



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

---

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES  
Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Chair), Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Ms Nicole Lawder MLA,  
Miss Candice Burch MLA

## Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into a Proposal for a Mammal Emblem for the ACT

**Submission Number: 19**

**Date Authorised for Publication: 28/3/2018**



Scouts Australia  
ACT Branch  
89 Kitchener Street  
GARRAN ACT 2605

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Website: [www.scoutsact.com.au](http://www.scoutsact.com.au)

ABN 95 108 207 854

Be Prepared...  
for new adventure!

Attention: The Committee Secretary, Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services, Legislative Assembly for the ACT via [LACcommitteesETCS@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:LACcommitteesETCS@parliament.act.gov.au)

## ACT Mammal Emblem – Scouts ACT submission

Thank you for inviting community comment and submissions in relation to your deliberations as to future possible Mammal Emblems for the Australian Capital Territory. I am making this submission on behalf of the Scout Association of Australia (ACT Branch) following a consultation with Scouting youth and adult members.

### *Scouting background*

Scouting provides boys and girls aged 5 to 25 with fun and challenging opportunities to grow through adventure. With around 70,000 members, Scouts Australia is one of the largest youth development organisations in Australia, with Scouts ACT having nearly 2,500 youth members. What makes Scouting unique is our diverse range of activities that develop skills in young people such as leadership, teamwork, problem solving and communication.

Today's Scouts can take part in an extraordinary variety of outdoor activities, from 'traditional Scouting skills' such as camping and bushcraft, through to more challenging activities such as abseiling, overnight hiking, rafting, canoeing, canyoning, snow activities, rock climbing, sailing and flying!

The Scouts Australia Program also incorporates contemporary issues such as youth health, 'responsible risk-taking' and vocational skills. Youth members have the opportunity to progress through an Award Scheme that encourages participation in the full range of activities available and provides recognition of individual achievement.

### *Scouting symbolism*

Commencing in 1907, Scouting has had strong symbolic links to nature. The Cub Section for 8-11 year olds had its foundation closely associated with Rudyard Kipling's 'Jungle Book', where Cub Leaders took the names of characters from the story. This is a story that has largely remained relevant of time, with deeply ingrained messages about looking after nature, peace, leadership and teamwork and living within a society.

Similar to the unofficial Cub Leaders naming conventions, Leaders in other sections generally took a "Scouting name" of a native animal that either suits their persona or that which was bestowed upon them by the youth members of their unit. Names such as Kookaburra, Echidna, Bilby, Wombat and Dingo are not uncommon, with only one such named Leader at any of the ACT's 40-odd Scout Groups to allow for ease of identification – such as Wombat from Crowajingalong Scout Group and Kookaburra from Majura Scout Group.

This goes to show the close association that Scouting continues to have with the environment, with a large proportion of Scouting activities being undertaken outdoors. As such, discussions and actions to look after the environment and minimise our impact during Scouting adventures and in life outside of Scouting is a core component of learnings for both youth and adult members.



### ***Towards a new Scouting program for youth***

To remain relevant to the youth of today and to ensure that Scouting provides opportunities that are adventurous, fun, challenging and inclusive into the future, Scouts across Australia are currently in the process of introducing a new youth program. Environmental aspects are integrated throughout the core components of this new program that focus on Scouting skills and Outdoor Activities, with the inclusion of Environment in the Special Interest Activities. As a Special Interest Activity, Scouting youth members will be able to undertake a wide range of projects and activities relating to their own interest in the environment – largely only to be limited by their imagination, resources and timing, so they can pursue the interest as part of their personal development.

### ***Survey Scout ACT members – ACT Mammal Emblem options***

The ACT Branch Commissioner for Environment and Sustainability, Mr James Lehane, facilitated a survey of youth and adult members of Scout ACT during February 2018 to seek an indication as their preference of a future Mammal Emblem for the ACT. Using the key species listed in the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services documentation, responding members included a number of other species such as the Pygmy Possum and Dingo. Whilst there was a lot of support for many different species, the strongest preference by Scouts ACT members for the listing of the *Echidna* as the ACT Mammal Emblem.

Comments made by responding members noted other community groups pushing for “*iconic*” species such as the Eastern Bettong with the suggestion that research monies would more likely be allocated towards higher-risk threatened species. The allocation of monies towards species conservation should be a separate community discussion from this one regarding a more symbolic emblem. Scouting members fully support the conservation efforts and importance of these species in the local ecosystem but feel that the Echidna better represents the ACT due to its resilience, ability to survive in a tough environment and by its popularity across the community, as seen through the Scout demographic of enquiring minds.

### ***Recommendation***

Scouts ACT recommends that the *Echidna* is considered as the future ACT Mammal Emblem.

Yours in Scouting,

Rick Goode  
Chief Commissioner  
Scouts ACT

11 March 2018