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Thursday, 15 September 2005

Letter by fax  
Mayor Leo Kelly  
Blacktown City Council

**Re: Contamination and unexploded ordnance finds at Ropes Crossing  
Blacktown Local Government Area**

Dear Mayor Kelly,

The ADI Residents Action Group recently contacted the Hon Bob Debus, the Minister for the Department of Environment and Conservation, seeking action from the NSW Government to investigate and address the state of unexploded ordnance, asbestos and other contamination that is being discovered by workers employed by Delfin Lend Lease at their Ropes Crossing development within the Blacktown LGA.

I received a phone call from, Craig Lamberton, a senior EPA Officer, responding to our concerns. I was told by Craig Lamberton that it was Blacktown Council that has the authority to step in and re-assess the contamination threat posed by the Ropes Crossing development to the public. That it is Council that can instigate the process whereby the original polluter, the Federal Government, is made to address remnant contamination issues associated with Ropes Crossing and the ADI Site development.

Council would be aware that on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2005, a large number of .50 calibre live bullets were discovered, by sheer accident, in a soil stockpile by a contractor working for Delfin Lend Lease. The soil stockpile was sourced from the initial Ropes Crossing subdivision approved by Blacktown Council. If the worker had not found these bullets then this soil could have ended up anywhere within the development.

This year alone there have been numerous findings of contamination and unexploded ordnance at the Ropes Crossing development. The Site Audit Statement for Ropes Crossing states that this area is safe for human habitation and has been remediated to a point where there is less than a 1:1,000,000 chance of finding contamination or explosive ordnance. This statement now appears erroneous judging by the number of finds this year alone.

Blacktown Council owes a duty of care to its future citizens. According to the EPA Council can instigate a process whereby the original polluter, the Federal Government, can be made to return and cleanup its mess. We urge you to do this. This is a serious matter of public health and safety that Council must act upon with haste. The developer should cease to sell land to the public until this land is fully remediated.

Yours truly,



Geoff Brown  
Convenor  
ADI Residents Action Group