

ADI Residents Action Group
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Tuesday, 2 December 2003

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

Cc Bob Carr, Michael Richardson

Re. DEC Managers failure to protect endangered species at ADI Site St Marys

Dear Minister

The ADI Residents Action Group is bringing to your attention the inaction of senior managers within the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) who have failed to investigate and act upon information that works associated with the development of the former ADI Site St Marys is impacting upon threatened and endangered species listed on the TSC Act, 1995.

We are very concerned that managers, Ray Giddins, Garry Dunnett and Jonathon Sanders are failing in their duty of care to protect the environment of NSW. They have a statutory obligation to protect and investigate threats to species listed under the TSC Act.

Mr Lachlan Laurie, a bush regeneration TAFE teacher associated with our group, has provided ongoing information over several months to the managers about; threatening activities occurring on the site, the discovery of new endangered species and populations and that the mapping of species populations by the developers and DEC on the site is erroneous.

Specifically, they have been made aware that 1000 specimens of *Micromyrtus minutiflora* (NPWS/ Scientific Committee estimates maybe only 1800 in existence in the whole world) have been cleared/slashed by the developers, and that this population was not identified in the developers Precinct Plans. Also, listed threatened species, *Pultenaea parviflora*. Cumberland Land Snail, *Pimelea spicata*, *Marsdenia viridiflora*, etc, are also at risk because the developers maps fail to show their existence and the NPWS Wildlife Atlas also fails to map the exact location of all species on the site.

A new population of *Pimelea spicata* was recently discovered at the western end of the site, only metres from recent slashing, this information was given to DEC managers yet nothing has happened.

Minister, we would like you to act on our concerns to find out why these managers have failed to investigate the information provided to them. We would like you to provide an inventory of licences given by DEC to the developers that allow them to conduct any

activities on the site. We ask that DEC urgently investigate the claim that its mapping is erroneous, this would involve DEC physically inspecting the site and doing further studies. It is of the utmost importance that DEC is aware of all locations of endangered species and populations on the site.

A failure to act on our concerns will be interpreted as a continued lack of commitment by the NSW government to the protection of the conservation values of the ADI Site and to the people of western Sydney.

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

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. D. Brown'.

Geoff Brown
Convenor, ADI Residents Action Group