



Department of the Environment and Heritage

Date: 18/12/01
File Number: 2001/06027
Contact Officer: Ron Hotchkiss
Telephone: 02 6274 2292

Mr Geoff Brown
ADI Residents Action Group
PO Box 4023
PENRITH PLAZA
NSW 2750

Dear Mr Brown

Slashing of Cumberland Plains Woodland at the St Marys (old ADI) Site

Further to your letter to the Minister 16 August 2001 regarding extensive slashing of the St Marys (old ADI) site.

Particular emphasis was made in your letter that clearing was being undertaken in the western sections of the site. As a result, the Compliance and Enforcement section of Environment Australia made arrangements with ComLand management to visit the site, on an informal basis, to substantiate whether the action was taking place or not.

On 12 September 2001, a site visit was carried out by two officers of the Department and a botanist with expertise in Cumberland Plain Woodlands, accompanied by Mr Bill Mitchell.

While the quality and extent of the Cumberland Plain Woodlands community varies considerably over different parts of the site, it appears that some of the slashing activity did occur in or in the immediate vicinity of areas where the vegetation includes components of Cumberland Plain Woodlands. However, most slashing activities were occurring in previously cleared parts of the site.

Subsequently, this Department has written to ComLand requesting an application for a permit. Through the permit application process a fire control program can be considered in the context of ensuring protection of listed species and the Cumberland Plain Woodlands community. ComLand has been advised that any further slashing activity should be strictly limited to essential maintenance of existing boundary firebreaks and only those trails essential for fire control vehicle access.

Yours Sincerely

Laurie Hodgman
Director
Compliance and Enforcement
Environment Australia

14/12/01



GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601 Telephone 02 6274 1111 Facsimile 02 6274 1666
Internet: www.environment.gov.au

