

WRITERS GUIDE

Purpose of Guide

The aim of the wetland guide is to introduce people to a major wetland in each region of the New South Wales coast and along the Murray River. The reader is a visitor or potential visitor who would like to get to know a wetland area better than through the typical tourist brochure.

Level of Readership

Write for the intelligent layperson. A good clear description in easy writing style is all that is required. You are not expected to write a scientific paper. As an example of writing level have a look at some of the journalistic essays in Saturday's "The Australian" and "The Sydney Morning Herald" magazine sections.

Content

The section you write should explain the importance of the wetland in the region and give a background to its geomorphological history and to any conservation issues. Its current natural attributes and values, including flora and fauna, should be described. You should present details such as car access from the nearest major town, walking tracks and recreational values. Perhaps there is a particularly scenic walk or boat trip that could be described in terms of time taken and points of interest.

References

The guide will not have references in the text in either the Harvard (eg Bloggs 1990 stated) or the numerical system (eg it was found (1)). The material you write will be expected to be in the common domain and the original researcher has to accept that this will happen over time. However, -----

Further Reading

It is possible and even desirable to list some references in a small section at the end of your article under a heading of further reading. The only thing to remember is that the articles you list should be readily available to the public. In other words, do not list scientific journals or unpublished reports that your readers can not obtain.

But by all means list books in print, published government reports and other material that is available that would enhance the visit to your wetland.

Scientific Names

Scientific names are quite acceptable providing they are not overdone. For example, if you are writing about mangroves in general then you would simply say "the lovely leaves of the mangroves shine like silver in the afternoon sun" but if you are making a point that your wetland is important because it represents the most southern point of distribution for a particular species of mangrove then please use both the common and scientific name.

Photos

Printing costs mean that we can only print black and white photos, so if you can take some, get a friend to take some, or go through your collection to dig some good ones out, please send four or five in with your article.

Maps

Please mark the extent of the wetland, major road access points and places you mention on a map. We would prefer that it was on a 1:25,000 scale map but realise you might not have access to one. A scale of 1:50,000 is also OK but anything above this gets difficult to deal with.

Biographical Details

Please write about 50-100 words about yourself. Include educational qualifications if you like, your occupation and/or membership of the conservation organisation that has a local interest in the wetland and anything else which lets the reader know that you are a pretty fantastic person who knows which side is up. As a consequence, -----

Fame is at Hand but Wealth will Continue to Elude You

We deeply regret that the payment for writing this article is so low - it's just the way the conservation movement has had to operate to get things done. the up side of the story is that your name will appear in the book as an author and glory shall be yours forever.

Landholders attack wetlands policy

Continued from page 1

changed the character of that land to appear as wetland.

"I cannot wear any attempt to declare such land as wetland."

"These environmental protection zonings are causing financial sterilisation of valuable land and once imposed, prevents financial borrowing."

"There should not be confiscation of property without compensation. We have had enough of totalitarian government," he said.

The meeting was supposed to be a quiet affair with about 10 people to address the committee on problems associated with environmental land acquisitions.

A circular issued by property owners declares them as being victims of RAIDS — Recently Acquired Income Deficiency Syndrome.

The circular states: "We believe in conservation not domination," and goes on to say that the RAIDS "disease has been brought about by the Government's introduction of restrictive land-use policies which have rendered our hard-earned assets worthless."

The matter of open space protection was raised in State Parliament recently by Mr Jeffery, who said (in part):

"I wish to raise a matter of extreme concern to me. Hard working constituents of mine are being prevented from carrying on their livelihood because of the 8(b) zoning of their land."

"About 25 years ago I read a remarkable document which stated: 'They want your land."

I did not believe it then, but I know now that Fabians are working towards taking over people's property."

"Today I wish to speak about farming land in the Lower Macleay Valley at Kinchela which is privately owned by my constituents, Mr and Mrs Peter Millard."

"The National Parks and Wildlife Service has controlled this land for more than a decade, and it has not paid a cent for it."

"It was given a proposed National Parks extension zoning in 1979 under the then socialist Government. It was purchased by P. J. and M. J. Millard in 1984."

"At that time, contrary to what is being said now, the classification for a proposed future National Park would prevent them from erecting a dwelling on the land."

Minister for the Environment, Mr Tim Moore, was, according to one speaker, following in the footsteps of Bob Carr.

It was Mr Moore who replied (in part) in Parliament to Mr Jeffery: "I have carefully considered on a number of occasions the matters raised by the honourable member for Port Macquarie."

"I make it abundantly clear that these people bought their land, knowing its zoning. They knew the restrictions on the property."

"I do not propose to permit the National Parks and Wildlife Service to withdraw its objections to a change in zoning," he said.

• A further report on the meeting follows in Wednesday's *Guardian News*.



Shire president Cr Max Graham, right, chats with Allan Andrews, the chairman of the Minister's Local Government and Planning Committee, after Wednesday's meeting with local farmers.

Road dedication hold up

The Nambucca Shire Council has again ceased to maintain the undedicated section of the Taylors Arm Road.

The council decided in May — after the *Guardian News* publicised residents' calls for the road's upgrading — to have the road dedicated but has since experienced delays in carrying out the resolution.

The council's senior surveyor, in a report to

in dedicating the road. He said maintenance should therefore cease as council had no legal responsibility for it.

Cr Max Graham questioned whether it was fair that one resident was able to hold up 12 others wanting the road dedicated.

Mr Walker: "I don't want to be brutal, but if we want to dedicate the road we have to make our intentions clear. This gentleman was the

Speed chase

A motorist allegedly overtook vehicles on the Pacific Highway by travelling on the left-hand gravel road edge, and forced a car off the road as he tried to elude police last Wednesday.

The high-speed chase by Kempsey Highway Patrol officers began five kilometres north of Nambucca Heads at 4.30pm when a vehicle was seen overtaking two others at a speed of 120kmh.

Police allege it crossed double yellow lines,

AUCTION

TOMORROW 27th

BEAUTIFUL NAMBUCCA HEADS

Dramatic ocean & river views





The crowd at Tuesday's meeting in the Nambucca Shire Council Chambers in Macksville.

Wetlands policy under fire

26 Jan
1990
North Coast

Over 100 North Coast landholders on Monday declared that the gun laws issue will be 'into insignificance' compared to the lands takeover of private property.

There were no punches pulled by speakers when they told a Local Government Planning Committee in no uncertain terms that the issue would become bigger than that of the gun laws. NSW Farmers Association members agreed that their concerns would become a general election issue and that they would use their voices are heard.

The former Labor Minister for the Environment, Mr Bob Carr, the National Parks Wildlife Service and conservationists came under scathing attack over environmental protection policies which landholders say are taking them of prime land.

The Local Government Planning Committee, acting on behalf of the Minister, Mr David Carr, is on a fact-finding tour which began at

Taree and will conclude on the Queensland border.

Its findings will be placed before the Minister for Lands before a public statement is issued.

Committee members were surprised by the huge roll-up at Tuesday's meeting, held in the Nambucca Shire Council's Macksville chambers.

The meeting was called by Member for Coffs Harbour, Mr Matt Singleton and Member for Port Macquarie, Mr Bruce Jeffery, through shire president Cr Max Graham.

It was originally suggested that the meeting take place on a property but those plans were abandoned because of fears that the meeting would get out of hand.

The visit by the planning committee follows hot on the heels of a visit to Macksville on December 12 by the president of the NSW Farmers' Association, Mr Peter Taylor, and Mr

John Allwright, National Farmers' Federation president.

At that meeting the writing was put on the wall when concerns about Environmental Protection Zones were aired before a group of 120 people.

That meeting passed a resolution for the NSW Farmers' Association to support the Grafton District Council in its efforts to secure funding from the Australian Farmers' Fighting Fund to mount and pursue a legal challenge against State Environmental Planning policies Nos. 14 and 26.

Mr Singleton told the meeting that landholders had a moral right to use their freehold titles.

"I am disgusted that Mr Carr has invalidated that right. We have had incidences where council have used land to dump sewerage and

• Continued page 3.



NAMBUCCA RIVER CO-OP

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FIRE AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR

Fire has been a major part of the Australian landscape for at least 100,000 years, as determined by paleontological studies of charcoal deposits. Our knowledge of evolutionary principles, as well as simple logic, tells us that the effect of such an influence over such a period of time will be initially to produce species and communities that are adapted to periodic burning.

✓ ~~You can see in the photograph that during a fire a large number of tracks are put in. There are also various other earthworks such as clearings for~~

POST LOGGING REGENERATION BURNS

1 The problems associated with post-logging regeneration burns are not so well known, but none the less significant. The aim of these burns is to both get rid of logging debris and provide a good ashbed for seed regeneration of selected species. They are therefore often undertaken in areas with very high fuel loads and can be extremely difficult to maintain under control. Indeed some ardent critics would question inclusion of them in a discussion of control burning! The photograph shows one of the more insidious and major problems associated with these burns. It is a picture of what was once a patch of rainforest (remember the green photo?) but which is now a mass of regenerating wattles and eucalypts. The photo is taken on the south coast of N.S.W just north-west of Batemans Bay. If you believe the Forestry Commission (remember them-they're the ones that "manage" our forests) this doesn't happen. [I advise you not to believe them!]

Why has this rainforest been destroyed? Two possibilities are that the burn

37 Spring Street
South Grafton
28..2..1991.

Mr Greg Clancy
Chairman
Clarence Valley Conservation Coalition
Post Office Coutts Crossing N.S.W.2460.

Dear Greg.

Further to our telephone conversation on Monday February 25 1991, Re proposed Hydroelectric and Regional Water Supply Scheme on the Nymboida River, about 5 Kilometres downstream from the junction of the Little Nymboida, and Nymboida Rivers.

I have enclosed 3 copies of submissions compiled by the Progress Association, 2 of which were submitted to the Coffs Harbour City Council, the other dated 8..12..1990 to the Minister for Water Resources Mr Ian Causley.

We are advised that the submission to the Minister has been referred to the Water Resources Council for consideration at its meeting on Wednesday February 27..1991.

With the recent threat of water restrictions for consumers in Grafton, and the Lower Clarence, and the imposition of water restrictions in Coffs Harbour, and some areas in the North supplied by Rous County Council, the Progress Association has become increasingly concerned, about, how, and from where sufficient water can be drawn, to meet population growth demand for water, along the Coast and Hinterland, from Nambucca Shire in the South, to Byron Shire in the North.

The attached submissions details the activities of the Progress Association from September 5..1986, when the Daily Examiner reported the results of a Public Works Department, drought computerised simulation study of our water supply catchment, that indicated in a very dry dry condition on the catchment, the 100 megalitre reservoir on Rushforth Road could be emptied.

Our Association recognises that construction of the proposed Nymboida River Regional Water Supply, and Hydroelectric Power Generation Scheme, will result in some environmental damage.

The Department of Planning July 1990 Monitor Number 12, details population growth that has, and estimated to occur along the coast and hinterland, from Nambucca Shire in the South to Byron Shire in the North, indicates that 19,300 people moved into this area, from July 1986, to December 1990, this represents 3160 people more than the total population of the City of Grafton.

Because of this growth demand on the existing Water Supplies, the Progress Association believes that to successfully meet this demand, water supply must now be approached on a Regional Basis, and not on a Council by Council Basis.

The Orara River is an example of what does occur to a River System downstream of the Karangai Dam, when the catchment yield is overstressed. We believe that the Bellinger River will suffer the same fate, as that of the Orara River, if the Bellinger River Water Supply Scheme is put in place.

There has been considerable discussion on the question of preserving the Wild and Scenic River stretches of the Little Nymboida, and Nymboida Rivers, some stretches of Wild Water, downstream of Platypus Flat on the Nymboida River to the junction of the Little Nymboida, has in recent years claimed the lives of several people.

Because of these deaths, would it not be better, and more useful to replace these dangerous stretches of wild water with passive water, where a greater number of people can make use of, and at the same time enjoy the scenic beauty of the surrounding forests, and gorge like terrain.

The loss of the existing Rafting Course between Platypus Flat, and the Junction of the Little Nymboida River, would be replaced by a regulated course downstream of the proposed dam, this course would be regulated to suit the requirements of the rafting participants.

It is known that Platypus, and the Eastern Fresh Water Cod frequent the area of inundation of the proposed dam. As soon as time permits, I will be discussing the likely affects of raising the water levels on both the Eastern Fresh Water Cod, and the Platypus with the Officer in charge of this research at the Research Station.

The Progress Association takes the view, that for every Megawatt Hydroelectric Power Generation Station that is brought into operation, means the closing down of a Megawatt coal burning environment damaging power station.

About 70% of the 2,680,000 megalitres of water is stored in a very large basin, located downstream from the Junction of the Little Nymboida, and Nymboida Rivers.

The crest level of the proposed dam is R.L.400M. Streambed bed level at the dam site is R.L.230M. Or in other words the height of the dam wall is 170M.

Normal river levels upstream from the dam site will be raised in both the Little Nymboida and Nymboida Rivers for a distance of about 16 Kilometres. The Picnic Area at Platypus Flat will not be affected. There will be a vertical depth of about 120M of stored water over the junction of the two rivers.

The high technology hydroelectric power generation station, will be designed in such a way, that near normal to medium high ^{flows} will be maintained in the river downstream from the dam site, constantly overtopping the weir at Nymboida.

Floodwater flow as the dam fills to Full Supply Levels, will discharge through regulated spillway gates into the Nymboida River, maintaining normal flood flow velocities downstream from the dam site.

In order that your organisations concerns can be represented; The Progress Association would appreciate ^{have} your comment, and suggestions on how we should approach population growth demand for water, and overcome the threat of water restrictions during drought conditions on the water supply catchment.

Yours Sincerely
Donald Freeman
Chairman
South Grafton Residents
Progress Association.
20..3..1991.

Donald Freeman

It is proposed that a water transfer junction be positioned on the range overlooking Glenreagh, to transfer water through Kungala, Lanitza, and Braunstone, linking into the existing Lower Clarence County Council transfer pipeline at Alipou Creek, ultimately forming a water grid with the Rous County Council supply line at Woodburn, on completion of the non-existing pipeline, from Iluka to Woodburn.

(Stage 2). Incorporates basic design requirements, required to complete stage 3 of the proposed regional water supply, and hydroelectric power generation scheme.

Stage 2 involves the construction of the proposed dam wall to R.L. 280M +, when gravitational transfer of water, from the Nymboida River, to the Red Hill Reservoir, will take over the transfer of water from the temporary pumping station.

To complete Stage (3). Would require the continued construction of the dam wall R.L. 280M +, to full supply level R.L. 400M, providing the geology of the saddle on Blackmountain Road met required standards.

In the event of these requirements not being met, the full supply level can be lowered, without having any adverse affect on the storage capacity of the dam, because of the use of a conservative 80M average depth calculations, over the storage area.

To complete stage 3, involves the installation of the 31.5 Megawatt Power Station, which all tailrace water will be returned to the Nymboida River for further use downstream, including the development of a rafting and canoe course.

The following estimate of cost to complete Stage 1 of the proposal, is based on information, contained in the November 1989. Water Supply, and Resources Conference Report, and the Coffs Harbour Water Supply. Mitchell McCotter 38010 Environmental Statement.

56 Kilometre Pipeline @ \$450,000 Per Kilometre	\$ 25,200,000
Cost of Tunneling	\$ 3,000,000
Pumping Station	\$ 2,500,000
Transmission Power Line to Pumping Station	\$ 1,500,000
Pumping Station Road	\$ 500,000
Miscellaneous & Engineering Costs	\$ 7,300,000

Total	\$ 40,000,000.

Stage (1). Must be seen as a temporary measure in supplying water to Coffs Harbour. it has no security against the affects of drought conditions on the catchment for either Coffs Harbour, Grafton, and the Lower Clarence Water Supplies. This security will only occur after the completion of Stages 2, and 3.

Cost Per Megalitre Flow for stage 1 \$ 53.33.

The \$250,000,000 Dollar cost estimate to complete stages, 1, 2, and 3, the construction cost estimate, only includes design requirements for subsequent installation of the 31.5 Megawatt power station.

Construction cost Per Megalitre storage, of the 2,680,000 storage dam. \$93.33. compared to \$3345.45, for the Bellinger, and 1835.61, for the Bobo schemes.

We would therefore like to ask Council to place the above submission for investigation, and construction, on Council's list of high priorities.

Yours Sincerely
 Donald Freeman
 Chairman

37 Spring Street
South Grafton
9..10..1990.

The Town Clerk
Coffs Harbour City Council
P.O.Box 155
Coffs Harbour N.S.W.2450.

Dear Sir.

I refer to your W/15/41 dated February 1990 in response to mine, dated 3..2..1990; Submission Re-Coffs Harbour City Water Supply Headworks Augmentation Environmental Impact Statement.

At the time of compiling that submission the Progress Association was attempting to accommodate, the David Coffey Western Diversion Scheme within the Proposed Regional Water Supply, and Hydroelectric Power Generation proposal.

Our Association was not aware of the environmental affects that this scheme would have on grazing properties and the environment, until further extensive studies of these affects were carried out that involved the 400M+ contours in the Guyfawkes, Aberfoyle Rivers, the Boyd, Henry, and Mann River basins.

Because of these affects in those river basins, and the continued population growth, along the coast and hinterland, from Nambucca Shire in the South to Byron Shire in the North. The Progress Association has come to the conclusion that we could no longer support the diversion of water from the Nymboida catchment to the West.

We would therefore like to ask your Council to consider the following proposal that involves the construction of a large dam on the Nymboida River, some 5 Kilometres downstream from the junction of the Little Nymboida and Nymboida Rivers.

The proposed dam maximises use of the 750,000 Megalitre annual flow of the Nymboida River at the site of the proposed dam. The storage capacity of the proposed dam at Full Supply Level, R.L. 400M, is calculated to be 2,680,000 megalitres, capable of not only meeting Regional Population Growth, demand for water, it has the capacity to operate a 31.5 Megawatt continuous output Hydroelectric Power Station, located at the base of the dam wall. (These calculations were compiled by a retired Hydroelectric Engineer).

The Power Station is 7 times larger than that of the existing 4.5 Megawatt hydroelectric power station at Nymboida, that under average weather conditions on the Nymboida River Catchment, uses some 225,000 Megalitres of water, that produces a gross annual revenue return of \$1,200,000, using rather outdated technology equipment.

We believe the proposed dam investigation, and construction, be considered in 3 stages.

Stage.(1). Involves the construction of approximately 56 Kilometres of water transfer pipeline, from Red Hill Reservoir to the 1.5-Kilometre long tunnel under Blackmountain Road Range Ridge, at the head of Sheepstation Creek. A temporary Pumping Station on the Nymboida River. R.L. 260M+ or -, to deliver transfer water to the tunnel invert R.L. 280M+ or -, where gravitation will occur, sloping to R.L. 160M in Back Creek, then gravitating over the ridge overlooking Glenreagh R.L. 275M+ or - to the Orara Valley R.L. 160-200M, following N.R.E. and Road easements, to the Red Hill Reservoir R.L. 100M+ or -.

INC.

6/5/91

Chairman,
South Grafton Residents Progress Assoc.
37 Spring St.,
South Grafton.

Dear Mr Freeman,

Greg Clancy brought to the notice of this Council, during its meeting on 4 May, your February letters concerning a regional water supply.

You and your Association have obviously put a lot of time and thought into the proposal and are to be congratulated.

Our Council however considers that your scheme is basically a propping up of the existing system in which water supplies are continually increased for an ever growing population which has little regard for the conservation of this precious resource or the environmental problems created in supplying it.

We consider that the responsibility for water supply requirements should be more squarely returned to the consumer by

- requiring all housing to instal water tanks. This would be a big boost for small business in construction and installation. Whereas a major dam would be the province of large urban based companies.
- realistic cost~~ing~~g of the piped water supply. Newcastle carried out this exercise recently. The result was a 30% cut in water consumption and a decrease in the average householders bill. It has put back the planning for a major dam some ten years.
- water re use. At present we use chlorinated clean water to flush the sewerage system. There appears to be no reason why tertiary treated discharge from sewerage plants cannot be piped back to houses for garden and toilet use as well as for use on golf courses etc. An experiment is under way in Nowra on these principles.

This Council is aware of many environmental problems arising from large dam construction throughout the world and consider that this should not be the way to go. Though electrical power would be generated, conservation of our existing supplies is far cheaper and again can be a boost for local industries. We would

certainly be opposed to the loss of a wild and scenic river. Such rivers are few in number and certainly should not be tamed for this generation's water/power demands.

Water is Australia's most limited and valuable resource. It must be conserved by all possible means and this will not necessarily be achieved by placing it in a dam which ~~the population will~~ then cause the population to consider the supply inexhaustable. Our population growth will be constrained by water and the sooner our Government realises this the sooner conservation of it will occur.

Thank you for keeping us informed of your proposals.

Yours sincerely,

James L.O.Tedder, Hon.Sec.

NS. Dec 17/91

EDITORIAL

Heed the warnings now

The poisoning of the Darling River by blue-green algae throws a sharp focus on our own river systems on the North Coast.

Decades of ignorance, poor planning and plain thoughtlessness caught up with Australia when the drought and human practices combined to produce the deadly bloom out west.

Studies of our northern rivers are patchy and unco-ordinated, but indications are that our major waterways are still relatively healthy.

Now is the time to ensure they remain so.

This week, the Member for Richmond, Mr Neville Newell, warned of a calamity if rapid development on the North Coast was not committed to protecting catchment areas.

We do not want a repeat of the European experience, where the Rhine River was declared officially dead; we do want the Scandinavian experience, where industrial fallout gave 20,000 lakes the acidity of tomato juice.

And we do not want a proliferation of plastic-bottled water on our supermarket shelves.

Enter the Total Catchment Management Committees. The formation of these groups is one of the more positive initiatives of the NSW Government.

The committees' charter is to assess the status of catchment areas, co-ordinate the actions of Government agencies, and help find ways to protect and improve the systems.

As usual, resources are few and power is nil.

But the catchment committees draw on a cross-section of the community — State and local government, land-users and conservationists. Whatever their findings, they must be heard.

And as a community, we must look at all our practices, whether it be planning a subdivision, spraying agricultural chemicals, pouring household and industrial waste down the drain, clearing riverbanks or throwing rubbish down that back gully.

Our waterways are not drainage ditches; they are the arteries and veins which carry the lifeblood of the community.

Sewage disposal

IF we care about the health of our children, or our own, we should not accept the idea that it's 'clean' to put sewage effluent into the ocean.

A WHO Technical Report, 1979, states: '... there IS a possible danger to human health

from ocean outfalls of both treated and untreated sewage and wastewater...' also that some viruses can survive over 130 days in sea water and can enter the body by mouth and breaks in the skin.

Ballina Shire Council has decided to add West Ballina's sewage output to that of Lennox Head, then send the treated effluent out to sea at Skennars Head. This is presently at the rate of 1.9 million litres per day, increasing to 13 million per day.

In the 19th Century, reticulated water supply systems and centralised sewage collection and disposal systems were developed to solve the problems of inadequate means of dealing with human wastes which led to cholera outbreaks.

The western world has clung to this antiquated technology.

We now have huge networks of pipes for sewage and industrial waste, pumping stations, treatment plants, the need for stringent policing of outlets, especially in industrial sites (pollutants can lead to damage or breakdown of systems), necessary costly repair to ageing pipes, the huge cost of ever more sophisticated treatment plants, and a totally wasteful over-use of drinking water to carry sewage and waste into rivers and the sea.

Australia faces the tragedy of her vital rivers becoming too toxic for man or beast to use — because scientists' warnings against dumping of sewage and agricultural wastes

were not heeded.

Our coastal waters can go the same way.

We cannot afford this — our food supply will increasingly come from the sea.

I submit that the decentralised disposal systems (such as the 'Greenbelt' method for single or group domestic use where soils are suitable) or dual water piping to utilise 'grey water' and other close-to-the-source methods would be safer and less costly in the long run.

All are discussed by Dr Stuart White in 'Principles of a Decentralised Sewerage Strategy' 1991.

I also suggest that if treated effluent is not OK for use in dual supply systems, it is not OK for ocean outfall.

JOY WEBSTER,
Lennox Head.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Precious water

THERE has been some astounding rubbish broadcast in the past few weeks about the water supplies on the North Coast.

The first nonsense is that it is no necessary to impose very severe restrictions at this time as (according to one authority) 'there is a supply sufficient for two months in the dam even though the river has ceased to flow'. What happens then if the river has not started to flow again?

The second nonsense is that as soon as there has been 'some' rain the ground waters will be re-charged and we can return to our proliferate ways of water use. This drought has really dried out the ground and it may take many weeks if not months of good rain to re-charge the ground waters.

The third nonsense has been the failure of many of the authorities to recognise that drought is a recurring feature of Australia's climate and we should learn to live within the constraints of drought, not treat it as unusual.

The fourth nonsense has been the failure to adopt 'conservative' measures in our use of water. Our solutions have all centred around large storage dams in someone else's back yard. Such measures encourage the use of water because people believe that the dam can never run dry. We encourage the use of outdated sewage disposal systems even in the smallest settlement which use vast quantities of potable water and end by throwing the nutrient rich mix into the sea.

The fifth nonsense has been the failure to

protect our catchments adequately. Young re-growth forests use large amounts of water; old growth forests allow larger quantities of water to come slowly into the catchment system while steep land cleared for agriculture or grazing encourage fast run off and poor re-charge of the soil.

And what may be the solutions?

- Treat water as precious.

- Insist that every house install rainwater catchment.

- Change to different sewage disposal systems which require minimum use of water.

- Charge for every litre of water used. This was done in Newcastle with the result that the average householder paid less and consumption fell by some 30%.

- Provide facilities for use of grey water (showers, laundries, etc) on gardens.

- Where conventional sewage systems are required use dual flush cisterns and pipe back the treated effluent to use for flushing or on gardens.

- Give greater protection to water catchments adopt policies of providing your own water supply and disposal of wastes in our own 'back yard' not just remove our problem to someone else's 'back yard'.

JAMES TEDDER,
North Coast Environment Council.

Men's march

THANK you, Roy Buckland, for your letter 'It's about Power' (NS 21/11) in reply to my 'A matter of Appeal' (NS 8/11).

The conclusions you arrive at indicate something amiss either with our second-to-none education system or your

comprehension and perception.

I made seven statements and asked 28, possibly even 46, questions in my letter.

You don't respond to any of them.

Your reasoning leads you to assumptions about me, that you state as apparent fact, but don't substantiate.

I think you did not understand my letter.

Maybe you were too upset or excited after reading that 'Men Can Amend' on page one of the same 'Star' issue.

Men have always marched either as to, or to war, to kill, murder, rape, etc. They have always marched as a result of indoctrination — euphemistically called education or training — to fanatically support some cause.

Without being (made) aware of it, of course. Marches are used mainly to mark the zealous beginning of, the victorious end to or the sad remembrance of violence.

I wonder if you closed your eyes after reading the last paragraph of the Star's report on the proposed men's march: "To do something so different (really?) like this, it's probably inevitable you'd get labelled a hippy or a poofter".

Did you think about that?

Or did you instantly notice this 80-year-old dummy modelling lacy panties directly underneath that paragraph? Or were they modelled by one of the thousands of young, 'attractive' females, who make their bodies or part(s) of them available for an exquisite range of money making (ad)ventures?

Why aren't men's contorted bodies used to advertise lacy pants?

Why don't men wear lacy underdaks?

It's about power, is it Roy?

Money is power, Roy!

Power has many aspects.

Power, no matter how discriminate, must we (ab)use it to communicate?

Or should I substitute 'sexual harassment' for 'power'?

PETER VAN DEN BERG,
Rosebank.

37 Spring Street
South Grafton
8..12..1990.

The Hon Mr Ian Causley
Chief Secretary
Minister for Water Resources
Member for Clarence.

Dear Sir.

Coffs Harbour Water Supply Headworks Augmentation, and proposed
Regional Water Supply Scheme.

Further to our discussion on thursday December 6..1990-Re Coffs Harbour water supply. The threat of water restriction for the consumers of water in the City of Grafton, and the Lower Clarence, and the need to develop a Regional Water Supply, and Hydroelectric Power Generation Station on the Nymboida River, maximising the use of our water resource, on the Nymboida River water supply catchment.

On the 3..2..1990 the Progress Association submitted to the Coffs Harbour City Council a proposal outlining a Regional Water Supply, and Hydroelectric Power Generation Scheme, maximising the use of our water supply catchment upstream from the junction of the Little Nymboida, and Nymboida Rivers, this proposal accommodated the David Coffey, Western Diversion Scheme.

On the 9..10..1990 our Association submitted a further proposal that superseded the 3..2..1990 submission, copies of both submissions are attached.

This submission in the main relocated the dam site, to a location on the Nymboida River, some 5 kilometres downstream from the junction of the Little Nymboida, and Nymboida Rivers. The reason for this shift is explained in the 9..10..1990 submission.

Because of Coffs Harbour City Council's negative reply. (See copy attached.)

The Progress Association would now like to ask the Water Resources Council to investigate the merits of the following proposed Regional Water Supply, and Hydroelectric Power Generation Scheme.

The proposed Dam maximises use of the 750,000 megalitre annual flow of the Nymboida River at the site of the proposed dam that has a storage capacity of 2,680,000 megalitres at Crest Level R.L.400M.

The flow capacity of the Nymboida River at the dam site is not only capable of meeting population growth demand for water along the coast, and hinterland, from Nambucca Shire in the South to Byron Shire in the North, it has the capacity to operate a 31.5 Megawatt New Technology Hydroelectric Power Station, located at the base of dam wall. These calculations were compiled by a retired Hydroelectric Engineer.

The proposed Power Station is 7 times larger than that of the existing 4.5 Megawatt hydroelectric power station at Nymboida that produces a gross annual return of 1,200,000 dollars, using rather outdated technology equipment.

We believe the investigation, and construction of the proposed dam should be carried out in 3 stages.

Stage 1.). Involves the construction of approximately 56 Kilometres of water transfer pipeline, from Red Hill Reservoir near Coffs Harbour to the 1.5 kilometre long Tunnel under Blackmountain Road at the head of Sheep-station Creek. A temporary Pumping Station on the Nymboida River R.L.260M + or -, to deliver transfer water to the tunnel invert R.L.280M + or -, where gravitation will occur, sloping to R.L.160M in Back Creek, then gravitating over the ridge, overlooking Glenreagh R.L.275M + or -, then to the Orara Valley R.L.160-200M, following N.R.E. and Road Easements to the Red Hill Reservoir R.L.100M + or -.

It is proposed that a water transfer junction be positioned on the range overlooking Glenreagh to transfer water north through Kungala, Lanitza, and Braumstone, linking into the Lower Clarence County Council transfer pipeline at Alipou Creek, ultimately forming a water grid with the Rous County Council supply line at Woodburn, on completion of the non-existing pipeline from Harwood-Illuka to Woodburn.

Stage.2. Involves the construction of the dam wall to R.L.280-320M, when gravitational transfer of water, from the Nymboida River to the Red Hill Reservoir will take over the transfer of water from the temporary pumping station. Basic design requirements required to complete stage 3 of the proposed regional water supply, and hydroelectric power generation station must be built into stage 2.

Stage.3. Requires the continued construction of the dam wall to Crest level R.L.400M, providing the geology of the saddle on Blackmountain Road, met required standards.

In the event of these requirements not being met, the Crest Level can be lowered, without having any adverse affect on the storage capacity of the dam, because of the use of a conservative 80M average depth calculation over the storage area.

To complete Stage 3, involves the installation of the 31.5 Megawatt Power Station, from which all tailrace water will be returned to the Nymboida River for further use downstream, including the development of a rafting, and canoe course.

The following estimate of cost to complete stage 1 of the proposal, is based on information contained in the November 1989; Water Supply and Resources Conference Report, and the Coffs Harbour Water Supply; Mitchell McCotter 88010 Environmental Statement.

56 Kilometres Pipeline @ \$450,000 per Kilometre	\$ 25,200,000
Cost of Tunneling	\$ 3,000,000
Temporary Pumping Station	\$ 2,500,000
Transmission Power Line to Pumping Station	\$ 1,500,000
Pumping Station Road	\$ 500,000
Miscellaneous & Engineering Costs	\$ 7,300,000

Total	\$ 40,000,000

Because of Coffs Harbours urgent need for water; Stage 1 is a temporary measure, that will supply the required water quickly. On completion of Stage 2; Coffs Harbour; Grafton, and Lower Clarence water supplies, as well as the proposed regional water supply scheme, have a high degree of security from the affects of severe drought conditions on the water supply catchment.

Estimated cost per megalitre flow for stage 1. \$ 53.33.

The \$250,000,000 dollar cost estimate to complete stages; 1, 2, and 3; Cost per megalitre storage \$93.33, compared to \$345.45 per megalitre storage for the Ballinger scheme, and \$1835.61 per megalitre storage for the Bobo River scheme.

Like all other dam construction, there are environmental matters that must be considered; Water Quality; Downstream Flow; Flora and Fauna; Eastern Fresh-water Cod; and Platypus Habitat that frequent the water supply catchment; The Wild Waters of the Nymboida River that in the past have claimed the lives of several people.

Yours Sincerely

Donald Freeman

Chairman

South Grafton Residents

Progress Association.

In addition to the Power Station at the base of the Little Nymboida River Dam. A second Power Station can be located on Tallawadjah Creek R.L. 30 Metres, with a Balance Tank on the edge of the escarpment overlooking the township of Glenreagh R.L. 280 Metres.

We are aware of the sensitive erosion nature of both Tallawadjah Creek, and the Orara River. However anti erosion techniques can be applied at the appropriate time to combat problems associated with instream erosion.

Tail race water from the Power Station under these circumstances can be discharged into Tallawadjah Creek and the Orara River, supplementing its flow for use by downstream land owners, including Fruit Australia.

The Bobo River Environmental Impact Statement prepared by Mitchell McCotter, and Associates for your Council is relevant to the Little Nymboida River Scheme in many respects.

Inundation will occur along the steep slopes of the Little Nymboida River, Flaggy Creek, The Lower Bobo River, and some minor creeks and gullies, on land under the control of the Forestry Commission up to full supply level R.L. 350 Metres.

The extent of flooding above this level, will be determined by the design size of the spillway.

Revenue from the power station at the base of the dam, and Tallawadjah Creek, based on the size, and energy generated at the Mirum Creek power station per year. Would be expected to double those quoted in Chapter 11.9, of the Environmental Impact Statement.

The transfer pipe line from Blackmountain tunnel outlet in the head of Kangaroo Creek, to the Balance Tank on the edge of the escarpment overlooking Glenreagh, traverses Forestry, and privately owned land. Beyond the Balance Tank to Karangi Dam, the line follows the Northern Rivers Electricity, and Roadway easements, supplying reticulated water to the townships of Glenreagh, Nana-Glen, Coramba, Karangi, and Hinterland Residents if need be.

Stage (1), of the Little Nymboida River water supply, and Hydroelectric Power Generation Scheme, is capable of meeting the long term water requirements of the City of Coffs Harbour. The Shires of Bellingen, and Nambucca, as well as adding security to the Grafton Lower Clarence water supply on the Nymboida River at Nymboida.

Stage (2). Maximises long term dual purpose use of our water resource on the Catchment of the Nymboida River. It involves major dam, and hydroelectric power station construction, as well as a regulated control link between the Nymboida, and Little Nymboida Rivers, that maximises security by maintaining a constant full supply level of R.L. 350 Metres in the Little Nymboida River water supply dam.

Because of the continuing population growth in Local Government Areas along the Coast and Hinterland, between Macksville, and Ballina, and the need to make the best use of our water resources.

The Progress Association would like to ask Council ^{to} Consider the issues brought forward in this submission, before making a final decision to proceed with either the Bellingen or Bobo River water supply schemes.

Please Advise.

Yours Sincerely
Donald Freeman
Chairman
South Grafton Residents
Progress Association

Donald Freeman

37 Spring Street
South Grafton
3..2..1990.

The Town Clerk
Coffs Harbour City Council
P.O.Box 155
Coffs Harbour N.S.W.2450.

Dear Sir.

Submission Re Environmental Impact Statement, Bellinger, and Bobo Rivers, Water Supply for the City of Coffs Harbour, and the village of Corindi prepared by Mitchell McCotter and Associates Pty Ltd, December 1989.

The following submission is by no means a intention on the part of the Progress Association to frustrate Council's efforts to develop a water supply scheme, capable of meeting future demands made on the scheme by the people of the City of Coffs Harbour.

Our concern is the development of the Nymboida River Catchment water resource as a whole, supplying the water needs of a regional area extending from Macksville in the South to Ballina in the North that will ultimately form a water grid with the Rous County Council supply line, rather than the development of these important resources on a Council by Council basis.

Our Association has some difficulty in accepting that the Bobo River Water Supply Scheme meets the requirements of the Water Act 1986. The Act in part requires the Department of Water Resources to ensure that our water resources are used in ways that provide the maximum long term use, and benefit for the State, and Australia, hitherto Local Government areas.

We believe that the construction of the stage (1), dual purpose Dam on the Little Nymboida River, upstream of its confluence with the Nymboida River is a far superior option than that of the Bellinger or Bobo River proposed scheme, and is more in keeping with the intentions of the Water Act.

The proposed Little Nymboida Scheme, forms the basis for dual purpose use of our water resource on a large regional scale, including the diversion of flood waters from the catchment of the Nymboida River above R.L. 510 Metres to the Mann Basin, and then to the Western Rivers System as proposed by David Coffey in 1984.

Stage (1) of the Little Nymboida River water supply dam, is fully gravitational, and involves raising the crest level of the dam to R.L. 360 Metres, with a 10 metre flood and wave wall, and a full supply level of the dam at R.L. 350 Metres.

It also involves, about a 4.5 Kilometre long tunnel under Black Mountain Road, much of this length would be open cut excavation at R.L. 310-320 Metres, stream bed level of the Little Nymboida River, near its confluence with the Bobo River. (See Dorrigo 1 in 100,000 C.M.A. map for details.).

Although the transfer pipeline to the Red Hill reservoir would be longer, compared to that of the Bobo Scheme. This disbenefit would be off set, by (1). The Little Nymboida Scheme is gravitational.

(2). There is no flooding of Privately owned land. Shire Roads and Bridges. Railway lines and Bridges. Or Forestry owned Pine Plantations.

(3). Increased storage capacity of the Little Nymboida River Dam, compared to that of the Bobo, would be capable of supplying the water requirements of the City of Coffs Harbour, and the Shire of Nambucca, as well as supplying water for a Hydroelectric Power Station, located at the base of the dam. Regulated design use of water through the power station, will add security to the Grafton Lower Clarence water supply on the Nymboida River at Nymboida, and improve flow in the Nymboida River, during drought conditions on the catchment.

WATER CRISIS

Council campaign irritates irrigators

Irrigators cannot be blamed for Kempsey's initial shortage of water, says the NSW Farmers Association.

Kempsey branch spokesman, Mr Jim Chambers, of Euroka, says there has been much false and misleading information in a public awareness campaign on the water crisis. The association was very aware of the problems and stresses involved in maintaining the District Water Scheme. However, there was now a public perception that farmers who irrigated were criminals stealing town water, instead of making a legitimate use of a resource.

In an average year irrigators used less than one day's average flow at Turners Flat — a third of one per

cent of the average year's flow.

"When it became obvious we were going to have a water shortage a council spokesman made a lot of noise about targeting 'illegal' irrigators. As the general public had no idea who would be legal and who were not, all were illegal," Mr Chambers said.

He said water taken from below Belgrave Falls had no effect at all on town supplies.

Neither did irrigators taking water from their own bores. The council's failure to emphasise this had caused considerable ill-feeling.

There were over 30 licences on the Macleay, so illegal operators would not have been using a lot of water.

"One irrigation unit was supposedly capable

of taking 13 megalitres of water a day from the river — on its own more than the whole town used.

"What garbage. Most irrigators now use travelling plants. The capacity of those depends on three factors — the irrigator's jet size, working pressure and the hours a day it works — we as irrigators are not aware of a plant capable of using more than 1.3 megalitres a day," Mr Chambers said.

"The river continued to flow and the District Engineer again targeted irrigators in the *Macleay Argus* and on ABC Radio, saying that one plant was capable of using nine megalitres a day. We very seriously question the engineer's motives."

Historically the



Jim Chambers: 'Don't blame irrigators for the water shortage.'

Macleay had stopped running two or three times this century without a district water scheme or irrigators. "There is a perception

that the Council should have catered for that with some sort of a storage facility long before now."

With restrictions on

irrigation, a meeting between Water Resources officer, Mr Dennis Milling, and 20 to 30 irrigators had voluntarily agreed not to

irrigate from the Friday night until Wednesday night to see if that helped the town supply.

"The next morning

Continued page 7

Bore tests 'encouraging' while stock drink deep

Preliminary tests on across to the existing emergency production bore pond."

TREAT IT!

with MELCANN

irrigators used less than one day's average flow at Turners Flat — a third of one per

would not have been using a lot of water. "One irrigation unit was supposedly capable

able of using nine megalitres a day. We very seriously question the engineer's motives." Historically the

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night until Wednesday night to see if that helped the town supply. "The next morning Continued page 7

W29

Bore tests 'encouraging' while stock drink deep

Macleay Argus 18 Nov 94

Preliminary tests on Kempsey's emergency water supply bore at Belgrave Falls are "very encouraging".

On Monday contractors will begin laying a 300 mm pipeline from the new bore to an existing main on the Link Road.

The news comes as the level of water in the Macleay's river bed continues to fluctuate.

Recent light rain has helped to keep demand from skyrocketing, but has made no difference to the amount of water in the river.

There has still been no flow at Turners Flat.

Kempsey Shire Council's water engineer, Mr Lisle Butler, said that yesterday the bore had been delivering up to 230 metres a second in draw-down tests.

Next week Water Resources would advise how much water the council would be able to take from the bore.

"Meanwhile we're not wasting a drop — all the water pumped in the tests has been sent

across to the existing production bore pond."

The two ponds at the Sherwood and Belgrave Falls bores had fluctuated, but otherwise the position was static.

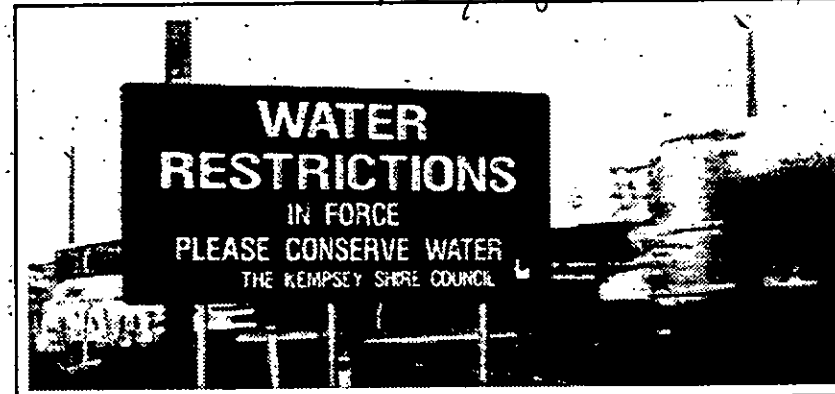
"People still seem to be doing the right thing. Consumption has been up, but with the hot weather there have been some very thirsty cattle adding to the demand on the system."

This added demand was one reason consumers had to help reach the consumption target of five megalitres a day.

On Monday consumption was 6.2 megalitres, on Tuesday and Wednesday six megalitres.

At South West Rocks demand continues to fall, and has been down as low as 1.4 megalitres. Consumers have also managed to reduce the demand for water at Hat Head and Crescent Head.

A consultant had begun preparing an environmental impact statement, for the four emergency bores the



Water restriction warnings greet travellers north of Frederickton, south of Kempsey, and on the roads to the Macleay's villages.

council had been given permission to drill on the Hat Head Road Reserve. The drilling rig at Belgrave Falls is expected to finish work there on Monday and move to the Hat Head Road to sink a test bore. Surrounding towns are also feeling increasing pressure.

• At Port Macquarie, with the Hastings storage dam down to 70 per cent, residents are allowed to use hand-held hoses for one hour

on three days a week.

• On the Manning, where consumers have been drawing 30 megalitres a day from the Bootawa dam, from

Monday hand held hoses will be permitted only at night in the Oxley Water area, covering the Manning and Great Lakes areas.

KEL WRIGHT & Co.
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REGISTERED TAX AGENTS

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TAXATION,
BUSINESS
PLANNING
AND
CONSULTANCY**
Kel Wright B. Bus CPA



"Profit from the experience"

TREAT IT!

with **MELCANN**

BlueLine.

The one name in total pool care.
Commonly used terms in pool water treatment.

ALGAE — An aquatic growth which is present in the pool is a result of inadequate chlorination. The first indication of algae is when pool water turns light green in colour.

ALGAEICIDES — Chemicals which kill algae and prevent new algae growth.

CHLORINE — The most commonly used disinfecting agent for swimming pools because it is the most cost-effective chemical material available.

CHLORINE DEMAND — The materials in the water which use up chlorine, such as bacteria, algae, dirt, leaves, grass clippings and swimmers' wastes. The chlorine demand must be satisfied before a chlorine residual is available to disinfect the pool water.

DRY ACID — A granular material which is used to lower the pH or total alkalinity.

pH — A scale which expresses the acidity or basicity of water, in terms of numbers from 1 to 14. pH values less than 7 are acid and those greater than 7 are basic. The generally recommended pH range for swimming pool water is 7.2 to 8.0 (depending on the pool finish). When excessive amounts of acid are added to the pool water, the pH will be less than 7 and this water is corrosive to metals, to marblesheen and to the grouting in tiles. When excessive amounts of basic chemicals, such as soda ash, are added to the pool water, the pH will be greater than 7. When the pH is above 8, the chlorine becomes less effective, the water becomes turbid and scaling occurs on the walls and in the pipelines.

LAYBY NOW FOR CHRISTMAS!

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• Slacks and tops
• Beach Hats

The biggest range of new season's



Wie
new

Hon. C. Hartcher
Minister for Environment
Level 9 St James Centre
111 Elizabeth St
Sydney 2000

Kempsey Water Supply and Hat Head National Park

Dear Minister,

This Council is concerned that you have given permission for the Kempsey Council to site water supply bores in Hat Head National Park.

Have you sighted an EIS for the proposal ?

If not have you asked for one to be prepared and when will it be put on public display ?

Have you asked the Council and have you sought information on what other sources of water may be available ?

What information has been supplied on alternative resources ?

Yours sincerely

James L.O. Tedder
Hon. Sec.
16 November 94

wskempl



TCO/05625
NRB R/66 : CP

THE CABINET OFFICE
NEW SOUTH WALES

M/S J Tedder
North Coast Environment Council Inc
Pavans Road
Grassy Head
via STUARTS POINT NSW 2441

28 OCT 1994


Dear M/S Tedder,

The Premier has asked me to let you know that he has received your letter concerning Wild Cattle Creek State Forest.

Mr Fahey has noted all that you have written and a copy of your letter has been brought to the attention of the Minister for Land and Water Conservation.

You may be sure that the matter will receive close consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Roger B Wilkins
Director-General
The Cabinet Office

To Anne Reeve

From Sam Tedder

Date 13 Nov 94 1215 hrs

Hat Head & Kempsey Water Supply

Information received to day indicate that documents / letters held by Department of Water Resources point out to Kempsey Council that cheaper and more adequate supply of water is available outside Hat Head National Park.

Indications are that this information can only be obtained by FOI

Can you initiate ? regards.

join, How about this? I've made enquiries at Grafton and going direct to D.C. I've spoken to Terry P. & will pursue further when more info. is available. Patrick

HASTING GAZETTE 20.10.94

Emergency water supplies available

MEMBER for Oxley, Bruce Jeffery, has announced that he has been conferring with the Department of Water Resources in relation to emergency water supplies for farmers during the present severe drought.

"The department had agreed that pump holes for emergency supplies could be constructed in creeks and rivers providing that they were no deeper than 1.5 metres

and the largest dimension did not exceed 30% of the stream width i.e. if the stream was 10 metres wide, then a hole 3 metres by 3 metres could be constructed," Mr. Jeffery said.

"The upstream slope of the hole should also be no steeper than one part vertical to three parts horizontal."

Mr Jeffery said he had also discussed the idea of constructing more permanent water holes in creeks and rivers with the department.

He said he had been informed that the department has been working on a number of ideas and that it was possible to now construct holes up to 2 metres deep, and depending on the site, about 20 metres long, providing special structures were

constructed across the channel at the upstream end of the hole.

These structures were of a low cost nature and were designed to prevent erosion occurring as a result of the work and most important, to provide sufficient turbulence in the water to ensure that the holes were maintained and didn't fill in again with sand and gravel.

Mr Jeffery said it wasn't necessary for landholders wishing to construct small temporary holes to obtain a permit from the Department of Water Resources.

Those wishing to construct larger more permanent water holes should contact Mr Alex Purvis at the Department's Grafton office (066) 42-7799) where they would receive advice.

Quality
Bedding?
Prices!



c/- Director General, Water Resources.

Dear Raelene,

Due to mechanical error I wasn't able to get through in time.

This is the offending article which I feel gives people the wrong impression. Is it only for emergency use and not for watering stock? If it is the latter then the river network will be dried up very quickly. I feel this needs a wide broadcasting through all media. Mr. Jeffery's needs to also get the facts straight and to go public on an informed basis.

Patrick McEntee

065 831691.



Telex: 121188
Facsimile: (02) 895 7281
Telephone: (02) 895 6211
Ext:
Contact Name:
Our Reference:

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

VALUING YOUR OPINIONS

Over the past five years the Department of Water Resources has conducted a number of surveys asking customers to give their opinions on the Department's corporate image. The results of these surveys provide valuable information which helps us improve our service to customers. These results are published each year in the Department's Annual Report.

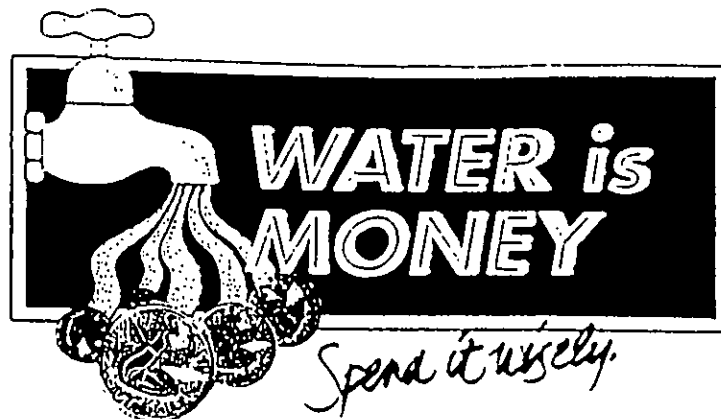
Once again we would like to gauge your perceptions of how well we serve you and where we can improve. By conducting regular surveys we aim to monitor trends in these perceptions. We would appreciate your contribution via the attached questionnaire which has been sent to a wide range of the Department's clients. Space has been provided at the end of the questionnaire for you to make further comments if you so wish.

A reply paid envelope has been provided for your use. Your reply by Friday 9th September would be appreciated.

Any queries concerning the questionnaire should be directed to the Department's Regional Directors or Head Office; a list of contact numbers is attached.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Millington
Director General



WATER: STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE

- REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY
- LISMORE WATER
CONSERVATION STRATEGY
- INTEGRATED LEAST-COST
PLANNING
- FUTURE DIRECTIONS

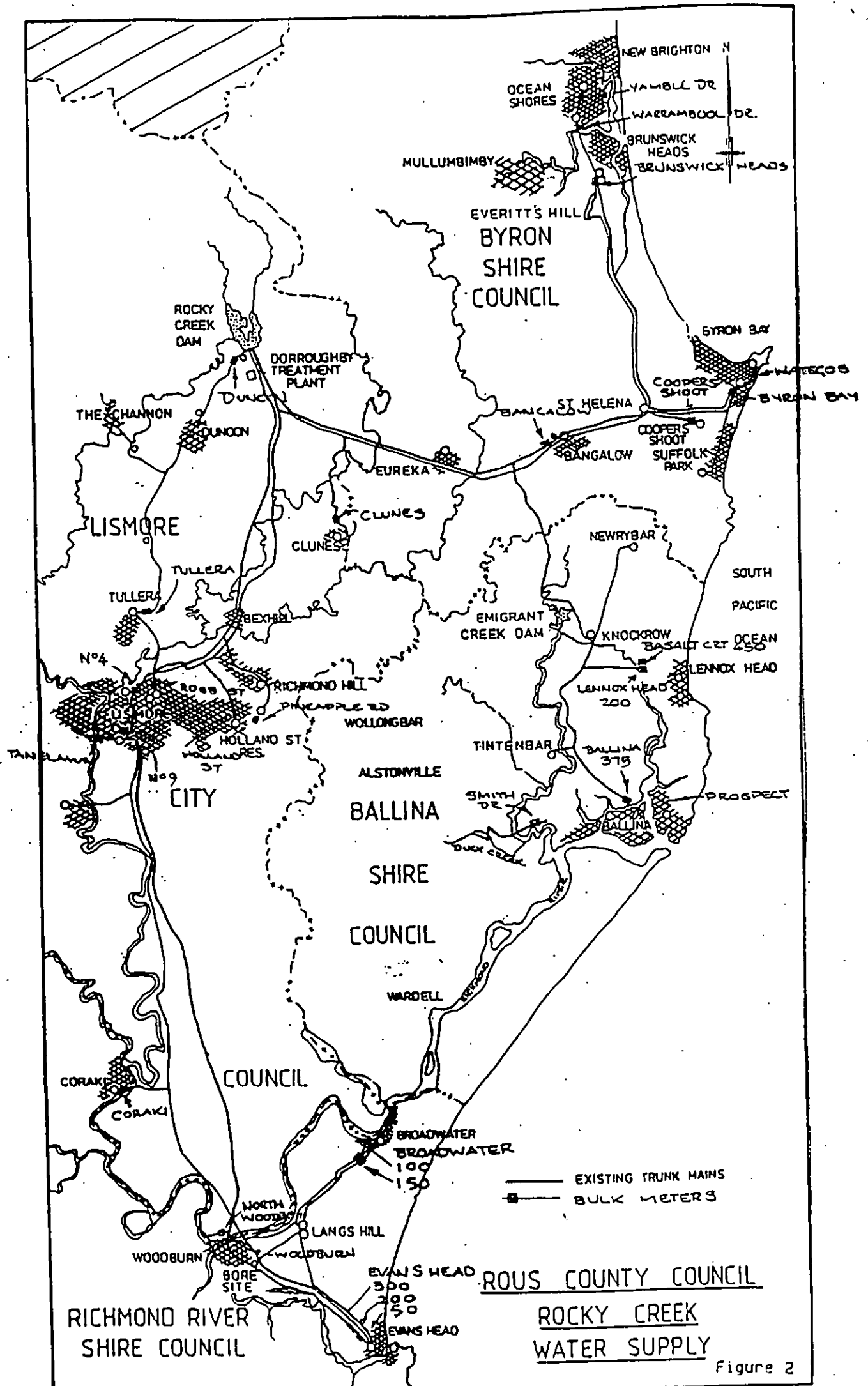
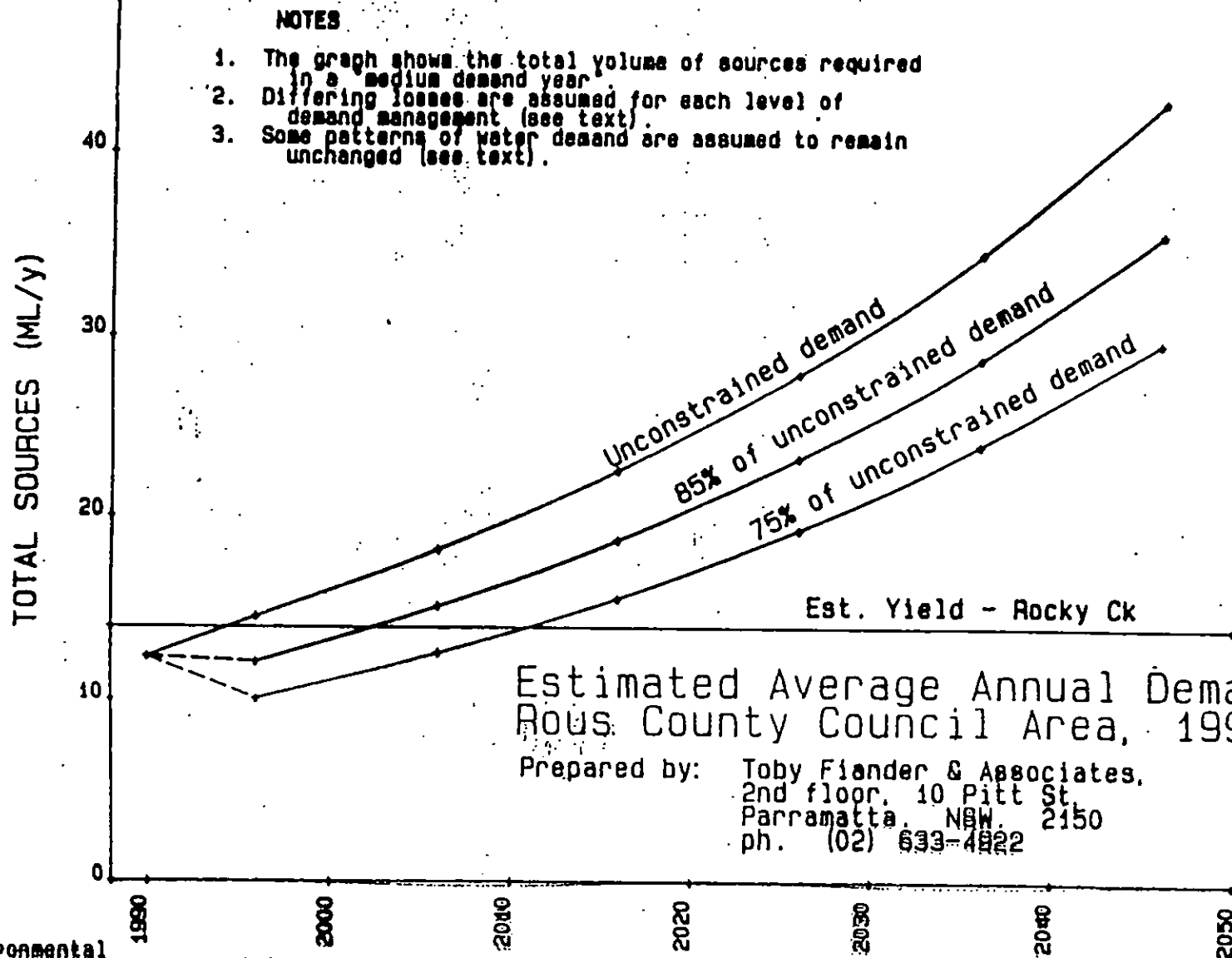
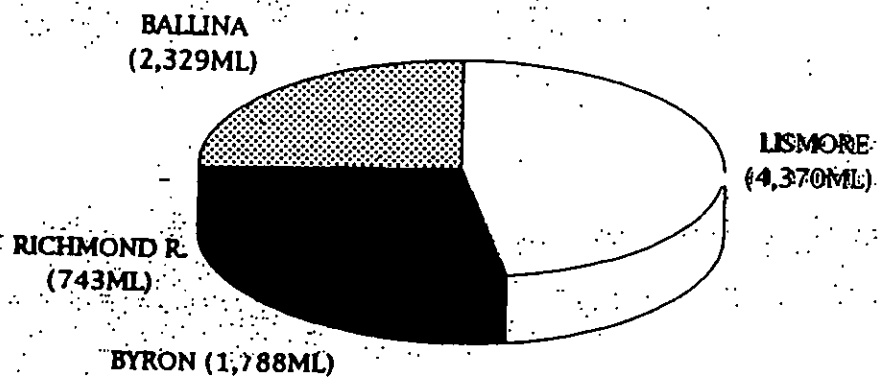


Figure 2



WATER SOLD BY ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL (1992)





DEMAND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

☐ **metering/leak detection**



☐ **pricing/regulation**



☐ **education/customer advisory services**

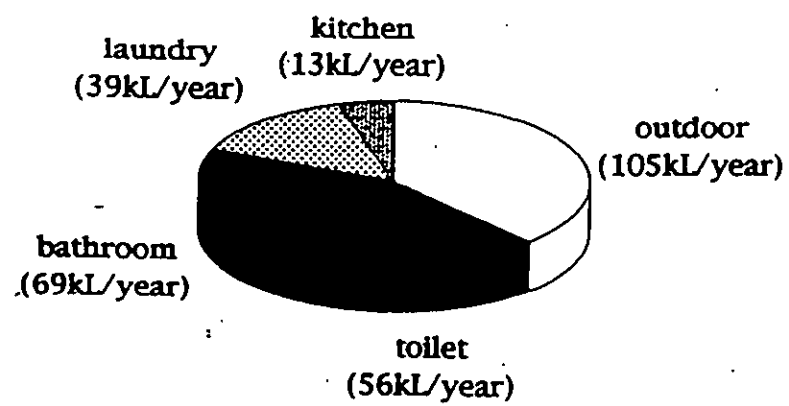


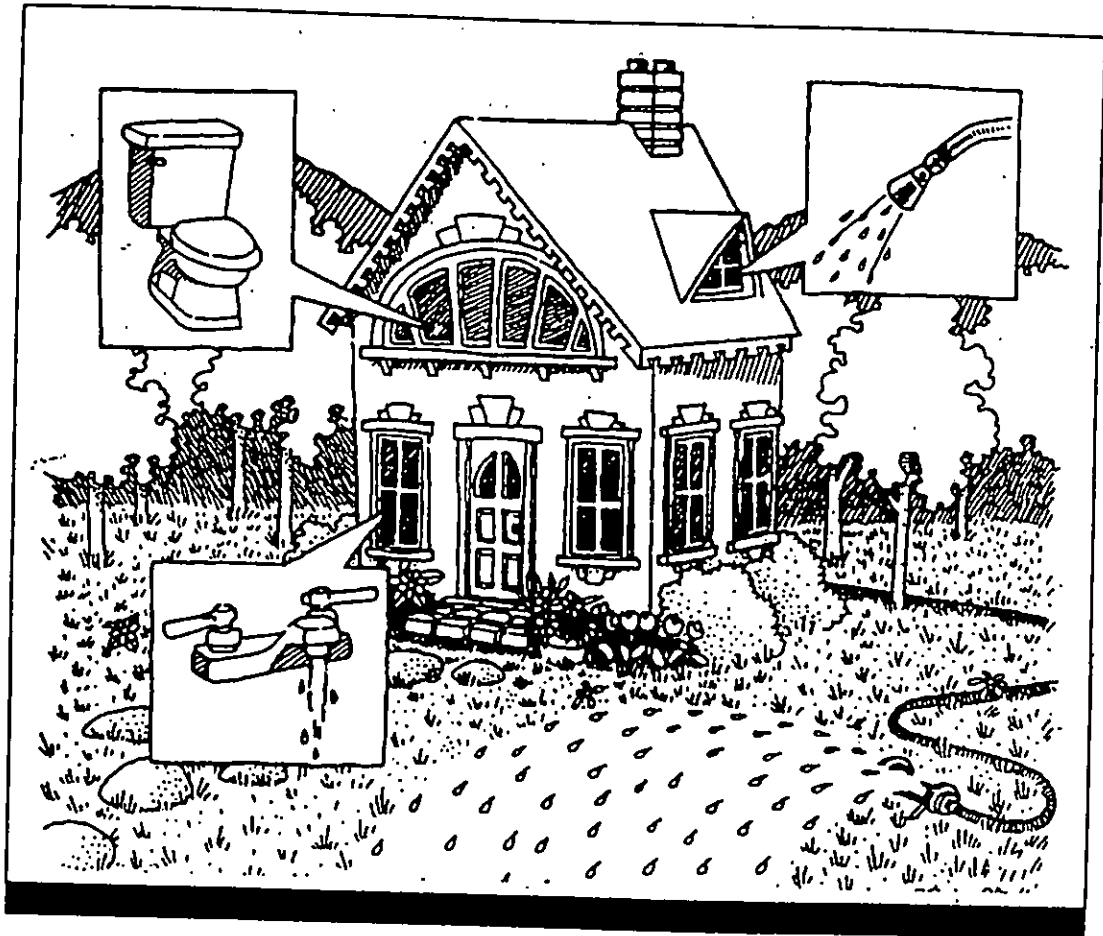
☐ **incentives**



☐ **new markets in water/reclamation/
re-use**

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD WATER USE





Water-Efficient Technologies

SHOWER ROSES

When the steam clears, some showers are more economical than others yet still feel good to use. Are you pouring money down the drain?



To some, a rose is a rose is a rose. Not so. Some are designed to be energy-efficient, with restricted spray distribution and a thinner stream of water. Others are built for comfort, not for speed — with a wide angle of soft, soporific spray. A spend-thrift's paradise!

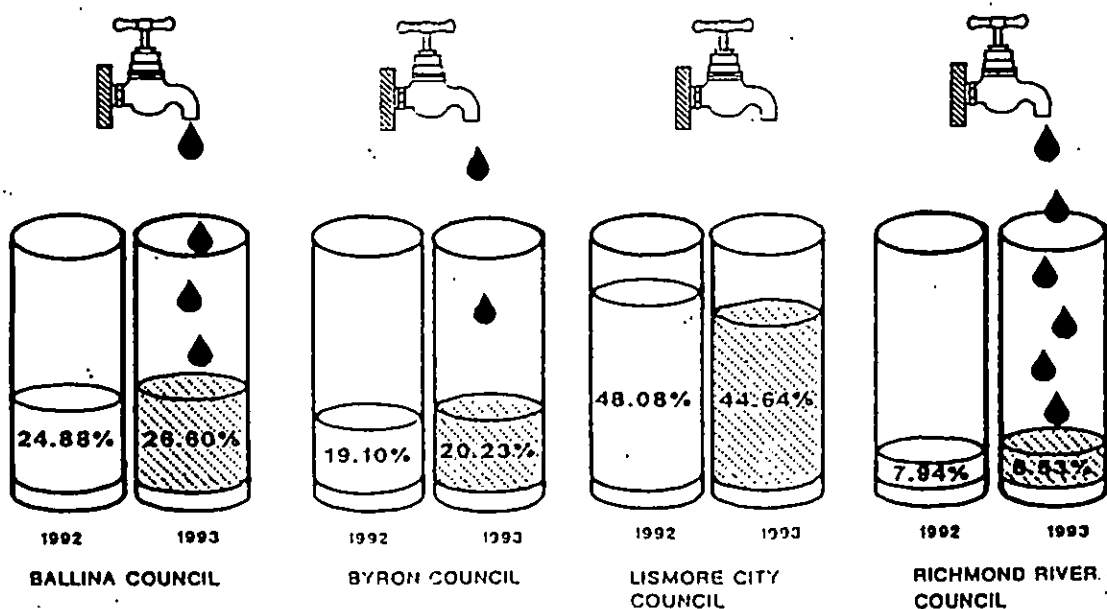
Many shower roses claim to reduce your power bills; one even claims a 70% saving. It sounds like a good idea, but what will it do to the pleasure or comfort of taking a shower? Do you have to make sacrifices in the name of efficiency within the sanctity of your bathroom?

We tested 23 shower roses for efficiency, performance and comfort and found some roses which strike an acceptable balance. You'll save money if you change over to one of our recom-



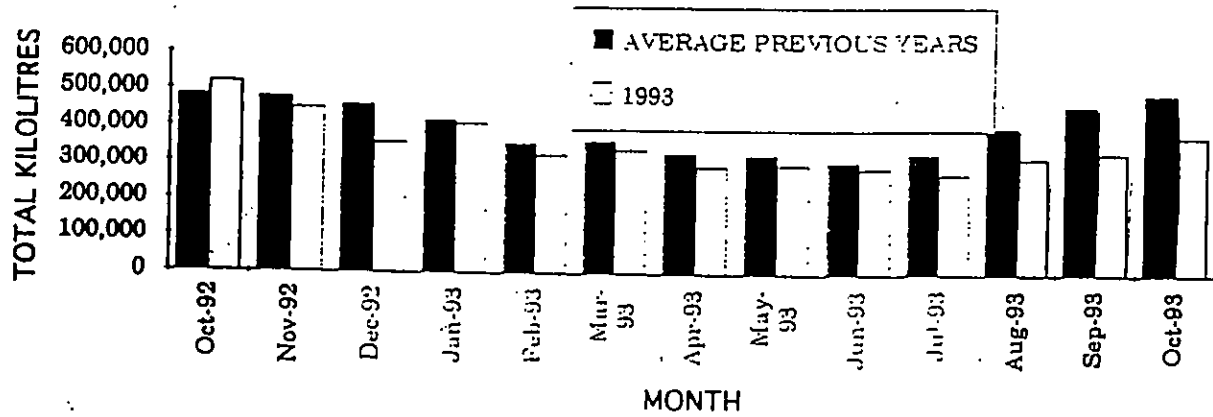


ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL BULK WATER ANNUAL CONSUMPTION

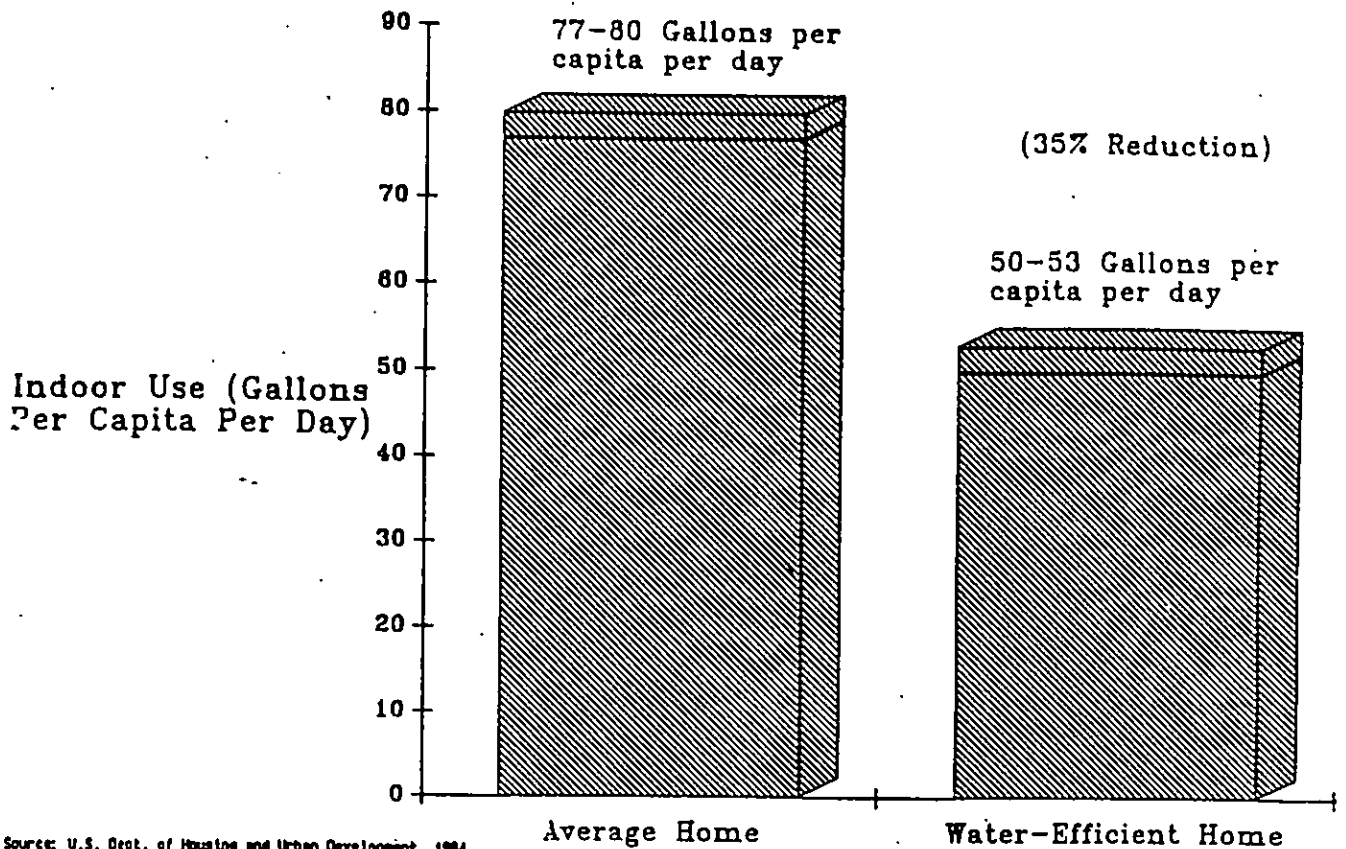




TOTAL LISMORE WATER USE - COMPARISON WITH SAME MONTH PREVIOUS YEARS

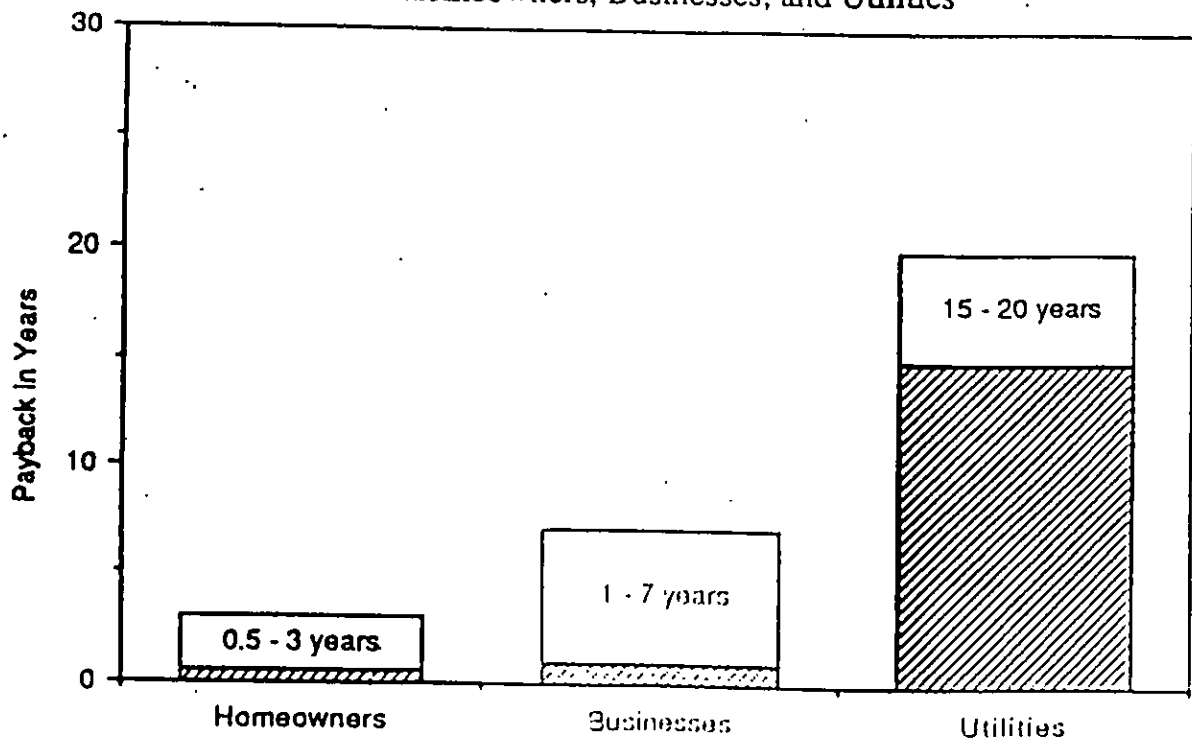


Residential Water Use With and Without Highly Efficient Hardware

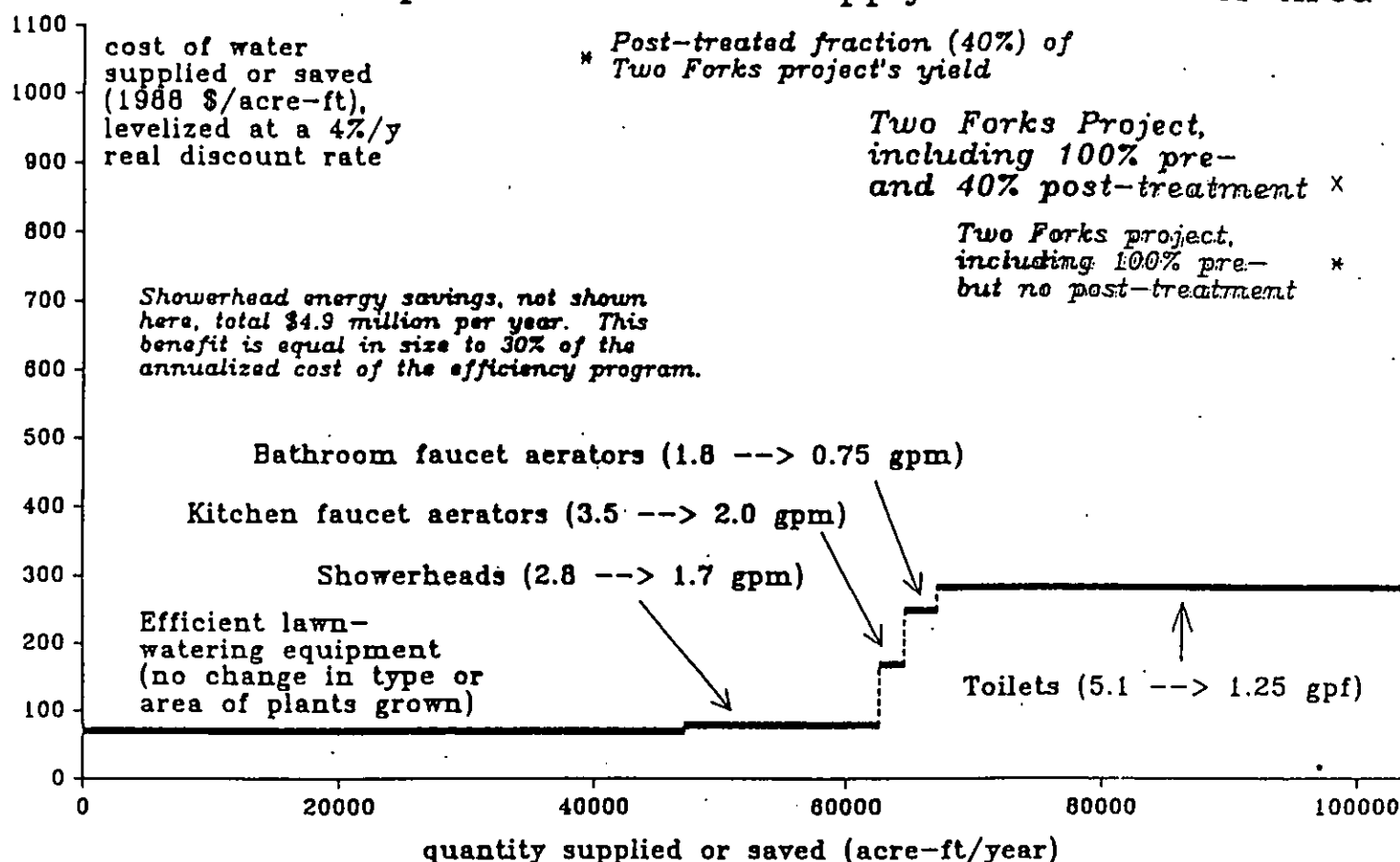


Source: U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, 1984
 Copyright (C) 1989 Rocky Mountain Institute
 Jan 20, 11.89

Typical Payback Expectations Homeowners, Businesses, and Utilities



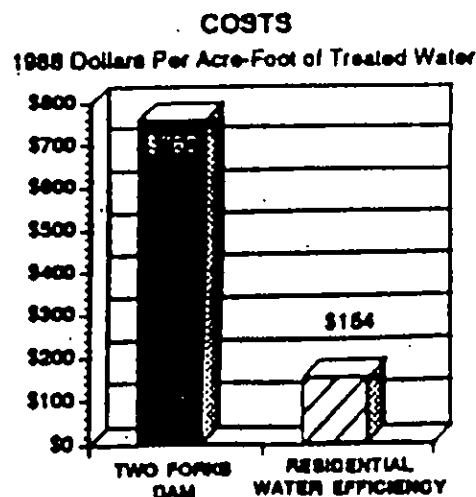
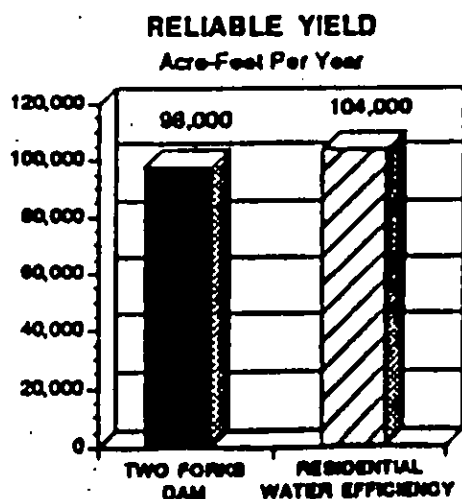
Improved Residential Water Efficiency Compared with Conventional Expansion of Water Supply in the Denver Area



* 11.11.88

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HOW TWO FORKS AND EFFICIENCY STACK UP





LISMORE CITY COUNCIL WATER CONSERVATION STRATEGY

THE WATER INDUSTRY

SUPPLY-SIDE

ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL

LISMORE CITY COUNCIL

DEMAND-SIDE

CONSUMERS

- DOMESTIC
- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL

PLUMBERS

PLUMBING SUPPLIES

HARDWARE STORES

GARDEN SUPPLIES

NURSERIES

IRRIGATION SUPPLIES

WATER METER SUPPLIES

many others

A MAP OF THE WATER AND WASTEWATER INDUSTRY - THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND SIDES

SUPPLY-SIDE

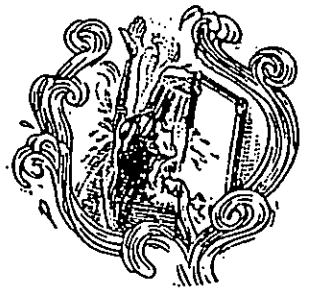


water suppliers
water treatment plant
operators
wastewater treatment plant
operators



DEMAND-SIDE

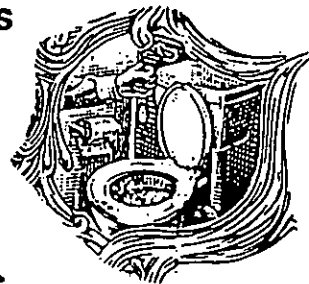
customers
- residential
- commercial
- industrial



plumbers
customer advisory officers
hardware store proprietors
plumbing suppliers
plumbing appliance
manufacturers
nursery proprietors
gardening contractors
landscaping contractors
water meter manufacturers
hydraulic consultants
landscape suppliers



trade waste officers
pre-treatment facility
manufacturers
grease trap manufacturers
greywater re-use
innovators and
manufacturers
localised re-use plant and
equipment manufacturers
waterless toilet innovators
and manufacturers
sewer repair and
maintenance personnel and
equipment manufacturers





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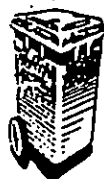
PROTOTYPE UNDER TRIAL WATERLESS TOILETS FOR URBAN USE



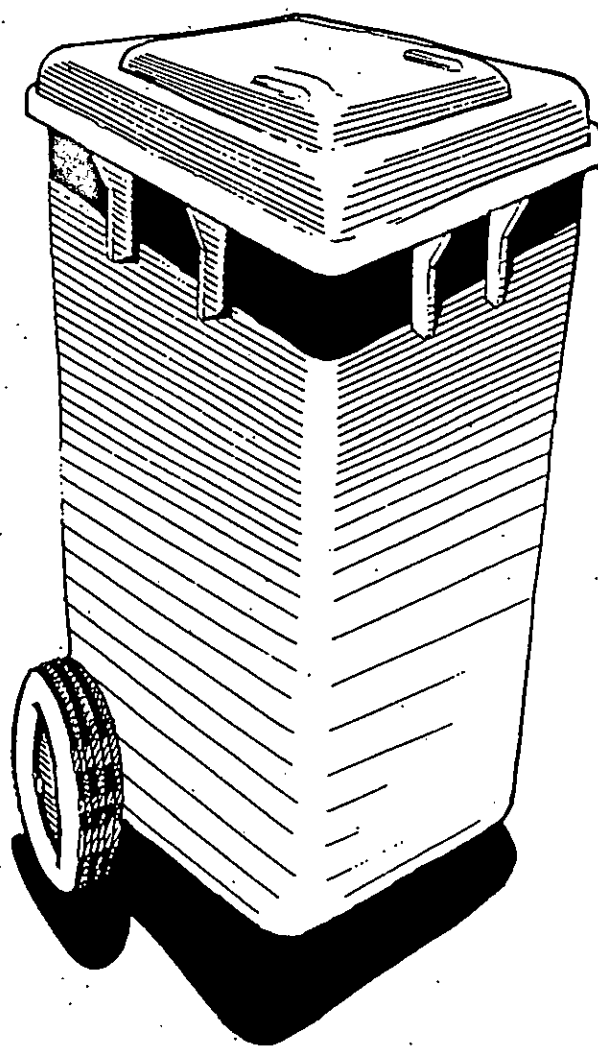


Centre for Environmental Studies

University of Tasmania



**VOLUME OF
USEABLE
PRODUCT FROM
COMPOST TOILET**



**VOLUME OF
EFFLUENT
PRODUCED (AND
WATER USED) BY
FLUSH TOILET**

Composting Toilets.

There is a number of reasons why composting toilets should be seriously assessed: on the east coast of Australia, at least 120 units have been installed by public recreation institutions in sensitive areas such as National Parks and adjacent to urban water supplies; private use is also increasing, and there is pressure on Councils and Health Departments to allow further domestic installations; if not maintained or inappropriately applied, problems do arise including pollution from run-off; composting toilets potentially offer sewage treatment that can conserve resources and protect water quality.

Composting toilets are a waterless on-site method of sewage treatment. Sewage in composting toilets is primarily decomposed by aerobic micro-organisms that access oxygen through aeration of the pile, nitrogen from the excrement and carbon from the added "bulking agent". Pathogens are destroyed by heat from micro-organism activity and nutrients are contained and made accessible as fertiliser.

In the design and application of composting toilets adequate consideration must be given to liquid run-off, disposal of the end-product or compost, odour and insect control, and aesthetic appearance. Because it is a waterless system, separate disposal of grey water should be included where applicable.

To date, research and development of composting toilets has occurred in piecemeal fashion. Domestic use of composting toilets has been successfully developed by community innovators in semi-rural locations, usually without regulators' approval. Public use has been promoted by small business sometimes with inadequate pre-sales consultation or after-sales support. National Parks have provided the opportunity for innovation by engaging University assistance in modification of existing installations, and design and monitoring of custom built units. This has occurred in the World Heritage Area in Tasmania, and at Fitzroy Falls in New South Wales, through the Centre for Environmental Studies at the University of Tasmania. Lismore Council has taken a constructive approach to the use of composting toilets within its boundaries and supported a thorough biological survey of the installations conducted by a Masters Research microbiologist. Lismore Council and the Centre for Environmental Studies are cooperating to trial a prototype for urban use in Lismore. This urban trial is being duplicated in Tasmania through Hobart Council. None of the above projects receive specific funding.

To explore the full potential of this environmentally benign system of sewage treatment, institutional support for Research and Development is required. Uniform regulation of design, construction, installation, maintenance and monitoring, would significantly facilitate application. On-site treatment in general would benefit from a comprehensive and supportive approach, and an informative administrative model is provided in Japan where more than 50 million people are served by decentralised systems.

Leonie Crennan. 62 Pine St. North Lismore. 2480. ph: 066-222-852.
Centre for Environmental Studies. University of Tasmania. GPO Box 252 C.
Hobart 7001. ph: 002-202834. fax: 002-202989

W22



COFFS HARBOUR WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

SUBMISSION FROM

NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL INC.

This Council represents 42 conservation organisations between the Great Lakes and the Tweed and east of the New England highway. The Council has a keen interest in the ecologically sustainable development of the region and this includes of course the health of the rivers and waterways.

All land has a carrying capacity for humans at certain standards of living and this capacity must be observed when the planning of urban growth takes place. If it is not then the very problems which have occurred in other urban areas will repeat themselves.

There is a complete lack of integrated and lateral thinking in examining the problems of urban development. Each section or Government department does its own job with very little reference to what other groups are trying to accomplish and as a result problems mount.

The Coffs City Council has been pressing ahead with urban expansion with, it would seem, the wish that the infrastructure problems would solve themselves. Only when there is a drought and then very late in the day does the Council consider imposing any restrictions on the use of water. Such restrictions are lifted almost as soon as the first rain comes.

The Study

The first flaw in this water project study are the terms of reference. Stage one is

- preparing water demand projections
- evaluating social ,engineering and economic factors of the nominated water supply schemes

This cannot be a serious study where the project has already decided that all that has to be done is to multiply the population now and ten years ahead and come up ,using present consumption figures, with the need for a dam that can supply such a quantity of water. The thought that this will also include figures for other areas which can then be supplied through a massive pipe and pumping scheme must bring a thrill to engineers but dismay to people with a more sympathetic view of the North Coast as a biological region and not just an area of land with certain resources for the convenience solely of the human population.

The water project study can only be a serious study if it makes a serious attempt to view the problem of providing adequate water by a whole series of measures evaluating each project carefully from all viewpoints. The present terms of reference does not permit this approach to be used.

The consideration of water tanks ,re-use etc is only mentioned in the Newsletter in stage 3. This might well be an error of editing as these alternatives must be considered in stage 1.

The Water Bank

Because there are a number of flowing creeks and rivers in the region ,unlike most of Australia,there is perception that there is plenty of water for human urban use (or waste) and there is no real need to economise on its use.

Before any study can be done for the needs of Coffs Harbour there needs to be an extensive study of the amount of water in the various streams and the role of the flow in the ecology of the river. For example how much of the present flows are required to keep the salt water at bay ; what is required for the wildlife ,including the aquatic life ,in the times of lowest flow ; how much is used at present in agriculture and industry ;what are the losses along the river lengths from movement into the ground water and evaporation ; how do the extractive gravel industries affect flow rates. Until that study is done then there is no indication as to what might be available,assuming it is really necessary, for the human urban population.

So much for the supply side of the bank. It is then necessary to survey the way that water is used in the City. Only by knowing what the requirements are in the form of differing end uses can the expenditure be matched with the water that may be available from various sources. One of the examples which spring to mind is the use of four litres of chlorinated (and sometimes filtered) water to dispose of less than half a litre of urine. Do we know how much water in the City supply is wasted in this way ? Certainly the continuous running water in some of the public urinals around the City over the

years would have cost the City financially as well as being a waste of good drinking water.

How much water is used to water playing fields and golf courses and gardens ? Do these users meet the real costs of supplying such high quality water. If the prices were adjusted for such users then the use of ground water and more reliance on the usually reasonable rainfall ,plus the use of treated waste water would become a more desirable option. What then would the savings be in supply ?

The Urban Population

The study newsletter discusses a doubling in the urban population within the next 22 years yet the Department of Planning's Study on the Urban Strategy for the North Coast notes that the limitations on the growth of Coffs Harbour are considerable and that urban growth can more efficiently be accomodated elsewhere. If that means that there will be a shortage of building sites in the future and the rises rise then the growth will slow.

The desire by the Coffs City Council for ever increasing population growth is not realistic and in business terms the growth can be controlled by allowing prices of urban plots to rise.

Therefore there is no logic in saying that the city population will double in the next 22 years and that the City must therefore provide an unlimited water supply for this population. If the water supply is not there then that is one of the constraints on the carrying capacity of the land.

Demand Management

This must be one of the first options to be studied. There are plenty of examples around the world where demand is governed by a series of regulations and pricing mechanisms. The example of Newcastle should be closely examined. We understand that water consumption was cut by 30% and the average household bill dropped when pricing for water was changed. The Project Team must look at this option and come up with a number of alternatives to be put out for public comment

The use of water by golf courses, on playing fields, in large private gardens could be controlled by pricing in such a way that there would be more incentive for golf courses to install their own dams or use ground water. The use of treated waste water is an option but should not necessarily be used solely for golf courses.

On Site Storage

The dismissal of water tanks as a supplementary storage in other studies cannot be allowed to pass without comment. One study stated that the installation of water tanks would be a very expensive exercise but the costs shown must be questioned. We know of contractors who can install concrete water tanks of 54000 litre capacity for around \$3500 and smaller tanks of 20000 litres can be installed for \$1800. It is agreed that not all buildings could have tanks installed and that there would not be room in all yards. But

if all new houses had to have them built into the foundations and a financial incentive was offered for all tanks installed there would be a contribution to the total storage at a less cost than a large dam.

There would be an important spin off from the construction of water tanks. It is an industry which is labour intensive and not necessarily hi-tec so it will stimulate small business and employment in the City. The construction of large dams is usually capital intensive, often contracted out to specialised firms and offers little in the way of local employment except by the multiplier effect

Like solar water heaters the stumbling block for many people installing tanks is the initial capital cost. The city would have to raise a very large loan for any dam construction. It could raise a smaller loan, possibly locally, lend for tank construction and recover that from householders by a surcharge on their piped supply over a period of several years. Financing tanks need not be a stumbling block.

There are many sites where simple earth dams could be built for the storage of water for industrial and garden use. Landscaping of such dams could lend a softer appearance to some of the ugly industrial estates around the city and encourage wildlife. Such water could be added into the pipe line supplying treated waste water or a simple distribution system could be installed for each area.

Treated Waste Water

The City Council has probably spent more money on attempting to force through the ocean outfall at Look At Me Now headland

than it would cost to have a proper treatment plant and the first reuse pipe lines designed and put out to tender.

We suggest that there should be a number of treatment plants for sewage installed so that the local community knows that its sewage is its responsibility and that reuse pipe lines be laid to all the houses which have supplied the sewage. Such treated waste water would then be used for flushing the toilet and once the health concerns (if any) are overcome then such water could be used in the garden. Excess water from such a scheme could be sold for use on playing fields, public gardens and golf courses .

The use of treated waste water would help solve the problem of dealing with effluent and cut down on the need for new supplies .Using this solution would save the Council from criticism for wanting to dispose of treated water in the oceans and for interfering with free flowing streams by constructing dams.

Use of Ground Water

This Council is cautious in advocating great use of this resource but there needs to be a survey of what is available in the City and what might be extracted without altering the balance.

If there is considered to be a surplus then a licensing system could be introduced to ensure that the water extracted was used carefully and there was monitoring of the resource to ensure that it was not mined.

Water Saving Devices

There are a number of measures which in conjunction with a

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pricing policy can cut the water use rate by large margins. The most obvious one is the use of the double flush cistern. It was suggested that Melbourne could save as much as 10% of its water use if the installation of double flush cisterns was mandatory on all new and re-built houses. People could be offered low interest loans to re-equip their houses in this way and repay by a surcharge on their water rates. There is also the use of low volume shower heads and taps which turn off automatically after a certain time. Such devices would be largely up to the individual to install but the Council should encourage such installations by its pricing policy and the provision of information and low interest loans.

The use of composting toilets should be encouraged by the Council so taking pressure off the sewage disposal system as well as the water supply. If these toilets are good enough for installation in houses in Sweden they should be good enough for use in Australia. There are new Australian designed and made compost toilets which are just as good as the overseas models.

Supplementation of the Existing Piped Supply

The raising of the Karangi dam for additional storage of water appears to be the best of the conventional solutions and provided that was preceded by the actions above it is not likely that the Council will need to do more in the way of large new dams and long pipe lines with their ugly corridors through the forests

Conclusion

The water project for Coffs City appears to have started on

the wrong foot by looking at water supply schemes before it has analysed the supply and use of the present use.

It needs then to examine what effect a whole range of supplementary measures may have on the demand for water in various categories including the slowing of the urban growth by allowing the supply of land to dry up so raising the prices and slowing migration into the City.

It must examine the way treated waste water can be used to supplement the present supply and how such a measure can cut down on discharge to the oceans so solving two problems at once.

This Council considers that the costs of these various schemes is not likely to exceed the cost of new large dams and pipe lines and expensive ocean outfalls for waste water disposal. Moreover there will be benefits of increased local employment and new businesses to construct and maintain supplementary water supply systems.

James L.O. Tedder
James L.O. Tedder
Hon. Sec.
7 December 1993

C/- J. TEDDER
PAVANS RD., GRASSY HEAD,
via STUARTS POINT. 2441
(065) 69 0802

L Blain
Secretary
Clarence Valley Conservation Coalition
PO BOX 1015
GRAFTON NSW 2460

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Facsimile: (066) 43 1161
Telephone: (066) 42 0568
Ext:
Contact Name:
Our Reference:

S. Kelly
602151A
[SK5-69]

*For your
information*

FROM WATER RESOURCES
ON STATUS OF NYMBOIDA
DAM PROPOSAL

Dear Ms Blain

I refer to your letter of 22 June 1992 concerning a proposal to dam the Nymboida River for the purposes of a regional water supply scheme.

The scheme proposed is one that has been promoted for many years by a Mr Don Freeman, who represents the South Grafton Residents' Progress Association (37 Spring Street, South Grafton).

The scheme was raised a number of years ago at the height of the inland diversion debate and now as a part of the "solution" to Coffs Harbour's water supply problems. The drought last year gave further impetus to those promoting such a concept.

As far as I am aware the Department of Water Resources has never conducted any engineering studies, nor consulted out any studies, on this proposal. To date, the Department understands that any engineering details have largely been done by Mr Freeman himself, or his consultants.

Mr Freeman made representations to the Minister for Water Resources, the Hon I Causley regarding the proposal on 8 December 1990. The State Water Resources Council then considered the proposal at its meeting on 27 February 1991. After careful consideration, the State Council decided that the scheme proposed was not appropriate to Coffs Harbour water supply needs. It was agreed however that the proposal was a regional water supply planning issue. As such the proposal was referred to the State Water Planning Steering Group for consideration when preparing the North Coast Water Management Strategy. This strategy is being developed to identify the water management issues on the North Coast, the opportunities and constraints on water use, and some understanding of what is needed to manage water resources on an ecologically sustainable basis.

.../2

At this stage, the Freeman proposal is "just another option" and although I might add that even at this early stage there would appear to be a number of major constraints to the concept of such a storage proposal on the Nymboida, for example;

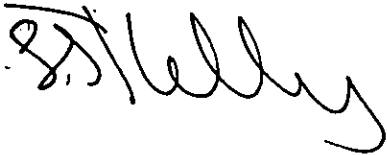
- . significant parts of the Nymboida River catchment are likely to be covered by Wild and Scenic Rivers legislation.
- . the Nymboida River is a known habitat of the rare and endangered Eastern Freshwater Cod.
- . Coffs Harbour Council has agreed to pursue the Bellinger River Scheme (a run of river/offriver storage proposal) for its water supply.
- . Rous County Council is currently involved in a water supply planning process for the Northern part of the region.
- . Toonumbar Dam in the Richmond River catchment is an existing storage that is severely underutilised.
- . Before any new on-river storages are built the Department considers that the thrust of water planning on the high rainfall North Coast should be:
 - . greater efficiency of use of existing reticulated supplies, eg (demand/supply management including better pricing of water).
 - . greater use of local water sources, eg raintanks where practical.
 - . greater conjunctive use of groundwater (ie using local groundwater resources in conjunction with surface water suppliers).
 - . greater use of off-river storages to minimize in-river impacts.

These issues are being raised by the Department in meetings with the Department of Planning as a part of their "Prelude to a Strategy" urban planning strategy (see Elizabeth Yeomans, Department of Planning, Grafton, for copies of papers, when available).

Any firm proposal for a major regional water supply dam would require the usual assessments under the Environment, Planning and Assessment Act for a designated development. Additionally, the proponents of such a scheme would be required to submit an application for a license to construct a dam on the Nymboida River under the Water Act. The Department is required to assess such an application on engineering, economic, social and environmental bases. The applicant would be required to submit an Environmental Impact Statement.

Through the Water Act there are rights of objection and appeal and due process through such mechanisms as the Land and Environment Court. Any firm proposal would be referred once again, to the State Water Resources Council, whose views to date on the proposal I have expressed above.

Yours sincerely



S Kelly
Catchment Management Officer
North Coast Region

17/7/92



Water Resources Commission



Mr. James Tedder,
Secretary,
North Coast Environment Council,
Pavans Road, Grassy Head,
Via STUARTS POINT. N.S.W. 2441.

Ibis House
201/211 Miller Street,
Box 952, P.O.,
North Sydney.
N.S.W. 2060
Telegrams: "Aquacomm"
Telex: "Watcom" 21188

Contact: Name Mr. C.H. Teoh

Our reference 86/16416

Telephone 922 0121
Extension 670

- 9 JUL 1986

Dear Mr. Tedder,

INSTREAM WATER USES

The Commission has engaged ACIL Australia Pty. Ltd. to undertake a major and important study on instream water uses. The thrust of the study is to produce management guidelines that are consistent with sound environmental management and that can be implemented by the Commission.

Your organisation is invited to make a submission, the nature of which is outlined on the attachment. It would also be appreciated if you could extend this invitation to other groups affiliated with your organisation or which would be interested in making a submission.

ACIL will be required to consider all submissions as part of the study. The submissions will also become an extremely useful source of information for the Commission in developing specific strategies for environmental management at a later stage.

I look forward to your support and cooperation for this study. Should you require further information, please contact me or Mr. C.H. Teoh, Study Co-ordinator.

Yours faithfully,


D.W. Mittelheuser,
Manager, Policy Development.

SUBMISSIONS ON INSTREAM WATER USES

BACKGROUND

Water management in New South Wales is moving in a new direction. This is underlined by the recent announcement to create the Department of Water to replace the Water Resources Commission later this year.

There are three fundamental issues facing the Department in its management of water resources: the need for increased efficiency, increased equity and better environmental management. An important part of the program to address these three issues is an understanding of instream water uses, and the development of management guidelines that are consistent with this understanding.

Sound environmental management can only be achieved by the Commission, and the new Department, through the development of rational guidelines for implementation across the whole range of functions and activities.

CONSULTANCY ON INSTREAM USES

One major initiative taken by the Commission in this area is the engagement of consultants to undertake a study on instream uses. The aim of the study is to identify and establish relationships between the instream uses and the physico-chemical characteristics of New South Wales waterways, especially the hydrologic parameters, and to provide the Commission with mechanisms for monitoring the impact of existing and changed characteristics.

This study will be a key element in the Department's environmental management program as it will provide the framework for the other parts of the program. The thrust of the study is to produce management guidelines that are consistent with sound management of instream water uses. These guidelines will also form a rational basis for other parallel planning, developmental and operational programs.

- . information available or sources that could be accessed for the understanding of that particular instream use including recent studies or research work, management procedures and results of monitoring programs;
- . problems or difficulties experienced with the instream use in the past and at present, including the perceived reasons for such problems or difficulties;
- . specific proposals, with as much details as possible, that could be incorporated as desirable management guidelines or as an operational procedure that should be implemented; and
- . other aspects of the instream use that should be brought to the attention of the Commission.

There is no particular format required for the submission. Other than the written material, maps, diagrams, charts, photographs and other such articles would be useful.

It should be noted that the Commission and the Consultant will be reviewing published data and accessing other sources of information for the study. Your submission would therefore be particularly valuable if it included unpublished material not readily accessible.

Deadline for submission

There is a tight schedule for the consultancy and the study is scheduled for completion by early next year.

Submissions are required by 1 August 1986 to meet the study time-table. However, if you are planning to make a substantial submission, the Commission would appreciate a brief letter from you by 1 August 1986 outlining the nature of your submission, the material you would be covering and the estimated date for completion of the submission.

Please forward your submission to:

Mr. C.H. Teoh,
Policy Development Unit,
Water Resources Commission,
P.O. Box 952,
NORTH SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2060.

4 July 1986

This experimental area was established in 1969 with the general aim of developing an understanding of the hydrological relationships of the dense regrowth mountain ash forests which regenerated naturally following the 1939 bush fire.

The experimental area comprises fifteen catchments, thirteen of which range in size from 4 to 120 hectares and carry 1939 regrowth while the other two (24 and 28 hectares), carry old-growth forest similar to that at Coranderrk.

To enable a range of treatments to be applied, twelve of the regrowth catchments are arranged in three groups of four; namely, the Black Spur, Monda and Ettercon groups. The Crotty Creek catchment is a single catchment. The two old-growth catchments are known as the Myrtle group.

The Black Spur Group Treatments

Following a five year period of rainfall, streamflow and other types of data collection, experimental treatments were designed to investigate whether the water yield from the area carrying 1939 mountain ash regrowth could be improved by the application of thinning or patch cutting treatments aimed at reducing stand density.

Various methods of thinning took place in three of the four catchments in the Black Spur group in the summer of 1976/77.

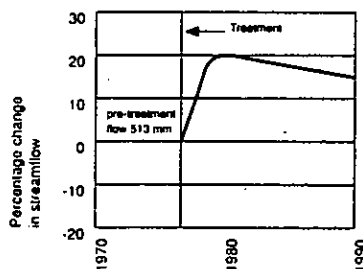
The regrowth forest on two catchments was uniformly thinned to a level which reduced the density of the original stands by 33 percent and 50 percent respectively. The forest density on the third catchment was reduced by 54 percent by clear-felling patches 80 metres in diameter throughout the catchment.

The patch cut and 50 percent thinning treatments increased streamflows by an average of about 20 percent over the 12 years following treatment. However the increases in yield from the uniformly thinned catchment were more persistent than those from the patch cut catchment (see figure 3). The 33 percent thinning had a minor impact only.

The annual growth rate of the forest in the uniformly thinned stands was maintained as the remaining trees grew faster in the post-thinning period.

Figure 3

Changes in streamflow: Black Spur 3 catchment after 50 percent uniform thinning



Uniformly thinned forest in the Black Spur 3 catchment



In 1954, three adjacent catchments in the upper area on the southern slopes of Mt. Riddell, near Healesville, were reserved for hydrology research. The aim was to measure the effects on streamflow amounts and water quality of a forest harvesting and regeneration operation conducted according to then current sound forest management standards. The site had the advantage of mature forest cover similar to much of the catchment areas, was located in buffer country vested in the Board of Works, allowing freedom of treatment and provided three creeks that were adjacent, perennial and readily accessible.

The three catchments are: Picaninny Creek, 52.8 hectares; Blue Jacket Creek, 64.8 hectares; Slip Creek, 62.3 hectares.

The Slip Creek and Blue Jacket Creek catchments have a cover of mountain ash while Picaninny carries ash on its higher elevations with mixed species forest on its lower levels.

The initial stage of the experiments comprised the collection of data in each of the three catchments to establish a sound basis for subsequent comparisons. The factors studied were: rainfall, throughfall, stem flow, log drip, soil moisture and streamflow.

Three rainfall stations were established in 1955 and the network was subsequently increased to a total of 13 stations. Where sufficiently large openings in the forest were not available, the gauges were placed on towers to obtain the correct degree of exposure. Analysis of the data from these 13 gauges has allowed a subsequent reduction of the network to 6 stations.

As rain falls, some of it is intercepted by the foliage of the trees and evaporates. What is not intercepted is known as throughfall and is measured by a system of troughs at various locations.

Some of the rain flows down the trunks of the trees. This is known as stem flow and was measured by installing collars on selected trees and diverting water running down the trunks into measurement drums.

Fog drip is water collected by the trees from wind-driven fogs and mists which drips from the leaves of the trees after they are saturated, in effect water precipitated when there is no rain. It was measured by recording rain gauges placed under the canopy of leaves and in the open.

Transpiration is a process by which water is drawn from the soil, passes through the root system and up the tree trunk to the leaves where it is evaporated through small pores in the leaves.

This process is difficult to measure directly in the forest environment and its magnitude is usually derived from measurements of the other water balance components.

Developments in electronic data collection and storage now make it possible to measure sap flow in trees and obtain an estimate of transpiration amounts.

Soil moisture, the water absorbed and held in the ground, was measured by using a network of boreholes in each catchment to monitor the moisture content at regular intervals of about a fortnight to a month.

Streamflow is measured at weirs established on each of the creeks. The water depth is automatically recorded on a chart or in an electronic data logger and a formula relating depth over the weir to discharge is then used to calculate streamflow.

Silt accumulation in each of the weirs is monitored periodically and, in addition to the volume being measured, analyses are made to determine the mineral and organic matter content of the sediment.

Regular assessments have also been made of the physical, chemical and bacteriological quality of the water.

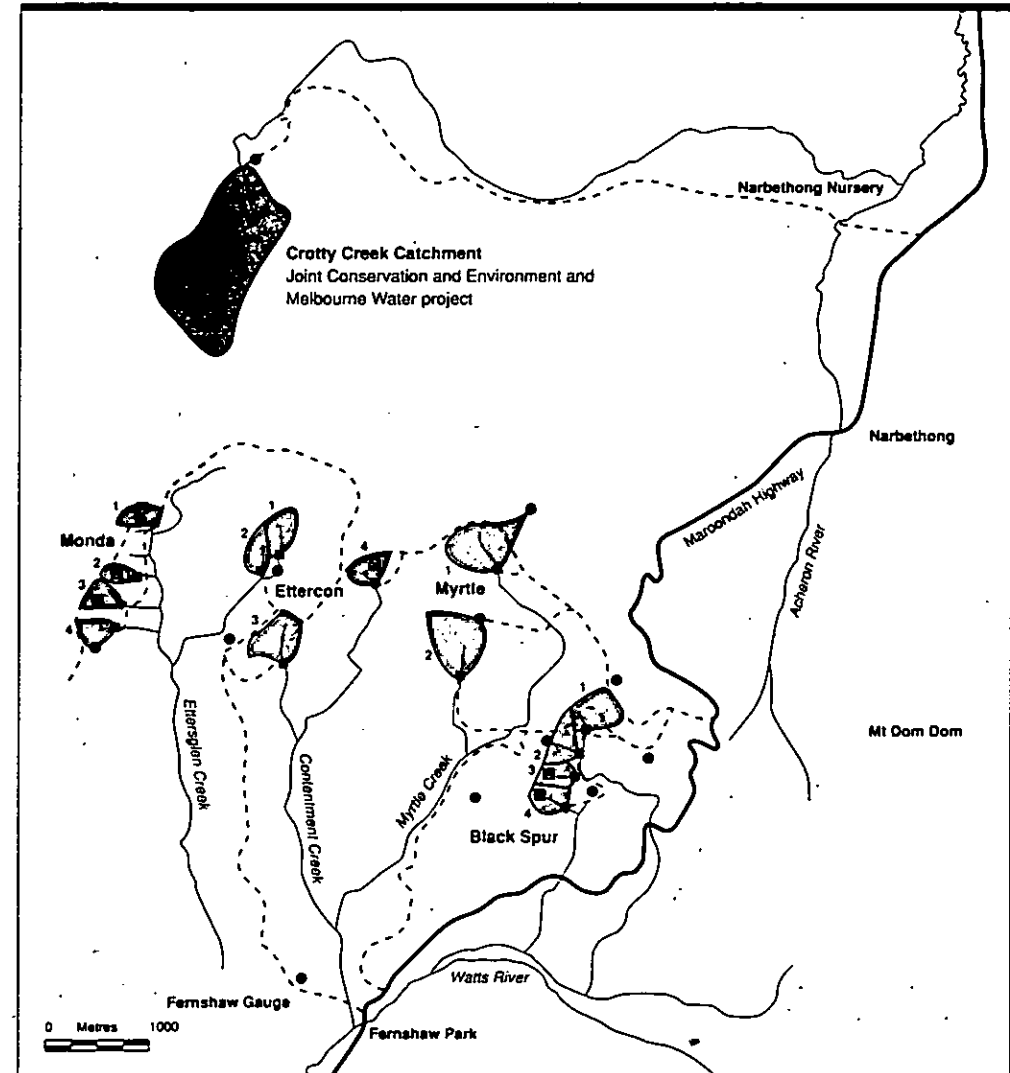
The initial stage of the collection of base data extended over 16 years and the experiments moved into the treatment stage in 1970, after relationships between the three catchments had been established for the various water balance components.



Left: Measuring solar radiation
Centre: Measuring air temperature and humidity.



Above: Servicing a stream gauging weir
Left: Canopy interferometer measurement
Centre: Soil moisture measurement



The Ettercon Group Treatments

In the summer of 1981/82, a strip (or corridor) thinning treatment was applied to the 1939 mountain ash forest in the Ettercon 1 and 4 catchments. Alternative strips 35 metres wide were cut along the contour.

This treatment was chosen as an alternative thinning treatment to that of the Black Spur group, due to the problems of safety and stand damage arising from undertaking uniform thinning in an increasingly taller mountain ash forest. Streamflow yield increases of over 20 percent have been persistent since treatment (see figure 4).

Due to the total removal of the forest stand in the strips the growth response to thinning has occurred only in the boundaries of the retained strips. It is estimated that post treatment forest growth has reduced by about 40 percent.

The Crotty Creek Experiment

The Department of Conservation and Environment is co-operating with Melbourne Water in an experiment in the 120-hectare Crotty Creek catchment area to determine the effect of large-scale thinning operations on streamflow yield. Streamflow monitoring started in May 1976 and a 50 percent progressive strip-thinning treatment commenced in the summer of 1979/80. Since the concluding year of treatment in 1984/85, annual water yield increases of 25 percent have persisted.

The Myrtle Group Experiment

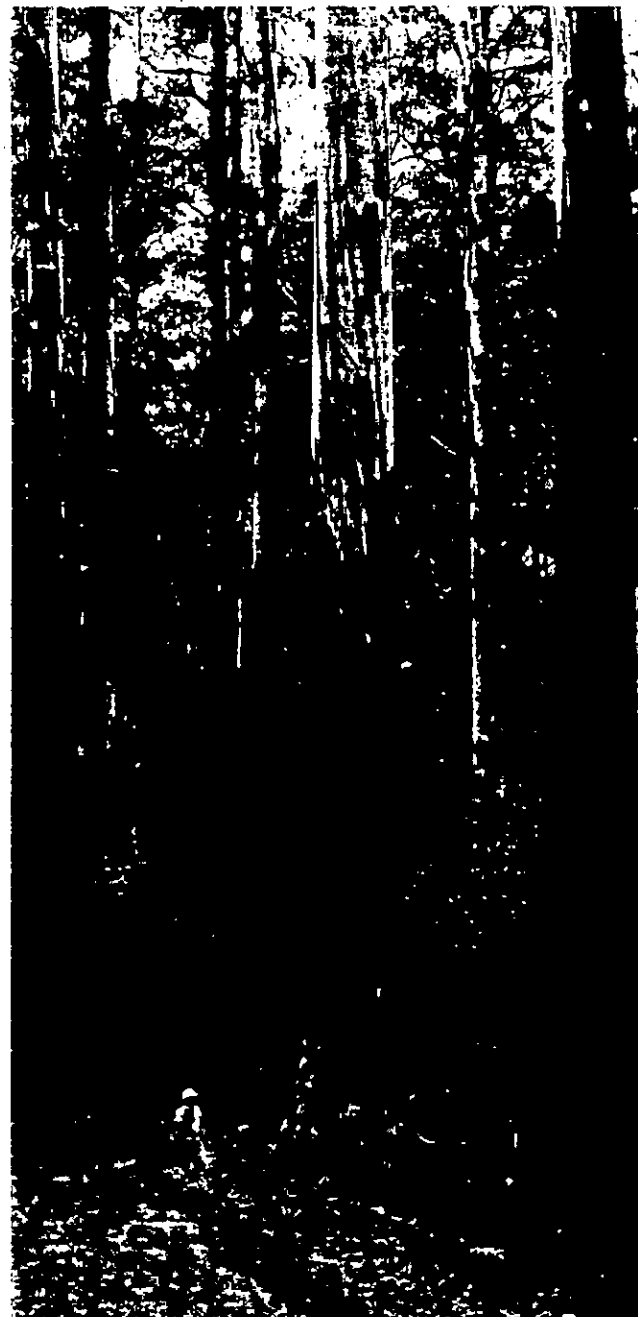
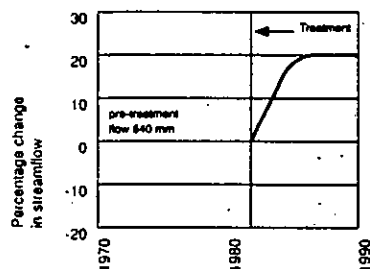
A clear-felling and regeneration treatment was applied in 1984/85 to the Myrtle 2 catchment in order to replicate the important Picaninny treatment in a higher rainfall environment. Following an initial streamflow increase streamflows returned to pre-treatment levels four years after treatment.



Aerial view of strip thinning in the Crotty Creek catchment.

Figure 4

Changes in streamflow: Ettercon 4 catchment after 50 percent corridor thinning



A further experiment, also in 1939 regrowth ash, was established at Crotty Creek near Narbethong in 1976, in co-operation with the Department of Conservation and Environment.

These catchment experiments are the core of the Melbourne Water research program but detailed research into specific components of the forest hydrological cycle has also been carried out and extensive analysis undertaken of the long-term rainfall and streamflow data for the operational catchments.

Most of the experimental results described in this brochure are from the scientific reports and papers listed in the references. However some results are preliminary only and will be either modified or confirmed in further publications arising from the experimental program.

Left: Old-growth mountain ash forest.
Below: Forest surveying



About half of Melbourne's water supply catchment area (which is totally forested) is covered by ash-type forests, principally mountain ash, and this area yields 70-80 percent of Melbourne's water. In the natural state, mountain ash forest is continually changing. Age, fire, wind, snow, insects and fungi all have an effect on stand growth and structure. Severe fire usually destroys an older, open forest, replacing it with dense regrowth. In turn, this dense regrowth rapidly gains height and becomes more open through the process of natural thinning. In the absence of regenerative fire, mountain ash would disappear from a site in about 500 years.

The age and density of the ash-type forest has a major effect on the resultant streamflows from these catchments. For example, a change in forest age from old forest to a young forest (whether caused by wildfire or man-made regeneration) will eventually result in a streamflow decline of 50 percent.

In order to define efficient water supply catchment management policies, Melbourne Water needs a scientific understanding of the role of the forests in determining streamflow quality and yield.

Hydrology is the science of the behaviour of water, on or below the earth's surface. Forest hydrology is specifically concerned with the effects of woody vegetation on water yield and quality. These effects are complex, but principal factors include: the interception of rain by the forest canopy resulting in evaporation and loss to streamflow; losses due to water use by the trees, called transpiration; and the effect of different soil and forest types on direct run-off.

Because the production and yield of water from forested catchments depend on many factors including geology, soil, climate, topography and forest type, overseas experience does not necessarily relate to local conditions.

Lack of local knowledge on the forest-water yield interactions of mountain ash led the Board, in 1948, to initiate research into forest hydrology when it sponsored an investigation into several components of the forest hydrological cycle. This early research indicated relationships between forest water consumption and forest age and density: the older and more open the forest, the lower the water consumption. It was then decided to extend the work to full catchment experiments and a major study was commenced at Coranderk, near Healesville, in the early 1950s.

In the mid 1960s, following lengthy negotiations on the issues of catchment management, undertakings to the Government were given by the Board and the other organisations involved, that catchment management research would proceed with the ultimate aim of resolving these issues.

In 1967, the then Minister for Local Government (The Hon. R.J. Hamer) set out the overall objective of catchment hydrology research as being to determine whether, or under what conditions, controlled logging in water catchments may be practicable without detriment to the quality or quantity of the water supply. The Minister also indicated that the control and management of Melbourne's water supply catchments was to be reviewed following a 10-year research period.

The Board then expanded its original research project by the addition of the North Maroondah experimental catchments, located high in the Great Dividing Range, west of the Maroondah Highway.

While the Coranderk experiment is set in old-growth mountain ash forest, the North Maroondah catchments are located predominantly in 1939 regrowth ash that occurred after the 1939 bushfires.

Analysis of Operational Rainfall and Streamflow Records

A detailed analysis of streamflow and rainfall data from the water supply catchments, in conjunction with vegetation surveys, has shown that the conversion by the 1939 fire of old-growth mountain ash forest to a regrowth condition caused an eventual decline in annual streamflows of 50 percent from the area of ash forest burnt.

As a result, overall catchment streamflows declined by 25 percent some 20 years later and only now are they recovering.

As previously noted, the same effect has been found after the harvesting and regeneration of old-growth mountain ash forest.

This analysis has resulted in the development of an age-streamflow yield relationship for mountain ash forest (see figure 5).

In turn, the development of this relationship has allowed the estimation of streamflow yield from ash-type forest areas managed for timber production under stable rotation periods.

The larger the rotation period, i.e. the time between regeneration and eventual timber harvesting, the greater the streamflow yield. However, even the longest rotation period of 150 years still yields significantly less streamflow than a forest allowed to proceed to maturity.

Measurement of Transpiration in Mountain Ash

A combination of Melbourne Water and Australian Water Research Advisory Council funding enabled staff from the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry at the University of Melbourne to measure transpiration flows (sap flow) in mountain ash stands of various ages using instrumentation developed by the CSIRO Division of Water Resources.

Initial results indicate that stand water use is very dependent on the amount of sapwood area per unit area of forest. Measurements of sapwood area indicate that this stand factor decreases with stand age.

The Road 11 Experiment

This experiment had the aim of determining sediment production levels from unsealed forest roads typical of those used for forest management and fire protection access purposes.

Initial results indicate that such roads can produce an average of 20,000 kg/ha/annum of coarse sediment when subjected to low levels of vehicle use, rising to 27,000 kg/ha/annum when subjected to more intense use.

Correspondingly, total sediment production rates (including suspended sediments) ranged from 56,000 kg/ha/annum to 90,000 kg/ha/annum.

This sediment production is high when compared to the long-term sediment accumulation in Maroondah dam which is 300 kg/ha/annum.

These results show the need for a high standard of road construction and management precautions aimed at preventing the entry of run-off into stream courses.

Other Studies

During the course of the program, other studies have been conducted on soils, interception of rainfall by vegetation, long and short term effects on water quality due to forest treatment and the effects of fuel reduction burning and wildfire. The references given in this booklet provide further details.

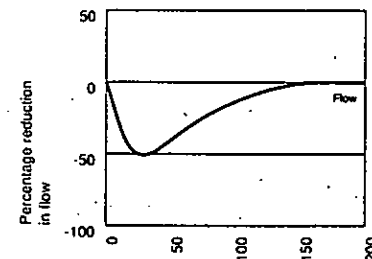
Maroondah Reservoir.



Measurement of rainfall totals and intensity.



Figure 5
Variation in streamflow with age
for a mountain ash forest



Many reports and scientific papers have been published arising out of the Catchment Hydrology Research Program, and these are listed in the References. The Summary of Technical Conclusions to 1979 summarised the major conclusions to that date from all the reports. This report stressed that as the results were based on research undertaken in mountain ash forests growing on soils resistant to erosion, the results should be interpreted accordingly.

In summary, the report concluded that: Provided both roading and timber harvesting were well planned and catchment protection prescriptions rigorously implemented at all times, limited roading and timber harvesting could be carried out in appropriate areas without detriment to conventional streamflow quality parameters. The report warned that Melbourne's water supply system is unfiltered and as such it is sensitive to changes in streamflow turbidity. Failure to maintain a high standard of planning, conduct and supervision of roading and timber harvesting operations would necessitate water filtration at a very high capital cost.

Any roading in domestic water supply catchments in an environment similar to that at Coranderrk must be of low intensity with a minimum of stream crossings and close control exercised over the length and slope of roads draining towards the streams.

In terms of water yield, the report stated that both the age and density of mountain ash forest, which are affected by both fire and timber harvesting, have a major impact on streamflow yield. Wildfires which convert old-growth forest to dense regrowth forest cause large reductions in streamflow yield while clear felling and regeneration causes long-term reductions in streamflow yield compared to an old-growth situation. The control of forest density was seen to have a potential, not yet experimentally verified, for increasing streamflows.

The report was evaluated by the State Government in 1981 and the Government subsequently directed that, in order to protect water yield and quality, no commercial logging is to be permitted in those Board catchments originally set aside for water production only.

The results of the research program have influenced the State Conservation Strategy, the Timber Industry Strategy and the 1989 Code of Forest Practices.

These documents state that forest management in catchments used for timber production must aim at protecting water yield and quality and that in catchments where water yield is important, longer rotations, thinning and other techniques be used to maintain water yield.

Implications of the Research and Challenges for the Future

Impact of the Maturing Forest on the Water Yield from Catchments

Results from the Melbourne Water catchment hydrology research program have played an important role in planning for future water supply augmentation to Melbourne.

If no wildfires occur, then the yield from the existing catchments is expected to increase at a rate of 2000 to 3000 megalitres per year over the next 50 years, the total amount being equivalent to between 25 percent and 38 percent of current annual consumption.

Observed streamflows do indeed show signs of such a recovery.

If the increases in yields are persistent over the next 15 years, the cumulative effect on total yield would enable the Board to delay its augmentation of the water supply system by a minimum of two to three years, with substantial savings to the community. Further research work is being carried out to determine these yield increases with more certainty.

Forest Management and Bushfire Protection

Research has shown that wildfires in the ash-type forest which provides the bulk of our streamflow, have a complex and long-lasting effect on catchment water yield.

It has been postulated that, with the onset of the Greenhouse Effect, the frequency and the magnitude of wildfires in Victoria could increase. If the catchments were to be subject to a severe wildfire, there would be a major effect on the capability of Melbourne Water to provide its customers with an adequate level of service.

The death and regeneration of the remaining old-growth mountain ash forest would reduce the system yield by about 2,600 megalitres per year over a period of 30 years.

This impact shows the need to maintain a high standard of fire detection and prevention and to develop water supply management and forest management strategies which minimise the impact of these potential reductions in catchment yield.

Challenges for the Future

As Melbourne grows, an increasing proportion of its water supply will come from forested areas used to provide a range of services and products such as recreation and timber. The longer Melbourne relies on natural increases in streamflow yield from the forest the more vulnerable it becomes to bushfires. To enable the development of management plans for wood and water, the research program will have to produce the following information:

- An improved prediction estimate of the current long-term increases in water yield.
- Improved estimates of the effects of regeneration density control and thinning operation on long-term streamflows.
- An integrated water supply augmentation strategy, demand management strategy and catchment management strategy to minimise the impact of severe wildfires on streamflows.

Water and wood are both essential to man's survival and well-being; both are gathered from forests.

For over a hundred years there has been discussion and debate on the management of Melbourne's water supply catchments. Should catchment management be aimed at water yield and quality issues only, or should it also consider timber production?

The provision of soundly based and scientifically accurate answers to these questions is the aim of the program of catchment hydrology research being undertaken by Melbourne Water.

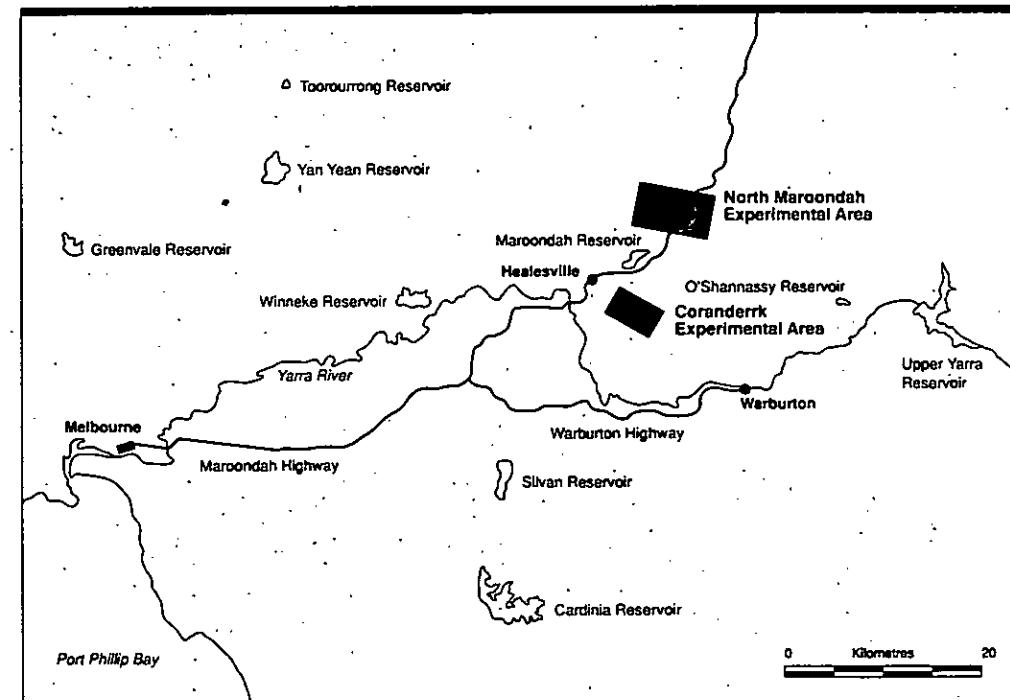
Since the initial development of Melbourne's water supply system in 1857, water has been harvested from catchments in the central highlands north and east of the metropolis.

Both natural (i.e. wildfires) and man-made (i.e. logging) changes to the forest environment affect the quality and quantity of water produced by the water supply catchments.

Over one hundred years ago the Government which instituted Melbourne's water supply decided that, to protect water yield and quality as much as possible, the catchments from which it was gathered should be managed by the water supply authority and used solely for water harvesting. People should not be allowed to live there or undertake activities which could affect the catchment adversely.

This decision gave rise to the 'closed catchment policy', a policy which was handed over to the then Board of Works when it became Melbourne's water supply authority in 1891 and a policy which – with Government approval – has been followed ever since in the older catchments of Wallaby Creek, Maeroondah, O'Shannassy and Upper Yarra.

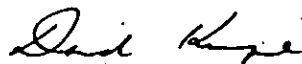
Until recently there has been repeated proposals for this policy to be changed to permit logging in these water supply catchments.



Forest hydrology experimental areas

INTRODUCTION

This booklet describes the catchment hydrology research program of Melbourne Water and presents the main results accurately and free of technical jargon. This long-term research program has resulted in findings of major importance for the management of Melbourne's forested water supply catchments.



David Knipe, General Manager

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This document has been written by
P.J. O'Shaughnessy, Research Forester and
M.D.A. Jayasuriya, Senior Hydrologist.
Design and typesetting by Melbourne Water,
Graphic Services Unit.

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W2a



MELBOURNE
WATER

Research Hydrologist
Water Supply Planning Section
Melbourne Water Corporation
625 Little Collins Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Telephone Enquiries: (03) 615 4109

WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENT

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Dr M.D.A. Jayasuriya
Research Hydrologist
Water Supply Planning Section
Melbourne Water Corporation
625 Little Collins Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Telephone Enquiries: (03) 615 4109

STATUS REPORT 1991



W20

Clarence Valley Field Naturalists Club

Post Office Box 590,
GRAFTON. N.S.W. 2460.
16th March, 1992.

Mr. J. Tedder, Hon. Secretary,
North Coast Environment Council,
Pavan's Road, GRASSY HEAD
via STUART'S POINT,
N.S.W. 2441.

Dear Mr. Tedder,

Water Storage Proposals on the North Coast.

Mr. David Page reported on your Council discussions on the above subject.

This Club has concern for construction of dams which all seem to have some impact on the Clarence River, but agrees with Council's sentiments that a firm project is necessary before any action can be countenanced.

However, the Club wishes to keep before the Council the old method of water storage in tanks from rainfall on roofs of houses. This is not a new idea by any means and has no doubt been brought up previously but has practical application to reduce water running to waste.

As directed by the meeting, a copy of this letter will be sent to City and Shire Councils on the Clarence.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Sedwell

J.J. Sedwell,
Honorary Secretary.

COPY FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

The Town Clerk,	The Shire Clerk,
City Council,	Copmanhurst Shire Council, GRAFTON.
GRAFTON.	Nymboida Shire Council, SOUTH GRAFTON.
	Ulmarra Shire Council, ULMARRA.
	Maclean Shire Council, MACLEAN.
The County Clerk, Lower River County Council, MACLEAN.	



Telex: 121188
Facsimile: (02) 895 7281
Telephone: (02) 895 6211
Ext:
Contact Name: 1811649
Our Reference:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed a copy of the draft of the New South Wales State Groundwater Policy which has been released for public comment.

This draft State Groundwater Policy is the first natural resources policy within the NSW Government's Total Catchment Management (TCM) framework to focus on groundwater. It will complement the other natural resources policies within the TCM framework, particularly the State Rivers and Estuaries Policy.

It is recognised that groundwater is a vital natural resource for New South Wales, providing water supplies for human use, for irrigation, for industry, for stock, and to sustain important ecosystems. Groundwater systems need to be protected from contamination and depletion, and controls are needed to ensure sustainable distribution for economic, social and environmental uses. The fundamental principle on which the policy is based is that the community and government agencies have complementary stewardship and trusteeship roles and responsibilities in respect of natural resource management.

A large number of important groundwater and related issues have been identified. These have been aggregated into the following six component policies, to be developed over the next three years:

- . Groundwater Quality Protection
- . Resource Allocation
- . Environmental Protection
- . Intergovernment Management
- . Pricing
- . Resource Assessment

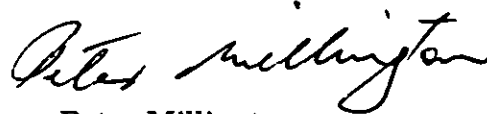
Because completion of these policies will take three years, this draft policy framework and actions paper has been prepared to outline principles, component structure and the consultative process to be followed. This draft policy paper has been considered by the NSW Water Resources Council. Council supported the public discussion process proposed by the department, and will consider comments on this draft policy paper before it is taken to Government.

Each of the above component policies will be developed to first draft stage by Working Groups established by Water Resources Council, and released for community discussion. Council will retain a Review Committee to overview the development of all six policies, to ensure consistency between them. The Government looks forward to working with the community in developing these policies.

This draft policy framework and actions paper contains issues or proposals which will need community examination and debate before firm proposals can be taken to government. Should you or your organisation need clarification on any aspect of the draft paper, please contact Mr John Ross, Manager Hydrogeology Unit (telephone 02-895 7562).

Comments on this draft paper should be provided before 15 May 1992, and should be addressed to the Manager Environment Branch, Department of Water Resources, PO Box 3720, Parramatta NSW 2124.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Peter Millington".

Peter Millington
Director 3.3.92



WATER BOARD

SYDNEY - ILLAWARRA - BLUE MOUNTAINS

11th December 1990

The Secretary
North Coast Environment Council
C/- J Tedder
Pavans Road
Grassy Head via Stuarts Point 2441

Dear The Secretary

We are developing a series of booklets and videos about various aspects of water and the environment.

The intention is to raise public understanding of these complex issues so that the decisions made have the best chance of achieving that most difficult and elusive goal - the public interest.

We are striving for a high level of objectivity and while we do not expect everyone to agree with us, we think that the fundamental information contained will help people understand the issues better.

I have taken the liberty of sending you the first four booklets in the Water and the Urban Environment series, so you may judge for yourself whether they and the future material will be useful for you.

If you would like to see the accompanying videos they are available on loan free from any Water Board Business Office or by ringing Ms Zoov Raskov on (02) 269-5164.

We have no wish to waste resources by sending future material if you are not interested, so could you please advise us if you want to be removed from our mailing list.

If, on the other hand, you find them helpful we will be delighted to continue to keep you informed.

Pro or con, we would appreciate your feedback.

Yours sincerely

KEITH BASHFORD
MANAGER CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
(02) 269-5150

How much water do I use?

A tap dripping at one drop per second wastes 20 litres of water per day.

Here are the amounts of water used in a typical household:

Toilet: 13 litres per flush (about 200 litres per household per day).

Bath: 50 to 120 litres (half full).

Shower: 40 to 250 litres for average 8 minute shower.

Dishwashing by hand: 18 litres per wash.

Dishwasher: 23 to 60 litres per wash (current models).

Clothes washing: Automatic machine 73 to 265 litres per load. Twin tub 40 litres per load.

Garbage Disposal unit: 30 litres per day.

Handbasin: 5 litres.

Tap running while cleaning teeth: 5 litres.

Drinking, cooking, household cleaning: Average of 8 litres per person per day.

Leaking pipe: 300 litre per day from a 1.5 mm hole.

Some typical uses outside the house:

Garden sprinkler: Up to 1,500 litres per hour.

Car washing with a hose: 100 to 300 litres.

Filling a swimming pool: 20,000 to 55,000 litres.



Save water. Save money.

Conserving water

Why It Is Important to conserve water

(This is the first of a series of Water Board pamphlets on conserving water. Others in the series offer specific and expert advice on ways to conserve water in the home and in the garden.)

The Water Board holds in storage enough water to last our population about four years.

That is 700,000 litres of water for every man, woman and child in Sydney, Illawarra and the Blue Mountains.

You may ask why, if Sydney is so rich with water reserves, you should be asked to conserve water at home.

Three arguments favour a reasonable conservation program.

First, while rain is free, tap water is not. At your tap, water is an expensive commercial product.

Second, we are all using more water. A growing population with ever more household water appliances is seeing to that. Third, despite some heavy rainfall, Sydney must be ready for drought.

1. Water begins to assume a dollar value as soon as it reaches any of the Water Board's catchment areas. As it flows to our storage dams we protect it as much as we can from pollution by humans, industry and other elements in the environment.

Water has to be stored, tested and screened. To be safe, it must be disinfected. By law it must be fluoridated and may need other treatment. It has to be pumped and kept moving through a 19,500 kilometre network of water mains. The system is expensive to run and maintain.

2. Sydney's population is growing by around 1.5 per cent a year (about 60,000 persons). Individually, we are using more water than our parents as automatic washing machines, dishwashers and swimming pools play a bigger role in home life. Forty years ago, average residential water consumption was about 185 litres per person per day. Today's figure is about 285 litres.

More people using more water create pressure to upgrade and expand the Water Board's water delivery system. In the end, the high price for these works will have to be paid by all water users.

3. Sydney's long-term weather patterns mean the Board cannot afford to ignore the possibility of a major drought afflicting Sydney.

A fourth point about water offers both a reason for Sydney's high consumption — and a way to reduce costs.

We use more water than we need to. We waste water in many ways, great and small.

We all need water to drink, to cook, wash clothes and keep clean. But we can comfortably get by with a lot less.

Long showers are expensive in energy and water. Many shower roses reduce the flow of water and still give a pleasing shower.

New toilet cisterns use less water than older ones. As more are installed in new houses and renovated bathrooms we all benefit.

In particular, we dump too much tap water on our gardens. Drip watering and other sensible practices can produce big dollar savings here.

We all need a change of attitude. We think nothing of nagging our children to turn off a light. How about turning off the tap when we brush our teeth?

By using less water:

- * You will reduce your own bills for the water you actually consume.
- * The Water Board will be able to delay the building of a new supply dam, due in 15 years at a minimum cost of \$150 million.
- * The Board will not have to spend millions of dollars enlarging existing mains and digging up roads.
- * Both the water supply system and water quality can be better managed.

Conserving water saves money for you and the community, through the Water Board.

Wasting water is like pouring money — your money — down the drain.

Other pamphlets in this Water Conservation Series are:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2. Water Heaters. | 7. The Laundry. |
| 3. The Bathroom. | 8. Water Tanks. |
| 4. Shower Roses. | 9. The Garden (1) |
| 5. The Kitchen. | 10. The Garden (2) |
| 6. The Toilet. | 11. The Garden (3) |

Pamphlets are available at your nearest Water Board office.

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Save water. Save money.

Water tanks

Rain water collected in a tank from the roof of your house can be unhealthy to drink.

To avoid potential pollution of the mains supply you are not permitted you are not permitted to connect a water tank with your normal mains supply without appropriate safeguards.

Tank water collected for use in the garden is not generally a practical or economic alternative to mains water.

If you are thinking about installing a water tank, consider these points:

Health

Compared with tap water, rain can be no "purer" for falling on your roof and moving quickly by gutter and downpipe into a tank.

In your gutter, the water may pass through decaying leaves and the droppings of birds and small animals. Contact with paint or lead flashing is another risk. All this can be carried into your tank.

Your roof is a catchment for wind-blown dust and deposits from factory chimneys perhaps several kilometres away.

Rain cleans the roof. The dust then becomes water-filtering silt in a partly blocked gutter or builds up as sediment in the tank — possibly both.

If not properly protected, water tanks can become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

An asbestos cement roof could, depending on its condition, be cause for concern, says the Health Department of NSW.

To avoid risk, you need to boil tank water for human consumption.

The Water Board itself occasionally issues "boil water" warnings in areas where local supply has been affected by, perhaps, heavy rain.

Preventive action is taken not because the Board KNOWS bacteria are in the water but because, IF bacteria are present the Board cannot GUARANTEE to have killed them.

This is because bacteria MAY be shielded from our disinfection by small clay particles or algae.

"Pure" rain is an abstract idea — even rain quality varies.

Your tap water is originally rain which has picked up some of the substances naturally occurring in the soils and waterways through which it has passed.

Some of these substances are harmless and add to the quality of water. Others — some bacteria, for example — are dangerous.

All mains water is disinfected to guard against outbreaks of disease.

Cost

Tank water has hidden costs beyond the price of the tank itself — even a small one.

A single downpipe diverted into a tank resting on a stand or concrete slab will usually collect only a small part of the rain landing on a house roof.

Diverting two or more downpipes into one tank could involve extensive plumbing or individual tanks for each downpipe.

Without pressure, tank water needs a pump to be useful for gardening — unless you water by hand. A suitable pump will cost about \$500.

Installing a small metal tank — about 2,500 litres — and pump will cost about \$1,000.

The tank would measure about 1.5 metres in diameter and 1.5 metres high.

Your local council could object to a water tank appearing above the fence line. It may want the tank screened or put underground.

To buy and install a small underground fibre glass tank could cost from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Putting a pre-cast concrete tank in the ground might cost up to \$5,000.

The pump will cost about 6c in electricity for every thousand litres of water it moves.

(over)

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Rainfall

Sydney averages 1200mm of rain a year. But the rainfall pattern is variable and unpredictable. In 1980 only 684mm fell: last year, 2,100mm fell in the first seven months.

With average rainfall, even a small tank might take several days to fill while two sprinklers could empty it in one hour.

If you then entered a dry spell, you would not have tank water when you needed it most.

Of course, we don't get rain every day. Sydney averages 140 rainfall days a year. In March, April, May and June, 12 or 13 raindays a month produce an average of 10mm of rain each day. In September, 11 raindays produce an average of 6mm a day.

In fact, Sydney commonly goes weeks without rain and months with very little.

To get through these problem times, a 6,000 litre tank would be about the smallest size useful for an average suburban garden.

Councils

All councils are required under the Local Government Act to ensure water tanks are mosquito proof.

Additional requirements of some councils are:

Bankstown City Council

Written application stating tank size, material and location in relation to house. Applications dealt with on their merits. Visual effect on neighbours considered. Screening with trees, or underground tank might be required.

Blacktown City Council

Building application and letters of consent from neighbours. Probably a development application if tank intended for commercial use. Possibility of an overflow causing a nuisance considered.

Baulkham Hills Shire Council

A building application for the tank and tank stand plus next door owner's comments. Approval, if conditional, may require compliance with council ordinance overflow problems, as well as with nextdoor's comments.

Holroyd Municipal Council

Building application. Neighbours might be canvassed. Even if not refusing application, inspectors would warn against collecting water from older roofs made with corrugated asbestos sheets or having lead fittings.

Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council

Building application and neighbours' comments. Plant or trellis screening might be required. A tank would add to the built-on area of a property (house, driveway, paving, garden sheds) which under the council's Environmental Planning Scheme should not exceed 60 per cent of land area. Going above 60 per cent will require a development application.

North Sydney Municipal Council

Not allowed. The possibility of overflow problems on North Sydney's rocky terrain is considered too great.

Ryde Municipal Council

Building Department requires block plan showing tank's position relative to house and fence and side view of tank. Should state how tank will be supported e.g. concrete slab, metal stand. Town Planning Department has no regulations for water tanks except on commercial premises "but that may change."

Save water. Save money.

In the bathroom

Baths and Showers

By combining the bath and the shower you can save on plumbing fixture costs.

Using a diverter to alternate the water flow from the bath to the shower rose will also save on plumbing costs.

A half-filled bath may well use less water than a long shower — and be more relaxing.

Have the bath insulated — you can use fibreglass batts — to retain the water temperature. This avoids wasting water and energy through having to top up with more hot water.

Use insulated or “lagged” hot water pipes when building or remodelling. This will retain hot water longer in the pipes and reduce the need to flush cold water from your hot water taps.

Taps

Aerating taps can reduce water flow rates by up to 50 per cent without reducing the effectiveness or usefulness of the water flow. They reduce splashing and are relatively inexpensive.

Single-lever (or knob) mixing taps avoid the need to use separate hot and cold taps to balance water flow and temperature. This can prevent wastage. These taps are suitable only for mains pressure.

Electronic and spring-loaded or spring-return taps prevent anyone leaving them turned on. They can encourage good water conservation practices like not letting the tap run while brushing your teeth but are perhaps better suited to public and industrial applications than to household use.

Quarter-turn taps for bath or basin provide full water flow and shut-off in one quarter of a turn. This gives more control over the water flow compared with the conventional full turn taps which require several turns. These taps are fitted with ceramic seats instead of washers, making them less likely to leak.

Taps, especially for the bath, hand basin or kitchen sink, are marginal water savers. Other factors such as style and convenience combined with water economy can make the more expensive type of taps worthwhile additions when you are building or renovating.

Leaking taps can annoy people, discolour some sinks and baths and waste water.

One drip per second uses seven thousand litres (7 kilolitres) of water a year. A steady dribble could waste much more — including your cash.

Flow Control Valves

Another water and energy saving device is the flow control valve. This can be installed in conjunction with conventional taps and shower roses to restrict the amount of water used.

Sometimes called “restrictors”, they are made to give flow rates of from three to 15 litres per minute.

The flow control valve simply restricts the flow rate of water used. The quality of the shower depends on the ability of the shower rose to perform well with a reduced flow of water (fewer, smaller holes will help).

Valves with low flow rates are acceptable when connected behind taps for handwashing.

A minimum rate of five to seven litres per minute is required for showering and 15 litres per minute is necessary when flow control valves are used with unpressurised tank water or gravity feed hot water systems.

Flow control valves are used in institutional buildings such as boarding schools, hospitals, hotels and nursing homes.

See separate information sheet on shower roses.

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SYDNEY - ILLAWARRA - BLUE MOUNTAINS



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In the laundry

Washing Machines

You want a washing machine to get the dirt out of clothes at a price (for machine and running costs) you can afford.

Most people are thinking about these points when they go shopping for a washing machine.

You should think also about how much water a machine uses and how efficiently.

These factors rank high among all the other considerations of energy consumption, load size, cycles and controls you will want to know about.

Water Consumption

Over a wide range of models currently available, water consumption varies from 60 litres to 200 litres of water per load.

Most models suitable for family use probably fall inside the 80 litre to 180 litre range.

Front v Top Loading

Front loading washing machines generally use about 25 per cent less water than top loading machines of the same size.

Tests by the consumer magazine, Choice, suggest there is little to choose between the two types as dirt removers.

According to Choice, top loaders usually have a quicker cycle and are usually cheaper. Low-sudsing detergents are not necessary.

Front loaders, as well as using less water, are more energy efficient, and usually less noisy. They will save space and trouble if you stack a dryer on top.

Also, you will have to bend your knees to load and unload.

Disabled persons confined to wheelchairs may find front loaders easier to use than top loaders.

Suds Saving

Some machines have a suds-saving function with about 35 per cent water saving for successive loads.

For these machines, you need either two tubs or a single bowl tub with a rinse by-pass. The tub capacity must also be large enough to hold a full load of wash water from the machine.

A water level control will also save water with small, special loads.

If you don't have a water level control, use full loads to conserve water. Waste is using 100 litres of water to wash a pair of socks, but remember that overloading reduces cleaning efficiency and can be rough on clothes.

Water pressure

Some models are designed to work with low water pressure which makes for longer cycles.

With this in mind, anyone with a gravity feed storage heater should choose a washing machine carefully as should anyone near the low end of water mains pressure (150 kPa).

If you are in doubt about your mains water pressure, check your local Water Board office for the lowest pressure in your area (when most people are using water).

Cold water washing

You may always want the option of hot water for extra dirty washes. Consider cold water washing, with a suitable detergent, as an energy-saver with ordinary washes.

(Choice reviewed washing machines in its issues of October 1988 and November 1989, and laundry detergents in its issue of February 1990).

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In the toilet

About 23 per cent of all water used indoors by many households is flushed down the toilet. That figure makes the toilet a prime target for water conservation and lower water bills.

Older toilet cisterns use 13 litres on each flush. More modern types use 11 litres, and the latest types only 9 litres.

A dual-flush system has also been developed to overcome the heavy use of water which is often not needed for liquid waste.

A system with two flushes (9 litres and 4.5 litres) from which you can choose can reduce toilet water by about 50 per cent.

The smaller flush will dispose of liquid but not toilet paper, tissues or other solids.

An alternative is the low-volume toilet cistern. Some models use as little as 4.5 litres a flush. This can reduce conventional toilet water usage by up to 60 per cent.

An existing toilet can be modified to dual flush by changing the cistern.

The low-volume cistern should NOT be used with a standard pan: the pan will not flush properly.

The low-volume cistern requires a pan specially designed to cope with low water volumes. It is not suitable for single-storey buildings.

Both systems are well worth considering if you are building a house or renovating an older toilet.

For householders not yet ready to make the change, a kit is available to convert a single-flush cistern to dual-flush (if it is no more than about 15 years old and has a push button on top).

The conversion kit will cost about \$45. It is available at most plumbing suppliers and some hardware stores. It can be fairly easily installed using a large shifting spanner.

In the old days of high-level cisterns, placing a brick or bottle of water in a cistern (to displace water) was one way of saving water in a drought.

With more modern, compact, low-level cisterns there is usually little room to put a brick or bottle.

If you wish to reduce the size of the flush slightly you can, if

the ball valve arm is made of brass, bend it downwards to lower the level of water the cistern will hold. Don't attempt this if the arm is made of plastic.

Use both hands on the brass arm when bending. Pressure on the ball could break it. After adjusting, make sure the arm and ball are free to move.

Don't reduce the flush by too much. A small flush in a standard pan might deal with liquids but could waste water by making second flushing necessary for solids.

Don't Use Your Toilet As An Ashtray Or Wastebasket

Every time you flush a cigarette, paper tissue or other bit of small rubbish down the toilet you are wasting water — perhaps 11 litres or more.

Check Your Toilet For Leaks

A leaking cistern may not be seen or barely even heard, but can waste thousands of litres of water a year.

To check for a leak, put a little food colouring in the toilet cistern.

If, without flushing, the colouring begins to appear in the toilet bowl, the cistern requires attention.

Check The Whole House For Leaks

Read your water meter before you go to work and again when you come home. If both readings are the same, you have a leak-free home.

If the second reading is higher and IF you are sure no-one has been at home using water, check all taps inside and outdoors, for leaks.

If you have a falling level type of gravity feed water heater you must be sure it has not refilled in your absence.

If you find no leaks, a water pipe on your property may be leaking underground. Call your nearest Water Board office.

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Save water. Save money.

Watering systems

Garden watering systems save time. They are convenient. Many different systems are available to suit the pocket of just about all home gardeners.

Whether a system suits the needs of a particular garden is the key question which prospective buyers have to answer.

The following hints will help our customers to save time, water — and money.

Watering By Hand

* Don't throw out the watering can. Use it to go straight to the roots of a plant — where moisture is needed. Useful for isolated "heavy drinker" plants such as tomatoes etc...

* Watering with a hand-held hose can help a gardener to relax. But there's a tendency to water too frequently and too lightly. Fewer and heavier helpings of water are more beneficial to plants.

Hose-End Sprinklers

* Ordinary sprinklers are faster, and still cheap, but have to be moved around and turned on and off. To reach garden corners they may waste water on fences or pathways.

Travelling sprinklers

* These are sprinklers on wheels. They move on a pre-set route, powered by the pressure of the water they discharge.

They are best suited to large, flat, newly cut areas of lawn such as golf courses and parks.

* An inexpensive mini-model is fitted with a tracking wheel to follow the course of its hose laid out in front. It is suitable for irregularly shaped gardens.

Fixed Watering Systems

Drip systems

* Drip or trickle systems are probably the most efficient watering devices. No good for lawns. Great for larger vegetables, fruit trees, bushes, shrubs, hanging baskets and sloping areas to reduce water loss from run-off.

Typical drippers will deliver water at 2, 4 or 8 litres of water an hour. Thirty drippers at 4 litres an hour give you 120 litres of water an hour exactly where you want it compared with one pop-up sprinkler spraying maybe 1,000 litres in the same time and not reaching remote or sheltered areas.

Micro-sprays

* Micro-sprays have different patterns and angles of light spray. They are best suited to annuals, shrubberies and small, irregularly shaped garden areas.

Pop-up sprinklers

* These are generally used for large lawns. They are set flush with the lawn and will pop up under pressure to start watering.

They can be controlled by hand — turning a tap — or by a timer.

Most brands of sprinklers and micro-sprays have a range of jets with different spray patterns and angles of spray to suit different sections of a garden.

Automatic fixed systems

* An automatic system can be programmed to water a garden as frequently as you wish — useful while you are away from home.

* To avoid watering in the rain, invest in an override device. This is basically a rain gatherer which is set to operate after a specified amount of rain has fallen. The device trips the power supply and temporarily prevents a watering system from working.

Some models can be made inaccurate by leaves, dust or birds. A tensiometer, a kind of moisture sensor in the ground, is probably more reliable although it won't register in very dry soil.

* Fixed sprinkler systems may be convenient but they are not water savers. They are heavy water-users.

The Australian Water Resources Council said of sprinklers that they "contribute to ineffectual use and misuse of water for garden requirements."

Even drip systems can waste water if not properly used.

(over)

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Mixed systems

You can design a watering system which employs a combination of drippers, micro-sprays and fixed sprinklers where they are best suited.

Timers

* Use a timer at the tap to turn off any sprinkler, drip or micro-spray system even if you don't install a full watering system.

Garden sprinklers deliver water at rates between about 200 L/h and 1500 L/h. A forgotten sprinkler could easily cost you thousands of litres of wasted water.

General

* Don't buy more sprinkler power than you can use. Some sprinklers are designed for low to medium water pressure areas.

* High water pressure and small sprinkler jet holes both tend to produce mist. On a windy day, you could lose most of this misty spray.

* Set up sprinklers or micro sprays to water plants, not paths and fences. Use a broom to clean concrete or paved areas.

* If you are watering in hot weather, your neighbours are likely to be doing the same. Together, you can reduce water pressure appreciably.

* Rainfall of 5 to 10 millimetres will penetrate the root zones of most plants. More may be needed to promote deeper root growth. Allow for mulches holding water, and for run-off from compacted soil.

You can easily check how long a sprinkler or spray takes to deliver that amount of water.

Place a few ice cream containers near it. Measure the water depth after 10 or 20 minutes. Calculate the average depth and adjust watering times accordingly.

* If in doubt about the kind of watering system you need, consult your local garden nursery. To help, prepare a diagram showing areas of lawn, shrubs etc with measurements.

Installing your watering system

* Don't take risks. Pesticides and herbicides can get into low-

level or underground systems and be drawn back into your drinking water.

* This "backflow" can contaminate a whole neighbourhood's water supply if a watermain has to be drained during repair work or when firemen pump directly from a main.

* Proper installation is the only answer. Sprinkler or spray systems whose pipework is fixed at or below ground level **MUST** be installed by a licensed plumber or irrigator.

* You may install a system yourself IF the pipework is above ground level and is not subject to ground surface flooding and **PROVIDED** you connect it only to a garden tap and fit an approved backflow preventer at the tap.

Losing water by evaporation

On extremely hot, dry and windy days evaporation could take up to half of the sprinkler water applied to a lawn.

You'll lose less from evaporation as wind and temperature fall and humidity rises.

High, swirling sprinkler jets will lose more from evaporation than those with lower trajectories.

Water in small droplets is more prone to evaporation than the same volume of water in fewer and larger droplets.

It is a gardening myth that watering the leaves of trees and shrubs is good for them. You lose water through evaporation and, on hot sunny days, could damage some plants.

It is illegal to use sprinklers in Sydney, Illawarra and the Blue Mountains between 9 pm and 6 am. This restriction is needed to allow local reservoirs to be refilled overnight.

Golf courses and similar recreational areas may (on application) be exempted from the ban if daytime watering will clearly interfere with their normal activities.

Save water. Save money.

Water heaters

Hot water is essential to the comfort and good health of your family. This makes a hot water heater an important home purchase.

Heating water makes up a big part of most household fuel bills. The type of heater you choose and how you install and maintain it can significantly affect the amount of water you use.

Storage Heaters

The basic choice is between two types.

One employs the pressure from water mains to supply a flow of water to household taps and appliances. The other takes in mains water but relies on gravity to move the water from the storage tank to taps.

Mains Pressure Heaters:

- use gas, electricity or solar energy.
- provide a stronger flow of water, with pressure from hot and cold taps about the same.
- often can be situated outdoors to save indoor space.

Gravity Feed Heaters:

- are usually electric but can be part of a solar system.
- last longer, generally 25-30 years compared with around 10-15 years for mains pressure heaters.
- are usually out of the way above the ceiling but ceiling models often cannot be installed in new houses because of space limitations.
- reduce water usage because of lower flow rates. Flow will be significantly reduced if two taps are opened. Difficulty arises in balancing hot and cold water with mixed outlets such as the shower.
- may cause problems with washing machines because of low hot water pressure.

- can be boosted by connecting the storage tank with a back boiler or heating coil to a solid fuel stove (unlike mains pressure heaters).

With the most common type of gravity feed heater, cold water enters the bottom of the tank, displacing the hot water being drawn off. The cold water and the unused hot water remain unmixed in separate layers. Good mains water pressure is required.

Another type is more suitable where mains pressure is slow to refill the storage tank. When all hot water is used, the tank refills and is heated. This "falling level" type supplies a better flow rate to several outlets at the one time.

Solar Water Heaters

- are made to suit all kinds of house design although flat roofs can pose an aesthetic problem — the collector plates have to be raised on brackets.
- require an electric booster to ensure supply.

Provided these systems are well designed and installed, the sun should provide a family of five with 60 per cent of its annual hot water supply.

Heat Pump Water Heaters

Fairly new on the Australian market, these heaters pump heat from the surrounding air to the water using an evaporator/compressor system similar to those in refrigerators and air conditioners.

Instantaneous Heaters

are gas or electric, have no storage capacity and cannot benefit from off-peak heating tariffs.

They are useful where no space exists for storage or where hot water is infrequently needed: bath/shower, sink, weekender.

(over)

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Installation

For quicker hot water (and less unwanted cold water) place storage heater as close as possible to your most frequently used taps, probably the kitchen.

Insulate hot water pipes to retain heat. This saves energy and helps to reduce cold water wastage at the tap.

Capacity

Choose a storage heater with a capacity to suit YOUR family's present and expected needs — Dishwasher? Hot or cold clothes wash? Short showers? Baby baths? Frequent guests?

Some heat loss is unavoidable. With too much storage you waste energy by heating water you don't use.

Home heaters range from 40 litre to 400 litre capacity. Larger ones qualify for off-peak tariffs.

A tank of around 300 litres on overnight electric off-peak heating will probably provide enough hot water on most days of the year for two adults and two children.

Temperature

Temperatures up to 80 degrees C are usual for copper and copper-lined steel tanks and up to 70 degrees C for glass-lined steel mains pressure heaters.

You may find a temperature between 60 degrees C and 70 degrees C high enough for your needs. Higher temperatures increase the rate of heat loss. Below 60 degrees C you risk allowing bacteria to multiply.

Check pressure and temperature relief valve as recommended by manufacturer — usually every six months.

The safety valve counters excessive pressure or temperature by releasing small amounts of water through a small bore pipe.

A little dribbling water is normal during heating. For a dribble when the water is not being heated, or for a steady stream of water at any time, call a plumber.

Holidays

Turn off your water heater if you are leaving your home unoccupied for more than three days.

Save water. Save money.

Watering the garden

Surveys show that many Australians give their gardens more water than they need — or is good for them.

From 25% to 40% of the water used by many Sydney, Illawarra and Blue Mountains households goes on the garden. Much of it is wasted water for which the customer pays.

The following hints from Water Board experts are based on sound gardening practices which will save water — and money.

- * Watering your garden lightly with the hose every evening might be good for you: it won't do much for the plants.

Light watering pampers plants. It makes them shallow rooted, more prone to dry out and lazy about reaching deep into the soil to find moisture.

Less frequent soakings will make the plants hardier, better able to withstand a dry spell, and will reduce the loss of water from evaporation.

Established ornamentals don't mind water-saving. Moderate water stress in the plants reduces the need to cut them back.

A bamboo is a useful indicator. Water when its leaves start to droop — and don't forget to keep it under control.

- * It makes sense to arrange plants in your garden into groups of high, medium or low water users. This will help you to design watering systems producing the least waste of water.

- * Restrict all watering to the cool of the evening or early morning to limit evaporation.

- * Be nice to worms. They help to make your garden soil better able to soak up water. Digging in well rotted compost will also reduce run-off when you are watering.

Watering lawns

We lavish more water on our lawns — in addition to rain — than any other part of the garden. Most of this extra water is not needed.

Don't panic if the lawn starts to turn brown. Most lawns will survive summer without extra watering and turn green again

with autumn rain.

If you want a green lawn, you can still keep it in fairly good condition on a low-water budget.

- * Delay watering as long as possible in the warm months. Lengthen the time between waterings. Water only long enough to soak the roots — and a little more to encourage deep rooting. These methods will help make the lawn more drought resistant.

- * Aerate or spike compacted soil to allow more effective soaking and to reduce wasteful run-off.

- * Don't mow below about 2 cm. If cut slightly higher, home lawns will be hardier, more drought resistant — and still look good.

- * In scientific tests, a lightly fertilised lawn used 30% less water than an unfertilised one of the same grass type.

- * Leave clippings on the lawn — if you don't mind the sight — to reduce the need for fertilisers and make the grass hardier.

- * Intervals between maintenance watering will depend on factors such as rainfall, soil and grass types, temperature and evaporation. Generally, 10 millimetres of water (rain and/or sprinkler) once a week will maintain a lawn reasonably well.

For most of the year, in Sydney, Illawarra and the Blue Mountains average rainfall might be all you need. After heavy rainfall, watering might not be needed for two or three weeks.

November and December are doubtful months. They commonly produce rainfall below the monthly averages for most areas but also have high evaporation rates.

In these conditions, plants use and need more water. If nature is ignoring averages, your lawn may need help.

January is a high evaporation month for Sydney but also records above average rainfall in most suburbs.

Mulching to save water

Mulches applied around plants will improve the soil's ability to retain moisture. This can reduce evaporation by 70 per cent to 80 per cent, greatly reducing the need for watering.

(over)

Sydney has huge reserves of water, but by wasting water we strain the system that delivers it to our taps. Wasting water is like pouring money down the drain. Conserve water and you'll keep your water bill down. The more water you save, the longer Sydney can delay building new dams and other expensive works needed to supply a growing population with water.



WATER BOARD
SYDNEY - ILLAWARRA - BLUE MOUNTAINS



THE NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT
Putting people first by managing better

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Good mulching materials (alone or mixed, 3-4 cm deep) include compost, straw, dry animal manure, seaweed, bark and wood chips. Lawn clippings and leaves are best mixed with other mulching materials. Alone, they tend to compress into a water-resistant shield.

These mulches will decompose, adding nutrients to the soil and improving its texture. This will also improve the soil's ability to absorb water and so reduce wasteful run-off.

Organic mulches deeper than 3-4 cm further reduce evaporation but only slightly. Also, by holding water they reduce the amount of rain or sprinkler water reaching plant roots.

Other mulching materials include pebbles, crushed bricks

and black plastic sheets. Make holes in the sheets to allow water to reach the soil.

With high temperatures, black plastic sheeting can damage or kill plant roots. The plastic should be shaded, covered with straw or removed.

- * Water plants well before applying mulch.
- * Keep mulch away from tree trunks. Direct contact can damage trees.
- * Remove weeds. They compete for water and nutrients. Mulching will then help to stop other weeds growing.
- * Mulch on sloping ground will slow down water run-off and allow soil more time to absorb water.

Save water. Save money.

In the kitchen

About 10 per cent of all the water used by the average household goes in the kitchen. These are the ways in which water in the kitchen is commonly used:

Dishwasher:	Average 40 to 50 litres per wash.
Dishwashing by hand:	18 litres per wash.
Drinking, cooking, household cleaning:	An average of 8 litres per person per day.
Waste disposal unit:	30 litres per day.

Dishwashers

A trend towards greater water efficiency is apparent with some makes of dishwasher, the result of slightly reduced capacity or improved design.

Water needed for a wash can vary from under 30 litres to as high as 90 litres. The range makes water usage a shopping factor along with price, washing time, noise and other design features.

Dishwashers usually can be fitted to either a hot or cold connection. A cold water connection is the more economical. It means hot water is not used in some of the rinsing.

Some designs have more efficient spray patterns and make better use of water during wash and rinse cycles than others.

Check economy programs. These may save water and energy by varying or omitting some wash, rinse or drying cycles. An economy program may not, however, properly clean heavily soiled pots and pans.

Always fill the dishwasher: part loads waste water and electricity.

If you are looking for your first dishwasher, remember that it will help to reduce kitchen work, not eliminate it. Dishwashers have to be stacked and emptied, and the filter kept clean.

Some cooking dishes may have to be washed by hand. Plastic containers can buckle under the high temperatures. Delicate items of lead crystal and wood might better be washed by hand.

If yours is a small household you may not accumulate dirty dishes quickly enough to warrant regular use of a dishwasher.

Compare cost and convenience before buying.

(The consumer magazine, *Choice*, reported on dishwashers in May 1987, October 1987 and March 1989).

Taps

A number of types of tap reduce water use and prevent wastage.

— Aerating taps (and spouts) are relatively inexpensive and effective. They can reduce flow rates by up to 50 per cent without compromising

the washing effect of the water stream. They also reduce splashing.

— Quarter turn taps provide better control over water flow. Water savings are estimated at 5 per cent of conventional taps. Also, because they have ceramic seats instead of washers, they are less likely to leak.

— Single lever (or knob) mixing taps can prevent wastage by avoiding the need to use separate hot and cold taps to balance water flow and temperature. They also have ceramic seats. Their water savings are similar to those for quarter turn taps but are suitable only for mains pressure.

— Spring loaded and electronic taps shut off automatically. They are probably more suited to public and industrial applications than to household use.

In general, these taps are marginal water savers. They are best considered when building or renovating.

Leaks

Leaking taps can annoy people, discolour some sinks and waste water.

One drip per second uses seven thousand litres (7 kilolitres) of water per year. A steady dribble could waste hundreds of kilolitres per year - and add to your water bill.

Garbage Disposal Units

These units use, on average, about 30 litres a day. A better way of disposing of fruit and vegetable scraps is to put them on a compost heap to improve your garden.

General

With storage heaters, you may need to run a litre or more of water before hot water reaches you. This first flow of cold water won't be wasted if, for example, your sink is plugged for washing dishes.

Waste frequently occurs when the hot water tap is run for quick jobs such as rinsing a coffee mug, wiping a smudged kitchen knife or bench top, or preparing plates for the dishwasher.

Consider whether you need hot water at all for such jobs. You may be wasting power AND water.

In the same way, if you keep a container of drinking water in the fridge in summer it will save running water from the tap until it is cold.

Use only a small amount of water in a saucepan to boil vegetables. Better still, steam vegetables for tastier and healthier results. You'll save water and heating energy.

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WATER BOARD
SYDNEY - ILLAWARRA - BLUE MOUNTAINS



THE NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT
Putting people first by managing better

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Save water. Save money.

In the shower

Shower roses

A satisfying shower can easily use as much water as half filling a bath twice. How many of us take two baths before breakfast.

Shorter showers obviously save water and money, and three to four minutes may well look after basic body cleaning.

But muscular and mental pains have to be soothed. There are day dreams, songs to be sung, the need to be alone, a lifting of spirits.

No doubt about it: a shower can be more than an all-over wash — but at a price!

In fact, you can use much less water with little loss of showering pleasure.

Some large shower outlets give a flow rate of 25 to 30 litres per minute. At that rate, a 20 minute shower using 600 litres of water could hog all of your family's stored hot water.

So, try heading for the garden to day-dream and be alone. Your shower might easily come down to 10 minutes — still above average. That will save 300 litres of water with each shower.

Study some of the dozens of controlled flow shower roses on the market.

A controlled flow shower rose is a limiting device which aerates the water so that the amount used can be reduced by up to two-thirds.

These roses have other benefits. A suitable rose could make a limited hot water supply go further, reduce inconvenience and allow more showers in quick succession.

Standards Australia has a standard, AS 3662, for water efficient shower roses.

A Water Board efficiency rating and labelling scheme is expected to be introduced towards the middle of 1990.

Thereafter, shower rose efficiency should be easily found by reference to an efficiency rating sticker or card on the rose.

CHOICE magazine, the journal of the Australian Consumers' Association, conducted a survey of 22 shower roses. Results were published in the February 1989 edition.

Tests were carried out according to the draft version of Australian Standard AS 3662 which basically makes water flowrate the key test for economy.

According to the draft standard, a water efficient shower rose

should operate at or below 12 litres per minute — an obvious saving of gas or electricity and water.

CHOICE found that for a family of four, energy savings alone could amount to a few hundred dollars a year at the lowest off-peak rate and much more at higher rates.

Some models using 5 or 6 litres a minute were voted by CHOICE trialists as giving an acceptable quality shower.

If you have a gravity feed water heater you should choose a rose designed to give good shower characteristics with a low water flow rate.

How to tell if your shower is wasting water

You may simply have a rose gushing water at 25 litres a minute or one designed for a gravity feed system but which works inefficiently with mains pressure hot water.

You need to know how much water your shower uses before you can determine how much you can save.

Work out your shower rose's flow rate in four easy steps:

1. Turn on shower to normal heat and force.
2. Collect the full flow in a bucket for 10 seconds.
3. Measure the collected water in litres (a milk bottle holds 0.6 litres).
4. Multiply the figure by six. You have your shower's flow rate in litres per minute.

Now you know how much water you use in the shower you can shop around for a shower rose that will use less water and still give you a shower you like.

You have calculated the flow rate of your existing shower. You need also to consider:

1. The type of hot water service you have (mains pressure or gravity feed).
2. What you want in a shower (coarse or misty spray, halo effect, massage bursts etc).
3. How your existing shower rose is connected (you may need a new shower arm).
4. Price: \$10 to \$100 is about the range.

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Save water. Save money.

Save water with natives

Once established, Australian native plants need less work and water than most plants traditionally grown in home gardens.

Flowering varieties reaching various heights are suitable for small or large gardens.

Native trees and shrubs will repay initial nursing by looking after themselves.

They become hardy and drought resistant, and usually flourish with available rainfall even through hot summer weeks.

Native plants are usually bought from nurseries in four main categories. These are:

- * Super-advanced, in pot sizes ranging from 300 millimetres in diameter to a capacity of 35 litres.
- * Advanced, in 200 mm pots.
- * Semi-advanced, in 150 mm pots.
- * Tubes of 50 mm.

Generally, the larger the plant when purchased, the more time consuming it will be to establish in the first two months.

Super-advanced plants need larger planting holes and greater watering frequency.

Tubes, designed for planting smaller plants directly into the ground, are more economical to buy, and need less water. They are ideal for people who don't need an instant flowering garden.

Advanced plants, usually already flowering and costing around \$10, are the most commonly sold size to home gardeners. They might take slightly longer to adapt but soon catch up in normal growth.

Super-advanced plants, at around \$25 each, are usually bought for established gardens or to make an instant one. They need extra time to maintain.

Here is a step-by-step guide to planting potted natives:

- * Buy plants within a few days of planting, remove weeds without disturbing the roots and keep moist. Water each pot on planting day.
- * Remove grass and weeds for a one-metre diameter circle around planting spot.
- * Dig a hole three times the diameter of the pot (300 mm for tubes) and as deep as the soil in the pot.
- * Loosen the sides and base of the hole, half fill with water and allow to soak in.
- * Apply a slow-release fertiliser if needed. Remove any stakes, ties and labels from plant.
- * Remove plant from pot without disturbing root ball and place in the hole so that the top of the soil around the root ball is level with the rim of the hole.

(With tubes, half fill hole with soil, mixing in good loam, and firm. Place plant in hole. Fill remainder of hole with loam and existing soil, and firm.)

- * Stake for support or protection if necessary.
- * Replace soil, firming progressively and mixing in some good loam.
- * Around the outside of the planting circle, make a trench 50 mm deep or raise a mound 75 mm wide and 50 mm above ground level.
- * Apply enough water to wet the root ball. Mulch with leaves or straw 50 mm deep.
- * In the absence of rain, water once or twice a week until water is absorbed and starts to run off. Tubes, quickest to adapt, need little water after the first few weeks.

(over)

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Here are a few plants recommended for home gardeners as suitable for dry conditions.

SMALL EVERGREEN TREES 2.5M TO 4M

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<i>Popular Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
Acacia baileyana	Cootamundra wattle	Silver foliage, yellow flowers.
Acacia spectabilis	Mudgee wattle	Fine foliage, yellow flowers.
Banksia ericifolia	Heath Banksia	Bronze flowers, fine foliage.
Callistemon citrinus	Crimson Bottlebrush	Red flowers.

LARGE SHRUBS 1.8M TO 2.5M

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<i>Popular Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
Acacia floribunda		Yellow flowers, quick growing.
Acacia podalyriaefolia	Mt. Morgan Wattle	Silver foliage, yellow flowers.
Banksia spinulosa	thinleaf	Yellow flowers.
Callistemon 'Hanna Ray'	Banksia Bottlebrush	Red flowers.

SHRUBS 300MM TO 1.8M HIGH

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<i>Popular Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
Acacia drummondii	Drummond Wattle	Yellow flowers.
Cassia artemisioides	Silver cassia	Silver foliage, yellow flowers.
Eriostemon myoporoides	longleaf waxflower	Pinkish white flowers.
Grevillea rosmarinifolia	Rosemary Grevillea	Red flowers.

SHRUBS — GROUNDCOVERS FOR DRY CONDITIONS UP TO 300MM

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<i>Popular Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
Cissus species	rock rose	Variegated foliage.
Dampiera diversifolia	damperia	Masses of blue flowers.
Grevillea bitemata		Cream flowers, heavy perfume.
" bronze rambler		Bronze foliage, quick growing.
" obtusifolia		Quick growing. Dense carpet.

Save water with natives

C.D. McLachlan

MARKET LEADERS SINCE 1924

REAL ESTATE AGENTS, AUCTIONEERS, PROPERTY MANAGERS

453 The Entrance Road
Long Jetty, N.S.W. 2261
Postal Address: P.O. Box 80
The Entrance, N.S.W. 2261
Facsimile: (043) 34 1015
Telephone: (043) 32 1155

M M TEDDER
PAVANS RD WAINONI
STUARTS POINT 2441

Hello,

JUST A SHORT NOTE TO SAY : *WE HAVE JUST SOLD*

3/36 STELLA STREET, LONG JETTY
13/3 OAKS AVENUE, LONG JETTY
1/87 PACIFIC STREET, LONG JETTY

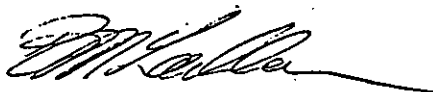
This has now left us with a shortage of property for sale in the Long Jetty area.

If you would like to take advantage of the current market situation, and would like to offer your property for sale, then please phone Bruce McLachlan (043) 32-1155.

We offer free no obligation market appraisals backed by 3 generations Real Estate experience in our area.

A successful, no fuss sale may be just a call away.

Yours faithfully,
C.D. McLACHLAN REAL ESTATE



BRUCE McLACHLAN.

LEASING - We are constantly seeking suitable property to offer our qualified tenants phone LYN HARGENSE (043) 32-1155 for leasing details.

AFTER HOURS, SALES phone Bruce McLachlan 32-3494.



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PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MEMBER FOR COFFS HARBOUR

Electorate Office
Suite 2
1 Duke Street
Coffs Harbour 2450
(066) 52 6500
Fax. (066) 52 7934

11th July, 1989

Mr. Craig Darrah,
Coffs Harbour Environment Centre,
P.O.Box 2016,
COFFS HARBOUR, N.S.W. 2450

Dear Mr. Darrah,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter setting out details of your request for information regarding the establishment of a tissue pulp factory at Bonville.

From my understanding of the matter, it is not a pulp mill at all. The production of tissues would be the end result of the raw material, i.e. pulp being brought in from overseas.

As you are no doubt aware, Australia has been exporting its raw resources since white settlement of this nation and, because of this, we are now becoming one of the very poor developed nations of the world, whilst the people in receipt of our raw materials become the wealthy nations of the world, with high living standards.

I believe we just have to produce more of the things we use ourselves and obtain the full benefit of our raw materials.

In the case of the proposed tissue factory at Bonville, the raw material would be imported from the United States of America.

When I obtain some further information I will be in touch with you again.

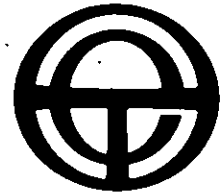
Yours sincerely,

MATT SINGLETON, M.P.
MEMBER FOR COFFS HARBOUR

WIC

TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC.

18 ARGYLE STREET, SYDNEY N.S.W. 2000
Phones (02) 247 4714 — 241 2523 Fax (02) 247 7118



22 August 1990

Jim Tedder
North Coast Environment Council
Pavans Rd.
Grassy Head
via Stuarts Point 2441

Dear Mr. Tedder, *Jim,*

Re: Wetlands Guide

I refer to our telephone conversation concerning the compilation by Total Environment Centre of a Touring Guide to NSW Wetlands with the assistance of the National Estate program. It is intended to be a non-technical guide primarily for recreationists, interested in appreciating and learning more about the natural environment.

The guide will comprise an Introduction and ten sections, each one dealing with a particular wetland. Each section is to be up to 1500 words, plus a black and white photo and/or drawing and map, covering such topics as history of the area, flora and fauna, car access and walking tracks (see enclosed Writers Guide for further details).

TEC is currently seeking contributors for the project. Since it is a limited grant we can only offer \$50 per contribution. Authorship of each section will be acknowledged. The book is planned to go to the printer by the end of the year; and contributions should be returned to TEC by 26 October, 1990. Roland Breckwoldt (author of "Wildlife in the Home Paddock") has agreed to be editor of the publication.

We hope that you will be able to assist us with this project by writing two sections on two wetlands between Taree and the Queensland border. Could you please let us know by the end of August if you can participate.

Yours sincerely,

JE
Jeff Angel
Assistant Director
Total Environment Centre

Gillian Walker
Peg Smith

Tullie Smith
066 874 350

066 857 958

Ina Intemann

838 628

Polcar 10



ULMARRA SHIRE COUNCIL

Development Proposal

A development application has been submitted by A.R. Dickinson Holdings Pty Ltd seeking consent under S.E.P.P. 14 to upgrade an existing road through Portion 144 Parish of Corindi at Red Rock. The development is designated development and Council is the consent authority.

The applicant seeks consent to upgrade a track some 100 metres long and 3.600 metres wide through S.E.P.P. 14 Wetland No. 311.

The subject development application will be on exhibition from January 12, 1994 until February 11, 1994 and may be examined at any time during ordinary office hours at —

- (a) Council's office, 15 Coldstream Street, Ulmarra
- (b) Department of Planning, 49 Victoria Street, Grafton 2460
- Department of Planning, 175 Liverpool Street, Sydney 2000

Interested persons may make a written submission or objection before 4.30pm on February 14, 1994 to Ulmarra Council and if the comment is an objection then the grounds of the objection must be specified.

Any person lodging an objection to the proposed development who is dissatisfied with the determination of the consent authority may appeal to the Land and Environment Court in accordance with Section 98 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act.

15 Coldstream Street, Ulmarra

J.P. Duggan, General Manager

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FOR

THE UPGRADING OF ACCESS ROAD
ACROSS WETLAND 311 (EPA POLICY NO. 1)

AT

REDROCK NSW

GREGORY HILL

CHARTERED ARCHITECT

153 UPPER STREET

TAMWORTH NSW 2340

PHONE (067) 667164

28TH SEPTEMBER 1993

THE GENERAL MANAGER / SHIRE CLERK
ULMARRA SHIRE COUNCIL
15 COLDSTREAM STREET
ULMARRA NSW 2461

ATTENTION: MR JOHN STONE

DEAR JOHN,

RE: DESIGNATED DEVELOPMENT WITHIN STATE ENVIRONMENT PLANNING
POLICY No.1 WETLAND No.311 REDROCK.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

THE FOLLOWING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT IS TO BE READ IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO
COUNCIL ON THIS DAY.

THE STATEMENT IS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CL.34 AND 35 OF
THE REGULATION AND THE LETTER DATED 6/9/1993 FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE.

1). THE DESIGNATED DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED BY THE DEVELOPMENT
APPLICATION IS TO UPGRADE THE EXISTING RURAL TRACK ACROSS
WETLAND 311. COMPACTED ROADBASE MATERIAL APPROXIMATELY
150-600MM DEEP BY 3600MM WIDE INCORPORATING CONCRETE PIPE
CULVERTS WILL BE USED. THE LENGTH OF THE DEVELOPMENT IS
APPROXIMATELY 100 METRES. THE ROADBASE MATERIAL TO BE USED
SHALL HAVE A MODERATE LEVEL OF CLAY CONTENT TO MINIMISE
EROSION OF THE ROAD AND SUBSEQUENT DAMAGE TO THE WETLAND. THE
ADJOINING AREAS HAVE A THICK COVER OF VEGETATION AND WILL NOT

BE DISTURBED DURING CONSTRUCTION AND THEREFORE MAINTAIN THEIR EROSION RESISTANCE.

2). THE OBJECTIVE OF THE DEVELOPMENT IS TO ENABLE ALL WEATHER ACCESS TO THE NORTH WESTERN AREAS OF THE PROPERTY BY THE OWNER A. R. DICKINSON HOLDINGS PTY LTD. WHILE CAUSING THE MINIMUM DISTURBANCE TO THE EXISTING ECOLOGY OF THE AREA.

3). THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT CONSISTS OF BOTH PERMANENT AND PERIODIC WETLANDS. THE SITE IS LOCATED BEHIND THE EXISTING MANGROVE AREAS OF THE REDROCK RIVER AND INCLUDE SALTMARSH AND REED AREAS TO THE NORTH WHICH ARE PERIODICALLY INUNDATED AND PERMANENT FRESHWATER WETLANDS TO THE SOUTHERN REGIONS. VEGETATION WITHIN THE VICINITY OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMPRISES MOSTLY NATIVE REED BEDS (BARE TWIG RUSH) AND TO A LESSER DEGREE FLOWERING LILLIES. NUMEROUS SWAMP SHE-OAKS ARE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE REED BEDS AND THESE GIVE WAY TO PAPER BARK (MELALEUCA), EUCALYPT AND LEPTOSPERNUM WOODED AREA THAT BORDER THE WETLAND. THE PERMANENT FRESHWATER AREAS CONTAIN NUMEROUS SMALL INSECTS, ZOOPLANKTON, FISH LARVAE AND POPULATIONS OF OTHER REPTILE AND BIRDS. THE VEGETATION AND ANIMAL POPULATIONS OF THE SALTMARSH (MARINE COUCH) AREA VARY ACCORDING TO THE EXTENT OF INUNDATION.

4). AS THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT CROSSES AN EXISTING WATER COURSE IT MUST HAVE INCORPORATED INTO IT PIPED CULVERTS CAPABLE OF ALLOWING THE FREE FLOW OF WATER FROM RUNOFF AREAS TO THE SOUTH. THESE CULVERTS ARE TO BE LOCATED AT THE LOWEST POINTS IN THE WATER COURSE (REFER DIAGRAM) TO RETAIN EXISTING WATER LEVELS AND TAKE CARE OF ANY PERIODIC VARIATIONS TO MAINTAIN THE EXISTING BALANCE OF THE ECOLOGY OF THE AREA.

5). THE ACCESS TRACK EXISTS AND IS CLEARLY DEFINED BY WHEEL TRACKS OF COMPACTED REED BEDS. THE PROPOSED UPGRADING OF THE TRACK WITH ROADBASE MATERIAL TO A WIDTH AND LENGTH EQUIVALENT TO THE EXISTING WILL ONLY AFFECT ALREADY DAMAGED VEGETATION.

6). THE DESIGNATED DEVELOPMENT CAN BE JUSTIFIED IN THAT IT ALREADY FORMS THE ONLY ACCESS TO THE REAR OF THE PROPERTY AND AS IT IS LOCATED AT THE NARROWEST POINT OF THE WETLAND IT IS BOTH ECONOMICAL TO CONSTRUCT AND WOULD CAUSE THE MINIMUM DISTURBANCE TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

7). THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM IN THE DEVELOPMENT IS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CULVERTS TO MAINTAIN THE WATER LEVELS IN ADJOINING AREAS. IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF THE PROPERTY TO PERIODICALLY CHECK AND CLEAR THESE CULVERTS TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE WITHIN THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE AREA.

22 8).-----

9). THE WET LAND AREA COVERS A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE PROPERTY AND THERE EXISTS NO FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE DEVELOPMENT AS IT CROSSES THE WET LAND AT THE NARROWEST POINT AND EXISTS AS AN ACCESS AT PRESENT.

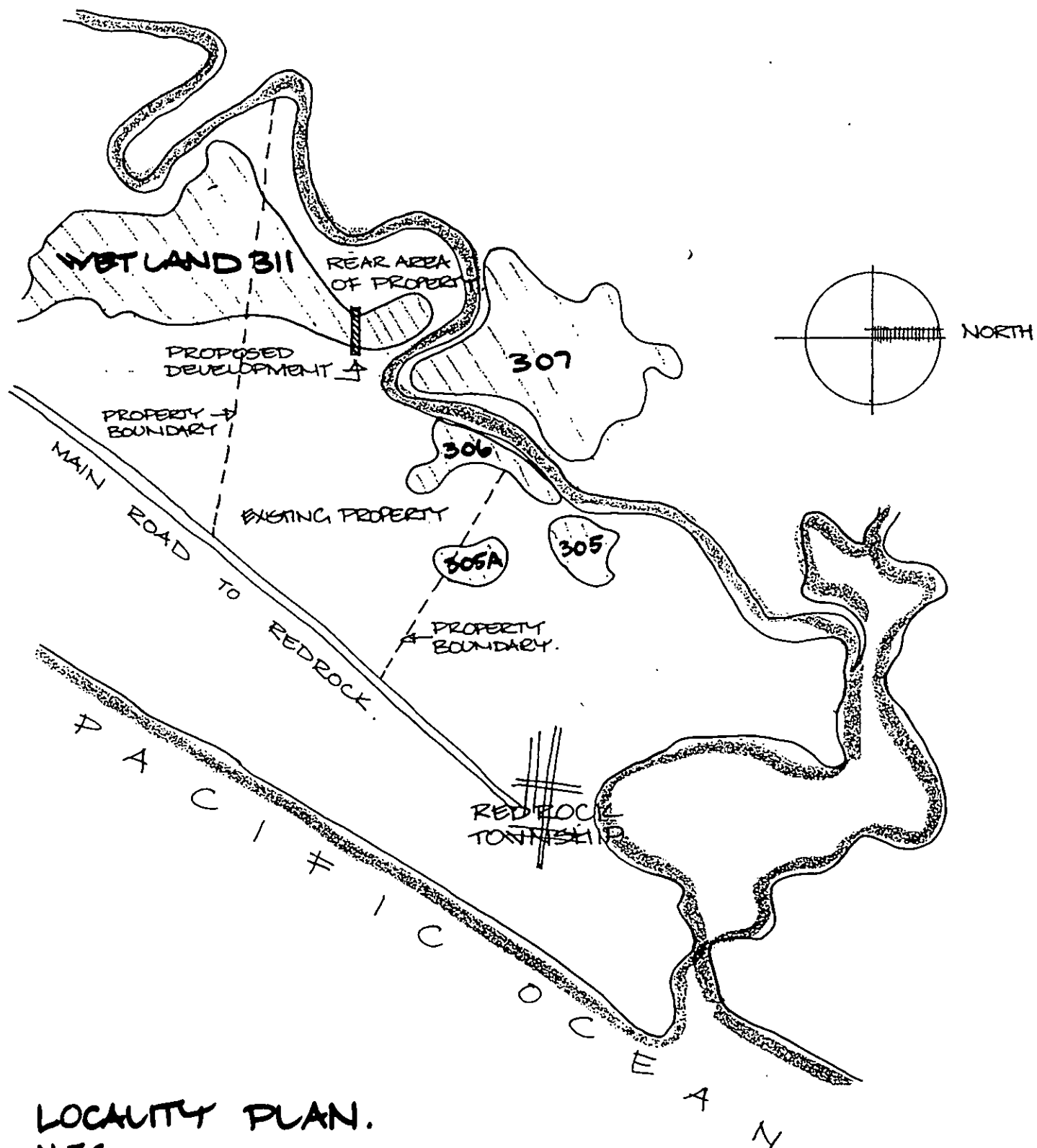
10). IF THE DEVELOPMENT WAS NOT TO BE CARRIED OUT AND THE EXISTING ACCESS WAS RETAINED IN ITS PRESENT STATE VEHICULAR MOVEMENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO COMPACT AND DAMAGE THE EXISTING AND ADJOINING VEGETATION BY CAUSING DEEP RUTTING AND SUBSEQUENT BUILDING UP OF COMPACTED VEGETATION BANKS TO THE ROAD SIDE THUS ALTERING THE WATER LEVELS.

IN CONCLUSION WE SEE THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AS THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF ACCESS TO THE PROPERTY AND ONE

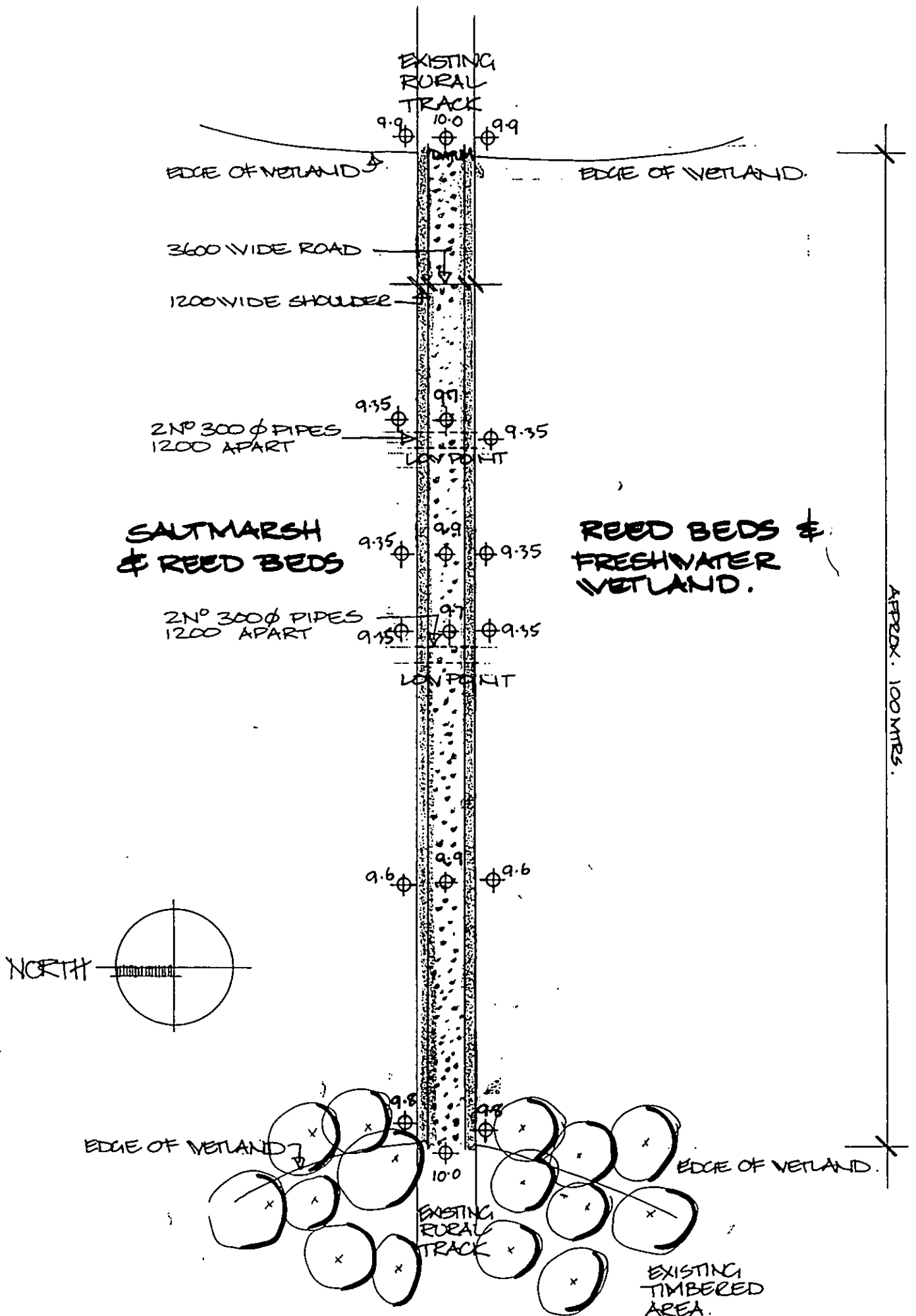
WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE EXISTING IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

PIPE CULVERT CONSTRUCTION

THE PIPE CULVERTS SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED OF 4 NO. 300MM DIAMETER HUMES CONCRETE PIPES PLACED IN PAIRS 1200MM APART AT THE TWO LOW POINTS IN THE ROADWAY. THE SEPARATION OF THE PIPES WILL REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF EROSION BY DISPERSING THE RUNOFF OVER A LARGER AREA. REFER TO DIAGRAM FOR LOCATION AND LEVELS. THE LOW POINTS IN THE ROADWAY SHALL FORM THE EMERGENCY OVERFLOW.



LOCALITY PLAN.
N.T.S.



LOCATION DIAGRAM.
SCALE 1:500.



Department of Planning

NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Mr. A.R. Dickinson
Dickinson Holdings Pty Ltd
10 Lawson Street
RED ROCK NSW 2456

N.S.W. Government Offices
49 Victoria Street,
Grafton 2460
P.O. Box 6, Grafton 2460

Telephone : (066) 42 0622 Ext:

Fax No. : (066) 42 0640

Contact :

Our Reference : G92/00438

Your Reference :

6.9.93

Dear Mr. Dickinson,

DESIGNATED DEVELOPMENT WITHIN STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
POLICY NO. 14 WETLAND NO. 311, RED ROCK

Thank you for your letter of 10th August, 1993 indicating that you are consulting with the Director with regard to the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the above development.

2. As development consent is required for the proposal and it is a designated development pursuant to State Environmental Planning Policy No. 14 - Coastal Wetlands, an EIS must accompany the development application to the Ulmarra Council. The EIS must be prepared in accordance with clause 34 (copy attached) of the Regulation and any additional information the Director requires pursuant to clause 35 (see paragraph 4). The EIS should also bear a certificate required by clause 26(1)(b) of the Regulation.

3. An EIS need not be a large or expensive document. While clause 34 of the Regulation and additional information required by the Director involves assessment of specific matters, the extent to which these matters need to be addressed depends on the circumstances of the case. The scale of your proposal suggests that a small document will adequately assess the impacts.

4. Pursuant to clause 35 of the Regulation, the Director also requires that the following matters be specifically addressed in the environmental impact statement:

(a) Identification of the wetland's habitat, ecological values and water characteristics in the area affected by the roadway.

(b) The reasons and justification for choosing the development at this location.

(c) A discussion of the environmental implications of the proposal including but not limited to the following:

- (1) a description of the nature and extent of the clearing, of the extent and depth of filling, the nature of the fill material, and any erosion and sedimentation processes likely to arise from these activities and proposed controls;
- (2) the impacts that the designated development has had on the surface and groundwater quality and hydrological regime. This information will be useful in determining what mitigating measures need to be incorporated into the designated development to allow natural waterflows to continue between the separated wetlands.

(d) a description of the mitigating measures to be incorporated into the development to guard against actual and potential disturbance to the vegetation, fauna, water quality and hydrological regime. This should include means to ensure there is adequate water flow through the proposed road and stabilisation and drainage of the road and its batters.

This discussion should not be limited to direct effects within the site proposed to be developed, it should include consideration of possible effects SEPP 14 wetlands not included in the development proposal.

(e) A description of any proposed mitigating measures intended to offset losses in wetland values or other environmental impacts which may occur.

4. In preparing your EIS you should approach Ulmarra Council, the NSW Fisheries, Department of Water Resources, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Conservation and Land Management (Soil Conservation Service) and take into account any comments they consider may apply to the determination of the proposal.

- 3 -

5. Should you require any further information regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Sullivan at the Department's Grafton office on (066) 420622.

Yours sincerely



H Green
Divisional Manager
H.A.R. Division

Attachment 1

Contents of Environmental Impact Statements

All environmental impact statements are required by clause 34 of the Regulation to the EP&A Act to include the following matters:

- (i) a full description of the designated development proposed by the development application;
- (ii) a statement of the objectives of the proposed designated development;
- (iii) a full description of the existing environment likely to be affected by the proposed designated development, if carried out;
- (iv) identification and analysis of the likely environmental interactions between the proposed designated development and the environment;
- (v) analysis of the likely environmental impacts or consequences of carrying out the proposed designated development (including implications for use and conservation of energy);
- (vi) justification of the proposed designated development in terms of environmental, economic and social considerations;
- (vii) measures to be taken in conjunction with the proposed designated development to protect the environment and an assessment of the likely effectiveness of those measures;
- (viii) details of energy requirements of the proposed development and measures to be taken to conserve energy;
- (ix) any feasible alternatives to carrying out the proposed designated development and reasons for choosing the latter; and
- (x) consequences of not carrying out the proposed designated development.



NSW FISHERIES

CC:BD

29 September 1993

Mr Greg Hill
Dickinson Construction
10 Lawson Street
RED ROCK 2486

Dear Mr Hill,

re: **PROPOSED ROAD UPGRADE - SEPP 14**
COASTAL WETLAND 311; RED ROCK

Thank you for your facsimile of 28 September 1993 requesting comment from NSW Fisheries on the above proposal.

In assessing the possible impact it would be appreciated if -

- a. the vegetation and hydrology of the site be described,
and
- b. the methods used to ameliorate any impacts are
described in detail.

Yours sincerely,

CRAIG COPELAND
for
PAUL CREW
Director
NSW Fisheries



NSW
NATIONAL
PARKS AND
WILDLIFE
SERVICE

Mr G Hill
Chartered Architect
153 Upper Street
Tamworth 2340

Our reference: F 31 OJT:MI 13th October, 1993
Your reference: -

Dear Mr Hill,

Reference is made to your fax dated 28th September, 1993 concerning the comments on the proposed Environmental Impact Statement for a road development through SEPP 14 Wetland Number 311.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service considers that the following matters should be considered in EIS preparation.

It is important to adequately describe the existing environment in preparing the EIS.

In particular:

* the importance of adequately mapping the vegetation communities on site and those nearby potentially impacted by the development. This should include the current status of the vegetation type, including information on its distribution, dominant species, condition ie previous activity and significance on a local and regional level. A plan of the proposed development should be overlaid onto the vegetation map to indicate proximity to surrounding environs. A survey of rare and endangered plant species should be performed by a suitably qualified ecologist. (see attachment 1)

* a fauna study should be performed on and around the affected lands of the proposal. In particular, consideration should be given to the bird, reptile and amphibian species of regional and statewide significance.

This again should be performed by a suitably qualified ecologist.

* In particular, the provisions of Section 92D(1)(c) of the Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act 1991 (see attachment 2) should be addressed.

Grafton District
50 Victoria Street
Grafton
PO Box 361
Grafton 2460
Fax: (066) 42 0671
Tel: (066) 42 0613

Head Office
43 Bridge Street
Hurstville NSW
Australia
PO Box 1967
Hurstville 2220
Fax: (02) 585 6555
Tel: (02) 585 6444

The EIS should adequately assess the impacts of the proposed and alternative measures to ameliorate these impacts on the existing environment.

The study should:

- * incorporate a hydrological study to determine existing fluvial processes. Also it should determine site suitability of the proposal to mitigate any unacceptable disruption to existing water levels and ecological processes. Additionally the location, design and adequacy of the proposed overflow measures should be examined to ensure the integrity of the wetland environment is maintained. Consultation with other relevant agencies, including the Department of Water Resources and Department of Conservation and Land Management should be made.

- * examine methods to reduce road or culvert subsidence which may potentially effect the existing fluvial processes.

- * suggest measures to monitor impacts including water levels, weed growth and changes in plant species composition.

- * outline the impact mitigation measures to be undertaken during the construction phase and future road maintenance.

- * outline the impact of the proposal on the surrounding wetlands.

Consideration should be given to archeological sites that may exist in the area. An assessment should be made by suitably qualified person and should include:

- * a search of the aboriginal sites register maintained by the National Parks and Wildlife Service

- * an on-site survey including full description concerning any known sites.

- * the proponent should liaise with the local Aboriginal Land Council regarding their concerns on the developments impact to any Aboriginal heritage. This study should present the outcome of such liaison.

Should you have any further question, please contact Senior Ranger, Owen Turner on 066 420613

Yours faithfully,



R J Friederich
District Manager
Grafton District



Department of Planning

Mr. R. Dickinson
10 Lawson Street
RED ROCK NSW 2460

Remington Centre
175 Liverpool Street, Sydney 2000
Box 3927 G.P.O. Sydney 2001
DY. 15 Sydney

Telephone : (02) 391 2000 Ext:
Fax No : (02) 391 2111

Contact :

Our reference : G92/00438 JS:DT

Your reference :

Dear Mr. Dickinson,

ALLEGED BREACH OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY NO. 14 -
COAST WETLAND NO. 311, PORTION 144, RED ROCK

I refer to the Department's site inspection of 28th May, 1993 with Ms. J. Sullivan, Mr. J. Clark of the Department and Mr. J. Stone of Ulmarra Shire Council and subsequent inspection with Trevor Prior, Jennifer Sullivan and myself on 23rd June, 1993 regarding the construction of a gravel road through wetland vegetation known as State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) No. 14 Coastal Wetland No. 311.

2. You advised at the site inspection that the gravel road was once a rough 4WD track and within the last six years part of the track had been upgraded and enlarged. Such works are defined as clearing and filling which under the provisions of SEPP No. 14 constitutes designated development. Such development in SEPP No. 14 Wetlands requires council consent, preparation of an EIS and the Director's concurrence. However, as this procedure has not been complied with, the construction of gravel road appears to constitute a breach of SEPP No. 14 and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.

3. To authorise the gravel road you will need to comply with the provisions of SEPP No. 14 by preparing an EIS and obtaining consent from the Ulmarra Shire Council and the concurrence of the Director of Planning. The EIS will need to consider the impacts of the road on the hydrology of the wetland and the need for remedial works to be incorporated into the existing road will allow for water flow within the wetland. To assist you in the EIS process please find attached general information on preparing an EIS in SEPP 14.

4. The Department requests your written agreement to undertaking this action within 28 days, after which a time frame for completion will be negotiated.

G92/00438

-2-

5. A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Ulmarra Shire Council.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R. Bowen', with a date '15/7/93' written below it.

R. Bowen
Manager
Natural Resources

A.R.DICKINSON HOLDINGS PTY.LTD.,
10 Lawson Street,
REDROCK, 2456.
Ph. & Fax. 066492900

[11-8-1991]

Manager,
Natural Resources,
Department of Planning,
175 Liverpool street,
SYDNEY, 2000.

Dear sir,

ALLEGED BREACH OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY NO.14
COAST WETLAND NO.311, PORTION 144, RED ROCK.

As the Department of Planning requestes I will agree to undertaking
the requirements outlined in your letter to make good the gravel
road accross the wetland mentioned, that was mounded to give the
only access to my property.

I will proceed to document the necessary impact statement, apply for
approvals and then on approval make good the road crossing.

Trusting that I can achieve the desired conclusion that will comply
with Planning policy.

Yours faithfully,

A.R. Dickinson
.....



Department of Planning

NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Mr. G. Dickinson
PO Box 303
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

N.S.W. Government Offices
49 Victoria Street,
Grafton 2460
P.O. Box 6, Grafton 2460

Telephone : (066) 42 0622 Ext:

Fax No. : (066) 42 0640

Contact :

Our Reference : G92/00438 JS:LW

Your Reference :

Dear Mr. Dickinson,

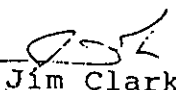
INSPECTION OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY NO. 14 - COASTAL
WETLAND NO. 311, PORTION 144, RED ROCK, ULMARRA SHIRE

As part of the Department's investigation of road works through State Environmental Planning Policy No. 14 - Coastal Wetland No. 311, Portion 144, Red Rock, the Department wishes to conduct a site inspection of these works.

2. The purpose of this inspection is to allow the Department's Manager of Natural Resources, Mr. Rex Bowen, to obtain a first hand appraisal on what may have occurred on the site. Mr. Bowen will be accompanied by Mr. Trevor Prior and Ms. Jennifer Sullivan.

3. The Department would appreciate permission to enter your property on either 22 or 23 June, 1993. Your son, Mr. Guy Dickinson, will be contacted on 21 June, 1993 to arrange a suitable time. For any further information please contact Jennifer Sullivan on 066 420622.

Yours sincerely,


Jim Clark
for Manager
(Northern Regions)
17.6.93

W1C

7 Feb 94

Environment Impact Statement
for Wetland 311 - proposed road

General Manager
Ulmarra Council
15 Coldstream Street
ULMARRA 2462

Dear Sir,

This Council has examined the EIS prepared for an access road across Wetland 311 at Red Rock.

The EIS is totally inadequate for the purposes of examining the likely impacts of this construction across this important wetland.

An examination of the requirements of the National Park Service shows that few of the requirements have been met in this purported study.

We note with concern that according to a letter from the Department of Planning to the owner that a gravel road has already been constructed illegally.

Why has not the Council taken legal action against this breach of the law?

This Council requests that the existing EIS be withdrawn and a new one prepared on the grounds that it fails to

- examine what effect the road will have on the water flow at all levels.

- what effects will the fill have on the bottom of the wetland and the hydrological patterns that will be affected.

- there is no mention made of Aboriginal heritage.

- there has been no fauna study and no indication as to whether a competent botanist has examined for endangered species.

A copy of this letter is sent to the Department of Planning.

Yours faithfully

James L.O. Tedder
Hon. Sec.

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY CONSERVATION BULLETIN

News on National and International Progress to Conserve
Biological Diversity



No. 7 August 1992

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO STALL ON THREATENED SPECIES LEGISLATION

The "Australian National Strategy for the Conservation of Australian Species and Communities Threatened with Extinction" recently launched by the Federal Minister for the Environment, Ros Kelly, reaffirms the need for effective legislation. The strategy states in Objective 9: "Introduce legislation in the States, the Territories and the Commonwealth which will provide effective protection and a framework for co-operative conservation of endangered and vulnerable species and ecological communities". Such legislation should of course cover a broader range of species than this policy suggests, but that is another issue.

The fact remains, that despite repeated commitments that reflect the above position, the Commonwealth has still not completed drafting the threatened species Bill, and although earmarked for priority passage in the present budget Parliamentary session, has yet to run the gauntlet of Cabinet.

The Federal Coalition, the National Farmers Federation, and industry in general are all trying to delay, and finally kill, this crucial conservation initiative, while the States and Territories are also keen to see the process delayed through the utility of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment (as has happened with the threatened species strategy).

ACTION REQUIRED:

1. Write to the Prime Minister, Paul Keating, c/o Parliament House Canberra ACT 2601, urging the following:
 - * Passage and enactment of comprehensive Commonwealth threatened species legislation before the end of the 1992 Parliamentary sessions;
 - * The enactment of threatened species legislation to be viewed and publicly stated, as a major component of, and an essential step towards, a detailed policy and legislative package ratifying the Convention on Biological Diversity; and
 - * An assurance that the legislation will permit, *inter alia*, public nomination of species for listing; provide for a separate and independent scientific committee; bind all Ministers of the Crown and their actions; provide mechanisms for dealing with States and Territories that do not co-operate in protecting listed species and their habitats; and ensure the inclusion of third party rights.

World Wide Fund for Nature Australia

All correspondence to M. Kennedy GPO Box 528 SYDNEY NSW 2001
Phone 02 247 6300 Fax 02 247 8778 No. 7 August 1992

(066) 49 1213

RED ROCK PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 5
RED ROCK 2456

26th January, 1994

Mr. Jim Tedder,
Secretary,
North Coast Environment Council,
Pravan Road,
GRASSY HEAD VIA STUARTS POINT 2441

Dear Jim,

Our Association's letter of 24th November, 1993, refers.
(construction of an illegal road access across coastal wetland
No. 311 at Red Rock).


Enclosed is a copy of the E.I.S. documents presented by
the land owner A.R. Dickinson Holdings Pty. Ltd. in support of
his Development Application for the road work already completed.

The so-called E.I.S. is a joke, and appears to refer to
work yet to be carried out instead of work which has indeed
already been illegally done. The Minister for Planning has
stated to us in his letter of 18th October, 1993, that "the
law does provide for development wrongly carried out without
consent to be considered for consent. This is what sometimes
happens with SEPP 14 lands, however, consent is not automatically
given and the circumstances of each case are carefully considered."
That statement seems to me to have an ominous ring to it.

The E.I.S. is dated 28th September, 1993, and is referred
to in the correspondence attached to it from Fisheries and
National Parks and Wildlife as "your fax of 28th September, 1993".
In other words those letters were written to Greg Hill, the
author of the E.I.S., in answer to his fax draft document,
requesting that certain aspects be addressed. However the
draft document and the finished document presented here are
one and the same document it would seem.

Any assistance, advice or support you can give us Jim
would be greatly appreciated. We are presently getting our
objections on paper for Council and the Director of Planning
and all objections etc. must be in by 14th February, 1994.

Kind regards and will appreciated any assistance.


GWYN AUSTEN
Secretary

Intell—obics for atholic schools

from acts as a catalyst for the students' own learning and is consistent with current views.

During Term 3, children will be encouraged to develop a range of thinking skills in areas of Philosophy, Local History, Environmental Education and Verbalising.

Children will be participating in a range of activities chosen because they will develop a sound ability to think for themselves, parents further

Wetland policies opposed

A NSW Opposition proposal to introduce legislation which would overturn State Government wetland policies will be vigorously opposed by the NSW Farmers' Association.

NSW Farmers' Vice President, David Hodgkinson, said the current Government policy of consulting landholders on the declaration and management of wetlands was commonsense.

"Farmers, particularly those on the North Coast, have had enough of the heavy-handed, bureaucratic approach to wetlands which renders their land sterile and useless for production.

"Minister for Planning, Robert Webster's move to develop a co-operative approach has been like a breath of fresh air to farmers," Mr Hodgkinson said.

"Farmers have been using swampland as a fodder source in dry times since earliest settlement. Ordinary farming practice of slashing swampland bracken promotes a vigorous, growing organism able to do the job of filtration and renewal.

Shutting an area leads

to the growth of noxious weeds and spindly trees that shut out the sun, producing stagnant ponds of swamp water that livestock won't touch," Mr Hodgkinson said.

"Primary producers believe that, if governments or other interest groups want wetlands managed in a way that changes established farming practices, they should either rent the land from the farmer or otherwise compensate him or her for the loss of use.

"The threat by Opposition Leader, Bob Carr, to take away further farming rights without compensation should be looked on with the utmost trepidation by all landholders, whether they live in Parramatta or on the North Coast. It is only a short step from expropriating rights on farming lands.

Mr Hodgkinson said he had received expressions of concern from farmers who believed they would be forced out of business by the controls proposed by the NSW Opposition.

"If Mr Carr is concerned about excessive sub-division of land on the North Coast, he should

remember that profitable farmers don't sub-divide and that is the greatest protection the environment can have. Mr Carr should therefore concentrate his efforts on improving the viability of farms.

Pets' Care The Natural Alternative

A balanced vitamins & mineral supplement designed to

- ★ aid in the control of fleas & flea bite dermatitis
- ★ maintain healthy skin & coat
- ★ improve general well being
- ★ increase vitality.

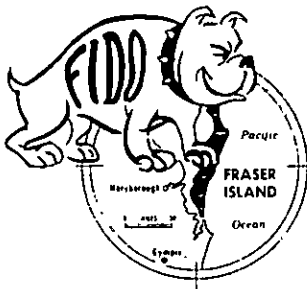
No harmful chemicals – completely safe for you and your pet.

Available from: • Elringtons • Kempsey Bulk Health Foods • Macleay Vet Supplies



or phone
**HAPPY PET
PRODUCTS**
on
(065)
66 9325

W36 - Wetlands - Particular Areas Issues



From: FRASER ISLAND DEFENDERS ORGANISATION LTD. — F.I.D.O. THE WATCHDOG OF FRASER ISLAND

~~FRASER ISLAND DEFENDERS ORGANISATION LTD. — F.I.D.O. THE WATCHDOG OF FRASER ISLAND~~

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 70, BALD HILLS, QLD. 4036

4th December 1996

Dear FIDO Members,

Would you please be reminded that 1997 FIDO memberships are now due.

We are making this an urgent reminder and are also asking you to consider a generous donation as we have lost a major part of our fundraising ability because we are no longer able to run Safaris owing to monopolisation of Tour Operators licences.

FIDO has several issues to confront including our opposition to the re-opening of the Orchid Beach airstrip, establishing a light rail people mover on Fraser Island, making a submission to the new Coastal Management study which affects the whole of the coastal region including Fraser Island and the implementation of our Silver Jubilee project.

In case our previous reminders have gone astray we are also appealing for overdue memberships to be paid and FIDO Treasurer, Terry Hampson, (07 3403 7250), would be only too pleased to provide information.

Membership fees are \$15.00 for individual membership, including "Moonbi" subscription and \$1.00 for each additional family member.

Renewal forms are included with this copy of "Moonbi" and we look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

Billie Watts
Hon Secretary

W5D

RED ROCK PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 5,
RED ROCK 2456

19th May, 1995

North Coast Environment Council Inc.,
C/- J. Tedder,
Pavans Road,
GRASSY HEAD VIA STUARTS POINT 2441

Dear Jim,

Enclosed are copies of correspondence regarding Red Rock Recreation Reserve Trust Board.

Up date on amount charged by architect and Trust Secretary Greg Hill for his drawing, quoted in our letter to Kim Yeadon as being \$4,000, is in fact a total of \$3,250 and breaks up as follows -

Greg Hill - drawings	\$2,500
Engineering drawings owed to a firm of structural engineers presumably	<u>750</u>
	<u>\$3,250</u>

Apparently the engineering drawings totalled \$1,500 but for some reason unknown to us the amount was halved to \$750.

2. Also enclosed is latest correspondence in the saga of Reg Dickinson's road across Wetland 311.

3. Further to even longer saga of sand extraction on Portion 82 Owners Walshmore Pty. Ltd., extractor Kevin Want Sand and Shale - the extraction has now been cancelled by Ulmarra Shire. In order to have it reopened the owner must supply much more detailed information including E.I.S. it is understood. Our Association will now seek rehabilitation of the area, in an effort to make its possible reopening as difficult as possible. We are open to suggestions Jim!!!!

Gwynn Austen

RED ROCK PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 5,
RED ROCK 2456

18th May, 1995

The Hon. Kim Yeadon, M.P.,
Minister for Land and Water Conservation,
Level 3, Premier's Wing,
State Office Block,
Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Mr. Yeadon,

STATE ELECTORATE OF CLARENCE - MEMBER IAN CAUSLEY M.P.
RED ROCK RECREATION RESERVE NO. 64746 - TRUST BOARD.

The Red Rock Preservation Association members wish to convey to you as Minister, their deep concern regarding the appointment process, finalised in October, 1994, and the ongoing activities regarding the reserve and its management, including what appears to be pecuniary interest issues, concerning the Trust Board of the Red Rock Recreation Reserve No. 64746. The Association's members hereby request that a full investigation of the matter be instituted and if deemed appropriate in the light of that investigation, the Trust Board dismissed and new appointments called for.

I am enclosing copies of correspondence between this Association and Mr. Bob Martin, M.P., at that time Shadow Minister for Lands and Forests, regarding our concerns that undue political influence had been brought to bear by Member for Clarence, Ian Causley, on Minister for Conservation and Land Management, George Souris, regarding the appointment of trust board members for the Red Rock Reserve. Also enclosed are documents obtained under Freedom of Information, which substantiate our claims.

A public forum between the Trust Board and the people of Red Rock, ^{was} held on 23rd April, 1995, (agenda attached). During the course of questions and discussion regarding a large Information/Recreation Centre and amenities block proposed for the reserve, it was disclosed that the plans and drawings for these structures (copies attached) were drawn up by trust board Secretary, Greg Hill, an architect who lives in Tamworth. When questioned as to whether he had been, or would be paid for the work, he admitted that he would. No sum was quoted but our Association now understands that it is in the vicinity of \$4,000. When questioned further as to whether quotes had been called for the architectural work, the answer was "no". This appears to be grounds for a full investigation of possible conflict of interest/pecuniary interest, calling for swift and direct action including dismissal of all or some of the board members, should the interest be proven.

During this same forum, when the agenda item concerning the

proposed amendment of the Plan of Management for the reserve, came up for discussion, the Chairman, Reg Dickinson, stated that he would accept only three questions on the matter (from an auditorium full of people). In fact, only one question was allowed before he closed discussion.

At a later stage questions were asked regarding the procedure to be followed when amendments were being considered to the Plan of Management. The meeting was informed by the Secretary, Greg Hill, of the process to be followed, which process plainly excluded all public input until the document was complete and "approved by C.A.L.M.". Only then would there be opportunity for the public to have a say! Two CALM Officers were present, and although they did not break into the Secretary's rhetoric at that time, a little later Crown Land Service Regional Manager, Wal Hambly (one of the officers present) stated quite categorically that there would be no approval from C.A.L.M. until there had been a correct and full public input into the document. Had these officers not been present to put the matter straight, the complete misrepresentation of the Plan of Management amendment process by the board, would have stood uncontested and, therefore, as fact.

It is the trust board's clear intention to acquire funds by grants or loans to build their large Information/Recreation Centre on the reserve river bank, as well as the new amenities block also on the river bank (there is no reticulated water therefore sewerage service at Red Rock incidentally). Objections from Red Rock villagers have flooded in verbally and in writing, giving sound reasons why they object to both the structures and their siting. However it is clear from the forum that these objections are falling on deaf ears. At the same time, and in fairness to the board members, they are divided on the matter themselves.

The Red Rock/Corindi Surf Life Saving Club is looking to build a club house within the reserve. Their first two preferred sites are both on the dunal area overlooking the beach (their first preference overlooks the main beach, the estuary mouth and the Yuraygir National Park as well). Their third and least desired site is an overhead extension to their presently existing gear shed, on the reserve still, but not on the dunes. It seemed quite clear that the Chairman and Secretary of the trust (who again drew up the plans for the proposed new club house apparently) and two other trust board members, one of which, Peter McHenry, is also Secretary of the Surf Club and a director of the S.L.S.A. North Coast Branch, certainly favour the first option, whether appropriate environmentally or aesthetically or not. The club has already constructed an observation shed on the dunes and an access road across the dunes to the beach, without CALM or Council approval, but which were later approved, contrary to CALM instructions that they should be moved, by Minister George Souris.

There appears little doubt that the present "stacked" trust is operating strictly on its own agenda without the slightest understanding of the intrinsic conservation value of the reserve, nor does it care as a whole (individual members, it should be said, do have this care and understanding but they lack numbers) and without the slightest interest in the views and attitudes of the Red Rock villagers, including our members, who

cherish their beautiful reserve, which incidentally completely surrounds Red Rock village. Whatever effects or takes place on the reserve, effects and reflects upon our village.

Mr. Yeadon, please will you take appropriate and urgent steps to fully investigate the situation here at Red Rock with regard to the present trust board and its activities, whether by enquiry or by management audit, whatever, but review the board please, and if it is found wanting, dismiss it summarily and call for new appointments. Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,



GWYN AUSTEN
Secretary

RED ROCK PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 5
RED ROCK 2456

22nd November, 1994

Mr. Bob Martin, M.P.,
Member for Port Stephens,
Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs,
Shadow Minister for Lands and Forests,
2nd Floor, Suite 203,
Federated Ironworkers Centre,
161 Maitland Road,
MAYFIELD 2304

Dear Mr. Martin,

STATE ELECTORATE OF CLARENCE -
MEMBER, IAN CAUSLEY, M.P.
Red Rock Public Recreation Reserve No.64746
Appointment of Trust Board, 1994.

Please see attached copy of our recent letter to Pam Allan, M.P., Shadow Minister for Planning and Environment and Shadow Minister for Womens' Affairs, regarding the subject matter.

We also seek your assistance in this matter and would appreciate the matter being raised in Parliament.

Your letter to us dated 27th June, 1994, that is prior to the Minister's decision being made on 27th October, says that you would highlight the problems regarding this issue. Could you please do this as a matter of urgency?

We have also written and sought support from Mr. John Lester, Labour Candidate for Clarence.

We are a non-party-political Association, but it is obvious to anybody who analyses the voting patterns of past elections, State and Federal, that votes cast in Red Rock have in the majority, always been for Labour Party candidates. This is significant, given that our community exists in what has been to date viewed as a State National Party heartland.

We fear with the Minister's decision, the appointed Trust Board will operate to the detriment of the wider interests of our community and that his decision should be publicly aired, examined and hopefully reversed.

Yours faithfully,


G. AUSTEN
Secretary

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
of the
RED ROCK COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC RECREATION RESERVE TRUST NO. 64746

Take notice that a Public Meeting of the above Community and Trust will be held at the Red Rock Bowling Club at 10am on **SUNDAY, 23 APRIL 1995**

AGENDA FOR PUBLIC MEETING

OPENING AND APOLOGIES

ADDRESS BY MR IAN HAMILTON OF CaLM EXPLAINING THE TRUST'S OPERATION AND OBLIGATIONS

GENERAL ITEMS

- ✓ - Information/Recreation Centre and amenities block
- ✓ - Surf Club location
- ✓ - Plan of Management
- ✓ - Fire Control Plan for the Reserve area
- ✓ - Tree planting to Reserve and caravan park
- ✓ *Treasurer's Report.*

R EDGAR

- ✓ - Walking track to headland
- ✓ - All-weather walking track from boat ramp to Corfe Street
 - Existing road to Jewfish Point
- ✓ - Environmental issues - removal of groundsel *Local Support* and bitou bush
- ✓ - Riverbank restoration
 - Replanting adjacent to Bowling Club

B & P DOWLING

- Water and sewerage services
- ✓ - Boardwalk around Jewfish Point area
- Dune stabilisation and re-generation and walking track
- ✓ - Building of cabins within Caravan Park
- Unsympathetic development

A JOHNSON

- ✓ - Removal of oyster covered rocks
- ✓ - Provision of a rock pool

S FEIGHAN

- ✓ - Horses swimming in river

R & G AUSTEN

- ✓ - Hazard reduction to Reserve
- ✓ - Surf Club and Trust letterhead
- ✓ - Facilities at Jewfish Point

PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION (G AUSTEN)

See General Items above

V E & J H IMRIE AND G C & F HOLMAN

- Proposed development of Red Rock
- ✓ - Road, parking and fire trails within Reserve
- Children's play area near shop
- River Reserve development and trees

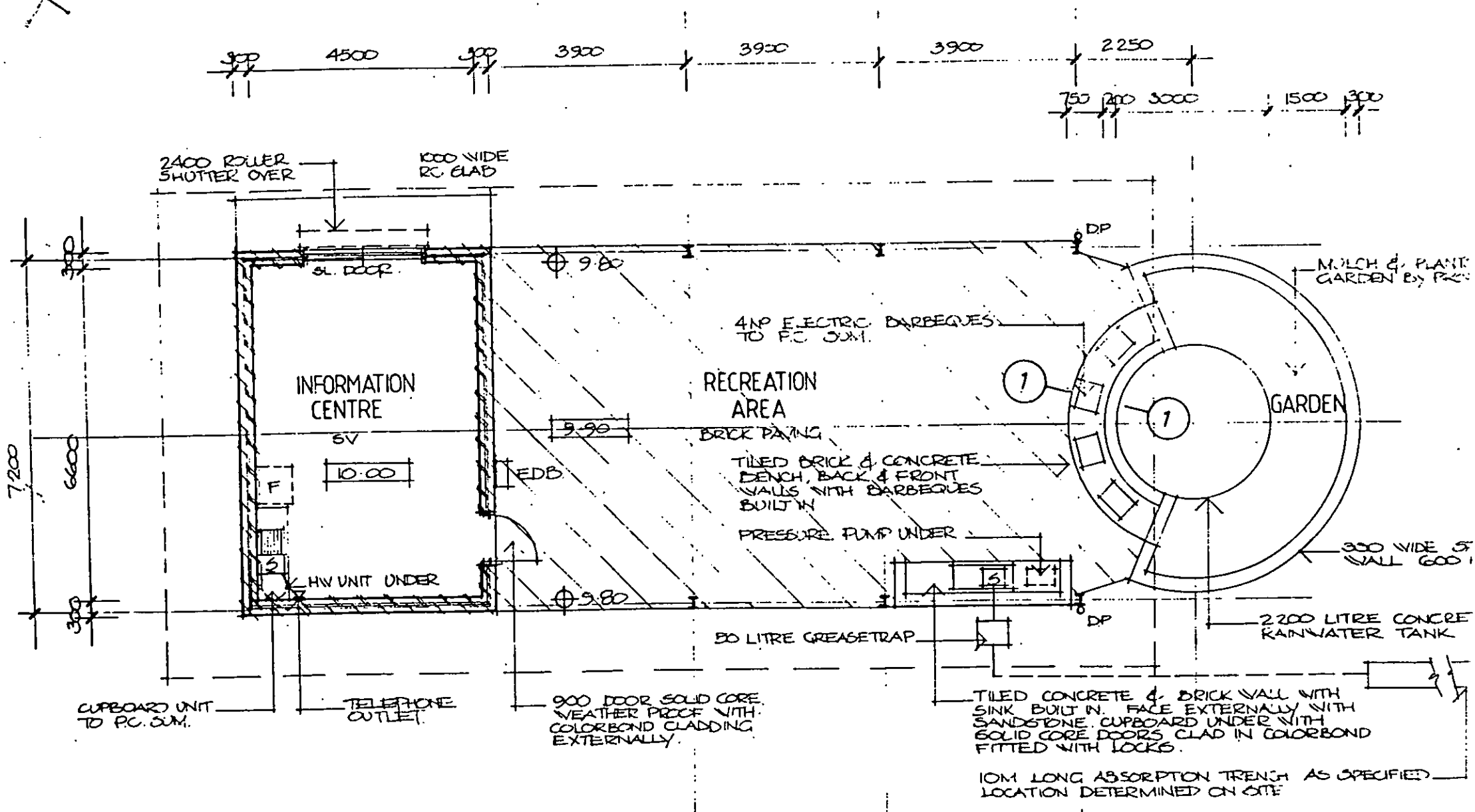
D BURKE & L CLARKE

- ✓ - The forum process
- Trust Board Membership appointment process
- Pecuniary interests
- Trust meetings
- ✓ - Estuary management
- Penalties for by-laws infringement

V MOASE

- ✓ - Slashing of long grass adjacent to boat ramp.

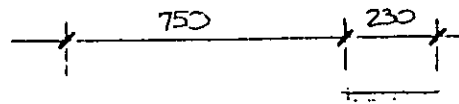
Note: Repetitive items have been included only once for simplicity.

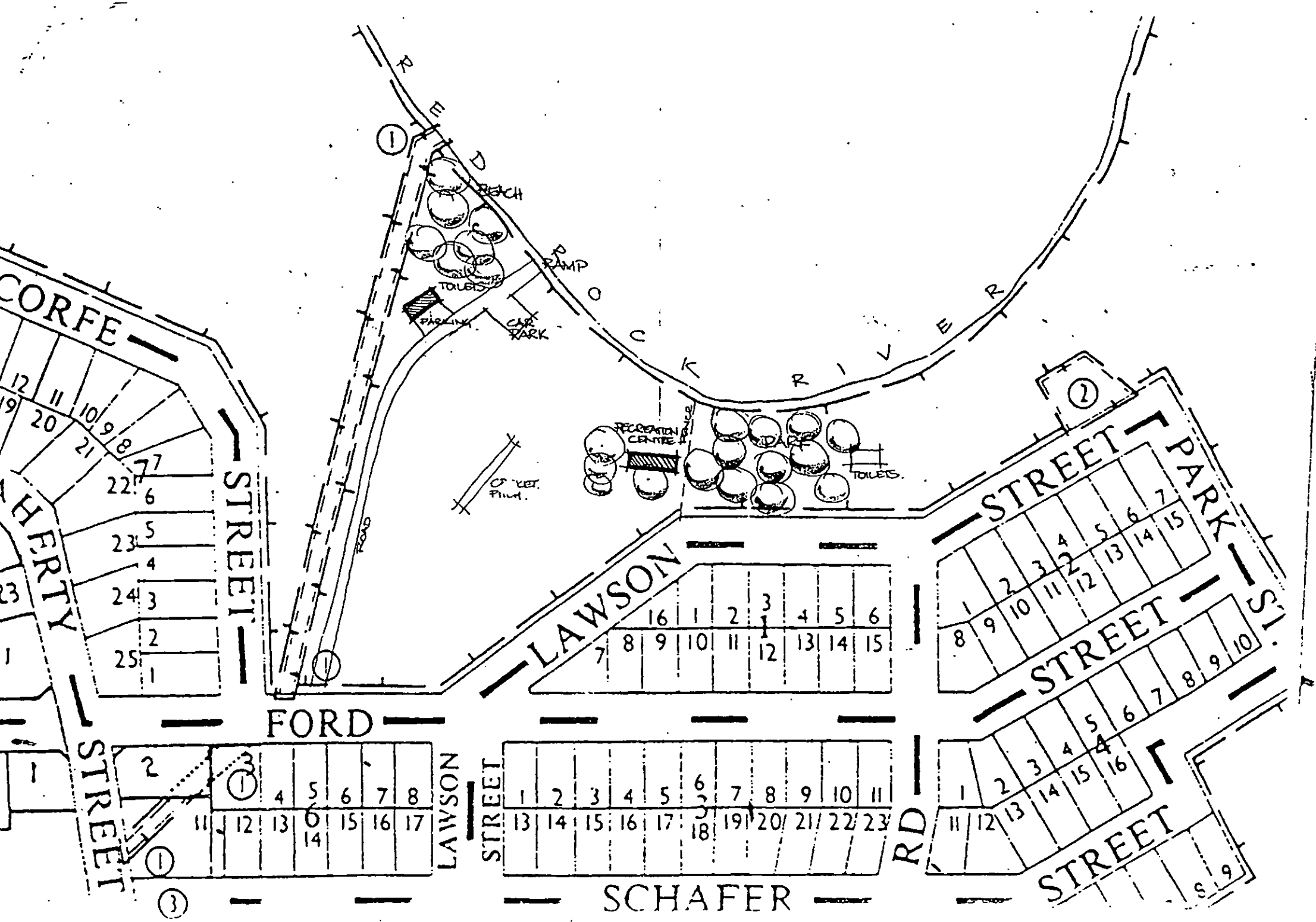


FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1:100

What are the walls made of?
Sandstone? - Aching - ?
(mg.)





NEWS RELEASE

25 JANUARY 96

BULADELAH AND THE WOODCHIPS

The meeting held at Buladelah on 23 January attended by the Minister of Resources David Beddall and the local member Robert Horne and timber workers to discuss the wood chip quota appears to have been a meeting of confusion and misinformation

The State Forester, who is a public servant, took a prominent part and talked about job losses which are unrealistic due to a reduction in woodchip export quotas to SEPL.

According to the EIS prepared by SEPL the total number of direct and indirect jobs from wood chipping for the whole area from Wyong to Grafton did not exceed 250.

The second piece of misinformation is the quota cut. SEPL has never exceeded 340,000 tons of woodchips exported per year and has generally been 320,000 tons. The quota is now to be 260,000 though it is thought that will increase to 280,000. So a reduction of woodchips bought or produced by SEPL from the whole area is down 60,000 tons. On a per capita basis that translates to a possible loss of 43 jobs not hundreds and this loss would be spread over the area from Wyong to Grafton.

The licence that SEPL has been granted states that sawmill residue must be given priority over logging and silviculture residue. So one would assume from the licence conditions that all the mills should be able to sell their sawmill wastes and this would leave the State Forest searching for a market for their silviculture residue chips.

Why then has the Buladelah area be targetted by SEPL for a heavy reduction in the buying of woodchips? Considering this area is closest to the export



75.6
C/- J. TEDDER
PAVANS RD., GRASSY HEAD,
via STUARTS POINT, 2441
(065) 69 0802

12 Nov 93

Hon. M. Lee
Minister for Resources
Canberra,

Dear Minister,

This Council requests that you do not give into pressure from Sawmillers Export P/L/ to allow loading and export of woodchips by a ship due in port on 15 November.

We believe that these woodchips come from illegal activities in private forests and silvicultural thinnings. The Company concerned had a licence until the end of September only. We understand that you then gave special permits to allow the export of two shiploads of this woodchip after the end of the licence period as you agreed that the material had been collected before the end of September.

However the Company concerned has continued to collect woodchips from silvicultural residues and private forest clearing and now wishes another exemption to ship this material. The Company is still allowed to export woodchips from sawmill and logging wastes.

This Council asks that you resist the Company's request to permit another shipload of this woodchip which would result in contravention of the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act.

There is an EIS now on display and until this has gone through the proper process and been determined the law is being broken by permitting the export of this material which has been collected since the end of September which is the date of the expiration of their licence to source woodchips from this source.

Yours sincerely

James L.O. Tedder
James L.O. Tedder
Hon. Sec.

Faxed 1540hrs.



Centre for Coastal Management

PO BOX 5125, EAST LISMORE NSW 2480

TELEPHONE: (066) 203 650

FACSIMILE: (066) 212 669

11th November 1992

North Coast Environment Council
c/o Pavans Access
GRASSY HEADS via STUARTS POINT 2441

Dear Mr Jim Tedder,

**Re: BORAL (SEPL) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
INVITATION TO ATTEND A PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WORKSHOP ON
WEDNESDAY 2nd DECEMBER 1992**

An environmental impact study is currently underway for the export by Sawmillers Exports Pty Ltd (SEPL) of woodchips produced from silvicultural operations in State Forests, and private property operations, in Northern NSW. The area of forests included in the proposal extends from Wyong Shire in the south to Ulmarra Shire in the north. The study is being carried out by Margules, Groome & Poyry Pty Ltd (environmental consultants) based in Canberra.

As part of the investigations, the Centre for Coastal Management at the University of New England, Northern Rivers are conducting public workshops in Wauchope and Maitland to provide an opportunity for a broad spectrum of interested members of the public to provide input into the study.

From the workshops, we are hoping to:

1. identify issues of public concern, and
2. seek feedback on aspects of study methodology and preliminary findings.

We would like to extend an invitation for you to attend a one day workshop (of approximately twenty members of the public) on **Wednesday 2nd December 1992** to be held at the **Wauchope RSL Club**. Venue details and proposed workshop format are enclosed. A briefing paper outlining the proposal, nature of the study, and work completed to date, will be forwarded to you one week before the workshop if you choose to attend. The workshop will be convened by staff of the Centre for Coastal Management. Representatives of the principal consultants will be in attendance to present findings to date, and address issues raised.

If you would like to participate in this workshop please detach the response form below and return to the following address by **Friday 20th November 1992**.

*Patrick will attend
JH 28/11*

CHIPPING - PULPING -FAST TRACKING

CLARENCE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE & NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

THE ISSUES

The Clarence Environment Centre in conjunction with the North Coast Environment Council has decided to put the spotlight on two proposed projects that will have major ramifications on the future of the Clarence valley and indeed the whole of the North Coast. The proposals are to establish an export woodchipping facility at Yamba as a precursor to establishing a chlorine-bleaching pulp mill near Grafton.

In order to expose this hidden agenda we have sent a list of eight pertinent questions to each candidate in the seat of Page. This handout gives a brief background to the issues, provides the candidates full responses to each question and provides a summary.

Electors are asked to please consider the environment and these issues in particular before casting their votes on March 13.

1. WOODCHIPPING

There is a proposal to start annual export of hundreds of thousands of tonnes of woodchips from within a 250 km radius of Grafton to Japan. The main hold up has been having port facilities capable of handling the mammoth woodchip ships. The proposed upgrading of the Clarence port facilities will enable this proposal to proceed.

The woodchips will be obtained by clearing private properties, felling "useless" old trees, thinning regrowth and sawmill residues. It is the clearing, chipping of oldgrowth trees, conversion of State Forests into seas of young regrowth and diversion of sawlogs into the woodchip stream that are most alarming. The addition of a third export woodchip operation to the two already allowed to operate in northern NSW will increase exports to a similar level to the Harris Daishowa chip mill in southern NSW. We are rapidly heading towards the situation in south-east NSW where almost 90% of timber taken from the forests is woodchipped.

There are currently two export woodchip companies operating illegally in northern NSW. Despite a promise by Senator Richardson (in Grafton) before the 1990 election that the ALP would ensure that EISs were prepared for both operations before their licences were renewed again they have been renewed each year since without the promised EISs. The ALP has wantonly flouted its own policies and Federal laws.

An existing woodchipper north of Newcastle chips some 90 000 tonnes of trees per annum and only employs 6 people in processing the timber. Australia is currently exporting almost twice as much timber as is imported. Though because 95% of exported timber is as woodchips our imported timber costs about four times as much. Woodchipping is not smart economics for a "clever country".

2. PULPMILLS

In August 1988 the Japanese company Harris Daishowa proposed the construction of a Chlorine-bleaching pulp mill near Grafton which would consume 1.6 million tonnes of forests each year and release millions of litres a day of poisoned waste water into the Clarence. In the 1975 Woodchip Inquiry the Forestry Commission said North Coast forests couldn't sustain an output of half this amount. The pulp mill was to utilise the "Best Available Technology Economically Achievable".

The proposal was vigorously opposed by the local community and the North Coast population generally on the grounds of pollution of the Clarence with a cocktail of lethal poisons, inadequate resource, forest degradation and adverse impacts on other industries (fishing, apiary, tourism and small sawmilling). At the time the National Party gave strong support to the proposal.

The proposal will not die and there is still a spectre haunting the electorate. The Coalition's Fightback! mark 2 lists "Daishowa, Grafton mill" as one of 24 projects nationally that will be fast-tracked to ensure giving it automatic approval if no decision is made within 12 months.

3. FAST TRACKING

"Fast tracking" is a process used by the ALP and proposed by the Coalition to hasten major developments. The problems with this process are that it doesn't allow time to collate the required environmental data and undertake necessary research to enable informed decisions to be made or allow for informed community consideration of proposals. The Coalition's proposal to automatically grant approval if no decision has been made within 12 months threatens to open the floodgates to a plethora of destructive developments.

If the original Daishowa proposal had been fast-tracked it would have become a reality before the community had time to become fully aware of its ramifications.

There are many processes in place to ensure that a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system is in place in northern NSW by 1995 as required by the National Forest Policy Statement. The Policy (pp 24-5) explicitly states that such assessments will be done on a regional basis. If we are to ever achieve sustainable development it is essential that this process be fully completed before more public forests are given to multinational companies. Fast-tracking will not allow the assessment process to be completed.

CANDIDATES FOR THE SEAT OF PAGE, RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ON EXPORTING WOODCHIPS FROM, AND ESTABLISHING A PULP MILL IN, GRAFTON

IF YOU ARE ELECTED:

Q.1 Will you support the export of large amounts of woodchips from Grafton to Japanese pulp mills?

O'NEILL, R: *"If it is established that there are no commercial prospects for the domestic processing of forest waste, I would support the establishment of an export facility under the terms of the National Forest Policy Statement. I would rather see forest waste earn \$70-\$80 a tonne and create new jobs than see it burned or left to rot."*

MARSHALL, M: No comment.

INGLIS, D: *"Definitely no"*

FIKKE, E: *"Certainly not. The export of woodchips is totally unacceptable to The Greens."*

EMERSON, M: *"I would prefer that if possible value adding to sawmill waste take place in Australia overcoming the need for same to be exported to Japan and then re-purchased by Australia in a value added form."*

PERRY, A: *"No"*

IRWIN, R: *"No. As the Resources Assessment Commission report indicated, we are seriously undervaluing our forests, both in economic and environmental terms. Woodchip export licences of the scale we have seen in NSW, Tasmania and W.A. 'drive' the industry to unsustainable levels."*

WOODS, H: *"I would prefer to see woodchips currently taken from North Coast forests used in value-adding timber products in Australia. However, woodchips are currently taken from North Coast forests for export. There may be some strong environmental arguments for those woodchips to be exported through the port of Yamba - reduced road haulage to Brisbane or Newcastle, reduced fuel waste, reduced wear and tear on roads, improved safety etc. I do not see any reason why woodchips currently taken locally from forests should*

not be exported from a local port. I would not support the export of 'large' amounts of woodchips from the port if 'large' is of the scale of the Daishowa woodchip operation at Eden. I would support a ceiling being imposed on the tonnages to be exported through the port of Yamba."

OLEN, L: "No"

LEANE, G: "Subject to community support, responsible harvesting practices and plantation timber or timber of no consequence being utilised."

Q.2 If you do support export woodchipping will you ensure there are comprehensive environmental assessments of all aspects of obtaining and exporting woodchips and full public consultation before the export of woodchips is allowed?

O'NEILL, R: "At present, the Commonwealth oversees such applications in consultation with the States. I would support Commonwealth recognition of accredited State Forest management plans as foreshadowed in the National Forest Policy Statement."

MARSHALL, M: No comment.

INGLIS, D: "Yes"

FIKKE, E: "Not applicable".

EMERSON, M: "Yes"

PERRY, A: "Yes"

IRWIN, R: "Yes"

WOODS, H: "Yes, I see no reason why the two companies currently taking woodchips from North Coast forests should not be subject to strict environmental regulations and reporting. I understand an EIS for the operations of Sawmillers Exports is due for release in late April or early May and that Brisbane Forest Products is in the process of producing a Public Environment Report on its operations. Brisbane Forest Products has made application to vary its timber sources and this variation has been registered as a designated proposal by the Department of Primary Industries."

OLEN, L: "There is no safe pulpmill."

LEANE, G: "Yes"

Q.3 Will you support the construction of a world-scale Chlorine-bleaching pulp mill near Grafton?

O'NEILL, R: "If constructed using 70-year-old technology, no. If such a project proposed current technology (eg nil organochlorine emissions, as in Sweden), met all other Commonwealth environmental conditions and encompassed innovative environmental and employment standards with respect to local conditions (eg transport, power, training), it would enjoy my full support."

MARSHALL, M: No comment.

INGLIS, D: "Definitely no."

FIKKE, E: "No, the Greens will never accept a pulp mill that damages the environment in any way."

EMERSON, M: "No"

PERRY, A: "No"

IRWIN, R: "No"

WOODS, H: "I have opposed a proposal from Harris Daishowa to build a world-scale chlorine bleaching pulp mill on the Clarence in the past. I would oppose it, or any other similar proposal, on the same grounds. Those include a lack of identified resource, a lack of a plantation program, inadequate effluent treatment and disposal, and damage to other industries including fishing, apiarists, tourism ..."

OLEN, L: "No"

LEANE, G: "Not unless the community favours the proposal, and the establishment and operation of the facility is environmentally neutral."

Q.4 Will you only support a pulp mill if it also produces paper, is based on plantations, fibre crops and/or recycled feedstock, utilises 'closed loop' or non-polluting technology, and is subject to comprehensive environmental and public scrutiny?

O'NEILL, R: "A pulp mill able to convert existing forest waste into an end product worth \$1800 a tonne will naturally encourage surrounding private landholders to consider growing trees for cash. The use of fibre crops would have the reverse effect and result in further forest clearing for rapid crop turnaround. The question of recycled feedstock is a commercial one. The market is very competitive and the cost of importing feedstock from major population centres could be prohibitive. The issues of new technology and environmental standards were answered previously."

MARSHALL, M: No comment.

INGLIS, D: "Yes."

FIKKE, E: "The Greens will only support such a pulp and paper mill if it is acceptable to the whole population."

EMERSON, M: "Yes, with the addition of sawmill waste as a possible basis. Any such proposal would have to comply with the most stringent environmental safeguards and enjoy a high level of community support."

PERRY, A: "Yes"

IRWIN, R: "Yes. It is quite likely that if the construction of the APPM recycled paper mill at Shoalhaven goes ahead then the market will change, reducing the scope for such a mill here. I favour a regional pulp moulding plant which would use waste paper from the Tweed to the Mid North Coast and produce pulp mouldings such as egg cartons, moulded packing and even insulation and wall board. Such a machine would be far less costly, could be staged to suit the market and require no de-inking or bleaching process. In addition to a greater use of plantation source timber I also favour the substitution of pulp production from timber sources with production from materials available in the Region such as bagasse, bamboo and hemp."

WOODS, H: "I would certainly be more inclined to support a pulp mill if it also produced paper, was based on plantations, fibre crops and/or recycled feedstock, utilised closed loop or non-polluting technology and was subject to comprehensive environmental and public scrutiny. In fact, I think these things are essential. My party is certainly interested in providing value-adding opportunities in the timber industry, but taking timber products to a pulp stage does little to value-add. It still means we are sending our primary resource overseas for final value-adding. Exporting pulp does little to improve our balance of trade."

OLEN, L: "Not in the Clarence valley."

LEANE, G: "Yes."

Q.5 Will you support fast-tracking of a pulp mill in Grafton?

O'NEILL, R: "This is a hypothetical question as no-one is proposing to build a pulp mill. However, should interest be renewed, the proposers will have clearly defined Commonwealth standards to work to and that is what I regard as fast-tracking."

MARSHALL, M: No comment.

INGLIS, D: "No"

FIKKE, E: "No"

EMERSON, M: "Not unless all requirements are met including compliance with the most stringent environmental guidelines. Fightback II indicates there will be no compromise on environmental standards."

PERRY, A: "No"

IRWIN, R: "No. I oppose fast-tracking of any development as it simply means by-passing or minimising, legitimate community consultation and environmental considerations. It is a 'development and hang the long-term cost' stance."

WOODS, H: "The Liberal and National parties have a policy of fast-tracking development. They say if projects are stalled for 12 months they should go ahead automatically. I do not support this policy. It is absurd."

OLEN, L: "No"

LEANE, G: "No"

Q.6 Will you support giving a pulp mill automatic approval if the Government remains undecided in 12 months time?

O'NEILL, R: *"There is no reason why the Federal Government should remain undecided if the proposal meets its published standards."*

MARSHALL, M: No comment.

INGLIS, D: *"Definately no:"*

FIKKE, E: *"No"*.

EMERSON, M: *"No"*

PERRY, A: *"No"*

IRWIN, R: *"No"*

WOODS, H: *"No"*

OLEN, L: *"No"*

LEANE, G: *"No"*

Q.7 Will you ensure the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system in northern N.S.W. as required by the National Forest Policy Statement before considering any increase in logging/clearing for woodchips or pulp?

O'NEILL, R: *"This question is flawed. The National Forest Policy Statement does not specify a representative reserve system at the regional level. Hundreds of thousands of hectares of high preservation value forest types representative of northern NSW flora and fauna are already held in the existing reserve system."*

MARSHALL, M: No comment.

INGLIS, D: *"Yes"*

FIKKE, E: *"Woodchips and pulp should be made only from plantation timber. As a primary producer I know I can't harvest unless I plant. I believe the same should apply to the timber industry."*

EMERSON, M: *"The Coalition supports the National Forest strategy."*

PERRY, A: *"Yes"*

IRWIN, R: *"Yes"*

WOODS, H: *"Yes"*

OLEN, L: *"I do not support this industry."*

LEANE, G: *"Yes"*

Q.8 Does your party support and endorse your position on the above issues?

O'NEILL, R: *"Not applicable."*

MARSHALL, M: No comment.

INGLIS, D: *"This is Democrat policy."*

FIKKE, E: *"This is a Green Party policy."*

EMERSON, M: *"Yes"*

PERRY, A: *"Yes"*

IRWIN, R: *"I am an Independent therefore this is not relevant for me."*

WOODS, H: *"Yes"*

OLEN, L: *"Yes"*

LEANE, G: *"I am not affiliated with any party. The above are my views."*

NOTE: Despite numerous requests to Malcolm Marshall he was the only candidates to not answer the questions, instead responding:

"In relation to your specific questions, I suggest you refer to the recently released Coalition policy on the environment which clearly outlines our strategy in relation to sustainable development."

SUMMARY

As only nine of the ten candidates for the seat of Page responded to the questions only their specific responses have been able to be tabulated. Marshall's position has had to be inferred from the Coalition's policies. This is unfortunate as it was the spectre of a fast-tracked Daishowa pulp mill proposed in Fightback! that initiated this questionnaire to determine the candidate's positions.

SUMMARY OF GIST OF CANDIDATES RESPONSES

	SUPPORT CLARENCE EXPORT WOODCHIPS	SUPPORT DAISHOWA TYPE PULP MILL	SUPPORT FAST TRACK CLARENCE PULP MILL
O'NEILL	Yes	Yes	Yes
MARSHALL	-	-	-
INGLIS	No	No	No
FIKKE	No	No	No
EMERSON	?	No	?
PERRY	No	No	No
IRWIN	No	No	No
WOODS	Yes	No	No
OLEN	No	No	No
LEANE	?	?	No

NOTE: some responses are conditional upon specific constraints (see full responses).

As per Marshall's instructions the Coalition's Environment Policy, Fightback! II, statements by Dr. Hewson and the Coalition's Primary Industry Policy have to be relied upon to determine his position on the above issues. While the Environment Policy is commendable in some respects it is inconsistent with other stated policies and there is no mention of woodchipping or pulp mills. Fightback! and Dr. Hewson both advocate the Daishowa pulp mill in Grafton and its "fast tracking", with the constraints being "*Resource security and emission standards*". The Primary Industry Policy states that the Coalition will "*legislate to allow any pulp mill proposal which meets the current pulp mill pollution guidelines and which satisfies relevant heritage, social and economic requirements*". The Coalition has committed itself to introducing so-called "Resource Security" immediately it is elected.

In the absence of any definitive statements from Marshall it must be assumed that he does support the construction of a "Daishowa-type" pulp mill near Grafton and its fast tracking. His position on exporting woodchips from the Clarence port cannot be ascertained.

If you don't want a new export woodchipping operation on the Clarence then vote for Inglis, Fikke, Perry, Irwin or Olen. If you do then vote for O'Neill or Woods. Leane's and Emerson's positions are less clear. Marshall's position is unstated.

If you don't want a Daishowa type pulp mill near Grafton then vote for Inglis, Fikke, Emerson, Perry, Irwin, Woods or Olen. If you do then vote for O'Neill or Marshall. Leane's position is less clear.

If you don't want a pulp mill to be fast-tracked then vote for Inglis, Fikke, Perry, Irwin, Woods, Olen or Leane. If you do then vote for O'Neill or Marshall. Emerson's position is less clear.

**THE CHOICE IS YOURS -
PLEASE DON'T SACRIFICE THE ENVIRONMENT**



756

C/- J. TEDDER
PAVANS RD., GRASSY HEAD,
via STUARTS POINT, 2441
(065) 69 0802

14 Dec 1992

Hon. A. Griffiths
Minister for Resources
Parliament House
Canberra

Dear Minister,

Renewal of Woodchip Licences

This Council represents forty conservation organisations on the North Coast of NSW.

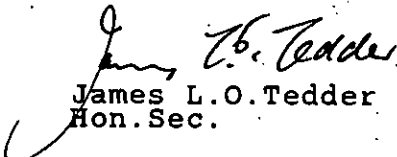
At the meeting of the Council on the 12 December it was moved and passed unanimously that

" this Council is opposed to the renewal of export licences for woodchips on the grounds that there have been no proper Environmental Impact Assessments; proper assessments of impacts on the Aboriginal culture ;and no proper public consultation.

that this Council urge you not to sign documents renewing licences to export woodchips."

In view of the serious nature of this matter we are sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister and the Minister for the Arts, Sports the Environment and Territories, and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

Yours sincerely


James L.O. Tedder
Hon. Sec.

Faxed 1520-25 14 Dec

26th September, 1986

Senator John Morris,
8 Edgecliff Rd.,
Glenhaven 2154

Dear Senator,

On March 5th this Council addressed you on the subject of woodchips on the advice of the President of the Senate Doug McClelland,.

To date we have not had our letter acknowledged or questions answered and we inquire whether or not the letter was received?

The Council has approached the Minister for primary Industry following his approval of an export licence to Hollow Tree Enterprises for woodchip exports of 250,000 tonnes per year, without calling for an Environmental Impact Statement. The Minister has expressed surprise and concern at our reaction. The fact remains that the licence aims to export woodchips from clearing operations in Queensland, thinning operations from hardwood plantations in NSW and sawmill wastes. However it is understood that the NSW Forestry Commission has made no commitments to providing resources to this company so it is indeed difficult to state categorically that operations in this State will not have significant environmental impact as the Minister claims.

The Queensland Department of Forestry states that the production of woodchip from freehold land in that State will be subject to a plan approved by the Department of Primary Industries. There will obviously be environment impacts from this operation and these should have been examined before any export licence was granted.

It is now understood that the company concerned Hollow Tree Enterprises; is seeking an increase in its export quota to ensure the viability of the operation. This surely indicates that the whole operation has not been carefully examined, particularly the resource base, and highlights the need for an extensive EIS. Furthermore there is need, if the Forestry Commission of NSW will be involved in supplying resources or permitting use of resources from State forests, for it to make its own EIS.

Will you take up with the Minister for Primary Industry the concern of this Council to the apparent "slapdash" approach to the issue of this export licence for woodchips?

We are concerned particularly with the following:

- how was it decided that clearing large areas of freehold land in SE Queensland would not have an impact on the environment?
- where are these extensive hardwood plantations in NSW which require thinning?
- what proportion of chips will they supply?
- is this the only or most economic use of these thinnings?
- what proportion of sawmill wastes will meet the export quotas?
- what areas will supply these wastes?
- will they need to be trucked over long distances?
- what effect on the highway will this extra traffic have on normal operations
- are the resources sufficient to supply the quotas over the period of the licence or will the company place pressure on Government to allow other resources to be used once the contracts to supply overseas markets have been signed?

We look forward to answers to these questions.

Our Council is deeply concerned about the situation in the Eden area and does not wish to see the same errors committed in this part of Australia.

Yours sincerely,

J.L.O.Tedder,
Hon.Sec.



MINISTER FOR RESOURCES

The Hon. Alan Griffiths, MP

Mr J. Corkill
Vice-President
North Coast Environment Council
Pavan's Road
Grassy Head
via STUART'S POINT NSW 2441

10 APR 1992

Dear Mr Corkill

I refer to your letter of 20 February 1992 seeking a statement of the reasons for my decision to designate Sawmillers Exports Pty Ltd (SEPL) as a proponent under the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974 and my decision to renew the company's export licence for 1992.

In relation to your application for a statement of the reasons on which those decisions were based, taking into account s13(3) of the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977, I am not convinced that you are entitled to make the request. Nevertheless, I am prepared to provide an explanation of the considerations relevant to my decisions.

SEPL, which originally exported predominantly sawmill residues, has expanded its sources of supply to include material from private property and silvicultural residues from Crown forests. I am not satisfied that there has been a complete examination of the environmental impacts of these aspects of the company's operations. I therefore wrote in November 1990 to the Hon Ros Kelly, then Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, designating the company as a proponent under the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974 in relation to the future private property and silvicultural residue components of its operations. I understand that SEPL has been asked to prepare an environmental impact statement on the aspects of its operations to which the designation relates.

In designating SEPL in relation to these operations, I noted that the export by SEPL of woodchips produced from silvicultural residues had been the subject of lengthy consideration by Commonwealth and State authorities for some years and that no substantial reasons had been advanced which would justify my refusal to allow SEPL to export woodchips produced from this material while the assessment was carried out. I also noted that each private property is individually assessed before the export of woodchips from that property is authorised. Bearing in mind the commercial, economic and employment implications of SEPL's operations, I agreed that the company could continue its existing operations while the environmental assessment was conducted. I also took the same decision in relation to SEPL's 1992 export licence.

My designation of SEPL did not include the export of woodchips produced from sawmill and logging residues because, after assessing all the available evidence, I concluded that the export of woodchips produced from these residues does not have a significant environmental impact.

Ministerial Office:
Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Tele: (06) 277 7480 Fax: (06) 273 4154

Electorate Office:

Shop 25 Milleara Mall

Milleara Road, EAST KEILOR VIC 3033

Tele: (03) 331 1922 Fax: (03) 331 1925

I am not prepared to release the export licences issued to individual companies as they contain information of a commercially confidential nature. However, I can advise you that SEPL's export licence contains conditions relating to price, tonnage, inspection of the company's operations, pulpmill feasibility studies and source material for woodchip production. In relation to source material, the licence states that woodchips may be produced only from sawmill residues, logging and silvicultural residues from Crown forests in New South Wales and roundwood from private property, provided that prior approval is obtained for each property. The licence also specifically excludes the export of woodchips produced from logs harvested in National Estate areas unless the company receives prior approval from the Commonwealth Government.

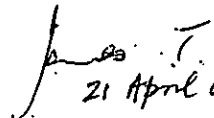
Yours sincerely,



Alan Griffiths

f.a. James Johnson ESO

This is the reply you are waiting for


21 April 92

Faxed 1653 21 Apr



MINISTER FOR RESOURCES

The Hon. Alan Griffiths, MP

21 DEC 1990

Mr J.L.O. Tedder
Hon. Secretary
North Coast Environment Council
Pavans Road
Grassy Head
via STUARTS POINT NSW 2441

Dear Mr Tedder

I refer to your letter of 7 November 1990 concerning the export of woodchips from Newcastle by Sawmillers Exports Pty Ltd.

Sawmillers Exports' woodchip export operation was fully assessed by the State and Commonwealth Governments before the company began exports in 1981. That assessment included the preparation of an environmental impact statement which satisfied State and Commonwealth legislative requirements. The environmental impact statement concluded that there would be no significant environmental impact from the export of sawmill wastes and logging residues. This conclusion is supported by several other studies, including the 1977 report "Woodchips and the Environment" by the Senate Standing Committee on Science and the Environment and the public enquiry by the State Pollution Control Commission into woodchipping on the New South Wales north coast.

I am not aware of any evidence which casts doubt on the conclusion that the export of woodchips produced from sawmill and logging residues is environmentally acceptable. Accordingly, I do not believe that additional assessment of this aspect of Sawmillers Exports' operation is necessary at present.

I am not satisfied, however, that there has been a complete examination of the matters associated with the export by Sawmillers Exports of woodchips produced from silvicultural residues and from timber harvested on private property. I have therefore recently written to the Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories (the Hon. Ros Kelly) designating Sawmillers Exports Pty Ltd as a proponent under the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act so that she can determine the level and scope of environmental assessment necessary on these aspects of Sawmillers Exports operations.

Ministerial Office:
Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600
Tele: (06) 277 7480 Fax: (06) 273 4154

Electorate Office:
12 Pascoe Vale Road, MOONEE PONDS VIC 3039
Tele: (03) 375 1617 Fax: (03) 370 1380

The question of Shire Council approval for the chipper at Tea Gardens is essentially a State and local Government matter and I do not think that it is appropriate for me to comment while it is still before the court. I will, however, take into account any new information which may come to light in my consideration of future export licences for Sawmillers Exports.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Griffiths



COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND ENERGY

EDMUND BARTON BUILDING, BARTON ACT

Postal Address: GPO Box 858, Canberra ACT 2601 Tel: (062) 72 3933 Telex: 62188 Fax: (062) 72 5161

T5b

3

17 July 1990

Mr J. Tedder,
Hon. Secretary,
North Coast Environment Council,
Pavans Road, Grassy Head,
via STUARTS POINT N.S.W. 2441

Dear Mr Tedder,

I have been asked to reply to your letters to the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy concerning the export of woodchips by Sawmillers Exports Pty Ltd:

Sawmillers Exports' application to export woodchips was fully assessed under the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act before the company began its woodchip export operation in 1981. An environmental impact statement (EIS) was completed in 1977 and, with an addendum which was requested by the Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development, the EIS satisfied the environmental impact assessment requirements of the Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments. In February 1980 the Minister for Primary Industry gave the company approval to export woodchips for a period of fifteen years beginning in 1981.

The decision in 1984 to allow Sawmillers Exports to include woodchips derived from silvicultural residues was made after well over twelve months' consideration by the relevant State and Commonwealth authorities. The Minister for Primary Industry at the time decided that formal assessment under the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act was not necessary because the production of woodchips from such material had already been examined in the 1975 public enquiry by the State Pollution Control Commission and the 1977 report on woodchips and the environment by the Senate Standing Committee on Science and the Environment. Both of these reports found no significant environmental objections to the use of such material for the production of woodchips.

The application by Sawmillers Exports in 1988 for an increase in its maximum export tonnage was assessed by State and Commonwealth authorities. The decision to grant the increase was made only after the New South Wales Forestry Commission had advised that there would be sufficient sawmill, logging and silvicultural residues in Sawmillers Exports' area of operation to satisfy the company's request without any change to forest operations apart from the removal from the forest of additional wastes which, in the absence of the woodchip industry would probably be left in the forest to rot. The Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories advised that it had no objections on environmental grounds to the proposal.

In addition to the assessment at the time of application, the export licences allow Commonwealth inspection of areas where the companies are carrying out export-related operations. Commonwealth officers recently conducted an inspection of Sawmillers Exports' regrowth thinning operations in State forest in the Taree region, which indicated that these operations were being conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Sutton".

Paul Sutton
Assistant Secretary
Forestry Branch

5/3/86

Senator John Morris
8 Edgecliff Rd.,
Glenhaven 2154

Dear Senator,

This Council represents conservation organisations from the Tweed to the Hunter.

At a recent meeting with Senator Doug McClelland he suggested this Council contact you for help.

The #Brisbane Courier Mail 13 February reports the building of a woodchip loader at the Port of Brisbane. Other information obtained by the Council indicates that the woodchips may come from the Grafton/Casino area.

We are addressing the NSW Minister for Natural Resources on the Matter but we seek your help as to whether

- there have been any proposals placed before the Federal Government for new export quotas for woodchips?
- if so from where are these woodchips to originate?
- these proposals have been accompanied by any Environmental studies?

If there are no such proposals received by Federal Government why is TNT Buckship proposing to build a woodchip loader?

You will be aware that the large majority of the public are opposed to the woodchip industry. They view the benefits as not exceeding the costs.

Yours sincerely,

J.L.O.Tedder.

Harvest Protocols L. Orrego tabled 2 NEFA responses to Forestry Decision Protocol proposal. L. Orrego and D. Pugh reported some concerns raised but there are significant improvements for fauna protection and flora survey requirements. Framework is holistic and provides protocols on which we can build. Final proposal will be reviewed by NEFA and information provided to interested groups. L. Orrego is seeking information or expressions of interest / help as she is on Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management Working Party (RACAC).

Action: Briefing paper from L. Orrego to be sent with Minutes.

CRA Forest Process J. Corkill reported on working groups being established. Regional Advisory Committees proposed inclusion of 2 conservation reps. on 20 person c'tee. Proposed that we form reference groups to assist conservation representatives. Major concerns about some of the proposed regional forest area boundaries.

Motion M20/2/8: That NCEC request its member groups via its Bioregional Subcommittees, to form regional reference groups to consult the regional environment interests, facilitate information flow, solicit nominees to the regional (advisory) committees, to take appropriate actions and to generally assist the regional reps.

Mvd Corkill / Pugh Carried

Motion M20/2/9: That NCEC Inc. write, and encourage its member group to write, to

- i) RACAC Chair, Mr Gerry Gleeson,
- ii) Minister for Planning (as chair of the NSW Cabinet's Natural Resources subcommittee;
- iii) Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Senator Hill advising that:
 - a) the current proposed regional boundaries are inappropriate; and should be amended to more accurately reflect availability of data and major river catchments, as per the attached revised map (Dailan to prepare);
 - b) the inclusion of 'data poor' areas on the northern tablelands and Hunter Valley, with the Upper North East & Lower North East regions respectively, is inappropriate and will lead to a skewing of the CRA process;
 - c) voluntary participation of stakeholders in CRA processes is unacceptable; meeting and preparation fees should also be paid to all stakeholder reps on the technical working groups and regional advisory committees;

Mvd Corkill / Pugh Carried

Resource Security J. Corkill tabled "Action Needed on Pending resource Security Contacts".

Motion M20/2/10: URGENT ACTION: That NCEC Secretary circulate document to members urgently and write to Premier regarding the points raised.

Mvd Corkill / Parkhouse Carried

Letter to the Editor

'Irrational emotion' in wetlands comments

The Kempsey Shire Council is to be congratulated for organising the seminar on wetlands and for the orderly way it was chaired by the president.

Reasoned debate is far preferable to confrontation or a "them and us" stance and the north coast environment council welcomes dialogue with anyone wishing it.

Unfortunately, Mr Rick Lancaster could not refrain from an emotional and irrational attack upon people concerned about conserving Australia's unique flora and fauna.

The North Coast Environment Council organised a seminar on wetlands on September 28, 1986. Farmers, fisherman, councillors and conservationists attended but not Mr Lancaster. This conference sought to exchange viewpoints on the wetland issue to avoid the confrontation he is now attempting to create.

At the Kempsey seminar the DEP regional manager, Mr Rod Nicholls, repeatedly stated that very few farmers would be affected by the wetland policy provided they continued existing use and didn't seek to develop or change the use.

It appears that farmers are being manipulated by a few land speculators for their own purposes. If you buy a wetland it is assumed you do so with full knowledge that it is wetland and not necessarily first class pasture. The community should not be expected to bear the cost if the wetlands are destroyed by converting them into building lots or draining to run more cattle.

Good drought refuge land has been degraded by drainage. It is well documented the value that wetlands have for the fishing industry with 70 per cent of the commercial fish caught dependent on wetlands at some stage of their life. Destructions of wetlands in Florida USA resulted in a 50 per cent decline in fish caught.

Mr Lancaster will be familiar with the drop in fish caught at the Golden Hole after the Yarrahapinni headworks and drainage works were carried out.

The traditional view that farmers should be allowed to do what they like on their own land cannot be supported.

The rest of the community are subject to planning, environmental, health and building regulations and so should the farmers. Even the impact from one landholder on the total community can be enormous. Farms have been subject to restrictions since the 1912 Water Act and there are others, such as the Soil Conservation Act, which limit farmers rights on land.

The environmental movement seeks by use of rational debate and submissions based on informed research to put the case for the protection of wetlands.

We agree that SEPP 14 was not ideal in its mapping or implementation and required amendments, however, the objective of the policy cannot be disputed.

Terry Parkhouse,
President North Coast
Environment Council,
Grassy Head Road,
Grassy Head.



T.S.B.
C/- J. TEDDER
PAVANS RD., GRASSY HEAD,
via STUARTS POINT. 2441
(065) 69 0802

12 Nov 93

Hon. R. Kelly
Minister for Environment
Canberra,

Dear Minister,

This Council requests that you intervene as a matter of urgency to stop the export of illegal woodchips on a ship due in port on Monday 15 November.

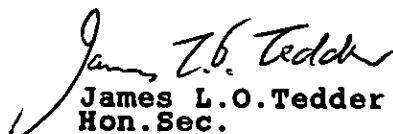
We believe that the Minister for Resources Hon. M. Lee is under pressure from Sawmillers Export P/L to allow the export of woodchips made from illegal activities in private forests and silvicultural thinnings. The Company concerned had a licence until the end of September only. The Minister then gave special permits to allow the export of two shiploads of this woodchip after the end of the licence period as the Minister agreed that the material had been collected before the end of September.

However the Company concerned has continued to collect woodchips from silvicultural residues and private forest clearing and now wishes another exemption to ship this material. The Company is still allowed to export woodchips from sawmill and logging wastes.

This Council asks that you make an Impact Conservation Order as allowed by the Endangered Species Act 1992 to stop the Minister for Resources from frustrating the operation of the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act. The Minister will come under considerable pressure from Sawmillers Export P/L to allow yet another shipment garnered illegally.

There is an EIS now on display and until this has gone through the proper process and been determined the law is being broken by permitting the export of this material which has been collected since the end of September.

Yours sincerely


James L.O. Tedder
Hon. Sec.

faxed 1520 hrs.

MEDIA RELEASE



With the Compliments of Bruce Jeffery, M.P. Member for Oxley

From Brian England
Ph. 631098 FAX 627299

31 January 1995

Rempsey Timbers

currently 8000 m³/year which could be chipped if Boral were really interested.

The timber industry has come in for some attention in recent times, especially the issue of woodchipping.

Member for Oxley, Mr. Bruce Jeffery, M.P., said he was disturbed that much misinformation about the forestry industry was being fed to the community in the lead up to the March 25 State Election.

Mr. Jeffery said on the north coast trees were not logged for woodchipping.

"Trees are harvested for sawlogs in a sustainable and responsible manner to preserve our valuable forestry resources," Mr. Jeffery said.

"Timber workers in Australia get blamed for the devastation of forests overseas which is shown on TV to inflame and mislead the debate," he said.

Mr. Jeffery said 60% of sawmill waste which would otherwise be burned is woodchipped.

"While forests are a renewable resource the Coalition Government has long recognised and supported the need to supplement natural forests with hardwood plantation forests," Mr. Jeffery said.

"Of a total of 15 million hectares of forested land in NSW, including private land, only 600,000 hectares of native forests are harvested annually," he said.

"The NSW Coalition Government is committed to providing resource security, significantly increased hardwood plantation forestry coupled with responsible environmental controls," Mr. Jeffery said.

"NSW Labor, under Bob Carr, has vowed to close the timber industry in NSW and turn its back on timber industry jobs and timber industry dependent communities," Mr. Jeffery warned.

15,000,000 ÷ 600,000 = 25 years. Since the sustainable cycle is 40 years it doesn't add up to sustainability

For further information contact Bruce Jeffery (065) 62 6190

631355

Jim, I have already
faxed this to your

friend & mine, Bruce J.

STOP PRESS - Bruce just gave me
a ring to say the figure is 60,000 not 600,000



T56

NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL INC.

Hon. Sec. J. Tedder
Pavans Road,
Grassy Head, N.S.W. 2441
Ph. \ Fax 065-690802

Harry Wood M.H.R.
82 Prince Street
Grafton 2460

17th. January 1995

Dear Harry,

At the December General Meeting of this Council a motion of was passed to thank you for all the help you gave during the period prior to the Woodchip licence decision.

You are no doubt as shocked and disappointed as we are at the decision. One thing the decision has done is generate such an anger within the community that they are now coming to us to ask what they can do.

With 80% of the public opposed to woodchipping of old growth forests, alarm bells should be ringing within the Labor Party.

Once again thank you for your help and hope that some sensible political decision can be made to repair the damage and confidence of the Environment Movement.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Parkhouse
President
Phone 065 690771



NEW SOUTH WALES

MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

W46
23-33 BRIDGE STREET
SYDNEY 2000

W 861

Mr P. Rogan, MP
Member for East Hills
Suite 5, 1 Faraday Road
PADSTOW NSW 2211

25 JAN 1989

Dear Mr Rogan,

I refer again to your representations on behalf of the North Coast Environment Council (Mr J. Tedder, Hon. Secretary, Pavans Road, Grassy Head via Stuarts Point 2441) concerning the need to remove the Warrell Creek Weir.

Because significant controversy had arisen over the proposal to remove the Weir the Government, on coming to office, decided to reassess the situation. As part of this process a meeting was convened by Nambucca Shire Council on 1 November 1988 to discuss the future of the Weir. Landholders both in favour of and against the removal of the Weir were invited to the meeting by Council.

As mentioned by Mr Tedder, a vote was taken at the meeting: the outcome being that a majority of 25 to 17 were in favour of removal of the Weir. However, there has been some contention regarding this vote because landholders did not have prior notice that voting would take place.

Council recently advised the Department of Water Resources that it will not actively support either the retention or removal of the Weir. A decision on its future will be made in consultation with my Parliamentary colleagues and the Department shortly.

Yours sincerely,

IAN CAUSLEY, M.P.
MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES



Dear Mr. Tedder,

Please find attached the Minister's reply to representations made on behalf of the North Coast Environment Council..

Forwarded with the Compliments of

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'P. J. G.', written over a horizontal line.

M.P.



State Pollution Control Commission



157 Liverpool Street
Sydney 2000
G.P.O. Box 4036
Sydney 2001

Our reference 707367 PS:AC

24th April, 1985
Your reference

Telephone: (02) 265 8888
Telex Head Office: AA 72234

Dear Sir/Madam,

Enclosed please find a copy of the draft floodplain development manual, and a summary thereof, relating to the Government's recent flood policy decision, as information. Further free copies are available from the Information Branch, Department of Environment and Planning, 175 Liverpool Street, Sydney, 2000, telephone (02) 266 7574.

It will be noted that the primary objective of the Government's new policy is to reduce the impact of flooding and flood liability on individual owners and occupiers, and to reduce private and public losses resulting from flooding.

The policy recognises the need to treat developed and undeveloped land differently by providing for:

- (a) the impact of flooding and flood liability on existing developed areas to be reduced by flood mitigation works and measures; the removal of unnecessary development and building controls; and purchase at equitable prices, where offered for sale, of property in extremely hazardous areas; and
- (b) the potential for flood losses in all new developing areas to be contained by the application of effective planning and development controls.

The central theme to the new policy is the requirement that all development proposals be treated on their merits having regard for social, economic and ecological, as well as flooding considerations.

The decision provided for legislation, which was recently passed by Parliament, to:

- (a) Enable relief from land tax, council rates and water and sewerage rates, where such services are not connected, for vacant flood liable land that is unsuitable for the erection of a building. The provisions are intended to be discretionary for local government to enable each council to make its own decisions depending upon local circumstances, but are obligatory for State authorities as a demonstration of the Government's commitment to ease the adverse effects of flooding on property owners and occupiers.

- (b) Indemnify councils and other public authorities and their staff from liability for decisions taken in respect of flood liable land, providing such decisions are made in "good faith" and in accordance with Government policy at the time.

The remaining aspect of the policy decision is the finalisation of the foreshadowed floodplain development manual, the draft of which is enclosed.

The purpose of this manual is to describe the Government's policy and to define the management system for its implementation with regard to the planning and development of flood liable land. The manual incorporates mechanisms under which the State will continue to provide technical advice and financial assistance to local government. It also provides detailed guidelines to assist councils and other public authorities in the management of flood liable land in respect of planning, development and building decisions.

The draft manual, which has been prepared by the Flood Policy Advisory Committee, is being distributed for public consideration to enable the views of interested parties to be taken into account in its further development by the Government. To this end, written submissions will be received by the Secretary, Flood Policy Advisory Committee, G.P.O. Box 3297, Sydney, 2001, up until Friday, 19th July, 1985. To assist in this regard, meetings will be held to enable the draft manual and its planning implications to be discussed, and further advice on these meetings will be issued shortly.

While details regarding the proposals should be raised in these submissions, general inquiries may be directed, as relevant, to:

Public Works Department - Mr. E. Smithies, telephone (02) 231-7100

Water Resources Commission - Mr. S. Lees, telephone (02) 922-0121

Department of Environment and Planning - Mr. S. Toshach, telephone (02) 266-7111

Department of Local Government - Mr. A. Baldwin, telephone (02) 240-4358.

Detailed inquiries regarding individual development or building proposals that may be affected by the policy should, however, continue to be directed to the relevant local council.

Yours faithfully,



PETER STANDEN
Chairman,
Flood Policy Advisory Committee



NEW SOUTH WALES

Minister for Natural Resources

W 1 a
23-33 Bridge Street
SYDNEY 2000

Mr. J.L.O. Tedder,
Hon. Secretary,
North Coast Environment Council,
Pavans Road,
Grassy Head,
Via STUARTS POINT. N.S.W. 2441

13 MAY 1985

Dear Mr. Tedder,

I refer to your letter of 20th April 1985 concerning the Government's flood prone land policy.

The decision to revise the policy was taken following numerous requests from responsible sections of the community, including the Local Government and Shires Associations, individual councils and local flood action groups. All these organisations have direct involvement in matters relating to the management of flood liable lands.

It was only after lengthy deliberation by the Flood Policy Advisory Committee that the "merit approach" to floodplain development was formulated. This approach is a genuine attempt to integrate the expressed wishes and concerns of all sections of the community.

Your principal concerns appear to relate to the abandonment of the 1 in 100 year flood standard and the flood mapping programme, and the likely effect of these changes on the wetlands and flood prone areas of the State.

These proposed changes should be considered in the overall context of the revised policy. This is clearly expressed in the draft "Floodplain Development Manual", which includes guidelines. The manual has now been distributed through the administration of my colleague the Hon. R.J. Carr, M.P., Minister for Planning and Environment, to various organisations and local government bodies for consideration and comment. Your organisation will therefore have the opportunity to consider the ramifications of the policy and submit suggestions for improvement.

I thank you for your interest and comments and assure you that the Government will continue to strive towards the adoption of a floodplain development programme which will alleviate the impact of flooding on all sections of the community throughout the State.

Yours sincerely,


(Janice Crosio)
Minister for Natural Resources.



State Pollution Control Commission



157 Liverpool Street
Sydney 2000
G.P.O. Box 4036
Sydney 2001

Our reference: 707367/8

Your reference:

Telephone: (02) 265 8888
Telex Head Office: AA 72234

26th April, 1985

Dear Sir/Madam,

Meetings on Draft Floodplain Development Manual

Further to my letter of 24th April, 1985, it is advised that meetings have been arranged to enable discussion with representatives of the Flood Policy Advisory Committee, on the subject draft manual, at the following venues.

Tuesday 21st May, 1985 - Lismore and Districts Workers Club, 231 Keen Street, Lismore.

Thursday 23rd May, 1985 - Bankstown Civic Centre, The Mall, Bankstown.

Tuesday 28th May, 1985 - Commercial Club, 77 Gurwood Street, Wagga Wagga.

The purpose of the meetings is to explain the provisions of the Government's new flood policy and its implementation, as covered by the draft manual, and to generally discuss the issues involved, to assist interested parties in their review of the manual. The programme to be followed at each of the meetings is attached for information.

It is hoped that representatives of councils, relevant public authorities and community and professional groups will attend one of these meetings and, accordingly, an invitation is extended for you, or your organisation, to be present. In this regard, it is felt that the meetings will be more meaningful if those attending have read the draft manual, which is being distributed separately.

To assist in ensuring adequate accommodation and luncheon facilities are available, would you please complete and return the enclosed attendance form to Secretary, Flood Policy Advisory Committee, G.P.O. Box 4036, Sydney, 2001, by Monday 13th May, 1985.

Yours faithfully,

PETER STANDEN
Chairman,
Flood Policy Advisory Committee

MEETINGS ON DRAFT FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT MANUAL

PROGRAMME

- 9.00 - 9.30 a.m. : Registration.
- 9.30 - 9.50 a.m. : Opening and statement on new policy including legislative provisions.
- 9.50 - 10.30 a.m. : Presentation on the manual including the basic system and related procedures, as well as interim arrangements.
- 10.30 - 11.00 a.m. : Morning Tea.
- 11.00 - 12.00 noon : Discussion and questions on manual.
- 12.00 - 1.30 p.m. : Lunch.
- 1.30 - 1.50 p.m. : Planning implications.
- 1.50 - 2.20 p.m. : Discussion and questions on planning implications.
- 2.20 - 3.20 p.m. : Panel session.
- 3.20 - 4.00 p.m. : Final discussion and summation.

Please note that while there is no registration fee for attendance at the meetings, those wishing to attend the luncheon to be provided at each of the venues will need to meet their own costs.

MEETINGS ON DRAFT FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT MANUAL

ATTENDANCE FORM

To assist in accommodation and catering arrangements this form must be completed and returned to the Secretary, Flood Policy Advisory Committee, G.P.O. Box 4036, Sydney, 2001, by Monday 13th May, 1985.

The following person/s will be attending the Floodplain Development Manual meeting to be held at (Please specify which meeting location you wish to attend, that is, Bankstown, Lismore or Wagga Wagga).

Meeting Location:

Organisation:

Address:

Telephone:

Name/s of
Persons Attending:

Number of persons requiring
lunch, to be paid on day
(approximately \$10 per head):

Signature of Applicant:

.....

Date:

Please note that this application will not be replied to unless unforeseen circumstances require changes to be made in the arrangements. Those persons nominated (or their alternates) should simply attend the relevant venue on the appropriate day.

Registration of attendance will occur between 9.00 and 9.30 a.m. at each meeting.

WZa

Pavans Road,
Grassy Head,
Via Stuarts Point, 2441.
20th April, 1985.

Mrs. Janice Crosio,
Minister for Natural Resources,
23-33 Bridge Street,
SYDNEY. 2000.

Dear Minister,

Our Council wishes to express its concern for the Governments Flood Prone Land Policy announced in December. This Council made a submission to the Review Committee by 30th November and was informed by the Committee that its recommendations to Government would be made by 30th December. On the timing of the Governments announcement of a new policy, 11th December, we wonder how much of the policy could have been based upon the Review Committees findings.

The "Sydney Morning Herald" of 11th and 18th March carry reports that many submissions to the Committee were in favour of retaining, at least in broad principles, the 1977 policy.

Members of this Council, which come from most local Council districts on the North Coast have expressed grave fears for the future planning and orderly development in their rapidly growing area with such a drastic alteration of important controls on flood prone land. Though we understand that Lismore, Cessnock and Kempsey Councils have incorporated the one in 100 year flood levels in local environment plans, other Councils are less concerned with future well being of the district and are more concerned with "development at any cost".

Our Council contends that the people inconvenienced by the 1977 policy were a small minority and to try and help them by abandoning that policy can only lead to expense and worry for larger numbers of people in the future. If there is to be no further mapping of flood areas and the 1 in 100 year flood line how are land/house buyers going to know whether they risk a future flood?

People who bought flood prone land for grazing/agriculture purposes should not now be permitted to gain material advantage by being able to have such land rezoned at the expense of future buyers. Even if it is possible to ensure that future buyers are aware of buying flood prone land through a clause written in the title, there is always an expense for the public purse when development takes place on such land.

Our Council is also concerned that the new policy which tends to emphasise flood mitigation works will result in attempting engineering solutions at great public expense, e.g. levee banks, canals, dredging and environmental costs, e.g. destruction of wetlands, destruction of natural river banks, to allow development in areas which should remain as agriculture, grazing or wetlands.

We urge you to reconsider the flood policy. There should be no need to throw out "orderly development with the flood prone land policy review", when fine tuning of the 1977 policy should overcome any legitimate difficulties.

Yours sincerely,

James L.O.Tedder.
Hon. Secretary.

W1



New South Wales

Director

Sydney, N.S.W. 2000

The Hon. Secretary,
North Coast Environment Council,
Pavans Road,
GRASSY HEAD,
VIA STUARTS POINT. NSW. 2441 95

Please quote 707367/6

Dear Sir,

I refer to your recent submission on the Review of Flood Prone Land Policy Discussion Paper.

The views expressed were taken into account by the Government which has now completed its policy review, and I enclose a copy of a pamphlet which explains the new policy, as information.

It should be noted that a flood plain management manual and guidelines are to be produced to clarify details of the policy and its implementation. Draft documents should be available for consultation with local government and relevant professional and community groups during March, 1985, at which time any remaining matters can be clarified.

General inquiries on the policy should be directed to relevant public authorities, viz, Public Works Department (tidal waterways), Water Resources Commission (non-tidal waterways) and Department of Environment and Planning (planning matters). Inquiries regarding the flood-liability of individual properties and proposals for development should be directed to the relevant local council.

It is also advised that the necessary legislation relating to statutory protection of councils and other public authorities, and to rate relief in special circumstances, is being prepared and it is expected that this will be introduced into Parliament in the autumn session.

I thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter Standen", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

PETER STANDEN,
Chairman, Flood Policy
Advisory Committee



80/2396

Premier of New South Wales
Australia

18 JAN 1985

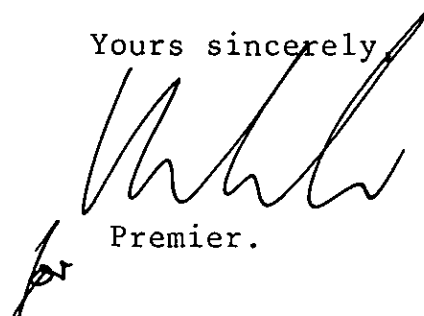
Dear Mr. Tedder,

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of the North Coast Environment Council concerning flood prone land.

As you may be aware, a committee representing departments and authorities involved in implementing flood prone land policy undertook a comprehensive review of the matter; a number of its recommendations were endorsed by Cabinet on 10th December last year.

I subsequently issued a statement outlining my Government's new policy, and a copy of that media release is enclosed for your information.

Yours sincerely


Premier.

Mr. J. Tedder,
Honorary Secretary,
North Coast Environment
Council,
Pavans Road, Grassy Head, via
STUARTS POINT 2441 95

PROVISIONAL CHRONOLOGY OF OCCURRENCE OF FLOODS IN AUSTRALIA (1945-1974)

Compiled by Ian Douglas and Greg Yeates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Human Casualties</u>	<u>Property Damage</u>	<u>Loss of Production</u>	<u>Ecological Description</u>	<u>Estimated* Discharge cumecs/km²</u>
1945						
Feb	Tweed					
Mar	Burdekin					
Apr	Shoalhaven					
	Clyde					
June	Clarence					0.711
	Richmond					1.048
1946						
Mar	Hastings					0.829
	Macleay					0.714
	Clarence					1.137
	Manning					0.567
	Ross River, Townsville		All low-lying suburbs completely flooded			
1947						
June	Tasmania					
1948						
June	Richmond					0.935
1949						
June	Nepean, Penrith					0.553
	Hunter, Singleton					0.246
	Hastings, Ellenborough					0.764
Aug	Macleay			100,000 acres flooded		1.453
	Gwydir, Bundarra					0.983

545

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Human Casualties</u>	<u>Property Damage</u>	<u>Loss of Production</u>	<u>Ecological Description</u>	<u>Estimated* Discharge cumecs/km²</u>
Mar	Goulburn	8 people drowned in March floods		\$200,000 agricultural production lost in Shepparton area.		
	Murrumbidgee		Extensive flooding Wagga Wagga. Total losses \$4M.			0.139
	Macquarie					
	Lachlan					
June	Macleay	4 dead on North Coast	\$5m for North Coast as a whole	100,000 acres flooded	Levees on Macleay destroyed	
	Richmond					0.926
	Clarence	2 drowned	4,500 homes, 3,500 farms on North Coast damaged.	1,000 head of cattle lost		1.070
	Hunter					
	Condamine					
	Georges					
	McIntyre, Boggabilla					0.074
	Gwydir			250,000 sheep in Moree area lost		
	Barwon	1 drowned				
	Peel, Carrol Gap					0.163
	Lachlan, Forbes			90% irrigated lucerne washed away		0.126
July	Macquarie, Wellington					0.200
Aug	Darling, Bourke					0.011
Oct	Namoi	2 drowned				
	Barwon					
1951						
	Richmond					0.867
	Normanton, Qld.					

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Human Casualties</u>	<u>Property Damage</u>	<u>Loss of Production</u>	<u>Ecological Description</u>	<u>Estimated* Discharge cumecs/km²</u>
1952						
June	Bega					2.825
	Snowy					0.366
	Lachlan		Forbes badly damaged	Wheat and fodder crops lost		0.158
	Murrumbidgee	1 drowned	Wagga, Narrander flooded	Livestock drowned		0.153
	Peel					0.163
	Macquarie		Dubbo area inundated			0.192
	Bendock, Sale, Vic.	1 drowned				
July	Nepean					0.751
	Hunter					0.201
	Yarra		Much damage			
	Dandenong Creek					
Aug	Manning					0.473
	Peel					0.163
1953						
Feb	Georgina	Spread of disease	Road and railways disrupted	Severe stock losses		
	Diamantina					
	Coopers.					
	Northwest Queensland				Channel country pastures inundated	0.072
	MacIntyre					
Mar	Western Australia					
1954						
Feb	Manning					0.542
	Hastings					1.155
	Clarence					1.188
	Richmond					2.378
	Tweed		26 houses destroyed 3 bridges washed away			6.667

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Human Casualties</u>	<u>Property Damage</u>	<u>Loss of Production</u>	<u>Ecological Description</u>	<u>Estimated* Discharge cumecks/km²</u>
1954						
Apr	Northern Territory					
May	Kimberleys					
1955						
Feb	Victoria	1 dead				
	Macquarie					0.298
	Castlereagh		At Gilgandra 6 houses destroyed. 150 out of 300 damaged \$3M.			0.467
	Peel					1.172
	Namoi Gunnedah					0.510
	Gwydir					1.038
	Macintyre					0.071
	Hunter	42 dead	Direct damage \$15.5M Total losses \$25M			0.761
	Manning					0.586
Mar	North east Queensland		Many roads, bridges properties damaged	Widespread stock losses	Insect and snake plagues along flooded river	
	Thomson					
	Mary		\$400,000 at Gympie.			
	Brisbane		\$3M.			
June	Burnie, Tasmania				Landslides on Bass Highway	
July	Alice Springs					
Sept	Murray					0.005

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Human Casualties</u>	<u>Property Damage</u>	<u>Loss of Production</u>	<u>Ecological Description</u>	<u>Estimate* Discharge cumecs/km²</u>
1956						
Jan	Condamine				Widespread soil loss	
	MacIntyre		\$500,000 in Inglewood alone	1400 acre tobacco lost	Loss of top soil	0.093
	Barwon					
Feb	Tweed	2 drowned on N.Coast				9.408
	Richmond		\$750,000 in Lismore	\$3M agric production lost.		1.289
	Clarence					0.760
	Hastings					0.903
	Manning					1.010
	Peel	1 drowned				0.498
	Gwydir					0.817
	Hunter	5 drowned				
	Hawkesbury	3 drowned	\$12M in Liverpool-Fairfield			1.024
	Barcoo					
Mar	Darling					0.0008
	Macquarie	3 drowned				0.275
June	MacIntyre					0.075
July	Murrumbidgee		Deniliquin badly damaged			
	Murray		\$20M losses Renmark evacuated Shepparton badly damaged			0.009
	Ovens		Wangaratta flooded.			
Dec	Sarina, Qld.					

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Human Casualties</u>	<u>Property Damage</u>	<u>Loss of Production</u>	<u>Ecological Description</u>	<u>Estimated* Discharge cumecs/km²</u>
1957						
April	Fingall Valley, Tasmania					
Dec	Alice Springs					
1958						
Feb	Pioneer, Qld.	3 dead	Foulden Hamlet destroyed			
Apr	Burdekin, Qld.					
Aug	Victoria Tasmania					
1959						
Jan	Clarence					0.722
Sept	Yarra, Vic.		Large areas NE suburbs Melbourne inundated			
Oct	Murrumbidgee					0.139
Nov	Hastings					0.831
1960						
Jan	North Queensland					
Feb	Carnarvon					
Mar	Ross, Townsville					
Apr	Hobart		\$6M damage 60 bridges destroyed			
May	Gippsland					
July	Tasmania Victoria					
Sept	Victoria					
Dec	Cent. + N.W. Qld. Lachlan					

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Human Casualties</u>	<u>Property Damage</u>	<u>Loss of Production</u>	<u>Ecological Description</u>	<u>Estimated* Discharge cumecs/km²</u>
1961						
Jan	Wittenoom Gorge					
Feb	Yeppoon, Qld. Brunswick, N.S.W.					
Apr	Central N.T.					
Nov	Nepean					1.029
	Clyde					4.566
	Tuross					1.493
	Moruya					2.302
1962						
Jan	Peel					0.364
Apr	Manning					0.458
	Hastings					1.217
Jul	Richmond					1.078
1963						
Apr	Manning					0.591
	Hastings			Major loss of milk production		1.076
May	Richmond					1.040
	Clarence					0.834
	Macleay					
1964						
Jan	Peel					0.293
Feb	N.W. Queensland		Edward River mission severely damaged by cyclone Dora which caused flooding	Major losses in Gulf country and area between Normanton - Burketown and Mt. Isa.		
June	Nepean					0.998

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Human Casualties</u>	<u>Property Damage</u>	<u>Loss of Production</u>	<u>Ecological Description</u>	<u>Estimated* Discharge cumecs/km²</u>
1965						
Feb	Townsville		Business and residential premises damaged Roads and railways cut			
Jul	Richmond					1.183
1966						
Nov	MacIntyre					0.066
1967						
Feb	Flinders Georgina					
Mar	Herbert		Record damage in upper reaches	16km wide over canefield at Ingham		
June	Mary Brisbane Clarence Macleay Manning		Widespread damage in Grafton	Extensive damage to pastures		0.866 0.492 0.586
1968						
Jan	Hastings		\$1M damage in Wauchope	Pastures badly damaged		
1969						
1970	MacIntyre Murray					

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Human Casualties</u>	<u>Property Damage</u>	<u>Loss of Production</u>	<u>Ecological Description</u>	<u>Estimated* Discharge cumecs/km²</u>
1971						
Feb	Namoi		\$30M damage to property livestock and crops			
	Gwydir		75% of Moree flooded			
	Barwon					
	Darling					
Dec	North, Cent.W. and S.E. Qld.		Widespread damage associated with cyclone Althea and subsequent flooding	Burdekin sugar and rice harvest greatly reduced		
1972						
Jan.	Lower Herbert					
	Upper Burdekin					
	Haughton					
Feb	Mary					
	Upper Brisbane					
	Stanley					
1973						
1974						
Jan	Namoi		\$4M property \$5M roads and bridges	500,000 sheep lost worth \$23M \$12M cotton crop loss \$3M other crops \$3M beef		
	Gwydir					
	Barwon					
	Brisbane		\$200M at least			
Mar	Tweed					
	Richmond					
	Clarence					
	Macleay					

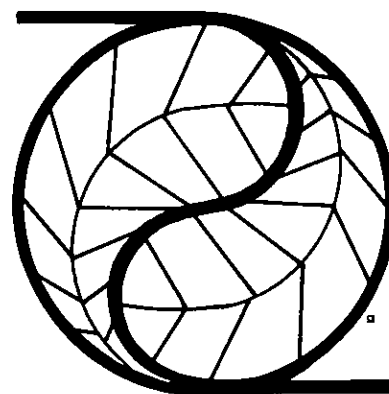
<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Human Casualties</u>	<u>Property Damage</u>	<u>Loss of Production</u>	<u>Ecological Description</u>	<u>Estimated* Discharge cumecs/km²</u>
1974						
Mar	Hastings					
	Manning					0.691
May	Victoria					
Aug	Murrumbidgee					

- * For selected stations discharge per unit area of catchment has been calculated. As discharge is a function of drainage area, and as flood peaks tend to become dissipated with floodplain storage downstream, a much smaller discharge per unit area creates a flood at a downstream station with a large catchment area.

The N.S.W. gauging stations used in this analysis are:

Tweed R. North Arm at Boat Harbour.	124 km ²	Manning at Killawarra	6552 km ²
Tweed R. Middle Arm at Eungella	212 km ²	Macleay R. at Turners Flat	9841 km ²
Towamba R. at New Building Bridge	295 km ²	Nepean R. at Penrith	11007 km ²
Bega R. at Morans Crossing	386 km ²	Macquarie R. at Wellington	14251 km ²
Tuross R. at Belowra	531 km ²	Hunter R. at Singleton	16446 km ²
Clyde R. at Brooman	881 km ²	Clarence R. at Lilydale	16679 km ²
Moraya R. at Wamban	1153 km ²	Namoi R. at Gunnedah	17094 km ²
Hastings R. at Ellenborough	1606 km ²	Lachlan R. at Forbes	19035 km ²
Richmond R. at Casino	1786 km ²	Murrumbidgee R. at Gundagai	21755 km ²
Snowy R. at Dalgety (pre SMHEA changes)	3160 km ²	MacIntyre R. at Boggabilla	22532 km ²
Gwydir R. at Bundarra	4092 km ²	Murray R. at Euston	385895 km ²
Peel R. at Carroll Gap	4662 km ²	Darling R. at Bourke	385910 km ²
Castlereagh R. at Gilgandra	6060 km ²		

Environment Centre Outlook



Newsletter of the NSW Environment Centre

NEW YEAR ISSUE
volume one
number four
60 CENTS

1977

The NSW Environment Centre is an open community resource base for environment information and action managed by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. Situated at

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by John Hibberd, Executive Secretary, Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales.

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by Penelope Coleing, Macleay Valley Conservation Society

FRASER ISLAND SAVED

Final Report of the Fraser Island Environmental Inquiry

FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE

A special ECO investigation

NORTH COAST WOODCHIP SCHEME STILL ALIVE

by Jeff Angel, Total Environment Centre

FOX AND AFTER ? ...

The First Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry's Report

PLUS ALL THE NEWS • INTERNATIONAL • NATIONAL
STATE • ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

It was announced on Saturday, February 12, that The Environment Centre would receive its first ever State Government grant of \$7 500. These funds will now enable the Centre to quit its Federal Government grant under the 2:1 procedure and, in addition, will release us from having to spend most of our efforts fund raising. We can now get on with the job for which we were established — that of being an open resource base for environmental information and action. The Total Environment Centre received a similar state grant.

EDITORIAL

Just a word of explanation about November's issue. Due to our move (initiated in November) and its long drawn out progress, we were unable to produce that issue. However, the current issue is larger than normal to provide space for all the news that has been received since September 1976.

Much has happened in that time — The Environment Centre has finally received its Federal Grant — the Greater Southern Blue Mountains National Park has been announced — the Fox Report released — the NSW Government has tabled a Bill to amend the Lord Howe Island Act which does not provide for a national park — and our transfer of premises to 399 Pitt Street has taken place. We are now in much more spacious surroundings and have much better facilities than previously (see Environment Centre News and enclosed brochure for further details) and are only 3 minutes walk away from Town Hall Station.

While the outcome of the Border Ranges issue is delayed pending the Report of the Interdepartmental Committee, woodchipping and sandmining are again hitting the headlines. In both cases, the spectre of unemployment is being raised again by pro-development interests. We are staggered to see experienced State Cabinet members falling for this old, worn out and false adage and pressing for mining in one of the State's best coastal national parks, thus abandoning NSW Labor Party Congress resolutions. Please make your voices heard.

In spite of the fact that the Centre has received its Federal Grant in full, this year will have many problems, financially speaking. Firstly, we have received no increase in funds to allow for the effect of inflation, therefore our grant will purchase 12% less than it did last year. Secondly, we still have to satisfy the Federal Government's iniquitous qualifying procedure by raising at least \$14 125 in income. Unless we can raise this sum, there is a distinct possibility that the Fraser Government will demand a part refund of the Centre's grant.

That is why, more than ever, the Centre will depend upon you this year, not only for donations but also for assistance (see Environment Centre News for details of how you can help). The success of the Centre depends upon your support — please help us and we'll do our best to help you in 1977.

LETTERS

Sir,

C P Gilbert's Goose-droppings

This is in reply to C P Gilbert's letter in the September issue which he entitled 'Herb Fenn's Fantasies' and criticised my article about the 'Ride Against Uranium'.

It is apparent from the tone of his letter that he completely missed the point of my article which was to try and capture some of the feelings of those on the ride, not describe the technical workings of the HIFAR reactor. We're all very aware that medical isotopes are produced at Lucas Heights.

Perhaps if Mr Gilbert would cease patting himself on the back for producing medical isotopes, he might become acquainted with the wider implications of nuclear technology.

The anti-nuclear movement is a worldwide phenomenon with public protest approaching the levels of the Vietnam War years. If Mr Gilbert thinks all this protest is based only on *half-truths and innuendo*, then he's fooling no one but himself.

But, according to his letter, he is the possessor of a *little common sense and reliable data*. In that case let him bring his data and common sense to a public debate on the nuclear issue. Friends of the Earth are available at any time for such a debate.

Herb Fenn
Friends of the Earth
Sydney

Sir,

For proponents of nuclear power to cite the results of American referenda on the matter as evidence of Americans' confidence in the safety of nuclear generation or disposal of nuclear wastes is a gross misrepresentation of fact. As a longtime Californian until we came here last July, and who lived through the June referendum in California which proposed delaying construction of additional nuclear power plants until federal certification of their safety and the safety of nuclear waste disposal, I saw two major reasons for the measure's defeat.

First was the fact of major economic recession. Unemployment is too high here, but it was, and remains, twice as high in the US. In California it was over 10% in June. Without power, industry cannot operate. Those without jobs, or

who feared losing their's, essentially voted not for nuclear energy but for jobs. Unions were nearly 100% opposed to the measure.

Second, was the near unanimous coalition of unions, industry and utilities arrayed against the proposition. Tremendous sums of money were channeled into California to defeat the measure, in recognition of the fact that California is often regarded as the pace-setter for the entire nation. And that a successful curbing of the growth of nuclear power in California would likely have a snowball effect across the entire country.

Australians would do well to decide the issue on the basis of the facts, without recourse to what Americans do or don't do. We honor and respect Australia in the measure that it uses its creativity and intelligence to solve its own problems, not slavishly awaiting signals from some 'superior powers'.

(Rev.) Karl E Olson

Sir,

Just a short note on the present state of the southcoast woodchip industry. Tanja State Forest is the area that is about to be logged and extensive roads have been built to improve standards at a cost of \$80 000. The coastal forests in this area north of the Bega River are poorly conserved with only one small 900 acre national park. These forests are different to those protected in coastal parks further south which are mainly silver top ash, yellow stringy bark with mainly grey gum in the gulleys. Spotted gums are found in the Tanja Bermagui coastal forests but only 1% of this forest type is protected in national parks and nature reserves. This particular area represents virtually its southern limit in Australia.

Selective logging of Tanja State Forest to date has not apparently affected the recreation, watershed or wildlife values. However the proposed integrated sawlog operation would entail clearfelling over large areas with only about 25% of the trees going to sawmills; the remainder going to the Eden chipper.

These developments will have considerable impacts upon the local communities since local and main roads will require increased maintenance (up to 3 to 5 times the present level) unless they are to deteriorate. However, on the other hand, local employment will be minimal since most of the contractors already have an adequate work force who would remain based in Eden.

Paul Scobie

Can Lord Howe Island be saved?

by John Hibberd

After many years of hard work, it seemed that Lord Howe Island's unique environment was to be saved. The plan put forward by Tom Lewis followed that recommended by the Australian Museum fairly closely and aimed to dedicate most of the island as a national park.

The Australian Museum Report (see *Australian Natural History*, June, 1974) covers all aspects of the island's natural heritage and is lavish in its praise for its beauty and biological importance. Frank Talbot, in his introduction, comments *Lord Howe Island is one of the most interesting and beautiful islands in the world. Its beauty is legendary. Many visitors consider it perhaps the most beautiful island they have ever seen. The high, tree-covered hills to the north; the narrow, low central portion; the turquoise lagoon bordered by breakers and a long curving arch of beach; and the huge majesty of Mount Lidgbird and Mount Gower thrusting their peaks up from the Pacific to dominate the sea with white bosom birds etched against their dark basalt cliffs — a remarkable land and seascape.*

The island is biologically interesting because it has rich and varied flora and fauna with an unusually high proportion of species found nowhere else. Its lovely lagoon has a flourishing coral reef — probably the southernmost in the world — and there are many species of fish, coral and other animals which have evolved in the area because of its relative isolation from the great coral reefs in the tropics to the north.

Harry Recher and Steven Clark (in the same issue of *Australian Natural History*) state, *Lord Howe Island is a beautiful and precious place. The combination of a small population, isolation, and mountainous terrain has thus far prevented extensive development. As a result, Lord Howe Island retains a large proportion of its indigenous wildlife and is of considerable scientific interest.* Their article continues in examining the environmental problems caused by introduced animals on the island. Goats and pigs were intro-

duced some time in the last century and feral cats, rats and owls are also important pests. Rats are responsible for the extinction of 5 species of birds to date on Lord Howe Island and for a considerable reduction in the numbers of lizards. It appears likely that the only long term answer to the control of rats and cats would be through the ultimate use of disease.

A Bill to amend the Lord Howe Island Act (1953) was presented to the NSW Parliament by the Minister for Lands, Bill Crabtree, on November 16, 1976. In his speech describing the objects of the Bill Mr Crabtree mentioned that it would provide for the gradual substitution of the special class of persons categorised in the present act as 'islanders' by persons who have a prescribed residential qualification; provide for the preparation and implementation of a planning scheme for the island; provide for the dedication of land on the island as a reserve for the

preservation of native flora and fauna, such a dedication being revocable only by an Act; and extend the power (presumably of the Lord Howe Island Board) to make regulations under the Act to encompass:

- a the licencing of all public accommodation and commercial undertakings,
- b the regulation of the removal from the island of flora, fauna or coral or any other substance forming part of the island,
- c the management of certain reserves on the island, for the production and sale of *Kentia*, palm seeds, seedlings and trees, and
- d regulation and control of the use of motor vehicles on the island.

Out of all the speakers during the parliamentary debate, only Tom Lewis spoke against the Bill. He said *if there is to be only a marine reserve or a nature reserve, and not a national park, the parliament and this Government in particular, will stand condemned, for the world recognises national parks. If the legislative provision allows only for the reserve, obviously it would not extend to it the same degree of perfection as would flow from the establishment of the national park.*

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW does not believe that the Lord Howe Island Board has the expertise to manage such reserves at a level which

"THANK YOU DONORS"

The Environment Centre wishes to express its extreme gratitude to the person who anonymously donated \$2 000 last October. At that time the Centre had grave financial problems and it looked as if it may have had to close for a month or so had this donation not been received. To the donor we say *thank you* and wish to inform him/her/them that we have now made up the sum of \$2 000 out of our present funds and will keep this sum intact as an emergency reserve should similar circumstances occur at the end of this year or any future years.

Secondly, we wish to extend our sincere thanks to Mr Bill Russell of North Rocks for his magnificent gift of \$500 to the Environment Centre — this money has enabled us to press ahead with the renovations at our new premises at a much faster rate than would otherwise have been possible.

We would also like to acknowledge two donations from Cyd Bower which illustrate a concept that we believe would be well worth extending further — he has

given us \$16.35 (being the equivalent of one day's rent) and another sum of \$50.00 (being the equivalent of the production costs of one page of this magazine). If anybody else wishes to become associated with specific contributions like these we would be only too happy to give you further information.

International Film Services cancelled their invoice in favour of \$3.85 which we consider as a donation to the Centre and other anonymous donations have totalled \$6.20. Therefore, since the last issue of ECO we have received a total of \$2 576.40 in donations. It is essential that this level is maintained if we are to provide the level of services that our users require in their efforts to safeguard our natural heritage. Please remember that donations made payable to the Australian Conservation Foundation are tax deductible and in the event that you are prepared to assist us in our work, I have enclosed a form in this issue detailing the procedure involved.

would protect the natural heritage of the island. The Council believes that only the NP&WS has the expertise to draft and enforce an adequate management plan for the island and they feel that any additional tourism will destroy the natural landscape. The Government proposes to allow a potential doubling of tourist numbers to 8 000 per annum. The Council wrote to each State Cabinet member and has been advised by most of them that its views had been noted and our correspondence forwarded to the Minister for Lands, Mr Bill Crabtree.

In his reply to the Council, Mr Crabtree states, *with such restrictions, there is little opportunity for a developer to acquire land.* He comments that the small size of the island requires that it be administered by one authority and that the Lord Howe Island Board is the most suitable to carry on such administration. He concludes *with the legislative protection proposed and overall control by a planning scheme, the island will receive*

the security it needs to preserve it as part of the natural heritage.

The Council, in conjunction with other conservation organisations in this State, do not accept the Minister's assurances. They are pressing for the whole island to be declared as a national park under the jurisdiction of the NP&WS. They point out that the Service has had similar experience in administering an urban area and national park in the case of Threadbo Township and Kosciusko National Park.

A recent letter received from 9 residents of Lord Howe Island complains of the wholesale removal of large amounts of unique young palms from the island and states that charter planes from Brisbane and Sydney continue to call at regular intervals to collect the plants which are purchased from the Lord Howe Island Board. Their letter continues, *Surely nowhere else in Australia can rare endemic flora be lifted from the native bushland and sold by the body respon-*

sible for its protection. Palms have recently been taken from the proposed reserve area. It would appear that the existing Board have only a mild interest in protection measures for our flora and fauna and the new legislation will leave the protection of reserves at their discretion. These residents strongly believe that *the only adequate protection for this unique environment is that afforded by the National Parks and Wildlife Act.*

The Nature Conservation Council is strongly urging the Government to reconsider this amendment to the Lord Howe Island Act and ask for interested individuals and organisations to write immediately to Mr Crabtree, Minister for Lands and to Neville Wran, the Premier, requesting the NSW Government to dedicate the whole island as a national park thus saving Lord Howe Island intact for future generations.

Flood Mitigation in the Macleay Valley

by Penelope Coleing

On December 5 Paul Landa, Minister for Planning and Environment, visited the Macleay Valley to inspect flood mitigation works on the Macleay River. A seminar was held on December 6, organised by the *Macleay Argus*, at which nine speakers presented papers. The topic of the seminar was:

Flood Mitigation in the Macleay Valley, 1955-76: The Effects 21 Years After

Speakers were:

The Hon. Paul Landa	
Donald Hopkins,	Councillor of the Shire of Kempsey.
Edward Ockenden,	Principal Engineer, River Improvement, Water Resources Commission.
David Rankin,	Principal Engineer, River Improvement, Water Resources Commission.
Robert Herrington,	Deputy Chief, Soil Conservationist (Works & Extensions)
Peter Witschi,	Principal Agronomist, (Irrigation) Division of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture.
Desmond Dunstan,	Biologist, State Fisheries.
Alan Fox,	Chief of Education and Environmental Extensions, NP&WS
Milo Dunphy,	Director, Total Environment Centre.

Mr Landa was very sympathetic to the case put by the conservationists and in his speech made it clear that just because mistakes had been made in the past, we should now be prepared to *learn from past failures.* He went on to say that *Now, 21 years later, we need to assess the programs, and what we have achieved — what future priorities should be, and how we might best implement them. . . . As you know the Wran Government is committed to allowing the greatest public participation in all its programs.* Mr Landa then announced that in addition to the State Pollution Control Commission's general inquiry into the environmental effects of flood mitigation works, certain specific projects included in the 1976/77 flood mitigation program should be subject to an environment review. (The 1976/77 program proposes to spend \$2.5 million for flood mitigation works on the estuarine area of nine coastal rivers.)

This week I will be requesting the Department of Public Works to provide an Environmental Impact Statement on the likely effects on the environment of works included in the 1976/77 flood mitigation program that provide for:

- 1 *The construction of a level on Sportsman Creek, in the Clarence River Valley.*
 - 2 *The construction or amplification of drainage works in the Macleay River Valley; and*
 - 3 *The amplification or extension of existing works in the Maitland district.*
- After receipt of the Environmental Impact Statement it will be publicly exhibited and the question of whether an inquiry should be convened will be considered in the light of The State Pollution Control Commission's analysis of that statement and the public reactions to the Impact Statement.*

The Minister is to be congratulated on his extremely environmentally aware policy and action — and urged to set up a wide ranging public inquiry.

We therefore request other conservation societies, action groups etc., to write to the Minister:

- congratulating him on announcing the inquiry into the \$2.5 million program;
- and pressing for a wide ranging public inquiry to be held into the future proposed six year program to cost \$33 million (1976-82).

Fraser Island saved

On October 25, 1976 the Minister for EHCD, Kevin Newman, announced he had received the final report of the Fraser Island Environmental Inquiry. The Inquiry was presided over by Dr John Hookey and included 31 days of public hearings and the compilation of 3496 pages of oral transcript.

The final report came down strongly for the preservation of Fraser Island and some indication of the Commissioners' attitudes are shown in the following extracts:

The natural environment of Fraser Island is of great significance, complexity and fragility. The Island possesses individual features of great attraction and importance, such as its perched lakes, immense beaches, cliffs of Teewah (Coloured) Sands, sandblows and rain-forested sand dunes. But the inevitable highlighting of the presence and importance of these individual features of its natural environment should not be allowed to obscure the links and interdependency of its many fragile elements, while, overall, an impression of wilderness gives unity to the broad spectrum of the particular natural features of the Island.

The overall impression of a wild, uncultivated island refuge will be destroyed forever by mining, together with most of those qualities of the Island's natural environment that make Fraser Island of special value for the present community and for future generations and thus worthy of being recorded as part of the National Estate. These qualities can never be restored after destruction by mining.

The Commission's recommendations were:

- 1 All exports of minerals (including minerals that have been subjected to processing or treatment) extracted or which may hereafter be extracted from Fraser Island be absolutely prohibited except for minerals extracted from below the mean high-water mark on the eastern beach south of Indian Head.
- 2 Appropriate economic and other assistance be given to the extent that adverse regional economic effects follow the implementation of Recommendation 1.
- 3 The whole of Fraser Island be recorded as part of the National Estate as soon as possible.

On November 7, Malcolm Fraser said: *Fraser Island is an area of unique beauty. We recognise the fragility of the environment on Fraser Island — we recognise it needs protection . . . and we recognise our responsibility to make sure this part of our national heritage is not lost to future generations.*

After discussion in Cabinet, Kevin Newman gave the following report in the House of Representatives on November 10. *The Commonwealth Government has decided that the export of minerals extracted from Fraser Island, other than from below high-water mark on the beach south of Indian Head, should be phased out and export should not be permitted for minerals mined after December 31, 1976. The Acting Minister for National Resources (Mr Nixon), had indicated that he intends to withhold export permits accordingly. . . . The Commonwealth Government has also decided that Fraser Island will be recorded as part of the National Estate. . . . Special features set Fraser Island aside as an area of outstanding social, aesthetic and scientific significance. The Minister for EHCD will consult with the Queensland Government seeking joint Commonwealth-State action to develop an agreed management plan for Fraser Island, having in mind the preservation of the Island's natural features and the oversight of Island activity. This statement by the Commonwealth Government represents the most favourable environmental decision yet made by the Liberal Government.*

After strong protests by the Queensland Government, the Federal Government announced, on December 20, an offer of 10 million dollars environmental compensation payment to be split between the State Government (for creating new employment prospects) and

the mining companies. However, a major condition the companies will have to meet is that they must rehabilitate the Island's environment in order to qualify. Both Mr Bjelke-Peterson and the President of Maryborough Chamber of Commerce attacked the 10 million dollar grant for aid in the Maryborough region as being minimal.

The Australian Mining Industry Council then launched a considerable media campaign criticising the Commonwealth Government's decision and stating it created a dangerous precedent by which mining projects can be stopped by the Commonwealth under pressure from environmental interests after the projects have been approved by the appropriate state governments. The Council wants Federal and State Governments to jointly approve mineral projects before any mining commences.

Production by Dillingham and Murphys Minerals ceased on the Island at 5 pm on December 24 and Queensland Titanium Mines left the Island on December 31. However, DM Minerals has made a move to retain its 12 sand mining leases on Fraser Island despite the Federal Government's ban on exports. This application is to be opposed by the Fraser Island Defence Organisation.

Subsequent to the Cabinet decision, Fraser Island has been recorded as the first area in Australia to be listed on the Interim Register of the National Estate. We also offer our congratulations to John Sinclair on being made *Australian of the Year* by the *Australian* newspaper in recognition of his hard and determined struggle over many years against overwhelming odds.

(Source: Fraser Island Final Report: Hansard 10/11/76; and various newspaper articles.)

SPCC ANNUAL REPORT

The Environment Centre has received a copy of the annual report of the State Pollution Control Commission for 1976. The 167 page report represents a considerable increase in size over previous annual reports of the Commission and explains the Commission's activities in the past year in considerable detail.

The report, after noting the Commission's staff now totals 301 persons, comments that the success of the Com-

mission's actions in controlling pollution during recent years is demonstrated by the striking improvement in water quality in a number of waterways (eg, The Parramatta River, Duck River, Alexandria Canal and Cooks River) which had been heavily polluted for many years. The control of air pollution, particularly photochemical smog, nevertheless remains the greatest single challenge for the Commission and the community.

After detailing the administration and information services of the Commission it then gives details of the environmental investigations and inquiries that have been carried out during the past year; these being as follows — Aquatic Weed Control, Water Hyacinth in New South Wales, Botany Bay Environmental Control Study, Environmental Control of Beaches, Environmental Management of Intensive Animal Industries, Mining Wastes and Related Matters, Agricultural Chemical Use in the Namoi District, Roadside Signs and Hoardings, Preservation of Natural Areas on Kooragang Island and Adjacent Lands, Effects of Development on Salamander Bay, Research Grants Scheme, Botany Bay Coal Loader Inquiry, North Coast Woodchip Inquiry, Environmental Impact Assessment of Sand and Gravel Extraction in the Hawkesbury Region, Environmental Impact Assessment of Eraring Power Station.

Air pollution control covers 48 pages in the report, examining such topics as:

growth as the cause of air pollution;

traditional pollution problems; the emerging pollution problem including the Sydney Oxidant Study, motor vehicle emissions; air quality monitoring and other special investigations. The next 36 pages cover water pollution control and considerable discussion is devoted to water quality monitoring in Sydney Harbour and its tributaries, the Georges River, Cooks River, Alexandria Canal, Lane Cove River, and Port Kembla Harbour. There have been four special investigations in this field in the last month; these being the quality of Sydney's natural waterways in relation to growth, the efficacy of ponds used for polishing sewage treatment plant effluents, water pollution from sanitary landfill sites in the Sydney region, and a survey of the quality of sewage treatment plant effluents in NSW.

During the year the Commission launched successful prosecution against 43 individuals and companies on 54 separate counts, the maximum fines imposed being those of \$7 000 and \$8 500 upon Conroy Bulk Tankers Pty Ltd, for pollution of waters and two

similar amounts upon C McDowell on similar counts. At the end of the year proceedings are pending against 21 companies.

Appendices to the main report cover the findings and recommendations of the following investigations —

- a The Botany Bay Coal Loader Inquiry.
 - b Silverwater Liquid Fuel Depot Inquiry.
 - c Sydney-Newcastle Pipelines Inquiry.
 - d Extractive Industries in the Hawkesbury Region.
 - e The North Coast Woodchip Inquiry.
- In conclusion the report states:

Few in the community deny the need for proper environmental control measures, although vested interests sometimes strenuously oppose specific measures. The answer inevitably must be in the price the community is prepared to pay for clean air, clean water, quietness, a pleasing visual environment, and a viable natural environment. A significant part of the community is demanding these things, and the Commission believes the demands will be sustained, whatever the cost.

Flags of convenience

The tanker, Argo Merchant ran aground on the Nantucket Shoals on December 15, 1976, and a week later the 18 000 tonne vessel had spilt all its 30 million litre cargo of heavy industrial oil into the rich Massachusetts fishing grounds. The oil formed a slick 120 kms long and 40 km wide which slowly drifted towards one of America's most scenic beach areas. Bodies of hundreds of ducks, loons and seagulls were washed ashore while *others, their bodies caked with oil, stood on the beach, shivering and pathetic, waiting to die.*

An anonymous crew member claimed, *the vessel was old and leaking and may have been deliberately beached with the owner's knowledge.* The Argo Merchant was Liberian registered and has been involved in 18 other mishaps since 1964 including 2 previous groundings.

The San Sinena recently exploded off Long Beach, California after unloading oil, causing widespread damage and killing 4 sailors; it was Liberian registered. The Olympic Games ran aground in the Delaware River spilling ½ million litres of oil; it too was Liberian registered. In all, 5 Liberian flag vessels were involved in oil spills or other maritime mishaps off US waters in a 2 week period. The Torrey Canyon, which ran aground off

Lands End in 1967 causing the world's largest oil spill, was Liberian registered. When the tanker Arrow ran aground off Nova Scotia in 1970 with the resultant death of 7 000 seabirds, the Canadian Committee of Inquiry found that virtually none of the ships navigational equipment was functioning. The officer on watch had no licence and none of the crew save the Captain had any navigational skill, and even his was in doubt. You guessed it — the Arrow was Liberian registered.

Liberia has the largest merchant marine in the world with 2 518 ships (945 of which are tankers — Japan having only 520 tankers), yet the country does not possess a natural harbour!

There are three reasons, all financial, for American owners to sail under the Liberian 'flag of convenience'. American registered vessels must be built in US shipyards; American crews get paid six times as much as non-European; and corporate taxes in the US are about 48% of profits — Liberian ships are free of corporate taxes. To place a ship under Liberian registry one goes not to Liberia but to 103 Park Avenue, New York. These convenient arrangements have proven to be immensely financially beneficial to shipping interests and oil producers.

On January 10, Senator Mulvihill, (Labor NSW) asked the Federal Government to use the provisions of the Navigation Act, relating to safety standards, to ban Liberian flag tankers from Australian territorial waters. He asked Mr Nixon to examine whether Australia had such powers but had received no answer. Later, a spokesman for Mr Nixon said that there were no plans to ban accident-prone tankers.

Senator Mulvihill said that he was also concerned that state authorities used emulsifiers and detergents to disperse oil spillages. US Coast Guard authorities had recently rejected such measures because of the long term effect on marine life. (Editor's note: UK research has shown that such chemical dispersants cause greater damage to marine ecosystems than does the oil itself — whose effects are relatively short-lived.)

(Source: SMH 23/12/76 and 11/1/77, Aust. 24/12/76, Fin. Rev. 4/1/77.)

NCC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1977

The 1977 Annual Conference of the Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales will be held at The Environment Centre, 399 Pitt Street on Saturday, October 22. The Council's Annual Dinner will be held, as last year, at The Australian Museum. Full details will be published in later issues of ECO.

North Coast Woodchip Scheme Still Alive

by Jeff Angel

Proposals for a woodchip industry on the north coast of New South Wales have recently been invigorated by the Minister for Decentralisation and Development, Mr Don Day.

Under the sponsorship of his department a consortium of companies, including Allen Taylor, C Itoh, Toyomenka and Nippon Pulp; want to export 350 000 tonnes of woodchips annually from Coffs Harbour. The chips will be harvested from sawlog waste and forest residue drawn mainly from the coastal forestry districts of Coffs Harbour, Casino, Wauchope and Dungog. The market is Japan, which will produce panel and paper products from the chips.

The substance of the proposal is found in the publication 'North Coast Woodchip Industry' by the State Development Coordinating Committee, established by the Department of Decentralisation and Development. The report outlines the economic benefits and viability of the proposed industry.

This was the document that was used to lobby the Coffs Harbour Shire Council into reversing its opposition to a woodchip port. During the same period, the State Pollution Control Commission study, which after a public inquiry, opposed the port, was kept under wraps by the previous government. Finally, and to Mr Day's credit, he arranged for both reports to be publicly released together, this year.

However, this does not excuse the tactic by government to hold public inquiries and at the same time commission secret inter-departmental investigations which can be used against public inquiry results. It is deplorable that there was no public access to the committee, particularly when the proponent companies were clearly able to input information. Further, both the Departments of Tourism and Planning and Environment representatives disagreed with the Committee's conclusions, but their objections were not articulated in a minority report.

In fact, as a basis for decision making, the document is just not good enough. For example, the report claims the popularity of the 'Big Banana' and 'Big

Pineapple' proves that the woodchip industry will have tourist value. What next, the 'Big Chip'?

More importantly, it fails to answer the dilemma of growth in the woodchip industry or even of keeping output stable, when faced with a decreasing supply of sawmill waste. The FORWOOD Conference predicted a drop of 58% in sawlog availability between 1975 and 2010, in the Coffs Harbour forestry district. Other north coast areas will experience similar declines in logs and thus waste, primarily due to the overcut of the forests and regeneration of slower growing species. Pressure will further increase if the Committee's option of a pulp mill is taken up.

There are two solutions:

- 1 Introduce more intensive cutting techniques on private and public forests in order to maintain supply, or
- 2 Let the industry decline.

If you were a politician dependant on country votes, which would you choose? Naturally, the first one, the alternative that protects jobs.

The Interim Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Environment Inquiry into the Current Woodchip Industry Program, recognised this problem and recommended:

Approval of any such schemes should incorporate safeguards to ensure that material chipped is restricted to genuine wastes and residue, and that additional trees are not felled merely to maintain or increase chip supplies.

However, the current north coast proposal does not appear to contain such guarantees. In fact, the Committee laid the ground for the integration of clearing of private forests with the woodchip industry.

As yet, there are no signs of adequate legislative controls on clearing of private forests. The SPCC inquiry expressed its concern in this regard:

The Commission envisages possible indiscriminate exploitation of private lands to provide material for woodchips. There are not sufficient statutory powers to ensure proper environmental management of private lands in respect of soil erosion, protection of visual amenity,

faunal habitats, and specific plant communities.

Up to 40 and 50% of north coast forests are in private hands, including a substantial amount of priceless rainforest.

The projected pressures on private and public forests give little heart to the conservationist.

For the conservation movement both the SPCC and Development Committee reports just don't answer the urgent need to preserve representative forest types and faunal habitats in areas large enough to ensure their survival and support the rapidly growing demand for forest orientated recreation. Of the 24 North Coast forest alliances, 11 have no protection at all and conservation status of 2 more is poor and forest orientated recreation is growing at more than 8% a year. The National Parks Association of NSW has over 20 park proposals for north coast.

Surely these substantial demands should be met first, before we entangle ourselves in an industry devoted to growth and production of short term and often wasteful products.

The conservation movement is at least fortunate that it was vigilant enough to detect the proposed north coast woodchip industry two years ago. Thanks to the Total Environment Centre, the initial environmental impact statements were obtained for a joint meeting of north coast and Sydney conservation groups on the woodchip question at the end of 1974.

However, all that has been gained is a collection of inquiries and reports, admittedly involving useful public discussion, but still, the conservation option is largely ignored and unprotected in law.

(Jeff Angel is Assistant Director of the Total Environment Centre.)

APOLOGY

In the last issue of ECO we stated in an article on the Border Ranges that John Whitehouse, Associate adviser to the Minister for Planning & Environment, had been appointed as the Minister's representative on the IDC to investigate a future management policy for the Border Ranges. Unfortunately this was erroneous and the Minister's Representative is Dr Ron Yardley of the Planning and Environment Commission.

We understand that the Committee has met but we do not have any further information to date.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BATTLING POLLUTION IN LAGUNA de BAY

Manila — A year ago last July Philipinos were shocked to learn that Laguna de Bay, the largest fresh water lake in Southeast Asia, had overnight become a death trap for fish. What caused the massive fishkill remains a mystery although many fishery experts suspect the cause to be related to the unhindered flow of waste effluents into the 900-square kilometre lake just south of here.

Laguna de Bay, a shallow lake (average water depth 2.8 metres), is located in the centre of the Philippines' most urbanised and industrialised region. Covering about 4 500 square kms, the Laguna catchment encompasses five chartered cities including Manila and the country's capital, Quezon. The region's current population of six million is expected to swell above 15 million by the end of the century.

In fact, international water and fishery experts believe that unless effective remedial measures are taken to reduce and control the lake's pollution immediately, it will soon deteriorate into a putrid lagoon suitable only for waste assimilation, its water becoming unsuitable for aquaculture by 1985.

There are nearly 300 chemical and industrial plants in the Laguna region whose untreated, often highly toxic, wastes flow into the lake. Irrigation and rain water run-offs from the farm lands bring in nitrogen-rich fertilisers and pesticides.

Barge traffic on the lake, mainly for transportation of crude and processed oil to and from the refinery at Pililla, about 35 kms southeast of here, constitutes another major source of pollution.

However, the largest single source of pollution in Laguna de Bay comes from animal and domestic waste. None of the urban and rural communities in the Laguna catchment, except Nakati, has any sewage treatment facilities. There are also a number of feedlots and duck, chicken and hog farms whose waste finds its way into the lake.

Algae Growth

Pollutants in the lake contain such nutrients as nitrogen and phosphates which stimulate the growth of algae, phytoplankton and other aquatic plants.

These, according to the water quality experts, are a major cause of the lake's eutrophic condition — rich in dissolved nutrients but seasonally deficient in oxygen.

Also contributing to this condition is the spread of water hyacinths which cover an ever-increasing area of the lake's surface each year. It was estimated that some 5% of the lake's surface was covered by free-floating hyacinths last year.

Periodic algae blooms continue to inhibit the growth of fisheries which constitute the main commercial use of the lake waters. Overdense algae growth decomposes, in the process depleting the lake's oxygen supply. Toxic excretions from dead algae contribute to the fishkills which are not uncommon, having occurred in the lake in 1972 and 1973.

Algae blooms were probably responsible for last year's mass drownings of bangus, a popular milkfish. The belief is that what really shocked people then was the scale of the kill and the resultant publicity.

The Philippine's Government, through a semi-public body called the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), has prepared the blueprint of a long-term program to control pollution in the lake and to develop its water resources for irrigation, industrial development and fisheries. The lake is also looked to as a major source of domestic water supply for millions of Manila residents in the 1990s.

(Source: Action UNDP. Sept/Oct 1976.)

FAST NEW FOREST INDUSTRY FOR PNG

Papua New Guinea is considering a \$420 million program for setting up integrated forest industries in its northwestern region. The 25 to 30 year program, envisaging the establishment of sawn-wood, ply-wood and pulp mills is expected to be a forerunner of similar programs in major forest areas elsewhere in the country.

With nearly 85% of its land surface covered with tropical forests, PNG has very little wood based industry to date. The production target for the first phase of the project is an annual output of nearly 820 000 cubic metres of timber. This entails clear felling 65 000 hectares of natural forest reserves which would immediately be replanted with fast growing tree species. The responsibilities for these plantations would be vested in either the mill or a co-operative.

UNDP/FAO has recommended that

the existing forest legislation in PNG should be revised since it is *either too obsolete or technically inadequate to allow the Government to deal effectively with the management of national forest resources and of the rapidly expanding forest industry*. While the PNG Government has set up a separate department to oversee the environmental impact of forest industries, a UNDP/FAO expert has advised that no large-scale forest development should be undertaken without adequate study of the potential side effects.

(Source: Action UNDP. Sept/Oct 1976.)

WASTE RECYCLING IN RUSSIA — FOR A PROFIT

Leningrad has become a leader in waste recycling in Russia. The city's four year old recycling plant takes in more than one-fifth of all the solid waste produced in the city of over 4 million inhabitants. Urban dwellers in Russia generate on average about 300 kgs of refuse each year which is roughly equivalent to the quantity produced by Australian householders. Paper rarely appears in the wastes stream since recycling is widely practiced and incentives are offered for returns.

After the extraction of magnetic metals the remaining wastes are fermented biologically at between 140 to 160 degrees and the ensuing compost is sold at \$9.00 per ton for use in hot houses in winter and in gardens and farms in summer.

(Source: PIEC Newsletter, October 1976.)

437 ATOMIC REACTOR MISHAPS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in the USA produces a computerised printout of Licensee Event Reports for operating reactors and reactors under construction. According to federal law all licensees must file a report every time a system or component goes awry at the plant site. For June 1976 alone, the computer printout reveals that licensee installations experienced 437 separate failures or deviations in performance — accumulative effects of such breakdowns would amount to over 5 000 events each year.

Although NRC officials point out that few of these problems would pose major risks to communities which surround the nuclear plants, on 13 occasions in June the primary containment of the reactor was penetrated by a foreign object which

could either puncture the wall of the containment or block the water flow to the reactor's core. And at 18 other reactors, highly toxic radioactive gas or liquid was accidentally released into the atmosphere or into a nearby waterway 23 different times.

Utilities have also reported that either components or entire systems broke down due to basic design or fabrication errors. 46 design errors were discovered according to the June tabulations.

(Source: Critical Mass, September 1976.)

PNG MOVES TO PROTECT DUGONG

The dugong has joined the bird of paradise among the fauna that Papua New Guinea is trying to save from extinction. It has been listed as a protected species, meaning that it can still be hunted for traditional purposes by traditional methods, but the odds are now more in favour of the dugong.

It's greater relative — the 10 metre, nine tonne Stellar's sea cow, was exterminated less than 30 years after its discovery in 1741. The dugong had the initial advantage of larger numbers and smaller size, but commercial hunting has caused a drastic reduction in its population over most of its range.

Mrs Brydget Hudson, an ecologist, says *Dugongs are animals which reproduce very slowly. They only have one young about every three years and if they are over-hunted their numbers decline very rapidly and they become very rare and sometimes extinct. ... Conversely, where they have been given some protection, they have maintained their population and sometimes the population has even risen.*

(Source: Syd. Morning Herald 11/1/77.)

NATIONAL NEWS

MINERS BATTLE FOR A NEW SAND CASTLE

As the sandminers leave Fraser Island and the demolition teams move in to dismantle millions of dollars worth of equipment, another sandmining battle draws to a close. It is the Fourth Inquiry into how to use Moreton Island, a relatively unspectacular sand mass in Moreton Bay.

Moreton does not have the cathedrals, colored sands and huge freshwater lakes of Fraser, but it has one big advantage over its more beautiful northern counterpart. It is one of the few remaining unspoiled pieces of land within easy travelling distance of Queensland's increasingly sprawling and crowded capital city of Brisbane. About 58% of Queensland's population lives in the Moreton region centred on Brisbane. Yet the region has only 3% of the state's national parks.

(Source: The Australian 20/12/76.)

PROPOSED ACT NATIONAL PARK

A consultant's report was released on October 11 on a government proposal to create a national park in the Australian Capital Territory to be managed by the Department of the Capital Territory.

The report covers an area of about 72 000 ha in the southern region of the ACT. More than 66 000 ha of the area forms the catchment of the proposed Tennent Dam north of the Naas and Gudgenby Rivers. The remaining area of nearly 6 000 ha lies north and west of Mount Tennent. It describes the area studied as rugged, mountainous country with low agricultural, pastoral and forestry land use.

The report states that the diverse landscapes and variety of animal and plant habitats, combined with the pressures of bush type recreation generated by the large population in nearby Canberra and Queanbeyan, support the claim that a national park is the most appropriate form of land use for the area. A three stage, ten to fifteen year development program is recommended with an early start on implementation.

We anticipate that a copy of this report will be available soon at the Environment Centre library.

(Source: Commonwealth Record, October 11-17, 1976.)

KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

In the Senate on November 2, Senator Mulvihill asked the following question of Senator Carrick.

Mindful of the caution shown by Mr Justice Fox in his interim report about any uranium extraction in the NT, will the Minister for EHCD and the Minister for the NT exercise the power mentioned by Senator Carrick during Estimates Committee discussion to declare the boundaries of the Kakadu NP before — I

emphasise 'before' — any future uranium extraction is attempted in the Territory?

Senator Carrick's reply was *My understanding is that the Minister for the NT and the Minister for EHCD have agreed that Kakadu NP in the NT is of national significance and at the appropriate time should be declared under the NP&WL Conservation Act 1975. My understanding is that although the commissioners were not required to do so by their terms of reference they pointed out in the first report of the Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry that they had been asked to suggest where the boundaries of the NP should be, having in mind proposed and possible mining operations. In accordance with the provisions of the NP&WL Conservation Act 1975, public notice has been given of the intention to declare Kakadu NP. The Minister for EHCD will have regard to the suggestions of the commissioners and will have further discussions with the Minister for the NT before defining the boundaries and declaring Kakadu NP under the NP&WL Conservation Act 1975.*

(Source: Senate Hansard 2/11/76.)

NATIONAL PARK PROPOSED FOR PERTH

This proposal for Perth's first major south-west metropolitan national park has been developed by Murdoch University Environment Department and covers an area stretching along a 12 km chain of lakes covering a comprehensive range of bird, plant and animal life which once inhabited the Swan Coastal Plain. The report, which is being considered by the WA Government and the town of Cockburn, warns that pollution of the lakes has reached a critical level since the increase of nutrient levels through run-off from rural and developed areas has allowed eutrophication to threaten the wetland ecosystem.

(Source: ANZ Environment Report 28/10/76.)

OPEN SHOOTING SEASON ON CAPE BARREN GOOSE

On January 1 the Tasmanian NP&WS declared an open shooting season on Flinders Island on one of the world's rarest geese. It is estimated that 6 000 of the world's remaining 12 000 Cape Barren Geese nest on the island. Licence fees are to be \$3 and experts expect at least 800 geese to be killed during the season.

The season follows complaints by local

farmers who say the geese are responsible for destroying grass and crops. Although farmers have been permitted to shoot the geese on their properties under licence, public shooting has been banned for ten years.

(Source: Sydney Morning Herald 1/1/77.)

NEW DIRECTOR FOR FEDERAL NP&WS

Kevin Newman announced on December 7 that Prof. Ovington, former Head of the Department of Forestry at ANU has been appointed as Director of the National Parks & Wildlife Service.

Prof. Ovington, who is 51, is a scientist of considerable international standing and was intimately concerned with the administration of the Nature Conservancy in the UK before coming to Australia. Mr Newman said that Prof. Ovington's appointment was for 7 years.

(Source: Ministerial press release 7/12/76.)

BARRIER REEF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

First meeting of this Committee took place in Brisbane on September 23 and the 19 members of the Committee include representatives from Commonwealth and Queensland Government Departments. In addition non-government organisations, including unions and university personnel, have also been appointed. Dr D. Connell represents the ACF while Mr E. Hegerl is the appointed representative of the Queensland Conservation Council.

(Source: ANZ Environmental Report 9/12/76.)

GIANT SPONGES STALK WEST COAST

A previously unknown species of sponge 3 feet tall has been found growing on the smooth sides of concrete-lined steel cans full of low-level radioactive wastes that were dumped 6 000 feet deep in the sea off San Francisco.

The wastes, from atomic power plants and laboratories, were dumped in the 1950s and 60s under the terms of a Government contract with private companies. The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) surveyed the cans last year and found some of them to be cracked or imploded from water pressure. EPA scientists speculated that the sponges were swept in by ocean currents and attracted by the smooth surfaces of the cans.

(Source: Not Man Apart, Mid-Oct., '76.)

Fox and after ?

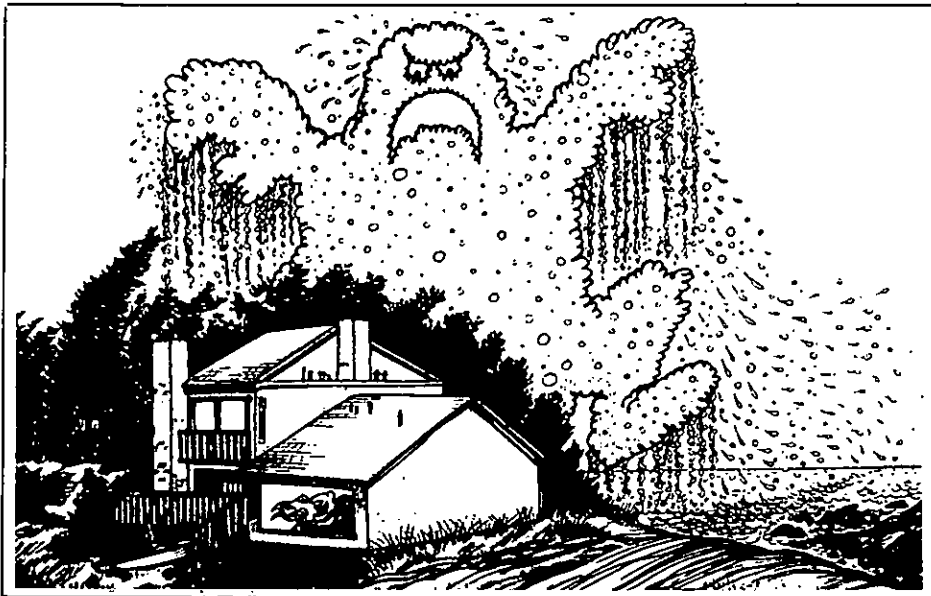
On October 28, 1976 The Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry, presided over by Mr Justice Fox, released its long awaited report. The Inquiry, into the proposed development by the Australian Atomic Energy Commission and Ranger Uranium Mines Pty Ltd of uranium deposits in the Northern Territory, was established by Gough Whitlam as Prime Minister and Minister of State for the Environment on July 16, 1975 in pursuance of Section 11 (1) of the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974.

The Commission at an early stage felt, on the basis of submissions received, that it should inquire into the broader aspects of the risks and dangers associated with the use of uranium for the nuclear power industry. Since cost-benefit analysis is an integral part of any environmental investigation it was decided not only to consider the present and future market prospects of uranium but also to consider the need for uranium as a source of energy; and hence world and national energy resources. (Fox page 2.)

Public hearings began in Sydney on September 9, 1975 and a total of 281 persons gave evidence; the transcript of which occupied 12 575 pages. In July 1976 the Commission made a two week visit to England and West Germany where it examined nuclear power facilities in commercial operation and associated research laboratories. At the same time the Commission came to the conclusion that it should deal first, in a separate report, with the ground of objection to

the effect that Australia should not mine or sell uranium at all. The Second Report will cover aspects such as the position of the Aboriginal people, who oppose mining in the area and who wish to be treated as owners of the land; as the impact of mining operations upon the proposed Kakadu National Park; as the position of the owners of a nearby large grazing property who fear affects from the mine. Fears have also been expressed as to the affect of the mining operations on wetlands and wildlife habitats. *If these considerations, taken singly or together, were not to be regarded as sufficient to stand in the way of mining, (our emphasis) it would still be our duty to recommend courses designed to obviate or minimise any undesirable or deleterious consequences.* (Fox page 5.)

The Report also states *what has surprised us is a lack of objectivity in not a few of those in favour of it (nuclear energy production) including distinguished scientists. There is abundant evidence before us to show that scientists, engineers and administrators involved in the business of producing nuclear energy have at times painted excessively optimistic pictures of the safety and performance . . . of various aspects of nuclear production. There are not a few scientists, including distinguished nuclear scientists, (our emphasis again) who are flatly opposed to the further development of nuclear energy and who present facts and views opposed to those of others of equal eminence.* (Fox page 6.)



"Here's a laugh! Three-foot sponges growing on atomic waste cans undersea!"

The Report is too lengthy to attempt to paraphrase adequately but a paragraph on page 9 succinctly sums up the area's natural and cultural values:

They are located in a region that is in many ways remarkable. It is largely undeveloped. The Aboriginal population still maintains elements of its traditional way of life, and the spectacular Arnhem Land escarpment contains many of the best surviving examples of Aboriginal rock art. Numerous rich archaeological sites provide evidence of continuous human habitation for tens of thousands of years. The area is noted for its abundant wildlife, particularly the waterbirds that gather on its floodplains. Much of its vegetation is diverse and interesting.

A very important point is made on page 83 where the Report states *net additions to Australian national income will probably result in an increase of about 0.1% of national income in 1980-81 rising to about 0.5% in 1990-91.*

The Report provides fascinating reading for anyone who is not only interested in the subject of nuclear power but also in the complex and detailed assessment that goes to make up an Environmental Impact Study. The breadth of the Inquiry is indicated by its chapter headings — the basis of nuclear power, present status of nuclear power, world energy consumption and resources, contribution of nuclear power to world energy requirements, uranium: supply and demand, hazards of the nuclear fuel cycle, environmental hazards of non-nuclear energy sources, nuclear theft and sabotage etc.

The Commission's final recommendation took account of what they understood to be the policy of the Act under which the Inquiry was instituted. *It is simply that there should be ample time for public consideration of this Report, and for debate upon it. We therefore recommend that no decision be taken in relation to the foregoing matters until a reasonable time has elapsed and there has been an opportunity for the usual democratic processes to function including, in this respect, parliamentary debate.*

Almost a month earlier, on September 22, 1976, the Report of the UK Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution which, under the chairmanship of Sir Brian Flowers conducted an inquiry into environmental risks of the nuclear industry, was presented to the British Parliament. Six of the most important conclusions were:

1 Reactor safety

The risk of serious accident in any single

reactor is extremely small; the hazards posed by reactor accidents are not unique in scale nor of such a kind as to suggest that nuclear power should be abandoned for this reason alone.

2 Security of plutonium

Plutonium appears to offer unique potential for threat and blackmail against society because of its great radiotoxicity and its fissile properties.

3 Radioactive waste

There should be no commitment to a large program of nuclear fission power until it has been demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt that a method exists to ensure the safe containment of long-lived, highly radioactive waste for the indefinite future.

4 Nuclear policy for UK

The dangers of the creation of plutonium in large quantities in conditions of increased world unrest are genuine and serious. We should not rely for energy supply on a process that produces such a hazardous substance as plutonium unless there is no reasonable alternative.

The abandonment of nuclear fission power would, however, be neither wise nor justified. But a major commitment to fission power and plutonium economy should be postponed for as long as possible.

6 Alternative Energy Sources

There should be increased support for the development of other energy sources including energy conservation, combined heat and power systems and fusion power.

However, in spite of the final recommendation of the Fox Report *that there should be ample time for public consideration of the report* and in spite of Malcolm Fraser's own words on November 2 *I don't believe it (the Fox Report) is one about which the Government or opposition ought to make hurried or unthought decisions of any kind*; only 14 days after the Report was published the Federal Government announced that export permits would be issued to allow Mary Kathleen to export its production and that arrangements would be made for the Government's uranium stockpile to be used to honour export contracts of Peko/EZ and Qld. Mines Limited.

Following the release of the Ranger Uranium Report all the major anti-nuclear groups met in Sydney. The meeting resolved a policy demanding a 5 year moratorium in order that adequate public discussion could be undertaken before any decision was made whether or not to mine uranium. A national

representation group of community bodies from around Australia was formed — this group is called the Uranium Moratorium — and its principal task is that of coordinating activities by consultation.

However, soon after the Government's announcement, the ALP endorsed the concept of honouring existing contracts and similarly the ACTU Executive resolved likewise. The ARU (Qld) one of the most active unions against uranium mining, then announced that it would follow the ACTU policy.

On November 19 the *March for Survival* organised by Uranium Moratorium groups saw 3 000 people attend a rally in City Square, Melbourne in a show of concern about uranium mining.

The Environment Centre has a few free copies of the Ranger Uranium Report still left for distribution. Reference copies of Joe Camillieri's *Fox Report Analysis* and *Uranium Mining and Nuclear Power: an Environmental Review* by Robotham are also available. Both of these are exceedingly well written and authoritative and full of interesting facts.

(Sources: Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry — First Report; Ministerial Press Release 11/12/76; MAUM Newsletter, January 1977.)

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THE NEW NCC EXECUTIVE

Members of the Nature Conservation Council's 1977 Executive were elected at the Council's Annual Conference in October and subsequently office bearers have been elected.

Chairman	Mr Bill Hicks (replacing Vincent Serventy, resigned 1/2/77) — elected councillor — (Stead Wildlife Research Foundation)
Vice-Chairman	Mr Len Willan — elected councillor — (Commissioner, State Pollution Control Commission)
Hon. Secretary	Mr Ivor Wyatt, OBE, — appointed councillor, Stead Wildlife Foundation — (National Trust, Member SPCC Clean Waters Advisory Cmtee.
Hon. Treasurer	Mr Jim Somerville (replacing Hank Vandepol, resigned 11/2/77) — elected councillor — (Commissioner, State Pollution Control Commission)
Appointed Councillors	Dr Peter Myerscough — Linnean Society. Mr Roger Lyle — NSW Federation of Bushwalking Clubs. Mr Jim Brown — Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia. Mr David Tranter — National Parks Association of NSW. Mr Richard Willis — Youth Hostels Association.
Elected Councillors	Assoc.Prof. Roger Carolin (School of Biological Sciences, Sydney Uni.) Mr Peter Maslen (Chairman, Colong Committee) Mr Peter Prineas (Executive Secretary, National Parks Association) Mr Vincent Serventy (Commissioner, Australian Heritage Commission President WLPSA) Mrs Roslyn Walker (National Trust)
Co-opted Councillors	Mr Charles Boyd (formerly NP&WS) Mr Phillip Colman (Australian Museum)

The Council's Executive Secretary is Mr John Hibberd who can be contacted at The Environment Centre, 399 Pitt Street, Telephone 233 5388.

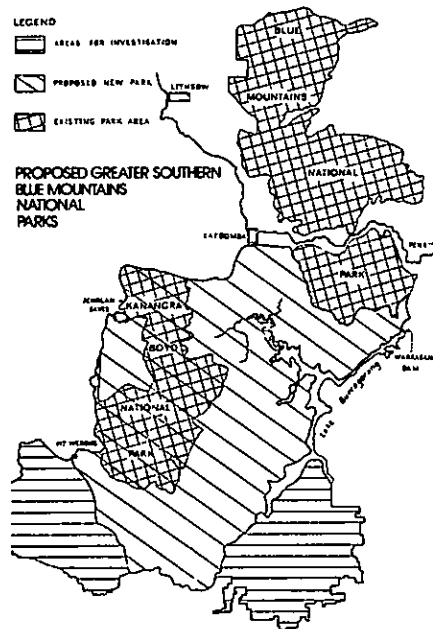
Doubling of Blue Mountains National Park Area

Neville Wran, on December 17, announced that the State Labor Government would establish a Greater Southern Blue Mountains National Park of almost 400 000 acres, a large section of which will be left as wilderness (the accompanying map indicates the extent of the proposed park). Mr Wran stated that these dedications which will include Crown land currently held by the Lands Department, the Water Board and the Forestry Commission together with some privately owned areas, will represent an increase of almost 20% in the total area of national parks in New South Wales.

Some of the restrictions necessary will give a greater degree of protection for natural and wilderness areas than in any other national park in Australia, Mr Wran said. This is particularly significant in view of the closeness of the new park to major population centres.

Other principles in the management plan will include:

- Control of vehicular entry to the most primitive sections of the natural wilderness area; and



- Establishment of buffer areas on the periphery of the park boundary for recreation activities.

We must all surely be heartened by Mr Wran's assurance that with facilities for recreation on the perimeter of the park, entry to the natural areas can be restricted to those genuinely seeking the peace of the wilderness area.

STATE NEWS

KONANGAROO STATE FOREST

Milton Morris, a former Minister for Lands, recently directed the following question to Bill Crabtree, present Minister for Lands, *Was a decision made last year to revoke the Konangaroo state forest preparatory to incorporating the whole of the Boyd Plateau in the Kanangra-Boyd National Park? Has the revocation of the forest taken place and is this area now lying as vacant Crown land? Will the Minister inform the House when it will be possible to incorporate the whole of the Boyd Plateau in the Kanangra-Boyd National Park?*

Mr Crabtree replied *I know that the honourable member when Minister for Lands pursued this project with enthusiasm. It is a fact that soon after taking office as Minister for Lands I formally gazetted revocation of the Konangaroo State Forest. All lands previously in the forest, including the area known as Boyd Plateau, are now vacant Crown lands.*

The House will be happy to know that moves to incorporate the former forest into the Kanangra-Boyd NP are well advanced. The former forest area covers almost 10 000 ha and with its incorporation the Kanangra-Boyd NP will be expanded to an area of almost 68 000 ha. The formal concurrence of all other land use authorities has been received and only minor details to finalise the boundaries of the enlarged park remain to be settled. I have directed the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service to push ahead with the completion of the

WILDERNESS IN AUSTRALIA

This study by the University of New England is the first detailed study of wilderness in Australia and represents an attempt to identify and describe all wilderness areas in NSW and SE Queensland.

We thoroughly recommend the book which is 156 pages long and includes 41 maps and 30 plates. Price is \$5.50 from The Environment Centre.

project as a matter of urgency.

(Source: Hansard: Legislative Assembly, NSW 10/11/76.)

KELLY'S BUSH UNDER THREAT — AGAIN

Due to Hunters Hill Council's decision that it could not afford \$450 000 to buy Kelly's Bush to preserve it as open space, it has left zoning of the area as residential. This is directly contrary to the recommendations of Mr Dale, a Commissioner appointed by the Council, to consider use of the area, who, in conjunction with the Council's consultant town planners, recommended that Kelly's Bush be zoned as open space and preserved as native park land.

After resident protests and union green bans in 1971-72, the then State Planning Authority purchased 2.5 ha of the bushland on the foreshores below the cliff face and dedicated it as open space. But 3 ha remain above the cliff face for residential development, and the owners of the site, Jennings Industries Limited, propose to build 25 detached houses on this area.

The Labor Council of NSW still has a ban on any development of the site.

(Source: Syd. Morning Herald 28/12/76.)

PRIVET CLEARING IN LANE COVE

The Council has cleared a most significant privet infestation along the whole length of Elizabeth Parade and between Karilla Avenue and Roslyn Street in Lane Cove West. Something of the order of an acre or two of almost solid privet has been eliminated and it is hoped that replanting will soon be carried out. This land forms part of Batten Reserve.

After the clearing, an alarming amount of rubbish, mostly old tins, was painfully evident. Nearby residents have now cleared most of this, with the help of the Council.

On the eastern side of Lane Cove Bushland Park, a sizeable number of exceptionally large, bush-covered backyards have been zoned either Open Space or Country Open Space, with the ultimate intention of incorporating them into the Reserve. Council's Planner has reported on the desirability of now taking the necessary action to acquire the park extension. He has suggested that it be funded by loan moneys during the 1977-1978 year. The next stage is for the land to be valued.

(Source: Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society, Newsletter, Sept., 1976.)

WASTE MANAGEMENT IN SYDNEY

The Steel Can group has submitted figures indicating that the magnetic separator installed at Canterbury is 99% efficient in recovering steel and had reclaimed 1 362 tons in the last year. Figures presented on the basis of a \$60 000 capital cost, \$10 000 annual running costs and an annual revenue of \$35 000, indicate that such an operation breaks even after 2½ years.

Mr Conolly, Chairman of the Sydney Metropolitan Waste Disposal Authority has stated that the Authority is most concerned to increase recycling especially since it would reduce the rate of usage of landfill space. The WDA is establishing a project in Warringah Shire involving setting up a collection centre covering 8 000 homes. The Authority feels that pyrolysis appears more attractive to incineration or landfill due to lower air pollution and the production of transportable fuel in the form of gas or oil. Mr Conolly feels that it is essential to disregard municipal boundaries in order to rationalise total waste movement and agreed that there was a need to control leachate at landfill sites.

(Source: PIEC, August.)

NCC MEETS GEORGE BOWER

On December 7, George Bower, a senior officer of the NSW Forestry Commission visited the Environment Centre and had discussions on a wide range of forestry matters with members of the Nature Conservation Councils Executive.

The discussion covered such topics as the management of forest reserves for multiple use and sustained yield, public involvement in forestry management plans and the availability of such plans for inspection at the Environment Centre, the tenure and management of flora reserves and management of private forests through a dedication scheme. In addition the problems of specific areas were examined especially in relation to woodchipping on both the north and south coasts and George Bower indicated his willingness to have further discussions on the proposed Border Ranges and Three Brothers National Parks.

Both sides agreed that it was essential to have closer contact between the two organisations in order to minimise problems that may arise as a result of misunderstandings based upon lack of adequate information.

BOTANY BAY — SLOW AHEAD?

The Report of the Botany Bay Port and Environmental Inquiry under S. H. Simblist, QC, was released on December 15. Its recommendations provide for the building of both container terminals subject to environmental constraints and the building of a bulk liquids berth and storage. However, a coal loader and VLCC berth and storage facilities are not recommended to proceed while it is believed that dry bulk berths should only be constructed if required.

The Report also states that *there were deficiencies in the overall environmental investigations of the Botany Bay port plans and proposals and their effects.*

(Source: The Australian, 16/12/76.)

LYNDHURST BATTLE WON

Lyndhurst House, one of Glebe's oldest buildings (built in 1835), has been saved from demolition. One of Sydney's few remaining Georgian mansions, Lyndhurst has been vacant (and thus subject to damage by vandals) since it was acquired by the DMR in 1972, prior to intended demolition for construction of the north/west expressway.

Mr Wran, in a letter to the 'Save Lyndhurst Committee' stated that the building would not be demolished but preserved and restored.

(Source: Leichhardt Local, 7/12/76.)

POLLUTION CHARGE LIKELY OVER AUSTRALIS OIL SPILL

On January 8 large amounts of oil were reported leaking from the ship and the MSB had to take emergency action, including laying of a floating oil-boom, in order to contain and disperse the oil which covered most of Sydney Cove before being brought under control. The sailing of the Australis was delayed by 1½ hours until it had been proved that no more oil was leaking from the ship. Fines of up to \$50 000 may be imposed on shipping companies if negligence is proved.

(Source: Sun Herald, 9/1/77; Sydney Morning Herald, 10/1/77.)

MINISTERIAL TOUR OF COFFS HARBOUR WOODCHIP SITES

Six State Ministers, members of Cabinet's Development Co-ordinating Committee made a series of site inspections at Coffs Harbour on January 13 and 14. The party was led by the Committee's Chairman,

The Hon. Paul Landa, MLC, Minister for Planning and Environment. The party included Departmental representatives such as Mr Don Johnstone (Director, National Parks and Wildlife Service) and Mr Hugh Bell (NSW Forestry Commission).

However the Chairman, Mr Landa, made history for the conservation movement by formally inviting Mr Milo Dunphy, Vice President of the Australian Conservation Foundation and Director of Total Environment Centre, to join the inspections. Fresh from a visit to the Eden woodchip operation, Mr Dunphy was able to challenge:

- 1 Selection of the most favoured site in Coffs Harbour for the proposed Woodchip Stockpile and loading facility.
- 2 The proposed 'bypass' road which would provide yet another obstacle between Coffs Harbour residents and tourists and the beaches.
- 3 Claims that a woodchip industry will not adversely effect the forests of northern New South Wales.
- 4 The Forestry Commission's continued failure to supply copies of forest management plans to public organisations.

Mr Landa is to be congratulated on including an expert from the conservation organisations in his site visits. This is a real step forward towards community participation in planning decisions.

The conservation movement will be watching keenly to see whether Mr Landa's innovation is repeated. It is reported he intends it to become standard procedure.

DINGOES HAVE A NEW CHAMPION

After his intervention last year to prevent the aerial baiting of dingoes in Kanangra-Boyd National Park with 1080, and his subsequent directive that Pasture Protection and Dingo Destruction Boards must obtain ministerial permission for bait drops, Neville Wran has recently become co-patron of the Australian Native Dog Training Society of NSW Limited.

(Source: Syd. Morning Herald, 11/1/77.)

TWO O.B.E.'S FOR CONSERVATION

In the New Years Honours list recently announced, O.B.E.'s have been awarded to two prominent conservationists in NSW. Ivor Wyatt has been associated with the National Trust for over 25 years and has been instrumental in their growth

into the major organisation in Australia dealing with the built environment. Mr Wyatt is also a member of the SPCC Clean Waters Advisory Committee and is the Hon. Secretary of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

Myles Dunphy is the other recipient of this award. Few conservationists will not know of Myles and be aware of his remarkable contribution to the preservation of natural areas in NSW. He can truly be said to have been at the forefront of the conservation movement from its very inception in this State and there are few national parks in NSW, now enjoyed by countless visitors, which have not owed their dedication to a very large extent to

North Coast Preliminary Development Plan

Last year the North Coast Regional Advisory Council prepared a preliminary development plan for 1975/2000 and requested all interested community organisations to make submissions. Both the National Parks Association and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW made such submissions and a summary of opinions expressed by respondents has recently been received from the Advisory Council. These are briefly presented in the remainder of this article — the full document can be consulted at the NSW Environment Centre.

Population

The majority considered that growth should be stimulated by way of decentralised development throughout the region rather than by way of stimulating growth centres. Balanced growth to developed resources and services and to maintain favourable environmental aspects specially along the coastal strip was favoured. The population target approach was considered unrealistic. The capacity concept was accepted with individual local areas being allowed to plan their own development.

Urban & Rural Development

There is a preponderance of opinion against the concept of stimulated growth centres. The request is for a spread of population throughout the entire region. There are no raw materials which might encourage aggregations or concentrations of manufacturing industries in specific centres. The establishment and even distribution of light industry is favoured. However, the establishment of heavy

his personal involvement. Two more worthy recipients of such honours would be impossible to find in NSW.

NEW SPCC COMMISSIONER

Mr Jim Somerville has recently been appointed by the Minister for Planning and Environment, Paul Landa, as a Commissioner of the State Pollution Control Commission representing recreational activities. He replaces Mr Maclurcan in this position.

Jim Somerville is vice-chairman of the Colong Committee and the Hon. Treasurer of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

industry is not supported. Fears of pollution and a lack of raw materials makes the establishment of heavy industry unattractive.

Major Land Use

The need for controlled development of our region was almost unanimously expressed. Response indicates that the community wants to be kept informed of and to take part in decision making.

Forest & National Parks

Many indicated that the areas of state forests should be decreased to provide for bigger national parks. A desire was expressed for the public to be given greater use of forest areas for recreational purposes. There is a very high proportion of mentions for national park dedications due in part to the conservation sector's really efficient presentation of submissions. There was seen need for a land use authority to control forested lands. The response suggests that there is considerable pressure to preserve a lot of forest areas for passive use.

Water

Concern was expressed regarding deleterious effects of flood mitigation on remaining wet lands in the region, with a resultant reduction in carrying capacity for wildlife. The impression gained is that dual or multi-purpose dams should be constructed, but only in conjunction with other methods of flood control and with due regard for effects on the wetland environment.

Transport

There is almost unanimous support for

construction of the Murwillumbah to Brisbane rail link. There is acknowledgement that rail transport will become increasingly important because of the need to consider future fuel supplies, and to reduce damage to roads by heavy transports. Most replies envisaged a reduction of road congestion, better interstate trade, reduced pollution, and electrification of rail. Other rail links suggested included Tablelands to Coast such as Tenterfield to Ballina by a line from Glen Innes to the Coast. The connection of Port Macquarie and Tuncurry/Forster to the main line was also suggested. Improved feeder services are recommended. Concern was expressed that pollution be minimised. Nearby residential development should be barred.

Tourism

The need for low cost accommodation specially in relation to hinterland camping facilities, holiday lodges, youth hostels and low cost caravan parks, was emphasised. The development of national parks and forest reserves as hinterland tourist facilities was strongly supported. This was coupled with suggestions to increase the size and number of national parks. The need was firmly expressed for the protection from development pressures of natural features including coastal swamps, headlands and dunal systems.

The need for adequate planning was emphasised in relation to the protection of the environment from exploitation. Development should not affect the quality of life of residents and residential development should not expand to the detriment of further tourist development. Protection of the coastal strip was of major concern. Restrictive private ownership along the coastal fringe was suggested as was a concept that tourist development should only take place in specified growth areas. The development of further national parks and forests was seen by many as essential in maintaining beauty and natural environment. Most respondents agreed that tourism has an overall effect on the region and applied benefit to sections of the region would benefit the whole region.

Recreation

Many areas of need not adequately catered for include nature land experience, walking trails, scenic drives and facilities for camping or caravanning in the hinterland. The need to leave hinterland areas in an unlogged and natural state was also expressed. Trail bike areas, facilities for boat launching, marine parks

and for a trotting track were also suggested. The desire to control or restrict further development along coastal areas was strongly expressed. The provision and development of further hinterland areas was requested as opposed to coastal development. However, others saw the real need to preserve as much of the coastal natural aspect as possible and protect it from commercial development. There was substantial resistance to the use of frontal areas for caravan parks and a number insisted that the whole coastal strip should remain in its natural state.

PARRAMATTA COUNCIL TO DUMP IN MANGROVE SWAMPS

The Council planned to extend its garbage tip into a mangrove swamp area on the foreshores of the Parramatta River at Ermington, even though such plans are in direct contravention of the National Trust's recommendations for the preservation of the Parramatta River foreshores. The Trust recommended that mangrove stands on the river be preserved as habitats for marine life.

The Council officers said reclamation work; a stone retaining wall has already been built around 5 000 sq metres of mangrove; is part of the Council's foreshore beautification scheme stating, *mangrove swamps near residential areas cause problems since they are evil smelling and breed mosquitoes.*

(Source: Syd. Morning Herald, 16/12/76.)

DEVELOPMENT AT JENOLAN CAVES

In November State Cabinet approved a plan for the development of Jenolan Caves. The plan will basically allow for the extension of Caves House to provide both luxury and low cost accommodation while improving the standards of its services and the development of its precincts as a predominantly pedestrian area. Visitors would be brought from a new reception-information centre situated at the top of Five Mile Hill by gondola cable car. It is estimated that the latter facility, being Stage One of the plan, will cost in the region of \$4.1 million.

(Source: ANZ Environmental Report, 31/12/76.)

STATE TO PROTECT GEORGES RIVER BASIN

Paul Landa, Minister for Planning and Environment, stated on December 15 that the Government intended to classify

the Georges River and its tributaries under the State's Clean Waters Act. The Woronora and O'Hares Creek catchment areas on Heathcote Creek would be protected to eliminate sewerage overflows at present discharging into the water. The Georges River and its tributaries to as low as Captain Cook Bridge would be given classification to promote improvement in the quality of the water affected by sand dredging, land development, waste disposal and sewerage treatment residues.

(Source: Syd. Morning Herald 16/12/76.)

CENTRE NEWS

We have moved — yes, at last the long awaited transfer of premises has taken place. After months of one problem after another, final legal documents were signed at 11.30 am on January 20 and we started moving at 4.30 pm on the same day. Our new premises are located at 399 Pitt Street and will give us nearly double the old area. Nine environment groups will become our sub-tenants and take up office space (see enclosed brochure).

We now have far better facilities for our library, for our meeting room and a much more pleasant working environment for our staff. However, since we have larger premises we now need more help to run it. We especially need volunteers to run our reception and switchboard — do you have one day (or even half a day) which you would be prepared to devote to helping us? It is interesting and varied work and would give anyone a marvellous opportunity to keep in touch with developments in the environment field. Please give John Hibberd, the Centre's Manager, a ring on 233 5388 if you would like further details. By helping us, you would provide great assistance in protecting our natural heritage.

The new Centre is now open and, in order to provide a better service to the community will be open until 8 pm on Tuesday and Thursday nights; drop in and see us in your lunch hour or after work, have a browse through our library and have a look at our latest range of environmental publications for sale. In addition to needing help to run our reception we also desperately require the following:

Services of a plumber (free, if possible); donation of a fridge for our kitchen (are you getting rid of your old one or do you know anyone who is?); services of an electrician (again, free if possible) to do

some minor jobs around the Centre; and assistance in preparing our newspaper cuttings service — ring 233 5388 for details.

Much of the new Centre has now had a lick of paint and looks good, especially the meeting room which can hold gatherings of up to 120 people. In fact, it has already been used to stage Project Jonah's Whale Exhibition on February 16-17, details of which you have probably seen in the media. Please don't forget that we have a marvellous range of books, periodicals and pamphlets for sale. Remember also to give our notice boards a quick glance when you visit us — there you will find details of meetings, lectures, excursions and other current environmental activities.

Acknowledgements

The Environment Centre owes a huge debt of gratitude to all those workers who have made the move and the subsequent renovations possible. Our staff, Pam Howard, Maria Foster and Pam Auberson, have worked long and hard in addition to struggling on with their secretarial work. Special mention must be made of the contribution made by Graham Foster and Chris Eiser.

The work load of moving was made less heavy by the assistance of Joy and Murray Scott (well into the night). Phil and Margaret Coleman, David Hughes, the following members of Ecology Action: Jack Simpson, Marie Brown, Ted Floyd, and Dick Thompson; and many of the members of the Executive of the Nature Conservation Council.

The renovators have included Jim Somerville, Joy and Murray Scott, Charlie Boyd, Margie Yen, Mary Johnson, Duc Brandt and Nancy Hillier. Alan Catford has performed a number of carpentry jobs and we are indebted to Ben Nurse for finding us such a willing, helpful and expert painter as Mike Conduit. If I have omitted anyone else's name, please forgive me — there were so many comings and goings that inevitably one lost track — to all who helped, a great thank you from the Centre.

Finally, mention must be made of Peter Prineas. Although initially hesitant about the merits of the move, once under way Peter threw himself, with his usual dedication, wholeheartedly into the effort. Peter has put much more into the whole venture, besides just the onerous task of moving NPA's office. Physical effort, advice and encouragement have been freely available — for all of which I am greatly indebted.

SMALLTERNATIVES

IN THE KITCHEN

The kitchen is the room where most energy-consuming activities in the home occur. Foods are prepared and cooked, foods are stored and refrigerated, and utensils are cleaned. In each of these actions, energy and resources are used, often wastefully. The kitchen is the area of the greatest production of waste power, waste water, waste food, as well as chemicals, detergents and packaging. By using the Smallalternatives guidelines suggested here, you can act now to reduce energy and resource wastage in the kitchen.

Many kitchen appliances such as electric knives and electric can openers are simply cases for laziness. Such needless electric gadgetry while designed for increased convenience, often do little more than clutter up kitchen work spaces. We should avoid buying these 'needless' appliances and should not give appliances as gifts.

Stove

- Gas is a more direct and efficient form of energy.
- Use the oven fully (cooking several courses at once) or not at all. Check the seal on the oven door.
- Keep gas rings/electric plates clean.

Refrigerator

- Keep it defrosted. Keep the door shut.
- Check the seal (by seeing if a piece of paper is held in place when the door is closed).
- Cool cooked food before refrigerating.
- Don't refrigerate unnecessary items.

Kettle

- Boil a jug rather than use the hot water tap or use the stove if you have gas. Automatic kettles save waste power too. Only boil as much water as you need.

Sink

- Hot running water is a luxury — plan its use carefully.
- Check the thermostat on your hot water system — warm rather than hot water does the job and saves power. Check insulation.
- A lot of items can be washed up in cold water and left to dry. Avoid chemicals and use only when you have to. No aerosol cans.
- A dripping tap wastes water which has come through a high-energy water treatment plant. 400 litres per week can be lost!

Cooking Techniques

- Use tight-fitting lids.
- Use flat-bottomed saucepans.
- Pressure cookers save power by using steam instead of just gas or electricity to cook.
- Raw food makes a good change and has most food value.
- Use less water in cooking — vegetables not only taste better steamed, they throw all the vitamins and minerals away in the water!

OTHER SMALLTERNATIVES

- Refuse to accept over-packaged goods and non-returnable containers.
- Sort your rubbish into glass, paper, plastics, food scraps and delivery to collection areas or garden for composting.
- Avoid highly processed foods.

RANGER REQUIRED AT WIRRIMBIRRA

Wirrimbirra Sanctuary at Bargo requires an Assistant Ranger. Wirrimbirra has a native plant nursery, extensive plantings of Australian plants in the grounds, an environmental studies centre and cabin accommodation for 40 people.

Duties: Nursery work, general gardening, visitor control, letting of cabins and numerous other jobs.

Qualifications: An interest in natural history, native plants and conservation would be an advantage.

Wages: \$100 per week.

Accommodation: For single person available on site.

The wages are not high, but the position will be a satisfying and interesting one for the right person and is an opportunity for a conservationist/bushlover to extend his knowledge. The Ranger, Roger Thomas, is looking for someone with a genuine interest in the things Wirrimbirra aims at, so that it can become the place it has the potential to be. Those interested should visit him, or apply in writing (with references) to The Ranger, Wirrimbirra Sanctuary, Hume Highway, Bargo, 2574. Overnight accommodation may be available for those applicants wishing to stay while they have a look around.

W 46

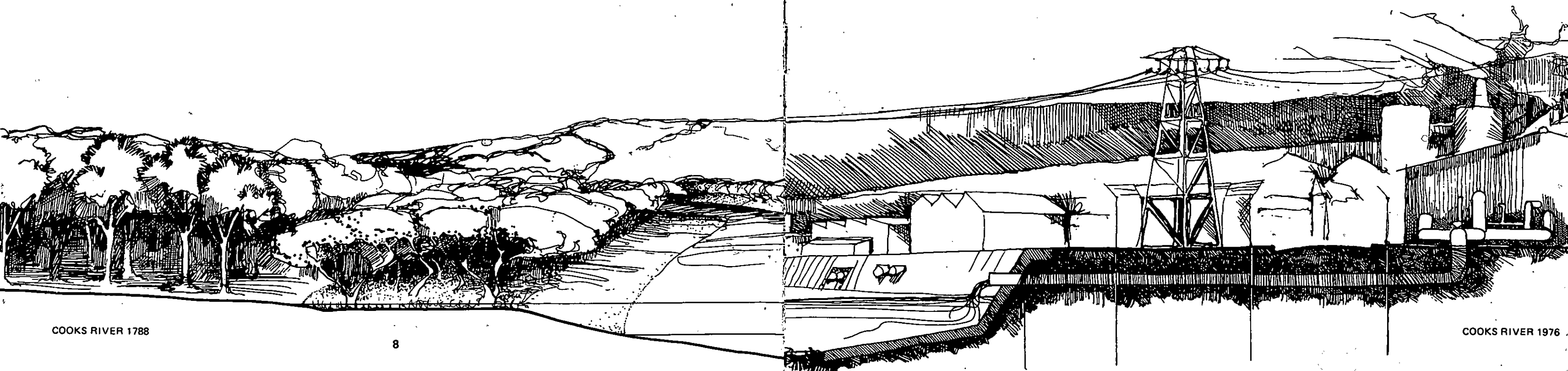
WHERE YOU CAN READ THE FULL REPORT

The full report of the Cooks River Project will be available in June 1976. You will be able to read copies at the following places:

- Central and branch libraries
- South West Sydney Regional Social Development Council, 11 Hartill-Law Avenue, Bardwell Park
- Total Environment Centre, 3rd Floor, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney.

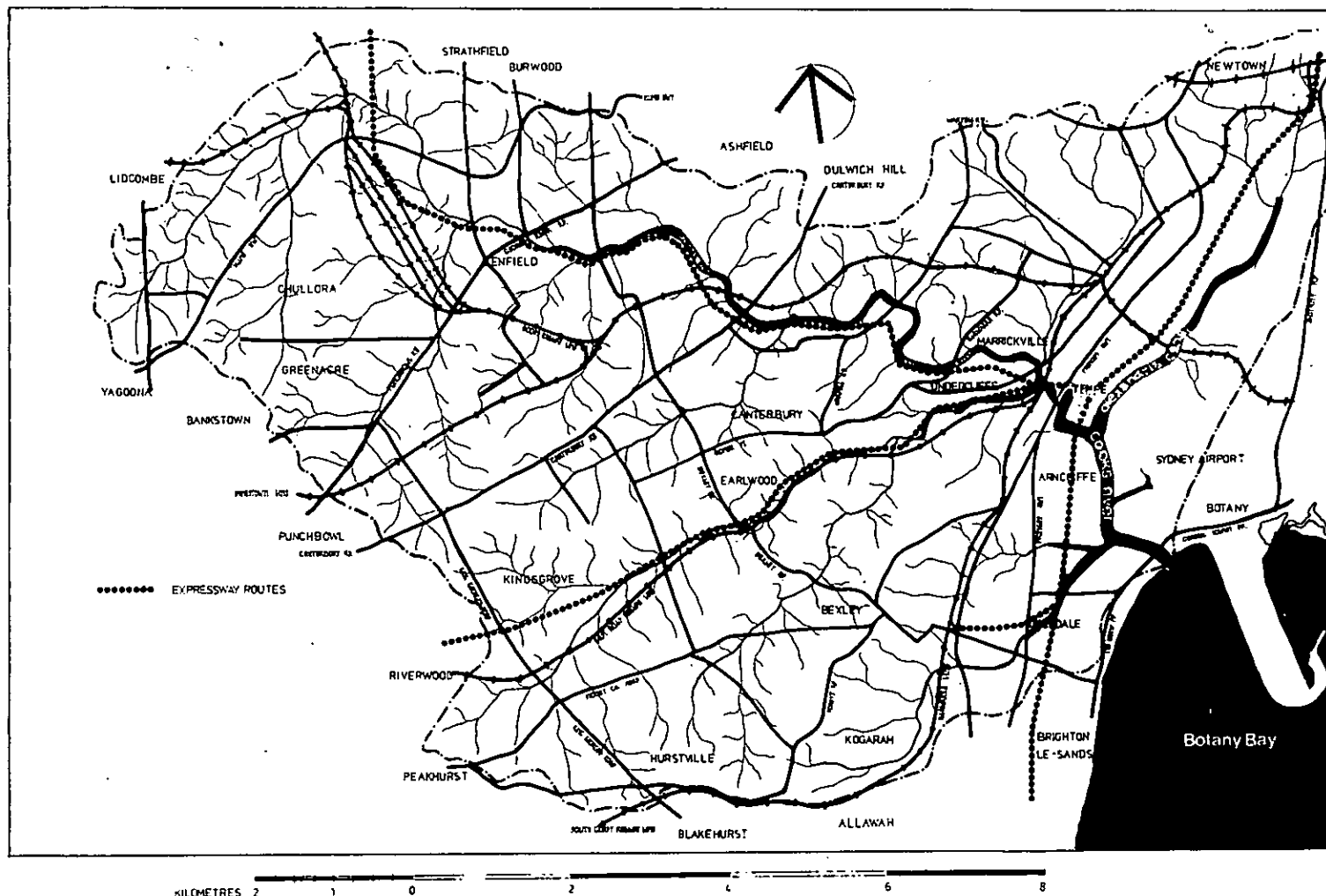
COOKS RIVER PROJECT

Summary Report



COOKS RIVER 1788

COOKS RIVER 1976



THE COOKS RIVER CATCHMENT



THE COOKS RIVER PROJECT

An Environmental Survey and Landscape Design of an Urban River • August 1975 – January 1976.

Funded by the Australian Government Regional Employment Development Scheme. Grant 2788.

Sponsors

Canterbury Municipal Council
Marrickville Municipal Council
South West Sydney Regional Social Development Council
Total Environment Centre
with the support of
Rockdale Municipal Council

continued from page 3

Air Pollution

Residents of the Cooks River Valley breathe some of Sydney's most polluted air. Winds over the metropolitan area bring them pollution from the heavily industrialised areas of Botany, South Sydney, Marrickville and Parramatta and from the Central Business District. In 1974 there were 99 days when photochemical smog levels in Marrickville exceeded World Health Organisation goals.

Soil

Clearing and urbanisation have caused the loss of much topsoil and have reduced the ability of the remaining soil to absorb and retain moisture. Soils in the catchment have become more alkaline, making it more difficult for native plants to grow.

Reclamation of low lying saline areas with garbage, ash and other materials has created areas of very poor soil in which it is difficult to establish grass and trees.

It is recommended that soils in the catchment be improved where possible by drainage, ripping, fertilisation and planting.

Vegetation

Only small remnants of the original natural vegetation remain, principally along Wolli and Bardwell Creeks.

Naturalised exotic plants are causing problems in areas of native vegetation. Privet, Japanese Honeysuckle, Lantana, Gorse and other species often obscure native vegetation and greatly retard its regeneration.

It is recommended that the richness and variety of the catchment's original vegetation be recognised, and that attempts be made to restore as much as possible of this natural character. Indigenous species should be planted on sites where they would naturally occur.

Birdlife

Very little of the original bird habitat in the catchment remains. Most of the remaining areas are threatened by the safety requirements of the Air Transport Group, the proposed duplication of the north-south runway, proposed expressways and the Botany Bay Port Development.

It is recommended that the remaining bird habitat be maintained and developed as a recreational, educational and natural resource. The need for air safety must be recognised when deciding land uses near the airport. Further study should be done on species which are a threat to aircraft, and swamp and open water habitats should be modified so as to favour species not considered a real threat to aircraft.

Recreation

There is a serious lack of open space for recreation, particularly passive recreation. Playing fields in the area are not used as efficiently as they might be for organised sporting activities, and almost not at all for other activities. There is not much use of children's play areas.

A recreational survey was made. Most respondents feel that the river is dirty and uninteresting and would like to see it made more natural. The main preference for future development was individual passive and water based activity areas.

It is recommended that first priority be given to the improvement of passive open space. Trees, natural banks and relaxation areas along the river would help a great deal. Children's playgrounds should be improved and residents, particularly children, should be involved in planning the improvements.

Political Structure

The political structure controlling Cooks River catchment is fragmented in power and policy. This fragmentation makes a unified approach to the problems of the catchment very difficult. There is little opportunity for the local community to participate in decisions affecting them.

It is recommended that strong efforts be made to form a Cooks River Valley Authority or at least a strong advisory committee made up of residents, councils and public departments. Major concerns would be the alleviation of urban pollution and the development of regional recreation facilities along the river. The local community should be involved as much as possible in policy making affecting the river.

Landscape Design

The project culminated in a landscape design for many parts of the river. Principles were established for landscaping the catchment to improve it as a human environment and to reduce runoff and pollution. Part of the landscape plan is reproduced in this booklet.

In the landscape designs an attempt has been made to reconcile the wishes of residents with the natural requirements of the river and the existing arrangement of playing fields and other facilities along the river.

The Future of Cooks River

Cooks River can be improved tremendously. It has a very important part to play in providing valley residents with much needed open space and water recreation facilities.

Degradation of the river must be halted and reversed.

This booklet and the full report of the Cooks River Project will give you some ideas about how this can be done. Responsibility for the improvement of Cooks River lies first of all with the residents of the valley and with local and state governments who have the resources to do the work.

The work can start now.

- Government bodies should begin big river clean up and tree planting programs. They should begin to regenerate river banks and to develop passive recreation facilities.
- Residents can plant more trees on their own property, encourage more tree planting in their street and most importantly, try to reduce the amount of litter, grass clippings, oils and other pollutants in their street. Rain-water carries this pollution straight from the street into Cooks River.

The diagram is a detailed site plan for a park or recreational area. It features several key elements:

- Sports Fields:** Two large oval-shaped "MULTI-USE SPORTS FIELD" are located in the lower-left quadrant. Each field lists activities: AUSTRALIAN RULES, RUDDY, SOCCER, HOCKEY, ATHLETICS, BASEBALL, and SOFTBALL. A rectangular field is situated above them.
- Landscaping:** Numerous trees are depicted as circles of varying sizes. A specific area is labeled "SHADE TREES FOR OPERATORS".
- Infrastructure:** Streets shown include WARRUMBIDGE ROAD, WHARF STREET, IVANHOE ROAD, and WINDRICHIEP ROAD. A "WALKING & CYCLE TRACK ON RIVER BANK" runs along the bottom edge.
- Other Features:** A "CLUB BUILDING" is located near the top center. A "RESTAURANT AND CANOE & BOAT HIRE FACILITY" is indicated near the bottom right. A "GRASSY AREA" is noted on the far right.

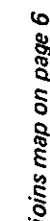
The work did not stop with the river. The health and beauty of a river is intimately related to the health and beauty of the catchment. Accordingly the catchment was also studied and recommendations made on how to improve the landscape of the tributary creeks and the whole area of the catchment.

Sheet piling along the river should be replaced with more natural banks and the river should be dredged to remove rubbish and polluted sludge from the bottom.

Ideally the design of the river landscape would be based on the natural landforms and natural plants of the area. Members of

The drawing on the next three pages is part of a long term landscape plan for the Cooks River. It shows the area between Ewen and Steel Parks, in Canterbury and Marrickville municipalities.

- walking and bicycle tracks;
- restoration of natural banks;
- encouragement of water activities.



- Increase planting along river banks and eventually restore the natural banks.
- Increase planting to break up large uninteresting areas into more useable intimate space.
- Use indigenous plant species and encourage the return of native fauna.
- Use sports fields more effectively so that more land will be available for passive recreation.
- Houses and other establishments backing directly onto the river should be rezoned as open space so that, as far as possible, river parks have a street frontage. This should be part of a long term policy to provide more passive open space and greater access to the river.
- Incorporate windbreaks into planting to ameliorate the winds which blow up and down the valley.



NEW SOUTH WALES

MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES

Assistant Minister for Transport

37th Floor
Legal and General House
8-18 Bent Street
Sydney, N.S.W. 2000
Telephone: 221 3244

WR 4683

Mr. J.L.O. Tedder,
Hon. Secretary,
North Coast Environment Council,
Pavans Road,
Grassy Head,
via STUARTS POINT. N.S.W. 2441

1 MAR 1988

Dear Mr. Tedder,

— see 7/11

I refer to your recent letter concerning flood mitigation and drainage in the Clarence River Basin.

Over the past two years the water industry has been undergoing changes in emphasis, legislation and responsibilities. The Drainage Act has also been caught up in these changes and is currently under review by Cabinet. The review will bring the Act into line with current Government policy and the new water legislation, which includes consideration of the environment as a requirement.

Drainage works are mostly carried out by local government and private drainage unions. Applications from local governments for subsidised funding from the Public Works Department (PWD) or non-subsidised funding from the Department of Local Government will be referred to the Department of Water Resources in future. The Department of Water Resources' role will be to establish, in conjunction with the PWD, the priority to be given to the proposal and assess consistency with wider State policies and objectives.

Drainage Unions, by contrast, largely self-finance by levying rates on an area-serviced basis.

Regardless of the source of funding or the organisation undertaking the project, proponents are required, under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) where a proposal may have a significant environmental impact.

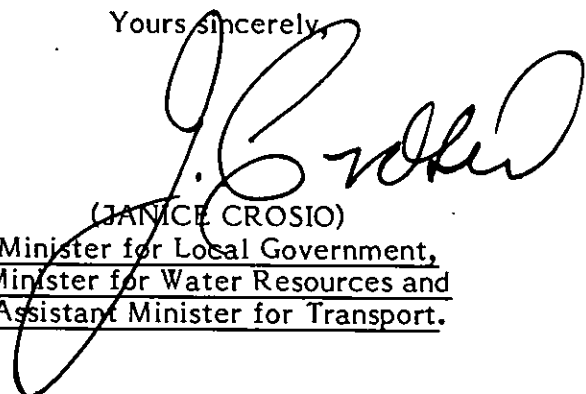
In addition, where a coastal wetland, as identified in State Environmental Planning Policy No. 14, is affected by drainage, an EIS is required.

As you would be aware, the Government's recent Total Catchment Management Policy (TCM) compliments the existing environmental protection instruments. This comprehensive approach to land and water management will coordinate the activities of government agencies to ensure that a balance between resource use and resource protection is achieved catchment-wide.

Within this framework, a TCM policy for the State's Wetlands is being developed by the Department of Water Resources, which will include inland and urban wetlands. When framing management strategies for wetlands under this policy, existing use will be taken into account. This coordinated management approach will provide the opportunity to resolve any apparent conflicts in policy or responsibility. It is hoped that local government and individual landholders will also participate in this process and its implementation.

I can assure you that the restructuring to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the water industry will also result in due consideration being given to the environment. I believe these initiatives again demonstrate the Government's commitment to responsible management of our State's natural resources.

Yours sincerely,



(JANICE CROSIO)

Minister for Local Government,
Minister for Water Resources and
Assistant Minister for Transport.

W4a

20, October, 1986

The Hon. R.J. Carr, M.P.,
Minister for Planning and Environment,
10th Floor,
139, Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Carr,

re: Drainage Act, 1939

The Public Works Department is currently undertaking a review of the Drainage Act 1939. We hope that your Department will offer comments towards this review.

To a considerable extent the Drainage Act is probably constrained by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. The basic philosophy of the Drainage Act, as embodied in Section 8 of the Act, is a legalistic expression of the "Wetlands are wastelands" concept. One of the most important initiatives you have taken has been the introduction of S.E.P.P. 14, which signifies the acceptance by Government of a very different view of the value of wetlands. We would hope that such a conceptual dinosaur as Section 8 of the Drainage Act could be removed from the Statute Book.

At the present time there is considerable discussion, particularly on the North Coast, on the value of many existing flood mitigation structures. Evidence presented at the recent North Coast Environment Council Conference suggested that the economic justification of some of these structures was weak at the time of construction and that at the present time the increased value of wetland function (to fisheries and as flood storage areas) consequent on removal of barriers could far outweigh any value in their retention. Naturally such issues are contentious and views are strongly polarised. The production of reports by departments, however accurate they might be, is unlikely to resolve the debate. There needs to be some forum in which the evidence can be presented publicly, be subject to assessment and then judged by an independent arbiter. Unfortunately there is no satisfactory existing mechanism for such an examination of an issue but we would suggest that there is a need to develop a mechanism for evaluating these sorts of problems in a public forum.

It is our understanding that at the present time the Water Resources Commission is investigating water use and management policies on a state-wide basis. Clearly such an investigation will raise many topics which will have implications for many existing management practises and will be the subject of evaluation by a number of departments, including your own. It would seem to us that a review of the Drainage Act ought to be part of this wider review ~~and~~ it is perhaps premature to treat it in isolation. However, where the
then

activities of Drainage Unions come into conflict with the spirit of S.E.P.P. 14 (for which in some circumstances they could conceivably be exempt under the existing use provision) we would hope that your departmental officers could encourage Drainage Unions to recognize the wider environmental values and significance of wetland areas.

Council would welcome your advice on the possibilities for public discussion and evaluation of flood mitigation works, and the role of authorities under your jurisdiction in the government's reassessment of water management policies.

Yours sincerely

Judy Messer
CHAIRPERSON

20 October, 1986

The Secretary,
Public Works Department,
State Office Block,
Phillip Street,
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Pettigrew,

re: Drainage Act, 1939

Thank you for your letter of 19th September 1986, inviting our comments on the Department's review of the Drainage Act. The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales wishes to make the following suggestions for reform of the Act, in order to make it more appropriate in view of current knowledge and values.

Page 7 Council recommends more explicit definition of "works" - exactly what types of "machinery, appliances or structures" are meant - does this include, say, the hiring of aircraft for aerial spraying or use of machinery to cut waterweed?

Page 10, Section 8.

Council recommends a total rewrite of this Section to acknowledge the significance of wetlands and to more narrowly constrain those circumstances in which drainage can occur.

Page 19, Section 32.

32(1)(a) could be an impediment to the removal of works in order to restore wetland function.

Page 20, Section 33(1)

The powers of the Board to operate on land without permission, either within or without the district, seem to be unnecessarily broad.

Page 22, Section 36.

Similar concerns as apply to Section 32 may be raised here. Is it always desirable that works should operate "efficiently" in terms of their original construction?

Page 37, Section 69.

This requirement would not seem to cover "works" in the sense (page 8) of use of machinery in, say, clearing trees, spraying weeds etc.

Page 39, Section 63,76

This Section appears to give remarkable powers - would this entitle an owner to carry out such works in a National Park or Nature Reserve? The wording would appear to be such that the neighbouring land need not be within the drainage district as earlier defined. Compensation in some such cases would not restore environmental damage done.

Council suggests that the Act fails to recognize the values now (rightly) placed on wetlands and would appear contrary to State Government Policy as embodied in S.E.P.P. 14, Coastal Wetlands.

Given that the Water Resources Commission has reached an advanced state in preparation of a water management plan for the state, Council questions whether an enquiry into the Drainage Act is appropriate as any individual issue, or might instead be properly undertaken in the context of a comprehensive reassessment of government water use and management policies.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Yours sincerely

Jocelyn Howell
PROJECT OFFICER



N.C.E.C.
Wia

SUBMISSION ON
THE DRAINAGE ACT, NO. 29, 1939.
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

0. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS.
1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS.
2. UNDEMOCRATIC NATURE OF THE UNIONS.
3. INAPPROPRIATENESS TO CURRENT LAND-USES
4. UNSATISFACTORY OPERATION OF THE ACT.

Appendices:

- A. Extract from Adam, Dr P. et al (1985) Coastal Wetlands of N.S.W.
- A Survey and Report Prepared for the Coastal Council of N.S.W.
Coastal Council of N.S.W. Sydney.
- B. World Wildlife Fund, (1986) The 1986 Wetlands Feature, Sydney.
- C. Total Environment Centre, (1986) We Need Wetlands, Sydney.

OCTOBER, 1986.

0. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

- 0.1 Activities by Drainage Unions have had serious environmental impacts, both individually and culminatively.
- 0.2 The full ramifications of these activities has not been ascertained, and the impacts are continuing to take effect.
- 0.3 The Drainage Act is an undemocratic instrument with a distinct bias to large landholders.
- 0.4 The Drainage Act was enacted to encourage particular industries in the immediate post-war years. It is inappropriate to contemporary values, agricultural pursuits and land-use options.
- 0.5 The Act does not operate in a way which facilitates a number of objectives. It is a single purpose instrument which compromises rational, co-ordinated water resource and land-use management.
- 0.6 The Act should be repealed and the role of Drainage Unions as consent authorities should be terminated.
- 0.7 The functions of drainage and flood mitigation should be incorporated into the role of the Department of Water Resources, through new legislation or amendments to the Water Act.
- 0.8 County councils and Drainage Unions could implement aspects of a State Water Policy as local agents under the supervision of the Department of Water Resources.
- 0.9 Investigations should be carried out to evaluate the suitability and impacts of drainage and flood mitigation works completed to date, with a view to reversing those works which have a negative ecological impact.
- 0.10 Educational programs and field days should be held to illustrate options for land-use in lands subject to inundation. Research into alternative crops and farming methods in inundated lands should be pursued.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 1.1 The essential effect of the Drainage Act, 1939, is to substantially and significantly alter the existing environment so as to drain land and mitigate floods. The aim is, and has been, to create pasture and cropping land where these activities could not have been previously carried out due to tidal or periodic inundation.
- 1.2 This has been achieved through the construction of levees, the excavation of drains and channels, and the installation of flood-gates. In some areas watercourses have been diverted.
- 1.3 All these activities have had, and are continuing to have, demonstrable, deleterious effects on the natural environment and natural systems. eg accelerated soil erosion and downstream deposition, major changes in water tables and flows, reduced water quality and reduced nutrient load, destruction of habitat for native species of plants and animals, reduction or loss of fish, mollusc and crustacean habitat and resource, contamination of water and soil by chemical substances...
- 1.4 As such these activities are substantially in conflict with the objects of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, being;
 5. (a), (i) - "to encourage the proper management, development and conservation of natural and man-made resources, including agricultural land, natural areas, forests, minerals, water, cities, towns and villages for the purpose of promoting the social and economic welfare of the community and a better environment;"
 5. (a), (ii) - "the promotion and co-ordination of the orderly and economic use and development of land;"
 5. (a), (vi) - "the protection of the environment";
 5. (b) - "to promote the sharing of responsibility for environmental planning between the different levels of government in the State";
 5. (c) - "to provide increased opportunity for public involvement and participation in environmental planning and assessment".
- 1.5 Under s.32 of the Drainage Act, Drainage Unions appear to be Consent Authorities who may (1), (a) "maintain in a state of efficiency the works under its charge, and renew such works where necessary;"
 - (b) "construct, alter, or extend any works in accordance with any authority and consent given under this Act;"
- 1.6 Part V of the E.P.&A. Act, s.112, requires that Consent Authorities "shall not make a final decision to undertake, or to approve the undertaking of, ... an activity that is likely to significantly affect the environment unless -
 - (a) the determining authority has obtained, examined and considered an environmental impact statement in respect of that activity-"

Given that the aim of all these works is to significantly affect the environment, it appears that all Drainage Union works and all Unions would be bound to conform to the provisions of this Act."

- 1.7 To the knowledge of Big Scrub Environment Centre, Drainage Unions have not been required to conform to the provisions of the E.P.&A. Act, as a piece of progressive land-use planning legislation, although such a requirement appears to have a basis at law.
- 1.8 The result has been that Drainage Unions have approved and carried out works for a desired end, but with little or no regard for the full environmental implications of those works, or the accumulated effects of a number or a series of works. This is the 'tyranny of small decision-making', which permits a single-purpose body to ignore the many hundreds of other organisms which depend on swamps and floodways.
- 1.9 While Drainage Unions may have "an existing use right" under the State Environmental Planning Policy #14 - Coastal Wetlands, such activities as clearing, draining and levee construction on land subject to inundation for 'agricultural purposes' are clearly contrary to the intent of the Policy, i.e. to protect the remaining coastal wetlands from further destruction.
- 1.10 Appendix A sets out the value of wetland areas and when viewed from this broader ecological perspective, the narrow specific purpose rationale of Drainage Unions is fundamentally flawed.
- 1.11 Legal argument currently exists as to the definition of "an existing use right" and a case could be made that extensions of existing works made under s.32 (1) (b) of the Drainage Act are subject to the S.E.P.P. #14.

2. UNDEMOCRATIC NATURE OF THE UNIONS

- 2.1 Apart from the effects on the environment and ecological systems, the Drainage Act is an unsatisfactory legislative mechanism since it poses difficulties for local landholders. The effect of the Act is to compel landholders to participate in the activities of the Union, regardless of whether landholders accept or agree to the need for drainage works.
- 2.2 Section 9.(1) provides that an application for the formation of a Union is required to be "signed by at least one-fourth of the number of owners included in such tract". This is seen as being grossly undemocratic since up to 75% of local landholders may be entirely ignorant of the preparation of such an application, or wholly opposed to it.
- 2.3 Many Unions were constituted in the years immediately following the Acts' gazettal and have persisted to date. This poses the situation where a new landholder may buy a property covered by a Union and be required by law to provide funds to carry out, or permit to be carried out by the Union, works which they may not support and which may offer no nett benefit to their lands or productivity.
- 2.4 While objections and Inquiries are provided for in s.10 & 11, it appears that these opportunities for re-evaluation or dissent are permitted only when the Drainage Union is being formally constituted. In a great many cases the time for dissent or objection has passed up to a generation ago!

- 2.5 Following that opportunity, the only other procedure available for dissent or objection to works appears to be within the general meetings of the Union and that appears to be limited to extensions of works. No mechanism appears to exist within the Act to allow an evaluation of efficacy of past works or to monitor the impact of works on the environment.
- 2.6 While a general meeting of the Union may appear a perfectly democratic way of reaching decisions about proposed works, an examination of the structure of voting reveals a 3 tier system of vote allocation, s.28. The principle of 'one vote-one value' may be pre-dated by the Act, but is now a fundamental tenet of our democracy. That democratic model cannot be employed when a single landholder can exercise 2 or 3 times the voting power of another landholder.
- 2.7 The system of vote allocation on the basis of area of land held is anachronistic. It provides a situation where several large landholders can ensure, by virtue of their voting strength, that funds for works of benefit to them are generated and the works carried out, despite the fact that there may be a majority of landholders who are opposed to the proposed works. This situation is undesirable since, in some cases, works of benefit to a few large landholders would be paid for by all landholders in the Union and may provide no benefits to the smaller landholders, while generating hardship.

3. INAPPROPRIATENESS TO CURRENT LAND-USES.

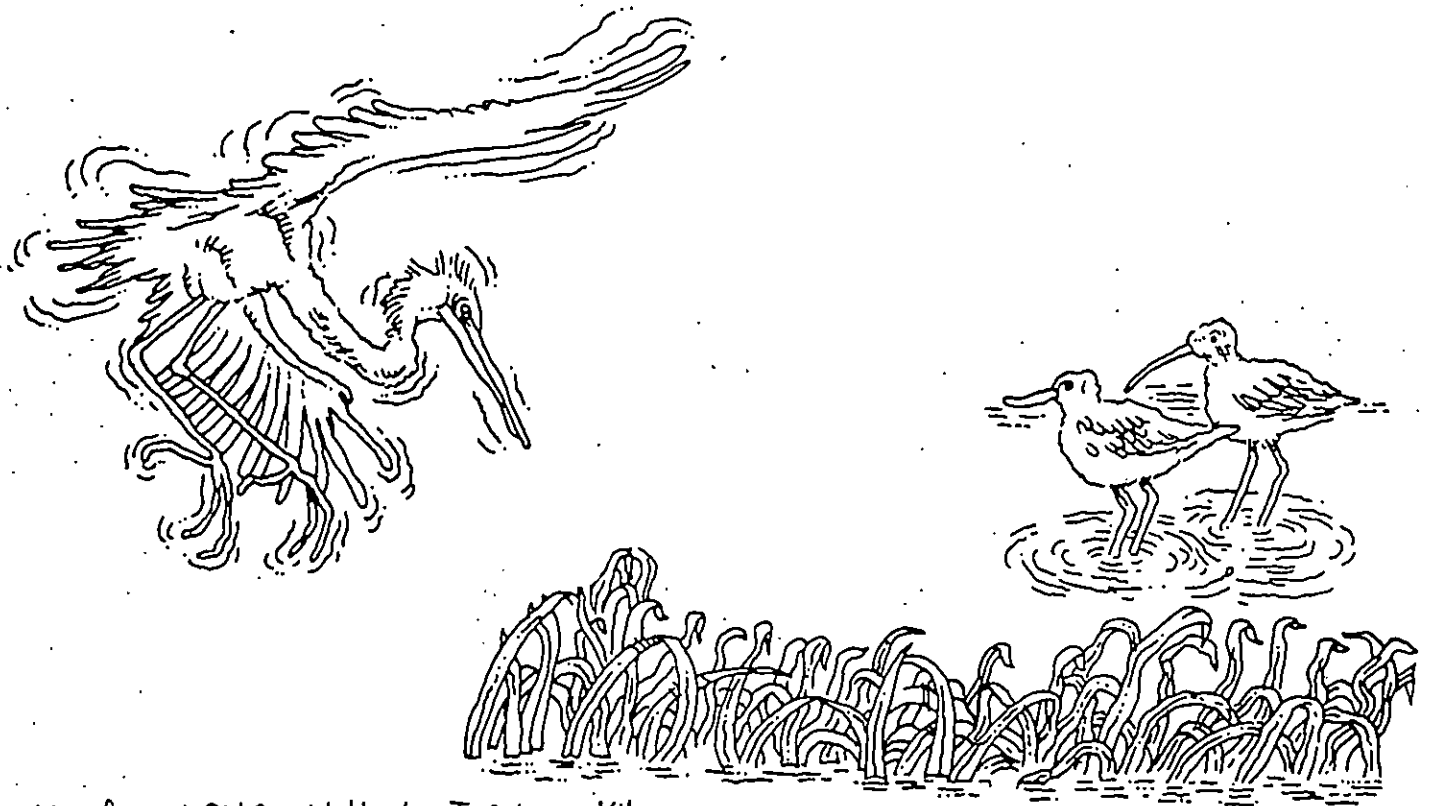
- 3.1 The Drainage Act came into force at a specific time in our agricultural history and appears to continue to reflect the emphasis of that time despite the major changes which have occurred in the intervening years.
- 3.2 Dairy farming and large scale sugar production were the prominent immediate post-war agricultural pursuits and the Act at the time attempted to facilitate these land-uses by permitting the substantial modification of large areas of otherwise marginal unsuitable land.
- 3.3 Today these industries have lost the prominence which they once enjoyed. Even with positive encouragement and facilitation through devices such as the Drainage Act, the Dairy and Sugar industries have not been able to demonstrate a long-term viability or sustainability at the levels current in the post war era.
- 3.4 Recent land-use options for areas covered by Drainage Unions are much wider than the traditional expectations, and may not depend on drained, inundation-free land.
- 3.5 Crops such as rice require inundation regularly, as does the ti-tree grown for the production of ti-tree oil, a rapidly growing product. Other crops for inundated land may also be suited for areas proposed to be drained. Whilever the current thinking is limited to the 'status quo' which demands drainage, new and viable crops and land-uses will continue to be overlooked.
- 3.6 Some marginal farmlands which were once several parcels or portions, held under a single title, have been sub-divided or excised to create smaller landholdings. These areas may not be used principally for productive ends, but may now be rural residential sites.

- 3.7 People who choose a rural residential lifestyle, while continuing to work "off the farm", frequently do so for a variety of aesthetic reasons including; quietness, distance from neighbours, recreational opportunities or for the natural amenity of vegetation and wildlife.
- 3.8 These valid land-use choices are likely to be compromised by a compulsory Drainage Union which maintains a system of land-use values based on post war expectations and activities.
- 3.9 Landholders who are persisting with land-use practices from a by-gone time and who continue to insist on preserving the Drainage Unions and inundation-free land may benefit from educational field days, extension courses or other programs offered by the Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service or Department of Water Resources to allow them to evaluate other land-use options which do not depend on the existence and operation of Drainage Unions.
- 3.10 In the longer term, through a process of rational land-use planning, there must be a concerted attempt to adapt the land-use practices to suit the natural limits of the environmental factors rather than continue to artificially modify the land to suit narrow land-use practices & expectations, with devastating long-term effects.

4. UNSATISFACTORY OPERATION OF THE ACT.

- 4.1 Drainage Unions created under the Act operate as discrete and autonomous bodies, 'managing' and 'improving' separate areas or Districts. These Districts may or may not be contiguous.
- 4.2 The Act does not formally provide for communication or co-operation between adjoining Unions or with adjacent landholders outside the District who may be affected by the activities of the Union. Whether Drainage Unions acknowledge the effects of their activities outside their Districts, and whether they in practice communicate or liaise with other Unions and landholders cannot be ascertained from a reading of the Act.
- 4.3 However, it appears to be a wholly unsatisfactory situation to have numerous local Drainage Unions making independent and unco-ordinated decisions about water resource management generally, and flood mitigation in particular, and to be unconcerned and unaccountable for the downstream effects of their activities.
- 4.4 Water resource management is an area of crucial ecological significance and must be carried out with all due care and sensitivity if major environmental impacts are to be avoided. It is not appropriate to separate flood mitigation and drainage activities from the 'mainstream' of water resource management on the basis of some perceived local benefit. These are components of water resource management and must operate as integral strategies, not as separate functions.
- 4.5 The situation facing the North Coast at present, and the County of Richmond in particular, is of serious dimensions because due care and sensitivity have not been exercised, and because the Drainage Unions and flood mitigation bodies have acted in isolation, accumulating the many serious consequences which are now evident. (See 1.3)
- 4.6 Water resource management must occur in a co-ordinated manner with regard for a wide variety of relevant environmental factors. It must not be allowed to proceed in the current model of single purpose bodies, operating in isolation for the benefit of vested interests.

- 4.7 In order to achieve the necessary co-ordination, one unifying conceptual model must be adopted by a co-ordinating and supervisory body, embracing all the relevant facets of water resource management. This model would necessarily be a complex mechanism for evaluating demands for water supply, drainage, flood mitigation, plant and animal habitat requirements, fisheries needs, recreational uses etc.
- 4.8 Such a model will require significant resources to develop, implement, monitor and review. The obvious agency for such a task is the Department of Water Resources, who would oversee the implementation of any required works by local authorities. Under such a scheme of operations the provisions under the Drainage Act for drainage and flood mitigation would be suitably inserted via amendments into the Water Act, or incorporated into any new legislation which may be forthcoming.



Graphic from N.P.W.S. Wetlands: Teachers Kit.

Submission prepared by John Corkill, Project Officer, B.S.E.C.

VALUE OF WETLANDS

- AESTHETIC VALUES
- EDUCATIONAL VALUE
- FUNCTIONAL ATTRIBUTES
 - ◁ Nutrient Cycling
 - ◁ Productivity
 - ◁ Hydrological and Geomorphological
 - Erosion control;
 - Flood control and flow regulation;
 - Wastewater assimilation; and
 - Provision of sedimentary sinks.
- GENETIC DIVERSITY
- PROVISION OF HABITAT
 - ◁ Habitat For Birds
 - ◁ Fish Habitat
- RECREATIONAL VALUE
- SCIENTIFIC VALUE



The 1986 Wetlands Feature



This year, WWF Australia has joined with other World Wildlife Fund National Organisations to help conserve the world's diminishing wetlands.

This Wetlands Campaign aims to increase community awareness of the need for conservation of our wetland resources and to raise funds for projects directed to protecting wetlands and increasing our understanding of these diverse and complex places.

Wetlands Down the Drain

Wetlands are among our most beautiful and productive environments. Yet they are also one of our most threatened natural areas.

Our lakes, rivers, estuaries and floodplains are disappearing at an alarming rate due to drainage, land reclamation and pollution. Over-exploitation of many wetland dependent species (such as some fish) is also causing concern.

Wetlands have tremendous economic and social benefits; they are home for countless species of flora and fauna, and play a key role in this planet's many natural cycles and processes. Their riches should be maintained for future generations.

What are Wetlands?

Wetlands encompass an enormous variety of different areas: lagoons, billabongs, lakes, bogs, estuaries, marshes and rivers. They can be located along coastlines or in inland areas, and may contain fresh, brackish or saline waters. They can be either permanent or temporary, natural or artificial.

Some Different Types of Wetlands

Estuaries

Estuaries are semi-enclosed coastal areas where salt and freshwater meet. Mangroves and salt tolerant plants usually fringe the edges of estuaries, and seagrasses carpet the tidal mudflats of these areas. Estuaries are extremely productive places. They provide nursery grounds for many species of fish. In 1983, it was estimated that some 47 commercial species of fish caught off Botany Bay, spent part of their nursery period within the Botany Bay estuary.

Saltwater Lagoons and Marshes

Saltwater lagoons and marshes are found along many stretches of the Australian coastline. Here they have been formed through changes in sea level and the formation of dunes and coastal barriers. Important coastal lakes and lagoons include the Coorong in South Australia, the Gippsland Lakes in Victoria and the Myall Lakes in NSW.

Wetlands of the Channel Country

Channel country wetlands occur in south western Queensland and north eastern South Australia. They are seasonally flooded areas associated with the Diamantina River and Coopers Creek. During the wet season, the Channel country becomes patterned by meandering streams and river channels which cut through sand hills.

Mound Springs

Mound Springs are the natural outlets of the Great Artesian basin — the largest known ground water basin in the world. There are several hundred of these springs in South Australia where they occur between Maree and Oodnadatta.

Dune Lakes

Dune Lakes are clear freshwater lakes found in the great sand dunes on Fraser Island, Moreton Island, North Stradbroke Island and the nearby mainland.

They lie in a region where each year, the average rainfall is greater than the average annual evaporation. The rainwater is prevented from seeping away through the sand by a layer of peat which formed in wind-blown hollows in the sand, thousands of years ago.



*An aerial view of Lake Boomanjin — a dune lake on Fraser Island.
Photo: R. & D. Keller. Australasian Nature Transparencies.*

Inland Saltwater Lakes

Inland saltwater lakes are found in Australia's arid interior. They are mainly concentrated in three areas, along the Wheatbelt of Western Australia, the Northern Tip of the Flinders Ranges and in North Western Victoria. The best known salt lake is Lake Eyre in South Australia which stretches for more than 80 kilometres from north to south. Since European settlement, Lake Eyre has filled on only two occasions, in 1949, and more recently, in 1974.



*An aerial view of drying salt-pans and receding shore of Lake Eyre. 1984-85 floods.
Photo: R. & D. Keller/Australasian Nature Transparencies.*

Temporary Inland Lakes and Rivers

Temporary or Ephemeral lakes are found in arid parts of Australia. They fill with water during periods of heavy rain, but dry out completely for long periods during the dry season.

When the rains come, these lakes undergo an incredible transformation. They become a paradise of wildflowers and a haven for waterbirds which come to them from more coastal areas to breed.

Riverine Wetlands

Many of Australia's rivers, such as the Murray-Darling river system, are subject to seasonal flooding. The land inundated by these flood waters forms important wetland areas. River Red Gum forests for example, are dependent for their survival on such flooding. These areas provide important breeding grounds for waterbirds.

Why are Wetlands Important?

Wetlands are important areas for many different reasons:

- Because wetlands are such diverse places, they support an enormous variety of plants, insects, fish, reptiles, frogs and mammals. They are critical habitats for many migratory waders, waterfowl and other birds. Many of these species show special adaptations and lifecycles which enable them to cope with the changing conditions of their wetland habitats. By protecting wetlands we will ensure that the diversity of flora and fauna, which are wetlands dependent, are maintained.
- Wetlands are home to many unique, rare and endangered species including the Western Short-Necked Tortoise, Albany Pitcher Plant and the Baw Baw Frog.

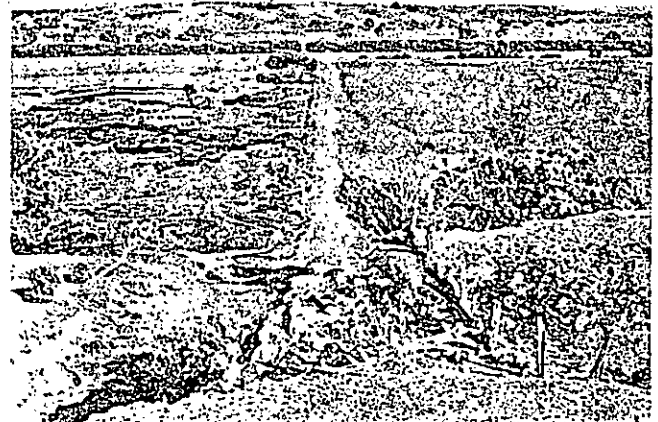
- Wetlands are important components of the Australian environment: They act as sponges absorbing large quantities of water in times of excess flow (such as floods) and slowly release it in times of low flow. They absorb, recycle and release different minerals and nutrients. They are also renown waterfilters and are able to improve water quality. As water stands in a wetland system, silt is deposited and water is re-oxygenated. Water leaving a wetland is clean and of great value and potential use.
- Wetland plant and animals are important as a source of food and other products e.g. honey from River Red Gums, and fish which use estuaries as-nursery areas.
- Wetlands are important for education and scientific study, e.g. in Perth, the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Study Centre provides an important community service.
- Wetlands such as the Murray River and Darling River systems have played an important role in the development of all Australians. They have important social and historical values, and have been an important source of inspiration for many of Australia's literary and artistic works.
- Wetlands provide a source of surface or ground water which is needed for agriculture, industry, and in the home.
- Wetlands can be very beautiful and tranquil places. They are used for different sports and hobbies and are important tourist attractions.

Threats to Wetlands

Wetlands around the world are vanishing at an alarming rate. Although in Australia it is difficult to put a precise figure on wetlands decline, in America nearly 200,000 hectares of swamps and estuaries are being lost or damaged each year.

Drainage and Reclamation

The most significant threat to wetlands is clearing and drainage for agricultural, industrial and housing developments. Coastal wetlands such as salt marshes and estuaries located close to cities, occupy prime real estate and these are often some of the first areas to be reclaimed for "development". Unfortunately, other values of wetlands are often not considered fully in taking decisions to alter them.



*Drainage of swamps for agriculture along the Murray River, South Australia.
Photo: A. H. Burbidge/Australasian Nature Transparencies.*

Dams

Many of Australia's rivers have been regulated by the building of dams, and the straightening of watercourses for better drainage. Dams and weirs control the amount of water which is released into rivers. This can affect animals such as the Pink-Eared Duck and Murray Cod, which breed in receding flood waters. Water release programmes from dams need to take note of the needs of wildlife which may be affected by dam construction.

Salinization

Where pastures have been cleared of native trees and irrigated for agriculture, the water table rises bringing salts to the surface. Salty run-off from these pastures passes into rivers and reservoirs, changing water from fresh to brackish. This effect can kill local vegetation and animal life. Salting of land could have a significant effect not only on wildlife but on the productivity of the land and thus on our standard of living. The National Conservation Strategy for Australia Interim Consultative Committee urged that a project to address this problem in the Murray-Darling basin, be implemented as a matter of high priority. World Wildlife Fund Australia strongly supports this view.

Pollution

Organic matter e.g. chemicals and sewerage effluents discharged into estuaries and rivers can present serious problems for wetlands users including wildlife

In urban wetlands, increases in organic material favours the development of a bacterium which causes botulism and is responsible for many bird deaths.

Some chemicals are dangerous because they are passed up through the food chain and affect predatory hawks, insect-eating ibis and the fishing pelicans, often limiting their ability to breed successfully.

Mining

The major areas for extracting rutile, ilmenite and zircon from mineral sands occur on the large sand islands off south-eastern Queensland.

A major problem posed by sand mining in this area is the penetration of the sands and organic layers which give dune lakes in these areas their water holding capacity.

Effects of Introduced Plants and Animals

Amongst plants that have had a serious effect upon inland waters — mention must be made of the Water Hyacinth and the water fern *Salvinia*, both are native to South America where they are not nuisance plants. Although they are more of a problem in tropical countries than here in largely temperate Australia, their huge floating masses hinder fishing, impede navigation, impair recreation and significantly alter water quality. The European carp an exotic fish, has a pig-like feeding action uprooting vegetation and causing turbidity in streams. This prevents sunlight from penetrating water and decreases the growth of vegetation.

The trout was introduced in 1864 and the Mosquito fish *Gambusia affinis* in 1925. Both are now widespread and have significantly affected native fish.

The wallowing behaviour of feral pigs and buffalo can destroy vegetation in swamps and disturb the habitat of ground nesting birds. Buffalo have had and are having an enormous impact on the tropical wetlands of northern Australia.



Water Buffalo cause major disturbances to wetlands in the Northern Territory.
Photo: D. Tulloch/National Photographic Index.

What's being done to conserve Wetlands

Globally

The Ramsar Convention

The Ramsar Convention or "The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitats" was adopted in 1971. This treaty provides the framework for international co-operation for the conservation of wetland habitats.

Countries which join Ramsar are required to include wetland conservation considerations with their national land-use planning. They are required to formulate and implement this planning so as to promote, as far as possible, the wise use of wetlands in their territory.

A second obligation is for these countries to designate wetlands for inclusion in a "List of Wetlands of International Importance."

Australia joined Ramsar in 1974 and has 26 wetlands included on the list of Wetlands of International Importance.

World Heritage Convention

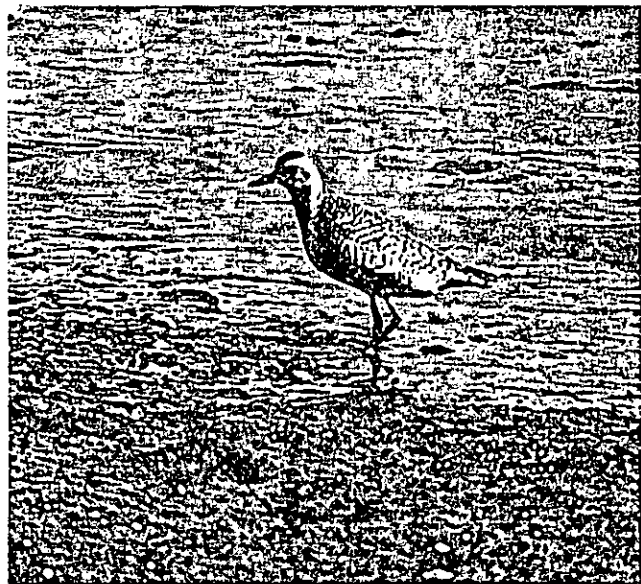
Australia as a party to the World Heritage Convention has a responsibility to propose for World Heritage listing, all natural and cultural properties of "outstanding universal value". Australia has 5 World Heritage properties including Kakadu National park in the Northern Territory, one of the world's most significant wetlands.

Japan-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement

The Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan for the protection of Migratory Birds and Birds in Danger of Extinction and their Environment entered into force in 1981.

The Agreement prohibits the taking, in either Australia or Japan, of migratory birds, or their eggs except for specified purposes. In addition, the two countries must take special protective measures to preserve bird species in danger of extinction and this may include conservation of their habitat.

Nearly 80 species of birds are listed in an annex to the Agreement, and a considerable proportion of these are wetland dwellers.



The Eastern Golden Plover migrates South from Northern Asia and North America during the non-breeding season. When in Australia, it lives in rocky coasts, mud flats, estuaries and coastal marshes. Photo: F. W. C. Van Gessel/National Photographic Index.

Locally

Australian Heritage Commission Act

The Australian Heritage Commission Act establishes the Register of the National Estate, containing national and cultural places of 'aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value'.

There are a number of wetlands registered, including all wetland areas in National Park systems.

State Government Initiatives

In New South Wales, the Department of Environment and Planning has developed a State Environmental Planning Policy on Wetlands. The policy identifies approximately 1300 wetlands along the coast of NSW and states that before development such as clearing of vegetation, construction of levees, or drainage occurs, an environmental impact statement must be prepared and put on public display.

In November, 1985, State and Federal Government Ministers met in Adelaide to establish a council to promote the effective planning and management of the Murray-Darling River Basin. As a result of this meeting, various working groups have been established to study aspects of water, land and environmental management of this important region of Australia.

WWF Australia

In late February, WWF Australia sponsored a "Wetlands Workshop" which brought together experts from around Australia to discuss the importance of wetlands and the steps needed to achieve their conservation. This workshop which was the first National Review of Australia's wetlands, identified six types of wetlands which on a national basis need urgent conservation action. The proceedings from this Workshop are currently being published and will be available through WWF Australia later this year.

What Can An Individual Do?

The loss of wetlands is one of the few conservation problems which you can do something about.

- Find out what wetlands there are in your area. What is their value as a natural resource? Are they a breeding ground for waterfowl?
- Join a local, state or national group interested in wetlands and their conservation, and take part in their activities.
- Learn about the threats to your local wetlands and what government protective programmes if any exist for those wetlands.
- Use wetlands properly and enjoy them. Encourage others — teachers, scouts, local councils and sporting groups — to do the same.



The Shortland Wetlands Centre near Newcastle, is an educational research and recreational facility, run by the Hunter Wetlands Trust. Members of the public can join the Trust and take part in activities such as Egret banding.

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

AUSTRALIA,

LEVEL 17, ST. MARTINS

TOWER, 31 MARKET STREET,
SYDNEY, N.S.W., 2000.

PHONE: (02) 29 7572.

For further information on World Wildlife Fund Australia, membership subscriptions, making a donation or bequest, write to our Director, Mr. Adrian Stark, at the above address.

Annual Membership:

\$25.00/year.

Subscriptions and donations are tax deductible.

WE NEED WETLANDS

Wetlands are important to us. This may surprise some people who spurn the mangroves and saltmarshes of our coastal estuaries; the seasonal fresh swamps that appear after a storm deluge; and the billabongs and waterlogged soils that mark the inland, when it is free of drought.

Yet they are an integral part to our successful interdependence with the environment. You would think that in a continent as dry as Australia, wetlands would need little justification. Yet despite international agreements, studies and cries of alarm, we continue to destroy them.

Why Are Wetlands Valuable?

Clean Water

Our surface and groundwater supplies are closely linked to nature's filters — the wetlands at the heads of rivers and along the floodplain and the swamps through which surface runoff enters groundwater aquifers. Many towns obtain their drinking water from groundwater supplies. In the last drought, borewater kept some towns and farms alive.

Natural Habitats

Wetlands hold an immense diversity of niches for land and water based wildlife. In terms of the amount of plant material per unit area, estuarine wetlands are amongst the most productive natural systems in the world. They have been favourably compared to rainforests and are estimated to be four times as productive as temperate grasslands¹. In addition, wetlands are very important to wildlife as refuges from drought.

In New South Wales alone, there are several hundred types of freshwater plants, while the salt water regime supports forty varieties of saltmarsh,

seven species of mangroves and at least five different seagrasses. The birds are spectacular users of the wetlands. Some migrate annually between Australia and from places as far as Japan and Siberia (eg Japanese Snipe, Curlew, Sandpiper). Our wetlands form part of an international network of migratory bird habitats, recognised by treaty. In 1974 Australia was the first country to sign

What Are Wetlands?

"Areas of seasonally, intermittently, or permanently waterlogged soils, of inundated land, whether natural or otherwise, fresh or saline, eg waterlogged soils, ponds, billabongs, lakes, swamps, tidal flats, estuaries, rivers and their tributaries."

Wetlands Advisory Committee, 1977, "The Status of Wetland Reserves in System 6" — Report of the Wetlands Advisory Committee to the Environmental Protection Authority of Western Australia

the RAMSAR international wetlands convention.

"... Being convinced that wetlands constitute a resource of great economic, cultural, scientific and recreational value, the loss of which would be irreparable ..."

"... Recognising that waterfowl in their seasonal migrations may transcend frontiers and so should be regarded as an international resource ..."

Nevertheless, migratory habitats such as the Cairns mudflats are being destroyed by felling of mangroves and filling. Up to twenty-six migratory birds visit the area. There are also the less travelled birds which restrict their movements to Australia, but are no less important — the red capped plover, black swan, ibis, egret, chestnut teal, lotus bird, spur winged plover and a hundred more.

The birds are only part of the ecology. They share the habitat with hundreds of insects, reptiles, frogs, mammals, and the water dwellers — dolphins, porpoises, fish, molluscs and prawns.

Natural habitats offer a wide range of satisfying recreational opportunities. Most, if not all Australians go to the coast for a vacation. Wetlands provide for popular activities such as canoeing, walking, picnicking, photography, diving and birdwatching.

Sustainable Economic Value

A recent NSW State Fisheries study of Botany Bay found that most of forty-seven commercial species of fish caught offshore, spend their nursery and growing period within the estuary². If the fisheries resource is not overharvested and the wetlands preserved, a vast sustainable economic resource becomes available. In 1980-81 wetlands dependant fish contributed \$5.3 million and oyster, scallop, crab and prawn catches \$27 million to the New South Wales economy. Thousands of jobs are involved. Mangroves play a major role in fish ecology, thus making

Grass Whistling Duck. Photo: NPWS



them one of the most valuable trees in Australia.

As aquaculture (production under controlled conditions) receives more attention the returns will become even more lucrative. The wetlands have provided the gene pool for pearl oyster culture, mussel farms and now research is being carried out into prawn and scallop culture.

Of no less economic important is recreational fishing. In New South Wales amateur fishing people and their

families contribute probably as much to the economy as the commercial fishing industry. In addition, the booming tourist industry is largely based on natural coastal and wetland environments.

Insect Eating Birds

Locusts and grasshoppers are a curse to farmlands. One of the natural ways to control them is through insect eating birds, such as the ibis. Their value has led to calls for wetlands to be preserved. The Macquarie Marshes Investigation

Committee stated the Marshes were an important sanctuary for the ibis and other predatory birds that destroy millions of grasshoppers each year, to the extent of reducing plagues³. Preservation of the Marshes thus has significant economic value.

Flood Mitigation And Erosion Control

Wetlands are nature's flood mitigators. Actually, nature does not try to avoid or reduce floods — we do. The wetlands help utilise the flood event by acting as natural drainage basins for the surrounding area. They store runoff and release it slowly so as to sustain the ecosystem. If we avoid interfering with wetlands and plan our settlements accordingly, the wetlands will diminish the effects of flooding by slowing down floodwaters. This in turn reduces erosion, siltation and the influx of fresh water into fish and prawn nurseries.

Erosion control is further enhanced by foreshore vegetation and the mangroves and seagrasses, which bind the sand and mud. These estuarine plants make a significant contribution to water clarity by reducing water velocities and permitting the fallout of fine sediment.

Study And History

The biological diversity of wetlands provides useful areas for students to observe principles of biology, hydrology, marine science, geology, and archaeology.

Lakes, swamps and estuaries provided constant and easily attainable supplies of food for Aboriginal people. Artifacts of organic material are preserved in undisturbed swamp conditions. There are also areas of ceremonial importance such as bora grounds.

Wetlands Are Being Destroyed

The destruction of wetlands has occurred on a large scale since European settlement of Australia. Our uses of the land have come into direct competition with the survival of wetlands. The sources of these threats can come from activities in the buffer zone or catchment, as well as on the immediate foreshore.

The Australian Heritage Commission, Australian Marine Sciences Association, the Wetlands Coalition and many other government, scientific and community groups have called for the protection of our remaining wetlands⁴. They have pointed to the need to change the way we manage our activities and the adoption of a caring role to wetlands. But first we must understand how

Macquarie Marshes, inland NSW. Photo: Total Environment Centre





A good day's fishing. Photo: A. Catford

commonly accepted land uses can harm wetlands.

Draining And Filling

Rural and urban developers have both pursued the draining and filling of wetlands. Farmers have sought to improve pasture or increase the amount of crop land. Although initially fertile the drained area begins to concentrate salts that severely inhibit plant growth. The noted ecologist H Frith said:

*"In southern Australia the coastal and near coastal wetlands have suffered greatly. Many of the swampy places were drained in early history to provide extra grazing. Much of this was unwise and resulted only in low quality tussocky pastures. The same amount of labour and money devoted to pasture improvement on other soils elsewhere on the farm would usually have paid greater dividends."*⁵

Wetlands have been favoured sites for garbage tips. Once termed "reclamation" this activity can now be seen as destruction of a valuable resource. Filling has also occurred to provide land for building sites. Once it was thought the environment was being improved and the economy enhanced, but this attitude ignored the fishing industry.

For example, a tourist resort developer proposes to reclaim a mangrove island in the Clarence River. Barry Heyen of the Clarence River Fishing Co-op objected:

*"Obviously, we respect the developer's desire to purchase land and develop a business in this area, however we consider that little is achieved from the district's point of view, if in doing so, an industry already developed here is damaged."*⁶

Several million dollars per annum and hundreds of jobs are produced by the Clarence fishing industry.

Pollution

A polluted, dead swamp is an ugly sight. Once there may have been a nursery for fish, healthy seagrass and mangrove forests and roosts for migratory birds.

There are many sources of pollution, flowing into wetlands by direct runoff or leaching through the soil.

- Waste disposal sites, including toxic chemicals, industrial effluent and mine waste.
- Urban runoff, which collects fuel, oil, metals, litter and organic debris from the roads.
- Household effluent, especially sewage from septic systems and detergent and pesticides leaching into the soil.
- Agricultural runoff, constituted from fertilisers and pesticides applied over large areas of catchments

Wetlands comprise one of the State's most valuable ecological, economic, social and aesthetic resources.

and animal waste from intensive piggeries, chicken farms and cattle lots.

- Spraying of chemicals to control weeds and insects in waterways.
 - Accidental industrial spills.
- Many of these pollutants can kill aquatic life and cause eutrophication. This latter problem is evidenced by algae "blooms" or plagues, which thrive on the excessive nutrients (eg urban runoff, fertilisers) flowing into the wetland. The algae forms into unsightly masses and depletes the oxygen in the water to the point where aquatic life is suffocated.

Canal Estates

These are built by dredging estuaries and using the spoil for landfill. Residential subdivisions and marinas are

then constructed, but this leads to major problems. Water circulation and flushing of the canals can be seriously impaired, leading to a buildup of pollutants, especially sewage. Diseases dangerous to humans can proliferate.

The dredging removes reed beds and other habitats; changes natural drainage patterns; and settlement and motor boats disrupt the nesting and feeding activities of birdlife.

Flood Mitigation

Floods are part of the climatic cycle in Australia, but we seek to control the direction and size of floods because people have built towns and farms in flood prone areas. In a number of cases we have worsened the floods, by clearing forests and swamps which are natural mitigators of flood peaks.

A detailed study by the CSIRO in 1970 found that sixty per cent of high value waterfowl wetlands had been lost in New South Wales as a result of structural flood mitigation works⁷. Drains, flood gates, river straightening, flood storage and levee banks continue to have serious ecological impacts.

No one was bothered about the wetlands and as a result the benefit-cost studies of the flood mitigation works ignored the vast economic and ecological value of wetlands. The structural works have lowered the water table; interfered with fish movement and breeding; reduced the permanency and area of wetlands; caused siltation; interfered with oyster production; and encouraged the growth of aquatic weeds, to name just a few impacts.

In some cases drought-refuge wetlands for stock have been eliminated. Penny Coleing, a conservationist from the Macleay Valley, who participated in a survey of farmers affected by flood mitigation, said:

"Farmers who benefitted from having wetlands on their land were often not consulted when flood mitigation works were being planned and there were many instances of a stock refuge area being lost. Also flood mitigation was ad hoc, floodwaters from a farm upstream being re-directed onto land owned by less influential farmers downstream."

Of course, attempts must be made to protect people and property from floods, but this can be achieved in the future by non structural methods. For example, prohibition of development on flood prone land; better flood warning systems and improved building design.

Weeds, Insects And Chemicals

Nuisance plants and animals are often "controlled" through weedicides and insecticides. Up to twenty-nine species of plants are able to cause serious problems in waterways, for instance water hyacinth.

Stagnant water is a major breeding ground for mosquitos and midges. They are less of a problem in a healthy wetland with a well circulating water-flow. In addition to the spraying of insecticides, control measures include filling of wetland margins. These activities are non specific and can harm other components of the ecosystem.

HOW CAN WE PROTECT WETLANDS?

First, by people banding together or joining a conservation group to preserve their local wetlands. All wetlands are important.

Second, by dedicating some wetlands as nature reserves.

Third, by councils and the State Government placing strict controls on development so that pollution is eliminated and vegetated buffer zones are retained around wetlands.

Community Action

Unless the people who enjoy the lakes and lagoons during their holidays and care about the wildlife, and the fishing people who depend on the wetlands for their livelihood join together, then a more balanced approach to landuse and wetlands will not be achieved.

Already more than twenty-eight groups in New South Wales have formed the Wetlands Coalition — for the protection of coastal and inland wetlands. They have agreed on objectives that will provide longterm economic, social and



White Egret. Photo: NPWS

environmental benefits to society. The objectives include:

- A State Environment Policy should be gazetted requiring that all remaining wetlands be preserved through appropriate zoning in environmental plans; buffer zones be declared and controls placed on nearby development to ensure protection of water quality and habitat.
- The government should be ready to use its powers under Acts, such as the *Coastal Protection Act*, *Heritage Act*, *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*, *National Parks and Wildlife Act*, *Fisheries and Oyster Farms Act*, to prevent any clearing or draining of wetlands which may be allowable under present zoning.
- The State Government should endorse a policy of establishing a representative system of marine reserves and legislate for a coherent

Pink-eared Duck. Photo: NPWS



system of protection of estuarine and offshore environments.

- No development, public or private, should be allowed to alienate free public access to the foreshore of wetlands, but where necessary public access should be controlled to minimise environmental impact.
- A program of rehabilitation of degraded wetlands should be undertaken by government, community groups and landowners.

How You Can Help

- Write to the Premier of NSW, and Minister for Planning and Environment, c/o Parliament House, Sydney 2000, supporting the protection of our wetlands and asking for action.
- Contact the following groups if you know of a wetland under threat or wish to join a local group.
North Coast Environment Council,
PO Box 425, Grafton 2460.
Total Environment Centre,
18 Argyle Street, Sydney 2000.
South Coast Conservation Society,
PO Box 1656, Wollongong 2500.
Far South Coast Environment Group
PO Box 18, Tathra 2550.
- Make a donation to the Wetlands Campaign (cheque made out to: Total Environment Centre, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney 2000).
- This article is reproduced in a leaflet (obtainable from the Total Environment Centre at cost price). Give one to a friend, local political party branch, council alderperson or local member of parliament.

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The Wetlands Coalition, 1983, *Objectives of the Wetlands Campaign*.
- 5 Frith, H K, 1979, *Wildlife Conservation*, Angus and Robertson.
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COPY OF LETTER TO:

12 June, 1991

T. Moore, R. Kelly, N. Coast Local Members (State and Federal)

Dear ,

Re: Funding of NSW World Heritage Properties

At the most recent meeting of the Lismore District Advisory Committee, the Committee resolved to write to you and express our concern about the relative level of Commonwealth funding for NSW World Heritage Areas (WHA).

We have recently received information from the Department of Arts, Sport, Environment, Tourism and Territories (DASETT) which indicates that total specific funding for NSW WHAs (Eastern Rainforests, Willandra and Lord Howe) since 1984 amounts to less than \$3 million, which is only 1.7% of total Commonwealth support for Australian WHAs over that period. A summary break-down of funding for each of the eight Australian WHA properties is attached, although it should be noted that the 1990 information is based on estimates only.

We are extremely concerned about the low level of Commonwealth support for NSW WHA's for two reasons. Firstly, the low level of Commonwealth support and total lack of provision for ongoing management requirements limits the application of urgently required management resources, and hence places in jeopardy Australia's obligations under the World Heritage convention. Secondly, the allocation of considerably greater support to other properties suggests that NSW WHA properties are not regarded by the Commonwealth as being of equal importance to other WHA areas. We are particularly concerned that NSW properties are the only ones which do not receive ongoing financial assistance.

While there may be defensible reasons for the historically low level Commonwealth support for NSW WHA's relative to WHA's in other States, we believe it is now essential for NSW to seek a proportionally equal, and ongoing commitment of Commonwealth support. Unless such support is available, then further deterioration of the resources of our WHA's (e.g. from weed invasion, effects of recreational use, inappropriate use of adjacent lands, etc) is likely and we shall lose the opportunity to fully realise the economic, ecological and social benefits which WHA listing can provide.

We therefore request that you take steps to secure additional Commonwealth funding for our "national treasures" and would be pleased to assist in whatever capacity to facilitate procurement of that support.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Dutton
Chairperson

The Third National Wilderness Conference, organised by the Australian Conservation Foundation, was held at Katoomba, NSW in September 1983.

Success in the campaign to save the Franklin generated great expectations of an early development of a system of wilderness reserves nationwide. Such hopes have not yet been realised.

The first task of the 1993 Fourth National Wilderness Conference will be to review the last ten years. The second main task will be to develop a plan of action to revitalize the wilderness conservation movement so that the goal of a national wilderness system can be achieved before the end of the century.

This Conference has been convened by the Colong Foundation with the endorsement of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

CONFERENCE VENUE

The Australian Museum
Corner of College and William Streets
Sydney (Opposite Hyde Park).

Public transport:

Museum railway station is within easy walking distance.

378 bus from Railway Square or Eddy Avenue;
380,382 from Circular Quay (alight from buses at Hyde Park or Whitlam Square).

Registration fee:

\$145 NGOs and individuals (\$95 concession)
\$245 government organisations and corporations.

Conference registration includes a light supper on Friday and afternoon tea on Saturday and Sunday. Cafeteria services are available for lunch and morning teas but are not included.

Conference Banquet: (optional) \$25
Venue: Choy's Inn, 90-92 Hay St, Haymarket, Sydney.

Further information and registration:

Fourth National Wilderness Conference
c/- Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd
The Gloucester Walk
88 Cumberland St
Sydney 2000

Tel: 02 252 4975 Fax: 02 241 1289

Please note: Conference registrations are limited to 140 persons.

Organised by

The Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd

Sponsored by

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WILDERNESS THE FUTURE

FOURTH NATIONAL WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

**Achieving a National Wilderness System:
A review of progress and a plan of action**

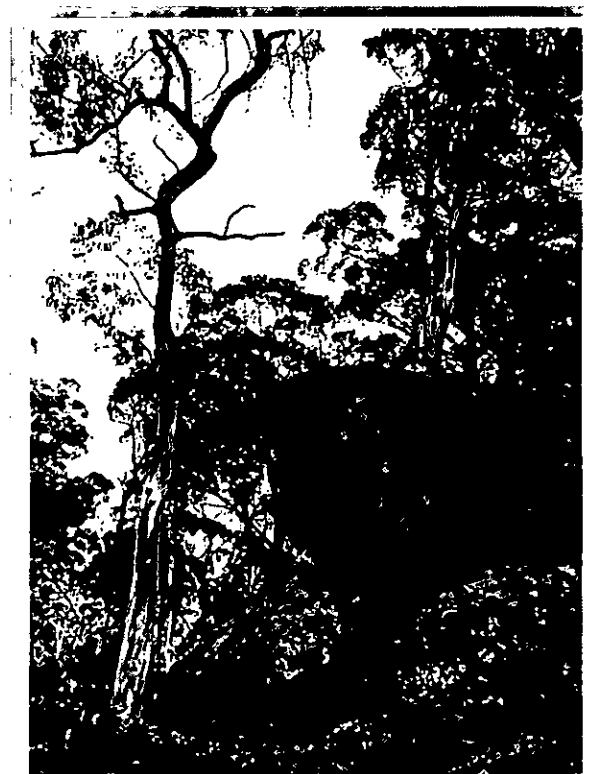


Photo: Henry Gold

8th - 10th October 1993

The Australian Museum, Sydney

PROGRAM

FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER

7.00 pm Registration

8.00 pm OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

CHAIR: THE HON NEVILLE WRAN AC, QC

8.20 pm Keynote address: The future of wilderness in Australia: *Dr Bob Brown*

9.00 pm Discussion

9.15 pm Poetry reading: *John Rowland*

9.30 pm Light supper

10.00 pm Close of Opening Session

SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER

8.30 am – 9.00 a.m. Registration continued

SESSION ONE: IDENTIFYING AND RESERVING WILDERNESS:
REVIEW OF PROGRESS

CHAIR: PETER MASLEN

9.00 am The wilderness protection process: *Keith Muir*

9.20 am Discussion

9.30 am The national wilderness inventory: *Rob Lesslie*

9.50 am Discussion

10.00 am Wilderness threats and reservation progress – the south-east (s. Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Tasmania): *Peter Prineas*

10.15 am Discussion

10.30 am Morning tea

11.00 am Wilderness threats and reservation progress – the north (n. Queensland, n. Northern Territory and n. Western Australia): *John Sinclair*

11.15 am Discussion

11.30 am Wilderness threats and reservation progress – South Australia, the inland and south-western Australia: *Peter and Margaret Robertson*

11.45 am Discussion

SESSION TWO: GUARDING THE FUTURE OF WILDERNESS:
PROGRESS AND IDEAS FOR ACTION

CHAIR: Professor BEN BOER

12.00 pm A national Red Index: *Pat Thompson*

12.15 pm Discussion

12.30 pm Lunch (12.30 pm – 1.45 pm)

1.45 pm Wilderness legislation: analysis of State provisions: *John Whitehouse*

2.00 pm Discussion

2.15 pm A national wilderness Act?: *Brian Preston*

2.30 pm Discussion

SESSION THREE: THE ENDURING VALUE OF WILDERNESS TO
THE COMMUNITY

CHAIR: KARENNE JURD

2.45 pm The multiple values of wilderness: *Peter Wright*

3.00 pm Discussion

3.15 pm Afternoon tea and introduction of poster papers:

- The development of Victoria's wilderness system – *Brad Miles* (Land Conservation Council) and *Doug Hooley* (Department of Conservation and Land Management)
- Kimberley – *Peter Robertson*
- Rescuing Lake Pedder – *The Lake Pedder Study Group*
- Shoalwater Bay – *The Queensland Conservation Council*
- Cape York: 'Starcke coastal wilderness' – *The Wilderness Society*
- Wilderness protection in South Australia – *SA Wilderness Advisory Committee*
- Governments' record in wilderness conservation – *Dr Judy Lambert*

4.00 pm Wilderness recreation: *Peter Treseder and Dot Butler*

4.20 pm Discussion

4.30 pm Wilderness and tourism: *Penny Figgis*

4.45 pm Discussion

5.00 pm Wilderness and science: *Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick*

5.15 pm Discussion

5.30 pm Close of Session

6.30 pm Conference Banquet (optional)

SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER

SESSION FOUR: WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT

CHAIR: PETER THOMPSON

9.00 am Overview – The non-government perspective: *Roger Lembit*

9.15 am Discussion

9.20 am Overview – The agency perspective: *Larry Carter*

9.45 am Discussion

10.00 am Reconciling the interests of two cultures I: *Badger Bates*

10.15 am Reconciling the interests of two cultures II: *Dr Geoff Mosley*

10.30 am Joint discussion

10.45 am Morning tea

11.15 am Fire and wilderness protection: *Roger Good*

11.30 am Discussion

11.45 am Mechanised access and wilderness protection: *Ross Scott*

12.00 pm Discussion

12.15 pm Lunch (12.15 pm – 1.15 pm)

1.15 pm Poetry: *Robert Gray*

1.45 pm Art and wilderness: *Tim Bonyhady*

2.05 pm Discussion

SESSION FIVE: PLENARY – REVITALISING THE WILDERNESS
MOVEMENT – A PLAN OF ACTION:

CHAIR: PATRICIA CASWELL

2.15 pm Reports and recommendations from roving
Conference rapporteurs (*Geoff Mosley and Keith Muir*)

2.35 pm Discussion of reports

2.55 pm Afternoon tea

3.25 pm Plenary with Resolution

4.45 pm Close of Conference: *Peter Maslen* Vote of thanks

Registration Form

FOURTH NATIONAL WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

ACHIEVING A NATIONAL
WILDERNESS SYSTEM:
A REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND
A PLAN OF ACTION

Registration fee: \$145 NGOs and individuals
\$95 unwaged, students, pensioners
\$245 government and corporations.

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, SYDNEY

8 - 10 OCTOBER, 1993

FOR REGISTRATION PLEASE SEND PAYMENT TO:

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Gloucester Walk 88 Cumberland St
Sydney 2000
Tel: 02 252 4975
Fax: 02 241 1289

NAME.....

ADDRESS

.....

.....P'CODE

Tel Fax

Organisation represented.....

!!! STOP PRESS !!!

THREATENED SPECIES LEGISLATION UPDATE

Threatened Species Legislation for NSW has been delayed yet again by the NSW Parliament. A Legislative Committee has now been established to examine the Government's much criticised Endangered and Other Threatened Species Conservation Bill 1993, the ALP's amendments to that Bill and the Threatened Species Conservation Bill, introduced by Independent MLA Dr Peter Macdonald, (which has the support of the Threatened Species Network). This Committee is due to report back to Parliament in March 1994.

Meanwhile, the Parliament has extended the life of the Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act by another two years to October 1995. Unfortunately this Act doesn't protect fish, invertebrates or plants. The need for comprehensive threatened species legislation along the lines of the Macdonald Bill - remains as urgent as ever. Please write to Bob Carr, Leader of the Opposition, and the Hon. John Fahey, Premier, all C/O Parliament House, Sydney 2000 to express your disappointment that full Threatened Species Legislation has been deferred yet again.

Many environment groups will be receiving this newsletter for the first time. If your group would like to be placed on our mailing list permanently please contact the Network Co-ordinator. Feel free to make donations, cheques must be written to the Total Environment Centre and posted to the Network.

Kim Brebach
NSW Threatened Species Network Co-ordinator
September 16, 1993



THREATENED SPECIES *ALERT*

The National Threatened Species Network (NSW) is hosted by the Total Environment Centre and is a component of the National Endangered Species Program.

ISSUE NO.4 AUGUST 1993 Ph (02) 241 1438

NSW NEEDS THE WORLDS BEST ENDANGERED SPECIES LEGISLATION

The battle is on again for effective threatened species legislation in NSW.

NSW has the worst record of mammal extinctions in Australia, the country with the worst modern mammal extinction record in the world. To right this wrong we believe that this state needs some of the strongest threatened species legislation in the world.

The State Government has tabled it's "Endangered and Other Threatened Species Conservation Bill" and it does not fit into this category. This Bill is little different than the one which surfaced briefly last year as part of the Government's failed "Natural Resources Management Package". The current Government Bill fails to guarantee the survival of increasingly large numbers of threatened species and communities, and their critical habitats. There is no overriding and effective political or legal obligation to do so; indeed it sets the conservation clock backwards. Needless to say there is wide opposition to the Bill from conservation groups and scientists.

Fortunately there is an alternative. The "Threatened Species Conservation Bill" is being introduced by the Independent MP for Manly, Dr Peter Macdonald in the next Parliamentary session, which starts in September. This Bill has evolved over 4 years with wide consultation with appropriate scientists and conservationists.

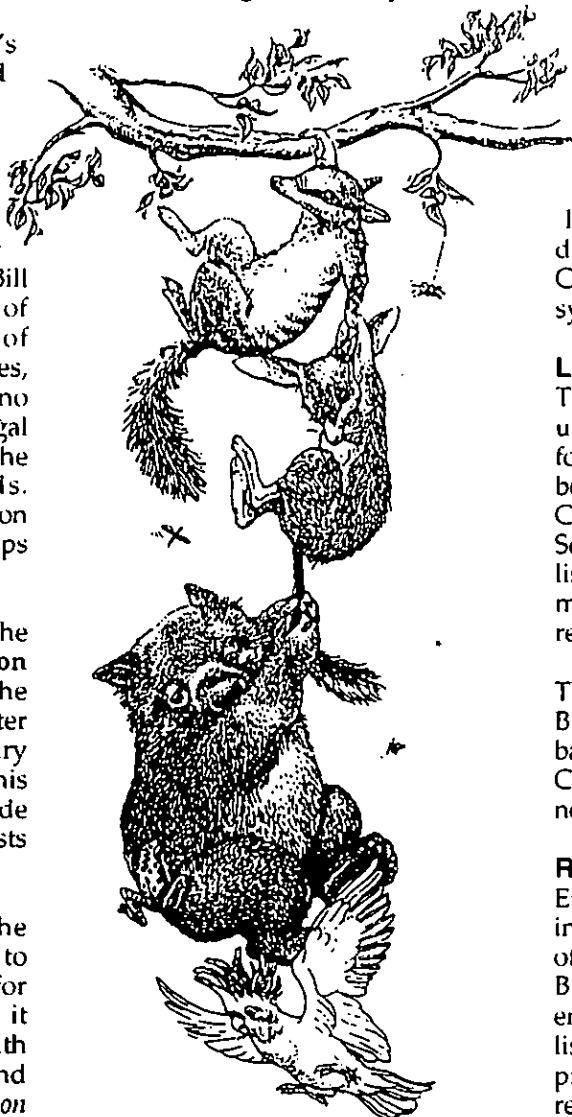
The Federal Minister for the Environment Ros Kelly has written to the network to express support for Macdonald's Bill, explaining that it complements both the Commonwealth *Endangered Species Protection Act* and the *National Strategy for the Conservation*

of Australian Species and Ecological Communities Threatened with Extinction and is therefore likely to receive Federal funding for Recovery plans for species also threatened nationally.

It represents a comprehensive conservation program that will work and offers a real opportunity to rescue the diminishing biodiversity of NSW.

The delicate balance of power in the NSW state Parliament means that with the support of community groups, the Labor Party and the other two non-aligned independents, this Bill can become law.

The two Bills share some important elements but exercise them in very different ways;



LICENSING POWERS

The Government's Bill will remove the Licensing processes established under the Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act. This compels developers to carry out Fauna Impact Statements before a licence decision. The Threatened Species Conservation Bill retains this licensing system.

LISTING PROCEDURES

The Government's Bill uses outdated, unsatisfactory and restrictive guidelines for listing threatened species which have been rejected by ANZECC and the Commonwealth Government. The Scientific Committee responsible for the listing of species is not obligated to make recommendations for listing in response to requests from the public.

The Threatened Species Conservation Bill uses an up-to-date, scientifically based listing system and the Scientific Committee must respond to listing nominations from the public.

RECOVERY PLANS

Effective "Recovery Plans" are crucial in bringing species back from the brink of extinction. Whilst the Government's Bill requires Recovery Plans for endangered species (that are eventually listed), there are no time limits on their preparation or review, they involve little real community input, they are subject

to interference from other (inappropriate) Ministers, they require approval from the Premier to be implemented and even then they are not binding on any Minister or Government Agency!

The Threatened Species Conservation Bill will establish comprehensive and effective Recovery Plans for all endangered, vulnerable and rare species and communities within 3 years of listing. Implementation of the plans must commence within 3 months of their approval. Recovery Action Teams involving land owners and community groups are established and consulted



on the draft plans. These are then open to full public review, to be later implemented by a joint and co-operative recovery team process which binds all Ministers and Government Agencies.

This Bill also has a comprehensive section on the identification and management of threatening processes, requiring the preparation of "Action Plans" to combat such threats.

CRITICAL HABITATS

Protecting the critical habitat of endangered species is crucial in ensuring their recovery. The Government's Bill leaves the designation of critical habitats in the hands of the Minister for Planning!

The Threatened Species Conservation Bill puts this task in the hands of the Director of the NPWS and the Scientific Committee. Their determination will also involve the community and land-owners. All activities that are likely to damage that habitat or threaten the survival of the species are prevented or modified by a licence or management contract.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Government's Bill has a scientific committee stacked with government appointees.

The Threatened Species Conservation Bill follows the style of the current Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act, where scientists are appointed after being nominated by specified relevant scientific bodies. This process instills public confidence.

WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?

The NSW Threatened Species Network is running a campaign in support of the Independent Bill. The Government, Opposition and the Independents need to know that there is widespread public concern about threatened species in NSW. You can write to your local MP first and foremost, expressing your support for Dr Peter Macdonald's Threatened Species Conservation Bill.

Then also write to;
Bob Carr, Leader of the Opposition,
the Hon. John Fahey, Premier,
and Fred Nile MLC,
all C/O Parliament House, Sydney 2000.

For more information on both Bills and how you or your group can help the campaign, please contact Kim Brebach, the NSW Threatened Species Network Co-ordinator on (02) 241 1438 or at Shop 2, Gloucester Walk, 88 Cumberland St, The Rocks 2000.

Australia's Draft Biological Diversity Strategy Running out of Steam

*By Michael Kennedy,
Senior Policy Advisor WWF*

The Federal Government's draft "National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity" is slowly succumbing to conservative political pressures. Instigated by the Minister for the Environment in early 1991, the Biological Diversity Advisory Committee (BDAC) was established to draft a strategy by September 1992. BDAC duly completed its task by this date, after extensive public consultation and a national conference. Despite the late addition of four more industry representatives, BDAC produced a very laudable draft, a strategy designed to help meet Australia's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

However, industry, State and Territory Governments, and Federal resource departments, are highly suspicious of all Commonwealth biodiversity programs, and have actively sought to delay and/or abort the strategy process. Under the banner of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD),

industry particularly has tried to stymie biodiversity initiatives. For example, industry groups jointly wrote to the Prime Minister opposing the Federal Government's Endangered Species Protection Act, claiming that it was against the principles of ESD, and also attempted to promote ESD as the goal of the biodiversity strategy, rather than the maintenance of ecosystems and species.

Almost a year since the completed strategy was given to the Minister, it is still locked into an endless round of negotiation and consultation with the States and numerous Federal bureaucracies. Now that Australia has ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity, the pressure is on to complete the document, and to obtain national agreement. The Federal Minister for the Environment, Ros Kelly, has stated that she wants the strategy completed by December, 1993, but pessimism currently reigns.

The States have already removed a critical recommendation from the strategy which called for Federal legislation to implement the biodiversity strategy itself and to fulfil obligations under the Convention (virtually a Biodiversity Act), and worse is likely to come in terms of weakening amendments from Commonwealth resource bureaucracies.

Australia has been flaunting its draft strategy at a number of UNEP preparatory meetings for the biodiversity convention, and the document has received great praise from many quarters. However, unless the Federal Environment Minister and the Prime Minister, take a strong hold of the strategy development process, and demand the strongest conservation provisions, then Australia will be hard put to boast at future treaty meetings of its progressive implementation mechanisms, and conservation at home will be a very hard slog indeed.

IRONGATE: Endangered species under threat

The proposed Iron Gates Development at Evans Head on the Far North Coast is becoming a test case for third party proceedings involving the Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act.

The Iron Gates site has been identified by wildlife experts as a significant habitat for a number of endangered species particularly the koala but also including the Brush tailed Phascogale, Grass Owl, White Eared Monarch, Queensland Blossom Bat, Ground Parrot, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Planigale and a number of Bat species.

The applicant, The Lismore Greens have filed affidavits from University Professor Dr. Peter Bavistock and former NPWS koala expert Steve Phillips who claim that The Iron Gates site contains the last viable koala colony in The Richmond and Clarence areas of the North Coast.

The current proceedings are the fourth undertaken by environment groups to save this area, which also contains littoral rainforests, aboriginal sites, SEPP 14 wetlands on pristine estuary frontage from inappropriate development

Media/Research Officer for The Greens Al Oshlack has described the situation on the North Coast for Endangered Species as "desperate".

"Nearly every habitat of endangered species such as the Koala on the North Coast is being targeted for Development."

"The Iron Gates Development involves the construction of a road across a wetland from Evans Head to a proposed subdivision of up to 300 to 600 sites and is zoned village which allows most types of industry and commercial use. The development also includes construction of a compensatory wetland and open space (playing fields) on existing wetlands.

"The present proposal for the first stage of 110 lots and open space was approved by The Richmond River Council in March this year without an FIS despite a recommendation from the NPWS," he said.

An application by the Lismore Greens was filed in The Land and Environment Court on June 21st, claiming that the

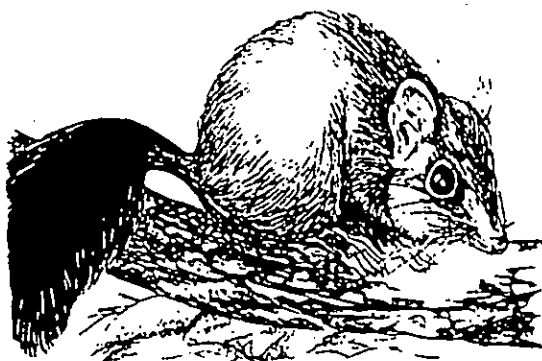
consent should be declared null and void as the proposal should have been accompanied with an FIS.

The present action is being funded by a coalition of environment groups without legal aid with Mr. Oshlack a single parent made to stand costs if the case is lost.

The result of the case will have a major impact on a number of other North Coast Developments now being held up awaiting the outcome from the court these include "Cobaki" near Tweed Heads, Batsons Quarry/ Taylor Lake (Suffolk Park-Byron Bay) and North Ocean Shores (North Byron)

Donations are desperately needed and cheques to the 'Iron Gates Legal Trust a/c' P.O. Box 125, Lismore, NSW 2480. would be really appreciated

For further information phone 066 222 618 or 212 677



CONSERVING THREATENED SPECIES; THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROLE

In 1992 the NSW Threatened Species Network ran a conference called Threatened Species and Local Government; Policies for Protection. This conference was to assist the Network to prepare a draft model policy for use by local government in threatened species protection. Conserving Threatened Species; the Local Government Role is the result.

This comprehensive report contains plenty of information on the need to protect threatened species and

biodiversity. Local Government responsibilities under current legislation for all states are detailed and selected papers from the 1992 conference have also been included.

The Model Policy for the Conservation of Threatened Species is the heart of the publication and is a must for concerned council workers, local community and environment groups and all those interested in the protection of threatened species at a local level.

This project has been made possible by a grant under the National Estate Grants Program 1992/1993.

Copies of Conserving Threatened Species; The Local Government Role, are available from the Threatened Species Network for \$20.00. Cheques must be written to the Total Environment Centre but sent to the Threatened Species Network, Shop 2, Gloucester Walk, 88 Cumberland street, The Rocks 2000.

PLANTS IN NSW; OUR FORGOTTEN ENDANGERED SPECIES?

The most common images of threatened species in the media are of our more famous and visually spectacular mammals such as the Koala, the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby or the Yellow-bellied Glider. But many Australians are starting to appreciate the value of some of our other threatened species, namely plants.

Community pressure in NSW has grown with the interest in various tree planting and bush regeneration projects and is starting to attract increased research, funding, and action for threatened plants.

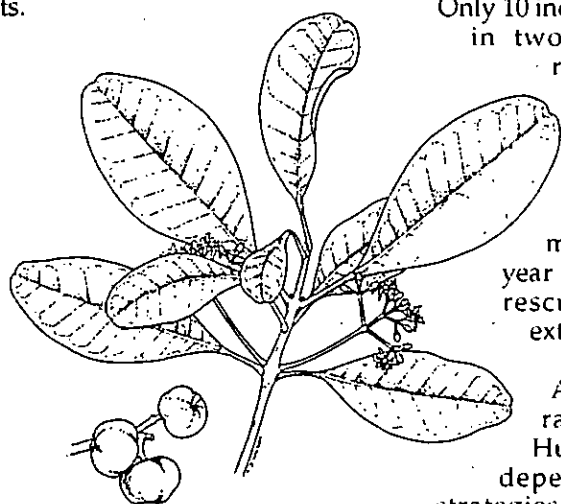
"Australians have recently recognised the plight of our endangered animals but are still generally unaware that almost 900 native plants are listed as threatened nationally. Native plants are essential to conserve our biodiversity. Each plant is unique biologically and, potentially, economically. And native plants combine to make up complex habitats that are home to all other species."

The funds will help plants like the Coastal fontainea, believed to be Australia's rarest rainforest tree. Only 10 individuals are known in two small rainforest remnants near Lennox Heads, 25km South of Byron Bay. Scientists from the NSW NPWS are in charge of research and management during the nine-year recovery process aimed at rescuing Fontainea from extinction.

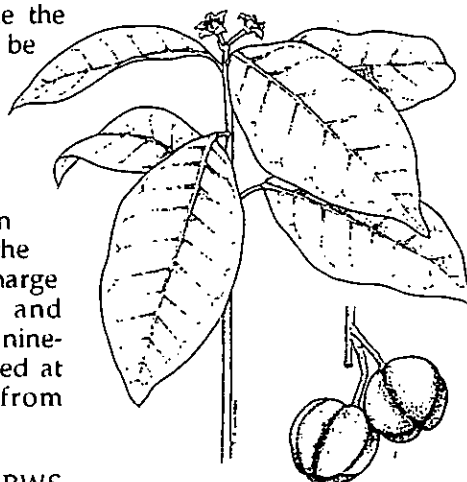
According to NPWS rainforest botanist John Hunter, the tree's survival is dependent on a number of strategies, chief among them the protection of the remaining habitat. Introduced weeds such as Lantana and

Camphor Laurel are another major threat to this and other rainforest species.

In most recovery plans, the tools of modern science are being adapted to the problems of saving species from extinction. Genetic studies of Coastal Fontainea are planned to determine how the handful of remaining plants are related and how best to propagate and



Acronychia littoralis



Fontainea oraria

plant seedlings to minimise inbreeding. Seedlings will be started in the laboratory from tissue culture. Scientists are matching field surveys and ecological studies with the unfolding puzzles of how the trees would normally be pollinated and disperse their seed.

1993 funding for NSW species recovery plans by the Endangered Species Program of the Australian Nature Conservation Agency is going mostly to non-furry, non-cuddly, not-even-always-photogenic plants. Thirty plant recovery plans have been funded to the tune of almost half a million dollars. \$145,690 will be spent in Northern NSW this year.

"Threatened Native Plants are our most ignored endangered species," explains Catherine Potter, Senior Project Officer for the ANCA's Endangered Species Program.

Threatened Plants in Australia

Two hundred years of European settlement in Australia has extracted a high price from Australia's native plant species.

An estimated 74 plant species have become extinct in the past century alone.

Figures for non-vascular plants (mosses, lichens and liverworts) are impossible to estimate as the majority of these species have not even been identified.

At present 226 plant species are considered in danger of imminent extinction, and 660 are vulnerable.

A species of Smokebush endemic to Western Australia demonstrates the value of plants as it is currently being investigated for its possible curative effects on the HIV/Aids virus.

ANCA has recently produced a *List of Threatened Australian Flora* prepared by the ANZECC Endangered Flora Network. The list uses Presumed Extinct, Endangered, and Vulnerable categories showing the distribution of Australia's endangered flora across the States and NT. This list is the result of many years of research and assessment by botanists from State, Territory and Commonwealth agencies, and is now available from ANCA.

NSW WILDLIFE ATLAS

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is, as the name implies, in charge of managing the wildlife of NSW.

Information on both plant and animal species found in this state is essential to this task. Previously, knowledge of our flora has generally been restricted to aerial photography and satellite imagery which tends to gloss over information on individual species. For fauna the situation is even worse as no remote methods for mapping are available, and knowledge about abundance and distribution of species is based on fairly random observations. And until recently there has been no central database for the little information that is known. But all this is changing.

In the early 1980's the NPWS set up a computer database to record sightings, mainly by Service staff, of vertebrate fauna and this "Wilddata" base has developed over the past decade into the "Atlas of NSW Wildlife". It is now compatible with a similar faunal database in Victoria. The number of Atlas records has slowly increased so that in March 1993, counts were:

Flora:	85 306
ROTAP:	7 864
Mammals:	23 380
Birds:	113 482
Reptiles:	7 198
Amphibians:	2 161
Total Fauna:	146 317

Records are now collected for the Atlas database using a compact and easy to use Field Data Book containing field data sheets which use categories including dates, locality, reserve/forest names, grid references, altitude, local geology, vegetation, species entries, codes and numbers sighted.



The Atlas database is in dire need of more records of endangered plant and animal species throughout the state. Such records are becoming increasingly useful for use with the Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act's Fauna Impact Statement process and are likely to continue that way under future legislation. At present however, records are not numerous enough for comprehensive use and predicted distributions have to be employed.

The Service is keen for dedicated bushwalkers, wildlife watchers or any nature enthusiasts to assist in the collection of records for the database. There are already a large network of people making contributions to the Atlas

and there are expanding possibilities of communication between local Atlasers. Any records of threatened or rare species are valuable as they may be the first for that area and can greatly assist accurate predictions. Reliable historic records are also extremely valuable as they help assess whether a species' range has contracted or not.

If you would like to help by supplying records for the NSW Wildlife Atlas please contact Annie Etheridge at the NPWS on (02) 585 6423 or write to: The Atlas of NSW Wildlife, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, PO Box 1967 HURSTVILLE NSW 2220.



MARINE AND COASTAL COMMUNITY NETWORK

Some good news for Australia's coastal environment is the establishment of the Marine and Coastal Community Network.

Prime Minister Keating foreshadowed the Networks establishment in his December 1992 Statement on the Environment. Funding has now been made available by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency as part of the Commonwealth Governments Ocean Rescue 2000 program, and the Australian Littoral Society has been contracted to co-ordinate its establishment.

The Networks primary aim is to foster community support for the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of Australia's marine and coastal environments. Its initial task will be to identify, and bring together the many community and user groups and individuals interested in ensuring that we have clean and healthy oceans and coasts.

In it's first year of operation, it will act mainly as a clearing house for information and contacts. Much of its work will be regionally based, although it will be co-ordinated nationally.

Obviously, a measure of its success will be the involvement of the many groups and individuals concerned with marine and coastal environments. If you would like to become part of the Marine and Coastal Community Network you should contact the National Co-ordinator, Diane Tarte at:

Po Box 49
Moorooka
Queensland 4105
or by phone on (07) 8925814

THE COMMONWEALTH ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION ACT 1993

The Commonwealth Endangered Species Protection Act came into force on April 30 this year. The Act, although not as strong as conservationists hoped it would be (due to some intense lobbying from industry and influential Cabinet Ministers), covers all Commonwealth (not State) lands and waters, and agency actions and decisions.

The legislation aims to conserve endangered and vulnerable animals, plants and endangered ecological communities.

These objectives will be met by:

- identifying endangered and vulnerable species and endangered ecological communities and key threatening processes in the lists under the Act. In listing these groups they are identified for action;

- preparing and implementing recovery plans (for listed species and ecological

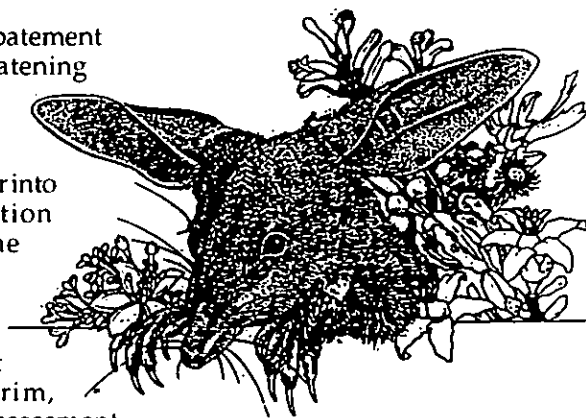
communities) and threat abatement plans (for listed key threatening processes);

- enabling land owners in Commonwealth areas to enter into voluntary conservation agreements with the Commonwealth government;

- enabling the Environment Minister to make interim, permanent and impact assessment conservation orders under certain circumstances;

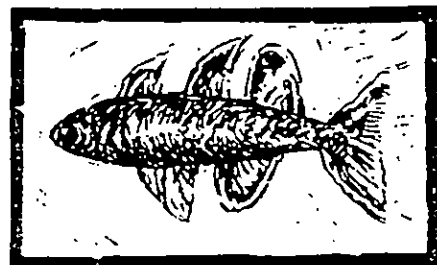
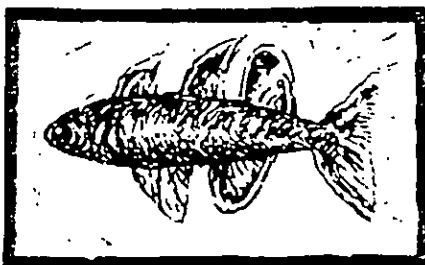
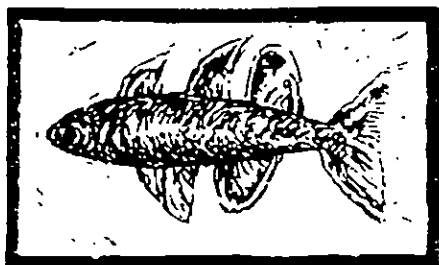
- providing appropriate administrative and enforcement powers to the Director of the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA) and other appropriate Commonwealth officers; and

- establishing an Endangered Species Advisory Committee (ESAC) and Endangered Species Advisory Subcommittee (ESAS) to assist the



Minister and ANCA in implementation of the Act.

Thanks to all those who wrote letters and badgered politicians to help this legislation along. However state legislation is still crucial as Commonwealth legislation doesn't cover the states or state land management decisions. So please see the first article to find out how you can help the passage of good legislation in NSW.



THE ACTION PLAN FOR AUSTRALIAN FRESHWATER FISHES

The Australian Nature Conservation Agency has recently published the Action Plan for Australian Freshwater Fishes. The Action Plan outlines the threatening processes operating and recovery action needed for each of the endangered and vulnerable freshwater fishes. It also prioritises the species in need of recovery action.

Approximately 195 species and subspecies of freshwater fishes have been formally described from Australian waters. A further 22 undescribed taxa are currently recognised. Apart from a few species, all Australian freshwater fishes have probably undergone reductions and distribution and abundance since European settlement.

Around 8% of Australian freshwater fishes are threatened with extinction, and about 25% are considered to have

either significantly declined in distribution, or occur in restricted areas. Although no fish species are known to have become extinct since European settlement, one species, the Lake Eacham Rainbowfish has become extinct in the wild. The Action Plan provides Recovery Outlines for 24 freshwater fishes at a total cost of at least \$3.6 million over 3 years.

Habitat degradation and/or interactions with introduced fishes appear to be the major causes of declining fish populations. Many processes threaten habitat and are often linked. They include changes to natural flow regimes, clearing of catchment vegetation, increased sediment loads, alteration of river beds and banks (including desnagging), reduced water quality and artificial barriers to fish movement. Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*) and Gambusia (*Gambusia*

holbrooki) appear to be the introduced species of most threat to native fishes at present.

The majority of the endangered and vulnerable species occur in south eastern Australia. Whilst this may reflect the areas of most severe habitat degradation, it may also reflect the lack of adequate survey work in other areas of Australia.

The Action Plan for Australian Fishes is available for \$25 including postage from;

The Botanical Bookshop
PO Box 351
Jamison ACT 2614

FAUNA IMPACT STATEMENTS

Setting the Standards

The Threatened Species Network ran a conference on April 30 earlier this year on *Fauna Impact Statements* as required under the *Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act*.

Speakers representing the conservation movement, the National Parks & Wildlife Service, the Forestry Commission, the Australian Museum and Pittwater Shire Council presented papers and these are now finally available from the Threatened Species Network for \$10.00. Please write cheques to the Total Environment Centre but send them to the Threatened Species Network at Shop 2, Gloucester Walk, 18 Cumberland St, Sydney 2000.



FRIENDS OF WIRES

The NSW Wildlife Information and Rescue Service Inc. - known as WIRES - is preparing to launch a new "Friends of WIRES" program which features an improved newsletter and items which Friends, new and old, young and not-so-young will find useful in the home.

Proceeds from Friends subscriptions are used by WIRES Branches all over the state to directly help injured, orphaned and distressed native animals.

Why not find out what it's all about. Contact WIRES on (02) 975 1633 and ask for a Friends brochure. By becoming a Friend you will do more to help native fauna than by just reading about them.



WILD THINGS

Our "Wildthings" lecture series is nearing its end and has been a great success so far. It was co-organised with the National Parks Association Sydney Branch and held at 6pm every second Monday of the month. The last lecture is on October 11 with Dr Rod Kavanagh speaking on large owls and forest gliders.

The Network would like to continue the lecture series next year so stay tuned. Thank you to all the speakers who helped shed some light on some of this state's lesser known endangered species, and finally thanks to the hordes who kept turning up!

AUSTRALIA SIGNS BIODIVERSITY CONVENTION

Australia ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on 18 June 1993.

Australia has now joined some 20 countries, including Canada, Japan and China, in ratifying the Convention. Thirty ratifications are required for the Convention to enter into force. This is expected to occur in 1994.

The Convention was developed over a period of nearly four years under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Australia signed the convention on World Environment Day, 5 June 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The Convention initially received a lot of publicity when then-President Bush refused to sign it, but President Clinton signed it soon after his inauguration.



NATURE CONSERVATION:

The Role of Networks, Conference 15-20 May 1994

An international conference on the role of networks in conservation is being organised by the CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology, Centre for Conservation Biology Auckland University, Department of Conservation and Land Management (WA) and World Wide Fund for Nature. Throughout the world, flora and fauna have suffered from the impacts of economic development by the clearing and fragmentation of native vegetation and degradation of ecosystems. Most countries have state agencies charged with stewardship and management of animal and plant communities.

However, it is only with community support and assistance that conservation will achieve its full potential as government and conservation agencies do not have the resources to manage adequately the conservation estate vested in them, let alone manage conservation issues outside their areas of influence.

In most agricultural and pastoral areas the majority of land supporting native species is privately owned or managed,

and needs to be managed in a manner sympathetic to nature conservation if conservation is to be realised. Community linkages between land holders and other individuals, groups, conservation agencies and conservation biologists are as essential to effective nature conservation as are linkages across the landscape.

This meeting is to be held in Geraldton, Sunday 15 May to Friday 20 May 1994. Five full day sessions are planned and an invited speaker will begin each session, followed by contributed papers.

For further information please contact:

Dr Denis Saunders
CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology
LMB No 4
PO Midland
Western Australia 6056
Ph: (09) 252 0111
Fx: (09) 252 0134

CONTENTS

- NSW needs the worlds best Endangered Species Legislation
- Australia's draft Biological Diversity Strategy running out of steam
- Conserving Threatened Species, the Local Government Role
- Irongates: Endangered Species Under Threat
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NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO THE AUSTRALIAN
TOURISM RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON THE SECOND DRAFT OF:

An Australian Environmental Code of Practice for the Australian
Tourism Industry; and

Environmental Guidelines for Tourist Developers.

The North Coast Environment Council consists of 30 local conservation and environment organisations from the Great Lakes to the Tweed Shire of NSW. The Council supports the orderly growth of diverse business and development interests to an optimum sustainable level.

The Council supports the endeavour contained within the "Environmental Guidelines for Tourist Developments". As with all advisory documents, the Guidelines will be effective only if developers, and the tourist industry as a whole, take the Guidelines into action in the spirit of co-operation.

The Council endorses the principles contained in the Guidelines as relate to the need for sustainable development and for development to accord with community need.

It is no longer possible to deny the absolute importance of environmentally sensitive development. But certain tourism elements continue to place their short-term economic needs above the long term national interest. The Council sincerely hopes that the tourism industry as a whole, will awaken to the spirit of environmental conservation and that co-operative community endeavour will prevail,

The Council supports the Guidelines in so much as the industry seeks to enact the Guidelines with the well-being of present and future Australians as their foremost objective.

To date, the social impact of inadvised tourism development has received little public comment. But this situation is likely to change if socially disruptive development continues. Therefore the Council supports the recommendation in the Guidelines, for pre-development assessment to take both physical and social impacts into account.

The environmental and social consequences of inappropriate development are well demonstrated overseas. The Australian tourism industry has the potential to learn from these errors and take tourism in Australia to a constructive example of the beneficial integration of social, environmental and economic needs.

The Council believes that the industry will only be able to realise this potential if the national well-being of present and future Australians is taken as the priority goal. Self-interest must subject itself to the requirements of the whole.

For this reason, the Council opposes the indication on Page 1 that Australian tourism will necessarily follow international trends.

Australia is currently a popular international destination because of its newness, natural beauty, and appealing lifestyle. The industry is in danger of destroying its resource base if development simply chases overseas trends, thereby falling into the "homogenising" trap and concealing Australia's uniqueness.

The Council recommends four wording changes to the Guidelines:

- * Page 2 in "2.Summary Steps", point 7, change "avoid" to "prevent", therefore: "Design facilities to complement environmental features and to prevent overtaxing the capacity of the environment to absorb impacts."
- * Page 11 in "6.2.2. Environmental Assessment", following the paragraph "The objective of EIA ... early stages of development planning", it is suggested that a paragraph be inserted as follows:
 "Although much legislation requires consideration of proximal impacts only, the effects of tourism impact can be far-reaching. It is important that assessments of developments also take the more widespread regional implications of social and environmental developments into account."
- * Page 31 in "Appendix III, Biological Factors, 2. Wildlife", a further category of "e. Unique species" is required very importantly.
- * Page 30 in "Appendix III, Checklist of Environmental Factors for Tourist Developments". It is recommended that following the first sentence, "The following list ... tourist facilities.", that a further sentence be added as follows, and prior to the final sentence, "It is unlikely ... these factors.":
 "As well as the more immediate impacts, the wider regional implications should be considered where appropriate."

The Council has a number of serious reservations and criticisms of the Draft Code (2nd) of the "Environmental Code of Practice for the Australian Tourism Industry".

The definition of conservation (page 1) as "management of development" is considered to be totally unsatisfactory.

The Council wishes to strongly impress upon the ATRI and the industry, that such a definition is simply an extension of past tourism practices that have so alienated the community and the environmental movement from many industry activities and goals.

"Management" encompasses simply, "the manner of having charge of, directing, controlling, using etc". There is no qualifier to "management"; it is simply a method of achievement. But achievement of what?

If the tourism industry is sincere in its commitment to social and environmental sensitivity, then some final vision must be adopted against which all actions can be judged.

The Council suggests that a suitable touchstone is absolute priority to the wellbeing of present and future Australians. If the industry cannot encompass that endeavour, then the community and the industry will surely clash more often and more strongly as time goes on.

If the tourism industry has more than self-serving interest at heart, then no objection will be found in the concept of sustainable development.

The Council therefore believes that the very minimum definition of "conservation" for the Code should be, "conservation is the long term management of sustainable development."

Similar argument is attached to the following recommended changes:

- * Page 2, Point 2 attempts to portray human development as independant of the quality of the wider environment. Therefore, the Council suggests that this point be changed to: "In the utilisation of the earth's resources, the protection and enhancement of the human environment is a critical issue. The manner in which the current generation manages the environment will determine the quality of life of present and succeeding generation." This statement approximates the First Draft on this subject.
It is only by accepting the imperative of natural tolerance limits that long-term human activity will be possible. In the development of environmentally sound behaviour, this principle is critical.
- * Page 3, "Discussion", first paragraph, the Council believes that "consideration" is inadequate and insufficiently compelling. The phrase should read, "... are consistent with protection of the environment, human health, property and amenities."
- * Page 3, "Discussion", second paragraph, the Council believes that "indigenous bush", should be amended to "indigenous ecosystems", or "indigenous plants and animals".
- * Page 3, "Discussion", fifth paragraph, the Council strongly urges that the addendum, "... , or obtain authorised exemption from these.", should be removed completely.
Once again, if the tourism industry was sincere in its efforts to encourage environmental awareness, then such a prompter to claim exemption from legislative requirements, would be absent. An operator acting under legitimate exemption is still meeting "all official environmental requirements". The Council believes that the only appropriate reason for the inclusion of this addendum is because the industry wishes to actively stimulate operators to seek exemptions by popularising the possibility.
The Council most strongly urges that the paragraph simply read, "Thus all tourist operators and their contractors and staff must be aware of, and meet, all official environmental requirements."
- * Page 4, "The Code", The Council makes similar comments regarding the first paragraph of this section. The Council believes that the following words should be removed and not replaced by any similar comment, "... which in turn has led to what appears to be onerous legislative requirements. In some areas indeed tourism has been prevented as a legitimate land use."

The words do nothing to strengthen the Code and are simply a backward step that will only serve to exacerbate stress between tourism and the community. Some elements within the tourism industry have, indeed, acted inappropriately and in ignorance of community need. Legislated regulations have been a response to those actions.

The Council suggests strongly that the Code is more appropriately served by amending the paragraph to be, "... a firm commitment. It is clear that some activities carried out in the past have resulted in negative public opinion. Such difficulties could be avoided in the future through communication and consultation."

T6a

SUBMISSION FROM THE NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL TO THE
INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION ON THE DRAFT REPORT ON TRAVEL
AND TOURISM

August, 1989

The North Coast Environment Council consists of 30 local conservation and environment organisations from the Great Lakes to the Tweed Shire, NSW. The Council refers the Commission to the "Policy on Tourism" adopted in 1987 by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and the North Coast Environment Council, and contained in the "Proceedings of the Conference on Tourism and the Conservation Movement".

As a result of the ad hoc boom in tourism development on the north coast of NSW, the Council is vitally concerned with local effects of that development. The Council believes that tourism has the potential to make positive contribution to Australian wellbeing but has failed to do so in many cases because of short-sighted special interest goals and the lack of weighting to non-market goods accorded by the planning procedures in place.

This submission to the Commission relates to the Draft Report conclusion that there are severe informational problems associated with market projections and land-use conflict resolution, and that these problems may be solved by specialised research leading to informed government policy and legislation.

The Council welcomes the acknowledgement within the Draft Report that the wellbeing of present and future Australians must be accorded absolute priority in the development of the travel and tourism industries.

The Council believes that superior land-use planning is central to consideration of the needs of national wellbeing.

Current planning methods have been totally inadequate and north coast tourism development is demonstrating the "cost" side of tourism.

Although the EIS and public involvement requirements are in place, in reality the planning procedure discretionary power has effectively disempowered community input.

The Council agrees with Professor Burns' conclusion that "...outcomes bear very little relation to the spirit of the regulations in a large number of cases." (D.P.1, p.66). The requirement for the decision-making body to "consider" public objections is frequently only formally fulfilled, but no weight given to such objections. The merit approach to development impact is ignored, and case-by-case consideration leads to regional and cumulative community disadvantage.

Much existing upmarket and integrated resort accommodation is underutilised to the extent of reported 10-20% usage only, yet additional same-type developments continue to be considered and approved.

SUBMISSION FROM THE NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL TO THE
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The permanent cost of ad hoc market based planning falls on the Australian community. Prime coastal land is being alienated from potentially superior uses. The alternative use values of public access and conservation of ecology and scenery are being consistently undervalued and ignored in favour of short term economic prospects.

Many of the problems of planning outcomes arise from the vagueness of non-market values. A North Coast Regional Environmental Plan is in place but is unactioned in many areas. Power now lies at the Local Government level to implement the regional cohesiveness of the Plan but powerful development pressure consistently overrides the less defined value of public interest goods.

The Council supports the importance of the need to ascribe finite value to public and non-market resources, and the need to include these resource values to land-use decision-making procedures in scientifically based and predictable ways.

The Council considers that, despite Federal Constitutional silence on environmental responsibility, the appropriate planning approach is through national policy. The social and natural environment is a resource that should be accorded the full weight of long-term goals and national cohesiveness.

As stated in the Draft Report, long term goals to maximise the wellbeing of present and future Australians first require ongoing research and monitoring to form the data base for decisions. The Council suggests that this can be most effectively met by regional assessment of environmental and social goals. The information provided in the Draft Report provides meaningful first-step criteria for research into known adverse social and environmental impacts of tourism.

The Council is aware that the C.S.I.R.O. has developed a system of overlay maps for land-use comparison. This is an appropriate first-stage tool for physical and natural resource planning, and could be readily combined with interdisciplinary research.

The Council considers that, regardless of any additional action, the urgent compilation of data based planning criteria and methodology is imperative. And further, that the Federal Government should action its foreign investment and corporations powers under the Constitution to halt the detrimental ad hoc planning that is in progress without benefit of scientific or long term community merit. The apparent limitations and difficulties of the current system should not deter the Federal Government from active intervention where possible.

Planning procedures are under unprecedented pressure and are proving inadequate. The wellbeing of Australians and the wellbeing of a complementary tourism industry is at stake.

The Council's most urgent criticisms of the current planning procedures relate to minimal weight given to community input; the use of case-by-case planning and the absence of firm resource assessment which precludes accurate weighting to non-market goods.

SUBMISSION FROM THE NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL TO THE
INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION ON THE DRAFT REPORT ON TRAVEL
AND TOURISM August, 1989

The North Coast Environment Council consists of 30 local conservation and environment organisations from the Great Lakes to the Tweed Shire. The Council refers the Commission to the "p

The Council agrees with the Draft Report conclusion that the EIS procedure is an under-utilised resource, and supports the proposal for independent EIS preparation to raise objectivity and to input data to regional research. Greater weight to community input is required at all stages, both as a data source and to minimise the tension between community and development interests.

The Council endorses the need for accountability of decision-makers and proponents, through on-going monitoring, responsive management plans and liability rules.

It is also considered that ongoing education of tourists, residents and the tourism industry is essential to de-stress the conflict arising from inappropriate proposals that are ignorant of mutual interests.

The Council supports the Western Australian principles of pollution limits set as first principles on firm scientific evidence and unswayed by industry pressure. The Council further supports in principle the need for risk insurance, performance bonds and captured rents as components of an integrated and multi-faceted approach to externalities costing and incentive to better decision making.

However, the Council is firmly opposed to intensive development in National Parks, and, indeed, supports the absolute need for buffer zones around all areas of conservation importance. The criteria for specific area management plans and base-line land-use zoning will arise from regional research, and conservation must remain a land-use option in its own right in habitats of conservation importance.

The Council believe that externalities costing and decision-making incentives should arise from a national planning policy that is grounded in regional resource assessment. The first requirement of any sustainable land-use policy is determination of resources and reliable information on long-term use potential. Microeconomic measures must flow from that base and must not pre-empt the data.

The Council firmly believes that regional social and environmental resource assessment is a first priority need, leading to determination of finite values for non-market goods. From that point cost-benefit analyses can begin to include non-market goods and therefore become more reliable decision-making tools to generate a scientifically based national planning methodology.

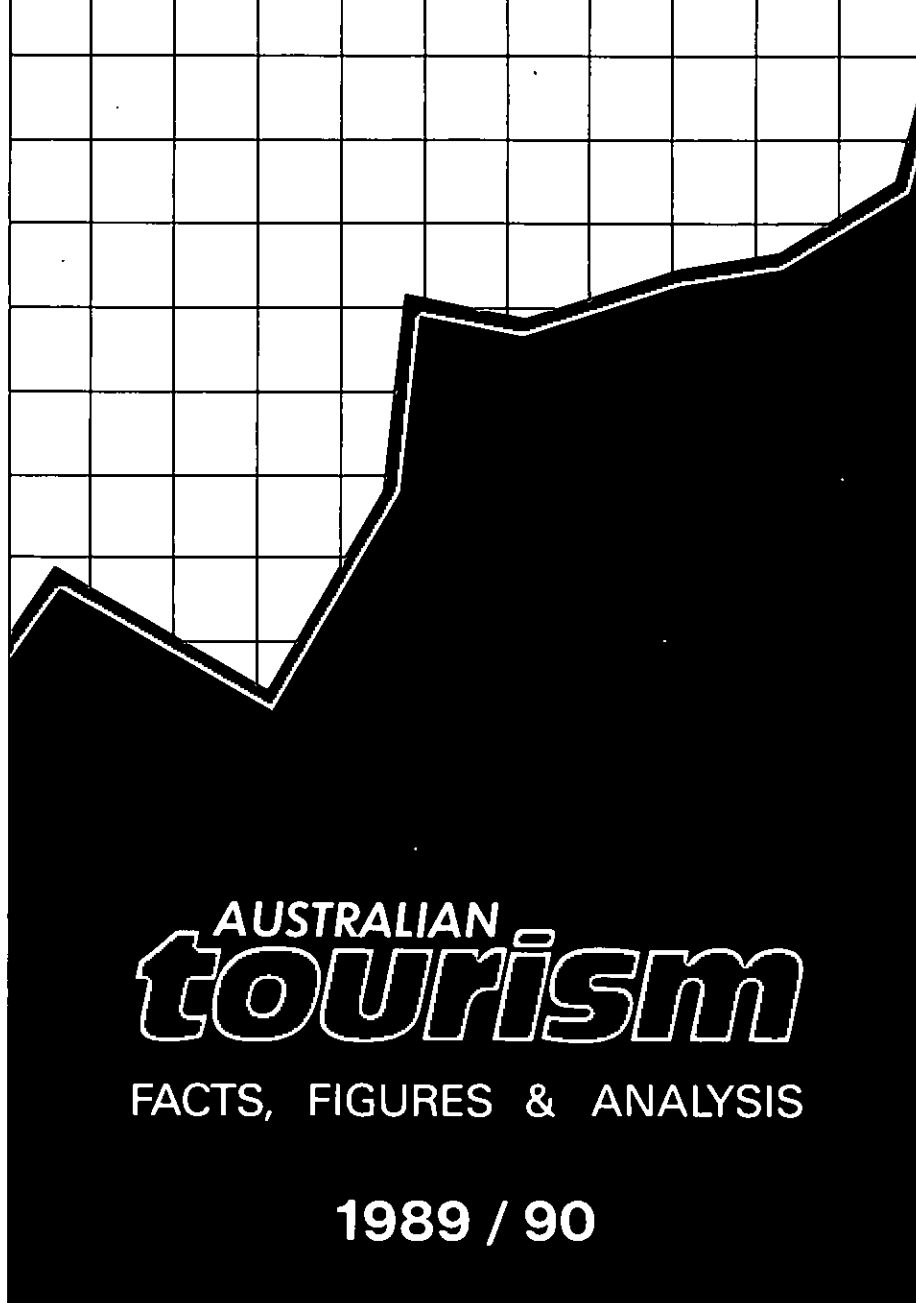
It is recognised that such a process will necessarily be subject to ongoing review as raw data and planning performance is upgraded. Microeconomic measures remain unreliable in the absence of such a procedure. It is important that the data base remains the first principle for policy and action, and that the microeconomic policies flow from the data base in a manner complementary to the priority goal of national community wellbeing.

The Council believes that current planning procedures are operationally ineffective and outcomes are detrimental due national wellbeing. Federal power exists to review and reverse the trend to unmerited development and the Council calls on the Federal Government to so act.

The Council strongly endorses the need for immediate commencement of resource assessment on a regional basis to include social and environmental impacts and data, and complementary development of planning analyses giving finite value to non-market goods.

The Council welcomes further opportunity to comment on aspects of tourism development, and to contribute to the regional resource assessment procedure and development of planning policy.

North Coast Environment Council,
C/- Pavans Rd,
Grassy Head 2441.
Secretary J. Tedder



btr

Bureau of Tourism Research

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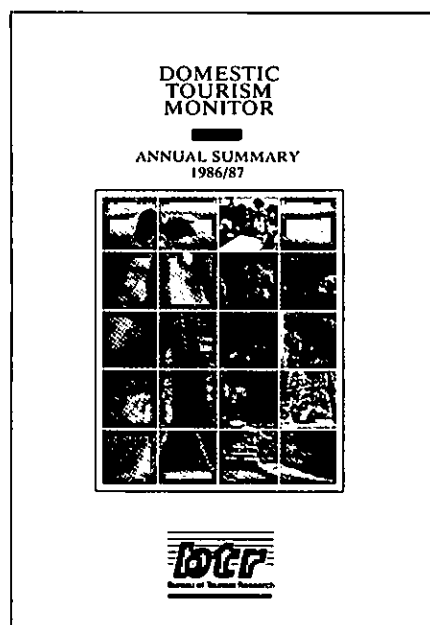
Additional information about major markets which is too detailed to be included in the general IVS summary. Publication varies with market needs and BTR resources.

Domestic Tourism Monitor Summary (DTM)

An annual review of domestic travel by Australians, (not including day trips, until the 1988-89 survey) based on a series of questions incorporated in the AGB:McNair household omnibus survey, for the BTR. The summary is preceded by a Preliminary Report, to provide early access to key statistics.

Over 66,000 Australian residents aged 14 years and over were interviewed during 1987/88. The DTM is the only national survey of domestic tourism in Australia and provides comprehensive details of the travel patterns and behaviour of Australian residents. Detailed tabulations are available by main purpose of visit, mode of transport, type of accommodation, seasonality of travel, age, sex, State/Territory of residence and of visit. Other demographic details such as income, region of visit and occupation are collected but not included in this Summary.

Cost: \$45 (Preliminary Report and Summary) or \$40 (Summary only).



Australian Tourism Trends

An annual analysis of key trends and developments in the tourism industry, bringing together a comprehensive and up-to-date range of available statistics with an examination of tourism trends and their implications in a national context. The publication contains sections on domestic tourism, outbound travel by Australian residents, international visitors, tourist accommodation and the industry outlook.

Cost: \$25

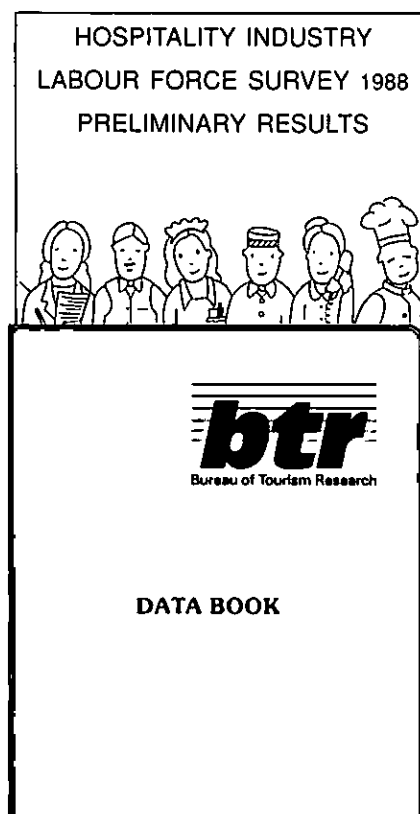
Special Reports

Periodic reports on matters of industry interest, such as the 1988 Hospitality Industry Labour Force Survey. This survey was carried out by the BTR for the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, the Department of Employment, Education and Training, and Tourism Training Australia, to provide a basis for labour force planning and training. It covered businesses such as restaurants, accommodation, licenced clubs and taverns or pubs, to assess employment and skills by size of establishment - and help estimate future needs.

Cost: \$40*

The Bureau has also published the papers presented to the 'Frontiers in Australian Tourism' conference held in 1988 at the Australian National University.

Cost: \$20*



Tourism Data Book

A more detailed compendium of monthly tourism statistics, supplied on a subscriber basis. A loose-leaf data folder is initially supplied with complete data for the latest available year. It is updated regularly by the BTR with revised pages, as statistics become available. The Data Book covers in some detail short term visitor arrivals by region/country; visitors by purpose of visit (major and other markets); trends and growth in visitor arrivals; tourism and the economy (Australian statistics); forecasts and indicators; outbound, world and domestic tourism; tourist accommodation in Australia and Australia International air transport statistics (as available).

Cost: new subscriptions \$150 per annum; renewals \$100.*

Tourism Data Base and Forecasting Facility

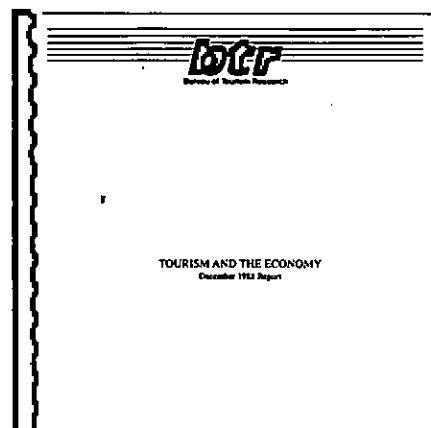
Options for the provision of tourism statistics in a user friendly format are currently under review for implementation in 1989. The BTR is seeking the most effective and cost efficient means of maximising both access to, and usefulness of, official tourism statistics at the national level. In the meantime the Tourism Data Book provides the best range of continuously updated tourism statistics, while the telephone inquiry service provides more immediate access.

Australian Tourism Forecasts

Forecasts of overseas visitor arrivals by major countries of origin, to the year 2000. Past trends, methodology and factors affecting arrivals forecasts are covered briefly.

Cost: \$10*

Forecasts of domestic travel numbers by state of destination, and forecasts of overseas travel by Australians are being developed in conjunction with the collection of 'travel intentions' data in the DTM.



Tourism and the Economy

The implications for the tourism industry of the economic outlook. An overview of current domestic and international tourism trends, with an update of trends in the accommodation sector and airline passenger activity.

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Tourism Statistics Telephone Service

Information about the availability of particular tourism statistics, or the statistics themselves, can be obtained from the BTR by phone, on (062) 74 1716.

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The Bureau of Tourism Research (BTR) was established late in 1987 to provide key decision makers in Government and private enterprise with the statistical and analytical support necessary for effectively planned and balanced tourism development. It is a co-operative venture, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments.

The Bureau's priorities are:

- . To upgrade the quality, relevance and timeliness of tourism statistics;
- . To analyse and distribute tourism data in such a way as to encourage its widespread and effective use in industry development;
- . To undertake research on priority issues;
- . To promote an understanding and awareness of the role of tourism research in the development of Australian tourism.

The Bureau's publication program is designed to support the above objectives. User suggestions for improvements would be welcome.

TOURISM FACTS SHEET

T6a

1989/90 FEDERAL BUDGET

TOURISM IMPLICATIONS

The prime responsibility of the Federal Government in respect of the tourism industry is to create a favourable economic environment in which the industry can develop.

The 1989/90 budget strategy, built around a record surplus of \$9.1 billion, is directed towards encouraging increased savings and placing downward pressure on interest rates. This will create a more favourable investment climate.

Key features of the budget in relation to the tourism industry are:

Tourism Program

- * \$37.7 million for the Australian Tourist Commission for overseas tourism promotional activities
 - this largely maintains 1988/89 funding which included a one-off increase of \$6.7 million from the residue of TOPS funding that was not included in the 1989/90 forward estimate.
- * a \$300,000 increase in Commonwealth funding for the Bureau of Tourism Research to \$1.067 million to enhance the research and statistical base of the industry
 - the BTR is funded jointly by the Commonwealth and States on a 2/1 basis.
- * \$25 million over four years for Australia's participation at Expo '92 in Spain;
- * \$1.45 million for tourism policy support.

Transport and Facilitation

- * \$86.1 million to acquire the balance of land required for Badgerys Creek Airport and upgrade associated roads and \$5 million to proceed with initial design work for the new airport;
- * \$1.3 billion for road development under the Australian Centennial Roads Development Program (up 9.5%);
- * \$9.4 million for the maintenance of airports under the Aerodrome Local Ownership Plan;
- * \$18.6 million to facilitate visitor entry to Australia (up 8%).

(Funding for air transport infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of the Federal Airports Corporation which is required to operate as a commercial entity without Commonwealth funding).

Environment and National Parks

- * \$25.6 million for the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service to protect, conserve and enhance awareness of the natural environment and native wildlife (up 26%);
- * \$7 million for upgrading the road from Ayers Rock to the Olgas to a sealed standard;
- * \$5.47 million for existing and nominated Tasmanian World Heritage areas to meet management costs and upgrade visitor and interpretative facilities and walking tracks;
- * \$9.13 million for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to assist in the conservation and management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (up 6%);
- * \$1.75 million over the next two years for research into the causes of and control mechanisms for the Crown of Thorns starfish (up almost 100%);
- * \$200,000 for the establishment of a Coastal Zone Management Working Group to prepare a strategy for integrated management and development.

Cultural Heritage and the Arts

- * \$3.7 million for the National Museum of Australia (up 33%);
- * \$11.6 million for the Australian National Maritime Museum (up 55%);
- * \$61.3 million for the Australia Council to promote excellence in the development of the arts (up 6%);
- * \$4.5 million for the Australian Heritage Commission to identify and maintain a register of the National Estate and assist in its protection (up 27%);
- * an additional \$3.5 million for the Australian National Gallery for the acquisition of new artworks.

Education and Training

- * \$3.1 billion for higher education (up 15%) enabling an increase in student intakes of 6,500 in 1989 and 12,300 in 1990 - this will assist the development of new tourism courses;
- * \$348 million in TAFE grants to the States (up 22.7%) from which tourism will benefit;
- * \$516 million in training and skills formation (up 25%) to assist in meeting changing industry labour requirements and addressing national skill shortages in areas such as tourism.

OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES STATISTICS

Market Information for Business, Organisations and Government Bodies Involved in International Tourism

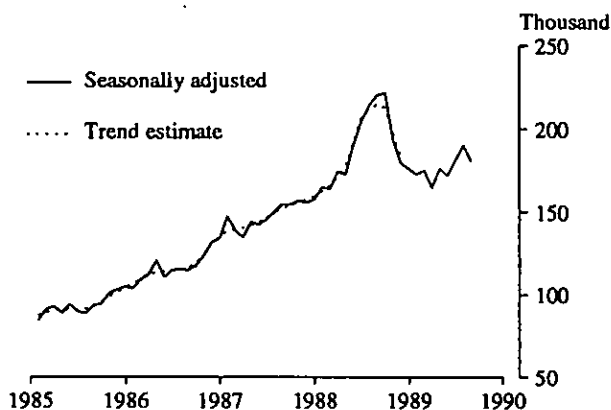
Businesses and organisations involved in the international tourist trade are involved in a rapidly changing, volatile market.

The success or otherwise of such organisations depends upon many factors, but basic amongst them must be good information.

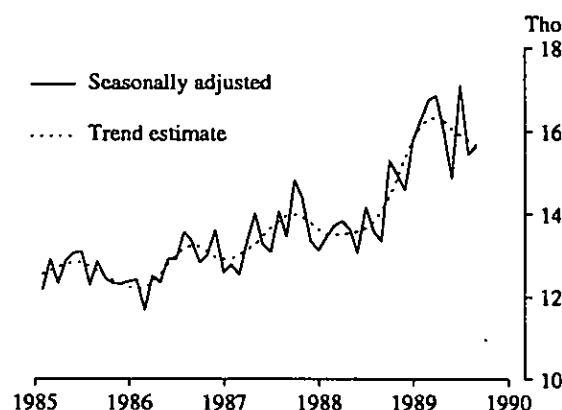
The ABS produces three regular OAD publications available by mail or from the ABS bookshops. These are the:

Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Overseas Arrivals and Departures bulletins described on the next page.

SHORT-TERM VISITOR ARRIVALS (a)



SHORT-TERM RESIDENT DEPARTURES



The ABS overseas arrivals and departures (OAD) statistics provides the fastest and most comprehensive source of data on international movement and the characteristics of those travelling.

Good information needs to be timely, accurate and reasonably detailed. The ABS aims to satisfy these requirements at an affordable price to users.

OAD information should be a basic input to operation in the travel trade at the executive level and researchers for policy and planning.

Many unpublished tables including new market specific tables are also available on request.

These are supplemented by a new FAX SERVICE for important data wanted in a hurry; VIATEL for quick computer access to summary statistics; KEYLINK - TELESTATS SERVICE, which can deliver the whole monthly publication to your computer terminal or microcomputer on release (instantly) for \$15 per issue for those who require more detail.

A new CONSULTING SERVICE is also available for users who would like to use the expertise of the ABS to assist in their particular work.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Overseas Arrivals and Departures statistics are compiled and published in the Canberra Office of the ABS. Publications are available from ABS State Offices as well as from Canberra.

For particulars on any of the above services phone Mark Patton on (062) 52-6671.



OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES INFORMATION

REGULAR PUBLICATIONS

OAD MONTHLY



Total arrivals and departures • category of movement
Short term movement (arrivals and departures) • length of stay, purpose of journey
Permanent settler arrivals by birthplace
Short term arrivals • country of residence
Short term departures • country of stay
SEE KEYLINK - TELESTATS

\$5 a copy
\$60 annually



\$15 a month

KEYLINK - TELESTATS

The new TELECOM KEYLINK service will contain the entire ABS monthly publication available for download to your terminal or PC via modem as soon as they are released.

VIATEL

Summary overseas arrivals and departures data are available on the VIATEL service. KEY *656#

OAD QUARTERLY



Arrivals and departures • category of movement, State/Territory of clearance.
Short term movement • length of stay, purpose of journey, State/Territory in which most time spent, country of residence, age group, sex and source or destination.
Permanent and long term movement - Settler arrivals • country of birth.
Permanent and long term departures • country of intended residence.

\$11.50 a copy
\$46 annually



CONSULTING ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

Many organisations are involved in planning activities, surveys, data analysis and interpretation which requires some expertise in statistical evaluation and manipulation. The Demography Section of ABS is now in a position to provide special advice and assistance involving the provision, manipulation and interpretation of ABS OAD data. Contact Jennie Widdowson on (062) 52-6416

NEW SERVICES

OAD ANNUAL



Total arrivals and departures • category of movement, State/Territory of clearance, mode of transport.
Settler arrivals • country of birth.
Permanent and long term movement (arrivals and departures) • country of birth, sex, age, occupation, State/Territory of last/intended residence, and country of last/intended residence.
Short term movement (arrivals and departures) • intended length of stay, purpose of journey, duration of stay and country in which most time spent.

\$15.00 annually



\$5 first page
\$1 subsequent page

FAX ON RELEASE - FAST

A new service is now available, with user specified tabulations being faxed immediately on release. Phone Mark Patton on (062) 52-6671 for information.



SPECIAL DATA SERVICES

A list of supplementary tabulations is contained in the quarterly and annual publications. These tabulations are available on request at a reasonable charge. Other tabulations based on passenger card information can be produced to order, for a reasonable charge, subject to certain confidentiality restrictions.

Price on application

NEW MARKET SPECIFIC DATA PACKAGES

A set of tables will be produced on a monthly basis starting with data for July 1989 for visitor arrivals from the main source countries and regions, United Kingdom and Eire, United States of America, Japan, New Zealand, Other Europe (excluding United Kingdom and Eire) and South East and East Asia (excluding Japan).

\$5 per package per month

\$25 for all 6 per month

\$100 for all packages for six months

ORDER FORM

Please tick appropriate boxes

Send To :

Demographic Statistics
Australian Bureau of Statistics
P.O.Box 10, Belconnen, 2616
or,
Fax (062) 51 6009
Attention Demographic Statistics

Deliver by Fax ☐ Post ☐
See previous page for fax costs

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If already receiving ABS publications, please give
PML number from the postage label _____

OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES PUBLICATIONS

New /additional publication required

	One-year		Current issue		No. copies
Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/>	(\$60 p.a.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	(\$5)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quarterly	<input type="checkbox"/>	(\$46 p.a.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	(\$11.50)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual	<input type="checkbox"/>	(\$15.00)			<input type="checkbox"/>

TELESTATS

Please send further information ☐

MARKET SPECIFIC DATA SERVICE

Visitors from:

New Zealand
Japan
U.K.&Eire
U.S.A.
Other Europe
S.E.&East Asia
(excl. Japan)

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

- ☐ \$5 per package per month.
☐ \$25 for all 6 packages per month
☐ \$100 for all packages for 6 months

Please put our name on the mailing list for information on new developments in overseas arrivals and departures statistics ☐

UNPUBLISHED TABULATIONS

Please forward a list of supplementary tables: ☐

PAYMENT DETAILS

Please make all Cheques payable to Collector of Public Monies .

Enclosed is remittance for \$ _____

Cheque ☐
Money order ☐

or, if paying by credit card,

Account number

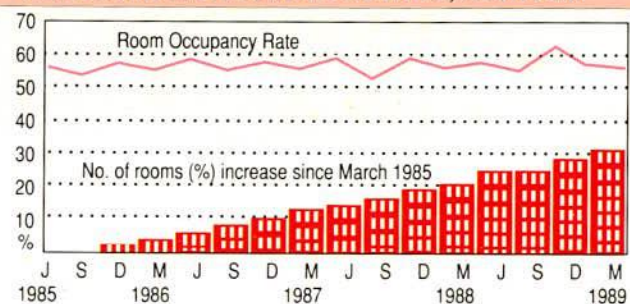
Expiry date of card ____ / ____ / ____

Mastercard ☐
Bankcard ☐
Visa ☐

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

The Australian Bureau of Statistics surveys tourist accommodation establishments, such as hotels, motels, holiday flats and caravan parks, and releases quarterly data. Data are available on capacity, occupancy and takings for each State, each ABS Statistical Division and for some smaller regions. No distinction is made between domestic and international visitors and the data only refer to nights spent in commercial accommodation.

HOTELS AND MOTELS WITH FACILITIES, AUSTRALIA



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat 8635.0

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories produces quarterly reports detailing international class accommodation currently available and under construction, and major tourist projects under construction and firmly committed. As at March 1989

International Class Accommodation	Establishments	Rooms
Currently Available	52	17,676
Under Construction	18	6,413

Major Tourist Projects (value \$5m and over)	Value (\$m)	Rooms
Under Construction	6,953	24,161
Firmly Committed	12,306	41,077

Source: Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, *Tourism Infrastructure Developments*, March Quarter 1989

CONTRIBUTION OF TOURISM TO THE ECONOMY

	1987-88	1988-89
Tourist Expenditure (\$million)		
International	4,860	5,935
Domestic	14,975	16,330
Total	19,834	22,265
Employment Generated ('000)		
International	104,900	119,800
Domestic	321,400	327,800
Total	426,300	447,600
Contribution to GDP (%)		
International	1.4	1.5
Domestic	4.1	3.9
Total	5.4	5.4

The above analysis is an update by the BTR of the Bureau of Industry Economic's input-output analysis of tourism. (Bureau of Industry Economics, *Tourist Expenditure in Australia*, Research Report 16, AGPS, Canberra, 1984).

Input-output analysis can give a picture of the importance of tourism to the economy. However, it is inadequate for judging the full economic impact of growth in tourism expenditure. Growth in one sector of the economy has ramifications for all other sectors which must be recognised. For example, as tourism competes for resources with other Australian industries, growth in tourism will increase costs to other industries.

As input-output analysis does not fully take into account the effects of growth in one industry on other industries, several studies have recently been completed which try to include a more complete range of effects. The Centre for International Economics (*Economic Effects of International Tourism*, Canberra, 1988) and the Industries Assistance Commission (*Some Economic Implications of Tourism Expansion*, Inquiry into Travel and Tourism, Discussion Paper No. 2, AGPS, Canberra, March 1989) have both published similar results using the ORANI model. ORANI is a large scale multi-sectoral model of the Australian economy.

PROJECTED SHORT TERM EFFECTS OF INCREASES IN TOURISM

(percentage change in variable from value if tourist expenditure was static)

	International Tourist Expenditure increased by 20% \$900m		Domestic Tourist Expenditure increased by 3% \$480m	
Trade Balance (% of GDP)	0.08	\$235m	-0.10	\$-290m
GDP	0.16	\$470m	0.10	\$290m
Employment	0.24	17,000	0.14	10,000

Source: Industries Assistance Commission, 1989

The Bureau of Tourism Research (BTR) was established in late 1987, in accordance with the recommendations of the Australian Government Inquiry into Tourism. Its aim is to provide a national focus for the collection, analysis and dissemination of official tourism statistics and thus provide key decision makers in government and private enterprise with the statistical and analytical support necessary for effectively planned and balanced tourism development. It is a co-operative venture, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State/Territory governments.

The BTR's priorities are:

- To upgrade the quality, relevance and timeliness of tourism statistics.
- To analyse and distribute tourism data in such a way as to encourage widespread and effective use in tourism industry development.
- To undertake research on priority issues.
- To promote understanding and awareness of the role of research in the development of Australian tourism.

btr

Bureau of Tourism Research

The BTR produces a range of publications on Australian domestic and international tourism. For a BTR 'Guide to Services' brochure or further information, write to the BTR at:

Bureau of Tourism Research
GPO Box 787
Canberra City 2601 Australia
or phone the Publications Officer on (062)741718 or fax (062)741713

For statistical information, phone the BTR statistical inquiries service on (062)741716. There is a charge for lengthy inquiries.

Photo courtesy of the Australian Tourist Commission

© Commonwealth of Australia, 1989

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Bureau of Tourism Research



Australian Tourism Data Card

OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The number of overseas tourists coming into Australia is generally defined as the number of international visitors arriving for periods of less than 12 months. Similarly, the number of Australian international tourists is generally measured by departures of Australian residents going abroad for less than 12 months. These data are compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from passenger cards that all people arriving in or departing from Australia are required to complete.

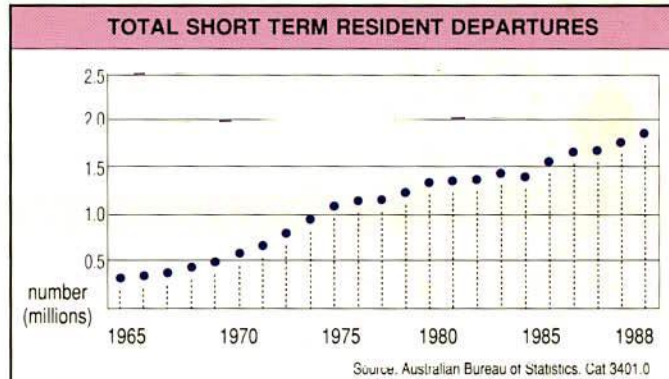
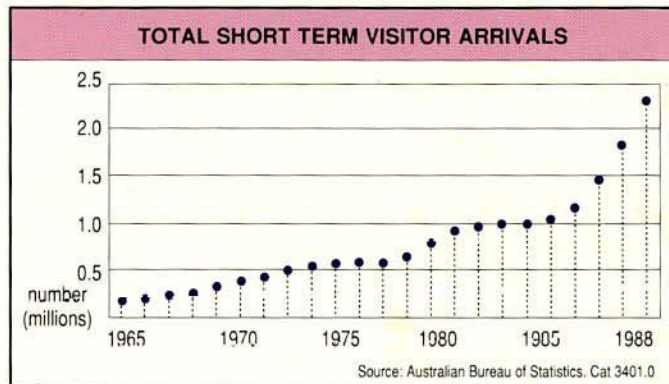
SHORT TERM ARRIVALS OF OVERSEAS VISITORS

Country of Residence	1980	1985	1987	1988	1988 %
Canada	28,500	40,900	52,700	66,700	3%
USA	111,400	196,500	309,000	322,300	14%
UK and Ireland	131,500	158,900	208,700	273,400	12%
Europe (Excl UK/Ire)	112,300	142,000	203,100	256,200	11%
Japan	48,800	107,600	215,600	352,300	16%
Asia (excl Japan)	89,900	163,400	255,400	308,000	14%
New Zealand	307,100	245,300	427,300	534,300	24%
Other	75,100	88,000	113,100	136,100	6%
Purpose of Visit					
In Transit	67,300	79,600	100,900	88,700	4%
Convention	17,600	20,100	31,100	56,700	3%
Business	112,700	158,000	195,300	234,300	10%
Visiting Relatives	263,900	287,100	370,200	448,500	20%
Holiday	360,200	500,000	938,300	1,237,000	55%
Other	82,900	97,800	149,100	184,100	8%
Total	904,600	1,142,600	1,784,900	2,249,300	100%

SHORT TERM DEPARTURES OF AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS

Purpose of Visit					
Convention	27,800	34,100	37,000	37,200	2%
Business	133,400	182,300	227,500	264,400	16%
Visiting Relatives	235,100	287,900	332,600	343,400	20%
Holiday	706,300	891,400	874,100	912,000	54%
Other	101,000	116,300	151,000	140,600	8%
Total	1,203,600	1,512,000	1,622,300	1,697,600	100%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat 3401.0



FORECASTS OF THE NUMBER OF OVERSEAS VISITORS

The BTR has forecast, for each major market, the number of short term arrivals of overseas visitors to Australia up to the year 2000. The forecasts are based on projected changes to a range of economic variables such as disposable income in overseas countries, air fares, exchange rates and movements in prices both in Australia and overseas. This is supplemented by the views of a range of people involved in tourism, both in the public and private sectors.

	1990	1995	2000
Forecast Number of Arrivals	2,572,000	3,503,000	4,850,000

Source: BTR, Australian Tourism Forecasts, October 1988

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS SURVEY (IVS)

Interviews are conducted with approximately 7,000 international visitors annually at Australia's major airports as they are departing Australia. Data is collected on many aspects of visitors' activities in Australia. In addition to region of stay, data are collected on such items as accommodation, transport used in Australia, places of interest visited, entertainment, enjoyment of stay and expenditure. Results for 1988 are given below.

Country of Residence	US	Japan	Other Asia	Canada	NZ	UK & Ireland	Other Europe	Total
Average expenditure in Australia	\$1,737	\$1,624	\$1,821	\$2,042	\$1,434	\$1,746	\$2,116	\$1,702
Average expenditure per day	\$71	\$184	\$59	\$52	\$68	\$37	\$46	\$61
Average number of nights in Australia	25	9	31	39	21	48	46	28
Total number of nights in Australia (million)	7.9	3.1	9.5	2.6	11.3	8.8	7.4	62.8
Region of Stay (Nights)								
New South Wales	33%	37%	28%	30%	31%	36%	30%	32%
Victoria	17%	15%	42%	18%	14%	18%	19%	21%
Queensland	31%	30%	16%	31%	45%	20%	26%	28%
South Australia	5%	5%	4%	6%	3%	9%	9%	6%
Western Australia	5%	7%	7%	7%	5%	11%	7%	8%
Tasmania	2%	4%	2%	4%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Northern Territory	6%	2%	2%	4%	1%	2%	5%	3%
Australian Capital Territory	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Australia	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: BTR, International Visitors Survey, 1988

DOMESTIC TOURISM MONITOR (DTM)

The DTM is a household survey of domestic travel undertaken by Australians. Data are collected on overnight trips undertaken by Australians aged 14 years and over. Some limited data are available for day trips from 1988-89. A consistent data series is available from 1984-85 to 1987-88. Data are recorded in terms of trips, visits and nights. A trip is a single journey. The place on that trip where most nights were spent is termed the main destination. On a single trip, visits are said to have been taken to each place where the traveller spent a night. Visitor nights are the number of nights spent at each location. The table below refers to 1987-88.

State of Destination	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	TOTAL(%)	TOTAL('000)
Number of Trips	34.2%	22.2%	20.3%	7.6%	9.8%	2.9%	0.9%	2.0%	100%	46,725
Number of visits	34.6%	20.7%	20.7%	7.5%	9.7%	3.3%	1.5%	1.9%	100%	55,608
Number of nights	33.3%	18.0%	25.7%	7.1%	9.7%	2.5%	2.0%	1.6%	100%	216,897
Number of nights by interstate visitors	30.7%	14.2%	29.9%	7.3%	5.9%	3.3%	4.7%	4.1%	100%	84,207

Primary Purpose of Trip (per cent of total trips)

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
Visiting Friends or Relatives	26.7%	27.6%	26.1%
Pleasure/Holiday	44.5%	42.9%	44.7%
Conference/Seminar	1.8%	1.6%	1.9%
Other Business	13.0%	13.8%	13.4%
Other/Not stated	14.0%	14.1%	13.9%
Total Trips (%)	100%	100%	100%
Total Trips ('000)	44,144	44,963	46,725

Main Accommodation Used (per cent of total nights)

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
House/Flat	43.6%	42.9%	43.7%
Hotel/Motel	16.2%	17.0%	16.8%
Rented House/Flat	7.3%	7.9%	7.3%
Caravan Park	12.6%	11.4%	11.7%
Other	20.8%	20.8%	20.5%
Total Nights (%)	100%	100%	100%
Total Nights ('000)	208,929	210,933	216,897

Source: BTR, Domestic Tourism Monitor

PROFILES OF AUSTRALIAN TRAVELLERS

1989-1990



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Bureau of Tourism Research

- ☆ Profiles of Australian Travellers (PAT) is a comprehensive single source information service on Australian residents' travel behaviour.
- ☆ PAT information provides a total picture of travel and tourism behaviour by resident Australians.
 - Recent Australian travel
 - Recent overseas travel
 - Future Australian travel
 - Future overseas travel
 - Day trips
- ☆ The information can be used as a macro monitor of that behaviour providing insight into changing travel patterns.
- ☆ Analysis of the information can be used to:
 - provide input into strategic and tactical decision making;
 - provide input into time series analysis of specific markets;
 - provide a benchmark against other statistics; and
 - identify areas of opportunity for travel and tourism development.

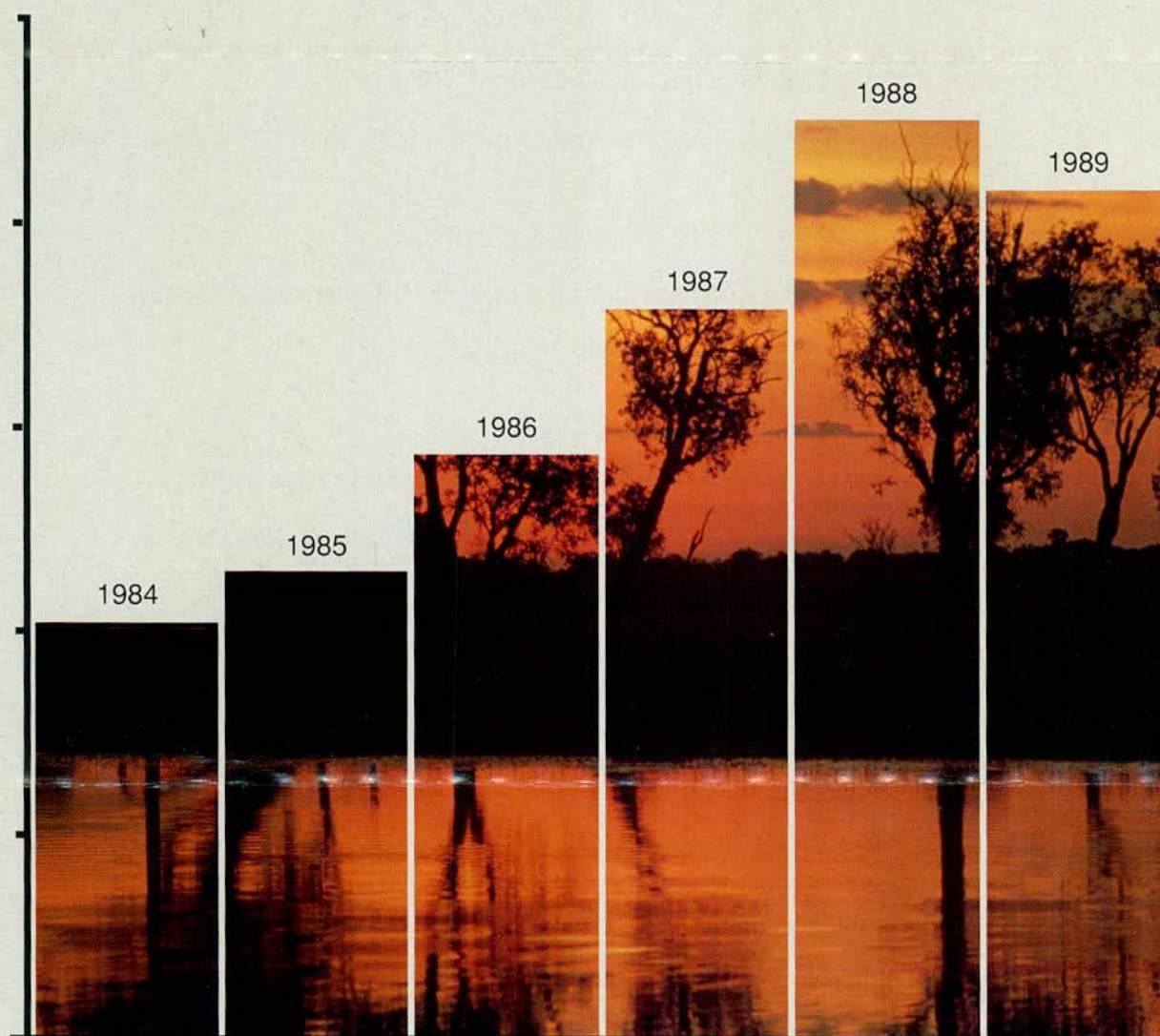
Main Findings

- ☆ 59% of Australians aged 14 and over took one or more domestic trips in the twelve month reference period.
 - 17% took one trip, 19% took two or three trips, and 21% took four or more trips.
- ☆ The data show a ratio of actual to intended domestic travel of 108%.
- ☆ 56% of Australians aged 14 and over took one or more day trips for pleasure driving in the 12 month reference period.
- ☆ 10% of Australians aged 14 and over took one or more overseas trips in the twelve month reference period.
- ☆ The data show a ratio of actual to intended overseas travel of 85%.
- ☆ For orders and inquiries please contact the Bureau of Tourism Research:

Phone: (06) 274 1716
Fax: (06) 274 1713
Street address: 19-23 Moore Street
Turner ACT 2601

AUSTRALIAN TOURISM TRENDS

1990



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Bureau of Tourism Research



☆ Did you know that:

- since 1982 the proportion of inbound travellers staying for less than two weeks in Australia has grown from 41% to 51%;
- in 1980, Japanese visitor arrivals comprised only 5% of all visitor arrivals, and by 1989 this had increased to 17%;
- the use of bus/coach as a form of transport by domestic tourists rose by 44% between 1984-85 and 1988-89;
- room capacity in hotels, motels and guest houses in Australia increased by 40% in the September quarter 1989 over the same quarter of 1983.

☆ This is an example of the kind of information available in the BTR Australian Tourism Trends 1990 publication.

☆ This report is an essential reference document for those:

- with an interest in forecasting and planning aspects of the tourism industry;
- requiring background information on the industry.

☆ Australian Tourism Trends provides an overview of:

- recent trends that have taken place in international travel to Australia;
- travel by Australian residents (including domestic and international travel);
- developments in tourism infrastructure.

☆ The report:

- analyses recent trends;
- identifies growth areas;
- examines how the profiles of international visitors and domestic travellers have changed in recent years;
- discusses factors affecting the outlook for each of the sectors of the tourism industry.

☆ It is essential reading for all those who have an interest in tourism.

☆ For orders and inquiries please contact the Bureau of Tourism Research.

Phone: (06) 274 1716
Fax: (06) 274 1713
Street address: 19-23 Moore Street
Turner ACT 2601

This newsletter is issued to all those on the BTR's mailing list as news becomes available. It will notify you of new services and publications, as well as items of general industry interest, such as conferences, reports and inquiries.

Contents

- ☐ BTR Publications Program
- ☐ Overseas Arrival Data Delay
- ☐ Australian Tourism Trends 1990
- ☐ Profiles of Australian Travellers
- ☐ Shopping Report
- ☐ Japanese Vertical Integration
- ☐ Sydney Airport Plan
- ☐ ABS Tourist Attractions Survey
- ☐ Tourism Conferences/Seminars
- ☐ Tourist Attractions 1986/87
- ☐ Recent Tourism Publications
- ☐ Code of Environmental Practice
- ☐ Do You Know?

BTR Contacts

Statistical Inquiries -	(06) 274 1716
Publication Orders -	(06) 274 2760
Director -	(06) 274 1710
Switchboard -	(06) 274 1111
Facsimile -	(06) 274 1713
Postal address -	GPO Box 787 Canberra City 2601 Australia

Australian Tourism Trends 1990

☐ Do you know that :

- since 1982 the proportion of inbound travellers staying for less than two weeks in Australia has grown from 41% to 51% ;
- in 1980, Japanese visitor arrivals comprised only 5% of all visitor arrivals, but by 1989 this had increased to 17% ;
- the use of bus /coach as a form of transport by domestic tourists rose by 44% between 1984-85 and 1988-89 ;
- room capacity in hotels, motels and guest houses in Australia had increased by 40% in the September quarter 1989 over the same quarter in 1983?

☐ This is an example of the kind of information available in the BTR 1990 Australian Tourism Trends publication available at a cost of \$25.

☐ This report is an essential reference document for those :

- with an interest in forecasting and planning,
- requiring background information .

☐ Australian Tourism Trends provides an overview of :

- recent trends in international travel to Australia
- travel by Australian residents (including domestic and international travel) ;
- developments in tourism infrastructure.

☐ The report :

- analyses recent trends ;
- identifies growth areas ;
- examines how the profiles of international visitors and domestic travellers have changed in recent years ;
- discusses factors affecting the outlook for each sector of the tourism industry.

☐ It is essential reading for all those who have an interest in tourism.

Domestic Travel Increase

Preliminary Domestic Tourism Monitor results for 1989/90 show an increase in trips of 9%, following a slight fall in the previous year.

Most of the increase is in intrastate travel with growth in interstate travel remaining subdued. Overall domestic travel for 1989/90 has increased despite the tight economic conditions which prevailed over this period.

The preliminary DTM will be available before Christmas (\$65 per set - preliminary and final publication).

New Tourism Shopping Report

International visitors are spending an average of more than \$500 on shopping, with some \$462 of this amount spent on souvenirs and gifts .

This data comes from questions attached to the International Visitor Survey in the last quarter of 1989.

A variety of information was collected as part of the survey , including :

- Items purchased either as gifts or for own use.
- Number of items purchased.
- Items considered the best buy.
- Satisfaction with the range of Australian made goods.
- Value for money and standard of service.
- Types of stores goods were purchased in.
- Satisfaction with times shops were open.

All this information is contained in Occasional Paper Number 7 *Tourism Shopping Survey Report* available at a cost of \$15.



CHRISTMAS

BTR's Statistical Service will not operate from 25 December 90 to 2 January 91.

Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays to our many clients from all of us at the BTR.

**BTR Publications Program****September**

Tourism and the Economy -6 months to June'90.
Statistical Bulletin 8/90 (June 90).
Data Book updates.
IVS 1989 Preliminary.
Hospitality Industry Labour Force Survey -Final.

October

Guide to Australian Tourism Statistics (leaflet).
Australian Tourism Outlook Forum Report 1990.
Tourism Update (Sept Qtr 1990).
Australian Tourism Trends 1990.
Profiles of Australian Travellers 1989-90.
International Visitors Survey-March Quarter 1989.
Tourism Shopping Survey Report -
Occ Paper No. 7.

November

Newsletter 2/90.
Preliminary Domestic Tourism Monitor 1989/90.

December

Data Book Updates.
International Visitor Survey -June Quarter 1990.
Statistical Bulletin 9/90.
Tourism Update (December Quarter).
88-89 Domestic Tourism Monitor -Preliminary

January 1991

International Visitor Survey 1989 - Summary
Statistical Bulletin 1/91.

February

Tourism and the Economy (Dec 90).
IVS-Major Market Reports 1989, NZ, Japan, USA,
Other Asia.
Statistical Bulletin 2/91.
Data Book updates.
Newsletter 1/91.
88-89 Domestic Tourism Monitor - Summary

March

Statistical Bulletin 3/91.
IVS-Major Market Reports 1989,
UK/ Ireland, Continental Europe.
International Visitors Survey -Sept Quarter 1990.
Domestic Market Segmentation Study

Tourism Conferences / Seminars**National Conference on Tourism Education,**
30th Nov-2nd Dec 1990.

The keynote address "Tourism Education, The UK Perspective" will be given by Mr David Airey, Her Majesty's Inspector of Education.
Registration -\$285, Student Concession -\$60.
Contact : The Conference Secretariat
Faculty of Communication
University of Canberra
PO Box 1 Belconnen, ACT, 2606
Ph-(06) 2522681 Fax (06) 2522075

Research in the Travel Agency Sector.

Australian Tourism Research Institute.
Monday 10 December 1990 6 pm -7.30 pm
in Sydney.
Presenter : Graham Ross Smith, Access Research.
Cost \$25 but free to members of ATRI.
Contact ATRI
PO Box 634
Sydney NSW 2001
Ph (02) 360 3500 Fax (02) 331 7767

**Leisure and Tourism World Congress
Social and Environmental Change**

Sydney 16-19 July, 1991.
Location : Hyatt Kingsgate Hotel, Sydney.
Themes already determined include : "Leisure,
Tourism and Lifestyles", "Leisure /Tourism and
Environmental Stress", "The Future of National
Participation Surveys".
Registration fee approximately \$US350.
Pre and post-conference study tours will be
available.
Offers of papers should be sent , together with a
100 word abstract, to :
WLRA Congress,
University of Technology,
PO Box 222
Lindfield, NSW 2070,
Ph (02) 4138101 or fax : (02) 4167174

To register your interest in attending contact :
The Secretary,
WLRA World Congress 1991,
Conventions Department,
GPO Box 489, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia.

Tourism Research for Strategic Planning .

BTR has recently conducted a series of
seminars in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.
In conjunction with State tourism
authorities, seminars have been held in Perth
and Adelaide. Forthcoming seminars are
detailed below:

- Hobart, 7th January, 1991, 9 am-3 pm.
- Launceston, 8th January, 1991, 9am-3pm. To
register contact : Mr John Koldowski Tasmanian
Dept. Tourism, Sport & Rec. (002) 300130.
- Darwin -early in 1991, date to be advised.

In The Pipeline For 1991

- The **Outlook Forum** jointly organised by
ATRI and the BTR this year focused on the most
recent demand trends in international and
domestic tourism. A similar forum is planned for
the first half of 1991. The 1991 forum will
complement that held in 1990 by focusing on
supply side factors i.e. the infrastructure
requirements of tourism development in the
1990's.

- BTR will run a series of **workshops** on the
availability and use of tourism statistics and the
use of the CD-ROM delivery system for IVS and
DTM data.

- Following the success of our seminar series
"Tourism Research for Strategic Planning", a
similar series of **industry briefings** will be run
next year.

- BTR will release a greatly expanded version
of the **IVS Major Market Report for Japan**. The
report will use International Visitor Survey data
for 1989 and the first six months of 1990. As
well as presenting the latest data about Japan
from the IVS and other sources, the report will
cover some new aspects of the Japanese
market including :

- analysis of the social and economic conditions
in Japan in recent years.
- the effects that changes in these conditions
have had on the Japanese tourist market.
- an effective summary of the report's key points
to assist decision makers in the tourism industry.
Price : \$65.

DO YOU KNOW ?

That in 1989, while there were
65,000 visitors from Germany
(aged fifteen years and over),
92,500 visitors to Australia spoke
German as their major language?

The IVS can provide a variety of
such unpublished information on
request. Other items include:

- Visitors by Occupation.
- Reasons for Visiting Australia
- Regions Visited by Country of
Residence.

Profiles of Australian Travellers

❑ The BTR has recently released the publication Profiles of Australian Travellers (PAT) which is a comprehensive information source on Australian residents' travel behaviour, available from the BTR at a cost of \$120. PAT is an adjunct to the Domestic Tourism Monitor. The survey is conducted by AGB McNair.

❑ PAT information provides a comprehensive picture of travel and tourism behaviour by resident Australians covering:

- Recent Australian travel
- Recent overseas travel
- Future Australian travel
- Future overseas travel
- Day trips

❑ The information can be used as a macro monitor of that behaviour providing insight into changing travel patterns.

❑ Analysis of the information can be used to:

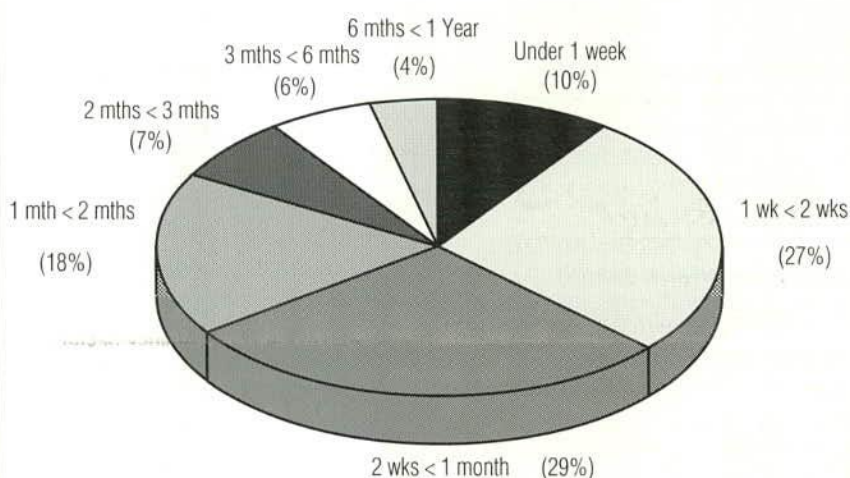
- provide input into strategic and tactical decision making;
- provide input into time series analysis of specific markets;
- provide a benchmark for other statistics, and
- identify areas of opportunity for travel and tourism development.

Main Findings

Of Australians aged 14 years and over in 89/90:

- ❑ 59% took one or more domestic trips.
- ❑ 17% took one trip, 19% took two or three trips, and 21% took four or more trips.
- ❑ In the June quarter of 1990, actual travel exceeded earlier stated travel plans by 8%, ie more people travelled in 1989/90 than was indicated in 1988/89 by those asked about their travel intentions for the following year.
- ❑ 56% of Australians aged 14 and over took one or more day trips for "pleasure driving".
- ❑ 10% of Australians aged 14 and over took one or more overseas trips.
- ❑ 44% had never taken an overseas trip.
- ❑ The data shows that actual travel equalled 85% of earlier overseas travel intentions.

DURATION OF STAY ABROAD, 1989^a



^a Australian residents returning from short-term travel (ie <12 months).

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Overseas Arrivals and Departures.

Overseas Visitor Arrivals Data Delay

Subscribers to the BTR's monthly Statistical Bulletins, which provide figures on international visitor arrivals, will have noticed a delay in figures for July 1990. These figures (Statistical Bulletin 9/90) will not be issued until at least December, owing to a delay in processing immigration cards.

Monthly figures on overseas visitor arrivals are obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and are based on data passed to it from Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs (DILGEA) passenger cards. The lag in releasing this data is generally 6 to 10 weeks.

July 1990 data tapes will not be provided to the ABS until the end of November at the earliest. This delay has been caused by problems associated with the introduction of a new DILGEA computer system, which will ultimately speed up the processing of passenger movement data.

Because the ABS needs 2 to 3 weeks after the receipt of the tapes to process and publish overseas arrivals data, figures for July are not likely to be available until mid December at the earliest. The release of August figures is reliant on the clearing of the July backlog.

While it is not possible to give specific dates, DILGEA hope to have passenger movements data back on schedule within the first four months of next year.

Another consequence of this delay is later release of the BTR's quarterly International Visitor Survey reports, as they use ABS figures as a base. The September 1990 report will be later than the BTR had hoped. The December quarter 1990 report and the 1990 Year IVS publication are also likely to be delayed as a consequence of these problems.

Code of Environmental Practice Launched

On 11 July a new industry code of environmental practice was launched in Sydney by the Australian Tourism Industry Association. The Minister for Arts, Tourism and Territories, David Simmons supported the initiative and announced that in 1991 a special tourism environmental award would be introduced into the national tourism awards.

Sydney Airport Draft Planning Strategy

Information on the Sydney Airport Draft Planning Strategy is available from David Lloyd or Gary Milner at the Federal Airports Corporation, Sydney Airport.

Phone (02) 317 3500 or write to:
PO Box 63, Mascot NSW 2020.

Any submissions should be sent to the General Manager at the above address by the 20th of December 1990.

Recent Tourism Publications

Tourism in the Indian Ocean Territories

Report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment, Recreation and the Arts. August 1990. Available from Australian Government Bookshops in all capital cities.

WA Tourism Development Register (Qrtly) WA Tourism Property List (Monthly)

The Tourism Development register lists some 200 developments throughout the state, either planned or in progress, while the Tourism Property Listing lists some 150 tourism properties currently on the market.

For further information contact Debbie Mobilia,
Western Australian Tourism Commission,
Ph (09) 220 1717 Fax (09) 220 1735

Managing Public Lands in Times of Financial Stringency \$15

Therapy and Recreation \$3

Measuring the Benefits of Recreation \$10

Recreation Benefit Measurement Papers \$20

Contact: Elery Hamilton-Smith
Department of Leisure Studies
Phillip Institute of Technology
PO Box 71
Bundoora 3083

Making Tourism Sustainable: The Policy Practice Conundrum, Dutton I. M. and C.C. Hall (1989) Proc. Second. Nat. Conf. EIA, Melbourne, pp 196-206

Environmental Management of Tourism in Coastal Areas, Dutton, I.M. and P. Saenger

(1989). Proc. SEAMEO-BIOTROP/UNESCO
Workshop, Boger and Bali. (in press)
Contact: Centre for Coastal Management.
PO Box 125 East Lismore. NSW 2480

Australian Tourism Index, Australian Tourism Organisations Directory, Tourism Bibliography

Footscray Institute of Technology produces an
Australian Tourism Index containing 2,500
bibliographic records.

Each record contains title, author, publications
details, date, location and subject terms and a
concise description of the document so that
relevance is more easily assessed. The records are
found through three indexes: subject and locality,
title and author, and organisation.

The Australian Tourism Index 1989 costs \$40
(\$A45 overseas) For inquiries or orders:
The Administrative Officer
Footscray Institute of Technology Library
PO Box 64 Footscray Vic 3011

REPRINT

IAC Travel and Tourism Report

This benchmark study of the industry
from the Industries Assistance
Commission has been reprinted. It
identifies and reports on factors
affecting the development of travel
and tourism. It also covers major
impediments to the competitiveness
and efficiency of these industries.

RRC \$24.95 Catalogue No. 8918562
AGPS Shop Ph: (008) 020049, or
Ph: (06) 2954861 Fax: (06) 2954888.
Mail Order:
GPO Box 84 Canberra ACT 2601.

Tourism Bibliography (2nd ed), Australian Tourism Organisations Directory

Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education's
Centre for Leisure and Tourism Studies has
developed these two new publications in tourism.
They are available at \$20 each from:

The Secretary
Centre for Leisure and Tourism Studies
Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education
PO Box 222
LINDFIELD NSW 2070
Phone: (02) 467 9367 Fax: (02) 467 1174

Tourism Industry: Government Services Guide

Victorian Tourism Commission 1990
publication ISBN 0 7241 9837, 451 pages, free of
charge. This publication is aimed at giving greater
assistance to the tourism industry in Victoria.
Copies are available by writing to:
Jennifer LeMesurier, Project Officer, Victorian
Tourism Commission, Tourism Projects Division,
PO Box 279, World Trade Centre, Melbourne. VIC.
3005. Telephone (03) 619 9539.

Domestic Tourism Trends in NSW (\$45)

Part 1 of a 3 part series on tourism trends in NSW.
The three publications may be purchased as a
package for \$100 in 1991. Orders with payment
should be directed to:
Accounts Branch
NSW Tourism Commission
GPO Box 7050
Sydney NSW 2001

Grand Prix Survey Report

Report on a survey of visitors to the 1988 Foster's
Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix.

The 1990 Adelaide Festival Economic Impact Report —Vol. 2.

This report covers expenditure and characteristics
of Festival-goers, audiences, performers, artists,
Contact for both publications:

Mr Bill Furse
Industry Analysis
Tourism South Australia
GPO Box 1972 Adelaide 5001
Phone: (08) 2121644 Fax: (08) 2124251

Tourist Attractions 1986/87

- This publication containing statistics for Tourist Attractions, 1986-87 is now available from the ABS (Cat. No. 8661.0) This is the first ABS survey of this type.

- The publication contains statistics on income, expenditure, employment, number of visitors, number of attractions and capital expenditure for each State and Territory by various types of attraction.

- You can obtain a copy (at \$7.50) from any capital city ABS bookshop, or contact Peter White on Canberra (06) 252 5633 for further information.

- Additional statistics are also available which supply more detail than that provided in the publication, including separate details for attractions which did, or did not charge admission fees, details of employment and visitor numbers by month and some details by type of legal organisation. An appendix to 'Tourist Attractions' gives full explanations of all additional tables available (including cost) and an order form.

DATA CARD

The tourism data card released with this newsletter is free in most cases. Orders of up to 30 are free, 31 or more are 50 c each, min. order 10.

**Commonwealth Department of Sport, Recreation
and Tourism**

GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601
Ph (062) 47 0066 Telex AA61716

Australian Tourist Commission
Box 73B GPO Melbourne Vic 3001
324 St Kilda Road Melbourne 3004
Ph (03) 690 3900 Telex AA31911

**New South Wales Department of Leisure, Sport and
Tourism**

Box 7050 GPO Sydney NSW 2001
Shell House 140 Phillip Street Sydney NSW 2000
Ph (02) 231 7100 Telex AA2354

Victorian Government Travel Authority

PO Box 1328L Melbourne Vic 3001
500 Bourke Street Melbourne Vic 3000
Ph (03) 602 9431 Telex AA38026

Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation

GPO Box 328 Brisbane Qld 4001
307 Queen Street Brisbane 4000
Ph (07) 221 0911 Telex AA42821

South Australian Department of Tourism

GPO Box 1972 Adelaide SA 5001
18 King William Street Adelaide SA 5000
Ph (08) 212 1644 Telex AA82487

Western Australian Department of Tourism

PO Box X2261 GPO Perth WA 6001
11th Floor St George's Court 16 St George's Terrace Perth WA
6000 Ph (09) 325 3055 Telex AA93283

Tasmanian Department of Tourism

GPO Box 399D Hobart Tas 7001
1 Franklin Wharf Hobart Tas 7000
Ph (002) 34 6911 Telex 58304

Australian Capital Territory Government Tourist Bureau

PO Box 744 Canberra City ACT 2601
Jolimont Centre Northbourne Avenue Canberra City ACT 2601
Ph (062) 49 7555 Telex 62305

Northern Territory Tourist Commission

PO Box 2532 Alice Springs NT 5750
99 Todd Street Alice Springs NT 5750
Ph (089) 52 4711 Telex AA81170



Australian Governments in Tourism

Overall Objectives

In 1976, and again in 1982, the Tourist Ministers' Council, after careful consideration of the constitutional and historical facts involved, endorsed the following objectives:

- The development of a viable and efficient tourist industry in Australia.

An ECONOMIC concept that includes governments' overall objectives and optimises the use of available resources. It envisages a dynamic tourist industry component of the total economy, containing a balanced mix of enterprises, supported by government-provided infrastructure, the whole existing at levels responding sensitively to growth and changes in demand.

- The development of a range and quality of tourism opportunities appropriate to the needs of residents of and visitors to Australia.

A SOCIAL concept that expresses governments' desires to induce the development of a structure of tourist facilities and services, designed to meet people's needs for leisure recreation, consistent with their desire for an improved quality of life.

- Achievement of the above with due regard to the natural and social environment of Australia.

A PUBLIC INTEREST concept providing for the control and regulation of tourist activity, so that the rights of individuals and groups are safeguarded, one against the other and resources are preserved, as considered desirable, for the common good and for future generations.

Consultative and Advisory Bodies

- **Tourist Ministers' Council (TMC)**

Membership comprises Commonwealth, State/Territory Ministers with responsibility for tourism matters.

The Council's function is to provide a forum for discussion on tourism matters of mutual interest.

- **Australian Standing Committee on Tourism (ASCOT)**

Membership comprises senior officials representing State and Territory tourism authorities, the Australian Tourist Commission and the Commonwealth Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism.

The Committee's function is to develop, co-ordinate and consider tourism policies in Australia and provide advice and recommendations to the Tourist Ministers' Council.

- **Travel and Tourist Industry Advisory Council (TTIAC)**

Membership comprises representatives from the tourism industry, the Federal Parliament and the Commonwealth Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism.

The Council's function is to provide a forum for discussion of the current situation in the industry as well as matters affecting industry viability, employment and development. It also provides a forum for discussion on Government policy decisions of importance to the industry and acts as a close consultative link between Government and industry.

- **Domestic Tourism Committee (DTC)**

Membership comprises representatives of the Australian Tourist Commission, State, Territory and Commonwealth Governments and industry.

The Committee's function is to co-ordinate the development and promotion of domestic tourism through development of a National Tourism Awareness Campaign and a Domestic Tourism Program.

- **Tourism Research Committee (TRC)**

Membership comprises the tourism research officers of State, Territories and Commonwealth Governments. The Committee is a sub-committee of ASCOT.

The Committee's function is to co-ordinate tourism research in Australia.

- **National Tourism Industry Training Committee (NTITC)**

Membership comprises representatives of industry, the unions and government.

The Committee's function is to co-ordinate, develop and promote industry training at all levels of employment.

Tourism—

The Region

World Tourism Organisation's Regional Commission for East Asia and the Pacific (CAP)

CAP is one of the WTO's six Regional Commissions formed to give practical effect to its policies and work programs. Australia is a vice-chairman of CAP. Other members include Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand.

Australia participates in CAP meetings and seminar/workshops which address such topics as resort planning development, convention marketing, the promotion of inter-regional and intra-regional tourism and financing and investment in tourism development.

Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA)

PATA is a non-profit organisation, founded in 1951, to stimulate interest in the Pacific as a vacation destination and to promote and facilitate travel to and within the region. Australia has been a full member of PATA from its inception. Membership comprises 34 Governments, 50 active carriers and over 2000 other travel-related bodies. PATA's South Pacific Regional Office is located in Sydney.

The Australian Tourist Commission (ATC) is Australia's active Government member, benefiting through participation in PATA promotions, at chapter level, in major markets and in information exchanges in tourism marketing, development, investment, training and research.

Other international bodies

Australia participates actively in the following bodies which address the growing importance of tourism in the social and economic development of member countries.

- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Shipping, Transport and Communications Committee, Communications and Tourism Wing
 - addresses tourism promotion, research, planning and training.
- South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC)
 - established by South Pacific Forum member countries to encourage and promote regional co-operation in economic developments.
- Australia/Japan Business Co-operation Committee (AJBCC)
 - promotes mutual trade, economic co-operation and tourism.
- Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC)
 - a businessmen's organisation which seeks regional economic collaboration.



World and Regional Tourism

Australia's Role

Regional significance of tourism (As measured by WTO)

The East Asia and Pacific region attracted an estimated 17.5 million short term visitors in 1982—a 3 per cent increase over 1981. Receipts from international tourism in the region grew by 9.5 per cent over the year. This compared favourably with a 5.0 per cent increase in receipts for the Americas and 3.3 per cent for Europe.

Tourism–The World

World Tourism Organization (WTO)

Australia has been a full member of WTO since 1979. The WTO is an intergovernmental technical body, operating as an executive arm of the United Nations Development program (UNDP). Its headquarters are in Madrid.

The WTO co-ordinates the celebration of World Tourism Day throughout the world on 27 September each year.

WTO activities cover all sectors of tourism on a world wide basis. It provides an international forum where tourism officials and private sector members can discuss problems and exchange ideas. The Organization functions as a world clearing house for information on international and domestic tourism, including statistics, legislation, facilities and special events, and is responsible for its systematic collection, analysis and dissemination. Research activities cover tourism markets, plant and enterprises, planning and development, promotion and marketing, environment, economic analysis and financing techniques, documentation and facilitation.

WTO operates through a General Assembly which meets biennially and through six Regional Commissions meeting biannually. Australia participates regularly in General Assemblies, conferences, regional meetings, seminars and workshops.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Australia has been a member of OECD since 1971. The OECD's main priorities are

- curbing inflation and reducing unemployment
- achieving a liberalisation of trade, in particular, in the service sectors
- adjustment to the changing world energy situation
- co-operation with developing countries to enhance their economic growth and well-being
- co-operation to improve member countries' economies and the international economic environment.

The OECD Tourism Committee operates within the Directorate of Financial and Fiscal Affairs and meets biannually in Paris. It produces an Annual Report which provides a range of tourism statistics and summaries of tourism developments in its 25 member countries.

The focus of the Committee's work programs is gradually moving from a European to a global perspective, thus reflecting the interests of non-European members such as Australia, New Zealand, the USA, Japan and Canada. The OECD's Development Assistance Committee extends aid and promotes technical co-operation in many areas, including tourism between member countries and developing nations.

Australia participates regularly in Tourism Committee sessions and working parties.

Global significance of tourism (As measured by WTO)

In 1982, international short term visitor arrivals totalled 280 million.

International tourism receipts increased by 4 per cent to US\$110,344 million.

Total domestic and international expenditure on tourism throughout the world was estimated at US\$980,000 million in 1982—approximately 8 per cent of world production.

Research

The Bureau of Industry Economics (BIE) is completing research into aspects of the tourism industry. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publishes a range of statistics applicable to the tourism industry. The Australian Tourist Commission (ATC) commissions an international visitor survey on inbound tourism flows. State and Territory Governments sponsor a domestic tourism monitor of travel in Australia.

Further Information:

- **Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism**
PO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601 Ph. (062) 47 0066
- **Export Development Grants Board**
Head Office
Mining Industry House 216 Northbourne Avenue Braddon
ACT 2601 Ph. (062) 72 2892, 72 2893
- **Commonwealth Development Bank of Australia**
Head Office
Cnr George and Market Streets Sydney NSW 2000
Ph. (02) 2 0256

Regional Offices of the Export Development Grants Board

NSW:
Stocks and Holdings House 181 Castlereagh Street Sydney
NSW 2000 Ph. (02) 266 0222

VIC:
424 St Kilda Road Melbourne Vic 3004 Ph. (03) 268 8222

QLD:
Commonwealth Government Centre 295 Ann Street Brisbane
Qld 4000 Ph. (07) 225 0122

SA:
7th Floor, NMLA Building 80 King William Street Adelaide SA
5000 Ph. (08) 218 0291

WA:
Allendale Square 77 St George's Terrace Perth WA 6000
Ph. (09) 325 6400

TAS:
Continental Building 162 Macquarie Street Hobart Tas 7000
Ph. (002) 20 5011

NT:
MLC Building Smith Street Darwin NT 5790 Ph. (089) 81 8686

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

NSW:
22 Pitt Street Sydney NSW 2000 Ph. (02) 231 2655

VIC:
140 William Street Melbourne Vic 3000 Ph. (03) 67 5302

QLD:
66 Queen Street Brisbane Qld 4000 Ph. (07) 221 6722

SA:
22 King William Street Adelaide SA 5000 Ph. (08) 212 4044

WA:
37 St George's Terrace Perth WA 6000 Ph. (09) 325 3220

TAS:
2nd Floor, Continental Bldg 162 Macquarie Street Hobart
Tas 7000 Ph. (002) 20 5011

Australian Tourist Commission

AUSTRALIA:
(Head Office)
324 St Kilda Road Melbourne Vic 3004 Ph. (03) 690 3900

(Branch Office)
5 Elizabeth Street Sydney NSW 2000 Ph. (02) 233 7233

UNITED KINGDOM
4th Floor Heathcoat House 20 Savile Row London W1X 3AE
Ph. (01) 434 4371/2

EUROPE
D6000 Frankfurt/Main 1 Neue Mainzerstrasse 22 Federal
Republic of Germany Ph. (0611) 23 5071

NEW ZEALAND:
Quay Tower 29 Customs Street West Auckland NZ
Ph. 799 594/5

NORTH AMERICA:
Suite 1740 3550 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, California
90010 Ph. (213) 380 6060

Room 467, International Bldg 630 Fifth Avenue New York
NY 10111 Ph. (212) 489 7550

JAPAN
Sankaido Building 7th Floor 9-13 Akasaka, 1-Chome Minato-Ku
Tokyo 100-91 Ph. 585 0705

ASIA:
Suites 1009 and 1010 Orchard Towers 400 Orchard Road
Singapore Republic of Singapore Ph. 235-2295 235-3555



COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AND FORMS OF ASSISTANCE FOR THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY



The Hon. John Brown, M.P. Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism.

Introduction

The Government places a high priority on the promotion and development of the Australian tourism industry, based on our belief in the major potential of the industry for economic, social and cultural development.

Tourism, perhaps more than any other industry at the present time, offers considerable opportunity for stimulating growth in a diverse range of industry sectors, for regional development and for expansion of employment opportunities.

Tourism is one of Australia's largest industries and largest employers. The Bureau of Industry Economics estimates that tourism was worth twelve billion dollars to the economy in 1981/82 and employed between 350,000 and 400,000 people.

In recognition of the importance of the tourism industry, the Government has:

- established a new Ministry and Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism
- increased the funds available to the Australian Tourist Commission by 75% from \$10.0 million in 1982/83 to \$17.5 million in 1983/84
- expanded representation overseas by the Australian Tourist Commission
- subsidised diesel fuel costs to Barrier Reef Island tourism resorts
- removed sales tax from approved cruise vessels backdated to August 1981
- approved funding for certain tourist facilities in South West Tasmania.

In addition the role and functions of the Australian Industry Development Corporation have been expanded and a further capital instalment of \$12.5 million was provided in the 1983-84 budget. The Corporation is owned by the Government and plays a significant role in the provision of finance to assist the promotion and development of Australian industry.

The Government is also committed to continuing the various programs which have been developed to assist the Australian tourist industry.

Further information on these programs may be obtained from responsible Government Departments and Authorities, the addresses of which are listed at the end of this leaflet.

Export Promotion

The Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) Scheme, which also applies to the tourism industry, will continue to 30 June 1988. The grant rate is 70 per cent of eligible expenditure (taxable) to a maximum of \$200,000 in one financial year. Eligible expenditure includes:

- overseas market research
- advertising and other means of soliciting business overseas
- pamphlets and brochures produced for overseas distribution
- overseas participation in exhibitions and trade missions
- bringing to Australia independent overseas agents, tour operators and the like for specific training or briefing
- 50 per cent of the cost of FOC or discounted accommodation, tours etc provided as a sample to overseas agents
- fares for overseas travel
- communication costs
- establishment and maintenance of overseas representation

The minimum level of expenditure is \$5000 (excluding air fares) except in respect of recognized tourism promotions. Eligible tourism services include:

- passenger transport
- accommodation
- tourist attractions charging an entry fee
- tour guide and interpreter services
- convention centres
- tour operators

Approved tourist body status is available to certain promoters of eligible tourism services who do not own or provide the services. These include:

- accommodation referral chains
- convention bureaux
- industry associations
- regional tourist associations

(Export Development Grants Board)

Export Risk Insurance

The Export Finance Insurance Corporation (EFIC) provides insurance cover against hazards peculiar to the export of goods and services not normally covered by commercial insurers for example, non-payment in respect of tourism operations where payments are due from overseas for services provided in Australia for foreign visitors.

EFIC also provides guarantees to banks and other financial institutions and indemnities to institutions providing performance and other bonds and insurance to Australian firms investing in overseas enterprises.

(Export Finance Insurance Corporation)

Depreciation Allowance

A depreciation allowance applies to new income-producing buildings used for the accommodation of tourists. A tax deduction may be claimed at a flat rate of 2.5 per cent of the original eligible cost of buildings consisting of at least 10 guest rooms, apartments, units or flats.

The allowance also applies to non-accommodation sectors, including tourist attractions, resorts, restaurants and so on. New tourism plant and equipment can be depreciated over 3 years or 5 years.

(Australian Taxation Office)

Investment Allowance

An investment allowance is available for tourist accommodation operators on the capital cost of new plant and equipment, including furniture and fittings. The allowance is also available to other operators in respect of items used for amusement, recreation, sport and tourist buses.

The allowance takes the form of a tax deduction of 18 per cent of eligible expenditure for items costing \$976 or more with lesser rates of deduction for items costing between \$500 and \$976.

(Australian Taxation Office)

Commonwealth Development Bank (CDB)

The CDB offers finance that is not otherwise available on reasonable and suitable terms and conditions for the development of commercial undertakings, particularly small businesses.

(Commonwealth Development Bank)

Australian Tourist Commission (ATC)

The Commission is Australia's national tourism authority. It actively promotes Australia as a tourist destination in overseas markets (see overleaf for addresses of overseas offices).

ATC's activities and programs are determined by ten Commissioners appointed by the Australian Government to represent both the Australian and State/Territory governments and the Australian tourism industry.

The Commission is funded chiefly by annual Commonwealth appropriations (\$17.5 M in 1983/84). It co-operates with and is supported financially by the States/Territories and the tourism industry in many of its promotions.

The ATC's ongoing marketing activities include advertising and publicity campaigns, production of publications, films and audio-visual presentations and provision of familiarisation tours, travel counselling and other forms of product education.



NSW
NATIONAL
PARKS AND
WILDLIFE
SERVICE

Dear Staff Member

Attached is a copy of the latest draft of a restructure proposal for the Service. It has been developed by the Executive following consideration of reviews of structure and performance, discussions with key stakeholders and reviews of key documents.

The structure diagram indicates the current view of where functions should be located. The boxes are not set in concrete and discussions have already commenced with affected managers to gain other views and inputs and to test some assumptions.

Over the next four weeks or so consultation will continue. The restructure proposal will then be finalised for formal submission to the Minister and Central Agencies.

As with most restructures, some staff may end up working in their existing jobs but in different branches. Some may be offered jobs which are different to their current positions but for which they are suitable. Some may apply for and win selection for new jobs. Some will not be affected at all.

Over the next few weeks, managers will discuss the impact of changes with their staff as the proposals are developed further and firm up. An officer will be identified in Human Resources Branch to handle personnel type enquiries.

Yours sincerely

JOHN NEWBERY
NPWS Directorate

23rd November 1993

Feb. ACF draft tourism policy

T6a

Dept of Tourism - Eco Tourism Strategy
grants to stimulate
research to assess impacts

fa. Julia Cronin Eco Tourism Strategy
Env Policy Sect
GPO 1545 Canberra

strong line -

Eco Tourism Assoc of Aust
Tony Charters Treasurer
GPO Box 1122
Brisbane 4001

Fiona May
Forest Eco Tourism

06 279 7106

NOTES
Total Catchment Management Cttee. Proposed mtg. for
conservation representatives
Earth Education Conference 25-28 Sept fees \$275 Sydney
NC Health Southern Environment Health Cttee J. Cranny has
agreed to take M. Charters position as Council rep. on this
cttee.

~~841572/1000~~

24 August 93

NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

16TH ANNUAL GENERAL AND FIRST MEETING OF 17TH COUNCIL

These meetings will be held at the Grafton Primary School
Prince Street commencing at 1030 hours on 4 SEPTEMBER 1993

AGENDA FOR AGM

Apologies
Minutes of 15th AGM to be confirmed
Presidents Report
Financial Report and Audited Accounts
Election of Committee of Management (only four nominations
recd; six vacancies to fill)
Election of office bearers
Appointment of Auditor

AGENDA FOR FIRST MEETING OF 17TH COUNCIL

Apologies
Acceptance of agenda , explanation of meeting procedure
Appointment of Chairs, times and time keepers
Confirmation of Minutes 16/5
BUSINESS ARISING
Forest Minister meeting. Still later in year but senior
staff will meet earlier
Review of designated development. Submission made but no
publicity to date.
National Park management. Reply on Innes fire trail
unsatisfactory
Ocean Shores. Attempt made to have the matter go to
Heritage Council last mtg but unsuccessful.

TREASURERS REPORT

Financial report
Draft budget
Annual fees should these be increased ?
Application for Membership

REPORTS

Burning Issues conference 5/7 August A. Kilvert and G. Clancy
attended for Council. President and Secretary also attended
Forestry Issues
Kempsey/Wauchope MA EIS
Coastal Policy Review
Council Leaflet
Wetland Management workshops

OTHER MATTERS

NCC Annual Conference 30-31 Oct. Motions by 17 Sept. Name of
delegate by 8 Oct.
Regional Fire Conference . Proposal for Council in conjunction
with Dept of Bush Fire Services to hold weekend conference.
Waste Crisis. NCC has provided kit. Need to press the issue
Country Arts Support Program. Invitation to submit application

Pesticide Reduction Program

FACULTY OF RESOURCE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND - NORTHERN RIVERS
LISMORE NSW AUSTRALIA

PII: 056 203 650

FX: 066 212 669

September 93

ATTENTION: J. TREDGILL

RECEIVER:

NO. OF PAGES: 1

FAX NO: 065-690802

FROM: J. STEWART

100/00025

NSW 7, 12

1 Sep 1993

I refer to our recent telephone conversation re eco-tourism in National Parks. As a member of the Lismore District NPAC, I am finding it difficult to put the green point of view on these issues, since I don't really know what it is. Positions seem to vary from positivity to opposition to "its inevitable so we might as well go with it and make sure its done properly." Hence I would be grateful for any guidance NCEC could give.

At our last meeting we were advised that funds for tourism and, separately, eco-tourism development were announced in the last budget. Research into the economic value of national parks (similar to a study which was carried out for the Dorrigo area) was proposed. Clearly we need others studies on effect of tourism on the environment alongside (or prior to) such studies. Should NCEC apply? I suspect the funds mentioned, being for development, may not be sources of funds for this topic. I have not been able to get further information about this but will let you know.

Some of the issues are very broad and should not really be dealt with bit by bit at district level. What is happening at other levels?

Thank you

Barbara Stewart

T66

9 Sept 93

Julia Cronin
Eco Tourism Strategy
Environmental Policy Section
Department of Tourism
GPO Box 1545
CANBERRA 2601

Dear M/s Cronin,

Penny Figgis suggested I contact you regarding research grants into aspects of eco tourism.

Several of our members who are on the National Parks Advisory Committees have become aware of research grants being made into various aspects of eco tourism and national parks. The trend appears, from this distance, for most of these grants to be targetted towards the greater utilisation of the reserves for tourism purposes with a singular lack of studies which might measure the likely impacts of such use.

How are these grants decided ?

Who can apply ?

In what ways are the approved studies " balanced " ? (In the sense that impacts as well as opportunities are researched)

Enclosed is a copy of this Councils policy on tourism for your information.

Yours sincerely

James L.O. Tedder
Hon. Sec.



Hon. Robert Webster MLC
Minister for Planning

Dear Minister,

Reference Our letter 21 May North Ocean Shores
Your letter 8 July 93 RML 47989 692/00259

The President of this Council Terry Parkhouse spoke with staff in your office on Friday 30 July concerning the urgent need for a stop work order and Interim Conservation Order over North Ocean Shores Byron Shire.

Our request for the use of a section 136 order due to threats in this area was denied in your letter of 8 July. However we wish to bring to your attention the following activities that have occurred in the past two months and continue to occur and which we think justifies the need for urgent action.

A copy of this information is being sent direct to the secretary of the Heritage Council.

COPY FOR JIM

Mr Jim Tedder (Sec.)
Pavaans Access
Grassy Head
Via Stuarts Point
NSW 2441

T6b

November 2nd, 1993.

The Director
Nature Based and Indigenous Tourism
Department of Tourism
GPO Box 1545
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir,

I write on behalf of our council to express our whole hearted support for the Nambucca Valley Conservation Association's grant application for "The Bush University of NSW".

This unique forest eco-tourism initiative will fill an essential role on the north coast where so many are already coming, hungry for meaningful forest experiences yet not knowing how or where to begin.

We also view this project as a prototype that, if successful, could be applied throughout the north coast filling a niche in the tourist industry.

The benefits to the community and the environment in general are obvious. As more people understand and enjoy the forests themselves, an informed and healthy conservation ethic will become more widespread.

We have the utmost faith in the abilities of the Nambucca Valley Conservation Association to carry this project through successfully, so we urge you grant their application.

Sincerely,

P. Margolis per

Jim Tedder (Secretary)



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HARRY WOODS, M.H.R.
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PAGE

82 PRINCE STREET
GRAFTON, N.S.W. 2460
TEL. (066) 42 6356
FAX. (066) 42 7869

Address all correspondence to—
P.O. BOX 882, GRAFTON, N.S.W. 2460.
STAR COURT ARCADE
SHOP 14/126 MOLESWORTH ST
LISMORE, N.S.W. 2480
TEL. (008) 81 8012 TOLL FREE



November 12, 1993

HW:DB

Mr Jim Tedder
North Coast Environment Council
Pavans Rd
**GRASSY HEAD VIA
STUARTS POINT 2441**

Dear Mr Tedder

The Federal Budget has offered \$42 million for tourism over the next four years in three packages . . . \$23 million for regional tourism development, \$9 million to stimulate growth in special areas such as backpacking and rural tourism, and \$10 million for national ecotourism.

We in the North Coast region of NSW and southern Queensland should take positive steps to obtain a share of this funding commensurate with our potential. This proposal has taken on additional significance since Sydney's successful bid for the 2000 Olympic Games.

You are invited to attend a meeting on

**Thursday, December 9 from 10.30am at
The Lismore Workers Club**

At that meeting a proposal to form a steering committee will be discussed. The steering committee would be charged with the responsibility of preparing a submission to the Federal Government for the establishment of a **regional tourism scheme**, based on an unique unifying theme.

The committee will seek submissions and assess suggestions for inclusion in the plan for the **regional tourism scheme** extending to the Year 2000 and beyond.

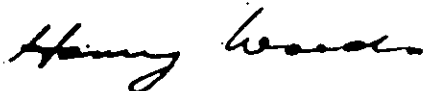
Now is the time for co-operation. There is no place for parochialism, cross border jealousies or politics. I have postponed the proposed meeting date twice to allow the local state and federal members serving the region to have the opportunity to attend and make their contribution to the scheme, which could bring big benefits in the way of finance, tourism and transport infrastructure, employment and training.

Representatives of local government, Southern Cross University, Department of Employment Education and Training, National Parks and Wildlife Service, tourist officers, media, suppliers of services and manufacturers have been invited to attend.

Please advise of your attendance by returning the attached attendance sheet by Friday December 3.

A light luncheon will be provided by The Northern Star.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harry Woods".

Harry Woods

MEMBER FOR PAGE

Please return attendance sheet to Harry Woods, P.O. Box 882, Grafton 2460, or fax to (066) 427869

Name: NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

☐

Yes, I will be attending the meeting at the Lismore and District Workers Club on December 9.

☐

No, I will not be attending the meeting at the Lismore and District Workers Club on December 9.

☒

I will be unable to attend, but will send a representative.

John Corkill

contact no. 066 213278

T66

16 March 94

Chairman Ecotourism Taskforce
Northern Rivers Regional Development Bd
PO Box 362
Grafton 2460

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 28 February inviting this Council to nominate a person to sit on the Taskforce.

Our Council discussed this at its meeting on 26 February and agreed subject to clarification of a couple of issues. One of these you have revealed and that the meeting frequency is at present once a month.

The other matters are where are the meetings usually held and is there any financial reimbursement for travel costs?

~~Once we have these details we shall be able to nominate a~~
suitable person.

Yours sincerely

James L.O. Tedder
Hon. Sec.

Australian Farm Journal

Cnr Wellington & Gipps Sts, Collingwood, Vic. 3066

PO Box 1386, Collingwood, Vic. 3066

Telephone (03) 287 0900 — Fax (03) 287 0999

996

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Agent

J TEDDER

PAVANS ROAD

GRASSY HEAD

VIA STUARTS POINT NSW 2441

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WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR OPINION.

PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS ON YOUR PUBLICATION.

TO ASSIST US IN SELECTING OUR CONTENT, PLEASE IDENTIFY YOUR MAIN FARMING INTEREST:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Entirely cropping | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep pastoralist | <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliated products marketing/sales |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Cropping with cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep breeding/production | <input type="checkbox"/> Stock agents |
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| | (wheat/wool/meats) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |



T64

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA · THE SENATE

John R. Coulter

Australian Democrat Senator for South Australia

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jim Tedder
FROM: Simon Disney - Canberra Office
DATE: 23 February 1994
RE: Tourism & Environment Report.

Please find enclosed a copy of the report as discussed.

The evidence given to the hearing by the head of FIRB, Sir Bede Callaghan is just amazing. Please feel free to circulate it as widely as you can!

Copies of the evidence given should be available from the Committee itself.

Any questions can be directed to the Secretary of the Committee, Mr Peter Grundy. Mr Grundy's phone number is (06) 277 3598

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

SIMON DISNEY
Canberra Office

PS, Give my regards to the Parkhouse's

NOTICE TO MEMBERS of ECOTOURISM TASKFORCE

Members please note that the venue for the next meeting of the Ecotourism Taskforce has been changed and will now be held in Murwillumbah on **29th March 1994** at the

TOWN MOTEL, 3 Wharf Street, MURWILLUMBAH

starting at 10.00 AM Sharp.

Car parking is available in the Tweed Council public car park around the corner from the motel. The meeting will be held in the dining room of the Town Motel, courtesy of Andrew Reimanis and his associates.

Agenda items will be formalised on the day, however the sub-groups of the Taskforce should be prepared to present updates of their respective activities. Also members should bring with them the names and addresses of new ecotourism industry participants that could be included in the Newsletter mail-out. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Regards, 

John Pearson 17/3/94

Note the attached press clippings which will be discussed at the meeting.

Green light for ecotourism

By tourism writer CAROLYN COLLINS

WHEN the O'Reilly brothers decided to cut their losses and open a guest house after finding their struggling Queensland dairy farm surrounded by a newly declared national park, they were 60 years ahead of the buzzword "ecotourism".

Likewise, their first visitors in the 1920s, who braved the two-day journey from Brisbane by train, stage coach and horseback to experience the beauty of Lamington National Park on the Queensland-NSW border, had never heard of the description "ecotourist".

Today the term, believed to have been coined in 1983, has gained international currency and describes a burgeoning worldwide industry as tourists shun traditional "mass tourism" destinations in favour of nature-based holidays.

"We had been practising ecotourism for 60 years before it became a buzzword. These days everybody is into it," said Mr Peter O'Reilly, the grandson of one of the original brothers.

Mr O'Reilly, whose family still runs O'Reilly's Rainforest Guest House, believes Australia, with its abundance of natural attractions, is well placed to make ecotourism its major selling point. He is not alone.



Mr O'Reilly in the Lamington National Park... 'these days everybody is into it' — Picture: DAVID SPROULE

The Federal Government yesterday launched its long-awaited national ecotourism strategy, which includes funding worth \$10 million over the next four years.

The strategy defines ecotourism more broadly than it has been to date, as "nature-based tourism that involves education and interpretation of the natural environment and is managed to be ecologically sustainable".

One of its priorities will be the establishment of a national accreditation program and a set of standards, which

the industry is already investigating.

At the launch in Adelaide, the Minister for Tourism, Mr Lee, said the strategy represented the first "blueprint to achieve ecotourism's full potential", which included spreading the economic and employment benefits of tourism throughout regional Australia.

Accreditation would also halt the growing number of operators who were jumping on the green bandwagon and slapping an ecotourism tag on their businesses.



COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF
TOURISM

Call for projects to implement the National Ecotourism Strategy

The National Ecotourism Strategy, released on 10 March 1994 by the Minister for Tourism, the Hon Michael Lee MP, aims to establish a national framework to guide the planning, development and management of tourism in natural environments while maintaining environmental quality. The Government has allocated \$10 million for the implementation of the Strategy (\$2 million each year in 1993-94 and 1994-95, and \$3 million each year in 1995-96 and 1996-97).

Categories available for funding in 1993-94 include:

- Infrastructure projects;
- Scientific research and baseline studies;
- Ecotourism education;
- Energy and waste minimisation practices;
- Business development skills; and
- Integrated regional planning pilot projects.

Project should focus on important issues which are initially regional or site-specific in scope but which are nationally significant in terms of innovation, demonstration and the potential to achieve positive change in the industry.

In view of the funds available, only a limited number of outstanding projects will be funded in each category. A specific requirement of any approved project will be that its outcomes or results can be documented and widely disseminated to enhance community and industry knowledge and to provide positive examples for the development of the industry.

ELIGIBILITY

Funding is available to relevant government and non-government organisations, including research and training bodies; conservation groups; professional associations; educational institutions; indigenous communities and regional development organisations.

Applicants should have a proven record of achievement in the area and the ability to deliver specified results within a limited time frame.

ASSESSMENT

Applications will be assessed against program objectives and administrative criteria for each of the project categories.

An information package which includes background information, an application form and the terms of reference can be obtained by leaving a message on the Department of Tourism's information line (ph 008 804 465) or by facsimile (06) 239 6411.

Further information about the program can be obtained from Ms Jill Grant (ph (06) 279 7218; fax (06) 239 6411).

The closing date for applications is 22 April 1994.

\$10m to E tourism in

THE Federal Government is ready to provide the \$10 million it promised in the last Budget to help develop Australia's eco-tourism industry. Tourism Minister Michael Lee yesterday released the Government's final ecotourism strategy, the latest of several programmes for the tourism industry. Part of the \$10 million will be granted to tour operators who can satisfy the Government that their businesses contribute to nature-based tourism.

The Federal Department of Tourism also will allocate funds to develop infrastructure.

*The Joint Endeavour
Centre*

WA 12.3.94

766

NEWSLETTER FROM ECOTOURISM TASKFORCE

No. 4 Feb.1994

Notes on the meeting held at Byron Bay Council Chambers, 23rd Feb.1994.

New Representatives

Meeting opened with a welcome to two new members of the Taskforce: Melinda Taylor, as a representative of the ecotourism industry and Caldera NEST.

Jack Carlsen, as an alternate for Gary Prosser, Centre for Tourism, Southern Cross University.

A short note of clarification: Maureen Calear stood down from the task force as a result of the suspension of operations of the Rainbow Region Ecotourism Assoc. (whom she represented) and increasing personal work commitments. We hope the RRET Assoc. is revitalised soon.

Status of RIDP Application

The last 4 months of the Taskforces deliberations and efforts have been focused on:

1. Information gathering and dissemination (as exemplified by last months newsletter, correspondence has been vast).
2. Application for funding to the Federal Dept. of Tourism under the Regional Tourism Development Plan.

It appears that there has been no further progress from DOT, no doubt thanks to Ros Kelly and the 'sports rorts' affair. It appears that all assessments of grants and funding applications are on hold until all White-boards are removed from Canberra.

Report by Industry Reps.

Activities of TACTIC and the future for the Tourist Information Centre in Murwillumbah were discussed briefly.

The level of interest from the tourism industry in the Taskforce is growing and the involvement of Qld-based operators conducting tours into NSW is important.

It was indicated that feedback from operators would be sought for the next stage of the Taskforces work (see below).

Working Group Establishment

The February meeting was able to focus on the two major tasks at hand (refer to 1st Newsletter)

1. The formulation of guidelines for the development of the Regional Ecotourism Strategic Plan.
2. Address issues relating to the establishment and functions of the incorporated body.

Three working groups and their members are:

- A. Strategic Plan management, liaison and co-ordination... Ian Oelrichs, Ian Dutton, Jack Carlsen, John Flower, John Pearson.
- B. Incorporated body establishment (including funding and structure)... Val Johnston, Andrew Reimanis, Mike Svikis, Doug Hammonds, (John Kable as needed).
- C. Incorporated body functions (including goals and objectives)... Lawrence Franklin, Glen Meade, Melinda Taylor.

These groups will meet and arrange their plans and priorities. Reports on progress will be provided to the next Taskforce meeting.

Holiday Coast?

THE Northern Star on Saturday informed me that I am no longer a resident of the North Coast. I am now a resident of an area called the Holiday Coast.

The name change was announced by Minister for Tourism Virginia Chadwick. Will the minister or *The Northern Star* be good enough to explain:

● Who, specifically, selected this new name?

● Who was consulted before the change was made? Anyone other than tourism promoters?

● What, if any, is the legal authority for the change?

● If a new name for this lovely stretch of coastland is needed, how can we who live here go about selecting a truly fitting one?

In my view Holiday Coast is a silly and unimaginative appellation. Any stretch of good beach with motels and holiday flats could adopt it.

If a new name is needed, I'd be inclined to call us the Green Coast. I'd use green to distinguish us from the taw-dry golden glitter just to our north and also as a gesture to those who live in the lush inland from Lismore to Casino and Kyogle.

But mine is the view of only one of your readers. I hope other Holiday Coasters (ugh!) also speak up.

E R EDWARDS,
Ballina

Input Sought from Tourism Industry

At this stage, it is important that we receive feedback from those either already involved in ecotourism operations or aspire to at some stage in the future. We wish to ensure that all 'grass roots' issues are addressed on guideline and policy matters.

We are requesting that you contact one of the industry reps and elaborate on the issues that you see to be important for the development of ecotourism in this region!

This information will be collated and adopted accordingly. This is your chance to have direct input into this significant project.

Name Calling

Your assistance is also needed on two other matters:

1. A definitive promotional name for our region (see article previous page).
2. A name for the soon to be established incorporated body. Far North Coast Ecotourism Council Inc. ? Or something more imaginative ?
Not to be confused with : _____

The definitive guide to holidays embracing conservation not consumption

'Ecotourism' is the new trend in travel. It aims to encourage holiday makers to enjoy the culture, landscape, flora and fauna of their destinations with little cost to the environment.

Learn more about the unique holiday experiences you can have, in *Ecotourism & Nature-based Holidays*.

- ☐ An overview of what ecotourism is by ecotourism consultant Janet Richardson.
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- ☐ Printed in Australia on recycled paper.
- ☐ Paperback. 224 pages.



Choice books: 57 Carrington Rd. Marrickville
NSW 2204

INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES :

Lismore/Byron	Melinda Taylor	PH 882070
Kyogle	Douglas Hammonds	PH 797070
Tweed	Andrew Reimanis	PH 726221
	John Flower	PH 797158

Next meeting will be held at Murwillumbah
on Tuesday 29th March at 10.30 am.

THE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

The North Coast Environment Council is the regional umbrella organisation for community conservation and environmental groups on the North Coast of N.S.W.

The Council, was formed in 1977 and has campaigned in this time on numerous issues including some of the most historic and important environmental issues of recent times, rainforests, sandmining, toxic substances and coastal development, wetlands, wilderness, woodchips.

The Council has through its energies and expertise established itself as a responsible and respected voice for the environment of the North Coast. Recognised by all tiers of government for the valuable work it does for conservation, the Council receives an annual Federal grant to assist in funding.

Members groups, which have particular interests and knowledge of their own local areas make up the membership of the Council. In this way, the interests of thousands of north coast people and the numerous eco-systems are represented and served.

These member organisations meet regularly at the Council's general meetings to discuss individual local concerns, identify regional issues, plan co-operative strategies and formulate policies for input into the wider conservation movement.

THE NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL INC.
can be contacted through the following centres.

Caldera Environment Centre
Commercial Road,
Murwillumbah. Phone 066 72-1121.

Byron Environment Centre
Shop 7 Caranagh Place,
Johnson Street,
Byron. Phone 066 85-7066.

Big Scrub Environment Centre
149 Keen Street,
Lismore. Phone 066 21-3278.

Nimbin Environment Centre
54 Cullen Street,
Nimbin. Phone 066 89-1441.

And the Hon. Secretary N.C.E.C. Inc.
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- B. Incorporated body establishment (including funding and structure)... Val Johnston, Andrew Reimanis, Mike Svikis, Doug Hammonds, (John Kable as needed).
- C. Incorporated body functions (including goals and objectives)... Lawrence Franklin, Glen Meade, Melinda Taylor.

These groups will meet and arrange their plans and priorities. Reports on progress will be provided to the next Taskforce meeting.

Holiday Coast?

THE Northern Star on Saturday informed me that I am no longer a resident of the North Coast. I am now a resident of an area called the Holiday Coast.

The name change was announced by Minister for Tourism Virginia Chadwick. Will the minister or *The Northern Star* be good enough to explain:

● Who, specifically, selected this new name?

● Who was consulted before the change was made? Anyone other than tourism promoters?

● What, if any, is the legal authority for the change?

● If a new name for this lovely stretch of coastline is needed, how can we who live here go about selecting a truly fitting one?

In my view Holiday Coast is a silly and unimaginative appellation. Any stretch of good beach with motels and holiday flats could adopt it.

If a new name is needed, I'd be inclined to call us the Green Coast. I'd use green to distinguish us from the tawdry golden glitter just to our north and also as a gesture to those who live in the lush inland from Lismore to Casino and Kyogle.

But mine is the view of only one of your readers. I hope other Holiday Coasters (ugh!) also speak up.

E R EDWARDS,
Ballina



David Hay

Minister for Local Government
Minister for Planning

08 JAN 1990

W1

89/1585

REZONING GIVES WETLANDS PROTECTION AND PAVES WAY FOR SALAMANDER BAY DEVELOPMENT.

The Minister for Local Government and Minister for Planning, Mr David Hay, has approved the rezoning of land at Salamander Bay, Port Stephens, to protect wetlands and to provide for housing and a tourism development.

The 85.8 hectare site was previously zoned "rural" and "residential".

The purpose of the rezoning is to protect a classified coastal wetland, while allowing the Port Stephens Shire Council to consider an application for a tourism complex.

The development would include 125 residential lots, 30 medium density units, a 100 room hotel-motel and an 18 hole golf course.

The Minister, in approving the rezoning, has endorsed special requirements proposed by the Director of the Department of Planning. These require that any application for development of the site should be accompanied by:

Salamander ... 2

- an analysis of the existing surface and ground water quality and the effect of the development on the wetlands;
- details of measures proposed to guard against actual and potential disturbances to plant and animal life, water quality, and wetlands environment, during the construction and operation of the development.

Much of the area covered by the development, other than the golf course, is regarded as a "degraded" area resulting from sandmining.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service, consulted during preparation of the plan, has requested suitably located wildlife corridors around the golf course.

INFORMATION: Susan North (02) 266-7174

Ian Ferguson(02) 224-8777



David Hay

Minister for Local Government
Minister for Planning

83/10205(Z)6

W /
- 9 JAN 1990

DISCUSSION PAPER ON CANAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

The Minister for Local Government and Minister for Planning, Mr David Hay, reiterated the Government's commitment to sound environmental planning, with a discussion paper, released today, on canal estates development.

Mr Hay linked the paper on canal estates with guidelines on coastal development which were released earlier this year.

In both cases "the guidelines highlight the importance of ensuring that development, in terms of its nature and scale, is sensitive and appropriate to the local environment."

The Minister said the discussion paper was being made available for public examination and comment before the guidelines were finalised. "I welcome participation by interested parties."

The discussion paper explains the procedures for environmental planning and impact assessment, so that these are known and can be considered from the earliest stage of the planning process.

Canal estates should be sited near to existing urban development and be compatible with the planning principles applying to the local area.

Sites should be capable of providing roads and essential services, such as sewerage, electricity and water.

Canal estates should be located away from areas of high flood risk and not adversely affect environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands and littoral rainforests, or rare or endangered wildlife.

Public access to beaches and open space should be maintained.

Canal estates are usually "designated" development. This means that an environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared and exhibited for public comment. The draft guidelines provide advice on the matters to be covered in the EIS.

The guidelines draw attention to the responsibility of councils and owners for the proper maintenance of canal estates.

canal3

All applications for canal estate development must be referred to the Minister, whose consent is required under Section 101 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979. The objective of this direction, which was issued to councils in November 1985, is to provide for a consistent approach in considering proposals.

Interested persons are invited to forward their comments to the Department of Planning, to assist in finalising the guidelines.

"Canal Estate Developments - Planning Guidelines Discussion Paper" is available free of charge from the Department of Planning, Information Centre, Ground Floor, 175 Liverpool Street, Sydney 2000.

INFORMATION: Susan North (02) 266-7174

Ian Ferguson (02) 224-8777, ah (045) 77-2389

ⁱⁿ
The Director, Dept of Planning, Sydney

Lennox Head By-pass, Ballina Shire

Yet another wetland (No 87) is threatened with the continuing degradation, this time for the above. While the actual area of the wetland involved is not large, its location is important. It is at a very tenuous link with wetland No 88 (the Ballina Nature Reserve). The link is already cut by the road between Lennox Head & Byron Bay (this particular part of the road having been upgraded only last year by Council). The proposal that we object to is to construct a new road almost parallel to the existing road through ~~the~~ wetland 87. An alternative proposal by the Ballina Environment Society would avoid this double road by using the existing road, shorten the length of the new road & make the route safer by restricting excessive traffic speed. This alternative, although included in the E.I.S., has been dismissed by a fatuous argument over a very slightly longer distance for the alternative route. So called calculations purport to show an extra fuel usage, which can only be miniscule.

We strongly object to the continual eating into the states wetlands & the attempts particularly by Ballina Shire Council to justify this. They are ignorant of the value of wetlands, blind to any attempt to understand them & savage in their treatment

of them. In view of Ballina Council's history of wetland destruction & their stated determination to do all in their power to defeat SEPP 14, one can only see this present proposal as a deliberate part of that policy.

Jim

You may want to add to this if you think its appropriate.

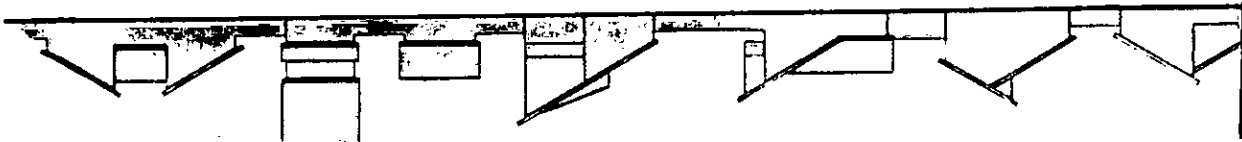
See you at COAs on the 17 Feb

Cheers

Hugh

DIRECTOR HUGH WEBSTER ARIBA APNGIA MANAGER NOEL OLIVER N.Z.E.I.C. A.M.N.Z.I.O. BOX 1741 BOROHO. P.N.G. TEL.

MELANESIAN SCHOOL OF BUILDING



W 1c



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

HEAD OFFICE
G.P.O. Box 636
Canberra, A.C.T. 2601
Construction House
217 Northbourne Avenue
Turner A.C.T. 2601
Phone (062) 46 6211
Vocadex (062) 47 3528 Telex AA62971

DARWIN OFFICE
P.O. Box 1260
Darwin, N.T. 0800
Ground Floor, Commercial Union Building,
Smith Street, Darwin, N.T. 0801
Phone (089) 81 5299
Vocadex (089) 81 3497 Telex AA85130

Our ref:

Your ref: 290/102

Mr J Farrar
President
Fingal Reafforestation Group
24 Lagoon Road
FINGAL HEAD NSW 2487

Dear Mr Farrar

The Minister has asked me to reply to your recent letter providing further information about the proposed Fingal Head Nature Reserve.

As Dr Bridgewater pointed out, the Minister has written to the New South Wales Minister for the Environment, the Hon. T. Moore MLA, seeking an assurance that the habitat of Cryptocarya foetida at Fingal Head be given adequate protection. A reply has not yet been received.

Protection of wildlife and their habitats is primarily the responsibility of State and Territory governments, so your concerns should be addressed to the New South Wales Minister for the Environment. Migratory waders are included in annexes to the Japan-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (JAMBA) and the China-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (CAMBA). Many species are covered by the provisions of those agreements. CAMBA came into force in Australia and in the People's Republic of China on 1 September 1988.

JAMBA and CAMBA do not oblige Australia to protect particular areas. Rather they provide a framework within which each country gives an overall commitment to the protection of migratory birds and their habitats. Obligations under the agreements are implemented through legislation and administrative arrangements already in force in the States and Territories, with coordination being effected through the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers (CONCOM).

Similarly, Australian obligations under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) are implemented through legislation and administrative arrangements already in force in the States and the Territories, with coordination again being effected through the CONCOM. Article 2(1) of the Convention establishes the List of Wetlands of International Importance. Each contracting party is able to designate suitable wetlands for inclusion on the List, and currently there are 29 Australian wetlands listed, including 2 sites in New South Wales, Towra Point and Kooragang Nature Reserves.

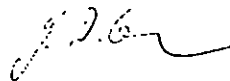
CONCOM has determined that nomination of wetlands for inclusion on the List should be the responsibility of the relevant State or Territory government. The practice with past nominations has been that assessments of the wetlands against the official criteria are carried out by relevant State or Territory nature conservation authorities. Results of those assessments, together with details of boundaries, land tenure, etc., are provided to the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service for preparation of the formal nomination documents. These documents are then cleared by State or Territory authorities before being submitted to the Convention Secretariat.

It is possible that areas at Fingal Head may be of national significance as wetland ecosystems. The Fingal Reafforestation Group may wish to approach the New South Wales Minister for Environment, the Hon T. Moore, MLA, requesting that he give consideration to proposing any such areas for listing under the Ramsar Convention in recognition of their importance as habitat for migratory waders.

With regard to your request for material related to the economic and tourism benefits of nature reserves, the enclosed publication may be of use. You might also like to obtain a copy of: 'An Economic Evaluation of National Parks' A.M. Ulph and I.K. Reynolds. Australian National University Centre for Environmental Studies, 1980.

The Commonwealth Government recognises the importance of wetlands and littoral rainforest and views with concern any proposal likely to damage or destroy important wetland or rainforest habitat.

Yours sincerely



Professor J. D. Ovington
Director

10/2/89

Wic

16/1/89

Executive Officer,
NSW Association of Professional Fishermen,
C/- Post Office,
Crowdy Head, 2427.

Dear Bob,

I trust I am addresssing Bob Lamb who I had the pleasure of meeting in 1986 when he came to discuss wetlands at our conference in September.

The enclosed papers from the Queensland Fishermen will I'm sure make interesting reading. Has the NSW Association any such committee as described in these papers, to monitor development proposals in wetlands? Could you send me their address please?

If there is no such Committee is the Association likely to consider the formation of such a group?

With the present rush for tourism development along the North Coast unless wetlands are protected the visitors as well as the professional fishermen won't have many fish to catch.

Incidently did you have a copy of that paper you delivered to the conference available? We'd very much appreciate a copy.

Yours sincerely,

James L.O. Tedder,
Hon. Sec.



Dear Mr. Tedder,

Please find attached the Minister's interim
reply to representations made on your behalf.

Forwarded with the Compliments of

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'P. J. G.' or similar, written over a horizontal line.

M.P.



NEW SOUTH WALES

MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

W1a
23-33 BRIDGE STREET
SYDNEY 2000

8 DEC 1988

W. 861

Mr. P. Rogan, M.P.,
Member For East Hills,
Electorate Office,
Suite 5, 1 Faraday Road,
PADSTOW. 2211. 210.

Dear Mr. Rogan,

I refer to your personal representations on behalf of Mr. Tedder of the North Coast Environment Council concerning his need to remove Warrell Creek weir in the Nambucca Shire.

I shall be in touch with you again regarding this matter as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ian Causley".

IAN CAUSLEY,
MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES.



1974-1975
1976-1977

NEW YORK STATE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Wetlands

Coap beach / access

Point on Manhattan
Grand Central

State of the Environment

INTERIM NEWSLETTER FROM THE
NEW SOUTH WALES MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
TIM MOORE M.P.

DECEMBER, 1988

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS PAPER -

LORD HOWE ISLAND

A management options paper for Lord Howe Island, one of the three World Heritage listed areas in New South Wales, has been prepared for public comment and discussion. A copy of the options paper is attached and comment is invited as set out in the preamble to the paper.

Significant future management decisions need to be taken for Lord Howe Island - particularly dealing with such issues as effluent disposal - because of the contamination of the groundwater on the Island which has occurred due to failure to address these issues over past years.

One of the early decisions of the Premier, Mr Greiner, on my recommendation, was to transfer the administration of the Lord Howe Island Board to the National Parks and Wildlife Service for integration of its management on an environmentally oriented basis. Publication of the options paper represents the first detailed and significant step in this process.

As I believe that this general issue should not be party political, visits to the Island have been arranged by me for the Hon. Elisabeth Kirkby, M.L.C., Parliamentary Leader of the Australian Democrats, and the (then) Shadow Minister for the Environment, Mr Pat Rogan, M.P. Mr Rogan was accompanied on his visit by Ms Sandra Nori, M.P., Member for the McKell electorate, the inner city A.L.P. electorate within the boundaries of which Lord Howe Island is located for electoral purposes. It will remain my intention to continue to pursue this matter on a bipartisan basis.

WETLANDS POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Attached is a leaflet on the study for the evolution of a State wetlands policy for New South Wales.

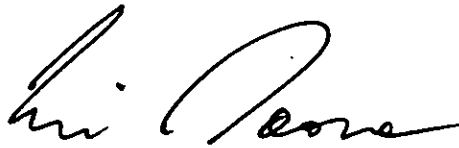
The study was commissioned by my National Party Ministerial colleague, the Hon. Ian Causley, M.P., Minister for Natural Resources, and me in mid-1988. The study has been jointly funded by the Department of Water Resources under Mr Causley's administration and by the Sydney Water Board which is under my administration.

Specific case studies are provided for in the overall framework dealing with wetlands in the Hunter and Sydney regions and in inland New South Wales. These will assist in the development of a practical framework for co-ordinating Government activities and formulating management strategies for each class of wetlands.

The process has involved full consultation with relevant Government agencies, local government, landholders, interest groups and the community as an essential strand of development of the policy and will be essential in the determination of action plans for the management of individual wetlands.

The State wetlands policy will be designed to co-ordinate both land and water management policies and provide for the protective management of the State's valuable wetland resources.

When the study was announced, Mr Causley and I emphasised that the Greiner Government is committed to ensuring a balance between economic development and the protection of wetlands. We are confident that the measures associated with the wetlands study and policies evolved from it will ensure that the best possible balance is achieved between the protection of wetlands, activities which affect them and the needs of users.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Moore', with a stylized, flowing script.

TIM MOORE,
Minister for the
Environment

Wic

25/9/88

The Regional Director,
Dep. of Agriculture & Fisheries,
Bruxner Highway,
Wollongbar, 2480

Dear Sir,

In 15th June 1988 Court action was initiated against a Mr Fitzgerald for damage to Wetland 383 at Newee Creek Macksville. The Court did not record a conviction nor did it make any order for restitution of the area.

Earlier in 1988 David Brown Corp. of Pottsville were prosecuted under the E.P. & A. Act for illegal clearing of some 40ha. of wetland. Again the Court failed to impose a fine, order restitution or even order the company to pay Tweed Council's court costs.

Do you have any plans to ensure that wetlands that directly come under your control e.g. mangroves, that are damaged, are restituted to as near a state as possible as the original?

If the two Court actions to date are indicative of the lack of enforceable protection to the wetlands are you satisfied that wetlands are being protected?

If not, what actions are you proposing to ensure that these areas of such importance to the fishing industry are given adequate protection and restitution if damaged?.

If the Act is inadequate have you made any recommendations to Government to ensure that wetlands receive protection?

Yours faithfully,

James L.O. Tedder,
Hon. Sec.



Farmers opposing the wetlands policy attended the seminar in Kempsey on Thursday (from left) Fred Thurgood, Lloyd Davis, Alick Thurgood, Ken Baker, Cr Jim Tedd and Garry Scott.

Farmers blame 'bully boys' for 'land grab'

Mid North Coast farmers have harshly criticised the new coastal wetlands policy.

They were speaking at a seminar in Kempsey on Tuesday called by the Kempsey Shire Council in an attempt to alleviate some of the confusion created by the policy.

A panel of four senior officers from the Department of Environment and Planning faced a series of questions from representatives of farmers, environmentalists and local councils, many of them critical of the policy.

Mr Bob Franks, of the Nambucca branch of the NSW Farmers Association, described it as another "land grabbing exercise" by the State Government which could never be enforced. "Until the Government can decide it has enough resources to manage the land these draconian policies should be set aside," he said.

Bankruptcy

"How much land do these fellows want? Government agencies already control 60 per cent of our shire and they want more."

Mr Rick Lancaster, representing the

Kempsey branch of the NSW Farmers Association, predicted the policy would create bankruptcy among farmers owning land now designated as wetlands.

"Farmers are not necessarily against a policy to protect wetlands provided the boundaries surround genuine wetlands, which is not the case at the moment."

He attacked conservationists for lobbying for the creation of the policy without taking into account the effect it would have on farmers.

"I am sick and tired of conservationists dictating Government policy. If this is fully enforced it will lead to bankruptcy; we've heard nothing from the environmental lobby on the effects of this policy on people. Environmentalists are becoming the bully boys of the 1980s."

"This policy has been produced with no input from the rural sector, which has the most

to lose by it. It is significant that this seminar was called by the farmers and the council, not by the environmental lobby which has had so much to say."

To loud applause from the predominantly rural gallery, Mr Lancaster said the involvement of conservationists in the policy was "like leaving Dracula in charge of the blood bank."

Mr Lancaster said it appeared the Minister for Planning had deliberately made the policy as one of "confrontation rather than consultation."

He later asked the panel why farmers had not been notified that they were affected by the wetlands policy; told of their rights and informed of the implications of having their land zoned wetlands.

Mr Colin Jones, a Grafton-based specialist officer with the DEP, said planning practice was that people were not directly notified of zoning changes and the same applied to the wetlands policy.

"There was publicity given to the new policy when it was released; anything further was left to individual councils. Some councils opted to advertise that the policy applied to certain areas of the shire and that people could view the maps at their offices."

Mr Lancaster also asked whether any person or group, employed or self-employed in the conservation and environment industries, had input into the wetlands policy.

Mr Neil Urwin, a DEP specialist officer based in Sydney, told the seminar that his department was not a conservationist group telling the Government what to do. Rather, it was a Government agency carrying out the laws of the land and was subject to those laws.

"It is quite obvious that the Government wasn't lobbied by farming groups to bring in the wetlands policy. The Government has been lobbied by conservation groups on any number of issues."

"The way the policy was brought in is history: once the Government directed that the policy be prepared, no person in the conservation industry had any part in the framing of the law."

The regional manager of the Department of Environment and Planning, Mr Rod Nichols, told the seminar in his opening address that there had been a great deal of support for the objectives of the policy.

Introduced in December, 1985, and subsequently amended last month, he said the policy was designed to protect a valuable part of the environment which was gradually being destroyed.

He said the new policy did not prevent landholders from continuing to use wetlands if they were doing so before the policy applied.



'Irrational emotion' in wetlands comments

The Kempsey Shire Council is to be congratulated for organising the seminar on wetlands and for the orderly way it was chaired by the president.

Reasoned debate is far preferable to confrontation or a "them and us" stance and the north coast environment council welcomes dialogue with anyone wishing it.

Unfortunately, Mr Rick Lancaster could not refrain from an emotional and irrational attack upon people concerned about conserving Australia's unique flora and fauna.

The North Coast Environment Council organised a seminar on wetlands on September 28, 1986. Farmers, fisherman, councillors and conservationists attended but not Mr Lancaster. This conference sought to exchange viewpoints on the wetland issue to avoid the confrontation he is now attempting to create.

At the Kempsey seminar the DEP regional manager, Mr Rod Nicholls, repeatedly stated that very few farmers would be affected by the wetland policy provided they continued existing use and didn't seek to develop or change the use.

It appears that farmers are being manipulated by a few land speculators for their own purposes. If you buy a wetland it is assumed you do so with full knowledge that it is wetland and not necessarily first class pasture. The community should not be expected to bear the cost if the wetlands are destroyed by converting them into building lots or draining to run more cattle.

Good drought refuge land has been degraded by drainage. It is well documented the value that wetlands have for the fishing industry with 70 per cent of the commercial fish caught dependent on wetlands at some stage of their life. Destructions of wetlands in Florida USA resulted in a 50 per cent decline in fish caught.

Mr Lancaster will be familiar with the drop in fish caught at the Golden Hole after the Yarrahapinni headworks and drainage works were carried out.

The traditional view that farmers should be allowed to do what they like on their own land cannot be supported.

The rest of the community are subject to planning, environmental, health and building regulations and so should the farmers. Even the impact from one landholder on the total community can be enormous. Farms have been subject to restrictions since the 1912 Water Act and there are others, such as the Soil Conservation Act, which limit farmers rights on land.

The environmental movement seeks by use of rational debate and submissions based on informed research to put the case for the protection of wetlands.

We agree that SEPP 14 was not ideal in its mapping or implementation and required amendments, however, the objective of the policy cannot be disputed.

Terry Parkhouse,
President North Coast
Environment Council,
Grassy Head Road,
Grassy Head.

On The Farm

On The Farm Front

The reported removal of 72 hectares of Bond Corporation land from the Government's wetland policy must surely go a long way towards undermining the credibility of that policy i.e. S.E.P.P. 14.

No doubt there will be a procession of effected wetland owners trouting up to Ocean Shores to compare their wetland with Mr Bond's.

If the TV accurately reported the area involved, then the land taken out was a coastal tea-tree swamp, typical of areas included within the wetland policy.

Surely the Minister cannot now refuse to re-open the wetland issue to allow the public and landowners to review and comment on the policy.

The wetlands policy was initially introduced without allowing for public comment or scrutiny. The consequence of this is that many of the boundaries are incorrect, even after the release of their recent amended plan.

Many of us now wonder if the reason that the boundaries were partly amended was to avoid being criticised for letting Bond Corporation alone out of the policy.

The Government still has a lot of amending to do.

—oOo—

This whole episode also highlights the growing concern that we may be seeing a acceleration of power and resources being placed into the hands of Big Government, Big Unions and those in Big Business prepared to sell themselves out to anyone.

As power and wealth becomes concentrated into the above big three, the rights of individual citizens and landowners become eroded.



by Rick Lancaster

The unions have even come out with their version of how Australia should be run during the next 10 years — since the Labor Party is only the political wing of the unions, the unions can pull the politicians into line when they like. The result could well be that the Government will bow to the bulk of the union demands.

Within a democratic country it is not only important that governments be as fair as possible, but be seen to be fair and not favouring their "friends". Otherwise, government policy and laws lose credibility and this can de-stabilise a society.

Some landowners have already indicated that if the government is not prepared to be fair with the wetland issue they are prepared to break the law in an organised fashion. Mr Carr could finish up with a jail full of farmers.

Teaching the basics

Farmers blame 'bully boys' for 'land grab'

Mid North Coast farmers have harshly criticised the new coastal wetlands policy.

They were speaking at a seminar in Kempsey on Tuesday called by the Kempsey Shire Council in an attempt to alleviate some

Garry Nehl declared the victor

Divisional returning officer Mr Allan Wilcox officially declared Mr Garry Nehl elected on Friday.

Mr Wilcox's figures showed that 68,177 — or 93.54 per cent — of Cowper's 72,878 enrolled electors had voted.

A relatively high 1929 (2.87 per cent) voted informally.

Only one candidate, independent, Mr Max Austin, will lose his \$250 deposit, after failing to receive four per cent of the vote.

Mr Nehl (National Party) polled 33,328 votes (50.3 per cent) to retain his seat.

ALP candidate, Mr John Murphy, polled 23,393 (35.31 per cent).

Australian Democrat, Dorothy Thompson, polled 4,122 (6.23 per cent), while Independent, David Rees, polled 4273 (6.45 per cent).

Mr Nehl congratulated Mr Wilcox on the work of the electoral commission staff.

He said the work was even more difficult when an early election was called.

He was pleased at the confidence in him which had allowed him to retain the seat and would work to do the same again in three years time — or, possibly, sooner.

HELP LEGACY
all the year round

of the confusion created by the policy.

A panel of four senior officers from the Department of Environment and Planning faced a series of questions from representatives of farmers, environmentalists and local councils, many of them critical of the policy.

Mr Bob Franks, of the Nambucca branch of the NSW Farmers Association, described it as another "land grabbing exercise" by the State Government which could never be enforced.

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"I am sick and tired of conservationists dictating Government policy. If this is fully enforced it will lead to bankruptcy; we've heard nothing from the environmental lobby on the effects of this policy on people. Environmentalists are becoming the bully boys of the 1980s."

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Introduced in December, 1985, and subsequently amended last month, he said the policy was designed to protect a valuable part of the environment which was gradually being destroyed.

He said the new policy did not prevent landholders from continuing to use wetlands if they were doing so before the policy applied.

What farmers can and cannot do

The coastal wetlands policy (State Environmental Planning Policy No 14) was introduced by the State Government in 1985 to preserve and protect coastal wetlands in NSW.

In a brochure produced by the Department of Environment and Planning, mangroves, saltmarshes, melaleuca forests, casuarina forests, sedgelands, wet meadows, brackish swamps and freshwater swamps are listed as wetland vegetation protected by the policy.

SEPP 14 applies to about 1100 wetlands which were identified in a survey covering most of the NSW coast extending up to 35 kilometres inland.

Developments in the mapped areas where SEPP 14 applies which involve clearing, draining, filling or levee construction must receive approval by the local council and the Department of Environment and Planning. This usually entails the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The policy does not prevent landholders from continuing to use wetlands if they were doing so before the policy applied.

However, this existing use right does not entitle a landholder to alter, extend or rebuild a building or work, to enlarge, expand or intensify a use, or to increase the area of land used for a particular purpose.

The policy was amended last month to remove anomalies from the wetland maps and clarify certain aspects of the policy.

OPTOMETRIST
MR S. A. MASON

Next visit to Macksville

Today Wednesday

Wallace Arcade

From 9am to 5pm

By appointment only

THE EDITOR.

THE MALLEY ARBUS.

PO BOX 109

KEMPSEY 2440.

GRASSY HEAD RD.

GRASSY HEAD

VIA STUARTS POINT

N.S.W 2441

PHONE 690771

30.7.87.

DEAR SIR,

THE KEMPSEY SHIRE COUNCIL IS TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR ORGANISING THE SEMINAR ON WETLANDS AND FOR THE ORDERLY WAY IT WAS CHAIRED BY THE PRESIDENT. REASONED DEBATE IS FAR PREFERABLE TO CONFRONTATION OR A THEM & US STANCE AND THE NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL WELCOMES DIALOGUE WITH ANYONE WISHING IT.

UNFORTUNATELY MR RICK LANCASTER COULD NOT REFRAIN FROM AN EMOTIONAL AND IRRATIONAL ATTACK UPON PEOPLE CONCERNED ABOUT CONSERVING AUSTRALIA'S UNIQUE FLORA AND FAUNA. THE NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL ORGANISED A SEMINAR ON WETLANDS ON 28TH SEPTEMBER 1986. FARMERS, FISHERMAN, COUNCILLORS AND CONSERVATIONISTS ATTENDED BUT NOT MR LANCASTER. THIS CONFERENCE SOUGHT TO EXCHANGE VIEWPOINTS ON THE WETLAND ISSUE TO AVOID THE CONFRONTATION HE IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO CREATE.

AT THE KEMPSEY SEMINAR THE D.E.P. REGIONAL MANAGER MR ROD NICHOLLS REPEATEDLY STATED THAT VERY FEW FARMERS WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE WETLAND POLICY PROVIDED THEY CONTINUED EXISTING USE AND DIDN'T SEEK TO DEVELOP OR CHANGE THE USE. IF APPEARS THAT FARMERS ARE BEING MANIPULATED BY A FEW LAND SPECULATORS FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES. IF YOU BUY A WETLAND IT IS ASSUMED YOU DO SO WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE THAT IT IS WETLAND AND NOT NECESSARILY FIRST CLASS PASTURE. THE COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO BEAR THE COST IF THE WETLANDS ARE DESTROYED BY CONVERTING THEM INTO BUILDING LOTS OR DRAINING TO RUN MORE CATTLE. GOOD DROUGHT REFUGE LAND HAS BEEN DEGRADED BY DRAINAGE. IT IS WELL DOCUMENTED THE VALUE THAT WETLANDS HAVE FOR THE FISHING INDUSTRY WITH 70% OF THE COMMERCIAL FISH CAUGHT DEPENDANT ON WETLANDS AT SOME STAGE OF THEIR LIFE. DESTRUCTIONS OF WETLANDS IN FLORIDA U.S.A RESULTED IN A 50% DECLINE IN FISH CAUGHT. MR LANCASTER WILL BE FAMILIAR WITH THE DROP IN FISH CAUGHT AT THE GOLDEN HOLE AFTER THE YARRAHAPINNI HEADWORKS AND DRAINAGE WORKS WERE CARRIED OUT.

SEE OVER.

THE TRADITIONAL VIEW THAT FARMERS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DO WHAT THEY LIKE ON THEIR OWN LAND CANNOT BE SUPPORTED. THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY ARE SUBJECT TO PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND BUILDING REGULATIONS AND SO SHOULD THE FARMERS. EVEN THE IMPACT FROM ONE LANDHOLDER ON THE TOTAL COMMUNITY CAN BE ENORMOUS. FARMS HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS SINCE THE RIZ WATER ACT AND THERE ARE OTHERS SUCH AS THE SOIL CONSERVATION ACT WHICH LIMIT FARMERS RIGHTS ON LAND. THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT SEEKS BY USE OF RATIONAL DEBATE AND SUBMISSIONS BASED ON INFORMED RESEARCH TO PUT THE CASE FOR THE PROTECTION OF WETLANDS. WE AGREE THAT S.E.P.P. 14. WAS NOT IDEAL IN ITS MAPPING OR IMPLEMENTATION AND REQUIRED AMENDMENTS, HOWEVER, THE OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY CANNOT BE DISPUTED.

TERRY PARKHOUSE

PRESIDENT NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Terry Parkhouse.

Council 'asked to do Govt's work'

Mackay Argus 26 May 1987

A Kempsey Shire councillor claimed yesterday that a move by the Minister for Planning and Environment to have wetlands included in local planning was an attempt to have the council do the work on the ground the Government had not done.

Cr Patricia Riggs said the minister, Mr Carr had based his wetland zones on aerial photographs.

She said: "They did nothing on the ground. Now they want us to be walking for them."

Yesterday's council meeting was told that the minister had asked the Kempsey Shire Council to prepare an amending local environment plan to zone as "Zone 7(a) Environmental Protection (Wetlands)" all lands which were the subject of the State Environmental Planning Policy No 14 order.

The chief town planner, Mr Lloyd Nolan, said the wetlands policy had been gazetted in December, 1985, without having been exhibited in draft form for public comment.

It had not been exhibited for comment since its gazettal.

Mr Nolan said: "My interpretation of the minister's request is that he is seeking the council to validate his action in gazetting SEPP14, and allow a public participation process that is in effect a charade, as there is no guarantee that the minister will agree to any changes in the delineation of wetland zones, or alter the SEPP accordingly."

Mr Nolan said that if the council went ahead with a detailed study of coastal wetlands in its area, it would face considerable cost.

It had no access to the studies or assessment reports which persuaded the minister to designate the lands concerned as wetlands.

Cr Judy Evill: They have definitely left out some wetlands and have put in others which are not wetlands.

Cr Kevin Ball: They have clearly wrongly identified wetland areas. They are tying up private land without paying any compensation.

The shire president, Cr Stuart McIntyre: They should have done the work associated with this zoning. There is no reason why we should have to spend money to do it for them.

The council adopted a recommendation by the chief town planner that it inform Mr Carr that it will consider the wetlands zoning request in conjunction with its 1988 estimates.

In the meantime, it will put a series of questions on wetlands policy to a panel of Department of Planning and Environment officers, due to attend a seminar on wetlands in Kempsey later this year.



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

W29
85/856

S Y D N E Y,

17 APR 1986

Mr. J. L. O. Tedder,
Hon. Secretary,
North Coast Environmental Council,
Pavans Road,
Grassy Head,
VIA STUARTS POINT NSW 2441 95.

Dear Mr. Tedder,

I refer to the Council's letter of 3rd February, 1986 concerning proposed developments on coastal wetlands at Harrington, Lower Nambucca and Scotts Head.

The draft Harrington and Nambucca local environmental plans have been processed by the Greater Taree City and Nambucca Shire Councils respectively, and forwarded to the Department of Environment and Planning for preparation of reports as required by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979. These reports are to be submitted to me in the near future and will deal with the issues raised by your Council, particularly wetlands conservation.

Concerning the draft local environmental plan for Scotts Head, this plan and an accompanying study have been publicly exhibited. I understand that the Nambucca Shire Council conducted a hearing to enable those persons who lodged submissions to make presentations to the Council. Should the Council decide to proceed with the proposal the draft local environmental plan will be submitted to the Department for my consideration.

In regard to the canal subdivision at Harrington, your Council may be aware that developments of this type are subject to a direction pursuant to section 101 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 which I issued on 14th November, 1985. This direction requires that all private applications to carry out development for the purposes of canals or other artificial waterways must be referred to me for my determination.

Consequently, the final decision with respect to the rezonings and canal subdivision rests with me. The Council may be assured that, if and when these matters are submitted to me, I will consider all the issues involved before making any decision. In the interim I can only suggest that your Council convey its concerns to the two local Councils.

Yours sincerely,

BOB CARR

NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL INC

C/- P Wrightson
P.O. Box 91
Maclean 2463

DRAFT BUDGET 1996/97

	Budget 1995/96	Actual 1995/96	Budget 1996/97	
<u>INCOME</u>				
Federal grants	10,188	10,188	10,200	
Subscriptions	900	1,040	1,100	
Publications	20	8	-	
Interest	450	532	500	
Conferences	50	-	-	
Donations	200	7	1,000	
PDA fees	350	217	250	
Fee/Sundries	10	165	150	
	<u>12,168</u>	<u>12,157</u>	<u>13,200</u>	
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
Post/stat	1,200	266	1,200	[800 + 400]
Phone/fax	1,250	815	2,000	[1400 + 600]
Photocopying	600	298	750	[600 + 150]
Insurance	405	405	420	
Subscriptions	150	165	200	
Maint. Equip.	150	115	150	
Incorporation	30	30	30	
Travel Exp.	800	80	400	
Meeting Exp.	150	95	150	
Contingencies	300		300	
Legal Exp.	4,000	3,025	4,300	[4000 + 300]
Conferences	500	20	500	
Publications	300	879	600	
Capital Exp.	200	311	2,500	
PD Account costs	300	375	300	
Consultants	1,800	800	1,900	
Clipping service	-		1,200	
Miscellaneous		399		
	<u>12,135</u>	<u>8,122</u>	<u>16,800</u>	

NOTE: Because some accounts were not received before June 30 expenditure last year appeared lower than it was in reality. Unpaid amounts have been carried forward and the budget items increased to accommodate this. The square bracked amounts reflect this.

The final break up of the budget "bottom line" is:

General expenditure: 13,150
Carried forward 95/6: 1,450
Capital investment: 2,500 (New computer funded from reserves)

W12 = Water Policy / Admin

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
1. 1000	1000	1.00	1000.00
2. 500	500	2.00	1000.00
3. 250	250	4.00	1000.00
4. 125	125	8.00	1000.00
5. 62.5	62.5	16.00	1000.00
6. 31.25	31.25	32.00	1000.00
7. 15.625	15.625	64.00	1000.00
8. 7.8125	7.8125	128.00	1000.00
9. 3.90625	3.90625	256.00	1000.00
10. 1.953125	1.953125	512.00	1000.00
11. 0.9765625	0.9765625	1024.00	1000.00
12. 0.48828125	0.48828125	2048.00	1000.00
13. 0.244140625	0.244140625	4096.00	1000.00
14. 0.1220703125	0.1220703125	8192.00	1000.00
15. 0.06103515625	0.06103515625	16384.00	1000.00
16. 0.030517578125	0.030517578125	32768.00	1000.00
17. 0.0152587890625	0.0152587890625	65536.00	1000.00
18. 0.00762939453125	0.00762939453125	131072.00	1000.00
19. 0.003814697265625	0.003814697265625	262144.00	1000.00
20. 0.0019073486328125	0.0019073486328125	524288.00	1000.00
21. 0.00095367431640625	0.00095367431640625	1048576.00	1000.00
22. 0.000476837158203125	0.000476837158203125	2097152.00	1000.00
23. 0.0002384185791015625	0.0002384185791015625	4194304.00	1000.00
24. 0.00011920928955078125	0.00011920928955078125	8388608.00	1000.00
25. 0.000059604644775390625	0.000059604644775390625	16777216.00	1000.00
26. 0.0000298023223876953125	0.0000298023223876953125	33554432.00	1000.00
27. 0.00001490116119384765625	0.00001490116119384765625	67108864.00	1000.00
28. 0.000007450580596923828125	0.000007450580596923828125	134217728.00	1000.00
29. 0.0000037252902984619140625	0.0000037252902984619140625	268435456.00	1000.00
30. 0.00000186264514923095703125	0.00000186264514923095703125	536870912.00	1000.00
31. 0.000000931322574615478515625	0.000000931322574615478515625	1073741824.00	1000.00
32. 0.0000004656612873077392578125	0.0000004656612873077392578125	2147483648.00	1000.00
33. 0.00000023283064365386962890625	0.00000023283064365386962890625	4294967296.00	1000.00
34. 0.000000116415321826934814453125	0.000000116415321826934814453125	8589934592.00	1000.00
35. 0.0000000582076609134674072265625	0.0000000582076609134674072265625	17179869184.00	1000.00
36. 0.00000002910383045673370361328125	0.00000002910383045673370361328125	34359738368.00	1000.00
37. 0.000000014551915228366851806640625	0.000000014551915228366851806640625	68719476736.00	1000.00
38. 0.0000000072759576141834259033203125	0.0000000072759576141834259033203125	137438953472.00	1000.00
39. 0.00000000363797880709171295166015625	0.00000000363797880709171295166015625	274877906944.00	1000.00
40. 0.000000001818989403545856475830078125	0.000000001818989403545856475830078125	549755813888.00	1000.00
41. 0.0000000009094947017729282379150390625	0.0000000009094947017729282379150390625	1099511627776.00	1000.00
42. 0.00000000045474735088646411895751953125	0.00000000045474735088646411895751953125	2199023255552.00	1000.00
43. 0.000000000227373675443232059478759765625	0.000000000227373675443232059478759765625	4398046511104.00	1000.00
44. 0.0000000001136868377216160297393798828125	0.0000000001136868		

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DEPARTMENT OF LAND & WATER CONSERVATION
 formerly Department of Conservation & Land Management
 and Department of Water Resources



North Coast Environment Council
 PO Box 152
 Bellingen NSW 2454

DX: 28360 Parramatta
 Facsimile: (02) 895 7281
 Telephone: (02) 895 6211
 Ext: 7865
 Contact Name: W. Hawkins
 [ALLORGS]
 Our Reference:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to invite you or a representative of your organisation along to one of the next **NORTH COAST WATER - NORTH COAST FUTURE** workshops.

These workshops follow on from the issues workshops held last year and reported on in *The Community's Concerns About Water*. The workshops aim to produce an action plan that is an effective response to the issues raised and has community support.

Our mailing list indicates that you have an interest in the whole region; consequently the full workshop program is provided so that you can choose which workshop is most convenient or relevant.

CATCHMENT	DATE	DAY	RSVP DATE	PLACE	TIMES
Tweed	15 August	Tues	1 August	Murwillumbah Civic Centre	4pm-9.30pm
Brunswick	17 August	Thurs	1 August	Byron Bay Surf Club	9am-4pm
Hastings/Camden Haven	4 September	Mon	21 August	Wauchope Country Club	10am-5pm
Macleay	5 September	Tues	21 August	Kempsey-Macleay RSL Club	9am-4pm
Nambucca	6 September	Wed	21 August	Macksville Senior Citizens Centre	9am-4pm
Clarence	12 September	Tues	29 August	South Grafton RSL Club	9am-4pm
Bellinger	13 September	Wed	29 August	Urunga Golf Club	9am-4pm
Coffs Harbour	14 September	Thurs	29 August	Coffs Harbour Catholic Club	9am-4pm

The workshop will follow a small group format with a facilitator to assist each group set objectives and develop actions for an issue from the report. There will, however be opportunity to provide input on all the issues discussed on the day.

The actions developed at the workshop will be passed back to the relevant Catchment Management Committee for their consideration.

In addition the actions will be the basis of a draft water management strategy for the region. The draft regional water management strategy will be the focus of discussions with government agencies, local government and the community for implementation.

Prior to the workshop, participants will be provided with material prepared by government agencies on their respective responsibilities and programs to help participants to develop informed actions. Any additional questions you have can be passed on to the relevant authority or experts and we will endeavour to provide the answers before the workshop.

To help us with catering please RSVP by the date indicated above by calling William Hawkins on (02) 895 7865 or Brian Dodd on (066) 42 7799. When you call you may like to nominate the issue/s of most interest.

I look forward to seeing you at the workshop.

Yours faithfully

Project Manager

14/7/95

DEPARTMENT OF LAND & WATER CONSERVATION
formerly Department of Conservation & Land Management
and Department of Water Resources



North Coast Environmental Council
Jim Tedder (Secretary)
Pavans Access
Grassy Head NSW 2441

DX: 28360 Parramatta
Facsimile: (02) 895 7281
Telephone: (02) 895 6211
Ext: 7865
Contact Name: W. Hawkins
Our Reference: [HASTORG]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to invite you or a representative of your organisation along to one of the next **NORTH COAST WATER - NORTH COAST FUTURE** workshops. These workshops follow on from the issues workshops held last year and reported on in *The Community's Concerns About Water*.

At these coming workshops the aim is to produce an action plan for water management in each catchment in response to the issues raised at last years workshops.

The Hastings/ Camden Haven Catchment Management Committee have put forward your organisation's name as one having an interest in water issues, reflecting community views and able to contribute to developing an effective strategy plan that will have community support.

The workshop is:

on **Monday 4 September**
at **Wauchope Country Club**
from **10am to 5 pm**

The workshop will follow a small group format with a facilitator to assist each group. Each group will be asked to focus on one of the issues in *The Community's Concerns About Water*. There will, however be opportunity to provide input on all the issues discussed on the day.

The actions developed at the workshop will be passed back to the Catchment Management Committee for consideration. In addition the actions will form the basis for the development of a draft regional water management strategy. The draft regional water management strategy will be the focus of discussions with government agencies, local government and the community for implementation.

Prior to the workshop participants will be provided with material prepared by government agencies on their respective responsibilities and programs to help participants to develop informed actions. Any additional questions you have can be passed on to the relevant authority or experts and we will endeavour to provide the answers before the workshop.

To help us with catering please RSVP by Monday 21 August by calling William Hawkins on (02) 895 7865 or Brian Dodd on (066) 42 7799. You may like to nominate the issue you are most interested in and any information you would like on issues.

I look forward to seeing you at the workshop.

Yours faithfully



North Coast Water - North Coast Future
Project Manager

7/7/91

Wia

TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC.

SHOP 1, GLOUCESTER WALK, 88 CUMBERLAND STREET, SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000
Phones (02) 247 4714 - (02) 247 8478 Fax (02) 247 7118



ACF

Australian Conservation Foundation (A.R.B.N.007 498 482)
33 George Street Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone: (02) 247 4285 Fax: (02) 247 1206

MEDIA RELEASE

2 DECEMBER 1994 - EMBARGO 7AM

WATER BOARD CORPORATISATION LEADS TO GREENER FUTURE

Conservationists today welcomed new proposals for the corporatisation legislation of the Water Board. They called on all MPs to support the proposals and pass the Bill this week.

"This is a quality product which has the potential to deliver a better environment for Sydney and its aquatic environment. The Government and the Independents have been creative and far sighted in sponsoring the long running negotiations that have led to the new Bill," said Jeff Angel CoDirector of Total Environment Centre.

"This is groundbreaking legislation, amongst the best in the world. When completed it will set a world precedent for water management," said Tony Simpson of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

"The Bill will now prevent privatisation and ensure that the public and Parliament have the ultimate control over the future of our water resources. There are significant public disclosure and auditing provisions."

"The amendments very largely satisfy the concerns of the coalition of environment, welfare and consumer groups. In particular social, environmental and commercial objectives of the Corporation are equal. This prevents a distortion of water management for commercial reasons.

"We are optimistic that vital third party rights will be included in the bill that will allow the public to hold the new Water Board accountable to the legislation passed by this parliament.

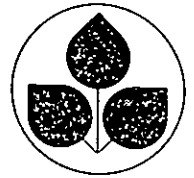
"Each year an independent Licence Regulator will carry out an environmental and customer audit, with public involvement. In addition there is a new program of pollution reduction for toxic chemicals and adoption of the ultimate aim of ending sewage discharges to the ocean and rivers.

"The legislation has the potential to deliver a greater level of ecological sustainability in Sydney's water cycle. There should be more water conserved and less water pollution. We will be watching the implementation of the legislation closely," they concluded.

Further Information: Jeff Angel (02) 247 4714
Tony Simpson (02) 247 4285/ 211 5984 (ah)
mobile 015 704095

ACF

Australian Conservation Foundation (ABRN 007 498 482)
33 George Street Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone: (02) 247 4285 Fax: (02) 247 1206



1 December 1994

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

Conflicting messages on Woodchips

"The Prime Minister must intervene if we are to get a good outcome on this year's round of woodchip licences." This was the comment today from Peter Wright, National Biodiversity Campaigner for the Australian Conservation Foundation.

"The community is hearing conflicting messages out of Canberra on this issue," said Mr Wright. In today's *Financial Review*, Michael Dwyer, writes that Cabinet is unlikely to intervene in the woodchip export licensing decision.

"Last week at the EPAC conference the Prime Minister said that the management of our forests needed to be addressed, yet he now seems to be taking a 'hands-off' approach," said Mr Wright. "Instead of a whole-of-Government strategy to create an ecologically sustainable industry, we may be facing the old resources vs. environment trade-off."

"Mr Beddall dumped most of Senator Faulkner's advice on the Boral licence for north-eastern NSW, and claimed it was a model for future decisions. Senator Faulkner had attempted to implement the National Forest Policy in his advice, but as Mr Beddall had the final say, Faulkner's advice had little effect. The licence failed to protect old growth and wilderness forest and relied on inadequate State Environmental Impact Statements.

"Today's report in the *Financial Review* contradicts previous reports that the environment is likely to be a major issue for the Labor Party before the next election. The woodchip licences are shaping up to be business as usual," Mr Wright concluded.

For more information contact: Peter Wright (02) 247 4285

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

WATER FACT SHEET

NO.1



AUGUST 1993

PLEASE REPRODUCE AND CIRCULATE

ABOUT THIS FACT SHEET

One of the findings of the recent NCC survey of member societies was that 75% per cent would like to receive fact sheets on current issues. This is a first attempt so comments on lay-out, usefulness and readability are welcome.

NSW IN WATER CRISIS

All over NSW water management is increasingly presenting as a major problem. The inland rivers are beset by conflicts between allocations for environmental purposes and allocations to irrigators.

Water quality issues such as salinity, turbidity, toxic effluents, nutrients (phosphorous and nitrates) and blue-green algae are a problem for human health, ecological stability and undermine the goal of sustainable economies based on agriculture, tourism and fishing.

The response by State and Federal governments has been to initiate inquiries, fund further research and promote community involvement. There is a great

reluctance to say "stop doing it now."

The Federal Government continues to fund the *Murray Darling Ministerial Council Community Advisory Committee* but has refused to re-appoint a representative of the Nature Conservation Council. This is despite the fact that the Victorian and South Australian Conservation Councils have retained their position due to support by their State Governments.

The Federal Government is in the process of releasing a 25 volume *National Water Quality Management Strategy (NWQMS)*. The NCC is unhappy with the NWQMS because it focuses on 'environmental' goals instead of ecological needs. Put simply, this means that every community can decide what standard of water quality it would prefer while having regard for how much it might want to pay. This approach ignores the reality that *everybody lives downstream.*

Action: Contact Mr Barry Sheedy on 008 807 844 (free call) to get copies of the NWQMS documents.

GOVERNMENT PRICING
TRIBUNAL (GPT): The NSW
Water Industry Inquiry.

In 1992 the NSW Government initiated an inquiry into the NSW water industry. The GPT released its *Water: An Interim Report* in May 1993 and published its *Water Board 1993/94 Prices of Water Sewerage and Drainage Services* in mid-July. The final report is still to come.

Key features of the WB pricing recommendations are the introduction of usage pricing at the rate of 65% per kilolitre. The fixed base charge has been reduced. The result will be that people who use less water will be rewarded with a lower bill pro rata. The cross-subsidy whereby industry and commerce supported the profligate water consumption of Sydney's residential sector will be phased out.

The NCC made a number of submissions to the GPT and appeared at the hearings and public seminars. While the NCC is very pleased that the concept of user-pays has been introduced (albeit very gently) it is also concerned that the GPT has reduced the Board's potential revenue by about \$200 million which will reduce the capital works program. The NCC is concerned that this could impact negatively on the WB's Clean Waterways Program. For the same reasons, the NCC is opposed to the payment of dividends and taxes by the WB to consolidated revenues until the WB has

achieved all the necessary public health and environmental goals.

Action: To get the GPT reports phone John Dulles on 02-228 4694

CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE ON
REGULATORY REFORM OF THE
NSW WATER INDUSTRY.

The Cabinet Sub-Committee was set up to overcome competing and conflicting decision-making processes that contribute to the problems besetting NSW water resource management. The NCC has made a strong submission to the Premier.

The key points in NCC's policy are the need for clear separation of the roles of regulator and the manager/operator. The Council is strongly opposing the Department of Water Resource's empire-building ambitions to become the water manager for NSW. NCC takes this position on the basis that the DWR's track record as a water resource manager is very poor in terms of ecological values.

The DWR should be deemed an operator subject to firm regulation by the EPA along with the urban water authorities (e.g. Sydney Water Board, Hunter Water Corporation) and the Dept. of Public Works.

The NCC is calling for the EPA to exercise its regulatory powers over water *quality* more vigorously and for the EPA's powers over *quantity* i.e.

allocation to be strengthened in the Stage II legislation for the *Protection of the Environment Act*.

The NCC calls for responsibility for NSW's water resources to be placed with the Premier who would be the 'owner' of NSW's water resources via the Ministerial Corporation. Hopefully this new structure would overcome the historical lack of political will.

Action: To find out more ask for a copy of NCC's submission to the Premier.

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE
UPON THE WATER BOARD.

In May '93 the NSW Parliament set up a *Joint Select Committee upon the Water Board*. The JSC is chaired by Lower House Independent Dr Peter McDonald. It comprises equal numbers of Opposition and Government members plus Richard Jones, Australian Democrat MLC. The JSC has called for public submissions, published an *Issues Paper* in June and commenced public hearings in early August. The JSC is required to report by September 24th to the NSW Parliament.

The most notable submission has been the *'Doing the Vision Thing...'* written by the previous Minister for the Environment, Tim Moore, the ex-Chairman, David Harley (who resigned Sept. 92) and the ex-Managing Director, Bob Wilson (who resigned Feb. 93).

The NCC has lodged a 61 page submission and has made a presentation to the J.S.C. The NCC library will be holding copies of submissions and the Hansard records.

Action: all member societies are urged to read the NCC's submission. Call NCC Information Officer, Bruce Diekman on 247 4206.

MEMBERSHIP OF WATER-RELATED BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Members of the NCC Executive sit on a number of water-related boards and committees including: Water Resources Council, Water Board, Environmental Protection Authority Board, Ocean Outfalls Environmental Monitoring Advisory Committee, St. Georges Basin Effluent Disposal Liaison Committee, State Catchment Management Committee, Wild and Scenic Rivers Working Party and State Wetlands Working Group.

STATE WETLANDS WORKING GROUP

The NSW Department of Water Resources (DWR) has been convening the State Wetlands Working Group for several years. The DWR is currently running a series of workshops in both coastal and

inland regions for 'invited guests' to evaluate a draft *State Wetland Policy (SWP)* which will be released for public comment by the end of the year.

The policy will be based on voluntary guidelines and apply throughout NSW. It will therefore be based on very general precepts and will not require any mapping of wetlands.

It is vital that the SWP is not used to do away with *SEPP 14 - Wetlands* which is the only legal instrument specifically designed to protect NSW's coastal wetlands.

Action: For further information contact NCC Information Officer, Bruce Diekman or DWR on 02-895 7289.

STORMWATER FORUM

Scientific studies carried out by the Water Board have revealed that stormwater and runoff contributes about the same amount of pollution to Sydney's waterways as does sewerage discharges. Sydney's rivers are reaching crisis point - 'keep out' signs on the Hawkesbury and Lane Cove Rivers and Lake Parramatta reveal what the disastrous loss of amenity. The minister for Planning and the Water Board will hold a special stormwater forum in September.

NCC is calling for urgent action to produce an Integrated Stormwater Strategy for the Sydney Region.

DEMAND-SIDE MANAGEMENT

In its submissions to the GPT and the JSC/WB, the NCC has argued strongly for more emphasis to be placed on *demand-side management* strategies based on *least-cost utility planning principles*. This means, in addition to ensuring that water pricing is based on true-cost user-pays principles, that non-price demand management strategies will consider how the best long-term economic and ecological outcomes can be achieved at the least-cost.

Studies show that over 40% savings in household consumption can be achieved by the use of water-efficient appliances without changing peoples behaviour or their quality of life. In practice, urban water authorities should, e.g.:

- use *rebate schemes* to provide an incentive for household water-users to buy more efficient water appliances;
- *retro-fit* low income households, schools, hospitals and other public buildings with water efficient appliances;
- require all *new and renovated buildings* to install dual-flush toilets and efficient faucets;
- support the *mandatory phase-out* of inefficient appliances.

How You Can Save Water

- Put a brick or a water-filled plastic container in the cistern or install a dual flush toilet.
- Install a water-saving shower head (and save on energy bills).
- Install a rainwater tank and use for laundry and external uses.
- Connect a snaplock to your washing machine outlet hose and run the rinse water onto your garden.
- Wash your car with a bucket and a hose with a trigger fitting.
- Install drip watering systems in the garden - mulch beds thoroughly, water slowly and deeply as infrequently as possible.
- Water at the end of the day to reduce evaporation.
- use a timer with your sprinkler - forgotten sprinkler can use over 100 buckets an hour!
- Fix all leaking taps and toilets.
- Install water-efficient taps in the bathroom and kitchen.
- Don't leave taps running while you wash the dishes or clean your teeth.
- Wash your car on the lawn to prevent phosphorous getting into waterways and bushland.
- Use only phosphorous-free detergents and use as little as possible.

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Thursday, June 17, 1993

Dear Member Society,

Re: CURRENT WATER POLICY ISSUES

This is a memo to update you on what is happening in the water policy arena and to inform you regarding NCC policy and submissions. The policy positions are based on:

- existing Annual Conference resolutions
- resolutions made by the Executive at the May and June 1993 meetings.
- consultation with a broad range of environmental groups via NCC's involvement in the Coalition Against Welcome Reef Dam, Inland Rivers Network, Ocean Outfall Environmental Monitoring Program and the ACIUCN Marine Environment Sub-committee.
- the expertise of the Council's Hon. Secretary, Vice-Chairperson and Chairperson who are members of the NSW Water Resources Council, the appointed Board of the Environmental Protection Authority and the appointed Board of the Sydney Water Board respectively.

Attached is information regarding specific inquiries, etc., a full unabridged copy of the Council's submission to the Pricing Tribunal on institutional reform of the water resource management in NSW, and an abridged version of other points made in response to the Interim Report. These policy statements will form the basis of the Council's planned submissions to the Joint Parliamentary Inquiry and the NSW Cabinet Sub-committee.

All member societies with an interest in sustainable ecosystems and natural resource management are strongly urged to respond to the critical opportunities for shaping the future of water management in NSW. If you would like to discuss any of the points raised please contact Sid Walker, Peter Prineas or myself.

Yours sincerely,

Judy Messer
Chairperson

Current NSW inquiries and policy development activities:

- Government Pricing Tribunal of NSW review of the NSW Water Industry - *Water an Interim Report* (May 1993).

Comment by June 15th (Sydney), June 28th (Newcastle/Wyong)

Public hearings Sydney June 23rd, Newcastle July 2nd

Public seminars Sydney, June 25th, Blacktown June 28th

Gosford July 1

For further information: (T) 290-8484.

- Parliament of NSW Joint Select Committee upon the Sydney Water Board

Closing date for submissions July 30, 1993

Report by October 14 1993

For further information: (T) 230 3011.

- NSW Cabinet Sub-committee Inquiry into Water Management

There has been no invitation for public input into this process.

The sub-committee comprises representatives of the Cabinet Office, Public Works, Water Resources, Planning, Water Board, Environmental Protection Authority. The aims of the process are outlined in Hansard.

Submission from the Nature Conservation Council of NSW to the Government Pricing Tribunal

Regulation of the NSW Water Industry.

This submission principally addresses the Government Pricing Tribunal's Discussion Paper No 3. entitled "Regulation of the Water Industry in NSW".

As the Discussion Paper acknowledges, the regulation of the "water industry" has been much discussed, notably by the NSW Water Management Audit in 1984 and again by the Audit Review in 1988.

The Tribunal's statements describing administrative fragmentation in the water area which appear at page 4 under the heading "2.1 OVERVIEW" are remarkably like those in the (unpublished) Chairman's Report written by Dr John Paterson for the 1984 Water Audit. Similarly, the Tribunal's support for improved co-ordination of functions, separation of operational and regulatory roles and enhanced accountability are welcome, even if they only reiterate the Paterson recommendations of nearly a decade ago.

As Dr Paterson said:

"Water has been the subject of over thirty Royal Commissions and Joint Select Committee Reports in NSW over the past century. This suggests a chronic failure of public policy to satisfy contemporary demands over the period. Yet the defects have generally been defects in execution, not defects in conception."

The point made here is that the need for an improved institutional and legal structure for the management of water is well recognised, and some progress has been made in recent years in addressing that need. The incomplete and excessively slow pace of reform and the disappointing performance of the current structure (with its partly reformed elements) reflects not so much poor decisions about how to organise water administration, as a persistent failure of political will in pursuing recommendations for change and in making the changes work.

The Tribunal has accepted that the water resources of NSW are now in such a condition that, to use its own words "the situation is now urgent ... and unless regulation is improved, we will lurch from crisis to crisis as water quality in the State's rivers deteriorates and costs and prices rise."

It is hoped that the Tribunal will not now promote one more re-arrangement of the deck chairs on the Titanic when what is really needed is the determination to press on with a sensible course for the most part already indicated. Some of the relevant indicators are:

- * the enactment of Water Administration Act vesting ownership of water in a ministerial corporation as an entity independent of any operational agency;
- * the establishment of the Environment Protection Authority under the Protection of the Environment Administration Act and the commitment to enhance the EPA's regulatory role under stage II legislation;
- * heavier criminal penalties for pollution introduced under the Environmental Offences and Penalties Act;
- * the enactment of the Catchment Management Act and the establishment of the Total Catchment Management framework;
- * the strengthening of strategic water planning and policy co-ordination (and community participation therein) through the formation of the NSW Water Resources Council;
- * increasing acceptance of usage pricing in water charges.

Water management would be improved if legislation which has been available for many years was properly applied to the problems. Examples include:

- * the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act - with particular reference to the application of the land use planning provisions to rural lands and the application of the environmental assessment provisions to the operating of water structures;
- * the Soil Conservation Act - with particular reference to vegetation clearing controls both on slopes and in proximity to streams;
- * the Clean Waters Act - in general.

There would be improvement also if key pieces of legislation, such as the Water Act (dating from 1912), were not so antiquated as to fail to recognise and protect any statutory right to water for instream needs;

Water management will also benefit if, as the Tribunal, and others before it have recognised:

- * operational and regulatory responsibilities are separated, removing conflicts of interest;
- * there are clear roles for all entities;

- * overlap and duplication of functions are reduced;
- * there is improved co-ordination between agencies;
- * there are improved procedures for setting standards; and
- * the focus for water quality is the catchment and not the drain.

An administrative framework which builds on the progress already made and which meets most of the criteria indicated by the Tribunal is submitted as follows:

1. The Environment Protection Authority should be confirmed as the agency responsible for propounding standards for water, monitoring water quality and enforcing the adopted standards through licensing of discharges to waters. The EPA's stage II (or Operations) legislation to be introduced in 1994 should reflect and strengthen this role.

For efficiency the EPA should have a limited power to delegate water quality monitoring and enforcement powers to operational agencies.

The various diagrams showing the Tribunal's options indicate the government as the standard setter without any expert agency necessarily being in a primary advice role. Such a loose arrangement would not reflect practice in the UK (National Rivers Authority) and the USA (EPA) where advice on standards is provided in a fairly public manner to government by expert government agencies and this forms the basis of subsequent political decisions on the standards that are to be adopted. The EPA should be placed in no less a position than the UK and US standards agencies.

2. The Department of Water Resources, and the major Water Boards should each be responsible for management and operations within their defined catchment areas. With the vast majority of NSW under its control, the DWR would remain the State's major water manager/operator. The DWR and the major Water Boards would apply government adopted EPA standards through their abstraction licenses. While this arrangement involves some duplication of the management function, it is necessary if any reality is to be given to "catchment focus" in the management of water quality.
3. There would be a lower tier of water operators including local government and county council water authorities but streams from which they took water would be under the control of one or other of the Water Boards or the DWR as management authorities.

4. To improve the water regulation and management/operation functions, there should be a recasting of the Water Administration Act so as to separate the powers relating to (a) "ownership" of water and strategic policy making and co-ordination and (b) management and operations functions. The former powers should be administered within the Premier's portfolio (who might administer them through a new Office of Water") while the latter powers would remain within the portfolio of the Minister for Land and Water Conservation (who would continue to administer the Departments of Water Resources and Conservation and Land Management.

This division of powers would further reduce conflicts of interest by removing State-wide water policy and strategic planning from the sphere of a Minister and Department with an obvious stake in water management and operations. It would enhance the status and neutrality of strategic water policy making and co-ordination by associating it with the Premier. It would enhance the standing of the Water Resources Council as a policy and co-ordinating body, perhaps sufficiently to win the co-operation of competing Heads of Departments, an important factor that has often been lacking under the current arrangements.

More importantly, this arrangement could form the basis of a transparent and workable system for the implementation of water environmental standards adopted by the Government. The Premier through the Ministerial Corporation (assisted by the "Office of Water") could impose agency licence conditions which would govern how the management/operations agencies managed and operated. Agency licences could also transmit State requirements to abstraction and other licences issued in turn by the agencies to their customers.

For such a system to work the Water Administration Act would need to impose a legal duty on management/operations agencies to obtain a licence from the "water owner" and to comply with their licence conditions. It is thought that the Act does this.

To enable the EPA to carry out its role effectively the Water Administration Act would need to be linked to EPA standards, perhaps through a concurrence power in the EPA as to any licence conditions relevant to its areas of responsibility. Such a mechanism would also serve as a means of integrating the water quality objectives of the EPA with the water quantity decisions taken by management/operations agencies when issuing abstraction licences, while ensuring that water quality objectives are superordinate.

It is suggested that agency licensing be for periods of three years to enable significant improvements in standards and performance to be applied over a period of years.

The statutory arrangements should be such as to provide that water management/operations agency licence conditions should be enforceable by the Ministerial Corporation and, in so far as EPA standards are concerned, by the EPA. Also, they should provide that where the licence requires certain environmental standards to be reflected in the licence issued by the agency to its customer, the EPA will be in position to enforce that requirement directly against the customer should the agency fail to do so.

Pending the enactment of appropriate legislation, including the EPA's stage II legislation, these arrangements should be obtained administratively where possible.

5. Gaps in enforcement procedures need to be addressed. While there are criminal sanctions at the EPA's disposal, greater recourse to administrative and civil enforcement measures is needed. The EPA should have the power in the event of the breach of relevant conditions to suspend or revoke (subject to reinstatement on appeal) a licence issued by a management/operations agency to one of its customers (including abstraction licences currently not accessible to the EPA). As a middle course there should be available the option of imposing a heavy "pollution/environmental charge" while a breach persists. The limited third party rights provided in respect of water quality breaches should be widened and extended to cover breaches of abstraction licences as well.
6. Diffuse source pollution should continue to be addressed under the Catchment Management Act and the TCM framework, however the EPA and the Department of Planning (administering the Environmental planning and Assessment Act) should both be given much more prominent and effective roles.
7. the separate rôle of the Public Works Department in estuary management/operations should be tolerated for the medium term because it is more advanced and effective than the TCM process, however the PWD role must be closely co-ordinated with TCM.
8. corporatisation of the urban water boards should not proceed on the basis of narrow economic/financial objectives alone, but must include environmental objectives and their management must be assessed on the basis of environmental as well as economic/financial performance. Corporate objectives for these bodies (to be embodied in their legislation) must aim for the best water management throughout the water cycle (beginning with the catchment) and not merely on

managing effluent flowing from the end of the pipe.

The disposal by the water boards of their proclaimed catchment areas and associated lands of high conservation value does not assist in the aim of achieving a "catchment focus" in water management and therefore should not be allowed at this stage. In the event that such lands are to be disposed of they should be transferred in toto to the National Parks and Wildlife Service for dedication as national parks or nature reserves, together with sufficient resources for their proper management.

Peter Prineas, 15 June 1993.

Honorary Secretary, Nature Conservation Council of NSW
and Member NSW Water Resources Council.

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SUMMARY OF NCC SUBMISSION TO NSW GOVERNMENT PRICING TRIBUNAL (June 1993)

"WATER AN INTERIM REPORT" (MAY 1993)

(excluding institutional reforms - see separate document prepared by
Peter Prineas)

NB. These comments should be taken to be supplementary to NCC's
original submission.

1. NCC reaffirms its policy of support for true-cost, user-pays pricing system for water.
2. Concern expressed that the Tribunal's apprehensions regarding potential price rises will undermine the commitment to pricing reform, leading to inadequate revenues for necessary environmental improvements.
3. Rejection of the notion that water should be seen as a source of consolidated revenue in the form of routine or special dividends for government to finance, education, hospitals, etc.
4. Social equity should be understood as including the rights of future generations and therefore imposing a duty on present generations to pay their way.

Standards

5. The expenditures of revenues on the maintenance, upgrading and/or replacement of assets by water authorities, to achieve environmental standards and desirable management efficiencies, should not be seen as a net cost to society. Extensive employment, manufacturing and service sector opportunities are generated by the current infrastructure improvements.
6. It is of concern that standards are lower for Sydney than for elsewhere in NSW, and that Australian standards are less or at best similar to those of the USA and the UK.

7. The Tribunal's report places too much emphasis on community *values* as the determinant of the level of environmental standards. NCC's position is that standards should be determined by objective scientific criteria and that revenues should be set accordingly in the light of the standards necessary to ensure ecological sustainability.

8. The pricing structure should acknowledge that environmental standards must drive price rather than the reverse.

The Council therefore argues that the correct hierarchy of decisions should be the:

- identification of the full range of ecological data relating to the total water cycle environment;*
- identification of existing and potential scope and scale of environmental impacts;*
- mandatory goals to be set in accordance with the precautionary principle and the eventual achievement of zero pollution;*
- standards for abstraction and discharge licenses to be set in accordance with the above framework;*
- the community to be involved in the identification and implementation of the full diversity of options available to achieve and maintain these standards having regard for issues such as efficiency and social equity;*
- the process of monitoring, evaluation and review to be subject to full and open public scrutiny.*

9. There should be effective public involvement in all spheres and stages of water policy development, management, monitoring and review.

10. Standards for sewage treatment works should not be lowered on the basis that improvements are negated by continuing high levels of non-point source pollution, etc.

11. If the Tribunal expects the water authorities to reduce costs by increased efficiencies it is logical to expect that consumers should either be more "efficient" (use less, pollute less) or else pay for the true cost.

12. "Licenses to pollute" should only be granted on the basis of mandatory goals for pollution reduction. Sanctions should be invoked

when targets are not achieved. Revenues for water authorities should be based on their license obligations.

13. Licenses should be for three years rather than the eight years proposed by the Tribunal.

Pricing

14. While the Council supports the principle of baseline productivity improvements being passed on to the customer, in practice it does not support lower charges for the residential sector until the \$300 million cross-subsidy is abolished and a true-cost user-pays pricing system is implemented.

15. Despite the Tribunal's doubts, the Council believes that Local Government could change the stormwater practices of individual property owners by a combination of regulation, special rates and public education.

16. The Council does not object to the Tribunal's proposed $CPI + X_{cap}$ pricing formula so long as it does not prejudice a continued trend towards environmental improvement.

17. Council does not support cash transfers to large, low income, above average water using families (as described in the report). It recommends instead that the water authority equip these houses with water efficient appliances and deal with the social equity issue via discounts if necessary.

18. Council is opposed to the idea of large customers being able to negotiate individual supply contracts.

19. Council supports the application of user-pays to development charges, especially in environmentally vulnerable areas.

20. Council calls for all water authorities to be required to structure their programs in such a way as to provide incentives for customers to use less water and to use water more efficiently.

Non-price Demand-Side Management (DSM)

Non-price DSM includes the provision of water efficient appliances at a reduced or zero cost to the consumer e.g. low flow showerheads, toilet tank displacement devices, faucet aerators, and toilet leak detection tablets.

Non-price demand-side strategies are a technological reality and are expanding rapidly in the USA due to the more stringent regulatory

environment (e.g. the 1992 Federal Energy Act requires water efficiency to be implemented to reduce energy consumption).

Non-price DSM is politically acceptable, reduces water consumption, reduces inputs into overloaded sewerage systems, improves the overall efficiency of the total water cycle, saves money in the long term and creates a comparative economic advantage for those communities who get in first. It is an essential adjunct to user pays pricing systems.

21. The Council therefore strongly supports the Tribunal's recommendation that least cost utility planning options be developed by water authorities and calls for the introduction of existing "already available on the shelf" technologies without delay.

22. Council calls for mandatory water efficient appliances to be installed in all new residential and commercial buildings.

21 Council strongly supports the Tribunals' call for the development of joint water and energy efficiency programs.

24. Council recommends that all water authorities be required to carry out internal water and energy audits and to implement appropriate improvements.

Pollution Taxes

25. Council does not support the setting of pollution taxes for the purpose of raising general revenue. Pollution taxes should be used to solve water-related problems.

26. Tradeable permits should only be introduced for limited periods within the context of a strong regulatory framework and mandatory sunset clauses.

27. In general the Nature Conservation Council opposes the "license to pollute" concept.

Judy Messer
21.6.93.

W10

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SUBMISSION

TO

THE GOVERNMENT PRICING TRIBUNAL of NSW

"REVIEW OF POLICIES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SUPPLYING WATER AND RELATED SERVICES"

September 1992

Prepared By:

DR. JUDY MESSER
CHAIRPERSON

Attached for your information

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SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNMENT PRICING TRIBUNAL OF NSW

REVIEW OF POLICIES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SUPPLYING WATER AND RELATED SERVICES(1992)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW is the peak representative environmental organization with c.90 member societies throughout the state (see attachment). Because all policies are resolved at the annual conference where all member societies have voting rights the Council's policies are highly representative of the general environment movement.

Formed in 1955, the Nature Conservation Council has had a long history of concern for the sustainable management of water resources, water, sewerage and drainage systems and the proper conservation of the natural ecosystems impacted by water use and abuse.

Members of the Council's Executive sit on the Water Resources Council, the Water Board, the Board of the Environmental Protection Authority, St Georges Basin Effluent Disposal Liaison Committee, and the Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council Community Advisory Committee. The Council is a member of the Coalition Against Welcome Reef Dam and the Inland Rivers Network.

Although the ecologically sustainable use of water resources is of primary concern, the Council recognizes the need for an integrated approach to water policy, bearing in mind such aspects as social equity (access and price), quality of supply and discharge in the context of sound economic management.

Pricing Tribunal Review of Water Pricing

The Council is therefore pleased to note the broad scope of the terms of reference for the Review. The Council's initial submission will focus on:

- costs of service provision and the need for greater efficiency
- the relationship between price restructuring and economic, social and urban development impacts insofar as they affect the environment
- the impact of pricing policies on demand
- the use of pricing policies as an instrument for protecting the environment
- alternative environmental and quality standards
- public education and public participation
- the significance of environmental standards and the need to ensure that they are supported by appropriate pricing policies
- general policy issues including supply, competitive or monopoly services, decentralization, freedom of information and community service obligations.

The goals and objectives outlined below provide for general insights into the framework within which the Nature Conservation Council will approach the issue of water pricing.

2. WATER POLICY GOALS

The development of a total water cycle management system based on the concepts of:

- water as a scarce and precious resource rather than a commodity; and
- integrated land use planning and catchment management.

3. GENERAL WATER POLICY OBJECTIVES

- Protection and enhancement of the natural environment and public health.
- Water management based on a holistic approach.
- Reliable systems of supply and removal of water including supply based on onsite water harvesting, re-use and recycling.
- True-cost water and effluent pricing.
- Management to be based on commercial efficiency principles with effective mechanisms for public accountability.
- Subsidies and cross-subsidies to be the responsibility of the political sphere not the water authority, with all subsidies being clearly identified in an annual report to Parliament.
- Public involvement to start at the planning stage and to include input into long-term objectives as well as specific projects.
- Water harvesting strategies to include both major effluent systems and onsite options, taking into account distribution, drainage and re-use factors.
- Redefinition of terms e.g. *disposal* should be re-defined as transfer and *waste* as re-use (i.e. waste should disappear as an entity).
- New infrastructure developments should be based on the principle of flexible, decentralized, localised systems for the treatment of sewage (used water), stormwater and grey water with the major focus on re-use and recycling.
- The quality of supply should be an effect of informed community choice and acknowledge risk acceptance with adequate provision of alternative choices.
- Discharge to the environment standards should be:
 - based on the precautionary principle,
 - adequate to avoid cumulative adverse ecological effects
 - and guided by a general principle of zero pollution as the desired goal.

- Environmental water allocations should have priority over irrigation allocations, and the Water Board should exercise control over allocations in the Sydney Region (rather than the Department of Water Resources) subject to the water quality standards imposed by the Environmental Protection Authority.

- The Water Board, not the Department of Water Resources, should be responsible for the maintenance of its catchments and. The Board's pricing structure should reflect the costs of managing these catchments for the purpose of maintaining a high water quality standard which in turn will reduce the costs of downstream treatment processes and reduce public health risks.

4. GENERAL COMMENTS RE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. *Cost and Efficiency:* The Nature Conservation Council has no objection to productivity increases resulting in lower prices to consumers, providing that all environmental objectives have been met, including the avoidance of long term cumulative negative environmental effects. However, in view of the profligate consumption of water in the Sydney Region, lower prices could to exacerbate the problem at this stage.

2. *Monopoly Power:* The Council supports appropriate transparent accounting, annual reports to Parliament, freedom of access to information, ministerial accountability and effective public participation mechanisms to lessen the problems of monopoly power. Council would not object to competitive markets being established provided there is no longterm prejudice to standards of service and environmental protection

3. *Alternative pricing structures for water, wastewater and stormwater:* This is a very important issue, one which should be exposed to full public debate. The pricing structures need to be evaluated within several different frameworks eg:

- fixed charges vs. volumetric charges
- every litre to cost the same or should the last litre cost the most?
- the relative price for 'fresh' water vs. used and recycled water
- should industry, commerce, domestic households and government agencies all pay the same price for a litre of water?
- on what criteria should the service charges be based?

- should urban release areas and new connections pay the full price of costs incurred by the water authority?
- should stormwater charges be catchment based?
- should the present generation defer costs to be born by future generations?

5. Economic, social and urban development impacts: The Council would be concerned that if price restructuring has too much regard for urban development imperatives, environmental problems could be aggravated. Council is opposed to any policy that encourages greenfield development in Western Sydney (and other environmentally sensitive areas) while the severe problems affecting river quality, wetlands, and other waterways remain so severe. Council would also be concerned to ensure that pricing policies did not promote subdivisions in inappropriate bushland areas eg. on the North Shore and in the southern Sydney bushland areas.

5. Effects of pricing on demand: Council believes that true-cost pricing would act as a powerful signal to the consumer, bringing about a more conservative and efficient use of water and thus resulting in many environmental and operational benefits.

6. Pricing policies as instruments for environmental protection: The Council believes that the first priority must be for the water authority to establish a longterm plan based on its statutory service obligations in the context of the principles of ecological sustainability. It is absolutely essential that the charges for water reflect the full cost of capital works, operational and asset replacement costs in the context of achieving the (ecologically) necessary environmental standards.

7. Alternative environmental and quality standards: Council does not believe that these standards should be an outcome of costs. Instead they should be the outcome of independent scientific research or imposed by independent regulatory agencies. All environmental and quality standards should reflect the needs of high standards of public health and environmental care.

8. Impact on borrowing, capital structure, rate of return on investments and dividend requirements: In view of the unhappy relationship that often pertains between the government of the day and the coffers of government trading enterprises, the Council is of the view that sound economic management empowers a government authority to be able to make sounder environmental decisions. Council would therefore tend to prefer an agency to be

relatively debt free and to not serve as a hollow log for government revenues.

More specifically, the Council is opposed to the payment of a dividend by water authorities until such time as all environmental management objectives have been achieved.

10. Public Education: It is absolutely essential that the public become better educated as to the nature of the total water cycle, the structure and ramifications of present pricing policies, and the options and implications of alternative pricing policies in the context of alternatives supply and waste treatment strategies.

At the same time, there is already a significantly large public who have a sustained interest in water and waste issues, are reasonably well informed and frequently frustrated by their inability to readily access information about future programs, policy development or the outcomes of present programs. This means that public education must be paralleled by effective public participation strategies.

5. DEMAND MANAGEMENT

The Nature Conservation Council is strongly concerned that Sydney's water consumption practises are giving rise to an ecologically non-sustainable situation in regard to both supply and discharge to the environment.

Council is calling for a 30% per capita per annum reduction in the consumption of water derived from the Sydney Water Board's dam storage system by the year 2005, based on 1992 rates of consumption.

The Nature Conservation Council believes that it is essential that an effective demand management program be implemented as a matter of urgency. However, demand management can fail for a number of reasons including failure to use appropriate instruments, piecemeal approaches, institutional barriers, lack of co-ordination and/or inadequate resources.

Technologies for Demand Management

The Nature Conservation Council advocates an integrated approach to demand management based on the combination of least cost

utility planning principles, pricing regimes, legislative change, fiscal incentives and public education.

The central issue is how to get the average household to reduce consumption

The introduction of average available in-the-shops-now technology (e.g. standard pressure valve at the meter, flow controls on kitchen and bathroom taps, water efficient washing machine, dishwasher and shower nozzle; dual flush toilet installed in the average home) is reported to result in nearly 40% reduction in internal domestic water use (1).

Benefits from this regime would include substantial deferred supply costs, operational savings and reduced costs for householders if pricing structures allowed for savings arising out of reduced volumes consumed.

The Nature Conservation Council requests the Pricing Tribunal to investigate thoroughly *least-cost utility planning* strategies for the Sydney Region and to make details available to the public by means of a draft discussion paper.

Water-efficient Appliances:

- promotion and public awareness of water efficient appliances
- a rating scheme for water efficient appliances
- financial incentives for the purchase or production of water efficient appliances
- regulatory system that promotes water-efficient appliances
- a retro-fitting program to replace inefficient appliances
- further research on water efficient appliances

Price Signals

Accurate price signals send a signal to the organization, the planners, the managers and the water users to "manage better". Increased revenues can help the water authority achieve improved and more efficient services. Water users need an incentive to achieve dollar savings commensurate with the money outlaid on best-available technologies and increased charges

The Hunter Water Board experience has shown that price signals plus 'how-to' public education achieved a dramatic reduction of 30% in per capita water use and that this is being maintained against the predicted trend.

In the Sydney Region, water is underpriced. Domestic consumers are subsidised by the industrial and commercial sectors. The two-tier pricing system is essentially a property tax and contains virtually no incentive for the profligate domestic consumers to use less water. Recent improvements to the industrial and commercial sector pricing systems have resulted in lower charges for small business and nearer to true-cost charging for the big water users.

The historical inability of the Water Board to achieve an adequate revenue based on true-cost pricing (due to pricing being subject to government control) means that the present infrastructure is over-used, under-maintained and in many cases, environmentally damaging.

Nowhere in Australia is the true cost of asset maintenance and renewal, new supply systems or waste disposal (including stormwater run-off) included in the price charged for water.

The Nature Conservation Council's Water Pricing Policy

- Pricing policies should reflect "systems-based" and "pay for use" principles which in turn reflect the need to fully meet capital expenditure, operational, maintenance and asset replacement costs in the context of sound environmental management.
- The accounting system should be transparent and value assets at their replacement cost
- Any subsidization of Water Board customers (e.g. low income earners) should be clearly identified as a "Community Service Obligation" and acknowledged in the Board's annual report.
- Water should be treated as a scarce and valued resource rather than as a commodity and should not be subject to a dividend payment to government for revenue raising-purposes unless it can be shown that:

- the dividend is a repayment of capital previously advanced by Treasury ; and

- the payment will not have adverse effects on the necessary implementation of remedial environmental activities or the achievement of necessary environmental and social standards of service.

- All dividends and/or taxes paid should be clearly identified in the annual report of the Water Board.

- The establishment of an appropriate price for potable water supply, re-use, recycling and stormwater management systems should be subject to public input, comment and review with all externalities and inter-generational costs being fully taken into account.

- The marginal costs of meeting environmental standards set by the Environmental Protection Authority should be identified as a reason for true-cost water pricing and not a lowering of standards.

Achieving change should include the use of incentives which relate cost recovery to pricing structures, subsidies/taxes, community involvement, education, alternatives, awareness/action groups, environmental outcomes and real costs.

- Pricing should be based on market research, sound economic and scientific criteria and the acknowledgement of necessary environmental standards.

- *Least cost utility planning* concepts such as subsidization of water conserving devices should be utilized during the transition period to true-cost pricing.

- Cheaper rates for lower discharges from households that install dual systems would encourage a greater self-sufficiency.

- Proper evaluation and costing re supply, recycling and re-use should include the use of micro-utility systems (local systems)(regional to single household).

Any fiscal or pricing biases against onsite harvesting of water, rainwater tanks, composting toilets, innovatory building designs, onsite reuse and recycling should be eliminated.

Legislation

Pricing needs to be supported by legislation. A legislative framework can used to mandate:

- water efficiency as an automatic component of new buildings
- performance labelling to be required for all water using equipment with minimum standards becoming tougher over time.
- retrofitting to be phased in for existing buildings.
- all buildings subject to development consent for renovations to use water-efficient appliances
- a Water Conservation Assistance Scheme including auditing and retrofitting of appliances for low income earners with set annual target. (e.g. 1000 households).
- changes as necessary to local government building regulations to facilitate re-use and recycling.

A Co-ordinated Approach to Demand Management:

To avoid building new dam-based supply sources, there is a need to ensure the same coordination, energy and expertise will be applied to demand management. This must be an integrated package.

For instance a *"water use reduction division"* could be set up within the Sydney Water Board and resourced with the same level of commitment as has been allocated to the Clean Waterways program (c.\$43 mill over 5 years for supervision and administration, not construction).

The group could be financed through current income e.g. Amery Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute suggests 2% of gross revenue or 2% of water rates (1).

Research: Some of the budgeted income should be allocated to market research on attitudes, behaviour, products and process innovations. Water use should be analysed with a view to flattening out peaks and low flows and reducing overall demand and establishing the relative financial costs and benefits.

Retro-fitting Program. A change-over program should be financed out of the above budget. Vouchers and appropriate information could be provided to back-up the retrofit program. Those who do not want retrofits would pay higher water charges. Los Angeles has distributed nearly 90,000 kits containing a water displacement bag for the toilet, two shower flow restricters and two toilet leak detection dye tablets (1). Meter valves could be installed indoors to facilitate self-monitoring.

The Water Board could initiate the retrofitting program in Housing Commission homes, pensioner homes and public hospitals and schools. Allied to volumetric pricing this would have socio-economic benefits as well as helping to reduce the demand for potable water for non-potable purposes.

Effluent Recycling is integrally linked to the reduction of demand for potable water from the Water Board's dam storage system. A flexible, decentralized re-use and recycling system should be implemented throughout the Sydney Region supported by appropriate pricing systems and other fiscal incentives.

6. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Stormwater Management is an increasingly critical environmental issue within the Sydney Region. Apart from the severe property and environmental damage and public health threats, runoff is a waste of a valuable resource. Runoff should be captured and made available for use through:

- Onsite harvesting (rainwater tanks and retention basins)
- Onsite storage
- Onsite use
- Municipal retention basins
- A number of properties sharing a communal retention basin.
- Diversion to the main system as a component of supply.

This is a very significant issue that requires substantial investigation by the Pricing Tribunal. One option could be to identify property rights and responsibilities and establish targeted charges for runoff based on lot size, level of permeability, slope, catchment location and topography, and distance to treatment works.

7. GREENFIELDS DEVELOPMENT

The Nature Conservation Council believes that there should be a moratorium on any further "greenfields" development in the Sydney region until there has been a thorough integrated landuse planning-based assessment of :

- a) Sydney's present and future infrastructure needs and ecological limits; and
- b) the capacity of the government and the community to manage and ameliorate the present environmental problems relating to water, sewerage and drainage problems.

The Nature Conservation Council recommends that the Pricing Tribunal investigate the implications of the present greenfields development policy with a view to establishing the full costs of all externalities relating to water supply, sewerage and drainage costs, environmental management issues and the impact on the Water Board's forward planning processes in the context of inadequate revenues.

REFERENCE

1. Barber, Harry (1992). A Non-User Pays Approach to Consumption Reduction. Paper presented at the Water in a Sustainable Urban Environment Conference Melbourne, June 2-4, 1992.

PAYING FOR WATER

Have your say about water prices and pricing
at

PUBLIC SEMINARS

Organised by the NSW Government Pricing Tribunal

Should there be greater reliance on user pays and less on property taxation?

What are the implications of current and future environmental standards on
future water bills?

Is the public willing to pay for improved environmental quality?

Speakers will include representatives of the Water Board and the Tribunal Secretariat.

14 October - How should Sydney pay for water

15 October - The impact of current and future environmental
standards on water pricing

Time 4pm to 5 pm
Location Conference Room 5
Level 5, MSB Tower
207 Kent Street
SYDNEY

Inquiries 228 4974 4694

NEWS RELEASE



Government Pricing Tribunal
New South Wales

Embargo: 5.00pm Friday 28 August, 1992

DETAILS OF MAJOR WATER INQUIRY ANNOUNCED

Following a period for public comment, the New South Wales Government Pricing Tribunal has announced the specific terms of reference for its major inquiry into water and related services of the Sydney Water Board, Hunter Water Corporation and Gosford and Wyong Councils.

"The inquiry will focus on the appropriate level of charges and the best way of actually charging for the services of these agencies" said Professor Thomas Parry, Chairman of the Tribunal.

"The Tribunal will be interested in hearing from the community about what it believes are the appropriate standards of quality in the provision of water, sewerage and stormwater, and, importantly, how much people are prepared to pay for these standards."

"At the same time, the Tribunal will examine the efficiency of the agencies in delivering the services, and the current methods of charging, to see whether prices are "fair" and properly reflect the true values that the community places on its total water resources."

The Premier has also requested the Tribunal to consider certain specific matters in its inquiry, including the potential for opening up some of the agencies' services to competition.

Professor Parry said that the inquiry will focus on the delivery of efficient and environmentally acceptable services which the community expects and is willing to pay for, and the establishment of a pricing structure which is fair both to the different types of consumers and to the residents of the state who ultimately are the owners of these large government business enterprises.

NOTES TO EDITOR : Public Hearings will be held in Sydney, October 26-28 and Newcastle, November 5th; details in attached "Notice of Inquiry"; An "Issues Paper" will be available end- September; a Draft Report will be issued March 1993, with further Public Hearings, and the final report to Government will be released May/June 1993.

ENQUIRIES : Thomas Parry - (02) 228 4694 (Tribunal)
(02) 327 7671 (After Hours)



**GOVERNMENT PRICING TRIBUNAL
NEW SOUTH WALES**

**REVIEW OF PRICING POLICIES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
SUPPLYING WATER AND RELATED SERVICES**

The Government Pricing Tribunal is conducting a review of the pricing policies for water and related services specified in the Government Pricing Tribunal Act 1992, which are provided by the Water Board, Hunter Water Corporation Ltd, Gosford City Council, and Wyong Shire Council (Matter No. SRI/92/1). While having regard to the matters listed in Section 15 of the Government Pricing Tribunal Act, the specific terms of reference for the review will cover:

1. the cost of providing the services and the need for greater efficiency in the supply of services so as to reduce the costs of supply for the benefit of consumers and taxpayers
2. the protection of consumers from abuses of monopoly power, in terms of price, pricing policies and standards of service and access to alternative sources of supply
3. the evaluation of alternative pricing structures for water, wastewater and stormwater, including usage, access, and property based charging, having regard to relative impacts on domestic, commercial and industrial users
4. economic, social and urban development impacts, including distributional and economic development effects, that may arise from any program of price restructuring
5. the effect of alternative pricing policies on the demand for water services, and the implications for major water supply and related water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure development
6. the protection of the environment by appropriate pricing policies that take account of all the feasible options available to protect the environment
7. the impact of alternative environmental and quality standards on the cost and benefits of providing the service and the efficient pricing of services
8. the impact on pricing policies of borrowing, capital structure, rate of return on assets and investments, dividend requirements and the impact of any need to renew or increase relevant assets

SENT BY:

28- 8-92 : 2:48PM :GOV PRICING TRIBUNAL-

61 2 271206:# 4/ 4

9. the impact on pricing policies of any arrangements that the agency has entered into for the exercise of its functions by some other person or body
10. the role of public education covering the implications of alternative pricing structures on water usage and supply costs
11. the coverage of the Government Pricing Tribunal Act with respect to government agencies supplying water and related services other than the Water Board, Hunter Water Corporation Ltd, Gosford City Council and Wyong Shire Council

Under Section 13(1)(c) of the Act the Premier has requested the Tribunal to consider the following matters when making its investigations:

- (i) the general policy issues involved in the application of the Government Pricing Tribunal Act to the provision of water, sewerage and drainage services by local authorities throughout the State. The Tribunal is requested to provide advice on the policy aspects only, not to make any determinations with respect to the prices charged for services by the local authorities concerned. The Tribunal is requested to provide this advice prior to the finalisation of the inquiry;
- (ii) the introduction of competition or contestability into the provision of any of the services which are the subject of the inquiry; and
- (iii) the impact of environmental standards on the quality of water and wastewater services and on the cost and price of providing those services, and the general principles that should apply to pricing environmental services associated with water and wastewater.

Public hearings will be held as follows:

Sydney - 26,27,28 October 1992, Commercial Tribunal Hearing Room, Level 8, 175 Castlereagh Street

Newcastle - 5 November 1992, No 3 Function Room, Newcastle City Hall

Written submissions for consideration by this Inquiry should be sent by 30 September 1992 to:

The Chairman,
Government Pricing Tribunal,
GPO Box 3400, SYDNEY NSW 2001
Phone (02) 228 4694 Fax (02) 228 4722

Thomas G Parry
Chairman

29 August 1992

JUL 22 '94 13:12 FISH MARK AUTHORITY 02 552 1661

Clean Waters Act 1970

Section 16.

- (1) A person shall not pollute any waters.
- (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), a person shall be deemed to pollute waters if:
- (a) the person places any matter (whether solid, liquid or gaseous) in a position where:
 - (i) it falls, descends, is washed, is blown or percolates; or
 - (ii) it is likely to fall, descend, be washed, be blown or percolate, into any waters, on to the dry bed of any waters, or into any drain, channel or gutter used or designed to receive or pass rainwater, floodwater or any water that is not polluted, or causes or permits any such matter to be placed in such a position; or
 - (b) the person places any such matter on the dry bed of any waters, or in any drain, channel or gutter used or designed to receive or pass rainwater, floodwater or any water that is not polluted, or causes or permits any such matter to be placed on such a dry bed or in such a drain, channel or gutter, and the matter would, had it been placed in any waters have polluted or have been likely to pollute those waters.
- (3) A person shall not cause any waters to be polluted, whether intentionally or not.
- (4) A person shall not permit any waters to be polluted.
- (5) * * * * *
- (6) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section it shall not be an offence arising under those provisions for a person to pollute any waters if he holds a licence and does not pollute the waters in contravention of any of the conditions of the licence.
- (7) Any person who contravenes the provisions of this section is guilty of an offence against the Environmental Offences and Penalties Act 1989.

Section 17.

- (1) A person in whom is vested, or who has the care, control or management of, or who is the occupier of any land on which is situated, a drain, whether open or not, shall, if the drain discharges or is likely to be used for discharging any pollutants into any classified waters, be guilty of an offence against the Environmental Offences and Penalties Act 1989 unless a licence is in force in respect of the drain.
- (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), a drain shall, for the purposes of that subsection, be deemed to discharge or to be likely to be used for discharging pollutants into any classified waters if:
- (a) it discharges or is likely to be used for discharging any matter, whether solid, liquid or gaseous, into or onto any place from which the matter falls, descends, is washed, is blown or percolates or is likely to fall, descend, be washed, be blown or percolates into any classified waters or onto the bed of any classified waters, when dry; or
 - (b) it discharges or is likely to be used for discharging any matter into or onto the bed, when dry, of any classified waters, and the matter would, had it been discharged into any classified waters, have polluted or have been likely to pollute those waters.
- (3) Nothing in this section applies to or in respect of any drain from which any pollutants are discharged, or which is likely to be used for discharging any pollutants, into any other drain with the consent of the person in whom the other drain is vested, or who has the care, control or management of the other drain, or who is the occupier of the land on which the other drain is situated, or into any other drain in respect of which a licence is held by the person in whom the firstmentioned drain is vested, or who has the care, control or management of the firstmentioned drain, or who is the occupier of the land on which the firstmentioned drain is situated.
- (4) In this section, "drain" means any drain, line of pipes, sewer, stormwater channel or artificial watercourse.
- (4A) For the purposes of this section, a licence specifying a drain from which pollutants may be discharged into any waters shall, if those waters are classified waters, be deemed to be a licence in respect of that drain.

W 1 2

May 16, 1989

STATEMENT OF THE NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL EXECUTIVE ON
WATER, SEWERAGE DRAINAGE PROBLEMS IN THE SYDNEY REGION.

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW recognises the urgent need to find solutions to the problems of the massive pollution of our urban and marine environment and condemns the failure of successive NSW governments to properly enforce the Clean Waters Act.

The Council notes:

- (1) the widespread public concern regarding the disposal of domestic and industrial wastes and stormwater via the sewage system in the Sydney Region, and,
- (2) the complexity of the attendant environmental, social and economic issues, and calls upon the NSW government to:-
 - (a) implement and enforce the Clean Waters Act as a matter of urgency;
 - (b) move towards tertiary treatment of all waste discharged into rivers and the ocean;
 - (c) promote the recycling of sewage sludge; and,
 - (d) hold a Public Inquiry into the disposal of sewage within the area under control of the Water Board.

Such an Inquiry should:-

- (i) take into account the need to protect and conserve natural ecosystems and the likely impact, upon future water consumption and waste disposal, of the Greenhouse problem, urban development, water and waste recycling programmes and user-pays principles;

- (ii) evaluate current and future State Pollution Control Commission and Water Board policies and strategies;
- (iii) identify and qualify alternative options where necessary; and
- (iv) make recommendations to ensure that an environmentally acceptable and socially equitable integrated water use and sewage disposal system is achieved for the Sydney Region.

In addition, the Nature Conservation Council calls upon the Federal Government to:-

- (a) encourage a decrease in population influx to the Sydney basin until such a stage as urban sewage problems have been properly overcome;
- (b) make available substantial Federal funding to the States for sewerage treatment programmes;
- (c) as a signatory to the London Trade Dumping Convention, apply the Convention's clauses to Australia, and;
- (d) formulate and implement uniform guidelines in concert with the States.

NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL INC

TREASURER'S REPORT 1-7-96 TO 31-8-96

INCOME

Subscriptions	45.00
A.S.S. Contrib.	1,500.00
S.S.S. Subs,	<u>775.00</u>
	2,320.00

EXPENDITURE

post/stat.	388.59
phone	617.59
Publications	540.10
photocopying	152.10
Clip. Serv.	350.50
Memberships	30.00
Display.	84.00
Misc.	<u>31.00</u>
	2,193.88

PUBLIC DONATION ACCOUNT SUMMARY 1-7-96 TO 31-8-96

Receipts

Donations:	635.00
Refund	<u>3,040.81</u> (from National Wood Chip Fighting Fund
	3,675.81 for 1995 export licence)

Expenditure

EDO (Wood chip case)	315.00
TV adds (Prime & NRTV)	<u>3,990.00</u>
	4,305.00

NORTHERN RIVERS

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

T6 b

50 Victoria Street
P.O. Box 362
Grafton NSW 2460

Tel (066) 43 1705
Fax (066) 43 1405

30 May 1994

Dear *Jan*

As agreed at the last meeting of the **ECOTOURISM TASKFORCE** held in Lismore on 24th May 1994, the Taskforce had achieved its primary objectives which were to establish an ecotourism industry association and to source funding to complete an ecotourism strategy plan. You would also recall that at the Search Conference the "life" of our Taskforce was to be only six months, and I think it is worth noting that we collectively completed the job in this timeframe.

I would like to formally thank all members of the Taskforce for their active and dedicated contribution to the work of our group. It has been a challenging yet rewarding experience for me, to be involved in, and see the co-operative manner in which the different agencies/interests have worked to common goals. We now have a major task to progress in completing and implementing the strategic plan, and your on-going contributions to this process would be greatly appreciated. I look forward to your involvement in the preparation of this plan, and to support of the Board in its activities directed to sustainable tourism development in the Northern Rivers Region.

Thankyou once again for your valuable contribution.

Yours sincerely,

John Pearson
John Pearson
Chairman, Ecotourism Taskforce.

*Jan, Sorry you missed this
taskforce; hope to meet you
soon
Regards
John*

*Sharyn told
3/6/94*

ECOTOURISM TASKFORCE

*Minutes of Meeting Of Taskforce
held at
Southern Cross University, Library in LISMORE*

TIME: 9:30am Tuesday 24th May, 1994.

In attendance : John Pearson (Chairman), Ian Oelrichs, Andrew Reimanis, Louise Riddell, John Flower, Melinda Taylor, Mike Svikis, Val Johnston, Ian Dutton, Guy Holloway, Jack Carlsen and Lawrence Franklin who are members of the Ecotourism Taskforce. Apologies were noted for Glen Meade. John Kable took the minutes.

Chairman welcomed and thanked members for their input and assistance in progressing the goals of the Taskforce. It was noted that this was the seventh and probably final meeting of the whole Taskforce which had been successful in achieving its two main tasks, i.e. to resource and establish an ecotourism industry association, and to source funding from the Commonwealth Department of Tourism for the purpose of producing a regional ecotourism strategic plan.

The minutes from the meeting dated 27 April 1994 were confirmed without alteration.

There was a confirmation of a date arising from the Minutes. The date for the Regional Tourism Forum being convened by the Regional Development Board is now 1 June 1994, and the nominated public officer from the Northern NSW Ecotourism Association, John Flower will attend the Forum.

A report on the funding approved by the Department of Tourism was presented by Ian Oelrichs. Amount granted was \$230,000 to complete a strategic plan. To date no contract has been sent to the Board for signature, but the understanding is that it will be available soon! A condition of the contract will be that the strategic plan must result in improvements in local business and employment prospects, and our grant will be used as a yardstick for other grant applications. A requirement will also be that there are regular reviews of progress of the plan to be arranged with senior staff in DOT in Canberra. It is also possible that the DOT and the Department of Housing and Regional Development may establish local representation. The grant is for a twelve month period commencing on receipt of the monies by the NRRDB. Discussion on the role and linking of the NRRDB with the Ecotourism Association resolved to form a liaison/technical advisory group comprising Guy Holloway (NPWS), Ian Oelrichs (NRRDB), Ian Dutton (SCU) and two representatives from the Northern NSW Ecotourism Association, in the interim being John Flower and Louise Riddell. This group is to meet on Friday 3/6/94 at Ian Oelrichs place, Coopers Shoot.

Report by Jack Carlsen on the Regional Tourism Forum which will be held in Ballina On 1

Report by Jack Carlsen on the Regional Tourism Forum which will be held in Ballina On 1 June 1994. A report has been prepared on the current state of tourism for forum participants. This report covers the Northern Rivers Region, that is the 12 LGA's. It has a wider definition and assessment of tourism than ecotourism and is intended as a discussion paper for comment.

Northern NSW Ecotourism Association Incorporated: Mike Svikis reported that there was no blanket insurances available through the national Ecotourism Association, and they do not have professional indemnity insurance and do not give advice to other agencies. It was decided to get cover for the association of \$2 million for public liability, and a bank account is to be opened by the public officer after the meeting planned for 27 June 1994. The cost of insurances was \$359.50 and a loan was made to the association by NRRDB for this amount. John Pearson is to write to the four LGA's for support of the Association with a request for a donation of \$150 each to assist in setting up the Association. Andrew Reimanis reported that the Association was now ready for incorporation. The newsletter had been prepared and given to JP to mail out with copies to taskforce members as well. To be eligible for membership, must be resident or work in the four LGA's (i.e. Tweed, Byron, Lismore and Kyogle). A seven member committee has to be elected at the meeting, and the fees will be \$10 to join and \$15 annual subscription. The inaugural meeting of the Association is planned for 27 June 1994 at Midginbil Hill at 7.00 PM. It was recommended that a 4 or 5 person delegation from the Taskforce would address the meeting. It was recommended also that all the details of committee requirements be carefully checked prior to the meeting. John Flower reported that he had copies of accreditation materials for ecotourism guides etc. that could be provided to members.

There were several presentations by students of the Faculty of Resource Science and Management who are working with the Lismore Council in preparing a 2020 Vision Strategic Plan. The presentations were well received by Taskforce members and the students appreciated the feedback from industry people.

As this was the final meeting of the Ecotourism Taskforce, Chairman thanked all members for their enthusiastic support and that even though this group had achieved its goals in good time, there was a lot of work to progress, now that the strategic planning process was starting. John Flower made a vote of thanks to the Chairman, John Pearson for his efforts etc. Meeting closed at 1.00 pm with lunch kindly provided by the University.

Minutes prepared by J. Pearson on 28/5/94

76 \$

NEWSLETTER FROM ECOTOURISM TASKFORCE

NO. 5 April/May 1994

Notes on the meetings held at the Town Motel, Murwillumbah, 29th March, and David Kanaley's residence, Whian Whian State Forest, 27th April 1994.

No newsletter was produced last month since attentions have been focussed on the establishment of an ecotourism association within this region, and the delay of some tangible news from Canberra re. the application of funding under the RTDP.

Regional Tourism Development Project Application :

As seen in the press recently, funding has been approved for the preparation of "The North Coast Regional Ecotourism Plan". Success has been mostly due to the efforts of John Pearson and Ian Oelrichs, as well as other members of the E/T Task Force. The preparation of the submission was not an easy task, as was the badgering of our local M.P.'s, and others, to get some action. The NRRDB now has \$230,000 available to "prepare an ecotourism development strategy for the North Coast" (focussing on the LGA's of Lismore, Kyogle, Tweed, and Byron).

This project will have 3 principle benefits:

1. Enable ecotourism to be developed in a co-ordinated manner, consistent with environmental capacity and social preferences.
2. Enable the definition of agreed regional development priorities. These will serve as both the focus for encouraging private sector investment and the efficient application of public sector efforts (e.g. World Heritage funding).
3. In the medium term (2-5 years), lead to enhanced employment and wealth creation.

New Representative :

It was advised that Doug Hammonds had resigned from the Task Force due to the amount of time he has to dedicate to his own projects. His resignation was accepted with regret.

Louise Riddell (Nimbin Chamber of Commerce & 'Jarlanbah') is the newly appointed industry rep.

Ecotourism Information & Training Centre :

Ian Oelrichs announced the possibility of establishing an E/T training centre in this region. This concept is purely formulative at this stage. Funding may be sought for this project at some later stage.

National Ecotourism Strategy :

Discussions focussed on the recently announced calls for projects to implement the National Ecotourism Strategy, as managed by the Dept. of Tourism (Canberra). Categories available for funding include infrastructure projects, scientific research, education, energy & waste minimisation practices, and integrated regional planning projects.

Two applications have been made by the NRRDB :

1. Low impact access road construction to the Border Ranges National Park.
2. A "How to" guide for Local Government in facilitating ecotourism developments.

North Coast tourism - the big picture :

Advice was recieved that the NSW Dept of Business and Regional Development has

approved a grant to the NRRDB to complete a scoping study of tourism in general in the whole Northern Rivers region. The contract for this work has been awarded to the Southern Cross University, Centre for Tourism. Part of this funding will also be applied to convening and holding a regional tourism forum in Ballina on 1 June 1994. The aim of the forum is to get representatives from the tourism industry together to work towards an overall strategy. Currently, there is perceived to be a lack of co-ordination and co-operation within the region.

Ecotourism Association formation :

The E/T Task Force has been working steadily towards the formation of an incorporated association for all interested parties and individuals. The following resolutions have been conditionally adopted :

MEMBERSHIP

Eligibility criteria be that individual members either work or reside in the region defined (LGA's of Lismore, Kyogle, Tweed and Byron).

GOVERNMENT LINKS

Resource managers such as National Parks and State Forests will participate in the new association as and when required and the current bond is not to be diluted. It is considered important that resource managers, the industry and the community have a common interest and can meet in a non-confrontational environment.

NAME

Agree that the name of Northern NSW Ecotourism Association is to be reserved for incorporation with public officer nominated as John Flower.
(acronym : NNETA)

STRUCTURE

Model Rules be adopted initially by NNETA, with the most relevant point being the election of seven committee members.

FUNDING

Obtain a 'once-off' donation from the 4 LGA's to fund incorporation fees, public liability insurance premium for NNETA, and initial secretarial services costs.

Initially membership fees be set at \$10 per member for joining the Association, plus an amount of \$15 for annual membership.

OBJECTIVES and STRATEGIES

1. To foster the development of an environmentally and socially responsible ecotourism industry in the region.
Strategy :
 - i. Identify new opportunities which exist.
 - ii. Provide advice and assistance to potential and newly established operators.
 - iii. Ensure the regions ecotourism industry meets its agreed environmental/social responsibilities.
 - iv. Ensure 'education' is incorporated as an integral part of any ecotourism experience.
 - v. Provide support for existing operators in the region.
 - vi. Provide an information and reference resource for the industry and the wider community.
2. To raise market awareness of the regions ecotourism assets.
Strategy :
 - i. Develop a marketing plan
 - ii. Maximise the distribution of the regions ecotourism products within the wider market place.
3. To provide a single unified voice for regions ecotourism industry.
Strategy :
 - i. Lobby Commonwealth/State/Local Govt. to improve essential infrastructure.
 - ii. Coordinate and act as an interface between the industry, the wider community, tourism in general, business sectors, and the government.

- iii. Facilitate networking between the regions ecotourism industry and other ecotourism organisations.
- 4. To develop and maintain the integrity of the ecotourism industry.
 - Strategy : i. Ensure the maintenance of consumer confidence in the use of the term 'ecotourism'.
 - ii. Promote a 'professional' image.
 - iii. Encourage operators to maintain the highest standards of customer safety.

The inaugural meeting of the Northern NSW Ecotourism Association will be held at Midginbil Hill on the 27th June 1994 at 7.00pm. (Monday).

This meeting is being convened to :

- 1. Further information dissemination to interested individuals and organisations regarding the evolution of ecotourism in this region.
 - Guest speakers will include : Representatives from National Parks Service, Northern Rivers Regional Development Board, Southern Cross University, the marketing and business sectors, and local government.
- 2. Obtain feedback regarding the directions that NNETA should take in the future. All suggestions and ideas will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the 2nd meeting (an AGM planned for August).
- 3. Increase membership!
- 4. Elect 7 committee members.

Industry Reps. :
 John Flower 797158
 Andrew Reimanis 726221
 Louise Riddell 891322
 Melinda Taylor 882070

Newsletter prepared by
 Andrew Reimanis.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - NORTHERN NSW ECOTOURISM ASSOCIATION

Name / Business _____
 Address _____
 Phone / Fax _____

\$10 Joining fee + \$15 Annual Membership payable to NNETA, Public Officer,
 MIDGINBIL HILL via UKI 2484

Yes, I will be attending the meeting of NNETA on the 27th June.

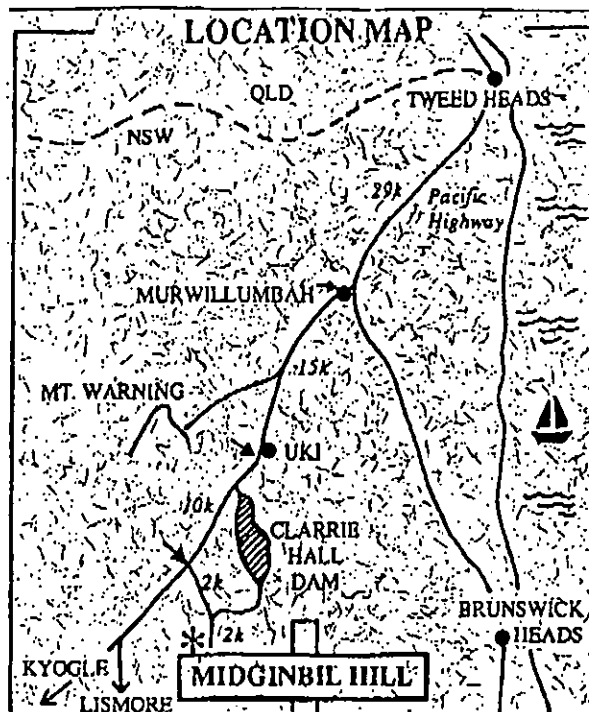
Number of people _____ Name _____

SEE MAP OF MIDGINBIL OVER

Midginbil Hill is 30 km SW of Murwillumbah. Leave Pacific Highway at Murwillumbah and follow the Kyogle Road to the Village of Uki. Continue for a further 11 km. Turn left along Doon Doon Road for 2½ km; then turn right along Midginbil Road for another 2½ km.



For bookings contact:
Annette & John Flower
Uki via Murwillumbah
NSW 2484 AUSTRALIA
Phone 066 797158
Fax 066 797120
International Fax 61 66 797120



How green was my chalet?

02 19/5/94

Susan Kurosawa
is not amused by phoney
ecotourism operators

A LONG with the routine roll-call of 1990s catchphrases (ideologically sound, politically correct, information loop, date from hell and bad-hair day) has emerged ecotourism, a travel industry buzz term that has leapt from jargon to conversational currency in the blink of an endangered bilby's eye.

When I first heard it, I sensed the scratch of cheesecloth and scent of sandalwood synonymous with budget travel and in my naivety merely presumed it was some patronising tag to make us feel better about taking a right-hand turn on boarding the aircraft and sitting in economy class.

My awakening took only as long as it took the opportunistic tourism operators of this world to hop on the hay-wagon and build this glittering goldmine of a phrase into their products and packages. Before you could say kookaburra, I found myself invited to experience ecotourism by one such frontiersman. With a fleet of shiny new 4WDs, brochures hastily printed on recycled paper and a band of blokey guides whose main credentials appeared to be knowing a pademelon from a watermelon, the operator was poised to transport tourists to eco-paradise. For which, in the case of my trip, you may read the easy-access Blue Mountains, 90 minutes west of Sydney.

For my fellow passengers (urban-dulled Singapore secretaries), it may have been ecotourism on a mulga stick, but I sensed we were part of a shameless sting when the guides left the garbage behind, threw their cigarette butts out the 4WD window and failed to answer even the simplest questions about conservation practices.

With tourism emerging as the world's fastest growing industry and biggest provider of employment, the concept of ecologically based travel is not going to stay quietly camped under the gum trees. Federal tourism minister Michael Lee has recently released the Government's ecotourism strategy and, as sound and worthy as it may be,

its success depends in no small way on the acceptance and awareness of us consumers.

For the average holiday-choosing punter, a grass-roots approach is needed. While we may assiduously read the labels of supermarket products and congratulate ourselves on buying Australian, eating dolphin-friendly tuna and avoiding brands of cosmetics that employ animal testing, we are not nearly so conscientious about travel.

Holidays are a price-driven commodity and, just as we tend to be seduced by the cheap rather than the value-for-money, it's easy to opt for the big-name wholesaler over the smaller operator and the holiday in the big-budget brochure instead of the modest flyer. It's time to shed this superficial approach and delve a little deeper.

LOFTY rhetoric and long-term ecotourism strategies have far greater chance of success if we act as a marketplace patrol to keep the travel industry honest. We need to discriminate in favour of operators, hotels and airlines who have a stated green agenda, who recycle and employ sound waste disposal techniques, who instil in their staff the necessity for environmental awareness and who, in the case of tour companies, put money back into the communities and natural resources their passengers are paying big bucks to see.

There's a swag of Australian tour companies that donate percentages from each package sold to such organisations as Greenpeace and World Wide Fund for Nature. As just one example, Westpac Travel assists WWF's threatened species program with proceeds from its "Travel with a Purpose" portfolio of tours to places as remote as

Bhutan and Irian Jaya. There are many other companies with a similar conscience. Ask your travel agent who they are. If your consultant would rather sell you a quickie sun-and-sea holiday in polluted Pattaya than answer your questions about wilderness lodges, change agencies.

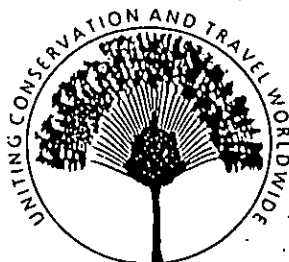
Our vigilance may mean demanding to know why hotels are not using recycled paper products or checking to see if the ecotourism guide trooping us off to paddle with penguins has studied ornithology, not just learned how to spell it.

Ecotourism patrol definitely means boycotting companies that appear to be in breach of conservation guidelines. As one recent example, *The Australian's* travel section heard of a cruise line offering coral painting classes as part of its arts and crafts program. The coral was brought back to the ship by eager snorkellers who'd snapped it from the reef. We have sent a writer to investigate and, pending evidence to the contrary, this company can expect no mentions in our travel pages.

This November, 600 international experts on environmental and conservation issues will descend on Hobart for a world congress on ecotourism. With the spotlight firmly focused on Australia during this event, we have a tailor-made chance to show off our green credentials. Unlike those tourist-infested countries in South-East Asia where beach resort development has gone unchecked and pollution is potent, we have both advanced expertise and knowledge of the mistakes of others to get it right.

Let's show the world that as well as marine wonders, 10 World Heritage sites and pristine wilderness, Australia has a conscientious community of keen travellers who, while wanting to take great holidays to do us a world of good, want the world to greatly benefit in the process.

Susan Kurosawa is the travel editor of *The Australian*.



THE ECOTOURISM SOCIETY

Winter 1994

PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

The Ecotourism Society is pleased to introduce our new quarterly publications order form with a new simpler format for ordering. All prices now include shipping and handling. Please check the publications you wish to order:

NEW RELEASES

☐ Guiding Principles of Sustainable Design

US National Park Service, 1993

\$19.00 US (\$24 non-members)

The new bible for planners, architects, and developers seeking to integrate natural and cultural resource conservation principles with the development of sites for tourism.

☐ Ecotourism Guidelines for Nature Tour Operators

The Ecotourism Society, 1993

\$7.00 US (\$8.00 non-members)

This 20-page document provides the most up-to-date standards for the operation of tours in fragile natural areas. Useful for professionals throughout the travel industry and travelers.

☐ Ecotourism: A Guide for Planners & Managers

Kreg Lindberg & Donald E. Hawkins, eds., 1993

\$17.00 US (\$22.00 non-members)

Used internationally as a resource for ecotourism professionals and as a text for university courses, this guide provides in-depth how-to information with informative case studies.

☐ The Ecotourism Society Annotated Bibliography

P. Eagles, S. Buse, & G. Huenegaard, eds., 1993

\$17.00 US (\$22.00 non-members)

A comprehensive overview of ecotourism publications edited for their contribution to the literature and relevance to issues of conservation and sustainable development worldwide.

Also available from TES:

☐ Ecotourism: A Viable Alternative for Sustainable Resources in Africa

IRG for USAID Africa, 1992

\$16.00 US (\$21 non-members)

An in-depth report on the potential for ecotourism as a tool for sustainable development in Africa.

☐ Policies for Maximizing Nature Tourism's Ecological and Economic Benefits

Kreg Lindberg, World Resources Institute, 1991

\$19.00 US (\$24.00 non-members)

An excellent analysis of why parks and protected areas have not benefited adequately from tourism dollars, and how policy-makers can address the problem.

☐ Ecotourism: The Potentials and the Pitfalls

by Elizabeth Boo, World Wildlife Fund, 1990

\$16.00 US (\$21.00 non-members)

The first comprehensive research into how ecologically sound tourism can benefit developing countries seeking to conserve natural areas, with a serious look at what can go wrong.

☐ Ecotourism: The Uneasy Alliance

Karen Ziffer, Conservation International, 1989

\$16.00 US (\$21.00 non-members)

A thorough investigation into the market for ecotourism, detailing the structure of the nature tourism industry and its potential for success as a local economic development tool.

ORDER FORM

QUANTITY	TITLE	AMOUNT
_____	Guiding Principles of Sustainable Design	_____
_____	Ecotourism Guidelines for Nature Tour Operators	_____
_____	Ecotourism: A Guide for Planners & Managers	_____
_____	The Ecotourism Society Annotated Bibliography	_____
_____	Ecotourism: A Viable Alternative for Sustainable...	_____
_____	Policies for Maximizing Nature Tourism's Ecological...	_____
_____	Ecotourism: The Potentials and the Pitfalls	_____
_____	Ecotourism: The Uneasy Alliance	_____

TOTAL DUE: _____

NAME _____ CURRENT MEMBER? _____

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

COUNTRY _____

TELEPHONE/FAX _____

FORM OF PAYMENT: ☐ CHECK ☐ VISA/MC (US DOLLARS ONLY)

CARD NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

MAIL ORDER TO:
THE ECOTOURISM SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 755, N. BENNINGTON, VT 05257 USA
TEL: 802-447-2121 FAX: 802-447-2122



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

T66
SIX ELBOW STREET,
(P.O. BOX 2056)
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450
TEL.: (066) 52 6233
(008) 800 217 TOLL FREE
FAX.: (066) 51 4346

GARRY NEHL, M.P.
MEMBER FOR COWPER
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES
NATIONAL PARTY DEPUTY WHIP

Mr J. Tedder
North Coast Environment Council
Pavans Access
STUART'S POINT 2441

Dear Mr Tedder

It is with great disappointment that I must tell you that your application for funding under the Regional Tourism Development Program was unsuccessful.

I made personal representations to the Minister for Tourism, Mr Michael Lee, on behalf of each of the nine applications in my electorate which were submitted for funding under the program. Unfortunately, none of these applications was successful.

I considered each to be worthy of funding because of the increased numbers of tourists they would bring to the North Coast.

However, of the 10 grants announced for NSW organisations recently, nine went to Labor-held seats.

I have already taken up the matter with Minister Lee and am awaiting his reply.

Also, his Department has advised me that each unsuccessful application is eligible to apply again for funding, with a call for submissions for the second funding round of the Program expected in July/August this year.

I would encourage you to reapply and would be delighted to speak on your behalf once more.

Yours sincerely

Garry Nehl, MP
MEMBER FOR COWPER
GBN:CM

17 MAY 1994

26 May 94

Mr.G.Nehl MP
Member for Cowper
PO Box 2056
Coffs Harbour 2450

Dear Mr.Nehl,

Thank you for your letter of 17 May concerning your endeavours on our behalf to receive funding under the Regional Tourism Development Program.


Your efforts are appreciated. The Council has prepared another application for the current year and I enclose a copy. This application is basically the same as last year but is more specific in its aim.

The Council is concerned that the North Coast community should understand that the ecotourism industry can be threatened by;-

- * the current emphasis on urban development by many of the Local Governments
- * failure ,again by Local Governments ,to protect remaining vegetation particularly in reserves, and along road sides and in approving new sub-divisions.
- * failure by the State Government to ensure some of the main natural attractions eg wetlands, wilderness areas, old growth forests, natural coastlines ,fish habitats , scenic vistas are given adequate protection
- * a reliance on one type of tourism development with the result that the environment which at present attracts tourists will become the same as many over developed resorts, and lose its appeal.
- * too much reliance on tourism as the means to solve all our problems of un employment, a type of cargo cultism
- * building an economy so based on tourism that when people decide to go elsewhere for their holidays economic hardship is created.

It will be difficult to achieve a happy medium but unless we do, we shall only import many of the problems that plague areas which decided tourism would solve their economic woes.

Yours sincerely


James L.O.Tedder
Hon.Sec.

timber industry. It is a classic case of the balance needing to be struck for ensuring sustainable development. Both Commonwealth and State Governments must accept the responsibility for striking this balance, knowing that no one will be entirely satisfied with the decisions made.

The Coalition supports the National Forest Strategy, and will provide Commonwealth legislative endorsement of State or regional forest strategies which meet approved standards. Without such endorsement potential investors in the timber industry will not have the security of access they need for sound investment. Without more investment the benefits in jobs and in the wider economy will be lost. Also the timber industry will not have the financial strength to meet the conservation objectives that are a critical element in its operations.

The expansion of plantations, especially of hardwoods, will be encouraged. Specific measures to encourage plantations are outlined earlier in this policy statement.

As part of our Fightback! plan the Coalition will also be encouraging the States and the private sector to carry out the microeconomic reform measures in forestry and timber production needed to achieve best international practice. Better information on the economics of the industry flowing from these reforms will also help to resolve arguments over the most effective use of our natural resources.

WORLD HERITAGE LISTING

The Liberal and National Parties support the inscription of appropriate sites on the World Heritage List in recognition of their outstanding value to all the peoples of the world. We will not propose sites for listing without the fullest consultation and without the co-operation of the State or Territory Governments.

In order to avoid future conflicts, the incoming Coalition Government will give priority to finalisation, in consultation with the States and Territories, of a comprehensive indicative list to identify any sites in Australia which might in future be considered for World Heritage Listing as satisfying the criteria laid down under the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage. It can then be decided which sites merit further consideration. Any uncertainty associated with their future potential status will therefore be eliminated.

Any sites proposed for further consideration will be evaluated by a Joint Commonwealth-State and local government study and an early decision made about their future in relation to World Heritage Listing. This will include obtaining agreement on a plan of management which will make clear what uses will be allowed in the future and what administrative arrangements will apply.

Once this process has been completed, future uncertainty will not arise in relation to World Heritage nominations and the apparatus set up under the World Heritage

26 May 94

Mr. H. Woods
Member for Page
P.O. Box 882
Grafton 2460

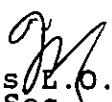
Dear Mr. Woods,

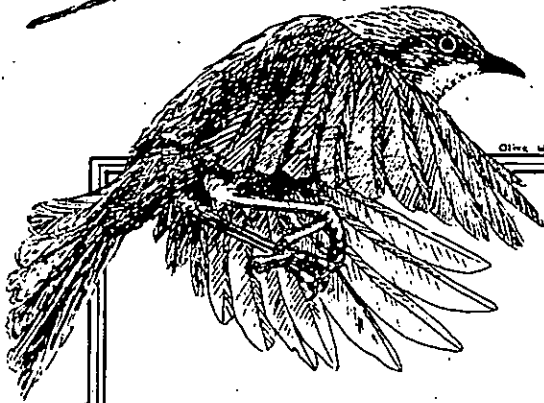
You will be interested in the enclosed application by this Council for a grant under the Regional Tourism Development Program. The Council applied last year but was not successful.

You will also note the enclosed letters to and from Mr. Nehl the Member for Cowper. Mr. Nehl approached the Minister acting on his own initiative in the case of the first application.

The Council asks if you might bear in mind this application when discussing the Program with the Minister, pointing out that this Council covers the whole of the North Coast.

Yours sincerely


James L.O. Tedder
Hon. Sec.



Olive Whistler

THE BIG SCRUB ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC.

149 Keen Street, Lismore 2480.
Phone (066) 21 3278
Fax (066) 22 2676

Swamp Orchid

HUMBLE PIE DRIVE

As the weather gets colder, are you getting hungrier and feel like you can't be bothered to cook? Well here's the answer to your prayers.....

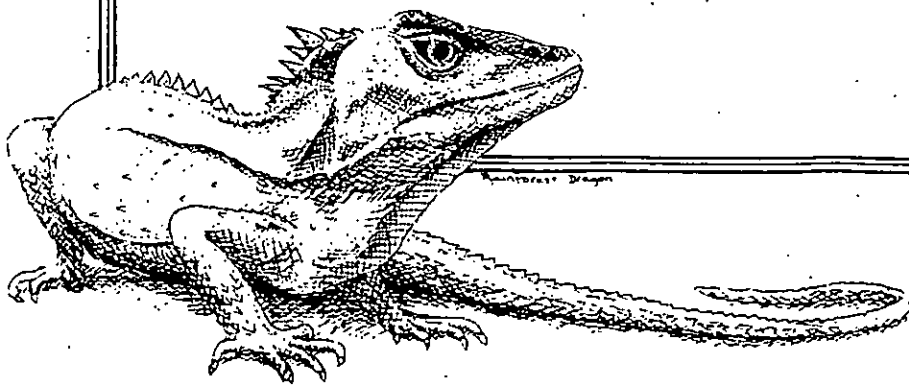
Humble Pie Co. is an Australian owned family business, which offer a comprehensive range of nutritious home style pies that have no preservatives, no yeast, no eggs, no colours, no artificial flavours and no meat products used in any of their vegetarian pies, rolls or pasties.

Please support The Big Scrub Environment Centre and buy some pies and if you have the energy convince friends and relatives to buy also. Extra forms are available from The Environment Centre.

Orders are to be dropped off at The Big Scrub Environment Centre no later than 21st July, 1993.

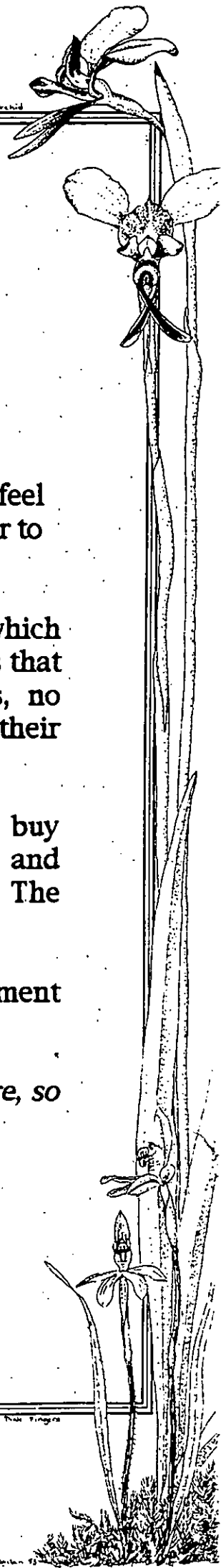
This is a fundraiser for The Big Scrub Environment Centre, so your co-operation is appreciated.

Attachment



Rainforest Dragon

Tree Fingers



T6b

26 May 94

Mr. N. Newell
Member for Richmond
1/133 Wharf St
Tweed Heads 2485


Dear Mr. Newell,

You will be interested in the enclosed application by this Council for a grant under the Regional Tourism Development Program. The Council applied last year but was not successful.

You will also note the enclosed letters to and from Mr. Nehl the Member for Cowper. Mr. Nehl approached the Minister acting on his own initiative in the case of the first application.

The Council asks if you might bear in mind this application when discussing the Program with the Minister, pointing out that this Council covers the whole of the North Coast.

Yours sincerely


James L.O. Tedder
Hon. Sec.



The airlines dispute and Australia's tourist industry

Facts from the Australian Bureau of Statistics

In response to the need for accurate, timely and unbiased information on the effects of the airlines dispute, the Australian Bureau of Statistics is releasing selected information on Australia's accommodation sector.

This special release will provide information on room nights, guest nights, guest arrivals and takings.

The first releases will give figures for July and August, and they will be available in early October. The September figures will be published shortly after, in mid October.

Individual publications detail each state, giving a full breakdown on the impact that the dispute has had on their accommodation sector. A national publication is also being produced and will be available from the start of October.

At only \$5.00 per issue, these are important indicators you can't afford be without - order your copy now by phoning your state contact as listed below.

NSW Matt Strange (02) 268 4110

SA Graeme Thomas (08) 237 7632

Vic Judy Barbeta (03) 615 7575

Tas Paul Curtain (002) 20 5878

Qld Vern Wills (07) 222 6154

NT Peter White (089) 81 5222

WA Robin Dalby (09) 323 5171

ACT George Webb (062) 52 5452

Dear Tim,

Sorry for the delay. I hope
This information is what you require.

Sharon Proctor
Nightcap Range Road
Whiam Whiam State forest
Via Lismore 2480

Phone 895051 Car - 018 - 660962.
& Fax Car - 018 - 666446.

Proprietor - Minyon Forest Nursery, rain forest
& native trees.

" - Minyon Makers school of Art
Founding Member - "Friends of the forest"
involved in forest management

Founding Member - Culdara Nightcap Ecologically
Sustainable Tourism inc.

- involved in eco tourism
standards & accreditation etc
as per vision statement

Member - Farm Forestry Ass - nominated
for ~~committee~~ committee

Personally involved in tourism by providing
home cooked vegetarian lunches for Back-
packers at my home.

Presently attending TAFE drawing course
& Michael Taylor Painting school.



Mr Terry Parkhouse
North Coast Environment Council Inc
Pavans Rd
GRASSY HEAD NSW 2441

Dear Mr Parkhouse

Thank you for your application(s) under the National Ecotourism Program.

Applications are currently being assessed and you will be notified shortly of the outcome.

Yours sincerely

Bernard Knowler
Director
Nature Based and Indigenous Tourism

20 May 1994



CALDERA - NIGHTCAP ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
(CALDERA NEST INC.)

VISION STATEMENT

Ethical Tourism in the Nightcap Ranges that:-

- (i) promotes environmental understanding, appreciation and conservation;
- (ii) sustains and enhances the ecological values of the area;
- (iii) supports the existing diverse local culture and social and economic well being of the local community.

GOAL:

ENVIRONMENTAL UNDERSTANDING, APPRECIATION AND CONSERVATION

OBJECTIVES:

- (i) to develop and co-ordinate a walking track system through the Nightcap Ranges;
- (ii) to develop and implement programmes and provide resource information material and displays to educate visitors about the Nightcap Ranges unique flora, fauna, geology, natural history, traditional and contemporary human culture;
- (iii) to undertake and inspire visitors to participate in regeneration, environmental repair, ecological recovery and ecological survey projects.

GOAL:

SUSTAINED AND ENHANCED ECOLOGICAL VALUES

OBJECTIVES:

- (i) to protect and enhance the biodiversity and the integrity of the area;
- (ii) to participate in and actively support Total Catchment Management (TCM) in the Richmond and Brunswick River systems and Land Care Groups in the Nightcap Ranges;
- (iii) to minimise use of non-renewable energy sources and encourage recycling and minimisation of waste.

GOAL:

CULTURALLY, SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE LOCAL COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVES:

- (i) to provide opportunities and support for different expressions of local culture which meet these goals and objectives;
- (ii) to encourage, develop and support the local community by buying locally wherever possible and by employing local people;
- (iii) to ensure intergenerational equity by maintaining and enhancing the ecological, cultural, social and economic resources of the Nightcap Ranges in any tourism activity or development.

CODE OF PRACTICE:

Operators registered under the umbrella of the Caldera - Nightcap Ecologically Sustainable Tourism Inc. agree to comply with the Code of Practice set by the Eco-Tourism Association of Australia.

NORTHERN RIVERS

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

T6b

18 April 1994

50 Victoria Street
P.O. Box 362
Grafton NSW 2460

Tel (066) 43 1705
Fax (066) 43 1405

James L.O. Tedder
Hon. Secretary
North Coast Environment Council Inc.
Pavans Road, Grassy Head
Stuarts Point 2441 NSW

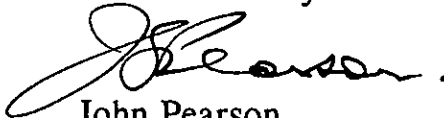
Dear Jim,

In response to your letter dated 16 March 1994, I advise that the Ecotourism Taskforce meets at various locations in Byron, Lismore, Kyogle and Tweed Council areas. We usually vary the actual meeting place between Council meeting rooms and some tourism facilities within those Local Government areas. At this time we do not have the resources to reimburse members of the Taskforce for travel costs, so individuals are expected to cover their own costs.

If you are able to nominate one person with an alternate nomination, it would be appreciated. For your information the next meeting is planned to be held on Wednesday 27 April 1994 at Whian Whian, where the Caldera NEST Ecotourism Association will host the Taskforce meeting.

I look forward to meeting your nominated representative in the near future.

Yours sincerely



John Pearson
Chairman
Ecotourism Taskforce

(066) 895051 Sharon Proctor
Nightcap Range Rd
Whian Whian SF
via Lismore 2460
copy of T. & Env.

eco\neccc2.ltr

Martin Abrahams ?



COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF

TOURISM

T6b

Mr James Tedder
North Coast Environment Council Inc
Pavans Access
GRASSY HEAD NSW 2441

Dear Mr Tedder

I am writing in relation to your application for funding under the Regional Tourism Development Program (RTDP) in 1993-94.

Over 500 applications were received and the standard of applications was generally very high. However, because of budget limitations, it was not possible to fund all applications.

On this occasion the North Coast Environment Council Inc's application was unsuccessful.

The RTDP is a four year program and applications will be sought annually. If you intend to submit an application next financial year you may wish to discuss it before you do so. If so, please ring the RTDP Hotline on (06) 279 7206 to register your interest. An officer of the Department's Regional Development Section will contact you as soon as practicable.

Thank you for your interest in the program.

Yours sincerely

David Lalor
A/g Assistant Secretary
Regional Development Branch

28 April 1994



ECOTOURISM TASKFORCE MEETING MINUTES

Fifth meeting held on 29 March 1994, at the Town Motel, 3 Wharf Street, Murwillumbah, NSW

In attendance : John Pearson (Chairman), John Flower, Ian Oelrichs, Andrew Reimanis, Doug Hammonds, Melinda Taylor, Mike Svikis, Glenn Meade, Guy Holloway, Val Johnston, Jack Carlsen and Lawrence Franklin who are members of the Ecotourism Taskforce. Apologies were noted for Ian Dutton. Stephen Fletcher (Kyogle Council) was invited to be an observer.

Meeting opened with expression of thanks to Andrew Reimanis for the use of the Town Motel as a meeting venue.

Minutes of the fourth meeting of the Taskforce were confirmed without modification.

Matters arising from the minutes were: the announcement of the Ecotourism Training Centre, and the Tourism Commission conditional SONTS funding of a Tweed Council sponsored study for the development of tourism at Mount Nullum.

RTDP Application: There was no advice from DOT to report on the success or failure of the application for funding; however it is understood from staff at DOT that announcements would be made by the Minister within two weeks and would be released State by State, (order unknown). Discussion also focussed on the recently announced calls for projects to implement the National Ecotourism Strategy, as managed by the Department of Tourism. Categories available for funding include infrastructure projects, scientific research, ecotourism education, energy and waste minimisation practices, business development skills, and, integrated regional planning pilot projects. It was noted that eligibility was restricted to relevant government and non-government bodies including research and training bodies, conservation groups, professional associations, educational institutions, indigenous communities and regional development organisations. It was noted and discussed that there was no direct financial assistance available to individual private industry operators in tourism from these and other Federal grants. The meeting resolved to not re-submit the RTDP application to the National Ecotourism Strategy funding program as it would involve substantial reworking to "fit" the latter program and because the funding sought exceeded in total value the maximum amount allowable. A Taskforce group was organised to meet on Thursday 7th April, with Jack Carlsen at the Centre for Tourism to consider and if thought appropriate to apply for funding of projects.

Ecotourism Information/Training Centre: Ian Oelrichs described the background and various parties involved in progressing this proposal, which at this stage is formulative. It was resolved that it may be appropriate to apply for DOT funding of a

feasibility study into establishing such a facility in the region. Jack Carlsen group will discuss this option in 7 April meeting.

Mount Nullum study Lawrence Franklin advised that the Commission will fund a feasibility study of the project area, over a period of 12 to 18 months.

Zone Marketing Boundaries: The Taskforce members indicated that there was a need for review and input by both the Taskforce and individuals to any review of Tourism Commission boundaries for the purpose of marketing etc. It was noted that the Product Development Unit of the Tourism Commission was holding a meeting for invited participants at Ballina on April 18, and at Coffs Harbour on 19 April 1994, to discuss issues relating to the effectiveness of the current method of zone definition and marketing as well as the implications of information collected for the NSW Masterplan. John Pearson will attend.

Newsletter Industry reps. reported that both the Taskforce and the newsletter were generally accepted and supported by industry operators. Andrew Reimanis and John Pearson to review newsletter mail list to add/delete operators as appropriate.

Correspondence An invitation was provided to Taskforce members to attend the Public Launch of Caldera-NEST at 7.00 pm on 14 April 1994, at the Rosebank Hall, also Melinda Taylor provided a copy of the Caldera Nest submission to Friends of the Forest, concerning the management of the Whian Whian State Forest for recreation and tourism purposes. Other correspondence included: Letter to B. Knowler DOT re: ecotourism training/information centre

Letter to Aust. Local govt Association re: Strategic plan funding application

Letter to NCEC inviting participation in Ecotourism Taskforce.

Letter from DOT advising that funding from NSW BARD would reduce the amount of RTDP funding by the equivalent amount.

Letter from NCEC accepting participation in Ecotourism Taskforce.

Ecotourism Taskforce Incorporation

1. Meeting resolved to proceed with the formation of an incorporated body to progress the interests and objectives of the ecotourism taskforce. It was also resolved to reserve with the Department of Consumer Affairs (Lismore), a name for the proposed incorporated body which was agreed as follows:

Northern NSW Ecotourism Association (First choice)

North-east NSW Ecotourism Association (Second choice)

John Pearson to reserve these names as soon as possible.

2. A second resolution by the Ecotourism Taskforce was that the proposed incorporated body Public Officer will be:

Mr John Flower
Midginbil Holiday Farm
UKI NSW 2484

3. Further resolved that the Annual General Meeting of the proposed incorporated body be held within three months of the date of incorporation of that body.

4. Fourth resolution that initial fees be set at \$10 per member for joining the body and an annual fee of \$15 be applied to all members.

5. Members of the Taskforce were put on notice that at the next Taskforce meeting (see note below) a special resolution will be put that:

a) members approve a statement of the associations objectives

b) members approve rules (i.e. Model Rules of Incorporation) consistent with these objectives; and,

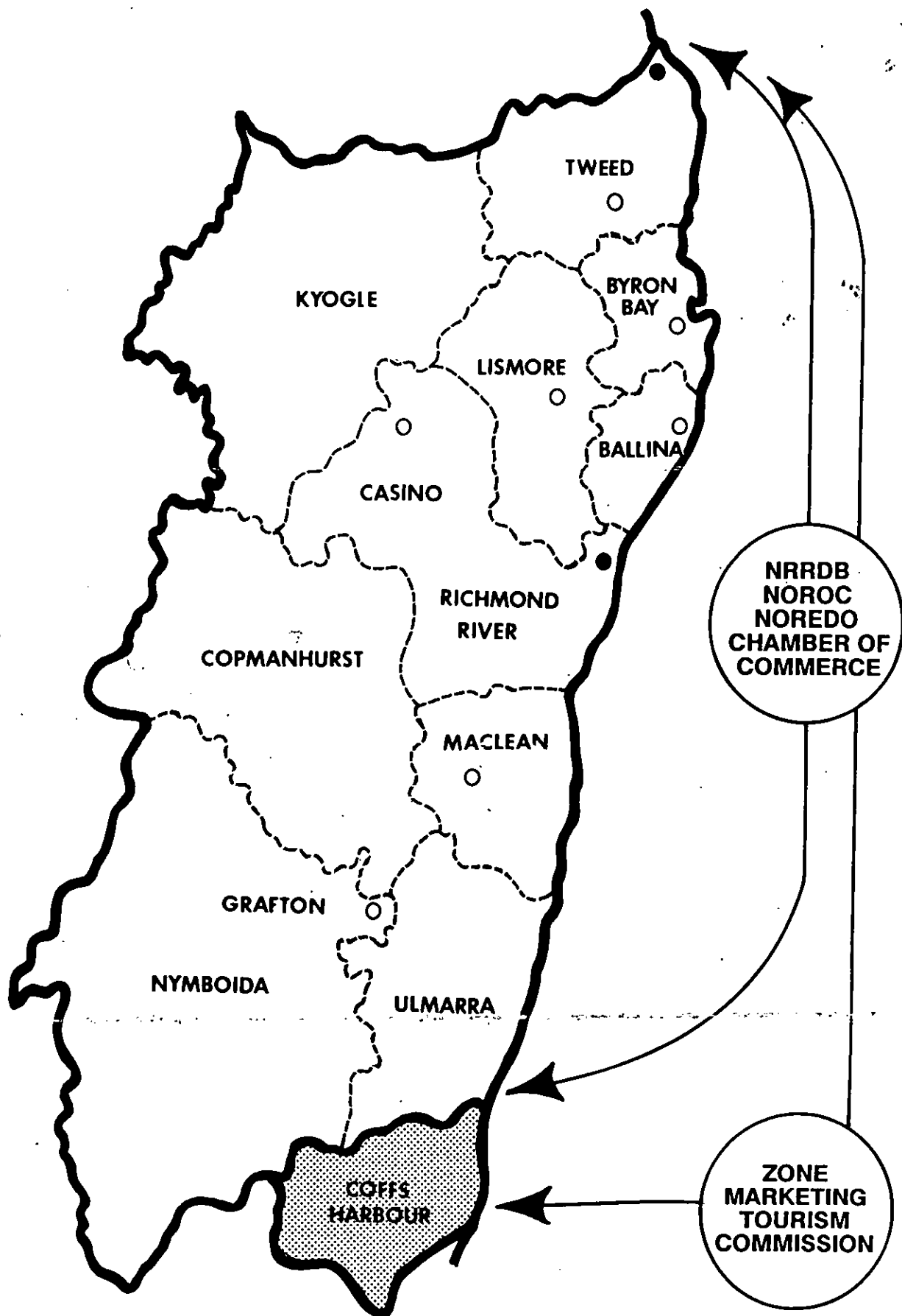
c) the nominated Public officer is authorised to apply for incorporation.

Some discussions revolved around public liability insurance (minimum of \$2 million coverage), its cost and coverage, Mike Svikis will investigate further and report to next Taskforce meeting. Also the on-going nexus of Government and industry involvement and responsibility in pursuing ecotourism development was discussed and agreed to be on agenda for the next meeting. This issue is also significant in terms of defining and agreeing on objectives for the incorporated body.

Next meeting of the Taskforce to be held on 27 April 1994 with a 9:30 am start, by invitation from Caldera NEST group, details of location etc. to be advised to members.

Meeting closed at 1:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by John Pearson 5 April 1994



TOURIST INFORMATION

LGA

PRIVATE



NORTHERN RIVERS REGION

NORTHERN RIVERS

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Mr Jim Tedder,
North Coast Environment Council Inc.,
Pavans Access, Grassy Head ,
NSW 2441

50 Victoria Street
P.O. Box 362
Grafton NSW 2460

Tel (066) 43 1705
Fax (066) 43 1405

Dear Jim,

As discussed with you by phone last week, I am writing on behalf of the Ecotourism Taskforce, to invite NCEC participation in this group which is currently meeting on a monthly basis. By way of introduction to this Taskforce, I have included a report on the Ecotourism Search Conference which was held on 21-22 October 1993, as this meeting was the pre-cursor to the formation of the Taskforce. A primary goal of the Taskforce, and the initial reason for its' existence, is to set a cohesive long-term strategy in place, which will include priority issues for management and development of our ecotourism assets.

The main activities of the Taskforce to date have been the submission of an application to the Department of Tourism for funding of a strategic plan, the distribution by industry representatives of a newsletter, and the formation of incorporated body representing ecotourism interests in the region.

You will note that at this stage the Taskforce is directing its primary effort to four Local Government Areas (Tweed, Byron, Lismore and Kyogle) and we intend in the future to expand the scope of the strategic plan to a larger area including the balance of the Northern Rivers Region. I believe it would be both informative and beneficial to NCEC and its members to participate in the Ecotourism Taskforce, and I would welcome your nomination of an NCEC representative.

I look forward to your nomination of a person to be involved in the Taskforce and trust the NCEC can and will contribute to the substantial task of putting in place sustainable ecotourism strategies for the region.

Yours sincerely



John Pearson
Chairman , Ecotourism Taskforce 28 February 1994

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE OF ECOTOURISM

**Search Conference
held on 21-22 October, 1993**

***Organised by the
Northern Rivers Regional Development Board***

***with funding from the Board
and the
Department of Employment, Education and Training***

Twin Towns Services Sports Club, Banora Point

**Facilitated by Associate Professor Alan Davies
Assisted by Ms Sheridan Daley
Norsearch Limited
The University of New England - Northern Rivers
(to become Southern Cross University from 1.1.1994)**

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE OF ECOTOURISM

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Focus on the Future of Ecotourism

A Search Conference

**organised by the Northern Rivers Regional Development Board
and funded by the Board and the Department of Employment, Education &
Training**

21-22 October, 1993

Twin Towns Services Sports Club, Banora Point

Executive Summary

The Conference was convened by the Northern Rivers Regional Development Board with funding assistance from the Department of Employment, Education and Training, with the specific aim of developing a long-term strategy for the development and management of a sustainable ecotourism industry on the Far North Coast of NSW. That region was deemed to include the local government areas of Lismore, Byron, Kyogle and Lismore.

It was anticipated that a co-ordinating task force could be established as a tangible outcome of the Conference.

Participants were initially guided through a set of tasks aimed at developing a common information base for the planning exercise ahead. The tasks included establishment of the current and future contexts for the industry's development; the opportunities and constraints which confronted it; and issues of concern to the participants. In the light of this information the Conference then developed strategies for building on an ecologically sustainable and economically viable ecotourism industry in the region. Once these strategies were developed, a number of tasks were identified for more detailed discussion and recommendation by the Conference on the second day. This series of discussions allowed participants to discover each other's views and, through debate, to clarify their own thinking on issues. See Sections 2 and 3 of the report proper for full descriptions of these activities.

The Conference concluded that an integrated ecotourism industry based in the four local government areas was both desirable and potentially financially viable. However a broadly representative co-ordinating mechanism was needed, and ecotourism needed to be developed in close co-operation with the tourism industry as a whole.

The major outcome of the Conference was, as expected, the establishment of an Ecotourism Task Force, involving representation from various government and regional bodies, along with an Ecotourism Association of ecotourism operators (which will nominate representatives to the Task Force). Each of these groups has a limited span of operation in which to complete its terms of reference.

The Task Force will develop funding proposals, obtain funding, devise management structures and draft planning mechanisms, as well as instigating data collection, research and marketing plans. At the conclusion of its 'life' of six months, the Task Force will have arrangements in place to proceed to the incorporation of a permanent body to manage, plan and fund ongoing ecotourism operations.

Details of Task Force and Association memberships and functions may be found in Section 4 of the report proper.

A three-tier definition of ecotourism was agreed by the Conference, which also may be found in Section 4.

Other recommendations were agreed for transmission to the Task Force for consideration or action, in the areas of:

- Regional planning
- Product identification
- Marketing
- Finance and funding
- Infrastructure
- Information, education, training, community involvement
- Legislation.

At the conclusion of the Conference, first meetings were held of the (interim) Task Force and (interim) Ecotourism Association, in order to progress the aims of these groups as far as possible in the time available. Other organisations not represented during this final session of the Conference will be asked to nominate members as soon as possible.

Focus on the Future of Ecotourism

A Search Conference

**organised by the Northern Rivers Regional Development Board
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21-22 October, 1993

Twin Towns Services Sports Club, Banora Point

1. Preamble

The Search Conference was described beforehand as an opportunity to *begin developing a community vision focusing on ecotourism development. This strategic approach is based on the natural assets of national parks and nature reserves, in particular the World Heritage listed areas of the Kyogle, Lismore and Tweed Shire Councils.* During the Conference, participants made a decision that Byron Shire Council area should be included in the strategic plan which will result from the conference. Participants were also mindful that their deliberations did not focus only on national parks, but also encompassed many of the natural attractions of the coastal strip.

The stated aim of the Conference was to set a cohesive long-term strategy in place which will include priority issues for development and management of our ecotourism assets.

With the Commonwealth Department of Tourism preparing its National Ecotourism Strategy and with the availability of some \$42 million in National Tourism Development Grants, the Board and DEET saw an opportunity for regional funding for ecotourism development which may not recur in the future.

Both the Northern Rivers Regional Development Board (NRRDB) and the Department of Employment, Education & Training (DEET) recognise the benefit, in a strategic planning exercise, of involving all the 'players' in the industry. For this reason, the Board issued approximately fifty invitations to decision-makers, 'influencers', those affected by tourism decisions and those with a potential power of veto over the future of ecotourism to participate in the conference. Appendix 1 is a copy of the invitation issued to participants.

A list of participants is appended to this report, as Appendix 2. The interests in the industry participants are detailed in Appendix 3.

In welcoming participants to the Conference, Project Officer for the NRRDB, John Pearson outlined the Board's view that ecotourism had *enjoyed much talk but little action* to date and that the Conference was an opportunity to redress that situation. Associate Professor Gary Prosser, Head, Centre for Tourism at the University of New England - Northern Rivers opened the Conference. He posed the notion that the community may have become complacent about the beauty of natural and cultural attractions in the region, and in this state of complacency, perhaps we had begun to believe that they would 'sell' themselves. Professor Prosser also supplied figures indicating that tourism on the North Coast region, compared to other industry sectors, was losing market share. He suggested that, unless strong positive action is taken, this market share will decrease further.

For ease of reference, the areas represented by the four local government areas (Tweed, Byron, Kyogle and Lismore) covered by the Conference, will be referred to in this report as THE CALDERA RIM. These areas were seen as possessing similar asset bases for sustainable ecotourism development.

2. The Future and Present Contexts for Ecotourism in the Caldera Rim

During the workshop process, participants examined the broader environment in which we operate. The groups looked at factors on international, national, state and regional levels in identifying influences on ecotourism in the Caldera Rim, both presently and in the future. An analysis of opportunities and constraints was also undertaken. The following contextual picture emerged from the contributions of the participants.

The issues which arose most frequently were those of increased competition for markets and resources, and prevailing and future economic conditions, in the national and international arenas.

Participants saw the Olympics in Sydney in 2000 as both a positive and a negative : positive in that many more visitors will be drawn to Australia, and negative in that government funding will be directed to preparation for the Olympics, and many visitors will remain in the metropolitan area. With the globalisation of the world, Australian attractions must compete more and more with overseas destinations in terms of quality, service and sustainability (given the increasing sensitivity to environmental issues). However, there is a growing international awareness of the uniqueness of Australia - its features, flora and fauna, as well as its safety and friendliness as a destination.

Economic conditions here in Australia have an impact on the availability of both government and private funding. The global and national recessions have an impact on the numbers and types of tourists for which the industry may cater. Disposable incomes are shrinking for many people in Australia, while it is projected that people will also enjoy more leisure time. Continuing high levels of unemployment and increasing part-time employment are predicted. Australia's position in Asia was seen as vital for tourism, along with the increasing prosperity of Asian nations.

Other prominent issues in discussions were population growth; growth of tourism in the region; increasing interest in visiting natural areas; advances in technology, communications and transport; government resources, policy and regulation; and investment funding.

The group noted global tendencies towards urbanisation of the population, and a changing age mix in first world countries, as well as pressure of population growth. Concurrently, there is a growing interest in visiting natural attractions, and an increasing awareness of their value, largely brought about by education, and by the highlighting of environmental issues in the media.

People believed regional tourism was growing, and had further potential to do so with increased Asian visitations and Olympic 'spin-offs'. Advances in technology, communications and transport will allow more visitors to be informed about destinations, to make their holiday arrangements more readily, and be transported to and from their holidays more quickly and cheaply.

Government policy and regulation were, in some senses, viewed as a doubled-edged sword. Currently, there are Federal funds available for ecotourism development, and government regulation protects areas of natural environment. However, funding may diminish in the future at all levels of government. Policy and regulations between government departments and between levels of government are not always consistent. Politics often influence decisions on funding and environmental issues.

Investment funding is, and will be, crucial for the industry. Sources may be government agencies, private investors, or levies on operators or tourists.

Focussing more on the region and the industry itself, participants saw several further issues as significant:

- Social conditions - lifestyle goals, sustainable economy and ecology
- Domestic tourism - cultural awareness especially of Aboriginal culture & history
- Leadership and co-ordination in the industry
- Awareness of Australia and the Caldera Rim by Australians.

Numerous opportunities were identified for the sustainable development of ecotourism in the Caldera Rim.

The most vital of these were seen to be:

- Global tourism, especially the Asian market, and the size of the potential market
- The marine and terrestrial eco-diversity of the region
- The area's proximity to major population centres
- An increasing desire for the 'environmental experience'
- An increasing awareness of the environment leading to greater protection of the environment
- Opportunity for employment and wealth creation in the region
- Promotion of and education about Aboriginal culture in the region
- Opportunity and potential to enhance the rural environment
- Opportunity to create 4-5 star environmentally sensitive accommodation.

In order to have a realistic picture of the industry context, participants also discussed constraints. The major issues were:

- Lack of capital and funding
- Lack of a strategic plan for industry development
- Lack of a co-ordinated marketing strategy
- The carrying capacity of natural assets
- Complex government regulation at all levels, leading to perceptions of 'red tape' and interference
- Lack of agreed regional development priorities
- Access in general, and poor road system in particular
- Lack of destination marketing and product development on a regional basis.

The Facilitator emphasised that the brainstorming and group discussions which had led to the above findings were an important part of the Conference process, in that they provided the opportunity for participants to hear others' views and to focus, via debate and prioritising, on the key issues for the industry's future.

3. Workshop Process

The Facilitator commenced by taking the participants through the Conference program to show how it had been designed to achieve the overall Conference objectives (see Appendix 4).

The workshop was conducted over two days. The first day was spent in identifying and negotiating participants' expectations of the Conference, developing a common information base about the current and future contexts within which the industry must operate, and in identifying the major issues and tasks to be addressed. Towards the end of the first day, and on the second day, participants developed strategies and worked on specific tasks in groups, and reported back to plenary session. Group reports were then debated, amended if necessary and agreed.

The Facilitator pointed out that, while specific items on the agenda for the Conference were open for expansion and amendment, the process was not negotiable, given the time frame

available. He also indicated that he would be setting time limits at various points in order to achieve outcomes.

As the first task group activity of the Conference, Alan asked participants to consider what their expectations were for the Conference, and what major tasks and issues would need to be addressed for the meeting to be deemed successful. Five groups were formed, with mixed membership for this discussion. On reporting back to plenary session, significant consistency was evident in all reports in terms of both expectations and tasks.

As a result of this exercise, a number of issues (additional to the stated agenda) were raised, and discussion ensued as to whether the Conference program provided for their resolution:

- Identification of business opportunities
- Description of the scope of ecotourism - natural, cultural and coastal aspects
- Fundamental issues such as the definition of ecotourism
- The flexibility of the program for adjustment during its progress.

The Facilitator indicated his belief that business opportunities would readily be identified in subsequent Conference activities, and that if the majority of participants saw the need for adjustment to the Conference process on the second day, this could be accommodated. John Pearson stated that the NRRDB view of the scope of ecotourism was quite broad, including cultural and heritage aspects.

It later emerged that a task group was formed around the definition of ecotourism.

The Conference then proceeded to brainstorm the following questions in plenary:

What changes have you seen in the last 5-10 years that you believe will be important into the future? In social, political, economic, environmental, religious, technological areas; on international, national and regional levels.

Participants were then asked to undertake the following task in five heterogeneous groups:

Identify no more than eight factors external to North Coast ecotourism that will have the greatest impact on the viability of an economically and environmentally sustainable ecotourism industry over the next 5-20 years.

A wide range of issues was identified on several strata, and the 'Context' section above attempts to paint a picture from the participants' highest priority influences, as well as from the analysis of constraints and opportunities.

The Facilitator pointed out that participants would need to take account of these issues when formulating strategies and actions later in the Conference, keeping in mind that some influences can be addressed/changed by concerted action of those within the region while others are external and outside the control of the region.

Participants were asked if there were matters on which they wanted further information in the light of discussions to that point.

One matter was clarified at this point. During group presentations, the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) recent 'think tank' on ecotourism had been mentioned. Ian Oelrichs, consultant, advised the group that:

- Ecotourism task force referred to was part of the PATA organisation, and related to Australia and part of Asia
- a discussion paper had been produced following the 'think tank'
- PATA had moved to broader tourism strategies to include ecotourism

- PATA had conducted 6-7 workshops around Australia in association with the Federal Department of Tourism, and some workshops in Asia
- PATA was moving into stage two of its plan, to look at best practices.

At the request of participants, the Facilitator undertook an analysis of the interests and affiliations of participants. The statistics which emerged may be seen in Appendix 5. It was clear that many participants believed they represented more than one of the categories defined.

Once the foregoing 'information gathering' components of the Conference program were complete, the Facilitator divided participants into six heterogeneous groups for consideration of the following questions:

Given the present and future contexts, constraints and opportunities we have identified, what are the strategies we need to pursue as a regional group to establish an ecologically sustainable and economically viable ecotourism industry in the Caldera Rim area?

What are the tasks we should be working on which will further these strategies? Perhaps setting up an industry steering committee.

Once again, there was a remarkable consistency between groups' reports. As a result, participants agreed that the remainder of the Conference would be spent devising strategies and action plans on the following issues:

- Definition of ecotourism
- Ecotourism task force
- Regional planning, including a regional ecotourism master plan
- Identification and development of product and new opportunities
- Marketing including co-ordination of products
- Finance and funding
- Infrastructure
- Information, education, training, community involvement, data generation/collection/management
- Legislation.

Although identified as a significant issue, there was not sufficient time to develop a report on the tenth issue 'Guidelines for regional code of practice'. In time, it is likely to be taken up by the ecotourism task force.

At this point, there was a decision taken by the group that

Byron Shire Council be included in the region under consideration, and that the Council be invited to participate in discussions beyond the Conference.

Throughout proceedings there had been debate on the exact nature of ecotourism. Although a task group had not yet deliberated on a definition, it was agreed at this point that

The Conference was focussing on tourism of which ecotourism is an important part.

This decision was based on a broad concept of ecotourism, and on the belief that ecotourism could not be entirely isolated from the wider industry.

Participants then self-nominated into task groups to develop strategies for one or more of the nine issues listed above. Involvement in more than one group was possible and desirable in some cases, where time and interest allowed or expertise dictated.

4. Priority Issues for Ecotourism in the Caldera Rim Area - Strategies & Recommendations

4.1 Definition of Ecotourism

In order to assist with the continuing deliberations of other groups, the report from the Definition of Ecotourism group was heard early on the second day. With the addition of two caveats:

- the scope of ecotourism was confirmed as being broader than National Parks
- the definitions in the report would need to be made more 'user friendly'

this report was accepted unanimously by conference participants.

DEFINITION OF ECO-TOURISM IN THE NE NSW REGION Encompassing a range of opportunities

<u>Performance Categories</u>	<u>Keywords & Concepts/Characteristics</u>
Simplest Response - High Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview experience• Low impact• Environmentally and culturally responsible• Enjoyment and appreciation of North Coast• Operator licensing• High thresholds of use• Minimal restrictions• Licensing fee-entry fees direct to owner or manager of resource
Medium Response - Medium Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning experience• Full ESD principles apply to long-term activities; current best practices apply to short-term• Soft learning and education opportunities• Acknowledgement of cultural values (Indigenous traditional local communities)• Accreditation of ALL operators• Financial contribution to resource management (beyond just licence fees e.g. entry/levies/tax)• Medium threshold levels of use
Purist Response - Low Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding and involvement experience• ESD principles and criteria apply fully to all activities• Staff aware of and utilise ESD criteria in day-to-day work• Tourists become aware of ESD principles by involvement and immersion• Detailed educative opportunities• Utilise a range of methods to provide the experience (information, research, involvement)

- Involve indigenous traditional local communities in all aspects of the operation of management of activities
- Direct participation and financial contribution to the sustainable management of the resource
- Accreditation of operators, management and key staff
- Low level thresholds of use
- Restricted access areas

4.2 Ecotourism Task Force

Participants agreed to move to establish an Ecotourism Task Force under the auspices of the Northern Rivers Regional Development Board along the lines described below. The name of the Task Force was not determined during the Conference. Rather it was decided that the Task Force itself should make a decision on its title, after seeking input from the industry and the community.

It is the intention that the Task Force be as representative of the industry as possible. The agreed membership categories are shown below in Table 1. The Task Force will have the capacity to co-opt members when and if appropriate.

The Task Force will comprise three sub-committees, which will work on management structures, finance, and planning issues respectively. They will report regularly back to the Task Force as a whole. An informal Ecotourism Association will be formed, comprising proprietors, industry organisations and special interest groups (agreed membership categories also appear in Table 1). During its brief (one month) existence, it will nominate representatives to the Task Force. It was noted that the informal Ecotourism Association will determine its own affairs and may well wish to continue beyond the month.

The Task Force will have a 'life' of only six months by which time it will have undertaken its terms of reference in readiness for the incorporation of an ongoing organisation. This process is represented in Diagram 1 below. The terms of reference will include:

- Developing funding proposals/obtaining funding
- Devising management structures
- Drafting planning mechanisms.

As subsequent reports were accepted by participants, other matters were added to the brief for the Task Force:

- Data collection and research
- Marketing.

Diagram 1
ESTABLISHMENT OF
ECO-TOURISM TASK FORCE

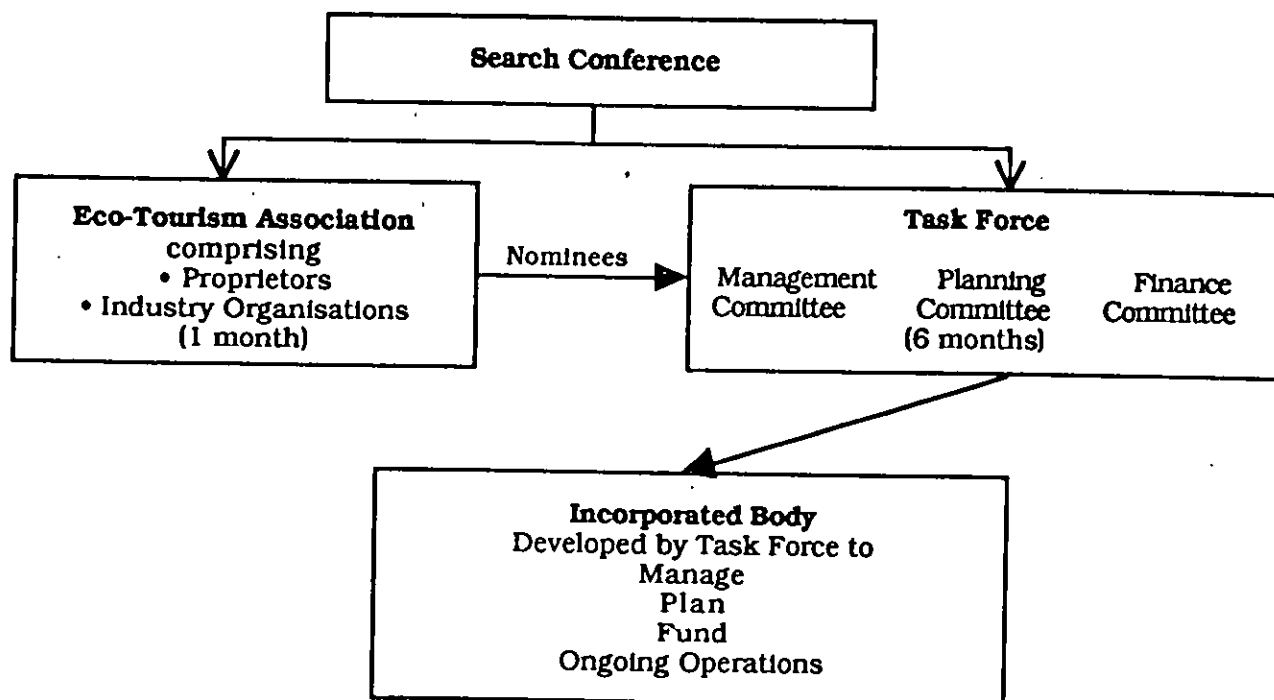


Table 1
Membership Categories and Suggested Nominees
Ecotourism Task Force and Ecotourism Industry Association

ECOTOURISM TASK FORCE	
Sector	Organisation
Commonwealth Government	Department of Tourism
State Government	National Parks & Wildlife Service Department of Conservation & Land Mgmt Department of Planning NSW Tourism Commission NSW Forestry Commission
Local Government	Kyogle Shire Council Byron Shire Council Tweed Shire Council Lismore City Council

Government Agency (Convening Body)	Northern Rivers Regional Development Board
Research and Education	Southern Cross University TAFE Griffith University
ECOTOURISM INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION	
Sector	Organisation/Operation
Proprietors & Organisations* *ADDITIONAL/DIFFERENT ORGANISATIONS COULD BE REPRESENTED - THIS IS A SAMPLE GROUP ONLY	Tweed Tourism Byron Visitors Centre Lismore Visitors Centre Tyalgum Tops Town Motel Crystal Creek Resort Midginbil Hill Pioneer Plantation Never Never Safaris
Aboriginal Community* *AS ABOVE	Minjungbal Cultural Centre
General Community* * AS ABOVE	Lismore - Big Scrub Environment Centre Kyogle - To be advised Byron - BEACON Tweed Caldera Environment Centre Nimbin - Rainbow Region EcoTourism Assn

4.3 Regional Planning

The group working on this issue considered they were planning the **Caldera Ecotourism Strategy**. It was agreed that the functions of the strategy would be:

1. Establishing basis for co-operation and co-ordination
2. Providing guidance on allocation of resources & effort
3. Establishing basis for funding and identifying priorities
4. Serving as a 'unifying force' - recognising eco-tourism as an emerging industry
5. Helping stakeholders to comprehend their role & provides opportunities
6. Establishing principles which may lead to the establishment of 'no go' zones
7. Reviewing planning instruments and policies - proposing guidelines/accreditation
8. Providing a balance between regional and local needs
9. Establishing basis for monitoring trends, outcomes, quality and relevance
10. Allowing generation and updating of local government, NPWS, CALM management plans.

Funding, in the short term, will be sought from the Regional Tourism Development Program (RTDP), and in the longer term, it is anticipated that funding will come from government and industry users, and other programs such as ILAP.

It was acknowledged that there are many plans and strategies in existence, developed by other organisations, which may provide valuable information in the formulation of the strategy. Appendix 5 is a diagram showing some of the potential inputs. It is planned that a six month period will be necessary for definition of guidelines and initial planning (at an estimated cost of \$20,000) with the complete planning exercise being complete in twelve months (at a cost in excess of \$200,000). Both planning stages emphasise public input. NRRDB and University staff will begin work on a funding application to the RTDP immediately.

This report was agreed unanimously and passed to the Ecotourism Task Force for action.

4.4 Product Identification

The task group on this issue identified a sample list of existing ecotourism products. The group regarded the creation of new products as part of a marketing brief and so did not attempt to cover this aspect. Those products identified were:

- Accommodation
 - mostly in Tweed Shire; other examples such as Toonumbar Dam complex
 - mostly budget to mid-range cost
 - provide for retreats, education, sport/recreation, permaculture
- Tours
 - Border Ranges, Nightcap Ranges, Nimbin - most Byron and Tweed based, some from Brisbane, some from motels
- Caldera region (the focus)

Opportunities emerging for

- Marine reserves - dives, whale watching
- Permaculture
- Aboriginal culture

Product opportunities and potentials:

- Aboriginal heritage and culture - guided tours, theatre, dance, music, arts
- Major walking track systems - caldera track - caldera guides association (education, safety, tours, at accommodation sites, accredited/trained); infrastructure needs (access, accommodation, sewerage)
- Camping facilities
- Coastal develop - dive site, artificial reef
- National Parks Interpretative Information Centre based on Dorriggo model (where there are 170,000 visitors p.a.)
- Endangered flora - botanical gardens
- Educational tours based on geological features of caldera
- Alternative experience - live, learn, experience alternative way of life - technology, architecture, horticulture, people
- Develop mangrove & wetland areas - boardwalks, interpretative centre, educational tours
- Rainforest experience simulator - travelling mobile.

This report was accepted unanimously and passed to the Ecotourism Task Force for action.

There was a division of opinion amongst participants on one other product opportunity, that of high quality ('4-5 star') accommodation being provided in or adjacent to National Parks. Some

participants believed that ecologically sensitive, viable accommodation developments were possible within National Parks, and pointed to examples of such developments at Cairns and in Tasmania. Others saw the prospect as a danger to the sensitive environment of the Parks and as a loss of the community 'ownership' of the Parks' assets. Votes were taken on two questions:

Is the option of accommodation development within National Parks acceptable?

In favour 20
Against 6

Is the option of accommodation development adjacent to National Parks acceptable?

In favour 27
Against 0

It was noted that such developments within National Parks could be joint ventures between developers and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

It was agreed that these views would be passed to the Task Force for their consideration in planning strategies.

4.5 Marketing

A number of functions and an estimated time frame for each were identified by the group working on this issue:

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 1. | Identification of region - the Caldera Rim - for purpose of theme by co-ordinating/marketing body | ✓ |
| 2. | Inventory of product
Local tourist officers provide to co-ordinating body; operators to provide input for packages | 3mths |
| 3. | Develop marketing plan to include brochure/book, 3 levels of experience (as identified by the Definition group) to be represented in packages;
Develop marketing strategies & priorities to target markets (SE Qld, rural NSW, Sydney, overseas) for eco-tourist, recreational tourist, self-drive family, educational markets;
Plan familiarisation tours for wholesalers, journalists, ATC, NSWTC, RACV, NRMA etc. | 12mths |
| 4. | Funding | |
| a. | Co-operative opportunities with NSWTC, ATC | |
| b. | Tour operators - head tax, user pays | |
| c. | Government grants for region | |
| d. | Commissions - central booking office | 12mths+ |

It was noted that data collection and research had been included in the terms of reference for the Ecotourism Task Force.

It was agreed that this report would be passed to the Task Force for further development and action.

4.6 Finance and Funding

It was noted during discussion of this group's report that local government tourism promotion funds might be more effectively spent by being pooled and directed into implementation of a regional strategy, as described above.

The objectives reported by this group were:

- Co-ordination of regional situation - seeking funding from Federal and other levels of government (including ILAP and World Heritage Fund) and from private sources
- Examination of contributions from industry, taxing potentials, and equitable distribution of funds
- Study, document and facilitate sources of capital
- Identify projects and needs in master plan NB urgent application for funding necessary
- Seek Local Government Association support for marketing/lobbying, thus improving regional integrity
- Seeking infrastructure funding as a priority, especially roads funding
- Seeking co-ordination and co-operation with Queensland authorities and organisations.

It was agreed that this report would be passed to the Task Force for action.

4.7 Infrastructure

The group working on this issue identified an extensive list of infrastructure needs in the region which would further the development of sustainable ecotourism. Appendix 6 gives full details, identifying the issue, what actions might be taken, by whom and possible funding sources. A high priority in this report was the upgrading of infrastructure links into Queensland which would involve classification of roads as tourist roads and the completion of the rail link between the Gold Coast and Murwillumbah.

It was noted that a number of the identified infrastructure needs, such as resort development, would require thorough investigation and community consultation.

It was agreed that this report would be passed to the Task Force as a check list for its future planning.

4.8 Information, Education, Training, Community Involvement

A number of education and training opportunities were identified by this group:

Training

It is recommended that

- NRRDB request TAFE to put in place in local area a number of the possible eleven identified TAFE programs already in existence
- Education Programs (short term, both formal and informal) be offered by operators/industry - accredited
- 'Best practices' be implemented for attaining and maintaining standards
- Networking with community and industry be fostered.

Education

Ensure that there is awareness creation:

- Provision of consistent information to industry and public through marketplace
- Community involvement - general, education system
- Promotion.

It was noted that TAFE is required to respond to government regulation, by way of course implementation, such as licensing requirements of operators. Industry-based marketing and special promotion in schools, the community and industry associations would be advantageous.

It was agreed that this report would be passed to the Task Force for appropriate action.

4.9 Legislation

It was recommended that the following action be taken:

1. LGA co-ordinate and review LEPs & tourism plans for consistency re eco-tourism (important in short term)
2. Review of Department of Planning Policy, REP conditions and policy, LTP's
3. Investigate concerns with EPA and Endangered Fauna Act for tourism development (roads, accommodation, multiple occupancy etc.)
4. Develop arrangements with appropriate bodies to ensure expedition of approvals of infrastructure.

It was agreed that this report would be passed to the Task Force for appropriate action.

5. Final Session

Given the Conference acceptance of the proposal to establish an Ecotourism Task Force and Ecotourism Association, the final session was devoted to initial meetings of those two groups. It was understood that those present did not represent the full membership of the two groups, as agreed. However, participants felt that it was essential to meet as interim groups in order to progress as far as possible the recommendations emanating from the Conference, especially in relation to funding applications.

NRRDB organiser, John Pearson, thanked all for their enthusiastic participation and valuable input into proceedings.

Appendix 7 is a press release issued by Stuart Moon, Deputy Chair of NRRDB on the Conference outcomes.

**Alan Davies
Sheridan Daley
Norsearch Limited
UNE - Northern Rivers
29 October, 1993**

ECOTOURISM MISSION STATEMENT

To achieve a balance in nature based ecotourism development through community sourced strategies.

1. Rising levels of affluence and predicted levels of international tourist visitations to Australia, provide opportunities for improving the contribution to our national income, to employment growth and to wealth creation.
2. Creative strategies are required to capture this tourist market sector which increasingly seeks rural tourism and ecotourism as alternatives to mainstream tourism destinations.
3. There is general recognition that our Northern Rivers National parks/reserves contain assets of nature that tourists seek to experience, as an alternative to mainstream tourism destinations.
4. Importantly many people in communities in the Northern Rivers Region are unclear about the connection between economic tourism development and a preserved natural environment.
5. Special interest Ecotourism can be effectively managed and marketed in conjunction with rural tourism, sports tourism, cultural and heritage tourism. It is widely recognised that the ecological integrity of National Parks and reserved areas is enhanced by broadening visitation pressure on stressed destinations.
6. One of the benefits of tourism development can be the availability of funds to protect the environment. Conversely, a decline in prosperity can result in an economy driven by short-term considerations at the expense of other values in society.
7. The need for utilisation of preferred natural destinations and perceived environmental degradation or loss of amenity through improved access, require careful and sensitive management by the relevant authorities.
8. The need to achieve a sustainable long term balance between desirable Ecotourism development and the enhancement of the natural settings in our National parks and elsewhere, is seen as a necessary outcome of any search conference strategy plan.

Why the Regional Development Board and Department of Employment Education & Training Support?

Support for this project is consistent with the Board and DEET philosophies of a bottom-up approach which is about involving the community to take responsibility for sustainable economic and employment growth. Too often a top-down approach imposed by governments and development organisations loses sight of the many human and local dimensions involved.

Background of Facilitator

*Associate Professor Alan Davies BSc, Dip Ed, PhD.
University of New England, Northern Rivers
Organisational Development and Work Studies.*

Presently Alan is director of Co-operative Education University of New England-Northern Rivers. Formerly Reader in Continuing Education, and Chairman of Centre for Adult Education at Australian National University Alan is also Past President of Australian Council on Adult Education and of the Australian Open Learning Information Network. He is a recognised international expert in participatory planning techniques organisational development and work studies. Alan has been a consultant to Australian Trade Union Training Authority, South Pacific Commission, Asia and Pacific Bureau of Adult Education, Oslo Institute of Work Psychology and Commonwealth and State Authorities.

NORTHERN RIVERS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
In association with
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & TRAINING

21 September 1993

"Focus on the Future for Ecotourism"
Invitation to Search Conference on 20-21 October 1993

1 2

You are invited to participate in a search conference to begin developing a community vision focusing on Ecotourism development. This strategic approach is based on the natural assets of National Parks and nature reserves, in particular the World Heritage Listed areas of the Kyogle, Lismore and Tweed Shire Councils.

Despite significant discussion on Ecotourism possibilities, little ongoing development has resulted and the full employment and wealth creation potential is yet to be demonstrated or realised. It is also considered important to consolidate and prepare Ecotourism priorities for the Region, given the Commonwealth Department of Tourism commitment to funding programs for Ecotourism development.

Within our community it seems that the time has now come to take a more positive approach to creating an integrated Ecotourism industry.

I urge you to carefully consider this invitation to participate in this search conference. Other members of the community have nominated you as having the talents and experience to make a valuable contribution to this community planning process. We consider community input as essential to the formation of creative regional Ecotourism strategies.

The process of creating a positive future does require a personal commitment, in this instance two days of your time to attend a search conference.

I have attached details of "Focus on the Future for Ecotourism" and should you have any queries please do not hesitate to phone me on 066-868282.

Involvement in the project will, I am sure, be an enriching personal experience which can potentially achieve significant long term benefits and opportunities for people of the Northern Rivers Region.

I look forward to your favourable response.

Yours sincerely

John Pearson
Project Officer

Search Conference

Dates: Thursday 21 & Friday 22 October 1993
Times: 9am to 5pm both days
Venue: Twin Towns Services Club Banora Point
TWEED HEADS NSW
Catering: Luncheons, Morning/Afternoon Teas
and Dinner on 21 October provided.

What Is Ecotourism?

Central to the definition of ecotourism is the concept of sustainability of both the activity and the environment. Ecotourism combines the desire to visit, and learn about natural areas with the desire to conserve these areas for long term use. Educational and ethical elements of ecotourism may effectively distinguish it from other forms of tourism.

Search Conference is designed to develop ecotourism on a sub-regional basis

(Tweed, Kyogle and Lismore local government areas).

Ecotourism is an industry with significant growth potential and it can provide resources for environmental conservation and management.

The conference presents us with an opportunity to set a cohesive long term strategy in place which will include priority issues for development and management of our ecotourism assets.

The conference will examine strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the future development of an ecotourism industry.

The conference will involve those persons and interest groups who have a legitimate interest in, are potentially effected by, or can veto the outcomes of the planning process.

Why develop a sub-regional strategy for ecotourism development?

The forests, World Heritage listed National Parks and reserves of the Lismore, Tweed and Kyogle local government areas provides a common asset base for ecotourism development. These are adjoining and face similar issues in optimizing their ecotourism development. There are also many other ecotourism opportunities within the Northern Rivers Region.

Preparing a strategy stems from the need to pursue appropriate economic development to create job opportunities. It also seeks to address the more effective management of community assets through an improved co-operative and focused approach.

What after the Search Conference?

The work of the search conference participants should provide a strong focus for a new vision and strategy for the future.

The vision and strategy is then taken to the wider community for input. With support and adjustment this will be developed into an ongoing action plan.

The future participation and commitment of conference stakeholders will be a vital factor in enhancing this process.

Who actions the Plan?

The community can be well served through government bodies, local government, development boards and other organisations.

As a community, it is important that these organisations are working for us and that there is the co-ordination and direction through a consistent pattern of planning decisions and actions to gain improved economic and social opportunities

- community funding may be available for specific purposes
- the Commonwealth Department of Tourism is currently developing a National Ecotourism Strategy which may lead to funds being available for ecotourism projects in our Region

NAME	ORGANISATION & ADDRESS
Booth Mr Phillip	Dorrroughby Field Study Centre Mullumbimby Road Dorrroughby NSW 2480
Boyd Mr Max	Mayor Tweed Shire Council PO Box 816 Murwillumbah NSW 2484
Calear Ms Maureen	Rainbow Region Eco-Tourism Association PO Box 55 Nimbin NSW 2480
Carkery Ms Anne	Department of Employment Education & Training PO Box 831 Murwillumbah NSW 2484
Daley Ms Sheridan (Assistant to Facilitator)	Executive Assistant to Principal Southern Cross University PO Box 157 Lismore NSW 2480
Davies Associate Professor Alan (Facilitator)	Director of Co-operation Education Southern Cross University PO Box 157 Lismore NSW 2480
Dutton Dr Ian	Centre for Coastal Management Southern Cross University PO Box 157 Lismore NSW 2480
Ewin Mr John	Never Never Safaris Upper Crystal Creek Road Chillingham NSW 2484
Fish Mr Bob	Department of Conservation & Land Management PO Box 339 Grafton NSW 2460
Flower Mr John	Midginbil Hill Holiday Farm Uki Via Murwillumbah NSW 2484
Flower Ms Annette	Midginbil Hill Holiday Farm Uki Via Murwillumbah NSW 2484
Fryer Ms Kerry	Tourism Officer Tweed Shire Council PO Box 336 Murwillumbah NSW 2484
Gough Mr John	McLeans Ridges Road Wollongbar Via Lismore NSW 2480
Hammonds Ms Carole	Mebbin RMB 50 Uki NSW 2484
Hammonds Mr Doug	Mebbin RMB 50 Uki NSW 2484
Hansen Mr Ken	Councillor Tweed Shire Council PO Box 12 Kingscliff NSW 2487
Henley Mr Barry	Economic Development Officer PO Box 6284 Tweed Heads South NSW 2486
Holloway Mr Guy	National Parks and Wildlife Service Colonial Arcade Alstonville NSW 2477
Hurley Mr Jack	Brown & Hurley 266 Summerland Way Kyogle NSW 2474
Jensen Mr Steve	Department of Conservation & Land Management Wollongbar Agricultural Institute Wollongbar NSW 2480
Johnson Mr Val	Councillor Kyogle Shire Council PO Box 11 Kyogle NSW 2474
Kable Mr John	Northern Rivers Regional Development Board 6 Siesta Close Alstonville NSW 2477

Attendees EcoTourism Conference

Kannaley Mr David	Planner Lismore City Council PO Box 23A Lismore NSW 2480
Kivi Ms Di	Rainbow Region Eco-Tourism Association PO Box 55 Nimbin NSW 2480
Kraemer Mr Ralph	Crystal Creek Rainforest Retreat PO Box 69 Murwillumbah NSW 2484
Lamont Mr Greg	Kyogle Shire Council PO Box 11 Kyogle NSW 2474
Lemaire Mr Walter	Tyalgum Tops Farm Resort Tyalgum Creek Road Tyalgum NSW 2484
Liska Mr David	President Kyogle Shire Council PO Box 11 Kyogle NSW 2474
Marshall Mr Shane	Pioneer Plantation Pottsville Road Mooball NSW 2483
Moon Mr Stuart	Chair Northern Rivers Regional Development Board PO Box 950 Ballina NSW 2478
Morrow Mr Richard	Department of Employment Education & Training PO Box 152 Lismore NSW 2480
Oelrich Mr Ian	Consultant Lot 8 Piccadilly Road Newrybar NSW 2479
Orel Mr Lawrence	National Parks and Wildlife Service 49 Victoria Street Grafton NSW 2460
Parks Mr Bruce	Roads & Traffic Authority PO Box 576 Grafton NSW 2460
Pearson Mr John	Northern Rivers Regional Development Board PO Box 950 Ballina NSW 2478
Phillips Ms Lyndal	Minjungbal Aboriginal Cultural Museum Kirkwood Road South Tweed Heads NSW 2486
Proctor Ms Sharon	Whian Whian Eco-Tourism Group Nightcap Range Road Whian Whian NSW 2480
Prosser Associate Professor Gary	Head Centre for Tourism Southern Cross University PO Box 157 Lismore NSW 2480
Reimanis Mr Andrew	Town Motel 3 Wharf Street Murwillumbah NSW 2484
Richens Mr Merv	Manager 32 Gumtree Drive Goonellabah NSW 2480
Roberts- Morris Ms Andrew	Director of Tourism Lismore City Council PO Box 23A Lismore NSW 2480
Svikis Mr Mike	NSW Department of Planning PO Box 6 Grafton NSW 2460
Warren Mr James	Environmental Consultant PO Box 490 Alstonville NSW 2477
Wright Ms Rose	TACTIC Kingscliff Travel Shopping Village Kingscliff NSW 2487

Sector	Sub-Sector	Number of Participants
Government Depts/Agencies	Local Government	6
	State Government	9
	Federal Government	3
	TOTAL	18
Accommodation		11
Education	Formal	5
	Informal	6
	TOTAL	11
Transport		3
Natural Resource Managers		15
Marketing of Destination		4
Tour Operators		3
Cultural Resource Managers		6
Community Representatives		11
Regional Planners		11
Entrepreneurs		15

Purpose of Workshop

Ecotourism Industry
Development to enhance
employment and wealth
creation in an ecologically
sustainable manner and, if
warranted, the creation of an
interim steering Task Force.

Focus on the Future of Ecotourism

LOGIC OF WORKSHOP
21-22 OCT 1993

Status of Workshop

Has no authority beyond that
which the participants bring
with them.

Participants'
Expectations

Convenor's Expectations,
workshop process

Information - circulated
in advance - only
specifically discussed on
a need for clarification
basis

Environmental Scan

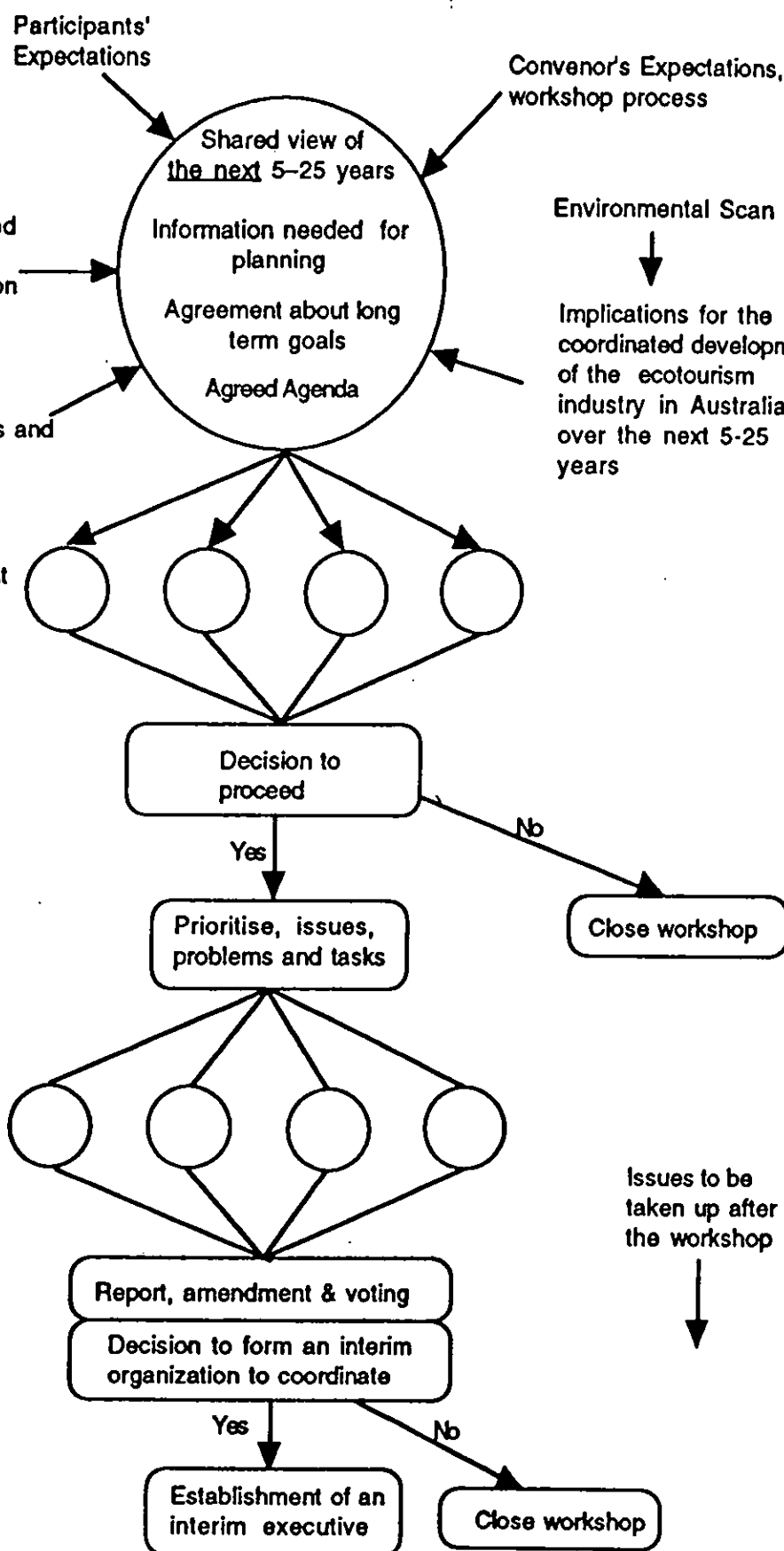
Implications for the
coordinated development
of the ecotourism
industry in Australia
over the next 5-25
years

Opportunities and
Barriers

Strategy for development
of the industry over the
next 5-25 years

SCOPE : Ecotourism related
to the world heritage listed
parks and reserves in Kyogle,
Lismore and Tweed LGAs

TASK GROUPS on ISSUE/TASKS
best addressed by this
workshop



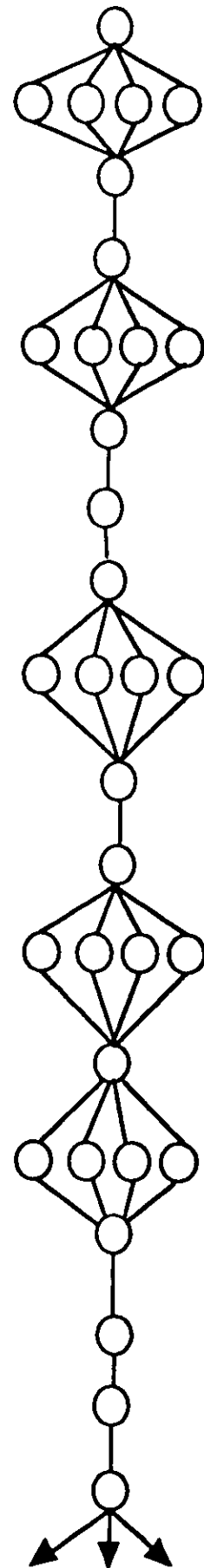
NOTIONAL PROGRAM : ECOTOURISM SEARCH CONFERENCE

Day 1

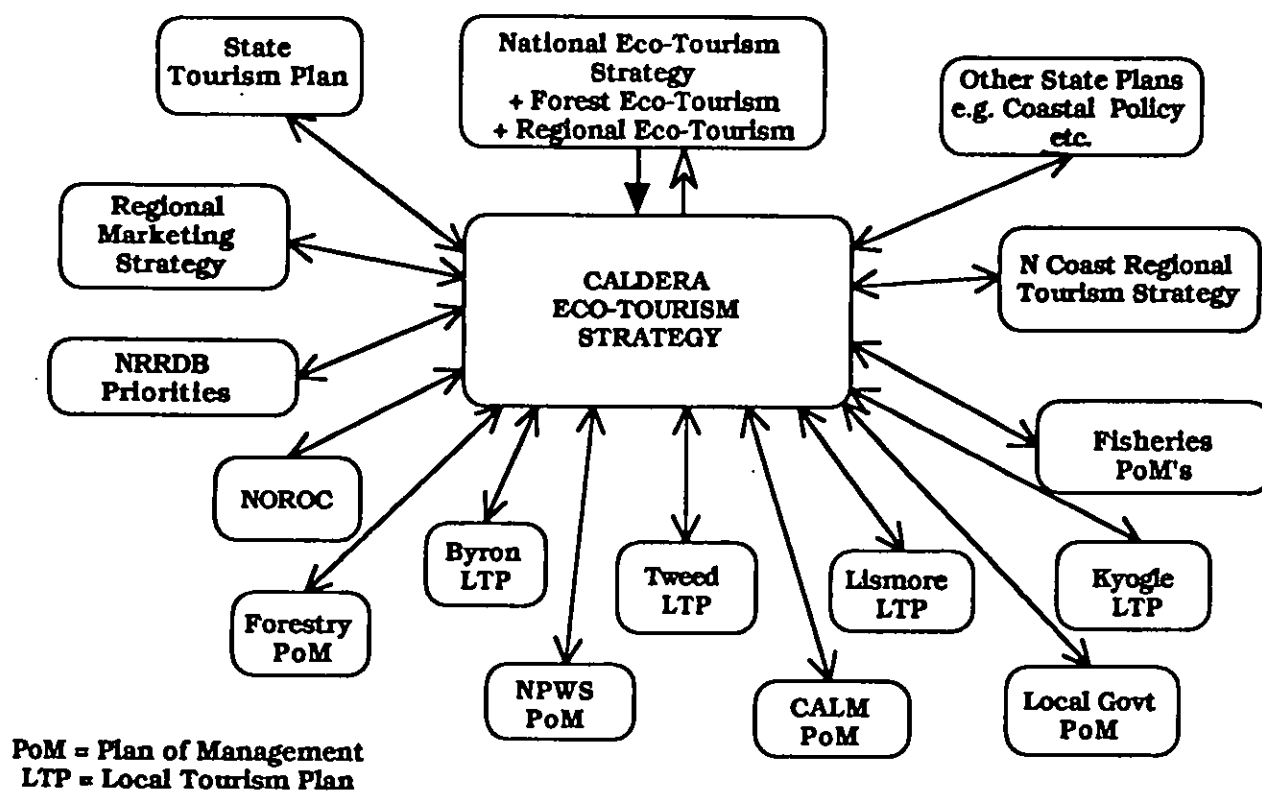
- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 9.00-9.15 | — | Background, convenor's expectations and Program briefing |
| 9.15 | — | Participants' Expectations |
| | | Reports |
| 9.45 | — | Environmental scan |
| 10.15 | — | Implications for the viability of the ecotourism industry in Australia over the next 5-25 years |
| | | Reports |
| 11.00 | — | Clarification of position papers - need to know |
| 11.30 | — | Opportunities and Barriers |
| 12.30 | — | Strategies for, feasibility of, the industry over the next 5 years |
| 1.00 | — | Lunch |
| 2.00 | — | Reports |
| 3.00 | — | Clarifying & prioritising issues, problems & tasks to be addressed |
| 4.00 | — | Task Groups |
| 3.30 | — | Reports/amendments/voting |
| 5.00 | — | Finish/adjourn |

Day 2

- | | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 9.00 | — | Task Groups (continued) |
| 10.30 | — | Reports/amendments/voting |
| 12.30 | — | Lunch |
| 1.30 | — | Reports/amendments/voting (continued) |
| 2.30 | — | Discussion & decision about the need to form an interim organisation |
| 3.30 | — | Meeting of interim executive and any task groups established in the previous session |
| 5.00 | | |



POTENTIAL INPUTS TO CALDERA ECO-TOURISM STRATEGY



INFRASTRUCTURE

Type	Issues	Comments	Action	Responsible	Funding
Regional					
Roads	Interregional links Visual Environ-mental impact Road kills	Putting tourists mostly domestic into region (private care, coaches)	Maintenance & upgrade Pacific Hwy to link SE Qld & south in long term (S'land Way)	RTA - Pacific Hwy Councils - reg. roads	3 x 3 (6 yrs) Taxes
Air	Interregional links	International (Coolangatta Brisbane) Domestic (Lismore, Ballina, Casino, Coolangatta)	Maintain existing functions	FAC CCL	Federal money Landing fees Local govt fund
Rail	Interregional links	Caters for non-car community e.g. retirees	Extend Qld rail (Robina to Mur'bah) Maintain services from south esp. sleepers	SRA Qld Rail	State taxes User pays Federal grants
Local					
Roads	Getting people from region Links to attraction Lack of funds	Site specific Not necessarily sealed All weather access?	Provide, maintain roads suited to proposed use Designated tourist roads	Council Private owners NPWS Forestry RTA	State CCL rates Development funds Federal (World Heritage)
Water Supply	On site Reticulated Cost Reliability	Generally on-site * dams * creeks * tanks Fire fighting	User pays Maintenance of quality	Developers CCL NPWS Forestry	Development funds Council State
Trails	Maintenance Construction Location/ network Environmental impact	Strategy for network region-wide e.g. caldera rim, Byron trails	Prepare strategy Sponsorship for works User pays	State agents Private owners Councils	Federal govt State Corporate Private
Facilities	Cabins Location Lack of parking Amenities Resorts Camping Info centre	Community debate on appropriate facility	Implement plans of management (NPWS) Plan of management for private natural areas	As above	As above

Waste disposal	Sewage Drainage Solid waste Pollution Visual impact Blue-green algae Erosion	Deal with problems on site	Recycling Re-use Compost Waste minimisation Water conservation	Private operator State agent	Private operator State Council
Power	Visual impact Greenhouse Cost Reliability Volume Maintenance	Grid vs solar, hydro, wind, generator Passive solar design	Site specific User pays	Developer NRE	Developer Federal grants (alternate power sources)
Telephone	Emergency Reliability Vandalism	Mobile phones Provide option	Case specific	Private user Telecom	Developer/ private

NORTHERN RIVERS

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

APPENDIX 7

MEDIA RELEASE

26 October, 1993

SEARCH CONFERENCE TAKES UP ECO-TOURISM CHALLENGE

A Search Conference at Tweed Heads on 21 and 22 October, initiated by the Northern Rivers Regional Development Board and the Department of Employment Education and Training, brought together some 40 people from all community groups involved in "nature-based" tourism to consider how the concept of utilising the region's very valuable and spectacular natural areas can be promoted for sustainable Eco Tourism.

The Conference decided to adopt a three level concept of "Eco tourism, ranging from broadly based "nature" tours up to quite restricted ecology structured tourism. The areas being considered initially are the wide range of natural and heritage areas in the Kyogle, Lismore, Tweed and Byron areas.

The Conference recognised the substantial potential for employment and economic development which properly managed and sensitive Eco tourism based on these resources can produce.

To move the proposal along, a Task Force was formed to develop plans for the identification and marketing of Eco tourism destinations and facilities, to seek financial support, including access to Federal Government regional tourism funds, and to develop management systems to promote and operate an integrated Eco tourism scheme.

The Task Force is comprised of representatives from the tourist industry, government and local government, academic institutions and the community including environmental, Aboriginal groups. Northern Rivers Regional Development Board will have a co-ordinating role and will assist particularly in seeking funding.

The objective is for the Task Force, within 6 months, to develop a structure and plans with funding secured to establish a corporate body to market and manage ongoing future operations of an integrated Eco Tourism structure in the areas involved.

Both DEET and the Development Board expressed their satisfaction with the level of interest, co-operation and willingness to get on with the project which was evident at the search conference. They gave particular credit to the manner in which the Facilitator, Associate Professor Alan Davies of UNE/NE had run the search conference so as to produce these outcomes.

CONTACT Stuart Moon, Deputy Chairman, Northern Rivers Regional Development Board - (066) 86.8739.

COMMERCIAL - IN - CONFIDENCE

REGIONAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

1993-94

APPLICATION FORM

- This form is designed to obtain only as much information about your project as is necessary to enable the Department of Tourism to assess the project's merit.
- Where a choice of answers is provided, please tick the appropriate box(es).
- Where there is insufficient space for an answer, please provide a separate sheet.
- Elsewhere, please be as brief as you can, consistent with the need to provide sufficient information to support your application.

PART A. THE APPLICANT

1. Name of organisation.

NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL INC.

2. Address.

PAVANS ACCESS, GRASSY HEAD, 2441
N.S.W.

3. Is this organisation an incorporated body?

☒ Yes. Its ACN or ARBN N° is YO 5554 - 28

☐ No.

4. Project manager (i.e. person responsible for day-to-day management of the project).

Name JAMES L.O. TEDDER

Position in organisation HONORARY SECRETARY AND PUBLIC OFFICER

Telephone () 065 690 802 Facsimile () 065 690 802

PLEASE COMPLETE SHADED AREA FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF APPLICATION

Name of organisation NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL
Address PAVANS ACCESS, GRASSY HEAD
2441, N.S.W.
Project title CRITERIA FOR SUSTAINABLE ECO-TOURISM PROJECTS

We have received your application for assistance under the Regional Tourism Development Program. Please quote the registration number below in any communications with the Department about this application.

signed

date

(for Commonwealth Department of Tourism)

Registration number

5. Name of region.

NORTH COAST REGION - SEE ATTACHED MAP

6. How is this region defined? Which local government authorities have jurisdiction within the region?

Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle, Casino, Richmond River, Copmanhurst, Maclean, Grafton, Ulmarra, Nymboida, Coffs Harbour, Bellingen, Nambucca, Kempsey, Hastings and Greater Taree.

7. Your region's tourism growth potential is an important factor in determining whether your project will qualify for funding.

Apart from publicly available data such as Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) or Bureau of Tourism Research (BTR) statistics, do you have any other information that would help us to assess your region's tourism growth potential?

☒ Yes. (Please attach a copy of this information.) See pg 96 of Coastal Growth and Management Conference.

☐ No.

PART B. THE PROJECT

8. Title of project (if any).

CRITERIA FOR SUSTAINABLE ECO-TOURISM PROJECTS

9. Describe the project and its specific objectives (attach plans or drawings, if appropriate).

The project has been designed to define and document the criteria for assessing sustainable eco-tourism projects.

Its objectives are:

- to encourage ecologically and socially sustainable tourism
- to encourage community involvement
- to gain support for economically and ecologically viable projects with local community.

10. Project budget. \$ 30 000

11. Contributions in cash or in kind. \$ N.A

12. Funding applied for under this program. \$ 30 000

13. Is the project ready to proceed?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

14. Describe major project stages and their time frames, including anticipated commencement and completion dates.

1. Research existing documentation

2. Enlist support of Regional Tourism Bodies

3. Conduct four Case Studies

4. Evaluation of studies / prepare draft

5. Invite comment from stakeholders and publish results.

15. Provide evidence of your organisation's capacity to manage the project.

Awarded Federal Govt. Grant for G.I.S. - pilot

project for North Coast. Chemical Use study for N. Coast.

Published position papers "TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT" ISBN 0 7316

0207-2, "TOURISM AND THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT" - proceedings of N.C.E.C. Conference, 4-5 July 1987.

16. How will the project benefit the region (as distinct from the specific locality or local government area), and how will you measure these benefits?

N.E. NSW has been identified by N.S.W. NP.W.S. as having the 2nd highest levels of bio-diversity in Aust. but has the 2nd highest concentration of endangered species of plants & animals. This coupled with an anticipated tourism growth rate of approx. 10% shows a strong need for educated decision making based on detailed research.

17. Is the project identified in a local or regional tourism development plan or strategy?

☒ Yes. Name and date of the plan or strategy (attach a copy if available).

NORTH COAST REGION, N.S.W. TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY, 1988.

☐ No.

(Please attach a statement explaining how this project will assist with local or regional tourism development.)

☐ Not applicable.

18. Is this project aimed at particular tourism markets?

☒ Yes. Which markets, and why have they been targeted?

At the Eco-Tourism market - because of their potential threat to the environment due to lack of criteria for assessing their sustainability.

☐ No.

☐ Not applicable.

19. Is there documentary evidence of broad support for the project within the region?

☒ Yes. (Attach copies of such documents.)

☐ No. How have you gauged such support?

Proceedings from COASTAL GROWTH AND MANAGEMENT Conference, U.N.E.N.R., July 1992 (Extracts attached)

20. Provide details of objections to the project, and of your responses to them.

N.A.

21. On completion of the project, you will be required to evaluate the project outcomes in terms of its stated objectives. Describe the performance indicators you intend to use to conduct this evaluation.

Feedback from:

- Relevant Tourist Operators
- Community consultations
- Regional Tourism Organisations

22. Is there a management plan for the ongoing running costs and maintenance of the project?

☐ Yes.

☐ No.

☒ Not applicable.

23. Which organisation will be responsible for the maintenance of the project?

NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

24. What maintenance costs are anticipated, and how will they be met?

None.

25. If this project has an integrated regional planning or information coordination component, describe how it will be implemented.

Through the Regional Department of Planning - Grafton.

Complete questions 26 to 29 only if the project has an infrastructure component.

Otherwise, go immediately to Part C (Q. 30) on page 8.

26. Describe the proposed location of the project. (Attach maps or photographs that will assist in accurately identifying its position.)

27. The land on which the project is proposed to be sited is owned

☐ by the Commonwealth Government

☐ by a State or Territory government (specify)

☐ by a local government authority (specify)

☐ by a corporate body (specify)

☐ privately. Since funding is not generally available under this program for projects sited on privately owned land, describe any plans you may have to acquire the land.

PART C. PROJECT FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

We are interested in an overall indication of your projected sources of funds and the types of expenditure that are likely to be required.

Where you do not have exact figures, please provide reasonable estimates.

30. Project Development Income: Provide details, by source, of anticipated income for project development purposes.

Category	Income
● Regional Tourism Development Program	\$ 30 000
● other Commonwealth programs (specify)	\$
● State Government programs (specify)	\$
● local government funding (specify)	\$
● private sector (specify)	\$
● public donations (specify)	\$
● other sources of cash income (specify)	\$
● income in kind (specify)	\$

TOTAL INCOME \$ 30 000

This should equal Total Expenditure shown in Q. 34 below.

31. Of the amounts listed above, indicate any that have been secured, and any that are dependent on the success of this application.

N.A.

32. If completion of the project is dependent on grants under this or other programs in subsequent years, provide details.

This is the only source of funds applied for, for this project.

33. What will be the implications for the project if a lower amount of funding than requested is provided?

A less comprehensive study will be undertaken.

34. **Project Development Expenditure.** Provide a distribution, by broad categories, of anticipated expenditure for project development purposes, e.g. materials, labour, rent, printing, telephones, other administrative expenses, etc.

Category (specify)	Expenditure
Private Consultance fee (6 mths)	\$ 25 000
Printing	\$ 4 000
Other administrative expenses	\$ 1 000
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

TOTAL EXPENDITURE \$ 30 000

This should equal Total Income shown in Q. 30 above.

PART D. OTHER INFORMATION

35. Does any person associated directly or indirectly with the management, maintenance or funding of this project stand to gain financially from the project?

☐ Yes. (Provide relevant details.)

NO

☒ No.

36. Are you aware of any other actual or potential conflicts of interest associated with this project?

☐ Yes. (Provide relevant details.)

☒ No.

37. Is there any other information you would like to provide in support of your application?

☐ Yes. (Provide relevant details and attachments as appropriate.)

☐ No.

DECLARATION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I declare that:

- I have read and understood the guidelines pertaining to this program; and
- the information supplied in this form is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete.

Signature

T. W. F. Parkhouse

Name (print)

T. W. F. PARKHOUSE

Date

4.11.93

REMINDER ! ! !

Please ensure that you have

- answered all relevant questions
- enclosed all necessary attachments (see Schedule)
- signed the application form
- retained a copy of the application form for your records.

Applications close on
5 November 1993

SCHEDULE OF ATTACHMENTS

The completed application form should be accompanied by the following documents, as appropriate

(tick to indicate which documents are attached)

- ☒ evidence of regional growth potential
- ☐ plans and/or drawings relating to the project
- ☒ photographs and/or maps relating to its location
- ☐ evidence of the organisation's capacity to manage the project
- ☐ local or regional tourism plan or strategy
- ☐ statement explaining how the project will assist with local or regional tourism development
- ☐ environmental impact assessment reports
- ☐ planning approvals from relevant authorities
- ☒ evidence of support for the project
- ☐ other relevant documents (specify)

.....

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PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

766
SIX ELBOW STREET,
(P.O. BOX 1446)
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450
TEL.: (066) 52 6233
(008) 800 217 TOLL FREE
FAX.: (066) 51 4346

GARRY NEHL, M.P.
MEMBER FOR COWPER
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES
NATIONAL PARTY DEPUTY WHIP

Mr J. Tedder
North Coast Environment Council
Pavans Access
Stuart's Point 2441

Dear Mr Tedder

I write to inform you that I have written to the Minister for Tourism, the Hon. Michael Lee, MP, in support of the North Coast Environment Council's submission for funding under the Regional Tourism Development Program.

The project submitted is certainly worthy of receiving funding under this program and the council is to be congratulated for putting together a strong submission.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my electorate office.

Yours sincerely,

Garry Nehl, MP
MEMBER FOR COWPER.
GBN:CM
December 13, 1993.



COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF
TOURISM

**NATIONAL ECOTOURISM PROGRAM
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

Implementation of the National Ecotourism Strategy for 1993-94 is being undertaken in two parts – a grants stream and a consultancy stream.

A. Grants stream

- Infrastructure;
- Baseline studies and monitoring; and
- Integrated regional planning.

B. Consultancy stream

- Ecotourism education;
- Energy and waste minimisation practices; and
- Business development.

Information package

The attached package includes:

- the National Ecotourism Strategy media release;
- grants program guidelines and application form;
- terms of reference for consultancies; and
- a copy of the National Ecotourism Strategy.

These papers will provide you with guidance on the selection requirements and the areas which must be addressed in your proposal.

For additional information please contact Ms Jill Grant, Assistant Director, Nature Based and Indigenous Tourism, on (06) 279 7218, or Mr Bernard Knowler, Director, Nature Based and Indigenous Tourism, on (06) 279 7126.

Grant Applications and Consultancy Proposals

Applications/proposals should address the specific guidelines or terms of reference for the program area(s). Applications/proposals may be made for more than one area. Applications/proposals should be sent to:

The Director
Nature Based and Indigenous Tourism
Department of Tourism
GPO Box 1545
Canberra ACT 2601

Applications and consultancy proposals must be received by the Department by 22 April 1994. Late applications will not be considered.



Copy to
D/Pincher 7/4/94

94/10

March 10, 1994

ECOTOURISM STRATEGY- A NATURAL PLAN

Funding of \$10 million will be targeted at nature based tourism activities over the next four years by the Federal Government as part of a program to develop a sustainable ecotourism industry, the Minister for Tourism Michael Lee announced today.

The funding is a central element of the National Ecotourism Strategy released by Mr Lee in Adelaide.

Programs to be implemented in the next four years include infrastructure projects, market and scientific research, energy and waste minimisation practices, ecotourism education, business development and integrated regional planning.

Two million dollars will be available in 1993-94 and 1994-95 to fund the new programs with a further \$3 million available in 1995-1996 and 1996-1997.

"The National Ecotourism Strategy advocates an integrated approach to ecotourism development", Mr Lee said.

"The tourism industry now has a framework to manage the complex issues facing the development of ecotourism on a sensitive and sustainable basis.

"For the first time we have a blueprint to achieve ecotourism's full potential.

"Ecotourism offers an opportunity for Australia to take advantage of its unique natural environment by targeting the growing world market for nature-based tourism.

"Ecotourism will help spread the economic and employment benefits of tourism throughout regional Australia and help create jobs," Mr Lee said.

"The funding will be used to steer Australia towards an internationally competitive and domestically viable ecotourism industry, while making a major contribution to environmental conservation and management.

"The development of a national system of accreditation for ecotourism operations is already underway. This industry-led initiative could result in agreed industry standards for ecotourism, providing greater quality assurance for consumers and ultimately increase our international competitiveness", Mr Lee said.

The strategy has been developed through a process of wide public consultation, including workshops in all States and Territories and a national call for submissions. A Draft National Ecotourism Strategy was published and circulated for public comment in November 1993.

A call for submissions to develop ecotourism initiatives in the first year of the program will be advertised in the national press on Saturday.

Copies of the Strategy can be obtained by contacting Ms Amanda Brigdale on (06) 279 7222.

Further information: Bob Bowden, Minister's Office (06) 277 7480.



NATIONAL
ECOTOURISM
PROGRAM

PROGRAM GUIDELINES
AND
APPLICATION FORM

Infrastructure Projects
Baseline Studies and Monitoring
Integrated Regional Planning



COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

GENERAL GUIDELINES

ELIGIBILITY

Funding is available to Commonwealth, State/Territory and local government agencies, natural resource management agencies, education and training bodies, research institutions (or in the case of consultancies, individual researchers), cultural and conservation bodies, community organisations, professional associations, indigenous communities and regional development organisations with a particular interest in ecotourism.

Unless otherwise approved by the Federal Minister for Tourism, non-government applicants must be incorporated.

Individuals, private companies and profit making enterprises are ineligible.

ASSESSMENT

1. Applicants must have:

- a proven record of achievement in the area; ✓
- a demonstrated ability to deliver specified results within an agreed timeframe;
- a demonstrated ability to manage funds of a similar magnitude to those being sought; ✓
- where appropriate, the capacity to utilise appropriate technology and apply innovative techniques, such as computer modelling packages for natural resource management; minimal impact construction techniques; and waste minimisation procedures; and ✓

2. Projects must meet the specific guidelines for the program component, and should meet all of the following criteria:

- address priority issues identified in Chapter 5 of the National Ecotourism Strategy; ✓
- provide information and/or develop technologies and/or innovative management strategies which have national application; and ✓
- produce results which contribute directly to advancing positive practices in the industry. ✓

3. Preference will be given to projects in which the applicant has arranged or will provide cooperative funding.

TIMING

Projects should be completed within one year of the allocation of funds. Under exceptional circumstances grants will be considered for projects spanning two years.

CONDITIONS

Successful applicants will be required to sign a contract with the Commonwealth Department of Tourism which will include financial arrangements, key results and any special conditions related to specific grants. The grant conditions are attached.

The level of assistance will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Payment arrangements will depend on the size of the grant. Progress payments may be made for major grants.

Major roadworks or the purchase of land are not eligible for funding under the program. Grants may not be used for payment of permanent employees, but contract labour may be used for the duration of the project.

The results of projects must be fully documented by the applicant in a manner that will enhance community and industry knowledge and provide examples for the development of the industry.

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PROGRAM COMPONENTS

COMPONENT 1: INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

This component of the program will fund infrastructure projects in and adjacent to ecotourism destinations. For the purpose of this program, infrastructure may include construction or restoration projects; protective structures such as boardwalks and viewing platforms; projects which demonstrate innovative eco-design; and projects which demonstrate the application of environmentally friendly technology such as energy and waste minimisation systems.

*boardwalk / hide
in one of
C's wetlands*

Objectives

- Assist in the development of best practice technology in ecotourism through the construction of new facilities or the upgrading of existing facilities; and
- Encourage the adoption of minimal impact technology for ecotourism by demonstrating the practical application of such technology in a range of sensitive natural environments.

Guidelines:

- Proposals must demonstrate the need for the project, specify and explain the technology to be employed, and demonstrate its appropriateness to ecotourism planning, development and management.

- Where appropriate, evidence should be provided that the project is consistent with a total management plan encompassing the site.
- Where appropriate, projects should be reinforced by visitor education and interpretation programs.
- Normally, the maximum grant for a project will be \$250 000.

Preference will be given to proposals:

- which apply innovative technology and techniques appropriate to ecotourism.
- which are widely applicable to a range of ecotourism destinations or enterprises and are an example of best practice for future developments.
- in which the applicant has arranged or will provide cooperative funding.

• • • • •

COMPONENT 2: BASELINE STUDIES AND MONITORING

This component of the program will provide assistance for projects, including baseline studies, predictive modelling and monitoring, to assess and contribute to the management of changes to natural environments caused or likely to occur as a result of ecotourism activities.

Objective:

- Encourage the establishment of indicators and the collection of data at ecotourism destinations to provide a more informed basis for decisions by tourism planners, operators and natural resource managers.

Guidelines

- Studies into the following areas will be considered: impacts of ecotourism activities, predictive modelling of ecotourism management regimes, baseline studies and environmental audits.
- Proposals should identify the extent of existing research and justify the need for additional research for the project. Research activities should also be linked with improved management practice.
- Proposals should focus on areas where environmental impact monitoring is required in the context of increasing tourism demands on Australia's natural environment.
- Normally, the maximum grant for a project will be \$50 000.

Preference will be given to proposals:

- which develop strategies to provide improved information on the individual and cumulative effects of ecotourism (including the identification and application of innovative technologies which can assist in minimising impacts).
- which assess the capability of a range of sites to sustain different levels of tourism use and establish monitoring systems which can be used as a predictive tool when new ventures are proposed in similar sites.
- in which the applicant has arranged or will provide cooperative funding.

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COMPONENT 3: INTEGRATED REGIONAL PLANNING

This component of the program will fund pilot projects or case studies which facilitate the integration of ecotourism planning into regional planning and development strategies.

Objectives:

- Incorporate ecotourism issues into the regional planning process and provide examples of an integrated approach which can be readily adapted by other areas; and
- Sustain the long-term future of ecotourism in regional Australia by recognising that ecosystems can cross more than one administrative unit or local government area.

Guidelines:

- Proposals should integrate the interests and responsibilities of local governments, local communities, indigenous groups, planners, and natural resource managers.
- Proposals should seek to identify the potential impacts, and the potential benefits of ecotourism in the regional planning process to establish the appropriate level and form of development.
- Proposals should utilise an ecosystem/bioregional approach to managing, interpreting and promoting natural and cultural tourism resources.
- Normally, the maximum grant for a project will be \$50 000.

Preference will be given to proposals:

- which provide models that can be readily adapted in other regions.
- in which the applicant has arranged or will provide cooperative funding.



NATIONAL
ECOTOURISM
PROGRAM
CONSULTANCY
BRIEF

Ecotourism Education
Energy and Waste Minimisation Practices
Business Development



COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

CONSULTANCY BRIEF

GENERAL GUIDELINES

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- have a proven record of achievement in similar projects;
- be able to demonstrate the ability to manage funds of a similar magnitude to those being sought; and
- have the ability to deliver specified results within an agreed timeframe.

CONSULTANCY PROPOSALS

The following information must be included in the consultancy proposal:

- An outline of the intended approach to the study;
- An outline of the methodology to be used;
- A detailed time schedule for the project, including provision for consultation with the Department of Tourism;
- Details of those undertaking the project and their specific roles in the study team, including:
 - details of any similar work; and
 - details of the qualifications and experience of study team members.
- Details of the cost of the proposal, by major component, including hours and charges for each stage, travel costs and any management fees;

The consultant must nominate a Project Director who will be responsible for the management of the study and for all contractual and administrative matters and be the contact person for the project.

Final specifications for the consultancy will be drawn up following discussion with the successful applicants.

Four copies of the proposal are required.

SELECTION

- Selection will be based on the consultant's understanding of the project area, the proposed approach to the study, relevant experience, qualifications and knowledge.

TIME SCHEDULE

The final report for each of the above projects is to be delivered to the Department of Tourism within one year of receipt of the grant or as otherwise agreed with the Department of Tourism.

FORM OF CONTRACT

The consultant will be required to enter into a contract with the Commonwealth Department of Tourism.

The Commonwealth will own the copyright on the results of the project, including reports and will have shared ownership in the intellectual property of the project.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

PROJECT 1: ECOTOURISM EDUCATION

This project involves the development and implementation of a program to promote an increased awareness and application of the principles and practices of ecotourism to a range of audiences including the media, the tourism industry, education and training bodies and consumers.

Objectives:

- Raise the standard and delivery of ecotourism education for all target groups;
- Raise awareness of the principles and practices of ecotourism among target groups;
- Increase understanding of the potential impacts of tourism activities on the natural environment and ecological processes and how these impacts can be minimised;
- Encourage promotional activities which convey realistic expectations of ecotourism experiences that can be sustained in the long term; and
- Encourage cross cultural training for ecotourism operators who work with indigenous Australians.

Terms of reference:

- Survey and report on current initiatives in energy and waste minimisation being undertaken in Australia and overseas and assess their applicability and transferability to ecotourism.
- Evaluate the impact of current initiatives on the efficiency and economic viability of ecotourism operations.
- Prepare and/or publish information which demonstrates how energy and waste minimisation initiatives can be cost effective and practically applied to ecotourism.

Experience sought:

- understanding of waste management and tourism conservation issues; and
- experience in the development and application of waste minimisation and energy conservation practices in industry, preferably the tourism industry.

.....

PROJECT 3: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

This project will aim to improve the level of business skills among ecotourism operators through workshops, short courses or distance education modules focusing on business practices and ecotourism management issues.

Objectives:

- Improve the business skills and environmental knowledge of ecotourism operators and so increase the viability of operators and their capacity to provide quality ecotourism experiences in an ecologically sustainable manner; and
- Encourage the establishment of networks for cooperative marketing, purchasing and sharing of expertise to provide competitive advantages for small or developing ecotourism businesses.

Terms of reference:

- Conduct a skills audit of ecotourism businesses and industry training projects and determine the additional skills or subject knowledge required to improve efficiency and viability. Recommend means to deliver skills based training to existing ecotourism enterprises and those wishing to enter the industry.

Terms of reference:

- Investigate and report on current and future education needs of the ecotourism industry, tourists and other interested parties (including tour operators, schools, travel agents, natural resource managers and the media).
- Identify the resources and mechanisms required to meet these needs (including cross-cultural training) and recommend the desired means of information transfer.
- Develop and implement appropriate communication strategies for identified target groups (operators and ecotourism service providers such as wholesalers and retailers, natural resource managers and tourism marketers) to convey appropriate messages of ecotourism principles and practices.
- Develop and implement an awareness program to assist the media and tourism marketers to apply the principles of ecotourism to information presented in the media.
- Identify and develop a range of educational materials (including booklets and brochures featuring best practice case studies, videos and posters) for use by educational institutions.

Experience sought in addition to that noted under General Guidelines:

- experience in the development of educational materials;
- experience in the media industry; and
- a good understanding of the tourism industry.

.....

PROJECT 2: ENERGY AND WASTE MINIMISATION PRACTICES

This project will promote the use of cost effective energy and waste minimisation practices in ecotourism contexts to demonstrate the economic and marketing benefits of environmentally responsible practices.

Objectives:

- Investigate current ecotourism initiatives in energy and waste minimisation and assess their cost effectiveness; and
- Produce and disseminate information demonstrating how such initiatives can be practically applied to ecotourism.

- Identify existing networks for cooperative marketing, purchasing and sharing of expertise which aim to provide competitive advantages for developing ecotourism businesses.
 - develop methods to facilitate awareness and access to such networks for ecotourism operators; and
 - develop/recommend a process for enabling/encouraging the establishment of more of such networks.
- Determine the most appropriate means of delivering skills based training to existing small ecotourism enterprises and those wishing to enter the industry. Identify and develop suitable training packages such as:
 - a training package which covers fundamental business skills (including financial and business planning, marketing, accounting, purchasing and insurance); and/or
 - distance based learning models for remote locations and the specification of an appropriate range of regional centres where training can be conducted to maximise participation by operators.

Experience sought:

- Experience in small business development, preferably ecotourism businesses; and
- Development and delivery of training for small business.

ABC RADIO INTERVIEW

Interviewer:

Well the National Parks and Wildlife Service on the north coast has hit out at the Federal government claiming that it is not putting in sufficient money into World Heritage areas in this region. The National Parks and Wildlife Service Lismore District Advisory Committee claims that out of 8 World Heritage areas, New South Wales has 3, and yet it only receives only 2% of Federal government funding for such zones. The situation is now serious following the Federal government's decision last year to give no money at all to New South Wales World Heritage parks on the north coast. It has prompted Guy Holloway Superintendent for the Service in Alstonville to go public on the issue. I asked him what World Heritage zones we had in this region.

Guy Holloway:

Well the World Heritage areas here are our rainforest parks, I will just run through them, there is not very many, the Border Ranges National Park, Mt Warning, Nightcap, Washpool, New England, Dorriggo, Werrikimbe and Barrington Tops are the eastern Australian rainforest parks.

Interviewer:

The National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Advisory Committee are concerned that there is not enough Federal government funding for these parks, what is the effect of this ?

Guy Holloway:

Well the parks cost alot of money to manage and the resources of the New South Wales National Parks are fairly scant and any extra money that we can get will serve the parks very well for weeds, feral animals, the need to provide more facilities, the need for more research and all those things we can do with significantly more money and resources to manage these parks effectively.

Interviewer:

Are these parks being degraded because their is not this money available ?

Guy Holloway:

They are not being degraded but we can do much better with them and if infact some facilities are provided they may even provide a boost to our tourism and the economy of the local area. A study at Dorriggo showed that Dorriggo National Park and New England National Park had a significant effect it pumped something in the order of 37 jobs into the local economy. So they can have a major effect in local areas.

Interviewer:

Is the Federal government meeting its obligations under the World Heritage Convention ?

Guy Holloway:

Well we think that to meet their obligations fully that some extra resources in terms of cash should come in this direction.

Interviewer:

That because there has not been this cash forthcoming does that mean that they are not meeting their obligations ?

Guy Holloway:

No the Commonwealth in the past through a program called the National Rainforest Conservation Program have provided some money to the rainforest parks but it has been very very small in comparison to the other areas, so they are only just meeting their obligations.

Interviewer:

Is this just a bit of rivalry between the state and the Federal governments, the state government wants the Federal government to chip in more ?

Guy Holloway:

Oh not at all the Commonwealth government is a signatory to the World Heritage Convention and it is considered that they should meet their obligations in this way and it is not really got anything to do with rivalry between the states and infact New South Wales and Queensland are jointly putting forward a nomination for the Border Ranges which has already been a World Heritage area but including it with Lamington National Park which it adjoins as a joint application for World Heritage listing later this year.

Interviewer:

I understand that last year the Federal government didn't give any money towards the New South Wales World Heritage areas. Thats no funding at all is that correct ?

Guy Holloway:

Thats correct on the figures that we were able to get from the Federal department so its an indication that we are not being very well looked after at all.

Interviewer:

And how much money should have been directed at these areas last year ?

Guy Holloway:

Well that is a difficult figure to determine what we would need to do is to sit down and work out the sorts of programs that we would like to occur but any money infact would have

been useful last year, this year or next year we have got some ideas for some good programs that should have been funded.

Interviewer:

Are you having to put alot of programs on hold and alot of research work and landcare work ?

Guy Holloway:

Oh yes yes we can do alot more with the money we got. We established a really very impressive research program under the National Rainforest Conservation program looking at our resources, in the past and of course that is continuing to some extent. The whole question of the resources of north eastern corner of New South Wales is very complex it one of the most biologically diverse areas in Australia and we don't have a full understanding of the natural history at all and we started that several years ago under the National Rainforest Conservation Program but unfortunately that is not complete and is on hold as you say until more funding is provided.

Interviewer:

Well the National Parks and Wildlife Service and its committee has now set the ball rolling by issuing press releases complaining about inadequate funding. What do you propose to do now ?

Guy Holloway:

Well the Advisory Committee is following up that press release with letters to local members and to the state and Federal Ministers to see if we can not engender some interest in this issue and for them to have a closer look at it.

Interviewer:

Is it time when the Federal government is mouthing great words about the environment and its time for us to care for it does this indicate a slight hypocrisy that we are not caring for the World Heritage areas ?

Guy Holloway:

No not totally I think that we are over looked there are other areas that are relatively new listing World heritage areas and as I say they did get some funding through a program called the National Rainforest Conservation program though it was not directed towards the World Heritage areas I rather think that we are just the poor cousins that are being just overlooked for the time being.

Interviewer:

Thats National Parks district Superintendent Guy Holloway.



National Parks and Wildlife Service

LISMORE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Suite 9
Colonial Arcade
Main Street
P.O. Box 91
Astonville, N.S.W. 2477

Our reference:

Your reference:

12 June, 1991

Telephone: 28 1177
STD: 066

PRESS RELEASE:

INADEQUATE FUNDING FOR NSW WORLD HERITAGE AREAS

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

At the most recent meeting of the Lismore District Advisory Committee to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Committee resolved to write to State and Commonwealth Environment Ministers and local members to express concern about the inadequate and imbalanced level of Commonwealth support for NSW World Heritage Areas (see attached letter).

NSW contains three of Australia's eight World Heritage properties - the Lord Howe Island Group, the Willandra Lakes region and the 16 East Coast Temperate and Sub-tropical rainforests, which stretch from Mt Warning to Barrington Tops. The other five Australian WHAs are Kakadu National Park, Uluru National Park, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Tasmanian Wilderness Parks and the Wet Tropics of Queensland.

Since 1984 the Commonwealth has provided some \$156 million to the eight WHA properties, however, only \$2.7 million (or less than 2% of total funds) has been for the three NSW properties. Of even greater significance is that the NSW properties are the only ones which receive no guaranteed support on an ongoing basis - thus, in 1990, the other properties received support ranging from \$5 to \$17 million, while NSW WHAs received no funding at all !

According to the Chairperson of the Committee, Ian Dutton, "...it seems as if the Commonwealth regards NSW WHAs as being of lower importance or value than the other WHAs. Such an attitude and the subsequent low level of funding is extraordinary, as the World Heritage Committee has accepted that the NSW WHAs are of international significance, ranking alongside such places as the Grand Canyon, the Tower of London and Kilimanjaro National Park."

According to the Committee, the low level of funding for NSW WHAs has two principal effects. Firstly, it means that essential research, management and maintenance tasks are not being done, resulting in degradation of the areas. Secondly, it means that adequate visitor facilities have not been established, resulting in increased pressure on heritage sites and potentially undermining the quality of visitor experience in these areas. "Effectively, this means that Australia is not meeting it's obligations under the World Heritage Convention, particularly in relation to North Coast rainforests" according to Mr Dutton.

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Mr Dutton observed that as a result of inadequate facilities, the North Coast region is also losing opportunities to realise the economic and social benefits normally associated with World Heritage Areas. For example, he observed that it has been estimated that tourism based on the Dorrigo rainforests is worth some \$3.2 to the local economy per annum, and is expected to increase significantly following the opening of the new Rainforest Information Centre. "Establishment of similar facilities based on the World Heritage rainforests of the far North Coast would greatly increase tourism earnings as well as stimulate public support for conservation", Mr Dutton said.

END RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ian Dutton (UNE, Northern Rivers)
ph: (066) 203 638 (w) 284 281 (h)
fax: (066) 212 669

NB - unavailable from 2 p.m. 13/6 to a.m. 19/6

Guy Holloway (NPWS, Alstonville)
ph: (066) 28 1177

John,

this is the only article I
could find on WHA funding;

Steve

835

FRIDAY 21/6/91 NS

FOR

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NSW Heritage areas 'not getting funds'

Concern about inadequate Federal support for NSW World Heritage Areas has been expressed by the Lismore District Advisory Committee of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The committee has written to State and Federal environment ministers and North Coast parliamentary representatives.

The committee chairman Mr Ian Dutton, said that it seemed the Federal Government regarded NSW World Heritage Areas as of lower importance or value than others.

He said the State contained three of Australia's eight heritage areas - the Lord Howe Island group, the Willandra Lakes region, and the 16 east coast temperate and sub-tropical rainforests between Mt Warning and Barrington Tops.

He said that since 1984, the Federal Government had provided \$196 million for the eight WHA properties, with only \$27 million of that for the NSW areas.

"They are the only ones not to receive guaranteed support, so that in 1990 the others received support ranging from \$5 million to \$17 million, but the NSW World Heritage Areas received no funding at all," he said.

"This means that essential research, management and maintenance tasks are not being done, resulting in degradation of the areas, and adequate visitor facilities have not been established, putting increased pressure on heritage sites."

"Because of inadequate facilities, the North Coast is not able to realise the economic and tourist benefits normally associated with World Heritage Areas."

"Tourism based on the Dorrigo rainforests is worth \$32 million to the local economy, and expected to increase following the opening of the new Rainforest Centre."

"Similar facilities based on the World Heritage rainforests would greatly increase tourism earnings as well as stimulate public support for conservation."

thern Rivers Elec-
y yesterday joined
North Coast busi-
in sponsoring the
ern Rivers region's
re helicopter.

ceremony was held at
helicopter base in Lis-
to mark the an-
cement.

om July 1, the air-
will be known as the
pac Life Saver Heli-
er.

ie general manager of
i, Mr John Beattie,
that under the spon-
up, NRE would pro-
substantial support in
umber of practical

ic said NRE operated
payroll deduction
me for staff who
ed to contribute to
helicopter and gave a
ar-for-dollar subsidy
tion on that money.

LISMORE

ATTACHMENT:

Commonwealth Funding of Australian WHA Properties - 1984-1990¹

FUNDING FOR PROPERTIES EACH YEAR (\$'000)

KEY	(a) GBR. MP	(b) KAKADU	(c) WILL*	(d) LORD H*	(e) SW TAS	(f) E. RAINF*	(g) ULURU	(h) WET TROP	TOTAL (\$)
F/Y									
84-85	4379	4425	15	0	498	25	1484	0	10826
85-86	6384	7029	0	20	2000	24	1790	0	17247
86-87	6670	8098	50	0	2000	912.5	1788	0	19518
87-88	8649	8082	17.5	10	2276	1657	2177	5969	28838
88-89	8632	9569	17.5	0	3606	0	2535	7917	32277
89-90 ²	9266	9741	0	0	5497	0	5741	17573	47818
TOTAL (\$)	43980	46944	100	30	15877	2619	15515	31460	156525
TOTAL (%)	28	29.9	>.006	>.002	10.1	1.6	9.9	20	

Key (including year of inscription on World Heritage List):

- a. Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (QLD) - 1981
- b. Kakadu National Park - Stages 1 and 2 (NT) - 1981 and 1987
- c. Willandra Lakes Region (1981) - 1981
- d. Lord Howe Island Group (NSW) - 1982
- e. Tasmanian Wilderness (TAS) - 1982 and 1989
- f. East Coast Temperate and Sub-tropical Rain forest Parks (NSW) - 1986
- g. Uluru National Park (NT) - 1987
- h. Wet Tropics of Queensland (QLD) - 1988

Notes:

* Denotes NSW WHA property (NSW Total = \$2,748,955 (1.7%)).

1. Source - Figures supplied by DASETT, based on reply to Question on Notice 31 May, 1989 (House of Representatives Q#1937) - data on funding prior to 1984 not supplied. Figures do not include costs associated with nomination process, Commonwealth administration or input of State resources.

2. Estimate only.