

Parks & Playgrounds Movement Inc

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25 April 2004

The Rt Hon Bob Carr MP
Premier of NSW
Parliament House
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Mr Premier,

Former Adamstown Rifle Range undertakings for compensatory habitat not honoured



I must inform you that the undertakings made in 1999 between the Newcastle City Council, NP&WS, the Commonwealth and the RTA as parties to the agreement to rezone 5ha of cleared Commonwealth Department of Defence land at the former Adamstown Rifle Range and acquire the 25 ha of high quality bushland at the southern end of the range for a nominal sum have not been honoured.

The Commonwealth land in question Lot 2 DP. 827809 was to be acquired as compensatory habitat by the RTA for addition to the Glenrock SRA. The Newcastle Council and the Planning Minister rezoned the residential land as their part of the agreement in 2000.

The undertakings made in good faith in November 1999 have, not only not been honoured but the land in question Lot 2 has been subdivided twice since the undertakings were entered into.

A new Lot with altered boundaries was registered Lot 1022 DP 1055066 in September 2003 and transferred to the RTA instead of the Parks Service in consideration of the sum of \$48,000.

A further breach of the 1999 undertaking to acquire the bushland was made in January this year when the altered lot was further subdivided to create Lots 10 and 11 in DP 1063164. These are the current titles and they are both held in the name of the RTA.

Lot 11 cuts through the heart of the proposed compensatory area and extends to the north along Bruncker Road. It is clearly proposed for controlled access motorway development and not for compensatory habitat use. The RTA has registered a covenant over on the title AA47146E which is clearly wrongly applied to this site.



I ask you as premier of NSW in this land deal between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of NSW to direct on behalf of the people of NSW that the undertakings of the parties entered into in good faith in 1999 be honoured by the Roads and Traffic Authority and that the land Lots 10 and 11 in DP 1063164 be transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife service forthwith without encumbrances whatsoever.

I would be pleased to talk with you about this historic rifle range, its WWI target mantelets, surviving bushland and the long struggle to conserve the property as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Doug Lithgow Freeman of the City of Newcastle
President Parks and Playgrounds movement Inc.