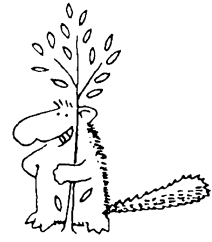


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Mistaken Identity: Dilemma for Minns

A seemingly minor error has put a hole in the Government's environmental credentials. **It needs the Premier to immediately rectify it. We call on him do so.**

Vacant State Government-owned land at the base of the prominent Wolli Bluff in Earlwood has been set for auction **on April 2nd**. This follows the State Government's land audit to identify land for housing.

In 2022, the Wolli Creek Preservation Society (WCPS) identified three groups of land lots owned by the government as key to its Unwin Green Street (UGS) concept, itself part of a proposed green link to join up the 'green corridors' of the Wolli and Cooks River Valleys in inner south-west Sydney and a densely populated area.

Two of these groups of lots, with Unwin Street addresses, were exempted from the audit and are already to be retained as part of that green link. But not the third group, the Bluff Blocks at the base of the iconic Bluff and forming the gateway to the Wolli Creek Regional Park.

We believe this to be due to a terrible case of mistaken identity. The Bluff Blocks should never have been considered for assessment in the land audit, according to Chris Jordens, President of the Wolli Creek Preservation Society.

Questions asked by the Opposition at Estimates hearings in February 2025 revealed that the Bluff Blocks were identified simply as '16-18 Bayview Avenue', despite including 13 Unwin St. "We have only very recently become aware of this error," Jordens said.

As a result, the relation of the blocks to the Unwin Green Street concept and the proposed green link would have been missed and the land seen as disposable in the land audit.

The Premier, Chris Minns, the Minister for Lands and Property, Steve Kamper, and the local MLA for Canterbury, Sophie Cotsis all supported the Unwin Green Street (UGS) concept in meetings with WCPS in 2024. We took assurance from those meetings that none of the land needed for UGS would be sold. We suspect that they have been unaware of the identity problem.

If the proposed auction of the Bluff Blocks is a genuine oversight due to a case of mistaken identity, then the land should be withdrawn from auction and added to Wolli Creek Regional Park as the UGS concept proposed. **We call on the Premier to ensure this outcome**, in line with his March 2024 statements about holding on to green space in inner-city areas

If, however, it is a fully-considered intention of the Government, then the Government has a lot of questions to answer. WCPS has submitted a GIPA (FOI) request to find answers to some of them.

