

# Rezoner a donor

## MELISSA MATHESON

DEVELOPERS of the former Air Services site at Cranebrook made a donation to Mulgoa State Labor MP Diane Beamer.

IPC Capital Ltd want the State Government to rezone the site for residential development.

They gave Ms Beamer \$2000 in

October 2006 – five months before the State Election.

Ms Beamer said the donation was made at a fundraising dinner she co-hosted with fellow MP Carmel Tebbutt and which Premier Morris Iemma attended.

“I have never denied receiving the \$2000 donation,” Ms Beamer said.

“I have only met the gentleman from IPC on that one occasion.

“It’s (the site) not in my electorate; I know very little about it. I haven’t even seen any of the proposals for it.”

Cranebrook resident and Western Sydney Conservation Alliance president Geoff Brown said he believed Ms Beamer could influence the rezoning application be-

cause of her working relationship with Penrith councillors Greg Davies and Susan Page.

“There’s something not right in all this,” Mr Brown said.

“The developer of this very sensitive bushland site in Western Sydney has made a donation – it’s the only donation they have made to a former planning minister.”



## DONATIONS TO DIANE BEAMER:

- \$5000 Parkview Penrith
- \$3000 FAL Developments Pty Ltd
- \$2000 EGM Hotels Ltd
- \$1600 Australian Hotels Association
- \$1000 Lend Lease Corporation
- \$1000 Clearview Property

# Rezoner gave MP donation

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"Two of her (Ms Beamer's) staffers are on Penrith Council. There's a connection there between IFC, council and Diane Beamer's office," Mr Brown said.

But Ms Beamer said accusations that she was influencing the rezoning application or that Cr Davies or Cr Page were involved were "scurrilous".

"I know I have never spoken to Susan Page or Greg Davies about the site," Ms Beamer said.

"Obviously the (donation) returns I sent into the Electoral Office are public documents and they've (the Alliance) just decided to draw this bow."

IFC Capital Ltd bought the 181ha site at Cranebrook from the Federal Government in October 2004.

The land is currently zoned special uses, which limits development to those land uses normally associated with its former use as a wireless station.

IFC Capital Ltd could not be contacted by phone, but the company said on its web site that a rezoning request was submitted to Penrith Council in August 2006.

The company has since gone to the State Government with a request to have the site listed on the

Metropolitan Development Program.

"IFC Capital continues to consult with the local community and work closely with all relevant authorities to achieve a mutually rewarding planning outcome for the site," IFC Capital Ltd said on its web site.

"The directors and management are confident that the development of this significant core asset will form a strong foundation for the company to grow its revenues and the value of its balance sheet in the medium to long term."

A Penrith Council spokesman said: "The matter is currently out of council's hands as the site's owners have decided to approach the State Government directly on a rezoning.

"A rezoning proposal has never been formally considered by councillors, but council officers in the past have worked towards protecting the biodiversity value of the site."

A report at Penrith Council's policy review meeting of November 19 recommended "that council request the Department of Planning not to proceed with the submission of the rezoning proposals (and) that council formally oppose the listing of the sites on the Metropolitan Development Program".