



Katy Gallagher MLA

DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

MINISTER FOR DISABILITY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO



Ms Mary Porter MLA
Chair
Select Committee on Estimates 2008-09
Legislative Assembly
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Ms Porter *Mary*

I am writing to clarify evidence provided by Chief Minister's Department officials at the Estimates hearings into the 2008-09 Budget on 26 and 27 May 2008.

Committee members asked a number of inter-related questions about Project Facilitation in Chief Minister's Department (CMD) and any facilitation role in relation to the proposed gas fired power station, and who made the decision on a site.

The Project Facilitation role commenced in late June 2007, with work transitioning over the subsequent month from Policy Division to Business and Projects in relation to land supply policy, development and oversight of the Territory's land supply strategy, and related project oriented work such as the facilitation for the Government's aged accommodation strategy.

With the opportunity to examine the transcripts from the hearings, it is apparent that the Committee asked wide-ranging questions covering not just site selection, but who was consulted on site selection and when agencies became aware of the issue. Having read the transcript and reviewed the department files Mr Dawes would like to correct any suggestion that CMD had no involvement in providing comments on possible sites.


It is possible that responses on questions about who made the decision in relation to the site could be taken as a response to CMD's wider involvement. The decision to progress a request for a site is one for the proponent based on the potential suitability of the site. That would need to be tested through detailed assessments based on further studies and formal planning processes. It was not a question for CMD or the Land Development Agency (LDA) to determine. However, CMD and the LDA collaborated in looking at the available land that might suit the preliminary requirements.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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CMD was involved in work relating to the proposal from the time of receipt of a letter dated 9 May 2007 to the Chief Minister from ActewAGL's Chief Executive. From this time, CMD staff were involved in preparation of advice to the Chief Minister on the proposal and liaison with the Land Development Agency on possible site options, consistent with the Department's role in land supply. Officers in CMD were also involved in informal discussions with the LDA and ActewAGL about sites. Again, these discussions related to the Department's role in land supply as well as the Department's overall co-ordination role within the ACT Public Service.

Yours sincerely



Katy Gallagher MLA

Acting Chief Minister

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