

# **Media Release**

## **Save the ADI Site Party**

**Monday, 20 September 2004**

### **Western Sydney marginals up for grabs as Howard fails to protect environment**

The Save the ADI Site Party claims that protecting Western Sydney's environment has emerged as the issue, which will decide which of the major parties, wins the key marginal Western Sydney seats of Parramatta, Greenway and Lindsay.

The Prime Minister, John Howard, who launched the Coalitions Western Sydney campaign in Penrith, has outraged minor parties by failing to include any measures to protect Western Sydneys environment, specifically the Endangered Ecological Community, Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW), of which only 6% remains.

The Save the ADI Site Party held talks with the Federal Environment Minister, Ian Campbell, in the days preceding the Coalitions launch seeking a National Heritage listing of CPW under the Commonwealths strengthened Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. The Heritage listing of CPW, including 300 hectares at the ADI Site, was given serious consideration by all including the Prime Ministers Chief of Staff but it is believed was stymied by John Howard himself at the eleventh hour.

“The Liberals have demonstrated that they haven't got it in them to do the right thing by the environment. John Howard had an opportunity to sure up three marginal seats if he Heritage listed CPW. We would have given our preferences to them on the back of that decision and we would have encouraged our good friends the Greens to acknowledge the significance of such a decision and issue an open how to vote card in the three marginal seats, which is as good as the Liberals could expect from the Greens.” Said Geoff Brown, for the Save the ADI Site Party.

“The PM's failure to protect our environment may have gifted Labor these three seats. Mark Latham now has the opportunity to pick up the ball dropped by the Liberals and run with this issue to sure up the Green Vote. We have spoken to the local Labor candidates and have called on them to get the shadow Environment Minister, Kelvin Thompson, out here for talks straight away.”

“There are battles right across all these key marginals to protect CPW from development, with the destruction of 300 hectares at the ADI site being the most prominent. The Save the ADI Site Party gave its preferences to the Greens in the Senate and we will be urging them to make Labor work for its preferences by ensuring that all CPW remnants in Western Sydney, including a further 300 hectares at the ADI Site, are protected.”

**Further comment: Geoff Brown 0431 222602**