



ACT
Government

2018

Government Response to the Standing Committee on
Environment and Transport and City Services
Inquiry into a proposal for a Mammal Emblem for the ACT

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Chief Minister

Introduction

The ACT Government welcomes the report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services on its Inquiry into a proposal for a Mammal Emblem for the ACT.

The Report addressed the current emblems for the ACT, the floral emblem, *Wahlenbergia gloriosa* (Royal Bluebell), adopted in 1982, and the faunal emblem, *Callocephalon fimbriatum* (Gang-gang Cockatoo), which was adopted in 1997.

The Report also discussed other emblems for the ACT, including the Coat of Arms for the City of Canberra and the ACT Flag.

The Report considered whether the ACT should have a mammal emblem, including the suggested criteria for selecting a mammal emblem and the emblems that other states and territories have already adopted.

The Report also considered the opportunity the introduction of a mammal emblem offers to consider the design of a Coat of Arms for the ACT and the redesign of the ACT Flag.

The ACT Government is pleased the community had the opportunity to contribute to the Standing Committee's report, which demonstrates their interest in the emblems and symbols that represent our community.

The Committee made three recommendations in its Report.

Responses to the Standing Committee's Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Legislative Assembly adopt a mammal emblem for the Australian Capital Territory.

Agreed

The ACT Legislative Assembly will adopt a mammal emblem for the ACT.

RECOMMENDATION 2

The committee recommends that, given the extremely close result of the public survey, the ACT Legislative Assembly consider the possibility of granting mammal emblem status jointly to the Southern Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby and the Eastern Bettong.

Not agreed

The ACT Government notes the Committee's careful consideration for the need for two emblems, however it is recommended that two not be adopted.

While the outcome of the public survey was close, there was a winner. Survey participants will expect that only one winner will be adopted as the mammal emblem.

There is also no other jurisdiction in Australia with more than one mammal emblem, and given the geographic size of the ACT, there is no need to take into consideration different habitats and representations for our community. One mammal emblem is sufficient to represent our Territory.

A faunal emblem already exists for the ACT (the Gang-gang Cockatoo), meaning there will be two animal emblems for the ACT with the introduction of a mammal emblem.

It should be noted that the important conservation work underway for the Eastern Bettong will continue, and ways to promote both the Eastern Bettong and the new mammal emblem the Southern Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby will be explored.

If two mammal emblems are not considered an appropriate option, the Committee recommends the ACT Legislative Assembly consider adopting the Southern Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby as the mammal emblem for the ACT.

Agreed

The ACT Government will adopt the Southern Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby as the mammal emblem for the ACT.

RECOMMENDATION 3

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government notes the potential for the adoption of a mammal emblem to lead to the design of a Coat of Arms for the ACT, and the possible redesign of the ACT flag.

Agreed

The ACT Government notes the potential for the adoption of a mammal emblem to lead to the design of a Coat of Arms for the ACT, and the possible redesign of the ACT flag.

The introduction of the new mammal emblem presents the opportunity to look at the other symbols of our city and whether they meet the current expectations of our community.

All State and Territory Coats of Arms have been approved through a Royal Proclamation process facilitated by Buckingham Palace, with the last Coat of Arms granted in 1984 for South Australia. The ACT flag can be changed through the existing Legislative framework of the Assembly.

The ACT Government supports consideration of a Territory Coat of Arms and suggests the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services undertake further community consultation and consideration of this matter.