



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES  
Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Chair), Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Ms Nicole Lawder MLA,  
Miss Candice Burch MLA

## Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into a Proposal for a Mammal Emblem for the ACT

**Submission Number: 26**

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To whom it may concern,

In this package you will find letters written by students in Years 3 and 4. They were given a task to write a persuasive letter to Mr Barr to convince him which mammal should be Canberra's emblem.

The task involved them researching the issue and then writing a letter outlining the reasons for the choice they made.

Writing for particular purposes and about current topics motivates students to do their best and allows them to understand why it is an important skill.

I hope you enjoy reading the letters that the students worked very hard to complete. I am certain you will find some of them quite inspiring.

Kindest Regards  
Bobbi Smith  
Primary School Teacher  
Aranda Primary



## Why We Should Have Echidnas As A Territory Emblem For Canberra?

Dear Mr Barr,

It has come to my attention that Canberra, the capital of Australia does not have a mammal for its emblem. I believe that we must share our pride in Australia's unique Mammalia and that the Echidna particularly, would be an ideal choice as an emblem for the ACT.

Echidnas are unique and interesting mammals, they deserve to be recognised more constructively by your Government.

For starters, echidnas are interestingly different creatures, with spikes like a porcupine, a pouch like kangaroo, a tongue like a lizard with sticky saliva, a beak like a bird, yet they are nocturnal like a bat. However, Mr Barr, because you are a student of our wonderful schooling here in the ACT, and your Mum is a teacher, I guess you probably already knew that echidnas are a bit of a mixed bag in animal terms, didn't you? Many biologists and archaeologists were impressed when they discovered that Echidnas are Monotremes (mammals that lay eggs ) which shocked them. Also they discovered that echidnas and platypuses were the only animals that are monotremes in Australia and they were the close relatives as well as close species. This last fact is critically important because NSW has platypuses as their emblem, meaning we should have Echidnas as ours.

Echidnas being such a mixed bag of features represents the Multicultural and very different diverse vibe that you are attempting to promote in the ACT. The fact that when Echidnas were discovered, they shocked biologists, is also relevant and an important reason why we should look further at this creature as our emblem. Many people write Canberra off as being boring and uninteresting. Currently, your Government is trying to change that. It is only when people settle in Canberra and become part of a vibrant, bright and welcoming community that they understand what a great place it is to live and bring up their families. The similarities between what the scientists discovered and people discover about Canberra is the same.

Also, Echidnas are Australia's most widespread native land animal. This feature would represent our Australian and Indigenous people who come here from all over the country to make their homes and thrive, as well as those who come from other countries and continents to dwell here and connect with each other's hands .

Other's must agree that, Echidnas are independent. They aren't endangered and few animals can successfully attack them. Echidnas protect themselves by curling into a spiky ball or digging quickly underground like a mole. They are oviparous, carnivorous, viviparous and insectivorous and again this variety of ways of eating well contrasts the diversity and successfulness of these creatures in surviving, to the people of our community. The ability that they have to roll up into a ball to protect themselves also represents the way we here in Canberra battle the hatred for us from others. Again another excellent reason to consider them for an emblematic and important role.

In summary Echidnas are unique, mixed bag of diversity as far as mammalian features go. They represent difference and similarity well, and are an exciting mammal to study and learn about. Having Echidnas as our emblem would portray the complexity and individuality of our community and city in a graphical vivid yet pertinent way. Do you think edchinas are a important emblematic locally for Canberra

Sincerely

Logchayaa Kantharajah  
Aranda Primary School

Dear Mr Barr

It is of most importance that Canberra has a mammal emblem and after huge amount of thought I have come to a decision. I now see that it is clear that the brush-tailed rock wallaby is the ACT's emblem .

It has connections - such as they are both small and deserve more recognition. Do not forget the brush tailed rock wallaby is slowly going extinct and this may be one of our last chances to give it credit it deserves.

It is also important that we make the rock wallaby our emblem because many people are voting for the wallaby so many will be happy if it is chosen. Shouldn't the majority of people win the vote?

The wallaby faces many challenges and having it for an emblem will remind citizens around the world of the challenge early Australian faced and motivate Australians around the world a beacon of light when life is dark.

Clearly the rock wallaby is the undisputed emblem of ACT and will remain a way to give the wallaby recognition, make many happy and a symbol of hope for Australians past present and future.

Kindest Regards

Finn

Year 4 Aranda Primary

Dear Mr Barr,

I think this argument about the mammal emblem is very exciting, however I am absolutely certain that the echidna should be our mammal emblem. The echidna is a tourist attraction and has a huge population in the ACT. Echidnas are some of the only mammals surviving that lay eggs.

For starters, echidnas are cool in a way that no other animal is. They have spines like a porcupine, a beak like a bird, a pouch like a kangaroo and lay eggs like a reptile. These things are perfect, unique things that make the echidna great for our mammal emblem.

Secondly, Echidnas have such a thriving population in the ACT that the echidna is a tourist attraction. Having the echidna as our emblem would mean that we would not have to change our emblem, because as I said it has a thriving population. It would make it so much easier if the echidna was Canberra's emblem as it would be that way for many years.

For more reason, the echidna is a special mammal. They are part of the family "Tachyglossidae" and are some of the only mammals that lay eggs. There are only four mammal species that are left, that lay eggs. The echidna is one of them and would certainly be an amazing, unique mammal for Canberra's emblem.

Surely, Mr Barr that with all these reasons that echidnas are unique, very big in population and are special mammals make the echidna perfect for Canberra's mammal emblem. Do you want to be known as the city with the boring mammal emblem? I don't think I would, so clearly the echidna is the best animal for our emblem.

Yours Sincerely,

Zoe McCrae

Year 4 Aranda Primary School

# Why the eastern bettong should be the mammal emblem of Canberra.

Dear Andrew Barr,

It is very exciting to get an emblem for a city or country, and the eastern bettong is endangered and at high risk of being extinct. I firmly believe that the eastern bettong should be the mammal emblem of Canberra.

To begin with, I strongly believe that the eastern bettong must be the mammal emblem of Canberra. If we don't do something now, the eastern bettong will be gone forever. But, if the eastern bettong becomes the emblem of Canberra, everyone will be more aware and there will be more conservation and that will then lead to higher numbers.

Secondly, I firmly believe that the eastern bettong should be the mammal emblem of Canberra. Though the eastern bettong is not as vibrant and catching like the gang-gang cockatoo, it is still perfect. After the mainland extinction in the 1920's, the eastern bettong is still struggling to come back. Clearly, the eastern bettong should be the mammal emblem of Canberra.

Thirdly and finally, the eastern bettong needs protection against its 'foes' such as red foxes. Ever since the foxes were introduced to Australia, the eastern bettong has been vulnerable. Even though the numbers are returning to Australia, it is without doubt that the eastern bettong should be the mammal emblem of Canberra so that we are more aware of it and can protect it.

Therefore, the eastern bettong should clearly be the mammal emblem of Canberra as it is the perfect match for the city and bushland.

Yours sincerely,  
Joseph Eronen.

Dear mr Barr,

I am writing to you because Canberra needs a mammal emblem. I strongly believe it should be an echidna. Do you? It is the only lasting species of the monotreme family and they are strong and in my opinion beautiful.

For starters, echidna and platypuses are the only lasting species of the monotreme family (egg laying mammals). Platypuses are already taken by New South Wales for their mammal emblem. Echidnas are a great tourist attraction and it would be a once in a lifetime opportunity to see one of the lasting species of monotreme for a tourist. It would be very interesting to see such a spiny animal.

The fact is, echidnas are small but strong and so is the ACT. Echidnas have extreme keen senses of hearing and smelling and are able to detect the early approach of danger. When they are scared they curl up into a sharp spiky ball. A ball that looks a bit little like ACT on a map.

Thirdly, in my opinion the echidna has a beautiful appearance. With the yellow end of its spikes. It is great at disguising itself. When people go on bush walks if they are early they will see the echidna curl up into a ball. Therefore it is very beautiful for people to look at. I think the beautiful appearance of the echidna will draw tourists Canberra.

In conclusion I hope echidnas are chosen as the mammal emblem. I also hope you know a little bit more about echidnas. Both ACT and echidna is unique.

Kind regards,  
Hanna Koch  
Aranda Primary School

Dear Mr Barr,

It has come to my close attention that Canberra does not have a mammal emblem, it is weird to think that Canberra has been a nation for so long that we haven't even thought of getting one. I personally think that the Eastern Bettong should be our mammal emblem. It is a excellent candidate for the job.

For starters, the Eastern Bettong is not even close to extinction because it is a continuous breeder, so we won't have to think about changing it for a long time. While the mainland population became extinct in the 1920s, a small population was reintroduced in 2012 and they seem to be doing very well.

Secondly, it represents Canberra with being small but very independent and powerful. It is a very unique little animal. Nothing is quite like it. As Long as we keep a lot of eucalyptus forests in it's species will never starve.

Last but not least, if we stop clearing the bushland it has a higher chance of surviving and thriving. Also koala's are close to extinction so if we do the same thing such cute critters will survive. I believe that having the Eastern Bettong as the emblem on Canberra will make people preserve its environment.

With all my reasons it is clear that the Eastern Bettong is the right animal for the job. I am absolutely certain that the Eastern Bettong is the right choice.

Your sincerely,  
Audrey Williams  
Aranda Primary School

Dear Mr Barr,

I am writing to you because we don't seem to have a mammal to represent Australia's Capital Canberra. It is a very fitting that we should have an echidna as our emblem because they are special, endangered and named after a greek legend.

Echidna's are very special mammals as they are monotremes like the platypus. I believe it shows great difference to the other mammals as Canberra shows great difference to the other cities in Australia as it is a planned city.

The echidna is endangered so it would be a good way to stop people letting out pets at night. Even though their hiding methods are smart, Echidna young may not know of certain strategies. Cars are also a threat to echidnas and it would be a great statement to stop speeding.

Echidnas are named after a greek mythological creature. It is half human and half snake It would be good to show that we are a multicultural city and support in others religions.

I conclude it is significant to have a mammal emblem and the echidna is perfect for the job

Kind regards  
Aster Roarty  
Aranda Primary School

Dear Mr Barr,

I have come to realise that while the ACT and all its inhabitants have now begun to start on the vote that will decide the animal that is to become the ACT's mammal emblem. It is in my opinion that the brush tail rock wallaby would be an extremely suitable mammal for the job.

For starters, since it is an extremely endangered animal this would help support conservation parks and breeding programs and eventually it would slowly start working towards building their population. Based on the number of them remaining in the wild, I fear that extinction is a very real possibility. I cannot imagine losing them, can you?

In following, In 1988 at Jenolan caves in New South Wales, about 80 wallabies were released into the forest, but by 1992 there were only seven left. That means that in four years seventy-three wallabies died. In my opinion that's pretty outrageous, don't you agree?

Finally, The ACT already has a floral emblem - the royal bluebell, found in the high mountain areas of the state, and the faunal emblem is the gang-gang cockatoo. Surely you agree that we now need a mammal emblem to represent this great territory.

Others must agree that this is a very suitable candidate for the ACT's mammal emblem and a critically endangered wild animal that is worth our attention and protection.

Yours sincerely,

Max Harris

Year 4, Aranda Primary

Canberra's mammal emblem  
should be the Eastern grey Kangaroo.

Dear Mr Barr,

I have come to a realisation that Canberra does not have a mammal emblem. It is sad to realise we don't have a mammal emblem, but if we get one I think the obvious choice would be the Eastern grey Kangaroo. Eastern grey kangaroos are found all over Canberra, from mountain to lake to farm. The eastern grey kangaroo would be a good mammal emblem because of its distinctive markings and quick breeding that would make it a good mammal emblem.

To start of with, eastern grey kangaroos have very distinctive markings, and are easy to spot. The eastern grey kangaroo is easy to recognise: its soft grey coat is distinctive, and is usually found in moister, more fertile areas than the red. Red kangaroos, although sometimes a blue-grey colour, have a totally different face to the grey kangaroos. Red kangaroos have very distinctive black and white on their muzzles and heading along the sides of their face. Grey kangaroos do not have these markings, and their eyes seem larger and wide open. This would be good because people would certainly know that it was an eastern grey kangaroo.

Secondly, they are found everywhere and people would be more excited to see them. Although the red is better known, the grey is more commonly found in Australia, due to its adaptability. If it was Canberra's mammal emblem more studies would go into how it lives and more would be found out about it. They are found almost everywhere because they are not even near extinct and are quick breeders. Grey kangaroos are the only large wild mammal that can be found on the outskirts of the city. With the culling issue, since you shouldn't cull the mammal emblem. You could turn it into a good thing by still culling them, but you would be showing other Countries/Continents that you are great at keeping animals in smaller numbers, If you did that other countries would respect our government more.

Due to all these reasons, I truly and strongly believe that the grey kangaroo should become Canberra's mammal emblem and I hope that Canberra takes pride in whatever its mammal emblem is no matter what others say. It may not have the most or second most votes but that does not deny how wonderful this amazing creature is.

Sincerely,  
Claudia Hall.

Dear Mr Barr

It is very exciting to get a mammal emblem however I think that the brush-tailed rock wallaby should be the mammal emblem. The population and the features, make the rock wallaby worth choosing. Don't you think the rock wallaby should be Canberra's national emblem?

To start with, forty brush tailed rock wallabies are left in the wild and Canberra's Nature Park is supporting them to survive. I believe that strongly relates to Canberra. Brush-tailed rock wallabies have predators such as feral goats, sheep and rabbits that keeps their population very low. They are becoming endangered and making them Canberra's emblem will be supporting them.

Everyone knows that a kangaroo is shown on a Australian dollar coin and is a marsupial(suckled in a pouch). Whereas Canberra is the capital of Australia and has a choice of another marsupial (the rock wallaby) to be Canberra's national emblem. Which I think makes the rock wallaby worth choosing.

The rock wallaby lives in rocky edges, caves and dark passageways where they have the sun and hide when they feel they are being threatened. I myself can not believe they are so close to being extinction. Australia can help prevent extinction and suport brush tailed rock wallabies and make them a national emblem.

Those are the reasons why I think the rock wallaby should be Canberra's national emblem. Now do you think the rock wallaby should be chosen?

Kindest regards,

Estella Long

Aranda Primary School

Dear Andrew Barr,

It has come to my attention that Canberra will be getting a mammal emblem for such reasons as it has not been chosen yet, it is unique and it is a big in population. Though I personally believe that our mammal emblem should be the Echidna for many reasons.

Clearly we should have the echidna for our state emblem since the other states emblem include the platypus for N.S.W, the leadbeater's possum for Victoria, the Southern hairy nosed wombat in South Australia, the koala for Queensland, the Tasmanian devil for Tasmania, a numbat for Western Australia and the red kangaroo for Northern Australia. So we should not have the eastern grey kangaroo because that would be similar to Northern Australia. The eastern bettong would not work because it originally from Tasmania. To my understanding the Brush-tail rock wallaby is the same thing as a kangaroo but smaller.

Without doubt the echidna shall be selected since the echidna shares electrosensors with the platypus. Although the New south wales emblem is a platypus it is our nearest state. Therefore the echidna is unique like canberra was planned which is also unique. The echidna is cool like Canberra is AWESOME!!!

My final reason is that the echidna is a big tourist attraction and has a thriving population in the .A.C.T. Since they have such a big population for an animal Canberra has a big population for a small city. If we have the echidna for our emblem we wouldn't have to change our emblem because as I said before the echidna has an awesome amount in popularity. Which would be easier to not go through this hole situation once more.

I hope that you Andrew Barr, agree that the echidna should be our emblem for it's very much uniqueness, and popularity. I will be eager to find out about your decision.

Yours Sincerely,  
Abby McCrae  
Aranda Primary School

# *Canberra's mammal emblem*

Dear Mr Barr

I, Ellie Twycross am certain that the Echidna should be our mammal emblem. I really hope you agree with me, and here are my reasons, I hope you understand.

For starters, to start off my argument, the Echidna is a tourist attraction and it will surely scream "come to Canberra you can see our famous, Echidna!" People will have a beautiful time looking at it and also studying it's amazing features and life cycle.

Everyone must agree that the city of Canberra is unique and so is the echidna.what two things could be better for each other? The Echidna is also very attractive and as I mentioned before, unique! Same goes for our big, bushy capital.

The echidna in a local poll has been voted second, here are some choices. Paula Barnett, Echidna.Caroline Reid , Definitely the Echidna. Also my response (if i voted) would be the echidna. This poll was from riotact.

I really hope that you agree with me, because another reason it would be a good choice is, that echidnas live in the A.C.T. and why wouldn't you choose it?They are lovable and cute. Thank you for taking care and reading this letter.

Ellie  
Year 4

Dear Mr Barr,

I find it very interesting that Canberra is getting a mammal emblem, and I strongly think that a Echidna would be the perfect animal for the job. They are monotremes and they are protective and their diet won't harm anything.

For starters, Echidnas, along with platypuses are the only monotremes left in Australia. The Echidna has spines like a porcupine, a beak like a bird, a pouch like a kangaroo, and lays eggs like a reptile. Did you know, the Echidnas spines are actually modified hairs? Echidnas have unusual brains. The echidna has a very large brain for its body size. Part of this might be due to their enlarged neocortex, which makes up half of the echidna's brain.

Secondly, Echidnas may be shy, but they have some powerful ways of fighting off predators. When they feel like they are endangered, they roll into a spiky ball, or run away quickly. The Echidnas main predators are goannas, dingoes, foxes, feral cats, dogs, eagles, and tasmanian devils. Like the platypus, the echidna has an electroreceptive system. While the platypus has 40,000 electroreceptors on its bill, echidnas have only 400 to 2,000 electroreceptors on its snout.

Lastly, At the end of the echidna's slender snout, they have tiny mouths and toothless jaws. They use their long sticky tongues to feed on ants, termites, worms and insect larvae. Since they have no teeth, echidnas break their food down with hard pads located on the roof of the mouth and back of the tongue. Therefore, As you can see, all these facts make up a very unique animal, the Echidna, just as Canberra is a unique city. That is why it is the perfect animal for the job.

Yours sincerely,  
Toby Gosling-Dunlop,  
Aranda primary school

*Dear Mr Barr,*

*I believe that the echidna is the most worthy opponent to be Canberra's animal emblem, for it has drawn attraction to Canberra for quite a few years now, and the echidna is a well known mammal in Canberra and Australia.*

*The Echidna would represent Canberra very well because it is a animal that is small compared to other mammals just like Canberra is when you put it up against other cities like Sydney and Melbourne. I think it is good that Canberra is not too big, just like the echidna. This is why I think Canberra's animal emblem should be the echidna.*

*It may not come from Canberra but at least the Echidna is a Australian mammal that has a thriving population in the ACT. This is why I believe Canberra's animal emblem should be the Echidna, I also understand that the echidna lives a long life just like Canberra will live a long life as our capital territory. As you said, the Echidna is a "worthy" opponent to be our animal emblem.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Alia Livermore*

*Year 3 Aranda primary*

*Dear Mr Barr,*

It is so weird that ACT doesn't have an emblem. I strongly believe that ACT needs an animal as an emblem. I think the animal should be a echidna because, they are unusual, they look after the earth and they are small just like Canberra.

To start with, echidnas are very unusual animals, they are the only mammals that lay eggs. Echidnas live in Australia, they are very rare and I think that they are quite cute. They are a tourist attraction and are a thriving population across A.C.T.

Secondly, echidnas are not enemies to the earth, they are helpers. These cute animals dig up the ground (mix up the soil). It really helps the earth.

To end with, echidnas are a small mammal, just like Canberra compared to Sydney. They don't do any harm to Australia's wonderful nature. Echidnas just live there life normally. As I said, they really help the living nature around us.

That is why I think echidnas should be the emblem of Canberra.

Kind regards  
Ariadna Iskhakova  
Year 3 Aranda Primary School

*Dear Mr Barr,*

*It has come to my attention that, Canberra doesn't have a mammal emblem, which is why I am writing to you. None of the other animals represent Canberra as well as the Eastern Bettong does, which is why I would strongly recommend the Eastern Bettong as being Canberra's emblem.*

*Firstly, the Eastern Bettong is an endangered species, and I think it would show people an animal that people probably have not seen. People need to see rare animals, and I think the Eastern Bettong is the best to show them. That is what brings me onto my next reason.*

*Next, people will come to see the Eastern Bettong, (the emblem for Canberra) and to get enough Bettongs for every person who want to touch one, we will need to breed more, so the Eastern Bettong will make a recovery. Foxes, are why not many people have seen Eastern Bettongs.*

*The Eastern Bettong is also small, and when you think about Canberra, it is also small, so I think it really represents Canberra very well.*

*Finally, eastern bettongs are like mini gardeners, and they dig holes and if a seed happens to fall in, they will cover the hole up.*

*Because the Eastern Bettong is endangered, and they are mini gardeners, I think the Eastern Bettong just has to be Canberra's emblem!*

*Yours Sincerely*

*Evan Banks,*

*Year 3, Aranda primary, 2018*

Dear Mr Barr

It is strange to think that Canberra has been capital of Australia for so long without a mammal emblem. It must be fixed very soon! I strongly believe that the Bush-tailed rock-wallaby is perfect because it is rare and pleasant animal

The wallaby is like A.C.T. because sometimes it is more brave than others. It lives in caves where it can bask in the sun and hide if feeling threatened. I believe this is like A.C.T. and will represent it.

Hailey Kenna  
Year 3  
Aranda primary

*Dear Mr Barr,*

*I have realised canberra doesn't have an mammal emblem. I think the eastern betong is a good animal because...*

*The eastern betong is an endangered animal and I think if it is well known the population might increase a whole lot. That's why the eastern betong should be the Canberra emblem.*

*Secondly now that foxe's have been introduced to Canberra the numbers have gone down ever since. I strongly believe we shouldn't have a rock wallaby and the echidna. The rock wallaby is to close related to the Northern Territory emblem the red kangaroo.*

*Regards*

*Harrison Adnams*

*Year 3*

Dear Mr Barr,

It has come to my attention that we don't have a mammal emblem in Canberra. I personally think that the eastern bettong is a great mammal to have because it lives nearby, it is threatened and it is like Australia.

The eastern bettong lives in the bush land and Canberra is a bushland. Also the eastern bettong is close to extinction so if it's our mammal then we can help stop them from being endangered and make higher numbers.

In Addition, The eastern bettong is threatened from people that go hunting, also the wildlife is killing the eastern bettong and making them hide

Finally, the eastern bettong is small like Australia but strong on the inside.

In summary the eastern bettong is endangered, threatened and lives in a bush land that provides resources.

Kind Regards

Isabella Scalora

Year 3

Aranda primary school

Dear Mr Barr,

I strongly believe that Canberra needs a mammal emblem. I think this because we need a mammal to represent Canberra.

Personally I think that our emblem should be an echidna but some people think it should be a different animal. Echidnas are only found in Australia. Echidnas are *very* cute. They lay eggs and feed their young on milk.

Secondly, They have a thriving population in Canberra and are a well known mammal. They are beautiful animals and are not a threatened species but get attacked by foxes, cats and wild dogs and may become an *endangered species*. I am aware that New South Wales has already taken the platypus so there is no reason why Canberra shouldn't have the Echidna.

There are only two monotremes in Australia and the echidna is one of them. The echidna is a magical creature and deserves to be the A.C.T.s mammal emblem.

*Kind regards*

Jasmine Keaton

Dear Mr Barr

*I think the grey kangaroo should be the Act mammal emblem because Canberra does not have one. The ACT is currently the only state or territory without a fitting emblem. And I think the kangaroo is a tourist attraction.*

*Firstly because Kangaroos only live Australia and are great hoppers. They are rare to find and are the closest relatives to wallabies and wallaroos and is on the symbol of Australia. The kangaroo is both important to Australian culture and national image.*

*Next, because they are the largest hopping animal and can actually swim, climb like a lemur, and their legs are very powerful, they are the largest marsupial. They can jump 3 times their height*

*Lastly kangaroos are becoming endangered. Current populations stand around 25 million and around 5 million are killed each year.*

*Jayden You  
Year 3*

Dear Mr Barr,

It has come to my attention that we don't have a mammal emblem, So I think that the grey kangaroo would be a great to represent ACT.

Firstly kangaroo's are all over Canberra and I think that the grey kangaroo would Do the job. And they do breed a lot so we will be able to have more kangaroos in Canberra.

Also grey kangaroos can be found living on the open grassland, open woodland and forests, and canberra has all near us or has a lot of them that they could use.

Grey kangaroos only have a 12 year life span in the wild but when they are taken in they have a 20 year life span so if we take the grey kangaroo they will live for longer.

That is why I think that grey kangaroo could do the job of being our mammal emblem.

Sincerely  
Jenna Heland  
Year 3

Dear Mr Barr

I believe that the eastern bettong should be Canberra's animal emblem.

Firstly the eastern bettong are endangered species and if we cared for it then it will become more common because we can protect them. This will make more popular and live longer. I also think that it would be helpful to farmers because Eastern bettongs eat bugs.

Another reason is that eastern bettongs are small and so they are prey to many birds, so if we care for them more they will be more safe. If they could be Canberra's animal emblem we could make shelters for them. They are also on the foxes menu and if we protect them we could help it survive.

Finally Canberra's small and so is the eastern bettong they make a perfect team.

This is why I believe that an eastern bettong should be our animal emblem.

Kind regards

Kanaka Mago

Year 3 Aranda primary.

Dear Mr Barr,

I am writing to you because there is not an animal emblem in canberra. It is disgraceful that canberra doesn't have have one , canberra is a very important city and it doesn't have an animal emblem .

I think that the echidna is the best choice because it draws attention to Canberra with its spikes and other animal fetchers It is tough like Canberra and makes its own design just like us.

Another reason is that we do not have to worry about the echidna becoming endangered because there are alot of them left in the wild and they will not run out. For example if you pick an endangered species then they might run out and then what would we do?

When scientists discovered the echidna shocked to find that the echidna was a mixed animal and I'm surprised that no other state or territory has picked the animal yet. But I guess you already know that since your mother is a teacher.

So that's why I think that the echidna is the best choice for the animal emblem, I think you will agree.

From Lily Wagner

Dear mr Barr,

I am writing to you because we need a mammal emblem. I think that mammal should be the Eastern gray Kangaroo.

The starting reason is that the Eastern gray kangaroo is similar to the gray kangaroo in Canberra and people have a lot of interest in kangaroos. It is found in southern and eastern Australia. It is also known as the great gray kangaroo and the foster kangaroo.

My second reason is that the animal has very soft and thick fur so it will be very cozy to sleep with. It is also related to the Macropus, the red kangaroo and the Western gray kangaroo. The males are about 5 feet tall and the female are about 4 feet tall.

My last reason is that a lot of people love to come and see all the different types of animals and they try to find places to go to see new animals so I think they would like it if you put it somewhere special and next to the Canberra zoo would be a nice place because that is where people come to see animals not to sit down and have a cup of coffee.

Kind Regards

Matilda Harlow

Year 3 Aranda student

Dear Mr Barr

**I am writing to you because there is not an animal emblem in canberra but other cities do have one like Sydney and Brisbane. Though I think the echidna would be the best in my opinion so i will inform you that the echidna is more than worthy.**

**Firstly the echidna is a tourist attraction but i think a lot of australians know it too. Also if the echidna gets chosen as the animal for the animal emblem they could get more populated in canberra.**

**Echidnas are monotremes so they produce eggs and if they got selected they could be put in zoos and they could hatch puggles so echidnas would not be extinct for at least maybe 70 years.**

**We should have the echidna because the real reason is that it is a monotreme and NSW already has the platypus.**

**Kind regards**

**Rafe Lulic**

*Dear Mr Barr*

*I have heard that canberra needs an animal emblem , and I think it should definitely be the brush tailed rock wallaby.*

*Firstly the rock wallaby is endangered. That means that it would raise awareness of the endangered animals and help them survive. Also it means that tourists can come and see the rock wallaby because you don't see them that often.*

*Another reason for the rock wallaby to be the mammal emblem is that it is very easy to look after. So we wouldn't be wasting money on looking after it. It only eats fruit, grass and shrubs and lives on rocky areas, it also just wanders around.*

*My last reason is that although the brush tailed rock wallaby didn't essentially come from Canberra it would still fit it perfectly. Being not like any other animal in the Australian emblem like the eastern grey kangaroo being basically the same animal as the red kangaroo.*

*The brush tailed rock wallaby should definitely be the mammal emblem for Canberra because it's endangered it's easy to look after and it's not the same as the other mammal emblems.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Rubin Leach*

*Aranda primary school*