



COPY

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In reply please quote: MOF15356

The Hon Jackie Kelly MP
Member for Lindsay
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

16 NOV 2004

Dear Ms Kelly

Thank you for your recent letter, referred to me by the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney and Minister Assisting the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Planning Administration), the Hon Diane Beamer MP, regarding your proposal for a vermin-proof fence around the environmentally sensitive land on the ADI site at St Marys.

I appreciate your concerns on this very important matter and the information you sent on the Warrawong Sanctuary. A Plan of Management for the new Regional Park at St Marys is currently being prepared and I can assure you that fencing issues are being carefully considered as part of this planning process.

I am advised, however, that Ropes Creek and South Creek, which both traverse the proposed park, have been identified as vital wildlife corridors in western Sydney. I understand that a current study is being carried out by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources to maximise the conservation values of these open spaces for wildlife. One factor to consider is the possibility that a vermin-proof fence could have the effect of blocking wildlife movements across western Sydney. It is also very difficult for a completely vermin-proof fence to be constructed when it traverses creeks.

Nevertheless, I understand that part of the ADI site is proposed to be fenced with macrofauna-proof fencing under the provisions of the endorsed Macrofauna Management Plan, which will help restrict the movements of dogs and foxes.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Debus