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Tuesday, 27 July 2004

Letter by fax
Bob Debus
Minister for the Environment
Level 36, Governor Macquarie Tower,
1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000

Re: New Federal Funding - ADI Site St Marys

Dear Minister

I write to bring to your attention the possibility of additional funding from the Federal Government to ensure a better conservation outcome for the ADI Site St Marys.

The ADI Residents Action Group is currently lobbying both sides of Federal politics for substantial funding to be provided to the NSW Government to ensure that a significantly better conservation outcome than that currently proposed by the St Marys Development Agreement is achieved.

If this funding were forthcoming it would be commensurate with an expectation that the NSW Government would endeavour to deliver a range of improvements to the current model.

Issues that we suggest be tied to any increased funding:

- § A significantly increased conservation area that includes all lands listed on the Register of the National Estate (RNE land)
- § Conservation boundary rationalisation (edge effect smoothing)
- § Adequate buffer zones between housing and development
- § Feral proof fencing
- § Special conservation status to permit managed eco tourism run by NPWS
- § Reintroduction of some flora and fauna species

Minister additional federal funding to achieve the above conservation aims would appear to be in conflict with the St Marys Development Agreement. Therefore it would be necessary to amend the Development Agreement to incorporate DEC's revised aims for the land set aside for conservation.

Minister this is currently in the hypothetical but we are confident that a significant funding grant to the NSW Government will be forthcoming. We ask that you give this matter your consideration.

Yours truly,



Geoff Brown
Convenor
ADI Residents Action Group