

Media Release

ADI Residents Action Group

Wednesday, 15 June 2005

ADI RAG attack Penrith Councils ADI Site Recreation Plan

The ADI Residents Action Group have labelled a range of recreational uses proposed by Penrith Council for the Regional Park as stupid, unnecessary, unfunded and environmentally unsound.

Penrith Council Planners will soon present to the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) a series of proposals to allow unrestricted public access and recreation uses within bushland areas of the ADI Site. The proposals mentioned so far range from adventure playgrounds to camping grounds.

“The public should be concerned with Councils push to open the ADI Sites bushland up to unrestricted public access and recreation. Councils ridiculous plan combined with Lend Leases mass housing development will absolutely trash the place.” Said, Geoff Brown for ADI RAG.

“There is no shortage of nearby land for people to recreate in. Lend Leases first suburb, Ropes Crossing, will have 16 parks, 25 km’s of bike and hike trails, sporting fields and playgrounds, this is only one of three large suburbs. Next to the Regional Park is 50 ha of Regional Open Space set aside for recreation, Penrith Lakes Scheme will set aside a third of its 2000 ha for recreation, Werrington Lakes is an under utilised recreation resource because of Council mismanagement yet here we have Penrith Council wanting to turn an area that should be a Nature Reserve into a public playground.”

“Councils proposal has no merit it is completely unfunded. Who is going to pay for it? It is DEC that would have to pay for this recreation infrastructure which means the NSW taxpayer.”

“The ADI Site is the most important remnant of Cumberland Plain vegetation. It contains more species diversity than any other area in Western Sydney. 25% of its 191 flora species are listed as vulnerable or endangered. It contains 6 Endangered Ecological Communities. DEC Officers have found Koala scat on the site indicating their presence. The public has consistently argued that the ADI Site should be retained as it is, that nature be given some respite.”

“ADI RAG will be telling DEC to oppose plans such as Councils. Our plan is that public access be allowed but be restricted to bushwalking. We want DEC to carefully control and monitor public access and entry to the RP. We must look after this place.”

Further Comment – Geoff Brown – 0431 222602