



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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Your local voice



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The Secretary,
Standing Committee on Economic Development
and Tourism
Inquiry into Drone Delivery Systems in the ACT
ACT Legislative Assembly
CANBERRA ACT 2601

19 February 2019

LACommitteeEDT@parliament.act.gov.au

**Submission on the Inquiry into the
Drone Delivery System in the ACT**

The Weston Creek Community Council [WCCC] welcomes the opportunity to comment on the inquiry into the Drone delivery system in the ACT. Council has no position on drones given their divisive nature in the community.

Council would like to emphasise the following points.

The Technology:

There is no doubt that drones are part of the new technologies bursting onto the community. It is another technological advance in society. The technology divides communities as we have seen in the first trial in Bonython and also in social use.

Some people have embraced drones and the technology while others are of the view that they should all be banned.

The Law:

There is no doubt that the Civil Aviation Safety Authority [CASA] is playing catch-up with legislation and now Registration of all drones. Council would see a need for minimum flying heights to be included by CASA and if this is not done, then the ACT Government needs to legislate for this matter.

Their Use:

Drones are already being widely used in the community, particularly so for photography. Books have been produced using photographs taken almost exclusively from drones while Real Estate Agents are using them increasingly in taking photographs to use in their advertisements. This is but one commercial

use. Others include Surf Life Saving and we have just seen Icon Water utilising them in their catchment area and no doubt more will unfold over time.

Some thoughts on the Management of Drones in Commercial Activities such as Delivery Systems:

Council would suggest that the following points should be taken into account to manage any trial of drone delivery services.

Base – the base for any drone base needs to be in a Commercial or Industrial area such as the one now being prepared in Mitchell. This will take the base away from residential areas.

Designated Routes – to modify the impact on the community there needs to be designated routes for drones just as there are for trucks and other deliveries in the ACT. Indeed, this is the way that aircraft fly on designated routes and set heights. Council would see a network of green corridors and pathways and roads as being the way that drones find their way to their destination, rather than taking the bird's eye direct route. **Council does not agree that they should be allowed to fly continuously over residential areas.**

Hours of Operation - Just as delivery vehicles have restrictions on road travel, there needs to be consideration given to limiting drones in the times of their delivery. Could it be 5 or 6am to 10 or 11 pm to reduce the noise pollution in residential areas late at night and early in the morning. Just as we see with buses and trucks on our suburban roads.

Minimum Heights – There needs to be a minimum height that these drones travel at for delivery. Council would think around 200 feet would be a reasonable height limit.

Council remains available to discuss this Submission at any time

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