



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

S Y D N E Y.

17 DEC 1982

Mr. C. Pratten,
Chairman,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

14 DEC 1982

Dear Mr. Pratten,

I refer to your letter of the 23rd September, 1982 to the Honourable N.K. Wran, Q.C., M.P. on the Washpool Environmental Impact Assessment Report prepared by the Department of Environment and Planning.

The Department's report will be publicly released in the near future, and a copy will be forwarded to the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.

Yours sincerely,


ERIC BEDFORD
Minister for Planning
and Environment

MAP ILLUSTRATING N.S.W. GOVERNMENT DECISION ON WASHPool AREA



Logging permitted

Remaining priority areas
to be reserved as
National Park.

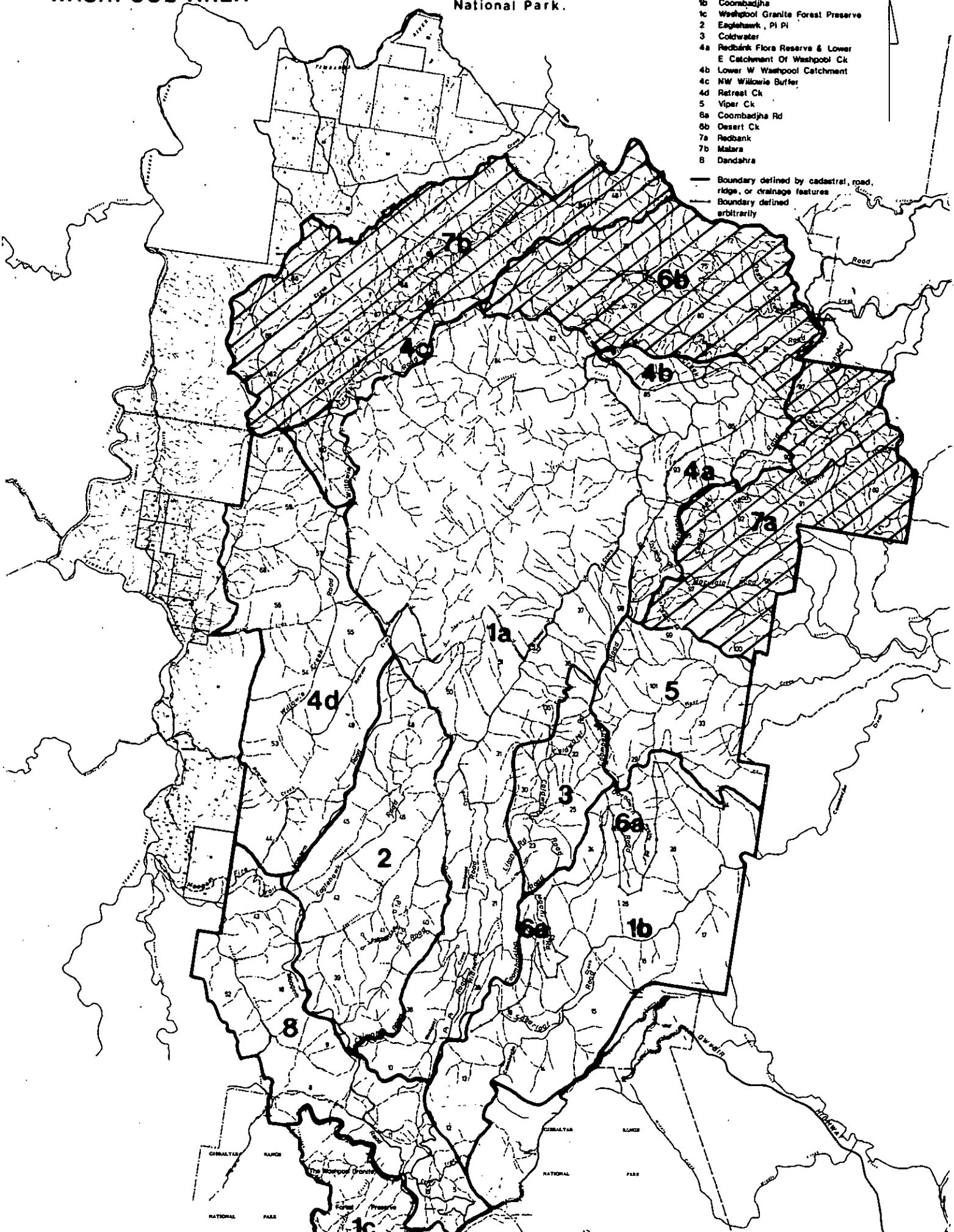
WASHPool AREA

PRIORITY AREAS

- 1a Washpool
- 1b Coombadija
- 1c Washpool Granite Forest Preserve
- 2 Eagleshawk, Pt Pt
- 3 Coldwater
- 4a Redbank Flora Reserve & Lower E Catchment Of Washpool Ck
- 4b Lower W Washpool Catchment
- 4c NW Willowie Butte
- 4d Retreat Ck
- 5 Viper Ck
- 6a Coombadija Rd
- 6b Desert Ck
- 7a Redbank
- 7b Malara
- 8 Dandahra

— Boundary defined by cadastral, road, ridge, or drainage features
— Boundary defined arbitrarily

N



23rd September, 1982.

The Hon. N. K. Bran, QC, MP
Premier of New South Wales
Premier's Department
State Office Block
Phillip Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier,

Re: Washpool Environmental Impact Statement

In March of last year the Council congratulated the Minister for Planning and Environment for his decision to direct the Department of Environment and Planning to investigate the Washpool logging proposal.

The Council understands that the Department's report on this investigation has been completed for some time and that it has been made available to some interested parties. However, the Government have not officially released the report so that access to the information it contains is restricted to Government Departments and those fortunate enough to have obtained a copy.

The Council urges that the report be released by the Government to enable national debate to take place on the issue of alternative sources of timber for sawmills presently using brushwood.

We, further, repeat our previous requests, which remain unanswered, for a prompt decision by the Government to halt rainforest logging in the State.

Yours sincerely,

C. H. Pratten,
CHAIRMAN.



Department of Environment and Planning



9 OCT 1981

Mr R. Lembit,
Project Officer,
The Nature Conservation Council of
New South Wales,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000

Remington Centre
175 Liverpool Street, Sydney 2000
Box 3927 G.P.O. Sydney 2001
DX. 15 Sydney 266 7111

Telephone: (02) ~~266 7111~~ Ext.

Contact: Mrs J. Carter

Our reference: 80/1947
JC:CGG

Your reference: - 6 OCT 1981

Dear Mr Lembit,

Thank you for your letter of 14th September, 1981, relative to the environmental impact statement for the proposed logging operations in the Washpool area.

2. As you may be aware, the Department is undertaking an examination of the proposed logging operations in the Washpool area in accordance with Section 113(5) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.

3. During this examination the Department will have regard to the matters raised in submissions and any other relevant issues. The examination will include consideration of the possibility of using the resources of the Jounama Plantation as a substitute for rainforest timbers.

Yours faithfully,

J. F. WHITEHOUSE
Head,
Environment Protection Division

16th March, 1981

The Letters Editor,
Sydney Morning Herald,
Jones Street,
BROADWAY. NSW. 2007

Dear Sir,

NSW Country Party Leader, Leon Punch, comes out strongly in favour of logging the Washpool forests (Letters 18th March) and, in the same issue, is quoted as saying that it is a waste of time and money for the Department of Environment and Planning to review the Forestry Commission's proposal to log these forests.

The Nature Conservation Council commend Mr. Bedford's initiative in ordering this review by his Department. It would have been quite inappropriate for the Forestry Commission, who both propose the logging and produced the EIS, to themselves review submissions made to this statement.

The Kable Report, to which Mr. Punch refers, was commissioned by the Grafton sawmillers and assumes that if Washpool is not logged all the Grafton mills will close - an extreme over-reaction.

This Report was prepared before the Forestry Commission admitted in its EIS that the 5 hardwood mills could operate without Washpool till 1990. By then, an uncommitted sawlog pine resource four times larger than Washpool would be available in the Bathurst District.

Certainly some industry restructuring will be necessary in the 1980's but this will result in ~~redployment~~ and not unemployment.

Finally, Mr. Punch's letter attacks Joseph Glascott's recent Herald articles on the Washpool issue. Mr. Punch should be aware that it is not only Mr. Glascott and the "conservationists" who are concerned at this logging proposal. A wide section of the scientific and general community also accept that our remaining rainforest remnants are so few that they should be protected from further exploitation.

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW commends the Herald for its continued objective reporting of this and other conservation and heritage issues in NSW.

Yours faithfully,

C.H. Pratten,
Chairman

Ph: 267 7722

18th March, 1981

The Letters Editor,
Sydney Morning Herald,
Nones Street,
BROADWAY. NSW. 2007

Dear Sir,

NSW Country Party Leader, Leon Punch, comes out strongly in favour of logging the Washpool forests (Letters 18th March) and, in the same issue, is quoted as saying that it is a waste of time and money for the Department of Environment and Planning to review the Forestry Commission's proposal to log these forests.

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Certainly some industry restructuring will be necessary in the 1980's but this will result in redeployment and not unemployment.

Yours faithfully,

C.H. Pratten,
Chairman

19th March, 1981

The Hon. E.L. Bedford, BA MP
Minister for Environment
and Planning,
10th Floor,
139 Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY. NSW. 2000

U R G E N T

Dear Minister,

On behalf of Council's Executive and 70 odd Member Societies I congratulate you and the Government for directing the Department of Environment and Planning to investigate the Washpool logging proposal.

The exact details of the proposed investigation are a subject that we would ask you to enlarge upon when we meet with you on Thursday 26th March.

I enclose a letter written to the Sydney Morning Herald by me in response to Mr. Punch's tirade yesterday. At the time of writing it has not been published but I sincerely hope it will be.

With my personal best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

C.H. Pratten,
Chairman

Encl. copy of Herald Letter



Heritage Council of New South Wales

Remington Centre
175 Liverpool Street, Sydney 2000
P.O. Box A284, Sydney South 2000

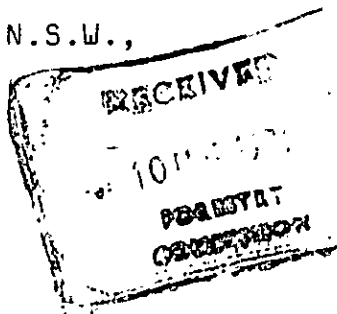
Telephone: (02) 237 9111 Ext. 9199

Contact: Ms. L. Cairnes

Our reference: HC 30424

Your reference:

Forestry Commission of N.S.W.,
Box 2667, G.P.O.,
SYDNEY. 2001.



3 - MAR 1981

Dear Sir,

Washpool Area - Proposed Forest Operations -
Environmental Impact Statement

The environmental impact statement has been examined.

2. There are no current orders or instruments under the Heritage Act, 1977, which affect the area in question.
3. No specific survey of the area has been made to identify items that would be encompassed by the Heritage Act, 1977.
4. The Heritage Council of N.S.W. has no specific policy which would apply to rainforests or other forest types described in the environmental impact statement.
5. If the proposed logging proceeds, the Heritage Council should be notified if the works reveal any items of significance to European archaeology or history.

Yours faithfully,

E. Smith

E. Smith
Secretary

*Delivered by Govt. Courier on 10/3/81
Shall letter for next NCC meeting*

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

27 FEB 1981

The Chairman,
C. H. Pratten,
Nature Conservation Council
of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. 2000.



27 FEB 1981

80/5059.

STATE OFFICE BLOCK, MACQUARIE STREET, SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000

Premier's Department


25 FEB 1981

Dear Mr. Pratten,

I have been asked by the Premier to let you know that he has received your letter of 12th February concerning the question of extension of the exhibition period for the Washpool E.I.S. and the assessment method to be adopted.

Mr. Wran wishes me to advise that your requests have been noted and are receiving consideration.

Yours faithfully,


J. Grant,
for Secretary.

Mr. C.H. Pratten,
Chairman,
Nature Conservation Council
of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. 2000.

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF N.S.W.

399 PITT STREET, SYDNEY N.S.W. 2000
TELEPHONE (02) 233 5388 — TELEX AA24041

XXXXXX

18th February, 1981

The Hon. E.L. Bedford, BA, MP
Minister for Environment
and Planning,
10th Floor,
139 Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY. NSW. 2000

Dear Minister,

I enclose a submission made by this Council to the Forestry Commission of NSW in relation to the proposed logging in the Washpool area.

The Council firmly believe that it is quite inappropriate for the Commission itself, who have prepared the EIS, to consider responses to it, and you will note that our concluding statement to the Commission in the enclosed letter calls for your Department of Environment and Planning to hold a public enquiry into this issue.

You will also recall that a deputation from this Council to you towards the end of 1980 raised the question of the background of the Commissioners appointed under the new planning legislation insofar as their training in ecological and biological matters was concerned. The Council expressed to you our feeling that your Government should appoint ad hoc or part-time Commissioners from time to time who may be better equipped to handle enquiries into complicated ecological issues.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that you receive a deputation from the Council to discuss with you:

- + Our request for a public enquiry into the proposed Washpool logging.
- + Our request for the appointment of specialist part-time Commissioners.

I trust you will be prepared to meet with us - indeed, may I suggest that this meeting should be the first of the regular get-together that we both agreed would be most desirable for yourself and the Council.

Yours sincerely,

C.H. Pratten,
Chairman

XXXXXXX

16th February, 1981

The Editor, Letters,
Sydney Morning Herald,
Jones Street,
BROADWAY. NSW. 2006

Dear Sir,

I note with interest that the Forestry Commission has sent Mr. W.G. Rohan Jones to visit the Washpool forests, (SMH 13.2.81) and trust that the Commission will release his report on wildlife in the area before public exhibition of the EIS has elapsed.

Without that report interested groups and members of the public will be in the same position as they were in the Terania Creek inquiry where Forestry Commission claims that the logging proposals would have little or no adverse effect on wildlife were totally unsubstantiated neither by data nor by production of Mr. Rohan Jones or his colleagues as expert witnesses.

It has been revealed via an exhibit produced at this Inquiry on Tuesday, 11th February, that the Forestry Commission wildlife officer in charge provided basic information (effectively faunal lists) to the Forestry Commission submission but was not asked to provide a professional evaluation of the impact of logging or the importance of Terania Creek to the conservation of rainforest fauna. The exhibit further indicated that the officer's views differed from those expressed in the Forestry Commission submission.

The only evidence to come out of the Terania Creek enquiry on the impact on fauna of logging is that no one knows. Dr. Recher of the Australian Museum and other expert witnesses agreed that it would take in the order of 5 years to carry out the necessary studies.

I would ask how long Mr. Rohan Jones spent at Washpool and if he will be given an opportunity to submit and speak publicly to a report on the impact of logging on the Washpool fauna?

Yours sincerely,

E. Elenius,
Project Officer

Ph: 267 7519

XXXXXXX

12th February, 1981

The Hon. N.K. Wran, QC, MLA
Premier of New South Wales,
Premier's Department,
State Office Block,
Phillip Street,
SYDNEY. NSW. 2000

Dear Mr. Wran,

Logging in the Washpool Area

The Forestry Commission released its environmental impact statement for its proposed forestry operations in the Washpool area on Christmas Eve last year, at a cost of \$25 to the public with no free copies made available to the media. As you are no doubt aware, there exists considerable public interest in the preservation of rainforest in NSW, and in Washpool in particular.

We are concerned about two aspects of the Washpool EIS procedure:

1. The lack of time for public review of the report. Submissions must, at present, be made before early March. We therefore request a two month extension of the final date for public comment.
2. The prospect of the Forestry Commission adjudicating on this matter, after having proposed Washpool's logging and being permitted to carry out their own EIS which also supports that proposal. We feel that any decision on the future of Washpool should be made without subjective bias and with some assurance of consideration of all the alternatives including a national park.

Yours sincerely,

C.H. Pratten,
Chairman



6 JAN 1981 P1.

With Compliments

National Parks Association of NSW

Re Secretary
N.C.C.
399 Pitt.

Washpool

Could N.C.C. please
write in similar terms.

P.D. Prineas.

6th January, 1981

The Hon. Jack Ferguson,
Acting Premier,
30th Floor,
State Office Block,
Phillip Street,
SYDNEY. NSW. 2000



National Parks Association of NSW
State Council
399 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone (02) 233 3618

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

Washpool EIS

The Forestry Commission released its 300 page document entitled "Proposed Operations in the Washpool Area" two days before Christmas 1980. The deadline for submissions on the document has been set at March 2 1981. As you will appreciate, it is difficult for organisations such as ours, which are dependent on voluntary workers for much of their output, to respond effectively during the Christmas-New Year holiday period. We believe that the timing of the release of the Washpool EIS by the Forestry Commission has reduced the effective period for public participation by one month.

Accordingly, we would appreciate an approach to the appropriate Minister, Mr. Gordon, with a view to extending the deadline for submissions on this lengthy and complex document to April 6, 1981.

Further, the situation at present appears to be that the Forestry Commission is the determining authority in this issue. There can be no possibility of an objective and impartial consideration of the submissions by that body. Accordingly, we urge you to approach the Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr. Bedford, and ensure that the Minister invokes his power under the planning legislation to call in this EIS for decision by his own department.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Prineas,
Executive Secretary



78/1441.

25 JUN 1980

Premier of New South Wales

24 JUN 1980

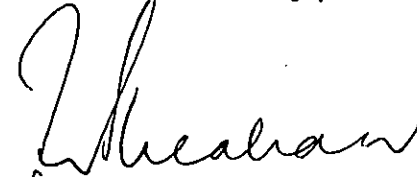
Dear Mr. Willan,

Thank you for your letter of 6th June, 1980, on behalf of the Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales concerning Washpool State Forest.

I have carefully noted the comments made in this regard and have taken the liberty of acquainting my colleagues, the Minister for Forests and the Minister for Planning and Environment with the terms of your letter.

Council may be assured that its views will be borne well in mind by the Government.

Yours sincerely,


for Premier.

Mr. L. Willan,
Chairman,
Nature Conservation Council
of New South Wales,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. 2000.

19th June, 1980

The Hon. E.L. Bedford, BA, MP
Minister for Planning
and Environment,
10th Floor, 139 Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY. NSW. 2000

Dear Mr. Bedford,

Could you please supply the Nature Conservation Council with a detailed map showing the area to be logged near Washpool as a temporary measure for the Big River Timber Company Pty. Ltd.?

Would you also confirm our understanding that the Viper Scrub, and, indeed, any area in the south of the Washpool Wilderness is not to be logged until the Environmental Impact Study is produced, discussed and publicly reviewed, and a decision made.

Euwingar State Forest is to be logged as an alternative. However, Billilimbra State Forest has also been mentioned as a source supply. We trust that that part of Billilimbra in the core Washpool Wilderness, as defined by Helman, is not included to be logged. What other portion, then, of Billilimbra is being considered for logging?

We look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,

Len Willan,
Chairman



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT S Y D N E Y.

11 JUN 1980

Mr. Len Willan,
Chairman,
Nature Conservation Society of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000


- 9 JUN 1980

Dear Mr. Willan,

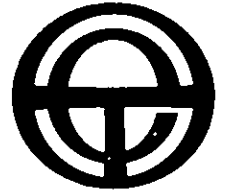
Reference is made to your telegram dated
23rd May, 1980 regarding the Washpool Wilderness.

This matter is currently being examined
by the Government, and your views on this matter
have been carefully noted.

Yours sincerely,


ERIC BEDFORD
Minister for Planning
and Environment

TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
18 Argyle St., Sydney, N.S.W. 2000. Phone 27 4714



11th June, 1980.

Mrs. Elizabeth Elenius
Research Officer
Nature Council of N.S.W.
399 Pitt Street
SYDNEY, 2000.

Dear Elizabeth,

Here's a copy of a letter seeking Mr. Wran's agreement to prevent the NSW Forestry Commission from logging, roading or clearing forest areas for which environmental impact studies are being prepared.

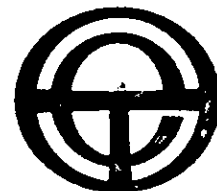
A letter of support to the Premier or a letter along similar lines would be much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Director
Total Environment Centre.

Copy

TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
18 Argyle St., Sydney, N.S.W. 2000. Phone 27 4714



11th June, 1980.

The Hon. N. K. Wran, QC, MP
Premier of New South Wales
Premier's Department
Phillip Street
SYDNEY 2000.

Dear Mr. Wran,

Your government's recent decision on the Washpool rainforest controversy has been the subject of much acclaim in the conservation movement. I want to add the very sincere thanks of Total Environment Centre. We believe the decision essentially supports the principle that an area, subject to environmental investigation should not be developed while the environmental impact statement is being prepared and publicly assessed.

As far as we know the Forestry Commission is the only NSW Government Department or instrumentality which does not accept this principle.

We wish to draw to your attention the Commission's further refusal to accept the principle stated above. After the Terania Creek controversy the Commission agreed to produce a number of environmental impact statements. Formal agreement exists with the State Pollution Control Commission (which agreement has now been transferred to the Planning and Environment Commission) to produce e.i.s's on:

1. Rainforest logging - Hastings Valley area.
2. Pine plantation development - Bathurst District (clearing of native forest).
3. Pine plantation development - Nundle, Nowendoc area (clearing of native forest).
4. Hinterland foothills logging - Wandello, Dampier area.

We have been advised by both the Forestry Commission and the Ombudsman that there is no guarantee against

- * clearing of native forest for pines

- * building of roads or
- * commencement of logging

in the substantially unlogged rainforest and hardwood areas while the environmental studies are being prepared.

This situation is unacceptable.

We seek your ruling, at the earliest opportunity, that areas subject to Forestry Commission environmental impact statements are not cleared, roaded or logged in the interim.

Your urgent attention to this matter will be most appreciated. As I am sure you know, there is very little unlogged rainforest left. Clearing of further native forest for pines cannot be justified because of the large areas already planted.

Yours faithfully,

Director
Total Environment Centre.

6th June, 1980

The Hon. N.K. Wran, QC, MLA
Premier of New South Wales,
Premier's Department,
State Office Block,
Phillip Street,
SYDNEY. NSW. 2000

Dear Mr. Premier,

WASHPool WIDDERNESS

The Executive of this Council wishes to congratulate you and your Government on the decision taken last Wednesday to allocate timber from State Forests in less environmentally sensitive areas in the Casino District to Big Rivers Timber Mill in order to protect the Washpool rainforest.

Council trusts that further rationalisation of quotas between Forestry Districts can occur in order to protect other areas, including Grady's Creek Flora Reserve and the Black Scrub, which have been the subject of controversy for some years.

Wednesday's decision indicates that your Government recognises the importance of rainforest preservation and we look forward to announcements of further measures to ensure that recommendations to Cabinet of the National Parks & Wildlife Service regarding rainforests, are implemented. Further, we reiterate our call for a full-scale rainforest ~~to be~~ ^{to be} conducted by the new Land and Environment Court.

Yours sincerely,

Len Willan,
Chairman

3rd June, 1980

The Hon. N.K. Wran, QC, MLA
Premier of New South Wales,
Premier's Department,
State Office Block,
Phillip Street,
SYDNEY. NSW. 2000

Dear Mr. Wran,

WASHPool WILDERNESS

Environmental groups in N.S.W., including the Nature Conservation Council with its 65 member societies, the National Parks Association, the Colong Committee, Ecology Action, Terania Native Action Group, Greenpeace, North Coast Conservation Council and many others strongly support the National Parks & Wildlife Service's recommendations to Cabinet that "all publicly owned rainforest be withdrawn from logging and placed under permanent reservation".

The Washpool Wilderness, incorporating Washpool, Moogem, Billilimba and Dandahra Creek State Forests contains the largest remaining stands of unlogged rainforest in NSW and is rich in diversity of forest types and wildlife. Even selective logging and the associated activities will destroy the integrity of Washpool not only as a wilderness but also as ~~pristine~~ rainforest complex.

The Forestry Commission's policy of phasing out general purpose rainforest logging subject to existing commitmentss is hypocritical in the extreme as it knows that all remaining unlogged stands under its control are fully committed to the nine sawmills involved.

This highlights the urgent need for a genuine rainforest inquiry to be conducted by the new Land and Environment Court. Meanwhile, compensation should be offered to the mills and alternative employment found for the employees. We look to you as Premier to personally intervene in order to provide a sensible solution.

Unless you and your Government take positive action now ~~it~~ ^{it} will stand indicted by this and ~~future~~ ^{future} generations.

Yours faithfully,

Len Willan,
Chairman

Also to Hills

3rd June, 1980

The Hon. L.J. Ferguson,
Deputy Premier,
30th Floor, State Office Block,
Phillip Street,
SYDNEY. NSW. 2000

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

WASHPool WILDERNESS

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Chairman

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Premier of New South Wales,
Premier's Department,
State Office Block,
Phillip Street,
SYDNEY. NSW. 2000

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WASHPOL WILDERNESS

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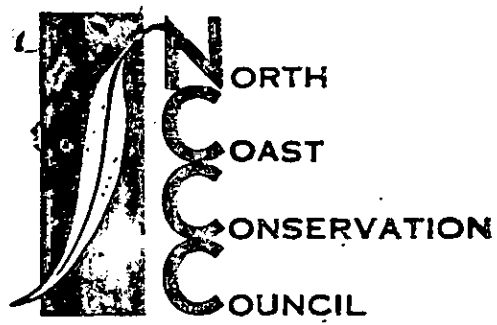
Unless you and your Government take positive action now it will stand indicted by this and future generations.

Yours faithfully,

Len Willan,
Chairman

Forestry - rainforest

28 MAY 1980



P.O. BOX 78, BELLINGEN, N.S.W. 2454

26th May, 1980.

The Hon. N.K. Wran,
Premier,
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY, 2000.

Dear Mr. Wran,

re: Proposed Logging of Washpool Wilderness Area

Following representations to the then Minister for Planning and Environment by conservation organisations, including this Council, late last year, a decision was made by your Government to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment of the Forestry Commission proposal to road and log part of the area identified by Helman and others in 1976 as the Washpool Wilderness Area. Further developments in the area by the Forestry Commission were halted, pending the outcome of this assessment followed by a public review.

Serious doubt was cast on this decision at a meeting between representatives of Clarence Valley conservation organisations (including the Honorary Secretary of this Council) and the Minister for Planning and Environment and the Minister for Forests held on 21 May. Mr Gordon indicated that a recommendation would be made to Cabinet that logging be permitted in the Washpool State Forest before the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement by the Forestry Commission, and its subsequent review in a public inquiry. The recommendation, if implemented, would involve the surfacing of the Coombadjah Road, and the logging of rainforest timber from an area of rainforest known as the Viper Scrub.

Such a recommendation is strongly opposed by this Council on the following grounds:

1. It effectively negates the earlier decision to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposal before any further roading or any logging takes place;
2. It contravenes existing guidelines under which an Environmental Impact Assessment would be conducted. (Environmental Standard EI-4 requires that an E.I.S. be completed and assessed before the development being considered commences). Also, the recommendation would be contrary to the spirit of the new planning legislation, soon to be implemented by your Government. Presumably, therefore the recommendation would be contrary to established Government policy, and it is considered by this Council that it would be wrong for the Government to adopt such a recommendation, which flies in the face of established policy, adopted as legislation, and soon to be made effective;
3. It does not take into account the policy recommendations of two other Government Authorities responsible to the Minister for Planning and Environment, namely the State Pollution Control Commission (Report dated 11 October, 1979), and the National

Parks and Wildlife Service (Report dated October 1979) regarding the future management of rainforests in New South Wales.

4. The recommendation, if adopted, would severely diminish the wilderness value of the area, as outlined by Helman. The 15km. of road under construction has penetrated the core area of the Washpool wilderness, and surfacing of this road together with logging would reduce the area of the wilderness core defined by Helman. Upgrading of the road and logging in the area prior to the completion of an Environmental Impact Assessment would thus severely compromise an alternative use or value of the area that could be considered by this assessment.

The argument used to support the recommendation, namely that the employment of men at the Big Rivers Timbers veneer mill is at risk, follows closely arguments presented in other forestry conflicts on the North Coast to justify continuation or commencement of logging in sensitive and controversial areas. Should the situation be as critical as is claimed, then it is to be expected that this was known when the decision was made to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment. The impact of not logging upon employment can only be fully assessed during such an assessment. The employment argument does not, in the view of this Council, constitute sufficient grounds for now effectively negating an earlier decision by your Government.

It is the wish of this Council that all of the above factors be given consideration, and that your Government maintain its sincerity with regard to its environmental policies.

Yours sincerely,

P.M. den Exter,
PRESIDENT.

cc. The Hon. E. Bedford,
Minister for Planning and Environment

Executive Secretary, State Council,
National Parks Association

Clarence Valley Branch,
National Parks Association,

Chairman,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.

26th May, 1980

The Hon. N.K. Wran, Q&A, MLA
Premier of New South Wales,
Premier's Department,
State Office Block,
Phillip Street,
SYDNEY. NSW. 2000

Dear Mr. Premier,

Washpool Wilderness

Further to the telegram sent by this Council on 23rd May, we wish to record our strong opposition to the proposal promulgated by Mr. Gordon, Minister for Lands & Conservation, to upgrade the Coombadjah road in order to facilitate early logging of the Viper Scrub rainforest in the Washpool wilderness area.

We understand that Mr. Gordon recommends that this proposal be implemented before the completion of the EIS being prepared by the Forestry Commission and before its public assessment.

You and your Government must by now be aware of the strong public opposition to rainforest logging. This Council's policies in this regard have been conveyed to you on numerous occasions, however, in the light of information only now being made public through the Terania Creek inquiry, it is evident that the conservation status of rainforest in NSW is even more serious than was first realised by the conservation movement.

It now seems probable that the estimate of 300,000 ha. total rainforest remaining in NSW is a gross overestimation of the resource, by the Forestry Commission. Detailed ground inspection (not a usual Forestry Commission procedure) has led the Commission to retype the forests of Terania Creek basin. This has resulted in a reduction of rainforest forest type by approximately 1/3. If this margin of error is applied over the whole of the State, it is likely that NSW has only 200,000 ha. of rainforest remaining.

This figure can be further modified if one takes into account the fact that forest typing is not necessarily applied to the type of vegetation currently occupying a particular site. In evidence, during the Terania Creek inquiry it has been revealed that e.g. an area of brushbox which has been clear-felled and planted with flooded gum is still classed as brushbox because the site, in the opinion of the Forestry Commission, has the potential to support brushbox. A similar situation exists with areas once supporting rainforest which have now been "converted" to flooded gum or other commercial species. It is therefore quite possible that only 100,000 - 150,000 ha. of rainforest remains in NSW.

With regard to the Wauchope Management Area the Forestry Commission estimates that only 5,000 ha. of unlogged rainforest remain. This is currently being logged under what is termed the "maximum economic utilisation" policy, which, in reality is virtual clear-felling. The resource is supposed to last until 1986, however, it is being overcut by 25% of current quota allocations.

This is occurring despite the clearly stated 1976 Forestry Commission policy which required the phasing out of rainforest logging. If these practices are allowed to continue your Government is in danger of presiding over the almost total obliteration of virgin rainforest in this State apart from the few thousand ha. protected in national parks - an area not considered adequate by the National Parks & Wildlife Service.

This Council and its 65 member societies has continually urged your Government to conduct a public review of its rainforest policies. This has not been instituted. Instead we are faced with a continuation of piecemeal, last-ditch, heavy logging in an attempt to stave off the inevitable restructuring of the industry currently reliant on this resources

We again ask that no roading or logging take place in the Wabppool Wilderness Area until a thorough public examination of all the environmental effects is conducted.

Yours sincerely,

Len Willan,
Chairman

23 MAY 1980

22.5.80.

To: The Secretary, FBW, NCC, Colong C'tee, B.Guilfoyle(Natl.Trust), ACF
From: Peter Prineas, Executive Secretary, National Parks Association.

WASHPPOOL - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

On Wednesday, May 21, a deputation from the Clarence Valley Branch of NPA met Ministers Bedford and Gordon in Grafton. The two Ministers had just completed an inspection of State Forests in the Clarence Valley, including the Washpool area.

It was made clear by Mr.Gordon, Minister for the Forestry Commission, who was not openly contradicted by Mr.Bedford, Planning & Environment Minister, that there would be a recommendation to Cabinet that logging be allowed in the Washpool State Forest before the completion of the EIS being prepared by the Forestry Commission and a proper public inquiry.

Mr.Gordon argued that Big River Timbers Pty.Ltd., a veneer mill at Grafton, had only 10 weeks' supply of rainforest peeler logs in Cangi State Forest, and nowhere else to go but Washpool after this supply was exhausted. The rainforest stand within Washpool State Forest that would be logged is known as the Viper Scrub. It is the smaller of the two major pure rainforest tracts in the Washpool State Forest, the larger being the Willowie Scrub. The Viper Scrub is on the watershed between Coombadjah and Washpool Creeks, and the proposed logging would presumably be within the catchment of Coombadjah Creek. A logging road has been constructed (the Coombadjah road) along the ridge, but its surface would have to be gravelled in order to permit the proposed logging to go ahead.

The situation is extremely serious. We are asking as many people as possible to write individual letters to the Premier protesting strongly at the proposal to upgrade the Coombadjah road and commence logging of the Viper Scrub. Reference could be made to the following :

1. The proposal is contrary to the Government's environmental impact guidelines, in particular Environmental Impact Standard 4 which requires that an Environmental Impact Statement be completed and assessed before the development being considered commences.
2. The proposal is contrary to relevant provisions of the new planning legislation which will soon come into force. Although this legislation is not yet effective, it is quite wrong for the Government to be acting in a manner which contravenes it.
3. The "crisis" situation upon which Mr.Gordon bases his argument for the logging is the fault of the Minister, or Forestry Commission mismanagement, or both. This situation ought to have been foreseen months, if not years, ago and it is an admission of failure and neglect on the part of the Minister to suddenly announce that a mill has only 10 weeks' supply left and as a result Government environmental standards must be set aside. As an excuse, Mr.Gordon stated that preparation of the EIS on Washpool had been delayed by the demands of the Terania Inquiry on the Commission's environmental impact assessment staff. This should not be accepted; the Terania Inquiry Commissioner Isaacs is Mr.Gordon's nominee and if Mr.Gordon does not like the way Mr.Isaacs is proceeding in the Terania Inquiry, then he has only himself to blame.
4. Finally, the "crisis" in which it is alleged that only 10 weeks' supply of timber is available to Big River Timbers may be a manufactured one. The Forestry Commission and the mill, and certainly Mr.Gordon, are all biased in favour of logging Washpool, and their estimation of the resource and the possible alternatives should not be trusted.

Mr.Gordon announced to the Grafton press on Wednesday that he would be recommending action on this matter to Cabinet next week. Cabinet normally meets on Tuesdays, but I understand that next week the meeting is likely to be Wednesday. There is little time in which to make representations to the Premier. Therefore, could you arrange for your organisation to send a telegram to the Premier protesting at Mr.Gordon's intentions. A letter should follow, elaborating on the telegram. As many members of your organisation as possible should be asked to write individual letters to the Premier in similar terms.



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

28 FEB 1980

Mrs Elizabeth Elenius
Project Officer
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
399 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Please quote 703302

25 FEB 1980

Dear Mrs Elenius

I refer to your recent letter concerning the Mann River wilderness area, in which you request that the Forestry Commission's environmental impact statement covering the general vicinity of Washpool State Forest be extended to include Cangri State Forest as well. Your suggestion that the Mann River wilderness be included within Gibraltar Range National Park has also been noted.

The Planning and Environment Commission will be involved in ongoing discussions with the Forestry Commission on the subject of environmental impact assessment of forestry activities. I have arranged for the questions raised in your representations to be considered in conjunction with the Forestry Commission to clarify whether an extension of investigations to cover the Mann River catchment might be appropriate.

I have also raised your proposal for including the Mann River wilderness in Gibraltar Range National Park with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The Service considers it has insufficient knowledge of the resource content of the extended area to make a judgment at this stage, but it will look into the matter. I should point out that Cangri State Forest has been subject to logging for some considerable time and that extensive roadworks have been undertaken. However, I also understand that the logging will draw to a close during the first half of this year.

Additionally, the Washpool, Mann River and Guy Fawkes areas are being examined by a special interdepartmental committee to identify the priorities and potential for forest management and natural resource conservation. This initiative is separate to that of environmental impact assessment.

Your Council may be assured that studies necessary to establish the nature conservation values of the areas in question will be undertaken and that the results of these studies will be given due consideration by the Government when it makes final decisions on preservation, use and management.

Yours faithfully

PAUL LANDA
Minister for Planning and Environment

14 FEB 1980

17 FEB 1980



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

7 FEB 1980

Ms. Elizabeth Elenius,
Project Officer,
Nature Conservation Council of NSW,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

Dear Ms. Elenius,

Reference is made to your letter of 19 July, 1979, conveying the terms of an Annual Conference resolution on the so-called Washpool Wilderness Area.

You may be aware that, since your letter was written, an announcement has been made by my colleague, the Minister for Conservation and Water Resources, that the Forestry Commission is to prepare a series of environmental impact statements on forestry projects, of which Washpool State Forest is to be the first.

The area is also to be studied by an Interdepartmental Committee, as to the priority for resource investigation.

In the meantime, you will appreciate that any action towards reservation of the area as other than State Forest would be impracticable.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Paul Landa', written in a cursive style.

PAUL LANDA
Minister for Planning
and Environment

Information re Washpool

NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Please quote 704352

- 7 FEB 1980

Mr. Peter Prineas,
Executive Secretary,
National Parks Association of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

Dear Mr. Prineas,

I refer to your most recent letter concerning road upgrading in Washpool State Forest.

I understand that the State Pollution Control Commission wrote to you on 21st September, 1979 advising that the Forestry Commission planned to undertake no further extension of its present programme of roadworks in the immediate future. At that time, the main Coombadjha Forest Road (Lionsville fire trail) which follows the watershed between Coombadjha Creek and Washpool Creek had been constructed to the most northerly point required by the Forestry Commission, except that some earthworks, pipe installation, grading and gravelling works were still to be completed. In addition, the Forestry Commission proposed to build some ancillary logging roads and tracks.

As you know, the Forestry Commission has undertaken to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Washpool forests. My administration is currently looking into this aspect, and additionally at the Forestry Commission's roading programme and other operations in the area. I will ensure that the matters you have raised are taken into account in this context.

The long-term future use of the wilderness zones identified in the Helman report, including both the Washpool and Mann areas, is currently under consideration by the New South Wales Government as a separate issue to the environmental assessment of the Washpool forests.

I have forwarded a copy of our correspondence to my colleague, the Minister for Conservation and Water Resources, for his further consideration.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Paul Landa'.

PAUL LANDA
Minister for Planning and
Environment



State Pollution Control Commission



Mr Peter Prineas
Executive Secretary
National Parks Association of NSW
State Council
399 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

157-167 Liverpool Street
Sydney 2000
G.P.O. Box 4036
Sydney 2001

Our reference: 704352 MS:CB

Your reference: 400 1979

Telephone: 20661

Dear Mr Prineas

Thank you for your letter of 4 October 1979 concerning the Washpool State Forest and some other nearby areas.

We have noted and taken into account your suggestion that we peruse a copy of the initial report to the National Parks Association of New South Wales entitled "Northern Wilderness Areas", dated 9 August 1979, and also your comments on localities which might be included in an inspection.

The timing for the preparation of an environmental impact statement for the Washpool area and any restrictions that might apply to roading and logging operations in that area are still under consideration by the Commission. We will continue to have regard to your views on these matters.

Our role in the overall review of rainforest policy in New South Wales has been limited to a consideration of aspects relevant to our administration. We trust you will therefore appreciate that we are not in a position to advise on opportunities for involvement which the government may give to community organisations such as the National Parks Association.

Yours faithfully

MICHAEL SMITH
for Secretary

To Nature Conservation
Council
399 Pitt St
Sydney 2000

National Parks Association,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

Phone 233 3618

August 15, 1979

Dear Elizabeth,

RE WASHPOOL & MANN WILDERNESS AREAS

I am forwarding a copy of an "Initial Report" to the National Parks Association concerning the preservation of wilderness values in the Washpool Creek and Mann River areas in northern N.S.W. (ACTUALLY JIM SOMERVILLE HAS IT & WILL LEAVE IT WITH YOU)

From the report you will appreciate that the wilderness preservation option in regard to Washpool is rapidly being foreclosed by the N.S.W. Forestry Commission; the Mann wilderness is also at risk.

NPA will be pressing for wilderness protection in these areas generally in accordance with the recommendations in the report. We hope that your organisation will do the same. For the moment it is important that the Forestry Commission and the timber industry not be made aware of NPA's proposals.

Letters in support of the action recommended in the report should be sent to:

Hon. Paul Landa,
Minister for Planning & Environment,
139 Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

It is important that as many societies, NPA branches and individuals as possible write to Mr. Landa to counter possible negative advice, at least on the Washpool area, coming to him from Government sources.

We have already supplied the Minister and National Parks & Wildlife Service with copies of the "Initial Report" including a set of Forestry Project and 1:25,000 topography maps marked with the appropriate boundaries. These maps can be perused at the NPA office, although it is hoped that the photocopied section of Forestry Project Maps attached to each copy of the report will satisfy most needs for the present.

Yours faithfully,

R Mason

Dr. R. Mason,
President