

ADI Residents Action Group  
P.O. Box 4023  
PENRITH PLAZA NSW 2747  
4722 6313  
0402 705940

25<sup>th</sup> March 2002

Dr Joe Johnson  
Monitoring and Compliance Section  
Approvals and Legislation Division  
Environment Australia  
GPO Box 787  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

**Re. ADI Site St Marys**

Dear Joe

The ADI Residents Action Group (ADIRAG) would like to bring to your attention recent slashing of the ADI Site by Comland.

Between the 13 – 15<sup>th</sup> of March, Comland slashed approx 2.5 hectares of the North West corner of the ADI Site. The particular piece of the site is that where the proposed Catholic High School is to be located. It appears the slashing was requested by the Catholic Education Office (CEO) in preparation for an event involving staff and students of Xavier College (which operates from a temporary location nearby).

Our concern is that this slashing was illegal. It was done without the required permits from your department. It again demonstrates that Comland have little regard or understanding of the EPBC Act. It appears the slashing was initiated by the CEO but carried out by Comland. The Comland employee who did the slashing confirmed this to be the case. I spoke to him today as he was slashing the perimeter fence line.

The ADIRAG are challenging the decision of the then Environment Minister, Robert Hill, that the development of the Xavier College on 6 hectares of the ADI Site does not constitute a 'Controlled Action'. We claim that the proposed school site is that of Cumberland Plain Woodland and thus falls under the EPBC Act. Our argument is based on new evidence that the environmental assessment conducted by AMBS was grossly inaccurate and this assessment has influenced the Ministers decision. Our submission challenging the Ministers decision has been sent to the Referral section of EA. You may wish to read it and view the accompanying video.

It is therefore crucial that whilst our submission is being assessed your department enforces the EPBC Act, thus, not allowing Comland and the CEO to further damage the Cumberland Plain Woodland on the site. It appears that your department has not enforced previous breaches of the EPBC Act by Comland involving slashing of this endangered ecological community.

We would appreciate your urgent response to this new slashing. We also request that your department keep us informed of the processes you are taking in this matter both formally and informally.

We look forward to a response at your earliest convenience. I may be contacted on the phone numbers above.

Thank you, in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Geoff Brown

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. D. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "D".

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