



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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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Submission: Inquiry into drone delivery systems in the ACT

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To members of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism,

I have a strong objection to the ongoing drone delivery trial in Bonython, ACT. My primary objections both relate to the term of reference (1) (d) "the extent of any environmental impact as a result of trialling drone delivery technology on" (i) "residents within the trial area".

Although I live in Watson, my girlfriend lives in Bonython and I've experienced firsthand these drones flying overhead on numerous occasions. I find them highly invasive in two regards:

- i) Privacy. These drones are constantly recording video footage as they fly over residents' backyards. I find this to be an outrageous invasion of privacy. I have two young nieces and on hot summer days they run naked under the sprinkler in their backyard. Their backyard has privacy from neighbours due to the dense shrubbery surrounding, however from directly above a drone would have full view of them. As per my understanding of privacy laws, it's illegal to photograph someone in their own backyard if they are naked (source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-16/what-law-says-about-taking-photos-of-people-in-public/9641488>). Why are delivery drones exempt from these privacy laws?

Regardless of legalities, there's no way I'd let young kids play naked in my backyard if I was in a suburb with footage-recording drones flying overhead. The day when siblings can no longer play unclad in their own backyard due to fears of being photographed by a predator monitoring the video feed from an overhead delivery drone would be a sad day indeed.

- ii) Noise pollution. I have never heard a more invasive sound in residential areas than these delivery drones flying overhead. The noise precludes all conversation and is indescribably piercing and stressful. To members of the committee reading this who haven't experienced it firsthand: I implore you to go to Bonython and hear for yourselves just how invasive the noise of these delivery drones flying directly overhead is.

In summary, I ask that this committee weigh up the benefit of quick fast-food delivery for the select few residents participating in this trial against the detriment of the invasion of privacy and noise pollution experienced by every resident in drone-delivery affected areas. Are suburban drone deliveries really for the greater good of the community?

Kind regards,

William Boettcher
01 February 2019