

Media Release

ADI Residents Action Group  
19th January 2005

### Bushfire Research suggests lives at risk from ADI Site Development

The ADI Residents Action Group have called on the NSW Government to urgently re-assess the bushfire risk of Lend Leases 5000 house development of the ADI Site following the release of new research by Macquarie University that 500,000 Australian homes are at risk of being destroyed by bushfire because of their proximity to bushland, that there is a 60% probability of houses fronting bushland burning down and that houses within 700 metres of a bushfire are at risk.

ADI RAG has written to Tony Kelly, the Minister in charge of the NSW Rural Fire Service, arguing that Macquarie University's research proves that the 35 metre Asset Protection Zone - the area separating the hazard (Regional Park) from the development - that they have allowed Lend Lease is inadequate and will put the safety of new residents at risk. ADI RAG has called for APZ's of 100 metres which is in line with Lend Leases own Eastern Precinct Plan which states that vegetation at the ADI Site is considered "a high bushfire hazard... and that...land within 100 metres of the Regional Park is considered bushfire prone land".

ADI RAG has called for Tony Kelly to liaise with the Planning Minister and the Minister for the Environment to assess this new information and to make urgent changes to Lend Leases development plans before it is too late.

"The NSW Government needs to urgently to re-assess the bushfire risk associated with Lend Leases development plans following the latest bushfire research by Macquarie University. Lives are at risk if a large bushfire escapes from the Regional Park. " Said, Geoff Brown, for ADI RAG.

"The research by Macquarie University suggests that the 35 metre APZ's the Rural Fire Service has allowed Lend Lease is totally inadequate to protect life and property. They claim that there is a 60% probability of houses within 80 metres of bushfire being destroyed. Lend Leases development plan for the Blacktown end of the ADI Site (see attached map - yellow line) exposes development areas to 10 km's of high bushfire hazard bushland with only a 35 metre APZ . It would be fair to say that hundreds of houses would be destroyed by a large bushfire in that area. A minimum APZ of 100 metres is required for this development"

"A large increase in the size of the APZ will result in a reduction in the size of land that Lend Lease can develop, therefore a reduced profit. They would oppose any increase in the APZ because it will cost them money. The NSW Government must take this issue seriously, they have a moral and ethical duty of care to protect its citizens, not the financial interests of Lend Lease."

"The irregular shape of the urban and bushland borders of the ADI Site development creates a planning nightmare (see attached map). Lend Lease have earmarked development areas that are virtual islands, surrounded on all sides by bushland. The Central Precinct is of particular concern because an evacuation of the suburb would mean residents having to drive large distances through the Regional Park bushland to exit the ADI Site."

"The unavoidable reality with this development is that the bushland will for the first time be exposed to the estimated population of 20,000 and arson attacks will happen. There is no avoiding this reality.

"The NSW Government has no excuse not to get things right from the outset of this development. This new research from Macquarie University requires them to act urgently to amend Lend Leases plans."

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