

22 June 2021

Mr Andrew Smith  
Chief Planner  
National Capital Authority  
GPO Box 373  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Via email [seaplanes@nca.gov.au](mailto:seaplanes@nca.gov.au)

Dear Mr Smith

### **Seaplanes on Lake Burley Griffin – Submission by Canberra Airport**

In 1998 Capital Airport Group (CAG) purchased Canberra Airport and has been operating it ever since. As such we believe that CAG is well placed to comment on the possible operation of seaplanes on Lake Burley Griffin.

CAG is strongly supportive of the operation of seaplanes on the Lake subject to the operators complying with all necessary safety and aviation requirements. In this regard we note that Sydney Seaplanes has been operating out of Elizabeth Bay in Sydney Harbour for over 16 years. Sydney Harbour is considerably busier than Lake Burley Griffin and Sydney Seaplanes has operated from several other busy and environmentally sensitive areas without incident.

It is Canberra Airport's view that Sydney Seaplanes will improve both business and tourist connectivity to Canberra. In addition, South Coast Seaplanes will assist in bringing more tourists into the capital. The opportunity presented to increase connectivity into Canberra is of particular importance as we come out of COVID-19. These flights coupled with the presence of regular commuter flights to and from Canberra will raise the ACT's profile, provide marketing opportunities, and further raise awareness of the Cultural, Historic and Governmental significance of the city as the Capital of Australia.

The NCA has rightly identified that the potential impact of the presence of seaplanes on the Lake. These include impacts on other Lake users, safety of Lake users including the seaplane passengers and possible environmental impacts are the key considerations while making its decision. To this end Canberra Airport believes that the NCA has thoroughly covered these issues and any relevant ancillary considerations required to make the appropriate decision.

Yours sincerely



Michael Thomson  
Head of Aviation