



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 Petterson MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into drone delivery systems in the ACT

Submission Number: 149

Date Authorised for Publication: 13 March 2019

VIA E-MAIL:

Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY INTO DRONE DELIVERY SYSTEMS IN THE ACT

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The Committee Secretary

Dear Sir,

I am pleased to have this opportunity to make a submission to the above Inquiry.

I have seen (and heard!) video footage of the Project Wing drones delivering to a house in Bonython and the noise is absolutely horrendous. I am told it has been measured at 80db at a fence boundary. I am aware that the EPA limit for residential noise is 45db.

How can this be allowed? It doesn't make sense. Something is terribly wrong about the whole Project Wing drone operation.

My sister and her family have had to endure drones low-flying over their home since September 2018, sometimes 40 times in one day!

This is a plainly absurd and unacceptable situation. The noise of the drones is high-pitched like an F1 racing car. I know their lives have been significantly disrupted by it and they are angry and outraged - and rightly so - as am I - for the fact that they have been subjected to such a violation of their basic human rights.

They are also outraged, and so am I, that the drones have cameras onboard, constantly recording everything below them.. There are no privacy laws to protect the Bonython residents whose privacy has been rudely violated by the drone operations.. No one knows what happens to the film footage taken of them. This is unacceptable and should be illegal.

I am also aware that the ACT Government did not consult people before the trial, there is no formal avenue for complaint, the noise and privacy issues are unregulated and that CASA has made an Exemption to Project Wing so that they can operate within 5m height and 2 metres lateral distance

from a person, without their permission, instead of the usual distance of 30 metres that applies to all other drone operators in Australia.

This exposes Bonython residents to all the risks identified by the ACT Government and CASA and now public in FOI documents. These drones can be blown on to people, moving cars and infrastructure such as power lines (potential for catastrophe including bushfires) in unforeseen circumstances, which are always a possibility.

The ACT Government is clearly putting money before people, especially their safety, health and wellbeing. I am aware that there are serious gaps in regulations, controls, compliance enforcement and feedback mechanisms in the conduct and management of this trial by the ACT Government.

The ACT Government has blithely ignored all the complaints and serious issues that arose from the Bonython drone trial. It hasn't even conducted an evaluation of the trial for the public to see. A recent article in The Canberra Times reported that the ACT Government supports the expansion of Project Wing's drone operations in the ACT despite the fact that the majority of all those who have experienced the drones (including those in Royalla) strongly objected to them and don't want them anywhere near them, their children and their pets ever again!

The ACT Government has not endeared itself to its Bonython constituents for its lack of due diligence, governance and reasonable care and concern for them in the instigation and conduct of the Project Wing Bonython drone trial.

Thank you.

MARK E. BROWNE

20/2/19