

Submission to the Health Impact Steering Group

Presented by
Canberrans for Power Station Relocation Inc.

Dated 1 August 2008



Caption: Scale of the proposal and it's proximity to Tuggeranong Valley, using proponents data

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Caption: Scale of the proposal and it's proximity to Tuggeranong Valley, using proponents data

Introduction

This submission has been prepared in response to a request for Community participation in the government instigated Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee (HIA).

The HIA was instigated on 2 July 2008 by Minister for Health Ms Katy Gallagher in response to concerns raised by the Community regarding the proposed development of a power station and data centre on broadacre land Tuggeranong block 1671 (the proposal).

The HIA comprises of the steering committee and consultants:

Professor Anthony Capon
Professor Helen Keleher
Dr. Charles Guest
Anne Cahill-Lambert
Golders Associates

CPR comprises of too many Community members to name – from across Canberra. Although the members of CPR and other areas of the Community have invested considerable time and effort engaging with the HIA, they do so acknowledging:

- The HIA has no statutory power
- The government already has enough information in which to make the correct decision regarding this proposal
- The government's motives for forming this HIA are questionable

CPR does not however doubt the high integrity or professional qualifications of the members of the HIA, or their personal willingness and desire to do a thorough investigation. CPR doubts they have been asked by the government to answer questions broad enough to ensure a fair and practical report is produced – rather they have been asked narrow and specific questions around two suburbs in order to create the impression of a localised issue resulting in government-agenda friendly answers.

Regardless of the outcome CPR wishes it acknowledged that this submission, like the ones compiled in response to the Development Application (DA) and Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the proposal, has the benefit of input from a large membership and non-membership support base from a variety of professions, skills, and expertise. Each member has attempted within reason to verify and qualify their conclusions. We as a Community stand by our submissions and wish those submissions to be taken into account in their entirety during the formation of any conclusions or recommendations made by the HIA.

Executive summary

CPR stands by its two submissions filed with ACTPLA and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein.

CPR files this submission to the HIA in proof that it has again participated in and met every test set the Community by the government within this “process”.

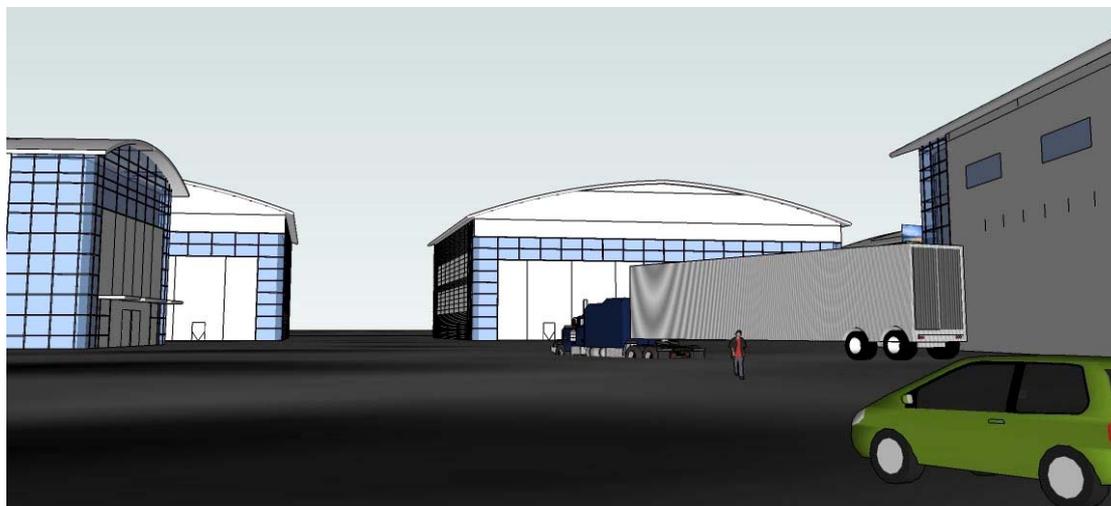
This submission attests to CPR’s engagement in the HIA consultation process, despite its acknowledgement of the lack of power vested in the HIA and the lack of faith in the government’s calling the HIA. Those concerns, notwithstanding CPR have again provided the government with high quality, independent research on a range of issues.

CPR believes the government should have demanded a higher level of investigation by the proponents before allowing the application to be submitted. CPR believes the government should have then provided its own independent experts to check and qualify the proponent’s data. CPR believes the Government does not have either the expertise or the will to qualify the proponents data and the government has already made it clear to the Community it has a commitment to push this proposal through.

CPR requests the HIA listen to the verbal evidence produced by CPR and acknowledge their valid and real concerns regarding this proposal. CPR requests the HIA reads this submission and other written evidence produced by CPR and the Community.

Regardless of the narrow scope given to the HIA by the Government CPR requests the HIA recommend the government rejects this proposal to build a power station within 900 metres of residential homes and within 400 metres of an established health facility. CPR requests that this HIA does not assist in the Governments plan to attempt to silence the Community during the election by calling for an environmental impact study. CPR reminds the HIA that the Government has felt it has had enough information throughout this process to confidently recommend this proposal to the Community and condemn the Community for objecting.

We ask the HIA recommend this proposal be rejected.



Caption: Scale of the proposal comparing people, cars and semi-trailers using proponents data

This submission

In 2004, Mr Stanhope as Chief Minister launched “Building our Community – The Canberra Social Plan”. In this and in subsequent reviews of this plan, the government sets out how it intends to develop Canberra, and invest public money to ensure the goals and priorities stated in this plan are met.

The aim of the plan is enshrined on the cover of the social plan document as a vision where:

“All people reach their potential, make a contribution and share the benefits of our Community”.

Throughout this submission *italics* have been used to denote a direct quote from the social plan, either as headings or as text. These quotes serve as indicators of a direct overarching framework under which sits the very real failure of this government, identified in the application to build a power station in Tuggeranong, to support, defend and act in the best interests of this Community and the equally real negative consequences of this failure suffered by the Community.

A copy of the social plan is attached to this document for the Committee’s ease of reference and in case members of the present Labor Government have misplaced their copy and accordingly cannot recall their stated commitment to the Community, consultation, environmental preservation, human rights, health and well being.

This social plan was given to the people of Canberra as *“a living document – one that will remain a reference point for a generation of policy –makers”* and so CPR uses it here as a reference and comparison of our concerns and the governments failures to address, recognise and hear those concerns within this private consortiums application to build a power station in Tuggeranong.

Scope of this submission

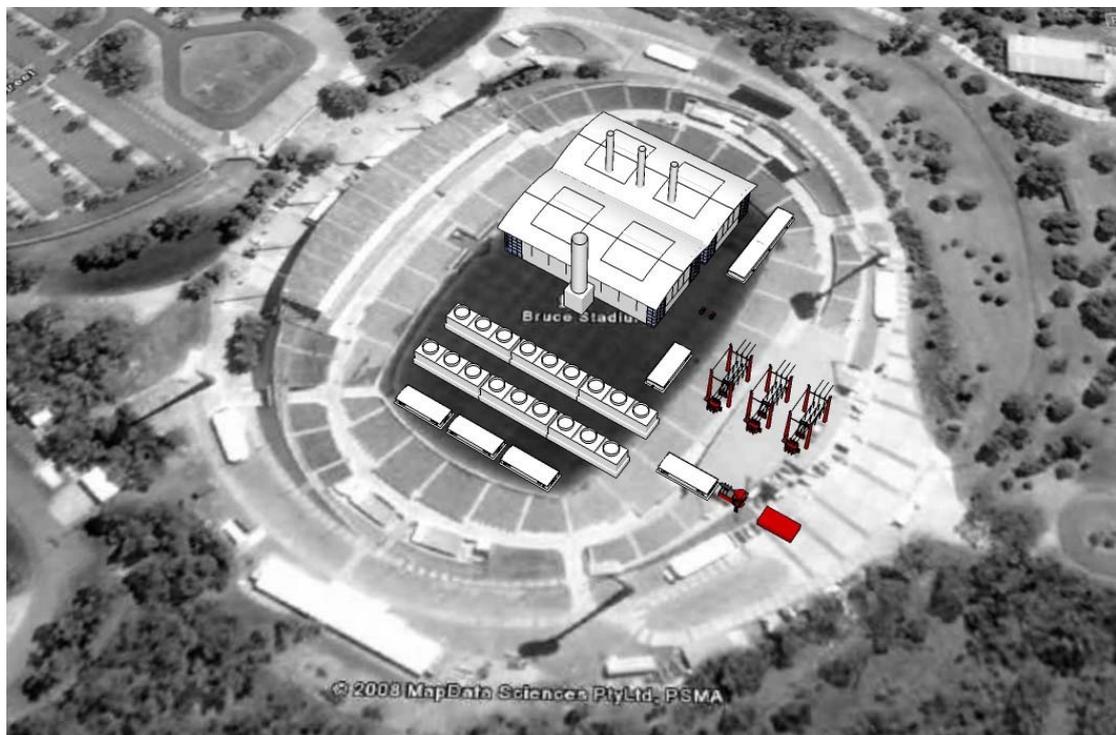
This submission does not intend to revisit the technical details or facts contained within the two submissions filed with ACTPLA on 27 May 2008 and 1 July 2008 but may overlap in some of the content which forms reasons and structure to many of the concerns and impacts detailed here.

This submission deals with the wider issues of impact this development has caused or is likely to cause to the Community as a whole.

This submission acknowledges the governments' instructions to the HIA of only reviewing the suburbs of Macarthur and Fadden but considers the definition of Community and the area of damage this proposal will affect to be much larger and consequently includes anecdotal references provided by the wider Community than Fadden and Macarthur.

The Community is grateful for the opportunity to widen the areas of concern contained within this HIA.

Previously, although we have been suffering under the stress and concerns of battling this issue, fighting for our families' health in the face of the pollution and the potential loss of land we value, we had felt nowhere in the process provided us with an acknowledgement of these consequences.



Caption: Scaled comparison of the proposal and Bruce Stadium, ACT using proponents data

Quotes from the Community

Names and addresses can be provided with each of these quotes but as this report will be read by the government, we would request they are not called for. Many of the quotes will be recognisable in any event, to the committee as some have written independently to the HIA and some have spoken personally to members of the committee. Some residents have difficulty getting out and many either work with or close enough to the government that they actively wish their names to be withheld.

“My 8 year old son has restricted lung function and multiple other medical problems. I have asthma. We chose this home because it is close enough to work and yet provide fresh air for the children, close by land they can walk, play and breathe well. If this development is allowed to go through, the entire area becomes industrial. The land buffer between industrial land and us will be lost. We can't afford to move. We have been told the house price has dropped \$100,000. We can't afford to stay. We do not choose to bring our children up in a home, send them to schools, and let them play in sports fields less than 1 km from a power station. It won't be an option to move anywhere else in Canberra. If it can happen here it can happen anywhere.”

“I am fighting for my family. My children have asthma. We have invested all of our money and time in this dream home. I have spent so much time fighting this development – running to catch up with the governments' lack of consultation and the proponents lack of honesty and integrity – I don't see my children – we have no family time. It's crushing”

“None of us chose this. We hear stories from people in the neighbourhood who tell us about themselves because we are representing them in demanding this to stop. It's heartbreaking. It's not just that this power station is immoral it is that the government did not bother to ask us whether we wanted it or needed it. No discussion. It's insulting.”

“In the middle of this we get this total drivel document from Stanhope saying he has looked into it and has a new plan to communicate with the Community better. No apology for what he has done to us and what he keeps on doing to us ... nothing. I don't feel connected to decisions now”

“It’s that bad. I advise everyone I know to read the Canberra Times line by line because that’s where they will stick the smallest notice in the tiniest print. We’re building a nuclear bomb testing centre next to the Pre-school” – actually that’s not possible is it – they closed the Pre-school.”

“I lie awake at night and worry about it. I think about the noise and the pollution. I think about not being able to walk there any more. I worry most that this was allowed to happen. I have lived here for over 20years and no one told me they were even thinking of doing anything with that land beyond thinking about a cemetery but I did not get any details on that either”

“I hate that people in the Community are being told that we are spoiling it for them. It is hurtful and depressing to think that we may be stopping a great job opportunity for Canberra but I can’t get my head around we didn’t pick this, we didn’t ask for it, didn’t plan for it and its wrong. There are better places for this.”

“We did not make a mess of this - ACTEWAGL did. They were the ones that tried to rush this through and then realised that their power station was not big enough and then we have these foreign real estate people now carrying it on. I am wondering why is it only us who have noticed that this is not right. How come they get to build there when no one else even knew it was available?”

“Just because they can does not mean they should. I don’t understand all this technical stuff but I know someone who lived 3km away from one turbine in the army. It was in a bunker. When they fired it up they could not hear their TV and they lived 3km away. I’ve heard that from a few people. The decibel stuff is meaningless to me, but people I know and trust telling me this is going to be very loud – that is what I trust.”

“The horse paddocks are rare now. This horse paddock forms part of a wider cross country pathway. Canberra should be preserving these paddocks and using them as bait to lure people into living in the “bush capital” not decimating them.”

"I read the heritage report and I know a bit about archaeology in this area. I found it ironic that we have Sorry Day and so soon after the Territory Government is happy to misinterpret the conclusions of the Heritage report on this site and suggest they can 'build around' really unusual scatter sites, or pick them up and move them. That whole area in Hume that is up for sale, had excellent scatters and formed part of gathering a wider understanding of migration and living in this area but its lost now. There is no integrity, no understanding that once these sites go they are lost for ever. This land is managed, used and enjoyed by Canberra residents. The government could think outside its short term aims and preserve this land, use it as an educational trail for understanding and meeting our heritage rather than a data centre, just dropped in the middle of a paddock but ruining an entire area."

"I don't want my children to grow up in a place that can do this. What a lesson to learn about government, industry and the way deals are done in Australia".

"Everyone in Canberra knows everyone. I am not able to speak up. I am too close to people who are dealing with this but I can tell you its all wrong. It stinks."

"You know sometimes I want to laugh because it's like they are having some joke on us all. It's like some political comedy sketch. It would be really funny if it wasn't true."

"I don't have any media connections. I don't get interviewed but I do want to know why my standard of living, my quality of life and my health is so much less important that some real estate bloke from Sydney making another million?"

"No one would choose to buy and live in a house that close to a power station unless they could get a deal and think they can rent it off to someone else who can afford nothing more. Its total b*****ks to say it wont affect the standard of living here. I rent so I'm ok but I was thinking of buying here now I'm going back to Melbourne which is funny 'cos I work in a data centre here"

"I have just bought a house here in early March. We went through the plans for the whole area, nothing came up, and no potential development at all came up. My wife is pregnant with our second baby. This was our dream home and it's now a nightmare for us – a total nightmare."

"We are both disabled. We moved here in the 80's to help our then young daughter breath better. She has a respiratory disorder. I am virtually immobile and my husband has amongst other things early onset of dementia. He can't move. We don't want to live near a power station. We did not choose this. We

don't get our much, we can't. We are not sure we are being heard. We are sure the government does not care though."

"We are working hard here to do the right thing when we object and how we object to the power station. We're the ones who are going to be damaged by this yet we are the ones who are being fair and honest. I have to say it has really pulled the rug from under me the way we have been spoken about and the nonsense that has been told to the public about all this from the politicians. I am a life long Labor voter and I am sitting here thinking what do I do now?"

"I am sick of the wheeling and dealing that's going on in our name. You want to know what the Community thinks, what it wants? Ask it. They didn't ask and we told them – funny though they are still not bl**dy listening".

"I read the latest document on communicating with the Community. What a joke. We were at the rally outside the Assembly when we asked the government to come out and speak to us – no one came out. Outside the ALP conference, Katy Gallagher and Andrew Barr sneaked in at the back. Give Stanhope his due he walked in through the front. He could have saved his money on that policy though and maybe write himself a post-it note reminder "Not just consult – must listen too!"

"I am new to Canberra. People back in England are asking what it's like here. I am ashamed to tell them. I haven't mentioned the power station. Imagine we come half way around the world, leave our village, friends and family to live in a place that then goes and builds a power station less than 1km from where people have lived for years. That was progress! The funny thing is I have been asked to "buddy" someone thinking of emigrating out here for the ACT Government to fill one of the job vacancies – I am really struggling to tell her to leave the beautiful place she lives and risk it here – this could happen to her and her family and then I would feel awful."

"I was just listening to her – what she said – I was born in Canberra and have worked here and been proud of it and when I heard what she said I felt really embarrassed. That's what we will become a laughing stock. How backward do we look?"

“I am a single mother. I have four children at home. I have three jobs to try and make ends meet. I wanted to get the house re-financed to try and make it a little easier. They came and said they couldn’t do it because the house prices are set to fall because of the development of the land into industrial. I am stuck. I am selling now and renting. I will have to rent far away from here as I feel very bitter. I brought this up to the ACTEWAGL and Technical Real Estate men in the Vikings. Mostly they just nodded. They didn’t write anything down. One Technical Real Estate guy got angry and actually disputed that my house would loose value. What can you do?”

“It is worrying to everyone who speaks out against this proposal. Canberra is a village – small country village where everyone is either related or connected or has worked with someone who is related or connected. It can be close and supportive – it can be a nightmare. At the moment with the election coming up the stakes are high in speaking out against this majority powerful government and their powerful friends – everyone feels it’s a risk. This is not a nice place to be – Don’t under estimate this as a cause of stress. If you live in Canberra you’d know exactly what I am saying. This is not Sydney or Melbourne”.

“I don’t have permission yet to include names but Stanhope himself has written to the boss of some one in CPR asking whether they were qualified to comment on the proponents data. It’s extra-ordinary that the Chief Minister is checking up on CPR the community and what we have put before this process – I am wondering is he being as vigilant with the proponents and their “so called expertise” ? Why is he doing it? Isn’t the process supposed to be working and ACTPLA looking into the technical stuff? During ACTPLA’s vigorous and independent investigation and analysis they will be in an excellent position to conclude who is right and who is wrong rather than just trying to discredit a member of the community because he can’t discredit their conclusions.”



Caption: The plans show potential for future expansion of the power station

Overview

Engaging in the HIA has been an opportunity for the Community to refocus its concerns and consider the wider implications beyond the obvious technical and pollution based concerns.

Another aspect has been to re-visit the technical data and the implications of the pollution and place these in another context than the one addressing the ACTPLA process. Many members of the Community has found this in itself a shocking process, to listen to, realise and then vocalise a truly negative experience like this, is having a profound effect on an otherwise close and caring Community.

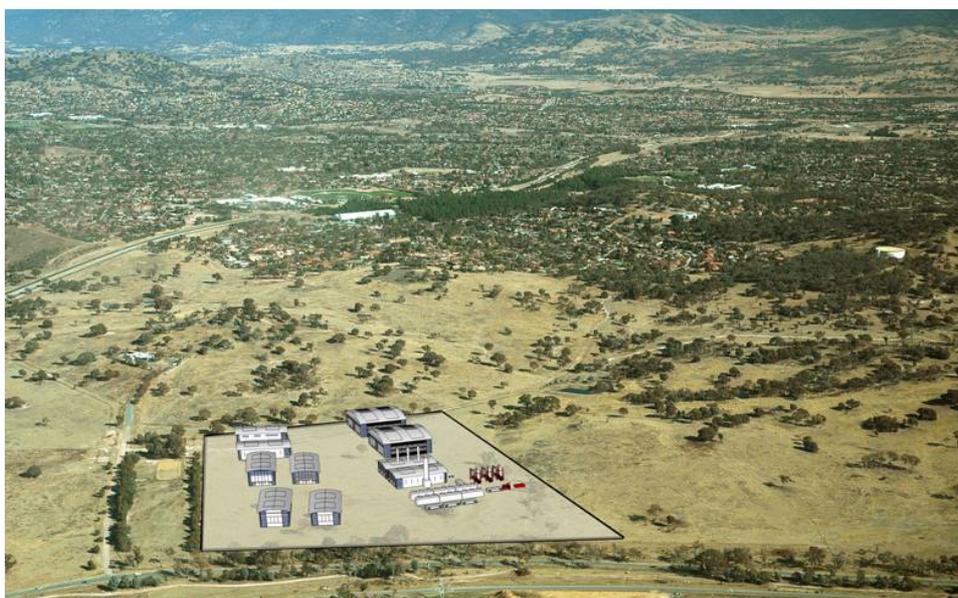
Everyone is beginning to realise the enormity of the negative impacts this is having not just with the possible end product but of the realisation that the elected government cannot be trusted to put their interests first.

The Community feels it has witnessed the government abuse the system in the most offensive way – all for the financial gain of a foreign owned private consortium.

CPR acknowledges that the government has determined that the HIA should not consider recommending a rejection of this proposal. In the same vein CPR recognises that the HIA has been told not to consider the selection of the site. We recognised that for the government this is a touchy subject having been the source of an application for a Motion of No Confidence and currently under consideration of an audit from the Auditor-General.

CPR however is aware of the briefs signed by the Chief Minister stating that he selected the site. The history regarding site selection is very pertinent to this matter and forms the basis of an enormous amount of stress and isolation from trust in government processes by the Community.

These matters cannot be cast aside by the Community and CPR remains firm in having these sources of distress acknowledged and addressed by the HIA.



Caption: Scaled comparison of the proposal in relation to Tuggeranong Valley, ACT using proponents data

Planning consideration

“The Government will implement the actions which underpin the strategic directions outlined in the Economic White Paper....The strategic directions outlined in the Economic White Paper are for policies that provide supportive planning and infrastructure to ensure a more balanced approach where planning and infrastructure can support and lead economic outcomes as well as social and spatial considerations” Canberra Social Plan (CSP)

CPR wishes the HIA to be clear about the site selection facts of this matter:

- The Chief Minister personally selected this site entirely on the basis that he learned the original site selected by the proponents was worth more money than this site. There is no other reason for this site being selected.
- The Chief Minister picked this site in July 2007.
- Therefore since the proponents filed their application in March 2008 this gave them less than 7 months to consider, collect, analyse and examine data on every aspect of this proposal in all its complexity and myriad impacts on the Community, environment and Canberra as a whole.
- For the government and the proponents to claim therefore that this site has been examined, inspected, surveyed in detail and then determined as ideal for this proposal - is nonsense.
- The Tuggeranong plot had not been considered before July 2007 and could not have been considered for this proposal before being offered by the Chief Minister - it had been set aside for potential use as a cemetery and had been “frozen” in consideration of this until 2010.
- It is insulting and disrespectful to the Community for the government and ACTEWAGL as the proponents, to continue to insist that there is something “perfect” about this site for their proposal:
 - There are no utilities on the site
 - The surveys and supporting data were cobbled together in haste
 - Nothing is relevant to this site – they did not have the time
 - This site is a buffer zone between existing industrial land and existing residential – no planning or due process has occurred to set it into potential development land
 - It was “given” by the Chief Minister to the then CEO of ACTEWAGL John Mackay solely because it was cheaper than the original site.
- The original application for a 210 MW power station was within one week of being agreed and the submissions closed before the Community became aware of it and voiced its concerns.

- No one in:
 - The Department of Health
 - The department of Environment
 - The Department of Planning or
 - Any other relevant government body tasked with protecting Community, planning or development proposals
 at any stage prior to or since the Community raised its concerns – spoke out on behalf of the Community asking for planning development surveys, environmental or health studies in respect of that proposal.
- The Health Minister who asked for this assessment did nothing to speak out on behalf of the residents of the Health Facility who live within 400 metres of the proposed site, despite admitting that she knew about the proposal for weeks and had set in plans to move the facility at the behest of ACTEWAGL.
- ACTEWAGL although they remain the proponents will not own the power station, will not own the real estate, will not run the data centres. They will now only supply the utilities. This is an entirely private, internationally based, consortium which controls this application.
- Technical Real Estate (TRE) has declared they intend to sell the power station and data centre within a few years of purchase. Any agreements that TRE make not to develop up the power station or use all three 14 MW turbines are worthless in law and worthless in transaction.
- This issue can be summarised in many ways but most importantly:
 - Residents moved to this area of Canberra, some as long ago as 25 years, in order to enjoy the benefits of living close to a city but also on the edge of a broadacre horse agistment which is a strip of beautiful land
 - This broadacre now provides a buffer zone between established industrial land and established residential suburbs
 - None of these residents was consulted or asked whether they wanted or needed or agreed to their lifestyle being so radically changed.

The Government has made no secret of its desire to extend Industrial zoned land along Hume and the corridor of land running besides the Monaro Highway. This extension would be subject to planning development process. The Community could and would become involved in this process as and when it was advertised to them and as and when it mattered to them. There is a process under which the Community can have its say and the development of industrial land is something which the majority of the Community takes a pragmatic stance on.

Tuggeranong 1671 is on broadacre. It has been well used horse agistment for many years. It forms part of the Bicentennial National Trail running from Melbourne to Cook Town. It is a clear buffer of land between established residential land and established industrial land. It is well used by walkers, bike riders, horse riders, nature lovers. It is home to hundreds of kangaroos, horses and bordered by protected yellow box gum trees.

To the Community who lived against it, enjoyed it and valued it - it was never considered potential industrial land.

It must also be stressed that the plot of land Tuggeranong 1671 was never part of any Community consultation process to change its use from horse agistment/buffer zone into active industrialisation or development.

The furthest the government had gone in this respect prior to announcing the power station and data centre proposal to the public in mid-April 2008, was for the local press to inform the public that TAMS was considering this broadacre land for a potential cemetery plot. No plans, survey's, scoping documents, consultation documents or proposals however were put to the Community or public around the potential cemetery proposal.

“The government will help protect our threatened species and ecological communities as part of best practice for urban planning”

The existence of the Hume Industrial Planning Study (HIPS) was not known to the public nor was it a public document.

The HIPS mooted several ideas for the development of industrial land around Hume but concluded that the plot in question and the entire valley it sits in, could not be surveyed as it had been affectively put aside pending a decision from TAMS in 2010 as to where to place the cemetery.

As the brief signed by Mr Stanhope dated July 2007 (Annex E of CPR Submission dated 28 June 2008) shows, it was only Mr Stanhope's decision to offer Tuggeranong 1671 to ACTEWAGL cheaply, in exchange for ACTEWAGL giving up a more expensive plot in already zoned industrial land which suddenly brought Tuggeranong 1671 into potential development land:

- No Community consultation had taken place around releasing this land
- No Community consultation had taken place around alternatives, future development, or affects on Community in releasing this land for development
- No survey's, scoping plans future developmental plans or reports were requested or prepared before this land was selected by Mr Stanhope to be given to ACTEWAGL in July 2007
- No other business, data centre, developer or anyone else was offered this piece of land, or any other piece of land in this area
- No one else knew this piece of land was available.

The Canberra Community was given very clear messages in the actions of the Chief Minister in his handling of this site selection:

- The Community does not have any right to state an opinion about what should happen to Territory land
- The Community will not be consulted about any planning decisions about any land in the Territory
- Deals can be done between Government and those with Government connections which can devastate whole communities for no better reason than private profit concerns
- The Government does not care to be open, transparent or fair in its dealings with businesses or the Community
- Nothing is safe – the government cannot be trusted to protect, defend, support or care for the health and wellbeing of the Community – not even to consult with it about how the Community wants valuable land to be dealt with.

In case of doubt – the new data centre which was opened up by Julia Gillard in the Hume Industrial Centre in May 2008, was built and run by a private consortium. They paid market price for the land they built their data centre on:

- Why weren't they offered Broadacre?
- Why weren't they offered the enormous discount that TRE are being offered?
- Why has the government not supported them in the way they have supported TRE?

These facts are irrefutable. The Community has had the benefit of reviewing the hundreds of Freedom of Information (FOI) documents and has sadly drawn conclusions to these documents which place their position within the governments thinking and planning as being non-existent. No consideration was given to the Community throughout this process. The Community has been told innumerable times by the Chief Minister and the Planning Minister and the Health Minister to "trust the process" when behind closed doors it appears no process was followed to select the site and advance this proposal.



Caption: view towards the Mugga Lane Tip

Impacts of this proposal on the Community

The HIA has requested that CPR and the Community list and express each of the impacts, negative or positive, this proposal will have on the Community.

Positive benefits

CPR has no evidence this proposal will bring any positive benefits to the Community.

All claims within the proposal made by the proponents with respect to the creation of jobs, diversification of economy, creating Canberra as a centre for leading edge technology have not been supported by analysis, quantified guaranteed deliverables or an accurate breakdown of where and how these promises will be delivered or sustained.

- There are currently 100's of data centres within Canberra
- There are currently 10,000 job vacancies in Canberra – expected to double within the next three years
- There are plans to build a 500 MW power station in Williamsdale. This Tuggeranong proposal is therefore not another power source for Canberra
- This power station will be owned and run by an international owned private consortium – no profits will flow to Canberra or the Community beyond land sale
- This land is being “given” to these proponents and no other developers are being offered this unique deal – this shows Canberra to be an uneven, unequal place to do business
- There is no evidence that this data centre has anything “leading edge” beyond its size and profitability for the proponents
- That it will create “university courses” is unsubstantiated nonsense – the technology involved to run this data centre, will be exactly the same as the 100's of pre-existing data centres and they do not claim to inspire “university courses”
- The size of this one data centre will most likely cause smaller data centre business to suffer loss in the face of the government given advantages TRE have been given
- Most construction will be pre-fabricated overseas
- Gas lines and high tension/voltage electricity/power cables coming to and from the power station will decimate more land – this has not been addressed by the proponents
- The routes of the gas line have not been settled upon – this will happen at the “detailed design stage” or “in consultation with the government” – it could go anywhere.

The Community remains baffled and perplexed when it hears members of the CFMEU and Chamber of Commerce, MLA's and the proponents themselves speak of the “benefits” to Canberra this proposal will bring when there has been no quantifiable evidence filed to show these exist in any way. CPR has asked for evidence of these benefits and received nothing but vague “motherhood” statements.

This has been hurtful for the Community to realise that either there are powerful supporters of the proponents putting pressure on these parties to spout these ridiculous lines or these people genuinely think that the creation of around 50 more job vacancies balances out the health and well being of a large part of southern Canberra citizens.

Negative affects

Point one – strain on the Community

“It is an expression that captures the Government’s commitment to the principles of access, equity in participation and its belief that we must: value and invest in our people as the ACT’s most precious asset.”

The Community is currently suffering enormously under the strain of having to deal with this and a series of planning proposal nightmares. Southern Canberra specifically has, over the last few years, suffered under the majority governments’ continuous ill-thought and un-consulted proposals to site drag-ways, communications towers, cemeteries, industrialisation extensions, and so on within areas close to pre-existing residential areas.

The proposal to build a power station within 660 metres of pre-existing Canberra homes however takes this strain and pressure of dealing with such ill-conceived ideas to a new level.

The Community has dedicated hours of time, money and effort in order to address, analysis and respond to this proposal. This proposal is of a complexity and nature which takes it out of the ordinary and has necessitated from the Community an extraordinary level of commitment, time, energy and skill in order to address these highly technical issues correctly.

Far from the government lauding this effort made by ordinary members of the Community – the government has taken upon itself to criticise the Community and minimise the potential threat the Community feels it is under. The Community is severely handicapped by not having the power, influence and contacts the proponents have via ACTEWAGL and their connections with the present majority government.

The government has remained silent without supporting the Community whilst ACTEWAGL and Technical Real Estate (TRE) commenced an expensive and across media campaigns. These campaigns have focused on misleading statements of data centres giving Canberra the “cutting edge” in this technology – without explaining that these data centres, if successful, will spring up anywhere that the planning laws allow them to co-locate a polluting power station. The results of these campaigns were to alienate those members of the Community who had read the applications and consistently asked for the cost/benefits analysis which never arrived, from other members of the Community who suddenly felt as if the loss of this project would be a great loss to Canberra.

Mr Stanhope and Mr Barr have both actively and openly recommended this proposal to the Assembly and the Community. Ms Gallagher by her silence has allowed the proposal to advance beyond what it should have done, in an inappropriate nature and has now claimed this HIA as her defence for previous inaction. Mr Hargreaves has stated that he conforms to the “party line” and supports this proposal – he went further and sent out a series of emails telling the Community the pollution from this 28MW power station would be “the same as a household air-conditioning unit”. Mr Gentleman, Ms McDonald, Mr Corbell and all the other Labor MLA’s have chosen not to answer Community emails, letters or direct requests for information on where they stand on this proposal – ignoring their electorate rather than responding.

The Community feels the government has made a great effort to narrow the issue to appear a “NIMBY” one (Not In My Backyard). For example when CPR sent flyers to Belconnen on the north side, pointing out that there were plans for a second data centre there, Mr Stanhope immediately sent out a media release denying this. He became angry in the Assembly for the Opposition daring to suggest this was the case, yet he had introduced the very concept of dual site tier four data centres 27 kilometres apart, one in “Hume” and one in Macgregor – in a glossy magazine sent around Europe: <http://europeanaustralianbusiness.realviewtechnologies.com:80/>. But his angry denial and immediate retaliation isolated again the Community into north and south.

It has to be noted that whilst the original sized power station existed in situ, and acknowledging that it was an even more ridiculous proposition to suggest situating Canberra’s second gas power supply station 660 metres from existing homes and so close to Southern Canberra – at that time, that proposal had the merit that the power station would serve Canberra and fill a need for Canberra. Now that is not the case. This power station will service only the private consortium. It will be owned by them and controlled by them. Strangely the proponent’s arguments and media campaigns have hardly changed as has the government’s support of this proposal.

This leaves many within the Community wondering what magic this proposal holds where others do not.

The Community also notes that ACTEWAGL and the government, despite both knowing that the original power station proposal was not viable and having signed the papers to request an alteration to that application on May 4th 2008, let the Community continue to fight, analysis, prepare submissions and spend endless precious hours reading, researching and disseminating this information across the Community before announcing that they were withdrawing their application two hours before the close of the submissions on 27 May.

Whilst the Chief Minister was claiming this proved the government listened to the objections of the Community, the then Acting CEO of ACTEWAGL Michael Costello told the Canberra Times the proposal had been pulled because they had known for many weeks (since around May 3rd) the power station needed to be bigger. He made a point of stating “it had nothing to do with Community complaints”.

The Community found this underhanded, insulting and cruel.

“Recognise and support the role played by Community organisations”

The Community remains perplexed that the process itself is far from clear. It is also less than comforting that the same process which determines whether your neighbour builds an extension to his back garden shed is the same as building a gas power station. It appears too that the rigours for applying for an alteration to an extension are far more strict than those ACTPLA applied when allowing the data centre/power station plans to change entirely.

The ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA) as shown recently with the very public mistakes made on simple planning applications (Kingston Foreshore, Gungahlin Road Extension, London Circuit Deed mistake etc) that it is not equipped or staffed with expertise that can adequately and appropriately deal with this matter.

What has happened in this case is the Community has come to the conclusion that it is almost unreasonable to suggest that ACTPLA is not open to government pressure where the Chamber of Commerce and CFMEU are. It is unreasonable having read the role played by ACTPLA in the site selection and close relationship with ACTEWAGL which pops up throughout the papers that ACTPLA is as entirely independent as the Chief Minister suggests it is. If that was the case why hasn't ACTPLA already rejected this proposal?

It is on land that was not freed to be developed upon. It is arguable that it should not be on broadacre. It is a private development now which is requesting to be built on a land which does not currently have utilities. It is in direct contradiction to the wishes and feelings of the local people.

Yet it was ACTPLA who requested the media release be embargoed until the first day of school holidays, who requested the small sign, who did not write or inform the "closest neighbours" as they claim they did, who allowed this application to be considered an alteration.

"Flagship Commitments – Building a stronger Community – measures to build a stronger more cohesive relationship between the ACT government and the Canberra Community..."

This proposal has decimated the trust and faith of the Community in the government and in the processes which they have been told exist to protect and serve them.

The government has expressed a wish to build a stronger relationship with Community and has recently released its "Citizen Centred Governance" paper for comment. The Community is not sure its worth commenting on – the government is clearly not listening to us.

The Process

The Community has been told by Mr Barr (Planning Minister) and Mr Stanhope (Chief Minister and Minister for the Environment) to trust the process.

This is the process which allowed Mr Stanhope to personally select a site for ACTEWAGL – without a survey, consultation, understanding Community needs, wants or concerns, scoping plans or any personal skill or expertise in land development.

This is the process which allows ACTEWAGL to file a proposal, the potentially largest, most expensive, development within the ACT, with only 6 months of research, data and planning – barely any of it specific to the site and lacking in large areas of fundamentally required information including a cost/benefits analysis or a sound business plan.

This is the process which allowed this proposal to be advertised via a tiny yellow sign facing a country road, where no walkers pass and then released a press statement on the first day of school holidays detailing "A data centre in Hume"

This is the process which asked the barest minimum of the proponents in terms of consultation – so when the then CEO of ACTEWAGL John Mackay stated he had "written to the Karrilika Community group" – a group which had disbanded in 2004, this was considered adequate Community consultation

This is the process which allowed the proponents to withdraw their application two hours from the closure time for submissions and re-submit an entirely different plan – as an alteration – because someone in ACTPLA had “determined that this new proposal was less detrimental than the first.” - thus allowing the proponents to remain under the old planning Act, rather than the new.

This is the process which provided the government with enough information to support this proposal and condemn Community objection but now, close to the election, requires a HIA.

This is the process which disguises that this proposal will pollute a large area of Canberra, devastate much valued land and disenfranchise a large section of Canberra’s Community from government, process and Community ownership – for the sake of an entirely private owned consortium.

The Community has consistently been told to trust this process. ACTPLA we are told have the skills and capabilities to determine this proposal.

The ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA) as shown recently with the very public mistakes made on simple planning applications (Kingston Foreshore, Gungahlin Road Extension, London Circuit Deed mistake etc) that it is not equipped or staffed with expertise that can adequately and appropriately deal with this matter.

Summary:

- the Chief Minister’s denial that he was directly involved in site selection the purely financial reasons why this site was selected above more suitable and moral sites
- the close collusive relationship between ACTEWAGL (the proponents) and the government
- the governments (specifically the Chief Minister’s) direct contemptuous comments made about the Community and their reasonable objections to this proposal
- the governments out spoken and direct support of this proposal and the first proposal prior to any investigation of the quality of the submissions having been undertaken
- the governments obviously insincere use of a HIA.



Caption: view overlooking proposed site

Point two – Community threatened by government

Following on from the point above the Community can only now feel threatened by the government and by being isolated and disenfranchised from the consultation Community planning processes.

“The government will build a stronger Community with a Community engagement strategy to ensure stronger more cohesive relationship between the ACT Government and the Canberra Community”

The Community has consistently suffered a barrage of insults and misleading statements from the proponents, the government and the supporters of the proponents. Two examples of this are the CFMEU and the Canberra Chamber of Commerce who have directly accused a:

“small group of NIMBY residents of spoiling a big chance for Canberra to diversify our economy and potentially scaring off other developers to Canberra.”

While CPR respects everyone has a right to their opinion - given the facts, as stated earlier of the government’s very close relationship with ACTEWAGL and how this has smoothed the way for TRE to have access to cheap land and swift process above that which any other developer could expect – and given there has been no recognition that more appropriate sites exist for a polluting power station - we hardly think the defence of this proposal warrants such a forceful and aggressive attack across radio, newspapers and on TV news from these institutions. CPR draws the conclusion that the proponents have used their power, connections and influence to demand such an attack on the Community by these institutions.

Whether the government encouraged actively these attacks or not is immaterial given the government did nothing to protect or defend the Community – not even to remind the CFMEU or the Chamber of Commerce “to trust the process and wait for the process to work”.

It is out of the scope of the Community to access the financial resources needed to secure a similar access to media to that enjoyed by the proponents, Chamber of Commerce and CFMEU. This disparity has further served to distance the Community from feeling empowered or able to find a voice within this process.

“Create a safe environment for every member of the Community”

At the first HIA meeting, the committee members had the benefit of towards the very end, hearing one or two of the many stories of fear and loss amongst members of the Community this proposal has engendered.

Feelings of isolation and minimisation have prevailed amongst many members of the Community who have suddenly felt dismissed or demeaned by the lack of consideration by the government and by their lack of voice or engagement within the process. Community members have spent life times building homes, working and creating a Community and a lifestyle that they worked hard to achieve and sustain. This lifestyle is threatened by this development.

It is more so telling when the threat is to the direct health of members of the Community. Those with existing health difficulties and those who financially cannot now afford to move homes but did not choose to raise their children directly in the path of a power station are voicing to CPR their fears and feelings of isolation. It is automatic to reflect on the value of your contribution to Australia, Canberra and to the Community when as an individual and as a Community your views, your fears, your lifestyle choices, your health has been so dismissed and ignored.

It is not overstating the point to say this has had a devastating affect on many members of the Community – again not least with the realisation that to the government, their value is so much less,- even combined into hundreds,- compared to the profit making ambitions of a private international owned consortium. This has been a learning experience for many members of the Community who have up until now existed fairly detached from the flawed planning and government mechanisms which they could see where going on around them but which did not directly affect them.

One of the positive things to come out of this has been the Community has bonded together under a series of common causes and finds a common voice against the governments attempts to ignore, minimise and disrespect it.

The overall experience though has to be a negative one. There are innumerable research papers available which discuss the disenfranchisement of communities and how that leads to increased exclusion, social discord, high level demographic exodus (those that can move out do so) leaving those that can't to remain in increased exclusion and isolation.

“Our Community is also generally a safe one and this is reflected in perceptions of personal safety in Canberra”

When one resident with a child who had lung function difficulties was asked by the press whether she had considered moving away from the power station she replied – “Where in Canberra is safe – if this can happen here, it can happen anywhere. No where is now safe.”

Create a safe environment for every member of the Community”

The overall effect of this development will be to industrialise the entire area. There will no longer be a buffer zone between industrial and residential. Houses which are currently owned by those who have either retired or who are currently in skilled or higher paid work sit squarely either in the pollution and noise paths or are visually so close to the power station they will be affected by noise, vibration and the loss of recreational facilities. Their prices will drop and the current estimate appears to be around 20% (around \$100,000). People who can afford to move will. This will leave this area and the attending suburbs failing isolated. They will be unique in Canberra as being truly un-desirable places to live. This will have a direct effect on those families who are currently already “doing it tough” in these suburbs and the neighbouring suburbs of Richardson and Chisholm down to Calwell. These families have been identified as being just above the criteria for needing public housing but far below the average family income.

Combined with the pollution which will come from the Williamsdale power station should that go ahead, these suburbs will become the identified and isolated suburbs where no one chooses to live and where economics direct them to live.

Canberra currently considers itself as having balanced demographics and even prides itself by placing public housing within all suburbs and surrounded by non-public housing in order to promote Community care and guard against isolation. This development directly threatens that concept by uniquely placing a polluting power station so close to established residential areas and within an inversion area of valley and ridge topography that it will almost certainly create pockets of undesirable suburbs.

It stands to reason that these areas spread. Just as those that have the financial ability and job-relocation capacity to move away from a polluting power station, so they will also move away from living next to undesirable and obviously lower income homes.

This may sound politically incorrect but this is an accepted model of self selecting social engineering. Currently this scenario does not exist in Canberra. The Community model works well and all levels of income co-exist and self supporting and mutually inclusive. This power station has the capacity to utterly destabilise this.

This power station creates an over-whelming reason for people who can move – to protect their families and health - and move. Those who can't will be forced to remain in pollution pockets. Their health and outcomes, which due to poverty and other attending factors are already considerably less than those who are not facing those financial difficulties, will decrease.

The local areas, without the income and support of those with financial capacity to spend and improve and demand local facilities and services, will deteriorate and compound the already existing social difficulties.

To claim this is over stating the case is to ignore the unique position that Canberra is in and the unique development this power station poses.

Canberra currently had more people leaving than coming to live here. The government spends \$100,000's on recruiting skilled workers to live and work in Canberra to fill some of the 10,000 job vacancies.

The pull to live in a sleepy bush centred capital are clearly not the same as those of Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane which offer city living, beaches and access to suburbs and the country. Canberra is not those cities. It has to draw on its unique strengths to attract skilled people to live and work here.

It is nonsense to believe that building and allowing a power station to be built so close to existing residential homes will not disenfranchise a large area of residents and give reasons for those who can afford to move to move.

At the same time it decimates the one pull that Canberra has over Sydney, Melbourne etc - the immediate access to open land, bush landscapes, walking, horse riding and just watching mist across a field. This makes it a far less desirable place to want to come to. Given the choice too, where would a young family choose to live if they were financially able to choose? In the valley being smothered by the cross winds of both power stations? On a ridge where the noise of the turbines is so loud you cannot enjoy the television? In the middle of an area which is clearly impoverished and un-serviced?

Point three – lack of honesty and transparency within the process and the government

“The Government will work to increase Community awareness of the size and impact of the ecological footprint made by the Canberra urban environment”

The government has done nothing to acknowledge even the most basic concern of the Community. The Chief Minister refers to the pollution as “everything pollutes ... cooking an egg”

Calling for a HIA does not constitute the government recognising anything except the proximity of the election and needing to find a way to negotiate through this time with a way to tell the Community “wait for the process to work”.

The Community has suffered and continues to suffer greatly in the knowledge that the present government has shown disrespect and utter contempt for the Community by:

- the Chief Ministers denial that he was directly involved in site selection the purely financial reasons why this site was selected above more suitable and moral sites
- the close collusive relationship between ACTEWAGL (the proponents) and the government
- the government’s (specifically the Chief Minister’s) direct contemptuous comments made about the Community and their reasonable objections to this proposal
- the government’s outspoken and direct support of this proposal and the first proposal prior to any investigation of the quality of the submissions having been undertaken
- the government’s obviously insincere use of a HIA.

The Community has listened to the Chief Minister’s denial of his direct involvement with site selection to the Assembly, supported by the outgoing and incoming CEOs of ACTEWAGL John Mackay and Michael Costello and has drawn the following conclusions:

- neither the chief minister nor the CEOs of ACTEW or ACTEWAGL can be trusted
- neither care nor consider the views, wishes and concerns of the Community
- this site has nothing appropriate about it beyond its price to recommend placing this proposal on it.

This HIA therefore is gathering information which should have been gathered before the site was selected and before the government threw its weight behind supporting this proposal.

That the government chooses to continue to support this proposal, as it did with the original application and minimise the issues by comparing the pollution to “boiling an egg” is not only disrespectful to the Community but disenfranchises the Community from government planning and development processes over land and developments which will directly affect them.

CPR considers that this HIA has delivered no new information from the proponents.

CPR believes there is enough information for the government to reject this proposal.

CPR is very clear that any call by the government for an EIS at this stage of the process is disingenuous and believes the government would only be calling for an EIS now in order to silence this issue during the election.

How can the government now feels it needs more information when it has, since this proposal was announced, consistently, openly and actively supported this proposal and recommended its advancement and acceptance to the Community?

Should the government call now for an EIS, the Community would feel that was the death of the last vestige of integrity this government had and the crowning example of the utter disrespect this government shows towards the Community?

The government is manipulating this situation in the face of an election and on the back of whatever agreements and deals it made with ACTEWAGL over site selection.

That the Community's awareness of this is being under-estimated by the government is again a source of anger and distress to the Community.

The HIA should be aware that CPR is very aware that the government itself has considered for sometime that it has enough information to support this proposal. CPR has provided enough information for an independent arbitrator, such as the government claims exists within ACTPLA, to consider the proponents application and CPR's submissions and conclude this proposal be rejected.

CPR believes that calling for an EIS this late in the process, with this much information already available, is merely the government's way of attempting to silence this issue over the election period and does not represent in any sense the government's genuine desire to do the right thing, listen to the Community and make the right decision.

The right decision is to reject this application.

We call on the HIA to merely recommend rejection of this proposal to the Government and let the government declare its own duplicity without assistance from the HIA.

Point four – lack of support for health facility residents

“...we cannot ignore the fact that some Canberrans are vulnerable and excluded from fully participating in the life of their Community. The priorities and goals of Building our Community reflect this reality emphasising the importance of helping Canberrans in need.”

Many members of the Community have been aware of the little known health facility in Rose Cottage Paddocks for many years; it is a residential facility catering for a small number of male members of the Community who have severe mental health difficulties which prevent them from safely living unsupported within the Community.

Many of the horse owners and riders talk with the residents and support them to feed and pat the horses - with assistance the residents sometimes help the Farrier with horse shoeing.

The loss of horse paddocks to this area will affect the residents particularly.

“Protect, promote and enhance the rights of all Canberrans”

The Community collectively feels let down by the Health Minister specifically for not defending the rights of the residents of this Health Facility and calling for their needs to be considered above and beyond this development proposal

It is telling and disheartening that there has been no recognition of their needs, their rights nor any effort made to enquire and consider the affects of this development on the health and well being and quality of life of the residents of this facility. Indeed the reaction from Ms Gallagher was merely to instruct her staff to scope plans to move the facility “should the power station go ahead”.

The Community is proud of this established and successful residential health facility in Rose Cottage Paddocks. The horse owners especially ensure that communications are kept open and enjoyment of the area is shared productively and safely by all. The Community is ashamed that its elected politicians have chosen to dismiss the rights, views and best interests of Canberra’s most vulnerable citizens.

“Improve Mental Health and reduce the barriers facing people with mental health problems”

The current location of the health facility is conducive to the health and well being of the residents of this facility. Protected and safe from the noise and pressure of close Community living they have the opportunity to engage with horse owners and sensitive walkers in the area. The resident’s enjoyment of the horses and the location of the facility can be attested to by several members of the Community if required.

“The Government will build Community and ACT agency support for the statement of Vision and Values for people with a disability. ... Vision and Values is a statement based on how people with disabilities wish to be treated and valued as members of the ACT Community.”

Nowhere has the Community seen that any reports or research has been conducted into the affects of the noise and vibrations which will be caused by the power station will have on the residents of the facility. In the same vein no reports have been filed which set out in what ways moving the residents will affect them or the loss of the horses from this area.

It almost goes without saying that, as in the case of the general Community, the location of this facility was chosen carefully, taking full benefit of its proximity to the city, hospitals, police and other services and access for carers to come and go, whilst enjoying open spaces, peaceful environment, nature and sympathetic and sensitive neighbours who are willing to engage and withdraw on a needs basis and have done so successfully for many years.

That the entire area is proposed to be irreversibly changed into industrial land, with high levels of noise, pollution, traffic and the removal of wildlife, horses, walkers etc without a single reference to the needs, concerns, wishes and best interests of Canberra’s most vulnerable citizens is utterly shameful.

“We are already involving people with a disability in decision making on issues that affect the way they live”

CPR believes that should this matter progress without the best interests of the residents being collected and considered in an independent and focused manner on behalf of the residents – this matter should be taken immediately to the Human Rights Equal Opportunities Committee on behalf of the residents and in the light of the failure of the government and specifically the Health Minister, to ensure that their voice is heard, their needs are met and their interests advanced.

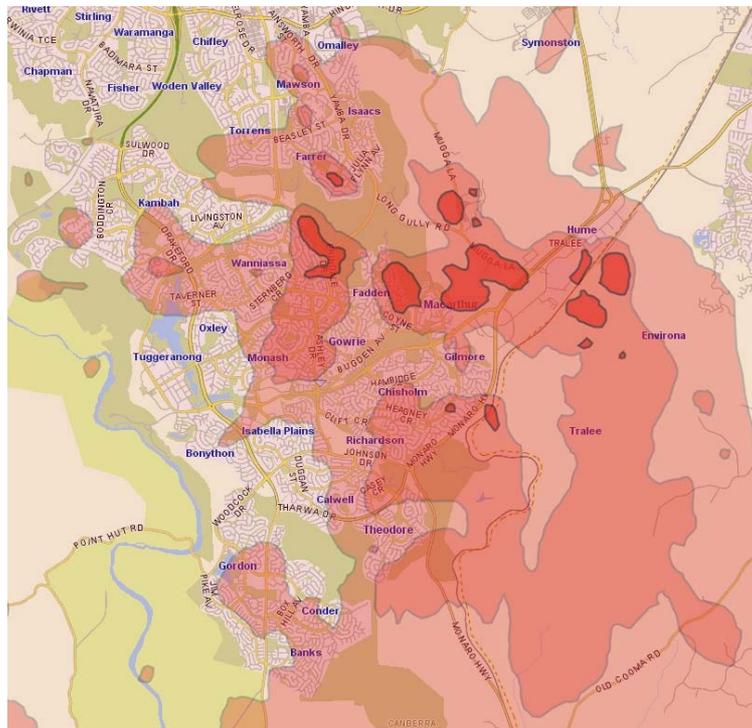
The Community is ashamed that the elected government ignores Canberra’s most vulnerable citizens when it is considering a development application by a private consortium.

Point five - health of the Community

“Focus on prevention and early intervention throughout people’s lives. Improve the good health of the Canberra population “

This is the area which currently causes the most distress and concern for Canberra residents.

This submission does not intend to take too much time on this matter as it is in the expertise of the HIA who are far more able to analysis and consider the very real aspects of the direct health impact on greatly increasing pollution in valley’s and areas already within inversion zones.



Caption: NO2 pollution map using proponents data

The Community is concerned about every aspect of this proposal and this arises from the site selection. It can be summarised by the following:

- This much technical data is being collected and analysed – this much “risk” is being identified by the Community from fire, pollution, noise, visual , vibration, loss of recreational land etc and the proponents are dripping out mitigation, minimisation or denial.
- This much stress and anxiety exists and will continue to exist around this proposal – this private consortium’s proposal is to make themselves a profit.
- Why do these concerns need to be mitigated and minimised? The concerns are real based on real pollution, real noise etc. The Community does not want any unnecessary rise in pollution in the air they breathe or any rise in the noise of their environment 24 hours a day 7days a week.

- It is not a necessary development. It is not necessary to build it where they are proposing to build it.
- If it is a necessary proposal - BUILD IT SOMEWHERE MORE APPROPRIATE.
- If it is not necessary – DON'T BUILD IT AT ALL

The Community is aware that everything pollutes and that pollution is set to rise due to increase in cars, industry etc. The Community is also aware of and affected by the global push for cleaner manufacturing, cleaner air, sustainable fuels and developments which respect the environment. This does not fit into this thinking. It is not green and directly pollutes. It will be seen as polluting as soon as the first block is laid and as a consequence the Community will lose faith in the need for them to be aware of their carbon footprint.

If everything pollutes and the government allows a private consortium to build a huge polluting power station on much loved broadacre land and increase considerably the pollution of southern Canberra – with no benefit for Canberra- then why should residents in the Tuggeranong Valley bother to convert from wood fires? Why think about solar power? Why think about reducing local noise, car fumes, smoking etc? Why should we bother to comply with planning laws which respect the views, wishes and comforts of neighbours when the government does none of these things?

The government is prepared to add not inconsiderably to the pollution breathed by Canberra residents because it is under guidelines. It appears perfectly able to ignore noise from the stacks and assess only the noise from buffered turbines (not the turbines suggested to be used in this proposal as they don't exist yet and can't be measured). A large number of the Community have stated they do not wish this to happen.

A curious situation arises where the issue appears to be – in determining the balance of the negative against the positive in respect of this proposal – how many members of the Community, suffering real distress because of this proposal, a drop in living standards, depression, loss of recreation, loss of quality of health – is acceptable in the balance against the benefits?

If the benefits are 300 jobs (and we note that 1.4 of the Information Sheet 2 handed out at the workshop states the numbers of employees are not likely to be large) does that equate to 300 existing residents' lives severely suffering, dismissed and their worth measured as being less than their equivalent jobs? What if they have jobs too?

Or is it courses in university? This would be the year long courses announced recently paid for by the proponents to fill the gaps in data centre employment pool – an acknowledgement that these vacancies will be as easy to fill as the current 10,000 ones are – So again it is the 300 (and again this is a ridiculously high figure) newly “graduate one year diploma course” students who matter – who work for a year in Canberra and move to Sydney – who would not want to live in a city which so disrespects its citizens.

Or is it the profit to the private consortium? They are based overseas and will plough their profits into building bigger data centres in Sydney, Melbourne and anywhere they can get cheap land.

Is it the desperate shortage of data centres and allowing government bodies, like defence etc to store data in Tuggeranong? Government agencies will not store data in such an insecure site – Defence has their own data centre, as does the ATO and Centrelink. This one is foreign owned and likely to store next to other insecure and “threatening” businesses. This is not a good option.

Is it that the Chief Minister is facing an election and has made promises to bring so many dollars of investment into the Territory? The billion dollar figure placed on this development is unqualified. Like the job figures no one can find any evidence to base this on. The development and the profits to this will be minimal use to the territory. An article published in South Side Chronicle 29 July 2008 states TRE are prepared to bring overseas people in to construct the buildings, etc.

Nothing appears to stack up against the health and well being of the Community. What is the figure? What is the number of people the government is prepared to distress, disenfranchise, and pollute via noise, air and loss of recreational space, in order to justify this proposal?

The consideration of Community health – of the Community of southern Canberra’s position in the marketing and targeting of healthy lifestyle and environmentally friendly campaigns the government may wish to deliver in the next few years – will become questionable.

It is the ultimate hypocrisy for the government to send glossy pamphlets about urban carbon footprint to Southern Canberra at the same time as approving and supporting this proposal. It is a mockery of the governments concern for the health of the Community.

Other more qualified people will talk about the heavy particulates, the small particles in this pollution, the build up of various noxious gasses from this pollution, ambient levels, direct levels, levels in valleys and ridges, in winter as opposed to summer.

Other more qualified people will argue about noise from the stacks, noise from the turbines, it is all an increase but all under guidelines they will say and the Community will say they can’t hear their television or enjoy their walks from the continuous noise.

The proponents will say it looks fine, it blocks the tip. The Community will say the tip will be gone in 5 years, it’s already mostly covered and the site of this monstrosity bigger than Bruce Stadium will depress them – its ugly –its industrial in a rural area.

The point is the Community does not want this. It has asked for it not to be put there. It has been given no quantifiable benefits for this proposal and nothing which comes close to offsetting the damage to many people’s lives this development will have.

“Create and maintain inclusive public space for use by the entire Community”

The Community does not under-estimate the loss of the open spaces on their health and wellbeing. This is looked at elsewhere but briefly Australia is now the fattest nation but we pride ourselves on being a nation of open spaces. Canberra calls itself the bush capital. The health and well being of the Community is not served by the loss of this land to this proposal.

“Human Rights willbe the primary means for delivering economic, social and cultural rights – the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to the highest attainable standard of health”

Point six – decimation of horse agistment and walking land

“Support and active lifestyle at all stages of peoples lives”

Australia has just won the “most obese nation” award, beating the United States. With this title comes attendant strains on health services and the lowering of the quality of life for those who have weight problems. One of the keys to improving quality of life and losing weight is exercise.

Not everyone in Canberra can afford to use local paying sports facilities. Tuggeranong 1671 and the horse agistment offer a free and close alternative. Locals have begun noticing just how many people use the paddocks for walking, and bike riding. Horse owners, the majority of whom are women, have long been aware of the benefits of using the paddocks for horse riding and active sports whilst socialising with friends and neighbours.

The loss of these horse paddocks will mean that many people will no longer be able to keep their horses.

“The government will enhance Canberra’s non-urban recreational facilities”

It is mostly women use the horse paddocks – *“The strategic plan for women is being developed to continue to improve conditions opportunities recognition and understanding of the needs of women”*. The loss of the horse paddocks and the surrounding lands will affect women greatly. Many women will have to sell their horses. They will lose a social life and exercise – a hobby and a skill will be lost. This is not inconsiderable.

The government paddocks and trails were established in the 1960s so that residents of the ACT could keep horses in locations close to their homes and could use areas around the city as riding trails. The provision of horse agistment in government paddocks and horse trails throughout Canberra and the ACT is recognized as special on a local scale and unique on an international scale.

Equestrian trail system

The equestrian trails in the ACT provide safe routes for equestrian riding, within and on the periphery of the city area. The trails are linked to government horse holding paddocks and equestrian activity areas and are also connected to rural trails and the Bicentennial National Trail, a continuous route from Cooktown to Melbourne.

Equestrian trails are rarely single purpose. Hikers, joggers, bike riders, dog walkers and other recreation enthusiasts use the corridors accommodating the trails.

To assist horse riders in negotiating the trails, the government has invested in various types of infrastructure: underpasses, bridges, fences, cavalettis, gates and signage.

Government horse holding paddocks

The ACT Government Horse Holding paddocks are currently located in 17 areas across the suburbs of the ACT and presently contain 360 horses. The horse holding paddocks are used by many in the local Community for various recreational pursuits.

Agisting horses in the government paddocks, is highly valued by the families, for whom these facilities provide the only option for owning a horse. A high proportion of

these people are women and children. Owning a horse provides them with significant lifestyle pleasure. It encourages them to spend large amounts of time outdoors. It develops an understanding of the weather and current pasture conditions as they influence the horses' needs for food and warmth. It enhances an understanding of rural life by suburban families.

Horse ownership provides opportunities for outdoor recreation and sport. There are 5 Pony Clubs located in close proximity to the government paddocks. These pony clubs can be easily accessed by children and teenaged riders without the need for horse floats and large cars to tow them.

Horse owners are able to visit and ride their horses by walking and riding bikes or by driving a short distance. Without the government paddocks, horse owners would have to use private agistment further afield, purchase their own property outside the ACT or in many cases dispose of their horse.

In South Tuggeranong government horse agistment is provided in one area only. In this area are Hume, Rose Cottage, Gilmore and Macarthur Park paddocks. There is no horse agistment any further south than these paddocks, yet there are over 10 suburbs further south. There is a huge demand for agistment in government paddocks, with 150 currently on the waiting list, with some waiting over 12 months.

Development is planned for Hume, Rose Cottage, Gilmore and part of Macarthur Park paddocks.¹

Rose Cottage Horse Paddocks

The Rose Cottage Horse Paddocks were established for horse agistment almost 20 years ago. These paddocks have been established and maintained with conservation in mind. The steep hills are fenced out of the paddocks to preserve the woodland and prevent erosion. Individual trees and groups of trees (including dead trees) are fenced off from the paddocks to provide habitat, to allow for regeneration and to prevent horse damage. Tree corridors were planted 15 years ago by Landcare and Greening Australia. Further tree corridors were planted 2 years ago by Environment ACT.

This conservation management has meant that the quality of the habitat in and around the paddocks has improved over time. The number and quality of trees has increased. Regeneration of major tree species is happening in fenced off areas and in the paddocks themselves. Dead trees and fallen limbs have increased the available fauna habitat.

¹ Hume Industrial Planning Study, September 2007, ACTPLA

Community use of Rose Cottage Horse Paddocks

Horse owners, family and friends use the paddocks daily to attend to and ride their horse, and to enjoy outdoor recreation. Similarly members of the local Community use the area for walking and riding bikes.

The following Community groups use the Rose Cottage Horse Paddocks and surrounding area:

- Scouts
- Orienteering
- Woden School
- Horse Riding Clubs
- Landcare.

The medical facility at the paddocks was rebuilt and reopened in 2007 at a cost of \$1.6m. Horse agistees happily exist beside this facility, with patients afforded privacy, peace and a rural setting.



Caption: Community enjoying the outdoor life at the horse paddocks

Summary:

The Horse riding Community hopes that our city's planners appreciate the need for pasture to keep horses, open spaces to enjoy riding and the benefits of horse ownership to the citizens of Canberra who do so.

Unfortunately there has been a general downgrading of equestrian facilities by the ACT government over the last few years. At least 10% of the agistment land has been taken back for residential and industrial development with no attempt to find replacement facilities. This is despite the fact that ownership of horses is increasing and consequently demand for agistment is also increasing.

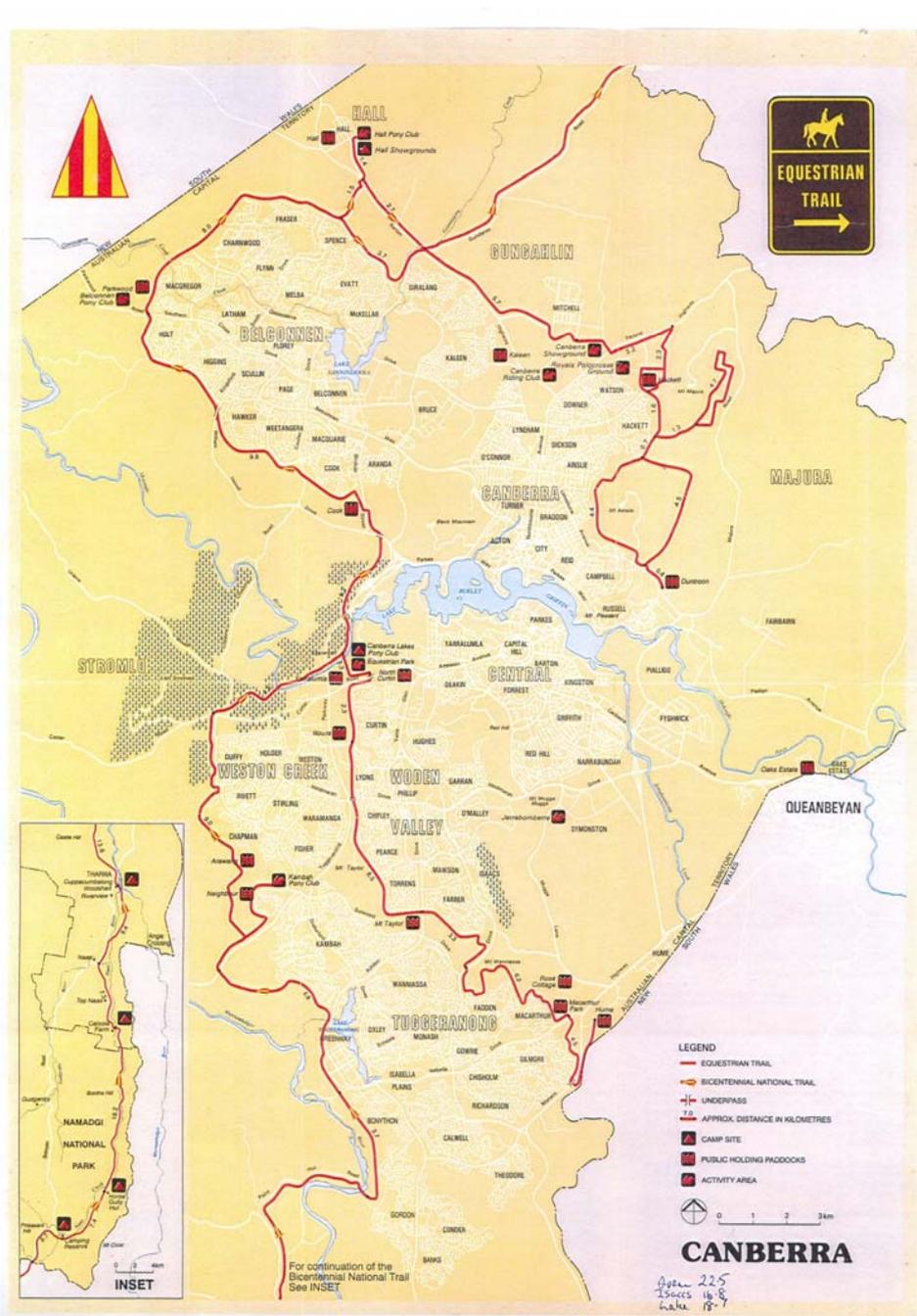
The ACT has a high population of recreational horses. Before the 2003 bushfires it was estimated that there were about 2,000 horses used for sporting and recreational activities in the Territory. The pleasure horse industry in Canberra supports a range of businesses from feed merchants and saddlers to veterinarians, equine dentists, farriers and chiropractors. In January 2002 Wayne Gregson and Graeme Taylor estimated the equestrian contribution to the annual ACT gross state product to be **\$13.85 million²**.

² David Hogg, "Strategic Development and Management Plan for Equestrian Sport and Recreation Facilities in the ACT", Vol 2, Phase 1 Discussion Paper, Appendix A.

Horse riding is a sport that promotes independence, responsibility and healthy outdoor activity. It is an activity attractive to young girls, particularly those who might never become involved in team or contact sports. It allows life-long participation and there are riders in their 70s still using the equestrian trails in Canberra.

While many people choose a home because of proximity to schools for their children, the Tuggeranong area is full of people who chose their home because of its proximity to agistment and riding facilities.

The Government Paddock User Group requests that the ACT Government recognize equestrian activity as an integral part of lifestyle in the Territory and provide appropriate access and facilities to enable the sizeable population of equestrians to continue to pursue their sport.



Caption: Equestrian trail map (new version currently being reprinted)

Point seven – children’s health – schools etc

“Invest in Children and young people”

The Woden School which caters for children in years 7 to 10 with learning and intellectual difficulties visits the horse paddocks and Tuggeranong Block 1610, sends a group of students to work at the government horse paddocks every Friday. They engage with the horse owners and play in the paddocks. The school has purchased mowers, a ride on mower, a trailer, protective clothing and tools for the students to use at the paddocks. The students mow around the car parks, roads and horse yards. Each child gets to go on the ride on mower. They tend the paddocks. They repair fences and do minor maintenance. The students work during inclement weather, but for many it is the best day of the school week, to be outside doing manual labour. The children thoroughly enjoy this and look forward to this activity every week.

It is also ironic that 15 years ago, students from Caroline Chisholm High participated in planting hundreds of trees in corridors along fence lines and along a watercourse at the Rose Cottage paddocks. This was part of a Landcare and Greening Australia Program. Further tree corridors were planted 2 years ago. Community involvement has been a strong part of the history of the paddocks



Caption: Family at play in the beautiful broadacre which provides a buffer zone between established industrial land and established residential suburbs

The government is encouraging an emphasis on exercise for school age children. It is a shame to see that the open spaces are being eroded needlessly when we are encouraging our youth to go outdoors. Local scout leaders make use of the paddocks and open spaces surrounding Tuggeranong and particularly those surrounding the Fadden and MacArthur areas.

The scouts have used these areas for a wide range of outdoor physical activities which support the Federal and Territory government objectives of physical activity for kids. The reduction in close at hand, ready usable open space will hamper the ability to deliver this style of program from a local volunteer level.

“Focus on prevention and early intervention”

It is a wonderfully ironic moment when the front page of the Southside Chronicle (29 July 2008) had side by side the headlines “We’ll be ready: CTC” about the power station and data centre and “Students Send Out the Green Message” which is an article about students planting trees in Canberra. The students were from Melrose High – one of the schools which will be affected by the pollution coming from CTC’s power station (appendix i).

The homes of these students are likely to be closer to the pollution clouds and in the valleys it settles. The good news is that they can now go to the University of Canberra and do (most unusually for a University) one year course to enable them to work in a data centre. The irony of this is not lost on many members of the Community who comment that traditionally data centres work is high turn over staff – not suitable for new graduates but fairly boring and mundane not to be career on longevity.

That CTC is quoted as saying the “Technology has jumped so significantly, we are up-skilling [sic] and evolving with the times” is something which those who work in data centres (modern ones too) raised eyebrows to and find puzzling.



Caption: Children at play in safety behind residential suburbs

That the quality of air breathed by thousands of children in schools is worth sacrificing for around 50 of them to find a short term job and to work in a high-noise, high pollution, CTC is extraordinary?

“Improve the good health of the Canberra population”

The Government Horse Holding Paddocks open the potential for excellence in the equestrian field to everyone. Equestrian sports are mostly viewed as elite sports which only the wealthy can aspire to, as you need to have land and riding area for horses to foster talent.

At the Government Horse Holding Paddocks, children and teenagers of average income families can pursue these sports and attain the necessary skills. Equestrian talent is then drawn from the wider Community.

Olympic equestrian competitors usually start out riding their own pony from a very early age. Dressage, Jumping and Eventing are all Olympic sports and Canberra has the means, land and facilities to potentially lead the nation in National and International competition. Few states could boast of the facility of Government paddocks. This aspect of Canberra has attracted many people to live here and this endearing characteristic will be lost if the Government Horse Holding Paddocks are eaten up with industry.

“Develop a package of initiatives to promote good health in children and young people including advice on food and nutrition, fitness and health.”

It is a point mentioned early but worth mentioning specifically in the context of children and their health and their relationship with the environment. It is nothing short of hypocritical for the government to spend money and invent schemes with the aim of engaging children and young people to care for their environment and work for a healthier lifestyle – at the same time as it allows developments like this to progress.

To extol children and young people to live a healthier lifestyle but take away an open field where horse riders, bike riders, hikers and families use, is nonsense. To tell children to care for the environment and to check and monitor their own carbon foot print –switch lights off, consider public transport etc is utterly laughable when the government allows the biggest single directly polluting power station to be built for private profit close to their schools (affecting over 17,000 children), homes and playing fields.

Children and young people are not naïve. This issue is on face book with thousands of hits, it's on the internet with over 5,000 hits, and over 4,500 people have signed the petition. They may not be able to vote now but they will be able to in the next election. The pity is the power station maybe built by then so they are likely to heed the lessons of clean air and carbon foot prints and vote with their feet and move out of Canberra to live in city or a country which respects its youth, its health and its environment.

Point eight – environment

“Respect and protect the environment”

The government will help protect our threatened species and ecological communities as part of best practice for urban planning”

“The government will enhance Canberra’s liveability, recognising the importance to the overall health of the Community”

“the government will care for our parks, landscapes and remote areas”

“The government will protect biodiversity for future generations”

“The government will reduce water consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and waste”

“The government will at least maintain the current position whereby more than half the ACT is under conservation management.”



Caption: Morning mist rising across Tuggeranong 1671

In this area, the Community is aware of the importance of looking after the environment. The horse paddocks have been managed with conservation considered foremost. Tree corridors have been planted along fence lines and water courses. Existing trees have been protected by fencing. Any branches that fall are left to provide habitat. The paddocks are managed in a sustainable, with frequent paddock rotation and low stocking rates.

It is enough to state this power station will be, according to the new guidelines recently announced by Federal Environment Minister Penny Wong, within the top 1,000 polluters in Australia and as such will require two different permits to run.

By allowing this proposal to advance now, with all the information the government already has to reject this proposal, shows without a doubt the government’s hypocrisy for environmental projects, for sustainable alternatives to fossil burning fuels.

The issue of the affects on the environment which this proposal will cause are irrefutable and cannot be balanced against the benefits this proposal will bring to Canberra. No benefits have been detailed which offset or compensate in the slightest to such an incredibly high consistent addition to pollution levels and the irreparable damage and destruction of this area and the loss of this much valued piece of land.

It is more so incomprehensible when considered against more appropriate alternative sites and the lack of any considered, intelligent discourse into selection of this site.

Point nine – water

“The government will develop and implement measures to increase the water and energy efficiency of residential and commercial buildings”

Beyond Blue reports that one of the key triggers to depression in Australia is the drought and images of dry paddocks and water beds. This is not an inconsiderable problem in Australia today and Canberra is currently undergoing stage 3 Water restrictions. This power station will use an estimated 1% of Canberra’s overall water consumption. The public will gain nothing from this high use.

It will however make a considerable difference to the dam levels.

Currently along Canberra’s roads there are signs letting drivers know what the limit was for the day and what is the target expected. The percentage of water in the dams is recorded. It is disingenuous and highly hypocritical for the government to remind Canberrans of its *“urban environmental footprint”* whilst a private consortium continues to gain profit from decimating a large portion of the water supply.

The Community is aware of this and should this proposal go ahead, next summer, the Community will find it a bitter pill to swallow that this foreign owned consortium will be able to access large quantities of water whilst lawns, sports fields, garden crops etc are allowed to die.

The proponents state in 4.1 of the information sheet 2 produced for the HIA workshops recently, that the Community water use will not be affected by the water used by this proposal. 435 mega litres is not an inconsiderable amount. It is more so when the Community is subjected to big neon signs every day flashing water consumption, dam levels, and each person is aware that they cannot water their patch of garden, their plants or do their bit to save the water from the shower etc. But the private consortium in the valley can keep on using water because it is making a big enough profit to make paying for it feasible and ok.

It does not alter that water is a precious resource. When the dams run dry will the government take over the data centre and power station to re-direct the water to emergency Community use? Or will the continuous profit making needs of the consortium and their close relationship with this government take precedence as it has appeared to have done throughout this process.

Point ten – house prices drop

“Human Rights willbe the primary means for delivering economic, social and cultural rights – the right to an adequate standard of living”

It is a difficult thing for some of the Community to consider this issue. CPR has been accused of being a NIMBY organisation despite the obvious concerns and spread of the pollution to cover a larger portion of Southern Canberra than two suburbs.

Macarthur residents specifically have been targeted (see attached Canberra Times Article 20 July 2008) about their complaints of the power station. Humorous as this article may sound it is hurtful and isolating to read this and to know people believe this.



Caption: Roof top view over suburbs showing the inversion layer taken mid-July 2008

The facts remain though that apart from the pollution problem which will affect large areas of southern Canberra, Macarthur and parts of Fadden and Gowrie will have the added burden of hearing the power station, and being so close to industrial land it will considerably lower their house prices. The row of houses along Jackie Howe Crescent will have the added benefits of actually being able to see the power station stacks which if they rise to 35 metres as stated in the proposal, will rise about the ridge and be level with the back doors and gardens.

The issue of selling a house for an estimated loss of value of around \$100,000 should not be taken out of context either. The decision will come after agonising over remaining and living so close to what would be by most people considered heavy industrial plant. The decision to buy the house at all will have been made on careful choices of the lifestyle, view, area and quality of living desired by the person for themselves their family and their futures. Some people made that choice 25 years ago, some people made it less than 6 months ago. All of these people have suddenly had everything about that decision, their decision to live in this location threatened.

Most people cannot afford to lose that amount of money. Some people have spoken about how they have chosen the block of land, designed their homes with engineering precision to take advantage of the sun, the wind and the views and have lived, raised children and wished to remain in this perfect setting until long after they retire.

Some people have wondered that the only safe option would be to move out of Canberra, taking with them their children and their skills and leaving behind a house which is being paid the fraction of what it is worth because it is in an undesirable area. That Canberra residents would condemn anyone for fighting against this because it is a “NIMBY” issue is the most heartbreaking and divisive one. Parents with children must consider whether, if this proposal goes ahead, they could remain allowing their children to live so close to this power station and it’s attending industrialisation.

“The Government will institute a “Canberra Gold” Chief Minister’s Award to be given annually to all people reaching their 50th anniversary as ACT residents”

To take the monetary loss is not a small thing. Where to live from here is equally not an easy answer. If this can happen here it can happen anywhere. If the government is allowed without consultation, survey, discussion, impact studies, Community discussion etc to merely pick a plot of land at its own convenience for the use of a private consortium then no where in Canberra is safe and that is a very clear message that should be passed around very clearly and very loudly if this proposal is not rejected.

The Community is fighting hard and suffering under the strain of the fight not least because what is at stake for a large number of individuals is not whether the Labor Party get voted back in or whether a data centre is built which momentarily gives TRE the international advantage over some other foreign real estate consortium but for their homes, the health of their families and their financial future.

It is a sickening conversation to have when considering if this proposal is allowed to go ahead; whether financially the family can sustain such a huge financial loss and where – after deciding this is where the children go to school, this is where friends are made and Community is built – is safe to live where the threat of this development will not happen again.



Caption: Housing backing on Broadacre

It is even more sickening to consider the families having these conversations are luckier than those that cannot afford to move at all and have to sit and wait to see whether they now live in an undesirable industrial areas where noise pollution, air pollution affect their lives but financially they are stuck - their choices, their sacrifices, their homes and the quality of their lives considered dispensable when compared to a foreign consortiums private profit.

Point eleven – loss of yellow box gum

“The Government will continue to identify, protect and manage key biodiversity assets through preparation of conservation strategies for lowland woodlands (2003) native grasslands (2004)”

The Community does not accept that the loss of this land, the heritage site contained within and the damage which will be done to the area and the yellow box gum tress is an appropriate loss to set against this proposal.

The Community places a high value on this land in its current condition. The Community considers this land invaluable as a buffer zone between existing industrial land and existing residential land. The Community considers this land to be beautiful and life enhancing. Many people use this land daily for sport, recreation, solitary or Community past times. Most of the Community spend time simply standing and watching the kangaroos, horses and other wildlife as the mist settles in the valley, during the sunset and the afternoon when the light creates a stunning vista.

The quiet and the peace of the valley which forms part of the wildlife corridor is treasured by the Community and the Community does not want this land to be developed upon in this way. The government has claimed there is an overwhelming need to develop industrial land and that Hume needs expanding. The Community says expand Hume. But expand it away from residential homes. This is what was originally intended and only deviated to the present unacceptable situation when Mr Stanhope realised he had promised land to ACTEWAGL which was worth more broken into smaller blocks.

THE COMMUNITY DOES NOT CONSIDER THIS IS A GOOD ENOUGH REASON TO OBLITERATE LAND THE COMMUNITY CONSIDERS PRICELESS.

Point twelve – lack of consultation

“This is not the last time the government will be seeking the views of the Community on these issues – The government intends to build on its partnership with the Community and foster the interest and Community participation that is at the heart of Building our Community – Canberra Social Plan”

This has been mentioned throughout this document. It is an outstanding source of concern, depression and stress that the Community is not consulted with and not considered by the government in this matter.

The government continues to expend a great deal of effort to minimise, discredit and manipulate the Community in order to achieve its aims. To claim now that these aims serve the greater good would be disingenuous at best.

The Community does not consider the governments' recent “Citizen Centred Governance” policy document to be anything other than political drivel. That the government compares Canberra's communication issues to Melbourne and Sydney is truly an outstanding example of misunderstanding the very place they represent. Canberra is neither of these cities

Canberra does not have the issues remotely similar to those states. ACT is a territory; one which has had the tools and the skills and the frameworks for excellent holistic communications and meaningful consultation with all members of the Community for many, many years.

The government does not choose to use them. The government does not choose to hear anything contrary to what has already been decided. If it does it minimises, discredits, ignores or just shouts down or it uses process to hide behind, manipulate and direct to reach an end.

This HIA for example, CPR believes will be used by the government to call an Environmental Impact Statement. This will, for the government, be the best way to silence this issue over the election. When the election is over the proponents will have an EIS they prepared and the development will shuffle along.

In terms of listening to the views of the Community – there have been several polls done by television news and Canberra Times. All have stated that a large majority of the Community don't want this development to go ahead on this site.

What does it take for the government to start listening? There are large numbers of the Community who are shocked and utterly stunned with the realisation that they don't matter. Their voice is not heard and if it is the government has dismissed it as not being anywhere near as important as the considerations and agreements made to TRE

This situation can only be redeemed now by this Committee demanding that the government listen and hear the Community or that the government themselves place the voice of the Community first and reject this proposal

Point thirteen – standing as the nation’s capital

The government’s goal – Value our role as the nation’s capital”

For people arriving in the ACT from the south, a huge herd of kangaroos is their first welcome to Canberra. Tidbinbilla is considered too far to drive.

It has been observed that a significant number of tourists who pass the paddocks along the Monaro Highway will stop and take photos of the roos in the paddocks.

This experience is exciting for them - many people drive into the paddocks so they can walk close to the roos to take photos and watch them hop around ‘in the wild’.

The site is well known to photographers as a place to find kangaroos.



Caption: mob of kangaroos on the paddock

The most recent example of this is: in the week before World Youth Day we had many pilgrims with their local host, come to the paddock to see the kangaroos.

Australia has, with the signing of Kyoto Treaty finally entered the world stage on carbon emissions and considers it is capable of leading the way with environmental targets. This project on the door step of the federal government and virtually in the middle of the Territory makes a mockery of that.

Canberra is clearly struggling to attract skilled workers, indeed workers from across the spectrum. It is struggling to keep the younger generations who are leaving faster than those coming into Canberra.

Clearly one of the best things the government can come up with to remedy this – take away the one positive and attractive feature about living in Canberra – the proximity to the bush and access for ordinary people to past times like horse riding, walking and hiking etc.

In allowing industrial developments to cross over buffer zones right up to established residential zones shows the ultimate disrespect for the residents of Canberra - more so when plenty of land exists on the other side of this development to accommodate Industrial expansion.

This argument was summarily dismissed by the proponents CEO John Mackay when he jovially answered “if we had picked Hume then the residents of Jerrabomerra would have been annoyed and if we had gone closer to Isabella Road then the residents of Chisholm would have been annoyed. So, someone has to be annoyed”. This misses the point - that if everyone is going to be annoyed by this development consideration should be given as to whether it should go ahead. Just because a real estate development consortium thinks this is a good idea for Canberra – yet the majority of Canberra citizens are saying they think the negative affects are too much – who should be listened to?

Canberra is being made a mockery of with this development. The Community is being disrespected and the Federal Government remains silent while this plays out right under their noses. This proposal is a bad thing for Canberra.



Caption: evening sunset over the proposed site

Conclusion

The Community does not want this development to advance. The Community has worked incredibly hard analysing and deciphering an enormous amount of paper and a data and presented three comprehensive responses now to, two DA/PA's and this HIA. These exercises have been stressful for the Community. This situation has been compounded by the direct opposition from the present government to the Community and the overwhelming support the government has put into this proposal in the face of consistent and sustained majority Community voice against the proposal.

The Community has presented high quality evidence to refute the premise that this proposal will bring positive benefits to Canberra which will outweigh and off set the very real negative affects of air pollution, sound pollution, ugliness, loss of treasured land and buffer zone. This rebuttal has been assisted by the proponent's lack of any substantial, quantifiable evidence to support any of their claims of benefits.

The Community notes and finds troubling that this proposal is now an entirely private consortium and the active support of ACTEWAGL has diminished with the announcement the first application was not viable and ACTEWAGL were looking into Williamsdale as a potential site for the 500 MW power station. What has remained however is the active support from the government for this proposal.

The Community finds this troubling as the support has manifested itself in individuals feeling vulnerable. Dismissive and minimisation statements are being directed at the Community by the Chief Minister. The summation of this are insulting and direct accusations; that this is a narrow NIMBY issue and therefore those residents objections, fears and motivations do not count.

There is a very recent and very raw history of direct government interference in site selection, process manipulation and lack of any meaningful consultation which has disenfranchised the Community and made a mockery of all Community based programs the governments' claims to direct and care about. The Community has received a very clear message that their health, well being, quality of live, hobbies and love of this buffer zone are meaningless and insignificant next to the profit making ambitions of a foreign owned real estate consortium.

The Community is aware of the HIA's integrity and as such has delivered this document in good faith in an attempt to again have our voices heard and engage in any way in consultation with what ever process the government has placed before us. CPR wishes the HIA to note that again the Community has paid a price in many different ways for its time, effort, honesty and engagement which is being disrespected by the government.

CPR wishes the HIA to step outside the tight confines the government has unjustly and manipulatively placed upon the scope and recommendation possibilities of this Committee. CPR respectfully request the HIA does not assist the government in its continued duplicity and manipulation of this process and recommend a rejection of this proposal.

CPR considers that anything else is without merit. There remains no evidence to support the assertion that this proposal offers Canberra a unique and unmissable opportunity and benefits. Even the most exaggerated claims of benefits it states it will bring do not come close to making compensable the devastating losses which will occur to the Community if this development goes ahead. These losses exist within the loss of house prices, health, wellbeing, recreational activity, choice of homes, and insidiously loss of faith in the process and loss of trust in government.

The Community considers this land itself to be extremely valuable. It is used daily and often by a wide variety of the Community and it is treasured both for itself as much for its defence of established residents against the encroachment of industrial land. The call to reject this proposal has come from across southern Canberra by thousands of residents yet continues to be ignored by the government.

The effects of this disenfranchisement are profound and negative. The Community believes the only way this can be redeemed is for the government to finally listen to the Community and place the needs of the Community above the needs of a private real estate consortium.

CPR would again like to state clearly that any use of this HIA to enable the government to call an EIS it will consider manipulative and disingenuous and asks the HIA to hear the Community. The government has considered it has had enough information for it to consistently support this proposal and CPR considers it has provided the government with enough quality data and research to enable it to recommend a rejection. The Community considers that if there is any doubt about the data the government should revert to the "precautionary principle" and reject the proposal.

The Community would like the government to place the needs and wishes of the Community above the government's own un-consulted agenda. This is not a case where the needs of the whole of Canberra outweigh the complaints of a few NIMBY residents. This proposal does not service a Canberra-wide need. This proposal benefits a private foreign based consortium.

This proposal will bring large negative impacts to bear on a wide area of residents the continuum of these negative affects are likely to be catastrophic to the Community and certainly to the Community's relationship with the present government.

CPR asks the HIA for the benefit of the health and well being of Canberra to recommend this proposal be rejected. It is requested that the HIA further declares that by narrowing the availability of the recommendation to reject this proposal the government is showing it has a pre-determined intent which has nothing to do with listening to the Community and everything to do with attempting to silence the Community over the election.

CPR ASKS THE HIA STEERING COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND A REJECTION OF THIS PROPOSAL

Appendix i – impact of emissions on school children

School Name	Address	Students numbers
Bonython Primary	Hurtle Avenue, Bonython ACT 2905	426
Calwell Primary	Casey Crescent, Calwell ACT 2905	473
Charles Conder Primary	Tom Roberts Avenue, Conder ACT 2905	550
Caroline Chisholm School	Hambidge Crescent, Chisholm ACT 2905	262
Fadden Primary	Hanlon Crescent, Fadden ACT 2904	330
Farrer Primary	Lambrigg Street, Farrer ACT 2607	324
Gilmore Primary	Heagney Crescent, Gilmore ACT 2905	260
Gordon Primary	Knoke Avenue, Gordon ACT 2906	525
Gowrie Primary	Jeffries Street, Gowrie ACT 2904	228
Isabella Plains Primary	Ellerston Avenue, Isabella Plains ACT 2905	162
Mawson Primary	Ainsworth Street, Mawson ACT 2607	213
Monash Primary	Corlette Crescent, Monash ACT 2904	505
Richardson Primary	May Gibbs Close, Richardson ACT 2905	229
Taylor Primary	Marconi Crescent, Kambah ACT 2902	296
Theodore Primary	Lawrence-Wackett Crescent, Theodore ACT 2905	383
Torrens Primary	Ritchie Street, Torrens ACT 2607	483
Urambi Primary	Snodgrass Crescent, Kambah ACT 2902	304
Wanniassa Hills Primary	Langdon Avenue, Wanniassa ACT 2903	401
Wanniassa School	Sternberg Crescent, Wanniassa ACT 2902	281
Calwell High	Casey Crescent, Calwell ACT 2905	524
Caroline Chisholm School	Hambidge Crescent, Chisholm ACT 2905	454
Lanyon High	Heidelberg Street, Conder ACT 2905	612
Melrose High	Marr Street, Pearce ACT 2607	815
Wanniassa School	Wheeler Crescent, Wanniassa ACT 2903	374
Erindale College	McBryde Crescent, Wanniassa ACT 2903	789
Lake Tuggeranong College	Cowlishaw Street, Tuggeranong ACT 2900	850
Canberra Christian School	Ainsworth Street, Mawson ACT 2607	47
Covenant College	Woodcock Drive, Gordon ACT 2906	75
The Galilee School	PO Box 205, Mawson ACT 2903	17
Holy Family Parish Primary	Castleton Crescent, Gowrie ACT 2904	579
MacKillop College	Ellerston Avenue, Isabella Plains ACT 2905	367
MacKillop College	Mackinnon Street, Waniassa ACT 2903	1,176
Marist College	Marr Street, Pearce ACT 2607	1,266
Marist Primary	Marr Street, Pearce ACT 2607	390
Sacred Heart Primary	Murphy Street, Pearce ACT 2607	333
St Anthony's Primary	Wheeler Crescent, Wanniassa ACT 2903	466
St Clare of Assisi Primary	Heidelberg Street, Conder ACT 2906	699
St Francis of Assisi Primary	Casey Crescent, Calwell ACT 2905	538
St Thomas the Apostle Primary	Boddington Crescent, Kambah ACT 2902	347
Trinity Christian School	34 McBryde Crescent, Wanniassa ACT 2903	526
TOTAL		17,879