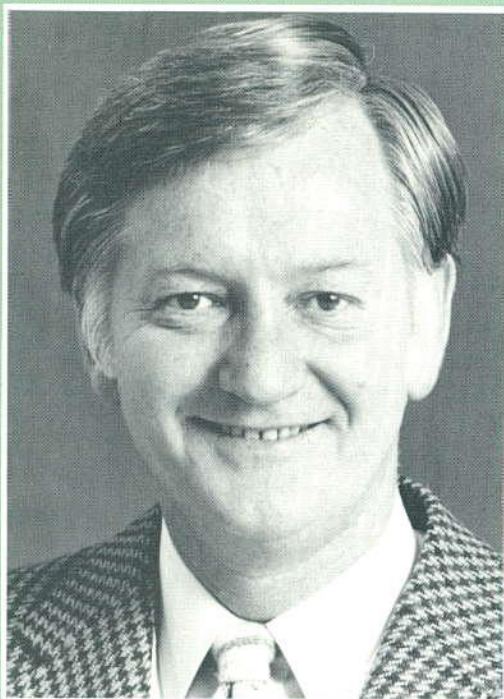
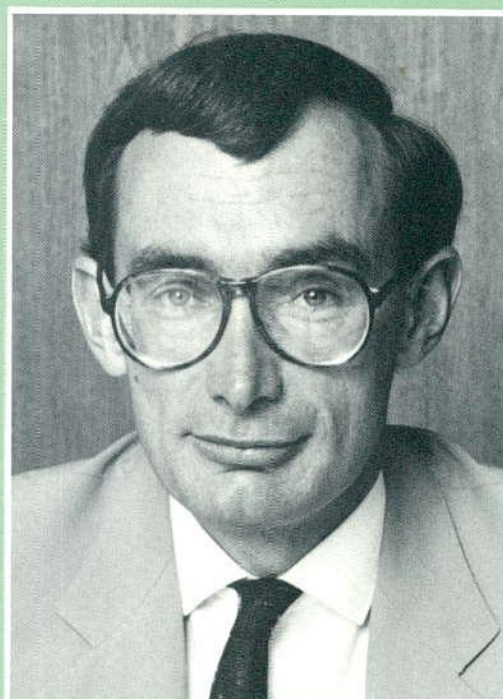


**National Rainforest
Conservation Program**

New South Wales



BARRY COHEN
Commonwealth Minister for
Arts, Heritage and Environment



BOB CARR
NSW Minister for
Planning and Environment

Ministers' Message

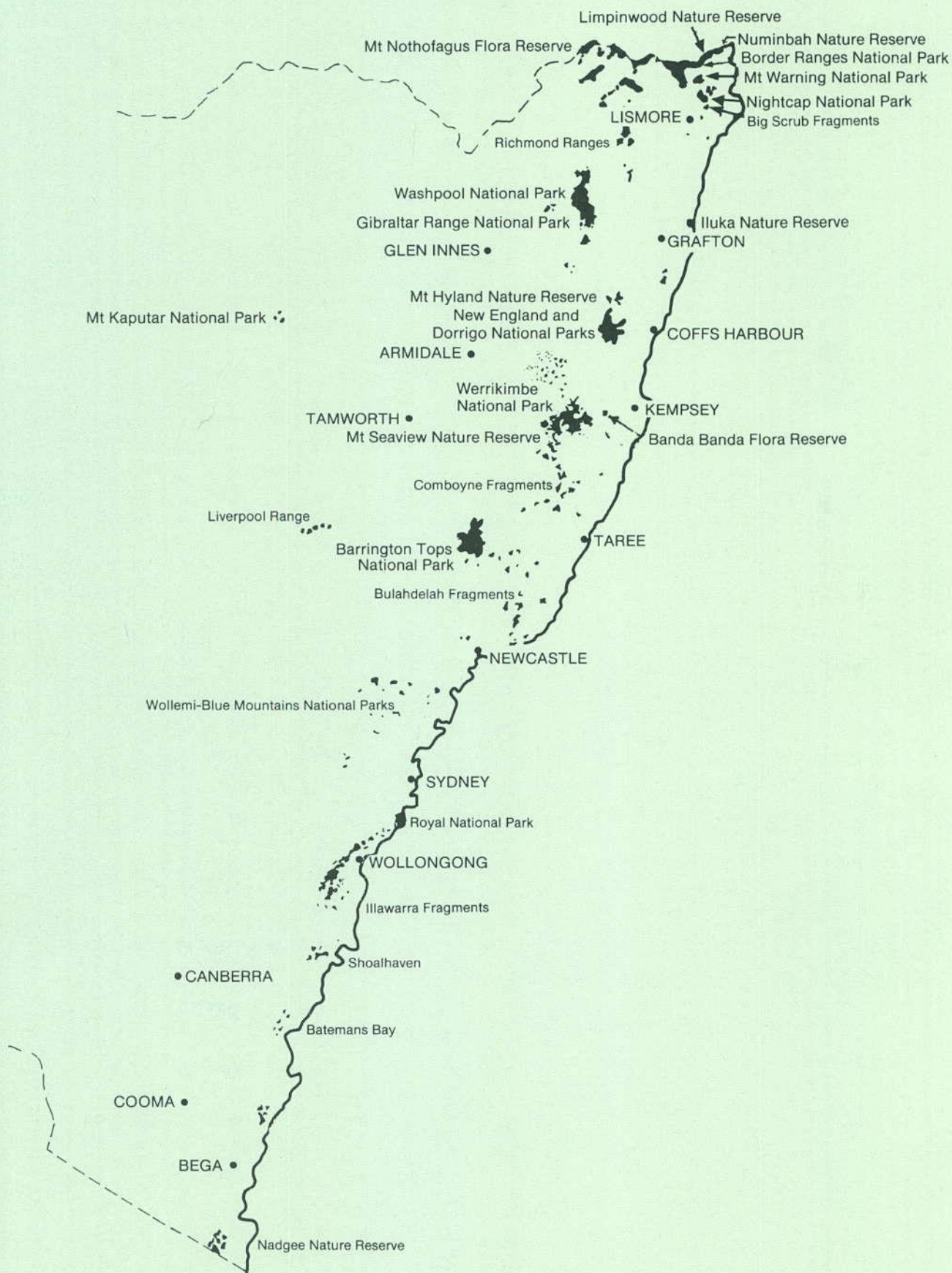
It was not so long ago that Australians considered rainforest to be of little or no value and an impediment to progress. Fortunately we are now aware of the vital values of rainforest and their conservation needs. Rainforests are not only environments of great beauty, but they also hold an enormous wealth of genetic information assembled over millions of years.

Rainforest conservation is one of the most pressing conservation issues that we face today. Unlike many other countries, Australia is not forced to sacrifice rainforest for arable land and income generation. We are therefore in a position to make a major contribution to global rainforest conservation. This important task demands not only cooperation between governments, but effort by all Australians. The National Rainforest Conservation Program provides the foundation on which to build a national effort.

A few years ago the New South Wales Government tackled the complex issue of rainforest conservation. This resulted in a bold and, at the time, controversial decision to adopt a rainforest conservation policy. Action which flowed from the policy relieved pressure from many valuable rainforest areas in the State and led to the creation of an outstanding system of rainforest national parks.

The National Rainforest Conservation Program will enable New South Wales to consolidate this work and build on its already impressive record. The cooperative Program will guarantee the conservation and management of the full range of rainforest types and values in the State. It will enable rainforest areas to be displayed in a manner which will guarantee their protection while allowing the community to experience and appreciate the benefits they have to offer.

We are confident that the work to be undertaken in New South Wales under the National Rainforest Conservation Program will be an inspiration to those working in rainforest conservation throughout Australia and internationally.



Distribution of rainforest in N.S.W.

New South Wales Program

While logging and large scale clearing are no longer major constraints to rainforest conservation in New South Wales, there is an urgent need to rehabilitate disturbed rainforest, purchase significant areas of privately owned rainforest, improve management, undertake research and strengthen education and information programs. The New South Wales Rainforest Program to be undertaken as part of the National Program focuses on these problems. A strong emphasis will be placed on reservation and management, facilitating controlled public access to rainforest and increasing community knowledge of the rainforest ecosystem.

A wide range of integrated projects falling into the following categories will be supported jointly by the Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments. Individual projects will be undertaken by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Forestry Commission of New South Wales.

Acquisition

The area of reserved rainforest in New South Wales will be expanded through the acquisition of important parcels of land for rainforest conservation. More than thirty properties are under consideration, with a total area in excess of 8 000 hectares. Many of the areas of privately owned rainforest land proposed for acquisition will constitute important additions to existing parks and reserves, some of which form part of the New South Wales World Heritage nomination. Others, while small in area, contain very rare species or communities not yet represented in existing reserves.

Planning and Management

Work on the preparation and implementation of management plans will be accelerated. Initially, management plans will be prepared for Werrikimbe National Park and the Big Scrub remnants and subsequently for Barrington Tops, New England-Dorrigo and Washpool National Parks.

New South Wales contains many small, fragile and important patches of rainforest which have become degraded and weed infested over the years. A number of these, including littoral rainforest remnants at Kempsey, Myall Lakes, Royal National Park and Brunswick Heads, and several patches of the Big Scrub remnants will be rehabilitated. Rehabilitation work will include weeding and replanting and will be accompanied by protective fencing and interpretive signs.

Public Information and Interpretation

Three major interpretive centres are planned, to be located at Port Macquarie (Sea Acres Nature Reserve), Minnamurra Falls (Budderoo National Park) and Dorrigo National Park. Design features under consideration include elevated walkways, canopy observation towers and hides for viewing wildlife. These centres and their associated facilities will provide enhanced opportunities for visitors to understand rainforest and to experience it at close quarters.

Tourism

Two major studies, in the New England-Dorrigo region and the Tweed volcano region, will be undertaken to assess the contribution of rainforests to regional tourism and to identify opportunities for increased tourism consistent with conservation objectives. Information will be gathered from the tourism industry and visitor surveys during major holiday periods. Public comment will be invited and incorporated into the survey findings.

Visitor Facilities

Walking tracks and other visitor facilities will be provided, or existing facilities upgraded, in a range of localities, including the Border Ranges, Washpool, Barrington Tops and Nightcap National Parks. The provision of these facilities is intended to take pressure off fragile areas of rainforest subject to increasing visitor pressure and to provide the public with a means of experiencing and enjoying rainforest with the minimum of disturbance to the forest itself.

Research and Survey

Rainforest resource inventories are planned for important areas that have not yet been fully surveyed. The Tweed volcano region and the Woko National Park-Camels Hump Nature Reserve complex are two such areas. Particular emphasis will be placed on determining the conservation needs of rare plants.

Nursery propagation trials of endangered species will be undertaken under closely monitored conditions and, using habitat analysis and population modelling to predict suitable habitats, the seedlings will be introduced into rainforest communities. Another major research project will monitor the distribution, population levels and feeding habits of rainforest pigeons.

National Program Development

The Commonwealth Government announced in June 1986 the provision of \$22.25 million for a National Rainforest Conservation Program to be developed in accordance with appropriate agreements and implemented in cooperation with the States. The Program gives effect to the Commonwealth's responsibility to assist in protecting the important national rainforest resource.

The Program arose out of the recognition by Mr Cohen that diminishing rainforest had been the cause of constant friction in recent years and, without an agreed strategy, confrontations were likely to continue. Mr Cohen convened a conference in Cairns in February 1984 to provide a forum for discussion of the wide range of views relevant to conservation of Australia's tropical and sub-tropical rainforests. The outcome of the conference clearly demonstrated it was possible to develop a cooperative approach to rainforest conservation. The conference recognised the need for rainforest conservation, acknowledged the need for a Commonwealth Policy and proposed that a Working Group be set up to develop a set of policy options for consideration by the Commonwealth Government.

The Working Group was established in August 1984. The Group comprised officers from most State and Commonwealth forestry and conservation authorities, together with representatives from the timber industry, conservation movement, unions and research organisations. Aware of the conflicting demands on rainforest, the Group set out to provide advice on practical ways in which governments might move towards resolving these conflicts.

The Working Group provided its report in September 1985 to Mr Cohen, who described it as a landmark in collaboration amongst groups holding very diverse opinions on a major environmental issue.

Following release of the report for public comment, the Commonwealth Government considered the recommendations of the report together with comments received. As a result, the Government decided to fund the National Rainforest Conservation Program.

New South Wales Rainforest

The State has approximately 250 000 hectares of rainforest. The major forms are sub-tropical, dry, warm temperate and cool temperate. Much of the flora is descended from vegetation types present in Australia over many millions of years. Rainforest occurs in patches primarily along the east coast and eastern slopes of the Great Dividing Range, with smaller and more isolated patches inland. The area occupied declines from north to south.

At the time of European settlement there were about one million hectares of rainforest on land which is now New South Wales. Much was subsequently cleared for agriculture.

In the early part of this century the potential value of rainforests for timber production was recognised and some formal protection for rainforest was provided. However, throughout this period, these rainforests were regarded as impoverished forms of tropical rainforest, with few non-timber values.

By the 1970's these perceptions had changed and the importance of New South Wales rainforest was recognised in its own right. In an historic decision in October 1982 the New South Wales Government — under the leadership of Neville Wran — adopted a rainforest policy which expedited the phasing out of general purpose logging and permanently protected several major areas of rainforest of high conservation significance in national parks and equivalent reserves. In January 1984 large additional reservations of land were announced. The overall result was an increase of over 200 percent in the area of rainforest formally protected. Land is specifically reserved for conservation purposes as national parks and nature reserves under the National Parks and Wildlife Act and as flora reserves under the Forestry Act.

In November 1985, on the recommendation of the New South Wales Government, the Commonwealth Government nominated a group of seven major areas of rainforest to the World Heritage List.



Budderoo National Park

National Parks
& Wildlife Service



Information Sheet No. 1

Access and Facilities

Budderoo National Park is readily accessible from either the coast (Kiama) or from the tablelands (Robertson - Moss Vale). As the park includes several long established public use areas, facilities are available in those sections. Additional facilities will be installed as management planning for the park progresses.

Minnamurra Falls

Facilities: Rainforest walks, with waterfall, picnic facilities, kiosk.

Access: From Kiama, take the Jamberoo Road and then follow signposting to Minnamurra Falls. Distance is about 13 kilometres from Kiama. An entrance fee is charged.

Jamberoo - Robertson Road

The Jamberoo - Robertson road traverses Budderoo National Park for a distance of some 5 kilometres. Motorists using this road will see the extensive treeless sedgelands and heathlands which characterise much of the plateau surface of Budderoo National Park and the adjoining Barren Grounds Nature Reserve.

As the road approaches the eastern (Kiama) edge of the Budderoo Plateau, there are glimpses of the coastal plain and foothills hundreds of metres below.

A small parking area 50 metres off the eastern side of the road provides access to an excellent lookout on the cliff-top.

Carrington Falls

Facilities: Prior to incorporation into the Budderoo National Park, Carrington Falls was managed by a trust of local residents. With limited funds and much voluntary work the trust has provided walking tracks, extensive safety rails, lookouts, toilets and picnic areas.

Several lookouts provide excellent views of the spectacular 50 metre high Carrington Falls on the Kangaroo River.

Budderoo National Park

National Parks
& Wildlife Service



Access:

For access, turn-off the Jamberoo - Robertson Road about 8 kilometres east of Robertson where the access road is signposted. Follow the unsealed road to a Y section. The right fork takes you to one of the picnic areas. If you take the left fork, follow it until it crosses the river and take the right turn to another picnic area (Thomas's Place) with connecting walking trails to a series of lookouts.

Gerringong Falls

No facilities.

Due to irresponsible use of off road vehicles, the track to Gerringong Falls is badly damaged and is not accessible to conventional vehicles. The off-road use of vehicles in Budderoo National Park is illegal.

Barren Grounds Bird Observatory

Although just outside the park, the Bird Observatory in Barren Grounds Nature Reserve is accessible off the Jamberoo - Robertson road adjacent to Budderoo National Park. From Jamberoo, turn left at the signpost at the top of Jamberoo Pass.

Fire Management

In the past Budderoo Plateau has experienced a high incidence of fires which have mainly come from neighbouring properties. The Service's policy will be to reduce the number of wild fires. To achieve this the Service will liaise with property owners and bush fire control authorities to develop a co-operative prescribed burning and track maintenance programme which will create buffer strips between developed (high risk) areas and the Park.

Enquiries:

Any enquiries regarding the park should be directed to:

National Parks & Wildlife Service
Superintendent
Nowra District
1st Floor
Housing Commission Building
24 Berry Street
P.O. Box 707
NOWRA 2540

PHONE: (044) 219969

Budderoo National Park



Information Sheet No. 2

Land Purchase and Reservation

1. Initial Reservation

The initial reservation of Budderoo National Park comprises:

- available vacant Crown land
- reserved Crown land (the greater part of Carrington Falls Reserve and Minnamurra Falls Reserve)
- freehold land purchased by negotiation by National Parks & Wildlife Service. (Pacific City lands on plateau)

2. Permissive Occupancies

Reservation as national park will not immediately affect the continuation of any Permissive Occupancies. The policy of the National Parks & Wildlife Service is to eliminate the grazing of domestic stock on national parks. Any Permissive Occupancies for grazing in existence at the date of reservation of the national park will be permitted to continue in co-operation with the holder until arrangements can be made to remove stock.

3. Policy on In-holdings

The initial reservation of Budderoo National Park will surround several small freehold properties.

In the case of the undeveloped freehold inholding below Carrington Falls (portion 156 Parish Wallaya) the Service would propose to acquire the property by negotiation. The owners are in contact with the Service.

In the case of the two developed in-holdings on the Budderoo Track, there are no current proposals by the Service to acquire these lands. These properties will continue to enjoy access rights along the Budderoo Track.

Budderoo National Park

National Parks
& Wildlife Service

4. Possible future land purchases

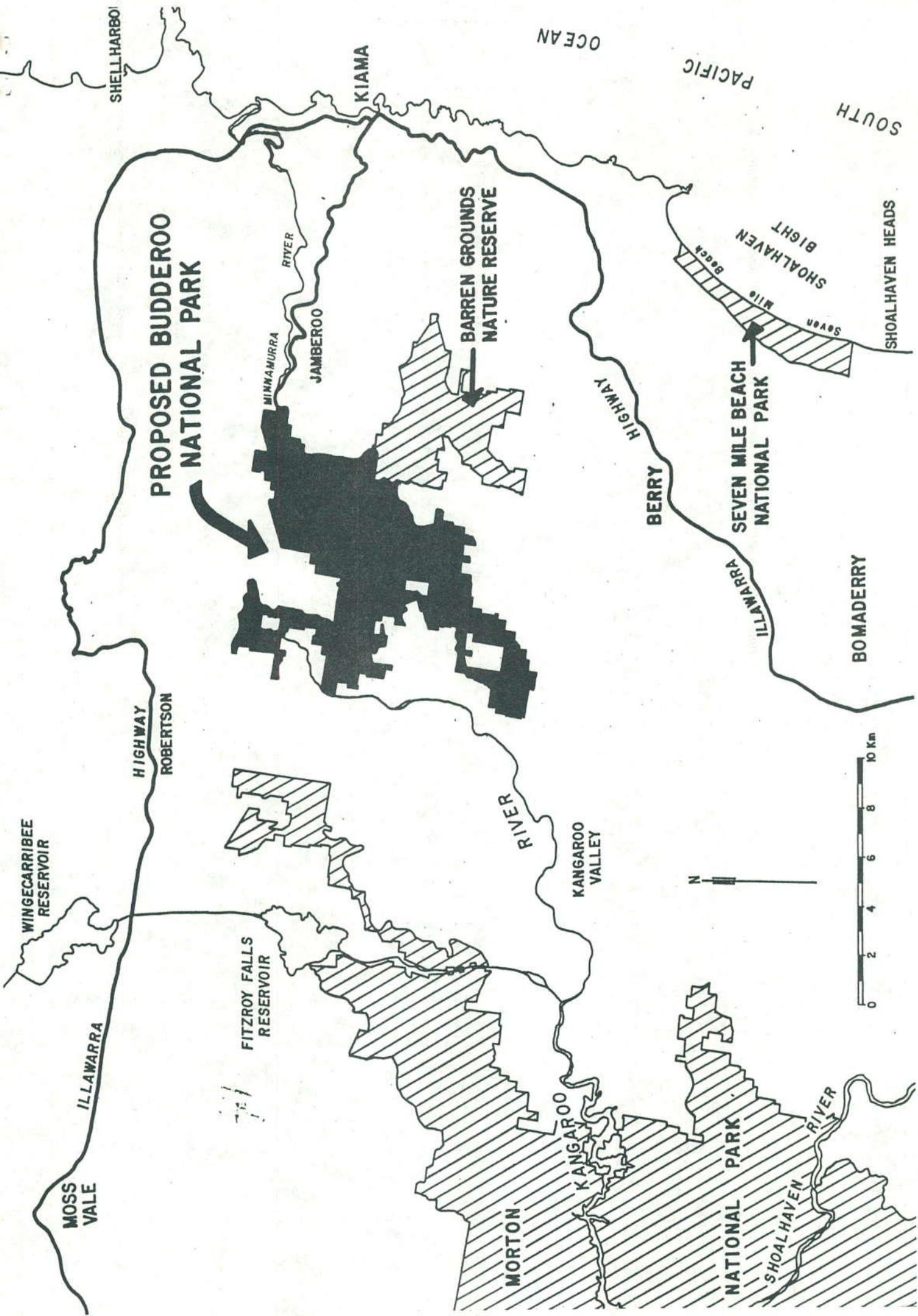
Whilst there are no current proposals for acquisition of freehold lands on the escarpment, the Service would be interested in considering any offers of sale for undeveloped land on the immediate eastern or southern escarpment of the Budderoo. Purchase of any freehold land for inclusion in the park will be by way of negotiation based on current market value as assessed by a qualified valuer.

Enquiries:

Any enquiries regarding the park should be directed to:

National Parks & Wildlife Service
Nowra District
National Parks & Wildlife Service
1st Floor
Housing Commission Building
24 Berry Street
PO Box 707
NOWRA 2540

Phone (044) 219969





NEWS RELEASE

MINISTER FOR ARTS, HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT

3 OCTOBER, 1986

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE COMMONWEALTH MINISTER FOR ARTS,
HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT AND THE NEW SOUTH WALES MINISTER FOR
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT.

NATIONAL RAINFOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAM - NEW SOUTH WALES

The Commonwealth Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, Mr Barry Cohen, and the New South Wales Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr. Bob Carr, announced today approximately \$2.6 million would be spent in 1986/87 on rainforest conservation in New South Wales as part of the National Rainforest Conservation Program.

The announcement was made today at the launch of the New South Wales component of the National Program at Minnamurra Reserve, a popular rainforest area near Kiama. The Commonwealth Government has allocated \$7 million this financial year to the National Program.

The Ministers said that the New South Wales Program integrated a wide range of projects to be supported jointly by both Governments. These include the acquisition of significant areas of privately owned rainforest for inclusion in national parks and reserves; planning and management for parks and reserves; provision of interpretive and visitor facilities; tourism studies; research and survey. The co-operative program will guarantee the conservation and management of the full range of rainforest types and values in the State.

A schedule of the projects to be undertaken and a map showing locations of projects are attached.

Mr. Carr said that the program will enable New South Wales to consolidate its already impressive rainforest conservation achievements.

Mr. Cohen said that the agreement between the two Governments was clear evidence that the co-operative approach to rainforest conservation can deliver substantial benefits. He looked forward to other States, particularly Queensland, sharing in the benefits of the National Rainforest Conservation Program.

NATIONAL RAINFOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAM -
NEW SOUTH WALES

Schedule of Projects 1986/87

| <u>Planning and management</u> | <u>Estimated Expenditure</u> <u>(86/87)</u> |
|---|--|
| | <u>\$</u> |
| 1. Management plan - Werrikimbe National Park | 20,000 |
| 2. Management plan - Big Scrub remnants | 30,000 |
| 3. Rehabilitation of Big Scrub remnants | 20,000 |
| 4. Rehabilitation of rainforest at Seal Rocks, north of Newcastle | 20,000 |
| 5. Rehabilitation of Brunswick Heads Nature Reserve, north east of Lismore | 40,000 |
| 6. Vine eradication, Coocumbac Island, Taree | 10,000 |
| | 140,000 |
| <u>Visitor facilities</u> | |
| 7. Bar Mountain walking track, Border Ranges. | 60,000 |
| 8. Coombadjha walking track, Washpool National Park | 40,000 |
| 9. Minnamurra Falls walking track | 40,000 |
| 10. Forbes River walking track, Werrikimbe National Park | 10,000 |
| 11. Resource survey and development, Strickland State Forest, near Gosford | 25,000 |
| 12. Interpretive and visitor facilities, various State Forests | 40,000 |
| 13. Visitor facilities, Washpool National Park | 20,000 |
| | 235,000 |

Tourism study

| | |
|--|--------|
| 14. New England/Dorrigo regional tourism study | 10,000 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 10,000 |

Research and survey

| | |
|--|--------|
| 15. Conservation planning for rare plants of Tweed volcano region, near Lismore | 10,000 |
| 16. Tweed volcano region flora and fauna survey | 10,000 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 20,000 |

Public information and interpretation

| | |
|---|---------|
| 17. Rainforest Ecology Centre, Sea Acres Nature Reserve, Port Macquarie | 250,000 |
| 18. Minnamurra Rainforest Centre | 150,000 |
| 19. Rainforest Interpretive Centre, Dorrigo National Park | 50,000 |
| 20. Rainforest Interpretive Centre, Cappers Gully, Gosford | 80,000 |
| 21. Outdoor interpretive panels, Victoria Park Nature Reserve, near Lismore, and Werrikimbe National Park | 30,000 |
| 22. Littoral rainforest rehabilitation handbook | 20,000 |
| 23. Identification guide to NSW rainforest trees | 30,000 |
| 24. Publication of rainforest inventory for NSW | 30,000 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 640,000 |

Land acquisition

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 25. Acquisition of private rainforested land for inclusion in national parks and reserves | 1,600,000 |
| | <hr/> |

Total Estimated Expenditure for 1986/87

\$2,645,000

National Rainforest Conservation Program - New South Wales

Location of Projects for 1986/87

