



MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In reply please quote: MOF 10910, MOF 11502

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

Dear Mr Brown

Further to my previous correspondence to you concerning a range of matters in relation to the former ADI site at St Marys, two additional letters from you have also recently been brought to my attention. I apologise for the delay in replying to them.

The preparation of the *St Marys Macrofauna Management Plan: A Plan of Management for Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Red Kangaroos and Emus* was a requirement of the Environmental Planning Strategy for the ADI site. As you know, this plan was placed on exhibition for public comment for six weeks in 2003. I am advised that 603 written submissions were received.

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) carefully considered the public submissions and requested the proponent to re-draft the plan to recognise these submissions. The DEC has now considered the re-drafted plan and has supported its implementation, subject to a number of conditions.

It is not considered necessary for documents prepared as part of environmental planning processes to be subject to a second phase of public exhibition. While the amended plan contains some changes in emphasis, all of the recommended management strategies were canvassed in the original draft document. The fundamental direction of the management plan is unchanged and the DEC considers that the exhibition process offered ample opportunity for the community to comment on the proposed management strategies.

I understand that Blacktown City Council has now approved the first of the Precinct Plans for the ADI site, and that this approval requires the developer to comply with all conditions that the DEC may apply to the Macrofauna Management Plan. The DEC's conditions are to be included as an appendix to the plan. These conditions will establish the framework for any issuing of licences under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

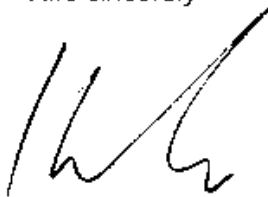
With regard to the size of the proposed regional park I can advise that the park will initially be 848 hectares. This land will be handed to the NSW Government when subdivision of the site is complete, which is expected to occur in the near future.

There are two further parcels of land comprising a total of 46 hectares, which are designated as Regional Open Space. I understand there is yet another 47 hectares of residual land remaining from the St Marys Development Agreement that will be considered for addition to the regional park during the Plan of Management process over the next two years.

The Deed of Agreement for this proposal specifies that the reserve will be dedicated as a regional park. The management principles for regional parks are outlined in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and include a clear commitment to the conservation and protection of the natural and cultural values of these areas. You can be assured that these principles will be reflected in the draft Plan of Management for the proposed regional park, which will itself be subject to an extensive consultation process.

Thank you for your interest in these matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Debus', written in a cursive style.

Bob Debus