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Monday, 26 June 2006

The Hon. Morris Iemma
Premier, Minister for State Development and Minister for Citizenship
Governor Macquarie Tower
Level 40, 1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

**RE: ADI Site Employment Development Strategy Committee -
Western Sydney Industry award presented to developer Delfin Lend Lease**

Dear Premier,

The NSW Government through its Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 30 St Marys (SREP 30), St Marys Environmental Strategy (EPS) and St Marys Development Agreement (SMDA) supports Delfin Lend Lease (DLL) in developing the former 1535 ha ADI Site at St Marys. The NSW Government promised that the ADI Site would be a model urban development.

One of the big political concerns for the government in allowing development was that this so called model development would not replicate dormitory suburbs, where jobs created by the development did not equal the number of resident workers. Avoiding this unsustainable scenario was at the heart of public commitments made by the NSW Government.

The NSW Government placed conditions on the developer that as a result of development it must generate 5300 ongoing jobs onsite and on surrounding land to match the resident workforce. SREP 30, EPS, and the SMDA outline how the Government and DLL are to collaboratively achieve this. One obligation on the developer was that they develop an Employment Development Strategy (EDS) for the whole site to be approved and regularly monitored by a newly established EDS Committee. This happened in 2003.

According to section 18.12 of the SMDA the EDS Committee is to comprise representatives of the Penrith and Blacktown Councils, NSW Planning, the Department of State and Regional Development, the Premier's Department and any Commonwealth Government organisation considered relevant by the Planning Minister.

Premier, through your Premiers Department – the Minister for Western Sydney - and as the Minister for State and Regional Development you are directly involved in ensuring that DLL achieves the creation of 5300 ongoing jobs. This should be done honestly, openly and transparently.

Concerns

Premier we do not believe that DLL can meet its 5300 jobs target without fudging the figures. We are concerned that the EDS Committee is largely non-existent and allows DLL to reduce its 5300 jobs target by claiming job creation it had no part in.

Recently you attended the Western Sydney Industry Awards at Homebush and together with Diane Beamer, the Minister for Western Sydney, presented DLL with an award for Outstanding Community Contribution because it had set up an employment agency – Ropes Crossing Skilling and Employment

Centre. The agency claims to have found 333 jobs within 12 months. This award as directly related to the EDS and nomination for the award is linked through the EDS Committee

Premier, DLL intends to claim those 333 jobs as jobs they created and write them off against its 5300 ongoing jobs target. This is outrageous. An employment agency does not create jobs; they merely link people to existing jobs created by others. This claim by DLL indicates that the Ropes Crossing Skilling and Employment Centre was established, not as an act of community contribution, but simply to fudge its jobs figures. It would be galling to most of the public that the NSW Government has now rewarded them for this rort. Did your EDS Committee members allow this?

This is just the beginning.

Section 32.1 of SREP 30 states that: *the total number of jobs generated by development on land to which this plan applies (including jobs generated on the surrounding land) is to approximate the number of workers who will be resident on the land to which this plan applies after the development has been carried out.* What is the definition of surrounding land? Could you please define this in your response? Personal communication I have had with DLL indicates that they intend to claim any job created in surrounding suburbs, many kilometres away, as one generated by their development. Again how could this be allowed by the EDS Committee?

Personal Communication with DLL indicates that they are going to claim any self employed person that buys land from them as a job they created and claim it against their 5300 jobs target. This means that if an established Plumber, Tiler, Electrician, and Courier etc buys land at the ADI Site then their job can be claimed to be created by DLL. Also, if their partner is employed as part of the company then they are also counted. The Plumber may have established his business over the last 30 years so it is absolutely scandalous to be able to claim his position as newly generated by DLL's development, this is dishonest. These jobs are not home based employment as the Plumber, Tiler etc works off site. This is blatant double dipping.

Premier, the NSW Government owes it to the people of Western Sydney to bring DLL into line and stop this proposed jobs rort. We ask that in your response you clearly address this issue; that minutes of previous EDS Committee meetings are provided and that an explanation is given on how the EDS Committee is going to monitor the job creation target to ensure that no jobs are counted twice.

Hopefully your intervention will ensure such dishonesty is never again rewarded.

Yours truly,



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