

Media hysteria, the Greens and Jon Stanhope's unlawful site selection

29 October 2008

There appears to be a level of "hysteria" in the media around the Tuggeranong Data Warehouses and gas-fired power station and the position taken by the ACT Greens.

For the record, the proponents themselves estimated the job creation to be from 5 to 50 jobs. These are likely to come from the closure of existing data centres who will be unable to compete with these huge warehouses on cheap (Broadacre) land.

The current data centres pay industrial land rents.

While everyone appears to be focussing on the pending results of the partial EIS, we remind everyone that the EIS will not address the outstanding submissions from the community or the HIASG (Health Impact Assessment Steering Group) or for that matter, the 21 flaws in the ACTPLA evaluation of the Preliminary Assessment.

Nor will the EIS results, no matter how positive, create a process that has not featured high level political interference, manipulation and lack of meaningful community consultation.

We still await the finding of the Auditor-General in these matters.

Whilst small pockets of the business community talk about the ACT Greens decision to not support this project as tantamount to being anti-business, we would like to remind them that businesses, no matter what they promise, still have to behave legally, ethically and morally with, at the very least, respect for the Territory Plan.

The Broadacre site identified by the previous Chief Minister, does not allow for warehouses.

The legal opinion obtained in August shows this site was "dead in the water" from the beginning.

Is it no wonder that Jon Stanhope is unavailable for comment and content to watch his mistakes being pinned on the other parties?

Release ends