

# **In Regards to Support for the Brookes Point Road West (Appin) Land Development Proposal**

**The 1973 Land Acquisition Act, and subsequent history and impact on  
our land, as experienced by the D'Arcy and Percival families.**

By Deidre D'Arcy (nee Percival)

My name is Deidre D'Arcy, and my family (Percival's) and my husband's family (D'Arcy's) have both been long-time landowners in Appin, for well over 150 years. About 43 years ago, a joint announcement by the Federal and State Governments regarding a future Tri-City Plan to include Campbelltown, Camden and Appin. This was followed with a Land Acquisition Act legislated in the NSW State Parliament, which impacted all the Appin farmers. The next move was to set up Macarthur Development Board (MDB), later to become the Macarthur Development Corporation (MDC). This enabled the government to buy up most of the dairy farmland, which virtually shut down the local dairy industry, with the farmers milk quotas being confiscated, and then passed on to north coast dairy farmers. The aim was to prevent farmers from subdividing and therefore preserve large parcels of land for future development.

During this time, my elderly father, Norman Percival, held out as long as possible not to sell his land, but in 1978 he was forced to sell to the MDB as to maintain a retirement income, and was only in his new house for 6 weeks before he died of a broken heart, after selling land that had been kept in the family for generations (his grandfather and father were born in the same room as he was).

About the same time, my husband's mother, Mary D'Arcy (also a long time land owner), had an appointment with the Corporation to finalise the sale of her land, with plans to move into a new house, but was informed at the meeting that the Corporation had run out funds, and that the sale was cancelled. The Corporation was the only realistic buyer due to the aforementioned Land Acquisition Act. Upon hearing this news, she went back to her home and on that same afternoon, the stress and worry caused her to have a stroke that she never recovered from. These situations were highlighted at the time by the Sydney solicitor John Marsden in Sydney newspapers.

All the future development land was on hold until about 20 years later, when the then Premier decided to sell-off some of the buy-back properties to developers, so they could take over the creation of the city. In 1994, the McKenzie Land Planning Services PTY LTD was consulted by the RTA, and in conjunction with the Department of Planning, and the Campbelltown and Wollondilly Councils, recommended a proposal for the upgrading of Appin Road–St Helens Park to the Appin village for a by-pass with dual carriageway. The Appin community including myself met regularly for a year with the RTA to plan this. In 2013, the state government released a list of growth areas, including West Thirlmere, Wilton West, Wilton South, Appin Vale and Brookes Point Road West, Appin (where our land is), in the Wollondilly region. The councilors of the day chose to put Brookes Point Road West on hold, although West Thirlmere, Wilton West and Appin Vale were successfully approved.

We are self-funded retirees and we are fast running out of money due to dropping interest rates, and our assets (land) prevent us from receiving a

pension. As we continue to age significantly, with my husband Everard D'Arcy being 86, and myself being 75, we wonder why we have been holding on to our land and waiting 43 years for approval for our land to be developed. Approval would obviously ease our financial burden and allow us to plan our future, and allowing our families and us to live more comfortably. This is something that we believe we deserve after waiting all these years, and holding on to our land, which has been in a virtual limbo state, whilst paying rates and insurances, with no income from the land.

Yours sincerely,

Deidre D'Arcy

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