



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into drone delivery systems in the ACT

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Submission

Inquiry into drone delivery systems in the ACT

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Terms of Reference

- 1) the decision to base the trials of the technology in the ACT
- 2) the economic impact of drone delivery technology in the ACT
- 3) the extent of regulatory oversight of drone technology
- 4) the extent of any environmental impact
- 5) ways to improve the use of drone delivery technology within the ACT
- 6) any other relevant matter
- 7) information privacy

1) The Decision to Base the Trials in ACT and Surrounding Region

From newspaper reports it looks as though at least one-third of residents in Bonython were appalled by the noise and intrusiveness of the commercial drones. So many of them wrote angry letters to the paper and pushed for this Inquiry. Since they are the people who have actually experienced the drones, this response greatly concerns me as to the impact on the peaceful and tranquil environment of Canberra. Coming from noisy Sydney, this quality of Canberra is highly treasured and worth fighting for.

3) The Extent of Regulatory Oversight of Drone Technology at Various Levels of Government

I am greatly concerned that there seems to be virtually no regulatory oversight of commercial drones at the moment, especially ones carrying less than 2 kgs of weight. Clearly there are so many issues of danger to infrastructure and the public, noise pollution and privacy issues, that this is an area that definitely should be intelligently regulated before any commercial enterprise is given the go-ahead. Examples of where regulation should occur are level of noise allowed, height above homes allowed, corridors of travel, hours of operation, safety requirements, and so on.

4) The Extent of any Environmental Impact as a Result of Trialling Drone Delivery Technology

Hearing dogs in the neighbourhood go crazy when there is any unusual and high level of noise, I can just imagine how the noise of the drones will be added to by frantic and upset dog barking.

I can imagine birds being highly distressed by this intrusion on their airspace. The variety of birds and their numbers is definitely one of the key points of attraction of Canberra.

Andrew Barr said drones will only be like the sound of a lawnmower! This multiplied by the number of drones likely once this enterprise is allowed to operate in Canberra fills me with dread. Noise pollution is a serious form of stress, not regulated and policed enough in our society.

7) Information Privacy

Wing is a Google company and the main interest of Google is information gathering and selling. Commercial drones provide the perfect device for closer surveillance of properties than provided by satellites. This issue will be an explosive one in our digital future. Personal privacy is a key part of democracy and, for me, is something I guard and highly value. Drones endanger my privacy.