

ADI Residents Action Group - Wednesday, 17 December 2003

MEDIA RELEASE

New ADI site Kangaroo Plan rejected by residents

Plans to sterilise and relocate Kangaroos at the controversial former ADI site St Marys will be opposed by residents fighting to save the 1538-hectare site from a massive 5000 house development.

“The plans that the government are now considering are nothing but a bandaid solution which assists the developers to stick to their development timeframe. They simply don’t get it; we don’t want the ADI site developed, we don’t want to lose our kangaroos ” Said, spokesperson for the ADI Residents Action Group, Geoff Brown.

“We know very little about the new methods proposed. We do know that sterilisation by contraceptive implant is experimental and only temporary, meaning that the roos will have to be captured many times and re-implanted until they ultimately die of old age. Relocating them breaks new ground for NPWS whose current policy rejects such practices. It appears that the new methods proposed will involve the capture of the roos, this means that they will be subjected to prolonged periods of stress and harm.”

“This all appears a very ad hoc and desperate measure aimed to get the NSW Environment Minister, Bob Debus, and the developers off the hook. Bob Debus is on record as saying he would not allow the kangaroos to be harmed in any way. He must not issue any licences to the developers unless it is proven that the methods he is now considering are humane.”

“Any new kangaroo management plans must be re-exhibited for public comment. Bob Debus must ensure that the public have been fully consulted and that this process is open and transparent.”

“Protest rallies are being planned for the New Year to demonstrate the communities anger at the State Governments development plans for the site. The government’s support for the removal of kangaroos is very unpopular with the public. Demonstrating appears the only way to get them to listen to western Sydney residents.”

“Our alternate vision for the site seeks to protect and conserve the whole site. A large and manageable kangaroo population is part of this vision. They are the icons of the site.”

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