

ADI Residents Action Group

Media Release

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Koalas on ADI Site – Scat confirmed by NSW Government experts

Residents opposed to the development of the former ADI Site St Marys are delighted to announce that the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation (formally NPWS) has verified that scat discovered on the ADI Site is that belonging to a Koala.

Residents found the scat whilst illegally accessing the site for their own research into the existence of endangered flora and fauna. Residents have video evidence of the actual scat finding. The scat was first sent to Koala expert, Associate Professor, Robert Close, of the University of Western Sydney for his verification. He found that 2 of the 3 scat found were Koala scat the other being possum. He sent the scat to the office of the DEC's Senior Research Officer for further verification and again it was confirmed that 2 of the scat were Koala.

ADI RAG in a meeting last week with developer Lend Lease and the Federal Member for Lindsay, Jackie Kelly, informed them of the Koala scat find. Lend Lease, who at first dismissed the finding, told us that DEC has the authority to access the ADI Site whenever it wants to conduct flora and fauna research and that they would not hinder them.

“This is a very significant discovery and may impact on Lend Leases plans to develop the ADI Site. Koala's are the last species they would want found on their site because much of the Site is perfect Koala habitat being dominated by Forest Red Gums and other suitable feed trees” Said, Geoff Brown, for ADI RAG.

“We now want the DEC to conduct a comprehensive survey of the ADI Site and surrounding bushland areas. DEC have the evidence before them and have no excuses not to act. We informed the Senior Threatened Species Officer, Ray Giddens, about this discovery and asked that DEC act immediately before Lend Lease pushes ahead with its development.”

“DEC have recently confirmed hearing Koalas at Windsor Downs Nature Reserve. Obviously there is a Koala population within the South Creek Valley and DEC should be ensuring that they find and adequately protect them before the proposed massive urban development of the South Creek Valley takes place.”

“This discovery must result in the NSW Government enforcing tougher restrictions on Lend Lease's development plans. Their current plans propose urban development to front areas of unfenced bushland. This offers inadequate protection as domestic dogs and traffic would quickly wipe out any Koala population. It would be totally irresponsible of the NSW Government to allow Lend Lease to proceed with their development without major modifications to its development plans.”

“The evidence is now clear that massive areas of land that the NSW Government wants to develop in western Sydney contain Koala's and the habitat they depend on. This is another test of the NSW Government's environmental credibility.”

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