



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into a Proposal for a Mammal Emblem for the ACT

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What do you think is the best Mammal Emblem for the ACT?

Students from Preschool to Year 2 at Franklin Early Childhood School voted on the mammal that they would like to see as ACT's emblem. Of the 239 students who voted, the Eastern Bettong received 114 votes, followed by the Brush-tailed wallaby with 66 and the Echidna with 59 votes.

Using the criteria provided, the students went through the process of categorising Australian animals into mammals and non-mammals. We then identified the mammals that are already used as emblems by other states and territories in Australia. After narrowing our selection further by eliminating mammals not native to the ACT, were pests or not easily identified or recognised and not photogenic we were then left with the Brush-tailed wallaby, Echidna and the Eastern Bettong.

Some of the students justifications for selecting the Eastern Bettong included;

'There are only a few of them left'

'They are endangered' by Annabel

'They break down the leaf litter on the forest floor which reduces the fire risk' by Saba and Janav

'They are cute and small like a rabbit but aren't pests' by Connor

'They reduce the risk of bush fires because they break down leaf litter so there's less fuel for fires to burn' by Connie

'It is a quiet creature who doesn't bother anyone' by Amir

'It is cute and cuddly and looks good in photos' by Dominic

'We need to bring more Bettongs back to their home which is Canberra' by Zahar

'If people knew more about them and they become our emblem then they will be looked after better and won't become extinct' by Kate

Therefore, the Eastern Bettong would be an excellent mammal to represent the ACT. The students at FECS would like to see this very photogenic, adorable and threatened animal become our treasured territory emblem. As it's an endangered animal, by raising people's awareness of the Bettong, we are more likely to see more of its kind reintroduced to the ACT, breeding programs established and it being better protected.