

Campbell delays report on green issues

By Darren Goodsir

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The Minister for the Environment, Ian Campbell, has still not released a critical report on the future of 28 surplus Commonwealth sites in western Sydney, many of which could be sold in the next few years for possible redevelopment.

Earlier this week, Senator Campbell declared that "a most thorough" environmental assessment of the sites had been completed, fulfilling an election commitment during the 2001 federal election campaign.

He said the report had found that only four of the 28 sites were worthy of protection.

One of those sites is an Airservices Australia property, currently a critical air navigation facility, at Llandilo, on the eastern side of the former ADI site at St Marys which is to be developed into a 5000-home suburb.

The report was cited by Senator Campbell to defend the Coalition's handling of the sale of another Airservices site, a 181-hectare redundant parcel of land at Cranebrook.

He said that despite a council report suggesting the site had threatened species and rare woodlands, the Government's environmental assessment had uncovered no evidence to support such a conclusion.

The Cranebrook land has been sold to a former online broking firm, Infracorp, which intends to "further develop" the land, currently zoned "special purposes" for the use of a wireless station.