



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Chair), Miss Candice Burch MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into a Territory Coat of Arms

Submission Number: 059

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From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Submission to the Inquiry into Territory Coat of Arms
Date: Sunday, 21 April 2019 12:43:33 PM

Dear Committee Chair

My name is Aaron McDonnell, I am a former resident of Canberra and I write in relation to the ACT Legislative Assembly's inquiry into the Territory Coat of Arms. I can be contacted care of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

In response to the Committee's term of reference, specifically, whether there should be a Coat of Arms for the Australian Capital Territory (in addition to the Canberra City Coat of Arms), and what symbols might be included in the design of an ACT Coat of Arms.

My personal opinion is that the Canberra Coat of Arms serves as both the Coat of Arms for the City of Canberra and the Territory, as Canberra – or the ACT was established (created) as the seat of Government for the Commonwealth. The current Coat of Arms serves a dual purpose of representing both the city and the territory.

The black and white swans recognise and pay tribute to the contribution of both our indigenous and non-indigenous inhabitants. To me, the current Coat of Arms recognises the importance of equality for all, in service of the people and the greater good of the Territory.

The inclusion of the Crown, a mace, a castle and a gum tree all pay tribute to important connections Canberra has with our nation's political and natural history. Our connection with the Sovereign – the Head of State, Her Majesty the Queen, power and authority of the Parliament, the fact that Canberra is the seat of Government and the gum tree – harking to our natural foundations – and a quintessential Australian symbol and tree!

The motto – for the Queen, the Law and the people – indicates the significance of each of these to the history and future of the Territory. No one is above the law, we are a place of inclusion, a city or people of tolerance and understanding, with respect for each other, our history and traditions.

I don't see the need to replace or change the current coat of arms and feel that it adequately represents the needs and interests of Canberra as a city and the territory more broadly.

If I may add too, why there is even a need to once again revisit this matter? It was addressed in 2013 in the Centenary Year and it was decided and/or determined by the lack of engagement or interest that there was no desire to change then and I would argue that there is no mood or drive to change now. I question who or what is driving this agenda and what purpose they have to potentially, if I may suggest, to change or wipe out reference to our past.

I appreciate your acceptance of my submission and trust it will be useful to note in the Committee's work to inform and advise the Assembly.

Yours sincerely

Aaron McDonnell

Aaron McDonnell

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m: [REDACTED]

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