



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Mr Michael Petterson MLA

## Submission Cover Sheet

**Inquiry into drone delivery systems in the ACT**

**Submission Number: 098**

**Date Authorised for Publication: 27 February 2019**

## **Re: ACT Drone Delivery Systems Enquiry**

Drone technology has proved to be an effective tool for Emergency Services and authorised aerial surveys, however I strongly believe that Drone Delivery trials in the ACT should cease immediately and the ACT government should ban drones from being used for delivery services. I also believe that recreational drone use should be banned within say, 3km (or whatever distance is required so that they cannot be heard) of homes in the ACT.

My views are based on: the many letters published by the Canberra Times from Bonython residents negatively affected by the drone trial in their suburb; the 60-Minutes television segment interviewing Bonython residents and capturing film and sound footage of a nearby drone delivery; and my own experience of recreational drones. I have experienced recreational drone use at my local oval and was disgusted by the lack of consideration for other users of the oval and nearby residents subjected to the horrendous noise. Another experience was outside the ACT at a beach near Forster where people parked their car in the nearby car park and proceeded to fly a drone over the beach area – they were not from Emergency Services and showed no consideration for those enjoying a quiet visit to the beach nor the privacy of those on the beach. The noise was horrendous and very intrusive.

With regard to the terms of reference for the Enquiry:

- (1) (a) I cannot comprehend why the ACT government would permit a drone delivery trial in the ACT in the first place and following feedback from Bonython residents I cannot comprehend why the government would permit a further trial in Mitchell for drone delivery to Gungahlin suburbs. All Canberra residents live within a short distance from either a local shopping centre, group centre or town centre. The needs of those that require coffee at home can easily be satisfied by the purchase of a coffee machine thus neighbours do not have to suffer drone noise and no delivery cup is required. Similarly for loaves of bread etc. a resident can walk/cycle/drive to their nearest shopping centre. The often quoted emergency need for medication delivery in the suburbs is a furphy. Most GPs are located close to pharmacies and prescriptions can be filled at the time of consultation. Non-prescription medicines are not usually time critical. Again we have several extended hours pharmacies across Canberra – again walk/cycle/drive or use a taxi or Uber for genuinely urgent needs.
- (b) I believe the number of new job opportunities created by drone delivery service would be negligible. In any event new job opportunities could never offset the negative impact on residential amenity.
- (c) It is apparent there has been little forethought as to agencies responsible for drones in the ACT. Safety appears to be a critical issue – there have been reports of

'dead' drones littered around Canberra and a recent report of a drone being shot down. Banning drone delivery would be near perfect solution. However I believe every drone flown in the ACT should be registered and the own required to be insured for personal injury or other damage caused by a drone.

(d) The residents have spoken loud and clear – drone delivery services in residential areas cause loss of quiet enjoyment of one's home.

It has been observed that birdlife has left areas were drones are used – this is the bush capital and residents value the diversity of birdlife in our suburbs.

Dogs are distressed by high-pitched noises. It has been reported that noise from barking dogs increased significantly during the Bonython trial. We have more than enough noise from barking dogs in the suburbs and do not want it to increase. We experience increased dog barking during the balloon festival which is only a few days a year – that is enough!

(e) Even if drones were silent there would still be safety concerns – again the best solution is to ban them in the suburbs.

(f) Many have raised the issue of loss of privacy if drones are permitted to fly over homes. If only Emergency Services and authorised survey drones are permitted to fly over the suburbs the loss of privacy would not be unreasonable as it is offset by a greater good to the community.

I urge the Committee to conclude that drone delivery systems do not provide sufficient benefit to the community to offset the negative impact on the quiet enjoyment of our homes, the negative impact on wildlife and the safety of ACT residents.

**Christine Gingell**

