



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

## Submission Cover Sheet

### Inquiry into drone delivery systems in the ACT

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Gungahlin Community Council

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The Secretary

Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism  
Inquiry into Drone Delivery Systems in the ACT  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

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## Submission on the Inquiry into the Drone Delivery System in the ACT

The Gungahlin Community Council (GCC) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism (the Committee) on Drone Delivery Systems in the ACT.

As the Committee will be aware, the Gungahlin area is where the Project Wing drone delivery system will be deployed on an ongoing basis for the first time from a base located in Mitchell<sup>1</sup>. The involvement of the Gungahlin community in a proactive and responsive manner must be a critical element of the ACT Government's response to this inquiry. Further, the ACT Government must also work with the relevant Federal agencies to ensure a consistent, transparent and robust regulatory framework is developed with enough flexibility that it can address the specific issues identified in the trials conducted to date<sup>2</sup>, as well as any further issues, or any opportunities, that arise as part of the ongoing operations.

The GCC, and the Gungahlin community, have extremely limited direct experience and/or understanding of the nature of the drone delivery systems. However, in addition to reviewing the extensive media coverage, the GCC has facilitated briefings at their public meetings from both Project Wing and Bonython Against Drones, as well as undertaking site visits to the Project Wing Bonython trial site, to build a level of understanding of the relevant issues. It is clear from these engagements that this new technology-facilitated capability has emerged without the regulatory controls necessary to ensure that the beneficiaries and consumers of the service, and the concerns of the rest of the community are balanced. Nevertheless, early feedback from the Gungahlin community has indicated that a majority of residents view drone delivery systems positively.

Regarding the terms of reference:

### **(a) the decision to base the trials of the technology in the ACT and surrounding region;**

The GCC encourages the development of any employment or business opportunity within the Gungahlin region that brings value to the Gungahlin community; but this value must be balanced against the impact to the broader community. As noted below, the mechanisms provided by the ACT and Federal governments have made it very difficult for the community to engage with the process of determining this balance.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://wing.com/intl/en\\_au/australia/mitchell/](https://wing.com/intl/en_au/australia/mitchell/) - "We're going to open our first ongoing delivery facility in Mitchell in the coming months, and we plan to service the neighborhoods of Franklin, Harrison, Gungahlin, Crace and Palmerston."

<sup>2</sup> <https://bonythonagainstdrones.com/issues/>

The GCC would be keen for the inquiry, and the ACT government, to engage with the drone delivery system industry, rather than specific vendors, and for those engagements to be undertaken in an open and transparent manner.

**(b) the economic impact of drone delivery technology being tested in the ACT**

The GCC would also ask the inquiry to consider the impact, both positive and negative, of drone delivery systems on existing businesses and employment, particularly in the area of operations, ie. Mitchell-Gungahlin.

**c) the extent of regulatory oversight of drone technology at various levels of government**

Given the extremely early state of drone delivery systems, it is hardly surprising that the regulatory oversight of this industry is (at best) embryonic. All the trials conducted to date have been based on exemptions or variations to existing regulations from some agencies, and there is clearly no “joined up” consistent, transparent and agreed approach between the multiple Commonwealth and state (ACT) agencies that have responsibility for the various aspects of how these services are controlled/managed. With the transition to “ongoing” services, this is now urgent and minimally the ACT government should establish a single point of contact to take on this task, and most importantly, for the community to engage with. It is not acceptable for the operators of drone delivery systems to be the only point of contact for community concerns or issues (as was the case during the trials).

**(d) the extent of any environmental impact as a result of trialling drone delivery technology on:**

Addressing the environmental impact particularly regarding noise, wildlife, and pets appears to be the major issue arising from the drone delivery system trials. Much greater effort needs to be made by the ACT government to establish a process to bring the (many) government agencies and community stakeholders together to develop a cohesive strategy to enable the community to have their input.

**(e) ways to improve the use of drone delivery technology within the ACT;**

See responses to c) and d) above

**(f) any other relevant matter; and**

None.

**(g) information privacy;**

The GCC has no comment on this topic.

Yours Sincerely



Peter Elford, President, GCC