

MEDIA RELEASE

ADI Residents Action Group

Monday, 9 February 2004

Xavier College development needs investigating

The ADI Residents Action Group wants a proposed Senate inquiry into the sale of Comland to also investigate the Catholic Church's acquisition of 6-hectares of the ADI Site by to build the Xavier College.

Comland, a Commonwealth Government Business Enterprise, which includes the 1535 ha ADI Site St Marys and 2 prime real estate sites in Melbourne, is to be sold by midyear to Lend Lease for \$165 million. Many believe Comland has been substantially undervalued. A Senate Estimates Committee inquiry has been mentioned by Mark Latham to investigate the sale of Comland.

"An inquiry is definitely needed into the sale of Comland but it should not just stop there. The whole ADI Site development deal should also be scrutinised including the Catholic Church's acquisition of the Xavier College site". Said, ADI RAG spokesperson, Geoff Brown.

"We know how much Lend Lease are paying for the ADI Site but it is still a big secret how much the Catholic Church acquired the 6- hectare Xavier College land for. ADI RAG wrote to the Catholic Education Office in January 2004(see attached) asking for sale details, we received a response (see attached) from Anne Benjamin, Executive Director, stating that such matters are confidential."

"This is not good enough. When public land is being sold taxpayers deserve to know all the details. How are we to know if we are being ripped of? We know that the Federal Government gave \$3.3 million to assist in building Xavier College. Did they also throw in the land for good measure? Council election candidates should take this issue up with those Penrith Councillors that strongly supported the Catholic Church in acquiring this land."

"The Xavier College development in general is concerning, it is a local planning disaster which Penrith Council must share responsibility for. We told Council that locating the school on Ninth Ave Llandilo was dangerous due to an increase in car and pedestrian traffic. The new roundabout on Ninth Ave is an absolute death trap with power poles on all sides of it. The intersection at the Northern Rd will be another black spot. The school should have been and could have been built on the Air Services Australia land, commonwealth land, located at Vincent Rd Cranebrook, a much safer and quieter street. Why wasn't it?"

2 pages attached

More information

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