

ADI Residents Action Group

Media Release

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Lend Lease back down - More of ADI Site to be saved

The ADI Residents Action Group (ADI RAG) are claiming another victory for people power following Lend Leases announcement that the wetland in the south-west corner of the ADI site, featured extensively in the Daily Telegraph, will be protected. ADI RAG claim Lend Leases decision was made not out of concern for the environment but to relieve public pressure on Diane Beamer, the Assistant Planning Minister, whose portfolio is responsible for overseeing the development of the ADI Site.

Diane Beamer's office gave ADI RAG a letter addressed to Ms Beamer from Simon Pagett, General Manager of Delfin Lend Lease. The letter confirms that the wetland featured by the Telegraph will be preserved within the Regional Park. Mr Pagett also claims that preservation of the wetland was made public during community consultation for the Eastern Precinct [August 2003]. He concludes the letter to Ms Beamer by stating, "I trust this satisfies your concern in relation to this matter".

"It is clear to us that the preservation of this wetland had nothing to do with good environmental planning but was all about deflecting media criticism. We believe that Diane Beamer's office intervened to facilitate this decision as her Chief of Staff visited the ADI site with Lend Lease. The act of giving us a copy of the letter somehow was designed to prove that the Minister was acting not out of self interest but concern for the public." Said, Geoff Brown, for ADI RAG.

"This is a great conservation outcome and a victory for people power but it proves how ad hoc the planning process for the ADI site is. It also demonstrates that the Minister responsible for the development has no real idea what Lend Lease are proposing for the site."

"We met with Diane Beamer on Tuesday and the lack of knowledge of the ADI development is amazing. It is obvious that they are reliant on Lend Lease to keep them informed of what is going on. They defended Lend Leases claim that the development of the wetland was a media beat up and that it had long been protected within the Regional Park. They nearly burst with embarrassment when we showed them current maps showing the wetland was within a development area and, amazingly, has a road going through it."

"We believe that there are many more victories yet to come. Diane Beamer had no idea that Lend Lease proposes to fill hundreds of hectares of the ADI Sites floodplain. We urged Ms Beamer not to override Penrith and Blacktown Council if they deny Lend Lease approval to fill the floodplain. Ms Beamer was surprised that both Councils oppose filling of floodplain."

Further comment - Geoff Brown 0431 222602 Imogen Yang 0415 102984