

Deb Foskey MLA

Member for Molonglo
Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory
GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Phone 61 (02) 6205 0161 Fax 6205 0007
www.debfoskey.com



25 June 08

Foskey Censure Motion debated today

ACT Greens MLA Deb Foskey has argued that the ACT Chief Minister is wrong to simply attack those who have criticised him over the power station debacle; but that the real vote of no confidence will be at the ACT election.

“It is unfortunate but telling that the Chief Minister has chosen to deny all wrongdoing, when any objective observer can see that major mistakes have been made by the Government in the land selection process” Dr Foskey said today.

“The Chief Minister’s standard response to criticism is to attack the messenger, and I think that this knee jerk response has backfired on him on this occasion. His response smacks of hubris, when humility and some contrition are called for.”

“There is sufficient evidence that ACTEW/AGL and the Chief Minister’s Department, receptive to Treasury advice rather than environmental or health concerns, were blinded to the obvious health dangers in the original power station proposal.”

“While I do not consider that the Chief Minister’s proven shortcomings and misdemeanours in this matter are serious enough to warrant his stepping down, I do think they deserve a censure, and I moved a censure motion accordingly.”

“If the Greens had held the balance of power during this process, there is no way that the project could have progressed so far without the proponent or the Government committing to the production of comprehensive environmental, climate change and health assessments.”

“Furthermore, evidence has emerged during this process to indicate that the spirit of the FOI regime in the ACT is broken and in need of urgent resuscitation.”

“The gravest aspect of this matter could well turn out to be the alacrity with which the ACT Government and ACTEW/AGL originally thought they could get away with inadequate and misleading assessments of the noxious gas emissions and environmental studies. Only after community outcry caused the Government to spring into damage control did a more credible assessment process commence” Dr Foskey said.

MEDIA CONTACT Roland Manderson 62050551 or 0412241379

another world is possible...

ACT GREENS RELEASE