

An important opportunity

IT WAS good to finally get a positive mention in *The Canberra Times* about the proposed Canberra technology city, even a biased one from ActewAGL chief executive John Mackay (May 10, pB7).

The bulk of recent letters regarding the proposed development in Hume only confirms what a bunch of hypocritical, precious Nimbies we are in Canberra.

We are happy to use dirty coal-generated electricity produced by our neighbours, in a government town funded by the taxes of those same neighbours.

The last time I looked, there wasn't a mine, oil field, steel mill or car manufacturing plant in the ACT.

It's time for the ACT to grow up and expand its tax base.

An economy based on handouts from the feds, land sales and

stamp duty is doomed. We're talking about a project with an estimated worth of \$2 billion; these don't come along every day.

The proposed facility fits well with what should be the Canberra business model of government, education and information technology.

As long as the noise and emission levels meet the same standards set for the rest of Australia, who are the residents of Fadden, Macarthur, Isaacs or Farrer to complain?

Admittedly, I would prefer the complex to be built somewhere else in the ACT (the old Koppers Log site?).

Having said that, if I had to choose between the proposed site in Hume and losing this project, bring on the bulldozers.

Don Maye, Farrer

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