



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: 056

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committee - ETCS](#)
Subject: Submission to ACT Coat of Arms Inquiry
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The Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Dear Committee Members

I would like to make the following submission in support of adopting an appropriate Coat of Arms for the Australian Capital Territory.

As a proud Canberran, I have lived in Canberra since 1964. I am often dismayed at the (mostly ill informed) contempt that is hurled at Canberra and despair at the level of ignorance the general public of Australia has of Canberra its functions and importance to the continuation of a stable democracy.

In light of the revelation that the Coat of Arms I am familiar with belongs to the City of Canberra not the Territory, I believe this should be addressed. It is an oversight by previous administrations that should be corrected. A legacy perhaps of the days when we were subject to the benevolent oversight of the Dept of the Interior.

Further; when considering the Coat of Arms for the territory the symbolism should reflect the role of the ACT in housing a diverse population, a rich environment and steer away from Canberra's role as the seat of Federal Government. The City Coat of Arms should convey that role and the sooner it is revised to eliminate the archaic references to monarchy the better! (Another possibly parallel Inquiry required)

We have a number of natural features that could be included eg The Brindabella Mountains that provide a wonderful backdrop to the city and shield us from the worst of the winter winds and feature in most landscapes of the territory not to forget provide us with some of the best tasting drinking water in the country.

We have some beautiful animal species, which although not unique to the ACT, have strong a connection to our environment eg Gang Gang, Eastern Bettong, Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Southern Brush Tailed Wallaby. The Royal Bluebell should also be considered (after being renamed the Brindabella Bluebell !!!!) Some of these should feature in the Territory Coat of Arms....to convey the natural beauty of the ACT.

Whilst I have some reservations about recommending the adoption of an ancient symbol such as a Coat of Arms I believe it is an accepted part of the livery appropriate to a "grown up"city.

I would be happy to participate in any survey that would further explore possibilities for the design of the Arms.

This submission is made as a private individual, resident of the ACT.

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Thank you

Robert D Calvert