

Media Release  
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## **Court Reveals Barangaroo Developer Secret Deals Before Planning Approval Given**

Court documents have revealed the developer of the controversial Barangaroo site in Sydney's CBD has made a mockery of planning laws and secretly locked in lucrative commercial deals before final approval has been given for the project.

In an affidavit to the Land and Environment Court this week, Lend Lease has admitted arranging deals for commercial tenants to move into a proposed building on the site despite the fact that the project hasn't yet been given the green light by planning authorities.

Australians for Sustainable Development (AfSD) - an alliance of concerned groups, including the National Trust, Sydney City Councillors, planners, environmental groups, unionists and Sydney residents - has launched legal action over concerns about contamination on the site.

AfSD Vice-President and Sydney Deputy Lord Mayor, Marcelle Hoff, said the revelation confirmed Lend Lease and its joint venture partner, the NSW Government, are ignoring planning laws and are rushing ahead before final approval is given and community concerns are addressed.

"The Barangaroo site is part of Sydney's heritage and this proposed development will change Sydney forever," Councillor Hoff said.

"Lend Lease and the NSW Government are behaving as if planning laws don't apply to them.

"Whilst the community is asking serious questions about the potential for Sydney Harbour to be poisoned by toxic waste leaching from this site, Lend Lease is locking in lucrative deals. This deeply flawed planning process allows Lend Lease to ride roughshod over the people of NSW."

"Australians for Sustainable Development believe the slow release of contractual information as well as secrecy about project finances is contrary to the community's right to know about the future of our publicly owned land and our harbour."

"This is the largest development ever undertaken in the CBD and yet commercial details of the project remain shrouded in secrecy. Questions need to be asked about deals that seem to have been done behind closed doors," Councillor Hoff said.

"Sydney is Australia's global city and Barangaroo is a project of great public significance on an important historic site. Any such development should be to the benefit of all Australians."

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