



# News Release

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## **DIANE BEAMER**

**MINISTER FOR FAIR TRADING, MINISTER FOR WESTERN SYDNEY  
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR COMMERCE  
MEMBER FOR MULGOA**

**7 April 07**

### **SECRET GARDEN ADDED TO REGIONAL PARK**

The Minister for Western Sydney, Diane Beamer, announced today the wetland area known as the “secret garden” is now formally included in the 900-hectare regional park on the former ADI site at St Marys.

Ms Beamer said the “secret garden” in the site now known as Ropes Crossing, covers three hectares, including a man-made watering hole that provides habitat for local wildlife.

“Many residents were keen to see this special place protected, and the best way of doing that was to include it in the regional park zone,” Ms Beamer said.

The amendment to *Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 30* was approved by Planning Minister, Frank Sartor, and gazetted this week.

“The amendment expands the park by 270 hectares to a total 900 hectares, which goes a long way towards addressing many concerns raised in submissions,” Ms Beamer said.

“It significantly reduces the amount of urban development possible on the site, conserves more vegetation and strikes a better balance between urban and conservation outcomes.”

More than half the 1545-hectare site is now protected from future development by proper zoning and land use controls.

“Londonderry MP, Allan Shearan and I have always pushed to conserve all parts of the site that are on the Register of the National Estate, along with many other areas we considered worthy of protection.”

“Given its proximity to urban areas, the secret garden will need to have special management measures in place covering issues including stormwater management, safety and habitat protection.

“I am advised these issues will be subject to further analysis during detailed precinct planning.” Ms Beamer said.

Mr Shearan said the addition of the secret garden into the regional park was an excellent outcome for the local community.

“Many people, including the local residents action group, have lobbied strongly to ensure Ropes Crossing has a significant regional park. The secret garden is now firmly part of that achievement.”

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