

**Media Release  
Western Sydney Conservation Alliance**

**Monday, 1 November 2010**

**Public urged to join Shame Tour this Saturday – participants of previous tour call for encore**

A recent Penrith Council and Tony Kelly Shame Tour of rare bushland areas zoned for development (zoned RU4 rural 2 hectare subdivision under stage one of the Penrith Council Local Environmental Plan –LEP) was so successful that participants urged organisers, the Western Sydney Conservation Alliance, to run another tour for 10am this Saturday November 6.

Participants felt the tour was a unique experience on many levels; they got to witness rare and threatened native plants in their natural setting, they were educated by the tour guide as to the significance and unique relationship between the plants and animals that inhabit these areas. What people went away with was that these areas are unique, that they saw something they had no idea existed in Penrith, that these lands have no development potential due to the level of threatened species and that what Penrith Council and Tony Kelly, the planning minister, have allowed is utterly shameful and bordering on environmental vandalism. Participants got to see beautiful displays of wild flowers including rare orchids. The tour also discovered an unknown stand of the endangered *Allocasuarina glariicola* unique.

The shame tour takes place by car and members of the public travel site by site to walk amongst the various bushland sites owned by the Deerubbin Land Aboriginal Land Council who claimed these former Crown lands under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. The Land Council's agenda is to develop these lands for financial return. Approximately 500 hectare of Deerubbin Land has been zoned RU4.

The Deerubbin have been lobbying Penrith Council and the Planning Dept for decades to allow development of their claimed lands and have had most of their submissions authored by their lawyers.

"This tour is important on many levels and we are urging members of the public interested in their local environment and interested in upholding the public interest to take part" said Geoff Brown of WSCA

"These lands we will visit are covered in rare native species and are unique to Penrith, participants of the tour will quickly realise that these lands are unique, have no development potential and why Penrith Council and Tony Kelly should be condemned as environmental vandals for their decision to allow almost 500 hectares of this beautiful bushland to be carved up for farmland"

"These priority conservation lands need to be preserved and it will up to the public once again to save them. Our councillors, politicians and their bureaucrats have once again shown through this process that they are incapable of acting in the public interest to protect our environment."

**When: Saturday the 6th of November - 10am sharp (tour should go for 3 - 4 hours)**

**Where: Meet the corner of Ninth Ave and Northern Rd Llandilo**

**The tour will be guided by members from the Western Sydney Conservation Alliance. Bring a drink, snack, hat, sunscreen and wear appropriate clothing and shoes for short periods of bush walking. Bring your camera.**

Those interested in joining the tour are urged to visit [www.wsca.org.au](http://www.wsca.org.au) to RSVP and for further information

Comments attributed to Geoff Brown President of WSCA