



ADI — save the lot by voting Save Our Suburbs

There are no pictures on our election posters because we are asking you to vote for a place, not for personalities. But to fill you in on the people who have committed themselves to standing up for this issue at the ballot box, here they are.

Why save the whole ADI Site?

The Federal Government and Lend Lease plan to put 5000 houses on this one time defence land. In this they have the planning support of the NSW State government, and now Penrith and Blacktown Councils.

So why do local residents still fight to save the whole of this site?

The answer can be summed up in two words: it's wonderful.

The ADI Site is a 1500 hectare bushland oasis within western Sydney's rapidly expanding suburbia. For 60 years it has been protected by a high security fence.

The site's clay and alluvial soils support plants and woodland very different from Sydney's better known sandstone bushland.

When the Australian Heritage Commission, in 1999, listed over 800 ha of the site on the Register of the National Estate, it pointed to its Aboriginal archaeological and social significance, its rare, endangered or uncommon flora and fauna and the presence of the

rare Cumberland Plain Woodland. (The AHC initially listed 1100 ha of the site. This was reduced to only some 830 ha under pressure from the developers.)

Wildlife on the site includes 110 bird species, 9 mammal, 10 reptile, 8 frog and over 40 species of jewel beetles. The site shelters the last free-roaming mobs of emu and eastern grey kangaroos in the Sydney basin.

The ADI Site is a vital, central core for many planned habitat and wildlife corridors needed to link and sustain other rare bushland fragments.

Local people, including the ADI Residents Action Group, were pleased when, in the Election campaign of 2001, the Federal government announced that none of the Heritage-listed land on the site would be developed.

Yet despite this major change, the State government has not repealed the planning document for the site, REP 30. This further

demonstrates its contempt for democratic community input.

The Regional Park proposed for the site is fragmented and unsustainable, surrounded by 5000 houses, factories and other infrastructure. The fence that has protected the wildlife for 60 years will be swept away, leaving the kangaroos, emu, other animals and plants, exposed to a tide of people, dogs, cars and weeds. Two million tonnes of fill is to be dumped in the floodplain of South Creek. The bushland will not survive the changed flooding conditions and increased salinity that will result. Reserving only some of the land does not save the bush or the animals.

We believe the entire site should become a combined Nature Reserve (with strong protection for wildlife and sensitive areas) and Regional Park (for quiet recreational use). We think Western Sydney deserves no less than this, as a matter of social justice.

LONDONDERRY



Sonia Bennett is a singer, songwriter, artist and bush regenerator. She points out that it is easier and much less costly to look after healthy, protected bushland than to fix it after it has been damaged or destroyed. Sonia loves the many special plants of the Cumberland Plain, and wants the ADI Site to remain as a haven for them.

MULGOA



Jean Lopez has lived for many years in Sydney's western suburbs. She says her childhood growing up in the Mallee country of Victoria gave her a love for the bush and a desire to protect it. She has been an active campaigner to save the whole of the ADI Site. Jean is a teacher at TAFE and a volunteer bush regenerator.

PENRITH



Barbie Bates is a long time resident of Western Sydney and lives in the electorate of Penrith.

Barbie feels passionately that the voices of local people must be heard. She will fight to have the whole site protected as a new Regional Park and Nature Reserve.

MT DRUITT



Peter Kerr is a long-time campaigner for the ADI Site. He has lived in Mount Druitt for more than 30 years. Peter resigned from an active membership of the Labor Party in protest over its refusal to protect the site and its wonderful plants and wildlife. He loves and knows well the site's birdlife.

What about my vote?

It is a serious matter to put your vote towards saving the site. But we hope to convince you that it is the right thing to do.

Q. Is it responsible to vote for a small party like SOS?

A. Yes, because 1. SOS representation in the Upper House will ensure pressure is maintained to preserve the Site once the election is over; 2. In both Houses preferences may change the balance of power.

Q. What are you trying to do?

A. We want to put strong pressure on Liberal and Labor to think hard about the site, and about the wishes of local people. If one of the major

parties promises to repeal REP 30, the planning document that covers the site, we will recommend that people voting for us give their preference to that party before the other major party. We want a competition to save the lot.

Q. What if I don't want to follow your recommendation?

A. In the polling booth you have complete freedom to follow your conscience.

Q. What are the two major parties promising?

A. At time of writing both are prepared to allow the building of 5000 houses, effectively dooming the remaining bushland and

wildlife, even if it is put into a park.

Q. What if neither major party promises to protect the entire site?

A. Then we will recommend that people give preferences to neither.

Q. So what will your final preferences recommendation be?

A. We don't know yet. Closer to the election we will be clear on what the major parties are promising. At that point we will decide our preference recommendations.

Q. How will we find out what you recommend?

A. We will have volunteers at polling booths to give you our 'How to Vote' recommendations. After that, it's up to you!

Learn more



Read about the ADI Site and its history, as well as an alternative vision (in the submission to Draft REP 30) at the website of the ADI Residents Action Group: www.savetheadisite.bmt.com.au. Have a look. It may help you make your decision.

We are inspired by the Sanctuary in Wellington, NZ, where a large, fenced site is the new home for endangered wildlife and plants: www.sanctuary.org.nz

The Save Our Suburbs website is at www.sos.org.au

How you can help

Over this election period the ADI Residents Action Group will support the Save our Suburbs party candidates, all long time ADI campaigners and local residents, as they get the message out in Londonderry, Mulgoa, Mt Druitt and Penrith.

We need lots of help in this - people in the four electorates to help with letterboxing, and to put up election posters in their front yards.

We will also need volunteers to staff polling booths on election day to give out our 'How to Vote' cards. You can spend a couple of hours helping your neighbours vote for the future of this great site.

Let us know if you, your family or friends would like to help. Please call Noel Plumb 8800 8303 or Barbie Bates 4739 6840, or email Noel at nplumb@idx.com.au.

Of course, the other important way you can help is to **vote for the Save Our Suburbs party!**

And still they come....

When Kay Davison moved four years ago to Safety Beach, near Coffs Harbour, she thought she'd found the ideal place to live: relaxed lifestyle, plenty of space and a good climate with a beach within walking distance.

But now, with level 4 water restrictions in place (watering by bucket or watering can only) she says the Coffs Harbour region is water stressed and has probably exceeded its population carrying capacity.

The next level of water restrictions will limit each household to 95 litres a day. "Surely, the rationing envisioned on a per household basis would lead our city leaders to conclude that they must stop adding households," says Kay, "but instead, more development is planned, and the people just keep coming...."

Central Coast Groaning!

Residents of the Central Coast like to think of their residential streets as their haven from the relentless pressures of big-city living. But the essential character of the Central Coast is being menaced by overdevelopment, according to local resident Bryan Ellis. "The natural features of space, hills, beaches and waterways that originally attracted residents to the area are in danger of being swamped by overcrowding", he said.

"Many residents, who have worked a good part of their lifetime to buy and set up their homes, are now being impacted by a huge reduction in privacy from medium-density developments", Mr Ellis claimed. He pointed to overlooking windows, dramatically increased traffic movement, parking problems, noise, destruction of trees and gardens, overshadowing and loss of property value, all of which, he said, are associated with the overdevelopment now being experienced on the once quiet Central Coast.