

ADI Residents Action Group

Media Release

Monday, 22 March 2004

Major Party Stooges revealed at 'Independents Day Forum'

The failure of several high profile independent candidates to attend Sundays Penrith Council *Independents Day Forum*, facilitated by ADI RAG, led many in attendance to believe that they failed to appear because of their alliance to the major political parties.

East Ward Deputy Mayor, Jackie Greenow and South Ward candidates Al Mewett and Gary Rumble were all missing from the forum.

“The failure of some leading independent candidates to show up for the forum was deeply disappointing and reflects poorly on their claims to be genuine independents.” Said, Geoff Brown, for ADI RAG.

“The no show of East Ward independent candidate, Deputy Mayor Jackie Greenow, who only days earlier posed for publicity photos for the event, raised some concerns over her allegiance to the major parties. It is known that her preferences are going to the Liberals and that she is also an admirer of Labor Mayor, Greg Davies. Obviously Ms Greenow was nervous about attending the event when it was revealed that exposing stooge candidates for the major parties was one of the forums aims.”

“Many in attendance were particularly disappointed in the non attendance of Jackie Greenow because they wanted to question her support for the development of the ADI Site, the Councils inability to stop inappropriate villa type developments and inability to consult with residents.”

It was revealed at the forum that Al Mewett, the Independent Candidate for South Ward, had previously run as a candidate for the phoney, No Badgerys Creek Airport Party at the 1999 NSW Elections, and been a candidate for the Liberal Party.

“It is clear that a vote for Al Mewett in South Ward is simply a vote for the Liberal Party. Mr Mewett is the most obvious major party stooge of all the so-called genuine independents.”

“The independent and Green party candidates that did address the forum all stated that they had major concerns about the Labor and Liberal domination of Penrith Council and vowed to stand up to them if elected. They unanimously vowed to protect more of the ADI Site and to fight for a better quality of life for Penrith residents ”

ADI RAG has also vowed to give the incoming Councillors a torrid time

“The new Council will be pressured by ADI RAG to protect more of the ADI site within the Penrith LGA, to stop Lend Lease from building factories along the Northern Rd and to stop Lend Lease filling the ADI site floodplain behind Werrington County with 2 million tons of fill.”

Further comment - Geoff Brown 0431 222602 Imogen Yang 0415 102984