

ADI Residents Action Group

Media Release

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Endangered species found by residents group

Giant property developer Lend Lease has been left red faced after members of the ADI Residents Action Group (ADI RAG), opposed to Lend Leases development of the 1535 hectare ADI Site at St Marys, took them on a tour of their own property to show them endangered plant species that they had either missed or erroneously mapped during the last ten years of planning development of the site.

ADI RAG has claimed for many years that Lend Leases biodiversity assessments of the site have been erroneous, failing to record the existence and true location of several endangered species. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, after years of complaints from ADI RAG for failing to investigate its claims against Lend Lease, obtained access for ADI RAG on Friday (July 30) to enter the site to show Lend Lease and NPWS the whereabouts of the endangered species.

Within the four-hour visit ADI RAG took Lend Lease and NPWS to the location of two previously unrecorded populations of the endangered plant *Pimelea spicata* and erroneously mapped populations of the endangered plants *Persoonia nutans*, *Micromyrtus minutiflora* and *Pultenaea parviflora*. Also investigated was the location where ADI RAG discovered Koala scat (Nov 2003), ponds suspected to contain the Green and Golden Bell Frog tadpoles and areas of the site where NPWS had issued licenses to Lend Lease to slash endangered species. Whilst stumbling through the bush other endangered plants unbeknown to all parties were found including *Marsdenia viridiflora* and more *Persoonia nutans*.

“One must question the integrity of Lend Leases development when after ten years of studying the biodiversity of the ADI site it takes a residents group only four hours to prove that they have missed and incorrectly mapped five of Australia’s most endangered plants.” Said, Geoff Brown for ADI RAG.

“We now feel our claims of erroneous biodiversity studies by Lend Lease have been vindicated and it was particularly rewarding that Lend Lease managers and officers from the NPWS Endangered Species Unit were present to witness our discoveries. There was even acknowledgement from NPWS that the ADI Site contains ideal habitat to support Koalas.”

“We now call on Lend Lease to go back to the drawing board and bring their development plans up to date. What is of major concern is that some of the unrecorded species found are within areas approved for urban development.”

“This should be a wake up call for both Penrith and Blacktown Council who have supported the accuracy of previous biodiversity assessments of the site. In fact they should, for legal purposes and for their own records, be requesting that a thorough independent scientific assessment of the ADI Site be carried out before any further Precinct Plans or Development Applications are lodged by Lend Lease.”

“The discovery of these new species will assist NPWS in implementing recovery plans for the *Pimelea spicata* and *Persoonia nutans*. NPWS have also agreed to introduce a biological control to control a weed, which competes with *Pimelea spicata*. They have also stated that a survey for Koalas will be conducted.”

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