



## Chief Health Officer

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File No: 08/11359

Mr William Reid  
President  
Canberrans for Power Station Relocation Inc  
PO Box 40  
ERINDALE CENTRE ACT 2903

Dear Mr Reid

Thank you for your letters concerning health aspects of the Canberra Technology City (CTC) proposal to Dr Charles Guest, Chief Health Officer, received on 6 February 2009, Mr John Woollard, Acting Executive Director Population Health received on 17 February 2009 and other senior ACT Health officials. I am replying on their behalf as Acting Chief Health Officer.

I agree that effects of particulate matter of 2.5 micrometers in diameter ( $PM_{2.5}$ ) are unquestionable. That is why ACT Health raised this issue in its submission concerning the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the CTC proposal (at the Tuggeranong site). In particular, ACT Health noted that the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) report discussed a number of relevant scenarios modelled in the Preliminary Assessment, which were based on the  $PM_{10}$  fraction. Given that  $PM_{2.5}$  better account for the smaller particles expected from combustion processes, ACT Health was of the opinion that, regardless of the results predicted for  $PM_{10}$  outlined in the HIA report, additional air quality modelling for  $PM_{2.5}$  fraction would be warranted to provide further information about any potential health risks. ACT Health emphasised that this additional modelling should be undertaken as part of the EIS process. ACT Health also requested that the HIA report, along with ACT Health comments, be considered in the EIS process.

In relation to the Development Application (DA) for the CTC proposal at the new site in Hume, ACT Health understands that the work previously undertaken on the EIS for the proposed CTC on the previous site would be considered in the DA assessment process. ACT Health suggested in its submission to the ACT Planning and Land Authority on the DA for the proposed CTC in Hume that work on the HIA done for the previous site be also considered in the assessment process. This includes ACT Health's comments about  $PM_{2.5}$  already communicated to the proponent during the EIS consultation process.

Thank you again for raising your concerns with ACT Health.

Yours sincerely

Dr Eddie O'Brien  
Acting Chief Health Officer  
March 2009