

Media Release – 5th September 2003

ADI Residents Action Group

Green & Golden Bell Frog, Cumberland Land Snail in way of \$2 billion development

Information obtained by residents opposing the development of the former ADI Site St Marys has revealed an endangered species cover up by the Joint Developers, Delfin Lend Lease and Comland (Federal Government).

A *Biodiversity Assessment* by the developers of the Eastern end of the ADI Site, including the first development Precinct, has omitted several critically endangered species including the Green and Golden Bell Frog, Cumberland Land Snail and the Pink Rice Flower (*Pimelea spicata*) from its findings. The *Biodiversity Assessment* was a necessary component of the developers Precinct Plan now with Blacktown Council for determination.

The *NPWS wildlife atlas*, the key source of data for threatened species in NSW, lists these three species within the study area, the area the subject of the developers *Biodiversity Assessment*

“The existence of these endangered species is known to the developers, they have access to the NPWS wildlife atlas. To omit this proven information from their findings is simply a cover up of the truth.”
Said Geoff Brown for the group

“We spoke recently with Richard Wells, a renowned herpetologist and naturalist, whose discovery of the Green and Golden Bell Frog on the ADI Site in the late 1960’s led to it’s listing on the NPWS wildlife atlas. He again identified it only two years ago when he stopped during a thunderstorm at the Ropes Creek Bridge along Forrester Rd. Mr Wells says that the frog would definitely be found on the ADI Site as Ropes Ck flows through the site.”

“The Cumberland Land Snail and the Pink Rice Flower (*Pimelea spicata*) are also there. ADI RAG members have witnessed both, and actually listed the Pink Rice Flower on the NPWS wildlife atlas after discovering it whilst doing flora surveys of the site.”

“These species are so close to extinction that their presence on other sites has stopped development from going ahead. The discovery of the Green and Golden Bell Frog at Homebush almost stopped the Olympic stadium from being built.”

“We met with NPWS representatives last week (Aug 28) to discuss our concerns about the threats to these endangered species and have asked that this information be made known to the NSW Environment Minister, Bob Debus.

“Bob Debus must now act to stop the development. His government must become involved to protect these species. They must break from their support for this development and bring the developers into line.”

“The community has condemned plans to kill the kangaroos on the site, and they will not be deceived by further planning inadequacies. They will now be demanding answers from the developers and the State Government.”

Further Comment: Geoff Brown 0402 705940, Imogen Yang 0415 102984.
Richard Wells is prepared to discuss his findings 0419 166970

The Green and Golden Bell Frog became the mascot for the Olympic Games after it was discovered on the Olympic stadium development site