

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Seaplanes](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Seaplanes on LBG
Date: Thursday, 3 June 2021 8:19:18 AM

I wish to make a submission in relation to the consultation on allowing seaplanes to operate on Lake Burley Griffin (LBG).

I am strongly opposed to seaplanes using LBG.

The top three factors to consider are:

- impact on other users of the lake and surrounding area (major negative impact)
- extent of benefit to Canberra's tourism (negligible benefit)
- risk to lake users (significant)

In relation to whether seaplane operations would assist in raising awareness of Canberra as the National Capital, I am fairly confident that the overwhelming majority of Australians understand that Canberra is the National Capital. Seaplanes that benefit a handful of people per day will do nothing to add to that understanding. Indeed, There will be many more Australians who would be unaware of seaplane operations than there would be people who are unaware of Canberra's role as the National Capital. This is evidenced by the fact that the majority of Canberrans (until the current proposal) were probably unaware of the existence of commercial seaplane operations in Sydney.

This proposal will:

- benefit a few people who use the service and the seaplane business.
- pose a significant risk to users of the lake. It may be that the seaplanes consider that they can work around existing lake traffic. However, this assumes lake users are all mature and have good judgement and skills (as might exist in those parts of Sydney that the seaplanes use). The West Basin of the lake is the primary watersports area and is used by many children and less skilled adults. As a relatively small body of water it is not possible for less skilled users to stay away from the proposed take-off/landing area.
- reduce access to the West Basin of the lake significantly for sailing, kayaking, SUPs, rowing, dragonboating and other watersports. All of these sports co-exist happily on the lake with minimal risk alongside various commercial low-speed and quiet commercial operations such as cruise-boats and electric boats. Seaplanes are incompatible with these existing uses of the lake as they are noisy and will operate at a significantly different speed to other lake users raising risks (real and perceived) for those lake users.
- reduce the utility of the lake and surrounding land as a peaceful place for watersports, cycling, walking and picnicking as a result of the noise pollution.

Michael Culhane