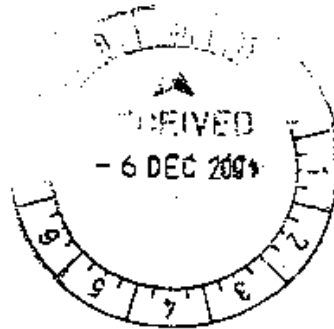


Date: 6/12/04

Initial: B. M. Rae



www.udia-nsw.com.au

3 December 2004

Mr Robert Bruce  
Director, Heritage Inventory and Referral Section  
Department of the Environment and Heritage  
GPO Box 787  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

**RE: Proposal to Emergency List the Western Precinct of the ADI Site, St Marys**

Dear Mr Bruce

I am writing to you to express the urban development sector's concerns regarding the proposal to emergency list an additional 230 hectares within the Western Precinct of the ADI Site in St Marys.

This is a matter I have considered for almost ten years, having served from 1995 until March 2004 as a Councillor on Blacktown City Council. During this period, I visited the site, read the plethora of environmental, economic and social reports published during this period, and met with the project's proponents and opponents.

Since assuming the role of NSW and National Executive Director of the Urban Development Institute of Australia, the peak professional association of the development industry, I have further considered the issues and have led a delegation from my secretariat to the site. The delegation included Mr Scott Woodcock, UDIA NSW Policy Manager and qualified environmental scientist.

The UDIA in particular and the development industry more generally are strongly supportive of Lead Lease's contention that the additional area does not possess sufficiently high ecological or biodiversity value to warrant listing as a site of National Heritage significance. As you are no doubt aware, 850 hectares within the site were listed on the Register of the National Estate during 1999. An additional 46 hectares of regional open space and 60 hectares of local parkland will be provided as part of the site's development. More importantly, the segment of the site currently under consideration for emergency listing was found during 1999 to be "so degraded as to no longer have the potential to be considered as Cumberland Plain Woodland".

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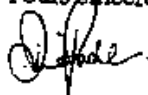
It also appears that while 230 hectares are being sought for additional protection, the real concern (as reported in The Telegraph of 2 December 2004) is for the protection of the area of wetlands known as "Sydney's secret garden". It is therefore of critical importance for this discussion that you consider that Lend Lease has made a written commitment to the NSW Government to protect this area, notwithstanding its relatively low biodiversity and heritage value.

Of major concern to the industry is that any further "11<sup>th</sup> hour" changes could place in jeopardy the financial viability of this development, place at risk the construction of 5,000 (greatly needed) new homes in Sydney's west, and constrain the creation of 5,000 new jobs in St Marys, in addition to the 8,600 jobs created for project construction. The St Marys area currently possesses among the highest levels of unemployment in the nation.

Any considerations about further National Heritage listing must be placed within the context of the considerable economic and social benefits of the development which the residents of the Greater West have for so long been awaiting. The relatively low biodiversity values of the proposed additional protection area must also be given significant weight in any such considerations.

I look forward to receiving your response to these views in due course.

Yours sincerely



**Dr David Poole, PhD**  
**Executive Director, UDIA NSW & UDIA National**