

ADI Residents Action Group  
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Tuesday, 30 November 2004

Letter by Fax  
Mayor  
Clr Jackie Greenow  
Penrith City Council

**RE: NSW Local Government Grants Commission  
Councils need for increased funding due to development of ADI Site**

Dear Jackie

It was reported in the Western Weekender, November 26, 2004, that Penrith Council is seeking additional funding from the NSW Local Government Grants Commission for the year 2005/6.

It was reported that Council needs extra funding partly due to the added costs of the development of the ADI Site. The story was not specific as to why Council will incur costs as a result of the development of the ADI Site. Mention was made that Council needs to protect its biodiversity with reference to the presence of Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW) on the ADI Site.

The rhetoric from Council has been that the proposed Regional Park would protect all the National Estate Listed CPW found on the ADI Site and that the Regional Park would be owned and managed by the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). Indeed you confirmed in a letter you sent to the ADI Residents Action Group dated February 9, 2004, that "...more than 900 hectares of beautiful and environmentally necessary bushland has been preserved forever."

DEC and Lend Lease have both stated that the \$6.9 million funding arrangement they agreed to was sufficient to establish the Regional Park and protect all areas of high conservation value.

It is now known that DEC plans to reduce the size of the Regional Park from the once accepted 900 hectares to only 850 hectares. If this occurs then it is more than likely that 50 hectares of National Estate Listed CPW will be excised from the Regional Park.

Is Councils request for extra funding to protect CPW at the ADI Site an admission that Council expects to inherit ownership and management of DEC's discarded 50 hectares?

If this is the case then this clearly indicates that the NSW Government has botched its funding arrangement with Lend Lease and that the public, the taxpayer, is now paying for that funding shortfall.

One can only speculate that this is the case if Council are asking for funding to protect and manage CPW at the ADI Site. A funding request that appears unnecessary when Lend Lease were supposed to have provided sufficient contributions to achieve this.

Why is it that Council is not calling on Bob Debus, the NSW Environment Minister, to step in and resolve this matter. We urge Council to consider this as the long-term protection and management of CPW on the ADI was always meant to be his concern.

Councils Senior Environmental Planner, Roger Nethercote, sits on the Community Reference Group for the Regional Park. Mr Nethercote not only represents Council but the ratepayers of Penrith who were promised a Regional Park of 900 hectares. Will Mr Nethercote be requesting that DEC accept ownership and management responsibility for the full 900 hectares as initially promised by the joint venture? If this is not the case then it is obvious that Penrith Council accepts DEC's decision.

In summary the ADI Residents Action Group seeks full details as to why Council requires extra funding as a result of the development of the ADI Site.

We ask that this matter be dealt with urgently.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. D. Brown'.

Geoff Brown  
Convenor  
ADI Residents Action Group

c.c. Penrith Councillors, Roger Nethercote