



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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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ACT Legislative Assembly

Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Submission to the Inquiry into Drone Delivery Systems in the ACT

I wish to make comments on the following matters to be considered under the terms of reference for the standing committee

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

- (ii) number of jobs that have been created as part of the trial

When considering the jobs that may be created, it is important that the committee consider the number of jobs that will be lost e.g. delivery drivers and couriers. These are entry level jobs requiring no qualification except a driver's licence. These jobs are fast disappearing from our community and every effort should be made to preserve them to ensure people of all abilities are able to have the dignity of paid employment.

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

- (ii) native wildlife;

I am particularly concerned about the impact of the drones both visually and aurally on the wildlife with which Canberra is particularly blessed. Our garden is fortunate to be visited by the following birds—wattlebirds, magpie larks, magpies, crimson rosellas, eastern rosellas, gang gangs, sulphur crested cockatoos, bower birds, butcher birds, noisy miners, blackbirds. In the wider neighbourhood galahs, red-rumped parrots, masked lapwings are resident. It would be an absolute tragedy if this abundant birdlife is frightened away by drone activity. I request that Parks ACT, the Conservation Council and other qualified bodies be participate in the environmental studies.

- (iii) domestic animals;

As a dog owner, I am also very concerned about the distress that drones will cause to dogs. Our dog is distressed by hot air balloons, which fortunately are only present for a short and manageable time during the air.

Not only am I concerned about our dog, but also neighbours dogs. Will be subject to constant hysterical barking.

It is vital the RSPCA be consulted on effects on domestic animals.

(f) any other relevant matter

Social Impact

Drone deliveries will encourage social isolation, foster lack of exercise and this will impact of mental and physical health. Humans are social animals and need interaction with other humans to lead a fulfilled life. Governments at various levels are attempting to promote people to get active and involved in their communities and drone deliveries will encourage people to stay holed up in their homes. I was particularly appalled that coffee deliveries are being promoted as a great idea. People need to get out and even walk to their local café for a coffee

Health

The effect of noise on people with medical conditions sensitive to noise e.g. migraines need to be considered seriously on the basis of medical expertise.

Curfews

Deliveries would need to be subject to a curfew including no deliveries on Sundays.

Your sincerely

Jillian Farrer

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