

ADI Residents Action Group
PO Box 4134
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Tuesday, 9 May 2006

Hon Bob Debus
Minister for the Environment
Level 36 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000

**RE: ADI Site Macrofauna Plan
NPWS meeting with Delfin Lend Lease 1/5/06**

Dear Minister,

It has come to our attention that representatives of the NPWS met with Delfin Lend Lease at the ADI Site on Monday the 1st of May 2006 and found that the developers Macrofauna Plan was being implemented humanely. We believe that the only concern NPWS had was that some Kangaroos were able to escape from their enclosure.

We wrote to you on the 21st April 2006 urging that you reconvene the St Marys Macrofauna Management Working Group so that a review of the developers Macrofauna Plan could be conducted in a fully transparent manner. We also stated we had been informed of numerous incidents involving the inhumane treatment of the Kangaroos. We informed you of a female Kangaroo that we found that had died as a result of injuries it sustained whilst escaping from the darting compound within the Western Precinct of the site. We also invited your staff to call us for further discussion about this matter.

Predictably, NPWS has failed to properly investigate this matter. I was briefly contacted by a junior staffer from the Scheyville office, under pressure from the media, to find out about the deceased female Kangaroo and if a photo could be sent. I told that person that they need to be grilling the developer about the roo death and that they should be conducting a proper and thorough investigation into the sterilisation program. Such a proper investigation should have entailed seeking out information from all possible sources, not just from the developer. There have been no invitations sent to us to meet with NPWS to discuss this matter fully and to access the information we have. We would have been only too pleased to be part of a genuine inquiry as expressed by our urging of you to reconvene the St Marys Macrofauna Management Plan Working Group.

Since the 21st of April, ADI RAG has placed on its website - www.adisite.org - numerous examples verifying the allegations of inhumane treatment of the roos by the developer. We have also reprinted correspondence received from ex staff of the developer employed to implement the Macrofauna Plan. This persons account on our website is graphic and details the suffering of these animals.

Yet despite this evidence being made public on the web - NPWS would know our website - there has been no attempt by NPWS to obtain this fresh information for their investigation. It should not be up to the public to continually force such information upon NPWS or for it to act. Your department is legally responsible to protect the native fauna of NSW from harm and

NPWS should be acting out of a duty of care to the wildlife of this State to seek out all information pertaining to this investigation.

So now we find out the investigation is completed, yet only the developer and its vet had been interviewed. (Which is identical to the Emu investigation last year by Jonathon Sanders, which also failed to prosecute the perpetrator). That this investigation focussed on the one escaped ill-fated Kangaroo that the Daily Telegraph obtained photos of. What a farce!

The reality is that the Macrofauna Plan can never be implemented humanely. That these animals will continue to suffer for many years.

The developer claims that 2000 animals have been processed, implanted with an experimental contraceptive called Suprelorin, which lasts for only up to 18 months. It now says that a permanent solution is to be had meaning those same Kangaroos will be surgically sterilised and subjected, all over again, to the stress and risk of injury associated with the capture process and the inhumane confines of the post treatment holding yards.

Why did you allow these animals to suffer needlessly, to be used as guinea pigs in a University Research Project? Were you aware that 2000 animals would be used as Guinea pigs for this drug trial by Scientists and students from Macquarie, NSW and Sydney Universities? It is outrageous that you and your department, despite vowing that the animals would not be harmed, has allowed such large numbers of animals to suffer for the sake of a drug trial. Did any NSW Government Ethics Committee oversee this? Are you aware if the Ethics Committees from these Universities have been overseeing the work of these Scientists and Students?

Your department has again, dealt with this matter poorly. We intend to refer this and the numerous other matters involving NPWS and Delfin Lend Lease to the NSW Ombudsman.

Yours truly,



Geoff Brown
Convenor
ADI Residents Action Group