



11
Jim S. ~~Exec.~~ *Exec.*
To c. to send these people a copy of W.A. Conf. Press Statement.

Queensland Conservation Council

Postal Address: P.O. Box 238, North Quay, Brisbane 4000. Telephone (07) 221 0188
QCC Environment Centre: Second Floor, Brisbane School of Arts Building, 166 Ann Street, Brisbane

Newsletter ask member societies

30 SEP 1985

to sign

23rd September, 1985.

Dear friends,

FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED FOR WET TROPICS CAMPAIGN

As you would be well aware, the campaign to protect the wet tropical rainforests of north Queensland is one of the priority conservation issues in Australia today. A major step in the campaign - the nomination of the wet tropics for World Heritage listing - is now reaching a crucial stage. To be considered by the next meeting of the World Heritage Committee, the nomination must be made by the Federal Government by the end of December. The government will not, however, act on this nomination without enormous public pressure being exerted from throughout Australia. This public pressure is mounting but much more needs to be generated over the next few months if we are to have any chance of securing a nomination this year.

At the national meeting of Conservation Councils and Environment Centres held in Canberra in July, the wet tropics campaign was discussed at length, particularly in relation to how the campaign could be broadened to involve more organisations throughout Australia. Groups at this meeting indicated that they would appreciate receiving more information about the campaign, outlining how they could participate and what action was needed. Better communication and co-ordination between groups was identified as one area in particular need of improvement. Since the July meeting, the major groups involved in the rainforest campaign in Queensland have been looking into ways and means of achieving this.

Following their temporary employment of two wet tropics project officers in Queensland - one based in Cairns and one in Brisbane - the Australian Conservation Foundation has now decided to temporarily extend the position in Brisbane and will be employing Margaretann Stannard here until the end of the year. One of her main tasks will be to produce a wet tropics newsletter to be circulated nationally and the first issue of "Rainforest Rescue" is included with this letter. It is hoped to be able to produce these on a fortnightly basis, at least until the end of the year.

While the A.C.F. is paying for Margaretann's wages and administrative costs, their budget does not cover the costs of producing and distributing these newsletters. We estimate that printing and postage costs for another six issues will be of the order of \$1,500 and **we urgently need your support to help cover this.** The Tropical Rainforest Society has already contributed \$500 towards these costs - **CAN YOU HELP US TOO?** All donations, no matter how small, will help contribute towards the campaign to save the wet tropics.

It would be appreciated if you could indicate on the enclosed form whether you would like to continue receiving Rainforest Rescue and whether you are able to make a donation to help us cover printing and postage costs.

Thanking you in anticipation of your support.

Regards,

Liz Bourne
Liz Bourne
Co-ordinator

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS: SAVING RAINFORESTS AND SAVING JOBS

The Conservation Groups see the management of the rainforests as being integral to the development of North Queensland. Concurrent with the World Heritage Listing the State and Federal Governments should commit assistance to the appropriate authorities for:

1. STIMULATION OF TOURISM

Through the expansion of Nature Based Tourist Activity the rainforests of the region can be conserved and the region can have a viable long-term economic base.

PROPOSALS INCLUDE:

- ★ The development of an information centre at Mossman for tourists travelling from Cairns north via the Peninsular Development Road. Audiovisual displays and other promotions could be included for less than \$½mill. Douglas Shire, Mareeba and Cook Shire could all display their tourist material and the proposal would compliment the upgrading of the Peninsular Development Road.
- ★ The expansion of the Palmerston National Park to include the areas of the Nth. Johnstone River and Downey Creek and so facilitate the development of the canopy walkway proposal. This proposal will provide access for all types of tourists, including the disabled, to the fruits, flowers, animals and birds of the canopy — the most spectacular part of the rainforests.
- ★ In general, tourism throughout the region should be peripheral to the rainforest areas. This enables the core areas to be maintained in a pristine state. There are a number of passive and active recreation possibilities including bushwalking, horseriding, residential lodges and water-based activities (including rafting, canoeing, etc.)

2. RATIONAL ROADING

There is no doubt that tourists, industry and residents of the region all require satisfactory road access through the area. There does, however, need to be a rational approach to the provision of access in the region. Recently a number of ill-advised roading programs have shown just how much damage can be caused by poorly designed and executed roads.

- ★ The present bitumenising of the Peninsular Development Road to Cooktown should be hastened.
- ★ The Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield Road is a complete disaster, even the Minister for Roads, Russ Hinze, admits this. The road should be closed and revegetated.

3. REAFFORESTATION

A proposal has been put forward by some cane farmers to the Queensland Forestry Department and the Queensland N.P.W.S. for a pilot scheme to plant cabinet timbers on uneconomic sugar farms. This proposal should be adopted and expanded to cover all marginal farming areas. Subsidies should be provided to help retool the north Queensland timber mills for plantation timbers. In the short term, logging in virgin stands should cease.

4. RAINFOREST RESEARCH

There should be increased funding for rainforest research and the C.S.I.R.O. Tropical Research Centre at Atherton should be upgraded to the level of it being a centre for Rainforest Research in both Australia and South East Asia.



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY, 66 TURBOT STREET, BRISBANE, Q.L.D. 4000.
PHONE: 229 4533 / 229 4178

WORLD HERITAGE RAINFOREST AT RISK

"That this area is amply qualified biologically for World Heritage status is beyond doubt. Within this area are all the relicts that we have left of the great forest that covered Australia and parts of Antarctica up until 15 million years ago."

P.M. Raven,
Director,
Missouri Botanical Gardens



WORLD HERITAGE QUALITY RAINFOREST

The Australian Heritage Commission recommended the wet tropical rainforests between Townsville and Cooktown for World Heritage listing in 1984. A report prepared for the Commission had found that the region includes:-

- ★ 13 families of primitive flowering plants — the highest concentration on earth;
- ★ elements of plant life that relate to the four major stages in earth's evolutionary history, dating back more than 35 million years;
- ★ a rare association of fringing coral reefs and rainforested coastline in the Daintree area;
- ★ 62% of Australia's butterflies, 60% of our bat species, 30% of our marsupial species, 29% of our frog species, 23% of our reptile species, and 18% of our bird species in only 0.1% of the Australian landmass;
- ★ the only remaining recognized Australian Aboriginal rainforest culture.

International scientists' comments on this report include:-

"World Heritage listing is highly justified. The region is really a priceless and irreplaceable possession of mankind as a whole. A disturbance and destruction of the rainforest region of Northern Queensland would be a global fraud to the future of mankind as a whole." P. Endress, Professor of Systematic Botany, University of Zurich.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

The most serious threats to this heritage include:-

- ★ **LOGGING**
The North Queensland timber industry, based on logging of virgin timber, has been in operation for some hundred years and is approaching a crisis point. The Queensland Forestry Department has stated that it must cut the timber harvest by 46% in 1986 — even this reduced volume will only be possible with logging of the few remaining virgin forests of Downey Creek, Upper Russell River and Greater Daintree.
- ★ **ROADING OF THE DAINTREE COASTAL WILDERNESS**
Siltation from the roadworks is degrading and may destroy the fringing reef at Cape Tribulation. The road itself has destroyed the wilderness value of the region which is Australia's last coastal rainforest wilderness. The roading of the National Park and the timber reserve will allow the possibility of logging, mining and real estate development.
- ★ **REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT**
Almost all the remaining lowland rainforest is on private land and much of it has been subdivided into one hectare allotments. Clearing of these allotments to provide access and homesites, if allowed will ultimately destroy the rainforest.
- ★ **MINING**
Tin mines are being developed in the Roaring Meg area and areas of the Greater Daintree Park Proposal. These have a destructive effect on the scenery and ecology.

AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE RAINFOREST

OUR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION:

The Federal Government, as a signatory to the World Heritage Convention, has an international responsibility to identify, list and protect Australia's World Heritage areas. The World Heritage List is a register of those areas of the world which are of outstanding universal value to all people. Such areas already on the List are: the Great Barrier Reef, the Chartres Cathedral, the Serengeti Plain, the Pyramid Fields of Egypt, and the Grand Canyon.

Under the Convention, each State Party (a country signatory to the Convention) is required to do all it can to ensure the "identification, protection, conservation, preservation and transmission to future generations" of its natural and cultural heritage.

AUSTRALIAN LEGISLATION:

The **World Heritage Properties Conservation Act, 1983**, gives effect to the Convention in Australia. The Act provides protection to places declared by regulations to form part of the natural or cultural heritage. This Act was used to stop the damming of the Franklin River and could be used in the same way to save the rainforests of North Queensland, if the Federal Government chose to do so.

The Federal Government has refused to fulfill its duty to protect the rainforests. It has said it will only nominate the region if the Queensland Government agrees. The Queensland Government has refused to co-operate, instead it continues to threaten the World Heritage site by logging the last remaining virgin areas (including the outstanding rainforests of Downey Creek), roading the Daintree coastal wilderness and damaging the rare coral fringing reefs, allowing mining, clearfelling for agriculture and real estate subdivision.

These policies are destroying our heritage, and our economic future. World Heritage listing would bring an immediate increase in tourism as areas on the list automatically become tourist 'meccas'. Properly managed tourism will be a sustainable, labour intensive industry. The industries currently destroying the rainforests are also destroying any chance of continuing an international tourist industry based on the attraction of these unique rainforests. When the forests are logged out, the logging jobs will also be gone.



WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Public support for the protection of the wet tropical rainforests is critical if the Federal Government and the Queensland Government are to change their policies.

It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to write to the politicians and tell them that they must act to save the rainforests.

SOME POINTS FOR YOUR LETTERS:

- ★ The wet tropical rainforests between Townsville and Cooktown must be nominated for World Heritage Listing.
- ★ The Queensland Labor Party has called on the Federal Government to nominate the area and establish a Statutory Authority to ensure appropriate management.
- ★ Logging must cease in the rainforests.
- ★ The North Queensland timber mills should receive subsidies to enable them to retool so as to be able to mill plantation timber.
- ★ Timber plantations should be established on marginal farmlands.
- ★ Increase funding into rainforest research.
- ★ The Cape Tribulation-Bloomfield Road should be closed and revegetated so as to protect the rainforest and fringing reef.
- ★ The Mulligan Highway (Peninsular Development Road) to Cooktown and Weipa should be upgraded so as to provide better road access to ALL the residents of Cape York Peninsula.
- ★ Tell them that your vote at the next election will depend upon them saving the rainforests.

REMEMBER: Always ask questions of politicians as they are obliged to answer them.

Please write to:-

YOUR LOCAL MEMBERS (State and Federal)

In addition, you could also write to:

The Prime Minister,
The Hon. R.J.L. Hawke,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA, ACT 2600

The Premier of Queensland,
The Hon. Sir Joh. Bjelke-Petersen,
Parliament House,
BRISBANE, Qld. 4000

The Liberal Leader,
Sir William Knox,
Parliament House,
BRISBANE, Qld. 4000

The Minister For The
Environment,
The Hon. B. Cohen,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA, ACT 2600

The Opposition Leader,
Mr. N.G. Warburton,
Parliament House,
BRISBANE, Qld. 4000

The Minister for Forestry,
The Hon. W.H. Glasson,
Parliament House,
BRISBANE, Qld. 4000

COMING EVENTS

- **DO IT FOR DAINTREE RALLY-** 12.30, 12th OCTOBER. Sydney Town Hall. March to Hyde Park.
Speakers- Bob Brown MLA Tas.; Mr Bob Carr, NSW Minister for Environment, and Diane Cilento.
- **BRISBANE RALLY-** tentative date, 30th November.
- **PUBLIC MEETING, BRISBANE** to launch the Australian Heritage Commission Report which will be published in book form. Organised by the Rainforest Conservation Society of QLD.
- If you have any events to add to this column, please let the Editors know.

THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS ARE THOSE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE WET TROPICS CAMPAIGN.

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

66 Turbot St 672B Glenferrie Rd
BRISBANE 4000 HAWTHORN 3122
07-229 4533 03-819 2888

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

66 Turbot St., 362 Pitt St.,
BRISBANE 4000 SYDNEY 2000
07-229 4533 02-267 7929

RAINFOREST CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF QLD

15 Colorado St
BARDON 4065
07-369 6352

QUEENSLAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

P.O. BOX 238
NORTH QUAY 4000
07-221 0188

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

BRISBANE	INNISFAIL	CAIRNS
8 Clifton St	P.O. BOX 750	P.O. BOX 1350
Petrie Tce.,	INNISFAIL 4860	CAIRNS 4870
BRISBANE 4000	070-612 687	070-551 869
07-369 4586		

TROPICAL RAINFOREST SOCIETY

CMC 5918
CAIRNS 4870
070-511 204



EDITORS M. STANNARD, Australian Conservation Foundation
H. ABRAHAMS, The Wilderness Society

ARTICLES AND SUGGESTIONS MOST WELCOME

Definition of Rainforest: A configuration of tropical vegetation planted by the devil to obstruct the course of western civilisation. (QLD Senate candidate- FAST BUCKS).

Rainforest RESCUE

66 TURBOT ST., BRISBANE 4000. (07) 229 4533



22 SEPTEMBER 1985

DEAR FRIENDS,

This is the first of a series of fortnightly Rainforest campaign newsletters produced by rainforest conservation interest groups in Brisbane. The covering letter from the Queensland Conservation Council explains how this newsletter came about.

The primary aim of **RAINFOREST RESCUE** is to urge you to join with us in actively campaigning the Commonwealth government for the next 3 months to **nominate the Wet Tropical Rainforests for World Heritage Listing**.

Rainforest protection is Australia's Number 1 national conservation issue. The Wet Tropical Rainforest issue has had excellent publicity this year with the collapsing of the disastrous Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield road and the vigil over Downey Creek logging. However other threats to the Wet Tropics are numerous. Some of these are:

- * **logging** the virgin forests of Windsor Tableland, Woopin Creek, Mount Lewis, Mount Spurgeon,
- * **wide spread tin mining** in the Greater Daintree area
- * **roading and real estate** development, in particular 1 hectare subdivisions north of the Daintree river.

Less than 14,000 ha of accessible virgin rainforest are left in North Queensland and much of this will be logged by 1986. **The situation is urgent and yet the Commonwealth is failing to take action.**

Almost a year ago the Commonwealth's advisor on Heritage matters, the Australian Heritage Commission, recommended the Wet Tropical Rainforests of North Queensland for nomination as a World Heritage area. Their report shows the outstanding universal significance of these rainforests i.e. the North Queensland rainforests are different to all others in that they represent a concentration of refugia areas where flowering plants have survived continuously for over 100 million years.

The Commonwealth is refusing to take the advice of the Commission and may well damage Australia's international reputation in Natural Heritage matters. Australia is a party to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention) and so has an international legal responsibility to protect outstanding natural environments. The Australian High Court has set a precedence to uphold this legal duty as a result of the South West Tasmania issue.

Calls from within Australia and overseas have been made on the Commonwealth to take immediate action. A large body of international scientists and their organisations recognise the urgency of the situation (as indicated in the article on page 3.). As well, the Queensland ALP State Council recently passed a resolution urging the Commonwealth to nominate the Wet Tropical Rainforests for World Heritage by the 31st of December this year.

The Commonwealth government can no longer paint a picture of electoral disaster for the Queensland ALP if unilateral nomination was to take place, which has been their argument to date. Clearly the Commonwealth has a mandate to nominate the Wet Tropical Rainforests for World Heritage. It is equally clear the Queensland government will not initiate the nomination at this stage.

We urge you to join us in Queensland, and call on the Commonwealth to nominate the Wet Tropical Rainforests of North Queensland as a World Heritage area by 31st December this year.

NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE USES RARE RAINFOREST TIMBERS.

The Wilderness Society Brisbane has, through the Freedom of Information Act, found that the Parliament House Construction Authority has plans to use a wide range of rare rainforest trees in the new Parliament House. Some of the species chosen include, Silver Ash, Black Bean, Blush Tullip Oak, Silky Oak, Red Cedar. The use of World Heritage quality rainforests from North Queensland for the Parliament House is to be condemned. By purchasing rainforest timbers, the Federal Government is actively supporting the logging industry, an industry doing irreparable damage to North Queensland rainforests.

The insensitivity of the Federal ALP government to rainforest conservation was clear in a statement made by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, Barry Cohen, concerning this matter. The justification for the use of rainforest timber was that rainforest trees would come from areas already being logged. The Minister neatly skirted over the issue of irreparable damage to the rainforests caused by such logging. Letters from the members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the construction have generally replied in a similar fashion but adding that reputable contractors would be taking trees from areas controlled by the Queensland Forestry Department.

The best advertisement for consumption of rainforest trees is the \$580 million Parliament House. This can only benefit companies like EMAIL whose subsidiary FOXWOOD are logging North Queensland rainforests.

Australia has so little virgin rainforest remaining that it could be said that logging the rainforests is akin to skinning koalas for seat covers.

ACTION!

Express your dismay by writing to

The Secretary,
Joint Committee on New Parliament House,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA 2600

EMAIL BOYCOTT

The major sawmilling company involved in logging the virgin Wet Tropical Rainforests of North Queensland is **FOXWOOD** whose parent company is **EMAIL**.

FOXWOOD have been milling rainforest timbers in NQ for a number of years. Currently they have mills in Ingham, Innisfail, Cairns, and Mareeba. However because of dwindling resources of virgin rainforests many of these have been closed. Problems have arisen for sawmilling workers with recent closures of mills in Townsville and the sawmilling section in Innisfail. It appears that the workers are not receiving redundancy payments (Australian Worker 28/2/85). Rumors suggest that the Mareeba mill may close at the end of this year.

EMAIL as the parent company of Foxwood, is responsible for exploiting the World Heritage quality rainforests of North Queensland in areas such as **DOWNEY CREEK**

Conservationists are asked by the The Wilderness Society and the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, to join in a consumer **boycott** of **EMAIL**, the large Whitegoods manufacturer of Westinghouse and Kelvinator refrigerators, stoves, and washing machines.

By **boycotting EMAIL** products, you can express your concern about their involvement in logging rainforests. Companies such as EMAIL are keen to present a good corporate image and a publicised boycott will ensure that Australians are aware of the fact that Email is responsible for destroying one of Australia's priceless natural environments. Public pressure on companies is as important as putting pressure on governments who condone the logging of rainforests.

ACTION!

Write to:
The Managing Director,
EMAIL Ltd.,
Joynton Ave.,
WATERLOO 2017.

*** * PRESS UPDATE * ***

It is the intention of this newsletter to give a brief news summary, along the lines below. Obviously this, the first edition, has a selection of key press stories, some long standing. Future issues will summarise, from a range of papers, the current press releases. Should your local, or state paper have a story. Please send us a copy so we can summarise it.

Sawmillers combine to market North's Timber. CAIRNS POST 22/5/85 P3.

A new organisation of North Queensland sawmillers, NORWOOD, has been established to streamline the marketing of rainforest timbers. The North's three biggest sawmillers, Foxwood, Rankin Bros, and Associated Plywood Suppliers expect to have annual sales of approximately \$3.5 million, through the joint venture.

Rare trees to fall for new Parlt. SYDNEY MORNING HERALD 12/08/85 P5.

This article releases the Wilderness Society's information gained through the Freedom of Information Act. Calculated that 41 ha of forests will be exploited on the new Parliament House. The species to be used and relative amounts are listed.

Parlt House plan 'threat to forests'. COURIER MAIL 13/08/85.

Similar to article above but not as comprehensive, Quote from Martin Tenni (Qld Minister for Environment) that the logging of the timbers would have to be carefully supervised.

Daintree road in bad shape but there to stay. COURIER MAIL 14/08/85 P5

Qld Minister for Main Roads, Russ Hinze, travelled the road. He said \$10 mill would be needed to make road safe. Also \$80 mill would be needed to make the road to highway standard. He accepted the advice of senior Main Roads Department engineers who said that the road was badly designed, badly aligned and would be financially impossible to keep up.

Logging Halt Call CAIRNS POST, 22/08/85 P3

The prestigious American Society of Mammalogists with members from 60 different nations has unanimously passed a resolution...expressing major concern for the future for Queensland's wet tropical rainforests.

Old minister defends using rainforest wood. SYDNEY MORNING HERALD. 24/08/85. P 3

Federal Minister for the Environment Barry Cohen's reply to the SMH article of 12/08/85. He confirmed the use of the timber. The rainforest timber would come from long held stocks and areas already being logged, he said. His TWS response that 'Mr Cohen is defending the use of rainforest wood in parliament as the Canadian Govt has justified the clubbing to death of baby fur seals - it was alright because the seals were coming from commercial areas already being clubbed'.

New rainforest tourist area is under scrutiny. COURIER MAIL 30/08/85.

Discussion of converting an area of 14,500ha near the Plamerston National Park into a new National Park. Proposal announced by Forestry Minister, Mr Glasson who wants to incorporate the Downey Walkway proposal in this new park area.

Queensland ALP sets deadline for protection of rainforests. SYD MNG HLD. 10/09/85 P3

Announcement of the Qld State Council of the ALP passing a motion calling on the Federal Government to nominate the Wet Tropics prior to Dec 31 1985. ALP secretary Peter Beattie called the Qld State Govt attitude as 'gung ho' about tearing up rare rainforest trees.

Articles on the rainforest issues have appeared in the most recent edition of **Science** and the **B & C Wildlife Magazine**. Articles are shortly to be published in **Ambio** and **Simply Living**.

There is also support for rainforests within the Australian schools system. The Victorian Education Department will distribute the Bellamy Video to all schools. N.S.W. has a course on rainforests at all schools, and S.A. Geography Teachers will advertise the Bellamy Video to all schools.

RAINFOREST WORKING PARTY REPORT

The Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, Barry Cohen, will soon announce the release of the Rainforest Working Party Report for public viewing. This report is the result of meetings between the Qld and NSW State governments, Timber Industry representatives, Conservationists and the Commonwealth government. The conservation movement will welcome the report but see it as only a first step of many that are required for the management of rainforests in Australia. Public comment is apparently welcomed but will not alter the report. However we have been informed that such comment will be taken into consideration when the submission goes to Cabinet.

HOW YOU CAN HELP CONSERVE THE RAINFOREST

Support from all sources is needed to save the Rainforests of north Queensland. As the decision to nominate the area for world heritage is a political one it means the debate must occur in that arena. As politicians usually regard that, for each letter of protest they receive, there are another 100 people thinking likewise. **To write a letter is the single most significant thing you can do.**

Some points to include in your letter.

- * Your distress at the Government's failure to nominate this area for World Heritage Listing.
- * That the Queensland Labor Party has called on the Federal Government to nominate the area and establish a Statutory Authority to ensure appropriate management.
- * Your extreme concern at the continuation of logging in the remaining virgin rainforest areas such as Downey Creek and the Windsor Tableland.
- * The need for a plantation industry of rainforest cabinet tree farms in North Queensland.
- * The urgent need for additional funding for Rainforest research.
- * The need for the tourist potential of the rainforest areas to be realised and for appropriate management plans developed and implemented.
- * The Mulligan Highway (Peninsular Development Road) to Cooktown should be upgraded so as to provide better road access to ALL the residents on Cape York Peninsula.

REMEMBER always ask a question of politicians as they are obliged to answer them.

We suggest that you write to: **YOUR LOCAL MEMBER (STATE AND FEDERAL)**

In addition you could write to:

The Prime Minister,
The Hon. R.J.L. Hawke,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA 2601.

The Minister for the Environment,
The Hon. B. Cohen,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA 2601.

The Premier Of Queensland,
The Hon. Sir J. Bjelke-Petersen,
Parliament House,
BRISBANE QLD 4000.

The Opposition Leader (Qld)
Mr N.G. Warburton,
Parliament House,
BRISBANE QLD 4000.

The Minister for Forestry,
The Hon. W.H. Glasson,
Parliament House,
BRISBANE 4000

The Premier of N.S.W.,
The Hon. N. Wran,
Parliament House,
SYDNEY 2000

*** ALSO WRITE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR OF YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS**

QUEENSLAND ALP SUPPORTS IMMEDIATE WORLD HERITAGE LISTING

The following resolution was passed by the Queensland State ALP Council, 7th September, 1985

THAT THIS STATE COUNCIL CALLS ON THE COMMONWEALTH TO NOMINATE BY DECEMBER 31ST 1985 THE WET TROPICAL RAINFORESTS OF NORTH QUEENSLAND AS A WORLD HERITAGE AREA AS RECOMMENDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION IN NOVEMBER 1984.

AS WELL THE COMMONWEALTH SHOULD LEGISLATE FOR A STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR PROTECTION ON THESE FORESTS.

THIS MOTION IS TO BE CONVEYED TO THE MINISTER FOR ARTS, HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT AS WELL AS THE PRIME MINISTER.

This same motion was passed by the **Federal Divisional Executive (FDE) of Brisbane**, 23rd August, 1985. A similar motion was passed on 2nd June 1985 by the **FDE of Leichhardt**. The Federal seat of Leichhardt currently held by the ALP's John Gayler, contains 80% of Australia's Wet Tropical Rainforests. These resolutions from the Queensland ALP clearly indicate the support within Queensland for Federal Government action on this issue.

The Queensland ALP do not view unilateral action by the Federal Government in nominating the Wet Tropical Rainforests for World Heritage as electorally damaging. On the contrary, the Queensland ALP see the preservation of the rainforests as an electoral advantage. Both Queensland ALP and the NSW ALP can see that there are votes for them in rainforest conservation.

ACTION !

Write letters of support to:

Secretary,
Queensland Branch,
Australian Labor Party,
Ross St.,
NEWSTEAD 4006

The Prime Minister.
The Hon. R.J.Hawke,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA 2600

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR WET TROPICAL NOMINATION

SUPPORT COMES FROM A NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

The American Society of Mammalogists, representing 60 countries has passed a resolution expressing its concern for the state of the Queensland Rainforests.

Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, (ANZAAS). At their most recent meeting on the 27/8/85 a resolution was passed that, ".....the Commonwealth Government should nominate the Rainforests for inclusion on the World Heritage List.....that all necessary steps be taken to ensure the protection of the tropical rainforests of North Queensland."

Californian Palm Society, have written to the Federal Government expressing their concern for the fan palms of the lowland tropical rainforests of north Queensland.

Leading botanists around the world have also given their support, notably Dr. P. Endress, Professor of Systematic Botany, University of Zurich, Dr. P.M. Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Gardens, and David Bellamy the noted British botanist.

ACTION !

Do you know anyone living overseas
who could write a support letter ?

Please complete and return to:

Queensland Conservation Council,
P.O. Box 238,
North Quay. 4000.

Name of Organisation _ _ _ _ _

Address _ _ _ _ _

Contact Person _ _ _ _ _ Phone No. _ _ _ _ _

We do / do not wish to continue receiving the Rainforest Rescue newsletter

We are / are not able to contribute towards printing and postage costs for this and
enclose our donation of \$.....

~~Do~~ - Do we wish to renew our subscription?
(See first page) Tropical Rainforest Society
Prob. never submitted. Newsletter

Newsletter - member societies

Newsletter Vol 1. No 4.



SEPTEMBER 1985

Box 5918 CMC
CAIRNS 4870
Telephone (070) 51 1204
51 1344

One Man's Opinion

The following is an extract taken from Max Fatchen's article "Trees Cast a Giant Shadow" published in The Advertiser, on January 31st, 1985.

We all need trees trees are harps for the wind, choir stalls for the birds, shade and shelter. Most of all, trees are tranquillity.

They are sturdy old retainers in the country, fat of trunk, rough barked with lurking spiders, rubbed affectionately by cows and camped under by sheep.

They march down the streets of country towns; they shelter saleyard and showground.

And they sit on the ranges and wave to the world.

There are pepper trees with battalions of thin leaves and a way of catching the wind and whispering to it;

Trees on a stormy night roar like the sea with the liquid sound of a thousand leaves and the whipping limbs; windjammers of sap sailing endlessly above the fence or by the creek.

Trees in moonlight shine and glisten or stand in great cones of shadow while stars peer through them and birds in their dormitories nod and murmur on shifting bedroom branches

I salute trees and especially the old timers that grew long before my time but now endure me and my kind with our noisy ways shouting "progress" and "develop" and with ephemeral wishes and often trite tastes.

What would this man, Max Fatcher say if he could see our Far North Queensland trees??? Words would probably fail him!

Newsletter of the Tropical Rainforest Society.

Vol 1 No 4.

Editor: Rosemary Hill
Layout: Ray Wood, Rosemary Hill
Typing: Judy Farelly
Copying: Leanne Kruger

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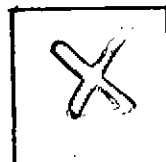
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If there is an "X" in this box, you are un-financial.

If you wish to renew your membership, please use the enclosed form.

Otherwise, pass it on to a friend who might be interested in the Society!



President's Comment

100 days left to convince the Federal Government to nominate the Wet Tropical Forests for World Heritage listing!

We need that flow of letters telegrams, telephone calls to both Federal and Queensland Governments to build up to a torrent during this time.

So if you haven't put pen to paper for a while

The Annual General Meeting of T.R.S. resulted in some new faces on our management committee - a big welcome to Ray Wood, incoming Vice President, Lynda Wallace, new Secretary, Leanne Kruger and Ruth Lipscombe as committee members. Old faces are still good to see and we are happy to retain Mike Graham as Treasurer, Denise Coleman as Committee member and myself as President.

T.R.S. was encouraged greatly by the recent resolutions passed at the A.L.P. State Council and Leichardt F.D.E. calling on the Federal Government to nominate the Wet Tropics for World Heritage. This is indicative of the enormously growing support for rainforest conservation in Queensland.

The Federal Government Working Party on Rainforest Report is expected out any day - there is to be a 90 day response period. An enthusiastic and voluminous response will add much weight to our cause!



PROPOSED WALKING TRACK, GREATER DAINTREE NATIONAL PARK (SEE P.

What Is A Greenie ?

In the Winter, 1985 edition, Vol. 10 No. 2 of a worthwhile little journal called Organic Growing (published in Tasmania four times a year. Cost \$1.80 - definitely worth buying. I bought mine from the newsagent at Stratford), I came across an interesting (long) definition of a "Greenie".

"The popular idea of a Greenie is someone who enjoys an outing in the country, admires the view and says "Isn't this nice! Let's have more National Parks and to hell with progress" (I don't think that quite fits Martin Tenni's idea of what is a Greenie but nevertheless

Actually, a Greenie is someone who likes to know where the next meal is coming from, - and the next - and the next.

In Ethiopia, millions are starving because they have reduced their forests from 40% to 3% in two generations. While commiserating and sending donations, are we also learning a lesson from this tragedy? Ethiopia is rugged and mountainous. Without forest to absorb rain, soil on the steep hillsides is eroded and springs dry up.

Result - no crops.

A GREENIE IS SOMEONE WHO KNOWS THAT WITHOUT FORESTS YOU DON'T HAVE WATER AND WITHOUT WATER YOU DON'T HAVE FOOD. IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

Hongkong is a complete contrast. A territory without agriculture to support millions jammed into a tiny area it relies on industry to pay for imported food. The main industry is textiles, and textiles need 30 litres of water per metre of cloth. So, much as entrepreneurs would like to boost the tourist industry by building luxury hotels on the hilltops, they can't. That space is reserved for catchment because Hongkong has no natural rivers or lakes - every drop of water comes from the sky.

A GREENIE IS SOMEONE WHO KNOWS THAT WITHOUT TREES YOU DON'T HAVE WATER AND WITHOUT WATER YOU DON'T HAVE INDUSTRY. IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

.....

Why not submit your own definition (words or drawing) on a Greenie for inclusion in our next newsletter

Boos and Bouquets

Loud and prolonged boos to : (1) Telecom for the unnecessary bulldozing of rainforest on preperities in the Russett Park (Kuranda) area. Was there an officer in charge of this particular work party and if so what were his orders?

(2) The morons in our midst who have destroyed much of the work being done by Grade 10 and 11 (see bouquet section). Each week these people have been ripping up paper and bagasse, killing trees and scattering paper piles everywhere.

(3) The owners (?) of a block of hillside rainforest on the development behind Caravonica School who have bulldozed every tree and are now the proud owners of a steep patch of very loose dirt.

Bouquets to: (1) Janelle Fletcher for the mighty job she has done for T.R.S. Nothing has been too difficult, too boring, too time consuming, too much of anything for Janelle. She has literally kept us going at times. Janelle is leaving Cairns shortly and all we can say is JANELLE, YOU WILL BE MISSED!!

(2) Gary McClelland's Career Training for Grade 11 at St. Augustine's have been planting trees along the Cook Highway, north of Ellis Beach.

(3) Grade 10 and 11 from Trinity Bay High School who have been planting a rainforest on Council land near Clarke Creek. This work involves preparing ground by laying paper and bagasse, planting the trees and maintaining the plants by weeding them and replanting dead trees.

(4) The children, staff and caretaker at Parramatta Park School who have planted and cared for the wide variety of Australian native plants which make the grounds a delight to walk into.

(5) Mr. & Mrs. Stratford from Kuranda who have resisted tempting proposals from land developers and have chosen to keep their fan palm forest intact. Long may they keep it!

(6) Mulgrave Shire who have agreed to impose a \$500 penalty if any significant tree (i.e. marked for preservation) is damaged or destroyed while sewerage pipes are being installed through a reserve behind Gibson Close at Clifton Beach.

(7) All the members of the public who put pressure on the Cairns City Council to include a 4.2ha of hillside at Edge Hill within the Whitfield Environmental Park. Just shows you what public pressure can do!

(8) All the children like the 'Clifton family kids' at Yorkeys Knob who are attempting to establish a 'wilderness cum rainforest' patch in their backyard.

President's Report for A.G.M. Tropical Rainforest Society

29th August, 1985

A decision was made last year by a group of people in the Cairns Region to form a fully constituted and independent organisation to work in north Queensland for rainforests - the Tropical Rainforest Society. This Society grew out of groups working firstly as a sub-committee of the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre, the "Rainforest Action Committee" and secondly as the Far North Branch of the "Rainforest Conservation Society of Queensland".

It has been indeed a hectic first year for the new Society, and the need for such a Society in the north can now not be questioned. We have grown steadily and now have a membership of over 70.

The first few months of the new Society were largely spent assisting with the blockade of the construction of the Cape Tribulation road. This direct action was halted as it no longer seemed fruitful politically and a legal challenge against the Queensland Government was pursued by the Tropical Rainforest Society. This legal challenge was eventually heard as a "demurrer" in May, 1985. The Queensland Government argued that land could be excised from National Parks without a Report on the effect of the excision on flora and fauna of the Park being made by the Director because such a report was merely "preliminary detail". This argument was upheld by the Court in a shameful decision which casts grave doubt on the future of all National Parks in Queensland. Unfortunately our funds do not currently allow an appeal, and we are seeking Commonwealth Legal Aid before we can proceed any further with this case.

An educational week - the "Daintree Rainforest Experience" was held by the Society in September last year. The few who attended enjoyed themselves very much with bushwalks, canoe trips, slide shows etc., but T.R.S. overall viewed the "Experience" as a costly exercise that did not reach a great many people.

The Society's first Photographic Competition, held from June 5th - 11th, 1985 organised almost single-handedly by our Vice-President, Mr. Rupert Russell, was a much greater success. The standard of excellence in the photography and the informative night time lectures, slide shows & films, attracted several hundred people to view "Nature in North Queensland". The Society would like to make this an annual event, but needs sponsorship for prize money. Next year, a black and white photographic competition, and a supplement to the Cairns Post on environmental matters, is planned for World Environment Day.

The Society this year assisted with a lecture tour of north Queensland by Dr. Len Webb, Honorary Professional Fellow at the Griffith University and winner of the 1984 BHP award for the Pursuit of Excellence in the field of Environment. Dr. Webb's knowledge and enthusiasm on rainforests is an inspiration to all who have heard him. We are sponsoring David Cassells on a lecture tour on the theme of "World Heritage - N.Q. Rainforests" in November. Mr. Cassells worked from 1974 - 84 with the Queensland Forestry Department, but now is a lecturer with the U.N.E. and has gained independence and an ability to speak more widely. He should have some interesting points.

A submission to include all of the wet tropical forests on the Register of the National Estate has taken up much time in the last few months. This submission is now (almost!) finished and will be going to an Evaluation Panel of the Heritage Commission in September.

The work of mobilising public support for rainforest conservation has continued almost constantly by the Society - a beautiful display has been put together as you can see and taken around to a number of venues. Film and information nights have been held irregularly and members of the Society have spoken to Rotary Clubs, the Chamber of Commerce, Labor Party Branches and Groups and School groups.

Sales of posters, and the two Daintree books were undertaken by the Society to increase public awareness.

A well-presented newsletter is published quarterly by the Society and is gaining interest from the community, and a reputation as a valuable source of information. Looking back through the newsletters reminds one of many jobs undertaken - T.R.S. accompanied David Bellamy on a tour of the N.Q. rainforests and assisted with production of a 10 minute video, which many of you have seen. We opposed an application for a Mining Lease in the Roaring Meg area and were represented in Court by Greg McIntyre and Rupert Russell. Unfortunately the Mining Warden recommended mining go ahead and so the decisive now lies with the Minister. T.R.S. members attended a National Strategy meeting in Brisbane which brought together representatives of groups from all over Australia participating in a campaign to achieve protection for the rainforests of the Townsville-Cooktown region. Detailed commentary was made on the draft report of the Commonwealth Working Party on Rainforest. Tours of rainforest have been conducted with House of Reps. Env. Committee and other pols. Many letters to politicians and public servants have been sent.

after logging, suggests that no mammal is actually eliminated in the course of selective logging which leaves a mosaic of small undisturbed patches amounting to about 50% of the forest.

The long term effects of logging, however, are not known. With repeated logging of the forest the structural complexity of the forest may change. If this is in the direction of a simpler structure, e.g. a more uniform stem size, or a reduction in large epiphyte clusters, this may adversely affect the diversity of the fauna present. Whether this leads to extinction of species over large areas would depend on the degree of change and the uniformity of the change over continuously large areas. Present knowledge of possible long term changes to the fauna is little more than unsubstantiated conjecture.

There is, however, a need to examine more thoroughly the effects of logging on wildlife.

It has long been recognised that tree hollows are important to wildlife and that most forestry practices reduce the number of hollows, unless special measures are taken (Tyndale-Biscoe and Calaby 1975). As McIlroy (1978) points out in his review of forestry practices on wildlife, there is a need for further research on the more precise role of hollows in relation to their distribution, size and use by animals.

The effects of canopy and ground layer disruption by selective logging on the fauna, need to be examined more closely. For example, the fruiting regime of forest trees may be changed with consequent effects on fruit eating animals such as pigeons (see Crome in McIlroy 1978). If logging encourages the penetration of the rainforest by exotic species such as the Cane Toad, what effect will this ultimately have on the Spotted-tailed Quoll population? It has been suggested by Covacevich and Archer (1975) that this quoll may now only be found in areas free of the toad. Is the absence of the Musky Rat-kangaroo at Longlands Gap, on the crest of the Hugh Nelson Range of the Atherton Tablelands, a consequence of the two or more logging cycles that this forest has undergone, or is it merely a natural aberration in the distribution of this animal in the rainforest? There are many other questions of a similar nature that need to be examined more closely.

able to penetrate the rainforest, using edge effects created by logging roads and log loading ramps (Pattemore and Kikkawa 1975, Preen 1981). The Cane Toad (*Bufo marinus*) was found to occur in higher numbers in the recently logged forest (Preen 1981). This is an introduced species usually associated with more open habitats, and logging disturbance in some ways favours the presence of the toad in rainforest.

A history of early logging in the rainforest patches of the Cooloolo area, was found to adversely effect the abundance and diversity of small mammals (Barry 1984).

The only mammal found to occur in significantly higher numbers in logged forest has been the Fawn-footed Melomys (*Melomys cervinipes*) (Preen 1981). Unlike the birds in which insectivores show denser populations, the melomys' diet is primarily leaves and fruit. It is a scansorial species, so like the birds the higher populations may be associated with the greater density of undergrowth, although it is not known what form this association takes.

Preen (1981) found that a number of the animals in the Atherton Tableland rainforest were in significantly lower numbers in the recently logged rainforest. They included such diverse forms as the Northern Barred Frog (*Mixophyes schevelli*), the ground living Chowchilla, two ground dwelling mammals, the Musky Rat-kangaroo and Red-legged Pademelon, and two arboreal mammals, the Herbert River and Lemuroid Ringtails. All are dependent rainforest species and all, except the Red-legged Pademelon, are endemic to the Townsville - Cooktown region.

Whilst significant changes may take place in the relative densities of the vertebrate fauna following selective logging of rainforest, there is no evidence that selective logging has led to the extinction of any mammal species, nor to any other vertebrate. For example a full compliment of arboreal mammals is present in the rainforest at Longlands Gap that has undergone two logging cycles. It must be appreciated, however, that earlier logging cycles were less intensive than the more recent ones and therefore less disruptive to animal populations. Similarly all the terrestrial species are to be found in logged forest at one locality or another. Preen's study of a logged rainforest, approximately one year

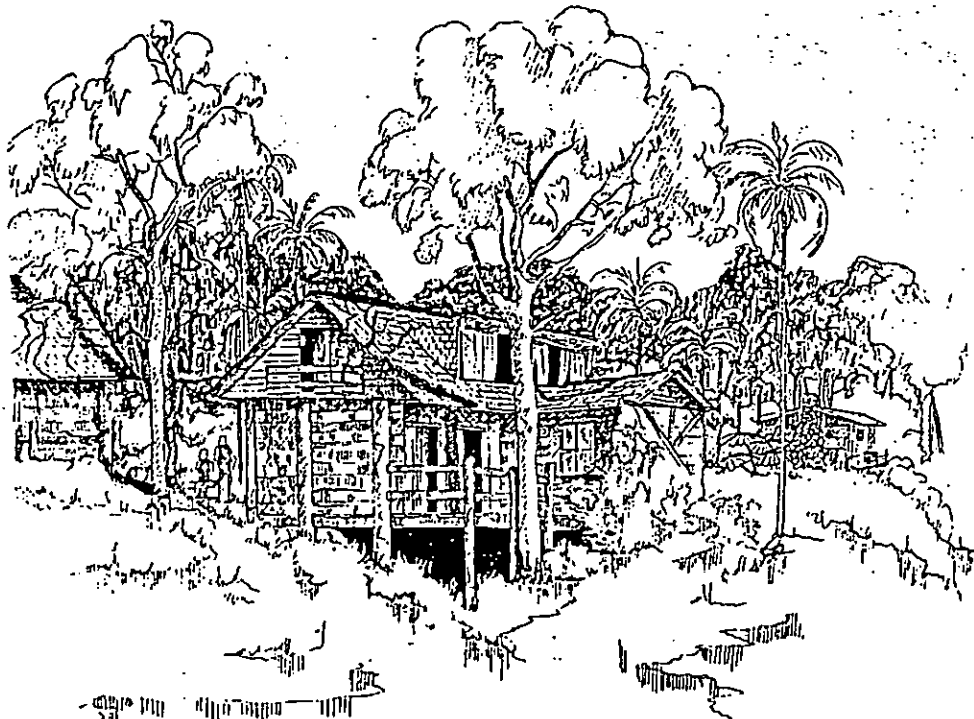
Some special mentions need to be made. Janelle Fletcher has put in hours of work organising, typing, staffing displays and being general worker for the Society. Judy Farrelly has made being President possible for me by typing all my written work, and the Society's newsletter. We have accepted with great regret the resignation of Rupert Russell from Vice Presidency and his decision not to stand for re-election to the Management Committee of T.R.S. Rupert personally initiated much of the current work on rainforest conservation in north Queensland through organising the picket on Mt. Windsor. He has provided valuable policy direction to the Society besides doing lots of work. Many of you are familiar with the "Daintree Book" which Rupert wrote. (but was not at all satisfied with!) Keeping a clear set of goals and directions for rainforest conservation is not always easy in a situation where every day sees more rainforest destroyed, and Rupert has always been great at reminding us of what we're really aiming for. We hope his absence from working with the Society's Management Committee is only temporary. So too is the resignation of our Secretary Denise Coleman accepted with regret, as Denise has been a tireless worker with rainforest conservation from the days of the Mt. Windsor picket onwards.

Finally a word for our Treasurer Mike Graham. Bob Brown stresses two ways of ensuring success in conservation - firstly by appearing to be absolutely conservative, and secondly by immaculate book-keeping. We are indeed lucky to have in Mike someone who is willing to perform the thankless task of chasing receipts, finding inaccuracies in long columns of figures and generally keeping our Auditor happy. We look forward to hearing the Auditor's report which is next on our Agenda.

The Society's objectives of educating the public about rainforest has undoubtedly been achieved this year. Many more people are aware of the value of rainforest. Our other objectives of obtaining preservation for rainforest areas has not yet been achieved at all! However, the protection for the wet tropical rainforests is now much closer, and the last few months of this year are crucial. We now have 94 days left in which to convince the Federal Government they must nominate the region for World Heritage - if we miss this deadline we will have to wait another whole year without protection. The Report of the Commonwealth Working Party on Rainforest is about to be released. An enthusiastic and overwhelming response to the report and request that the Government acts to nominate the Wet Tropical Forests for World Heritage may well achieve this aim this year. It's all a numbers game.

The work of the Society is all done by individual members. To continue with it we need people who are willing to write the minutes of meetings, to staff displays, to organise information nights, to edit the newsletter, to write submissions and to lobby politicians. The next year is even more crucial than the last, as the National Campaign is gaining momentum. To please everyone here tonight give consideration to taking a more active part in the work of the Society. It can be fun, and without doubt it is a great vehicle for self-development. To contend with the Society's work we also need funds - but perhaps I will leave the Treasurer to talk about that.

In closing I would like to say that the Society is concerned with caring about rainforest for its intrinsic worth, for the value of the lives of the plants and animals of rainforest. Anyone who has experienced the joy of meeting a one centimetre long green and purple frog perched on a fern leaf could never presume the right to destroy that frog for a fancy bedroom suite or quick drive down a dusty road. It is that experience that we seek to transmit to all Australians.



PROPOSED WALKERS' LODGE IN THE GREATER DAINTREE PARK (SEE RESIDENTS' SUBMISSION RE RING-ROAD, P.

Effects of Disturbance on Rainforest Vertebrate Fauna

extract from "The Specific Habitats of Selected Northeastern Australian Rainforest Mammals" by J.W. Winter et al Report to W.W.F. 1984.

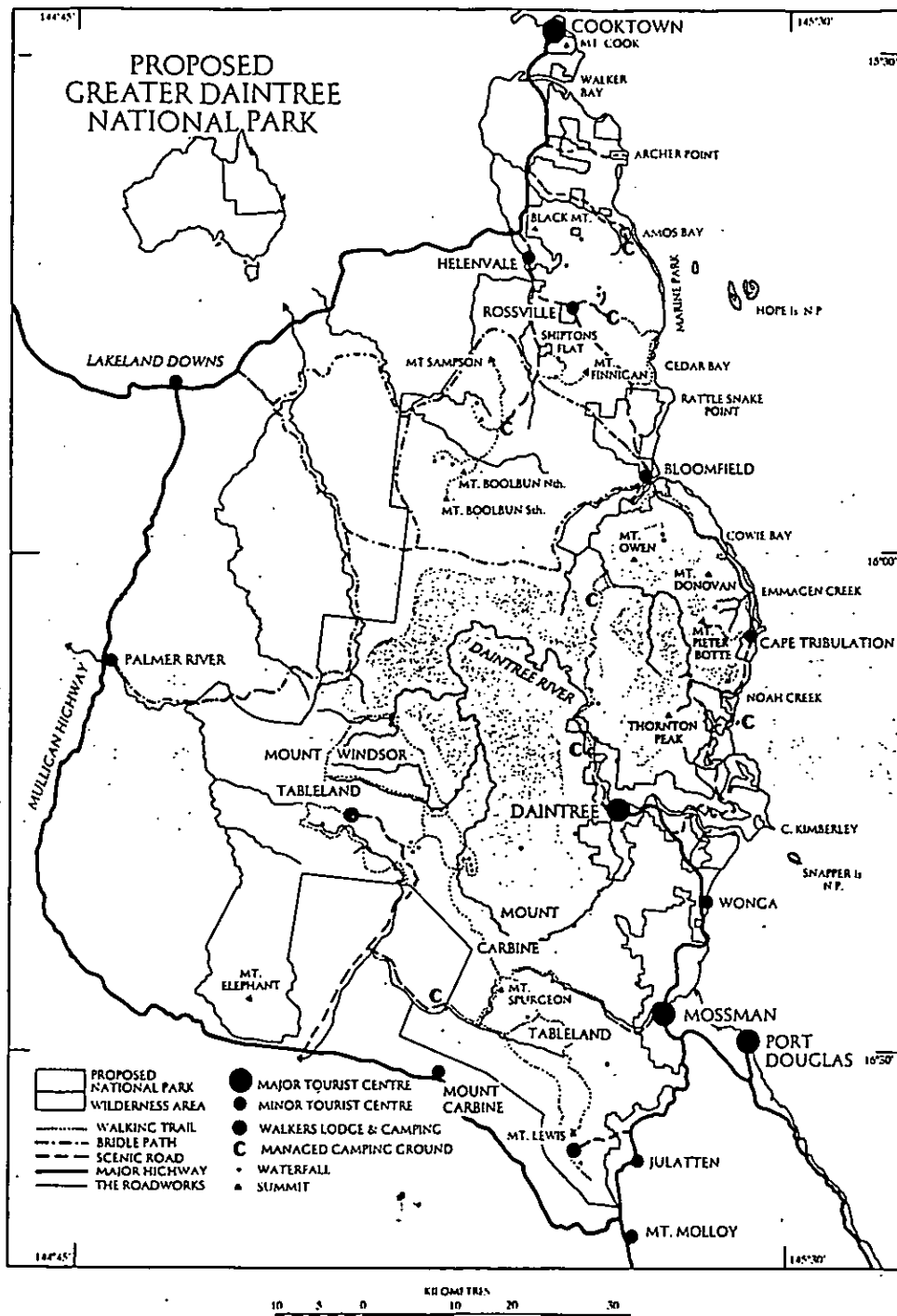
Selective logging

The effects, particularly the long term effects, of selective logging of the rainforest on its fauna are not well known. The high dependency of animals in primary rainforests implies resource (diet, shelter etc.) specialisation. If selective logging leads to a simplification of the rainforest with long term effects being fewer primary tree species and a truncation of the older end of the range of age class, then on theoretical grounds alone selective logging should be detrimental to animal species dependent on primary rainforest. If on the other hand, selective logging is equivalent to natural forest disturbance by treefall gaps and cyclones, merely the scale of disturbance will have been changed, and the animal populations will respond accordingly, by an adjustment to their numbers but not one that leads to extinction. Just where selective logging lies on the continuum between irreversible changes to the rainforest caused by a new form of disturbance (logging), and a disturbance equivalent to natural causes (treefall and cyclones) will depend on the extent, intensity, frequency and selectivity of the logging.

Unfortunately studies into the broader ecological aspects of selective logging are rare, particularly those on the effect of logging on rainforest wildlife. The following discussion is restricted to those few studies that have been carried out in Australian rainforests.

Insectivorous birds have been found to occur in higher densities in logged forests compared with either unlogged rainforest, or forest that was logged 30 - 40 years previously; both in northern New South Wales (Pattimore and Kikkawa 1975) and on the Atherton Tableland (Preen 1981). This higher density is associated with an increased density of the undergrowth which develops as a result of the canopy disruption. The only exception was that of the ground living Chowchilla (*Orthonyx spaldingii*), the populations of which were found to be significantly lower in the recently logged rainforest of the Atherton Tableland (Preen *ibid*).

Rainforest edge species such as the Red-browed Finch (*Aegintha temporalis*) are



From the Treasurer

Our Society has completed its first audit, for the year ending 30th June, 1985.

The Auditors note that T.R.S. should obtain insurance for Public Liability and cover for Plant and equipment. (although at present the latter amounts to a depreciated value of \$81.00) They also urge the Society to obtain incorporation as soon as possible to provide the members and committee with limited liability.

The Society's accumulated funds stood at \$1,542 which includes cash funds of \$1,392.00

Fundraising from sale of environmental literature and campaign materials gave a nett return of \$1,965 from an outlay \$1,124, which is a very useful addition to the Treasury but has the auditors a bit nervous about possibilities of taxation liability. We may have to review how this is done in future.

The following statement of Income and Expenditure will allow members to analyse the major donors of funds and the major costs of the Rainforest Campaign.

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year ended 30th June, 1985

LAST YEAR	THIS YEAR	
\$	\$	\$
<u>Income</u>		
GROSS PROFIT FROM TRADING		1,965
Members' Subscriptions	443	
Donations and Fundraising		
- Proceeds received	13,776	
- Grants received - Australian		
- Conservation Foundation	2,843	
- Interest received -		
- Commonwealth Bank	30	
- Sundry income	54	17,146
		<u>\$19,111</u>

(continued)

Statement of Income and Expenditure (cont.)

	Total Income	\$19,111
Less Expenditure		
Advertising	656	
Bank Charges	24	
Depreciation	19	
Donations	1,199	
Electricity	96	
Fuel & Food (Campaign expenses)	398	
Fundraising expenses	660	
Hire of Plant and Equipment	1,371	
Legal costs	814	
Photographs and Maps	290	
Postage and Freight	1,063	
Printing, Photocopying and Stationery	2,812	
Rent (Office)	1,483	
Subscriptions	28	
Supplies & Equipment (Campaign expenses)	2,221	
Tape Recordings	59	
Telephone and Telex	3,127	
Travelling Expenses	1,249	17,569
NET SURPLUS		\$1,542

The Society's accounts for 1st July to 20th September show:

Receipts July	553.00	Payments July	1,054.90
" August	595.70	" August	120.69
" September	500.00	" September	1,312.79
	<u>\$1,648.70</u>		<u>\$2,488.38</u>

which is a deficit of - \$839.68 or which, when combined with the end of the year balance leaves us with a current Bank Balance of \$441.16.

Basic costs such as Rent, phone, electricity, photocopying, etc. to the beginning of February should be in the order of \$2,000, with \$600 in sight from the last tree planting and the Walk in the Rainforest fees from Tafe.

So we need some additional fundraising to find \$1,000 + in order to keep house plus some more if we do any unusual campaign activities. It would be good to see some members get this moving.

Mike Graham

Access

People who live surrounded by National Park still need to be able to get to their homes.

At the moment the Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield road is being used by some people for just that, as the Cape Tribulation Community Council pointed out to Mr. Hinze (Cairns Post, 14.8.85). However, our position was somewhat overstated in that paper, for we cannot condone the continued destruction of important reef and rainforest that occurs every time the road is used. Bloomfield residents also use the C.R.E.B. track and the Helenvale Road, which together constitute an excessive number of roads to maintain for a very small community.

The question of access needs to be looked at as a management problem in terms of the National Park. It needs to be examined by qualified ecologists and other scientists and to receive input from the community as with the Marine Park plans. Whatever the solution, it will not be the coastal route as qualified scientists working for the Commonwealth Government have already informed them that it is far too destructive.

Similarly Queensland Main Road Department engineers have consistently recommended that a road not be constructed on this alignment. Mr. Hinze, the Minister, said (Courier Mail, 19.8.85) that he accepted the advice of senior Main Road Department engineers who said the road was badly designed, badly aligned, and would be financially impossible to keep up.

Many of the people now using the route as a quick transit, or coming to see what the controversy was all about and leaving saddened at the destruction, will stay in the area if the proposed Greater Daintree National Park is gazetted and managed.

This proposal offers solutions for all - tourism, access and conservation. Surely, it is a better option than one which we know will split the Australian community.

Population expansion in the next decades will inevitably mean here, as it has elsewhere, that wilderness and natural areas will be destroyed unless they are protected in National Parks.

What are the Benefits for the Committee of supporting this proposal rather than a ring road ?

- (a) The network forms a "tourist web" - places where tourists are caught to stay and participate in the community and economy rather than driving on.
- (b) National Park usage has been demonstrated to effectively bring money into a region. e.g. the Cooloolo National Park was found to bring recreationists who spent almost \$3 million in the area in 1982 (more details attached). No such demonstration of economic benefits has ever been shown for ring roads, and the experience of the "Bally Hooley Express" suggests it may not exist.
- (c) To be effective and make money, National Parks require management. The Commonwealth Government has already offered. \$1 million for management in the area. It has stated it is willing to enter talks to set up a joint management authority. Funding of such an authority from Commonwealth sources would be assured. Councillors should be reminded that the level of Commonwealth funding for National Parks and the like is far in excess of State funding. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the single most important tourist asset in the North, funding for the last 2 years was -

Commonwealth	more than \$7 million
State	less than \$500 thousand.

Commonwealth funding is available for the Greater Daintree proposal, an imaginative and innovative set of tourist and protection proposals that will bring great benefit to the north. The Commonwealth Government has consistently reiterated that it will not provide funding for the Cape Tribulation - Bloomfield coastal road.

- (d) Conservationists will support this option. Their promotional work through such beautiful publications as the "Daintree" books, and their network of National and International contacts, should not be undervalued. Indeed, many of the people who are going to the Daintree region at the moment are going there because of the highly publicized controversy over the road.... and to see the much proclaimed beauty of the place.
- (e) Finally, and most importantly, the proposal protects the areas of highest conservation significance. These rainforests are the surviving remnant of the ancient forests that covered Australia and Antarctica over 100 million years ago..

What We Have Done

1. Submission for listing of all remaining Wet Tropical Forests as National Estate has been completed and forwarded to the Australian Heritage Commission.
2. Kestrel Film Co, which is making a one-hour documentary film of North Queensland rainforest wilderness, was conducted to some points of interest and introduced to many local contacts. Film is to be shot in about 6 weeks time and be ready for distribution in July, 1986.
3. Background information on Roaring Meg given to Travers Morgan Pty. Ltd., the Company performing E.I.S. for Mines Department
4. A one day course, "A Walk in the Rainforest" conducted through TAFE, 7th September, for a group of 14 students - positive feedback with several participants requesting more.
5. General Meeting and film night held on 11th September - poor attendance from our membership! A.G.M. was held on 29th August.
6. Wet Tropics display taken to Kuranda Spring Festival, September 20th and 21st, Cairns Education Centre Expo at Earlville Shopping Town August 22nd - 24th and C.A.F.N.E.C. Expo August 31st.
7. Inspection of Downey Creek logging 14th September
8. Participated in major tree planting 15th September.
9. Copy of Len Webb's letter to distributed widely to Local Councillors, Politicians, etc.
10. Cape Tribulation Comm. Council was assisted in preparation of submission to Ring Road Committee.
11. Discussed World Heritage matters with John Gayler.
12. Visited Lockhart River and discussed proposed oil palm plantation with local community.

What We Plan

1. Walk into Upper Russell October, 12th - 13th;
2. Inspection of Roaring Meg Mining November 2nd/3rd;
3. David Cassells lecture tour of N.Q. November 23/24th - to include Mossman/Cairns/Innisfail/Townsville.
4. T.R.S. General Meeting November, 13th at TAFE College Theaterette.

Downey Creek

On September 14th the T.R.S. committee with members of the Wildlife Preservation Society were shown over the current logging operations at Downey Creek by Forestry officials. Although the area is not receiving the heavy mauling the Windsor Tableland has, there was no joy to be had in the all too visible impoverishment being brought about by the removal of so many of its giant trees, and the loss of the valley's integrity as one of the few remaining discrete tracts of primary forest.

The Department's P.R. position emerged clearly : the operation is presented as a textbook case of "multiple land use planning" in that : (i) less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the 7000 ha. catchment is targetted for logging; (ii) not to be logged are a 950ha. scientific reserve and several smaller blocks containing most of the type 1a forest on basalt in the valley; (iii) the operation is a model of the Department's logging guidelines, even featuring some winching of logs from their felling sites to minimise soil disturbance and canopy damage.

While the improvement in logging procedures was apparent and the reservation of the Scientific Area welcome, they hardly compensate for the basic irresponsibility of logging an area of such vital conservation importance. The appeal to the notion of multiple land use is ridiculously misplaced when applied in microcosm to a single small valley, particularly when that valley contains the richest and one of the rarest vegetation complexes on the continent.

Moreover the fact that over half the valley is not to be logged conceals the fact that this applies primarily to the steeper portions and poorer soils, where timber volume is low because forest development is on a smaller scale. The most developed, and thus the most valuable forest, both visually and in terms of its capacity to support the full complement of plant and animal forms that are specific to primary lowland forest, is on the more level parts of the valley. It is precisely the big trees forming the forest infrastructure in these parts that have high commercial value, and are being taken out. Since most of them are centuries old, their place will be filled only by a mass of saplings by the time of the next cut, which will then concentrate on trees around them of a lower grade in terms of volume. Downey is thus scheduled for the same program of progressive degradation of its scale and diversity with each cutting cycle that has been inflicted on all the originally large scale tropical forests south of the Daintree.

A factor emerged during discussion with Forestry Officers at Downey which further undermines the credibility of the "sustained yield" theory : it is likely that the soil, light and moisture requirements necessary for the maximum growth rate and volume of a tree may be very specific to particular sites in forests like Downey, i.e. the really big trees may only develop on the sites where they are currently found. If so, the removal of such trees is not going to be followed by rapid expansion of neighbouring currently smaller trees to a comparable size to restore forest form, and to sustain the "yield" over subsequent cuts. This is one more of the many inadequately studied issues making it clear how little knowledge there is of the dynamics of forest maturation and recovery from damage, on the part of the body claiming the capacity to scientifically manage North Queensland's rainforest.

Submission to : Ring Road Committee
From : Cape Tribulation Community Council

Proposals have been made over several years for a ring road in north Queensland to provide tourists with an enjoyable experience which takes them through several local shires and allows them to stop and spend money on the way.

Tourism is indeed crucial to the future of NQ with the decline of the traditional sugar and beef industries.

Ring road driving experiences are available in the northern humid rainforest zone through the Palmerston-Kuranda loop, and the Kuranda-Rex Range loop.

We submit, however, that in the Greater Daintree region tourism would be better served by a main road with a web of side roads, horse trails, walking tracks, surrounded by wilderness areas in a managed National Park.

Tourism and the Greater Daintree National Park (Proposed)

The roads in question are marked on the attached map. They include

- (a) The Mulligan Highway as the backbone.
- (b) Roads into proposed guest lodges on the edge of upland rainforest at Mt. Lewis and Mt. Windsor. Excellent experiences in spotlighting for possums and tree kangaroos can be had at these localities.
- (c) Roads into lowland rainforest at Mossman Gorge, Cape Tribulation, Amos Bay, Shipton's Flat. Visitors at these localities can enjoy swimming in unpolluted streams, canoeing, snorkeling on fringing reefs, camping and have access to walking tracks.
- (d) A network of historic horse trails from Palmer River to Bloomfield and past Mt. Sampson-Shipton's Flat - Lakeland Downs.
- (e) Walking trails starting from guest lodges and camping grounds. These walks can be smooth and graded, and quite suitable for wheel chairs and elderly visitors. Some examples are a loop past 15 waterfalls on Mt. Windsor Tableland, and the walks from Shipton's Flat to Mt. Finnegan.
- (f) Wilderness experience. This is the fastest growing tourism in Europe and North America (Dr. McClosky, Director of Sierra Club, U.S.A.). With the Cairns International Airport, the Greater Daintree region is the most readily accessible rainforest wilderness area in the world, and the only one in a politically stable country.

Note: These tourist usages can only be assured in a National Park which offers long term tenure of land in a natural condition. Investors in tourist projects need this assurance.

A submission for the listing of the wet tropical forests on the National Estate has been forwarded to the Australian Heritage Commission.

The centrefold map illustrates the submission, and some extracts from the report follow -

"The Wet Tropical Forests of North Queensland" is a proposed single listing of the forests of the wet tropical region (within 1500mm rainfall isohyet) of north east Queensland. All existing National Estate listings in the region are unified with the new areas into:

Wet Tropics Core: a continuous area linking thirteen areas previously listed on the National Estate (numbered a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,k,l,r,s,t) with nine new areas (numbered 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, and 14); (all numbers and letters for this and the remnants refer to the attached map)

with:

North Western Outlier: Area 4.

Central Western Outlier: Area 7.

Double Point Coastal Remnant: This links the new area marked 11 with previous National Estate listings marked m and n.

Tam O'Shanter Point Coastal Remnant: This links new area marked 12 with three previous National Estate listings marked o,p, and q.

Mt Warrubullen Remnant: Area 9.

Trinity Bay Wetlands: Existing National Estate listings marked i and j.

"The Wet Tropical Forests of North Queensland" includes

- *elements of plant life that relate to four major stages in earth's evolutionary history, dating back to the "Age of the Angiosperms" more than 100 million years ago.
- *13 families of primitive flowering plants - the highest concentration of such families on earth.
- *important clues to the origin, evolution and migration of flowering plants.
- *a rare association of fringing coral reefs and rainforested coastline at Cape Tribulation.
- *the most diverse rainforests in Australia.
- *the highest diversity of animal life anywhere in Australia.
- *threatened species of plants and animals.
- *a record of the extreme effects of the Pleistocene glacial periods on tropical rainforest vegetation.
- *the only remaining recognised Australian aboriginal rainforest culture.
- *a large diversity of forest communities, each with different plant and animal associations, including representatives of rainforests, mangroves, wet and dry sclerophyll forests and woodlands, swamp forests, dune and swale formations and other coastal vegetation mosaics.
- *many features of outstanding natural beauty including waterfalls, gorges, mountains, large vistas of natural forest, beaches, rivers, lakes.
- *one of the largest rainforested wilderness areas in Australia centred around the Daintree River valley.

There are currently no signs of a sufficiently regional - let alone State or National - perspective on the part of the Government, such that there would be plans to conserve even a single sizeable tract of these big forests on level, deep soils in the wet tropics, comparable say to Lamington, in the sub-tropics. The intention appears to be to pursue all logging options for the next two years, at which time logging of virgin forests is timetabled to cease because the surviving virgin stands in marketable densities will be too small or inaccessible for commercially attractive operations. The whole industry will then be scaled down to concentrate on second cutting of lower grades in secondary forest. The first cut in Downey is programmed to finish towards the end of next year.

Although logging has commenced at Downey it remains extremely important to step up lobbying of State and Federal Governments at the present time. The approach should stress:

- lowland tropical rainforest of this type has nearly all been cleared for cane, or logged heavily in the past;
- the valley has been documented by the C.S.I.R.O. as a vital conservation priority; it is not a trivial sentimental issue;
- Forestry's charter of timber production leaves no room for conservation of well-developed primary forest, and is narrow and outdated in the present context; it requires replacing with a broader administrative body charged with managing rainforest according to all its values.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Permaculture Institute (Australia) is setting up a fund to purchase rainforest and to give it over to a rainforest preservation group to keep it in perpetuity. We feel that the only way to retain our natural forests is to save them as they are: we cannot wait for government to do this for us. We ourselves must act to purchase such threatened lands and pass them into the hands of local, dedicated trustees.

We are starting out with 187 acres of sub-tropical rainforest in northern New South Wales. The Permaculture Institute is now accepting contributions of \$50-\$500 or more to preserve this forest.

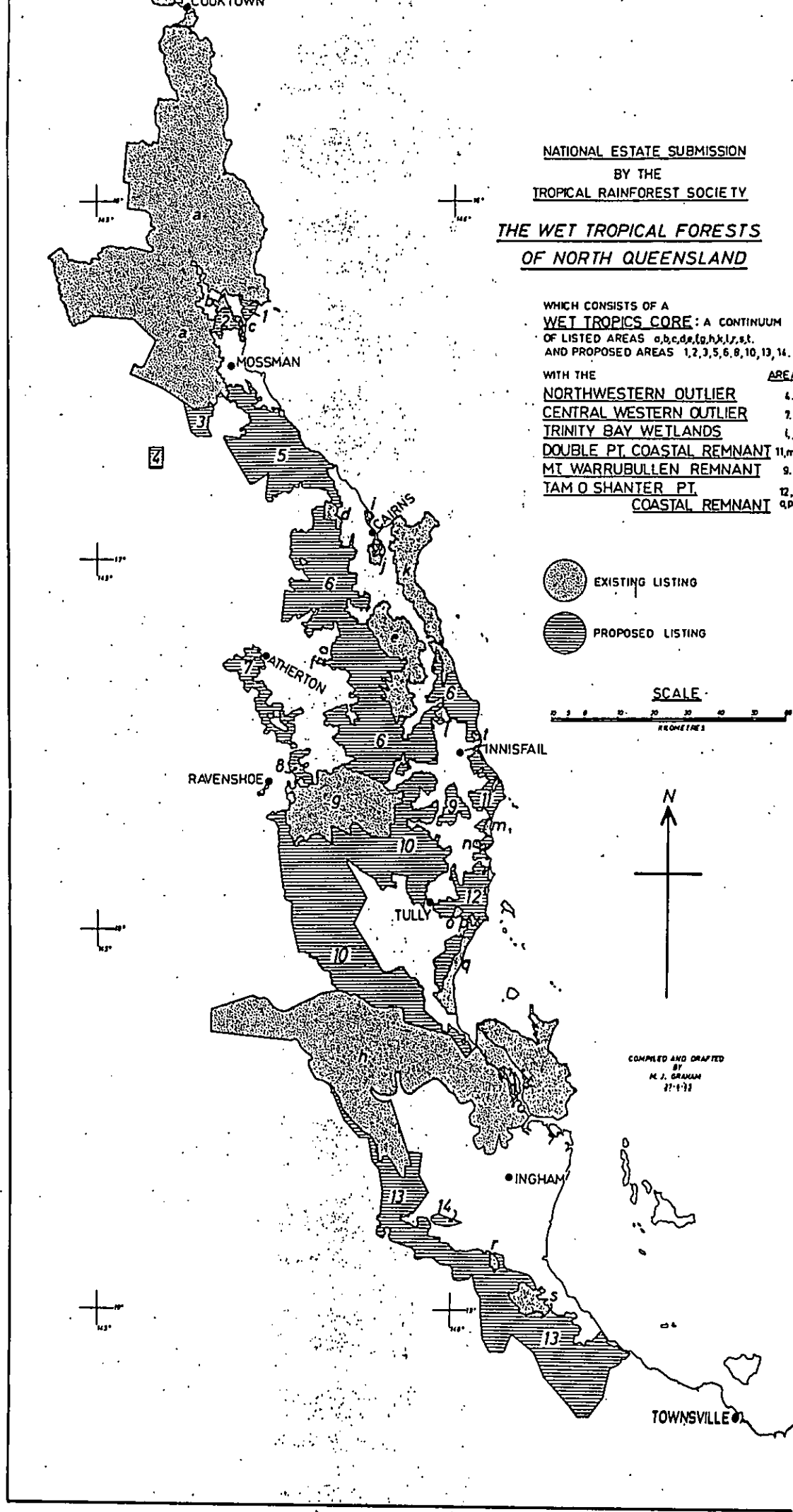
which is pledged to the institute for these ends. We urge every Australian concerned about our unique lands to contribute to this fund. All contributors will receive a certificate showing they have paid for the preservation of a threatened habitat. All donations gratefully accepted.

For further information contact Bill Mollison, The Permaculture Institute, PO Box 96, Stanley, TAS 7331 (Phone: 004-58 1142) or John Seep, The Rainforest Information Centre, PO Box 868, Lismore, NSW 2480 (Phone: 066-21 3278).

JAN CARSON



Reproduced from Permaculture 18



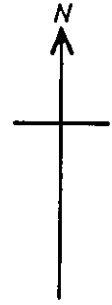
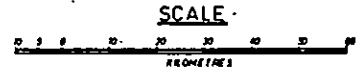
NATIONAL ESTATE SUBMISSION
BY THE
TROPICAL RAINFOREST SOCIETY

THE WET TROPICAL FORESTS
OF NORTH QUEENSLAND

WHICH CONSISTS OF A
WET TROPICS CORE: A CONTINUUM
OF LISTED AREAS a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,k,l,r,s,t.
AND PROPOSED AREAS 1,2,3,5,6,8,10,13,14.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| WITH THE | <u>AREAS</u> |
| <u>NORTHWESTERN OUTLIER</u> | 4. |
| <u>CENTRAL WESTERN OUTLIER</u> | 2. |
| <u>TRINITY BAY WETLANDS</u> | i,j. |
| <u>DOUBLE PT. COASTAL REMNANT</u> | 11,m,n. |
| <u>MT WARRUBULLEN REMNANT</u> | 9. |
| <u>TAM O SHANTER PT.</u> | 12. |
| <u>COASTAL REMNANT</u> | o,p,q. |

- EXISTING LISTING
- PROPOSED LISTING



COMPILED AND DRAFTED
BY
M. J. GRAHAM
27-1-78

12

13

***"The world's rainforests are
diminishing at the rate of one
football field per second"***

Len Webb

Rainforest in Australia comprises 0.25% of the land surface of Australia, much of which has been logged. However the area includes:

50% of all Australian plant species

30% of all known vertebrae animals in Australia

50% of butterflies depend entirely on rainforest.

Wet tropical rainforests from Ingham to Cooktown are the richest and most diverse in Australia, yet they are currently being destroyed. The main aim of the tropical rainforest society is world heritage listing of these areas by the Federal Government.

Please, help us save Australias wet tropical rainforests from destruction by joining the Tropical Rainforest Society and perhaps asking a friend to join too.

MEMBERSHIP FORM OVERLEAF

If you care, please join the
TROPICAL
RAINFOREST
SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Phone Number _____ (home) _____ (work)

Members will receive our regular newsletter.

Please tick appropriate box:

Concession _____ \$5 ☐

Regular _____ \$8 ☐

New Member ☐ Membership Renewal ☐

Yes, I want to help in the campaign ☐

Special skills (if any, eg. typing) _____

Send to:-

**The Tropical Rainforest Society
Box 5918, C.M.C.,
Cairns 4870**

Our office address:-

**Upstairs, Andrejics Arcade
55 Lake Street
Cairns**

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

For tax-deductibility, make your donation payable to the Australian Conservation Foundation and sign this statement of preference.

"I prefer my donation to be used by the Tropical Rainforest Society".

Signed _____

Please find enclosed my cheque/money order for \$ _____

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Send to: AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, 672B Glenferrie Rd., Hawthorn Vic. 3122

SPEECH
DELIVERED BY
Mr T. J. Moore, LL.B., M.P.
IN THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ON THE
Rainforest Conservation

(From Parliamentary Debates 24th October, 1985)

Mr T. J. MOORE (Gordon) [2.43]: I lead on behalf of both Opposition parties in speaking to the motion moved by the honourable member for Balmain, which is:

That this House congratulates the New South Wales Government on its nature conservation initiatives including saving the rainforests and increasing the national parks by 100 per cent and requests the State Government to support the recommendations of the Report of the Working Group on Rainforest Conservation presented in September to the Hon. Barry Cohen, M.P., Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Environment.

At the outset I indicate that the self-congratulatory and obsequious tone of the motion is unacceptable to the Opposition. Mindful of that and also mindful of the need for a bipartisan policy on environmental matters in New South Wales—a theme to which I shall return later on those remarks—I move the following amendment on behalf of the Opposition:

That the question be amended by leaving out all words after the word "House", with a view to inserting:

- (a) acknowledges the New South Wales Government's nature conservation initiatives, including the cessation of rainforest logging under the terms of the 1982 Government Rainforest Policy and notes the increase in area of national parks since 1976;
- (b) requests the State Government to support the recommendations of the Report of the Working Group on Rainforest Conservation presented in September to the Hon. Barry Cohen, M.P., Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment;
- (c) expresses its strong view that the National Parks and Wildlife Service should urgently undertake positive management actions to deal with feral pest animals and weed infestation; and
- (d) calls on the New South Wales and Commonwealth governments to acknowledge their broader economic and social responsibilities to communities living adjacent to national parks in this State.

This amendment is moved in order to present for discussion a form of motion concerning rainforests, national parks and our environment and their integration with the communities of New South Wales, which should be able to be supported by all honourable members in this Chamber, because it has been shorn of the extravagance of language contained in the motion moved by the honourable member for Balmain. The protection of our environment—whether protection of our built environment; our natural geographic environment; the varied and precious indigenous flora and fauna of our state or the artifacts and heritage of our indigenous Aboriginal peoples—should not be turned into a cheap political jousting tourney, for the purposes of petty and partisan point scoring. I give a commitment on behalf of the Opposition, both Liberal and National parties, to work with the New South Wales Government towards the evolution of a bipartisan and agreed policy on environmental and related issues.

One of the terms of the motion moved by the honourable member for Balmain relates to the nature conservation initiatives of the New South Wales Government. In its broad perspective, this encompasses steps for the preservation of the natural environment—be it urban foreshore, urban park, marine habitat, wetland, national park, open savanna grasslands or the genuine remaining wilderness areas in New South Wales. I wish to speak, at the general commencement of my remarks, briefly on the hypocrisy of the member for Balmain moving this motion at a time when he is aiding and abetting the rat-pack of political bikies, known as the ALP caucus on Leichhardt council, in their joint efforts with the Government of New South Wales to pack rape and pillage the environment of the residents of many of the suburbs in the Balmain electorate. I invite honourable members of this House to consider the contrast of the honourable member for Balmain piously talking of the values of our parks and ecosystems which support the native song-birds of New South Wales, at a time when the Government and the Minister are inflicting ear shattering noise levels on the residents of East Balmain by the relocation of Sydney Heliport without provision of a proper environmental impact statement.

I invite a comparison of the worthy motives of the honourable member for Balmain and the Labor Government in preserving the Viper Scrub in the Washpool National Park—a preservation endorsed by the Opposition—at a time when he and the Labor caucus of Leichhardt council are doing secret deals with the Maritime Services Board to desecrate open space in Annandale and Rozelle Bay. I invite a comparison between the proper levels of environmental constraint which are involved in building facilities in national parks and the creation of proper plans of management to ensure that vehicle access does not cause a degradation of environmentally fragile ecosystems, with the flogging off

of the Australian National Line site at Mort Bay to the Housing Commission for medium density housing. This is a disgraceful intrusion into what should be a major opportunity to create a significant foreshore park in an inner-urban area with the lowest ratio of open space per head of population throughout the metropolitan area. This is to be prostituted by a desperate political desire to prop up the ailing fortunes of the member for Balmain in the mistaken belief that extra Housing Commission accommodation in Balmain can save his political skin.

The Australian National Line site was originally purchased from a special fund administered by the Department of Environment and Planning for the provision of "green space" for the residents of the Sydney region. To have that fund purchase the Australian National Line site for open space, in the first instance, was a truly noble objective and one which is lauded by the New South Wales Opposition. The nature conservation values of the urban environment which could have been assisted by that park are enormous. To turn around and see that dream shattered by the flogging off of the land is disgraceful. It is no wonder, that in Balmain, they say that politics is as simple as ABC—anybody but Crawford. I wish to look forward from the point at which we are—on the 24th October, 1985—to the directions that I perceive should be taken by a New South Wales government, of either political persuasion, in the administration of national parks and the preservation of our environment. These, in general terms, fall into three parts.

The first part relates to the role and function of national parks in our community. The second relates to responsibility of the State as owner of national parks and the National Parks and Wildlife Service as the guardian agents of the Government in the management of these parks and their interaction with surrounding landholders and surrounding communities. The third relates to the general responsibility of both State and federal governments for the economic and social consequences of the creation of new national parks and the extension of the boundaries of existing parks. Last week, in my speech on the Budget, I said that I considered there were five major responsibilities of a national parks system.

The first, and one recognized by successive governments of the State of New South Wales, is the necessity to preserve and manage environmentally sensitive areas throughout the State. The second is to preserve and manage a significant representative sample of major ecosystems existing throughout the State. The third is to preserve the remaining genuine wilderness areas throughout the State that are in public ownership. The fourth is to provide significant areas of public accessible bushland and representative samples of original land form and vegetation patterns, for use and access in an informal and largely unstructured recreational pattern for the State's citizens. Finally, the philosophy that should underlie the national parks system of this State is to provide for areas of intense recreation within national park boundaries and to provide for the management and control of such areas in an environmentally sensitive fashion.

In this context specifically I wish to make it clear in absolute and unequivocal terms that neither the New South Wales Liberal Party nor the New South Wales National Party is proposing to log, nor will they condone the logging of, our rainforests. It would be both foolish and hypocritical of me to seek to assert in this debate that the boundaries of parks such as the Washpool National Park are those that might have been drawn if there were another government in this State. Indeed, in the debate on World Heritage listing

proposals of the New South Wales and Commonwealth governments for New South Wales rainforest national parks, which took place in this Chamber on 23rd May, 1984, I said, *inter alia*:

However, there is some dispute about areas that might be regarded as buffer zones, hardwood areas round those rainforest regions. The Forestry Commission's environmental impact statement on the Washpool State Forest, as it was, for example, showed clearly on a number of its maps that there were significant hardwood reserves in buffers round the genuine rainforest areas, such as the Viper Scrub in Washpool.

Within the context of this debate on behalf of the New South Wales Opposition, I want to make one thing completely and absolutely clear. The statements I now make are clearly given in the light of those reservations then made concerning the scope of the boundaries of the Washpool National Park. The Liberal Party and National Party in New South Wales will not permit under a future coalition government the logging of rainforests in New South Wales. During my now almost thirty years in the scout movement I have had, as I have remarked in the House on a number of occasions, the opportunity of walking through many of the magnificent and beautiful wilderness areas of this country. It is one of my pleasures as the shadow minister for planning and environment to now have an excuse to visit such areas of New South Wales as a part of my parliamentary duties.

Some years ago, before the Washpool National Park was declared, Dr Terry Metherell—the honourable member for Davidson—and I had the pleasure of an all too short visit to a portion of the Washpool rainforest with the Clarence River branch of the National Parks Association. We camped overnight, as I recall, in the valley of Coombajah Creek. No honourable member of this House would have been unmoved by the almost spiritual beauty of waking in the morning to the sunlight filtering down through the emerald tent of the upper canopy of the rainforest, being greeted in that diffuse and ethereal light by the slow rising of the smoke from our campfire. Such an experience, whether in the rainforests of the North Coast of New South Wales, where I have had the pleasure of camping and walking on odd occasions over almost two decades, whether it is in the magnificent rainforest areas of the central valleys of the freshwater lakelands of Fraser Island, where I have also had the pleasure of walking and camping on a number of occasions, or whether it is in the entirely different but still rainforest beauty of the Lake St Clair area of the overland track in Tasmania or portions of the southwest wilderness of that State, where I have also walked, leaves me in no doubt of the beauty, fragility and environmental worth of such spectacular complex and fragile ecosystems.

For the benefit of the members of the New South Wales Government I repeat that the Liberal and National parties in New South Wales have absolutely no intention of permitting the logging of our rainforests. Having made that point beyond what should be any query, I wish to turn to the question of whether all is well in the level of government funding for the management of national parks within New South Wales and to the structure of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. At the commencement of this portion of my remarks, I wish to make it clear that I have overwhelming admiration for the men and women who comprise the front line rangers of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. I have known many of them over the years, as friends in the parks which I have visited regularly or, in another avenue, through our common membership or a volunteer bush fire brigade which works exclusively within the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. What has become wrong with the National Parks and Wildlife Service in recent years relates to its level of funding by government and its failure to provide adequate resources for the service at a time when there

has been a dramatic increase in the area of national parks in this State, together with what has amounted to an increasing atrophy in the system arising out of ever-increasing administrative burdens placed on the officers of the service.

In 1976-77 the area under administration by the National Parks and Wildlife Service was 1 917 887 hectares. In 1983-84 the area was 3 346 669 hectares. This amounted to an increase of 74 per cent over that period. If one looks specifically at the area of national parks, the figures for a similar period are 1 596 147 hectares and 2 833 250 hectares, which is an increase of 77.5 per cent over that period. This indicates that there is, perhaps, a factual error in the claim by the honourable member for Balmain in the terms of his motion, but that is a minor hyperbole compared with the underlying position of accepting the financial responsibility of administering those massive increases in area. The 1976-77 Budget for the National Parks and Wildlife Service was \$22,933,817 from all sources. The figure allocated in the Tenth budget of this Government for the administration of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, in 1976 dollars, is \$30,515,000 from all sources. That is, in real terms, an increase of only 33 per cent over that ten-budget period. It is a blunt and brutal indication of the desire of the Government to expand the area of national parks in New South Wales without being prepared to make a complete economic commitment to the responsible management of national parks in this State of New South Wales.

The New South Wales Government, which in many respects has done commendable things in environmental protection, stands condemned for failing properly to provide for the management and administration of new areas of national parks in this State. It is little wonder that there is concern throughout environmental groups that the national parks of New South Wales are the subject of significant delays in the preparation of proper plans of management for them; that there is a withdrawal of ranger staff from the parks themselves; and there is concern about the increasing responsibilities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the areas of law enforcement, the protection of Aboriginal heritage and scientific work in flora, fauna and fragile ecosystems. There is inadequate funding for all these, let alone for the proper management of this significant increase in land area contained under its control. In addition, there has been, as evidenced in a reply to a question by me some time ago, a gradual withdrawal of staff from direct association with their parks and a concentration of them into a regionally centralized administration. I remember back in the late 1960's, when I walked through the Little North Arm of the Bellinger River in the Dorrigo National Park, that a ranger was resident in the park and responsible for, and living within, its boundaries.

I well understand that such a responsible system for the management of our parks requires great commitment. I believe, as do Opposition members, that the commitment of the New South Wales Government to the acquisition of new areas of national parks in this State has not been matched by a commitment of resources for their proper management. Yesterday, in the debate on the Budget Estimates, the honourable member for Lachlan and Deputy Leader of the National Party, who is the Opposition spokesman on agriculture, spoke about the significant problem of noxious weeds and feral animals coming out of national parks and causing concern to surrounding landowners. All responsible methods for the control of the flow of pest animals should be considered, both for the good of the parks and for the good of the landholders who legitimately complain about stock losses and crop damage.

No money, however, has been provided by the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service for experimentation in Australia with what is known as taste aversion, being a method of confinement control of feral dogs within the boundaries of our parks. Dr Gustavsen, from the United States, has produced results of experiments that demonstrate that taste aversion is at least worthy of consideration. Though I acknowledge that there is some scientific doubt that his results would be repeated in Australia, the expenditure of the comparatively small sum that would be involved to endeavour to do so would be worth while. On occasions when the views of Greenpeace and like organizations and the needs of pastures protection boards and wild dog destruction boards in places such as Armidale and the Southern Tablelands are in accord, surely there is merit in at least trying to see what can be achieved.

Earlier in my remarks on this motion, I outlined the values of a national parks system for the community. Obviously, a major requirement for the preservation of a representative sample of our flora and fauna and our natural ecosystems, is to manage them in an environmentally responsible fashion, and, where appropriate, make them available for the education and enjoyment of our community. Interaction between the public and our parks is not purely the responsibility of the neighbouring land communities. Many of our parks in a Sydney context—principally the Royal National Park and Ku-ring-gai Chase—are able to sustain enormous human traffic, by vehicle and on foot, which by appropriate management does not lead to the degradation of those parks. At the other extreme, there are true wilderness areas, such as the Viper Scrub or parts of the northern high country of Kosciusko National Park, that only a true and dedicated walker can traverse.

Within those extremes of utilization of our parks lies a vast capacity for public participation in, enjoyment of and educational enrichment from, the many and varied parks—including marine national parks—that exist in the State. That park process has been an evolutionary one and is a process that I am confident will continue to evolve under any State government, of whatever political persuasion. The value of tourism to communities in country New South Wales that have parks proximate to them cannot be underestimated, particularly if such tourism can be fostered and established in a fashion that does not lead to damage to the wilderness values and ecosystems within those parks. The 1976 and onward predictions of this Government for the population of the north coast of New South Wales acknowledged the tripling growth rate between 1971 and 1976. The report stated:

The increase was particularly marked on the coastal strip and in the larger towns in the southern part of the Region. Further inland there was decline. In general, there are no physical constraints to continued coastal growth, but the employment situation may curb such fast growth, but the employment situation may curb such fast growth as occurred over the last five years. While small industries are being attracted to various areas there are few current proposals for major new industries despite the potential in industries such as fishing. Similarly the effects of a larger retired population stabilize with time.

Consequently, it was assumed that while the Region would continue to grow fairly strongly in the immediate future this would taper off. To this end the proportion of total State increase attributed to the North Coast was reduced over the projection period.

Thus we have a clear admission that for many years the figures upon which New South Wales budgets were based for that region were fudged downward. The 1981 and onward interim report stated, with respect to the North Coast:

Adjusted 1981 census counts indicate the region has increased its share of State growth, which was not anticipated in the previous projections. Constraints at the time of preparation of that projection included doubts as to the economic ability of the area to

sustain continued high growth and lack of information on its cause, in addition to declining growth rates in the State as a whole.

What has been the cause of these doubts about the economic ability of the area to sustain continued high growth? Could it be, dare we ask, that the New South Wales Government, having fudged the figures downward in 1976, has inadequately provided funding for the social and economic infrastructure of the New South Wales North Coast region, which has led to this conclusion of the Department of Environment and Planning? Perhaps it is not surprising that the final report of the department for its population projections for 1981 and onwards makes this confession of guilt and softens its language as follows:

However, while recent and current trends could produce an exponential growth effect, generating further development in the tertiary sector, the resources attracting people to the area, such as coastal land, open spaces etc. are finite, so incentives to move could reduce as these resources diminish.

Undoubtedly this language, too, is designed to rationalize the New South Wales Labor Government's continuing failure to provide adequately for the citizens of the New South Wales North Coast. What is needed from the New South Wales Labor Government is an acknowledgement, which is readily given by the Opposition, that the timber industry and its workers, particularly on the North Coast of New South Wales, deserve special economic treatment. That is the underlying thrust of the report that was referred to in the motion of the honourable member for Balmain and was presented to the federal Government last month. It is not only, however, a federal responsibility.

The New South Wales Government has, as I have demonstrated, consistently under-estimated the population of the New South Wales North Coast and has consistently failed to provide adequately for the social and economic infrastructure to support that population. This failure to provide adequate levels of service for roads, health, primary and secondary education, technical and further education and other vital services compounds the sense of grievance that is felt in that region. The New South Wales Government fails to acknowledge its responsibility to timber workers and the timber industry of the region. This afternoon on behalf of the Liberal and National parties, I give the clear and unequivocal undertaking that a future coalition government will redress these economic and social wrongdoings of this Labor administration.

Mr J. H. Murray: What does the honourable member for Coffs Harbour say about that?

Mr T. J. MOORE: I wish briefly to respond to the interjection of the honourable member for Drummoyne. It is a disgrace that a member of this Chamber should attack another member who is unable to be present. The honourable member for Coffs Harbour has a collapsed lung, resulting from pneumonia and two broken ribs, for which he has been hospitalized.

Mr J. H. Murray: Answer the question. You said you are representing him.

Mr T. J. MOORE: Though I am not able to accept the collectively egotistical terms of the motion, in commending the amendment to the House I wish to thank the honourable member for Balmain for giving me and my colleagues the opportunity at this time to unequivocally make clear our position on the underlying issues. I have enjoyed doing so. Indeed, particularly have I enjoyed doing so because this motion has turned out to be a political damp squib for the honourable member for Balmain and his political puppet master, the Minister for Planning and Environment.

3/17 I have requested that NCC and several member groups be listed
mailing list. See letter 1/8/85.
Exec.

13 JUL 1985



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

NAPAWI

NEWS RELEASE

JULY 15 1985

PUBLIC ASKED TO BECOME INVOLVED IN RAINFOREST PLANNING

The Director of National Parks and Wildlife, Mr. John Whitehouse, today launched a booklet seeking the public's involvement in the future management of four north coast rainforest national parks and nature reserves.

Mr. Whitehouse said the booklet, "Planning for our Caldera Rainforest National Parks", had been produced by officers at the Service's Alstonville office near Lismore.

He said the booklet was the first of several management issue documents which will seek the public's support on all stages of the future management of the four Service areas known collectively as the Caldera rainforests.

Mr. Whitehouse said the four areas are the 31,229 hectare Border Ranges National Park, the 4,945 hectare Nightcap National Park, the 2,443 hectare Limpinwood Nature Reserve, and the 800 hectare Numinbah Nature Reserve.

Mr. Whitehouse launched the booklet at a ceremony held today at the Terania Creek picnic area in Nightcap National Park.

Guests at the launching included Mr. D. Beck M.P., Member for Byron, the Mayor of Lismore, Mr. Bob Scullin, other local

government representatives, tourist authorities, and members of the rainforest advisory committee.

Mr. Whitehouse said: "Over millions of years erosion of past volcanic activity in this part of the State has carved out a huge natural amphitheatre called a Caldera. The more resistant rocks which form Mount Warning National Park, have remained - the rest is now known as the Tweed Valley.

"The Caldera supports large tracts of rainforest and other important native habitats and animals. Many rare and ancient plants, some unique to this region of the State, find refuge in these four Service areas.

"Most of the remaining rainforests are now preserved in not only our new rainforest parks, but also in Queensland's Lamington National Park.

"Everyone here today is concerned with the proposed draft plans of management for the four Service areas. Before the plan is implemented, I assure you the public will be involved at all stages before it is placed on public exhibition."

Mr. Whitehouse said the Service encouraged community participation both before and during the public exhibition of plans of management. "Any individual or any group wanting to

express a view on the future management of Service areas is encouraged to do so", he said.

Mr. Whitehouse said: "The Service is currently preparing a series of documents which describe the resources of the Caldera national parks and nature reserves - all will be made available to the public.

"Following exhibition of the option documents all written responses will be considered. Draft plans will then be prepared and public comment will again be invited, hopefully by late 1986."

Mr. Whitehouse said the Alstonville office would prepare a mailing list of interested groups and individuals, Government departments, and local authorities.

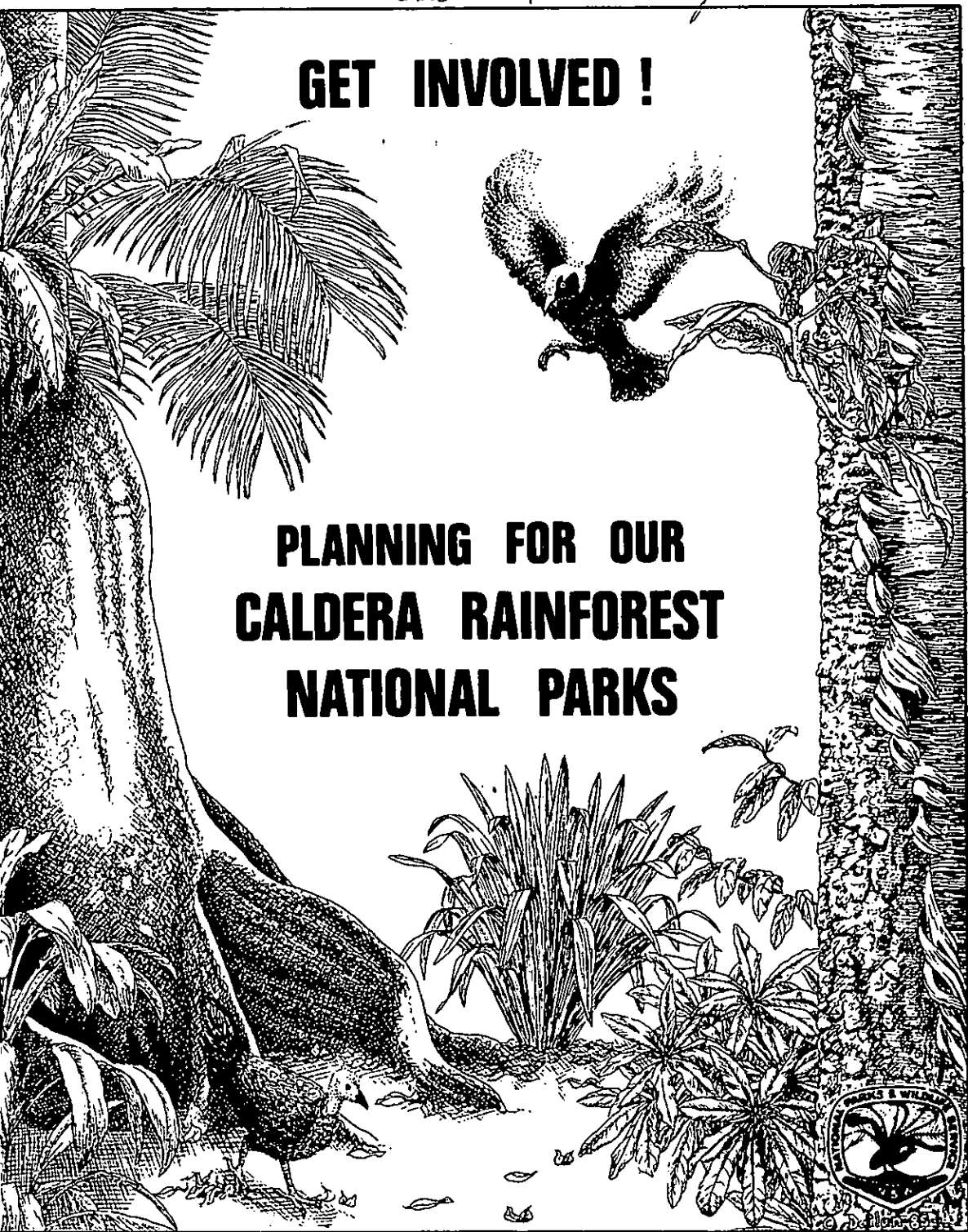
For further information about the Caldera rainforest plans the public should contact the Service's Alstonville office at Suite 9, Colonial Arcade, Alstonville 2477, or write to P.O. Box 91. Contact can also be made by telephone, (066) 281177 between 8.30am and 4.30pm from Monday to Friday.

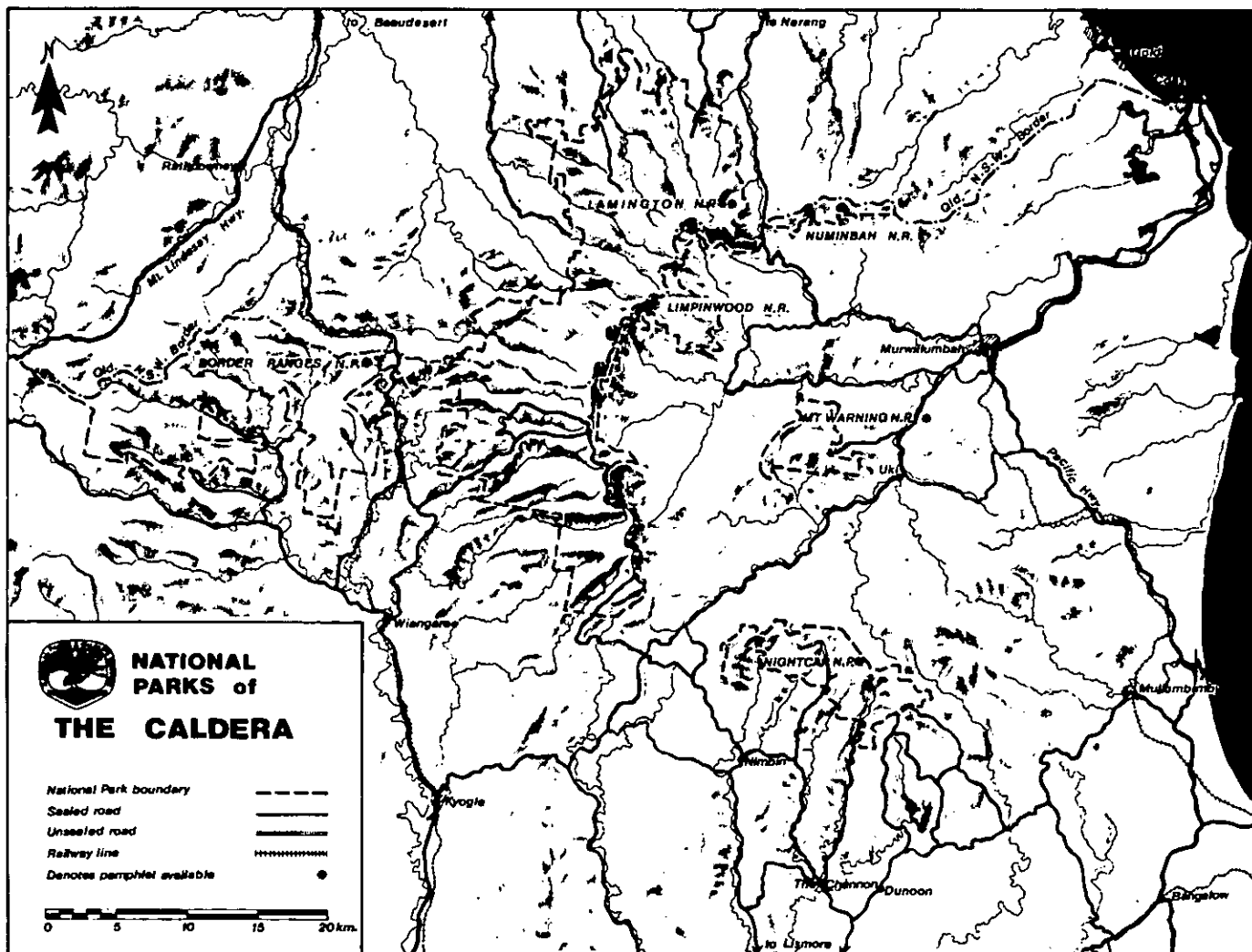
Media enquiries: Berkeley Wiles (02) 237 6925

Return to Jocelyn.

GET INVOLVED !

**PLANNING FOR OUR
CALDERA RAINFOREST
NATIONAL PARKS**





So What's a Caldera ... (and how do you pronounce it) ?

Twenty million years ago the far north-eastern corner of New South Wales and south-east Queensland looked very different to the way it does today. Several million years of intense volcanic activity had just ended, creating the Mount Warning Shield Volcano - the remains of which are now a unique landform of international ecological importance.

Over millions of intervening years, erosion in this high rainfall area has carved out a huge natural amphitheatre, or caldera (say 'call-dare-a' or 'call-dear-a') around the more resistant rocks of the volcano's central magma chamber - Mount Warning; and the Caldera we now know as the Tweed Valley.

Mt Warning, 1157 meters high and visible far out to sea was named by James Cook on his voyage of discovery in 1770 as a warning to mariners of reefs off the coast.

The caldera is an impressive landform of lofty cliffs around the rim intersected by deep gorges and waterfalls. Interacting with the sub tropical climate, rich volcanic soils, coastal proximity and other factors, it now supports large tracts of rainforest and other habitats. Many rare and ancient plants (some unique to this place)

and interesting animals find refuge here.

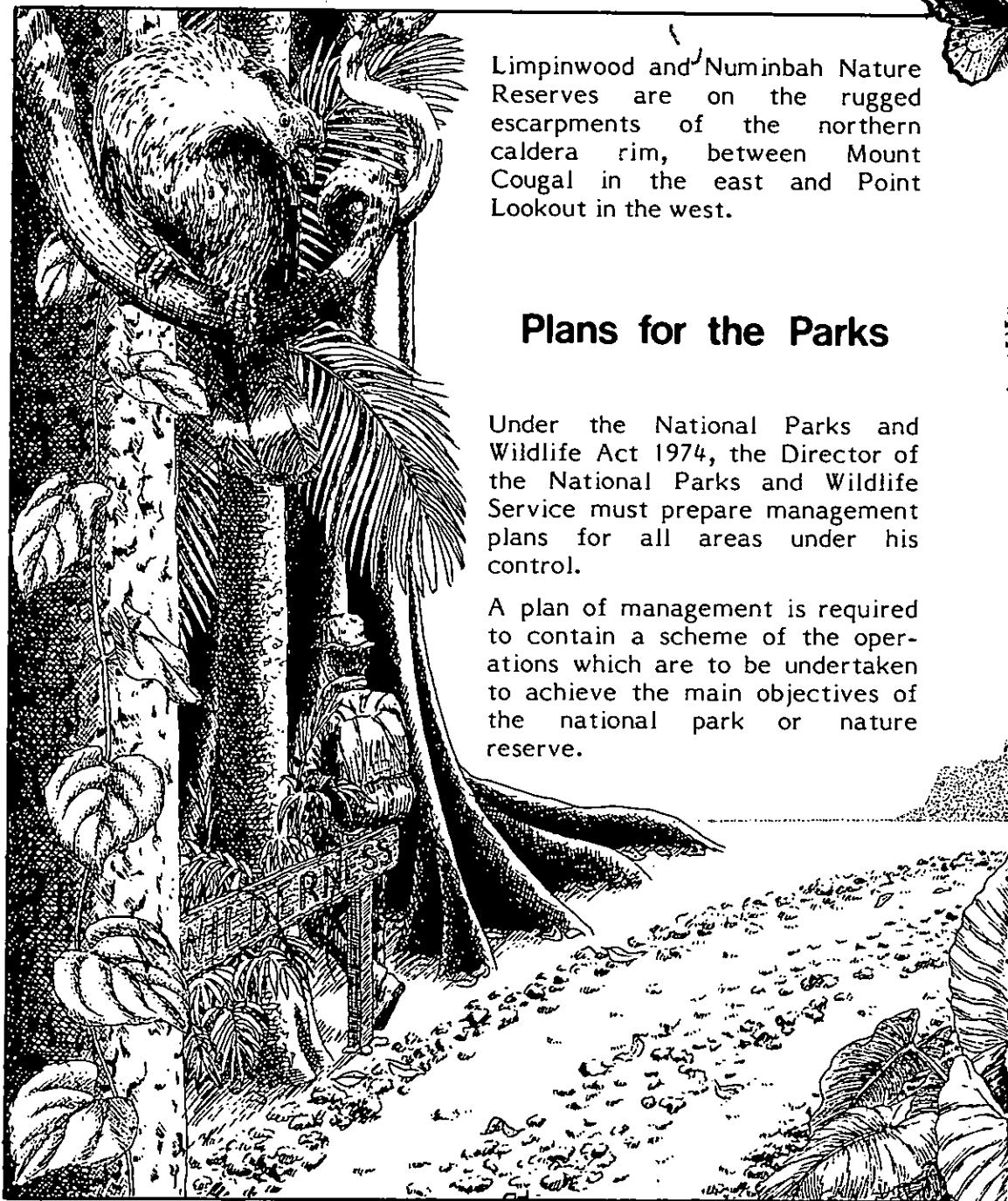
Most of the remaining rainforests are now preserved in the national parks and nature reserves of the caldera. Lamington National Park is in Queensland and in New South Wales are found the Mount Warning, Border Ranges and Nightcap National Parks and the Limpinwood and Nunimbah Nature Reserves (see map opposite).

It's the Border Ranges and the Nightcap National Parks we're concerned with right now. The National Parks and Wildlife Service is preparing plans of management for these areas - and we want you to help.

At the same time, the Service is preparing plans of management for the two nature reserves.

The Border Ranges National Park embraces some 30,000 hectares of the rugged McPherson Range on the Queensland border, from the Tweed Range in the east to Mount Lindesay in the west.

The Nightcap National Park straddles the western half of the Nightcap Range, between Lismore and Murwillumbah. It is a scenically spectacular massif of peaks, ridges and gullies along the southern rim of the caldera.



Limpinwood and Numinbah Nature Reserves are on the rugged escarpments of the northern caldera rim, between Mount Cough in the east and Point Lookout in the west.

Plans for the Parks

Under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service must prepare management plans for all areas under his control.

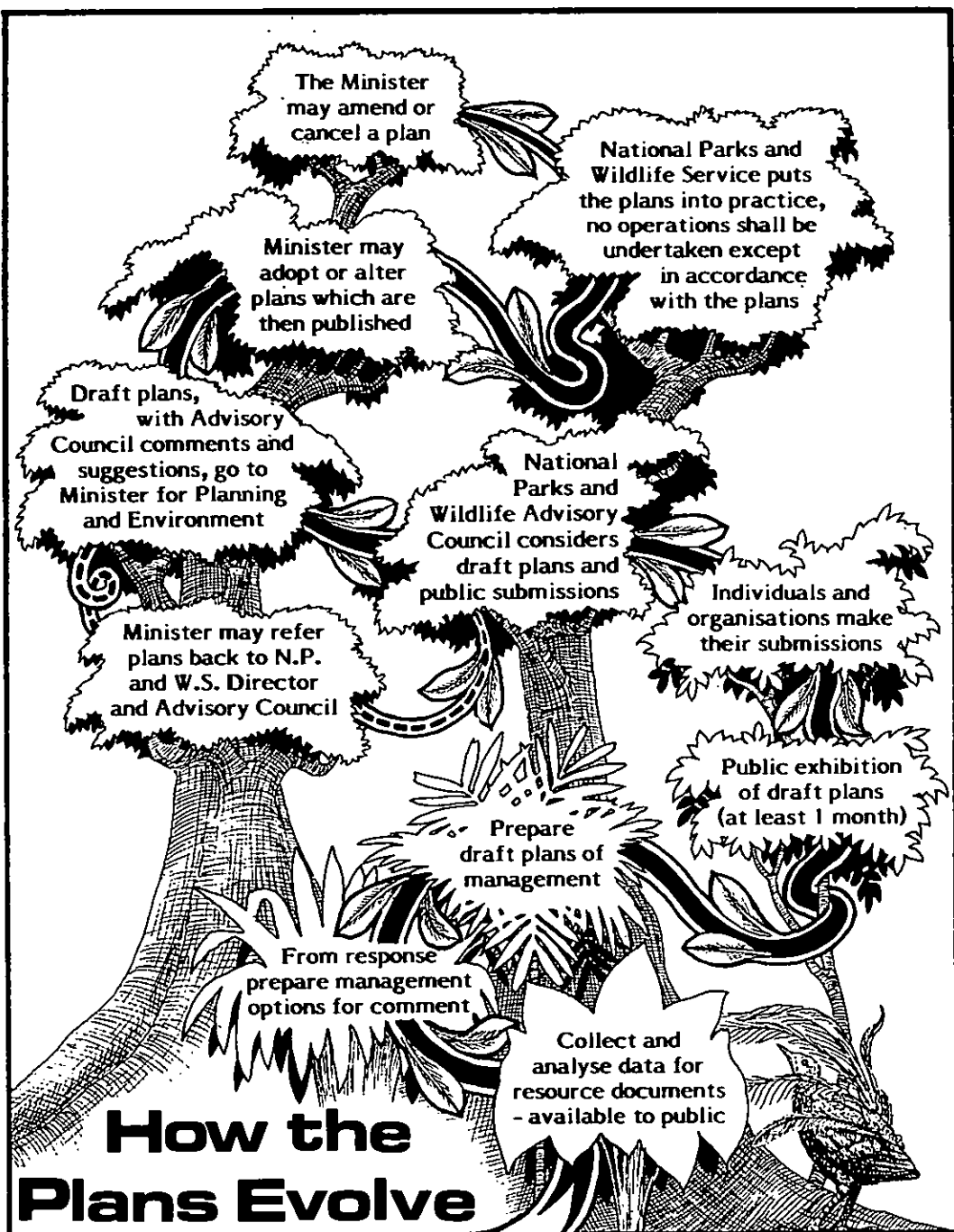
A plan of management is required to contain a scheme of the operations which are to be undertaken to achieve the main objectives of the national park or nature reserve.



Included in a plan of management is:

- A description of the natural and cultural features of the park
- A statement of the purpose of the national park
- A Scheme of Operations which includes management objectives and management strategies for:
 - Aboriginal and historic resources
 - catchment areas
 - wildlife
 - research and education
 - fire
 - control of introduced plants and animals
 - water quality
 - public safety
 - recreation such as horseriding, bushwalking, picnicking, camping etc.
 - access for vehicles and aircraft and many other issues.





Emphasis on Public Involvement

The National Parks and Wildlife Act requires that when drawing up a plan of management for a national park, the National Parks and Wildlife Service first prepares a draft plan which is released for a minimum period of one month for public comment.

Because of the extensive public interest in the management of the rainforest parks of the caldera, we want you to be involved in the shaping of the plans of management - that is, before they're placed on public exhibition.

In 1984 the National Parks and Wildlife Service published an "interim management position paper" on the rainforest national parks of the Far North Coast. We're now starting the integrated preparation of plans of management for the Border Ranges and Nightcap National Parks and the Limpinwood and Numinbah Nature Reserves.

We encourage community participation both before and during the public exhibition of these plans. Any individual or any group wanting to express a view on the future management of the parks is encouraged to do so.

One point needs to be understood.

The preparation of a plan of management is a lengthy business. It has to be. The time for you to become involved is now.

We are currently preparing a series of documents which describe the resources of both the national parks and nature reserves. These will be available to the public.

This resource information will be analysed and a series of options for future management of the national parks will be prepared. These will be available for public comment.

Following exhibition of the options document, the written responses will be considered and draft plans for the area will be prepared and made available for public comment.

At this stage, we expect this will happen late in 1986.

We're also preparing a mailing list of interested groups and individuals as well as Government departments and local authorities. Those on the list will be notified when the documents are placed on public exhibition. If you'd like to be included on this mailing list, let us know when you contact us.

Our address and phone number is on the back page of this brochure.



We Get a Lot of Visitors

Last year nearly 15 million people visited national parks in New South Wales.

There is a growing awareness of the environment in Australia and overseas. In this State, the Government has set aside a number of new national parks and nature reserves - among the most outstanding being the new rainforest parks of the Richmond-Tweed.

These are the Border ranges and the Nightcap National Parks. We want you to help in the evolution of these parks and the nearby Limpinwood and Nunimbah Nature Reserves.

"We" are the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Since 1967 the Service has been responsible for nature conservation in New South Wales. Our responsibility - and yours - is to ensure there are protected natural environments in which our native plants and animals can survive.

For further information please contact the:

**Senior Ranger
National Parks and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 91
(Suite 9, Colonial Arcade)
Alstonville 2477**

**Phone (066) 28 1177
8.30 a.m.-4.30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.**

Forestry - Rainforests



OFFICE OF THE
MINISTER FOR ARTS, HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

Ms J Messer
Chairperson
The Nature Conservation Council
of NSW
57 Wentworth Avenue
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

18 DEC 1985

16 DEC 1985

Dear Ms Messer

Mr Cohen has asked me to reply to your letter of 11 October 1985 concerning the nomination of the NSW Rainforests National Parks for the World Heritage List.

The Commonwealth Government has lodged the nomination documents with the Secretariat of the World Heritage Committee in Paris and in accordance with the usual operational procedures of this Committee any nomination lodged by a State Party before 31 December of any year will be considered for the World Heritage List during the following year. Thus the NSW Rainforest National Parks will be considered by the World Heritage Committee for the List in 1986.

In the meantime of course there will be no lessening in the protection of the rainforests as all the areas nominated by New South Wales are in public ownership and are specifically reserved for conservation purposes under NSW legislation - the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and the Forestry Act 1916.

Yours sincerely


JONATHAN WEST
PRIVATE SECRETARY

10 DEC 1985



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Ms. J. Messer,
Chairperson,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

2 DEC 1985

Dear Ms. Messer,

Thank you for your letter of 12th September, 1985, supporting the submission produced by the Total Environment Centre on the conservation and protection of littoral rainforest in New South Wales.

I agree that littoral rainforest constitutes a valuable natural resource and that further efforts are necessary to ensure adequate conservation, particularly in light of the increasing pressure of development in coastal New South Wales. I have endorsed the submission of the Total Environment Centre as a most positive and worthwhile course of action.

Officers of my administration are currently considering a number of options for conservation and management of remaining important stands of littoral rainforest, including the use of a State Environment Planning Policy as suggested in the submission.

When these options are evaluated I will be in a position to further pursue conservation and management of the littoral rainforest resource of this State.

Your interest in this important conservation issue is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Carr'.

BOB CARR.

28 NOV 1985
28 NOV 1985
28 NOV 1985

NEWS RELEASE



Exec.
Premier of New South Wales
Australia

PRESS RELEASE

13th November, 1985

NOMINATION OF STATE'S RAINFOREST FOR INCLUSION
IN WORLD HERITAGE LIST

The Premier, Mr Neville Wran, today handed to Australia's Ambassador to U.N.E.S.C.O., Mr Gough Whitlam, a copy of the State's Rainforest Nomination Document for inclusion in the World Heritage List.

With Planning and Environment Minister, Bob Carr, the Premier announced that Mr Whitlam would take his personal copy of the rainforest nomination document to Paris.

Mr Wran and Mr Carr said the 375 page New South Wales Rainforest Nomination Document, approved by the Federal Cabinet in June this year, had been forwarded to U.N.E.S.C.O.

The Premier said: "What we are nominating for World Heritage Listing is not all the rainforest of New South Wales but the 'cream' of our rainforest.

"The saving of this State's rainforest has been a goal of my Government since we came into office in 1976.

"The State Government regards the nomination for World Heritage Listing as a matter of great significance.

"The World Heritage Listing is prepared under the International Convention for the Protection of the World's cultural and natural heritage."

The Premier said the nomination for inclusion on the list of New South Wales rainforest comprised the following sites:

- * Tweed Volcano Group of Border Ranges National Park, Numinbah Nature Reserve, Limpinwood Nature Reserve, Mount Warning National Park, Nightcap National Park and Mount Nothofagus Flora Reserve.
- * Washpool/Gibraltar Range Group of Washpool National Park and Gibraltar Range National Park.
- * Coastal Group of Iluka Nature Reserve.
- * New England Group of New England National Park, Dorrigo National Park and Mount Hyland Nature Reserve.
- * Hastings Group of Werrikimbe National Park, Mount Seaview Nature Reserve and Banda Banda Flora Reserve.
- * Barrington Group of Barrington Tops National Park.
- * Southern Group of Mount Dromedary Flora Reserve.

The Premier said the nomination carried detailed data aimed at satisfying the stringent criteria of "outstanding universal value" required for World Heritage Listing.

"The nomination provides powerful justification for a successful World Heritage Listing designed to protect the rainforests as a vital part of the world's natural heritage."

Mr Wran said the rainforest nomination for World Heritage Listing was the sixth in Australia.

The five areas in Australia which are included in the World Heritage List are Kakadu National Park, Lord Howe Island group, the Willandra Lakes region which includes Mungo National Park, the Great Barrier Reef, and Western Tasmania Wilderness National Parks.

"When our rainforests are included in the list they will join magnificent natural areas including Katmandu Valley, Nepal; Serengeti National Park, Tanzania; and Grand Canyon and Everglades National Parks, United States of America."

Mr. Carr said: "There is always the possibility that a future government could log the rainforest parks. The national parks of New South Wales are only as secure as the Labor majority in the Legislative Assembly.

"This is clear from numerous Opposition statements.

"Rainforest listing will give the Federal Government the authority to take action to protect the listed parks."

Exec.



27 NOV 1985



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

26 NOV 1985

Ms J. Messer
Chairperson
The Nature Conservation Council of NSW
57 Wentworth Avenue
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

Dear Ms Messer

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 October 1985 to the Prime Minister, on behalf of The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales, concerning the protection of NSW rainforests.

Your comments have been noted and drawn to the attention of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, the Hon Barry Cohen.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script.

G C Evans
Principal Private Secretary

LOCAL MEETINGS GREAT SUCCESS

The local meetings held in South East Queensland have been a great success, there have been good attendances at most, some naturally enough, were not. At all meetings a surprising response existed for writing letters to the various politicians who are (or should be) involved in the Rainforests issue.

We have, for these meetings prepared an **Action Kit**, this was found to be most useful in encouraging people to write. Should your centre be running a meeting you could probably use these kits to assist. We have a number of the kits available and are happy to send a copy to any one who can use them either at meetings or in shop & environment centres. Please just let us at **Rainforest Rescue** know at 66 Turbot St, Brisbane 4000.

THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS ARE THOSE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE WET TROPICS CAMPAIGN.

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

66 Turbot St, 362 Pitt St,
BRISBANE 4000 SYDNEY 2000
07-229 4533 02-267 7929

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

66 Turbot St, 672B Glenferrie Rd,
BRISBANE 4000 HAWTHORN 3122
07-229 7715 03-819 2888

RAINFOREST CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF QLD

15 Colorado St
BARDON 4065
07-369 6352

TROPICAL RAINFOREST SOCIETY

CMC 5918
CAIRNS 4870
070-511 204

QUEENSLAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

P.O. BOX 238
NORTH QUAY 4000
07-221 0188

RAINFOREST INFORMATION CENTRE

P.O. BOX 368,
LISMORE 2480.
066-214 339.

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

BRISBANE	INNISFAIL	CAIRNS	TULLY
8 Clifton St	P.O. BOX 750	P.O. BOX 1350	P.O. BOX 771
Petrie Tce.,	INNISFAIL 4860	CAIRNS 4870	TULLY 4854
BRISBANE 4000	070-612 687	070-551 869	070-665 528
07-369 4586			

EDITORS H. ABRAHAMS, The Wilderness Society
M. RAE, The Wilderness Society
M. STANNARD, Australian Conservation Foundation

Although the Editors of **Rainforest Rescue** usually have to discard rather than scrounge for information to include in each issue, we welcome contributions. Should your group have participated in saving the rainforests in some way drop us a line and we'll let everybody know of your success

Rainforest RESCUE

66 TURBOT ST., BRISBANE 4000. (07) 229 4533

27 NOVEMBER 1985

27.11.85



OPINION POLL 82% SUPPORT RAINFOREST CONSERVATION

The conservation groups associated with the production of **Rainforest Rescue** recently commissioned an opinion poll on the Wet Tropical Rainforests issue. Spectrum Research Pty Ltd carried out the survey. The Question was: 'Do you agree either strongly or mildly that the Federal Government should take urgent action to protect Australia's Wet Tropical Rainforests?' The research carried out in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane confirms that the vast majority of Australians believe the rainforests should urgently be protected.

The average result for the three cities was **82% in favour of the Federal Government taking urgent action to protect the rainforests.**

The Federal Government now has no excuse for doing nothing on this important issue. They cannot continue to hide behind the bald claim that they will lose votes because even in Brisbane, the supposed home of States' Rights, **74% of the population believes that the Federal Government should act.**

This great support for the preservation of the World Heritage quality Rainforests should ensure that Barry Cohens' 'Master Plan' is given adequate funds so that the logging of the last accessible areas of virgin rainforest does not go ahead in 1986. The 'Master Plan' involves the allocation of \$200m over the next 20 years to rainforest conservation and compensation to the otherwise doomed virgin rainforest logging industry. The Rainforest Working Group Report recommends a review of the timber industry in north Queensland such that compensation can be agreed upon prior to the commencement of the 1986 logging season.

Support for the rainforests has been growing and is evidenced by large attendances at rallies and letters in newspapers around the country. It is not at all surprising that the opinion poll has shown this strong support.

One aspect of the results that is perhaps surprising is the uniformity across the range of respondents. The research includes a breakdown of the sex, age, marital status and work status of those polled. Within all of these categories there is very close accord on the degree of support. This means that **all people support the protection of the rainforest**, not just sinners, hippies, trendies, commos, deviants, sexual perverts, and child molesters (as Bjelke-Petersen might have us believe).

Any politician who ignores the political ramifications of this opinion poll does so at her or his own peril.

ROCK FOR RAINFOREST - DAINTREE BENEFIT CONCERT

The big news in the music scene this year is not Madonna's marriage, or even Tina Turner winning the awards, but that **MIDNIGHT OIL** is playing at **Rock For Rainforest** in Sydney. The important date to remember is Monday 23rd December 85.

The proceeds from this concert are going to the Wet Tropics/Daintree Campaign. This is a terrific show of support from one of Australia's best known bands. The Oils were recently described as perhaps THE Australian band of the Eighties (Rock Arena ABC TV).

Midnight Oil is currently touring the country and will be playing in Brisbane (performing on nights either side of our rally but not the night of the rally). Should you be missing them here, (working too hard preparing for the rally), or want to see them again, you have a rare opportunity to see them in Sydney. Join the Daintree Dissidents travelling to Sydney for a dose of preChristmas madness.

It is our intention to run some sort of bus, cavalcade or even camel train to the concert. So we can participate in what will be an outstanding campaign event. Details are understandably vague at the moment as the concert has only been announced some three days. If you would like to go (the more dissidents the merrier), contact the Wilderness Society office 229 4533.

ADDRESS THE PRESS

We continuously ask you all to write to the politicians and newspapers, it is remiss of us not to have printed the addresses of the major dailies. A letter to the editor is the easiest way individuals can express their opinions to the population at large. The letters columns also provide an indication of public concern on current issues. Two things are important, that Queenslanders write to the Southern press, and people from other States write to the Queensland press. Here are the addresses - Go To It.

The Australian
GPO Box 4126,
Sydney NSW 2001.

The Age
GPO Box 257c,
Melbourne VIC 3001.

Natioant Times
GPO Box 506,
Sydney, NSW 2001.

Sydney Morning Herald
GPO Box 506,
Sydney, NSW 2001.

Canberra Times
GPO Box 218,
Canberra, ACT 2601.

Courier Mail
GPO Box 130,
Brisbane, QLD 4001.

The Advertiser.
GPO Box 339,
Adelaide, SA 5001.

The Mercury.
GPO Box 334D,
Hobart, TAS 7001.

The West Australian
GPO Box D162,
Perth, WA 6001.

Other Queensland papers.

Sunday Mail.
GPO Box 130,
Brisbane, QLD 4001.

Telegraph.
GPO Box 130,
Brisbane, QLD 4001.

Townsville Bulletin.
PO Box 587,
Townsville, QLD 4810.

Cairns Post.
PO Box 126,
Cairns, QLD 4870.

The Pt Douglas & Mossman Gazette.
8 Front Street,
Mossman, QLD 4873.

UPDATE: PARLIAMENT HOUSE TIMBERS. CARR SLATED BY INSATIABLE TIMBER INDUSTRY

In a letter to the Sydney Morning Herald (20/11/85) Mr John Duncan, of the timber company Duncan's Holdings Ltd., criticised the decision of the NSW Environment Minister, Mr Bob Carr, to prevent the logging of an area of privately owned rainforest adjacent to the Border Ranges National Park. (see story last issue.)

The letter is a classic in that genre of letters in which the profiteers and despoilers of the environment attempt to argue for just one more chance to wipe out rare forests. Mr Duncan sets out the Wran Government's good record on rainforest conservation but then attempts to excuse yet more logging by alluding to the logging being done by bulldozers gaining "access to the small pocket (10 hectares) of rainforest ...by the bullock trail used to extract timber from the area in former years.". He then goes on to say that Mr Carr's decision is "disturbing to the sawmill industry and many private landowners" as the logging was intended to enable Standard Sawmills (a timber company) to meet the balance of a contractual commitment to supply timber to the new Parliament House in Canberra.

This letter highlights the insatiable appetite of the NSW timber industry for rainforests. They and their political allies, the NSW Liberal and National Parties, cannot be trusted to respect the fact that the period of exploitation of rainforests for timber is over.

The only criticism that can be directed at Mr Carr is that he did not realise what his Federal Labor colleagues were up to in the rainforests of NSW before it was almost too late. Areas of Washpool, not yet in National Park, have already gone to the chainsaw for the self aggrandisement of Federal politicians.

ACTION!

WRITE NOW!

Write to your Capital city newspapers demanding that the Federal Government not use rainforest timbers in the new Parliament House.

Write, telegram your support for the Rally to Save Rainforest. Letters to your local, or our local newspaper showing support very useful.

THE BRISBANE RALLY: HAVE YOU PLAYED YOUR PART?

In the last Rainforest Rescue we put out a plea for those people unable to attend the Brisbane Rally to send telegrams and letters of support to our office at 66 Turbot Street, Brisbane Qld.4000. We aim to read out these messages of support at the Rally to show the concern felt by people around the nation.

So far a number of groups and individuals have responded, but nowhere near the number of names on our mailing list! If you have not yet sent a short letter, please do. It will help to make the Rally an outstanding success.

Also please write letters of support for the Rally to the editors of the major daily papers

14 November, 1985

Ms Liz bourne
Co-ordinator
Queensland Conservation Council
P.O. Box 238
North Quay Qld 4000

Dear Liz

WET TROPICS CAMPAIGN/RAINFOREST RESCUE

In reply to your request of 23 September for funds for "Rainforest Rescue", I have to report that the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W. is very sympathetic and concerned about the issue, but is unable to contribute any funds at the moment. However, I shall include in our next Newsletter an item which includes your need for funds.

I am enclosing a copy of a statement which may be of use in your campaign. This statement was released at the close of a Workshop/Conference on "The Role of Remnants of Native Vegetation in Nature Conservation", held in Busselton, Western Australia. I was fortunate in being able to attend this Conference - Paul Ehrlich and other international visitors were present.

Yours sincerely

Jocelyn Howell
PROJECT OFFICER

Encl.

14 November, 1985

The Secretary
Department of Arts, Heritage & Environment
GPO Box 1252
Canberra A.C.T. 2601

Dear Sir

RAINFOREST CONSERVATION IN AUSTRALIA

The Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W. believes that the abovenamed Report to the Hon. Barry Cohen is the most comprehensive summary of the status of Australian rainforest yet produced. It provides an excellent example of effective collaboration, and we suggest that action by Cabinet following the Report should continue to be based on consultation and co-operation between the parties.

The Committee which produced the Report was set up at the 1984 Cairns Rainforest Conference at which the Minister stated that in his view "the national Government had a role in protecting a resource that is part of our natural heritage." Over twenty months later, rainforest is still not being protected and our Council strongly believes that more positive steps are now urgently required.

Given that the National Estate Register and World Heritage listing are anathema to the Queensland government (on which State lies 55% of the remaining rainforest) we urge that the Commonwealth implement the recommendation to provide financial incentives at the level of \$10-15 million for the first year immediately. We further recommend that the Commonwealth, as a party to the World Heritage Convention, recognize its obligation with respect to rainforest, including its duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation, preservation and transmission to future generations of cultural and natural heritage, as defined in the Convention.

One practical step which could be undertaken immediately would be to encourage the Queensland Department of Forestry to substantially increase royalty rates for their rainforest timbers. It is clear from the data given in Table 19 that Queensland rates are all well below those of N.S.W.

It is regrettable that the "Management" ^{ent}committee regarding Queensland rainforest logging is devoid of meaning - the statement affirming the application of sustained use principles is negated in the next sentence which states that virgin forests are "subject to initial cuts in excess of sustained yield."

Finally, it should be noted that Australia has not yet ratified the International Tropical timber Agreement, thus forfeiting the opportunity to influence the disastrous logging which is proceeding at a fast rate in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines; together accounting for 95% of our imports of rainforest timbers. Not that Australia's record is outstanding -

- 2 -

44% of its rainforest being under the control of various Government Forest Authorities and therefore subject to logging. Only 24% is on secure reserves. The States of Queensland and Tasmania, which together have 85% of our remaining rainforest, have only 24% and 23% respectively on secure reserves.

We urge that you take this matter to Cabinet as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely

Judy Messer
CHAIRPERSON

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES

1st Floor, 57 Wentworth Avenue
Surry Hills NSW 2010 Ph. (02) 211-5366

14 November, 1985

The Secretary
Department of Arts, Heritage & Environment
GPO Box 1252
Canberra A.C.T. 2601

Dear Sir

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Yours sincerely

Jocelyn Howell,
for

Judy Messer
CHAIRPERSON

COPY OF TELEX SENT 1/11/85

75831

The Hon. R.J. Carr,
Minister for Planning and Environment,
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
Sydney. 2000

Dear Mr. Carr,

re: PRIVATE RAINFOREST LOGGING

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales congratulates you on your prompt action to halt the logging of private rainforest near Murwillimbah by Standard Sawmills Ltd.

It is indeed ironical that the supply of rosewood timber for the interior of the new federal Parliament House should be the cause of rainforest destruction.

We look forward to the acquisition of the area in question by the National Parks and Wildlife Service for addition to the Border Ranges National Park.

Yours sincerely
Judy Messer
Chairperson, Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales

29.10.85

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES

1st Floor, 57 Wentworth Avenue
Surry Hills NSW 2010 Ph. (02) 211 5366

TELEX

Hon. Barry Cohen
Minister for Arts, Heritage
and Environment

The Annual Conference of the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W. congratulates you on tabling the Report of the Working Group on Rainforest Conservation and urges that you place the recommendations before Cabinet and initiate negotiations with the Queensland Government.

JUDY MESSER
CHAIRPERSON

1st Floor
57 Wentworth Avenue
Sury Hills 2010

29th October, 1985

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES

1st Floor, 57 Wentworth Avenue
Surry Hills NSW 2010 Ph. (02) 211 5366

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JUDY MESSER
CHAIRPERSON

1st Floor
57 Wentworth Avenue
Surry Hills 2010

29th October, 1985

16.10.83

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
BY THE MINISTER FOR ARTS, HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT
THE HON. BARRY COHEN, M.P.

RAINFOREST CONSERVATION IN AUSTRALIA
AND
NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR AUSTRALIA
INTERIM CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT

MR SPEAKER,

FOR THE INFORMATION OF HONOURABLE MEMBERS I PRESENT TWO MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS: THE FINAL REPORT OF THE INTERIM CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR AUSTRALIA AND THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON RAINFOREST CONSERVATION. I SEEK LEAVE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THESE REPORTS.

BOTH THESE REPORTS WERE PREPARED FOR ME BY COMMITTEES COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMONWEALTH AND STATE GOVERNMENTS, RESEARCH INTERESTS, INDUSTRY, UNIONS, CONSERVATION AND OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS. I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE VERY COMMENDABLE WORK DONE BY THESE COMMITTEES, BOTH OF WHICH HAD VERY DIFFICULT TASKS TO PERFORM. THE INTERIM CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE NCSA WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SIR RUPERT MYERS, WHO TOOK A LEADING ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR AUSTRALIA, ADOPTED AT A CONFERENCE IN 1983.

THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY IDENTIFIED A NEED TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO THE PROTECTION OF RAINFORESTS AND URGENT CONSIDERATION TO THOSE MOST THREATENED.

RAINFOREST CONSERVATION IS, IN MY VIEW, ONE OF THE MOST PRESSING CONSERVATION ISSUES THAT WE FACE TODAY. INTERNATIONALLY THERE IS GREAT CONCERN AT THE RAPID DISAPPEARANCE OF RAINFOREST, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS UNDER IMMENSE PRESSURE FOR ARABLE LAND AND MUCH NEEDED INCOME. WHILE AUSTRALIA IS NOT FACED WITH THESE PROBLEMS, NEVERTHELESS THE CONSERVATION OF AUSTRALIA'S RAINFORESTS HAS BEEN A HIGHLY CONTENTIOUS ISSUE. RAINFOREST IN AUSTRALIA IS A SCARCE AND VALUABLE RESOURCE. SINCE EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT UP TO THREE-

QUARTERS OF OUR RAINFOREST HAS BEEN CLEARED, MAINLY FOR AGRICULTURE. THE REMAINDER OCCUPIES ONLY 0.3 PER CENT OF THE COUNTRY.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL BE AWARE OF THE SERIOUS CONFRONTATIONS THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN RECENT YEARS AT SUCH PLACES AS TERANIA CREEK, WASHPOOL AND DAINTREE. RECOGNISING THAT CONFRONTATIONS OF THIS KIND WERE LIKELY TO CONTINUE UNTIL AN AGREED RAINFOREST CONSERVATION POLICY WAS DEVELOPED FOR AUSTRALIA, I CONVENED A CONFERENCE IN CAIRNS LAST YEAR TO DISCUSS THE WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE CONSERVATION OF AUSTRALIA'S TROPICAL AND SUB-TROPICAL RAINFOREST. THE CONFERENCE AGREED ON THE NEED FOR A COMMONWEALTH RAINFOREST CONSERVATION POLICY AND PROPOSED THAT A WORKING GROUP BE ESTABLISHED TO ADVISE ME ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH A POLICY.

I ESTABLISHED THE WORKING GROUP AT THE END OF AUGUST 1984. SENIOR OFFICERS FROM FORESTRY AND/OR NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITIES FROM MOST STATES INCLUDING QUEENSLAND AND NEW SOUTH WALES TOOK PART IN THE WORK OF THE GROUP. TASMANIA PROVIDED AN OBSERVER.

THE WORKING GROUP'S REPORT IS A LANDMARK IN COLLABORATION BETWEEN GROUPS HOLDING VERY DIVERSE OPINIONS ON A MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE. I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF HONOURABLE MEMBERS TO SOME OF THE MEASURES RECOMMENDED IN THE REPORT.

THE REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT ADOPT A COMMONWEALTH RAINFOREST CONSERVATION POLICY AND IMPLEMENT, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE STATES AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, A NATIONAL RAINFOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAM. THE ELEMENTS OF THE RECOMMENDED PROGRAM INCLUDE:

- . A SURVEY TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR RESERVATION TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION OF THE FULL RANGE OF RAINFOREST CONSERVATION VALUES;
- . AN URGENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC REVIEW OF THE RAINFOREST TIMBER INDUSTRY;
- . ACQUISITION OF KEY AREAS OF PRIVATELY OWNED RAINFOREST FOR PRESERVATION IN NATIONAL PARKS AND EQUIVALENT RESERVES;
- . ACQUISITION OF SUITABLE LAND FOR PLANTATIONS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO LOGGING OF RAINFOREST IN THE LONG TERM;
- . PREPARATION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS AND PROVISION OF INTERPRETATIVE CENTRES AND VISITOR FACILITIES IN PARKS AND RESERVES CONTAINING RAINFOREST; AND
- . ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL RAINFOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, WITH SUPPORTING FUNDING, TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH TO SUPPORT THE IMPROVED CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF AUSTRALIAN RAINFOREST..

I SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE WORKING GROUP WAS NOT ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON SPECIFIC AREAS OF RAINFOREST WHICH ARE THE SUBJECT OF CURRENT DISPUTES. THE WORKING GROUP WAS CONCERNED WITH THE BROADER ISSUES, AND PROVIDING A GENERAL BASIS ON WHICH GOVERNMENTS MIGHT RESOLVE CURRENT PROBLEMS AND ALSO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE STATES, WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF INDUSTRY AND THE COMMUNITY IS THE MOST SENSIBLE WAY TO ACHIEVE RAINFOREST CONSERVATION. THE CO-OPERATION ACHIEVED WITHIN THE WORKING GROUP IN ITSELF IS HEARTENING IN THAT THE VARIOUS INTERESTS CAN WORK TOGETHER.

WITH REGARD TO THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY, HONOURABLE MEMBERS MAY RECALL THAT I TABLED A COPY OF THE STRATEGY IN THIS HOUSE IN DECEMBER 1983.. THE STRATEGY

IDENTIFIES STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES TO BE FOLLOWED IN TACKLING MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND PLACES EMPHASIS ON THE THEME OF HARMONISING CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE REPORT OF THE INTERIM CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE PROVIDES ADVICE ON WAYS OF IMPLEMENTING THE NCSA. THE REPORT MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER FIVE MAIN HEADINGS:

- . INTEGRATION OF NCSA PRINCIPLES IN THE PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT;
- . ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY ADVISORY COUNCIL;
- . PROMOTION OF THE STRATEGY TO ENSURE WIDESPREAD AWARENESS, ACCEPTANCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF ITS PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES;
- .. IMPROVEMENT IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE STATE OF AUSTRALIA'S LIVING RESOURCES; AND
- . PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE STRATEGY'S PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES.

IN CONVEYING THE REPORT TO ME SIR RUPERT MYERS AGREED THAT, IF ADOPTED, THE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD STIMULATE MANY OF THE ACTIONS ENVISAGED BY THOSE WHO DEVELOPED THE STRATEGY AT THE 1983 CONFERENCE.

BECAUSE OF THE WIDESPREAD PUBLIC INTEREST IN BOTH THE NCSA AND RAINFOREST CONSERVATION I HAVE SOUGHT PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE TWO REPORTS. I AM ALSO REFERRING THEM TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, TO PARTICULAR GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES AND TO PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS FOR COMMENT.

I LOOK FORWARD TO EARLY EXAMINATION OF THE REPORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT, TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE COMMENTS RECEIVED.

MR SPEAKER, I COMMEND BOTH REPORTS TO THE ATTENTION OF HONOURABLE MEMBERS AND WOULD WELCOME COMMENTS ON THEM FROM MEMBERS OF THIS HOUSE.

11 October, 1985

The Hon. R. J. Hawke, PM
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Hawke

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales was very pleased to read some time ago of the announcements by yourself and the Premier of New South Wales that the nomination of NSW Rainforests would proceed.

We wish to draw your attention to the fact that no further action appears to have eventuated on this matter. This continual delay and vacillation can only add to international doubts as to whether Australia has either the will or the administrative capacity, to effectively protect Australia's unique rainforest heritage.

We therefore urge you to take prompt action to ensure that the relevant federal and state departments expedite the nomination forthwith.

We look forward to hearing that the nomination has in fact been forwarded to Paris.

Yours sincerely

Judy Messer
CHAIRPERSON

11 October, 1985

The Hon. B. Cohen, MP
Minister for Arts, Heritage & Environment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

re: NSW RAINFOREST NOMINATIONS TO THE
WORLD HERITAGE LISTING

It is hardly necessary to say that we were very pleased to read of the announcements by the Prime Minister and the Premier of NSW, that the NSW Rainforest listing would proceed forthwith. We are most concerned to find that nothing further has eventuated on this matter.

We seek your assurance that you will personally ensure that action is taken on this issue as a matter of urgency. The fact is that not only has Australia's reputation been tarnished internationally by its failure to protect the Queensland rainforests, but it is appearing incapable of implementing the nomination procedures when it does have the will.

We trust that your efforts to resolve the situation will be both prompt and effective.

Yours sincerely

Judy Messer
CHAIRPERSON

11 October, 1985

The Hon. N.K. Wran, QC, MP
Premier of New South Wales
Parliament House
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Wran

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales was very pleased to read some time ago of the announcements by yourself and the Prime Minister that the nomination of NSW Rainforests would proceed. We are concerned to find therefore that nothing further appears to have eventuated on this matter. We have been led to believe that the delay may be attributed to a lack of necessary action by the relevant authorities in NSW.

We would therefore be pleased if you would address yourself to this issue as a matter of urgency. If nothing else, Australia will be gaining an international reputation for total incompetency in relation to its capacity to act effectively to protect our unique rainforest heritages.

We look forward to your reassurance that the nominations will be forwarded to Canberra and then to Paris, without further delay.

Yours sincerely

Judy Messer
CHAIRPERSON

ADDRESS BY THE HON. BARRY COHEN, M.P., MINISTER FOR ARTS, HERITAGE
AND ENVIRONMENT TO THE 1985 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SYMPOSIUM
8 NOVEMBER 1985

NCC

I HAD PLANNED TONIGHT TO GIVE YOU A LONG DISSERTATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY AND OUR BASIC PHILOSOPHY THAT WE DO NOT HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT AT A CONFERENCE SUCH AS THIS, IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO TALK ABOUT THE ACT THAT HAS GENERATED MORE DEBATE AND CONTROVERSY AND MORE MISUNDERSTANDING THAN ANY PIECE OF KEY ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION DURING THE PAST DECADE. I REFER, OF COURSE, TO THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES CONSERVATION ACT.

THE ACT AS YOU KNOW WAS PASSED WITH THE EXPRESS INTENTION OF STOPPING THE BUILDING OF THE GORDON-BELOW-FRANKLIN DAM IN THE SOUTH WEST WILDERNESS AREA OF TASMANIA. THE HIGH COURT RULED BY A NARROW MAJORITY OF FOUR TO THREE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD THE POWER TO STOP AN ACTION THAT WOULD HAVE IRREPARABLY DAMAGED OR DESTROYED AN AREA IN AUSTRALIA ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST. THE ACT COULD BE TRIGGERED SIMPLY BY NOMINATING AN AREA AND I HAVE HAD LEGAL ADVICE - NOT TESTED IN THE HIGH COURT - THAT IT MIGHT BE INVOKED BY PLACING AN AREA ON AN INDICATIVE LIST TO BE CONSIDERED FOR NOMINATION.

SINCE THE PASSING OF THE ACT AND THE SUBSEQUENT HIGH COURT DECISION, ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATIONS SEEM TO ME TO HAVE MADE A SERIES OF ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT WORLD HERITAGE LISTING AND THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES CONSERVATION ACT THAT DO NOT STAND UP TO DETAILED EXAMINATION AND TOTALLY IGNORE THE PRACTICAL AND POLITICAL REALITIES THAT FLOW FROM INVOKING THE ACT.

ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT MADE IT CLEAR AT THE TIME OF THE PASSAGE OF THE ACT THAT ITS USE WAS CONSIDERED AS A LAST RESORT, WITHIN MONTHS OF THE HIGH COURT DECISION ENVIRONMENT GROUPS WERE DEMANDING THE NOMINATION OF THE GREATER DAINTREE AREA FOR THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN AN ATTEMPT TO STOP THE BUILDING OF A DIRT ROAD BY THE DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL FROM CAPE TRIBULATION TO BLOOMFIELD, A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY THIRTY KILOMETRES OF WHICH APPROXIMATELY ONE THIRD IS THROUGH SPECTACULAR RAINFOREST. THIS WAS LATER EXTENDED TO INCORPORATE ALL THE NORTH QUEENSLAND TROPICAL RAINFOREST AREA.

THE MAJOR ASSUMPTION THAT WAS MADE THEN AND REPEATED AD INFINITUM SINCE, IS THAT IF THE COMMONWEALTH TOOK THE STEP PROPOSED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, THE GREATER DAINTREE WOULD BE SAVED, THE ROAD WOULD BE CLOSED AND THE RAINFOREST RESTORED TO ITS PREVIOUS STATE. JUST AS "NO DAMS" BECAME THE SLOGAN FOR THE SOUTH WEST, "WORLD HERITAGE LISTING" BECAME THE CATCH-CRY TO SAVE THE RAINFORESTS.

I DON'T OBJECT TO PEOPLE PUTTING THAT PARTICULAR PROPOSITION BUT I AM IRRITATED BY THE DOGMATIC ASSUMPTION THAT FIRSTLY THE ACT OF NOMINATION WILL AUTOMATICALLY MEAN THE GUARANTEED PRESERVATION OF ALL QUEENSLAND NORTH TROPICAL RAINFORESTS AND THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TRACK TO GO DOWN. I MAY HAVE MISSED THEM BUT I HAVE NOT SEEN ONE SINGLE ARTICLE IN THE PRESS OR TV, OTHER THAN THOSE QUOTING ME, THAT SUGGESTS THAT THERE JUST MIGHT BE ANOTHER WAY.

UNFORTUNATELY, MANY OF OUR MEDIA PEOPLE HAVE NEITHER THE TIME NOR

THE INCLINATION TO DO THE RESEARCH NECESSARY TO FULLY EXPLORE WHAT WOULD FOLLOW WORLD HERITAGE LISTING.

LEAVING ASIDE THE POLITICS OF THE SITUATION FOR THE MOMENT, LET ME TRY TO DO WHAT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE NO ONE HAS TRIED TO DO SO FAR AND IMAGINE WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO PROCEED TO NOMINATE THE NORTH QUEENSLAND RAINFORESTS FOR THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST. AS I POINTED OUT, THE ACT OF NOMINATION IS SUFFICIENT TO TRIGGER THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES CONSERVATION ACT.

IMMEDIATELY THIS HAPPENED I WOULD ASSUME IT WOULD BE EXPECTED OF US THAT WE WOULD TELL THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT TO CEASE ANY FURTHER WORK ON THE ROAD AND CLOSE IT DOWN, WITH NO DOUBT THE COMMONWEALTH PROVIDING THE RESOURCES TO ATTEMPT TO RESTORE IT TO AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE ITS PREVIOUS STATE. INCIDENTALLY, I UNDERSTAND THAT DURING THE PAST THIRTY OR FORTY YEARS TWO OR THREE ROADS HAVE BEEN BUILT THROUGH THE SAME AREA AND WERE EVENTUALLY ABANDONED AND GRADUALLY OVERRUN BY RAINFOREST.

WITHIN MINUTES OF US TELLING THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT TO TAKE SUCH ACTION I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WE WOULD BE IN THE HIGH COURT. NO ONE CAN ACCURATELY TELL THE OUTCOME OF SUCH AN ENCOUNTER BUT IT WAS OUR ADVICE THAT WHEREAS THE HIGH COURT HAD RULED NARROWLY IN OUR FAVOUR IN THE FRANKLIN RIVER CASE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE DAM WOULD IRREPARABLY DAMAGE THE REGION, IN THE CASE OF THE DAINTREE ROAD THERE WOULD BE A QUESTION WHETHER THE CONSTRUCTION WOULD CAUSE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO THE WET TROPIC RAINFORESTS AS A WHOLE.

DOES THE BUILDING OF A 30 KILOMETRE ROAD, ONLY PART OF WHICH IS THROUGH RAINFOREST, CONSTITUTE AN IRREPARABLY DAMAGING THREAT TO THE WHOLE OF THE NORTH QUEENSLAND RAINFORESTS. REMEMBERING THAT ALMOST ALL OF THE COASTAL STRIP WAS ONCE COVERED IN TROPICAL RAINFORESTS AND THAT DURING THE PAST 100 YEARS MUCH OF IT HAS BEEN CRISSCROSSED WITH ROADS, SETTLED BY NUMEROUS TOWNS AND VILLAGES, TURNED OVER TO SUGAR CANE AND A HOST OF FARMING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

THE ARGUMENT THAT THE ROAD WAS BEING BUILT TO OPEN UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOGGING, RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND MINING WOULD IN MY VIEW NOT CARRY WEIGHT IN A HIGH COURT CASE. THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT HAS DENIED EMPHATICALLY THAT THAT IS ITS INTENTION AND NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVE OTHERWISE. A PARTY CAN'T BE FOUND GUILTY BECAUSE WE SUSPECT THEY MAY DO SOMETHING. WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT AT FACE VALUE THEIR ASSURANCES THAT THE ROAD WAS SOLELY TO CONNECT CAPE TRIBULATION TO BLOOMFIELD, FOR ITS TOURIST VALUE AND TO IMPROVE ACCESS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

I KNOW THAT TO SOME DEDICATED ENVIRONMENTALISTS ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE BUILDING OF THE ROAD ISN'T THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT IS CONSIDERED HIGH TREASON. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT IT WOULD BE SEVEN HIGH COURT JUDGES WHO WOULD MAKE THAT DECISION NOT THE AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION; AND THEY WOULD HAVE HAD TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT.

FIRSTLY, THAT AT THE PEAK OF THE DEBATE FROM LATE 1983 TO LATE 1984 WHILE THE ROAD WAS BEING BUILT, THE NORTH QUEENSLAND RAINFORESTS WERE NOT ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND WERE NOT BEING CONSIDERED FOR NOMINATION. A FAIRLY LARGE SLICE OF THE RAINFORESTS HAD AT THAT TIME NOT EVEN BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE NATIONAL ESTATE. IN FACT, I CAN'T RECALL THE MATTER BEING RAISED WITH ME PRIOR TO THE BUILDING OF THE ROAD.

SECONDLY, UNLIKE THE SOUTH WEST TASMANIA WILDERNESS PARKS, THE NORTH QUEENSLAND RAINFORESTS WERE AND STILL ARE NOT WITHIN CLEARLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES. SOME OF THE AREA IS NATIONAL PARK, SOME STATE FORESTS AND CROWN LAND, AND A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION IS IN PRIVATE OWNERSHIP FOR A MULTITUDE OF PURPOSES INCLUDING RESIDENTIAL, TOURISM, SUGAR-CANE FARMS, AND LOGGING ACTIVITIES.

AS LAWYERS, I AM SURE YOU CAN IMAGINE THE FUN THAT WOULD HAVE ENSUED EVERY TIME SOME ACTION OCCURRED THAT EARNED THE IRE OF THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT.

LET ME ASSURE YOU THEY ARE VIGILANT ALMOST TO THE POINT WHERE SOME ARE DEMANDING NOTHING MUST EVER HAPPEN IN A WORLD HERITAGE AREA. FOR EXAMPLE I HAVE ON FILE A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE A.C.F., OR MOSELY, DEMANDING THAT I TELL NEVILLE WRAN NOT TO PROCEED TO BUILD A 30 FT WINDMILL ON LORD HOWE ISLAND UNDER THE THREAT OF USING THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES CONSERVATION ACT. I RESISTED THE TEMPTATION TO PASS THE MESSAGE ON TO THE PREMIER FOR TWO REASONS, ONE OF WHICH WAS MY STRONG SUPPORT FOR WIND POWER AND THE OTHER I CAN LEAVE TO YOUR IMAGINATION. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN AND OUT OF THE HIGH COURT LIKE THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKET TEAM ON AN ENGLISH WICKET.

THESE ARGUMENTS HAVE NOT OF COURSE BEEN ACCEPTED BY MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE ASSERTED THAT WIN OR LOSE WE SHOULD HAVE GONE DOWN THAT TRACK. THAT'S ALL VERY WELL FOR THEM, BUT THERE ARE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS A GOVERNMENT HAS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAN "DEATH AND GLORY" DECISIONS ABOUT THE NEXT BATTLE.

ITS BEEN SUGGESTED BY SECTIONS OF THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT, BACKED UP BY THE AGE AND THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD EDITORS, THAT THE ONLY WAY TO GO WAS TO HAVE A HEAD-ON CONFRONTATION WITH THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT - IN OTHER WORDS A RE-ENACTMENT OF THE FRANKLIN SAGA. I MAY BE A LITTLE CYNICAL, BUT I HAVE A VAGUE SUSPICION THAT THOSE WHO UTTER THAT BATTLE CRY ENJOY THE BRAWL RATHER THAN THE RESULT AND THAT SECTIONS OF THE MEDIA SEEM MORE THAN A TRIFLE DISAPPOINTED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DENIED THE LATEST GLADIATORIAL SPECTACLE.

THE HAWKE GOVERNMENT, AND MYSELF IN PARTICULAR, ARE ACCUSED OF BEING 'GUTLESS' BECAUSE WE WON'T TAKE ON JOH OVER THE DAINTREE.

IGNORING FOR THE MOMENT THAT WE TOOK ON ROBIN GRAY OVER THE FRANKLIN, THAT WE 'TOOK ON' THE NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT OVER KAKADU AND AYERS ROCK, AND THAT WE TOOK ON QUEENSLAND OVER MORETON ISLAND, AND THAT IN EACH CASE WE WON THE ENVIRONMENTAL BATTLE IRRESPECTIVE OF THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, ONE WONDERS HOW MANY TIMES ONE HAS TO PROVE HOW 'MACHO' ONE IS TO EARN THE PLAUDITS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT. DOES EVERY ISSUE HAVE TO BE DECIDED ON THE BATTLEFIELD? ISN'T IT POSSIBLE THAT THERE MAY JUST BE ANOTHER WAY? I'M NOT SAYING THAT WE SHOULD NOT FIGHT IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, IF ONE BELIEVES THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS VICTORY IS POSSIBLE, BUT IF YOU BELIEVE THE ODDS ARE AGAINST YOU AND IF YOU BELIEVE THE PRICE OF DEFEAT IS TOO HIGH, THEN WHY NOT TRY ANOTHER WAY? WHY NOT TRY A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT? I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WAS THE WAY OF THE PEACE LOVERS.

IT'S BEEN SUGGESTED BY SOME THAT IT IS POSITIVELY INDÉCENT TO MENTION THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF USING THE WORLD HERITAGE ACT TO STOP THE BUILDING OF THE ROAD IN THE DAINTREE. THEY BELIEVE WE SHOULD CHARGE AHEAD IGNORING ALL THE CASUALTIES AND PRETENDING THAT STOPPING THE ROAD WAS THE SOLE OBJECTIVE OF THE HAWKE GOVERNMENT - IT'S RAISON D'ETRE. IN LATE 1984, JUST PRIOR TO THE ELECTION, IT WAS PUT TO ME BY THOSE OF MUCH NOBLER SPIRIT THAN I THAT WE WERE ACTUALLY CONSIDERING THE LIKELY POLITICAL IMPACT OF PLACING THE QUEENSLAND RAINFOREST ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND DOING BATTLE WITH THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT.

I SAID THAT HAD WE DONE SO THE DEBATE WOULD HAVE SHIFTED FROM THE ROAD TO ONE ABOUT STATES' RIGHTS AND THAT IT WAS A BATTLE THAT I DID NOT THINK WE COULD WIN. A FIVE PER CENT SWING AGAINST US IN QUEENSLAND SIMILAR TO WHAT HAD OCCURRED IN TASMANIA WOULD LOSE US EIGHT SEATS AND IN THE LAST ELECTION THAT WOULD HAVE MEANT GOVERNMENT. THIS COMMENT SEEMS TO HAVE CAUSED ENORMOUS CONSTERNATION IN CERTAIN QUARTERS AND A DEGREE OF SHOCK/HORROR THAT A GOVERNMENT COULD POSSIBLY CONSIDER THE POLITICAL IMPLICATION OF AN ACTION IT WAS PROPOSING TO TAKE. THE TONE OF THE COMMENTS HAS BEEN A HIGH MORAL ONE THAT IMPLIES THAT THERE IS RIGHT AND WRONG AND THAT IRRESPECTIVE OF THE COST OR THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ONLY ONE CHOICE. "DEATH BEFORE DISHONOUR" IGNORES THE RESPONSIBILITIES ANY GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY A LABOR GOVERNMENT, HAS TO THE AGED, THE INFIRM, THE UNEMPLOYED, THE UNDERPRIVILEGED, AND IGNORES IF I MAY SAY SO, ALL THE OTHER GREAT THINGS A LABOR GOVERNMENT CAN DO FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

IF I MAY JUST PAUSE FOR A COMMERCIAL BEFORE I TRACE WITH YOU THE ALTERNATIVES, LET ME STATE WITH PRIDE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HAWKE GOVERNMENT IN THE ENVIRONMENT AREA: WE STOPPED THE GORDON-BELOW-FRANKLIN DAM. WE'VE PROTECTED MORETON ISLAND. WE'VE GREATLY ENLARGED KAKADU NATIONAL PARK WITH THE ADDITION OF STAGE 2. WE'VE NOW INCLUDED 98 PER CENT OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF IN THE MARINE PARK. WE'VE DRAMATICALLY INCREASED FUNDING TO VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION GROUPS. WE'VE RATIFIED THE CITES CONVENTION AND VOTED LARGE INCREASES IN FUNDS FOR NATURE CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE PROGRAMS. ALL THIS, AND MORE, IN ONLY TWO AND A HALF YEARS.

LET ME NOW EXPLAIN WHY I BELIEVE A DIFFERENT APPROACH WAS NECESSARY. I ACCEPT THAT WE MAY HAVE WON THE DAY THROUGH WORLD HERITAGE LISTING, ALTHOUGH OUR ADVICE WAS THAT WE WOULD NOT. IMAGINE, THOUGH, IF YOU WILL HOW WE WOULD HAVE LOOKED IF WE HAD LOST. IT WOULD HAVE SET BACK THE PROTECTION INHERENT IN THE ACT TO AN ENORMOUS DEGREE. IF WE HAD WON THE CHANCES ARE THAT THE ROAD WOULD HAVE STOPPED BUT THAT ALL OTHER DAMAGING ACTIVITIES NOW AND IN THE FUTURE WOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO HIGH COURT CHALLENGES.

THERE IS AN ASSUMPTION BY A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT ONCE AN AREA IS PLACED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST, IT SOMEHOW OR OTHER BECOMES COMMONWEALTH PROPERTY. IT DOES NOT. THE EXAMPLE OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF HAS BEEN WIDELY QUOTED. BUT THE GREAT BARRIER REEF REGION, UP TO THE LOW WATER MARK, IS COMMONWEALTH PROPERTY UNDER DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENTS. THE AREAS WITH WORLD HERITAGE LISTING REMAIN SOVEREIGN TERRITORY OF THE STATES IN WHICH THEY ARE LOCATED. ALL THE COMMONWEALTH CAN DO IS TO ACT UNDER ITS TREATY OBLIGATIONS TO ENSURE SERIOUS DAMAGE IS NOT DONE TO THEM. THERE ARE THOSE WHO REGARD ANY ACTION IN A WORLD HERITAGE AREA AS DAMAGING. TO SOME THEY HAVE ACHIEVED "SACRED SITE" STATUS AND SHOULD REMAIN INVIOLEATE. ONCE AGAIN I SUSPECT BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL WILDERNESS QUALITIES OF SOUTH WEST TASMANIA THERE WOULD

BE THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT LITERALLY NO CHANGES, NO INTERFERENCE, OR ACTIVITY OF ANY KIND SHOULD BE PERMITTED.

THIS IS NOT RESTRICTED TO AN ENVIRONMENTAL VIEW. HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM AN INSPECTION OF SHARK BAY NEAR CARNARVON (WA) WHICH IS BEING MOOTED AS A POSSIBLE WORLD HERITAGE SITE. I CAN ATTEST TO THE GENUINE FEARS THAT EXIST AMONGST THE FARMING AND TOURIST COMMUNITIES OF THAT REGION, WHO ARE SCARED WITLESS AT THE PROSPECT OF THE AREA BEING PLACED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST. INSTEAD OF IT BEING WELCOMED AS A MATTER OF GREAT PRIDE DUE TO ITS ENHANCED STATUS AND TOURIST POTENTIAL, THE LOCALS ARE TERRIFIED THAT THE AREA IS GOING TO BE 'TAKEN AWAY' FROM THEM. OUR DISCUSSIONS WERE CONSTANTLY LACED WITH EXPRESSIONS SUCH AS "WE ARE NOT GIVING UP ONE INCH" AND "YOU CAN'T TAKE THIS OR THAT".

AT THE RISK OF REPEATING MYSELF, I MUST REITERATE THAT THESE AREAS REMAIN UNDER STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND IF WE ARE TO ENSURE GENUINE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THESE UNIQUE AREAS, THEN WE CAN AND MUST DO IT WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE STATE GOVERNMENTS. HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY GET SUCH CO-OPERATION IF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE CONSTANTLY AT LOGGERHEADS? THERE ARE ALWAYS DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS. THAT IS EXACERBATED WHEN THE GOVERNMENTS ARE OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL PERSUASIONS.

IT IS ALMOST INTOLERABLE IF ADDED TO THAT OUR RELATIONS ARE FURTHER SOURED BY PUBLIC SLANGING MATCHES, CONSTANT HIGH COURT CHALLENGES, AND COMMONWEALTH/STATE RELATIONS AS ELECTION ISSUES. NOW, SOMETIMES SUCH CLASHES ARE UNAVOIDABLE. IT IS NOT UNKNOWN FOR THE STATES TO HAVE A "BASH THE FEDS" ELECTION CAMPAIGN. NEVERTHELESS, POLITICS CAN BE AS MUCH ABOUT HUMAN RELATIONS AS IT CAN BE ABOUT POLITICAL RELATIONS.

I'VE TRIED MY BEST TO DEVELOP GOOD WORKING RELATIONS WITH MY STATE COUNTERPARTS IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS. BY AND LARGE I THINK IT HAS WORKED REASONABLY WELL ALTHOUGH FROM TIME TO TIME THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW CROSS WORDS. I HAVE TRIED TO CONVINCE THEM THAT A FEDERAL LABOR GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SEEK TO TAKE OVER CONTROL OF THEIR ACTIVITIES BUT THAT WE HAVE MUTUALLY DESIRABLE GOALS THAT CAN BENEFIT THEIR STATE AND THEREFORE, THE WHOLE COUNTRY. I CAN'T ACHIEVE THAT TRUST IF WE ONLY EVER MEET IN COURT OR IN TELEVISION DEBATES - NEWSWORTHY AS THEY MUST BE FOR THE MEDIA.

RECOGNISING THAT OUR DIMINISHING RAINFORESTS HAD BEEN A CAUSE OF CONSTANT FRICTION FOR MANY YEARS AND THAT THEY WOULD INCREASINGLY BECOME A MAJOR ISSUE IF NOT THE MAJOR ISSUE IN THE FUTURE, I DETERMINED THAT THE ONLY REALISTIC APPROACH WAS THAT ALL THE VARIOUS PARTIES WITH AN ACKNOWLEDGED INTEREST IN RAINFORESTS SHOULD PLAY A PARTICIPATING ROLE IN DEVELOPING A STRATEGY TO SAVE THEM. IN FEBRUARY 1984, I CONVENED A RAINFOREST CONFERENCE IN CAIRNS THAT BROUGHT TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS, THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT, RESEARCH INTERESTS THE UNIONS, AND THE TIMBER INDUSTRY AND FOLLOWED THAT UP WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF A WORKING GROUP ON RAINFOREST CONSERVATION TO DEVELOP THE STRATEGY. TO MY DELIGHT ALL PARTIES INCLUDING THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATED IN BOTH THE CONFERENCE AND THE WORKING GROUP. IN SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR THE WORKING GROUP REPORTED TO ME WITH A RANGE OF RECOMMENDATIONS THAT I BELIEVE CAN BE THE GENESIS OF PRESERVING WHAT IS LEFT OF AUSTRALIA'S VALUABLE RAINFORESTS. MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT IT TOOK ABOUT SIX MONTHS LONGER THAN I HAD HOPED IT WOULD TAKE TO COMPLETE THE REPORT. TIME DOES NOT PERMIT ME TO QUOTE IN FULL THE EIGHT PAGES OF RECOMMENDATIONS BUT THE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS ARE:

- a. a survey to identify areas for reservation to ensure the preservation of the full range of rainforest conservation values taking full account of existing information;
- b. preservation as a matter of priority of Crown rainforest lands of high conservation value, including key virgin rainforest areas, in national parks and equivalent reserves;
- c. provision of adequate compensation to employers, contractors and employees disadvantaged in any situations where existing commitments to industry are revised in the interests of protection of such areas;
- d. consideration of nomination of rainforest areas in Australia for World Heritage listing;
- e. acquisition of key areas of privately owned rainforest for preservation in national parks and equivalent reserves;
- f. a review of legislative, administrative and fiscal measures, including royalties, relating to the preservation of existing rainforest;
- g. acquisition of suitable land for, and establishment of, plantations as an alternative to logging of rainforest in the long term;
- h. an urgent review of the rainforest timber industry to investigate the economic and social consequences of phasing down or terminating logging, of providing alternative economically viable sources of timber and employment if available and of providing compensation to employers, contractors and employees that would be disadvantaged;
- i. preparation of management plans and provision of management measures for parks and reserves containing rainforest;
- j. provision of interpretative centres and visitor facilities for parks and reserves containing rainforest;
- k. establishment of a National Rainforest Research Institute, with supporting funding to:
 - undertake research to support the improved conservation and management of Australian rainforest,
 - co-ordinate and promote collaborative research programs, and
 - promote rainforest management training through existing educational institutions;
- l. involvement in international activities to assist in the management and conservation of rainforests.
- m. limiting further alienation of rainforest, pending review of the reasons for any proposed alienation and the conservation status of the rainforest involved;
- n. encouragement of local government to recognise the conservation values of rainforest on private land and to adopt appropriate measures to protect these values giving particular attention to limiting the fragmentation of areas of existing rainforest;
- o. use of the best endeavours of all governments to limit the clearing of privately owned rainforest for urban, agricultural or infrastructure development; and
- p. avoidance of clearing publicly owned rainforest if there is any feasible alternative, and subjecting any significant proposal for such clearing to environmental impact assessment before a decision to proceed is made;
- q. establish a Rainforest Advisory Committee with appropriate membership to advise the Commonwealth Government, through the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, on the expenditure of funds and other aspects of the National Rainforest Conservation Program; and
- r. provide appropriate additional Commonwealth Government staff and resources to support the work of the Rainforest Advisory Committee and to administer the National Rainforest Conservation Program.

THE COST OF IMPLEMENTING SUCH A PROGRAM IS ESTIMATED AT \$10.15 MILLION. THE WORKING GROUP REPORT IS OUT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT UNTIL 15 NOVEMBER AND MY DEPARTMENT IS EXAMINING THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND PREPARING A CABINET SUBMISSION.

LET ME SUMMARISE WHAT I THINK OUR GOALS OUGHT TO BE. FIRSTLY, I THINK WE HAVE TO PROTECT THE AREAS OF HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL, SCIENTIFIC AND AESTHETIC VALUES.

SECONDLY, I BELIEVE WE NEED TO CONVINCE THE COMMUNITY THAT IN OUR RAINFOREST WE HAVE A VALUABLE RESOURCE NOT ONLY FOR ITS INTRINSIC VALUE AS UNTOUCHED WILDERNESS OR FOR ITS HABITAT VALUE FOR RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES BUT, AT A PRAGMATIC LEVEL, AS AN ECONOMIC RESOURCE AND FOR ITS INTERNATIONAL TOURIST VALUE. NO ONE HAS TO CONVINCE THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT THAT THE GREAT BARRIER REEF IS OF ENORMOUS ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE AS THE WORLD'S GREATEST CORAL ECOSYSTEM. THEY SEE THE EVIDENCE DAILY AS PEOPLE FLOCK FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO EXPERIENCE ITS DELIGHTS. I BELIEVE PROPERLY PROMOTED, PLANNED AND WITH SYMPATHETIC TOURIST INFRASTRUCTURE AND INTERPRETATIVE CENTRES, THE RAINFORESTS OF AUSTRALIA CAN BECOME ONE OF THE GREAT TOURIST ATTRACTIONS OF THIS NATION.

THE WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND, LED BY THE INTREPID YVONNE CUNNINGHAM, HAVE DESIGNED A MAGNIFICENT CONCEPT TO TAKE A FEW HECTARES OF RAINFOREST AND BUILD TOURIST WALKWAYS IN THE FOREST TOPS THEMSELVES, ENABLING PEOPLE TO WANDER THROUGH THE FORESTS BOTH DAY AND NIGHT AND EXPERIENCE THE MYRIAD DELIGHTS IT HAS TO OFFER. I THINK A LIMITED NUMBER OF VENTURES OF THIS NATURE ARE EXCITING AND IMAGINATIVE AND OFFER A GREATER LONG-TERM FUTURE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT THAN DOES THE LOGGING OF A SMALL NUMBER OF TREES THAT, ONCE THEY ARE TAKEN, REMOVE THAT VIRGINAL QUALITY SO MUCH ADMIRERD IN OUR FORESTS. AT THE MOMENT ALL THE TOURIST ACTIVITIES CONCENTRATE ON THE REEF. IN TIME THE RAINFORESTS CAN COMPLEMENT THE REEF AS A WORLD CLASS ATTRACTION. PUT SIMPLY, I FORESEE THE DAY VERY SOON WHEN WE WILL RECOGNISE THERE ARE MORE JOBS IN PRESERVING THE RAINFORESTS THAN IN DESTROYING THEM.

JOINT ACTION BY THE COMMONWEALTH AND QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT THE RAINFORESTS COULD BE FOLLOWED LATER BY CONSIDERATION OF WORLD HERITAGE LISTING ALMOST AS A FORMALITY. IT IS MY VIEW THAT IT WOULD HELP THE TOURIST PROMOTION ENORMOUSLY.

AUSTRALIA'S RAINFORESTS COULD THEN TAKE THEIR PLACE ALONGSIDE OTHER WORLD HERITAGE ATTRACTIONS SUCH AS: PERSEPOLIS, THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM, VATICAN CITY, TAJ MAHAL, CHARTRES CATHEDRAL, PALACE AND PARK OF VERSAILLES, PALACE AND PARK OF FONTAINEBLEAU, GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, THE PYRAMIDS, AUSCHWITZ, YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK, STATUE OF LIBERTY, HISTORIC CENTRE OF ROME, ALL OF WHICH ARE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL TOURIST ATTRACTIONS.

THIRDLY, THERE IS A FORTUNATE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE WORST SUGAR CANE AREAS AND THE BEST LAND FOR GROWING RAINFOREST SPECIES. DURING MY VISIT EARLIER THIS YEAR TO THE CSIRO RAINFOREST RESEARCH CENTRE AT ATHERTON, I WAS TOLD BY THE SCIENTISTS THAT MUCH NEEDED RAINFOREST SPECIES COULD BE CULTIVATED IN PLANTATIONS ON THAT POOR LAND NOT UTILISED BY SUGAR CANE FARMS. AS WELL DURING MY VISIT A FEW WEEKS AGO TO CAIRNS I WAS APPROACHED BY SOME SHIRE COUNCILLORS ON BEHALF OF IMPOVERISHED SUGAR FARMERS SEEKING TO DISPOSE OF VIRGINAL RAINFOREST LAND UNSUITABLE FOR SUGAR CANE. THIS SEEMS TO ME TO BE ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WORTH PURSUING. IN CASES WHERE THE DESPERATE PLIGHT OF THE SUGAR CANE FARMERS COULD COINCIDE WITH FEASIBLE OPTIONS TO PRESERVE THE RAINFORESTS.

EMPLOYMENT IS OBVIOUSLY A MAJOR FACTOR IN ANY DECISION TO STOP LOGGING FOR TIMBER. HOWEVER, I UNDERSTAND THAT AT MOST THERE ARE ONLY A COUPLE OF YEARS LEFT TO LOG VIRGINAL RAINFOREST. WE WILL BE PUTTING TO THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT, THE TIMBER INDUSTRY, AND THE EMPLOYEES THAT THE VALUE OF VIRGINITY ONCE LOST, CANNOT BE REGAINED. THAT THE LITTLE LEFT WILL BE OF MORE VALUE FOR ITS UNIQUENESS THAN FOR ITS TIMBER. WE NEED TO FIND ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR THOSE WHO MAY LOSE THEIR JOBS IF LOGGING CEASES. THOSE SORTS OF ASSURANCES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THOSE WHO MAY FACE UNEMPLOYMENT. I HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN THE VIEW THAT IF THE COMMUNITY DECIDES THAT IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST AN INDUSTRY SHOULD BE CURTAILED, THEN THE WHOLE NATION SHOULD BEAR THE COST. I AM SURE THAT WITH CAREFUL PLANNING SOME IMAGINATIVE TOURIST ATTRACTIONS AND INTERPRETATIVE CENTRES THE SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE NOW EMPLOYED IN THE LOGGING OF RAINFOREST TIMBER CAN BE ACCOMMODATED IN THE NEW VENTURES THAT WILL EMERGE. WHO BETTER TO EXPLAIN THE VIRTUES OF RAINFOREST THAN THOSE WHO HAVE LIVED IN IT ALL THEIR LIFE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT IS MY VIEW THAT ONLY IF A TOTAL AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT AND THE STATE GOVERNMENTS CAN WE HOPE TO PRESERVE THE QUICKLY DIMINISHING RAINFORESTS. I AM VERY HEARTENED BY RESPONSES FROM THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT WHICH INDICATE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO TALK TO US ALONG THESE LINES. THE GOVERNMENT OF WHICH I AM A MEMBER, HAS CHOSEN TO GO DOWN THE PATH OF NEGOTIATION. FOR THAT WE HAVE BEEN CRITICISED AS TAKING THE SOFT OPTION.

I THINK HISTORY WILL SHOW THAT THE SOFT OPTION WAS THE WORLD HERITAGE LISTING THAT THE HARD OPTION WAS THE LONG, SLOW, NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT I AM TRYING TO ACHIEVE. NO POLITICIAN LIKES CRITICISM AND ONLY TIME WILL TELL WHETHER I WAS RIGHT TO TRY THIS WAY.

LET'S HOPE THAT IN THE INTERESTS OF AUSTRALIA'S UNIQUE AND BEAUTIFUL RAINFORESTS, I WAS RIGHT.

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES,
ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRIORITIES IN
ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND
HERITAGE**

**and
STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN
AUSTRALIA 1985**

Reports and Ministerial Statement

Mr COHEN (Robertson—Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment)—by leave—It is with great pleasure that I present to the House two important reports—'The Objectives, Achievements and Priorities in Environment, Conservation and Heritage' and 'The State of the Environment in Australia 1985'. It is our intention that in the future an annual state of the environment report will be made to the Parliament. This initial report is therefore a landmark in environmental monitoring and planning.

Let me say at the outset that I believe the Hawke Government has the proudest record in protecting and preserving Australia's environment of any government in Australian history. It has been the practice of some of our critics to denigrate that effort because anything less than perfection is unacceptable. Comparisons have been made between the record of this Government and the Whitlam Government, but the Fraser Government is rarely mentioned. It is a common practice to look back with nostalgia to the past and imagine that all was perfect then. The Whitlam Government had a great record on the environment but history will show that so too has this Government.

Let me remind the House of just what has been achieved in the short space of 2½ years. The first legislative action of the Hawke Government, and it was with great pleasure that I introduced the Bill, was to introduce the World Heritage (Properties Conservation) Act 1983 which ultimately led to preventing construction of the Gordon below Franklin dam in the south-west Tasmanian wilderness area. This historic legislation, introduced to fulfil Australia's international obligation as a signatory to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, was hailed internationally as a landmark in preserving places and sites of unique natural beauty. Following the narrow High Court of Australia decision in our favour the Government negotiated a compensation package with the Tasmanian Government totalling almost \$300m. The Commonwealth and Tasmanian governments have put in place joint management arrange-

ments for the protection and management of the Tasmanian world heritage area. The arrangement consists of a ministerial council, standing committee of officials and a consultative committee. The Commonwealth has provided \$2m this financial year and will provide a further \$2m in 1986-87.

In 1975 the Whitlam Government passed the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act and the Fraser Government, to its credit, managed to obtain the co-operation of the Queensland Government to make the park a reality. However, by the time we came to office only 14 per cent of the Great Barrier Reef region had been incorporated within the park. After approximately 18 months this Government had increased that figure to 98.5 per cent. Effectively the whole of the region is now within the park making it the greatest marine park in the world—great not only because of its size but because it contains the most complex coral reef ecosystem anywhere in the world. At the same time the Government introduced regulations to prohibit oil drilling in those parts of the region not included in the park. This ensures that oil drilling cannot occur anywhere within the Great Barrier Reef region. We are also working to introduce legislation to control off-shore developments in any zoned section of the Marine Park and have commenced major funding into research on the crown of thorns starfish.

It has been one of the complaints of people who have been to the Barrier Reef, particularly those from overseas, that because of weather conditions they have often not been able to get out to the reef itself. The provision of off-shore developments on the reef will make it easier for people to visit it and spend time there. For those who cannot make it because of weather conditions or because of the cost, the Commonwealth and the State Government are developing the Great Barrier Reef wonderland complex on the mainland at Townsville as a Bicentennial project. I pay tribute to the work of the honourable member for Herbert (Mr Lindsay) who has been so assiduous in promoting this project. There can be few greater conservation achievements than the establishment of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Australia has five areas on the world heritage list. They are: Lord Howe Island, the Willandra Lakes Region, Western Tasmania Wilderness National Parks, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Kakadu National Park. The latter was established by the Fraser Government but in February 1984 the Hawke Government declared

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stage II which more than doubled the size of the park. The Government intends to enlarge the park even further. During the past 24 years there has been a considerable upgrading of the facilities in Kakadu to the point where it is now one of the finest parks in the world. More is still to be done but during the last three Budgets a total of \$15m has been spent, with much more upgrading planned for the future. For many years after the great battle to save Fraser Island a much quieter but no less intense battle was fought to stop sand mining on Moreton Island. In February 1984 the Government was able to announce that there would be no mining on Moreton Island.

It is not my intention to read out all the environment achievements of the Government. They are all in the report. However, I would like to mention briefly a few more to illustrate the depth and breadth of what has been done during a relatively short period in government. One of the truly great pieces of environment legislation introduced by the Whitlam Government was the Australian Heritage Commission Act which established the body to oversee the Register of the National Estate and to provide funding and guidance for its protection and preservation. Ten years on, we are reviewing this legislation through a process of community participation. The aim of the review is to examine the scope of the Commonwealth's role in the conservation of the National Estate. A few days ago, as part of this review, a major seminar was held in Canberra to enable the wide variety of interests concerned about the National Estate to discuss some of the problems that have arisen with the processes of nomination and listing in recent years. I opened that seminar but had to leave to fly to Adelaide to attend the historic ministerial meeting on the Murray-Darling basin. The initiatives which flow from that meeting of four Labor governments have provided a framework for the conservation and development of this major region.

During our time in office we have doubled funding to the Australian Heritage Commission enabling it to increase its information and research activities. More remains to be done. I am aware that there is still a need for increased staff and facilities to catch up with much of the backlog of work that accumulated during the Fraser Government's period in office. Although the real level of expenditure through the National Estate grants program has been maintained by this Government it is still below the level achieved in the 1975-76 Budget, if one excludes the very considerable funding provided

through the community employment program. The report mentions a figure of \$12m provided for heritage projects throughout Australia in 1983-84 under the CEP. However, more recent figures provided to me would put that figure at over \$15m.

Another innovation introduced by this Government to protect areas of national heritage significance was the provision of income tax concessions to those who make donations of property of national heritage significance to the National Trust. Another Whitlam Government initiative was the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974 that introduced into Australia the concept of environmental impact statements and public inquiries into matters of significant national importance. The latter led to the inquiries into Fraser Island and uranium mining. The Government has been reviewing this legislation to improve the effectiveness of the Act and to increase public participation in the assessment of projects being examined under its administrative procedures. I expect to be able to make a statement soon about the introduction of legislation to give effect to the Government's review.

In the area of planning and management we have tabled and later endorsed the national conservation strategy. The plan for a strategy was initiated by the Fraser Government and brought to fruition under the excellent guidance of Sir Rupert Myers. To quote the report of the interim consultative committee, the endorsement implies agreement with the objectives and strategic principles of the national conservation strategy and a willingness, in principle, to implement the priority national actions, in co-operation with development and conservation interests, taking into account Australia's federal, constitutional, legislative and administrative framework, and the general economic climate.

A test of the community's desire to protect and conserve our environment will be determined by our willingness to implement the national conservation strategy and to not just pay lip service to its goals and objectives.

There can be few more important areas for action than in the area of environmental pollution and contamination. Although much of the responsibility for this problem lies with the States and Territory governments the Commonwealth is playing a leading role in cleaning up the mess. We have ratified the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter—commonly known as the London Dumping Convention—and have pro-

claimed the Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981 which regulates the dumping and incineration of wastes at sea. We have also announced the intention to introduce a national notification and assessment scheme for chemicals and completed the first stage of compilation of an Australian inventory of existing chemicals. Also an Environment Contaminants Division has been established within my Department.

Last Tuesday, I was in Melbourne to open a three-day national conference—organised by my Department, together with the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works—entitled National Strategies for Managing Hazardous Waste. I pay particular tribute today to the honourable member for La Trobe (Mr Milton), who is in the chamber, who was unfortunately unable to attend that conference, at which he was to chair a meeting. He is, of course, the Chairman of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation. He has done a wonderful job. I am sorry that he was not able to honour us with his presence at that meeting. He was kept in by the Whip. It has been my view—and I answered this point today in replying to a question by the honourable member for Riverina-Darling (Mr Hicks)—that for too long the community has pretended, ostrich-like, that if nothing were done about the increasing accumulation of hazardous waste it would somehow go away. Hazardous waste is one of those intractable problems on which the whole community must work together to resolve. Burning waste at sea, or in the cities where the waste is mostly located, transportation overseas or to outback areas in Australia, or simply doing nothing and allowing it to stockpile, all have their good and bad points. There is no perfect solution. From a range of alternatives one must be chosen. There is no point in people criticising each alternative separately and saying how bad that may be. We must all play a part in finding the best of a not very attractive range of alternatives.

One of the most important initiatives introduced by the Whitlam Government was the funding of voluntary conservation groups. The view taken by the then Minister for the Environment, Dr Moss Cass, was that groups who were monitoring the environment on a voluntary basis and acting as a watchdog for the whole community were incapable of competing with the vast resources available to the Government and the private sector. If they were to be able to do a valuable job effectively, the community through its government should provide them with some resources. It was argued that a democracy only

works efficiently if competing interests have some level of equality in their access to resources. I think my very good friend Ralph Nader played a very important role in getting this message over to the community. It was with great pride that I was able to help to bring him here on three separate occasions. It was obvious that there was no way that full equality could ever be achieved between, say, a large multinational enterprise or a government and a voluntary conservation group, but some of the imbalance could be redressed.

When the Whitlam Government went out of office it had appropriated \$450,000 for the groups for 1975-76. The Fraser Government reduced that to \$390,000 and by the time it left office 74 years later it had been further reduced to \$350,000 annually. The result was to reduce dramatically the value in real terms. When in opposition the Labor Party made a commitment to increase the level of funding to that which prevailed in the 1975-76 Budget. This year the voluntary conservation groups will get \$945,000, an increase in only three years of about 270 per cent, which confirms our commitment. The grants were announced last weekend.

There has been a quite significant change in the make-up of the voluntary conservation groups during the past decade. Many new groups have emerged both at a national and regional level and the activities and work load of groups vary enormously. Other factors that need to be taken into account are the contribution of State Governments and the distance factor. By the latter I refer to the type of problems faced by conservation groups in, say, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. To get to a conference held in the eastern States or to travel to the Kimberlys obviously is a severe strain on the resources of those bodies. I have taken this into account by giving those groups significant increases over the past three years.

Mr Ronald Edwards—And they respect this.

Mr COHEN—I thank the honourable member for Stirling. He has been so co-operative in this matter. Regrettably the conservative State Governments now, and in the past, have provided virtually no funds at all for voluntary conservation groups. This is hardly surprising in view of their general antagonism to these bodies and their ideals. But this is not a partisan matter. All States should do more. Let me make it perfectly clear that we expect all State Governments to meet their proper share of support for the voluntary conservation movement. However,

a 270 per cent increase by the Commonwealth in three years is in my view is not a bad effort.

There have been many other achievements by the Hawke Government in the short space of 2½ years, including establishing a National Kangaroo Monitoring Unit in the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and a Kangaroo Advisory Committee. The Committee represents a broad range of community groups including scientists, conservationists, farmers, governments and industry, and advises me on management, export, research and public information. We have also provided through the Commonwealth employment program about \$30m in support of the national tree program, and we have rescinded the provision of taxation incentives for land clearing. Ours is a record of which any government can be proud and, as I said before, one that compares more than favourably with the record of any of its predecessors. However, it is not our intention to rest on our laurels, because much more needs to be done.

Mr Connolly—Yes.

Mr COHEN—I do not deny it. The job will never be completed. The one, in fact virtually the only, criticism of this Government's environment and conservation record is the perceived failure to stop the building of the road through the Greater Daintree Forest from Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield. In a number of speeches, the most recent being my address to the National Environment Law Symposium in Hobart on 8 November 1985, I detailed fully the reasons why we did not invoke the World Heritage Properties Conservation Act. The main reason was very simple. On legal advice from the Attorney-General it would not have worked. A long drawn out court case with the Queensland Government would have saved not one tree in the rainforest and would have made it impossible for the two governments to work together towards protecting, not just the area where the road has been built, but the hundreds of thousands of hectares of tropical rainforest still yet untouched. I am aware that sections of the media and some environmentalists love the 'stop the road' or 'stop the dam' type of confrontation, but knowledgeable scientists have continued to point out that the rainforest through which that road runs, important as it is, is by no means the most important scientifically or environmentally. What is important is that a proper plan of management for the whole of the remaining wet tropical rainforests must be worked out with the Queensland Government and a plan implemented that will ensure Queensland's

future timber needs, guarantee employment for those who presently work in the timber industry, and encourage people in the region to see the rainforests as a tourist attraction on a par with the Great Barrier Reef and requiring similar protection and conservation.

May I say that I am encouraged by a discernible shift in opinion in recent weeks by articles written by John Larkin and Greg Borschman in the *Age* and by the excellent editorial in the *Canberra Times* on 12 November 1985. Those two papers have been my most severe critics so it has been heartwarming to find that both have now recognised that maybe, just maybe, there is something in the non-confrontationist approach.

From day one of the Hawke Government I have held the view that the protection of Australia's forests will be that major environmental issue of the 1980s, but that it can be achieved only by co-operation between the States and the Commonwealth. With this in mind I convened a seminar in Cairns in February last year which led to a working group consisting of all the interested parties—government, academics, the timber industry, the unions and conservationists. The working group provided me with an excellent report which is shortly to be considered by Cabinet.

Developing a national rainforest policy and implementing it in consultation with the States will therefore be a major priority for the Government as it continues to tackle the task of conserving our natural resources. The Report 'Objectives, Achievements and Priorities' sets out in some detail what we have done, where we are going and how we hope to get there. It places some stress on the need to incorporate environmental considerations in government decision making, the importance of environmental education for the community and the need to ensure active and informed public participation in the protection and use of our environment.

The second report 'The State of the Environment in Australia 1985' has been prepared to provide a picture of the Australian environment as it presently exists, to assess some of the changes that have taken place since European settlement, and to identify trends, resource conflicts and address major emerging issues. It outlines briefly the distribution and current use of environmental resources, considers pressures from human activities and problems which arise from them, and lists major events affecting the condition of our natural resources. It lists, in the annex of the report, some of the major environ-

mental events which have taken place in Australia in the last 20 years.

I seek leave to have the annex incorporated in *Hansard*. Leave granted.

Mr Cohen—The report establishes a benchmark from which future environmental changes can be reported and indicates the environmental conditions that might be expected without further improvement in planning and management. It provides an information base to assist in the development of policies to deal with current and emerging environmental problems.

Before summarising the main findings of the report I would like to note that the volume being tabled today will be supplemented by an illustrated version with many colour photographs depicting the uniqueness and fragility of the Australian environment and the effects and severity of pollution and resource mismanagement. The illustrated version and a source book containing detailed statistical data and discussion of management issues are expected to be available in February 1986. The report indicates the growth of public interest in the environment since the 1960s and the responses of governments. Given our constitutional basis, it draws attention to the importance of Commonwealth-State co-operation and the mechanisms which have been developed for this purpose.

The report responds to the 1981 report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation and to the calls from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations environment program for all countries to report annually on the state of their environment. It considers the main sectors of the environment—land, inland waters, air, forests and woodlands, flora and fauna, protected areas and the National Estate, and the coastal zone. Each sector contains information on one or two selected major issues.

The information provided in the report is sobering. Land degradation is widespread and increasing. Many river systems, wetlands and underground water resources are severely degraded. Air pollution in most capital and major industrial cities periodically exceeds the goals recommended by the World Health Organisation and the National and Medical Research Council. Only about one-third of Australia's tree cover at the time of European settlement remains. Significant sections of coastal lands have been extensively modified by inadequately controlled development. Clearly the improvement in this situation is not something which can be done by

governments alone. All sections of the community must be involved.

The report concludes that despite major achievements during the last 15 years, much remains to be done to maintain and enhance environmental quality in Australia, while allowing development to continue to provide for the needs of society. Greater initiative, commitment and co-operation between the community and all levels of government to environmental matters are needed. It is also necessary for greater emphasis to be given to the development of anticipatory policies designed to prevent future problems, rather than application of merely curative policies.

The Government endorses that view. By tabling today not only the report on the state of our environment but also the Government's statement of its objectives, achievement and priorities in environment and conservation, I place on record this Government's proud commitment and its intentions for the future environmental protection of Australia.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Child)—I point out to the Minister that the annex he asked leave to incorporate in *Hansard* is outside Mr Speaker's guidelines for incorporation. They specifically state that incorporated material must be something that cannot be read into *Hansard*, such as tables. If the Minister would like me to show the annex to Mr Speaker during the suspension of the sitting for dinner I could do so but it is outside his guidelines.

Mr Cohen—Are you saying that it is too long?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER—No. Under Mr Speaker's guidelines, if material such as chart or tables cannot be read into *Hansard* it may be incorporated.

Mr Cohen—This cannot be incorporated?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER—It cannot be incorporated under Mr Speaker's guidelines.

Mr Cohen—Because it can be read?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER—It could be read into *Hansard*, yes.

Mr Cohen—It was a matter of saving time. If I had read the annex it would have taken ages.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER—I understand the Minister's predicament. Other Ministers and have found themselves in the same position. Previous Speakers have been fairly strict about the matter.

Mr Cohen—The reason I wanted the annex incorporated in *Hansard* was to show the terrific changes that have occurred over the last 20

years and to pay tribute to our predecessors for some of their achievements.

Mr Connolly—Very gracious.

Mr Cohen—I thank the shadow Minister. I am known to be a very gracious person. Nothing can be done about it now, Madam Chair.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER—The guidelines have been in force for quite some time and I am unable to alter them.

Sitting suspended from 6.27 to 8 p.m.

Mr CONNOLLY (Bradfield)—by leave—Before the suspension of the sitting for dinner the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment (Mr Cohen) was extolling the virtues of the Government's program in the area of environmental management over the last three years. Listening to him rather reminded me of the medieval town-crier who went from street to street ringing his bell in the desperate hope that people would listen. But the difference between the Minister and the town-crier no doubt rests on the fact that if the town-crier did not tell the full truth he was likely to cop a pile of rubbish dropped on him by some irate hausfranz above.

Mr Barry Jones—Possibly worse.

Mr CONNOLLY—Or possibly worse, as the Minister so rightly points out. But, of course, we live in more pleasant times. The Minister, because he has the privilege of the House and because he is the Minister, has the ability to gild the lily as he thinks fit. I think it is worth pointing out that the Opposition supports, without reservation, the concept of an annual environmental report which is to be tabled in the House, provided that that report contains the expressed views of the respective State governments which, as the Minister rightly pointed out on a number of occasions, have at least a joint responsibility with the Commonwealth to ensure that the environment and the conservation of Australia's natural resources will be maintained at an adequate standard to be passed on to succeeding generations.

However, this Government has a tendency, of which we are well aware, when it suits its so-called principles, to exert the primacy of Federal legislation, as it did in the Tasmanian dam situation, while at the same time it is able to demonstrate, as with the Queensland rainforest situation, a peculiar difference of opinion. In all fairness, the Opposition parties have been totally consistent on this point. We have always believed that land management is a State responsibility primarily and that the Commonwealth is there to support the national objectives by the

provision of adequate support, financial assistance and so forth, but that the primary decision-making rests with the State. Therefore, it was not without expectation on my part that the Minister started with great praise of the fact that his Government, soon after its election, introduced the World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983, which ultimately led to preventing the construction of the Gordon below Franklin Dam in South West Tasmania.

Before this country has the opportunity to forget those very difficult days of early 1983, I remind the House that we had a very divided nation on this issue. It was divided because people on both sides believed that they were right. In that atmosphere the Australian Labor Party, then in Federal opposition, sought the opportunity to make hay in a very difficult environmental situation politically. It did that with some success. There is no doubt in my mind that perhaps 2 or 3 per cent of the Australian electorate was influenced in a primary sense by the events which were taking place in Tasmania.

But in politics, as in life generally, one cannot escape having to face realities and principles. The Opposition parties, whilst we lost that election, believe that much could have been achieved in that environment had it been possible to act earlier and to get some form of agreement between the Commonwealth and the State. But, as I have said, because of the fundamental divisions of opinion, particularly in Tasmania but throughout the Commonwealth, we really reached the situation of the issue becoming a major plank of the Policies of the then Opposition which was successful in that regard. But much of the support that the then Opposition won on that particular case has quite clearly dissipated over the years. I was interested to note an address by the Minister—in Melbourne, I think it was—a week or so ago, in which he made a statement to the effect that the politics of the environmental movement should not be overstated, and that its members do not really have the political clout that some of them would like to have. Be that as it may, as I said, they have also been living on the history of 1983 and perhaps to an extent which is not totally justified. But the Minister was right in observing in relation to this annual report that there is no question that the level of interest in environmental issues around Australia in the population at large is greater today than it has probably ever been, certainly in my lifetime. This is a good thing, provided, again, that it is not taken to extremes and that people are not tending to put emotion ahead of reality, forgetting the principle

that I mentioned earlier—that in life one has to not only live with the principles but also try to live with the results of one's decisions. After all, the economy has to proceed, but it has to be developed in the context of the Australian conservation strategy to ensure that we have the ability to conserve our environment while, at the same time, being able to pass it on to others and to make a living for present and succeeding Australian generations.

The second report which was tabled by the Minister is somewhat more significant politically, perhaps, than the first. It is rather interestingly titled 'Objectives, Achievements and Priorities in Environment Conservation and Heritage.' It is almost the sort of document that one would expect to see a government come out with about a month before an election. Here we are, late in November, and thank heavens we are not likely to be having one in December again—not this year, anyway; perhaps next year. But it is essentially a political document. I just wonder how many trees were cut down under the responsibility of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment—I see that he suggests it was one; I think that it would be a lot more than that—to pay for this particular document, which, as I said, will no doubt find its way into schools and institutions around Australia. But it is nothing more than a paean of the alleged virtues of the Hawke Government in the environmental conservation area.

The Minister, in his statement, tended to ignore a lot of the realities and—as is his right in these situations—to gild the lily somewhat. He tended to emphasise, for example, that it was the Whitlam Government which apparently set the foundations of modern environmental concern in Australia. I would have to say that I would contest that. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that there were very great achievements in the Fraser years. There are too many people in this country who find it cheap political mileage to score off someone who is no longer able to defend himself, nor his record in public and certainly not in this place. As far as the environmental record is concerned, I will certainly defend that the Fraser Government, because it was a record second to none.

I think that I should take this opportunity to emphasise it for what it was. It was the Fraser Government which brought in the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act to protect both our own wildlife as well as international wildlife. It also brought in the Environmental Protection (Sea Dumping) Act.

Neither of those Acts was proclaimed at that stage. That was left to the succeeding Hawke Government. Nevertheless, they were initiated and passed by this Parliament during that period. In world heritage context, all five world heritage listings were in fact those of the Fraser Government, including that of South West Tasmania—something which people tend to ignore. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, it is true was initiated by the Whitlam Government in 1975, but the difficult negotiations were carried through during the period of the Fraser Government through his own personal involvement as well as that of his Ministers. Leading out of that, most of the zoning plan work was commenced—although, as the Minister quite rightly points out, it was carried through to ultimate fruition during his period of administration. But when one reads the Minister's statement, there is a tendency to assume that, somehow or other, in 1975 the Whitlam Government passed a whole raft of legislation of an environmental nature and then there was more or less a period of non-activity for nearly eight years before the Hawke Government came into place. I simply must put on record that that is not correct.

In addition to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, to which I have just referred, the Fraser Government also supported the world conservation strategy. It is worth pointing out that it was from the world conservation strategy that the Australian conservation strategy was initiated. Again, all the basic fundamental work was done during that period, although the Australian conservation strategy conference, which was initiated by the current Government some two years ago, led to the document in its present form. Again, it is worth pointing out that it was the coalition parties two years ago that publicly announced our support for the Australian conservation strategy, a long time before the Labor Government did so. Our policy at the last Federal election was based primarily on that report. Those were the objectives to which all our policy initiatives were directed. I take great pride in that fact because that strategy marked the first time in Australia's modern history that we have been able to get a disparate group of people from all sectors of the community—mining, primary industry, agriculture and so forth—to agree with the environmental movement on the basic principles as to how Australia should be developed in the future and its resources protected for future generations. All who were involved in that conference, especially the chairman Professor Myers, have, as the Minister rightly pointed out, every reason to be thoroughly satisfied with

what they have done. I trust that the present Government and future governments will make sure that their environment and conservation strategies are in line with those objectives.

In addition, the Fraser Government prevented sandmining on Fraser Island, and I understand the Liberal Party in Queensland also supports the proposition that there should not be sandmining on Moreton Island. The Fraser Government also introduced the Whale Protection Act 1980 which was a trail-blazing piece of legislation for Australia. My final point in terms of the Fraser record, which by no means is meant to be a demonstration of the totality of that effort, is that the Fraser Government also established the national tree program. I would like to say something about that because I think that the Government's current policy in terms of its refusal to provide tax incentives for the funding of forestry is a contradiction of what that Government claims to be all about. It is also worth pointing out that the Minister in his statement has tended to emphasise the glories of environmental policies conducted by State Labor governments. The Minister is a citizen of New South Wales, as I am but, unlike him, I live in Sydney. It is a matter of great concern to me and to millions of other Australians, especially those living in Sydney, to see the pollution of New South Wales beaches. The Wran Government has been in place for some 10 years and its environmental policies obviously have been directed at priorities elsewhere, but it is quite clear that that Government has been totally lacking in any capacity to control what is a growing social problem around Sydney. There is virtually not a beach one can safely take one's children to at a weekend without the prospect of swimming with all sorts of unwelcome guests on the water as well. These elements are worth noting.

Mr Cohen—That's where you get your tan from.

Mr CONNOLLY—I do not think my tan is quite as good as the Minister's. As the Minister emphasised last week, he is particularly concerned about a national strategy for pollution control and so on. It is worth noting that the Western Australian Government is currently looking at a feasibility study for the construction of an incinerator-type facility in the Kalgoorlie region. I think that the central desert area of Australia would be ideal I would prefer to see something in the area of Broken Hill, especially because that is closer to the central industrial areas of Australia than Western Australia. Nevertheless, these are issues to be considered

because we cannot depend indefinitely on using the *Vulcanus*, which is the European ship that comes out here most infrequently, to burn off Australian chemical effluence and so forth. The real problem is that small chemical companies tend not to be able to afford such facilities and thus we have to look elsewhere.

Mr Cohen—And it cannot burn off solids.

Mr CONNOLLY—It cannot burn off solids, that is a good point. I see no reference in the Minister's statement or in 'The State of the Environment in Australia 1985' report to the devastation of bushfires but I trust it is there somewhere. As the Minister is aware, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation conducted a far-reaching and, as I understand it, the first report ever tabled in this Parliament by a committee of the Parliament into what I believe to be a serious environmental and conservation problem. Again, there is no word of this matter in the Minister's statement. I am concerned because again it demonstrates the tendency for Australians to imagine that, somehow or other, bushfires happen in January, February and March and can be ignored for the remaining nine months of the year. We can do this at our peril. We have seen in recent years, especially from the massive human and property losses in the Ash Wednesday fires a few years ago, that this country is very prone to bush fires. The Government must take a closer interest in these matters, especially in the regions around the Australian Capital Territory.

In terms of conservation programs generally, the Minister emphasised a need for closer community involvement. Of course, the Opposition totally supports that point. But, again, if we want to involve a community, and sections of the community which are vitally concerned with environmental protection while at the same time being able to make a living from the environment—such as farmers, for example—clearly, effective tree planting schemes, water conservation, soil conservation and so forth are matters of very great importance. In this area the Government's record again leaves much to be desired.

We have heard in recent days statements about four governments reaching an historic agreement in terms of the Murray-Darling river system, which represents possibly Australia's major environmental problem and is certainly most relevant to the people of South Australia, who have the often odious pleasure—if it is that—of drinking the water from the river system. It has two major problems. There is turbidity on the one

hand, which generates essentially in the upper reaches of the Darling River, and salinity, on the other hand, which tends to come from the Murray. It is not insignificant that this meeting, which has been heralded by the Minister as being so significant, held only last week, I think on 16 November, was obviously timed to meet the election requirements of the South Australian Government.

Again, a significant point is this: All the governments represented at that conference were Labor governments. The point of which I think the Minister needs to take particular note is that tributaries of the Darling River happen to start in central Queensland and southern Queensland. Apparently, nobody invited the Queensland Government to come to that conference.

Mr Cohen—It was invited.

Mr CONNOLLY—I am delighted to hear that because, quite clearly, in the longer term there will be a need to involve five governments, not four, in the future management of that area. There is a tendency, as demonstrated by this Government, to try to blame the Queensland Government for all sorts of things, whether it be lack of co-operation in the construction of adequate facilities on the Barrier Reef or the problems of the rain forests in north Queensland and so forth. People often fail to understand the reality that Queensland also has its own problems and its own priorities and that these issues have to be discussed at great length on both sides to get an adequate answer. I am sure that the Queensland Government, if it were approached in the right way, would be prepared to consider the realities of the River Murray situation.

I think it is also worth noting that the Government announced last week that in its generosity it is going to put forward another \$1m in 1986-87. That announcement was made by Senator Evans. It should be put on record that that announcement was effectively already made, because the Australian Water Research Advisory Council had made that recommendation. Here we are effectively having a Minister, again for purely short term political reasons in terms of the South Australian election, re-announcing the most generous gesture of providing \$1m for the upgrading and co-ordination program for water and water related research for the Murray-Darling Basin. I hasten to add that the Government will not get very far with \$1m when we consider that size of the problem.

The final report on the national conservation strategy for Australia emphasised the problems

of the river. It was stated, for example, that individual projects which should be considered include tree establishment programs along key sections of the river banks for soil erosion control, revegetation of selected ground water recharge sites, rehabilitation of salt affected areas, reduction of sewage flows into the rivers, restoration of vegetation along river banks, tree establishment irrigation areas, tree conservation establishment for wildlife habitat and enhancement of river red gum forests on river banks. Those recommendations are very similar indeed to those which were developed by the Opposition's joint committee, which I set up two years ago with the full co-operation of both the National and Liberal parties in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and, of course, this Parliament. We believed then, as we still do now, that the River Murray-Darling basin is the most important agricultural region in Australia. Although it occupies only one-seventh of the continent, it contains approximately one-quarter of the nation's cattle herd, one-half of the crop land and three-quarters of the irrigated areas. Its natural resources, directly and indirectly, support some two million people and contribute primary and secondary production estimated to be excess of \$10,000m per year.

It is in that context that the committee recommended the formation of the River Murray Council of Ministers, and I am pleased to see that the Government has accepted that recommendation, albeit coming from a joint Opposition committee. Clearly, until we can get political agreement on these issues we will not be able to reach a situation where the experts will feel that they have either the financial or the political support that they obviously need. The River Murray Council of Ministers, comprises representatives from all signatories to the River Murray Agreement. As I have said, I hope that I will see the day when Queensland will also be such a signatory.

We also recommended that the River Murray Commission draft a management plan with the co-operation of State and local authorities; that the implementation of an agreed management plan be co-ordinated by the River Murray Commission over 25 years in five-years stages; that the River Murray Commission be consulted on all programs which affect the region; and that there be a co-ordinated soil conservation program over 25 years to be developed to meet identified reclamation, waterlogging and salinity problems found in the dry and irrigated areas of the basin. We recommended direct government financial assistance to individual farmers to en-

courage improved management efficiency while considering the need to construct additional water storages, the diverting of saline water from the valley and the upgrading of the Menindee Lakes storage system.

We recommended the protection of the ecological welfare of the River Murray by ensuring adequate water is provided to maintain the unique red gum forests, native fisheries, ibis and other bird rookeries. We recommended the intergration of a major tree planting and regeneration program into any desalination and soil conservation programs and the encouragement of local governments and farmers to plant appropriate species. We recommended the construction of off-river municipal sewage disposal and treatment plants to minimise the damaging effects of nutrient flow into the river. Finally, we recommended that the River Murray Commission should conduct an extensive public awareness campaign at the national level with the assistance of State authorities, community groups, schools and organisations such as the River Murray League.

All these issues are important because over a million people depend on that river. It is of enormous ecological importance to southern Australia in particular, and the Government, despite all the talk and all the Press releases over the last three years, has not demonstrated either the ability to get its act together in this area or the willingness to put adequate funding into that program.

I wish to relate to another issue raised by the Minister in his statement, that is, the question of Kakadu. Again, the Kakadu National Park was initiated by the Fraser Government but, in November 1983, the Prime Minister (Mr Hawke) announced a \$36m accelerated expenditure over the next six years. That program was brought in at a time when it was necessary to have a political smokescreen because of the intense divisions which were clearly evident publicly within the Australian Labor Party on the question of uranium mining. But I think it is significant that, since 1983, there has been virtual silence on what is happening in Kakadu. The Minister told us today: 'Do not worry. Everything is all right. Money is being spent'. I was in the park last June and I have to say that the road situation leaves much to be desired. I was appalled at the level of maintenance and the level of protection being given in certain areas of the park. People who apparently have had commercial access to certain waterways and so forth have, I am led to believe, on the basis of advice given to me by

the person taking me around, put nothing back into the park. There is no financial requirement for them to make a commitment to the park, yet the Australian taxpayer is expected to carry virtually the entire load.

The clear evidence is therefore this: We need to build up a major tourist access to Kakadu, which is of tremendous importance in terms of world environmental interest as well as economic interest to the Northern Territory. The simple fact of the matter is that at this stage there is only one motel in the entire national park where people can stay. Clearly, therefore, a lot more needs to be done in that area. I get a little tired of hearing the Minister and other people in the Government continually waxing eloquent about the beauties of Kakadu when the simple reality is that the \$36m promised in November 1983 has not been forthcoming. I doubt that it will be because it was initiated at the time as nothing more than a smokescreen for this Government.

I refer also to another issue which is still very much in the pot—the Daintree forest. In August 1984 there was a considerable amount of concern within the environment movement in relation to north Queensland and the construction of roads through the forest and so forth. I put forward to the Government in a Press release on 5 August 1984 a number of proposals based on the principle that the Federal Government, in discussions with the Queensland government, should develop firstly a long term regional plan for the Daintree area, secondly, improve management of the Daintree National Park, and thirdly, rationalise park boundaries. These proposals would not only protect the remaining rainforest but also would assist in the development of a tourist industry based on the Daintree National Park, which is on the doorstep of the Great Barrier Reef and within easy access of the Cairns international airport and the coastal island resorts further south. Since then the sugar cane industry has gone into serious economic decline and clearly the issue is even more important today than it was then. North Queensland obviously needs all the support it can get from the Commonwealth Government to enable the development of a sophisticated tourist industry based on the conservation of as much as possible of its very rare forest areas.

The Minister has tended over the years—certainly since August of last year—to try to sidestep this issue. As I said at the beginning of my address, he was quite happy to use Commonwealth powers in relation to Tasmania because

there was an election in the offing but he is not prepared even to countenance such a situation now. Nor should he. However, it is inconsistent with the Government's policy—not ours—that he is not prepared to countenance such a situation because he is scared of the Queensland Government. Clearly he was not scared of the Tasmanian government. When one is in opposition there are occasions when one tends to have much more power of the spoken word than perhaps one is prepared to demonstrate in one's mental approach to these issues.

There is a lot yet to be done in terms of the environment. The Minister has emphasised that point and I certainly second his views. While we want to see a continuation of programs which are effective, I am concerned about the public disagreements which we have had in this House and elsewhere in regard to the Tasmanian wood-chip industry. As an example we have the comments made by the Minister for Primary Industry (Mr Kerin) on the one hand and my colleague the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Environment on the other and the fact that there have been differences of opinion and divisions within the Caucus committee structure. On this issue at least the Government and the Opposition are as one: The development of those forests must be carried out in a manner consistent with long term environmental protection while ensuring the retention of the significant number of jobs in the timber industry. I think that to one extent or another about one third of the entire economy of Tasmania is related to that industry. These are obviously very important issues. I would hope that if in future years there is a need to renegotiate border changes in terms of the South West National Park and the World Heritage area in particular, these matters can be discussed in a satisfactory manner in the context of the machinery which has been established with the agreement of both the Tasmanian and the Commonwealth governments.

Finally, I want to refer to the national tree program. Much has been said about this program, and I have to say in all honesty that I think that a great gap has been left between words and actions. The fact of the matter is that Australia remains to this day a country which is very sparsely covered with growth. We have tended over succeeding generations to cut down without any real control over the future problems we create in terms of soil erosion, water pollution and conservation matters generally. The activities of the Government in relation to the national tree program are not adequate. The decision which this Government took, for ex-

ample, to make farmers claim tax deductibility on conservation matters over five years instead of over one year, which was the case before, is quite clearly an act which will destroy even greater areas of Australia because many farmers, especially as a result of drought, are at the margin in financial terms. They are now being put in a position in which they will have neither the financial resources nor the physical resources to carry out an appropriate tree program as they should. It was for that reason that the coalition parties at the last election emphasised the need to have a rural tree regeneration program on a national basis and emphasised that it should be integrated with the national soil and water conservation programs. We offered to assist private land holders to maintain native tree cover, especially in areas which had been excessively cleared or which suffered from soil erosion. We believe that there is a need to develop with the States a rural extension program to inform rural communities on the advantages of increasing tree and regeneration cover.

The Minister also emphasised that \$30m was being applied to this area. He knows, as I know, that that is not true. What he is talking about is that, in terms of an unemployment program, that much money is being provided as wages and various supports. How many trees will be grown and where they will be grown are questions which I am particularly interested in. I think we have some time to wait before we will see an adequate result to that program. The Opposition believes that there is a definite need for an environment corps to be established, so that young people who suffer the very real problems of long term unemployment can be given the opportunity of training and being involved in a major outdoor activity which will be of great significance to this generation and future generations of Australians. It is by linking the available human resources with the need to develop a wider appreciation of humanity's role in the total development and protection of nature that we will be able to achieve a lasting environment for future generations of Australians.

PETROLEUM REVENUE BILL 1985

[COGNATE BILL:]

EXCISE TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1985]

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 16 October, on motion by Mr Barry Jones:

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Call to halt logging in Ewingar Forest

Rainforest logging in the Ewingar State Forest, where timber was being obtained for the new Parliament House, was causing widespread destruction, the Richmond Valley Reforestation Association claimed yesterday.

The association has called for an immediate cessation of all rainforest logging in the area until an environmental impact study is made.

Members of the association recently inspected logging operations at Ewingar, south-west of Casino.

"Two of the sites inspected were scenes of absolute devastation," the president of the association, Mr Eric Earley, said.

"Hectares of hilly land had been practically clear-felled. The only trees left standing were useless for sawmilling.

"Palm trees, staghorns, and orchids littered the ground or were dying in open sunlight. Many large trees had been felled and left because of faults."

The deputy regional forester for the NSW Forestry Commission at Coffs Harbour, Mr Dave Ryan, denied yesterday that clear-fell logging was taking place in rainforest stands.

50 pc canopy

He said that the policy in such areas was to leave 50 per cent of the tree canopy, to allow for regeneration.

Rainforest and hardwood stands grew separately and logging procedures varied depending on the timber being felled. In the case of hardwoods, some mature specimens were kept as seed trees, Mr Ryan said.

Mr Earley contradicted this. He said that the drier box and eucalypt growth merged with rainforest pockets.

"Two of the sites visited obviously were being well-managed. But at two others, the only trees remaining were twisted or damaged," he said.

"There was evidence of rainforest species all around."

He said that the cleared areas would be subject to severe erosion, with siltation of Washpool Creek, a prescribed stream.

The reforestation association released a statement yesterday, calling for the cessation of rainforest logging in the area and deploring the logging policy of the Forestry Commission.

The association said also that the clear-felling, erosion and the unsupervised removal of ferns and orchids was destroying a unique area.



● ABOVE: This picture, supplied by Mr Earley, shows what the association says are palm trees dying because they have been exposed to sunlight following clearing operations.

● BELOW: A section of a large tree left behind after logging in Ewingar.



See also previous story 'logging gets the green light... this time?'

The Northern Star

14-11-85

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New job for conservationist

A Lismore man, Mr John Corkill, has been elected to the executive of the Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales, which represents 79 conservation, environmental and scientific organisations.

Mr Corkill, 26, is the youngest member of the executive and is the only North Coast representative.



MR CORKILL

On a regional level, he is vice-president of the North Coast Environment Council and secretary of the Big Scrub Environment Centre.

He is a member of the Richmond-Tweed Planning Advisory Committee, which formulates planning advice to the NSW Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Carr.

Mr Corkill returned this week from the annual conference of the Nature Conservation Council in Sydney, saying he hoped his appointment would help break the isolation of the North Coast from the rest of the NSW conservation movement.

The conference was opened by Mr Carr, who announced that World Heritage nominations were proceeding for designated areas in New South Wales.

In this regard, a United Nations committee would visit the North Coast in December for a field inspection to assess the nomination of national parks.

"This visit by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature vindicates the stance of all those people who fought to save the rainforests in the past few years," Mr Corkill said.

Mr Carr had acknowledged the

pressure brought to bear by rainforest conservationists and had told the conference that the Premier, Mr Wran, was committed to making environmental protection a hallmark of his Government.

The Government had drawn up a political agenda for further conservation work. On the North Coast, this meant the gazetting soon of a wetlands policy.

"I agree with Mr Carr's statement that the Government's conservation policy has been 'the greatest unambiguous triumph of the Wran Government'," Mr Corkill said.

"But the work is incomplete."

He said that only one-third of the State's rainforests had been protected, mining leases still were held in areas next to national parks, and woodchipping was a threat to certain forest areas in the State.

A major discussion point at the National Conservation Council conference was toxic substances. Urban and rural representatives had recorded 'disbelief at the inefficiency of existing Government controls' and had requested the Government give the matter high priority.

"We have the most environmentally responsive Government to hold office in New South Wales, and it now is up to the community to articulate its concerns while the political climate is suitable," Mr Corkill said.

"These concerns must be put across to all political parties."

He said that the State leader of the National Party, Mr Murray, and the Member for Coffs Harbour, Mr Singleton, had stated that logging and sandmining in national parks would be permitted if a Coalition Government was returned.

"Clarification is required because the Liberal/National Coalition has been most discordant on environmental policies," Mr Corkill said.

Logging gets green light ... this time

North Coast conservation groups have raised no objections to the logging of rainforest trees to supply native timbers for furnishing the new Parliament House in Canberra.

The secretary of the Big Scrub Environment Centre in Lismore, Mr John Corkill, said that he had discussed the matter yesterday with local representatives of the National Parks Association and the Rainforest Information Centre.

Mr Corkill said it was agreed that the Parliament House logging was a 'one-off' situation which would serve a valuable purpose for the community.

"The logging is suitable insofar as the timber is being used for a highly-valued purpose and that a small quantity of timber is involved," he said.

"Not only will the timber serve a useful community purpose, it also will be displayed for the whole world to see."

"This is in stark contrast to previous rainforest logging which involved the indiscriminate use of specialist cabinet timbers for manufacturing products like form ply and packing pallets."

"Conservation groups represented at today's talks will continue to oppose rainforest logging until they achieve their ultimate goal of having this rare natural resource protected."

Mr Corkill was responding to a report yesterday in *The Northern Star* that most of the timber being

felled locally for the Parliament House project was coming from virgin rainforest in the Ewingar State Forest, near Tabulam.

The report quoted a senior Forestry Commission source as saying that rainforest and hardwood timbers were being logged in the region to help meet orders for interior wall panelling and furnishings in the new building.

Mr Corkill said there were important ecological reasons Australia's rainforests should be protected from logging.

He said this was especially true of all rainforest areas west of the Richmond Range, such as Ewingar, which had diverse vegetations not found in other national parks and reserves.

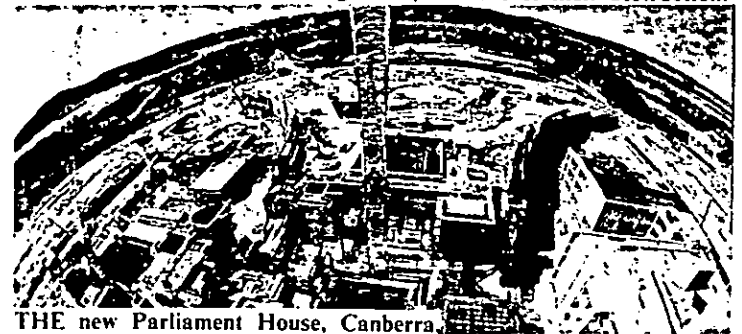
"These areas also have a high

concentration of native fauna that does not exist in isolated pockets of rainforest closer to the coast," he said.

Mr Corkill said conservation groups also were concerned that too little was being done to ensure that timber resources lost through logging were replaced.

"While agreeing that the use of native timbers in the new Parliament House has an extraordinarily high value, we still are concerned about what attempts are being made to guarantee future supplies of these timbers through reforestation programs," he said.

Mr Corkill said the world's rainforests had survived for thousands of years, and that no one fully understood the implications of their destruction.



THE new Parliament House, Canberra.

It's a war to save rainforests: Author

Only a few battles had been won in the war to save the country's rainforests, one of Australia's leading authors on rainforests said at the Big Scrub Environment Centre in Lismore yesterday.

The outcome of the war depended on politicians and the pressures brought to bear on them, Mr Alex Floyd, a research scientist with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, said.

Mr Floyd, author of 12 books, was launching a locally written book, *Australian Rainforest Plants*, by Nan and Hugh Nicholson, of Terania Creek.

"This is more than a book — it's a weapon to help conserve our rainforests," Mr Floyd said.

The book not only described plants in text and pictures, but it was unique in giving advice on cultivation.

He said that at last

estimate, there were about 15,000 rainforest species in Australia, including a huge number still to be discovered.

"You've got 154 volumes to go," he told the authors.

So little was known about our rainforests that there was no such thing as a rainforest expert, Mr Floyd said. You could be knowledgeable only about a small aspect.

"A scientist from the United States came out

here to study creatures that eat rainforest leaves. She spent three years researching the subject and turned up some fascinating information," he said.

"For example, she found a leaf-eating insect that instead of damaging the plant, actually caused it to grow faster. It was discovered that the insect secreted a plant growth hormone while it fed."

Public interest in rainforests was strong, but Mr Floyd issued a warning.

Areas granted protection were safe only as long as the public thought they should be national parks, and he warned against the practice of conserving one tract of forest by trading off another.

In emphasising the heritage value of Australian forests, Mr Floyd turned to the Bicentennial.

"What are we celebrating — the removal of 75 per cent of our rainforests in 200 years?" he said.

"Go into the Border Ranges National Park and look at the coachwood trees. They're celebrating 50 million years in Australia."

● LEFT: Mr Floyd, left, and the authors of *Australian Rainforest Plants*, Hugh and Nan Nicholson.



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Ewingar feels the axe:

Northern Star
30-10-85

RAINFOREST FALLS FOR PARLIAMENT

Areas of virgin rainforest in the Ewingar State Forest, near Tabulam, are being logged to supply native timbers for the new Parliament House in Canberra.

Large numbers of rainforest trees — including rosewood, crabapple and coachwood — have been felled at Ewingar in the past six months to help fill timber contracts for the Parliament House project. The Regional Forester for the NSW Forestry Commission at Coffs

Harbour, Mr John Bruce, confirmed yesterday that the Far North Coast was one of many areas around Australia supplying native timbers for the new Parliament House.

He said that rainforest and hardwood timbers were being logged in the region to help meet orders for interior wall panelling and furnishings.

The felled trees were being trucked to Murwillumbah for processing by the Standard Sawmilling Company Pty Ltd.

Mr Bruce also confirmed that the bulk of

the timber being obtained locally was coming from virgin rainforest in the Ewingar State Forest.

But he said the felling was not breaching any State Government bans on rainforest logging in New South Wales.

Selected areas

According to Mr Bruce, the rainforest trees were being obtained from selected areas of the Ewingar State Forest already being logged by Grafton sawmiller, Big River Timbers Pty Ltd.

"Big River Timbers was one of only three sawmilling firms in the State which were guaranteed a supply of rainforest timbers following the State Government's 1982 decision to phase-out rainforest logging," he said.

"Most of this timber (for the new Parliament House) has come from areas allocated to Big River Timbers as part of that decision."

Mr Bruce would not comment on claims that Big River Timbers was given access to rainforest areas in Ewingar as a trade-off for timber resources lost when a major part of the Washpool State Forest was declared a national park.

It is understood the Government was contracted to supply the sawmiller with a set quantity of hardwood timber from Washpool, and that the Forestry Commission was instructed to find an

alternative source of supply.

Mr Bruce denied that the Forestry Commission had set aside the Ewingar State Forest as a nature reserve before the Washpool was declared a national park.

"Ewingar had not been set aside specifically as a reserve, but it was an area which the Commission had not intended to log, except for special purpose logging," he said.

"The area now is being logged much more heavily than it would have been under that plan."

"But there are areas in the Washpool National Park that would have been logged that are now protected."

Logging for the new Parliament House began about six months ago when the Commission's Coffs Harbour office was approached by two timber companies — Duncan's Holdings Ltd and Allan Taylor and Company Ltd — for assistance in filling orders to supply interior panelling.

This resulted in the felling of 400 cubic metres of crabapple, 35 cubic metres of coachwood and a large quantity of two eucalypt species, grey box and red mahogany.

Since then, the Commission has been helping to meet another order for local native timbers to furnish the new Parliament House, including 200 cubic metres of rosewood, 40 cubic metres of coachwood, 10 cubic

metres of crabapple and 10 cubic metres of red cedar.

Mr Bruce said that most of the timber obtained locally had come, or would come from the Ewingar State Forest.

He said the principal contractor for the latest order, Big River Timbers, had been told that no red cedar was available for felling.

"They have been told to hunt around for dead or dying red cedar," he said.

"We would be prepared to allow red cedar in this condition to be felled to fill the order."

Mr Bruce said that all the felling in State forests had been done under the strict supervision of the Commission.

He denied that any special logging equipment had been used by contractors to remove rainforest species from the Ewingar State Forest.

A source had told *The Northern Star* that rubber-tyred machinery — not bulldozers — had been used in Ewingar six months ago by contractors working on the first Parliament House order.

The source, who was closely involved in the logging operation, also confirmed the entire operation had been strictly monitored by Forestry Commission officers.

"We were told it was a special operation, and that bulldozers could not be used because of the damage the tracks and blade would do to the bush," he said.



**Forestry Commission of N.S.W.**

Mr Randall Maloney
Secretary
Richmond Valley Reforestation Association
PO Box 590
LISMORE NSW 2480

Forestry Office
PO Box J19
COFFS HARBOUR JETTY 2450
Our reference: 374 Mr Bruce

Your reference:

Telephone: 528172

9th December, 1985.

Dear Randall,

Thank you for your letter of 2nd December and the attached press release.

Although I did not respond in the Northern Star and I don't think that it is worth making a major issue of now, I would like to note the following for the records.

- I doubt that I said that the logging area "was a sorry mess". What I did say was that it certainly "looked a mess" (or something similar), but that this was only a temporary state of affairs.
- At the site logged 2 years ago, we also stated that regeneration of rainforest species appeared to be in proportion to their presence before logging.
- You forgot to mention that at the site logged 14 years ago, your members in fact complained about the lack of eucalypt and brushbox regeneration, and one member claimed that the "gaps" were full of "rubbish", which is in fact rainforest regeneration.
- I do not agree that we are changing a rainforest ecosystem to a eucalypt ecosystem.

Those areas that concerned your members - namely those that had been most heavily logged - did not generally have a major rainforest component in their understorey initially, and the indications are that there will be a similar component in the regeneration.

- Although it wasn't mentioned on the day, it would be appreciated if you could find a term other than "emergent rainforest ecosystem" for sclerophyll forests with some rainforest elements in the understorey.

In ecological terminology, "emergent" has traditionally been applied to describe those trees that emerge above the general canopy level. The classical local example is the emergent hoop pine that frequently towers above the general canopy of the dry rainforest types. (To prove that I haven't just made this up, please refer to the attached copies of Pages 33 & 34 of our Research Note 17 "Forest Types in New South Wales". Also, the report "Rainforest Conservation in Australia" defines "emergent" as "a very tall tree which protrudes above the general level of the upper canopy".)

.../2

On this basis "emergent rainforest" would mean rainforest trees that are distinctly higher than the hardwood canopy, which you will agree is the opposite to the situation in question. The continued use of this term can only be confusing.

Although our joint inspection didn't really solve anything, I did appreciate the opportunity for discussion with your members. Thank you for arranging it.

Yours faithfully,

John Bruce
JOHN BRUCE,
Regional Forester









Forestry Commission of N.S.W.



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Secretary
Richmond Valley Reforestation Association
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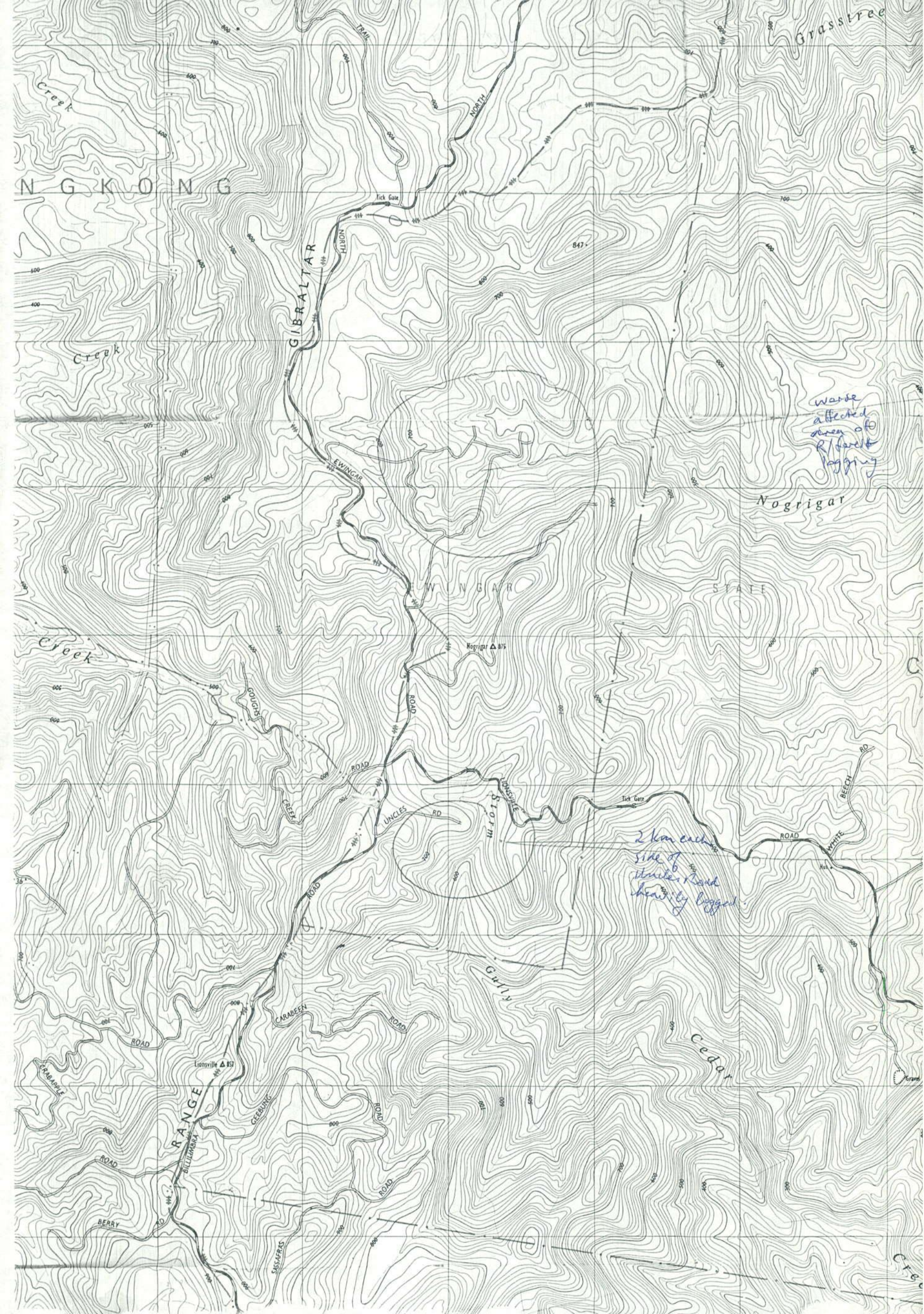
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John Bruce
JOHN BRUCE,
Regional Forester



MALARA CREEK

9339-1-5 FIRST EDITION

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15 AUG 1985

PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

Ms J Messer
Chairperson
The Nature Conservation Council of NSW
399 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

12 AUG 1985

Dear Ms Messer

Thank you for your letter of 13 June 1985 to the Prime Minister concerning the nomination of the New South Wales rainforests for the World Heritage List. I welcome the Council's strong commitment to the nomination.

In taking the step to nominate the New South Wales rainforests, the Commonwealth Government has satisfied itself that the areas in question meet the criterion of "outstanding universal value" and will be working assiduously to achieve a successful outcome when the nomination is considered by the World Heritage Committee in 1986.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lionel Bowen'.

(Lionel Bowen)
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister

16 July, 1985

His Excellency E.G. Whitlam, A.C., Q.C.
Australian Ambassador and Permanent Representative
to UNESCO
4 Rue Jean Rey
75724 Paris CEDEX 15
FRANCE

Dear Mr Whitlam

re: WORLD HERITAGE LISTING FOR QUEENSLAND RAINFORESTS

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales congratulates you on your strong statement in support of the nomination of Queensland rainforests for the World Heritage List.

We commend your encouragement of nomination by the Federal Government unilaterally, in the face of continued opposition to the idea from the Queensland Government, as reported in the Sydney Morning Herald of 14 June, 1985.

We share the view that Queensland's rainforests are every bit as worthy of a place on the World Heritage List as are the rainforests of New South Wales, which have been nominated. The littoral rainforest near Cape Tribulation, which adjoins coastline fringed by coral reefs, forms a particularly significant part of the Queensland rainforest estate, and yet road construction activities continue to threaten its destruction together with the destruction of the fringing reefs.

The present situation, whereby the Queensland Government obstinately refuses to take proper steps to protect the State's natural assets, calls for Federal Government action, and we applaud your strong support of such action.

Yours sincerely

Judy Messer
CHAIRPERSON

Whitlam wants Qld forests on Heritage List

By DAVID MONAGHAN

BRISBANE: Mr Gough Whitlam, the former Prime Minister and now Ambassador to UNESCO, has attacked the Federal Government for failing to nominate Queensland rainforests to the World Heritage List.

In a telex sent from his Paris Embassy on May 23, Mr Whitlam said: "We are not impressed by the specious arguments concerning Queensland reluctance to nominate the balance of the relevant rainforests. Nominations are made by the Australian Government, not by the State Governments."

"The only plausible reason for delaying the nomination of the interstate rainforests is that in Murphy's absence the High Court would be evenly divided on any challenge and the view of the anti-Federal Chief Justice would therefore prevail."

However, the Minister for Environment, Mr Cohen, reaffirmed yesterday that the Federal Government would continue to do nothing about listing Queensland rainforests without the agreement of the Queensland Government.

Mr Cohen said: "We are sticking to our decision, full stop, period. Mr Whitlam is not the Prime Minister of this country, Mr Hawke is. He has ceased to be in Parliament for the last seven years, he is an Ambassador. We respect his views and note his views, but don't have to act on them."

"We are not going to nominate over [the Queensland Government's] head ... Mr Hawke made the statement that we would not nominate anything not originally put forward by the State Government."

The Queensland Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, has said he would stick Mr Cohen on a stump for listing as a curiosity rather than have his State's rainforests listed.

The Government decided late last year to ignore advice from the Australian Heritage Commission and not to nominate the Queensland rainforests, including those endangered by a road through the Daintree area of north Queensland.

If the rainforests were on the World Heritage List, the Government would be bound to see they were not developed or destroyed.

The Wilderness Society's Daintree director, Mr Michael Rae, said last night: "Australia is being held up to ridicule in the eyes of the world because our Federal Government is saying it is not allowed to nominate a priceless part of the nation's heritage."

SMH 14/6/85 p 12

Great moments in bureaucracy

Elsewhere in today's *Herald* there's a story about Gough Whitlam criticising the Federal Government for failing to nominate the Queensland rainforests as a World Heritage Area. The Federal Government is planning to nominate rainforests in NSW, but not the more extensive ones in Queensland. Mr Whitlam apparently feels the Federal Government is afraid of getting into a fight with the Queensland Government. By coincidence, this column happens to have a Government document, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, which lends support to Mr Whitlam's view. It is a memo written on November 26 last year by M. V. Ryan, an officer of the Department of Home Affairs and Environment, with comments written across it by Colin McCasker, a first assistant secretary of the department.

Mr Ryan says that Neville Wran wants NSW rainforests to be nomi-

nated for world heritage listing by the end of December, 1984. Mr McCasker has written against this: "Not on, I think. This is typical Wran." Elsewhere in the memo, Mr Ryan writes that the nomination of NSW rainforests "would cause some anguish as the quality of the NSW rainforests is considered by most experts to be below that of Daintree". Mr McCasker has scribbled next to this: "Too bad". At the bottom of the memo Mr McCasker has written: "Wouldn't have the slightest concern about any Daintree connection ..."

SMH 14/6/85 p 4

Forestry - Rainforests.



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

✓
16 SEP 1985

20 SEP 1985

Ms. J. Messer,
Chairperson,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Ms. Messer,

The Minister has asked me to acknowledge your recent correspondence concerning the protection of Littoral Rainforest in New South Wales.

The matters you have raised are presently under consideration and he will write to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



KEN CRIPPS
Executive Assistant

9 September, 1985

The Hon. R. J. Carr, M.P.
Minister for Planning & Environment
10th Floor
139 Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Carr

re: PROTECTION OF LITTORAL RAINFOREST
IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales would like to express its support for the submission entitled "The Protection of Littoral Rainforest in N.S.W." produced by the Total Environment Centre.

The rarity of remaining littoral rainforest in the State, and the development pressures to which it is subject by virtue of its location on the coast, make it imperative to institute adequate protection measures without further delay.

We commend the recommendations of the Total Environment Centre's submission for your attention and action.

Yours sincerely

Judy Messer
CHAIRPERSON



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

28 JUN 1985

Ms J. Messer
Chairperson
The Nature Conservation Council of NSW
399 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

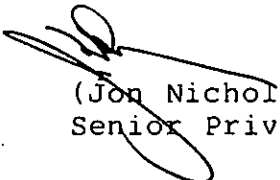
27 JUN 1985

Dear Ms Messer

I acknowledge your letter of 13 June 1985, to the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, concerning the NSW Rainforest nomination for World Heritage Listing.

A reply will be sent to you as soon as is practicable.

Yours sincerely


(Jon Nicholson)
Senior Private Secretary



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

19 JUN 1985

MEDIA RELEASE BY
THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT,
MR. TERRY SHEAHAN

NORTHERN RAINFORESTS NATIONAL
PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2.6.84

The Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr. Terry Sheahan, today announced the appointment of the Northern Rainforest National Parks Advisory Committee.

The inaugural meeting of the committee will be held at Kyogle tonight.

The committee, which is constituted for the Border Ranges, Nightcap and Mount Warning National Parks, was formed to advise the National Parks and Wildlife Service on matters relating to the care, control and management of the three rainforest national parks.

"The Government is extremely proud of the dedication and expansion of our rainforest national parks and has taken steps to have them placed in the World Heritage List along with such other important areas as the Great Barrier Reef, Lord Howe Island, South West Tasmania, and the Willandra Lakes Region," Mr. Sheahan said.

Mr. Sheahan said he was heartened by the large number of interested people who applied for appointment to the committee.

He said that after a great deal of consideration he had appointed ten people to the committee for a term to expire November 30 1986.

The members of the committee are:

Mr. S. K. King of Goonellabah
Mr. R. M. Kooyman of Myocum
Mr. J. D. Hurley of Kyogle
Mr. M. J. Dougherty of Kyogle
Mrs. L. Mafi Williams of Kyogle
Ms. N. J. Nicholson of The Channon
Mr. I. H. Dixon of Nimbin
Mr. A. C. Hunter of Corndale
Mr. D. G. Yates of Lismore
Mr. P. D. Thew of Kyogle

The qualifications and experience of the successful applicants of the committee include conservation and scientific interests, forestry, local government administration, and community representatives.

Mr. Sheahan said that advisory committees were an important means by which the community could make a contribution to the care, control and management of national parks.

(For further information the news media should contact the Service's Public Relations and Information Officer, Berkeley Wiles, on work (02) 237 6925/24 or home (02) 969 1964, or the Regional Director of the Service's Northern Region, Geoff Martin on (066) 420593.)



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

19 JUN 1985

MEDIA RELEASE BY
THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT,
MR. TERRY SHEAHAN

RAINFOREST REGENERATION

2.6.84

The National Parks and Wildlife Service is working on a program of re-establishing rainforests in three areas on the far north coast.

The Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr. Terry Sheahan, said today the program was designed to regenerate rainforests in areas where the forest had been destroyed by logging, cattle grazing, agriculture and fire.

"Prior to European settlement it has been estimated that rainforests covered about one million hectares of New South Wales.

"Today, only about 13 per cent of the original rainforests remains in a natural or largely undisturbed condition.

"It is imperative that the remaining rainforests are preserved.

"The State Government has over the past four years taken steps to ensure the protection of our rainforests and by late next year we hope to have them included on the World Heritage List to preserve them for all time.

"Therefore, I am delighted to see the progress being made in the regeneration of rainforests in the far north coast region", he said.

Mr. Sheahan visited the region today to inspect the Border Ranges and Nightcap National Parks, both of which will be included in the State Government's nomination of rainforests for the UNESCO's World Heritage List, and to meet members of the newly formed Northern Rainforests National Parks Advisory Committee.

He said experimental plantings over the past five years at the Victoria Park Nature Reserve, near Lismore, had shown that rainforest could be artificuually regenerated successfully.

"The work by the National Parks and Wildlife Service has also shown that progress can mean something other than residential, industrial and tourist development.

"The success of the Victoria Park project has wide implications for scientists, foresters and people interested in bringing the forests back.

"The low maintenance approach to rainforest reforestation taken at Victoria Park is showing the way for future projects", Mr. Sheahan said.

He said Victoria Park Nature Reserve was one of the few surviving remnants of the Big Scrub Lowland, subtropical rainforest which once covered the Lismore-Ballina area.

About half the 17.5ha park was kikuyu and buffalo grass when planting began five years ago.

"Today, half that grassland has disappeared under the cover

of some 13,000 trees, some of which are now more than five metres tall.

"The aim of the project is to re-establish rainforests on the whole of the site and so double the size of the existing forest", he said.

Two areas of Dorriggo National Park are also being regenerated as rainforest.

Mr. Sheahan said cleared farmland within the park was planted to brush box, flooded gum and tallwood in 1976.

Twelve hectares of cleared farmland on the Dorriggo Plateau is currently being planted to rainforest. One and a half hectares has recently been planted to black wattle as a cover crop beneath which rainforest is expected to regenerate quickly.

At Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve near Port Macquarie, a small-scale replanting around the perimeter of a remnant littoral rainforest is under way.

The aim of this work is to build up perimeter protection and to repair past damage caused by cattle grazing and wildfire.

"None of this work would have been possible without the State Government's commitment to the conservation of major remaining rainforest areas in national parks and reserves.

"When we came to office in 1976 time was running out to preserve the larger and best examples of rainforests without further impairment.

"We inherited many commitments to allow logging of rainforests and the refusal by the Liberal and National Parties to support the Government's World Heritage List nomination in State Parliament last month is a clear indication that if they ever won government they would not hesitate to resurrect such commitments and attempt to put the rainforests of New South Wales through the chippers", Mr. Sheahan said.

(For further information the news media should contact the Service's Public Relations and Information Officer, Berkeley Wiles, on work (02) 237 6925/24 or home (02) 969 1964)

13 June, 1985

The Hon. R. J. Hawke,
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Hawke

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW welcomes the decision of your Government to forward the nomination of NSW Rainforests for World Heritage Listing to Paris. The Council believes that the sites proposed for nomination more than meet the criteria for acceptance on the list.

At the same time, we are concerned by the last paragraph of the report on the nomination in "The Australian" of Saturday, 8 June:

"Federal officials believe, however that there is
virtually no chance of the World Heritage Committee
agreeing to include the NSW Rainforests on the list."

The appearance of such sentiments in the media does not help the presentation of the case for nomination. Although the Minister for Arts, Heritage & Environment, Mr Barry Cohen, is reported as vigorously defending the value of the NSW Rainforests in the Sydney Morning Herald (Tuesday, 11 June, 1985), we nevertheless seek your assurance that:-

Your Government agrees with the NSW Government that the nominated sites more than meet the requirements for listing and that these would be worthy additions to the World Heritage List.

Your Government will actively press for the inclusion of the sites on the List at the relevant meetings.

Those officials, who apparently give the nomination little chance of success, will not be involved in presenting the case for nomination.

Yours sincerely

Judy Messer
CHAIRPERSON

cc: The Honourable N.K. Wran, Q.C., M.P.

13 June, 1985

The Hon. N.K. Wran, Q.C, M.P.
Premier of New South Wales
State Office Block
Phillip St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Wran

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW congratulates your Government on the preparation of the case for the nomination of NSW rainforests for World Heritage Listing and the decision of the Federal Government to forward the nomination to Paris.

The nomination has the whole-hearted support of the N.C.C.

We are concerned, however, that if the report in "The Australian" of 8 June is accurate, then certain Federal officials seem anxious to anticipate the future of the nomination. We believe that the sites nominated more than meet the established criteria for acceptance, but the publication of such sentiments does not make the task of presenting the nomination easy. We have written to Mr Hawke seeking his assurance of continued support from the Federal Government for the nomination.

Yours sincerely

Judy Messer
CHAIRPERSON



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

12 JUN 1985

NEWS RELEASE

June 2, 1984

The Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Terry Sheahan, today released interim management guidelines for three far north coast rainforest national parks.

The guidelines relate to the Border Ranges, Nightcap and Washpool National Parks.

Mr Sheahan said that as the full plans of management for all three parks would take some time to prepare, it was necessary for interim management programs to be available to protect the rainforests and to provide safe public access and facilities within the new rainforest national parks.

"The guidelines are also important as the State Government is to nominate the rainforests national parks and nature reserves for inclusion in the World Heritage List under the UNESCO Convention.

"The remaining rainforests of Australia and New South Wales in particular, are of international significance as ancient and isolated reservoirs of a great variety of plant and animal species of considerable importance to science.

"Rainforests throughout the world are subject to massive threats and changes.

"Indeed, Australia is the only advanced industrial nation to contain significant areas of rainforest, much of which is in this State.

"These important and unique areas must be preserved.

"The areas approved for World Heritage Listing will be placed forever beyond the temptation or contrariness of any future government inclined to log trees within the parks and reserves," Mr Sheahan said.

He said the nomination for World Heritage Listing would be submitted to the Australian Heritage Commission later this year.

"The nomination should then be considered by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee late next year to ensure lasting recognition and protection for one of the greatest conservation achievements of any government in Australia's history.

"The rainforests of Australia have already been greatly reduced since European settlement, mainly by clearing for agriculture.

"In NSW it has been estimated that the rainforests have been reduced from about one million hectares to about 250,000 ha in less than 200 years.

"Of the remaining rainforests half have been modified or damaged to varying degrees by logging, roads, fire and sand mining.

"In fact the remaining undisturbed or slightly modified rainforests in the State represent only about 13 per cent of the estimated original rainforests at the time of settlement.

"The 1982 rainforest decision of the Wran Government, which was finalised by the Forestry Revocation and National Parks Reservation Bill, 1984, which passed through the Parliament last month, is truly a landmark decision, acclaimed all over Australia and internationally," Mr Sheahan said.

A booklet detailing the interim management guidelines for the three national parks was now available from the National Parks and Wildlife Service head office, 189 Kent Street, Sydney, and from the NPWS offices at Grafton and Alstonville.

* * * *

State protects Washpool rainforest

By PAUL BAILEY

The State Government has declared the Washpool rainforest, between Grafton and Glen Innes, a wilderness area.

The declaration, the first over a State rainforest, gives further protection to 25,000 hectares of the Washpool area, which contains the largest stand of unlogged coachwood in the world.

Announcing the decision yesterday the Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Carr, said the major significance of the wilderness status was that Washpool will now be left in peace to allow the damage of past logging to heal.

"We are also allowing one of the logging roads to be revegetated — a vivid contrast to what

Queensland is doing with its rainforest, Daintree," he said.

"They are ramming a road through their rainforest, they're sub-dividing it for some tacky coastal development, they're depriving Australians in a hundred years time, 200 years time, forever, of the sight of wilderness rainforest."

"The Queensland Government's policy is both brutal and destructive."

Washpool has a total area of 27,700 hectares of warm, temperate rainforest and is situated about 75 kilometres east of Glen Innes and 80 kilometres west of Grafton.

It was formerly under State forest management but was preserved from logging in 1983.

Mr Carr said there will be

access to the perimeter of Washpool where there will be various picnic spots, but the only way to travel into the area will be on foot or by canoe.

"Because, though it is vast, it is helpless to defend itself and must rely totally on the protection of Government," he added.

Mr Carr said 17 out of the 20 wilderness areas identified by the Government were now in national parks.

He also announced yesterday the setting up of a Wilderness Working Group, consisting of representatives of non-government conservation groups and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, to discuss how wilderness areas in NSW can be best managed and protected.

"One of the working group's main tasks will be to examine proposals for a Wilderness Management Act for NSW," Mr Carr said.

"This will involve a detailed review of how adequate the current laws and policies are, and if changes are desirable, to ensure that wilderness areas are fully protected both now and in future times."

Mr Carr said broader issues which would be discussed by the group included the protection of wilderness areas on land managed by other Government authorities.

"Wilderness values currently exist in a range of Crown tenure and these values must be respected," he said.

Hounds bay, but Nev's no also-ran

From Page 1

obliquely between the two men without any definite agreement having been reached.

Manoeuvring on Mr Unsworth's behalf is being done by Pat Hills, 67, approaching retirement but unable to keep himself out of a fascinating political play. An electrical power crisis three years ago was not enough for Mr Hills; he needs the real thing.

The template for the Unsworth bid can be found in the 1972 descent of Mr Wran from the Upper House to the Legislative Assembly, to be honed for his victory over Tom Lewis in 1976. He was hand-picked by Mr John ("Bruvver") Ducker, then secretary of the NSW Labor Council (Unsworth's predecessor), even though he was not and is not a member of the Centre Unity faction. If Sussex Street decides a Lower House seat needs to be found for Mr Unsworth, there are a number of the faithful about to go anyway.

So, who at Sussex Street will decide? The faction's four strong men — the president and Federal Treasurer, Mr Keating, the State ALP president and Labor Council secretary, Mr John MacBean, the former State secretary and now Federal Senator Graham Richardson, and the present State secretary, Stephen Loosely.

What matters in the selection is not what the party as a whole thinks, but what is considered most pragmatic by the leaders of the faction which has controlled Labor affairs in this State since 1939, when the McKell forces defeated those of Jack Lang.

But didn't Mr Mulock roll the Sussex Street selection last year, proving "them" far from omnipotent? Yes, but some lessons were learned then.

All the main contenders belong to the Centre Unity faction. Oddly, the most senior State parliamentary factional figure is Terry Sheahan, a key link between Sussex and Macquarie Streets, but diminished in stature by his defeat for the deputy premiership. Ron Mulock chairs a key committee of the faction's State parliamentarians and so is also in regular touch with Loosely (a telephone call every two days or so). Unsworth's close friendship with MacBean is an obvious bond to the leadership and Laurie Brereton is friendly with all four.

But the names of Mulock and Unsworth keep recurring as the real contenders. It is widely felt that, if Mr Wran feels next year he should go, it will be because he has given up hope of restoring a high level of public confidence in his leadership. And Mr Brereton, 39, is widely viewed as having been so close to Mr Wran in the past and as being so like him in echoes of

style that this would damage his chances in any leadership poll this side of '88. But he is young enough to have future chances, though even future tussles will not be easy.

The dark horse is Peter Anderson, the 36-year-old Police Minister, and former policeman. When Mr Wran returned from Norfolk Island late last year, full of renewed vigour and determined to hold on to office, he made Mr Anderson Minister assisting the Premier. If the Wran premiership runs right up to the next election, and if progress in cleaning up the police force has been made by then, Mr Anderson's position will be immensely strengthened.

Mr Mulock, personally affable and veteran of several difficult portfolios which he has handled successfully, is a decent and upright man untouched by innuendo and whispering campaigns, and a sound political judge.

A lawyer and former Mayor of Penrith, Mr Mulock is a devout Catholic and a devoted family man. But he is no orator and his charisma quotient is less than overpowering. But his friends (and his courtesy and kindness have won him many, witness the deputy premiership voting) say there are times when an avuncular and reassuring figure can be just right.

Mr Unsworth has come a long way from Dubbo and the electri-

cian's tool bag, and from the Merrylands Strollers dance hall in Marrickville Town Hall where he met his wife. (He was also a practised performer at the Albion Palais at Surryville, and an avid Bobby Limb fan.)

As John Ducker's deputy, Mr Unsworth proved himself an adept organiser and machine man. He also developed formidable public speaking skills. To the left, he is a much more controversial and threatening figure than Mr Mulock, but just a year as minister (he went straight to No 1 in the Cabinet pecking order) has seen him working hard at building bridges, though his tongue can still be both club and rapier.

In July, Legislative Council members will join their Assembly colleagues in Caucus, and Unsworth has most of those votes, even though there are half a dozen or so Upper House Mulock supporters. Given time to build Assembly support, say his friends, the Unsworth numbers overall can be there by early next year.

But all this conjecture depends on Mr Wran himself. Even on the defensive he towers above his party colleagues. If he decides in nine months or so that things are swinging his way and that he wants to stay on to fight again in 1988, his would-be successors know they might as well go fishing for quite some time.

Research by Ben Bremner

17/5/85 Joan Staples says submission to Cabinet
is still imminent.

5X.



PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

01 MAY 1985

26 APR 1985

Ms J. Messer
Chairperson
The Nature Conservation Council of NSW
399 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Messer

Thank you for your letter of 27 March 1985 to the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales, urging the Commonwealth Government to immediately submit the New South Wales rainforests nomination for World Heritage Listing.

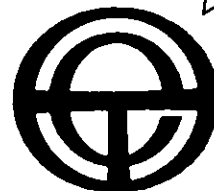
The Commonwealth Government has a responsibility to satisfy itself that the nominations proposed by the States meet the stringent criteria of "outstanding universal value". I am sure you appreciate that this of necessity takes time. A thorough examination of the final nomination is currently taking place, in close co-operation with the New South Wales Government officials, and it is hoped that a decision will be made in the very near future.

Since the nomination could not be submitted, for the above reasons, by 31 December 1984, and therefore will not now be considered until the World Heritage Committee's 1986 meeting, the need for immediate lodging is not critical. In the meantime, the areas proposed for nomination are protected under New South Wales legislation.

Yours sincerely

Lionel Bowen
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister

TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
18 Argyle St., Sydney, N.S.W. 2000. Phone 27 4714



19th April, 1985.

22 APR 1985

Dear Judy,

NSW RAINFORESTS

Please find enclosed Mr Barry Cohen's reply to our joint letter on the nomination of NSW rainforests to the World Heritage List.

I leave an individual reply to you. But note there is no commitment, as yet, to forward the nomination.

Yours faithfully,

Jeff Angel
Assistant Director
Total Environment Centre.



MINISTER FOR ARTS, HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT

20 MAR 1985

Mr J. Angel
C/- 18 Argyle Street
SYDNEY N.S.W. 2000

Dear Mr Angel

I refer to your circular letter of 14 January 1985 concerning the nomination of certain New South Wales rainforest national parks for inscription in the World Heritage List. The thrust of your letter appears to be a somewhat irrational castigation of the Federal Government for not lodging that nomination by 31 December 1984.

You would be aware that the Premier of New South Wales wrote to the Prime Minister on 13 December 1984 advising that his Government was preparing a nomination of the State's rainforests for inclusion on the World Heritage List. In his letter the Premier requested that this nomination be lodged with the secretariat of the World Heritage Committee, in Paris, by the end of December 1984. Copies of the final nomination papers prepared by the NSW Department of Environment and Planning were received by my Department on 27 December 1984. One could hardly imagine a time of the year less suitable for proper decision making by Cabinet, Caucus and Parliament.

I would have thought that, even in the emotional and misleading context of your letter, you might have given some attention to the processes of international treaty deliberations. The World Heritage Committee requires that any nomination to the World Heritage List must be lodged with its Secretariat in Paris by the end of December to allow formal consideration by the Committee during the following year. In this particular case, however, and in view of the need for full consideration by the Federal Government of the NSW nomination and its implications, an approach was made to Paris for an extension of the time to lodge the nomination by February 1985, but this approach was not successful.

The World Heritage List defines areas of the world's cultural and natural heritage of "outstanding universal value", the disappearance or destruction of which would constitute "a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all nations of the world".

It was set up under the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention) which has been accepted by 83 national governments. I should mention that Australia became a signatory to the World Heritage Convention in 1974 under a previous Labor Government, and has been an active member of the governing Committee since its foundation in 1976.

Under the present Federal Labor Government active steps have been taken to nominate further places for consideration for world heritage listing and an agreement has been reached between the Federal, State and Territory Ministers responsible for wildlife conservation and national parks, for dealing with the nomination of places in Australia for inclusion in the World Heritage List. To this end I wrote to all appropriate State/Territory Ministers last year and invited them to submit suggestions as to places to be examined for possible future world heritage nomination.

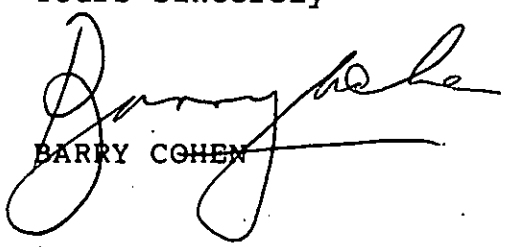
I am sure you will agree with me that the present five places in Australia which are entered on the World Heritage List do indeed merit and justify the stringent criteria for such listing, and that the Government has a responsibility to examine any nominations received from a State or Territory Government to ensure the World Heritage List remains an exclusive list of the world's cultural and natural treasures. In the case of the South West Tasmania nomination this examination took twelve months.

To do justice to any nomination and to be serious in meeting its national environmental and heritage responsibilities, it was not realistic for Australia to automatically forward the N.S.W. rainforest nomination to Paris without a thorough examination and without considering the many issues involved. That examination is taking place at present by the Government.

In any case, as you would be aware, any delay in nomination will not mean any lessening in the protection of the rainforests as all the areas nominated by New South Wales are in public ownership and are specifically reserved for conservation purposes under NSW legislation - the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and the Forestry Act 1916.

The tenor of your letter seems to show a complete disregard for the existing and effective conservation protective measures operating in New South Wales under the Wran Government.

Yours sincerely



BARRY COHEN

Thursday, May 16, 1985

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rainforests: no Govt conspiracy

IR: Selectively quoting from documents obtained under Freedom of Information may reinforce the "conspiracy" theory of government but add little to the debate about the preservation of Australia's rainforests.

In October I wrote to all States and Territories seeking nominations for sites considered suitable for the World Heritage List.

During 1984, my department had been informed that the NSW Government was planning to nominate temperate rainforests for World Heritage listing and that documents were being prepared to support the nomination.

On December 27, the detailed nomination papers arrived in Can-

berra — a bad time to have any matter proposed by Government.

David Monaghan and Michael Rae make no attempt to explain the way the Cabinet process works. They suggest that the department could examine the detailed papers provided by NSW, prepare a Cabinet submission, have it examined by all the departments concerned, brought before the appropriate Cabinet and Caucus committees and finally lodged for consideration of Cabinet before the deadline of December 31.

Aware that the NSW nomination was going to arrive at the eleventh hour, my department had sought, through the Australian Embassy to UNESCO in Paris, an extension of time beyond the December 31 deadline.

The World Heritage Secretariat replied that while an extension was not possible, a letter could be sent submitting the name of the site, with further details to follow.

It is this last point on which Monaghan and Rae base their whole

accusation of Federal Government conspiracy. It ignores the point that the only way I, or the Acting Minister, John Brown, could have acted in four days was to have done so without consulting our Caucus and Cabinet colleagues.

Officers of my department and those of the NSW Government have been reworking the nomination papers, which have only just been returned to Canberra this week.

Furthermore, what was the desperate rush to nominate the NSW rainforests? Were they Queensland rainforests I could understand, but the Premier, Mr Wran, has guaranteed total protection of NSW rainforests, and he will be Premier at least until 1988.

Also, there is a mistaken belief that the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will automatically accept any nomination. On the contrary, World Heritage listing is extraordinarily difficult to obtain.

It has been suggested by some strange perverted logic that by stopping the NSW nomination, it would

ease the pressure to nominate unilaterally the Queensland rainforests.

Surely a more logical explanation is for this Government to push the NSW rainforest nomination in the hope that it would prompt the Queensland Government to act in a like manner.

After all, World Heritage listing upgrades prestige of sites and this leads to increased tourism.

Because of the Government's success in stopping the Franklin Dam, there are those who seek the World Heritage Act as a panacea for all acts of environmental desecration by State and local governments.

That is an unrealistic expectation. The preservation of our rainforests will occur through Commonwealth/State co-operation such as has been achieved under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act.

Barry Cohen,
Minister for Arts, Heritage
and Environment,
Parliament House,
Canberra.

May 14

It's still all the way with LBJ

VETERANS of the conflict gathered the other day to commemorate Lyndon Johnson's other war, the one against poverty, illiteracy, sickness and racial discrimination — especially racial discrimination. Together they constitute that legislative surge just 20 years ago known, or, if remembered at all in contemporary Washington, as the "Great Society".

In this anniversary-conscious country, the Johnson clan had to organise the event themselves. This they did so without embarrassment in the LBJ Museum and Library on the oil-rich university of Texas campus (student population 7,000) at Austin-Johnson's home turf on the edge of the Texas hill country where he was born. When it was over Mrs Lady Bird Johnson presided over a barbecue at the LBJ ranch.

It is the peculiar misfortune of Johnson's Presidency (1963-69) to be over-shadowed by the martyred glamour of the Kennedys, by the villainy of Nixon, and by the Vietnam war which Johnson neither started nor finished, but prosecuted with his usual energy.

He is even cursed — in Robert Caro — with a brilliant but relentless biographer who portrays a political operator of genius, driven by ambition and an attitude towards men and money less pristine than that of his daddy, a notable Texas politician who died poor.

"I can't understand why the people don't love me more," Johnson once told Dean Acheson. "Mr President, maybe it's because you are not very

Vietnam record

IR: History is too important to allow the Patrick Walters article (Herald, April 30) on the 10th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War to pass without correction. He is wrong on at least two points.

REMEMBER, WE WANT
TO IMPRESS DON'T
MENTION YOU'RE A

Mr Barry Cohen
Minister for Arts, Heritage
and the Environment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

29 April, 1985

Dear Minister

re: WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION OF NSW RAINFORESTS

Following the discussion of this issue at the Meeting convened by you on 9 April, the N.C.C. again seeks your reassurance that the matter of the nomination will be expedited forthwith.

In that context we would like to have the following points clarified.

- . Have the NSW rainforests been placed on the 'indicative list'?
- . Have the relevant NSW Ministers been informed that alterations are being made to the nomination?
- . Are the alterations substantial?
- . When do you expect the nomination to be forwarded to Cabinet?

As the NCC is confident that the NSW rainforests are unique and therefore worthy of protection by entry on the exclusive World Heritage list, we seek your assurance that they do indeed enjoy interim protection under Federal as well as State Law.

In anticipation of this important issue being beneficially resolved in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Judy Messer
CHAIRPERSON



90 APR 1985

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA • THE SENATE

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF
SENATOR MICHAEL MACKLIN
AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRAT SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

BURANDA SHOPPING CENTRE
IPSWICH ROAD, BURANDA,
BRISBANE, QLD. 4102

TELEPHONE: (07) 391 8899

Second Reading

Senator MACKLIN (Queensland) (4.46)—by leave—I move:

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave, Mr Deputy President, to incorporate the second reading speech in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The speech read as follows—

In November 1983 the Queensland Cabinet gave the Douglas Shire Council \$100,000 to start building a 33-kilometre track between Cape Tribulation and Bloomfield River. After just one inch of rain, the ensuing quagmire turned the opening ceremony of the Daintree Road into an event of farce and danger and demonstrated that the road's construction was a political exercise.

Like the proposal to dam the Franklin River, the road through the Daintree Rainforest is an act of wilful environmental vandalism which the Australian Democrats totally oppose. The economic arguments in support of the road are dubious, while the environmental value of the area is beyond reproach.

The Daintree region is a unique area of rainforest. Rainforest contains at least 50 per cent of the world's animal and plant species.

Daintree is a unique area of this unique resource. It is the largest area of coastal rainforest and the largest contiguous area of virgin rainforest in Australia. It is home to 13 of the 19 most primitive flowering plants on the planet, 67 per cent of Australia's butterflies, 60 per cent of our Bats, 30 per cent of out reptiles, and eleven thousand species of plants.

The area surrounding the Daintree Road is already national park and is listed on the register of the National Estate because of its significance.

The environmental damage done to the Daintree and its natural inhabitants by the construction of the road has now extended to the rare fringing coral reefs of the Great Barrier Reef.

Recently the first significant scientific study of the coral communities of the fringe reefs off the Daintree coast was undertaken by Dr John Veron of the Australian Institute of Marine Science. He found that this section of reef is incredible rich. For example, in one dive of two hours he found 55 of the 80 genera of coral, and within these 55 genera there were 147 species.

It means that this is no ordinary section of reef, but one which is of considerable biological importance.

The existence side-by-side of these two different eco-systems, tropical rainforest and fringing reefs is indeed rare: there is only a mere handful of such places in the world. This is the only place in Australia.

Now, after the construction of the road and its continual bulldozing by Douglas Shire Council during the wet season, these precious fringing reefs are in great danger. Already there is evidence that the siltation from the 1984-85 wet season is pouring into the reefs.

A coral reef in a similar position off one of the southern islands of Japan, died very quickly when a road was built adjacent to it and excessive silt flowed into the sea.

Monitoring stations to be set up by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority later this year may simply record the death of the Reef. Sick coral is apparently very difficult to identify.

These reefs, part of the Great Barrier Reef, are on the World Heritage List, and it is the Federal Government's responsibility to preserve them.

The Democrats remain convinced that the road through the Daintree should never have been built. Not only are the economics of the construction questionable, but we now find environmental destruction affecting a rich rainforest area as well as precious coral reefs.

Further, the road itself seems destined to be useless and subject to mishap if the experience of the opening ceremony and its first wet season is anything to go by.

An alternative route already exists—the Peninsula Development Road or Mulligan Highway. A proposal for upgrading of this road was submitted to the Federal Minister for Transport in November 1984 by Comalco Alumina Ltd., Weipa, and the Administrator of the Cook Shire Council. The submission states that the upgrading of the Peninsula Development Road will benefit all the people by aiding the development of industries, especially Aboriginal Industries, the fishing industry, tourism, and will allow reduction in transport costs. Upgrading would also satisfy defence and surveillance requirements. The Cape Tribulation road can hardly be called a road at all when it will not be able to take trucks, and is closed more times than it is open.

Every purpose that the Cape Tribulation road was intended for, but cannot meet, can be provided by an upgraded Peninsula Development Road. The Democrats call on the Government to give urgent consideration and support to this funding request—but the Federal Government funding must be given only if there is a cast-iron guarantee from the Queensland Government that the Cape Tribulation Road be abandoned and re-vegetated.

The Daintree region, however, is not the only threatened area of Queensland rainforest.

The Daintree is part of a larger region of rainforest known as the Wet Tropics of North-East Queensland. That entire area of precious rainforest is existing on borrowed time.

Logging is taking place in core wilderness areas at Downey Creek. Commercial development is encroaching at a rapid rate.

The Australian Heritage Commission recognised the importance of the area and commissioned in 1984 a report on the international significance of the wet tropics of North-East Queensland.

That report was unequivocal in its praise of the area. It concluded:

"... the wet tropics of North-East Queensland are of outstanding conservation significance and more than adequately fulfil the criteria defined by the World Heritage Convention for inclusion in the 'World Heritage List'."

The Heritage Commission's report was certified by four international references. Their conclusions were equally enthusiastic.

Dr Peter Raven, Missouri Botanical Garden stated:

"I believe that the report definitely establishes international heritage significance for the area."

Professor P. K. Endress, Zurich University said:

"There is no question that the tropical rainforests of North-East Queensland are the most important ecosystems with primitive flowering plants in the world ... World Heritage nomination is highly justified."

Professor R. N. Schuster, University of Massachusetts wrote:

"The study report ... establishes the imperative need for preservation status. If economic demands eventually necessitate limiting the area given protection, this should be effect only after we know more about the flora and fauna than is known at present ... I would argue that the area should be given World Heritage status now ..."

James Thorsell of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources concluded:

"The report is the most detailed evaluation of any prospective World Heritage potential nomination that has been completed for any property."

This euphoric worldwide praise has not persuaded this Labor Government to place the fate of a unique area of the world's environment over and above its own political fortunes.

This Labour Government has done its utmost to do nothing to save Daintree. It has, I regret to say, succeeded admirably.

The Government proposed to nominate the North-East Queensland rainforests for the World Heritage List only with the agreement of the Queensland Government.

At the same time, this Government has openly admitted that the Queensland Government has no intention of assisting the nomination of any of its unique environment to the World Heritage List.

The Queensland Government has rejected any co-operation in putting the rainforests on the World Heritage List and turned down the Federal Government's \$1 million management plan. These outright rejections were contained in a letter from the Queensland Premier on 25 September 1984.

These rejections, which further condemn the North-East Queensland rainforests, have not moved the Labor Government into action. It still remains idle while the environment is denuded.

Further, not only have we witnessed an extraordinary public performance by this Government to justify their inaction, we are now beginning to

see evidence of collusion between the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment and the Queensland Government. In a Home Affairs and Environment Minute, released under the Freedom of Information Act, "(Federal Government Officers) indicated that there had been no media coverage outside Northern Queensland, as far as we knew, of the drug issue, nor of the strong local and Aboriginal support for the road. Mr Tenni agreed to give this matter attention and the Minister (Mr Cohen) offered to provide him with the names of journalists who might be interested in investigating the other side of the debate, particularly the drug issue". It would seem that this agreement between Mr Cohen and Mr Tenni had some results when one reads, in the months following the meeting, numerous reports in the southern newspapers of "the drug issue" in the Daintree region. And apparently this is not even the full story as there were four sentences deleted from the Minute. The public needs to know the full content of that departmental Minute so we can ascertain the extent to which the Federal Government has entered into an "unholy" alliance with the Queensland Government over the Daintree.

The Democrats believe the Federal Government can and must intervene to protect North-East Queensland Rainforests. Under the *World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983* the Government could proclaim the area to be part of Australia's natural heritage. The Government is able to do that because the "outstanding universal value" of the area is now beyond question. Such a proclamation would be clearly open to legal challenge. That, however, is not an issue to be determined by politicians but by the courts. The Government's failure to use its legal powers in its own legislation in accord with its advice from the Heritage Commission is reprehensible.

The rainforests of North-East Queensland have to be saved. The Democrats' Bill aims to do that until the area is nominated for the World Heritage List.

The Democrats' Bill is an interim protection measure designed to overcome the Government's failure to act. The protection is afforded by the High Court or Federal Court issuing declarations of "natural heritage" status following an application by an interested person. At the same time (or after) an area is declared as "natural heritage" the High Court or Federal Court may grant an injunction restricting the doing of a specified act that would prejudice Australia's duty under Article 4 of the Convention.

The World Heritage Convention imposes a number of obligations on signatories. Australia is a signatory.

Under Article 4 we have an obligation to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage. Each nation will do all it can to this end, to the utmost of its own resources.

The Government's refusal to act in accordance with this obligation deserves vigorous condemnation.

It should be stressed that the obligation contained in Article 4 is not limited to properties included on the World Heritage List. Article 12 makes that clear.

In this Bill the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment is required to nominate the Wet Tropics of North-East Queensland for inclusion in the World Heritage List after receiving a report from the Australian Heritage Commission with material for the detailed nomination. The Minister is required to do this without delay.

The protection offered by this Bill—the court declarations and injunctions—cease as soon as the nomination for the wet tropics of North-East Queensland is undertaken. Once that nomination is underway the Government's *World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983* offers protection.

The Wet Tropics of North-East Queensland are, as Mr Cohen has said, "a complex mosaic of national parks, state forests, timber reserves, vacant crown land, freehold and leasehold land". It also contains an Aboriginal reserve.

The Democrats recognise these problems. Unlike the Government, we are prepared to work out these problems.

The Democrats' Bill is a measure providing temporary protection. That protection is provided to National Parks, State Forests, Timber reserves and the Aboriginal and Island Reserve all of which are listed in Appendix 1 of the June 1984 'Report of the Society'. These areas are already delineated and gazetted.

Private land is not covered. It is the task of the Australian Heritage Commission to determine the detailed boundaries of the area, including private land. Appropriate compensation would have to be worked out.

Any destruction of the rainforest environment from now on in will be the sole responsibility of the Federal Government.

They have attempted to get the Queensland Government to co-operate but that has failed. They now have to take the initiative and act according to their responsibilities to secure this area for future generations.

Fifty acres of the world's rainforests disappear every minute. Over one year that is an area equivalent to the size of Switzerland.

Scientists have yet to classify many species of life that are in the rainforests. It is estimated that the loss of rainforests will make extinct between 250,000 and 1.25 million different species by the year 2000.

This loss of genetic diversity means that many unknown life forms could disappear before their value is understood.

Rainforests have provided substances that have saved human life. In 1960, a child suffering from leukemia had only a one in five chance of remission. Today, thanks to a drug developed from tropical plants, that child has a four in five chance of avoiding leukemia. About half of all modern medicine is derived from plants.

In the 200 years since European settlement white Australians have destroyed 75 per cent of this country's rainforests. Rainforests now cover only 0.25 per cent of Australia's land mass. This minute area could be grouped into a circle of 70 km in diameter.

Australian rainforests contain at least half of all Australia's flora and fauna. They are believed to be the cradle for the world's flowering plants which evolved between 65 and 130 million years ago.

The environment must be preserved for this and future generations. While we inherit the earth from our parents we merely borrow it from our children. We have to recognise that the natural environment is a finite resource capable of being destroyed by careless and greedy policies.

Australia has a unique natural heritage. We must recognise that it is priceless and work more rapidly to protect those areas under threat.

Daintree and the North-East Queensland rainforests are priceless world heritage. They are under threat now. This Bill will protect them. I urge all Senators to support this Bill.

Debate (on motion by Senator Robertson) adjourned.

CAPE TRIBULATION

Senator MACKLIN—My question is directed to the Minister representing the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment. It concerns a meeting on 19 June last year between Mr Cohen, the Federal Minister for the Environment and his Queensland counterpart, Mr Tenni, concerning the proposed road from Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield. By making an offer to provide Mr Tenni with the names of journalists who might be interested in investigating the drug issue, as he did in the record of that meeting, is Mr Cohen saying that there is no difference between the Commonwealth's position and that of the Queensland Government? For example, does the Minister believe that there is a white slave trade and girls for drug racket operating out of the tropical rainforest area or does the Minister believe that Mr Tenni has perhaps been to too many performances of *Pirates of Penzance* playing to packed houses in Queensland or read too many Mills and Boon novels?

Senator RYAN—The Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, Mr Cohen, has made the Government's view on the proposed road from Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield clearly and consistently. The Government believes that the road should not have been built. However, the responsibility for the road lies both legally and constitutionally with the Queensland Government and the Douglas Shire Council. The Prime Minister has made it clear that the Commonwealth Government will not act unilaterally when dealing with a sovereign State.

With regard to Mr Tenni's specific allegations of white slave trade and girls for drug racket operations in the Cape Tribulation area, Mr Cohen has already stated that the drug episode during his meeting was like sitting through a James Bond movie. Mr Cohen made it clear at his meeting with Mr Tenni on 19 June that he still wanted to explore ways of saving rainforests throughout Australia, particularly those in Queensland. Mr Cohen believes that such bodies as the working party on rainforests that he established last year, which includes representatives from the Queensland Government, conservation groups and wood industry employers and employees, will enable a solution to be found to this problem.

Senator Macklin would be aware that the text of the record of the meeting on 19 June last year between Mr Cohen and the Queensland Minister for Environment, Mr Tenni is now on public record following freedom of information requests. If Senator Macklin really wants another copy of that text, I am sure that Mr Cohen's office will be able to satisfy him.



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA • THE SENATE

10 APR 1985

**WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF
SENATOR MICHAEL MACKLIN**

AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRAT SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

BURANDA SHOPPING CENTRE
IPSWICH ROAD, BURANDA,
BRISBANE, QLD. 4102

TELEPHONE: (07) 391 8899

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Senator RYAN—The Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, Mr Cohen, has made the Government's view on the proposed road from Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield clearly and consistently. The Government believes that the road should not have been built. However, the responsibility for the road lies both legally and constitutionally with the Queensland Government and the Douglas Shire Council. The Prime Minister has made it clear that the Commonwealth Government will not act unilaterally when dealing with a sovereign State.

With regard to Mr Tenni's specific allegations of white slave trade and girls for drug racket operations in the Cape Tribulation area, Mr Cohen has already stated that the drug episode during his meeting was like sitting through a James Bond movie. Mr Cohen made it clear at his meeting with Mr Tenni on 19 June that he still wanted to explore ways of saving rainforests throughout Australia, particularly those in Queensland. Mr Cohen believes that such bodies as the working party on rainforests that he established last year, which includes representatives from the Queensland Government, conservation groups and wood industry employers and employees, will enable a solution to be found to this problem.

Senator Macklin would be aware that the text of the record of the meeting on 19 June last year between Mr Cohen and the Queensland Minister for Environment, Mr Tenni is now on public record following freedom of information requests. If Senator Macklin really wants another copy of that text, I am sure that Mr Cohen's office will be able to satisfy him.

Second Reading

Senator MACKLIN (Queensland) (4.46)—by leave—I move:

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave, Mr Deputy President, to incorporate the second reading speech in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The speech read as follows—

In November 1983 the Queensland Cabinet gave the Douglas Shire Council \$100,000 to start building a 33-kilometre track between Cape Tribulation and Bloomfield River. After just one inch of rain, the ensuing quagmire turned the opening ceremony of the Daintree Road into an event of farce and danger and demonstrated that the road's construction was a political exercise.

Like the proposal to dam the Franklin River, the road through the Daintree Rainforest is an act of wilful environmental vandalism which the Australian Democrats totally oppose. The economic arguments in support of the road are dubious, while the environmental value of the area is beyond reproach.

The Daintree region is a unique area of rainforest. Rainforest contains at least 50 per cent of the world's animal and plant species.

Daintree is a unique area of this unique resource. It is the largest area of coastal rainforest and the largest contiguous area of virgin rainforest in Australia. It is home to 13 of the 19 most primitive flowering plants on the planet, 67 per cent of Australia's butterflies, 60 per cent of our Bats, 30 per cent of our reptiles, and eleven thousand species of plants.

The area surrounding the Daintree Road is already national park and is listed on the register of the National Estate because of its significance.

The environmental damage done to the Daintree and its natural inhabitants by the construction of the road has now extended to the rare fringing coral reefs of the Great Barrier Reef.

Recently the first significant scientific study of the coral communities of the fringe reefs off the Daintree coast was undertaken by Dr John Veron of the Australian Institute of Marine Science. He found that this section of reef is incredible rich. For example, in one dive of two hours he found 55 of the 80 genera of coral, and within these 55 genera there were 147 species.

It means that this is no ordinary section of reef, but one which is of considerable biological importance.

The existence side-by-side of these two different eco-systems, tropical rainforest and fringing reefs is indeed rare: there is only a mere handful of such places in the world. This is the only place in Australia.

Now, after the construction of the road and its continual bulldozing by Douglas Shire Council during the wet season, these precious fringing reefs are in great danger. Already there is evidence that the siltation from the 1984-85 wet season is pouring into the reefs.

A coral reef in a similar position off one of the southern islands of Japan, died very quickly when a road was built adjacent to it and excessive silt flowed into the sea.

Monitoring stations to be set up by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority later this year may simply record the death of the Reef. Sick coral is apparently very difficult to identify.

These reefs, part of the Great Barrier Reef, are on the World Heritage List, and it is the Federal Government's responsibility to preserve them.

The Democrats remain convinced that the road through the Daintree should never have been built. Not only are the economics of the construction questionable, but we now find environmental destruction affecting a rich rainforest area as well as precious coral reefs.

Further, the road itself seems destined to be useless and subject to mishap if the experience of the opening ceremony and its first wet season is anything to go by.

An alternative route already exists—the Peninsula Development Road or Mulligan Highway. A proposal for upgrading of this road was submitted to the Federal Minister for Transport in November 1984 by Comalco Alumina Ltd., Weipa, and the Administrator of the Cook Shire Council. The submission states that the upgrading of the Peninsula Development Road will benefit all the people by aiding the development of industries, especially Aboriginal Industries, the fishing industry, tourism, and will allow reduction in transport costs. Upgrading would also satisfy defence and surveillance requirements. The Cape Tribulation road can hardly be called a road at all when it will not be able to take trucks, and is closed more times than it is open.

Every purpose that the Cape Tribulation road was intended for, but cannot meet, can be provided by an upgraded Peninsula Development Road. The Democrats call on the Government to give urgent consideration and support to this funding request—but the Federal Government funding must be given only if there is a cast-iron guarantee from the Queensland Government that the Cape Tribulation Road be abandoned and re-vegetated.

The Daintree region, however, is not the only threatened area of Queensland rainforest.

The Daintree is part of a larger region of rainforest known as the Wet Tropics of North-East Queensland. That entire area of precious rainforest is existing on borrowed time.

Logging is taking place in core wilderness areas at Downey Creek. Commercial development is encroaching at a rapid rate.

The Australian Heritage Commission recognised the importance of the area and commissioned in 1984 a report on the international significance of the wet tropics of North-East Queensland.

That report was unequivocal in its praise of the area. It concluded:

"... the wet tropics of North-East Queensland are of outstanding conservation significance and more than adequately fulfil the criteria defined by the World Heritage Convention for inclusion in the 'World Heritage List'."

The Heritage Commission's report was certified by four international references. Their conclusions were equally enthusiastic.

Dr Peter Raven, Missouri Botanical Garden stated:

"I believe that the report definitely establishes international heritage significance for the area."

Professor P. K. Endress, Zurich University said:

"There is no question that the tropical rainforests of North-East Queensland are the most important ecosystems with primitive flowering plants in the world . . . World Heritage nomination is highly justified."

Professor R. N. Schuster, University of Massachusetts wrote:

"The study report . . . establishes the imperative need for preservation status. If economic demands eventually necessitate limiting the area given protection, this should be effect only after we know more about the flora and fauna than is known at present . . . I would argue that the area should be given World Heritage status now . . ."

James Thorsell of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources concluded:

"The report is the most detailed evaluation of any prospective World Heritage potential nomination that has been completed for any property."

This euphoric worldwide praise has not persuaded this Labor Government to place the fate of a unique area of the world's environment over and above its own political fortunes.

This Labour Government has done its utmost to do nothing to save Daintree. It has, I regret to say, succeeded admirably.

The Government proposed to nominate the North-East Queensland rainforests for the World Heritage List only with the agreement of the Queensland Government.

At the same time, this Government has openly admitted that the Queensland Government has no intention of assisting the nomination of any of its unique environment to the World Heritage List.

The Queensland Government has rejected any co-operation in putting the rainforests on the World Heritage List and turned down the Federal Government's \$1 million management plan. These outright rejections were contained in a letter from the Queensland Premier on 25 September 1984.

These rejections, which further condemn the North-East Queensland rainforests, have not moved the Labor Government into action. It still remains idle while the environment is denuded.

Further, not only have we witnessed an extraordinary public performance by this Government to justify their inaction, we are now beginning to

see evidence of collusion between the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment and the Queensland Government. In a Home Affairs and Environment Minute, released under the Freedom of Information Act, "(Federal Government Officers) indicated that there had been no media coverage outside Northern Queensland, as far as we knew, of the drug issue, nor of the strong local and Aboriginal support for the road. Mr Tennie agreed to give this matter attention and the Minister (Mr Cohen) offered to provide him with the names of journalists who might be interested in investigating the other side of the debate, particularly the drug issue". It would seem that this agreement between Mr Cohen and Mr Tennie had some results when one reads, in the months following the meeting, numerous reports in the southern newspapers of "the drug issue" in the Daintree region. And apparently this is not even the full story as there were four sentences deleted from the Minute. The public needs to know the full content of that departmental Minute so we can ascertain the extent to which the Federal Government has entered into an "unholy" alliance with the Queensland Government over the Daintree.

The Democrats believe the Federal Government can and must intervene to protect North-East Queensland Rainforests. Under the *World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983* the Government could proclaim the area to be part of Australia's natural heritage. The Government is able to do that because the "outstanding universal value" of the area is now beyond question. Such a proclamation would be clearly open to legal challenge. That, however, is not an issue to be determined by politicians but by the courts. The Government's failure to use its legal powers in its own legislation in accord with its advice from the Heritage Commission is reprehensible.

The rainforests of North-East Queensland have to be saved. The Democrats' Bill aims to do that until the area is nominated for the World Heritage List.

The Democrats' Bill is an interim protection measure designed to overcome the Government's failure to act. The protection is afforded by the High Court or Federal Court issuing declarations of "natural heritage" status following an application by an interested person. At the same time (or after) an area is declared as "natural heritage" the High Court or Federal Court may grant an injunction restricting the doing of a specified act that would prejudice Australia's duty under Article 4 of the Convention.

The World Heritage Convention imposes a number of obligations on signatories. Australia is a signatory.

Under Article 4 we have an obligation to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage. Each nation will do all it can to this end, to the utmost of its own resources.

The Government's refusal to act in accordance with this obligation deserves vigorous condemnation.

It should be stressed that the obligation contained in Article 4 is not limited to properties included on the World Heritage List. Article 12 makes that clear.

In this Bill the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment is required to nominate the Wet Tropics of North-East Queensland for inclusion in the World Heritage List after receiving a report from the Australian Heritage Commission with material for the detailed nomination. The Minister is required to do this without delay.

The protection offered by this Bill—the court declarations and injunctions—cease as soon as the nomination for the wet tropics of North-East Queensland is undertaken. Once that nomination is underway the Government's *World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983* offers protection.

The Wet Tropics of North-East Queensland are, as Mr Cohen has said, "a complex mosaic of national parks, state forests, timber reserves, vacant crown land, freehold and leasehold land". It also contains an Aboriginal reserve.

The Democrats recognise these problems. Unlike the Government, we are prepared to work out these problems.

The Democrats' Bill is a measure providing temporary protection. That protection is provided to National Parks, State Forests, Timber reserves and the Aboriginal and Island Reserve all of which are listed in Appendix 1 of the June 1984 'Report of the Society'. These areas are already delineated and gazetted.

Private land is not covered. It is the task of the Australian Heritage Commission to determine the detailed boundaries of the area, including private land. Appropriate compensation would have to be worked out.

Any destruction of the rainforest environment from now on in will be the sole responsibility of the Federal Government.

They have attempted to get the Queensland Government to co-operate but that has failed. They now have to take the initiative and act according to their responsibilities to secure this area for future generations.

Fifty acres of the world's rainforests disappear every minute. Over one year that is an area equivalent to the size of Switzerland.

Scientists have yet to classify many species of life that are in the rainforests. It is estimated that the loss of rainforests will make extinct between 250,000 and 1.25 million different species by the year 2000.

This loss of genetic diversity means that many unknown life forms could disappear before their value is understood.

Rainforests have provided substances that have saved human life. In 1960, a child suffering from leukemia had only a one in five chance of remission. Today, thanks to a drug developed from tropical plants, that child has a four in five chance of avoiding leukemia. About half of all modern medicine is derived from plants.

In the 200 years since European settlement white Australians have destroyed 75 per cent of this country's rainforests. Rainforests now cover only 0.25 per cent of Australia's land mass. This minute area could be grouped into a circle of 70 km in diameter.

Australian rainforests contain at least half of all Australia's flora and fauna. They are believed to be the cradle for the world's flowering plants which evolved between 65 and 130 million years ago.

The environment must be preserved for this and future generations. While we inherit the earth from our parents we merely borrow it from our children. We have to recognise that the natural environment is a finite resource capable of being destroyed by careless and greedy policies.

Australia has a unique natural heritage. We must recognise that it is priceless and work more rapidly to protect those areas under threat.

Daintree and the North-East Queensland rainforests are priceless world heritage. They are under threat now. This Bill will protect them. I urge all Senators to support this Bill.

Debate (on motion by Senator Robertson) adjourned.

4.4.85. JGM

RE: DAINTREE

TELEX SENT TO THE HON. R. J. HAWKE, PRIME MINISTER (61616 PRIMIN)

FURTHER TO MY LETTER OF 20 MARCH 1985 RE YOUR GOVERNMENT'S
INACTION ON MAJOR CONSERVATION ISSUES I URGE YOU TO SEEK
PROMPT REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENT MINISTER ON WHAT ACTION HE
RECOMMENDS TO DEAL WITH THE DAINTREE RAINFOREST CRISIS. CAPE
TRIBULATION ROAD IS THREATENING BOTH THE RAINFOREST AND REEF.
ACF HAS PROVIDED A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF MEASURES TO MR.
COHEN (SEE SUBMISSION OF 5 MARCH 1985) TO AVERT DISASTER
INCLUDING EXPENDITURE ON MULLIGAN HIGHWAY TRANSPORT ALTERNATIVE.
CONFIDENCE IN YOUR GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE IN ENVIRONMENT
FIELD IS NOW APPROACHING CRUCIAL STAGE AND URGENT ACTION IS
IMPERATIVE.

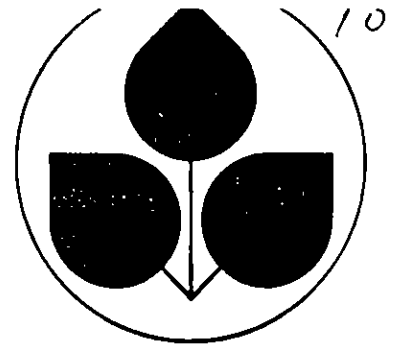
J. G. MOSLEY

DIRECTOR

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

4.4.85

news release



081 AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
29850

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6728 Glenferrie Road
Hawthorn Victoria
Australia 3122
Telephone (03) 819 2888

ACF

Distribution: AUS NSW VICM QLDM QLDR SA WA
Media Release from Australian Conservation Foundation

CONSERVATION CHALLENGE TO HAWKE

The Australian Conservation Foundation has asked the Prime Minister what his Government is going to do about the Daintree situation.

The Foundation was responding to statements by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, Mr. Barry Cohen, who said that the Commonwealth had not intervened to save the Daintree rainforest from the Cape Tribulation road threat because of fears that the ALP would lose seats at the recent federal election.

The Foundation's Director, Dr. Geoff Mosley, said the key question was "what is the Government going to do now?" He said he had asked the Prime Minister to seek an urgent report from Mr. Cohen on what action he recommended to overcome the disaster.

Dr. Mosley said the two fundamental aspects of the whole affair were first that the Daintree rainforest had been identified by the Government as part of the world heritage in Australia and second that the Commonwealth had a responsibility to conserve the area.

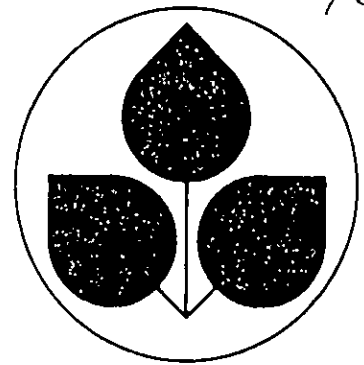
He said that Mr. Cohen could no longer use the federal election as an excuse for inaction. The Government now had 2½ to 3 years to do something.

Dr. Mosley said that the Age in an editorial had said that Mr. Cohen would be more aptly titled Minister for Roads - such a remark suggested that there was a growing crisis of confidence in the Minister's capacity or willingness to carry out his tasks.

Dr. Mosley said the Commonwealth would have to do better than it did at yesterday's Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council meeting when the subject of the effect of silt from the Daintree road on the Reef was not even on the agenda for discussion.

Dr. Mosley said there were obvious solutions to the Daintree crisis. The main need was for the Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield road to be closed and for rehabilitation work to start. At the same time the Commonwealth should announce that it would upgrade the Mulligan Highway which was the obvious transport alternative. He said the Foundation had presented the Minister with a comprehensive set of proposals - the question was whether the Hawke Government in general and Barry Cohen in particular had the will to implement them.

For further information please contact Dr. G. Mosley (03) 819 2888(bh) or (03) 850 7370(ah).



Australian Conservation Foundation

Canberra Office

P.O. Box 1875
Canberra City 2601
Phone: (062) 473013

ACF

7th March, 1985.

Dear Friends,

I enclose a copy of a package I have put together as suggestions to the Minister, Barry Cohen, and the Department of Arts, Heritage and Environment on action they might take in conjunction with attempting to have the Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield road closed.

I must express my thanks to Margaretann Stannard, Rosemary Hill and the Wilderness Action Group for their assistance.

The package should not be interpreted as moving away from our desire for protection of the whole wet tropics. At the same time we are consulting with John Sinclair and Aila Keto about the report from the Rainforest Working Party due to be completed now in April. As well, we welcome the rainforest resort proposal being developed and publicised by the Innesfail Branch of the Wildlife Protection Society. They are to be congratulated on an excellent initiative for Downey Creek.

This is an attempt to make progress in one area (i.e. closure of the road) where I perceive the political environment may be opportune.

Factors why the Government might be persuaded to act now.

1. I saw the Minister with Dr. John Veron, a foremost expert on Australian corals on Tuesday, 5th March and Mr. Cohen appeared to accept the fact that the Reef was in danger. He invited Dr. Veron to show him the Reef and the area when the Minister is in far north Queensland in April.
2. Comalco and Cook Shire have put a proposal to the Commonwealth Department of Transport for the upgrading of the Peninsula Development Road.
3. Douglas Shire elections on 30th March may change the makeup of the Council, although unfortunately not the balance of power. There are a number of our local sympathisers standing.
4. There is increasing discontent in Douglas Shire at the allocation of resources to the road during the wet at the expense of other essential roadworks.
5. Re-election of John Gaylor means his seat is now secure for another 3 years.

ACTION

Maximum pressure needs to be exerted on the Minister stressing that we expect him to take action to protect the Reef.

A letterwriting campaign throughout March and early April organised by all groups on this angle would be very helpful to us here in Canberra.

Points to stress are:-

(a) The Great Barrier Reef is a World Heritage property which the Commonwealth is obliged to protect.

(b) Monitoring stations to be set up by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority later this year may simply record the death of the Reef. Sick coral is very difficult to identify. Action is required now.

(c) Continual bulldozing by Douglas Shire to try and keep the road open throughout the wet is exacerbating the situation.

(d) There appear to be no studies in Australia on effects of this type of siltation on coral or knowledge on the length of time it will take for the Reef to die. However a coral reef in a similar position off one of the southern islands of Japan, died over an approximate two year period when a road was built adjacent to it.

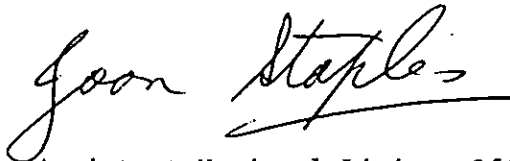
(e) Coral reefs are not normally found next to rainforest. This occurs in only a few places throughout the world. This is the only place in Australia.

(f) This reef is particularly rich with an enormous diversity of species. In one dive Dr. Veron was able to find 55 of the 80 genera of coral.

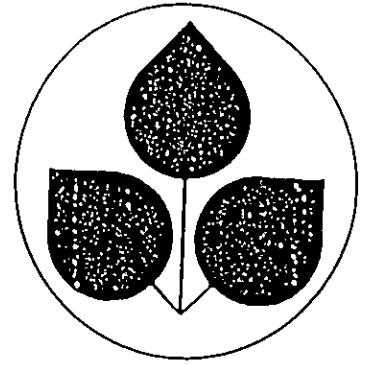
Once again the environment movement is seeing its sad predictions were correct. - This time on the threat to the Reef. But, neither we, nor the scientific community, realised that this section of Reef was so valuable.

I urge you and your group to take action on this matter for the sake of both the Reef and the rainforest.

Yours sincerely



Assistant National Liaison Officer



Australian Conservation Foundation

Canberra Office

P.O. Box 1875
Canberra City 2601
Phone: (062) 473013

ACF

Submission to
the Hon. Barry Cohen, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Environment
on
the closure of the Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield Road
from
the Australian Conservation Foundation.
5th March, 1985.

JGM:NH
20 March, 1985

The Hon. R. J. Hawke,
Prime Minister,
Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT, 2600

10
ACF

Australian
Conservation
Foundation
672B Glenferrie Road
Hawthorn Victoria
Australia 3122

Telephone (03) 819 2888
International + 61 3 819 2888

Dear Mr. Hawke,

I am writing at the request of the Council of the Australian Conservation Foundation about the Foundation's deep concern with the performance of your Government in relation to a number of aspects of environmental conservation.

With regard to the Government's response to its world heritage responsibilities the Foundation's Council passed the following resolutions:

"That the ACF protest to the Prime Minister over allowing the Queensland Government to in effect veto any further World Heritage listing in Queensland including the Great Sandy Region, and the Wet Tropics and calls on the Government to allow these nominations to proceed on their merits with or without the support of the Queensland Government."

"That the Director write to the Prime Minister expressing the ACF's deep concern with his Government's attitude to:

- i) the identification of prospective World Heritage sites;
- ii) the recommendation of such sites, and
- iii) the management of World Heritage sites.

One example of this attitude was evidenced in a telegram from the Minister's (Arts, Heritage and Environment) Private Secretary, Mr. Conway, to the Secretary of the Cairns Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, of 17 February, 1985. A copy of the telegram is attached.

The ACF seeks the Prime Minister's assurance that the Government will exercise its obligation under the World Heritage Convention, not withstanding unacceptable attempts by some State Governments to veto World Heritage nomination and/or effective management, and that it will honour the policy of the ALP as determined at its last National Conference."

"That the matter of the delays in including "Gimbat" and "Goodparla" in Stage III of the Kakadu National Park should be an additional matter raised with the Prime Minister over the dissatisfaction of the administration of World Heritage and potential World Heritage sites."

"That ACF believes the management authority for South-West Tasmania should -

- a) be a joint Commonwealth/Tasmanian independent statutory authority;
- b) be responsible for the management of the Western Tasmania Area listed on the National Estate;

In view of the serious deficiencies in the Federal Government's proposed management authority ACF supports the boycott by conservation groups of participation in it."

In addition Council asked me to request the reactivation of federal programmes which provide for land acquisition for national parks and wildlife conservation. The following resolution was passed on this point:

"That the ACF express its concern to the Prime Minister of his Government's failure to provide meaningful funding to the States Grants (Nature Conservation) Act particularly when there are so many pressing needs for such funds around Australia."

The Foundation is also dissatisfied with other aspects of the Government's performance in the conservation and environmental field. For instance, Section 10 B 2 of the ALP Platform approved by the 36th National Conference, Canberra, 1984, states that the ALP will review and amend the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974-75. We understand that Cabinet has not agreed to the recent proposals submitted by the responsible Minister.

We also understand that one of the specific matters which resulted in Cabinet sending back the proposals for revision was the proposal that the Act be amended to give the Minister for Environment the discretion to trigger the environmental impact assessment process, and yet this is a specific provision in the platform (10 B 2 b).

We believe the situation indicated by these various resolutions suggested a growing loss of confidence by the Foundation in your Government's environmental administration. I further believe it would be helpful if I could discuss these problems with you in person in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

E. G. Mosley

E. G. Mosley
Director

5

Recommendation 22 (formerly 16/53)

WORLD HERITAGE LISTING OF OUTSTANDING TROPICAL
RAINFOREST IN QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

FULLY CONSCIOUS that it is an objective of IUCN to promote the expansion and protection of protected areas;

BEING AWARE that an indicative inventory of natural sites of World Heritage quality was published in The World's Greatest Natural Areas;

RECOGNISING that the Wet Tropics Region of north Queensland is a tropical rainforest area which is included in The World's Greatest Natural Areas and that there are proposals to expand the national parks system in the Region;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that the rainforest of the Wet Tropics Region of north-east Queensland contains an outstanding concentration of endemic species and primitive flowering plants which are relics of ancient and unique flora and fauna;

SERIOUSLY CONCERNED about any threats to the rainforests which are highly fragile communities;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 16th Session in Madrid, Spain, 5-14 November 1984:

CALLS UPON the Federal Government of Australia and the Government of Queensland to take all steps available to them to protect the area, expand the parks and overcome current difficulties affecting agreement to nominate the area for inscription on the World Heritage List.



1/ Jom
2/ file
Wet Tropics

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

19 MAR 1985

Mrs N. Radcliffe
Secretary to the Director
Australian Conservation Foundation
672B Glenferrie Road
HAWTHORN VIC 3122

2 MAR 1985

Dear Mrs Radcliffe

Thank you for your letter of 5 February 1985 addressed to Mr Bowen's Secretary on behalf of the Director of the Australian Conservation Foundation inquiring after the Queensland Premier's response to the Prime Minister's letter to him of 12 September 1984 concerning the wet tropical rainforests of Northern Queensland.

I have been asked to let you know that the Queensland Premier could see no need for Ministerial-level discussions on the subject. As a result a further letter proposing officer-level discussions, has been sent to the Premier and a response is being awaited. In the meantime, Queensland is participating in the Working Group on Rainforest Conservation.

The Working Group is expected to make its final report to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment in May of this year. The views of relevant State Governments will then be sought on the Working Group report, which will also be made available for public comment.

Yours sincerely

J.V. Townsend
Senior Private Secretary



PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

- 2 NOV 1984

Dr J.G. Mosley
Director
Australian Conservation Foundation
672B Glenferrie Road
HAWTHORN VIC 3122

Dear Dr Mosley

31 OCT 1984


Thank you for your letter of 13 September 1984 to the Prime Minister concerning the Daintree Rainforest Area.

As you are aware the Government currently has under consideration the Australian Heritage Commission report on the wet tropical rainforests of North Queensland, but has emphasised that it will not be taking unilateral action to nominate the Daintree Rainforest Area for World Heritage Listing.

The Prime Minister has suggested to the Queensland Premier that discussions take place between the two Governments at Ministerial level with a view to determining ways of achieving long-term protection of the area. Commonwealth financial assistance has also been offered for a land resources survey of the region and the development of a management plan for the Daintree Rainforest Area. The Queensland Premier however has rejected these proposals maintaining that the control and management of the area is a State responsibility.

A further approach has been made to the Premier emphasising the national importance of the issue and the urgent need to begin discussions.

Yours sincerely


Lionel Bowen
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister

National Environmental Law Association of Australia

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Treasurer: Michael Beaman
(08) 223 2100

Your Reference:

Our Reference: Pres.C.100

3 September 1984

The Right Honourable R.J. Hawke, M.P.
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

The Federal Government's Power to Intervene in the Daintree Rainforest Dispute

The Council of the National Environmental Law Association, at its recent Annual General Meeting in Adelaide, resolved to make a submission to your Government in relation to certain legal aspects of the current Daintree Rainforest dispute.

The Executive Committee of the Association has now examined the legal issues involved and has come to the view that the Federal Government has the power to intervene under the World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983 ("the Act").

In the Association's view, the World Heritage Act can be invoked whether or not the property has been listed on the World Heritage List established under the World Heritage Convention.

We note that section 6(b) requires that the protection or conservation of the property by Australia must be a matter of international obligation, whether by reason of the convention or otherwise. It could be argued that if the property has been identified as of outstanding universal value, it follows that the protection for conservation of it is then automatically a matter of international obligation. This obligation is strengthened by the duties and obligations specifically imposed upon member countries under Article 4, 5 and 12 of the Convention.

Section 6(d) defines the basis for a proclamation whether protection or conservation of the property by Australia is a matter of international concern (whether or not it is also that of domestic concern) if failure to take action would be likely to prejudice Australia's relation with other countries or for any other reason.

Evidence of "outstanding universal value", as available to us, would appear to be as follows:-

1. The Australian Heritage Commission has listed the area on the National State Register.
2. The Australian Heritage Commission is at present preparing a submission to the Federal Government in relation to placing the area on the World Heritage List.
3. The World Wilderness Congress, held in Cairns in 1980, sought the creation of a large national park from Cooktown to the Daintree River.
4. The Queensland Government declared the area a national park in 1981.
5. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources has included the Cape York Peninsula and Queensland Rainforest region in its inventory of natural sites of World Heritage significance.

This evidence suggests that the area could be considered as of "outstanding universal value" pursuant to Article 2 of the Convention. In addition, the area could be identified as of "outstanding universal value" in relation to the definition of "sites" in Article 1. In particular, "areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological points of view.

Section 6(2)(e) can provide a basis for a proclamation where evidence is adduced firstly, that the property is a part of the heritage distinctive of the Australian nation by reason of its aesthetic, historic, scientific, or social significance or by reasons of its international or national renown. Secondly, the section requires that by reasons of the lack or inadequacy of other available means for its protection or conservation, it is peculiarly appropriate that measures be taken by the Parliament and Government of Australia. We are mindful of the fact that the majority of the High Court in Commonwealth of Australia v. State of Tasmania (1982-3) 46 A.L.R. 625 cast some doubt of the constitutional validity of section 6(2)(e), but did not express a conclusive view of nationhood power in relation to this provision of the Act. Specified, the available evidence suggests that it is at least arguable that the property is part of the heritage distinctive of the Australian nation or in aesthetic, historic, scientific and social significance. The aesthetic and scientific significance seems to be unquestioned. Ward, in her article "Cape Tribulation" in 9(2) Legal Services Bulletin 67 and 68, argues that the section would also support the proclamation, on the basis of the areas of social and historic significance to the local Aboriginal people to use the area for gathering traditional foods and for fishing.

Page 3

If indeed the Federal Government has the power to intervene in the dispute, the Executive of this Association is not aware of any legal reason why the Government should not exercise its power, given the apparent obligations of the Government under the World Heritage Convention.

Yours faithfully,

SIMON R. MOLESWORTH
National President

c.c. The Hon. Barry Cohen, M.P.
Minister for Home Affairs and Environment

Mr. Peter Milton, M.P.
Chairman
House of Representatives Environment Committee

27 March, 1985

The Hon. B. Cohen, MP
Minister for Arts, Heritage
& Environment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

re: WORLD HERITAGE LISTING
OF NEW SOUTH WALES' RAINFORESTS

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales strongly urges you to take whatever action is necessary to submit the nomination of New South Wales' rainforests for World Heritage Listing to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

We understand our letter to Mr Hawke of 22 February, 1985, on this matter has been referred to you. In that letter, we expressed our dismay and concern at the failure of the Federal Government to submit the nomination by 31 December, 1984.

As the situation now stands, we believe the best course of action to achieve the aims of the nomination is for the Federal Government to submit it to the World Heritage Committee forthwith.

We urge you to take all necessary actions to do this immediately.

Yours sincerely

Judy Messer
CHAIRPERSON



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

27 MAR 1985

25 MAR 1985

Ms J. Messer
Chairperson
The Nature Conservation Council of NSW
399 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Messer

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your correspondence of 22 February 1985, on behalf of The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales, relating to the nomination for World Heritage Listing of New South Wales' rainforests.

Your comments have been noted and your correspondence referred to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, the Hon. Barry Cohen, with a request that he arrange for a reply to you on behalf of the Government.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lionel Bowen'.

(Lionel Bowen)
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister

27 March, 1985

The Hon. R.J.L. Hawke, AAC, MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Hawke

re: WORLD HERITAGE LISTING
OF NEW SOUTH WALES' RAINFORESTS

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales strongly urges the Federal Government to submit the nomination of New South Wales' rainforests for World Heritage Listing to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee immediately.

In our previous letter to you of 22 February, 1985, we expressed our dismay and concern at the failure of the Federal Government to submit the nomination to the World Heritage Committee by 31 December, 1984.

In view of the situation as it now stands, we believe the best course of action is for the Federal Government to submit the nomination forthwith. We urge you to take whatever action is necessary to do this.

Yours sincerely

Judy Messer
CHAIRPERSON

✓

Bathurst ~~Scientific~~ and Field Naturalist Society.
CONSERVATION

2

07 MAR 1985

Copy.
Nature Conservation Council
of N.S.W.

Fernbrook
RMB372 Limekilns.
Via Wattle Flat
2795

4th March, 1985.

Dear Sir,

The above Society strongly opposes lack of interest in the Daintree Rainforest dispute, and recommends that legislation be introduced to enable the Commonwealth Government to declare a moratorium on any activity in disputed areas, with full Public discussion and independent reports have been received and evaluated.

Yours Faithfully.
J. G. Stark Hon Secretary.

The above letter is a copy sent to the Minister for the environment, also to Premiers of all States.

22 February, 1985

The Hon. R. J. L. Hawke, A.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales is extremely concerned by the actions of the Federal Government in relation to the nomination for World Heritage Listing of New South Wales' rainforests, prepared by the New South Wales Government, and by the failure of the Federal Government to provide a credible explanation of what has occurred.

The initiative for nomination was made by Mr Wran in the course of the last State Election. This commitment was publicly affirmed on a number of occasions and was the subject of a special debate on the New South Wales' parliament. Ample notice of intent was therefore given. It is our clear understanding that it was the New South Wales' Government's anticipation that the nomination be considered by the International Committee in September, 1985, thus requiring that the nomination be received in Paris by 31 December, 1984.

In these circumstances, if the Federal Government required the nomination for its consideration at some earlier specified date, we are sure that the New South Wales Government would have met such requirements. It is our understanding that, at least at officer level, the Federal Department of Arts, Heritage and the Environment, was kept informed of the progress with the nomination and had access to a draft well before the final document was forwarded to Canberra. In these circumstances, we fail to understand the apparent surprise at receiving the nomination in late December.

Even so, it should surely have been possible to submit the nomination to the World Heritage Committee by 31 December with a proviso that it might, on further consideration by the Federal Government, be withdrawn. Such a procedure would have permitted the Nomination to be considered in September, 1985, without prejudicing the Federal Government's responsibilities of evaluation.

The press release, issued on 1 January, 1985, in response to statements by The Wilderness Society, contains comments which ~~should~~ and have been interpreted by some as implying inadequacies in the New South Wales' nomination. Any insinuation that the nomination did not include an inventory of the flora and fauna of the nominated sites, or that it did not adequately define the nominated sites is totally incorrect. Such implied criticisms are both unwarranted and uncalled for. We are unaware of any further release

The Hon. R. J. L. Hawke, A.C., M.P.

22 February, 1985

clarifying the damaging statement, and call upon the Department to make such a press release withdrawing any suggestion of technical inadequacies in the New South Wales' nomination.

Notwithstanding the passing of the deadline, we call upon the Federal Government to explore every avenue by which the nomination may possibly be considered in 1985. If, after exhausting all possible avenues, this proves impossible, we would seek a categorical assurance that the nomination will be forwarded to Paris for consideration in September, 1986.

Yours sincerely

Judy Messer
CHAIRPERSON

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

P.O. BOX 1 • KENSINGTON • NEW SOUTH WALES • AUSTRALIA • 2033

TELEX AA26054 • TELEGRAPH: UNITECH, SYDNEY • TELEPHONE 663 0351

EXTN.

PLEASE QUOTE

14 February.



18 FEB 1985

Dear Judy,

I enclose a possible draft to give effect to the motion sponsored by Milo at the last Executive. I don't know whether it is customary, or necessary, to include the actual motion.

I understand from V. Serravallo that Cohen's participation in the line that Canberra knew nothing about it until late December by which time it was too late for consideration and that therefore it was all NSW's fault.

I don't know whether he is misinformed or simply incorrect. It is possible that his Department did not inform him of the draft and earlier discussions - but as the order had he should have been aware, for the publicity surrounding Mr. Wran's original statement and for the debate in the NSW Parliament, of what was going on.

It is true that the final version was not received in Canberra until Christmas Eve - but given the requirement for Canberra to make other comment before final preparation it was always the case that the final version couldn't have been prepared until close to the deadline. Nevertheless there was certainly exchange of relevant material with Canberra well before the deadline.

Whatever else, the criticisms in the press release at 11 a.m. were certainly recalled for.

Mr. Hanks clearly doesn't want to know about - on the basis of his own reply.

Paul.

re IUCN RE nomination debate

See Paul Haw's letter
motion carried

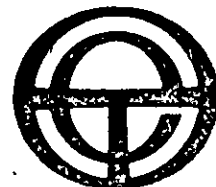
Milo's ~~suggestion~~ at Exec. Council Mtg. 8/2/85.

That NCC publicly censure the Hawke govt. for:

- 1) its failure to forward the nomination of NSW rainforests for World Heritage Classification
- 2) its previous attempt to publicly denigrate an excellent nomination
- 3) its failure to date to negotiate urgency treatment by UNESCO
- 4) the intransigent attitude of the Min. for Env. and the recent Acting Member.

TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

18 Argyle St., Sydney, N.S.W. 2000. Phone 27 4714



6th March, 1985.

08 MAR 1985

Dear

Joey

NSW Rainforest Nomination
to World Heritage List

I am writing to keep you up to date on our letter to the Federal government about the rainforest nomination.

A large number of replies have been received from ALP Federal and State MP's, almost all of whom referred the letter to the Minister. The following were very supportive:

NSW: G. Peterson, H. Moore, G. Irwin, D. Bowman, M. Knight,
M. Lee, S. Neilly, P. Baldwin.

C'wealth: G. McIlwaine, R. Tickner, P. Milton. E. Fitzgibbon,
S. Martin, Senators M. Macklin, A. Geitzelt.

Others were:


NSW: R. Mulock, P. Whelan, R. Debus, J. Price, P. Hills.

C'wealth: R. Chynoweth, M. Maher, J. Snow, J. Dawkins, L. Bowen,
J. Kerin, M. Young, J. Langmore, G. Hand, P. Staples,
B. Hawke, T. Lamb, G. Gear, Senators B. Childs, Evans,
Crowley.

On the 24th January I received a telephone call from the Hon. B. Cohen in regard to our letter. He felt the letter was "very harsh"; that the fault lay in the late lodgment by the State government and he had been ill. However I did not detect any opposition to the nomination.

With regard to the lodgment question, I requested information from the Department of Environment and Planning and this is enclosed, as is a letter from Gerry Hand for your information.

Yours faithfully,


Jeff Angel
Assistant Director
Total Environment Centre.



Department of Environment and Planning



Mr. J. Angel,
Assistant Director,
Total Environment Centre,
18 Argyle Street,
SYDNEY. 2000 00

Remington Centre
175 Liverpool Street, Sydney 20
Box 3927 G.P.O. Sydney 2001
DX. 15 Sydney

Telephone: (02) 266 7111 Ext

Contact:

Our reference

Your reference:

13 FEB 1985

Dear Mr. Angel,

Nomination of N.S.W. Rainforests for
Inclusion in the World Heritage List

Reference is made to your letter dated 25th January, 1985 regarding the abovementioned subject.

In your letter you requested advice regarding the chronology relating to the passage of the nomination of the N.S.W. rainforests between the N.S.W. and Commonwealth Government. The chronology in this matter is as follows:

- a) 8th May, 1984: Premier writes to Prime Minister advising of intention to nominate N.S.W. rainforests for inclusion in the World Heritage List.
- b) 5th June, 1984: Premier writes to Prime Minister advising of resolution of the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly on 23rd May, 1984 supporting the nomination of N.S.W. rainforests for inclusion in the World Heritage List.
- c) 29th November, 1984: Department of Environment and Planning forwards six copies of the final draft of the nomination to the Department of Home Affairs and Environment by courier.
- d) 13th December, 1984: Premier sends copy of nomination to Prime Minister by courier.
- e) 18th December, 1984: DEP sends Executive Summary of nomination to Department of Arts, Heritage and Environment following request for a summary of the nomination form by the Commonwealth.
- f) 24th December, 1984: Copies of text delivered by courier to Department of Home Affairs and Environment in final form for transmission to UNESCO.

Yours sincerely,



GERRY HAND, M.P.
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE

21 February 1985

Mr Jeff Angel
c/- 18 Argyle Street
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Mr Angel

On behalf of Gerry Hand I would like to thank you for your recent letter concerning the World Heritage Nomination of six rainforest areas in New South Wales.

While I can understand your concern, my information from the Minister indicates that the situation is not precisely as you have described it in your letter.

While it is true that the Federal Government was unable to proceed with the Nomination by the deadline you mentioned this does not infer that the Federal Government is opposing or delaying the Nomination. In fact, the Minister has stated quite categorically that he supports the New South Wales recommendation and that he will be strongly advocating its acceptance by Cabinet. It is expected that the matter will be raised before Cabinet in the immediate future.

My understanding of the reasons for the delay relate to the timing of receipt by the Minister of the New South Wales recommendation.

As Parliament was in recess at the time and there were no Cabinet meetings planned, the Minister had no choice but to hold over the Nomination until such time as a decision could be made by the Cabinet. Because such action of nominating an area for World Heritage status imposes financial obligations on and by the Commonwealth Government, the Minister is not able to propose a nomination to the World Heritage Committee without prior Cabinet approval.

But the main point, as already stated, is that the Minister supports the Nomination and he will be seeking Cabinet agreement shortly.

Yours sincerely

JANE CARNEGIE
Electoral Officer

(for Gerry Hand MP)

15 January, 1985

The Hon. R.J. Hawke, AC,
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Hawke

re N.S.W. RAINFORESTS - NOMINATION TO WORLD
HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Following press reports in the "Age" and "Canberra Times" regarding the Federal Government's failure to nominate N.S.W. rainforests to the World Heritage Committee, the NCC on 4 January telexed both you and the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, Mr Cohen, seeking an explanation and clarification of the situation.

In response, we have received a telex which quotes a press release of 1 January.

We find this response totally unsatisfactory.

In the first instance, we are unclear as to who authorized the press release, which refers to an anonymous spokesperson for Mr Cohen. It is our understanding that at the time of the release Mr Cohen was, unfortunately, on sick leave and that Mr Brown was the Acting Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Environment. Was the press release authorized by either Mr Cohen or Mr Brown? or, if not, was it approved by a Minister of your Government?

The press release attacks Mr Ralph Lindsey of the Wilderness Society, in strong terms, and claims to "set the record straight" - something which the release singularly fails to do. The statement claims that Mr Lindsey's statement had been "fanciful and untrue". It would appear to us that in all essential details Mr Lindsey had been correct and that if anything could be described by these perjorative terms, it would be the press release.

The Premier of N.S.W., Mr Wran, announced his intention to nominate N.S.W. rainforests to the World Heritage Committee during the 1984 State Election and the Government's intention was confirmed after the election during a debate in State Parliament. Subsequent statements by the Premier and the N.S.W. Minister for Planning and the Environment further evidenced the resolve of the Government in this matter. At no time was any impression given other than that the N.S.W. Government intended that the nomination be considered at the 1985 Meeting of the World Heritage Committee.

We do not doubt that in preparing its nomination, the N.S.W. Government paid full attention to the need to include full inventories of the biota of the nominated sites and that these sites would have been adequately surveyed.

With respect to N.S.W. rainforests, we do not see the relevance of the implication of the press release of the need to co-ordinate the approaches of different States. Your Government has already made it amply clear that it will not go against the wishes of States on proposing nominations, while the Premier of Queensland has been adamant in his opposition to nominate any Queensland sites. In these circumstances, it would appear that there is no possibility of nomination of Queensland rainforests. The tropical rainforests of Northern Queensland are of outstanding importance, well worthy of World Heritage status, and we regret the inability of your Government to nominate them; nevertheless, we recognize that if our rainforests are to be nominated in the foreseeable future then they will be restricted to those in N.S.W. and we applaud Mr Wran for his initiative in moving to secure the nomination of sites.

In addition, it must be pointed out that the N.S.W. and Queensland rainforests cannot be seen as alternatives for nomination. The N.S.W. rainforests are unique and the case for their nomination stands on its own merits. New South Wales contains internationally significant areas of cool and warm temperate rainforests - vegetation types scarcely developed in Queensland - as well as sub-tropical rainforests very different in species composition from examples in northern Queensland.

Although the Conservation movement has, on occasion, had cause to disagree with the New South Wales Labor Government, the present administration's record in the field of conservation is outstanding and the Premier's personal commitment to conservation undoubted. The handling of the N.S.W. rainforest nomination by your Government brings into question the degree of its commitment to conservation of our outstanding natural heritage.

We seek your assurance that your Government remains committed to working co-operatively with the State Government over conservation matters.

In conclusion, although the final deadline for submissions to the 1985 World Heritage Committee meeting has now passed, we urge you to explore, through all available diplomatic channels, the possibility of securing an extension so that the N.S.W. nomination can be forwarded for consideration in September.

Yours sincerely

Judy Messer
CHAIRPERSON

cc: Hon. N. K. Wran.

Daintree World Heritage Rainforests

The **Daintree Rainforest** region is one of the most beautiful in the world. These rainforests have been proposed as a world heritage site running in a narrow strip from Townsville to Cooktown, parallel to the Great Barrier Reef. At Cape Tribulation the tropical rainforest descends from high mountain peaks to overhang pristine beaches with fringing coral reefs just off-shore. At Downey Creek, south of Cairns, the rainforest trees have reached immense proportions.

The region has been described as a 'living museum' and as a 'tropical paradise'. The forests are alive with wildlife such as the many possums, the tree-kangaroos, colourful pigeons and large butterflies. The rainforests are made up of more than a thousand species of plants of which lianas and palms give the distinctive tropical appearance. Large, brightly-coloured fruits form from often equally stunning flowers. The fruits provide food for birds, bats and the marsupials. These tropics produce an abundance of life-forms found nowhere else.

The **Daintree rainforests contain more ancient plant families than anywhere else in the world.** Scientists believe that this region is where flowering plants evolved and hence the Daintree rainforests have been called the 'birth-place' of flowers. These forests have existed in the region for more than **100 million years**. Several plant species have remained unchanged in that time. All scientific opinion, including that from Australian government departments, has stated that the rainforests are definitely of world heritage quality and should be preserved as such.

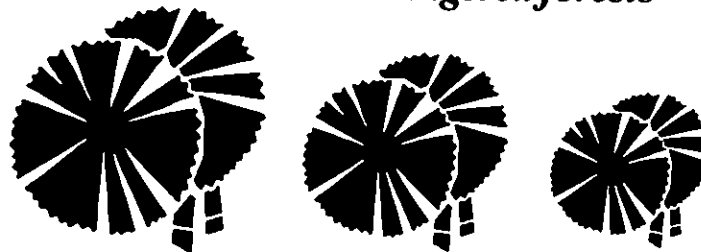


The Threats

About 70% of the Daintree rainforests are controlled by the Queensland forestry commission and are threatened by logging. Downey Creek rainforests began to be logged when the road was being built through the Cape Tribulation National Park, in 1984. The Windsor Tablelands rainforest above the Cape Tribulation coastline is also being logged. Many other pristine rainforests will face the chain saw in the next few years. The Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield road, which was bludgeoned through the National Park, has severely damaged the rare coastal rainforest and the subsequent siltation is causing the death of the Daintree fringing reefs, which are a part of the World Heritage Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The road should be revegetated. Real estate development, a major reason for the controversial road, has subdivided large areas of rainforest and more are to be cleared. Licenses to mine have been granted in several places. Rainforest is also being cleared for power lines to potential gaudy tourist developments, hobby farms, and agriculture.

The attitude of the Queensland government is the greatest threat to the forests. The state government's approach to National Parks and rainforest is vindictive and spiteful. Many people believe that the Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield road was built mainly as a political exercise to try to draw the Australian government into a public brawl before the 1984 federal election. The state government announced when the road building began that it was commencing rainforest destruction in four other areas. Even rainforests within National Parks are not 'safe' in Queensland. The Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, has stated that "not one more square inch of Queensland would be world heritage".

Endangered forests



Protection

The only security these rainforests can have is if they are put on the United Nations World Heritage List by the Commonwealth government. This means that they become protected by international law. The High Court of Australia has confirmed that the World Heritage Convention gives the Australian government power to stop a state government from vandalising or destroying a World Heritage area. In this way the Franklin River and the Great Barrier Reef are protected. If the Australian government doesn't proceed with the world heritage powers, the rainforests stay at the mercy of the Queensland government.

Your "SAVE DAINTREE" job list

It isn't a silly concept to think that an individual can "Save Daintree". The work of thousands of individuals working separately and with The Wilderness Society eventually forced the Australian government of the day to take action that 'Saved the Franklin River'.

Politicians usually regard that, for each letter of protest they receive, there are another 100 people who think the same and will vote accordingly; thus your letter has the impact of a hundred.

Here's what you can do:

Tick each task as completed.

- ☐ **Write** a letter to the Prime Minister (see overleaf).
- ☐ **Keep** informed.
- ☐ **Join** The Wilderness Society.
- ☐ **Show** the 'Bellamy's Daintree' video to family, friends and colleagues. (Available from TWS)
- ☐ **Write** to a newspaper(s) expressing your concern at the destruction.
- ☐ **Write/visit** your local member.
- ☐ **Make** an urgent donation to the Daintree Campaign.

Help spread the word.

Letter to the Prime Minister

Below is a draft letter to Mr Hawke. It is more effective if you rephrase in your own words. A short hand-written letter is as good as a long typed version.

ADDRESS: **The Prime Minister**

Hon. R.J. Hawke
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600



Dear Mr Hawke,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern at the continuing destruction of the wet tropical rainforests. I am even more alarmed that the senseless destruction by the Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield road is silting the Daintree fringing reefs and will continue each year when the road has to be reconstructed.

This situation is just not good enough. Australia has an international obligation to protect the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Marine Park. It also has the moral and constitutional responsibility to protect the Daintree rainforests which are unquestionably of world heritage importance. I consider the Government to be extremely negligent for allowing this destruction to begin.

As road construction and rainforest logging in places like Downey Creek and Cape Tribulation is planned to continue, will your Government proceed with the World Heritage nomination of these Daintree rainforests? If not, your Government's inaction is condoning the destruction of Australia's priceless world heritage. I will never vote for a party that allows such vandalism to occur when it has the power to stop it. The same legislative processes and moral obligation that stopped the Franklin Dam can be used to save the Daintree rainforests. I urge you to use them.

Yours sincerely,

The Wilderness Society



Membership

By being a member you will be supporting the Daintree campaign and be kept informed on the issue. TWS needs your support to continue its vital role in preserving Australia's natural heritage.

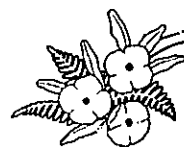
Membership categories

Tick

relevant

box:

- ☐ \$22 Regular
- ☐ \$27 Household
- ☐ \$27 Organisation
- ☐ \$13 Concession (unemployed, student, pensioner) . . . or what you can afford.
- ☐ \$550 Life



Address

TWS (NSW) 362 Pitt Street, Sydney 2000.

Ph: (02) 267 7929.

TWS (Qld) 66 Turbot Street, Brisbane 4000.

Ph: (07) 229 4178.

TWS (VIC) 55 Hardware Lane, Melbourne 3000.

Ph: (03) 67 5220.

TWS (SA) 291A Rundle Street, Adelaide 5000.

Ph: (08) 223 6917.

TWS (National) 130 Davey Street, Hobart 7000.

(002) 34 9366.

"The region is really a priceless and irreplaceable possession of mankind as a whole. A disturbance and destruction of the tropical rainforest region of north Queensland would be a global fraud . . ."

**Peter Endress, Professor of Botany,
University of Zurich.
World heritage referee.**

WORLD HERITAGE RAINFORESTS

SAVE DAINTREE

THE
WILDERNESS
SOCIETY

10th January, 1985.

Mr John Whitehouse
Department of Environment
and Planning
Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000.

Dear John,

As requested, please find attached copies of the telex that we sent to Mr Cohen and Mr Hawke ~~re~~ the failure of the Federal Government to pass on by 31st December the nomination of NSW Rainforest areas for World H Heritage Listing and the reply we received from Mr Cohen's office.

Regards,

Pam Eiser.

A detailed black and white illustration of a rainforest scene. On the left, a tall palm tree trunk with a vine wrapped around it stands next to a large fern. On the right, a tree trunk is partially visible with a large, detailed flower (possibly a lily or orchid) growing from it. At the bottom, there are various plants, including a small animal (possibly a possum or marsupial) on the left and a bird (possibly a lyrebird) on the right, both surrounded by foliage and rocks.

Rainforest Information Centre

P.O. BOX 368 LISMORE N.S.W. 2480 AUSTRALIA

16 JAN 1985

8.1.85

Nature Conservation Council of NSW
399 Pitt St.
Sydney 2000

Friends,

The Rainforest Information Centre would like to become a registered charity or else affiliate with an existing nature conservation charity (see enclosed letter from the Department of Finance).

We are not quite sure what affiliation would involve, and were wondering whether perhaps you have already dealt with this question in relation to other organisations which have become affiliated with you?

Yours sincerely

John Seed

John Seed (director)

*Ans personally
6.3.84
H. Lawrence*

A detailed black and white line drawing of a rainforest scene. On the left, a large palm tree trunk and fronds are visible. On the right, a tree trunk is adorned with large, tropical flowers. At the bottom, there are various plants, including a bird-like creature on the left and a large, rounded object (possibly a fruit or a small animal) on the right, surrounded by foliage and rocks.

Rainforest Information Centre

P.O. BOX 368 LISMORE N.S.W. 2480 AUSTRALIA

8.1.85

P. Manoukian,
NSW Government Department of Finance
Box 5285 GPO
Sydney 2001

your reference: C.C. 26306

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your reply of 20.12.

I have written to the organisations which you mention in your third paragraph to find out whether affiliation is possible as per your suggestion.

There is some further information that you may be able to help me with: Is it possible for 1. a non-profit organisation or 2. a registered charity to engage in business (rather than conducting lotteries, say) in order to raise money for its programmes? In our case, we have several volunteers who are builders, carpenters etc. who would donate time to the Centre and we are considering setting up a business making furniture. Is this a legitimate fund-raising activity? Would we have to pay tax on the income?

I look forward to your reply.

yours sincerely

Greta Seed



x 4

Department of Finance

121 Macquarie Street
Sydney, NSW 2000

Box 5285 G.P.O.
Sydney 2001
DX 22 Sydney

Mrs, Greta Seed,
Bodhi Farm,
THE CHANNON. N.S.W. 2480 94.

Contact: P. Manoukian

Our reference: C.C.26306

Your reference:

20529
Telephone: 20576
Extension: xxxxx

244

20th December, 1984.

Dear Madam,

Re: Rainforest Information Centre.

I refer to the application for the abovenamed organisation to be registered as a charity under the Charitable Collection Act, 1934.

Under the provisions of the Act, the Minister may refuse to register any charity if he is satisfied that certain conditions apply in respect of the application. One of these is that the purpose of the proposed charity is already covered by an existing charity.

Similar charities already registered are the Conservation Society of N.S.W.; National Parks Association, Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W. and National Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

In view of the above, could you please advise the Department whether your group may seek affiliation with the existing Charities so as to enable furtherance of its aims, or whether it would find objection to such a proposal.

Also to be considered in the running of your Association as a non-profit organisation and, in this respect, the attached leaflet may be of assistance.

Yours faithfully,

P. Manoukian
P. Manoukian.
for Secretary.