

# **ADI Residents Action Group**

## **Media Release – Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2003**

### **ADI Developers to face community backlash**

The ADI Residents Action Group (ADI RAG) is calling on the public to 'seek revenge' by writing a submission to Blacktown Council opposing Delfin Lend Leases Precinct and Macro Fauna Management Plans for the ADI Site, plans that are now available for public comment.

ADI RAG have labelled recent comments by Delfin Lend Lease Project Manager, Joe Gorman, claiming their development to be "unique" and a "model of sustainability" as deliberately misleading and akin to that of a snake oil salesman.

"Delfin Lend Lease are blatantly misleading the public in an attempt to sell their development. Their development is no better than any current development in Sydney and is far from a model of sustainability. They know they have a lemon on their hands" Said spokesperson for the group.

"This is clearly the case with their plans to displace the Kangaroos and Emus from the site, plans that are clearly unpopular with the public and in desperation they have made all sorts of outrageous claims why the Kangaroos should be removed from the site. The Kangaroos and Emus are the developers Achilles Heal, they know that that they face a public backlash if the animals are removed or are harmed. In a desperate attempt to regain some public credibility they are now claiming that if left unmanaged the Kangaroos will severely damage rare and significant Cumberland Plain Woodland and will ultimately starve. They also claim that they will retain some Kangaroos in the Regional Park"

"This is hypocrisy and misinformation of the highest level. Delfin Lend Lease themselves have a bushfire hazard reduction Development Application lodged with Penrith Council that proposes to slash hundreds of hectares of regenerating Cumberland Plain Woodland on the site. Also, they know in the late eighties the landowners ran hundreds of sheep and cattle on the site trashing the vegetation, and that it still regenerated."

"They claim that they had 'independent fauna experts recommend culling as the best option for the Kangaroos'. Delfin Lend Lease paid these experts, they can hardly be considered 'independent'. ADI RAG recently contacted these so called experts and they have stated having no knowledge of whether the Kangaroos are threatening the sites vegetation or even what plants they are eating."

"Keeping the Roos fenced within the Regional Park has not been thought through by the developers and demonstrates that they are clutching at straws. A Species Impact Statement would be required to allow them into the Regional Park and a special permit from Bob Debus the Environment Minister would be also be needed."

ADI RAG will be out and about in the community assisting people to make submissions opposing the development. We are disappointed that the minimum 28 days has been allowed to exhibit these plans.

"Allowing only a 28 day community consultation period is disgraceful considering we are talking about a massive urban development that will have a huge impact on the residents, the environment and the infrastructure of western Sydney. A Development Application for a backyard swimming pool is afforded the same 28-day period. This is a sham. We are disappointed that Dianne Beamer, the Assistant Planning Minister, has ignored our request to extend the exhibition period and has not instructed Blacktown Council to allow the public more time to adequately respond."

Further comment – Geoff Brown 0402 705940 or Imogen Yang 0415 102984