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Monday, 19 January 2004

Letter by fax
Senator Nick Minchin
Minister for Finance and Administration
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RE: Sale of Commonwealth land to Catholic Church

Dear Minister

We ask that you provide information about the Federal Government's decision to excise 6-hectares of land from the former ADI Site St Marys so as to allow the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church to build an Educational Establishment known as the Xavier College. Also, we seek information about the \$3.3 million grant that was given to the Catholic Church prior to the 2001 Federal election to assist with the construction of the Xavier College.

Minister, on behalf of the Australian public, we specifically want to know:

- When the Federal Government and the Catholic Church commenced negotiations for the land?
- The roles of Lend Lease, Comland, St Marys Land Ltd and Maryland Development Corporation in the disposal of the land
- Did the Federal Government sell the land to the Catholic Church or give it to them?
- If the land was sold what was the sale price?
- Details of the \$3.3 million Federal Government grant given to the Catholic Church prior to the last Federal election?
- Was the Xavier College land given to the Catholic Church in lieu of the \$3.3 million?

Minister, the Federal Governments plans to develop the former ADI Site has angered many thousands of Sydney residents and the decision to allow the Catholic Church to acquire 6-hectares of the ADI Site has added to this anger. The Member for Lindsay, Ms Jackie Kelly, has publicly supported the Catholic Church in acquiring this land and her re-election chances may be damaged if this matter is dealt with in a less than transparent manner.

We look forward to a response to this matter at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,



Geoff Brown
Convenor
ADI Residents Action Group