



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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

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From: [Martin Wilson](#)
To: [LA Committee - EDT](#)
Subject: Submission - Inquiry into drone delivery systems in the ACT
Date: Wednesday, 23 January 2019 5:23:08 PM

I wish to provide the following input into the above enquiry.

Name: Martin Wilson

Full Postal Address: [REDACTED]

Contact No.: [REDACTED]

Background:

I first became aware of these drones around about the 1st or second week in August 2018 when, one Thursday, a single, large drone began a series of passes directly over my home.

As I work from home the noise was the very first distracting and annoying issue that became my immediate concern.

As the number of drones and flights seemed to escalate very quickly so did the nature of the noise both by volume and scale.

I became concerned about taking my one year old Grandson outside should one of these drones crash and put him/my family at risk. I also became concerned about how this was being policed and what were the liability management policies around this 'type' of business. They have been flying quite low, in some instances I estimate no more than 100 metres above my home, and definitely out of 'line-of-sight'.

Over the next few days/weeks I came to understand the background to this 'annoying' trial.

In order of impact the following issues:

1. Noise - The drones are large and do actually sound like an F1 car a couple of blocks away. The sound is not like traffic or lawn mowers and has no regular pattern. The noise can be heard from inside my home and cannot be easily blocked. It increases with proximity and number of drones.

On a Bureaucratic note I understand that CASA has approved this trial but take no responsibility for noise related issues "As the safety regulator, the issue of aircraft (drone) noise is not in our remit. Wing has included some information on the noise drones make on their website."

The only reference I could find on the provided link to Wings website at the time was :
"How high do these planes fly? Can I see them or hear them?
Our delivery drones fly up to 400 feet above the ground. Our goal is to design a system that is as unobtrusive as possible during takeoff, flight and delivery."

- This is a blatant sales pitch that makes me feel that the "Noise Issue" is probably an issue no one in the approval process wants to or can address.

2. Lack of Governance and Communication - I, or neighbours I spoke to, were never approached about this trial. Not at all, in any way or format. Neither by the company running the 'Trial', the government or any other interested parties. They just started up one day.

I found that the ACT government (via Mick Gentleman) had initiated this trial without seeking input from residents or constituents. Remarkable representation. Any protocols, procedures, feedback mechanisms were not provided for.

I wrote to Mick Gentleman early October 2018, he never bothered to respond. Again, Remarkable representation.

I came to understand that the ACT Government had, in conjunction with CASA, provided exemptions to the company, Project Wing, to operate without government or independent management or monitoring of air safety or controlled space protocol over our suburb. Why were rules relaxed for this trial?

3. Impact on wild life and domestic animals - I have seen and have video of a magpie attacking a drone on a delivery run - on every delivery during mating season to the same address.

The poor animals instinct makes them easy fodder for these 12-14 prop drones. I have seen one injured magpie resulting from this. The native birdlife becomes scarcer when the drones are operational and some neighbourhood dogs take up the call to bark themselves hoarse. Further disruption to the neighbourhood. Pitting neighbour against neighbour.

4. Negligence - Are we covered by public liability? What our our privacy rights if any? (I understand the drones film all flights).

5. Trial Outcomes - What are they? Why the lack of transparency? Who is selling off our privacy and peacefulness and why? What are the perceived benefits of this particular service to people? What money is exchanging hands in regard to this business? Why is there a lack of recourse for people to express their opinions of this business?

This is not a way of endearing support for a government that so poorly initiated and thrust this on our suburb.

Martin Wilson