

ADI Residents Action Group

Media Release

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Residents deceived by John Howard's 100-hectare ADI Park plan

The Prime Ministers plan to create a 100-hectare sporting and recreation park on the former ADI Site St Marys, announced on Friday 20th February, has been met with disbelief by residents opposed to the development of the ADI Site. They claim the PM's park plan is deceitful, rips off publicly owned land and further threatens the ADI sites endangered flora and fauna.

The PM claims the sale of Comland to Lend Lease for \$165 million was contingent on them providing and constructing the 100 ha sports park.

"John Howard's 100 ha sports park plan has been made without any public consultation, no consideration of its environmental impacts and with no understanding of the planning process for the ADI Site. The public have been led to believe that this is something new, the reality is there is no new parkland, these areas making up the 100 ha park were always going to be used for sporting and recreation purposes and Lend Lease were always obliged to construct the facilities within them. The truth has been twisted to boost Jackie Kelly's re-election chances. The PM, foolishly, has allowed himself to become complicit in this tangled web of deceit. Politically this is very stupid and the ALP should have a field day with this debacle" Said, spokesperson for the ADI Residents Action Group, Geoff Brown.

"The PM's plan rips 60-hectares out of the 900 hectares of publicly owned land set aside for conservation purposes. This is land that residents fought for over a decade to have protected for all time."

"We commend the NSW Environment Minister, Bob Debus, for speaking out against the PM's plan to take 60 ha of the public's conservation land. It is now clear from Bob Debus that the State Government will not allow the PM's plan to take any of the public's 900 hectares. So where on the ADI Site is the PM's 100 ha park going to go?"

"If they have signed a deal with Lend Lease to provide a 100 hectare sporting park then it should come out of Lend Lease's developable land not protected public land."

"The ideal spot would have been the Central Precinct floodplain were Lend Lease want to dump 2 million tons of fill. Lend Lease need to fill that area to get approval for more housing. Penrith Council oppose this filling, fearing it will lead to major localised flooding. If Jackie Kelly had done her homework and listened to the community she should have advised the PM to insist that Lend Lease build the 100 ha park on the Central Precinct floodplain."

"The PM and Jackie Kelly deserve to be widely criticised for this thoughtless and populist plan. The people of Western Sydney need additional sporting and recreation facilities but they don't deserve to be ripped off in the process. We are already on our knees from the pittance sale of the ADI Site and this cosy deal which again benefits Lend Lease is a further kick in the guts to the residents of western Sydney."

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