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AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO THE

Regional Forest

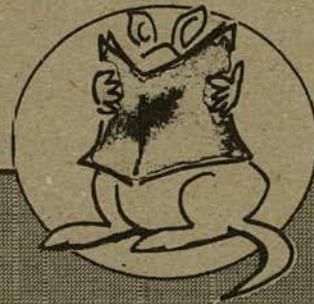


AND OVER THERE IS THE COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF RESERVES.

'Agreement'

or why we're getting Sweet RFA

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Introduction

So, a Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) has come to your region and you're thinking of getting involved. If you do, you'll have to decipher a mind-boggling bureaucratic process, wade through a quagmire of reports and listen to a whole swag of lofty rhetoric and empty phrases.

This booklet is our attempt to pass on some of the lessons learnt from being involved with Australia's very first RFA.

The East Gippsland RFA took 12 months to complete, produced a small mountain of reports, admitted it knew diddly-squat, then in February '97 the state and federal governments signed over the remaining unprotected forests to the export woodchippers to go *whoopee* with for the next 20 years.

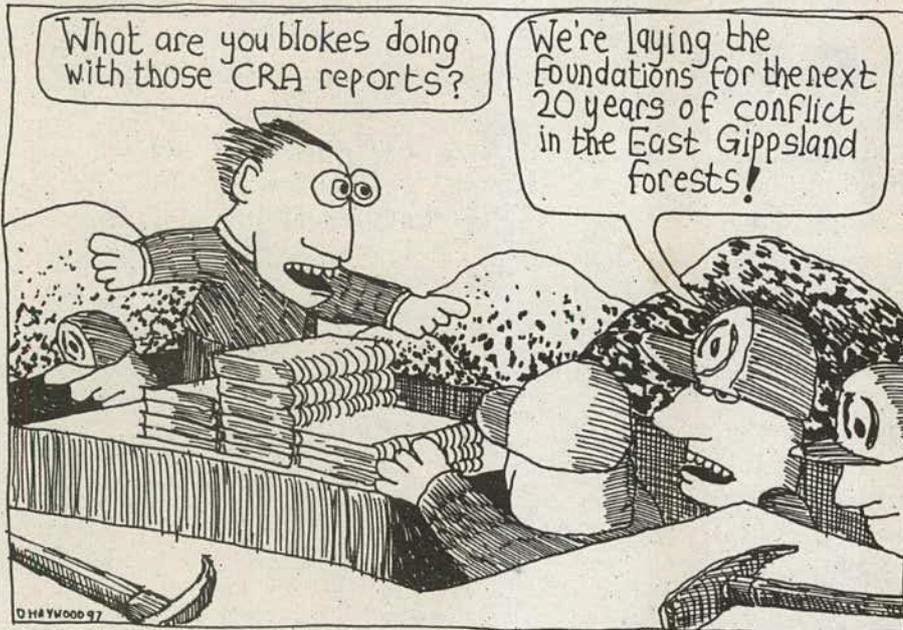
The RFA is a sham. It's pre-determined outcome is dressed up in thick spiral-bound documents and fancy language to dupe the public into believing it must be scientific and credible. We hope this booklet arms people with the knowledge and confidence to get out and knock the wheels off their own little RFA wagon.



TO MAKE ONE RFA

Sift available information carefully,
water down scientific recommendations,
add large cup of public money,
a hint of public consultation,
mix in essence of buzz-word,
season with the merest pinch of artificial
green colouring.

Boil together until all
logic has evaporated,
beat until light and
fluffy and garnish with
the promise of jobs.



The CRA/RFA shebang is run from that big pimple on the hill in Canberra. It's controlled by the office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) and within its galley works the Forest Task Force. These are the bureaucrats you'll be dealing with on a Federal level.

What's the RFA?

History

In June 1992, the famous Earth Summit conference at Rio de Janeiro saw Australia sign a 'Global Statement of Principles on Forests'. After this, the government then felt obliged to follow this up. So the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) was born. This was an agreement signed in December 1992 by the Federal Govt and all state and territory heads (except good ol' Tasmania). It really didn't have much new to say, but hidden away in its pages was one small statement which the conservation movement did not let the governments forget. It claimed there would be a "comprehensive, adequate and representative" reserve system in place to protect old growth and wilderness by the end of 1995. Somewhat belatedly, the government made a move to honour this in 1996. But they also wanted to keep exploiting our forests. So the RFA was conceived, primarily to quash the controversial forest debate once and for all - rather than to protect what they'd promised.

Once the obligation to produce a CRA is met, a comparatively scant document called the RFA is the final result. It's basically an arrangement between the State and Federal Governments saying who's responsible for looking after what aspect of forest exploitation. It isn't legally binding, yet its existence allows the *Export Controls Act 1982* regulations to be amended and allow for 20 year woodchip licences with no ceilings on export volumes and no environmental conditions attached.

Logging and no-logging zones are set, but while it's possible to change conservation zones to account for new findings, this can only be done if "there is no net deterioration in timber production capacity". In other words, there must be trade offs between one conservation area and another to keep the industry placated.

Now, to be lucky enough to have one of these Regional Forest Agreements, you first need to undergo what's called a Comprehensive Regional Assessment process (CRAp). Simply put, this means a cobbling together of all the information that's relevant (and

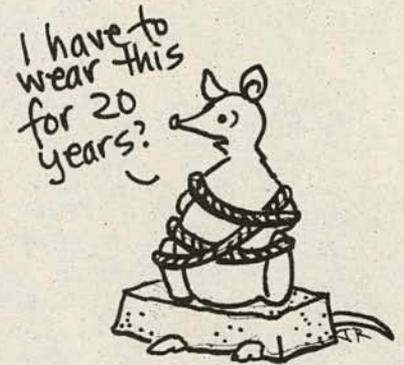
sometimes irrelevant) to a particular forested region. Sometimes the information is specially screened to avoid hard-to-deal-with realities. All this is then bound up in volumes and called the CRA report.

Why an RFA?

Despite past attempts to justify forest destruction in Australia, the forest debate has continued to rage causing major problems for governments - especially at election times. As long as the majority of the public feel outrage over export woodchipping, overseas woodchip companies don't feel terribly secure about making big plans for exploiting our forests. This uncertainty is why the Governments wanted to find "the final solution" (their choice of words) to the forest debate. The Federal Government also wanted to wash their hands of this troublesome issue. By passing the buck to the states they hope it will let them off the woodchip hook.

So from the lofty heights of a UN global agreement on forests, we plummet to the depths of an inadequate process which tries to justify the continued destruction of Australia's biodiversity.

- 7 After ignoring the public and choosing an industry-favoured option, a draft agreement is theoretically released and public comments sought (and ignored again).
- 8 The RFA is 'agreed' upon, signed and set in concrete for 20 years.
- 9 Five-yearly reviews occur but it can't alter the amount of forest that is cut down.



RFA Process step by step

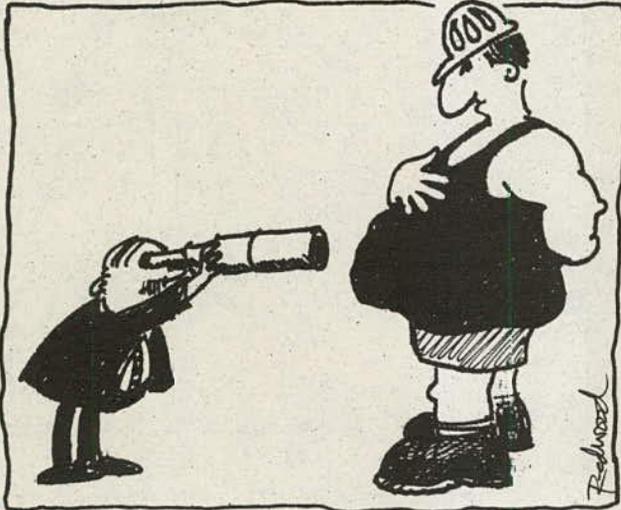
- 1 Scoping agreement (rules of the game) between the governments set with no public input.
- 2 Deferred (Interim) forest areas set aside (with public comment sought and ignored).
- 3 Existing information is collected and gaps identified (but not filled!)
- 4 A decision is made by government bureaucrats on what they'll do with the collected information and what new information is needed.
- 5 Timber, social, natural and cultural values are compiled and written up in the Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA) reports (see summaries in next section).
- 6 Based on the CRA reports a number of suggested options for 'managing' forests should be presented for the public to look at.

After these hasty steps it clears the way for unlimited woodchip licences being signed and the Feds will hope the woodchip issue will be off their plates.



The RFA's just raced through consultation and is heading straight for Credibility Gap

Scoping agreement



This is a silly bureaucratic term which simply means 'who's doing what when' during the process. There's no legal obligation to follow this 'set of instructions' making it useless as a tool to ensure governments stick to the 'scope' of the agreement (but they use it where it suits them). The public are not allowed to have a say in setting these initial rules. If we could, we'd want an examination of the economics of logging, the effect on tourism and so on.

Deferred or Interim Forest Areas

As an RFA-in-the-making can take many months to complete, the DFAs/IFAs are set up to make sure they don't log areas that they might later decide need conserving. These areas are set aside from logging and hence are called 'Deferred (or Interim for some states) Forest Areas'.



Look at all those forests we won't log... this year

East Gippsland's original 30,000 ha of DFAs included coastal heathland, freshly logged forest and anything that wasn't planned to be logged for the next 12 months. It was basically a

logging plan in the negative. But it allowed the Government to impress the public with a big figure and the word 'protection'.

i might have to learn to eat dirt



Consultation



The public can see the reports after the fifth stage. Copies are sent to *key stakeholders* (groups with an interest in the issue, eg. conservation, logging, Aboriginal and other community groups). The reports are also on the internet or they can be bought. After the draft RFA hits the streets consultation workshops are set up and comments invited. From our experience, this part is just a formality to make it look like a 'balanced democratic process'.

The government is under no obligation to change the draft RFA after public comments, **or even to hold public consultation workshops.** There was only one public workshop in Melbourne for the East Gippsland RFA, which was quickly abandoned after a group of loggers quite rightly protested the lack of serious consultation. No other

meeting was called. Public workshops and meetings are usually planned in main population centres of a region. This often means in the heart of logging territory. Clearly, such venues don't provide a neutral or comfortable environment to be airing concerns over logging.

Although everyone is welcome to have their say, if you happen to express views contrary to the bulk of those present, you'd better be able to run fast.

The frustrating thing about consultation is that you can research and contribute until you've worked up a Phd on the subject, but

there's no requirement to follow up any of the public input with research or changes, or even to acknowledge it.

An example:

During a series of meetings at which the public were asked to suggest areas to be reserved, large maps with plastic over-lays and bright textas were provided. People took time off work to contribute. Bureaucrats took notes efficiently. When the Options Paper published a map of all areas *considered* for the reserve system, most of the areas suggested were not even included as *considered*.

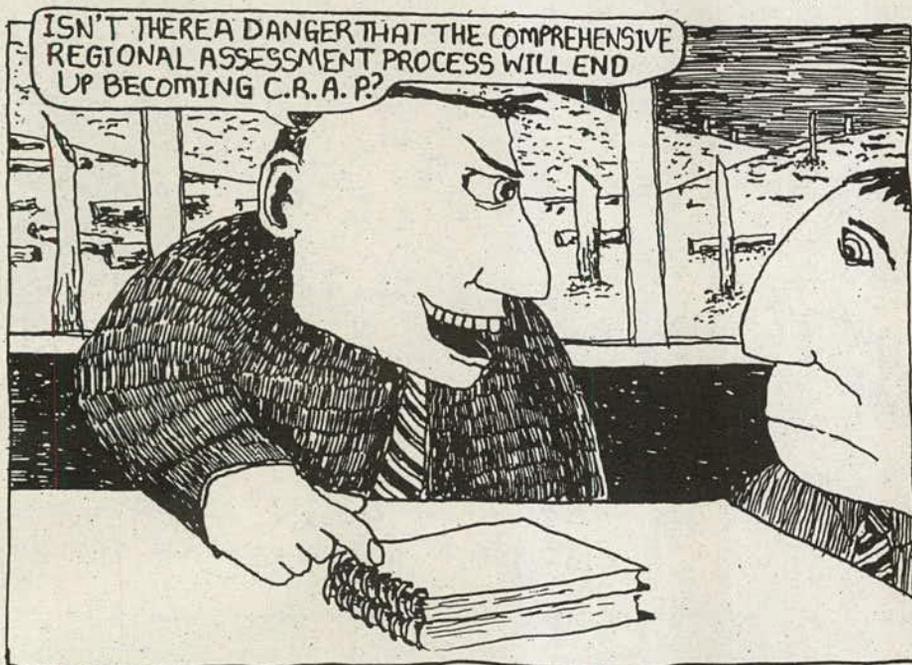
In East Gippsland two well-researched submissions were actually lost! The others might as well have been.

Comprehensive Regional Assessment

Don't expect this to be an assessment, or you'll be disappointed. At best it's a catalogue of selected and politically-sanitised information. It does not

create new facts, just presents existing ones. No matter how old, patchy or wobbly the data is, to complete the CRA they simply have to heap it all

together. Still, the documents are worth a look, if only to get an idea of what's missing.



It is the mere existence of these reports rather than the contents, which the governments will ultimately use to justify the lifting of export woodchip controls across the country.

The CRA Documents

Each state and region is likely to have different versions of the CRA reports. East Gippsland had seven volumes which filled 700 pages. The Central Highland's CRA had fewer documents and crammed several reports into one big general CRA report.

Whatever form they take, the CRA is bound (and gagged) to follow the 'instructions' set down in the scoping agreement. But how they gather what information and how it's used is not controlled or explained. This makes it easy to print up mountains of old information but not have to go and get anything new or more relevant to make these reports live up

their name of being *Comprehensive*. You'll need to look at this carefully or they'll try to get away with a result they'll conveniently disguise as a scientific decision rather than a political one.

By bundling information into CRA reports and calling it an 'assessment' the Minister can then use his/her discretion to decide if it constitutes an environmental assessment. Therefore the obligation under Federal legislation to carry out a proper EIS can be avoided. Indeed the CRA seems to be tailor-made to meet this end, as this outcome is predicted in more than one RFA document.



Bullshit Detectors:

Handy hints to help sort the wheat from the chaff in every CRA chapter.

Voluminous and wordy wadding is used to hide the lack of information. When you see badly presented maps, tables and graphs, take time to interpret them; they are obscure for a reason. For example, by sussing out these maps we found out which threatened species' habitats would be rezoned into logging areas and that actual owl zones were vastly smaller than the claimed sizes. We also discovered the lack of values in 'new reserves'.



Alternately, tables may be used to hide 'holes' in data that would be too obvious on a map. Make your own map where necessary. This is how we found the inadequacy of threatened species information in key areas.

If the information you need is not in the report, look in the appendices and draft reports. In fact the best information is usually there.

Look for 'lumping' of information - to understate or overstate a fact or to confuse the reader. For example putting agriculture and timber employment statistics together to make the logging industry look robust.

Check if graphs have even measurements. Redraw them correctly and find what they're hiding.

bugger the contents... just make it look big + scary!



RFA Speak

Be alert for these phrases, and their likely meaning:

- ◆ **Wherever possible/practicable** = "not if we don't to"
- ◆ **Not possible due to time limitations** = "it belongs in the too-hard basket"
- ◆ **May be/ Expected to be** = "we don't know and can't find out - perhaps due to time limitations?"
- ◆ **As accurate as the data allows or Limitations to some degree** = "very inaccurate, so we'll just guess".

The Social Report

This report is designed to paint a social profile of the region being assessed. It may do this by surveying some locals and using existing information such as census figures and local government statistics.

The East Gippsland social report took the cake for being the funniest of all. Stale and/or poor information was used very badly. At times absurdly irrelevant facts padded the pages, like - "Buchan has a community notice board upon which community notices are placed".

One of the methods for assessing East Gippsland was to set up meetings in each main town and invite 'key stakeholders' to answer questions. With one exception, all meetings were held in towns dominated by the logging brotherhood and so effectively excluded all but the bravest locals from participating if they wanted to air slightly green views. After this method was bitterly complained about by CROEG, a phone survey was undertaken (perhaps the only time our group was ever listened to).

Look out for attempts to hide the insignificant size of the logging industry by lumping it in as 'forestry and agriculture'. Also be wary of graphs - like our favourite, the one that showed major towns having lower population densities than outlying areas! Beware of



One of the most ridiculous examples of their information gathering was a posted questionnaire to mills. **This claimed that in East Gippsland a massive 75% of logging industry workers declared they were not prepared to move away if the industry declined. How many people? Well, six actually - out of the eight who replied.** Beware of findings based on percentages.

graphs had uneven scales comparing the incomparable.

Our report made no mention of alternative employment to logging native forests and no mention of Native Title and other 'big picture' social issues.

The size and importance of other industries may be well documented but downplayed in the final summary. For example, logging earns \$53 million for East Gippsland's economy whereas tourism brings in \$134 million, plus has a greater employment multiplier effect per job.

Look out for the telling final paragraphs of the conclusion. There amongst the fluff and fill of our report was the tentative suggestion that only local people need to be consulted and outsiders not taken seriously. This is akin to saying we only need to consult with those living nearest the National Gallery to determine how works of art need to be managed and sold.

A totally useless report; but then the RFA was never designed to consider the public.



Resource and

The aim of this report seems to be to count the trees in the region and work out how much they can be sold for. The presumptions and guesswork in this one make the social report look well researched.

What controls most forest management and planning is the so-called sustainable yield figure. However, this crucially important figure could have been worked out on the back of an envelope at the bar of the Commercial Hotel for all the accurate information it uses. ***This report makes clear they just don't know what's out there.*** We suspect most states' forestry departments are in the same boat.

The report admitted it used '**unreliable data**' and had '**a lack of basic resource data**' Appendix A p.15. It also stated:

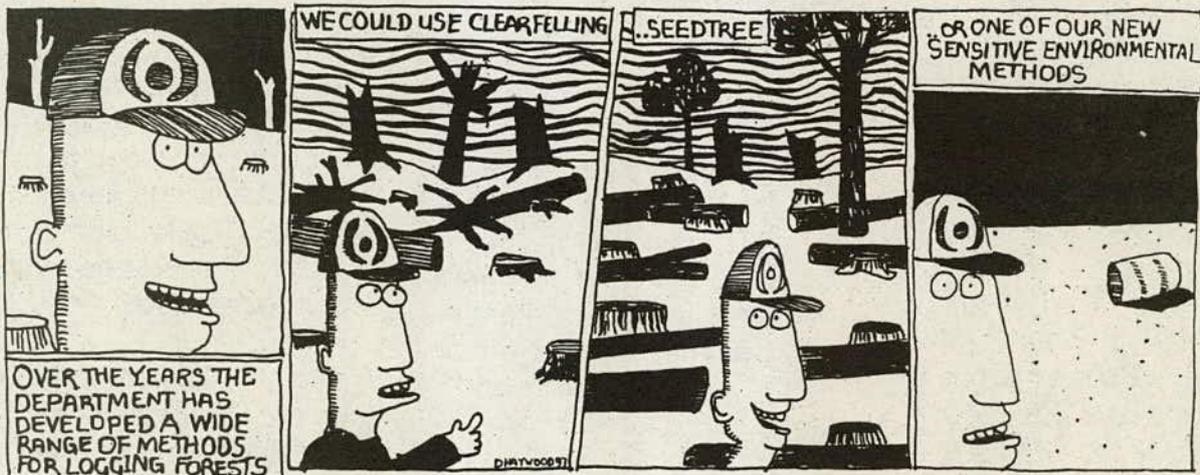
whether resulting from bias or sampling error, the principal operational concern is that of an overestimate of volume, leading to a possible inability to sustain production. Appendix A p.13

However, we were told the State Department is trying a new method so as to make better guesses. But this "*may not be available for the next sustainable yield review in 2001*". If their calculations are still as shonky when the new fifteen year licences are issued in 2003, they'll be based on a "*sustainable yield estimate...no more accurate than at present*" Appendix A p.23

Thus their claimed '*World class reserve system*' is based on sums that seems little better than a grade three school arithmetic project.

The report details current management practices and outlines the 'flexible' approach to silvicultural systems. This means either clearfell or seed tree methods are used - seed tree being clearfell with a few genetically inferior trees left standing.

In other words they don't know what's going on but suspect they may be over-logging themselves into a corner.



Economics Report

In East Gippsland, the logging industry's future was determined by asking sawmillers what they thought. Surprise surprise, the outlook was rosy, and there was the usual fantasy of a massive value-adding industry riding in on a big white horse. They neglected to mention that these mythical furniture factories have been encouraged since 1988, and value added timber still only accounts for less than 1% of the region's output (while woodchipping has skyrocketed).

government employees paid to plan and manage these loggers.

For every six forest workers and truckies, there's five department staff! If you include sawmill workers it's around 25 workers to five department staff (not including the planners and staff in Melbourne).

Imagine what the tourism industry would achieve with that ratio of government-paid support staff!

In all their wishful calculations...

"No allowance is made for loss of resource through fire damage, insect or fungal attack or storms"

p 28

This means that when disaster strikes, logs must keep rolling to honour the government's licence commitment. But from where? Also...

"Logs that do not meet sawlog grades account for over 70% of the resource"

pg 18

At last we see a round-about

if somewhat understated admission (it's more like 80-90%) Calculate the 65% waste from sawlogs and we end up with a rather staggering amount of woodchips. Despite this the subject is clearly avoided.



The clear economic competitor, tourism, may get hidden with 'other industries', or quantified or ignored (or all three), so sniff it out if it's not obvious. If it's not clearly compared with logging, make your own graphs and tables from their statistics. The annual turnover and jobs created should show up the logging industry to be little more than a small but noisy bully that upsets the rest of the region's economic efforts.

For East Gippsland we made a comparison between the number of people directly employed in logging compared with

The big hole in this report is that it doesn't mention that nasty word woodchips. Grazing on public land gets more of a mention than woodchipping does.

Independent Advisory Group Report on Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management Systems and Processes

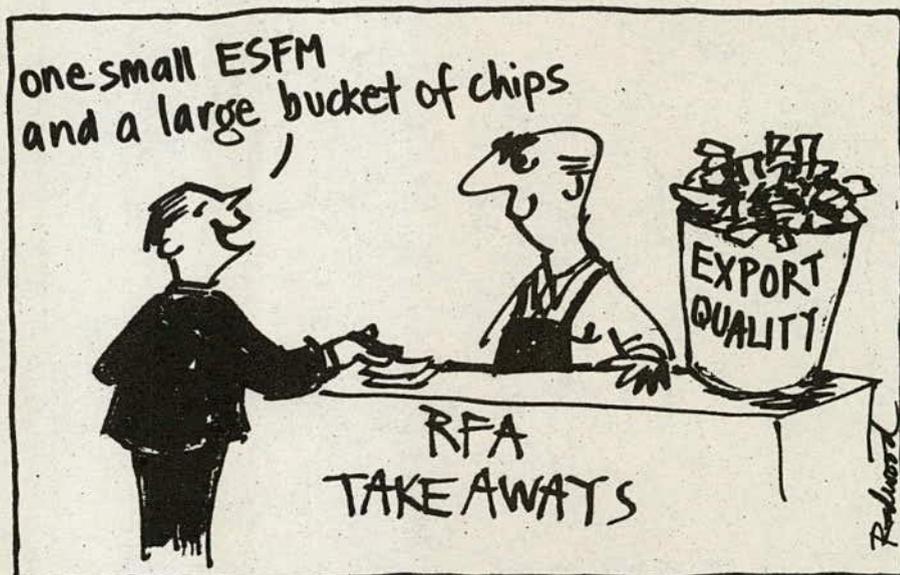
This mind-numbingly long title is normally shortened to ESFM. It attempts to examine state logging practices against a set of criteria laid down by the Feds in the NFPS (see pg 3). It's a good tool to increase knowledge of how our forests get 'managed' to death. It's dry, repetitive and with enough fluff to insulate ten Parliament Houses.

The NFPS decrees that ESFM is an essential requirement of logging management. Yet this damning report was ignored.

Like the wider CRA report, the ESFM tries to assess what's going on, but not try to implement, enforce or encourage better ecological management.

Thus the East Gippsland RFA was signed, despite major failings in most of the 43 ESFM areas it looked at. For example, in just one aspect of the 'planning to protect and maintain biodiversity' area, *East Gippsland management was found to need 41 improvements to bring it up to scratch!*

The CRA trumpets loud and long about East Gippsland having better environmental information than any other



region, but in the report it admits :

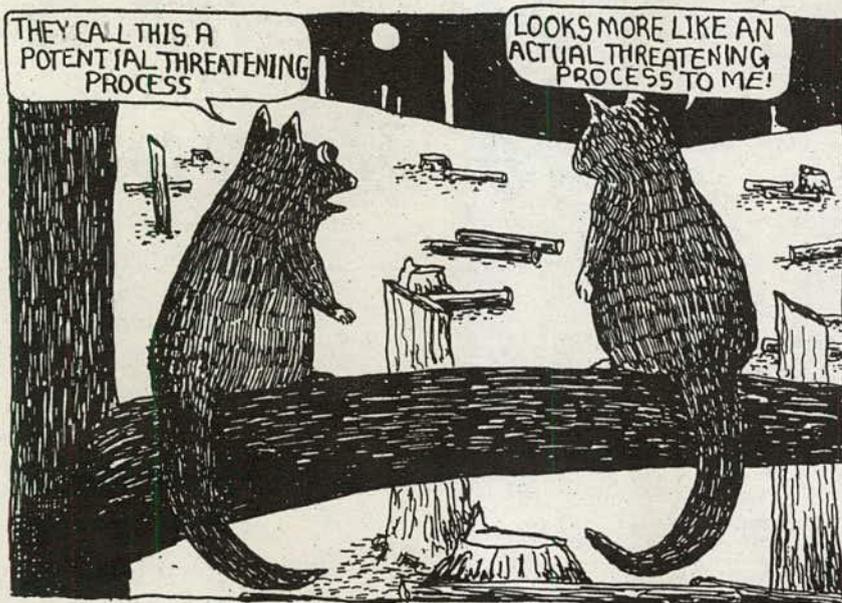
Knowledge of the detailed impacts of forest operations on flora and fauna is generally uncertain. p.43

The scientific basis for guidelines is uneven p.42
and

The contribution to biodiversity conservation required of

each land tenure cannot be defined clearly due to a lack of detailed knowledge on distribution of species and on impacts of land management p.41

All this simply means they can't make any predictions because they don't know where species are, let alone how they cope with having their habitat destroyed by clearfelling.



Reports for regions that are less 'data-rich' than here should produce some wonderfully slippery rhetoric to cover their ignorance.

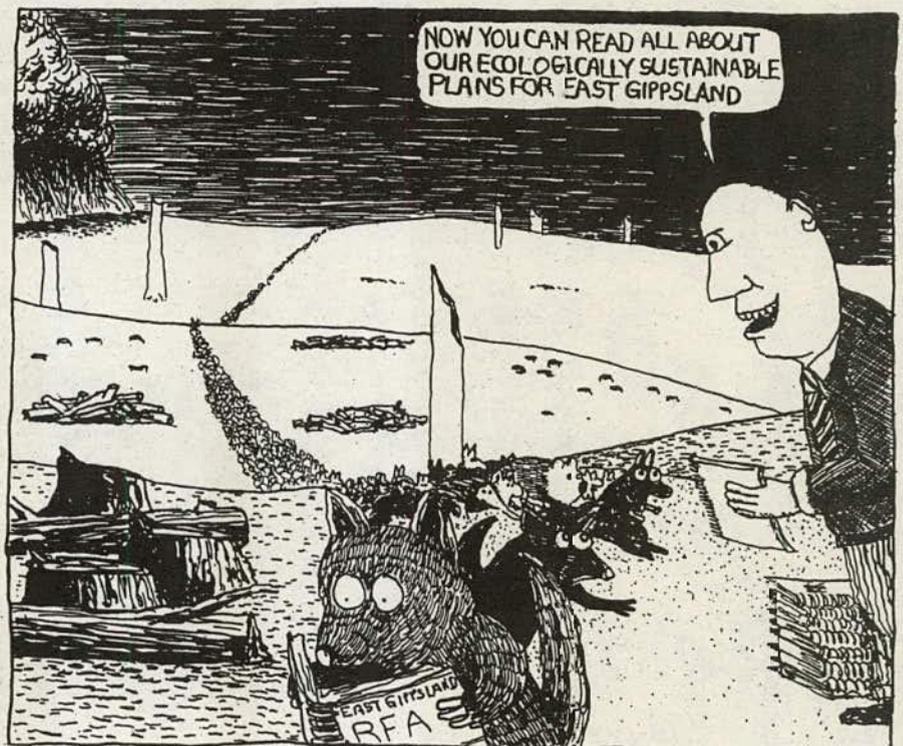
Despite its fancy title, it still fails to explain how reducing whole parts of vital ecosystems to a bare, muddy scorched and compacted wasteland can be considered "ecologically sustainable".

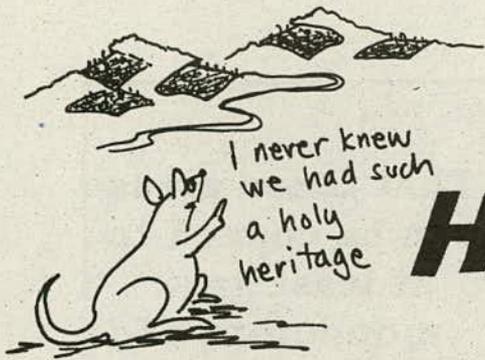
Although it's meant to be assessing ecological sustainability, the authors are happy to comment that the 'merchantable' value of this plantation-style regrowth will mean more wood for the industry. This ecologically reckless management clearly cannot '*maintain forest ecosystem and vitality*' and certainly not '*protect and maintain biodiversity*'.

Meanwhile, forest 'managers' are happy to let the logging industry 'stack up the chips'.

Amongst the ESFM pages, a detailed decision-making tree was drawn to placate us about how bureaucratically-complex decisions are ... then we were told the Minister can override all this lot anyway.

That these areas can be coaxed to at least grow monocrops of chosen gum trees is a testimony to the wonder of nature, not the sustainability of forest management.





Environment & Heritage Report

This report puts together information on biodiversity, endangered species, old growth, wilderness, National Estate and World Heritage. East Gippsland's report was 'prepared by officials' who remain unnamed. This makes it difficult to challenge unknown authors. You may wish to look for the faults listed here, in your region's version.

The report tried to identify gaps in information and research. So 'Assessment' really means identifying, listing and cataloguing the holes.

In East Gippsland the data was declared satisfactory because, adequate or not, East Gippsland is claimed to be "the most studied region in Australia" (which says little for the rest of the country). Despite this report admitting there are major gaps in knowledge, poor quality information and limited data,

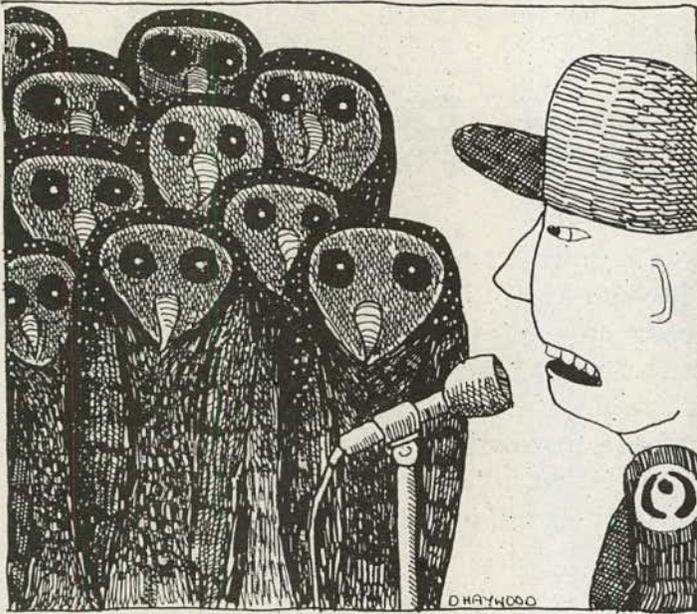
there was no attempt to fill or even paper the cracks. Public comment was not invited on this report and requests for input were ignored.

The most gaping hole was the lack of post-logging surveys after clearfelling. The RFA was signed with no understanding of how clearfelling affects forests, although it's pretty damned obvious! The report actually hid the impacts of clearfelling by only looking at species population trends over the last decade. Anything prior to this was dismissed as

"past population dynamics". Clearfelling and wood-chipping have been going on for 25 years, so it would be logical to assess impacts over at least a 30 year period. But with no surveys after forests had been logged, guessing was the next best method. It perfectly suited their needs.

To solve the lack of information about species whereabouts, a number of species groups were roughly lumped together. They were then broadcast over the map through representative areas





SELECTION OF SOOTY OWLS TO BE RETAINED WILL FOLLOW THE DEPARTMENT'S USUAL STANDARD OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION...

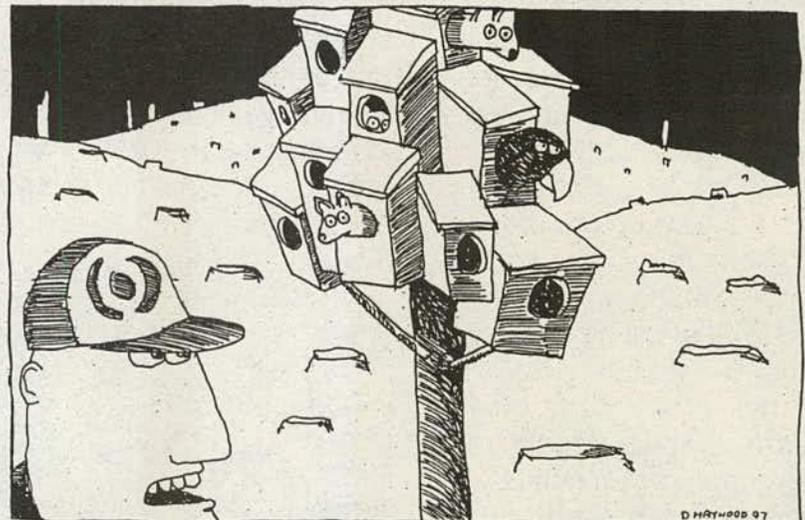
EENY, MEENY, MINEY MO...

of different landforms, vegetation, climatic zones and so on (while ignoring important things like logging history and forest age). Thus the report magically populated the region with phantom wildlife communities from a desk in Melbourne.

Based on this data vacuum, half of a chosen 36 threatened species in East Gippsland, were listed as 'stable' and only nine as declining. Cross-checking with the figures in the appendix showed that most of the 'stable' species were regarded as having unreliable information about them and one was actually listed as declining! (but that's near enough to stable for their purposes).

If the tables or maps are obscure and difficult to read check them thoroughly. We found that protection for individual animals, especially owl zones, were massively under the claimed size. We

Strangely, loss of old trees with hollows, which is listed under the State's Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act as a threatening process, was not considered a threatening process in this report. In fact the problem scored less than a paragraph!



And this is what we came up with to solve the loss of habitat problem

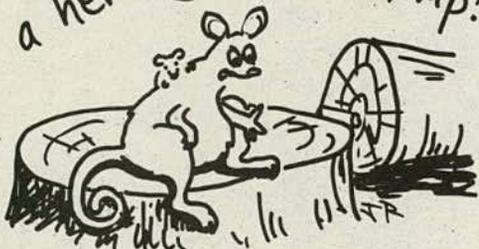
guessed that the State's map must have been out of scale for a good reason. Rescaling the map showed the true sized allocated!

Likewise, threatened quoll habitat was undersized and/or placed in burning zones - which incinerates their ground habitat.

This CRA report accepted without question that the East Gippsland Forest Management Plan is responsibly managing threatened species, and so wiped its hands of the issue. This is despite Department scientists acknowledge uncertainties about species decline after clearfelling.

National Estate Report

oh great - now we have a heritage listed stump!



This report gave a good overview of known flora, fauna, landscape and heritage values, and explained ecological vegetation classes (EVCs). National Estate flared into prominence at the conclusion of the East Gippsland RFA when the Australian Heritage Commission declared that it would limit the listing of new National Estate areas to those that don't conflict with logging.

National Estate sounds reassuringly like a reserve. It isn't. It merely means a Commonwealth office has drawn lines around areas that have special values - it doesn't protect them. About 70% of East Gippsland has been identified as having National Estate values.

In order for an area to qualify as having natural values it has to be rare, valuable and big enough to reach an unexplained 'threshold level' (In East Gippsland more than 2000 ha of relatively undisturbed vegetation). This leaves areas with small but important remnants out in the cold.

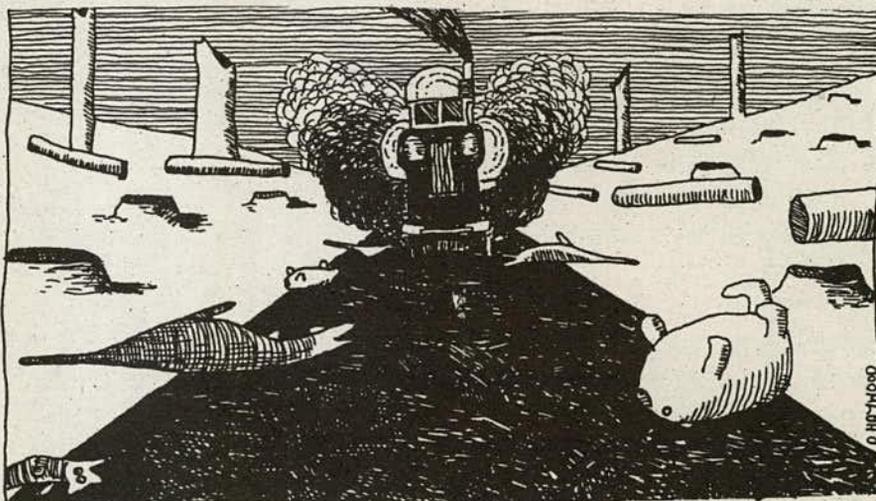
It seems that here again 'data-rich' East Gippsland suffers from a lack of data. For all its bells and whistles, the new computerised Geographic Information System was not able to generate one iota of new information,

though it did make existing info look very pretty. So don't be conned by fancy wrapping to cover empty contents.

A problem with identifying flora and fauna values is that there are few people qualified or available to do the job. If local people can find rare species in their area, it proves the area has not been systematically surveyed. If it isn't feasible for the government to carry out surveys to ensure that all values are

protected, then it should not be feasible for the government to approve clearfelling.

National Estate values include Aboriginal heritage values. In the East Gippsland report in the same sentence the AHC congratulated itself for consulting with Aboriginal people, then stated that the aboriginal assessment was incomplete due to tight timeframes (and still remains incomplete).



Surprisingly, the East Gippsland report concluded that 'old growth forest values are highly sensitive to harvesting, roading and wild-fire' pg. 13, but much of the remaining unprotected old growth is available to 'ecologically sustainable management processes' like harvesting, roading and burning!

Wilderness Report



Draft RFA "Options Paper"

The draft pretended to consider several 'options' and presented them for public comment. **The East Gippsland options were a choice between monstrous amounts of logging or enormously monstrous amounts of logging. We were to think ourselves lucky if we scored the lesser.**

Double check the values of any lesser known conservation zones dropped from the reserve system. They may well be an expensive trade off to put a 'low value' area on the 'saved' map. In East Gippsland, we scored protection for Ellery Creek, a very controversial catchment,

but we lost important quoll and owl zones elsewhere as a trade off. We were also given some coastal bush with unknown conservation values.

The Victorian Central Highlands forest 'options' were but one: status quo!

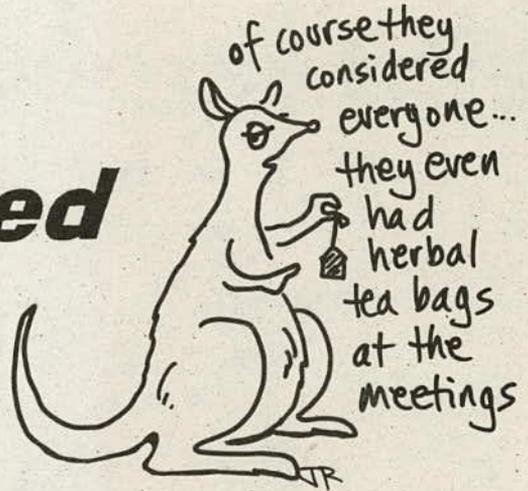


Benefits of being involved

The governments need your involvement to give credibility to the process. If you decide to leap into this quagmire, use your role as a participant to advantage. RFA involvement is a good excuse to request every piece of 'locked' information you have ever been denied.

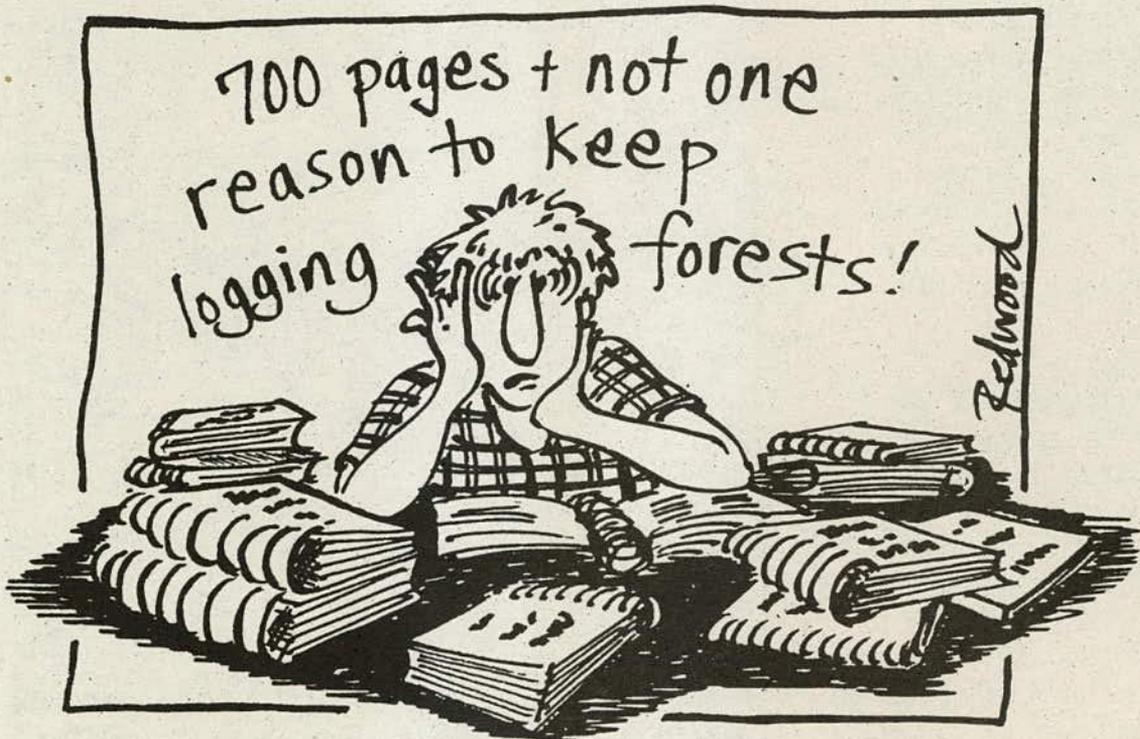
To have meaningful input, you'll need suppressed reports, 'working documents', maps and so on that they've kept a tight clutch on. You should be given information such as the actual log yield from last year's coupes compared with the forecast, regeneration failure figures and you could maybe even try for their financial accounts (though economics of the industry was clearly avoided in the assessments). Request information on their adherence to environmental legislation and so on. Be creative.

Go for it while the going is good!



WARNING!

The RFA process mutates from region to region as an AIDS virus mutates from hosts to host. This makes it difficult to use the faults in the EG process to accurately predict how it will affect other states.



Life after the RFA...

Here in East Gippsland the RFA has:

- X eliminated areas of known high conservation value from an already inadequate reserve system
- X mostly replaced them with areas of no known value.
- X reduced the number of adequate spot-tailed quoll sites from 7 to 5.
- X put only an extra 0.0023% of the region into a secure reserve system
- X issued 20 year licences for unlimited woodchip exports from the region

However, it has also:

- ✓ failed to effect the slump in the world pulp market or coax international investment in our woodchips (no extra woodchips have left EG despite the new licences)
- ✓ failed to provide 'certainty' or an 'end to the forest debate'.
- ✓ been the catalyst for a seven month blockade of the Goolengook old growth forest.

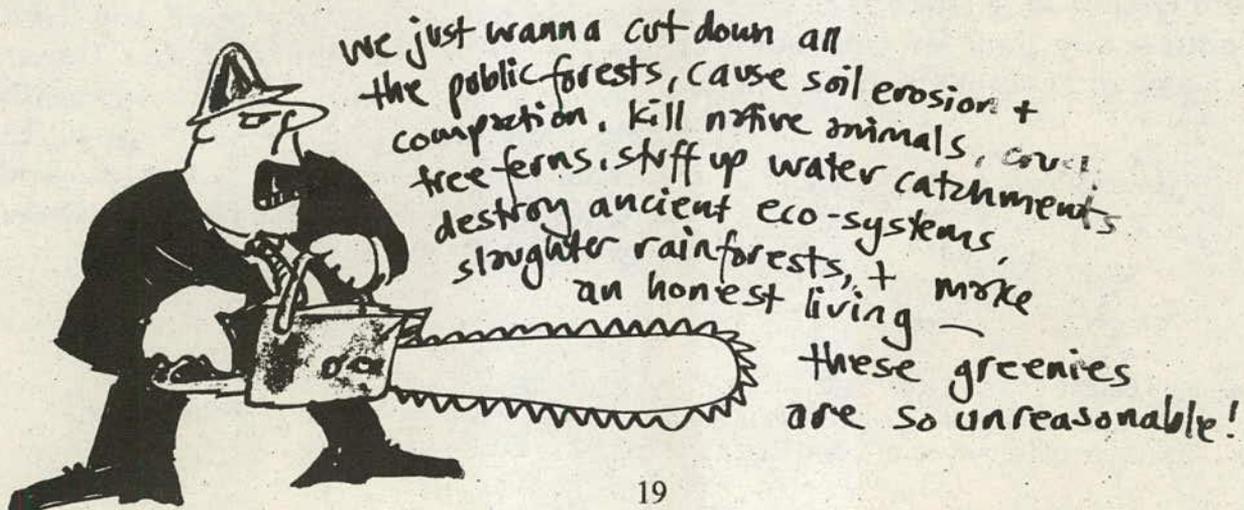


The forest debate in East Gippsland still attracts state, national and even international media, placing the forest debate in the headlines time and time again. National celebrities have been speaking out against the destruction.

In short, it's business as usual.

The signing of the RFA hasn't provided the certainty to the industry that it claims to have given it. The slump in the housing market continues, pine competes for much of the country's sawn products, trees are still left to 'rot or be burnt', forests keep being felled, environmental codes are breached and protesters will keep setting up blockades.

Welcome back to life after the RFA!



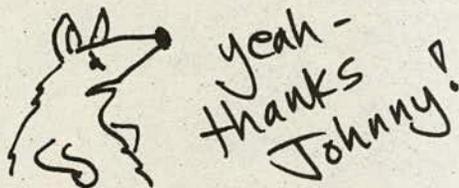
Sorting your CRAs from your CARs

AHC	Australian Heritage Commission
CAR	Comprehensive Adequate and Representative
CRA	Comprehensive Regional assessment
DFA/IFA	Deferred Forest Area/Interim Forest Area
DNRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESFM	Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Class
FMP	Forest Management Plan
FTF	Forest Task Force
GIS	Geographic Information System
PM&C	Prime Minister and Cabinet
RFA	Regional Forest Agreement
SMZ	Special Management Zone (can be specially clearfelled)
SPZ	Special Protection Zone (no logging until rezoned)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to the four CROEG members who spent months trying to glean intelligent information from the volumes of reports, then weeks to summarise, analyse, write-up and proof-read.

Original cartoons by Dean Haywood and Jill Redwood. Please feel free to reproduce any part of this booklet but we ask you credit the cartoonists.



Thanks also to the Federal Government for funding this information booklet. This grant should have been approved to allow us to participate in the consultation process, but in keeping with the ball-ups of the RFA we were given the grant AFTER the thing was signed!

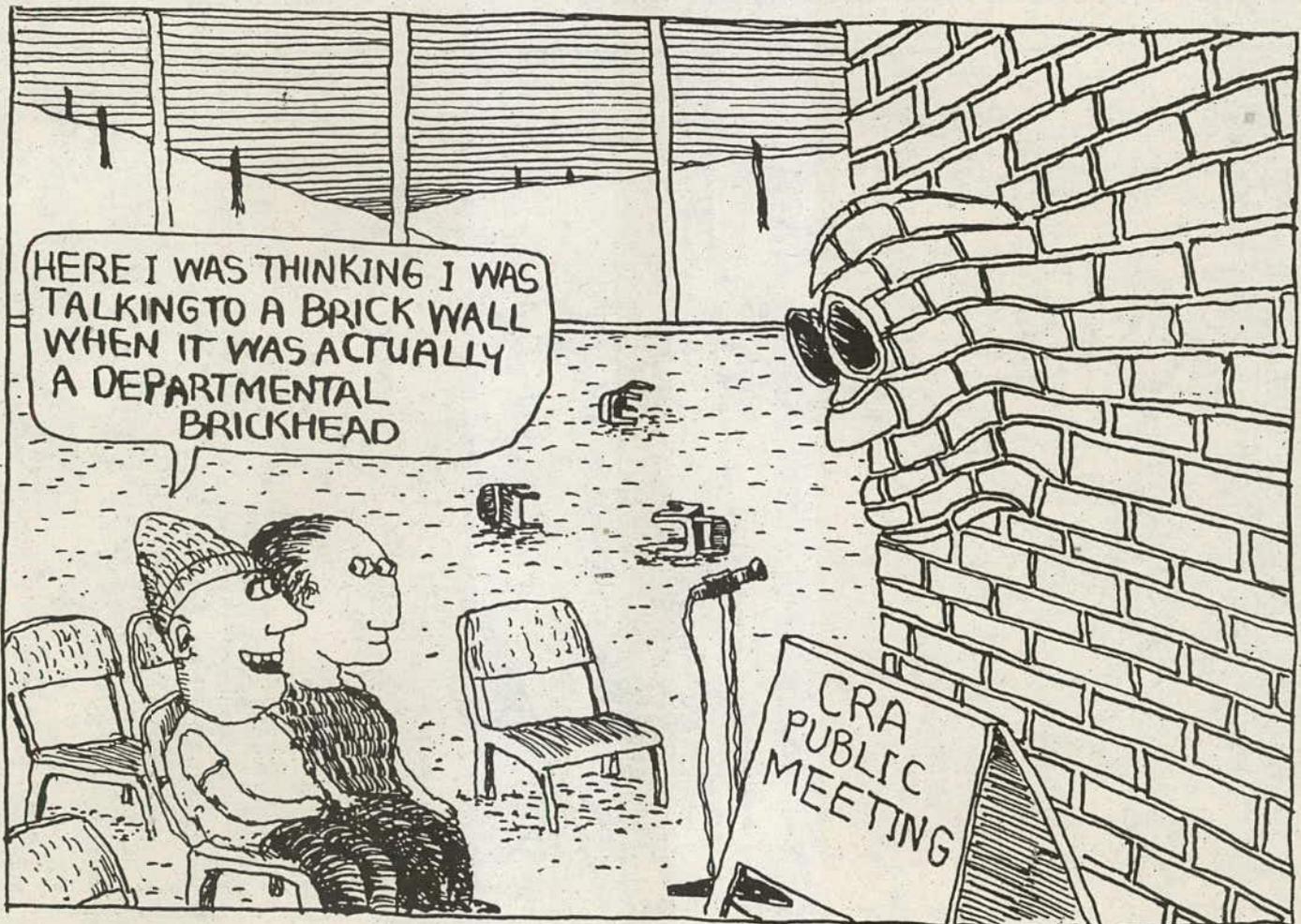
With this in mind we hardly need to mention that the views expressed in this booklet are those of the RFA victims and not those in the upper levels of the Commonwealth Government who are happy to steamroll community concerns and roll out the red carpet for the export woodchip industry.

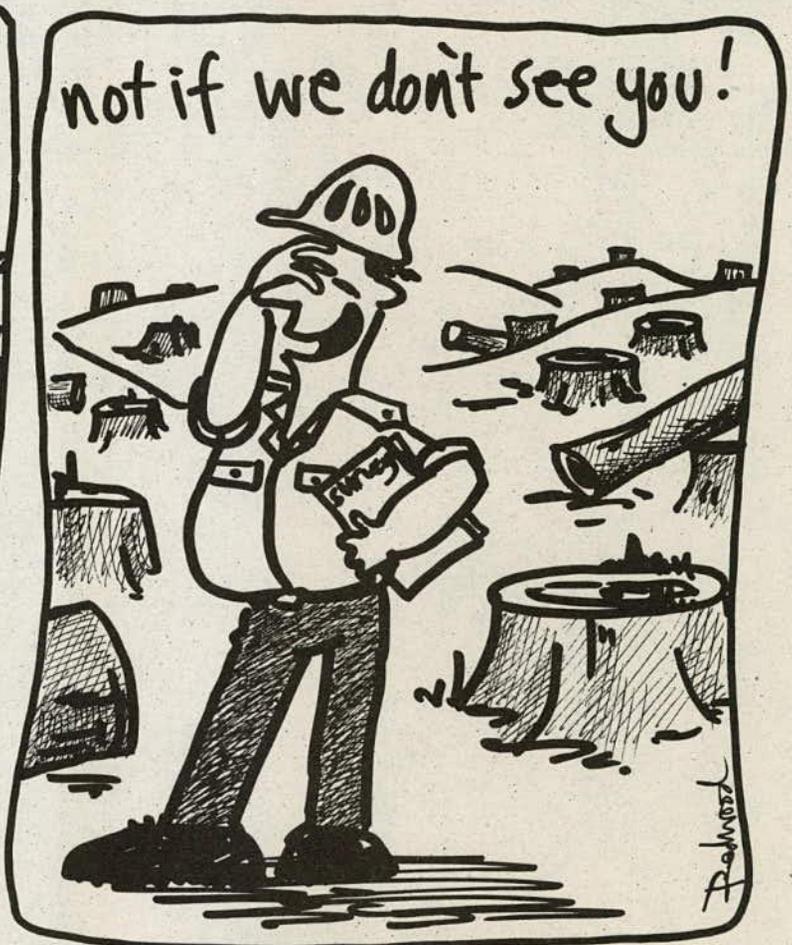
Printed on Botany Offset, a New Zealand made post-consumer recycled paper, as there is no Australian-made equivalent. We refuse to use Amcor's Reflex or Renew 100 paper which is made from Tasmanian old growth forests and Victoria's Central Highlands ash forests.

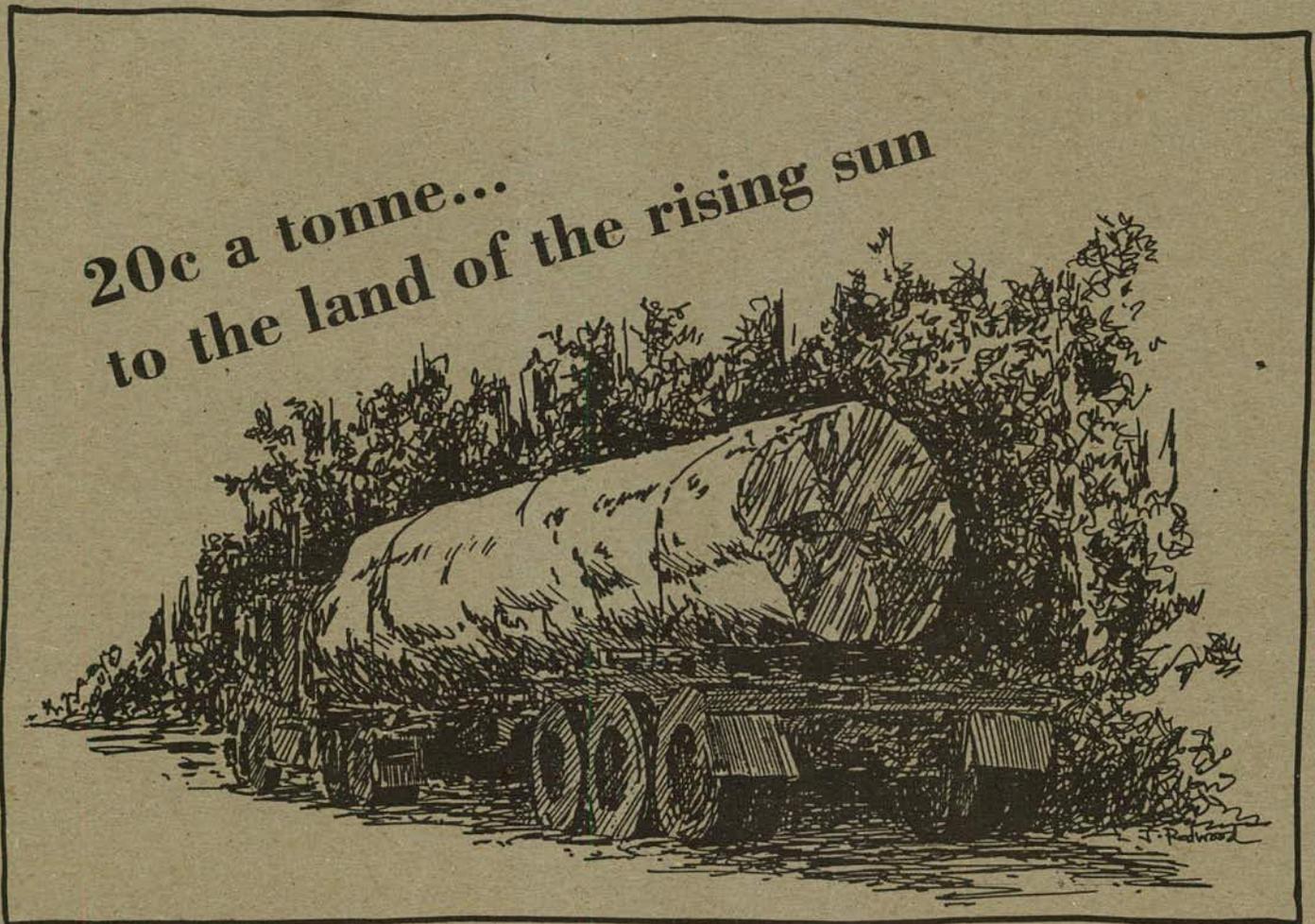
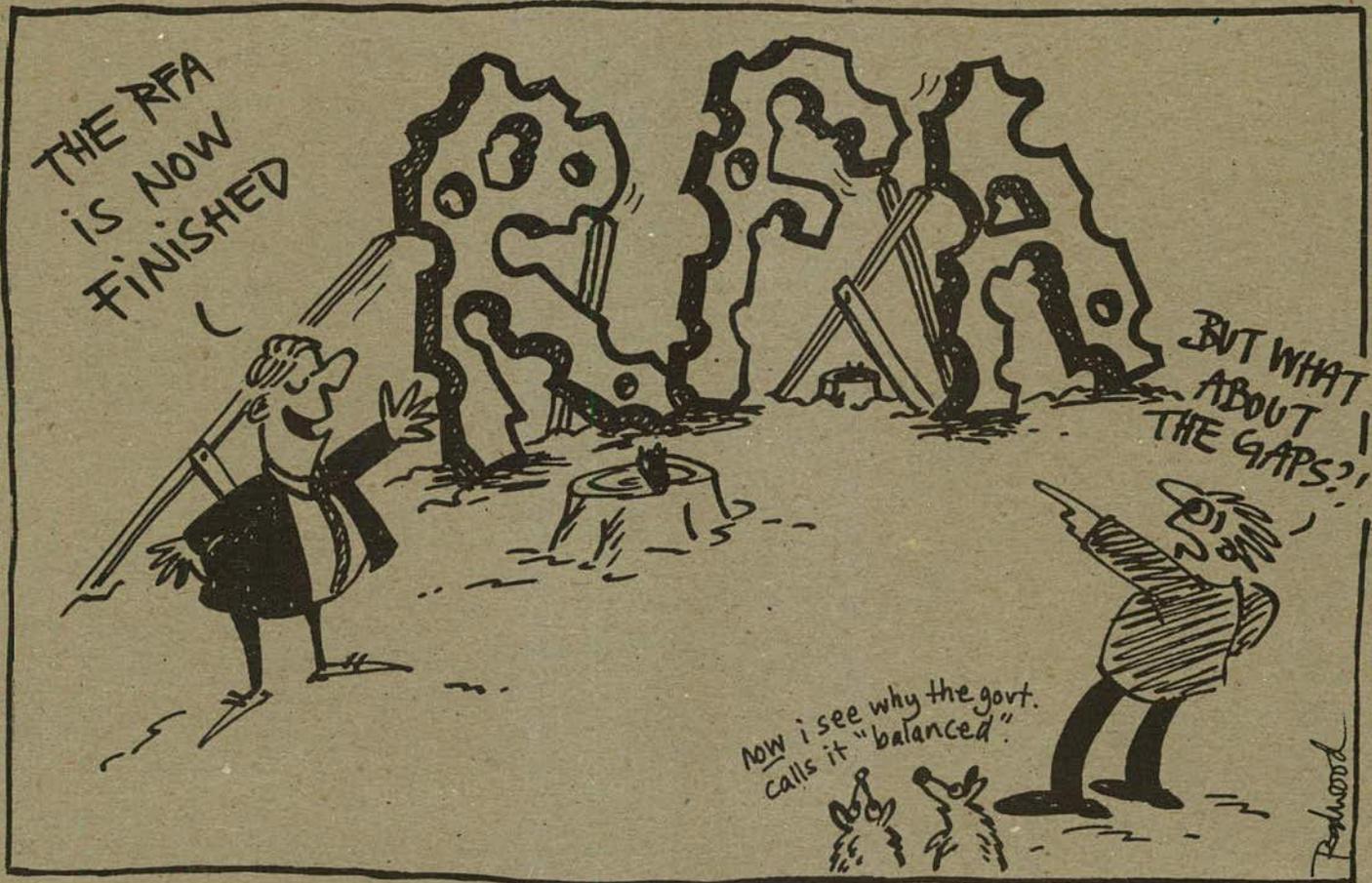
This load of woodchips will produce a beautiful set of figures!



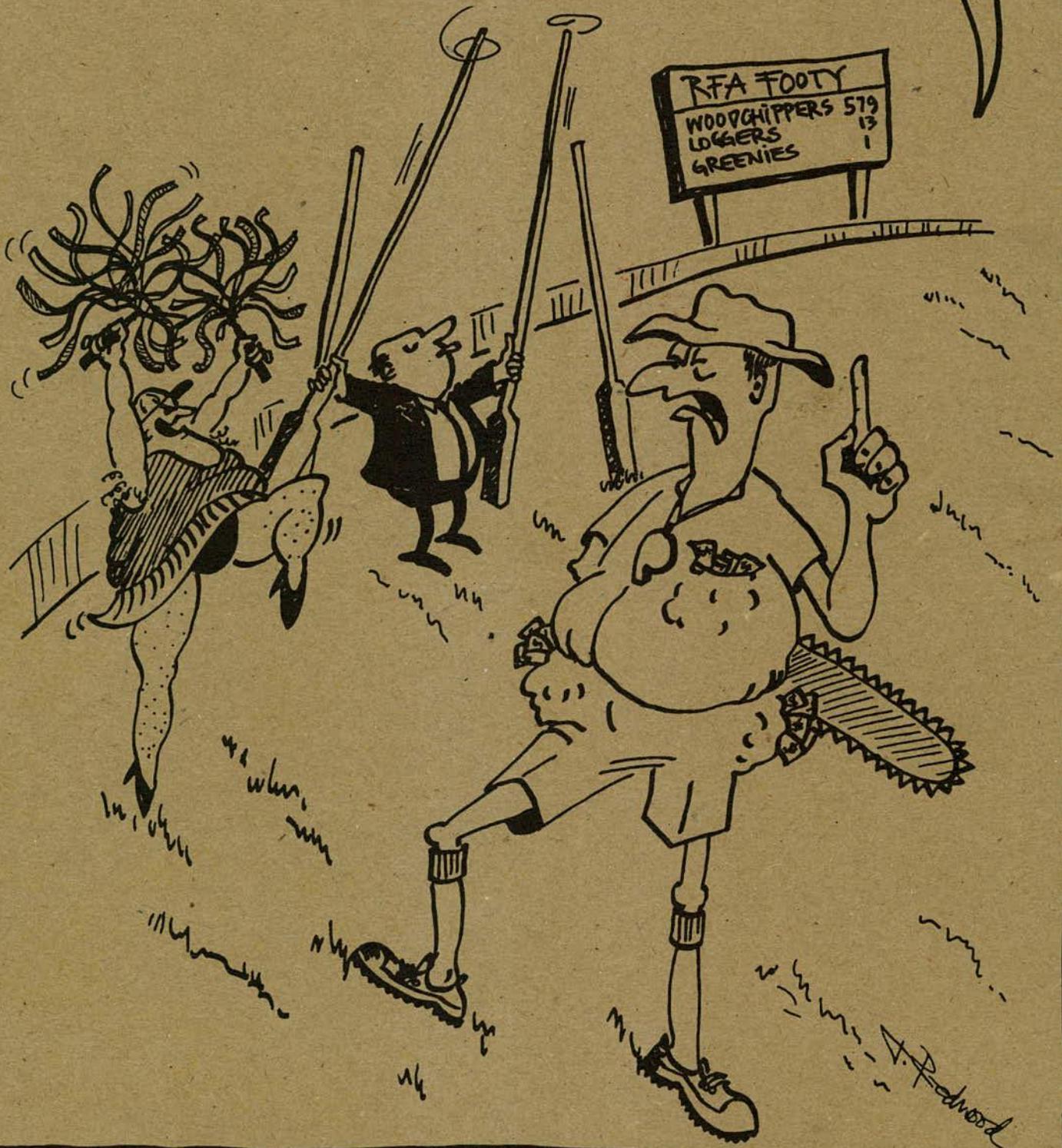
HERE I WAS THINKING I WAS TALKING TO A BRICK WALL WHEN IT WAS ACTUALLY A DEPARTMENTAL BRICKHEAD







NO ONE CAN SAY IT WASN'T
PLATED FAIRLY!



If you have found this booklet entertaining and/or informative, and would like to obtain more copies, you can contact CROEG at Bonang Rd, Goongerah Vic. 3888 or phone the CROEG coordinator, Jill Redwood, on (03) 5154 0145.