

ADI Residents Action Group Media Release - Friday, 7 November 2003

ADI Site developers prevent RAG members from volunteer work on site.

The ADI Residents' Action Group are outraged that two of their members were prevented by developers Delfin Lend Lease and Comland from assisting Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) who have been contracted by NPWS to conduct weed management works on the former ADI site St Marys.

Imogen Yang and Lachlan Laurie, who teaches bush regeneration at TAFE, had volunteered their time to CVA to assist with their weed management program on the ADI Site .

“Were absolutely infuriated at being kicked off the site,” said Imogen Yang. We registered our names at the front gate, boarded the bus and everything was fine but a phone call to the works supervisor resulted in the bus turning around and handing us over to the security guards at the front gates.”

“We questioned why this was occurring and were told by CVA that the developers had instructed them that ADI RAG members were ‘not appropriate people’ to participate in their program”

“This is outrageous. We volunteered as individuals who have as much right as any other members of the public to participate, and a lot to offer as we have vital skills and information to share. We are members of the ADI RAG a pro-conservation community group which has the conservation values of the site as its primary concern. To be told that this makes us inappropriate is an insult.’

“The concern we have is that the developers may have developed a list of names belonging to members of the public who oppose their development. This is unacceptable in a free and democratic society. The fact that they identified us as belonging to ADI RAG by our names is really scary and this matter should be further investigated as a breach of civil liberties. It really makes them look foolish, heavy handed and paranoid.”

“What are they afraid of, what have they got to hide?”

Further comments: Imogen Yang 0415 102984 Geoff Brown 0402 705940