

4 December 2008

Mr Brendan Smyth MLA
Ms Amanda Bresnan MLA

Dear Mr Smyth and Ms Bresnan,

Tuggeranong Power Station and Data Warehouses

As you will be very aware, the date for community responses to the GHD “opinion” draws closer and many members of the public are, justifiably in the light of past experiences, expressing to us their views that responding to this “opinion” is a stressful waste of their time.

We have already raised a number of issues with Mr Stanhope and Mr Barr, around the independence, thoroughness and purpose of this “opinion”. These letters have been copied to you for your information.

You will be aware that the community is concerned that this “opinion”

- does not constitute an Environmental Impact Statement, (EIS) in any sense, as imagined by those drafting the requirement to produce an EIS as a protection within the planning system
- is not written by an independent organisation (GHD being the authors of the Hume Industrial Planning Study(HIPS)
- is inconsistent in its reasons for minimising the levels of negative impact from - ‘there being only one development’ - to - ‘this being the first of an entire industrialisation plan of the area’.
- continues to use data from other locations within Australia,
- does not address any of the issues raised by the community – rather it appears bias and determined to ignore, minimise or negate every reasonable issue raised
- neither offers nor uses any new site specific survey or data of its own apart from a Heritage dig which was conducted over a 5 day period.
- introduces new documents commissioned by ACTEWAGL and filed without independent analysis
- held meetings around the compilation of this opinion, which directly excluded the community whilst including, OTIS Projects (?), Queanbeyan City Council and public servants who had already been shown to support this project, acting solely in the best interests of the developers and contrary to the best interests and wishes of the community.

CPR inc, on behalf of the community, will respond in detail to this opinion but must ask to what point? It is clear that this opinion was filed as a continuation of the marketing campaign waged by the developers. It offers no new and independent research or inspection to assist ameliorate concerns or change minds. The community clearly continues to be ignored within this process.

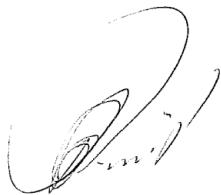
We must ask, as this stressful exercise is allowed to continue – at what point in any of this “process” has the community’s voice been listened to, acknowledged and addressed? If our views, reasonably delivered, and in technical detail, expertly created, are ignored so profoundly in this issue, throughout this process – we would like you both to ask of the Planning Minister Mr Barr, in what sense, where and how is any community member ever going to be listened to in any planning process within the Territory?

What is the point in the community continuing to engage and respond in this stressful and isolating process when the decision, as we understand it, has already been made for the ACT Greens and the Liberals to not allow this project to be developed on this site?

We are aware that the first Assembly sitting day is 9 December 2008, only 3 days before these latest submissions are due. We are aware that, as expected, Mr Stanhope has today announced that his “secretive” task force has concluded the current site is the “best site” for a privately owned gas fired power station and data warehouses – interestingly despite the land remaining as Broadacre and without any site specific surveys being done.

So that we can continue to reassure the community and perhaps consider how we approach responding to the GHD ‘opinion’ we would be grateful you could indicate as a matter of some urgency, when and how the ACT Greens and the Liberals propose to cease or move this development from this site.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Reid', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Bill Reid
President