

ADI Residents Action Group
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Friday, 16 April 2004

Letter by Fax
Mayor
David Bradbury
Penrith City Council

RE: ADI Site St Marys – Koala Survey and Research in Penrith LGA

Dear David

Congratulations on your re-election to Penrith City Council and as Mayor.

The ADI Residents Action Group hopes to work with Council to ensure that there is minimal impact to the quality of life of residents and to the natural environment should any development of the ADI Site take place within the Penrith LGA.

Recently you would of become aware that members of ADI RAG discovered some scat (animal droppings) whilst conducting flora and fauna research of the ADI Site. The scat was sent to Koala expert Associate Professor, Robert Close, of the University of Western Sydney for identification. Dr Close confirmed the scat to belong to a Koala. Dr Close sent the same scat to the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) who also confirmed it to be Koala scat.

Based on the verification of this new evidence by both Dr Close and the DEC, other verified Koala finds and sightings over the last few decades and that the DEC is currently finalising its NSW Koala Recovery Plan, which must be accurate and cover all Koala populations in NSW, we have written to the NSW Environment Minister, Bob Debus, urging him to commit the DEC to conduct or facilitate a comprehensive Koala Study of the ADI Site and bushland areas in Western Sydney.

Council also has a responsibility to ensure the protection of its natural environment. We urge you to write to the NSW Minister for the Environment to request that the DEC acts urgently to ensure that any possible Koala population within the Penrith LGA is identified and adequately protected.

It is understood that Lend Lease will be lodging its Dunheved Industrial Precinct Plan with Council in a few months time. Council should write to Lend Lease asking for them to put on hold the lodgement of any further Precinct Plans until this matter is dealt with. It would be seen as irresponsible of Council to accept a Precinct Plan that clearly did not consider the findings of any current flora and fauna studies of the ADI Site or its surrounds.

We ask that this matter be dealt with urgently.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. D. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "B".

Geoff Brown
Convenor
ADI Residents Action Group