

Scott Cardamatis
Office of Bob Debus
Environment Minister

3/8/2004

Dear Scott

Last Friday NPWS officers accompanied myself and another member of the ADI Residents Action Group onto the ADI Site to investigate our claims of unrecorded threatened species, erroneously mapped threatened species, slashing of threatened species by Lend Lease and the location of the confirmed Koala scat we found in November 2003.

Threatened Species

It is now obvious to NPWS that previous biodiversity studies and mapping of the site are erroneous and need rectification. We ask that Minister Debus write to Lend Lease to request that Lend Lease commence new studies of the ADI Site to ensure that the whole site has been comprehensively studied before any urban development commences. What is of great concern is that Lend Lease failed to identify endangered species that are in areas now zoned for urban development. Also that they have no accurate figures of the numbers of threatened species existing on the site.

Koalas

DEC officers collected several scat samples whilst on the ADI Site of which we also took some samples. It is believed that the scat collected by DEC may in fact be Koala scat. Regardless of the identification of the scat the DEC officers present stated that the ADI site contains great habitat for Koalas. They have also been provided - by Dr Rob Close of US Campbelltown - with records and anecdotal evidence of the existence of Koalas near the ADI site. DEC officer Tanya Leary reports hearing Koala calls recently in the South Creek area.

We urge the Minister to be pro-active and urgently commission Dr Rob Close to commence a survey of the surrounding region for the existence of Koalas. It was stated by DEC officer Jonathon Sanders on Friday that a Koala survey would be likely.

We ask that you bring the concerns raised to the attention of the Minister and we look forward to a timely response. Again it would be good to meet to discuss a range of issues dealing with protecting the conservation values of the ADI Site.

Yours truly,



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Convenor
ADI Residents Action Group
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