



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into drone delivery systems in the ACT

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The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Inquiry into drone delivery systems in the ACT

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To the Committee for the Inquiry into drone delivery systems in the ACT

I strongly support drone deliveries in ACT suburbs. I have about 180 members that agree with me on a Facebook group Bonython For Drones.

I have no interest or investments in drones and have never owned or flown one, I am only interested in saving my friends and family money.

I have personally been to a friend's Bonython residence during the trial to experience my own food delivery,

and have regularly been in the suburb and seen the deliveries in action.

I will address the concerns from opposing residents and throw in my opinions.

Choice of location for the Trial:

A trial in Bonython - an affluent area in a supportive, progressive government environment was a good idea.

I would support any trial with mere qualitative evidence of benefits - because it's a trial, not a rollout.

Wing Delivery ticked the boxes for community consultation – handing pamphlets and invitations to consultations.

Unfortunately, Wing Delivery pamphlets were deemed as advertising material so 'no junk' post boxes weren't included for invitations.

If this is not sufficient community consultation then start a separate Inquiry into Community Consultation Systems in the ACT.

Noise:

I witnessed a drone deliver only 4 doors away and for a few seconds only I heard a faint buzz (from standing outside). A dog barking from 4 doors down makes much more noise.

I don't think the drones are disturbing after maybe 40m - most of that distance can be kept in height.

I can understand that a drone regularly delivering next door, or flying over a roof could annoy some residents.

I would suggest the drones avoid a flight path over homes at the owner's request. ie opt-out, for noise reasons only.

I previously lived next to a busy train track for a while and adjusted quickly – and joined the thousands of neighbours who don't even notice the 6 seconds of loud noise every half hour.

People accustom to anything very easily.

Privacy:

As far as I'm aware the cameras are for landing and dropping packages only.

A drone has no more vantage than the combination of satellite imagery and walking along a footpath past the front door –

If people are seriously irrationally concerned about privacy, a regulatory measure could be to engineer the cameras to be turned upwards during the flight.

If technological advances silence the drones I see no reason why they shouldn't be allowed to fly over any suburban homes.

Safety and legality:

The safety exemption for a licenced business to manage and control drone deliveries is no different than special licencing for handling fireworks, asbestos, uranium, heavy vehicles, powerlines, even workplace desk assessments.

I trust a private company to handle the safety and a regulatory body to watch them, it's business as usual.

If the theoretical perfect drone delivery system actually does conflict with the Civil Aviation Act or any other pseudo-legally pseudo-expertly cited legislation by drone delivery opponents, I trust that this committee will move to seek legislative amendments.

The government should continue cracking down on members of the public operating drones illegally. This is a separate issue - we don't ban all cars because some people drive unregistered cars.

Unnecessary:

There seems to be a generational attack on how young people should be spending their money, like Smashed Avo 2.0.

I personally have 3 housemates that each order Uber Eats at least twice a week, costing at least \$5 per delivery plus Bundled meals which are sneaky marketing and consumer manipulation to make you pay more for delivery without realising.

A drone delivery would not have to undergo these tactics because it is inherently cheap enough to deliver for a small fee.

This is the major reason I got on board with drone deliveries and want them to succeed – I want my friends and family to save money - without getting in their ears about cooking and investing, and annoying them.

Last year research from Finder found that Aussies spent a growing \$2.6bn pa on food and drink delivery (about \$1,590 per Australian per year)

(<https://www.finder.com.au/australians-spend-1590-each-year-on-delivered-food>)

Not to mention small pharmaceutical and hardware deliveries. I went to Bunnings 3 times in the past week to get the right small parts that I needed.

I would have paid more than double to order the correct part online once and have it delivered.

Economic benefit to ACT:

The trial apparently brought no private investment to the ACT – this is because it was a one off trial rather than a rollout – I am proud the ACT government support innovation.

Environment:

Once the deliveries start from an industrial area in Mitchell this anger about disturbing birds will be redundant regardless.

It would probably be best to fly from industrial areas rather than near national parks.

In saying that, I don't think any sensitive species are peacefully living on the edges of suburbs alongside humans, cars, cats and dogs - they have long since migrated elsewhere.

I would be surprised if bird disturbance isn't a myth and I would be happy to see proper research if drones are going to be based near bird nests.

As for the packaging – food delivery is already has a lot of packaging there is no difference.

Most of it is recyclable and coincidentally deliveries occur in your own home where you have recycling bins, rather than at the takeaway shops which mostly have waste bins.

The reduction in my ill-purchases at hardware stores alone would negate Australia's entire landfill.

An emissions reduction nation-wide would be far more beneficial for the environment.

Jobs:

I support the efficiencies made in replacing a car with a drone and ACT residents can use those savings to spend and employ elsewhere.

I will add that the efficiencies of Dark Kitchens on cheaper leases away from high foot-traffic areas like typical restaurants can be a huge cost reduction for the ACT consumer.

Detriment to the community:

Saving money and reducing emissions is a positive for the community.

The opponents of Bonython drone deliveries make no effort to become informed and or work with Wing Delivery and establish compromises such as re-routing, therefore it is my understanding the concerns are coming from a change-phobic, technophobic resistance.