



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),
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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 object to the introduction of the use of drones for commercial delivery of products into Gunghalin on the following grounds.

1. Within Gunghalin we have many ways to deliver goods without using the Common Airspace that we all share.
2. Air Space is a precious resource that should be used for purposes that give a clear economic benefit to the community. The commercial delivery of goods for private profit is not one of them.
3. The use of Air Space for deliveries will hinder the use of drones for community purposes because it “pollutes” the common air space in a similar way to the use of disposable plastic bags pollutes the common environment.
4. Pollution will lead to law enforcement issues as is illustrated by the recent shooting down of the Evoenergy drone.

The shooting down of the Evoenergy drone illustrates what is likely to happen when a scarce community resource is used for a low-value commercial operation or for private amusement. It is inevitable that drones delivering goods in an urban setting will create low-level guerrilla activity against the drones from rock throwing to hacking the drone communications.

The community will have a further cost of policing a low-value commercial operation and in the meantime, high-value uses such as Evoenergy that save a large amount of money and reduces the use of helicopters in urban areas will become subject to the same harassment and restrictions and become unviable.

There are sensible uses for drones but commercial delivery of packages is not one of them.

In summary, have drone trials but restrict the trials to services that are low volume and have a clear community benefit. For example, ask “Wings” to work on better ways to deploy drones that will assist Evoenergy to inspect power lines. Or ask “Wings” to work on ways to inspect other community resources like footpaths and roads. Or ask “Wings” to work on ways to assist building inspectors to ensure the work that gets covered up has been done correctly.