

**ADI Residents Action Group
Media Release - Sunday, 3 August 2003**

**2500 Kangaroos to be shot in Sydney suburbs
Carr Government told by residents to defer plans for controversial ADI Site
development**

The State Government is to decide the fate of 2500 Kangaroos at the controversial ADI Site St Marys.

The Kangaroos, who are in the way of plans to build 5000 houses on the site, are the subjects of a Draft Macro Fauna Management Plan (MFMP), which will be implemented by the State Government. Details of the plan reveal that it calls for 2500 Kangaroos to be shot.

The MFMP is expected to accompany the first Precinct Plans to Blacktown Council within days. The Precinct Plans apply to the first release area of the site announced on June 16 by the Assistant Planning Minister, Dianne Beamer.

The ADI Residents Action Group (ADI RAG) met with the State Government on Friday 1/8/03 to call on the Government to defer the lodging of plans with Blacktown Council until it addresses major flaws in its development plans for the site.

“Bob Carr must call off plans to develop the ADI Site until major flaws in his development are addressed.” said spokesperson for the group.

“Bob Carr will have more than blood on his hands if he presses on and ignores our concerns. He will have to answer to the families and children of western Sydney to explain why their beloved ADI Kangaroos are to be killed for a totally inappropriate housing development.”

“This action if it is allowed will not only be condemned locally but Internationally. Visitors to this country would be horrified to learn that Sydney’s only wild Kangaroos and Emus are to be wiped out for just another housing estate.”

“The Kangaroos and Emus on the ADI Site are the last free roaming mobs in the Sydney Basin. Thousands of people over the last fifty years have grown to love and enjoy their peaceful presence. The awful reality of this housing development will hit home hard when shots are heard ringing out over neighbourhoods and footage of the slaughter appears in the media. People will react bitterly when they realise this was a government decision.”

“There will be political ramifications for Bob Carr and Labor in western Sydney. It will haunt Labor in western Sydney for generations. The kids will remember this. Bob Carr’s green credentials will be shot along with the Kangaroos. The State Government will undo all Simon Crean’s good work on Badgery’s Creek if they push ahead with this unnecessary development. Bob Carr can’t take western Sydney for granted on this issue”.

“We have called on the Carr Government to stop the clock on this development to investigate flaws in its plan. We have questioned the legality and validity of their Regional Environmental Plan (SREP 30) which has not been amended despite massive changes to the zonings resulting from the Federal Governments election promise in 2001 to reduce the development from 8000 to 5000 houses.”

Other concerns hammered home include contamination of the site, a legacy of its former use as a munitions factory. The Governments plan allows the public to access areas of the site that are still contaminated. A 1999 decontamination audit of the ADI Site found that nearly 100 hectares in the

Eastern Precinct, now zoned Regional Park, was so contaminated that it needed to be fenced off to protect the public. Any access must be strictly supervised.

“This is outrageous that the Government has ignored these contamination warnings and has continued with a plan that allows the public into this area. This clearly shows how inappropriate the ADI Site is for urban development.”

Last Friday’s meeting revealed that the Government has no Plan of Management for the 900-hectare Regional Park or for the protection of the sites rare biodiversity.

“This is a sad reflection on the Carr Governments environmental priorities that the plans to build the houses are ready to go, but the plans to protect the sites National Estate listed biodiversity from the housing development, have not even started.”

“Bob Carr can scrap plans to develop the whole site. With 17000 acres being released for housing at Bringelly the ADI site is no longer important to meet Sydney’s housing requirements. Most people would rather have the Kangaroos than the houses. It is now up to Bob Carr to do something in his, and western Sydney’s best interests. Save the lot Bob!”

Further comment

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