

Standing committee on planning and urban renewal



Inquiry into billboards

I support the 6 submissions already published on your website when I write this.

We have more than enough advertising in our lives without being forced to look at it as we move around our home. For reasons longer than would be appropriate for this submission, I would prefer no advertising other than objective information about products and services in a form that a person can choose whether or not to see or hear.

I had not given any thought to billboards since moving to Canberra in 1995. I accepted that it was one of the many advantages to living in a progressive and thoughtfully administered city. I hadn't particularly thought about advertising on buses and bus stops other than annoyance at its unwelcome intrusion into my life. I agree with submission 02 and its reasoning, that we should not have full wrap advertising on buses (or light rail). If we can do something about it now, a ban should extend to all advertising on buses and bus stops perhaps other than community service information).

Canberra was conceived as a model city, and we still hold on to some aspects of the vision, including leading the country and most of the world in our commitment to the use of renewable energy, and protection of bushland integrated within our city. We have demonstrated the aesthetic benefits of not having billboards. We need to maintain those benefits.

If I remember Ogden Nash correctly:

I think that I shall never see

a billboard lovely as a tree.

Indeed unless the billboards fall


I'll never see a tree at all.

Let's not do that to our home.

I am willing to appear at a public hearing.

Patrick Dodgson

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