

ADI build not out of the woods – yet

CARYN METCALFE

CONSERVATIONISTS continue to fight the ADI site's development.

Construction work is due to start on the new suburb of Jordan Springs next month.

But Geoff Brown, of the Western Sydney Conservation Alliance, continues to bombard Lindsay Federal Labor MP David Bradbury and Federal Environment Protection Minister Peter Garrett with letters demanding an immediate halt to the project.

Mr Brown said the development would see hundreds of hectares of the critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland bulldozed.

He said he wanted Mr Garrett's department to reassess the site because the certification given to developer Delfin Lend Lease was "allegedly done in the late 1990s when the site was routinely slashed".

"Then certification retrospectively applied in 2002 (was) backdated to avoid the current EPBC (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation) Act," Mr Brown said.

"The government is obliged to protect it. They can't sit by and do nothing.

"The federal election is coming up. They committed last time to

... Not so, says developer

JORDAN Springs project director Arthur Ilias told the *Press* the issues raised by Geoff Brown had already been adequately addressed.

"Delfin Lend Lease has worked with federal, state and local governments, along with other local stakeholders, for more than a decade to achieve a balanced outcome for the Jordan Springs project," he said.

"As part of our approval process, we have completed our environmental assessments in light of the recent upgraded status of Cumberland Plain Woodland from 'endangered' to 'critically endangered'.

"We support the need to protect Cumberland Plain Woodland and associated native grasslands – that is why those areas ... are being protected within a 900ha regional park. In fact, more than 60 per cent of the western precinct of the (ADI) site will be protected within the park.

"The remainder of the site, the land which forms Jordan Springs, has been disturbed from a number of uses during the past 200 years, including grazing, farming and manufacturing."

protect the CPW and environment of Lindsay.

"You can't sit by and say we need the houses; we don't need them. It's going to become an election issue."

Mr Brown said he was willing to fight the issue to the end but did not expect anyone to start chaining themselves to trees.

"I won't stand in front of a bulldozer," he said.

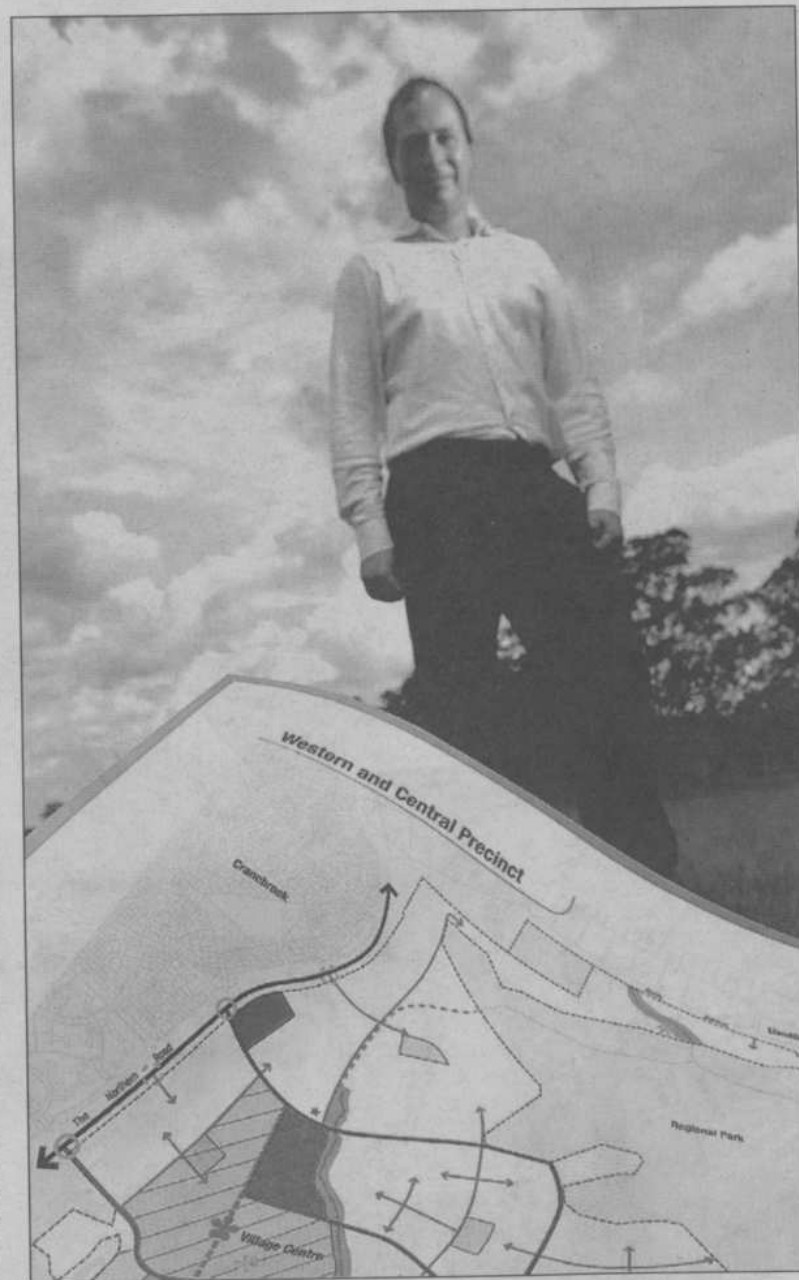
"We haven't left any stone unturned using legal channels, lobbying politicians.

"The minister can declare this

area, under his Act, as a critical environment area.

"There's an option for him to say it's part of a corridor, it's needed so wildlife can move north and south. Delfin's plans fractures this ... green corridor."

Mr Brown said he believed 75 per cent of Penrith residents would want the woodland protected. He partly based this on 10 online comments on the *Press*'s Jordan Springs story last month – even though two of the comments were by the same person and one was from Mr Brown himself.



Jordan Springs project manager Arthur Ilias with a map of the new housing estate.