

**Media Release**  
**ADI Residents Action Group**

**18th April 2005**

**Penrith Council a 'no show' at ADI Site Regional Park public meeting.**

The ADI Residents Action Group are upset at Penrith Council's failure to attend a public meeting it held last week to discuss the shrinking of the ADI Site Regional Park because it was considered an inappropriate forum for them to participate in.

ADI RAG had asked Council to provide a speaker at the public meeting to outline its response to plans by the NSW Government to shrink the Regional Park from 900 ha to around 865 ha. ADI RAG wrote to the Mayor and all Councillors requesting either the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, a senior Councillor or an environmental planner speak at the meeting.

ADI RAG only received an email the afternoon of the meeting from Planner, Roger Nethercote, who stated that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were unable to attend and that Council intended to only have input into this matter through the Department of Environment and Conservations Community Reference Group which Council and ADI RAG both sit on to help DEC develop a Plan of Management for the Regional Park.

"Penrith Council was invited to the public meeting to tell the public about what it is doing to stop this rip off of public land. This was their chance to openly and publicly reveal the strategies it will be using to ensure that 900 ha of the ADI Site stays in public ownership as a Regional Park." said Geoff Brown for ADI RAG

"We are outraged that Council considers a public meeting an inappropriate forum to discuss this matter and that it wants to go behind the closed doors of the Community Reference Group where things they discuss are kept confidential. So much for transparency. How is the public supposed to know what Council is up to? They have snubbed the community."

"This decision by Council not to attend the forum reeks of political intervention. This Council went to the wall trying to have all of the 828ha of National Estate lands protected in a 900 ha Regional Park, Councillor David Bradbury even fought an entire election campaign with this as his main platform, yet now he and the Labor dominated Council have gone to ground because it means attacking their own. Not one of them has responded to ADI RAG's concerns."

"Particularly galling to those attending the public meeting was the fact that Council had no problems in supporting a recent public meeting held by Lend Lease. It had no problems providing a Senior Planner to assist Lend Lease to answer questions about development of its Dunheved Industrial Precinct."

"Of all the Councillors notified of this public meeting only, Lexie Cettolin, Jim Aitken sent their apologies. Cllr Kevin Cramer attended the meeting but was not authorised to represent Council."

"The public should note this appalling lack of concern shown by Penrith Council. This issue is a matter of social justice. Land meant to be retained in public ownership has ended up in the hands of a property developer. Council must protect the public interest they must be open and honest with the public as to how they intend to stop this rip off."

See Attached Council letter

Further Comment - Geoff Brown 0431 222602

Our Ref : 4130/24; 4130/2 Part 65;

Contact : Roger Nethercote

Telephone: 4732 7713

13 April, 2005

Mr Geoff Brown  
ADI Residents Action Group  
PO Box 4134  
WERRINGTON NSW 2747

Dear Geoff,

ADI site, St Marys - Invitation to Public Meeting I refer to your recent invitation to the Mayor to attend a public meeting regarding the Regional Park on the former ADI site. Councillor Greenow has asked me to respond to you on her behalf.

Unfortunately the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are unable to attend due to other commitments.

Given the formal process set up by the Department of Environment & Conservation with the Community Reference Group to develop the Regional Park Plan of Management, Council's staff input will be provided through that forum.

Yours faithfully,

Roger Nethercote  
Environmental Planning Manager