

ADI Residents Action Group

Media Release

Thursday, 20 May 2004

Residents try to dig out Assistant Planning Minister, Diane Beamer

The ADI Residents Action Group (ADI RAG) who are campaigning to save the 1535 hectare ADI Site at St Marys have invited Assistant Planning Minister and Minister for Western Sydney, Diane Beamer, to attend a meeting with them next Thursday the 27th May 2004.

Diane Beamer was heavily criticised in the media, particularly on the John Laws show, for failing to attend a May 5 Public Forum organised by ADI RAG. Ms Beamer used parliamentary duties as an excuse not to attend the forum but it was later discovered that there was no parliamentary business requiring her to be at parliament house.

Ms Beamer is now publicly claiming that the State cannot stop the development of the ADI site and that they have legal advice that they would need to compensate the developer, Lend Lease, if they revoked planning approval for the ADI Site. This contradicts the NSW Treasurer, Michael Egan, who stated in parliament that no compensation was owing to Lend Lease if the ADI Site was preserved as a Regional Park.

“This is Diane Beamer's big chance to prove that she is not misleading the public. She must explain to us what is stopping the NSW Government from saving the ADI Site and also show us evidence of the legal advice that she claims requires them to compensate Lend Lease if they stop the development.” Said, Geoff Brown, for ADI RAG.

“This time around parliament is not sitting so Ms Beamer has no excuse not to attend. We are doing all the organising and all Ms Beamer has to do is turn up. If Ms Beamer fails to attend then we can only interpret this as meaning she has something to hide and is guilty of fabricating stories to deflect criticism of her government's failure to save the ADI Site.”

“Obviously Diane Beamer had no idea that Michael Egan was going to spill the beans in Parliament. This must be very embarrassing for the Carr Government to have a senior minister such as the Treasurer, who was under oath in question time, publicly contradicted by a junior minister”.

“If Diane Beamer cannot substantiate her recent claims then she should be sacked for misleading the public.”

Further comment - Geoff Brown 0431 222602 Imogen Yang 0415 102984