

Media Release

ADI Residents Action Group

Wednesday, 8 June 2005

ADI Site listed lands at risk by Federal Government intervention

Issue: NSW Government trying to reduce size of proposed 900 ha ADI Site Regional Park arguing that irregular National Estate boundaries of RP will present them with costly management issues. Penrith, Blacktown Council and ADI RAG refusing to accept anything less than a 900 ha RP. Options proposed to create a RP with smooth manageable boundaries include; reducing the size of the RP (with developer Lend Lease being left to manage part of the National Estate), increasing the Regional Park (taking developable land from Lend Lease) or, the controversial step of, making changes to the 828 ha area listing in the Register of the National Estate whereby high conservation value bushland can be developed, traded for Lend Leases development land resulting in no net loss of the 900ha RP.

Yesterday Penrith Council informed a committee of stakeholders assisting NSW NPWS with a Plan of Management for the RP that the Federal Department of Environment and Heritage has told them that it will consider altering the 828 ha National Estate listing of the ADI Site trading listed land for non listed.

“The ADI Residents Action Group is outraged that the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) would consider trashing the National Estate only months after it rejected a nomination by Lindsay MP, Jackie Kelly, to protect an extra 230 ha of the site.” Said, Geoff Brown for ADI RAG.

“DEH’s excuse for rejecting Jackie Kelly’s nomination was that thorough environmental assessments of the ADI site were conducted by them seven years ago confirming that they had got the boundaries of the National Estate listing correct, that any vegetation outside these areas was not worthy of listing. Now they appear ready, at the drop of a hat, to simply scrub off their map high conservation Cumberland Plain Woodland and replace it with bushland they claim had no conservation value. It is ad hoc, it demonstrates that their assessment process is political not scientific.”

“The principal we stand by is that all areas of the ADI site with conservation value should be within the Regional Park. Large areas of Lend Leases development land has conservation value. This impasse on the size of the RP can only be resolved ethically if Lend Lease forgoes a few more hectares of its development.”

The NSW Government has recently announced that it is amending the Environmental Planning Instrument (SREP 30) for the ADI Site.

“The Carr Government is now amending SREP 30, this is their chance to get this development right. They can resolve this impasse through a rezoning, they can rezone Lend Leases land for conservation or they could force Lend Leases hand by refusing to declare any more land releases on the site.”

Further Comment – Geoff Brown – 0431 222602