

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Seaplanes](#)  
**Subject:** Seaplanes on West Basin  
**Date:** Monday, 21 June 2021 9:35:59 PM

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I am writing to express my opposition to the current proposal to allow commercial operations of seaplanes on west Basin.

I am and have been a lake user for nearly 40 years. I currently participate in competition sailing at both the Canberra Yacht Club and the YMCA Sailing club mainly sailing trailable yachts and off the beach catamarans. I use both of the above areas outside of organized events as well as sailboarding, stand up paddle boarding and kayaking. All of which occur in west basin, which to my understanding is far and away the most used section of the lake for on water activities.

My objection to the current proposal is for two main reasons, the first being the safety of lake users and the second the loss of access and ability to use west basin as it is currently used. That is what I believe will happen if seaplanes are given the green light.

The proposed area for use by a seaplane cuts right through the middle of the areas of operation for both sailing clubs. It also dissects the prime sailboarding area for both of the most common and usable wind we get in Canberra (the westerlies and easterlies). I cannot see anything in the discussion papers that addresses how lake users will be made aware of the approach of an aircraft, or how the area will be cleared to allow a plane to land. Even though it states that the onus is on the pilot to ensure they have a clear area I am fairly sure that they would not be happy circling the area multiple times if other lake users are using and enjoying this area as we have always done. I am fairly certain that the might is right rule will apply as an approaching aircraft would be quite intimidating.

A comparison to Rose Bay I believe is misleading as whilst the 2 waterways may be similar in area their layout is very different. West Basin is a long relatively narrow enclosed body of water which by its shape and Canberra's prevailing winds focuses the majority of current on water activity around and through the proposed landing/take off area. The layout of the lake means that this is where such activities need to take place. Whilst I am not familiar with Rose Bay, looking at maps of the bay shows its length and width to be similar, with a large opening to Sydney Harbor. All of which I am sure allow changing the location of activities in Rose Bay to be a much more viable option than it is in West Basin. I cannot see how seaplanes and current lake user can coexist in west basin whilst it is fairly easy to see how Rose Bay layout facilitates this co existence.

Even though the consultants engaged believe seaplane operations as currently proposed would have a minimal detrimental impact I feel that was only due to the low number of flights currently proposed. I note however that there is no indication of proposed flight numbers by South Coast Seaplanes. As flights increase so would the detrimental impact.

If seaplanes are approved to use west basin I can only see the number of flights increasing and the aircraft taking over this area and as highlighted above this is already a well used area as it offers the best on water experience available in Canberra. What west basin offers users is not replicated elsewhere in Canberra and any lose of available use by current lake users will be keenly felt and realistically cause a decline in the participation in the water activities that this area supports.

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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10