

# Media Release

## ADI Residents Action Group

Monday, 14 November 2005

### Lack of ADI Site public consultation detrimental to locals

Penrith Council and the NSW Government have been criticised by the ADI Residents Action Group for their lack of consultation with residents about imminent major planning changes and proposals for the ADI Site.

ADI RAG will be using this Sundays Werrington Festival, the festival they founded in 1999, to alert the local community to:

- Major amendments by DIPNR to *SREP 30 St Marys*, the plan that zones the ADI Site suitable for development
- DIPNR may only give the public 28 days to comment on amendments to SREP 30 and that this exhibition period may be over the Christmas period when people are away.
- Up to 22 ha of National Estate listed bushland within the Regional Park is proposed to be cleared for drainage basins, one 7.4ha basin to be bulldozed is behind existing homes in Werrington Downs and Cambridge Gardens
- A new road may now run along the southern fence line immediately behind houses in Werrington County that enjoyed bushland views.
- Penrith Council is soon to enter into, on behalf of Ratepayers, the first of many legally binding Development Agreements with Lend Lease. These are public private partnerships (ppp), similar to the Cross City Tunnel deal.

“There are many aspects of the ADI site development that are inappropriate, require major changes and unless addressed have the potential to impact heavily on local residents.” Said, Geoff Brown for ADI RAG.

“The amendment process of SREP 30 is the publics opportunity to call for major changes to the ADI development. Despite what the NSW Government puts up as amendments to the plan the public can reject this and call for sweeping amendments so that entire suburbs are scrapped, that they be rezoned from Urban Development to Conservation.”

The NSW Government realises that the ADI development is controversial, that its amendments will attract a lot of submissions. That is why it is trying to sneak these amendments through on the quiet. They stand to make a lot of money from the ADI development so it is in their interest to minimise the opportunity for public comment.”

“Penrith Councils role in this is equally appalling, they should be banging on DIPNR’s door every day demanding the detail of this amendment process. Yet they wrote to us recently saying they will not act until the amended plan is publicly exhibited. This is too late and this lame response indicates once again Councils support for the development.”

“The ratepayers of Penrith should be aware that Council is soon to do a Cross City Tunnel type Public Private Partnership deal with Lend Lease by entering into the first of many legally binding Development Agreements. Before it signs anything Council must be upfront with Ratepayers. The big questions are can they be sued if they breach the Contract? Are they signing away their right to uphold the public interest at all times? Are they so fettered by the contract that they can’t further amend or repeal any approved development plan? Don’t forget that the NSW Government entered into a Development Agreement with Lend Lease in 2002 and that Diane Beamer, the then Planning

Minister, revealed an attempt by her to stop the ADI development would have breached this deal and resulted in the NSW taxpayer compensating Lend Lease for possibly a \$billion in lost profit. Why would Councils contract be any less binding on them?"

ADI RAG will be doing its best to fill the void left by DIPNR and Council and we will be at the Werrington Festival with information and letters to DIPNR, Council and other politicians to sign. We will also be running a colouring in competition for the kids with some prizes."

Further comment: Geoff Brown 0431 222602