

Barry O'Farrell and Liberals renege on ADI Site commitment

by Geoff Brown
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SHARE



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The Barry O'Farrell Liberals appear to have reneged on a 2007 commitment they made to Western Sydney to save a further 100 hectares of Cumberland Plain Woodland at the controversial ADI Site. In 2007 the NSW opposition put out a media release stating their intention to save the extra area of bushland. Visit www.wsca.org.au to see the NSW Liberals 2007 election commitment.

Cumberland Plain Woodland was recently listed as critically endangered meaning it is now one step from extinction

At a recent Shadow Cabinet Meeting held by Barry O'Farrell at the Penrith RSL Club members of the Western Sydney Conservation Alliance met with Shadow Planning spokesperson Brad Hazzard, Shadow

Environment Minister Catherine Cusack and Bart Bassett the Liberal candidate for Londonderry which takes in the ADI Site. At that meeting they were once again reminded of the 2007 election commitment and were called on to honour it. Brad Hazzard indicated his support for saving more of western Sydney's bushland and asked that legal advice to be provided to him that demonstrated options he could use as a future planning minister to deliver protection of more of the site.

That legal advice, provided by the Environmental Defenders Office, has now been given to Brad Hazzard this week at Parliament House. It clearly demonstrated that there are legal avenues available for the Liberals, should they form government, to honour their commitment to Western Sydney that there is no squirming out of the commitment by claiming their hands are legally tied. Brad Hazzard was also told of the need for a Cumberland Conservation Corridor to be created, a massive Western Sydney green belt, that includes the ADI Site.

Geoff Brown of the Western Sydney Conservation Alliance said, "Barry O'Farrell and the Liberals do not deserve government if they renege on this promise to Western Sydney. They can save more of the ADI Site and we want them to act to announce they will before next weeks Penrith by-election. If Barry O'Farrell reneges on protecting the now critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland at the ADI Site then it proves his government will be no better than the ALP and will back the big developers over the residents and environment of Western Sydney. This is a golden opportunity for the Liberals to show true leadership in Western Sydney. They need to act now to help stop Delfin Lend Lease clearing further areas of CPW at the ADI Site. The Liberals need to publicly take on the ALP over this and other environmental planning issues affecting Western Sydney."

REPORT POST

Comments

StreetCorner Staff posts

Streetcorner has received this response from Brad Hazzard, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, in relation to the above article. "The NSW Liberals & Nationals are committed to conserving not only the Cumberland Forest land discussed at 2007 election but want to go further to a more sustainable model that will protect flora and fauna through establishing ecological corridors as a starting point in future planning. Under a NSW Liberals & Nationals Government, it won't be just about protecting bits and pieces of high conservation lands - it will be about connecting them and sustaining western Sydney's natural environment as it grows." Shadow Minister for Planning, Brad Hazzard.

Peter J posts

Dear Mr Hazzard. I really appreciate your response and have to say despite my previous reservations on the environmental credentials of the Liberals, I am now coming round to the view that Labor can't be trusted to protect our natural habitats. There have been too many deals with the Shooters Party and developers. But what is your position on the Cumberland Conservation Corridor? COuld you please ellaborate? Thank you for addressing this. It is something very dear to us and is essential for future generations that this fragile