

Deb Foskey MLA

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ACTEW shareholders on the ball?

ACT Greens MLA Deb Foskey is writing to the ACTEW shareholders - ACT Chief Minister and deputy Chief Minister – to ask for copies of all communication between them and the ACTEW Directors on the power station and data centre project.

“The two voting shareholders of ACTEW – our Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister – have considerable powers under the Territory Owned Corporations Act” Dr Foskey said today.

“I am concerned that the Government seems to not have learned from its mistakes in the Rhodium Assets scandal, when the management of Rhodium was able to waste substantial sums of public money and enter into inappropriate sponsorships. One (necessary if not sufficient) reason why they were able to do this was because the Government shareholders, (the Chief Minister and his Deputy), failed to perform their oversight role and took a hands-off approach.”

“And with those statutory powers (to assess and appoint the directors, to direct the corporation, etc) comes a responsibility to ensure ACTEW is fulfilling its objectives – which include exhibiting a sense of social responsibility and complying with the principles of ecological sustainability.”

“It’s possible that Mr Stanhope was both blinded by the prospect of a two billion dollar investment and blind to the environmental and public health risks inherent in the project.”

“I am seeking reassurance that there was a steady flow of communications between the ACTEW Board and the shareholders, and that the Chief Minister and his Deputy were taking their responsibilities seriously” Dr Foskey said.

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