

**From:** Susan Fowler  
**To:** [LA Committee - PA](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to the Public Accounts Committee. Unfair ACT Rates and Land Taxes  
**Date:** Thursday, 22 March 2018 4:38:48 PM

---

To the Public Accounts Committee. [My submission](#).

Several years ago I invested all my meagre superannuation into a small ACT unit. This was, and is, my sole source of income.

I do not live in Canberra, so I was unaware that the Barr Labor government was changing the assessment rules for Rates and Land Tax, and so I was unable to get out of the ACT unit market like lots of others who knew the destructive results of these changes. Consequently, my Rates and Land Tax went from about \$300 every 3 months over \$900 every 3 months.

I now have a useless ACT investment and have to borrow to pay these unfair increase. My investment is destroyed and I have to sell. I cannot pay such huge increases. Real estate agents tell me that the changes the Barr government has made has ruined the Canberra unit market and I will have to take a huge loss. My unit is worth \$20,000 less than it was before the new Barr government Tax calculation started to take effort.

Mr Barr's office tells me that to changes were made to make people like me pay my fair share for ACT services and, that the increases are only \$400 per year. This is a lie. Prior to the Barr government new assessment method I was paying between \$600 and \$1200 more per year for ACT services than 95% of all people who live in the ACT and who use ACT services. That was bad enough in its unfair nature. But, now under the new Barr government methodology I am paying between \$2100 and \$3700 more per year for ACT services than 95% of all people who live in the ACT and use ACT services. And, I do not even live in the ACT or use its services. How is this possibly fair.

In NSW my \$300,000 unit would attract no Land Tax at all. Yet, the new Labor/Greens assessment formula falsely inflates my unit's value to \$700,000 to cheat me into paying massive amounts of Land Tax. Why would anybody buy a unit in Canberra???

My savings and income have been retrospectively destroyed and both the offices of Mr Barr and Mr Rattenbury have refused to address any of my concerns.

I shouldn't be paying any Land Tax, especially when Labor/Greens have destroyed all Capital gain and profit on ACT units. Surely, this is illegal if not just massively unfair.

I have written to my Federal member for a Royal Commission , but hope that the PAC will be able to fix the Labor/Greens appalling and unjust action.

Susan Fowler

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]