



MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In reply please quote: MOF14208

Mr Geoff Brown  
Convenor  
ADI Residents Action Group  
PO Box 4134  
WERRINGTON NSW 2747

Dear Mr Brown

I refer to your letter of 27 July 2004 regarding the possibility of additional funding for the proposed regional park at the former ADI site, St Marys.

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has provided advice to me on your proposals, which I have summarised below.

Increased conservation area

You would be aware that Delfin Lend Lease (DLL) is now effectively the sole owner of the site. The purchase of private land for addition to the NSW reserve system cannot take place unless the owner is willing to sell the land. Presumably, in this instance, the purchase would need to occur at market rates for urban zoned land.

You would also be aware that the proposed regional park already includes all but 50 hectares of the lands listed on the Register of the National Estate. I understand that these 50 hectares are oddly shaped, with poor boundary configuration, but are nevertheless to be investigated for inclusion in the Regional Park as part of the development of a plan of management. From your letter, however, it is not clear whether you have other areas in mind.

The DEC has previously indicated that boundary smoothing would need to be examined as part of the consideration of whether to include this additional 50 hectares.

Funding for management of the proposed reserve

Under the Development Agreement between the NSW Government and the Joint Venture (which is now essentially DLL), DLL is already committed to providing significant funds. The funds are mostly tied to capital improvements, to be identified in the plan of management.

As you would be aware, the Community Reference Group has recently commenced its work on the plan of management.

I understand that buffer zones are already being addressed as part of the Precinct planning process, particularly with respect to bushfire Asset Protection Zones (which are all being provided outside the regional park), ring-roads and local open space location.

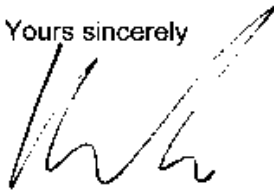
Fencing will also be considered during the development of the plan of management.

I am unsure of the purpose of your comment about providing 'special conservation status' to the proposed park. Neither a Regional Park nor a National Park classification would preclude eco-tourism ventures, whether run by the DEC or others.

I am advised that reintroduction of species is a complex matter. The DEC is not able to offer any commitment to such a project at this stage.

Thank you for your continued interest in the ADI site. Your role in helping to establish the proposed regional park for the people of Western Sydney is welcome.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Debus', written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Bob Debus**