

ADI Residents Action Group
PO Box 4134
WERRINGTON NSW 2747

Monday, 1 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

Macrofauna Management – ADI Site St Marys

Dear Minister

The ADI Residents Action Group seeks clarification from you regarding the management of macrofauna at the former ADI Site St Marys.

It has come to our attention that DEC is giving greater consideration to the methods of sterilisation by contraceptive implant and physical relocation as appropriate methods for reducing Kangaroo numbers on the site.

We specifically seek clarification on the following points:

- § All of the types of sterilisation being considered
- § Examples of the success of such sterilisation methods
- § The cost of such methods
- § Do these methods need to be trialed, if so for how long
- § Who is to pay for the sterilisation and relocation of the kangaroos
- § How are the kangaroos to be captured in order to sterilise them.
- § Will this involve them being harmed
- § Will kangaroos be relocated
- § How will this happen
- § Where will they be relocated
- § How many are to be relocated
- § How will this be done without harming the kangaroos
- § How will kangaroos be removed from the Eastern Precinct, the first development area
- § Considering the lifespan of kangaroos what is the expected timeframe for kangaroo removal from the site using the above methods
- § Will the Minister oppose the development of the site if such large scale macrofauna management is unworkable and clearly inhumane

Minister, there has been overwhelming public opposition to the removal of kangaroos from the site. Our recent consultation with the public has revealed that the proposal to displace the kangaroos from the site has reignited opposition to the state Governments urban development plans for the site. Culling by shooting appears not to be the main reason people are outraged, it appears that people now realise that the urban development of the site means that a

dramatic change is occurring, one which will drastically alter the neighbourhood and visual character that has been enjoyed for many decades, one which removes the experience of innocence and tranquillity, one which removes the local communities much loved local icons, the kangaroos.

Minister, the political implications of your decision on the matter of macrofauna management need to be carefully considered. The submissions received by DEC opposing the draft macrofauna plan are only the tip of the iceberg of public opposition. This means for the government that they will be hugely unpopular with a massive amount of western Sydney residents if the development and its associated plans proceed. The fact that a majority of macrofauna submissions were the same is irrelevant; it is the message that counts.

We would like to remind the Minister of his obligations to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 when making decisions that affect macrofauna at the ADI Site.

We would appreciate a response to this matter at your earliest convenience.

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