

7 December 2008

MLA (individually addressed)
Legislative Assembly

Dear MLA,

Tuggeranong Power Station and Data Warehouses – Block 1671

We are writing to acknowledge Mr Stanhope's announcement that this proposal cannot go ahead on Broadacre Tuggeranong Block 1671. We are assuming this dismisses the DA No.200701452, but due to the long history of process manipulation by the proponents and Mr Stanhope in respect of this matter, we would:

1. be grateful for urgent confirmation that this DA is now dismissed
2. also like to take this opportunity to express our concerns about the suggestion contained in Mr Stanhope's press release that this proposal be allowed to be "fast tracked" onto the alternative site.

If Mr Stanhope is referring to solely the data warehouse component being fast tracked onto Industrial land, the community would have no issue with that. Industrial land is zoned to accommodate warehouses of this type. It may be of interest however, to other data warehouse developers and those living and paying taxes within the Territory as to how a \$55 million land asset has been allocated solely for the use of these developers without any other consultation or survey being conducted.

We are curious too as to how it is that Mr Campbell of Technical Real Estate was scathing of this site in August 2008, stating it was "too small, under a flight path, in a flood zone and too close to the NCA and too great a risk for tenants to consider" – yet this site found, with all these faults, to be the second most suitable site by Mr Andrew Cappie-Wood's "task force"? Mr Campbell also appears to have forgotten all these points in gratefully accepting the Territory's kind offer of prime Industrial Land.

Of greatest concern is Mr Stanhope's suggestion that, in response to the failed original application, the Government is allowed to fast-track a gas-fired power station on to this new site, without detailed site-specific environmental impact studies, meaningful community consultation or discussion amongst its potential nearest neighbours.

One of the main reasons the original Tuggeranong site was deemed unsuitable by the ACT Greens and Canberra Liberals was because:

- the site was selected by Mr Stanhope
- the process was subjected to high level political interference
- lacked community consultation and
- offered the community no particular benefits which could not be offered by other less-polluting data warehouse projects which were and are popping up all over Canberra on Industrial zoned land.

Allowing the gas-fired power station component of this project to be fast-tracked, alongside the data warehouse component, again allows Mr Stanhope and this project to abuse the planning process, ignore the community and throw out any credibility the ACT claims to hold for sound environmental planning practice and fair, transparent, business development.

If these proponents wish to build a gas-fired power station on a site in Industrial Hume, they should be expected to deliver sound, credible, site-specific reports from which the community and the Minister for Planning can make sound planning judgments on whether to allow it or not.

This is what should have happened and did not, in the original development.

We ask that you, as our elected MLA, defend the protections incorporated in the ACT planning process and reject any suggestion that any power station application should be allowed to avoid adherence to those protective planning measures.

We further ask that you defend the rights of the community to be involved in meaningful consultations around any planning application, including this specific privately owned gas-fired power station, which involves a real or potential harm to the environment and the community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Reid', written in a cursive style.

Bill Reid
President of CPR Inc