

Media Release
Western Sydney Conservation Alliance Inc

Friday, 8th July, 2011

Lend Lease Species Impact Statement admits biggest ever impact to Cumberland Plain Woodland

Property developer giant Lend Lease have admitted in a Species Impact Statement (SIS) to be assessed by the NSW Government, the Sydney West Joint Regional Planning Panel and Penrith Council that their housing development proposals within the Western Precinct of the former ADI Site, now called Jordan Springs, will clear a further 189 hectares of Cumberland Plain Woodland which is listed at a State and Federal level as Critically Endangered.

Lend Lease have swamped Penrith Council with six development applications for Stages two and three of Jordan Springs proposing the clearing of 59 ha of CPW for just under 500 houses. Stage one has already been approved clearing about 40 hectares of CPW. Other stages will follow. This is the first time that Lend Lease have admitted the true impact of their development proposal. In all other documents they have under stated the total impact to CPW within the entire 230 ha Jordan Springs site. Penrith Council for example voted to support the Western Precinct Plan of Lend Lease which only stated about 60 ha of CPW would be removed.

This is a big test for the NSW Government who is on the record of seeking to conserve an additional 100 hectares of CPW within the Western Precinct of the ADI Site (see www.wsca.org.au <<http://www.wsca.org.au>> for details). The SIS must address the requirements of the Director General of National Parks in accordance within the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. Our findings are that this has not happened and the SIS is flawed.

"Finally an admission by Lend Lease as to the true impact of their Jordan Springs (ADI Site) development. We feel vindicated now as we have always stated that the entire area consisted of critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland"

"We now call on the NSW Government, the JRPP and Penrith Council to do the right thing and that is to reject these DA's and to act to conserve this unique local occurrence of CPW.. They must reject the flawed Species Impact Statement of Lend Lease that still maintains, despite plans to bulldoze 189 ha of this unique local remnant, that no significant impact will occur. They must also reject the pathetic argument put forward by Lend Lease in their SIS that the adjoining Regional Park, a publicly owned reserve, can be used by them, a privately owned development company, as an offset to mitigate the impact their land clearing will have on this massive amount of CPW. This clearly breaches the guidelines for offsetting as per the Director Generals Requirements.

"WSCA is meeting next week with staff from the Planning Minister Brad Hazzard about this matter. We have written to his office about these DA's urging the NSW Government

intervene so that the NSW Liberal/Nationals can honour their pre election commitment to protect a further 100 hectares of CPW on this land. If they sit silently without action there will be no 100 hectares to save. So we will be pressuring the NSW Government to do the right thing.

"This admission by Lend Lease is clearly the biggest single impact to CPW that we are aware of. We have asked Penrith Council Planning staff to provide a response as to where another Western Sydney Council has allowed this amount of CPW to be cleared. Penrith Council in the past has supported all of Lend Leases development applications. Three of the Penrith Councillors that sit on the Joint Regional Planning Panel committee, Jim Aitken (a real estate agent/baron in Penrith), Ross Fowler (who is pro business) and Greg Davies (who worked for Di Beamer who took donations from Lend Lease) are unashamedly pro-development and good mates with Lend Lease. So we are up against it.

"The fate of this massive remnant of CPW appears to rest with the NSW Government. There is clearly an obligation under the NSW Threatened Species Legislation for the NSW Government to put this SIS by Lend Lease under the microscope. If they do this they will soon see what a flawed document it is.

"We also know that the NSW Government, as part of its commitment to offset the loss of CPW within the Sydney Growth Centres, needs to find CPW to conserve. Yet here under its nose are plans to do the exact opposite - to bulldoze it. This provides Brad Hazzard further reasons why he can step in to save this CPW remnant at the ADI Site. It can be saved with the stroke of a pen.

Attached is our submission and critique of the SIS

Comments: Geoff Brown President WSCA