



DEPUTY PREMIER  
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MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS  
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YOUR REF:

OUR REF:

RML 82627  
P91/00012/019

Mr Bruce Wheatley  
Chairperson  
ADI Residents Action Group  
PO Box C146  
WERRINGTON COUNTY NSW 2747

23 JUL 1999

Dear Mr Wheatley

Thank you for your letters dated 17 May 1999 and 18 July 1999 concerning the proposed development of the ADI site at St Marys. I apologise for the delay in replying.

In your letter you raise important issues about the role and nature of community consultation on any proposed rezoning of the ADI site.

The Government has not yet decided whether to exhibit a draft Regional Environmental Plan (REP) for public comment. I can assure you that if such a decision is taken a thorough public consultation process will be undertaken. The length of any exhibition process is yet to be determined and I have noted your comments on this point.

The Department of Urban Affairs and Planning advises me that should the draft REP be exhibited for public comment the Department would also arrange with the land owner for open days allowing public access to the site during the exhibition period. I understand that there are issues of security and public liability for the land owner which will have to be managed during public site inspections. Exhibitions would be located at Blacktown and Penrith Council offices and at the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning. Other locations to facilitate public access, such as libraries, would also be considered. I have referred your comments regarding public access to the site to the Department for consideration in organising open days.

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You also raise the issue of the Section 22 Committee's conclusions on the biodiversity values of the site. The Department of Urban Affairs and Planning advises that the Section 22 Committee identified the north west sector of the ADI site as having relatively low biodiversity value and it was not recommended for conservation within the proposed regional park. The Committee was satisfied that the biodiversity values that exist within the north west sector of the site were better and adequately represented within the proposed conservation zone. This process was informed by vegetation studies undertaken during the Regional Environmental Study process, the Lend Lease Master Plan and additional survey work required by the Section 22 committee.

I understand that the assessment of the site by the Australian Heritage Commission relied heavily on the extensive work undertaken within the NSW planning process, including the Regional Environmental Study and the Section 22 committee report. The Department and the National Parks and Wildlife Service have reviewed the information on which the Australian Heritage Commission's decision was based, and this review would establish the boundary of the park in a draft REP for the site.

Thank you for taking the time to forward your views and concerns regarding the importance of public consultation on this development proposal.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Refshauge MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
Minister for Housing



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