

## Draft Media Release

### **ADI Development plans fail to protect site**

The ADI Residents Action Group, which has studied the Precinct Plan, Macrofauna Management Plan and Development Agreement for the Eastern Precinct of the ADI Site, claims the developers have failed to address the concerns expressed by the public over the last decade.

‘These plans fail to demonstrate how the site’s biodiversity will be protected.’ said Mr Brown. ‘Our fears are being realised.’

‘The developers’ plans have put all of the responsibility for protecting the site’s biodiversity onto the creation of the Regional Park. This is fundamentally flawed. The Regional Park does not even exist yet and there is no Plan of Management planned for at least 12 months.’ (St Marys Development Agreement)

‘The developers have shown how uncommitted they are to the environment. This is highlighted by their appalling strategies to mitigate environmental threats, such as that for domestic cats, “cats must wear bells on their collars” (Precinct Plan) and they call this development a unique model of sustainability. Management of weeds, domestic and feral animals and bushfire are also areas of concern.”

The onus for protecting the site should not fall on the shoulders of the public. The developers and the State Government owe an absolute duty of care to ensure their development does not impact on the Site’s natural values.

‘The Macro fauna Management Plan (MFMP) proposes shooting of Kangaroos as its preferred option to reduce numbers. If permits are not allowed by NPWS, then darting and lethal injection will be considered. Again, if this is not allowed then female Kangaroos are to be sterilised.’

‘The MFMP demonstrates how arrogant the developers are. Here we have the developers still wanting to shoot Kangaroos despite Bob Debus’ statements in the Daily Telegraph (August 6) that no Kangaroos would be harmed or shot. The draft MFMP is a confusing mess. The basic problem is that Kangaroos and the development can’t mix, and this is why the plan fails. It again relies on the Regional Park to solve its problems.’

‘The Kangaroos ultimately may be the saviours of the site, as there appears to be no humane way to deal with them. If Bob Debus shifts from his position there will a public backlash against the State Government

‘The St Marys Development Agreement reveals that the 3% of housing lots given to the State by the developers for “affordable housing” purposes has a clause which enables the state to accept a monetary donation from the developers in lieu of the land. The public should carefully monitor this concept of “affordable housing” as this creates a conflict of interest whereby the state is directly profiting from approving the development. The 3% of lots should have gone into public housing.’

Crime and anti-social behaviour appear an obvious symptom of the development as it concentrates most of the communities needs in the Village Centre. The plan proposes buildings up to 4 stories high in the village centre with apartments and high-density housing nearby. This combined with the amount of nearby open space and you have a place more designed for gangs than families.

"ADI RAG will be urging Blacktown Council to reject the Precinct Plan until the State Government addresses major flaws in its development. The community will support Council if they do."

" ADI RAG again stress how important it is for the public to comment on these plans. They can find them at Blacktown and Penrith Councils or by following the links on our website, [www.savetheadiseite.bmt.com.au](http://www.savetheadiseite.bmt.com.au)

Further comment Geoff Brown 0402 705940