



Handwritten notes: - 10/03/04 ... MOF 11578

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In reply please quote MOF 11578

Mr Andrew Cox  
Executive Officer  
National Parks Association of NSW  
PO Box A96  
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

Dear Mr Cox *Handwritten signature*

Thank you for your letter of 9 March 2004, concerning the former ADI site at St Marys.

The Deed of Agreement governing the development of the ADI site specifies that the conserved lands in the site will be reserved as a regional park.

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has sought applications for membership of a Community Reference Group that will participate in the preparation of a plan of management for the proposed regional park at the ADI site. The appointment of this Group is currently being finalised and the preparation of background material for the plan of management has commenced.

The plan of management will determine appropriate policies and actions for the lands that comprise the regional park.

I have passed your letter on to the DEC, and have requested the Director-General to discuss your representations with the Community Reference Group. I understand that the DEC will also be discussing reserve classification and the management principles that are attached to each classification with the Community Reference Group. This will be done within the framework of the Deed of Agreement.

Yours sincerely

*Handwritten signature*  
**Bob Debus**

COPY

9 March 2004

The Hon Robert J Debus MP  
Attorney General and Minister for the Environment  
Level 36 Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
Sydney 2000



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### ADI Site St Marys

Dear Minister,

The NPA has consistently shown the importance of preserving the whole of the 1,500 hectare ADI site as a Regional Park.

It was naturally expected that the Plan of Management for such a Park would allow high levels of protection for the more environmentally sensitive areas in order to preserve and even encourage the regrowth of endangered communities and species such as the Cumberland Plains Woodland. In other words there would be effectively protected as a Nature Reserve within such a full Regional Park. This position is foreshadowed in the NPA's Latham Report of 1999.

Since it is now clear that the Commonwealth Government has ignored the strong feelings of the community and sold a large part of this land to Lend Lease for development it is imperative that the 900ha of land that is left for conservation be properly protected. This protection and preservation is made more difficult since the areas for conservation are in separate pieces and therefore the total perimeter is very long compared to the area. It must be realised that there will be extreme pressure from the urban development in the form of domestic animals, rubbish, garden run off, and people expecting to use these areas for high impact recreation.

We commend your strong response to the outrageous attempt by Mr Howard to subsume some of the conservation land for a sports complex.

It is therefore imperative that from the start these areas are clearly defined as Nature Reserve under the National Parks and Wildlife Act and that the conditions that accompany this status are observed.

We therefore call upon you to urgently declare the Conservation Areas of this site as a Nature Reserve.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Cox  
Executive Officer