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Wednesday, 30 March 2005

Letter by Fax  
The Hon Nick Minchin  
Finance Minister

**RE: ADI Site St Marys – Comland  
St Marys Development Agreement – Transfer of 828 ha of National Estate listed lands  
to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service**

Dear Senator Minchin

The ADI Residents Action Group writes to express concern that the Federal Government has reneged on its commitment to the people of Western Sydney that it would ensure that the entire 828 hectares of the ADI Site listed in the Register of the National Estate would be protected and retained in public ownership by the transferring of the ownership of the RNE lands to the NSW Government for it to be incorporated into their National Parks Reserve System as part of a 900 hectare Regional Park.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service has now revealed plans not to accept 35 hectares of RNE lands into the Regional Park. Reducing the size of the Regional Park from 900 ha to 865 ha. It cites clauses in the St Marys Development Agreement between Lend Lease, the NSW Government and the Federal Government (Comland) as allowing them that option. The SMDA states that the management of RNE lands not accepted, as Regional Park will remain with the landowner, who is now Lend Lease a property developer.

**This is outrageous that Comland could have allowed this to occur!**

Comland appears to have betrayed the commitment given by a series of Federal Environment Ministers and Federal Members that a 900-hectare Regional Park would be created at the ADI site that protected all 828 ha of RNE listed lands. As recently as 8/12/03 the Chief of Staff for the Federal Environment Minister, Dr Peter Poggioli, wrote to the ADI RAG stating “The NSW Development Agreement with Comland provides for the transfer of the RNE listed land to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. The land will be declared a Regional Park...” (See [www.adisite.com](http://www.adisite.com))

How could Comland, representing the Federal Government, sign an agreement that gave no certainty to the RNE listed lands? Where on Comlands list of priorities when drafting this agreement was the protection of the National Estate? Who from Comland was in charge of these negotiations?

It is absolutely disgraceful that a public commitment can be given by the Federal Government to ensure these lands were protected in a public reserve system, yet, when it came to the actual negotiations with the NSW Government the Federal Government appears to have been fixated on matters relating to the sale and disposal of the ADI Site, thus the inclusion of absurd clauses in the SMDA that allow a property developer to own and manage RNE listed land.

Are you people aware that there has been an eleven-year campaign, one of the biggest urban environmental campaigns, to try to have as much of the ADI site protected and retained in public

ownership? Were you cognisant that protection of only 900-hectares of the ADI site was seen by most as a sad outcome and that this was the bare minimum we would accept?

We ask that you respond to the above matters at your earliest convenience. ADI RAG does intend to bring this issue to the public's attention and will be highlighting the role of your department and the Federal Government in this cruel joke on the people of Sydney.

We do not for one minute accept that Lend Lease is an appropriate manager of land listed in the Register of the National Estate for its environmental and cultural significance.

Yours truly,

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

Geoff Brown  
Convenor  
ADI Residents Action Group