

ADI Residents Action Group  
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0402 705940

Wednesday, 7 January 2004

Mark Latham  
Leader of the Opposition, Member for Werriwa  
PO Box 191  
Ingleburn NSW 1890

Cc. Kelvin Thompson  
Shadow Environment Minister

**RE: Request to meet with you to discuss Labors policy  
on development of ADI Site St Marys**

Dear Mark

A small delegation from the ADI Residents Action Group would like to meet with you urgently to discuss how the Labor Party can assist the residents of Western Sydney to save the ADI Site St Marys, a Commonwealth owned site of National conservation significance.

Also, we would like to discuss the commitment our group managed to get from the Prime Minister prior to the 2001 Federal election that all Commonwealth open space in Western Sydney would be reviewed to assess their conservation values.

Please call me, Geoff Brown, on 0402 705940 to arrange a suitable time to meet.

The following paragraphs are for your information and are an honest summation from our perspective.

You may recall a prior meeting at your Ingleburn office with Noel Plumb and myself on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2002. At this meeting we discussed your views on the development of the ADI Site St Marys. It was pleasing that you stated, in the context of your role as convenor of the ALP's Western Sydney Taskforce, the ADI Site should not be developed but should be set-aside as a Regional Park. This gave hope that Labor may reverse its policy of allowing the urban and industrial development of the site.

It is now 2004 the ADI Site has yet to be developed and an election will be upon us before we will know it. Saving the unique biodiversity of the ADI Site will again be the most important environmental concern for voters in Western Sydney. Labor will be very popular in Western Sydney if it campaigns to save the entire ADI site and keep it in public hands. Labor now has a clear political advantage over the Liberals who have painted themselves into a corner by proceeding with developing the Site.

If Federal Labor is genuine about saving the ADI Site it must urgently commence discussions with the NSW Labor Government and the Labor dominated Councils of Blacktown and Penrith to stop the clock on the development. Development plans have been lodged with

Blacktown Council and are now only a few months away from being determined. Delaying the development is absolutely critical for Federal Labor.

Federal Labor must be aware that the pro-development policies of the NSW Government, including their support for removing the ADI Sites beloved Kangaroo and Emu populations have angered many thousands of Sydney residents. These proposed actions by the State with the support of Blacktown and Penrith Councils, if allowed to proceed, will tarnish Labor in Western Sydney for generations. In an election year this does not do Federal Labor any favours in Western Sydney.

The upcoming March 2004 Council elections will be a litmus test for Labor in Western Sydney. It must be remembered that both Blacktown and Penrith Councils are Labor dominated and most Labor Councillors feverishly support the development of the ADI Site. The State Members for Penrith and Londonderry are also sitting Labor Councillors.

The State Government has consistently argued that the ADI Site (4,800 lots) must be developed to alleviate Sydney's land shortage. The State's massive release of land for housing in the Bringelly and Riverstone areas of Western Sydney (some 250-300,000 lots) now makes that argument ridiculous. The ADI site is now a drop in the ocean. Governments should realise that allowing such a massive increase in urban sprawl will be detrimental to the quality of life of its citizens. It is therefore crucial, now more so than ever, that public lands, such as the ADI Site, with environmental and social significance, be set aside for future generations of Australians.

We look forward to meeting you at your earliest convenience to discuss these matters further.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. D. Brown', written in a cursive style.

Geoff Brown  
Convenor  
ADI Residents Action Group