



BONYTHON AGAINST DRONES Action Group

BULLETIN No: 8

email: stopbondrones@gmail.com

Facebook: **BONYTHON AGAINST DRONES**

GOAL To raise awareness of the negative impact of the drone delivery service on residents, pets and bird life in Bonython.
MISSION To stop the drones and their intrusiveness on the peace and quiet of our suburb and environment.

HAPPENINGS - Bonython Against Drones Action Group

Presentation with Gungahlin Community Groups

With the news of Project Wing moving north, the action group wrote to Gungahlin Community Council (GCC), Crace Residents Group and a number of other groups in the Gungahlin area. The Community Council responded to our offer to meet so we could tell 'the other side of the story', having had Project Wing at the GCC meeting last week to speak about their plans for the delivery service on the north side. Of the three resident group representatives from Gungahlin, Crace and Palmerston that we spoke to, all appeared astonished at the information that we provide them. It was said that they had a much clearer picture of what the delivery service could entail should it go ahead and the extent of the issues with lack of regulatory rulings and policing of the Project Wing service, aside from the noise and the safety and privacy issues.

Meeting with Mr Gentleman

In October, the action group wrote to Mr Gentleman's office requesting him to meet with Bonython residents to listen to their valid concerns and issues about the trial. Instead of this, Mr Gentleman agreed to meet with only three members of the committee for half an hour. That meeting was held on Monday this week. A number of questions were put to him about enforcement, oversight and management of the trial and to seek clarification of the future of the drone delivery service. It would be good to report some positive outcomes of the meeting, however we believe that Mr Gentleman and his advisors have to do some serious research into what he has approved before he can comment with any authority on any of the questions put to him. He could not offer comment on transparency of the trial, policing of Project Wing in their service, risks assessments undertaken prior to the trial commencing and lots more. He stated that there would be no final assessment of Project Wing and no one will sign off on the trial.

Could this be one of the reasons why the ACT Government did NOT submit any submissions to the Parliament of Australia Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport inquiry into *Regulatory requirements that impact on the safe use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, Unmanned Aerial Systems and associated systems 31 July 2018* - An inquiry into current and future regulatory requirements that impact on the safe commercial and recreational use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and associated systems?

Other happenings this week

- A letter was received from Airservices Australia stating that they are not in any way involved with the Project Wing trial.
- A letter of thanks was forwarded to the Gungahlin Community Council and others thanking them for the opportunity to provide a presentation to them about the drone delivery service.
- A Wall Street Journalist contacted the action group via the Facebook page with a request for a telephone interview. He is interested about the impact of the trial on residents.

FOIs

- The CASA FOI was received on Friday and we are all currently trawling through it with interest. As a result of one finding in the FOI, a letter was sent to Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Michael McCormick MP, with copies to CASA and Airservices Australia, seeking urgent clarification on allowable conditions of Project Wings trial.

- ACT Government FOI – due 13 Nov 2108. After writing to them last week reminding them that their due date had expired, a reply was received stating that the FOI will now not be available until 18 Dec as they now need to request release of information from a third party.

Membership

Current membership of the Facebook page **BONYTHON AGAINST DRONES** now stands at 234
There has been an increase in emails to the stopbondrones@gmail.com account to 68.

Petition: CEASE PROJECT WING DRONE TRIAL IN BONYTHON, ACT

The petition continues to be circulated around the suburb as well as in the wider communities of the ACT.

Robyn took the petition to a number of businesses in the Mitchell and Gungahlin area and was very welcomed. She was surprised by the number of people she spoke with who are already against the service going north side.

To date we have over 900 signatures and still counting. While this number is more than the required 500 signatures to have a petition submitted, the more signatures we have the more weight it will carry.

If you missed signing the petition, or you would like a petition sheet to collect signatures from family, friends, work colleagues, social groups etc, please contact the action group at stopbondrones@gmail.com.

RIOTACT POLL

Canberra's news and opinion site RIOTACT conducted an online poll on their site about the drone deliveries operating from Mitchell. Not surprising (at time of print) that only 20% said YES to "can't wait for them to deliver..." while 14% said "restrict them to commercial areas..." and a whopping 66% said " ... keep them out of my backyard".

We are not sure how long the survey will be open but check out the site <https://the-riotact.com/> and look for the green 'POLL' on the right hand side of the page and vote.

NEW Website

The Bonython Against Drones web site is continuing to be developed. We aim for this to be a public resource for all Canberra residents, extending the awareness of the huge impact it has had on our lives and creating an online resource, clearly and justly, to highlight the numerous evils that we have had to put up with.

The website is also to have a section where residents can express their lived experience and concerns about the drones. Your voices are incredibly important and powerful, and having testimonials written in your own language will better endorse the impact.

Please send your contributions to stopbondrones@gmail.com. It could be just a few sentences or a few paragraphs and we would only publish your first name underneath your words.

'NO' Drone operation

How good was it to have a whole weekend without the sound of drones whizzing around this last weekend, but the bad news is that Project Wing are changing their hours of operation to accommodate dinner service Tuesday - Thursday during daylight hours but no longer will be operating on Sundays, commencing 20 November. They will also not be operating over Christmas and New Year (20 December to 6 January).

Did you sign up for drone deliveries?

If you originally signed up at an event that Project Wing held to promote their services and realise now that it serves you no purpose, or you now realise the extent of problems the drones cause in the suburb, please write to Wing and asked to be removed for their active list. This will reduce the number of residents that they have recorded as 'customers'. Please let us know if you do 'opt out' and particularly if there are any problems.

Snippets

Feeling the pressure of drones – but wait there's more.

<https://www.news.com.au/technology/online/amazon-seeks-to-use-delivery-drones-as-marketing-snoops-checking-out-your-stuff/news-story/9676b286c16bb2d42c38e8dc504b22b6>

What you can do

- Spread the word about the **BONYTHON AGAINST DRONES** Action Group – tell your neighbours, family and friends. Project Wing intends to expand testing zones of the drone delivery service.
- Check out the Facebook page **BONYTHON AGAINST DRONES** and leave comments – ask your family and friends to do the same.
- Please contact Gai Brodtman and send her your feedback. She is very aware and concerned about the issues of the trial and asks that residents share their thoughts about it with her.
- Send us emails with your complaints, issues and let us know if you have any information that you might think we can employ.
- **Keep sending emails addressing your complaints and grievances to any or all on the attached list – ‘Who you can contact’ below.**

Who you can contact

If you have any more people or organisations to add to this list, please let us know so we can let others know.

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development	https://www.aph.gov.au/M_McCormack_MP
Have Your Say – Note: this is NOT a Gov't site	https://www.haveyoursay.net.au/drones
Noise complaints - EPA	environment.protection@act.gov.au
Wing drones	x.company/intl/en_au/wing/contact/ or wing-au@x-team Att: Jesse Suskin
Canberra Times	Letters to the editor, opinions etc letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au
Canberra Weekly	news@canberraweekly.com.au
City News	editor@citynews.com.au
Gai Brodtman MP Member for Canberra	https://www.gaibrodtmann.com.au/contact
ACT Legislative Assembly	Andrew Barr - barr@act.gov.au Mick Gentleman - gentleman@act.gov.au Joy Burch - burch@act.gov.au Andrew Wall - Andrew.Wall@parliament.act.gov.au Nicole Lawder (Opposition)- lawder@parliament.act.gov.au Caroline Le Couteur (Greens) - lecouteur@parliament.act.gov.au Shane Rattenbury (Greens) - rattenbury@act.gov.au or - www.contactmyminister.act.gov.au
Tuggeranong Community Council	www.tuggeranong.org.au/contact-us
Parks and Conservation	www.environment.act.gov.au/about/contact
ACCESS Canberra complaints	https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/ask
CASA	simon.denby@casa.gov.au

BONYTHON AGAINST DRONES Action Group contact

If you can help out in any way, have new ideas or information please contact us.

Email: stopbondrones@gmail.com

Facebook: BONYTHON AGAINST DRONES

NOTE: If you do not wish to receive these Bulletins please contact stopbondrones@gmail.com