



Office of  
**SENATOR THE HON NICK MINCHIN**  
Minister for Finance and Administration  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate

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

17 FEB 2004

*Dear Mr Brown*

Thank you for your letter of 19 January 2004 to the Minister for Finance and Administration, Senator the Hon Nick Minchin, concerning the sale of land at the former ADI site at St Marys to the Catholic Education Office for the construction of Xavier College. The Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The St Marys site is currently owned by ComLand Limited's subsidiary, St Marys Land Limited. Negotiations for the sale of the school site commenced in the mid-1990s and were conducted by the St Marys joint venture developer, Maryland Development Company Pty Limited. I am advised that the Australian Government was not involved in these negotiations.

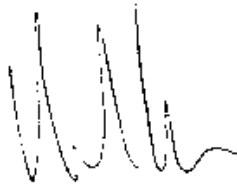
ComLand has advised that the sale was completed in August 2003, with the school site being sold to the Catholic Education Office for market value.

In 2001, the Government provided grants totalling \$4.365 million to the NSW Catholic education system for the construction of a new school to be known as Xavier College. The funds were granted as part of the annual allocation of funds for school infrastructure under the Schools Capital Grants Programme administered by the Minister for Education, Science and Training. Under this programme some \$94 million is allocated nationally

each year for non-government school capital projects including the construction of new schools.

The Australian Government has recently announced its decision to sell ComLand, including its interest in the St Marys site. Further information is set out in the Minister's media statement on the sale, a copy of which is attached for your information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Wawn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**David Wawn**  
**Chief of Staff**