask what is the advantage in catching a seaplane from Canberra to Sydney? That's right, it's a fun fair ride that benefits few and inconveniences many.

David ABELA  
Member of the Burley Griffin Canoe Club

Sent from my iPad