



NSW GOVERNMENT  
**Department of Planning**

**Office of the Director General**

Mr Geoff Brown  
President  
Western Sydney Conservation Alliance  
PO Box 4134  
WERRINGTON NSW 2747

DGC08/1937

Dear Mr Brown

I refer to your letter of 5 December 2008 concerning the former Air Services Australia site at Cranebrook.

I would like to be very clear that at no stage has the Department put "roadblocks" in relation to either DECC or local Council implementing environmental proposals on this site as you have claimed in your letter. The Department has, at all times, worked cooperatively with DECC and the Commonwealth to secure the best outcome for the site.

In addition, the Minister has recently written to Penrith Council encouraging Council to proceed with the rezoning process as part of Stage 2 of the Comprehensive LEP.

The request for the listing of the Cranebrook site on the MDP has been held in abeyance. Assessment of the MDP proposal will be re-initiated if Council's intended zone for the site includes some form of urban zoning.

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

  
Sam Haddad  
**Director General**

Geoff Brown  
President  
Western Sydney Conservation Alliance Inc  
PO Box 4134  
WERRINGTON NSW 2747

Friday, 5 December 2008

Sam Haddad  
Director General  
Department of Planning

Cc, Kristina Keneally, NSW Planning Minister

**Proposed MDP listing of former Air Services Australia Site Cranebrook**

Dear Mr Haddad,

We met recently when the NSW Cabinet visited St Marys for consultation with community stakeholders. The purpose of our meeting was to discuss our concerns for the conservation of the entire 181 ha former Air Services Australia site at Cranebrook which has been identified by DECC as a Western Sydney Priority Area for conservation.

We discussed at that meeting the fact that conservation of the entire site was jeopardised because the Department of Planning was still considering listing the site on the Metropolitan Development Program. We also spoke of the fact that Penrith Council had resolved not to support any housing development of the site and was to pursue an E2 Environmental Conservation zoning for the site in Stage 2 of their draft LEP. We also discussed the fact that the Commonwealth Government committed \$15 million in National Reserve funding which could be accessed by the NSW Government for the purpose of acquiring the Cranebrook site.

It was most pleasing to hear that you had concerns about the MDP listing of the site and insisted on the CEO's group deferring a decision on the listing.

I have received word that DECC and the Commonwealth have come to terms on the use of the \$15 million and that DECC can now move forward on the acquisition of this Western Sydney Priority Area. Unfortunately DoP has put roadblocks in the way of this most important outcome.

The major roadblock to protection and acquisition is if DoP lists the site on the MDP. This listing must not be approved. If the site is listed on the MDP then it is likely that this will have a ripple effect that will scuttle protection of the site. It will have political consequences and highly embarrass DECC, the Commonwealth who committed \$15 million to its protection and Penrith Council who will likely be pressured to renege on their commitment of no development.

The Department of Planning must not list the site on the MDP and a rezoning of the site to E2 in Stage 2 of the Penrith LEP must be supported. Could you respond with confirmation that this will be the case ASAP?

Yours truly,



Geoff Brown  
0431 222602