

# Media Release

## ADI Residents Action Group

### **Environment Minister accused of Endangered Species cover up Will rare Frog and Snail stop \$2 billion ADI Site development?**

Information obtained by residents opposing the development of the former ADI Site St Marys has revealed an endangered species cover up by the Minister for the Environment and developers Delfin Lend Lease/Comland.

It has been revealed that the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have withheld information that the critically endangered Green and Golden Bell Frog, Cumberland Land Snail and the Pink Rice Flower exist on the Eastern Precinct of the ADI Site where the developers propose to build 1900 houses.

“We expected that the developers *Biodiversity Assessment Report*, accompanying the Precinct Plans to Blacktown Council, would deny the existence of threatened species on the site but to learn that the State Government has also covered up the existence of these near extinct species is criminal.” Said, Geoff Brown spokesperson for the group

“We recently gained access to the NPWS Wildlife Atlas, the key source of data for threatened species, and there they were, all three of them located within the first development area. This was a revelation as most prior studies of the site by Environmental Consultants working for Planning NSW and the developers have denied the existence of these species.”

“This information is well known to NPWS and those close to the Environment Minister. They surely could not be so incompetent to have missed this information, most of which precedes all the formal planning processes for the site.”

“The Environment Minister, Bob Debus, must now step in to investigate the existence of these endangered species. The development must now stop. These species are so close to extinction that their presence has stopped developments elsewhere from going ahead.”

“If Bob Debus fails to act on this new information and stop the development then there will be no other option but to investigate taking legal action against him and the State.”

“I am sure on this matter we will have the support of the peak environment groups and the public.”

Further Comment: Geoff Brown 0402 705940, Imogen Yang 0415 102984.