

ADI Residents Action Group

Media Release

Wednesday, 3 March 2004

Carr Government reneges on 900-hectare ADI Site Conservation Park

The ADI Residents Action Group claim that the State Government is reneging on a promise to the residents of Western Sydney that a 900 ha conservation area would be provided on the 1538 ha former ADI Site St Marys. This follows confirmation from the office of Assistant Planning Minister, Dianne Beamer, on Friday the 27 February at a meeting with ADI RAG that only 850 ha of the ADI site would be accepted for protection.

Due to protests by western Sydney residents leading up to the 2001 federal election the Howard Government, in appeasing residents, announced that an extra 250 ha of the former ADI Site St Marys would be protected. The Federal Government's joint developer partner, Lend Lease, announced in 2002 that 900ha of the ADI Site would be transferred to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to be formally protected as a Regional Park. Lend Lease in their environmental studies on the impacts of the urban development based all their findings on a 900 ha conservation park being established.

“Residents fought for a decade to save the ADI Site, we wanted the lot saved, we only got 900 ha from John Howard, we thought at least 900 ha is now safe but now we find out that the Carr Government is preparing to slice off another 50 ha of this publicly owned conservation land.” Said, Geoff Brown, for ADI RAG.

“Bob Carr is rejecting 50 ha of land listed on the Register of the National Estate. What does this say for his government's commitment to the people and environment of Western Sydney? Have they no heart. ”

“Lend Lease are now publicly stating that only 850 ha of the ADI Site will be protected, this tells us that they are colluding with the Carr Government and trying to weasel out of their commitment. It is feared that if the Carr government does not formally protect the 50ha in question that it may end up being developed by Lend Lease.”

“We are also bitterly disappointed with Penrith Council's failure to challenge the Carr Government about their decision. Council knew of the States reduction plans in September 2003 yet they have said and done nothing. The Mayor of the Labor dominated Penrith Council, Greg Davies wrote to us a few weeks ago declaring that, ‘900 ha of the site would be protected’. Mayor Greg Davies, who works for Dianne Beamer the Assistant Planning Minister and Minister for Western Sydney would know of the State Governments intentions to reduce the conservation land, he is also complicit in this rort of public land. Being employed by the Assistant planning minister and being privy to planning matters represents a clear conflict of interest for Greg Davies and for Council.”

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