

ADI Residents Action Group Media Release - 22nd June 2001

Federal Government to sell 6.4 ha of the ADI Site for new Catholic School

The ADI Residents Action Group (ADIRAG) have described the Federal Governments decision to sell 6.4 hectares of the ADI Site to the Catholic Church as a disgraceful act of betrayal of the broader community of western Sydney.

Geoff Brown spokesperson for the RAG says, "The Federal Government have commenced the piecemeal development of the ADI Site by announcing the sale of this land to the Parramatta Diocese of the Catholic Church."

"The Federal Government is pushing its own agenda to build 8000 houses on the ADI Site by providing this 6.4 hectares to the Parramatta Diocese of the Catholic Church. The Federal Government and the hierarchy of the Parramatta Diocese are ignoring the needs and the wishes of the broader community who want the whole site preserved as a Regional Park."

"The Federal Government and the Member for Lindsay, Jackie Kelly are sending mixed messages to the community. Correspondence received by ADIRAG from the Federal Finance Minister, John Fahey states that he is still in the process of deciding whether to approve the redevelopment of the ADI Site". He first must consider the findings of a report by Environment Australia as part of the environmental assessment under the *Environment Protection (Impacts of Proposals) Act 1974 (EPIP Act)*. "But today we find out that the sale of the ADI site has commenced. It is totally ridiculous and insulting to the public" says Mr Brown.

"The 6.4 hectares of land to be sold is part of the original interim listing by the Australian Heritage Commission. Botanists have identified that a rare shrub 'Dillwynia tenuifolia' exists on that portion of the site".

"The community will react angrily to this decision by the Federal Government. Jackie Kelly will not receive any kudos for this decision. She has implicated herself in a decision that smacks of corruption of the planning process. She should tell the public how much money the Federal Government is selling this land for? The question is whether the Church is receiving this land at a mates rate or at current residential value?"

"The ADI RAG will continue to fight for the preservation of the whole of the ADI Site as a Regional Park despite this decision. We know this decision is a political one and has more to do with furthering the cause of Jackie Kelly, the Federal Government and the hierarchy of the Catholic Church than the students and future students of Xavier College, Cranebrook."

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For further comments