

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Seaplanes](#)
Subject: Comment on Seaplane proposal
Date: Tuesday, 22 June 2021 2:27:58 PM

Attention: Mr Andrew Smith, Chief Planner

Has the NCA appropriately covered the range of issues requiring consideration before making a decision concerning seaplane operations on Lake Burley Griffin?

There are a range of issues that I feel could have been better covered, long term commercial viability etc, however I want to restrict my comments to what I consider to be a major flaw in the discussion paper.

I am a long time lake user who values its tranquility and I regularly participate in Canberra Yacht Club Sunday races.

The discussion paper doesn't adequately address serious safety issues for water based lake users.

In my view it comprehensively understates them.

Did the NCA seek independent expert advice as to safe operation of seaplanes in multi use waterway?

Is this expert advice publicly available?

The NCA discussion paper states:

"The landing phase of the flight presents minimal collision risk. On approach the pilot has an excellent view of the landing area: water users such as swimmers and kayaks that can be very difficult to see from a boat are usually very visible from the air. ..."

Compare it to the NSW government published ["Best practice guide for the use of Rose Bay, Safety guidelines for seaplanes and vessels"](#) which states in part:

"If you see a seaplane take off or land, stay outside the safety zone and avoid crossing the seaplane's path, even if you have right of way. The pilot may not see you and the seaplane is traveling fast during take-off and landing!"

The proposed take off and landing zones are right in the middle of the usual sailing courses utilised by the Canberra Yacht Club. The Canberra Yacht Club conducts races in the area to the west of Commonwealth Avenue Bridge. The sailing club at Rose Bay can and does operate some races in the main body of Sydney Harbour well away from seaplanes. From a sailing options point of view you simply cannot compare Rose Bay and the West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin.

Public consultation about seaplanes on the lake without the draft publication of a comprehensive shared use and safety document similar to the Rose Bay best practice guide is in my view seriously flawed, as without it there is no way to know what the real impact on lake users will be. Safeguarding public access to all parts of the lake and ensuring safety should not be an afterthought, it should be front and centre of any public engagement!

Best regards

Doug Ashton

