



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair)
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into West Belconnen
supercell thunderstorm

Submission Number: 012

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committee - HCW](#)
Subject: Belconnen storm
Date: Thursday, 31 March 2022 4:17:17 PM

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Good afternoon,
I was forwarded this email address from the office of Elizabeth Kikkert in response to an email I had sent her expressing my concern for the electrical and telephone wires in my area [REDACTED] still being above ground. This was the message I sent to her and other representatives:

I am writing to you to address a significant concern I have about the above ground power and phone lines. As I type this there is the sound of buzz saws still ringing outside to address fallen trees within our [REDACTED] community.

During the recent (about 2 weeks ago) hail storm the number of fallen trees that took out various power and telephone lines, seems to me, to necessitate the discussion about placing the lines underground as is found in the newer suburbs. I live in [REDACTED] and this issue with the number of mature trees in the neighborhoods necessarily means that old and shallow root trees will continue to fall taking out not just the power lines but homes as well. It seems to be the nature of eucalypts and pines to have shallow roots and when big rains and winds come, they are prone to falling. People in my suburb [REDACTED] were without power for 2 and 3 days after the most recent storm.

Can this issue be addressed within the ACT assembly as soon as possible?

I have shared this email address with others in my community so that they may offer their experiences. Mine was not as bad as many others but we took food stuffs into our freezer to help out a couple of families who stayed without power for over a week.

I frequently walk around Mt. Rogers and took some pictures of how close the trees are to the many power lines that encircle the top. Besides just waiting for the next tree to take out a chunk of the power lines, they are unsightly. I realize it is an expensive endeavour to put the power lines underground but it won't get any less expensive as the years go by. Do we think that in 2060 we will still want to see power lines stretched all over this city? Burying them should be a priority and should start right away, one neighborhood at a time.

Thank you,
Katherine Powers

[REDACTED]

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Katherine Powers

"In the beginning, God..." Genesis 1:1