

ADI Residents Action Group
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0402 705940

Thursday, 4 December 2003

Letter by fax
Alan Shearen
Member for Londonderry
Karyn Paluzzano
Member for Penrith

Re. Breach of constituents civil liberties by developers of former ADI Site St Marys

Dear Alan and Karyn

You may be aware through a recent local media story that the developers of the ADI site, Lend Lease and Comland, denied two people the right to take part in weed management activities on the site because of their association with the ADI Residents Action Group (ADI RAG).

A group called Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) is facilitating the weed management activity. The developers are funding the activity. The NSW Department of Conservation and Environment are also implicated in this issue as they recommended CVA to the developers. The developers through their regular media advertisement, *Talk St Marys*, invited any member of the public to assist CVA in environmental activities on the site. This of course was interpreted as meaning all citizens may take part.

The developers have since stated a policy that members of the ADI RAG are not suitable persons to participate in this activity. This policy therefore excludes thousands of your constituents from taking part in this activity because ADI RAG has no official membership, it is membership by association with a common cause, so in effect anyone opposed to the development of the ADI site may consider themselves members of ADI RAG.

There are two areas of major concern. Firstly, certain members of the public have been denied the right to participate in an activity open to all members of the public because of an assumed political agenda, secondly, that the developers appear to have information identifying certain members of the public as being opposed to their development. This clearly is bordering on a breach of basic civil liberties.

We call on you to address this matter on behalf of your constituents. Specifically we want you to question the developers as to whether they are holding information that identifies members of the public; also, we want you to challenge their exclusion policy regarding ADI RAG members asking that it be reversed so that all members of the public, regardless of their political agenda, be allowed to participate in any environmental activities proposed for the ADI site.

We ask for an urgent response to the serious matters raised. Please contact me for further information on 0402 705940. This is clearly discrimination against your constituents and an attack on the rights of citizens to participate in a democratic and free society. A failure to act on this can only be interpreted as a lack of empathy and concern for your constituents and for common decency.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. D. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Geoff Brown
Convenor ADI Residents Action Group