



**PENRITH
CITY COUNCIL**
Serving Our Community

7 December, 2004 (4130/2 Part 64)

Mr Geoff Brown
ADI Residents Action Group
47 Forest Glen Drive
CRANEBROOK NSW 2747

Dear Mr Brown,

ADI site, St Marys ~ Local Grants Commission

I refer to your letter dated 30 November, 2004 quoting an article from 26 November 2004 within the Western Weekender which reports that Council is seeking additional funding from the NSW Local Government Grants Commission due to the added costs of the development of the ADI site.

Council was putting a case to the Grants Commission that as a consequence of urban development, and in particular new release areas throughout the City, Council has an increasing obligation to accept the ownership, care and management of bushland areas which possess biodiversity conservation values. This has cost implications for the community.

Given the State Government's proposed ownership and management of the Regional Park, Council was not seeking special funding for the ADI site. The reference by the Grants Commission to the ADI site was simply a recognition that biodiversity conservation areas were proposed by the State and Federal Governments in the planning and development of the site.

The agreement between Federal and State Governments and Delfin Lend Lease requires the 50 ha of residual RNE lands to be studied in the Regional Park Plan of Management process to assess appropriate management options for that land. Should this process determine that the appropriate management option for the residual lands is a Regional Park, the Department of Environment and Conservation will be required to manage them. If an alternative management option is determined to be appropriate, the landowner would be required to protect these lands. This has been confirmed by the Minister for the Environment, Bob Debus MP.



Jackie Greenow
Mayor

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Council has previously put forward to the Minister and DEC that all of the woodland listed by the Australian Heritage Commission on the Register of the National Estate should be included in the Regional Park and owned and managed by the DEC.

In April, 2004 Council wrote to the Minister for the Environment seeking confirmation that the \$6.9 million contribution by Delfin Lend Lease for the development of a Plan of Management and the establishment of a Regional Park is adequate to ensure an appropriate conservation outcome. The Minister confirmed by letter in May 2004 that DEC "regards this contribution as being sufficient to protect the bushland, threatened species, revegetate areas that have been disturbed, protect Aboriginal sites, and provide visitor facilities for the people of western Sydney."

I trust that this clarifies your understanding of the matter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jackie Greenow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jackie Greenow
Mayor