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**JOHN HOWARD MP**  
MEMBER FOR BENNELONG  
PRIME MINISTER

2 November 2001

Mr Noel Plumb  
ADI Residents Action Group  
Sydney Bushland Action Group  
PO Box 2088  
BORONIA PARK NSW 2111

Dear Mr Plumb

Thank you for your letter concerning the future of the former Australian Defence Industries site in St Marys. I regret the delay in replying.

As you would be aware, my Government recently announced it will ensure an additional 250 hectares, including all the endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland, will be protected from development. This is a significant environmental commitment and is very good news for residents of western Sydney.

The announcement means that the entire 828ha entered by the Australian Heritage Commission in the Register of the National Estate will be preserved.

My Government has also undertaken to commission an extensive review of all remaining Commonwealth open space in western Sydney to assess their conservation values. We are determined to ensure that future development of such land is compatible with good conservation practice.

Thank you again for writing on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature of John Howard in black ink, written over the typed name.

(John Howard)