



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Chair), Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Ms Nicole Lawder MLA,
Miss Candice Burch MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into a Proposal for a Mammal Emblem for the ACT

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RE: Inquiry into a Proposal for a Mammal Emblem for the ACT

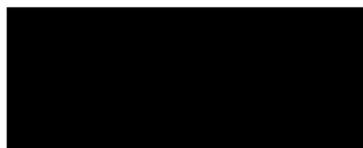
Dear Committee Members,

My name is Benjamin Jones and I am a historian at the Australian National University. I would like to make a formal submission to state my strong support for the Australian Capital Territory adopting an official mammal emblem. The Committee would be aware that the ACT is the only state or territory not to have a mammal emblem. Choosing a mammal emblem is an act of recognition. It signifies that we share this land with unique native animals and we have a duty to protect them and the natural environment they rely on.

While there are many potential emblems, my personal recommendation is the Southern Brush-tailed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*). The rock-wallaby currently has a conservation status of "vulnerable" by the federal government, however, Tidbinbilla National Park has an outstanding captive breeding program. As an emblem for the ACT, the rock-wallaby symbolises the beauty of the animal world but also the responsibility of government and citizens alike to protect native habitats and coexist with the natural environment.

Finally, the choice of the rock-wallaby, or indeed another mammal emblem would provide a compelling feature to appear on a new ACT coat of arms. The present coat of arms is an embarrassing anachronism that does not represent the principles held dear by Canberrans. It features, among other things, a crown denoting royal authority and a white rose in honour of the Duke of York, later King George VI. Canberrans voted strongly for a republic in 1999 and again raised the issue of changing the coat of arms at the centenary celebrations in 2013. A new coat of arms featuring the official mammal emblem would be a far better reflection of the democratic values of the ACT and its commitment to protect and preserve the natural environment of this bush capital.

I am your sincere well-wisher



Benjamin T. Jones