



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING  
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair)  
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

## Submission Cover Sheet

### Inquiry into West Belconnen supercell thunderstorm

**Submission Number: 011**

**Date Authorised for Publication: 27 April 2022**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LA Committee - HCW](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Public inquiry into the West Belconnen Supercell Thunderstorm  
**Date:** Thursday, 21 April 2022 1:00:20 PM

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Beth Rogers [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Tue, 19 Apr 2022 at 12:55  
**Subject:** Public inquiry into the West Belconnen Supercell Thunderstorm  
**To:** <[LACommitteeHCW@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:LACommitteeHCW@parliament.act.gov.au)>

Dear Committee Secretary

Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment on the events of January 3 2022.

My family lives in [REDACTED] Street. I was out with my mother at the time of the storm ,only one street away, but it took us about 30 minutes to get back to the house, while we sheltered in someone's driveway, waiting for the hail to stop, and we also had to navigate around fallen trees ,which were across just about every street. It was the most terrifying driving experience I've ever had.

Fortunately we did not have any damage to our house, and the trees which did come down in our street fell across the road, rather than on houses, probably due to the wind direction.

However we were then without power for four days, of course with no warning, so we couldn't prepare ahead. I suppose no one could predict the ferocity of the storm, which I think lasted about 15 minutes. I have lived in cyclone areas, but knew to have a cyclone kit. Now I have one here.

We had no power for 4 days, lucky we were in summer, had no heat wave and daylight savings was on , so as a household of adults we toughed it out. My partner had cold showers, my mother and I had washes and used deodorant! We ate the frig out as fast as we could, but being all electric, it had to be cold cuts.

Our biggest complaint was that there was no communication. I did look at Twitter before my phone and other devices went flat, and all EvoEnergy said was to the effect of "you won't have power for 3 days or maybe up to 7 days. Teams are working to repair the damage." That was it and I'm sure that was on day 2 or 3. Nothing else, so we were irate , not empathetic . We had no idea of the extent of the damage, since we were pretty much house bound, due to fallen trees. Pretty hard to cope with if you were on your own, or had children. I just felt that since we live in a built up area, with local government and utilities ,that we have given them the responsibility to maintain that, since we pay for it. If I was a farmer, or lived out in the bush, I would be more self-sufficient and would expect to be , but in suburbia, you expect the authorities to be able to manage events. If it is likely that they can't, well we know to look after ourselves more. I have since arranged more camping style equipment, eg gas barbeque, solar lights and re- chargers, etc. Just let us know and we will go into camping mode.

We didn't decamp to relatives as we had no damage, and as far as we knew, we may have had power on that night, so waited in vain. I suppose it is something we have to get used to now, that government authorities will be outgunned and we must provide for ourselves. Note the flood areas and previously, the fire areas. Not sure what I think of that idea.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

regards

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**Beth Rogers**



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**Beth Rogers**