

21 November 2008

MLA (Individually addressed)
Legislative Assembly

Dear MLA,

Tuggeranong Power Station and Data Warehouses – Block 1610

We are concerned that there appears to be a suggestion by the proponents of the above development, that payment is required in the form of \$10 million compensation by the Territory for any move of this proposal to an alternate site other than Broadacre Block 1610.

This claim, stated on a number of occasions by Technical Real Estate, (TRE) Director, Andrew Campbell, appears based on his claim that this site was specifically picked by TRE for building a data centre. On this basis, he says, moving this proposal would cause undue monetary hardship to this development which should be recompensed by the Territory.

We are concerned that this concept is being promoted in the media without being refuted and may lead to some MLA's, and members of the community assuming there is validity to this claim.

We would like to remind our elected MLA's that this site was selected in response to the request made by Mr Stanhope to ActewAGL to provide Canberra with a second power source. ActewAGL sought the assistance of real estate and land developers CBR Ellis.

The site was selected by the Chief Minister in July 2007. It was accepted by ActewAGL in August 2007 as being suitable to build a power station. At the same time, several directors of CBR Ellis separated from the company and formed Technical Real Estate (TRE) which was incorporated in August 2007 - one month after the site had been selected. They then formed a partnership with ActewAGL offering to off-set some of the financial risk by co-locating a data warehouse complex with the power station.

In February 2008 it became apparent that it was not economically feasible to continue to pursue the power station on this site but on the recommendation of the then ACTEW Manager, Michael Costello, the project remained with the support of the government.

This site was not specifically identified for the purposes of data warehouses. It was not the "preferred" site of TRE, who took no part in the site selection process. Up until the economic feasibility study concluded the site was too small for the power station, the data warehouse component was a secondary consideration.

For the purposes of this development ActewAGL is the proponent not TRE.

We can see no reason why this project should not now be transferred from broadacre to land which has been through the proper zoning processes and been defined under the Territory Plan as Industrial zoned land.

No threat of compensation should be used to stall or prevent this move. No compensation is payable under these conditions and certainly not based on the baseless claims made recently by Andrew Campbell.

We look for this project to now be moved to an appropriate site and in doing so return some credibility to the planning process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Reid', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Bill Reid
President of CPR inc