

Deb Foskey MLA

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ActewAGL's unfortunate sequence of events

ACT Greens MLA Deb Foskey has welcomed the decision by ActewAGL to drop its plans to build a large power station close to Canberra suburbs. She argued that this unfortunate sequence of events demonstrates that major development proposals need to have full Environmental Impact Statements commissioned by government.

“ActewAGL could have guessed that the original proposal would cause high levels of distress” Dr Foskey said today.

“In scaling back to the power generation plans we might find now that we don't have the best project possible for the ACT.”

“I still believe we should have a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to look at the health and environmental impacts and at possible sites across the Territory.”

“This project promised major power generation and international data storage business. While I have questioned the need for a gas fired power station on such a large scale, and the proposed site, I have supported a wider exploration of the proposal – including a look at renewable energy.”

“I am concerned that in making the inevitable move to back off from its original plans, ActewAGL might have dropped the ball altogether.”

“There might have been a better idea, with a solar thermal power station perhaps and a site further away from the suburbs, which will never see the light of day.”

“The Government's unfinished Energy Policy should set the framework for looking at energy issues across the ACT.”

“I think a full EIS process is a more comprehensive and reliable process, and I regret that the Environment Minister has ducked the issue all the way through” Dr Foskey said.

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