

MEDIA RELEASE

ADI Residents Action Group

Thursday, 5 February 2004

Blacktown Council approves Lend Leases ADI Site plan

The first suburb to be built on the controversial ADI Site St Marys was approved last night (Wednesday Feb 4) by Blacktown City Council. The Labor dominated Council cited the threat by the Carr Government that they would step in and remove Councils planning powers if the plan was rejected as the reason why they must approve the development plan.

The Council chamber, which was filled with western Sydney residents, erupted when Labor and Liberal councillors combined to vote 9 to 5 in favour of Lend Leases development. Residents vented their anger at both Council and Lend Lease representatives who were present resulting in the meeting being closed.

“It was a very sad night for the residents and environment of western Sydney. There was ten years of anger, frustration and sadness vented at Blacktown council tonight. It was particularly galling to sit and listen to Councillors defend the development and argue that their hands were tied and that they were powerless to oppose the development. Those councillors who voted for the development got what they deserved,” said, spokesperson for the ADI Residents Action Group.

“We urged the Council to listen to the massive call for no development of the ADI Site and to hand the development plans back to the Carr Government for them to deal with. We wanted council to defend its residents. Their argument that the Carr government has tied council’s hands is a pathetic excuse. It was obvious what the role of Labor Councillors was to tonight, it was to get this development off the ground for the State government. In doing so they have betrayed western Sydney and proved what party hacks they are. They have unwittingly set Labor back once again in western Sydney.”

“Mark Latham knew what was going on, we publicly appealed to him to step in and sort this mess out before it came back to bite Labor, he had the ear of Bob Carr at the National Labor Conference last week. He has failed western Sydney.”

“The residents of western Sydney will not lie down easily. This matter will go to the Land and Environment and we feel we have a good case. Also, with Council and Federal elections this year anything is still possible. This issue will haunt both major parties this year.”

More information

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