

**SUBMISSION FROM THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY BOAT CLUB REGARDING THE  
PROPOSED SEAPLANE SERVICE ON LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN**

**21 JUNE 2021**

The primary concern that the Australian National University Boat Club (ANUBC) has about the proposed seaplane service on Lake Burley Griffin is safety. In particular, the proposal to locate commercial aircraft runways in one of the most heavily used recreational areas of the lake with no traffic control.

The ANUBC is located inside the Lake Burley Griffin entrance of Sullivans Creek, its home of 57 years. It is one of the ACT's largest rowing clubs, and up to 60 rowers a day train from the club, six days a week, all year round.

To get to and return from the most wind-sheltered rowing areas of the lake on Tarcoola and Yarramundi Reaches rowers from the ANUBC must all cross the proposed West Lake seaplane runway adjacent to Black Mountain Peninsula. This will be as they head out from ANU and again as they return.

The club has only three small power boats for safety and coaching, and so many of its rowers train unsupervised. With the exception of a few coxed boats, none of the scullers or crew members can directly see where they are going or what is ahead of them because they face backwards.

When crossing over the lake's existing rowing traffic lanes some less experienced recreational rowers have been found to be poor judges of the speed of other rowing boats and incidents occasionally occur. This risk will only be exacerbated when crossing the path of speeding aircraft. With no traffic control, it will be up to the varying judgement of rowers and other recreational users to know when to cross the runways.

This risk will be compounded on weekends, when recreational lake activity increases. The ANUBC's peak weekly activity for beginners is 8.00-11.00am on Saturdays, which clashes with proposed seaplane flight times. All of the beginners will have to cross the proposed West Lake runway adjacent to Black Mountain Peninsula at least twice each session.

The risk will be further compounded in spring and summer when the prevailing daytime winds on the lake are north westerly. On these days our members and many other rowers for safety train in the western part of West Lake using the wind shadow of Black Mountain Peninsula. What is usually one of the safer and more popular parts of the lake on windy days is the preferred seaplane landing area on north westerly wind days.

Recreational lake users, many with low levels of experience, and aircraft runways are a poor mix.

The ANU Boat Club does not object to a seaplane service. However, it recommends that to reduce the risk on incidents between aircraft and recreational lake users that the service be located in an area of the lake that has less recreational traffic, such as Central Basin.

Nick Hunter OAM  
President  
Australian National University Boat Club



Attachment: map showing rowing traffic paths and proposed seaplane landing area.

