

John Aquilina MP

Member for Riverstone

The Hon D Beamer MP
Minister Assisting the Minister for Infrastructure
and Planning (Planning Administration)
Level 33 GMT
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

COPY ONLY

Our Ref:JA:SC/0621

Dear Minister

I have interviewed a number of constituents who have emphatically expressed their concerns to me in relation to the proposed development of the Australian Defence Industry (ADI) site at St Marys.

I had interviewed some of these constituents on previous occasions and forwarded representations to your predecessor, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge MP, namely reference numbers M01-02420 and M01-03762.

I am attaching for your current information further representations which I have received from these constituents graphically pointing out that over recent years the site, which has been proposed to be preserved for environmental purposes, has been dramatically reduced.

One of the attachments shows that in June 1997 the Australian Heritage Commission had an Interim Listing which was approximately 1100 hectares. By October 1999 this had been reduced to 850 hectares.

Furthermore, a comparison of the area preserved in 1997 with the area proposed to be retained as Open Space in the more recent proposals put forward by the developers shows not only a dramatic reduction in the sites earmarked for preservation, but also shows a somewhat disjointed pattern of Open Space in which residential and industrial development substantially encroaches upon wetlands and other sensitive areas.

In the points raised by the delegation comments were made concerning the problems being experienced with the preservation of Cumberland Plain wetlands, as well as the increased pollution of the Hawkesbury River.



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**The State seat of
Riverstone includes:**

Acacia Gardens
Glenwood
Kollyville Ridge
Kings Langley
Kings Park
Lalor Park
Marayong
Marsden Park
North Blacktown
Parklea
Quakers Hill
Riverstone
Rouse Hill
Schofields
Seven Hills
Stanhope Gardens
Toongabbie
Vineyard



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Both of these are vital issues about which I have received constant representations. It will be noted that South Creek, which is a main tributary for the Hawkesbury River flows substantially through the ADI site leaking into several of its wetlands.

There is also concern for the fauna of the area, particularly the proposed dramatic reduction in the number of grey and red kangaroos who at one time were native inhabitants of the western plains. There are several other fauna species which are currently endangered which are plentiful at this site.

Finally, I refer you to the paper prepared by Ms Sonia Bennett titled "*Treading Lightly on the Hidden Woodlands*" which deals extensively with the variety of flora to be found on the site and a number of species which would be put at risk should this development take place as is currently proposed.

Leaving aside these specific representations, it is a matter of substantial concern that such a large number of constituents throughout Sydney's West continue to express substantial reservations concerning the proposed development and, despite the fact that many of these people would normally not be persons who are keen to mount barricades, nonetheless have maintained such consistent vocal opposition to these proposals over such a longer period of time.

I am aware that the Government has considered and reconsidered this matter on many occasions. Indications are that the proposals outlined warrant further reconsideration prior to final approval being granted.

Yours sincerely


John Aquilina MP
Speaker