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4 December 2008

TASK FORCE CONFIRMS DATA WAREHOUSES SHOULD BE ON INDUSTRIAL LAND

Although members of the community have not been allowed access to the "secret" report, they were pleased to see in the Canberra Times on Tuesday that it has been confirmed the data warehouses should be in Industrial Hume.

The report has been compiled by senior public servants on the instructions of Mr Stanhope who told them on the 25 November to look at the "merits and benefits" of other sites.

Despite the very pressing business of the approaching commencement of a new Assembly sitting, this task force of senior public servants from the Chief Minister's Department have managed to thoroughly inspect five potential sites for this project in less than one week. This is a remarkable achievement given the Land Development Agency was able to consider only 3 sites within one month prior to Mr Stanhope selecting the Tuggeranong site in July 2007.

There is agreement with the Task Force and the community that data warehouses belong in Industrial zoned Hume. The Tuggeranong site is Broadacre on which the building of warehouses are not allowed under the Territory Plan. The development would, if built on the Tuggeranong site,

- be contrary to the intention and definition of Broadacre within the Territory Plan cut into a valuable wildlife corridor,
- place a privately owned gas fired power station within 440 metres of a health facility
- obliterate much needed horse agistments
- industrialise a large area of rural land without going through the correct process of land re-zoning and public consultation
- be contrary to the views, wishes and best interests of a large portion of the community

Until the publication of the Canberra Times article, it had appeared as if the Task Force had concluded the Tuggeranong site was the "best" for this development. Had that been the case, it would have confirmed the community's fears - that the Task Force had been instructed to locate a site which suited the needs of the developers and that their investigation would not take into consideration the needs, views and wishes of the community.

Had it done so - it could not have concluded that the Tuggeranong site, out of the 241,843.98 ha of land throughout the ACT was the most suitable site for this private development.

RELEASE ENDS

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