

Peter Lugg

GUS THE POLITICAL CAT

All Canberra is his ward —
he struts the broad street,
pausing to chat and stretch
with street-wise constituents.
After platitudes on weather,
profounder issues are considered:
the falling quality of cat food,
the high premiums on nine lives.
Unemployment is no problem here:
there's been no work for ages.
A coal-faced miner, he squats on stoops
watching this strange world pass.
he doesn't dally long though — he roams new suburbs
charming mums, nuzzling kittens,
sitting on all the fences.
Gus is a typical politician:
fat and fitful,
high priest at the temple of self.