

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Seaplanes](#)
Subject: Seaplanes on Lake Burley Griffin
Date: Monday, 21 June 2021 9:14:18 PM

I am writing to offer comments on the proposed use of Lake Burley Griffin by seaplanes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am in principle supportive of the use of designated areas of Lake Burley Griffin's Central or East Basin by seaplanes.

I strongly recommend that the National Capital Authority, the Australian Civil Aviation Safety Authority, and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority designate a suitable section of the Lake's Central Basin as an uncontrolled aerodrome. This would ensure that the waterway was appropriately marked on the appropriate charts. Seaplanes and their pilots would then be required to obey all relevant regulations. Seaplane would, for example, under the COLREGS be considered a motor vessel and therefore subject to AMSA Marine Orders and the international COLREGS. These regulations should minimise risks to sailors and other lake users while providing a level of surety to seaplane pilots. The most significant regulation for sailors and the proposed seaplane venture is Rule 18 e), which would require strict adherence. The Commonwealth *Lakes Act Ordinance 1976* (and the corresponding ACT Government Lakes legislation) should also be amended to reflect each of the above requirements.

I consider the safety risks associated with seaplane operations in West Lake to be a significant and unacceptable risk to current Lake users. These uses include sailing, rowing, swimming, sailboarding, kiteboarding, stand-up paddleboards, dragon boating, fishing, recreational electric boats and canoeing - few of these users are trained and qualified in maritime safety. A more viable and far safer alternative would be to designate an area of: 1. East Basin, or 2. Central Basin as a take off and landing area for seaplanes. This would pose significantly less risk to sailors and other Lake users. Sailing boats, swimmers, and other Lake users rarely visit East Basin. The available water area in East Basin is sufficient for the proposed purpose, and the area in Central Basin is similar to the West Lake but without the risks presented by the Black Mountain and fringing vegetation obstructions.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Yours,

Bruce Gray
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