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**Sent:** Friday, 21 November 2014 9:37 PM  
**To:** Committees; GALLAGHER  
**Cc:** Kefford, Andrew  
**Subject:** flexible, individual needs of a Mr Fluffy victim

The Secretary, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Legislative Assembly for the ACT,

Dear Chief Minister Katy Gallagher,

It is with great distress that we write you this letter. We are no-one special, just an ordinary couple who purchased a house back in 2007, new to the capital having moved from the country to start earning some decent money and start a family. Over the years we have had 3 children in this house, which we made into our home, our castle, our for ever after home. We had big plans for this place, 1050 square meter block, the good old Australian ¼ acre with plenty of room to move and grow. Can you imagine our shock when we received your letter in July, 7 years after purchasing this house, all the time not knowing what lies above and beneath, until that fateful day when we opened that letter!

You know after many sleepless nights, my wife constantly crying, we see our Australian dream slip away, after all our hard work to pay our mortgage and care for our home, all destroyed from the contents of that letter. Over time, we are trying to come to terms with this disaster. After a lot of discussion we have realised it's time to just leave it all behind and move on. We looked at knocking down and rebuilding, but we can't afford it, it's a lot of money to put a modest home on this block, so we have been looking and nothing suited our needs. We have a landscaping business, done the hard yards, it's just starting to work so we need the space to store equipment, but nothing. So we started to look a little further, not Sydney, not the coast, but 20 kms down the Barton highway, Murrumbateman. You know what, we think we found the house for us, sheds, room to move, a modest house. We made the decision to get our life back on track, put this behind us and move on... We could be out early January all going well.

However, we need a huge mortgage, we need to borrow money from family, it's a real stretch. We didn't ask for this to happen, but it has and hey life's like that sometimes... having tried to keep up with all the information filtering down from the task force, we have only just realised you will not be covering stamp duty outside the ACT. Quite frankly we think this is not flexible and not meeting the needs of us as individuals. We have been flexible, so it's your turn! I'm amazed that you are making people stay in the capital under this proposed offer. Now I understand that the stamp duty is just a figure on paper and that no actual money changes hands from the sale of our old house and the purchase of a new house, but why can't there still be an exemption for a purchase in NSW up to the value of our house, surely there should be some compassionate grounds, moral ideals that should come into play here. We are tax payers, rate payers, law abiding citizens trying to move on with our lives, we are not asking for the unthinkable, merely an exemption on our next purchase. Its Murrumbateman, Canberra considers it Canberra.

We appreciate that you have our health in mind in making the decisions that have been made and we are aware that you are trying to make the process as painless as possible. Unfortunately it is not working out that way for us, this has been such a stressful, uncertain time. As I said we had planned on growing old with our home, quite regularly we talked about the renovations we were going to carry out on our well-built reliable home. We talked about how lucky we were to only have one neighbour and how we could grow our business because we had a big enough block to do so. Unfortunately this will not be the case and we are trying our best to accept this and to look forward and move on. We think it is completely unfair that you can cut off our right to the stamp duty waiver. We don't want to move and never intended on it, we are doing so because WE HAVE TO!!!!

How many families are even contemplating moving interstate. It would have to be less than 1% surely. 10 families at the most! All I've heard is "we are trying to be flexible and everyone's situation is different", "there are 1049

different situations" ours is only 1 of those and I think you need to be flexible and consider individual needs, because you both have said it, again "we are trying to be flexible and everyone's situation is different".

Please help us and make this just that little bit easier for us, we are already extending ourselves because WE HAVE TO, not because we want to. We are a young family trying to get ahead, but this will set us back. We beg you to please look at our individual circumstances and help us cover this cost. We haven't used any of the previous assistance money, we were happy with the one assessment, so far our cost to you has been minimal. We don't want to be a part of this mess, we are trying to move on, but if we don't receive the stamp duty waiver we can't. Can one of you please speak to us with an open mind regarding this matter, it is extremely important to us.

We hope by informing you of our individual needs you will realise how this decision impacts our outcome to move on, it needs to be addressed. We await your response with interest and hope that as a leader in this community you will proceed with flexibility and moral action.

Sincerely yours,

Symons