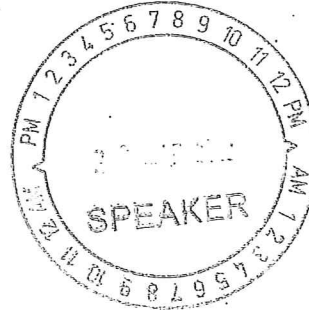


Ms Joy Burch MLA  
Speaker  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2601



5.17pm

22 March 2018

Dear Ms Burch,

As discussed with you on the 21 March 2018 it has been drawn to my attention that a letter has been circulated to several citizens of the ACT titled "Inquiry into the methodology for determining rates and land tax for apartments". The letter is authored and signed by Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA and Miss Candice Burch MLA. I have attached a copy for your reference. As it is not authorised, I can only assume that the signatories to the letters are its author.

As a member of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), I am highly concerned that the letter is misleading in relation to the committee's current inquiry, "Inquiry into the methodology for determining rates and land tax for strata residences." The letter states that submissions to the PAC inquiry be made via the "haveyoursay" website. This website is operated by the Liberal Party of Australia ACT Division, with the responsible contact person listed as Mr Alistair Coe MLA. I have attached a copy of the Whois Domain Registry report for your reference. I have also attached a print out of the relevant page of the "haveyoursay" website.

It was alarming to see that the letter called for submissions to be made to a political party website, instead of through the proper Committee channels. Any citizen, who would be easily misled into making a submission via the "haveyoursay" website would not only have that information captured by the Liberal Party, rather than by the committee, but they will also not receive the protections submissions to Parliamentary Committees receive under privilege.

In interfering in the processes of a Parliamentary Committee, I believe a conspiracy between Mr Coe, Ms Lee, Miss C Burch, and possibly others, has taken place to control the process, and possibly the outcome, of the Public Accounts Committee.

Particularly:

- There is no oversight that all submissions made via the “haveyoursay” website will be passed on to the committee.
- Submissions made via the “haveyoursay” website will not be covered by privilege. Authors of submissions being sent to the “haveyoursay” website are not being correctly cautioned as to the nature of privilege.
- The letter and the “haveyoursay” website combine to create a false impression that they are representative of the Assembly, rather than of individual Members.
- Whilst the “haveyoursay” website states all submissions made will be sent to the committee, there is timeframe provided, and no way of confirming if this statement is true.
- As political parties are not subject to the Privacy ACT 1988 (section 6c), there is no law governing how any information collected in the name of the Assembly, but by the website, will be used.

In summary, I believe the formulation and distribution of the letter, along with the design of the website amounts to an improper interference with the free exercise by the PAC of its functions, and as such, is in contempt of the Assembly.

In Unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bec Cody', with a large, stylized initial 'B'.

Bec Cody MLA

Elizabeth  
**LEE** MLA



Candice  
**BURCH** MLA

### **Inquiry into the methodology for determining rates and land tax for apartments**

In 2017-18, this ACT Labor/Greens government unfairly changed the methodology used to determine rates and land tax for apartments. As a result, apartment rates have increased by up to \$1000 a year, and land taxes have increased by as much as \$1500.

This increase in rates and taxes is also putting upward pressure on rents. Apartment rents in Canberra are already second-highest in the country, only behind Sydney. The average cost of renting a house in Canberra was \$540 per week in December last year, up from \$500 a year earlier.

This ACT Labor/Greens government took this action without a mandate, without consultation, and without recognition given to the fact that apartment dwellers use less local services (such as garbage collection, roads, footpaths and nature strips) because many of these services are provided by building management and body corporates.

This ACT Labor/Greens government did this without analysing the negative impact higher rates and taxes would have on young Canberrans trying to save to buy their first home; on older Canberrans on fixed incomes who have recently downsized; and on young Canberra families who are finding the increasing costs of living a burden. These changes have an unfair and disproportionate impact on young people, the elderly, and lower income tenants.

The Public Accounts Committee of your ACT Legislative Assembly is calling for submissions on its Public Inquiry into these changes.

If you are an owner or a tenant or just plain think this is unfair, we encourage you to make a submission to the Inquiry at: <https://www.haveyoursay.net.au/strata/>. Submissions do not have to be long, and can simply outline how higher rates and taxes have negatively impacted you and your family. Submissions close on **Friday 23 March 2018**.

Have your say to call out this ACT Labor/Greens' unfair policy.

**Elizabeth Lee MLA**  
Member for Kurrajong  
[team@elizabethlee.com.au](mailto:team@elizabethlee.com.au)

**Candice Burch MLA**  
Member for Kurrajong  
[candice@candiceburch.com.au](mailto:candice@candiceburch.com.au)

## Whois Domain

[Click here to perform another Whois query.](#)

Whois response for haveyoursay.net.au:

Domain Name	haveyoursay.net.au
Last Modified	16-Mar-2017 17:49:43 UTC
Status	ok
Registrar Name	<a href="#">NetRegistry</a>
Registrant	LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA ACT DIVISION
Registrant ID	ABN 65727304134
Eligibility Type	Incorporated Association
Registrant Contact ID	COAL1682
Registrant Contact Name	Alistair Coe
Registrant Contact Email	alistair@alistaircoe.com.au
Tech Contact ID	C0573762-AR
Tech Contact Name	Dominic Main
Tech Contact Email	dmain@netregistry.com.au
Name Server	<a href="#">ns1.dreamhost.com</a>
Name Server	<a href="#">ns2.dreamhost.com</a>
Name Server	<a href="#">ns3.dreamhost.com</a>
DNSSEC	unsigned

If you are using this service to check or change the contact details of your domain name you must contact your Registrar in order to do so. This can be done by simply clicking on the Registrar's link located next to 'Registrar Name'.


To address user concerns about privacy and spam, and in line with international best practice, .au Domain Administration (auDA) has implemented Image Verification Check (IVC) for all email addresses on the web-based Whois service. The purpose of IVC is to prevent or hinder unauthorised access by automated data mining programs or scripts. For consistency, auDA has removed all email addresses from Port 43 Whois responses; users of Port 43 Whois will be referred to the web-based Whois service to access email addresses via IVC.

# HAVE YOUR SAY

AN INITIATIVE OF THE CANBERRA LIBERALS

## UNIT & APARTMENT RATES

Have your say > Consultations Front > Unit & Apartment Rates

 Posted on 7 March 2018

Please pass on your thoughts about rates for units and apartments in Canberra.

The ACT Legislative Assembly is conducting an inquiry into recent changes by the ACT Government into how rates are calculated. On 15 February, two petition relating to the methodology for determining rates and land tax for strata residences were referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Over 5,000 people expressed concern that the changes were unfair and costly, and petitioned the government to return to the previous methodology.

The ACT Legislative Assembly Public Accounts Committee is conducting an inquiry into this change. More information about the *Inquiry into the methodology for determining rates and land tax for strata residences* can be found on the [ACT Legislative Assembly's website](#).

### Terms of Reference

At its meeting on Thursday, 15 February 2018, Mr Coe (Leader of the Opposition) presented two out-of-order petitions relating to the methodology for determining rates and land tax for strata residences, the terms of which are attached. The Assembly passed the following resolution:

“That the papers be referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for inquiry and report by the last sitting day in May 2018.”

Members of the public and all interested parties are invited to make submissions on the impact of this change to the Committee at [LACommitteePA@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:LACommitteePA@parliament.act.gov.au) by Friday 23 March 2018.

Alternatively, if you complete the form below, your message will automatically be sent to the Committee. Please note that submissions made using the form below will be sent to the Public Accounts Committee and may be published.

Name \*

Email Address \*

Phone Number \*

Address \*

Suburb

State/Territory

Postcode

Do you own a strata residence? \*

- Yes
- No

Do you live in a strata residence? \*

- Yes
- No

Should the changes to the methodology for determining rates and land tax for strata residences be reversed? \*

- Yes, they should be reversed
- No, keep the changes

How has this change affected you?

Do you have any other comments on this issue?

Submit

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Authorised by Alistair Coe MLA for the Canberra Liberals

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