



**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**

**Submission Number: 120**

**Date Authorised for Publication: 27 February 2019**

**Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism  
Submission**

**Inquiry into drone delivery systems in the ACT**

**Margaret Smythe**



**Terms of Reference**

- 1) the decision to base the trials of the technology in the ACT and surrounding region
- 2) the economic impact of drone delivery technology in the ACT
  - (I) investment that has been brought into the Territory
  - (II) number of jobs created as part of the trial
  - (III) extent of collaboration with local industry and academic institutions
- 3) the extent of regulatory oversight of drone technology at various levels of government including but not limited to:
  - (I) Local authorities such as EPA, Worksafe, Access Canberra
  - (II) Commonwealth agencies such as Air Services Australia and Civil Aviation Safety Authority
- 4) the extent of any environmental impact as a result of trialling drone delivery technology on:
  - (I) the residents within the trial area
  - (II) native wildlife
  - (III) domestic animals
  - (IV) greenhouse gas emissions
- 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**

I believe this is an unnecessary and unwarranted trial that should not be based in the ACT. There has been little or no discussion regarding what benefits if any there are to being the first to trial commercial drone delivery.

There may well be some benefits to the use of drones but my knowledge of this trial seems to be that it is for frivolous purposes (coffee delivery). My understanding is that the initial trial activity in the ACT was not well received, and its extension further afield in the region does not appear to have taken initial comment into account.

I consider that considerable trialling needs to be done in non-suburban areas before even contemplating the Canberra regions proposed.

I hesitate to sound like a NIMBY, but Canberrans enjoy one of the most liveable environments possible: we value a peaceful quiet environment and vibrant wildlife which may be jeopardised by this trial.

I am also concerned about the lack of objective and independent monitoring and evaluation of this trial.

### **2) The Economic Impact of Drone Delivery Technology being tested in the ACT including the investment brought in to the Territory, the number of jobs created as part of the trial, the extent of collaboration with local industry and academic institutions**

The number of jobs created is likely to be insignificant, and if the trial was successful in enabling a large scale delivery system there would be fewer employed in standard delivery activities.

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

I understand that this is an area that needs considerable work prior to any further trialling. I gather there are gaps regarding regulatory areas including environmental (including noise), occupational health and safety and privacy that leave the population exposed to a raft of negative effects. I also understand that air-space safety and regulatory agencies are still catching up and considerably more work needs to be done in these areas.

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

I understand that Bonython residents petitioned for a ban of drone technology on the grounds of intolerable disruption and noise.

Have any independent studies been done on the likely environmental impact in suburban Canberra, which is known for its abundant wildlife?

One can speculate that the noise and the sight of drones is likely to have a negative impact on wildlife and pets alike; what actual evidence is being referred to?

## **6) Any Other Relevant Matter**

I am concerned that the frivolous nature of the trial (coffee delivery) is a sad indictment on modern life. At a time when we are seeing major rises in obesity and sedentary lifestyles resulting in increased health issues; as well as evidence of mental health problems related to loneliness and lack of human contact; that our government puts effort into such a ridiculous and unneeded activity rather than encouraging far more healthy and useful lifestyle choices just beggars belief. Why not encourage neighbourliness and local business by exhorting people to walk or cycle to their local café for a coffee; or check in on their neighbours and offer to pick up medication or urgent supplies?

## **7) Information Privacy**

I am concerned that there are no (or inadequate) regulations to protect the privacy of the public against sale and sharing of information gained via drones and drone delivery data.