

Deb Foskey MLA

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Govt missing in action?

ACT Greens MLA Deb Foskey has called on the Environment Minister to use his powers under the 1991 Land Act to commission an Environmental Impact Statement of ActewAGL's Data Centre and Power Station proposal.

"The ACT Chief Minister has been saying it would be a crime to interfere in the statutory approval process conducted by ACTPLA" Dr Foskey said today.

"He is avoiding the issue."

"Once the Preliminary Assessment for ActewAGL's proposal has been conducted, I understand it is within the power of the (Environment) Minister to commission a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)."

"I am suggesting that the he commits to doing exactly that."

"A full EIS could reassure the Canberra residents that the health, amenity, noise and greenhouse impacts of the proposed development have been assessed objectively."

"It would also mean that a range of locations and models could be compared."

"The ACT Government creates a lot of distress and conflict by presuming that the minimum statutory requirements of its consultation processes are sufficient. Too often they are not."

"This is yet another example where a simple risk analysis would have found that a more energetic engagement process would result in a better outcome."

"Minister Hargreaves said today he would take community concerns to Cabinet. I would have thought that Cabinet was a well aware of these concerns by now" Dr Foskey said.

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ACT GREENS RELEASE