

16 April 2009



Ms Rosalind Bush  
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms Bush

**ACTEW announcement regarding purchase of land at Williamsdale**

Thank you for your email regarding ACTEW Corporation's announcement regarding the purchase of land at Williamsdale, and our intention to be an active participant in the development of commercial solar power generation for the ACT.

This week ACTEW has finalised the purchase of a property at Williamsdale, which is in addition to the land intended to be purchased from TransGrid. ACTEW's intention is to engage in solar by providing a suitable site to a successful proponent.

The purchased property is located near the southern ACT border, between the Monaro Highway and the Murrumbidgee River and constitutes approximately 460 hectares. It is a well known piece of land identifiable by the location of the Williamsdale Service Station on a portion of it. The current occupant will remain until further notice. ACTEW respects the seller's desire to keep the block identity confidential until it is released publicly by the relevant authorities.

ACTEW will not be building or financing the solar plant. We have land available and our intent is to provide that land for solar power generation proponents in light of the ACT Government's call for expressions of interest, and to look at tree planting to mitigate impacts from our water security projects.

Gas fired power generation is not something which ACTEW is currently considering. ACTEW is seeking to await an energy policy review that the ACT Government has indicated it will conduct. The outcomes from this government review will guide ACTEW's future direction into what kind of generation should be pursued within the ACT. We believe this is also the position of ActewAGL.

ACTEW is currently considering a mini-hydro scheme as part of the planning and design of the Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer. This follows the ACT Government's recent endorsement of our recommendation to offset greenhouse gas effects of both the construction and operational aspects of all water security projects. ACTEW is now confident that the Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer project will be carbon neutral through offsetting via carbon credit purchase and with the innovative mini hydro facility enabling almost 30% recovery of energy input.

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Input from the community is important to ACTEW. We have listened to community concerns raised in the past and wherever possible, have addressed those concerns. ACTEW is committed to continuing to listen and to providing the community with information as these projects develop.

We would welcome the addition of names and contact details to our community database to receive our regular community updates and opportunities for broader consultation. I would welcome any opportunity for representatives of ACTEW and ActewAGL to meet with community organisations in due course to further discuss our participation in solar power generation in the area.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RK' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ross Knee  
Principal Strategic Planner