

available for interview THIS MORNING Thursday 10 February

Asbestos Fears on ADI site

RESIDENTS AND ASBESTOS DISEASES FOUNDATION DEMAND ACTION

"We must not put families at risk. We must not endanger yet another generation."
Barry Robson, President adfa

As the developers of the ADI site at St Mary's in Western Sydney, briefed the local community on the plans for the site, the Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia, (adfa) and the ADI Resident Action Group have called on the State and Federal Governments and local Councils to intervene.

adfa President Barry Robson wants each of the blocks being sold to be individually screened for asbestos contamination.

"It must be 100% clear of asbestos. And every block of land sold from the site should have an asbestos certificate to prove the land is free from asbestos fibres," he said.

The developers called a public meeting at Werrington last night (Wednesday 9 February) but people concerned about asbestos on the site are determined the development should not go ahead with out absolute proof the ground is clean.

The ADI site is 1545 hectares and had around 800 houses using asbestos as well as asbestos clad water piping, throughout the site.

"Although there are claims the site has been cleaned up, there are serious concerns that the clean up has been inadequate and there may be substantial amounts of asbestos unaccounted for," said Barry Robson. "And that's in addition to the chemicals, pesticides, insecticides and explosives which could still be contaminating the land."

"This is the responsibility of all governments: Federal, State and local. Previous Councils refused to let developments on the site go ahead and nothing has so far changed my mind on the issue," said Robson, who is a former Blacktown Councillor.

"Asbestos certificates would ensure community safety and people who buy the land can be sure they will not be putting their families at risk. We must not endanger yet another generation," he said.

adfa is the organization that has fought James Hardie for compensation for the asbestos victims of the future. The ADI Residents Action Group has been campaigning on the issue.

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