


*long delayed
reply from
Kerim out H.D
hence etc*

N.C.C



*Porting to
Paul Geline
Roger Smith
H.C.F
Jan Strayer
C.A.S.E.R.E.C.
Canberra Council
J. Ethiller (Hobart)
N.C.C. & N.P.A. (N.S.W.)
T.E.C.*

FAR SOUTH COAST ENVIRONMENT GROUP

17 DEC 1984

- ★ Cares about our Shire and Beyond
- ★ Is Concerned about Catchments and Water Supplies
- ★ Planning and Developments
- ★ Wetland, Lakes and Fresh Waters
- ★ Forests, Reserves and Shoreline

*7-12-84 announced today (H.D) 8.1.5
will be \$260,000 - one year duration*

We need people willing to actively participate in writing letters, organize guest speakers, contact local authorities, sit in at Council meetings.

Even just your membership is a big help.

Phone 41304, 41158, 56613, or the Bega Community Centre, 21088 ext. 229.

P.O. Box 18, Tathra, NSW 2250

EXTRACT FROM "REVIEW OF FORESTRY REPORTS" (REF. HARRIS DAISHOWA EIS 1977) BY

GARTH WALKER A.N.U. FORESTRY SCHOOL JULY 1977

POEM: DAME EDNA EVERIDGE

THERE IS MUSIC IN THE MAGPIE THAT WARBLER IN THE GUM,
THERE IS MUSIC IN THE CITY WITH ITS BUSTLE AND ITS HUM,
THERE IS MUSIC IN THE SIMPLEST LITTLE EVERYDAY APPLIANCE,
T'WOULD BE WRONG TO LET THE BIRDSONG DROWN THE SYMPHONY OF SCIENCE.
FOR THERE IS TREASURE RICH AND GOLDEN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA
THERE IS PETROL FOR THE HOLDEN AND GAS TO COOK THE TEA
AND THE MUSIC OF THE OIL RIGS AND THE CHORUS OF THE DRILLS
ARE AS MUCH A PART OF NATURE AS THE LYRE BIRD'S PLAINTIVE TRILLS.
AND SOMETIMES YOU MUST SACRIFICE A LITTLE BIT OF SCENERY
FOR PROGRESS WAITS FOR NO MAN AND NEITHER DOES MACHINERY.
WHO KNOWS, BENEATH YOUR ARMCHAIR COULD LIE A MINERAL MASS,
EVEN NOW YOU COULD BE SITTING ON A SOURCE OF NATURAL GAS.
SO DO NOT SCORN DEVELOPERS WHO SMILE UPON OUR LAND
THERE ARE THINGS BENEATH THE SURFACE WHICH WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
IT'S A WONDROUS THOUGHT TO THINK THAT QUAIN OLD ROCKS LIKE THE THREE SISTERS
MIGHT CONTAIN SUFFICIENT MINERALS FOR A LIFETIME OF TRANSISTORS
SO SING A SONG OF PROGRESS TO THE TRUMPETS AND THE DRUMS
FOR, THOUGH THE BUSH IS NICE TO LOOK AT MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON GUMS
AND THOUGH THE LAUGHING KOOKABURRA MAY WONDER WHERE HIS NEST WENT,
AUSTRALIA ISN'T FOR THE BIRDS - IT'S FOR JAPANESE INVESTMENT!

*Just a light hearted
reference to our big time
employers down south at Eden
Best wishes for Xmas
Doreen DelVecchio*

Eden Enlay Magnet 6/12/84

EDEN CHIPS E.I.S. UNDERWAY

This week in Eden representatives of Federal and State Government departments met with Harris-Daishowa for preliminary discussions on the content of the Environmental Impact Statement which the company must prepare in support of its application for an extension of its woodchips licence.

The Managing Director of H.D.A., Mr Tosh Shimmyo, said his company has given the Federal Government an undertaking to carry out the E.I.S. in support of the export licence beyond 1989.

This undertaking has been given to Mr John Kerin, Minister for Primary Industry, and Mr Barry Cohen, Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment.

The preparation of the E.I.S. will be assisted by the NSW Forestry Commission who control and manage forest operations in the area covered by the export licence.

Over a 2 day-period this week officers of all involved government departments were in Eden.

The first day was spent entirely in-

specting forest operations, including area being logged, recently logged, and logged in the early 1970's.

This included fire damaged areas.

Regeneration from logging and fire damage were given close scrutiny.

The second day was devoted to discussions as to the preparation of the E.I.S.

Mr Shimmyo said the company expects the E.I.S. proper to commence shortly.

He said the E.I.S. will take around 12 months to complete

EDEN CHIPS E.I.S.

FROM PAGE 1

and will cost in the vicinity of over \$250,000.

Mr Shimmyo said he wants to see the work commence as quickly as possible.

Eden woodchips are very important to the Japanese paper industry.

Eden woodchips are also very important to the economy of Eden and district and this fact should be realised by local residents.

CONT. PAGE 17



23 OCT 1984

MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY

Parliament House,

Canberra A.C.T. 2600

Telephone (062) 73 1711

Dear Ms Austwick,

Thank you for your letter of 20 August 1984 in which you raised certain questions relating to future operations of Harris-Daishowa (Australia) Pty Ltd.

Regarding your enquiry concerning legislation, the export of woodchips is subject to regulations under the Customs Act which require authorisation by the Minister for Primary Industry or certain officers of the Department for all exports of woodchips. Those authorisations are, in turn, subject to the provisions of the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974, which requires the Minister to ensure that the environmental impact of proposals (such as woodchip export projects, or extensions of licences) are assessed and any adverse effects minimised.

Recently, following a series of discussions between Harris-Daishowa (Australia) Pty Ltd and officers of my Department about future HDA operations, I formally set in train arrangements which will lead to the company undertaking the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the Eden activities, primarily addressing the period beyond the expiry of the current licence but also looking at the environmental impact, if any, of aspects of the present operations not covered by earlier environmental examinations. The study will address questions of the type you have raised concerning utilisation of pulpwood from Victoria and the overall level of chip production which might be sustained in the longer term.

I would see the preparation of the EIS commencing as soon as practicable in order that the results could be considered by the incoming Government as early as possible in 1985. While the current export authority remains valid for a further five years, I believe, that the company, its clients and the local community would benefit from the security which could be expected to flow from the successful early completion of the impact statement well before 1989.

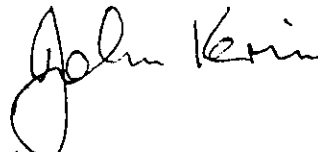
...2/

In consideration of HDA's future operations with the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment, Mr Barry Cohen, I had before me a request from HDA for permission to export in 1984 up to 50,000 tonnes of chips in excess of the company's authorised tonnage of 850,000 tonnes. These additional chips are to be drawn from the usual sources of pulpwood utilised by HDA. In view of the fact that HDA's impact assessment is expected to be completed before the end of 1985, with Mr Cohen's concurrence, I agreed to the company's request for 1984 only, making it quite clear that any additional tonnage for subsequent years would need to be covered in the EIS

I cannot comment on contract negotiations between the NSW Government and Harris-Daishowa as this is a matter solely between those two parties. I would suggest that you might also raise your concern on this and the matters referred to above with the company and the NSW Forestry Commission.

Thank you for making me aware of your interest in this matter. You may be assured I am most concerned to see that the export woodchip industry operates in an environmentally acceptable manner and that the EIS provides the information necessary for decisions to be taken regarding the conservation and development of forest resources which are in the long term interests of the community as a whole.

Yours sincerely,



(John Kerin)

Ms Lynette Austwick
Hon. Secretary
Far South Coast Environment Group
P.O. Box 18
TATHRA NSW 2550



NEW SOUTH WALES

MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

07 DEC 1984

23-33 BRIDGE STREET
SYDNEY 2000

Ms. J. Messer,
Chairperson,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000 00.

-5 DEC 1984

Dear Ms. Messer,

I have noted your comments of 30th October, 1984, concerning the expiry of Harris Daishowa's agreement in several years time.

As you know, Harris Daishowa (Australia) Pty. Ltd. completed an exhaustive environmental examination of the Eden woodchip project some years prior to passage of the E.P.A. Act. Recently my Commonwealth counterpart, the Hon. John Kerin formally designated the Company as proponents to the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment for an assessment preparatory to consideration of the Company's application for renewal of its export licence in the period beyond 1989.

You may be assured that the Forestry Commission will honour its commitments under the E.P.A. Act and will co-operate with the appropriate authorities examining the export licence.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Janice Crosio'.

(JANICE CROSIO),
Minister for Natural Resources.

S

See other items filed under
NATIONAL ESTATE GRANTS.

20 November, 1984

Geoff Coleman
Projects Co-ordinator
Trans National Co-operative Ltd
G.P.O. Box 161
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Geoff

I refer to your letter regarding the management of the south-east N.S.W. woodchipping project.

The Executive of the Nature Conservation Council considered your proposal for joint management of the project at its November meeting and agreed in full with the proposal.

The Council will nominate a representative once the application for funding is successful.

Yours sincerely

Roger Lembit
Project Officer

30 October, 1984

The Hon. J. Crosio
Minister for Natural Resources
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms Crosio

RENEWAL OF EDEN WOODCHIP LICENCE

It is understood that the agreement between the Forestry Commission and Harris-Daishowa Pty Ltd covering the Eden Woodchipping operation expires in 1988. Assuming the Company desires to continue, a new agreement and licence will be necessary requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Study in the manner required by the E.P.A. Act.

As the accumulation of the data on such a complex and controversial operation is likely to be extremely time consuming, we urge that you direct the Forestry Commission to commence the preparation of the E.I.S. in the near future. We believe it is essential that this time around, proper consideration is given to all aspects of the development.

Yours faithfully

Judy Mess
CHAIRPERSON

NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES
AND MINISTER FOR FORESTS.

25 MAY 1984

139 Maquarie Street
SYDNEY 2000

Mr. J.E. Akister, M.P.,
Member for Monaro,
P.O. Box 453,
QUEANBEYAN. N.S.W. 2620.

8 FEB 1984

Dear Mr. Akister,

I refer again to your personal representations on behalf of the Far South Coast Environment Group (Ms. L. Austwick, Hon. Secretary, P.O. Box 18, Tathra), concerning the future of sawmills on the Far South Coast and the tablelands of the Monaro, and your specific query on policies in respect of the planting of hardwood for milling purposes.

The Forestry Commission advises me that present quota commitments to hardwood sawmills on the Far South Coast and the Monaro can be sustained for a further 18 to 20 years from old growth forests in Crown timber lands presently available for logging in that Region. This period would be reduced by at least eight years if resources in the Tantawangalo catchment became unavailable for logging.

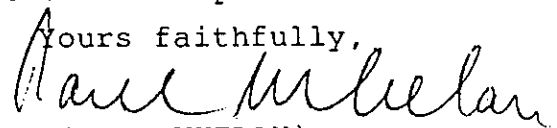
Reductions in quotas will be necessary after completion of logging in old growth forests in 18 - 20 years time.

I am further advised that the Commission has experienced no difficulties in obtaining adequate regeneration from natural seed fall following logging in hardwood forests of the Region and any planting now carried out is limited to log dumps and some snig tracks where more rapid rehabilitation of the site than would be achieved by natural processes is desirable.

In these circumstances, the planting of hardwood species as a general routine practice cannot be justified on either ecological or economic grounds.

The Commission advises me that the views allegedly expressed by the Manager of Tablelands Sawmill at Nimmitabel as to the relative merits of hardwood and pine timber cannot be sustained in fact. This can be instanced by recent log sale statistics, which show that for the first five months of the fiscal year the volume of pine sawlogs sold is 24% greater than for the similar period last year, yet hardwood log sales (including private property) are 1.4% less for the same comparative periods. All sawmills processing pine are seeking additional supplies, which in most instances the Commission is unable to provide because of insufficient areas having been planted in the past.

Yours faithfully,



(PAUL WHELAN),
Minister for Forests.

10 FEB 1984



Conservation

Forests

Lands

240 Victoria Parade,
East Melbourne, Victoria.

Postal address: Box 41,
East Melbourne, Vic. 3002

Telephone 651 4354
651 4362

29 FEB 1984

Mrs B Thatcher
Far South Coast Environment Group
P O Box 18
TATHRA NSW 2550

Dear Mrs Thatcher

I refer to your letter of 23 November 1983 concerning the destination of logs being salvaged from areas burnt in the East Gippsland fires of early 1983.

I now have to hand statistics regarding the salvage program as at December 1983. Some 51 000 cubic metres of sawlogs have been salvaged from fire damaged stands in East Gippsland and all of these logs have been supplied as part of normal sawlog allocations to sawlog licensees in the Cann River forest district.

No pulpwood has been taken from these fire damaged areas, however there is no restriction on sawmillers selling the waste generated within the sawmill in the process of conversion of the log to sawn timber, and I understand that many of them do sell this material as wood chips to the Harris-Daishowa plant at Eden.

Log salvage operations following the fires have been confined to the severely damaged stands containing sawlogs which would deteriorate beyond recovery if not harvested expeditiously. Arrangements for commencement of salvage of the most severely affected stands were made within a month of the fires, following ground and aerial surveys. The recovery of less severely burnt areas is subject to continual monitoring and any additional stands requiring salvage are progressively added to the program.

The salvage operation involves harvesting of all trees containing merchantable sawlogs and cutting of additional trees in sufficient numbers to allow regrowth to take place and develop.

No pulpwood harvesting is currently authorised in East Gippsland State forests and the timber harvesting operations that do take place are for sawlogs only with the resultant forest residue being left on site. Whether or not this type of limited harvesting is continued, and the general pattern of timber harvesting in East Gippsland forests, will be considered after completion of the overall inquiry into the Victorian timber industry which I announced last December and which should be completed early in 1985.

Yours sincerely

R A MACKENZIE
MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION, FORESTS AND LANDS

Total £.

Minister for Natural
Resources

Ms. Lyn Austwick,
Honorary Secretary,
Far South Coast Environment Group,
P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA. N.S.W. 2550 70

13 APR 1984

Dear Ms. Austwick,

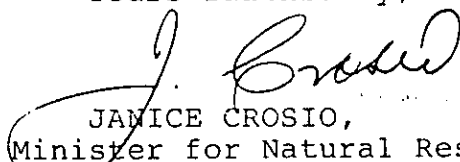
I refer to your representations concerning a corridor for wildlife between Nalbaugh and Nungatta National Parks, in the vicinity of Sheep Station Creek and White Rock River on Bondi State Forest.

The Forestry Commission shares your concern for conservation of wildlife in this area and has classified corridors along these waterways as requiring management with special emphasis on flora and fauna protection. Logging and control burning will be minimal within the corridors, which have been shown by Commission research to be important wildlife areas. Classification maps may be examined in either the Bombala or Eden Forestry offices.

Beyond the corridors, where the area is classified for indigenous forestry use, there are other important safeguards for wildlife conservation. Details may be found in the recently revised Eden Native Forest Management Plan.

Your concern about the effect of wildfire on wildlife is also shared by the Commission. While there have been severe fires in recent years, the Commission's fire policy in the Region has been to prevent such all-consuming conflagrations by a programme of controlled burning. There have been excellent examples of the success of this programme in checking wildfire in the general area of your concern.

Yours faithfully,


JANICE CROSIO,
Minister for Natural Resources.

roaching and logging
is under way - all
thought it better to press
for corridors. Interesting
experiment in bushland
corps being cleared 10-20-40%
C.S.I.R.O. Researcher Braithwaite
has stated richest mammal
population in the world.
Peter Brad has been there

6 Use your information

F.218.



NEW SOUTH WALES

MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES
AND MINISTER FOR FORESTS.

139 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY 2000

Mrs. B. Thatcher,
Far South Coast
Environment Group,
P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA. N.S.W. 2550.

9 FEB 1984

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

I refer again to your letter of November 23, concerning clearing of native forest for establishment of pine plantations.

The Forestry Commission's policy, which I fully support, is to direct future pine plantation establishment as far as possible onto substantially cleared land. In consequence, in both the Tallaganda and Bombala areas, any further clearing of native timber cover will be confined to a few relatively small areas which have already reached an advanced stage in conversion to plantation through past roading and salvage logging programmes or which require establishment to plantation in order to establish safe, rational boundaries between the plantation estate and adjoining cleared or native timbered lands.

You have been advised in some detail regarding the Forestry Commission's proposals in relation to the Tallaganda area.

In the Bombala area the future planting programme will involve clearing of native timber on only a small proportion of the total area planted. The future environmental effects of this programme are minor and I could certainly not entertain any disruption of the planting programme in this project particularly. The severe setback to timber production resulting from the fires early in 1983 can only be offset by a continuation of a vigorous pine plantation establishment programme.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Paul Whelan'.

(PAUL WHELAN),
Minister for Forests.



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Electorate Office
Suite 3
105 Monaro Street
Queanbeyan 2620
P.O. Box 453, Queanbeyan
Tel. (062) 97 5535

February 10, 1984

W.C.C.

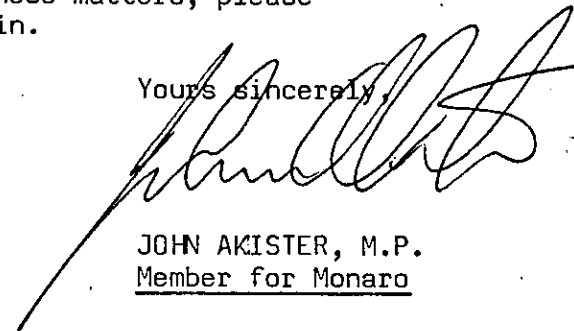
Mrs. L. Austwick,
Hon. Secretary,
Far South Coast Environment Group,
P.O. Box 18,
Tathra..N.S.W. 2550

Dear Lyn,

Please find attached a letter from the Hon. Paul Whelan, M.P., Minister for Forests, regarding my personal representations on behalf of the Far South Coast Environment Group, concerning the future of sawmills on the Far South Coast and the tablelands of the Monaro, and seeking information on policies in respect of the planting of hardwood for milling purposes.

If, following your consideration of the information contained in the Minister's letter you require any further assistance or advice in these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely,


JOHN AKISTER, M.P.
Member for Monaro

Encl.

23rd March, 1984.

Senator D.M. Jessop
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Jessop,

Re: Eden Woodchipping

Following my appearance before the Senate Land Use Inquiry, I now put to you in writing the point I was prevented from making because of Senator Townley's 'point of order'.

As one interested in the value of forests as a renewable resource, I was concerned to learn from Regional Forester Dobbyns at Eden on an inspection some years ago that sawlog production from the area in the future will be limited.

Following clear-felling during the initial woodchip operation, regrowth is very thick, as can easily be seen by inspecting different aged stands.

The Forestry Commission (then) carried out no thinning of regenerating stands as it was (then) uneconomical to do so.

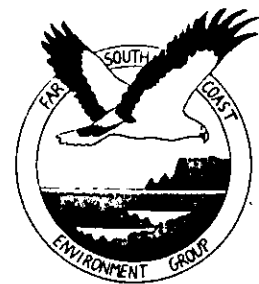
By the time the next clear-felling rotation arrives, all regrowth timber will be of insufficient diameter to use for sawlogs. The only sawlogs obtainable from the second rotation will therefore be from trees left during the first clearfelling.

I am personally more concerned with the viability of a sustained sawlog industry rather than woodchip industry, and I am therefore most concerned at this aspect of the Eden operation.

If it is one that your Committee has not examined, you may care to pursue the matter if you see merit in my argument.

Yours sincerely,

C.H. Pratten,
CHAIRMAN.



FAR SOUTH COAST ENVIRONMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 18,
Tathra. N.S.W. 2550.

24 May 1983

Mr John Whitehouse
Environment and Assessment Department
Department of Environment and Planning
C/o The Minister for Planning and Environment
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Whitehouse

The Far South Coast Environment Group has been highly critical of the NSW Forestry Commission's intention to log the Tantawanglo water catchment which normally supplies pure, unfiltered water to Candelo, Merimbula, other small villages and adjoining rural areas.

The catchment is unfortunately within the woodchip concession and it has been claimed that the Nimmitabel Mill will close if the catchment is not logged.

Consequently, following resident group meetings, the Far South Coast Environment Group has written to the Premier, relevant Ministers and Dr Gentle. (Enclosed are copies of their replies).

We understand that the catchment is virgin forest and we believe the logging of 165 hectares for monitoring trial purposes warrants an EIS as the catchment is also highly erodable granite.

There appears to be some difference of interpretation in the replies received.

We would be pleased if you could define an "environmental review" more clearly as stated in the Premier's letter of 29 April and also advise us who determines what is a significant impact.

Yours sincerely

Lynette Austwick
Honorary Secretary

enc 5



80/10670

Premier of New South Wales
Australia

29 APR 1983

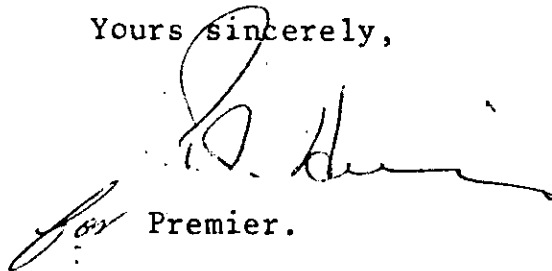
Dear Ms. Austwick,

I refer to your representations of 13th January, 1983, on behalf of the Far South Coast Environment Group concerning logging proposals in the Tantawanglo Catchment Area.

My colleague, the Minister for Water Resources and Forests, has advised me that a research trial is being set up by the Forestry Commission on three small areas to ascertain the effect of logging on water quality and specifications necessary to adequately protect water values. Weirs have been built to provide monitoring stations. Assessment in respect of the weir construction was that there would be no significant effect on the environment. Trial logging will not be carried out until initial monitoring is completed, possibly in two years time and, before commencement, will be subject to an environmental review, in conformity with Part V of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, to assess their likely impact on the environment.

I trust that the foregoing information allays fears that all legislative requirements would not be met by the Forestry Commission.

Yours sincerely,



Premier.

Ms. L. Austwick,
Hon. Secretary,
Far South Coast Environment Group,
P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA N.S.W. 2550 70



MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES
AND
MINISTER FOR FORESTS

28 MAR 1983

Mr. J. Akister, M.P.,
Member for Monaro,
P.O. Box 453,
QUEANBEYAN. N.S.W. 2620.

Dear Mr. Akister,

I refer to your letter of 7th February, 1983, forwarding correspondence you have received from Ms. L. Austwick, Hon. Secretary, Far South Coast Environment Group, P.O. Box 18, Tathra, 2550, concerning logging proposals in the Tantawanglo Catchment Area.

It would appear from your letter that there is some misunderstanding concerning the preparation of an environmental impact statement. The situation is that the Forestry Commission has agreed with the Bega Valley Shire Council that it would carry out detailed studies on the effects of logging operations on water quality.

The results of these studies, together with a required review of the effects of logging or other aspects of the environment, will ultimately determine whether an environmental impact statement will be required in respect of large scale logging operations in several years' time.

I trust this will clarify the matter.

Yours faithfully,

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

(PAUL WHELAN),
Minister for Forests.

**METROPOLITAN WATER SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE BOARD**

HEAD OFFICE: Corner Pitt and Bathurst Streets, Sydney, N.S.W.

Postal Address:
P.O. Box A53
Sydney South, N.S.W. 2000
D.X. 14 Telex 27881

Telephone: 266 0266, Extension

Reference: 7/99213

The Hon. Secretary,
Far South Coast Environment
Group,
P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA. N.S.W. 2550

22 MAR 1983

Dear Sir/Madam,

Water Board Policy - Protection of Catchment Area

I refer to your letter of 9th February 1983 and would advise that the conditions which deal with protection of the Board's Catchment Area are contained in Sections 55 and 56(A) of the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Act.

The Board's general policy on logging is, basically, to minimise interference with forest cover on Crown Land, and to restrict activities as far as possible on alienated land. No facts or figures are available in regard to logging, with the exception that logging on Crown Land is usually only salvage work on forest to be cleared for roads, powerlines etc., or to thin small areas of exotic plantation.

Yours faithfully,

C. Keith
Secretary



95-99 YORK STREET
SYDNEY. 2000

21st March, 1983

Ms. Lynette Austwick,
Honorary Secretary,
Far South Coast Environment Group,
P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA. N.S.W. 2550.

Dear Ms. Austwick,

I refer to your letters of 16th December, 1982 and 13th January, 1983 concerning logging operations in the Tantawanglo catchment.

The monitoring operations being carried out by the Commission are generally as stated in your letter and I would assure you that the Commission is fully aware of its responsibilities under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

Therefore the environmental effects of any operation will be carefully examined before the work is commenced. If this examination indicates that the operation will have a significant effect on the environment, the Commission will prepare an environmental impact statement in accordance with the Act and Regulation.

Yours faithfully,

W. GENTLE,
Commissioner for Forests.



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

S Y D N E Y,

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

Dear Mr. Pratten,

14 MAR 1983

Thank you for your letter of 27th January, 1983,
concerning proposed trial logging operations in the
Tantawanglo Catchment Area.

For your information the responsibility for
considering the need for the preparation of an
environmental impact statement prior to the commencement
of any forestry operations in the area rests with the
Forestry Commission of N.S.W. Under Part V of the
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, the
Forestry Commission would be required to obtain, consider
and publicly exhibit an environmental impact statement
before approving or carrying out an activity, such as
logging, which is likely to significantly affect the
environment. In the event of an environmental impact
statement being prepared for the proposed forestry
operations, the Forestry Commission would be required to
consult with the Director of Environment and Planning and
have regard to any requirements of the Director in respect
to the form and content of the statement.

I have noted your concern in this matter and forwarded
a copy of your letter to my colleague, the Minister for
Water Resources and Forests. I have sought the Minister's
assurance that any forestry operations in the Tantawanglo
Catchment Area, including trial logging, will be carried
out in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental
Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 and Regulation, 1980.
Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely,


ERIC BEDFORD
Minister for Planning
and Environment

NEE - copies for your
information



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

24.2.83.
S Y D N E Y,

Mr. J.E. Hatton, M.P.,
Member for South Coast,
P.O. Box 634,
NOWRA. N.S.W. 2541

Dear Mr. Hatton,

24 FEB 1983
Thank you for forwarding me a copy of the Far South Coast Environment Group's letter, dated 10th January, 1983, concerning the issue of trial logging in the Tantawanglo Catchment Area.

For your information the responsibility for considering the preparation of a formal environmental impact statement prior to commencement of forestry operations in the area rests with the Forestry Commission of N.S.W. by virtue of Part V of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979. However, in view of the concerns expressed by the Far South Coast Environment Group, I have written to my colleague the Minister for Water Resources and Forests seeking details of any experimental logging schemes under consideration in the areas. I have also sought his assurance that any forestry operations, including trial logging in the Tantawanglo Catchment Area will be carried out strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 and Regulation 1980.

I have already replied along these lines to the direct representations from the Far South Coast Environment Group.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Eric Bedford'.
ERIC BEDFORD
Minister for Planning
and Environment.

27th January, 1983.

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

Dear Minister,

Re: Forestry Operations in Tantawanglo Catchment Area.

It has been brought to the attention of this Council that the Forestry Commission for New South Wales are proceeding with trial logging operations in the Tantawanglo catchment area as a prelude to an Environmental Impact Statement on logging in the catchment. It is the Council's understanding that this trial operation is to take place over an area of 140 hectares and that operations will proceed over a period of three to five years after which time an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared.

The soils of the Tantawanglo area are considered to have a high to very high erosion hazard if disturbed or bare of vegetation. The catchment is an important source of water for many townships on the South Coast and also supplies water to a number of highly productive agricultural holdings in the district. Any disturbance in the catchment would accelerate erosion and threaten both quantity and quality of water available to users.

In view of the widespread concern, particularly in the local area, at the proposed operations this Council seeks your advice as to whether the proposed trial logging operations constitute an "activity" under Part V of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 and that, therefore an Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared for this activity as it clearly would have a significant impact on the environment.

Yours sincerely,

C. H. Pratten.
Chairman.

28th June, 1982.

Mr. H. Bell
Secretary
Forestry Commission of N.S.W.
95 York Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr. Bell,

Re: Review of Eden Management Plan

This Council understands that the Forestry Commission is presently reviewing the Management Plan for the state forests in the Eden district. The Council wishes to comment on aspects of forest management which should be included in the review and requests that you bring them to the attention of the relevant officers.

The Council suggests that the Commission should give greater importance to nature conservation and recreational value of state forests in the Eden district and makes the following specific recommendations.

a) National Parks

The Council considers that certain areas of state forests would be more suitably managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The Commission should discuss with the Service, the revocation of Bondi State Forest, between Nalbough and Nungatta National Parks, parts of Yambulla and Timbillica State Forests, forming a corridor along the Wallagaraugh River and part of Naghi State Forest, in the Merrical River catchment, as a prelude to these areas being declared National Parks. In the meantime these areas should be managed as Preserved Natural Forest.

b) Research Note No. 42

The Council suggests that the recommendations made in Research Note No. 42, should be adopted, notably recommendations 1 - 9 relating to buffer strips, recommendations 1 - 5 concerning habitat trees and recommendations 1 - 3 relating to the logging cycle.

c) Fire Management

The Council commends the Commission's policy of not burning logging debris and bark dumps and requests that it be upheld. The Council is opposed to the intensive control burning programme recommended by Mr. Sneeuwjagt from Western Australia and suggests that the Commission discuss fire management with officers of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

- 2 -

The Council trusts that our views will be taken into account and looks forward to receiving a copy of the Plan once it is approved.

Yours faithfully,

Roger Lembit,
PROJECT OFFICER.



FAR SOUTH COAST ENVIRONMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 18,
Tathra. N.S.W. 2550.

23 December 1982

14 JAN 1983

Mr C Pratten
Nature Conservation Council
399 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Chris

Enclosed is information which will acquaint you with the Tantawanglo issue.

The Forestry Commission is determined to log this water catchment area and we would like the Council to write some letters, if possible, to Mr Bedford asking for an independent EIS before any logging proceeds; to Dr Wal Gentle; the Bega Valley Shire Council and anyone else who you think should be written to.

We would appreciate any help and advice that you can offer us and if there is any information available that we could use as ammunition we would welcome it.

The point about the Tantawanglo is that, despite the prolonged drought, it is still flowing when other streams have stopped and after the recent fall of rain increased its flow while other catchments were not helped. See "Inspection of Weir Disturbs" from the Wyndham Observer 14/12/82.

Along with other concerned people, we are getting together a pamphlett to letterbox in the areas that depend on Tantawanglo's good quality water.

We hope that everyone at the Council enjoyed their Christmas break and feel refreshed and ready to fight the battles of the new year.

Yours sincerely

Lynette Austwick
Honorary Secretary

enc - lots



FAR SOUTH COAST ENVIRONMENT GROUP

18 JAN 1983

P.O. Box 18,
Tathra. N.S.W. 2550.

10 January 1982³

Mr E Bedford
Minister for Planning and Environment
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

RE LOGGING IN THE TANTAWANGLO WATER CATCHMENT AREA

Dear Mr Bedford

This letter is further to our previous letter dated 15 December 1982, and is about the proposed logging in the Tantawanglo water catchment area.

Mr John Akister said in a letter of 29 January 1982 "I have been given an assurance that both the Forestry Commission and the Soil Conservation Service will be involved in the preparation of an environmental impact study before any proposed logging or development of the Tantawanglo catchment area will take place. Such an environmental impact statement will be available for public consideration prior to any action".

Similar assurances were also given by the Premier Mr Wran in a letter dated 27 November 1981, 80/8127, which was in reply to our urgent request that "the Forestry Commission have an EIS prepared for public display, preferably by independant environmental consultants or the Environment and Planning Department."

You yourself said in a letter to John Akister, for the Pambula/Merimbula Branch of the ALP, that "the matter is one to which the provisions of Party V of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act apply. Under that Party, a public authority such as the Commission is required to examine and take into account any effect or likely effect on the environment of any activity carried out by it or on its behalf".

Despite these assurances, the Commission is going ahead with "trial logging" operations in the Tantawanglo area claiming that this is a prerequisite to the promised EIS.

After a recent inspection of the wet sclerophyll type forest we are convinced that an EIS should be produced before any more roading or other works proceed. The Commission has already bulldozed tracks to the weir sites, through virgin cool montane forest, which will be monitored for water quality etc. These tracks are very steep, wet, muddy and substantial erosion is certain to occur in heavy rain falls. We consider the cross drains to prevent erosion are quite inadequate. The construction of the weirs is imminent if they have not already been finished.

The New Line road has been surveyed and we were told by the Commission that construction was imminent. Upgrading of this road would suggest the Commission intends activities regardless of the findings of the monitoring committee and before any EIS.

Page 2

Mr E Bedford
10 January 1983

We would like to state our opposition to the Forestry Commission monitoring committee on the grounds that it is not only an attempt to deceive the local community but it is an attempt to avoid their full responsibility under Section 112 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The trial logging study which will involve the clearing of many hectares of forest is certainly "likely to significantly affect the environment".

With the Commission making up 50% of the committee it certainly cannot be seen as unbiased. The Commission also refused our request to have an independent consultant nominated by the Department of Environment and Planning included on the committee, and they refused a request by the Shire Council and other organisations to extend the committee to include representatives from our Group, the Bega Valley Water Users Association and the Merimbula Chamber of Commerce.

Finally Mr Bedford, after reading a report on the Tantawanglo Water Supply Scheme which was sent to the Bega Valley Shire Council from the Soil Conservation Service's Officer, Mr Chris Marshall and is dated 13 April 1981, we come to the conclusion that ANY activity in the Tantawanglo area is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

Mr Marshall states "The soils formed on the granetoids are variable but well described as having a high to very high erosion hazard if disturbed or bared of vegetation". He goes on to describe the enormous erosion problems associated with the Tantawanglo Mountain Road which, to our knowledge, is still posing problems to this day. Mr Marshall's report is enclosed.

Yours sincerely

Lyn Austwick

Lynette Austwick
Honorary Secretary

enc

cc to Landa

Akister

Hatton

Gordon

Ferguson

Wran

Gentle

NPA of NSW



Bega Valley Shire Council

ZINGEL PLACE, BEGA

Postal Address:

P.O. Box 492,

BEGA, N.S.W. 2550.

Phone: Bega 21088 (STD 0649)

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE
ADDRESSED TO THE SHIRE CLERK

Reference —

Yours:

Ours: TJC/MS #6139

Enquiries to: Mr T J Campbell

1 September 1982

Mrs L Austwick
Hon Secretary
Far South Coast Environment Group
PO Box 18
TATHRA NSW 2550

Dear Madam

LOGGING IN THE CATCHMENT AREA OF THE TANTAWANGLO WATER SUPPLY

Council at its meeting of 27 August considered an approach by the Regional Forester on the selection of small study catchments within the Tantawanglo catchment area and the establishment of a Committee to comprise the District Soil Conservationist, Forestry Commission Hydrologist, Regional Forester and Council's Water & Sewerage Engineer, to monitor results, draw up specifications for logging of the trial catchments and for general logging based on trial results.

Council has nominated Mr D Mein of its staff to the proposed Committee, and requested the Commission to commence the Study as soon as possible. Additionally in response to approaches by your, and other organisations, and to input from Councillors, Council has requested the Forestry Commission to extend the proposed Committee by two persons drawn from the Far South Coast Environment Group, Bega Valley Water Users Association and Merimbula Chamber of Commerce.

Your Group's views on the inclusion of an independent consultant nominated by the Department of Environment & Planning have been conveyed to the Regional Forester.

Yours faithfully


T J CAMPBELL

Deputy Shire Engineer

For: W C Fripp, Shire Clerk

More heat on Tantawanglo

FAR SOUTH COAST ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Further to the public meeting held last month, at Candelo Hall, which saw strong public support for the no-logging of Tantawanglo catchment area, a "Watchdog committee" has recently been formed, based at Candelo.

Calling themselves "Tantawanglo Catchment Protection Association", a number of concerned rate-payers and residents have come together to support council in moves to maintain a clean water supply to the Merimbula, Wolumla and Candelo areas.

The main objective of the newly formed group is to ensure that logging does not take place in the Tantawanglo catchment area.

It was felt by all members that any logging taking place would cause severe siltation and that the cost of filtration plant of \$1 million as estimated, by the Shire Engineer, would place an unnecessary and heavy burden on all the ratepayers within the Shire of Bega Valley.

A spokesman for the group released some figures based on the Forestry Commission Management Plan, some of which differed to the information released by a Forestry Commission spokesman at the Candelo public meeting.

They were as follows:
Recent Figures released by the Forestry Commission

Total Royalties \$7.25 m.
Total Saw Logs \$250,000 c.m.

Total Pulp wood \$1,000,000 tonnes.

Estimates Based on Forestry Commission Management Plan
Total Royalties \$3.5 m.

Total Saw Logs \$102,000 c.m.

Total Pulpwood \$832,000 tonnes.

On the matter concerning the loss of saw logs to the Nimitabel Sawmill, the T.C.P.A. was satisfied that the logs in the catchment represented a mere 3.2 percent of the total within the South East Forest, and that there could be a number of solutions in rectifying this loss.

For example, saw log quotas could be easily re-allocated.

The meeting also acknowledged that the council has sent a letter to the minister responsible for the Forestry Commission requesting the stoppage of any plans to log the catchment area.

The T.C.P.A. committee will also be monitoring the decisions made at ministerial level within the N.S.W. Government, to ensure that the valuable Tantawanglo water resource, remains undisturbed, as do other catchments within N.S.W.

Mr. John Akister, the Member for Monaro, has made representations to the Hon. Eric Bedford, M.P., Minister for Planning and Environment, regarding the proposed logging operations within the Tantawanglo catchment area.

Mr. Akister said that concern had been expressed by members of the Pambula Merimbula Branch of the Australian Labor Party, as to the possible effects of logging on the water supply for towns on the Far South Coast, if logging was permitted within the Tantawanglo State Forest.

Mr. Akister said that Mr. Bedford had provided

him with the following information.

Dear Mr. Akister,

I refer to a letter from the Pambula Merimbula Branch of the Labor Party which you passed to me for comment.

In the letter, the Branch expressed concern at the effect of logging operations within the Tantawanglo Catchment Area.

The logging is presumably to be carried out by the Forestry Commission of N.S.W. within the Tantawanglo State Forest.

As the carrying out of this type of development by the Commission does not require the consent of the Bega Valley Shire Council by reasons of the savings provisions in Interim Development Order No. 2 (Imlay), the

matter is one to which the provisions of Party V of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act apply.

Under that Party, a public authority such as the Commission is required to examine and take into account any effect or likely effect on the environment of any activity carried out by it or on its behalf.

Where such activity would be likely to significantly affect the environment, the public authority is required to have prepared and publicly exhibit an Environmental Impact Statement and to consider any representations made to it before making a final decision on the carrying out of the activity.

I trust this information will be of value to the Pambula Merimbula Branch.

Yours etc.,
ERIC BEDFORD,
Minister for Planning and Environment.

The following notes have been taken from the Engineer's report to the BVSC on 23.2.81:

"The Tantawanglo Creek weir has virtually no storage and directs the creek flow to Candelo, Wolumla, Tura, Merimbula, Pambula, Pambula Beach and rural consumers and also Eden when surplus is available. Catchment area for the weir is about 102 sq. kms. with 97 sq. kms. State Forest and the remainder freehold land. To date the catchment has provided a remarkably consistent flow of good quality water with no treatment necessary. Full flow has been maintained in the pipeline during the current drought with low level flows in the creek of more than twice the flows in the Towamba River, a river with a catchment area over 1,000 sq. kms.

"During recent rain more turbidity than would be normally expected was noticed in the creek and it was subsequently discovered that some logging had been carried out on a small area of private land in the catchment. Discussions with the Bega Sub-District Forester also revealed that the Forestry Commission is about to commence surveying for roading and logging in the catchment area. The area has not previously been intensively logged and an increase in turbidity in the creek due to the logging would make the installation of a water treatment plant necessary. The capital cost of the plant would be about \$1 million and the operational costs around \$60,000 per annum. The area of State Forest involved is less than 4% of the South East Pulpwood Management Area.

"Recommendation:

- 6.1 That representations be made to the Minister responsible for the Forestry Commission to stop any plans to log the catchment area and that full discussions be held with Council on the future use of the area.
- 6.2 That the catchment area be proclaimed a catchment district under Ordinance 45 of the Local Government Act so that some control can be exercised over the private land in the catchment."

(The above notes were considered by Council on 6.3.81 and the two recommendations were endorsed as Council resolutions.)

Motions for this Public Meeting to Consider:

1. That this meeting endorses the recommendations listed above.
2. That this meeting appoints a committee of five persons to further consider issues raised at this meeting including possible legal action to protect the catchment under Section 123 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.
3. That this meeting calls on the N.S.W. Government to refer the matter of the Forestry Commission's proposal to intensively log (woodchip) the catchment to its Advisory Committee on South Coast Woodchipping.



Above: The Tantawanglo Weir was once again overflowing on Sunday when tourist and commercial leaders visited the site on the mountains, but the weir holds little more than a 'puddle' whilst the pipe carrying the water to the coast barely carries sufficient water to maintain an adequate supply.

WO 14/12/82

Inspection of Weir Disturbs

Representatives of the Merimbula Chamber of Commerce and Merimbula Area Promotion expressed shock and concern when they visited the Tantawanglo Weir, on Sunday.

At the time of the visit the flow rate had increased as a consequence of rain, from a low the previous week of 10 litres per second to 36 litres per second at the time of the visit.

Tourist operator, Cr Bruce Hetherington who had visited the weir a week earlier with the Bega Valley Shire Council president, Cr Reg Taylor, accompanied the party, as did the council's southern engineer, Mr. Peter Reid.

The visit to the weir had been arranged by the publisher of the Observer, Mr. Chris Kleiss, in the interests of a better understanding by the leaders of both the commercial and tourists interests, of the delicate water supply situation.

Engineer, Mr. Reid told the party that though the weir was now overflowing, water restrictions at Merimbula and other

urban areas depending on the Tantawanglo supply could not be lifted as it was not expected that the present stronger flow in the creek would be maintained for much more than a week, unless substantial rain fell in the 100 square kilometre catchment.

'The recent rain certainly boosted the supply from the Tantawanglo, but though the catchment of the Towamba River is ten times larger, at 1000 square kilometres, the rain did nothing to restore pumping capacity in the Towamba borefield at Eden, Mr. Reid explained. 'The situation still demands that severe water restrictions continue in force,' he added.

'The only way we can overcome the problem of shortage of water in the warmer months is to construct additional storage dams, possibly on Merimbula Creek at a cost

of some 4 million dollars. The work,' Mr. Reid is scheduled to commence, in about three year's time, but has already been deferred for three years due to lack of money. Mr. Reid agreed however, that if water rates were doubled that enough money may become available to carry out the preliminary feasibility study normally carried out prior to the construction of an augmented supply.

The tourist, commerce and leading Merimbula citizens representatives in the party expressed concern that continued uncontrolled development was permitted by the council along the coast when the capacity of the pipeline carrying water to the coast was limited.

Whilst many additional comments and thoughts were expressed, indicating a willingness to take every conceivable measure to conserve water and a preparedness to pay substantially increased water rates, if that was going to ensure

a continued reliable source of supply, no official representative statement on the situation was made.

Commenting on the visit to the Tantawanglo, shire president, Cr Taylor said on Sunday evening, 'It is tremendous to see that members of the general public are taking an interest in the situation; inspections such as this will help a great deal, ensuring co-operation with the restrictions and support for council actions to increase the available supply of water to the urban areas of the southern half of the shire. It is up to the council to

act, and I am sure people will not mind paying if the council can show the ratepayers what it is doing with their money to solve this problem. Obviously there can be no argument about water it is the most important commodity we have.

Cr Bruce Hetherington, said following what was his second visit that he was delighted to see that the weir was now actually overflowing, 'But it is essential that a storage system for water is built as quickly as possible and I will raise that matter at the next meeting of the Bega Valley Shire Council.

*NCC
Copy for your
information*

16 December 1982

Dr W Gentle
Commissioner
Forestry Commission of NSW
Box 2667 GPO
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Dr Gentle

RE LOGGING IN THE TANTAWANGLO WATER CATCHMENT

The Far South Coast Environment Group would appreciate the following information in regard to the proposed monitoring of several catchments within the Tantawanglo water supply.

- 1 Is it the intention of the Commission to simultaneously monitor three catchments?
 - a) One catchment logged by normal forestry practices.
 - b) Selectively log one catchment.
 - c) Monitor one catchment of untouched forest.
- 2 Will the Commission authorize an independent EIS or one by the Commission prior to any logging taking place and will all studies and reports, along with the EIS, be made available to the public for comment?
- 3 We assume that the Commission will undertake wildlife species counts which would be carried out by someone with expertise in this area. Is this so?
- 4 We also assume that the Commission will take steps to protect the stands of *E parvifolia* (small leafed gum) as, we understand, this species is rare.

As you may be aware, the water flow in Tantawanglo has declined to a very low level indeed - the lowest in recorded history. Should the drought continue, monitoring could have highly unsatisfactory results.

Page 2

Dr W Gentle
16 December 1982

Last weekend members of our Group were impressed by the wet sclerophyll forest in the catchment and we consider that once logging takes place, this will certainly affect the quality and quantity of the water supply.

We look forward to your answers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lyn Austwick". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Lynette Austwick
Honorary Secretary

NCC
copy for your
information

FAR SOUTH COAST
ENVIRONMENT GROUP

PO Box 18
TATHRA NSW 2550

15 December 1982

The Hon E Bedford
Minister for Planning and Environment
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2550

Dear Mr Bedford

RE LOGGING IN THE TANTAWANGLO WATER CATCHMENT

Our Group is very concerned at plans by the Forestry Commission to log one of our most reliable and good quality water supplies in the Bega Valley Shire.

We refer to the Tantawanglo water supply which has provided water consistently through this prolonged drought, even to date, when most of the other rivers in the Shire have ceased to flow. Please see enclosed Engineer's report.

The Bega Valley Shire Council seems to have done an about face and now endorses plans to carry out logging on an experimental basis and to monitor results with the view to applying those results to general logging. Please see letter enclosed from the Deputy Shire Engineer.

Our request to have the monitoring committee expanded has since been refused by the Forestry Commission.

The purpose in writing to you, Minister, is to ask that an EIS be undertaken by an independent body such as the Environment and Planning Department before any logging for any purpose is commenced.

We note that the area concerned has never been intensively logged before and much of it is virgin forest and perhaps this explains why the water supply is of such a high quality and so consistent.

Yours sincerely

Lynette Austwick

Lynette Austwick
Honorary Secretary

enc 2

NCC copy - sent to council pro logging

THE EFFECTS OF BURNING AND LOGGING ON SOIL EROSION IN FORESTS - EDEN AREA

(Lecture to the Association on 17 March 1982, supported by slides and diagrams)

Since 1975 a series of experimental catchments near Eden, N.S.W. have been monitored in an attempt to establish the hydrologic changes that occur following clear-fell log operations. Six catchments have been established in the Wallagarah River catchment in an area of dry sclerophyll forest (*E. sieberi*, *E. olbiqua*, *E. muelleriana*, *E. cyathocarpa*, *A. terminalis*, *B. serrata*, *C. littoralis*). The catchments are steep sloped (10° - 20°) and are on Silurian-Devonian aged granites (adamellite). Automatic rainfall recorders, water level recorders and water samplers are located in each catchment in conjunction with sharp crested V-notch weirs (140°). The logging operation is "small coupe" and approximately half of any catchment is logged. Felled trees are snigged to log dumps, debarked and then loaded for transport to the chip mill. Tree litter and debris is left to provide ground cover. Regeneration is relatively rapid and is by natural means.

Logging began in one of the catchments in May 1978. A substantial increase in suspended and solution loads was detected. However, these increased loads had begun to decline (Rieger, *et al.*, 1979) when most of the experimental area was severely burnt by a wild fire. Again suspended sediment and solute loads were substantially increased (Burgess *et al.*, 1980, 1981) and stream flow was very substantially increased particularly in association with recovery logging operations (Mackay *et al.*, 1980).

Field examination of the logged areas reveal substantial movement of material particularly in the vicinity of roadways and snig tracks. A large amount of this material is only transported short distances before it is trapped by logging debris. Rapid regeneration hides the moved sediment, however, there is no doubt that substantial quantities of sediment have been dislodged and redistributed.

Hughes and Sullivan (1981) report that archeological evidence suggests periods of substantially increased erosion in the Recent past. They contend that these periods of increased erosion and sedimentation are associated with forest burning by Aboriginal people followed by a rainfall-runoff event of considerable magnitude. These findings have obvious implications for our study. Our short-term observations indicate substantially increased but declining loads and considerable intra-catchment movement of material. It is possible that in the long-term wildfire will be followed by a rainfall-runoff event of greater magnitude than those reported by Burgess *et al.*, (1980, 1981). In those circumstances previous logging operations will undoubtedly act as a catalyst to substantial erosion.

J. S. BURGESS

References

- Burgess, J.S., Olive, L.J. and Rieger, W.A. 1980: Sediment discharge response to fire in selected small catchments - Eden, N.S.W. *Inst. Eng. Aust. Hydrol and water resources symp.* 157-61.
- Burgess, J.S., Reiger, W.A. and Olive, L.J. 1981: Sediment yield change following logging and fire effects in dry sclerophyll forest in southern New South Wales. *Int. Assoc. Sci. Hydrol. Publ.* 132: 375-85.
- Hughes, P.J. and Sullivan, M.E. 1981: Aboriginal Burning and Late Holocene Geomorphic Events in Eastern N.S.W. *Search* 12 (8): 277-8.
- Rieger, W.A., Olive, L.J. and Burgess, J.S. 1979: Sediment Discharge Response to Clear-Fell Logging in Selected Small Catchments, Eden, N.S.W. *Proc. 10th N.Z. Geog. Conf.*: 44-48.

TREE PLANTING PROJECT IN GUDGENBY NATURE RESERVE

The National Parks Association of ACT intends to plant some native trees in the Gudgenby Nature Reserve as part of our recognition of the Year of the Tree; and to give some practical help to the large task of looking after national parks and reserves.

The Reserve, like many resumed areas, has some land which has been cleared and grassed. However, much of this land is still being grazed and growing young trees in competition with grazing domestic animals has many difficulties. With this in mind we have consulted with ranger authorities and a site with several advantages for this project has been suggested. We have examined the site and are now moving ahead.

Travelling from Canberra into the Reserve on the now sealed Boboyan Road, the site is on the right soon after crossing the boundary and 200 - 300m before (north of) the new Information Centre near Glendale in the last stages of completion. The site has been used for storage of road making equipment and materials, some of which is still there; it certainly needs rehabilitation. Much of the soil has been heavily compacted but discussion has given us hope that a tractor and equipment will be made available to assist in planting preparation.

The site slopes gently to the Gudgenby River with good permanent water at an elevation of 860m. Across the river to the west is a well wooded high hill with attractive rock outcrops towards the top. To the south the river and road converge. Over the road to the east is the site of an old home; only the orchard and other planted trees remain; rising beyond that are the wooded slopes of the Billy Range. To the north are some willows and pasture; extension in that direction could be practicable.

The site is relatively small and I estimate it would take between 300 and 400 trees. We will need to aim for about 500 seedlings to allow for accidents. We have selected 4 species to plant, after inspecting the trees which are growing nearby in a similar situation. They are:

Eucalyptus	pauciflora	snowgum
"	stellulata	blackally
"	bridgesiana	applebox
"	rubida	candlebark

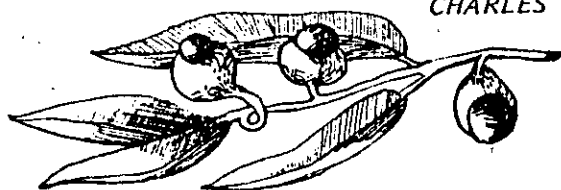
In addition, 2 or 3 kurrajongs may be tried to add more variety.

It is possible to purchase seedling trees from the N.S.W. Forestry Commission. However there are no Forestry nurseries near Canberra and costs including freight are high. A major difficulty is that the trees would need planting out within 2 or 3 days or so of their arrival in bulk, irrespective of the probability of a dry spell, delays in soil preparation and availability of a large group of volunteers at short notice. The Committee has therefore decided to gather seed ourselves and grow them in small batches spread around volunteer 'seedling minders' so that we have flexibility in planting out when conditions are favourable.

By the time this Bulletin is printed we will have gathered seed from the Glendale area, thereby gaining another advantage of having trees which are genetically conditioned to soil composition, climate and environment. We plan to use medium, fairly deep plastic pots and modified milk cartons for growing the seedlings early in the spring.

Volunteers will be needed to save cleaned out milk cartons, look after the seedlings, assist in site preparation, tree planting and occasional watering and maintenance. Secretary Judy Payne or Committee members would be pleased to have any names to add to our list of volunteers.

CHARLES HILL



FAR SOUTH COAST
ENVIRONMENT GROUP

14 December 1982

Mr W Fripp
Shire Clerk
Bega Valley Shire Council
PO Box 492
BEGA NSW 2550

Dear Mr Fripp

RE LOGGING IN THE TANTAWANGLO WATER CATCHMENT

We are most concerned about Council's attitude to water in the Shire and, in particular, we refer to the proposed logging experiments in the Tantawanglo water catchment which are to precede actual logging operations.

We feel that Council should remain resolute against any logging in the area and that Council should be taking charge of the situation instead of being coerced by the Forestry Commission. Previously, Council has adopted a strong stand but that stand has weakened.

The majority of ratepayers in the areas concerned are about their water supplies and they are looking to Council to see that their interests are safeguarded. Tantawanglo has provided water even through most of the drought when other rivers in the Shire have ceased flowing.

Studies undertaken on the Wallagaraugh River catchment showed a substantial increase in suspended and solution loads after logging and again after wild-fire. The stream flow was very substantially increased too. The fire risk is a critical factor in this debate as a regenerating forest is an enormous fire risk ie a much greater risk than a mature forest. We don't think that even the Forestry Commission would dispute this anymore with all the evidence now available. With increased stream flows comes erosion and the Tantawanglo is highly erodable granite. Another factor to keep in mind is that a young regenerating forest needs alot more water than a mature forest and this will diminish the quantity of water which would normally filter back into the stream.

Enclosed for your information is the Effects of 'Burning and Logging on Soil Erosion in Forests - Eden Area' from the National Parks Association Bulletin of September 1982.

Our Group has written to Mr Eric Bedford, Minister for Planning and Environment, requesting that an EIS be undertaken by an independent body (not the Forestry Commission), before any logging for any purpose be allowed to proceed.

In the meantime we trust that Council, by accepting responsibility for the water needs of the Shire, will do all it can to prevent the deterioration of a very high quality, reliable and cheap water source.

Yours sincerely

Lyn Austwick

Lynette Austwick
Honorary Secretary
FSCEG
Box 18 PO
TATHRA NSW 2550



SYDNEY.

Ms Lynette Austwick,
Hon. Secretary,
Far South Coast
Environment Group,
P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA. N.S.W. 2550.

1 DEC 1982

Dear Ms Austwick,

I am writing in reply to your representations concerning the question of accommodating the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W. in the Railways Institute Building in Devonshire Street, Sydney.

I am advised by the State Rail Authority that no firm decision has been reached concerning the future use of this building.

However, the Authority has kept a notation of your interest and should the building become surplus to their requirements at a later date, they will contact the Nature Conservation Council direct and advise them of their intentions.

Yours faithfully,


PETER COX.

*copy for
your information*

FAR SOUTH COAST
ENVIRONMENT GROUP

PO Box 18
TATHRA NSW 2550

16 November 1982

The Hon Peter Cox
Minister for Transport
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Cox

As a long term member group of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, we are extremely concerned that the NSW Government has not assisted the Council in securing suitable premises for its important function and those of the NSW Environment Centre.

We understand that the Government Functions Task Force has recommended the closure of the NSW Railway Institute.

The NCC has contacted Mr Wran, and various Ministers, seeking some form of subsidised premises and the above Institute has been mentioned specifically as being suitable.

As Mr Wran has passed on the NCC's letter to you we would be most grateful if a decision could be made as soon as possible on the Institute building and, hopefully, the extending of a lease to provide adequate space for the NCC and the presently congested Centre.

We trust you will give this matter your early attention.

Yours sincerely

Lyn Austwick

Lynette Austwick
Honorary Secretary

Nov. 25. 1982 Sunday Morning

Commission "conned" Council claims Collins

The Secretary of the Bega Valley Water Users Association, Mr Jim Collins, claimed at a public meeting at Wolumla on Monday night the Forestry Commission had "conned" the Shire Council over the issue of logging in the Tantawanglo State Forest.

Some of the Forest includes the catchment for the Tantawanglo water supply.

The meeting, called by the Tantawanglo Catchment Protection Association, was attended by between 300 and 400 people and was an overwhelming show of support for logging trials managed by the Forestry Commission

to take place.

Mr Collins, after an emotive address, later walked out of the meeting to the "boos" of the crowd, when he failed to stop a motion being put by Mr Bill Hurditch, Ph.D. in Environmental Studies, from Sydney.

As he walked out, Mr Collins, who opposes the logging trials taking place, was joined by about 30 others in sympathy.

Three bus loads of men from Bombala, Nimmitabel and Eden, whose livelihoods depend on the forest, piled into the Wolumla hall to the surprise of some local residents, as a show of concern for

their jobs and support for the logging industry.

Speakers at the meeting were Shire water engineer, Mr Doug Mein; Regional Forester, Mr Ross Dobbins; and Mr Jim Collins, Secretary of the Water Users Association.

In a prepared information sheet for the meeting, the Tantawanglo Catchment Protection Association listed three motions for the meeting to consider.

However when it was obvious from the start that by far the majority in attendance were pro-logging, two motions prepared by the Tan-

tawanglo Catchment Protection Association were predictably not put to the meeting.

One of the proposed motions prepared beforehand by the Association was "that this meeting rejects any plans to log any section of the catchment of the Tantawanglo Creek Weir and calls on the NSW Government and the BVSC to do everything possible to prevent logging proceeding."

Another proposed motion read: "That this meeting calls on the NSW Government to refer the matter of the Forestry Commission's proposal to intensively log (sawlogs

plus salvage pulplogs) the catchment to its Advisory Committee on South Coast Woodchipping".

Neither motions were in fact put to the meeting.

At times the meeting became rowdy but generally it was well conducted. The Chairman impressed on the crowd to keep emotions out of the discussion and to abide by proper meeting procedure otherwise pre-arranged action would be taken to restore order (he indicated the police had been contacted before the meeting).

To bring those at the
CONT. PAGE 14

ing on the coast?

U THE MAGIC OF MERIMBULA, PAMBULA AND TURA BEACH
T RANGE OF HOUSES, LAND AND HOME UNITS SEE PAGE 7

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Bega District Council
June 30th 1981

Lecturer talks on logging

A lecturer in Geography at the University of N.S.W., Mr L. Olive, addressed the meeting of the Bega Valley Shire Council on Wednesday last, on the effects of logging and siltation of streams.

Mr. Olive was invited to address the Council to discuss the findings of his research carried out in water catchment areas logged south of Eden to help the Council in its deliberations on proposed logging in the Tantawanglo State Forest west of Wolumla.

Mr. Olive said that relating the research south of Eden to the Tantawanglo area, he believed that if the logging was closely monitored and all regulations observed, logging of the catchment area could occur with a very minimal impact of stream sediment.

He believed the sediment would be so minimal that it was doubtful if it could be measured.

The careful planning of roads and log dumps, the keeping of machinery out of the streams and the strict maintenance of stream filter strips were essential to ensure no adverse effect on the catchment area.

Stream bank failure was a greater cause of sediment than logging and that was why machines must be kept away from the streams.

In past years there has always been sediment in the stream at Tantawanglo at times of high water flow and this has been due to the collapse of banks.

Mr. Olive concluded by

reiterating that he doubted if any scientist could measure any increase in sediment in the stream providing the logging was closely monitored and all regulations observed.

He based his statement on applying the data gained from his research south of Eden, to the Tantawanglo situation.

Mr. John Akister, who was also present at the Council meeting, commented that the Council had the responsibility to protect the water supply and also the ratepayers from any undue expense in maintaining the quality of the water supply.

Asked what he thought the Council should do, Mr. Akister said the appropriate authorities, the Soil Conservation Service, the Forestry Commission, should report on the matter and the Council could submit this data to consultants.

Then if the Council is satisfied, logging should go ahead.

He said the Forestry Commission should continue to closely monitor the operations to pick up any changes in the early stages.

Mr. Olive mentioned earlier that he understood that the Commission planned only to log 10 percent maybe less, of the area at Tantawanglo in any one year.

Cr. Oliver Green, referring to this, asked what

effect would a bushfire have on the water quality by comparison.

Mr. Oliver replied that a bushfire is the best way to increase sediment because it removes all ground cover.

The policy of the Forestry Commission was to leave logging slash on the ground to minimise any erosion.

Mr. Olive's research showed that poorly located and poorly designed roads had been a major cause of erosion.

Cr. Perce Wills said it appeared to him that on what Mr. Olive had said there have been some people with loud voices who didn't know what they had been talking about on the matter of Tantawanglo logging.

Cr. Pat Thogersen, said she understood that Mr. Chris Marshall, Soil Conservation Officer, was to also be invited to address the Council, but was not present.

Had he been unable to attend?

Cr. K. Cole thought likewise.

Shire Clerk, Mr. W.C. Fripp, said the minutes from the last meeting only mentioned Mr. Olive.

Mr. Marshall had not been invited.

Cr. K. Cole said as far as he was concerned, while there was even only the slightest doubt about an increase in sediment, there should be no logging in the catchment area.

Show of support for Tantawanglo logging

FROM PAGE 1

meeting up to date, Mr Doug Mein read a history of the proposal to log in the catchment of the Tantawanglo water supply, as follows:

1. On the February 23, 1981, Council resolved that: (1) representations be made to the Minister responsible for the Forestry Commission to stop any plans to log the catchment area and that full discussions be held with Council on the future use of the area.

and (2) the catchment area be proclaimed a catchment district under Ordinance 45 of the Local Government Act so that some control can be exercised over the private land in the catchment.

In March, 1982, Council wrote to the Commissioner for Forests notifying him of Council's resolution with particular reference to the persistence and quality of the present flow. The Commissioner was also

August 1982 the Commission wrote that they have been unable to find suitable sites for research on the Tantawanglo outside the catchment and suggested three small creeks inside the catchment. Generally the Commission propose instrumenting the small catchments and calibrating them. After this, two of the catchments would be logged and the third retained as a control. The Commission expect the research to take from 3 to 5 years.

A committee of four with two foresters, one Council representative and a representative from the Soil Conservation Service was proposed to oversee the operation. Council agreed to the proposal at its meeting in August and asked for two independent observers on the committee. The Commission responded that the Committee would always be able to seek advice from any person or group as it wishes. The first meeting of the Com-

mittee is to take place on November 24.

OTHER BODIES:

1. The C.S.I.R.O. have been involved and have provided a brief report suggesting means by which the affect that logging would have on water quantity and quality could be modelled and researched. Their Division of Land and Water Resources has indicated that they would be available to advise on research programs.

2. The Soil Conservation Service has identified the Tantawanglo Mountain Road as a major erosion problem. With advice from the Service, Council is involved in upgrading drainage on this road within the catchment area to reduce the present turbidity at high flows. The Service also stated in part that "the soils formed on the granetoids are variable but are well described as having a high to very high erosion hazard if disturbed or bared of vegetation.

Clay fractions can be expected to be dispersible with resultant turbidity problems in run off. The catchment's role as a water supply cannot be over emphasised."

3. The Department of Public Works is processing the gazettal of the catchment area as a catchment district.

CURRENT FLOW SITUATION:

The current persistence of the Creek is demonstrated by the fact that the present flow into the Tantawanglo pipeline is about 29 L/s. This is below the maximum capacity of the pipeline of 45 L/s but well above any comparable streams in the region.

A section of Mr Mein's report provoked angry comment from a few of those present.

This concerned the Council request for the catchment to be proclaimed under Ordinance 45 of the L.G. Act.

A couple of people

CONT, PAGE 49

asked to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement if the Commission still proposed to log the catchment.

2. In April 1981 the Minister for Planning and the Environment wrote through Mr Akister advising that where an activity such as logging the Tantawanglo catchment would be likely to significantly affect the environment, the Commission is required to have prepared and publicly exhibit an Environmental Impact Statement and to consider any representations made to it before making a final decision on the carrying out of the activity.

3. Also in April 1981 the Commission wrote stating "the Commission could only forego (the hardwood timber resources of the Tantawanglo catchment) if it were proved beyond doubt that multiple use of the catchment was impossible". The Commission detailed their previous research on the affect of logging on water and concluded by saying that "the Council maybe assured that no operations will be commenced unless and until the Commission is fully satisfied that they can be carried out without detriment to water catchment values or to water quality."

4. April 10, 1981. Public meeting at Candelo supported Council's resolutions on the Tantawanglo catchment.

5. Council has continued discussions with the Forestry Commission and inspected their research sites. In

EDITOR

Logging in Tantawanglo matters very much!

Sir,

Through your newspaper, I wish to take up with Mr Ross Dobbys of The Forestry Commission, two statements he made during an interview on a local radio station earlier this week.

Mr Dobbys stated firstly, that a 're-growing forest' uses much more water than an established one and then barely a minute later, said that he didn't think that logging of the Tantawanglo Catchment Area would matter very much "because the stream had dried up anyhow" or words very similar to these.

Now Mr Dobbys, I think it matters one hell of a lot!

But let's get a couple of things clear before I go any further.

The Tantawanglo Water Supply is drawn from an extremely small and really quite primitive dam which is filled by run-off from the Catchment Area in rainy weather and whatever else seeps out of the hills behind it for the rest of the time. If and I stress the 'IF', there is an abundance at any time, then this runs over the dam wall into Tantawanglo Creek and flows on down to join the Bemboka River below Kameruka.

Irrigators and farmers along the Creek have not had the benefit of any overflow for goodness knows how long and rely on small creeks like McCarthy's and Plumbs Creek to empty into the main stream to keep it going.

So the Tantawanglo Creek is drying up because there is not enough water being supplied by the Catchment Area to fill the dam to the point where it overflows - neither has there been sufficient rain to ensure that 'feeder' creeks like McCarthy's and Plumbs (which both have their source in the Catchment Area) continue to provide enough water to keep Tantawanglo Creek flowing.

So, Mr Dobbys, if logging will produce a 're-growing forest' which will in turn use much more water - then logging in the Tantawanglo Catchment Area matters very much indeed!

The water supply from the Tantawanglo Catchment Area is extremely uncertain at present - how much worse would it be if it had to support your 're-growing forest', Mr Dobbys?

Another point is this. The Tantawanglo Catchment Area supplies all its consumers connected to the Tantawanglo Water Supply with marvellously clear, clean water.

Mr Dobbys, can you guarantee that this will be the case during and after your Commission has torn up and desecrated the Tantawanglo Catchment Area? I think not!

Now, I am sure that I heard it said at a Public Meeting at Candelo some months ago, that logging would create the need for a filtration plant to be installed to ensure that consumers would continue to receive clear, clean water. At the time, the cost of this plant was estimated to be around \$60,000.00. I venture to say that that estimate would now fall far short of the present cost of such a plant.

Mr Dobbys, can you tell me who will have to pay for and maintain this plant should your Commission create the need for it by tearing up the Catchment Area with huge trucks, bulldozers, etc.? I feel sure that it won't be your Commission but the already overburdened ratepayers of this Shire!

So, the ratepayers of this Shire should immediately take Mr Dobbys' Forestry Commission to task and insist that the Commission desist from all thought of logging in the Tantawanglo Catchment Area, otherwise each and every one will be expected to contribute towards the cost of cleaning up the Tantawanglo Water!

Even though Mr Dobbys doesn't think it makes much difference, I urge all ratepayers in the Shire to insist that the Forestry Commission be kept right out of the Tantawanglo Catchment Area, now and forever, otherwise we run the risk of losing yet another of our valuable and irreplaceable sources of water in this fast-drying-up Valley.

Yours etc.,

Judy Winters
Wolumla

Nov. 19 1982

Bega District Shire

Seabirds need your help now!

During the summer months most of us enjoy the magnificent beaches of the Far South Coast and take pleasure in the sight of our seabirds as they wheel and call.

However these birds breed during spring and summer and need their share of undisturbed

space on the beaches. Unfortunately their need is greatest when the beaches are busy with people and already the number of successful nests is noticeably declining in some areas.

It is not a disaster when a dog runs along a suburban beach and scares a few seagulls.

But you can imagine it is a disaster when a dog is let loose for a run were birds are nesting or accompanies campers to a secluded beach upporting a breeding colony, as all of these birds nest at or below ground level. A breeding locality can be indicated by birds persistently

bombing people or animals or by pairs performing courtship flights or by carrying food. Distraction displays when a bird drags an apparently broken wing are attempts to lure intruders away from nest sites. Please keep your distance from these birds.

Off-road and four wheel drive vehicles, trail bikes and horses on beaches can also cause great damage and disturbance to breeding birds nests, eggs and young. However birds always nest above high water mark so try to keep on hard damp sand.

~~BEGA-TATHRA CONSERVATION SOCIETY~~

FAR SOUTH COAST
ENVIRONMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA,
N.S.W. 2550
19-10-82

The Nature Conservation

Council
399 Pitt St Sydney. 2000.

Dear Mr Pratten,

Enclosed is a copy of
the latest correspondence from Mr Gordon.

The Kalam Study has been received
by Council and has stressed the significance
of the tree cover in question.

We will send photocopies of the references
to Mr Bedford & Mr Gordon. I do think,
however, it is a lost cause. No reply has
been received from Mr Wran.

Generally, the governments inflexible
attitude and in particular some Ministers
attitudes give little or no regard to planning.

We are fairly certain that John Webster
has contacted Mr Gordon on this issue. He became
extremely angry and agitated when we sought
an interview and said "Harris Daishowa needed
every tree." Rumour has it he is seeking a min-
isterial post for himself.

Thank you for the support given to our
group. We regret not having a representative
at the Conference this year.

Yours Sincerely (Mrs) D. De Oliveira



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND LANDS

SYDNEY

9 SEP 1982

Ms. L. Austwick,
Honorary Secretary,
Far South Coast Environment Group,
P.O.Box 18,
TATHRA .. 2550.

Dear Ms. Austwick,

I refer again to your letter of 14th July, 1982 concerning the preservation of tree cover on Portions 139 and 232 in the Parish of Wallagoot, County of Auckland.

Having now considered your representations, I am not persuaded that I would be justified in asking the Forestry Commission, as you request, to delay further proceeding to dispose of the Crown's timber rights in the lands in question.

As to preservation of the tree cover, I would note that even if harvesting proceeds this will not eliminate the existing tree cover. Beyond that, the degree of preservation of tree cover in fact rests with the owners who may choose among the options outlined in my letter of 21st May, 1982 in reply to your earlier representations.

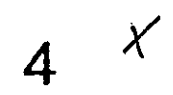
Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'A. R. L. Gordon'.

A. R. L. GORDON

Minister for Local Government
and Lands

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STUDY AREA

IMPLEMENTATION

Should Council decide to adopt the preceding development proposals as a basis for the future planning and development of the Kalaru area, the following steps in implementation of those proposals are proposed:

1. A meeting should be held to discuss the study and its findings with interested members of the public, to inform people of Council's broad intentions and to acknowledge the considerable degree of public interest which the study has attracted.

2. A meeting should be arranged with officers of the Department of Environment and Planning, to discuss the study with them. A copy of the report should be provided to the Department at an early opportunity.

3. In order to put revised land use controls into effect, Council has resolved to prepare a Local Environmental Plan for Kalaru, and has advised the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Planning of its intentions. Council must now proceed to prepare the Plan in accordance with Division 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. No action can be taken to approve developments outside the present Interim Development Order conditions until that Plan has been prepared and approved by the Minister.

4. Council must also obtain from the Department of Environment and Planning advice as to whether or not the present study meets the Department's requirements as a Environmental Study under the Act, or whether any modifications to the study are required. The brief for this study did not specify the study as an Environmental Study, although in the course of

the project, and given the limitations of time and resources, every effort has been made to achieve consistency with likely Departmental requirements.

5. Given that the present study, with or without modification, is acceptable to the Department as an Environmental Study, Council can then proceed with the exhibition of the study, receipt of public comments and submissions, and preparation of an Environmental Plan defining more specifically the areas over which revised land use controls will apply, and specifying those controls in more detail.

6. Once approval of the Local Environment Plan is achieved, Council can proceed to issue permits for developments which are in accordance with the provisions of the plan.

to thirty years ago. Now only a handful are able to find safe nesting grounds. Ducks and plovers appear to have adapted to the farm development.

Other animal life, such as wombats, egrets, small marsupials, often benefit from the forage available on farms, depending on the success of the farmer's management of this unwanted stock. This conflict between native, feral and domesticated animals will remain a problem in this district where a high proportion of the farms abut natural forest areas.

Wallagoot Lake:

Wallagoot Lake catchment is gradually coming under firmer management, involving a strong commitment to preservation of the lake in its natural state. The National Parks and Wildlife Service, The Department of Environment and Planning, and especially the Bournda Trust are achieving essential stewardship and control of land and activities within the catchment as part of the environmental setting of the lake. Any planning in the Kalaru district must respect the established significance of this natural area and support efforts to maintain or restore the lake to its natural condition.

Habitat Areas:

The description of the large variety of valuable and ecologically related habitat areas is a necessarily lengthy task and subject to varied expert opinion and research. For the purposes of a broad assessment of the likely impact of further human settlement in the area, a major habitat corridor has been identified. This links the major woodland areas and includes the forested flat districts (private farmland) on the north-west area of Wallagoot Lake. The viability of the Tathra Wildlife sanctuary could be assisted by maintaining

the corridor southerly over Evans Hill, to Crown land to the south.

Other individual and critical habitats such as shorelines, unique wet gullies and particular vegetation associations can be identified, but most are small and hence of only local importance. Blackfellows Lagoon and its shoreline is one example of an important local habitat.

Human Disturbance:

The existing pattern of settlement presents the most obvious aspect of disturbance to most forms of wildlife. The busy traffic of the tourist roads serves as a seasonal barrier to movement. With the exception of the relatively compact Kalaru settlement, farmland does allow limited travel of wildlife such as wallabies, emus, marsupials and the like and does assist in the control of feral predators.

Forest fires are one form of quite frequent, severe damage to wildlife habitats, and actions which increase fire risk are to be avoided.

Tree felling and land clearing, especially in the wildlife corridor, are also highly damaging, and again are to be avoided where possible.

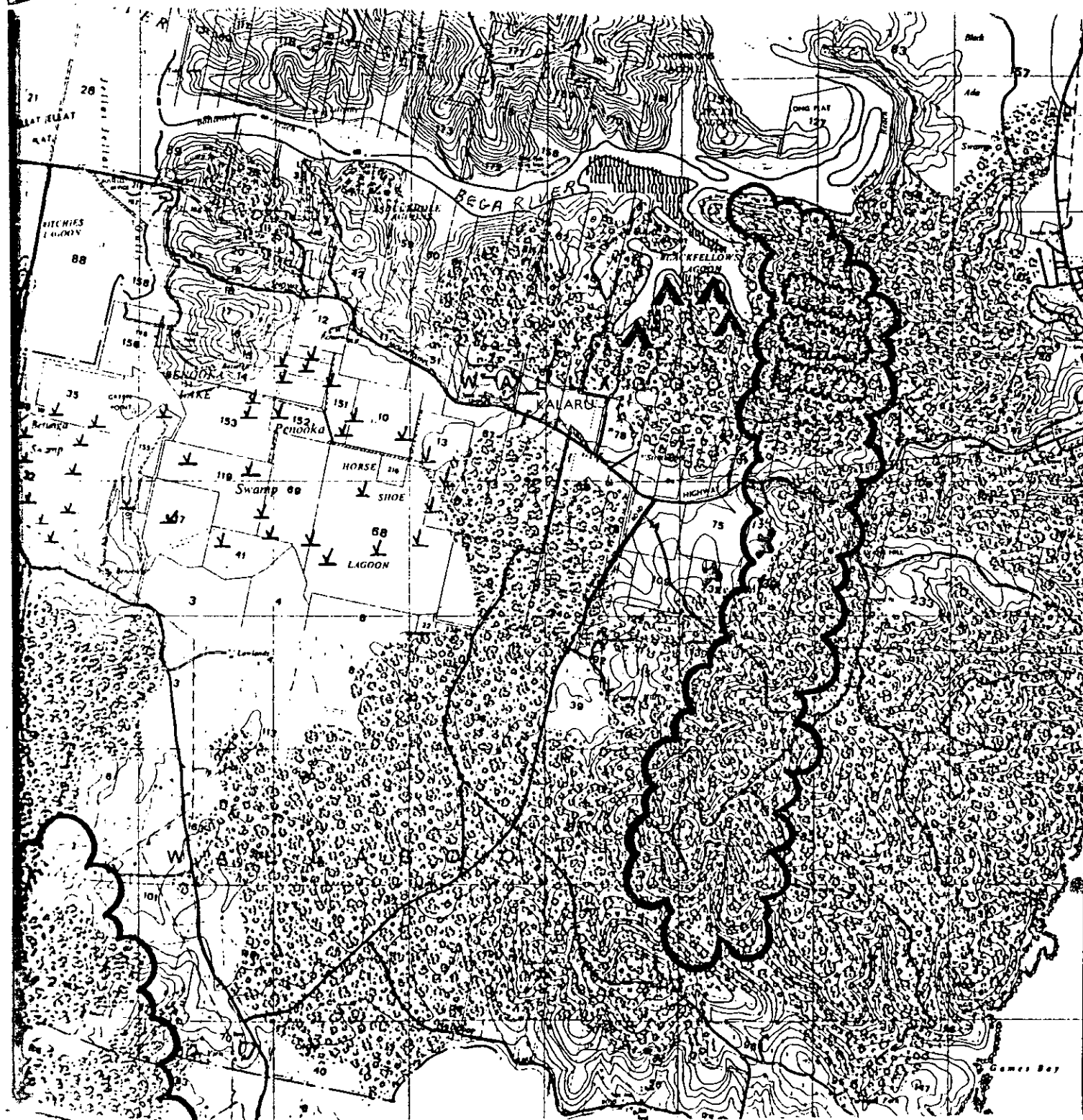
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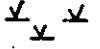
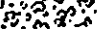
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X 199-232

-  striking stands of pink-flowering red ironbark
-  significant rain-forest gullies
-  green 'belt' or backdrop
-  reedbeds and/or foreshore sedges
-  freshwater swamplands
-  mainly dry sclerophyll



SCALE 1 : 40 000

VEGETATION

and down to Blackfellow's Lagoon, together with its small tributary south facing gully, is of particular interest. It is very sheltered and is relatively undisturbed. The boundary between portions 129 and 132 to the south and 93 and 107 to the north runs east and west right down the centre of the gully below the Crown Land.

This gully requires special protection if it is to survive the impact of closer settlement in the neighbourhood. This protection would have to be extended to strips of bushland 30-50 metres wide on each side of the gully and at the top of it to prevent weed invasion and the felling or pushing of trees into the gully. In any case steep hillsides and gullies on the eastern side of the Lagoon and the nearby river require strict limitations on the destruction of trees, the disturbance of soil and the numbers of septic tanks.

Reed beds prevalent along the edges of the Lagoon in many places are a habitat for wading birds.

A feature of the southern end of the Lagoon is the fringe of pink and cream flowering muggah ironbarks which line the lagoon. Portions 88 and 189 have been selectively logged in the past, but the timbered slopes are now dominated by the ironbarks which provide a striking feature from the water in the mid-winter flowering season.

A single instance of clearing, roadbuilding and house construction to the edge of the lagoon highlights the detrimental effect of uncontrolled development. In other instances, even a narrow fringe of trees on the banks greatly reduces the visual impact of development when viewed from the water. However, to be viable in the long term, a tree zone of 50 M width is considered the minimum. This should also be adequate to provide visual

protection on steeper slopes. The forest and gully vegetation, the stands of Boobyalla (*Myoporum Acuminatum*), the occasional River Oak (*Casuarina Cunninghamii*) and the extensive reed beds of the Bega River below the tidal limit of Blackfellows Lagoon represent an important scenic asset and wildlife habitat.

Heavily timbered areas of Portions 232, 139, 125, and 233 have a high aesthetic value in providing a green backdrop to Kalaru and a clearly defined separation from Tathra.

The forests and gullies of these portions line the proposed extension to the Bournda State Recreation Area with the Wildlife Refuge and Blackfellow's Lagoon thus providing an important corridor for the rich bird and other wildlife of the area.

The forests themselves have their own intrinsic value as they carry a diversity of species not normally found in this region. Species found in only parts of one portion are listed in Appendix D

To reduce environmental disturbance in terms of wildlife habitat, soil movement and scenic values, trees and related vegetation should be retained on steep slopes and as shelter belts or large wood lots on gentler slopes and level ground. The viability of the existing tree species requires preservation or planting in groups or as associations with other vegetation.



23 SEP 1982
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS
SYDNEY

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

Dear Mr. Pratten,

re: RESERVE 87769 PARISH WALLAGOOT, COUNTY AUCKLAND

I refer to your letter of 16th August, 1982, drawing attention to the possibility of timber logging being undertaken by the Forestry Commission at some future date on the subject reserve.

The possibility of logging that part of the reserve comprised within portion 239 apparently arose following an application for the conversion of Special Lease 66/58 Bega which covers that portion, into a purchase. Such application has now been refused.

The reserve is under consideration by the National Parks and Wildlife Service for addition to Bournda State Recreation Area and the Crown Lands Office has concurred in this action.

Although the covering reserve was notified well before the adoption of the conservation policy, the provisions of that policy apply to this area and the Forestry Commission is aware of the requirement for timber retention.

Yours sincerely,

W Kelly
(B. R. DAVIES)
Under Secretary
and Registrar General
For
7/9/82

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PGM D SYDO15

NSWEC AA24041

TF21088
BEGA VALLEY SHIRE COUNCIL
BEGA

THE NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF N.S.W. IS OPPOSED TO LOGGING
OPERATIONS WITHIN THE TANTAWANGLO CATCHMENT AREA AND URGES THAT
NO SUCH OPERATIONS BE ALLOWED IN THIS AREA.

PETER MYERSCOUGH
VICE CHAIRMAN
399 PITT STREET
SYDNEY

⊕
PGM D SYDO15

SENT ONE FIN



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Premier of New South Wales

16 SEP 1982

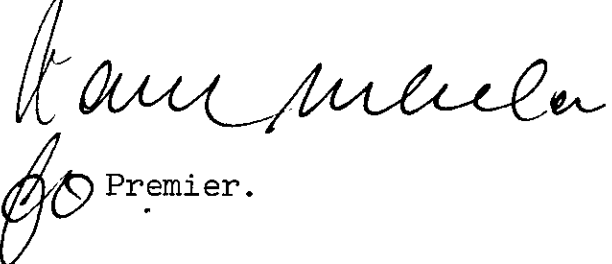
Dear Mr. Pratten,

I refer to your letter of 16th August, 1982, on behalf of the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W., regarding an approach made to me by the Far South Coast Environment Group in connection with the question of tree cover preservation on certain lands in the vicinity of Tathra.

Careful note has been made of all that has been said and I appreciate the thoughts which prompted you to write to me. The matters you have raised are ones for consideration in the first instance by my colleagues, the Minister for Planning and Environment and the Minister for Local Government and Lands and I have therefore acquainted the Ministers with the nature of your representations.

You may be assured that the points made will be closely examined in conjunction with the earlier approach that I received in the matter.

Yours sincerely,


Premier.

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

~~BEGA-TATHRA CONSERVATION SOCIETY~~

FAR SOUTH COAST
ENVIRONMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA,
N.S.W. 2550

14th July 1982

The Hon L Gordon
Minister for Local Government & Lands
Parliament House
SYDNEY 2000

Dear sir

Re: Preservation of Tree Cover on Portions 139 & 232, Parish Wallagoot,
County Auckland

At our last Committee meeting, it was resolved to advise your department, the Local Forestry Office and Bega Valley Council that the following action has been taken by the Far South Coast Environment Group on the above matter.

- 1) A submission to the Kalaru Planning study being carried out by Neilson Consultants for Bega Valley Council. The above portions are considered a sensitive part of the study area.
- 2) Request Bega Valley Council to support a change in legislation on an E.I.S. through the Environment and Planning Department.
- 3) A submission to the Premier outlining anomalies and overlapping legislation with supporting correspondence requesting that "covenants" with landowners to retain tree cover in sensitive areas are included in an amendment to the Forestry act particularly in respect of this year of the tree.
- 4) A submission to the Nature Conservation Council of NSW with supporting correspondence.
- 5) A submission to the Heritage Council of NSW with supporting correspondence.

We request that no Forestry plans for the above portions proceed until the above actions have been resolved and until the Kalaru Planning Study has been made available to the Bega Valley Council and the public.

We thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Lyn Austwick

L Austwick
Hon. Secretary

Please attach to other correspondence sent to you on this matter. Forestry Commission delivered ultimatum to owners. Above letter discussed with Bega Valley Council Town Planner. Endeavouring to get Council on side.

~~BEGA-TATHRA CONSERVATION SOCIETY~~

FAR SOUTH COAST
ENVIRONMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA,
N.S.W. 2550

25 June 1982

29 JUN 1982

Mr Chris Pratten
NCC
399 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Pratten

Enclosed are photo copies of letters to and from the Hon E Bedford, a copy of a recent letter from the Minister for Local Government and Lands and our recent letter to the Bega Valley Shire Council.

We have noted the NCC's Year of the Tree policies and relevant to the above issue is "Clearing" and "Landscape Conservation Grants."

We would like to request urgent action on the part of the Executive as a "last ditch stand" to urge the Premier to seek Cabinet's approval to a change in the legislation concerning tree cover on special lease lands and converted leaselands.

The Bega Valley Shire Council has advertised its new Tree Preservation Order but of course this has no effect with the Forestry Commission.

The Year of the Tree may have some effect if publicity is given to the press on this issue.

There is only two small sections of converted leaselands on the coastal fringe according to Lands Department information and very few wish to retain tree cover as is the present case.

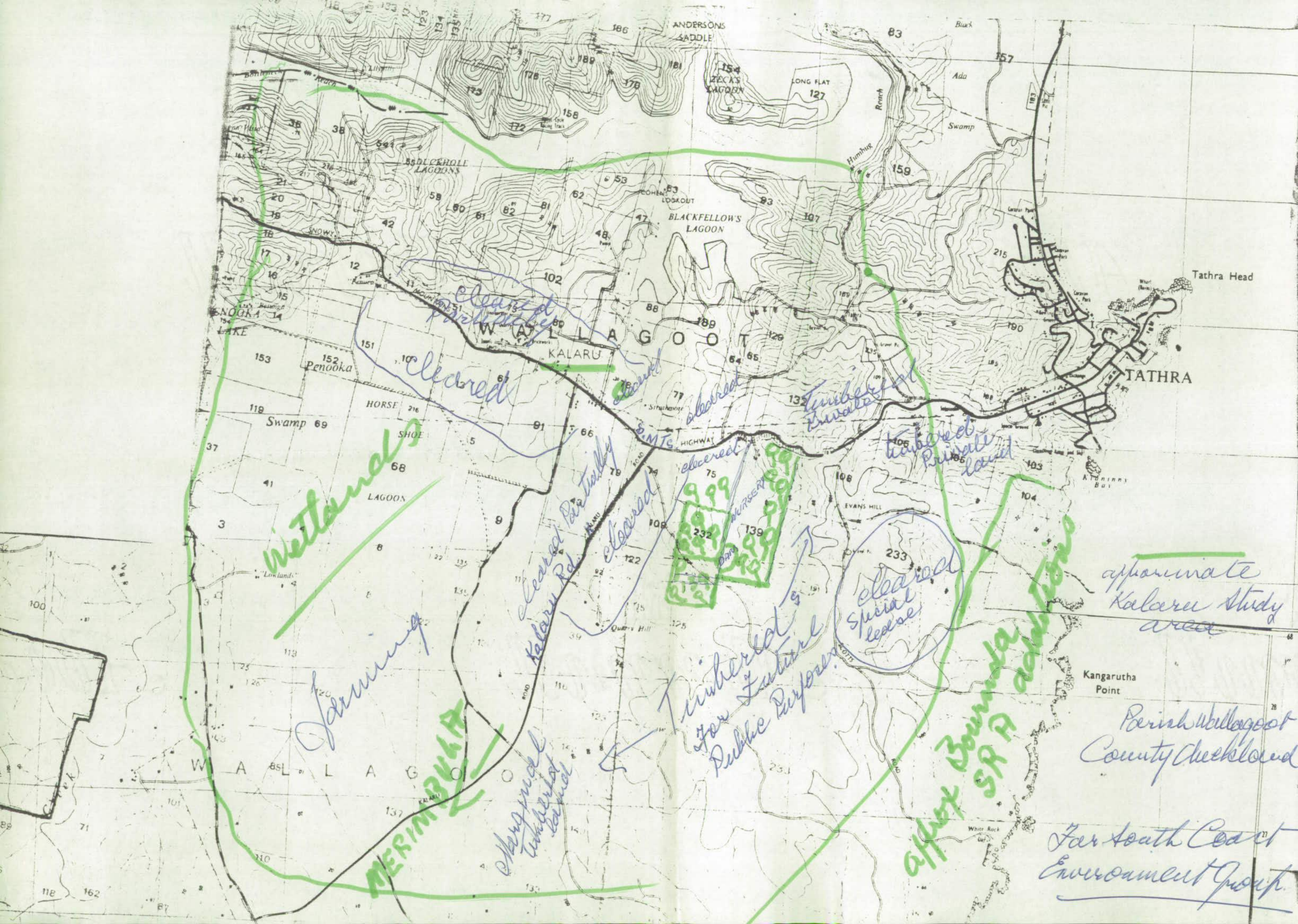
The Far South Coast Environment Group will also be writing to the Premier on this matter and that letter will be enclosed for you to.

Yours sincerely



Lynette Austwick
Honorary Secretary

enc 6



FAR SOUTH COAST
ENVIRONMENT GROUP

*N.C.C.
copy for your information
29. 6. 82*

25 June 1982

Mr N Wran QC MP
Premier of NSW
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Our organisation is seeking your support in a matter requiring an amendment to the Forestry Act.

We are also seeking the support of the Bega Valley Shire Council as the case outlined in the enclosed correspondence appears to be surrounded by anomalies and various overlapping legislation, all of which are applicable.

The area in question is located:

- 1 Within the mapped coastal protection zone.
- 2 Within the Kalaru Study being carried out by Neilson Consultants for the Bega Valley Shire Council to enable possible sub-division designed to relieve pressure on land use in the tourist township of Tathra.
- 3 The area is an important landscape feature both to Kalaru and most importantly to the entrance of Tathra.
- 4 Forestry operations, even carefully carried out operations, would create a great fire hazard as pointed out in the Group's letter to the Hon Mr E Bedford.
- 5 Whilst the opportunity is given to purchase the timber wholly or in part, should the option be up, the forest cover then automatically comes under Council's Tree Preservation Order and could not be logged for profit by the present owners or succeeding owners. The present land owners whilst wishing to retain the tree cover in perpetuity, would also be maintaining an aesthetic commodity necessary to the area as a whole, but, at the same time, being financially committed to paying some thousands of dollars for the purchase of the timber rights.

We also understand 139 and 232 to be the only converted lease lands on the coastal fringe.

Page 2

Mr N Wran QC MP
25 June 1982

If legislation in this particular case is not possible, we request an EIS be carried out by the Forestry Commission as proposed by the Minister for Planning and Environment or that the Commission be asked to exercise constraints within the Forestry Act and permanently refrain from logging on the lands in question.

It is possible that such a situation has not arisen before.

You will note that the Minister for Local Government and Lands, 21 May, has stated that under the present legislation the proposed "easement" or covenant agreement is not possible.

As we understand from the Forestry Commission, the situation is that very few purchasers of "converted leases" elect to keep their land under permanent forest cover. Most are anxious to have their land cleared by logging contractors and the royalties generally cover these costs.

It also appears that the pressure to log these lands would not be so acute if they were located other than within the Woodchip Concession Area (Minister Gordon's letter 21 September 1981).

According to Mr John Akister, our local Member, "Harris-Daishowa needs every tree". We find this difficult to believe as our Committee was told quite freely at the Eden Mill last week that the demand for woodchips by Japan has decreased considerably. We also understand that the use of plastic packaging could be a contributing factor to that reduction.

Other landowners in the Bombala district wish to retain tree cover on their lands which are in a water catchment area. See enclosed paper clipping.

Mr Premier, we believe that the "covenant" proposal is realistic and the need to retain tree cover has been firmly established and is being emphasised by the present Year of the Tree.

Yours sincerely

Lyn Austwick

Lynette Austwick
Honorary Secretary

enc 9

F.S.C. Environment Group,
P.O. Box 18,
Tathra,
2550

8 - 6 - 82

Bega Valley Shire Council,
The Shire Clerk,
Dear Mr Fripp,

During March of this year copies of correspondence between the Minister for Planning and Environment and the F.S.C.E.G. relating to proposed Forestry operations on certain lands adjacent to Tathra were left with the Councils Planning Department to determine references to protection of timbered land by a Tree Preservation Order.

We would be pleased if Council could indicate its attitude generally toward the proposed forestry activities irrespective of any legalities i.e. fire hazard, visual impact close to the entrance of this tourist township etc.

The Minister for Local Government and Lands has now indicated that under present legislation the Forestry Commission has no alternative but to carry out the proposed operations.

It would be most advantageous that the legislation be changed so that persons desiring to retain the tree cover on converted lease lands may do so by entering into an agreement with the Commission as outlined in our Group's letter to the Minister of Planning and Environment.

We understand Council's Planning Department has referred the Group's letter on this matter to the Kalaru Planning Consultants.

The timbered land in question is important as a backdrop to the village of Kalaru rezoning study.

Can we request Council to make the highest possible recommendations to (i.e. the Premier's Dept.) that no forestry activities take place east of the Merimbula-Kalaru road adjacent to Tathra. Failing the Premier's intervention we request Council and/ or Consultants insist on the Forestry Commission or the Department of Environment and Planning to carry out an E.I.S. (see Minister Bedfords letter).

F.S.C.E.G. will be making appropriate representation independantly.

We are looking forward to the earliest possible reply.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Hissink

Kevin this letter going to Council

For your information

C. H. Hissink



Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
New South Wales

3 copies

27th May, 1982.

Ms. L. Austwick,
Honorary Secretary,
Far South Coast Environment Group,
P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA. N.S.W. 2550.

Dear Ms. Austwick,

I refer to my letter to you of 15th March, 1982
regarding the retention of tree cover on converted
leaseland near Tathra.

As advised, I contacted my colleague, the Hon. A.R.L.
Gordon, M.P., Minister for Local Government and Lands,
in this regard for his advice and comment. I have now
received a reply from Mr. Gordon, a copy of which is
enclosed for your information.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

J.R. HALLAM, M.L.C.,
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
AND FISHERIES.

The Hon. J.R. Hallam, M.L.C.,
Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries,
SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000.

21 Mar 1982

Dear Mr. Hallam,

I refer to your letter of 15th March, 1982, seeking advice in regard to representations from Ms. L. Austwick, Honorary Secretary, Far South Coast Environment Group, P.O. Box 18, Tathra.

Our colleague, the Hon. Eric Bedford, M.P., Minister for Planning and Environment, had referred to me the same matter from Ms. Austwick's earlier representations to him. A copy of my letter to Ms. Austwick is enclosed.

One of the properties cited by Ms. Austwick is held as Conditional Purchase, en route to freehold.

As background in the matter, Conditional Purchase applications are open to rejection by the Land Board Office, the Forestry Commission or, in most cases, by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Their review should, I believe, ensure that a Conditional Purchase is not granted where the forest cover should be retained for conservation or other broad community interest.

Where an application has survived that scrutiny, basically the position is that the Crown's rights in the timber on leased Crown lands are retained for a period of up to 10 years after conversion to Conditional Purchase is granted. The legislative provisions to that end were designed specifically to remove the obstacle that those rights formerly had been to conversion, and to allow a reasonable period for the orderly marketing of the timber.

Once conversion is granted it becomes the duty of the Forestry Commission to realize the Crown's interest in the timber and products before the rights expire, which it may do by harvesting under licence, or by sale of the rights to the owner.

There is no provision otherwise under present legislation for suspension of the Crown's rights by "agreement" as proposed by Ms. Austwick and, as it would be inconsistent with the objectives of present legislation and policy, I would not be prepared to sponsor legislation to give effect to her proposal.

As regards the particular case cited by Ms. Austwick, I am informed that Portion 233, Parish of Wallagoot, is vacant Crown land subject to a reserve from sale for future public requirements. It is thought she probably has in mind Portion 239 (subdivided some years ago from Portion 233) which, with Portion 191, is held as Special Lease. However, that area also is subject to reserve from sale for future public requirements and there are no current proposals to log it.

The option to purchase the Crown's timber rights was previously offered to the owners of Portion 139, who have since applied to do so and lodged the appropriate deposit. However, it is understood that they may be somewhat apprehensive as to the cost of outright purchase - which may indeed have inspired the "covenant" proposal. To accommodate them in this case, as I have advised Ms. Austwick, the Forestry Commission has offered the owners a compromise option whereby, the Crown's interest would be realised in part by logging, as may be mutually agreed, and in part by sale to the land owners. The owners would thereby have the opportunity of retaining the timber cover they most value, devoting their share of royalty from the logging toward its purchase.

Finally, I would note that if these options of purchase are not taken up, harvesting would not involve the complete liquidation of the timber, as may be inferred from Ms. Austwick's letter, but some tree cover would be retained whether by statutory exclusion from the Crown's rights, normal environmental constraints adopted by the Forestry Commission in logging, or by virtue of being unmerchtable.

Yours faithfully,

A.R.L. Gordon

(A.R.L. GORDON)
Minister for Local Government
and Lands.



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND LANDS

SYDNEY

21/10/81

Ms. Lyn Austwick,
Honorary Secretary,
Far South Coast Environment Group,
P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA. N.S.W. 2550.

Dear Ms. Austwick,

As you are aware my colleague, the Hon. Eric Bedford, M.P., Minister for Planning and Environment, referred to me the question, raised in your letter to him of 27th October, 1981, of an "easement" to retain timber on certain lands. I note that you have recently written on similar lines to my colleague, the Hon. J.R. Hallam, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, who has sought my advice.

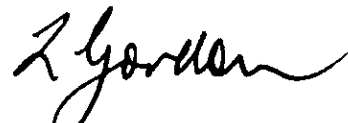
Your proposal for suspension of the Crown's rights in the timber on Conditional Purchases, while a covenant to retain the timber on the land remains, is not practicable under present legislation.

Among the particular lands you quoted, former Portion 233, Parish of Wallagoot, was subdivided some years ago into Portions 233 and 239. Portion 233 with Portion 234, is now vacant Crown land, while Portion 239 with Portion 191, is held under Special Lease, all being within Reserve No. 87769 for Future Public Requirements. There are no current proposals for logging any of these areas.

As to the two Conditional Purchase areas, the Forestry Commission would be prepared to allow the owners the options either of purchase of the timber rights in total, or alternatively of an arrangement by agreement for logging in part and purchase of the remaining rights. I should imagine the owners might welcome the latter option and the opportunity it would give them to retain the timber cover they most value, and to strike a balance where they choose between the cost of purchase and the share of royalty they would receive from the logging.

If neither of those options is pursued by the owners the Commission will be bound to proceed with logging operations to realise the Crown's interest. Such an operation would, of course, be planned and conducted with due regard to environmental safeguards.

Yours faithfully,



(R.R.L. GORDON)

Minister for Local Government
and Lands

NOT POSSIBLE

DM

RML 14833



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

S Y D N E Y,

Ms. R. Austwick,
Honorary Secretary,
Far South Coast Environment Group,
P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA N.S.W. 2550

22 Jan 1982

Dear Ms. Austwick,

I refer to your letter of the 27th October, 1981, where you sought advice on the best solution for the retention of trees standing on land at Tathra and adjacent to the Bournda State Recreation Area in the Parish of Wallagoot.

In the first instance, I would advise that it is open to the Bega Valley Shire Council, under the terms of its Tree Preservation Order currently applying to the area, to refuse private owners or foresters permission to lop or fell healthy trees in those areas which you have mentioned or, indeed, any areas other than timber reserves under the Forestry Act, 1916, within the boundaries of the former Shire of Imlay.

It is also possible for the Council to express a policy towards tree preservation in particular areas, such as, the approaches to Tathra. Such a policy could be formally expressed in a development control plan that could be prepared under the provisions of Section 72 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979. Preparation of such a plan is, however, a matter for the local council.

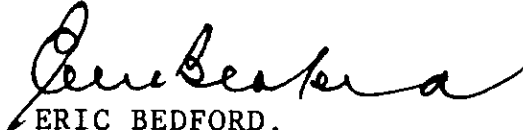
Also, as you have observed in other areas, it is open to the Bega Valley Shire Council to decide at any time to prepare a draft local environmental plan which could incorporate environmental protection zones aimed at the protection of scenic or environmental assets of an area. This again is a matter for consideration by the Council.

With regard to the proposed activities of the Forestry Commission, I have referred your letter to my colleague, the Hon. A.R.L. Gordon, M.P., Minister for Local Government and Lands, and made reference to the provisions of Part V of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979. Under Part V of the Act, it is open to the Forestry Commission, in its areas of operation which are likely to significantly affect the environment, to have an environmental impact statement prepared to identify likely problems and solutions as a result of logging. Any investigations would, I expect, have regard to fire prevention, erosion control and impact on the scenery resulting from any logging activities.

On the questions of placing reservations over Crown Lands upon release for lease or purchase and on the range of agreements likely to be available between private owners or lessees and the Forestry Commission, I have asked Mr Gordon to reply directly to you as these are matters coming within his area of responsibility.

I trust that this information is of assistance to your organisation.

Yours sincerely,

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

ERIC BEDFORD,
Minister for Planning
and Environment.

~~BEGA TATHRA CONSERVATION SOCIETY~~

FAR SOUTH COAST
ENVIRONMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA,
N.S.W. 2550

27 October 1981

Mr E Bedford MP
Minister for Planning and Environment
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Bedford

RE PRESERVATION OF TREE COVER OVER PORTIONS 139, 232, 233 PARISH WALLAGOOT
COUNTY AUCKLAND

We wish to make special representation to you regarding the preservation of tree cover over the above lands adjacent to the tourist town of Tathra.

The Portions of 139 and 232 were formerly special leases and are now conditional purchases. The forestry Commission holds 10 year logging rights and are presently considering carrying out sawlog-pulpwood, mine prop operations.

The owners of these properties are anxious to retain the tree cover on their properties for perpetuity.

The timber resource is minimal, according to the Forestry Commission, and logging would not only cause a devastating scenic effect but the residue would pose a massive bushfire threat to the Tathra township, especially in the present extreme drought conditions. If a fire started in the logged areas it would create explosive conditions in adjacent forest cover.

This would be further exacerbated by the proposed logging of some 500 acres of 233, a lease held by Easdown and Caddy. 233 is adjacent to a proposed addition to Bournda State Recreation Area and is traversed by a road reserve to Kangarutha and White Rock which is regularly used by tourists.

We also feel that a Tree Preservation Order should cover a 22 metre road verge along the short drive into Tathra. The entrance being one of its outstanding natural attractions.

Page 2

Mr E Bedford
27 October 1981

Portions 139 and 232 effectively landscape the area of Evans Hill and provide an important wildlife corridor to the small area of the Tathra Forest Wildlife Refuge which contains permanent fresh water.

Our organisation is seeking your support in the concept of retaining timbered lands on the same principle that covers "easements" or, that the purchaser of leasehold lands may enter into a legal agreement with the Forestry Commission whereby the title deeds will be ^{noted} ~~dated~~ to the effect that the owner shall not destroy or sell any native timber and such an agreement would be binding on later owners, unless an application is made to revoke the agreement in which case the Commission resumes the timber rights over the land. As in all rights pertaining to freehold land the owner should be allowed to use timber for firewood, posts or building.

In the present economic circumstances purchasing the timber rights, as is sometimes agreed to by the Commission, is impossible for most people while the land is being paid for.

We understand that the local Council in the Bundanoon area has initiated a Draft Environmental Plan which proposes that rural farmland adjoining Morton National Park is rezoned Rural Environmental Protection "Scenic".

The recently amalgamated Bega Valley Shire Council has three Tree Preservation Orders and, so far, has been unable to compile an effective policy for the Shire.

As matters stand the Forestry Commission has no other option but to log and chip the properties or the owners must purchase the timber rights.

We understand that the Lands Department is investigating conversion of lease-lands and in many cases they are placing Reservations over leaselands to retain tree cover in the coastal belt and elsewhere.

We would be grateful if we can be advised of the best solution to this relatively simple problem of retaining natural tree cover on these lands.

Yours faithfully

Lyn Austwick

Lyn Austwick
Honorary Secretary

15th April, 1981.

The Secretary,
Forestry Commission of NSW,
G.P.O. Box 2667,
Sydney, NSW, 2001.

Dear Sir,

It is understood that approval has been granted to Harris-Daishowa to export an additional 200,000 tonnes of woodchip, obtainable from Victorian forests, private lands, State Forests outside the present agreement area and from areas of Tallaganda State Forest being converted to pine.

Would you provide the following information:

- 1) What proportions of the increased export will be obtained from each of the above sources?
- 2) Regarding the additional woodchips which will be obtained from outside the agreement area, from which State Forests will sawlog residue be obtained for woodchips and for what period of time has approval been granted to obtain woodchips from these State Forests?
- 3) Is the Forestry Commission investigating any further applications by Harris-Daishowa for increases in woodchip exports?

I look forward to a reply at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Roger Lembit,
Project Officer.

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

THE NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW
263B THE BROADWAY, BROADWAY NSW 2007
TELEPHONE: 660 0960. TELEX: AA 24041



15.4.81

Dear Mr Thatcher, Bega Tathra CS

Thank you for your letter of 31.3.81 together with photostatic copies of letters received by the Bega Tathra Cons. Soc. Your letter was passed to me by Chris Bratten for reply and I am being so from home.

As you do not appear to have seen Research Notes by Becker et al, I am enclosing you a copy. The F.C. need to be pressed to carry the recommendations into action - at present there is some resistance and the N.C.C. is writing to the Minister. I suggest your group should do so, too.

You sought a Prof. A. H. H. because but it was said not to be available. I pass on to you the relevant note which I obtained from the Sunday Comm. last week.

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

THE NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW
2638 THE BROADWAY, BROADWAY NSW 2007
TELEPHONE: 680 0960 TELE: AA 24041



<u>Zone</u>	<u>Tonnes</u>	<u>ROYALTY PER TONNE</u> <u>for Zone for 1981</u>
EDEN W.C.	250,000	\$7.05
BOMAHAN W.C.	180,000	\$4.80
BELLA COASTAL	40,000	\$3.50
3RD TABERLAND	60,000	\$3.00
	<u>530,000</u>	<u>\$5.95 (approx)</u>

There total income to the NSW F.C.
for the zones covered by the Agreement is
\$2,950,000. The attributable costs
on a commercial basis (i.e. something
off capital commitment in roads etc
over 30 years is probably slightly below
that based on 1977/8 data without any
provision for national interest or investment.

Incidually in fees from both. There is
now Harry Gershwin's responsibility
and I understand they prefer to spread
it over the 100 dumps. Is this better or
is worse than becoming, I wonder.

Best wishes

Keep up the good work,

Jim Semmell

BEGA-TATHRA CONSERVATION SOCIETY

3 APR 1981

P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA,
N.S.W. 2550

March 31st, 1981

The Chairman,
Mr. C. H. Pratton,
Nature Conservation Council,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY, NSW, 2000

Dear Mr. Pratton,

Enclosed the responses to our questions which we received via Mr. Hatton's office.

Ref; Fire: Cause and Effect. (b) We have seen, in the Canberra Times and in other written material, evidence to suggest the Forestry Commission acknowledges the causes of the fires as beginning in burning windrows...Bondi S.F...this burnt out Nungatta N. P. and all of Coopracambra State Park in Victoria... 30 000 ha. Also bark dump fire escape Nov. 18th, Timbillica S.F., Nadgee S.F. and Nadgee Nature Reserve, and all of Croajingalong Nat. Park in Vic.... 43 000 ha, some of it regeneration from integrated logging. We published a letter containing this information, in the local press. Since then the Forestry Commission has referred to arson as the causes. We are inclined to doubt this. (Though we don't condemn the Foresters for whom we feel some sympathy)

The figures showing fire incidence are not the same as the ones we were given ...from a most impeccable source, but we believe there may have been a change in the period of time the figures refer to. They look better over a longer period. The 44%, I think referred to last year, but haven't confirmed. Will do so if you wish.

Ref: General: (b) Misrepresentation. We are a little hurt by the Minister's reference to "conservationist rhetoric". It was Department Primary Industry rhetoric that caused us to ask the pertinent question. See enc.

We hope your Council can make use of the responses to our questions. We believe the woodchip industry, and fire management have much to answer for, and both need some expert investigation, which we, as amateurs in police work are unable to carry out very efficiently. Our resources are a little slim too.

Best wishes. Please let us know if we can help further.

Yours sincerely,

Betty Thatcher
(Mrs Betty Thatcher)

I am not the Secretary now, I am publicity but have been given permission to go on with this matter.

P.S. Mr. Samirbany, Federal W. T.
also told us that Harn
Dar Shomai had been
granted permission to
^{IN ADDITION TO 850,000 T.}
Export 200,000 tonnes of
he denved mostly from
Charing Tallanganda S.F
for pine. This to be granted
for 1 year only, & reviewed

later, Once they start.
However, it's hard to
stop them. The export
figure is gradually
increasing, it seems.

MR. S. ALSO SAID
200,000 TONNES FROM
VARIOUS SOURCES, THIS
DIFFERS FROM THE NORTH REFERRED TO IN DPT. FROM LETTER
I failed to get a photostat
of above ref. but will do
so & send later, if you care to
see it.

11 MAR 1981

3



NEW SOUTH WALES

MINISTER FOR LANDS, FORESTS
AND
WATER RESOURCES

SYDNEY

5 MAR 1981

Mr. J. E. Hatton, M.P.,
Member for South Coast,
P.O. Box 634,
NOWRA, 2540.

Dear Mr. Hatton,

I refer again to your representations on behalf of the Bega-Tathra Conservation Society concerning management of forest areas.

The questions put forward by the Society have been considered by the Forestry Commission which has supplied the following information. Its assessment was made by reference to three of the Commission's specialist Divisions.

1. Fire: Cause and Effect

- (a) Control burning has been accepted by all fire control authorities and land management agencies as probably the only effective and economic method of minimising the spread of wildfires and the damage caused by them. Extensive control burning has been carried out in the Eden area but, nevertheless, extensive areas of regeneration were burnt in the Timbillica fire. Present indications are that these areas are already re-stocking naturally without the need for planting or seeding.
- (b) It is not accepted that the fire of 18th November was caused by a bark dump. Although the fire started in the vicinity of a burning bark heap, there is evidence to suggest that the fire may have been deliberately lit. Investigations of the cause of the fire are continuing. The figure of 44% of fires in State Forest beginning on bark heaps is incorrect. A break-up of the causes of fires in the Eden District during the 1980/81 fire season is as follows:-

Re-ignition of Forestry Commission burns (including bark heaps)	14%
Lightning	21%
Deliberate (Arson, burning-off by others etc.)	53%
Miscellaneous	12%

?? The policy of burning bark heaps was changed prior to the November fires. Consideration is now being given to alternative methods of disposing of bark.

- (c) The effect of logging and burning on plant and animal life is being studied by a number of organisations including this Commission, C.S.I.R.O., the Australian Museum and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The Forestry Commission has recently published Research Note 42 on the "Effects of the Eden Woodchip Industry on Terrestrial Vertebrates".

COULD WE
GET IT?

- (d) The recovery of burnt trees depends on a number of factors including the severity of the burn, the species of tree and the occurrence of rain subsequent to the fire. The Commission is surveying the degree of damage resulting from the recent fires near Eden and will await the result of this survey before determining which areas, if any, will be salvage logged.

- (e) There have been major fires in the Eden area in two years since the integrated logging operations commenced. In 1972, 550 hectares of regeneration were burnt and in 1980 a further 12 800 hectares of regeneration were burnt. The areas burnt in 1972 were fully restocked prior to being burnt again in 1980. It is expected that the areas will regenerate rapidly following recent rain.

- (f) Unfortunately improved access to the forest has resulted in an increased number of fires resulting from incendiarism. It is believed that increased public awareness together with police action will alleviate this problem.

Soil and Water, Lakes and Streams

- (a) Research by the Commission in the Five Forests area near Bega indicates that integrated logging operations have had a minimal influence on sediment supply to the estuaries and coastal lakes of that region. Sediment supplied to a stream during the integrated logging of a research catchment south of Eden was derived primarily from the erosion of a minor logging road. Improved drainage and construction of similar roads is now standard practice in the Eden area. A comprehensive research programme is proceeding and results are being published.
- (b) When considered over the length of a cutting cycle and in the context of total nutrient supply, losses of nutrients in log removals actually occurring in the operation at Eden are negligible. Therefore application of fertiliser for the purpose of nutrient replacement is not considered necessary.

COMPARE WITH TASMANIA

3. Control of Pests

Blackberry control programmes are carried out in N.S.W. pine plantation both by the use of weedicides and by the use of goats. The poison 1080 is used in State Forests to control rabbits.

4. Economics

- (a) Pulpwood royalties are fixed at Eden at a level which, when combined with royalties from other products, will cover the Commission's costs of management. The figures quoted in the question are those which were used to evaluate whether the road should or should not be constructed.

- (b) No profit-loss account for 1980 is available. WE HAVE SEEN FIGURES WHICH SUGGEST COSTS - 0.1%

- (c) The Forestry Commission spent 5.4% of its budget on research during 1979/80.

- (d) No.

- (e) No contribution is made by Harris Daishowa to the Forestry Commission other than by way of royalty payments and license fees.

New Forest road

The Forestry Commission is to construct 16.5 kilometres of primary access road, to be known as Wolumla Trig Road, within Yurramille State Forest, 11 kilometres east of Merimbula in the South East Forestry District. In advising the local member, Mr John Akister, M.P., of the work, the Minister for Forests, Mr Lin Gordon, said that the road, at a cost of \$300,000, and associated logging roads, would give access to an estimated 143,600 tonnes of pulpwood and allow the harvesting of some 8,000 cubic metres of hardwood sawlogs. Total royalty value of these products would be in the vicinity of \$743,000. Mr Gordon said that portion of the road would provide suitable access to the fire tower within the Forest.

WANT WEEDICIDES?

(a) SEE NEWSPAPER CONTINUE

- (i) There is no evidence to suggest that die-back and other diseases affecting native forests is on the increase in New South Wales because of increasing forestry activities.
- (j) Sirex wasp has recently been found in pine plantations in Southern New South Wales. There is no evidence to suggest that the occurrence of this insect is related to whether the plantation has been established on land which had been cleared of native forest or whether it was formerly agricultural land. The occurrence is directly related to the health of the individual trees attacked and is not seen as a problem in New South Wales plantations where it is anticipated that the health of the stands can be maintained in good condition by regular commercial thinnings.

SEE
PRESS ARTICLE

Yours faithfully,

A.R.I. Gordon

(A.R.I. GORDON)
Minister for Forests.

SIREX WASP A THREAT

Sirex wasp has recently been found in southern N.S.W. pine plantations. It is likely that it will spread north and eastwards from there.

The Sirex is a wood wasp that was introduced into Tasmania and Victoria in recent years. It attacks and kills Pinus species trees including Radiata pine which is grown extensively for timber and as woodlots and windbreaks in N.S.W.

Those trees which are drought stressed or growing on poor sites are most susceptible to infestation. Radiata planted on the Monaro grasslands is now considered to be at high risk.

Now that the wasp is present in N.S.W. it is likely that its spread will become rapid. Pinus species and Douglas Fir are susceptible but there is no evidence that the native Cypress pines Araucarias and the many ornamental Cupressus species and Chaemocyparis are attacked.

Owners of Pinus species woodlots, windbreaks and singles trees should be aware of the possible danger to their trees. Sirex damage may be confused with weevil damage and that of some bark beetles. If dead trees are noticed, especially if accompanied by large round holes in the trunk, the owners are requested to report this to their local forestry office. Such occurrences will be inspected in most cases. In this way entomologists can keep track of Sirex occurrence and its spread.



THE MARITIME SERVICES BOARD OF N.S.W.

CIRCULAR QUAY WEST,
SYDNEY.

Telephone No. 2-0545 (All Hours)
Telex No. AA24944
Telegraphic Address
'Marboard Sydney'

OFFICE HOURS: 8.30am - 4.00pm

Address Correspondence to:-
The Secretary,
Box 32, G.P.O.,
SYDNEY. 2001

Please Quote No. 80/34744
LW:JP

Mrs. B. Thatcher,
Hon. Joint Secretary,
Bega - Tathra Conservation
Society,
P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA. N.S.W. 2550.

24 September 1980

Dear Madam,

I refer to your letter of 15 August 1980 regarding the export of woodchips from Twofold Bay.

It is advised that the figures mentioned in your letter are the official tonnages publicised in the Port Statistics Book of exports of woodchips from Twofold Bay for the financial years 1977/78 and 1978/79.

These tonnages represent "Revenue Tonnes", that is, the tonnage on which Harbour Rates are paid and is based on a formula of twice the dead weight, thereby ascertaining the measurement tonnage of the woodchips.

"Revenue Tonnes" is defined as weight or measurement, whichever is the greater and in the absence of measurement on a manifest a standard formula is used (in the example of woodchips 2 dead weight tonnes).

The manifested dead weight or mass of woodchips would, therefore, be half the tonnages published, for example,

	<u>Manifested Weight(Tonnes)</u>	<u>Revenue Tonnes(m³)</u>
1977/78	705 347	1 410 694
1978/79	715 315	1 430 630
1979/80	961 044	1 922 088

I am to add that the Revenue Tonnes are, in fact, the measurement of the cargo in cubic metres.

Yours faithfully,

J. E. Bradstreet
J. E. BRADSTREET,
Secretary.

FORESTRY COMMISSION OF N.S.W.



Forestry House,
93-95 Clarence Street,
Sydney

Postal address: Box 2667, G.P.O. Sydney 2001
Telegrams: Newforests, Sydney
Telephone 2 0236 Ext. 575 - Mr. Goldie
In your reply please quote 49096 (M.D.)

JAG:DJ

3rd June, 1980

Mrs. Betty Thatcher,
Honorary Joint Secretary,
Bega-Tathra Conservation Society,
P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA, N.S.W. 2550

Dear Madam,

Reference is made to your letter of 9th May, 1980 seeking information on woodchip operations by Harris Daishowa in the Bega-Eden District.

A total of 744,968 tonnes of hardwood chips was obtained during the year ending 1978/79. This total was made up of 558,779 tonnes obtained from State Forests, 14,498 tonnes from private lands and 171,691 tonnes from sawmill waste. The origin of the latter volume is not recorded. Answers to your specific questions are as follows:-

- (1) 75% (STATE FOREST)
- (2) 23% (SAWMILL WASTE)
- (3) Nil. However it is understood that a quantity of pine was purchased by Harris Daishowa from Integrated Forest Products, Canberra.
- (4) 2% (PRIVATE PROPERTY)

The existing license allows for the export of 850,000 tonnes per annum. However, it is understood that Harris Daishowa has applied for an increase and this application is currently under consideration by the Department of Primary Industry. Should you require further information with regard to export licensing I suggest that you could contact that department.

Yours faithfully,

A. J. BEAL,
Acting Secretary.

per: *[Signature]*

FROM EDEN BEGA CONCESSION
REQUIRE OF TOTAL LOGGED TO SAWMILLS
ALL OF TOTAL EXPORTED RETURNED AS PAPER PAPER ETC.
ANY TIMBER EXPORTED?
~~PERCENT OF TOTAL HARVEST GOING TO SAWMILLS~~
CONVERT CUBIC M. TO TONNES.
? MILLION TONNES RELATED ON HBC

NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

13 MAR 1981

S Y D N E Y,

Mr. J.E. Hatton, M.P.,
Member for South Coast,
P.O. Box 634,
NOWRA. N.S.W. 2540

11 MAR 1981

Dear Mr. Hatton,

I refer to your letter of 20th January, 1981 in which you made representations on behalf of the Bega-Tathra Conservation Society on matters concerning State forests. As you are no doubt aware, the questions posed by the Society raise issues concerning the policies and practices of the N.S.W. Forestry Commission, which are not directly related to broad land use planning. The Department of Environment and Planning would not undertake studies on such specific and detailed issues within State forests.

Naturally, the Department does co-operate with other State Government agencies on land use related issues and under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 introduced on 1st September, 1980, any development or works proposed by a public authority are subject to the provisions of either Part IV or Part V of the Act. Generally speaking, where development will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on the environment, provision exists for the preparation of environmental impact statements and the exhibition of such statements for public information and comment.

Yours sincerely,

ERIC BEDFORD
Minister for Planning
and Environment



MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY
Parliament House,
Canberra, A.C.T., 2600
Telephone (062) 731711

4 AUG 1980

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

The Minister for Primary Industry, the Hon. P.J. Nixon, has asked me to reply to your letter of 30 June 1980 in which you asked for information about Harris-Daishowa's woodchip operations.

Departmental officers inform me that any reports to the effect that Harris-Daishowa exported over one million tonnes of woodchips in 1979 are incorrect. Copies of export documentation forwarded to the Department of Primary Industry by Customs officers show that exports in that year were in accordance with the Company's export approval of 850 000 tonnes.

During 1980, Harris-Daishowa submitted three separate applications for approval to export increased quantities of woodchips. The first, for 50 000 tonnes derived from forest residues from the Badja region of New South Wales was approved for 1980 only.

An application for approval to export an additional 400 000 tonnes of woodchips for the period 1980-89 derived mostly from sawlog residues in State forests in East Gippsland was referred to the Commonwealth Department of Science and the Environment for report on environmental aspects of the proposal. That Department is consulting the State environment protection authority. No decision will be made on the application until any environmental assessments required have been completed.

A further application for approval to export an additional 200 000 tonnes for the period 1980-89, based on the availability of logging residues in State forests to the north of the Company's existing concession in New South Wales has been referred to the Commonwealth Department of Science and the Environment for report. That Department is consulting the State Pollution Control Commission on environmental aspects of the proposal. Similarly, no decision will be made on this application until the results of any environmental assessments are known.

Departmental officers are unable to ascertain what percentage of our total eucalypt woodchip exports are returned to us in some other form. In 1979, Australia exported about 3 625 000 tonnes of woodchips, of which 3 293 000 tonnes went to Japan and the remainder to Taiwan. Most of these woodchips are used in the production of fine paper and packaging paper. Because Australian companies produce most of our requirements of these types of papers, our imports of fine paper and packaging paper from Japan in 1978/79 were limited to 18 579 tonnes and 4 769 tonnes respectively. As some grades imported would not be made from eucalypt pulp, it is probable that only a very small percentage of our eucalypt woodchips are returned to Australia in another form.

Yours sincerely,



(EVAN ADERMANN)
Minister Assisting the
Minister for Primary Industry

Mrs B. Thatcher,
Hon. Joint Secretary,
Bega-Tathra Conservation Society,
P.O. Box 18,
TATHRA, N.S.W. 2550

WILDLIFE IN WOODCHIP AREAS

Over a period of years ECOLOGY ACTION'S research advisers have carried out investigations into export woodchip proposals and into the results of woodchip schemes.

Dr. Colin Bower, a professional ecologist, and other Ecology Action members have examined the effects of clearfelling at the Eden (N.S.W.) woodchip project. Although some of the findings relate specifically to the results of poor management practices used by the Forestry Commission of N.S.W., other findings can be examined in the more general context of the result of clearfelling on Australian native forest and on the wildlife it supports.

The destruction of native forests is an inescapable cost of the highly controversial clearfelling technique, the use of which reduces initial expense for woodchip operators. It achieves this at the cost of extensive destruction and results in both short term and long term negative environmental impacts.

A report prepared as the result of research by Australian Museum staff has concluded that clearfelling for woodchipping is less harmful to wildlife than might be expected. However, Dr. Bower's research and his examination of the Museum report, has led to strong criticism of its findings and methodology.

PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

The practices used to obtain Australian woodchips for Japan and the impact of these practices on the environment has been a controversial public issue for some years. The following section of parliamentary debate indicates the interest which greeted the Australian Museum's report.

"WILDLIFE IN WOODCHIP AREAS"

"Mr Mason (Dubbo): One of the problems that confronts anybody who takes an interest in an issue as serious as the woodchip industry at Eden is to decide what is fact and what is fiction. When one takes an interest in the situation at Eden, one finds different voices proclaiming different things. . .

One section of the submissions made by the Forestry Commission of New South Wales in July, 1975, to the Senate Standing Committee on Social Environment was devoted to our wildlife. That section stated that there was an absence of research information; that a lot more was needed to be done; and that the Australian Museum had been invited to extend its formal status into the logging areas of the State forests in and around Eden.

When that submission was made by the Forestry Commission I thought that it was good that dedicated people of the standing of Dr Harry Recher and others associated with him at the Australian Museum are concerned about our wildlife. . .

Such is the reputation of Dr Recher and the Australian Museum in this field that if they have prepared a report it will be a significant document that would help people to make up their minds on this all-important question. It would contain the sort of information that many concerned people, including myself, would want to have so that we will not be misled by extreme claims from either side. . .

It is most difficult to get to the facts. Neither the Minister nor I would wish to be misled. For that reason it is most important for this House and the people of New South Wales who are interested in this question to know what is in the report by Dr Recher. . .

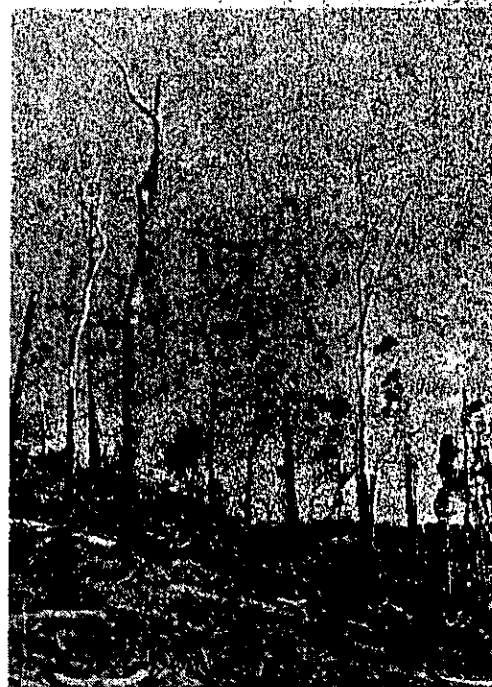
Mr Gordon (Murrumbidgee), Minister for Conservation and Minister for Water Resources: The honourable member for Dubbo has asked what is fact and what is fiction. Who can judge? I certainly cannot judge. Various points of view have been expressed about the effects of woodchipping in the Eden forests. I understand that some people have said that woodchipping will lead eventually to the elimination of many

species of wildlife in the region. They are well and truly entitled to that point of view. I do not know what research has been done on that aspect, or whether any research at all has been done. Many people have made their personal inspections of the area, but I do not know whether they had the resources that were available to Dr Recher.

As the honourable member for Dubbo has said, Dr Recher was in charge of a survey of the Eden area. With the backing of the Australian Museum and through the department of environmental studies he made an assessment of the impact of the woodchip industry on the environment at Eden. He took a count of terrestrial birds, small mammals and arboreal mammals in the Naghi and Trimbilica State forests near Eden. He studied the effects of woodchipping operations on these animals. It was reported that clear felling reduced their diversity but as the forests regenerated the smaller mammals and the birds returned. It has been noticed that so far as clear-felled areas are concerned the bigger arboreal mammals such as opossums have not returned and that bigger birds such as cockatoos have not returned. These species require older trees in which to nest, climb and live. It appears that the greatest effect of clear felling is on the arboreal mammals. I understand Dr Recher has produced an interim report, which is available to the Australian Museum. Studies have been taking place for some time. I have no doubt that the doctor has faithfully carried out his research and the counts that he has conducted of the animals would have been carried out to the best of his ability. However, the discussion and argument still proceeds. . ."

— N.S.W. Legislative Assembly,
24th March, 1977, Hansard p. 5271

ECOLOGY ACTION knows also of Dr. Recher's sound reputation and also believes that his and the Museum's



Gaunt dead trees unsuitable for woodchipping, and a few young saplings are all that remain after the clearfelling of this area at Eden. The homes of tree-dwelling possums, gliders, and birds are gone but the Japanese woodchip operator has received more raw material.

research would have been, in Mr. Gordon's words, "faithfully carried out". However, as the Minister said "the discussion and argument still proceeds", and indeed it is very important that the public and scientific debate over such an important question should proceed.

Dr. Bower and his assistants have conducted research which led to results not dissimilar to those of the Museum group. However their interpretation of these results has led them to strongly question the Museum's conclusions and the methodology used to reach them.

As a result of his research, Dr. Bower has made a submission on behalf of ECOLOGY ACTION to the Senate Standing Committee on Science and the Environment Woodchip Inquiry. In the public interest and to stimulate further scientific research into clearfelling and into the effects of woodchipping in general, ECOLOGY ACTION is publishing below an edited version of this submission. It is a critique of Australian Museum's first interim report of research, apparently funded by Harris-Daishowa the Japanese operator of the Eden woodchip project. The Museum's report was also submitted to the Senate Woodchip Inquiry.

(It is difficult to fully appreciate some of Dr. Bower's comments without also examining the Australian Museum's report, however the main points that he has made are still quite clear. Enquiries to obtain copies of the Museum's report "The Effects of Woodchipping on Wildlife at Eden" may be directed to - The Australian Museum, 6 College Street, Sydney, 2000).

SUBMISSION TO WOODCHIP INQUIRY

(Evaluation of Australian Museum report
"The Effects of Woodchipping on Wildlife at Eden")

The Australian Museum report was prepared by staff in its Department of Environmental Studies.

For some years they have been conducting



Sub-tropical rainforest occurs in the deeper and more sheltered gullies at Eden. This is close to the southern limits of its range, and it is of considerable scientific and aesthetic value. The as yet undisturbed rainforested gully pictured here contains a watercourse, and provides a diverse wildlife habitat.

The N. S. W. Forestry Commission has taken little effective action to research and protect the scarce valuable rainforest that remains

research on small mammal and bird populations in the Nadgee Nature Reserve which adjoins the Naghi State Forest at Eden, N.S.W. In January 1975 they were commissioned by W.D. Scott and Co. to conduct research on the effects of woodchipping on wildlife in the Eden woodchip concession area. They were to provide a report for inclusion in an environmental impact statement on the Eden woodchip project being prepared for Harris-Daishowa (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., the company licensed to export woodchips from Eden. This impact statement was completed in July 1975 and released officially in August 1976.

In their environmental impact report the Museum team expressed concern about many aspects of the woodchip operation and its potential effect on wildlife at Eden. The criticisms made by the Museum staff are summarised in the third edition of "Fight for the Forests" by R. & V. Routley (1975). A number of recommendations for necessary research into wildlife were made in this report, and a research grant was applied for from the then Australian Department of Environment to enable the team to do it. The application was unsuccessful. However, Harris-Daishowa came to the rescue and provided a grant which apparently may be renewed annually. The first interim report on the research carried out under this grant was completed on August 18, 1976 and copies were presented to the Australian Senate Standing Committee on Science and the Environment at its hearings in Canberra on August 24, 1976.

The interim report, which is the subject of this critique, is entitled "The Effects of Woodchipping on Wildlife at Eden". It contains some unexpected findings, and reaches a number of firm conclusions which need to be examined critically. The following sections examine the evidence on which the claims are made in an attempt to determine whether or not they are justified.

1. FINDINGS

(as taken from the summary)

- a) "clearfelling reduces diversity, but as regeneration proceeds the forest rapidly acquires a complex structure and diversity returns to pre-logging levels. The regenerating forest is suitable for most birds within 40 years."
- b) "The greatest effect of clearfelling is on arboreal mammals and some birds which require old and large trees for nesting. Additional work is needed on the specific requirements of these animals, but it is concluded that the reservation of mature forest in reserves, along creeks and gullies and as buffer strips will ensure their survival in Eden forests."
- c) "Woodchipping at Eden will not result in the extinction of any species at Eden..."

These conclusions are quite unequivocal and, one would assume they are based on adequate data sensibly analysed. Unfortunately, as will be shown below, there are grounds to believe that this has not occurred. Our research indicates that the Museum's data is in many cases scanty; its analysis unsatisfactory and, as a result we believe that its conclusions are unjustified.

2. THE DESIGN OF THE SURVEYS AND ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

Seventeen plots in the Naghi and Timbillica State Forests were surveyed, most of which had completely different histories of clearfelling and/or burning, or significant vegetation differences. The maximum number of replicates of plots with similar histories and vegetation, apparently is two, and this occurred with only one plot history. There is no replication of the other 15 plot histories. The lack of replication is extremely poor design and provides no insurance against a plot being atypical for some unknown reason. In all fields of research replication of plots is regarded as being an essential requirement.

Without replications of plots it is also impossible to analyse the data statistically to determine whether the differences that are observed between plots are real, or have simply arisen by chance. None of the differences in abundance, species numbers or diversity reported were shown to be statistically significant. Therefore we have no indication of the likelihood of these differences being real. The theoretical arguments propounded by the Museum report about changes in diversity as the forests regenerate may thus be quite wrong. Its data and the analysis are inadequate.

If, however, we ignore the inadequacy of the experimental design and analysis, and accept the differences it tells us are meaningful, there are still a large number of problems with the report.

3. ARBOREAL MAMMALS

In the first paragraph in the section on arboreal mammals it says, "unfortunately our observations during 1975 and 1976 add little to our previous discussion (impact statement) and it is obvious that each species will need to be studied in detail." It is thus rather surprising after this admission of a lack of data that it should come to conclusion (b) above that "reservation of mature forest in reserves, along creeks and gullies and as buffer strips will ensure their survival in Eden forests."

It devotes p.8 to a discussion of observations the Museum team was able to make on yellow-bellied gliders in a buffer strip of mature forest between clearfelled areas. The gliders were observed to move up and down the buffer strip, across roads, and into clearfelled areas where "a fair amount of timber has been left standing after logging." Apparently they were not seen to feed there but, instead of saying this, it says "it is possible that they also fed in logged areas."

This appears to be speculation, as does its concluding comments. "It is also clear that this species will be able to disperse across logged areas where some timber (vs. 'fair amount' above) has been left standing. This is important in ensuring the genetic viability of the population and allowing suitable areas of regenerating forest to be colonized." There is no evidence presented in the report to show that such dispersal can or will occur.

In fact, apart from a few anecdotes about glider movements along, and briefly out of, a buffer strip there is no concrete information on the status of the glider population in the buffer strip. We do not know whether the population is increasing, declining or remaining static; whether in fact the resources in the buffer strip are adequate for the gliders to produce any young which might be able to disperse across logged areas. The answers to these vital questions can only be obtained by detailed study as the report suggests. Tynedale-Biscoe of the Australian National University took six years to learn sufficient about the **Greater Glider** to be able to draw conclusions about the affects of forestry practices on it. Therefore, it is clear the report is quite unjustified in coming to conclusion (b) above. For similar reasons conclusion (c) is also unjustified.

If indeed its conclusions were valid there would be no need for the further research it is suggesting. Clearly, there is an urgent need for detailed research to be conducted on the value of buffer strips for wildlife conservation and as biological corridors. This has not been done in this report although it was recommended in an earlier impact statement.

4. SMALL MAMMALS

The data on small mammals are more substantial than that on arboreal mammals. The main problem here is the experimental design and lack of statistical analysis, as pointed out in section 2 above.

5. TERRESTRIAL BIRDS

Here again the data are quite substantial, and it is on the bird data that it bases its claim that wildlife diversity will increase to a maximum in regenerating areas within 50 years having declined to low levels at clearfelling. Diversity will then decline, it claims, on dry sites and remain near the maximum on wet sites. Figure 5 in the report is a schematic representation of these ideas.

An important comment can be made about its interpretation of its bird data. It has largely confined its discussion to affects of clearfelling on species diversity, which emphasises communities of birds rather than individual species. This avoids discussion of those species dependant on mature forest which will be severely reduced in numbers by clearfelling operations. On page 14 and 15 it notes that the bird species present on a recently clearfelled area differ from those in mature forest. However, it claims that 24 and 36 year old fire regeneration "appears suitable for the majority of forest birds". This could mean anything from 55 to 95 out of the 100 or so species present at Eden. There is no discussion of how many birds will not find the regenerating forests suitable.

6. THE DIVERSITY TRENDS

One of the most serious faults in the report lies in the interpretation of the diversity results. Many of the trends which it claims exist are not supported by the data presented. For example, on p.15 it states that the number of species of forest birds present and their diversity in 24 and 36 year old regeneration "is comparable to that in mature dry sclerophyll of mixed age and greater than uniform fire regeneration dating to the 19th century". This is not so.

If we disregard the differences in plot fire histories and vegetation there are four plots each, of 24 or 36 year old regeneration, and mature dry sclerophyll (Table 1). The totals



Woodchipping destroys another area of rainforest at Eden. The rainforest trees have been broken by falling eucalypts. Once the forest canopy is removed the ferns in the understory begin to yellow. In the foreground logging debris has been bulldozed into the rainforest.

for the plots in Table 1 show that species number and diversity were consistently higher in mature forest than in 24 and 36 year old regeneration. This agrees with results previously obtained in Ecology Action surveys at Eden. These differences (Table 1) have not been tested for statistical significance, but it seems probable that given sufficient replication one could show clearly that there are more birds of a greater variety in mixed mature forest than in even-aged regenerating stands. It is not possible to say much about the low species number and diversity in the 1855 regeneration because there is only one replicate.

There is another problem with the diversity data which relates to the very different total numbers of individuals between plots on which the bird species diversity indices are calculated. For example, in the 120 minute censuses in the November 1975 data the totals range from 62 in plot 87 to 379 in plot 60/62. Now, the diversity index H' increases as each new species is added, and more species are found as the sample size increases, as the report itself shows. Thus the diversity index is positively correlated with sample size (Sanders 1968, Jarvinen and Sammalisto, 1973). To be fair, of the diversity indices available, H' is least affected by sample size. However, strictly speaking, to be able to compare diversities between plots at all, one should sample until similar numbers of birds have been seen in each plot. It did not do this. Instead it sampled for constant time periods. Ecology Action in its censusing attempted to equalize sample size between plots as far as possible, and hence its diversities are more directly comparable between plots. It should also be pointed out that the total numbers of birds per plot seen in Ecology Action's November 1975 censuses are similar to the Museum's. This is because Ecology Action did not use fixed plots but a large number of well separated five-minute census points in each habitat type which enabled more birds to be seen in a given amount of time.

Finally, it should also be pointed out that its data on foliage height diversity is inadequate to support theoretical notions illustrated in figure 5. Here it shows diversity of vegetation following clearfelling rising with time from low levels to a peak. In dry habitats diversity is then predicted to fall to lower levels again, but to remain high in moist habitats. An examination of the foliage height diversities as plotted in figure 4 shows that the available data does not conform to the graphical representation. Plot 63, clearfelled in 1975, should be one of the least structurally diverse; in fact it is among the most diverse, and is apparently exceptional. Plot 87 also clearfelled in 1975 conforms to the model. Plots 79 and 81 clearfelled in 1969/70 are as diverse as uniform 1939 fire

regeneration (plots 102/103), when they should be less diverse to fit the model. The 24 year fire regeneration (plot 72) is more diverse than the 39 year regeneration, the model predicts the reverse as in plot WR which conforms to the model. It is clear that the stated trends are largely imaginary, they are not backed up by the data. As bird species diversity is correlated with foliage height diversity it is also clear that it does not conform to the model either.

The only real trend that may exist in the data is that mixed age mature forest is more structurally diverse than clearfelled areas (with one exception, plot 63) or uniform regeneration following a single wildfire. Bird species diversity would therefore also tend to be greater in mature mixed age forests as indicated above.

7. THE EFFECTS OF FIRE

Its considerations of the effects of fire on diversity of vegetation are also open to challenge. According to it plot 101/103 is more structurally diverse than 102/103, both 1939 fire regeneration, because the former was burnt in a fire in 1964. This resulted in the development of a dense Eucalyptus understory in 102/103. In the discussion (p. 17) it notes that "an additional pattern of diversity will be imposed by wildfire" on the regeneration in clearfelled areas. This will result in increased wildlife diversity. There are two problems with this.

Firstly, the New South Wales Forestry Commission claims as one of the great benefits of the woodchip project the fact that high densities of roading in the forests and small coupe sizes will facilitate bushfire control. In future there should be no more wildfires, and any fires which do occur should be confined to very small areas, say a few coupes. In other words wildfire will not be adding significantly to the diversity of regenerating vegetation in the future.

Secondly, the report contradicts itself on the effects of fire. While on p. 17 it claims it will increase diversity, on p. 16 it says, "the greater incidence of fire on dry sites will be an important factor influencing the simplification of those forests with age."

8. OTHER COMMENTS

Another example of contradiction can be found in the report's discussion on p. 17 viz: "From our observations during 1975 and 1976, we conclude that all species of small mammal and the great majority of birds will continue to survive in forests affected by pulpwood logging at Eden. There will be changes in abundances, but no species will be threatened with extinction at Eden." This is a classic non sequitor. Also, as pointed out above, its data is simply not good enough to draw conclusions of this kind.

The final paragraph of the report (p. 17) begins "it is clear that the entire forest ecosystem will survive at Eden". The considerations presented in this critique indicate just how baseless this statement is.

9. CONCLUSION

Our analysis indicates that the report is a loose and unsatisfactory document. It appears to contain unwarranted speculation, several major contradictions, and a number of unsoundly based conclusions. This is particularly unfortunate as it comes at a time when important decisions on the future of woodchipping in Australia are being made.

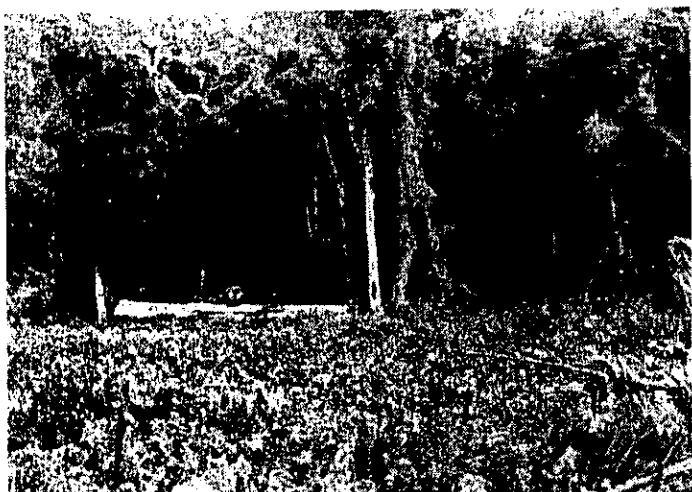
There is an urgent need for careful, properly conducted studies to be made on the effects of clearfelling on wildlife.

The report does not help fill this need.

In our interpretation of the data we can only draw the following conclusions:

1) There is still an urgent need for detailed research on clearfelling at Eden.

2) Diversity of vegetation structure and species of wildlife is reduced by clearfelling and is never likely to recover to pre-logging levels in uniform regenerating stands.



The rain forest in the background is part of one of the largest remaining patches at Eden. It has been proposed that it be dedicated as a flora reserve.

In the foreground is a bare area, formerly rainforest which could have been included in the flora reserve, however it was cleared by a woodchip contractor who wanted to establish a log dump there. The contractor was about to begin hauling eucalypt logs through the proposed rainforest reserve when the Forestry Commission finally discovered what he was doing.

3) The value of buffer strips for wildlife conservation and as biological corridors is still unknown.

4) The impact of clearfelling on mature forest specialist species requiring tree hollows for nesting and roosting will be severe, and it is not clear that none of these species will become extinct at Eden.

References

Jarvinen, O. and L. Sammalisto. 1973. Indices of community structure in incomplete bird censuses when all species are equally detectable. *Ornis Scandinavica* 4: 127-43.

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Routley, R. and V. 1975. *The Fight for the Forests*. 3rd Ed. Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University.

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TABLE 1. Number of Species and Diversity of Birds in 24 and 36 year old regeneration and in mature dry sclerophyll forest (data from Report)

Age of Forest	Species Number				Species Diversity			
	24 +	36	Mature		24 +	36	Mature	
Count time (min.)	60	120	60	120	60	120	60	120
	13*	25	25	44	2.08	2.70	2.75	3.01
	11	18	15	28	1.65	2.56	2.50	2.81
	16	26	17	23	1.93	2.29	2.50	2.51
	16	25	11	25	2.34	2.77	2.04	2.68
Totals	56	94	68	120	8.00	10.32	11.79	11.01

* Data are from the following plots:
24 and 36 year regeneration: 72, WR, 101/103, 102/103.
Mature dry sclerophyll: 60/62, 73, 90, TA.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for candidates as convenors of committees are due to be received by the Hon. Secretary before **June 1st**. Convenors of committees are responsible to organise various sections of the organisation's activities. Members who do not have the time available to be involved on the week to week, and at times daily basis, required of convenors are welcome to contact the Hon. Secretary to discuss the contribution they wish to make.

The committees are - Administrative Activities, Art Work, Consultants Liaison, Correspondence, Education, Finance, Membership, Membership Records, Newsletter, Records, Research, Special Projects.

The following are applicable extracts from the organisation's constitution -

- "25 (i) No person shall be eligible to nominate or to be nominated as a candidate for election at any general meeting other than the inaugural meeting unless he shall have been a member of the society for at least six months immediately preceding the nomination.
- (2) All candidates for election at any general meeting other than the inaugural meeting shall be nominated in writing signed by two members and such nomination and the candidates signed consent to stand for election delivered to the Secretary of the Council."

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **June 6, 1977**, at Carslaw Tutorial Room No. 2, Sydney University, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

The A.G.M. will be a business meeting, and will include the election of convenors of committees, and receipt of audited accounts.

To the Hon Secretary, **ECOLOGY ACTION**, Box C159, Clarence St, Sydney. Please send information about **ECOLOGY ACTION** to -

Name
Address
Occupation (optional)

Name
Address
Occupation (optional)

(Please attach a list of further names and addresses if you wish.)

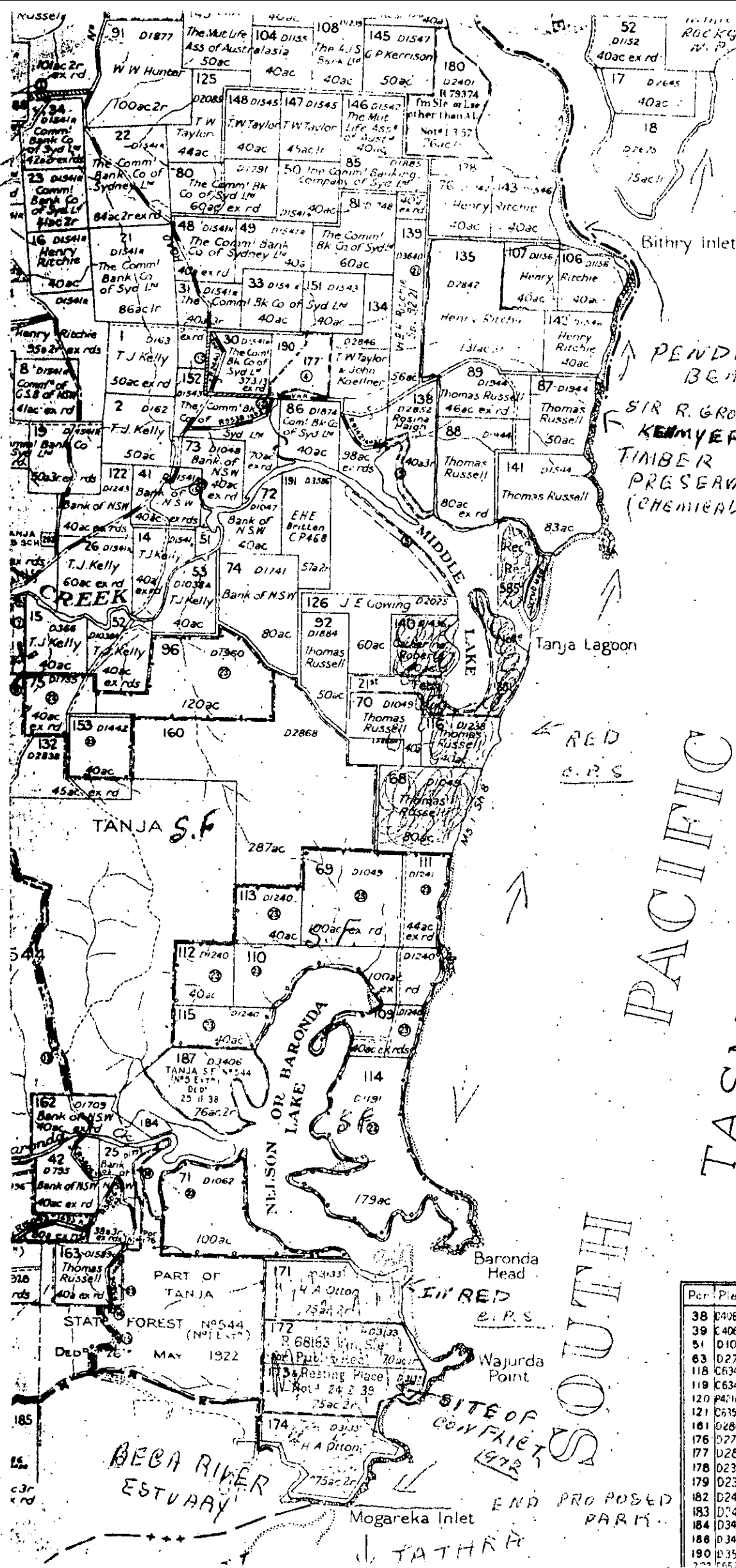
You may indicate briefly to them that I suggested they may be interested in receiving details of **ECOLOGY ACTION** / (optional - enclosed are stamps to cover postage).

Signed

Name
Address
Occupation (optional)

Name
Address
Occupation (optional)

Act, 1916-1949, proclaimed. *distri.*
Fauna Protection Act, 1948. *Gazet*
ary, 1951



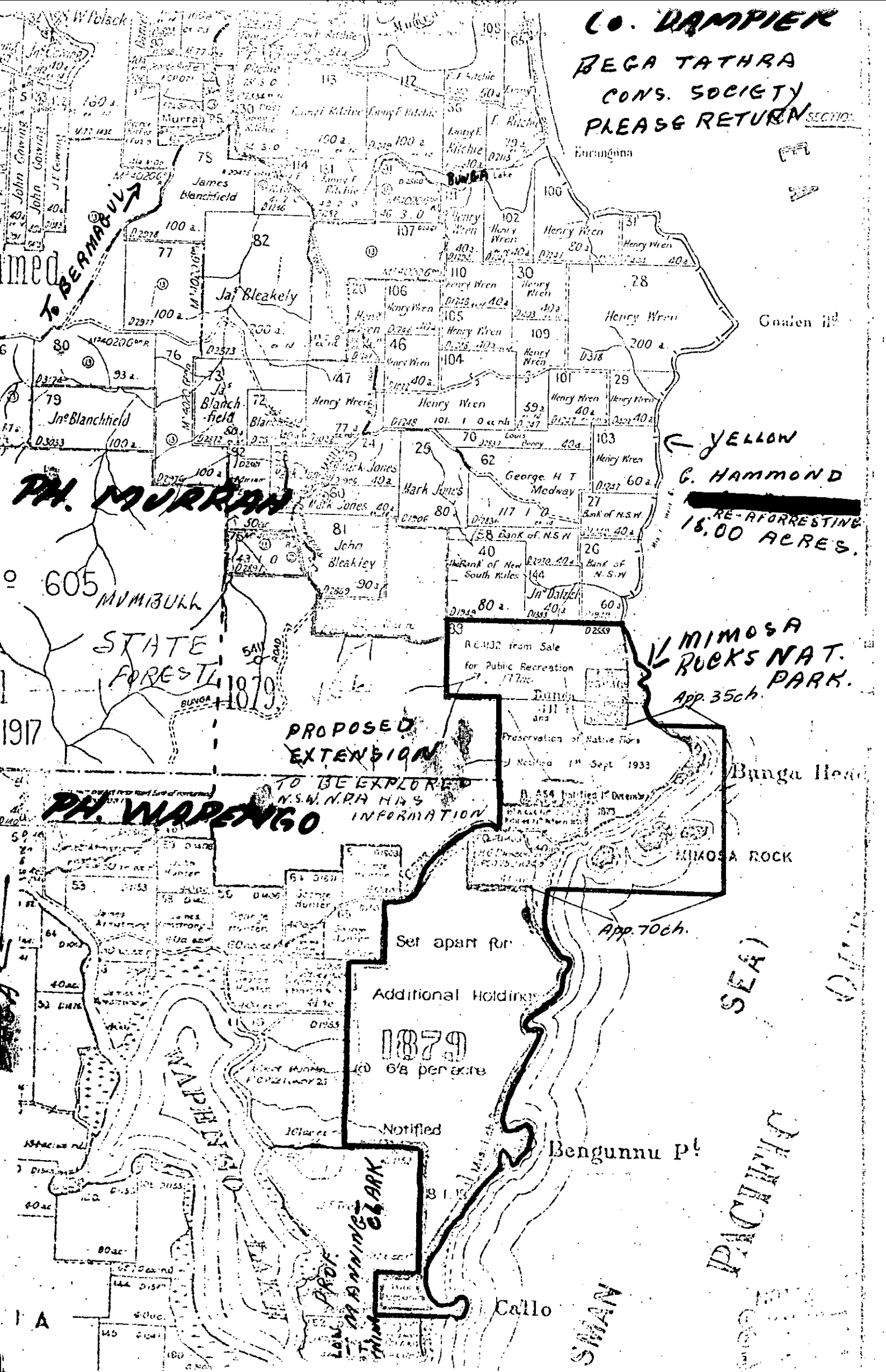
PACIFIC
TASMAN
SEA

RED ARROWS PROPOSED M.P.A. 9/25/00
DENSITY EXTENDED 10/10/00

SMALL PORTIONS

Per	Plan	Purchaser etc
38	D46 ¹⁸⁷⁴	Wesleyan Church Site Ded ^d 13 th Mar 74
39	C46 ¹⁸⁷⁴	Wesleyan Min Resid ^e do do
51	D1033	Samuel Serrantue
63	D2756	Ch of F Prop Trust Diocese Goulburn.
118	C634 ¹⁸⁷⁹	R C Church Site Ded ^d 14 th Nov 1879
119	C634	R C Pres ^t Site do do
120	P47 ¹⁸⁷⁹	Pub School Site Ded ^d 14 th Nov 1879
121	C635 ¹⁸⁸⁷	Union Church Site Ded ^d 20 th Dec 1887
161	D2866	Rt Rev Mesac Thomas
176	D2779	The Bank of N S W
177	D2830	CA Taylor Sp L 55.2 (See also not.)
178	D2333	Henry Ritchie
179	D2339	M J Hawkins
182	D2403	
183	D3404	John Caldecott
184	D3405	Daisy Brown Sp L 48.3
186	D3496	J K Taylor
190	D3572	J K Taylor
207	C657 ¹⁸⁸⁴	Public School Site Ded ^d 11 th Mar 84

CO. DAMPIER
BEGA TATHRA
CONS. SOCIETY
PLEASE RETURN



TO BERNABUL

PH. MURRAY

605 MIMIBULH

STATE FOREST 1879

PROPOSED EXTENSION
TO BE EXPLORED
N.S.W. N.P.A. HAS
INFORMATION

PH. WAPENGO

YELLOW
G. HAMMOND

RE-AFFORESTING
18.00 ACRES.

MIMOSA
ROCKS NAT. PARK.
App. 35ch.

Bunga Head

App. 70ch.

SEA)

PACIFIC

Bengunnu Pt

Callo

CLARK

SWAN

A

THE COAST WATCHER

BEGA-TATHRA CONSERVATION SOCIETY

28th July, 1977

NOTES FROM GENERAL MEETING, JUNE 2nd, 1977.

Requests for a D.M.R. Weighbridge at the junction of the Chip Mill Road and Princes Highway have not been granted. Harris Daishowa proposes to introduce new arrangements whereby payment will be made only in respect of the authorised capacity of each vehicle concerned replacing payments to hauliers of actual loading delivered. The Minister for Public Transport stated that haulage lorries are scrutinised by his Officers, the Police, and the D.M.R. who periodically operate portable weighing machines. PROPOSES?

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE CATCHMENT PROTECTION BOARD.

In reply to the Society's request for Forestry operations over 18 deg. slope in Prescribed River Catchments to be restricted as in private lands (no clearing unless by special grant) - the Board has forwarded the following: - "The Commission is exempt from the 'protected lands' provision of the Soil Conservation Act 1938." Through administrative arrangements Forestry Commission seeks to minimise erosion in State Forests and has adopted "Standard Mitigation Conditions" formulated by the Board. The Commission also consults with the Service in large-scale operations. Consultation is at present taking place on logging in catchment areas. No reference was made to techniques for logging in erodible granite soils north of Bega River. The Forestry Commission is purported (local press release) to be carrying out research on this problem west of the Princes Highway in the Eden area. There has been no public release of results of this research.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY SAWMILLERS SUPPORTS WOODCHIPPING.

The Association, led by Allen Taylor p/l, as spokesman, changed its stance from previously being against woodchipping in Mumbulla Forests to engaging a P.R. Officer to actively gain support - even from Bega Municipal Council, claiming that Forestry Commission roads will supply more logs and bring more tourists, thus stimulating the local economy. The efforts of conservationists was stated to be ill-informed etc. It was determined effort to denigrate our Society by a Sydney based Publicity Officer.

President, R. Jones, in a strongly worded letter to Bega Council, pointed this out and outlined the beneficial effects to the tourist industry brought about by taking groups of students from many areas visiting Bournda Field Studies Centre and taking away first hand impressions of the district. Bega Council, who reportedly had agreed to inspect the controversial area of woodchipping, has since declined to be involved.

JUNE 10th, 1977 - HANDING OVER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO STATES.

Ministers K. Newman (Environment, Housing and Community Development, Canberra) and Paul Landa (NSW Planning & Environment) debated the Federal Government relinquishing the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals Act). It is suspected the cost of Fraser Island, uranium controversy and the woodchipping licences are influencing this decision.

Brought in by the Whitlam Government in 1974, this Act was responsible for saving Fraser Island from sandmining at high cost to the Federal Government. Most states do not have legislation to cover such wide implications. W.A. and Tasmania have already signed the proposal with Q'd to follow suit.

Mr. Landa strongly attacked the Federal Government for their irresponsible attitude. It is understood NSW will strongly resist accepting these powers, also the Northern Territory. At the meeting, 200 conservationists made known to Mr. Newman the total inadequacy of the Harris Daishowa E.I.S. on additional export licences. - The unavailability of the Scott Report survey of the woodchipping industry with which the E.I.S. was to be read concurrently with the Management Plan so that public comments could be made on an informed basis. President R. Jones travelled to Sydney for the meeting. Sydney member Graham Wills also attended. Graham is at NSW University,

DELAYED DECISION ON COASTAL FORESTS - JUNE 11th.

Weeks of silence followed months of representation to the NSW Government through submissions by various organisations, local and Sydney based. Evidently a great deal of pressure was placed on the Development Co-ordinating Committee. Although not verified, it is believed the Inter-departmental Committee who inspected the forests in question (outlined in May Newsletter) presented several viewpoints to Cabinet. The Sydney Morning Herald published a pronouncement that a decision had been made to extend the Mimosa Rocks National

Park to the Bega River, taking in forest lands from Bunga Head east of the Tathra/Bermagui Road.

Although sawlog/pulpwood operations in small alternative areas of several hectares, leaving untouched forests within each coupe would continue, spotted gum would not be touched. Some potential sawlogs are marked with plastic to be re-cut in 20 years. No guarantee is given that future sawlogs would be retained. In addition, an Advisory Committee is to be set up to report to the Cabinet Committee appointed by the Premier on the "Five Forests" controversy-management and logging techniques in particular. At the time of writing the terms of reference have not been determined. The Committee:- Conservationists - Dick Thompson (Ecology Action); J. Miller (South Coast Conservationist); L. Cox, Eden Logger; L. Ferguson, Associated Sawmillers of NSW. Secretary - N. Ashton.

JULY 10th, 1977 - BATEMAN'S BAY MEETING.

Convenor, Allan Sorrensen, A.C.F. arranged a follow-up meeting from May 1st. to discuss the action taken so far and to review two proposals put forward - one by Eleanor Williams (prepared over the last year) and the second by Dr. Colin Bower who has been carrying out research for several years for Ecology Action on the needs for restraint in the woodchip industry. Seven Groups took part in the discussions. It was decided to support a Mumbulla Park Proposal covering all the catchments of the lakes - private lands excluded. The Committee was expected to visit the forests during July.

ALLAN SORRENSEN NOW PERMANENT MEMBER OF A.C.F. STAFF

Allan previously worked as National Liaison Officer for A.C.F. on a temporary basis funded by an anonymous donor. He now hopes for an adequate office and Telex. Allan phoned his thanks to the Society for writing in appreciation of his assistance.

MUMBULLA SHIRE SEEKS INTERIM DEVELOPMENT ORDER.

A private company of Planners working for Mumbulla Shire Council has proposed a tentative land-use plan for private and some Crown land. Objections close on June 30th.

Pressure of time limited the Committee in commenting and investigating the total area proposed for sub-division. The Secretary and Assistant Secretary spent many hours copying the maps on display at Council Office. A Committee meeting later decided on three areas for comment and objections. Private land between Bunga and Murrah Lakes to be left as "1.A" (40 ha sub-divisions suitable as holiday farms) NOT as proposed 1½ to 5 ha week-end blocks. Crown leases north of Murrah to remain as "open space" in Barraga Bay Estate. Private land at Cuttagee 16 ha - NOT 5 ha as proposed.

Tura Estate, Imlay Shire, planned by previous State Planning Authority, was quoted in our letter to Council, where 40% is held in public reserves. The Society also suggested that all buildings etc be placed well back from amply vegetated reserves along lake, river and beach.

JULY 4th, 1977. NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL'S COMMISSION ADDITIONAL FUNDING.

After an offer of \$2,454 was received to complete the Bounda Field Studies Project, a committee meeting on July 5th. accepted the offer - the President to write accordingly as the nominated Grantee. The tracks are to have some upgrading with signs; steps are to be finished at the building, also the verandah floor. Stools and trestle tables will be provided indoors. Timber has been ordered for these. Alan Newton has generously offered to pay for the timber. Mr Archie Hamilton has offered to build this equipment at a nominal charge of \$3 per hour.

JULY 18th, 1977. ADVISORY COMMITTEE VISITS BEGA.

A week of hectic activity followed the arrival of the Committee. A great deal of confusion arose from various interpretations of the terms of reference. It was necessary to rewrite the Society's submission at the last moment in the event of a National Park Proposal not being acceptable. An additional alternative proposal was prepared which only made the deadline for delivery of submissions to the Council Chambers by half an hour - 4 p.m.

Great pressure was placed on the Advisory Committee with late night interviews of persons wishing to appear to support their submissions and long days inspecting the forests, both at Eden and the 5 forests north of the Bega River. It was unfortunate that time did not permit members to meet the Secretary of Ecology Action, Dick Thompson, and other specialists - Dr. Colin Bower, Ted Floyd and Brad Jones who worked tirelessly.

President, Roger Jones, appeared before the Committee to support the Society's Submission. Mr. Hugh Bell acted as Advisor to the Forestry Commission. The Secretary, Doreen DeCleveira and Assistant Secretary, Jean Greenland were requested to produce additional information on scenic areas in Tanja West.

(3)

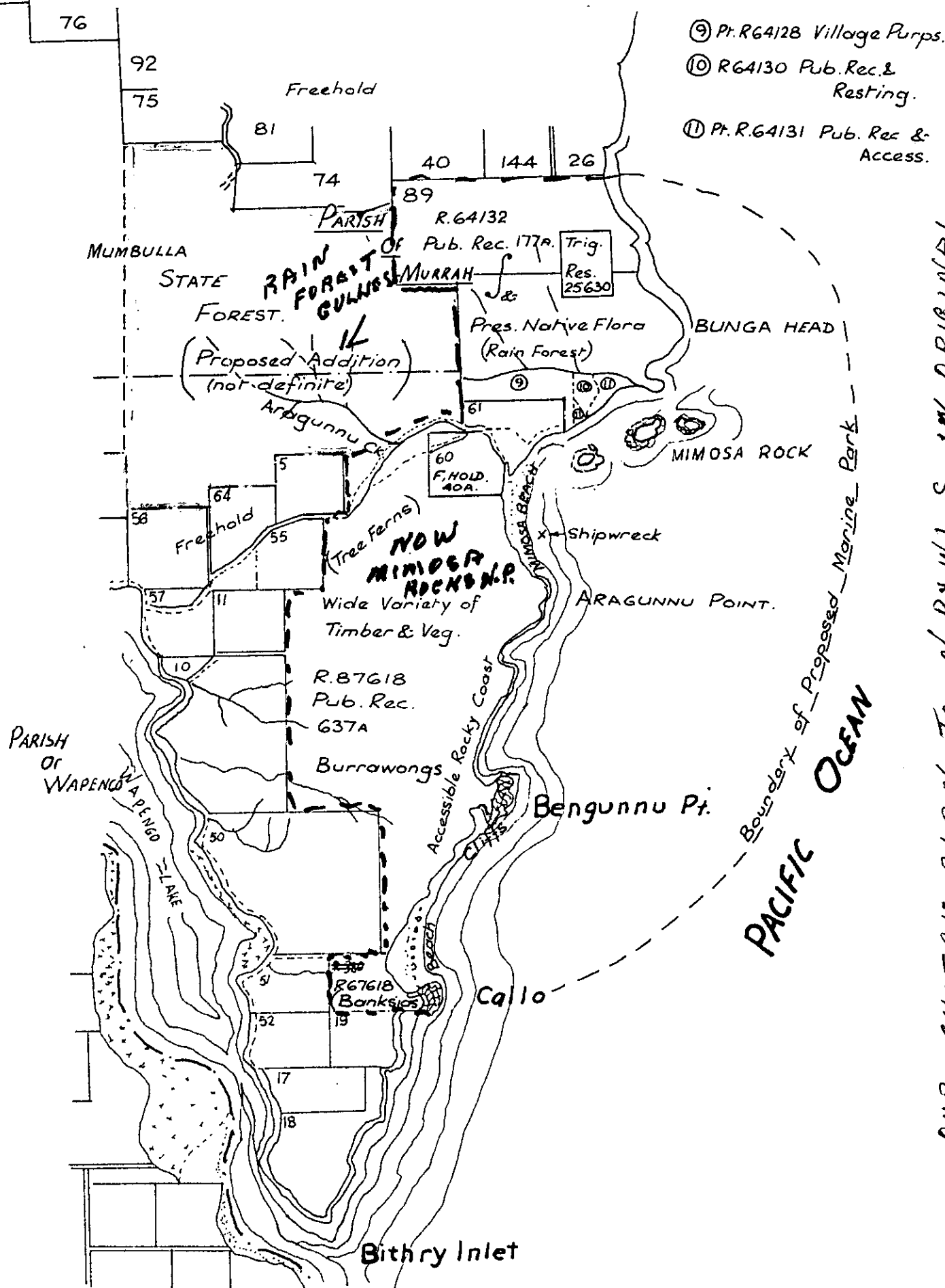
Forest in relation to possible "Forest Parks", "Flora Reserves" etc. Another twenty-four hours of inspections and documenting produced, hopefully, useful information on specific areas as requested.

CO-ORDINATING
G→ The speed with which the Advisory Committee has had to deal with ^{THE} controversial five forests has not been satisfactory in dealing with such a contentious matter. This has been made known to the ~~Cabinet Co-ordinating~~ Development Committee of Cabinet.

By the 1st September, the result of the investigation in the way of a report to the Cabinet Committee is expected. The final decision will be made known some time after that date.

South Coast Woodchipping generally will be dealt with by the Advisory Committee later in the year.

Finally.....Subscriptions are now due.....\$2.....



N.P.A. of N.S.W.

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL TOOK IN THE EAST LINE TO MOCARIKA INLET. (BEGA RIVER) THE PROPOSAL IS AGAIN BEING PRESENTED SINCE INTRODUCTION OF COASTAL PROTECTION SCHEME.

(SEE MARKED ON MAP. SOUTH EASTERN TOURIST DISTRICT)

OUR SKETCH PLAN TO N.P.W.L.S. IN ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. MIMOSA ROCKS N.P. CONSISTS OF RESERVES. EXTENSION WE PROPOSE IS MARKED IN ORANGE. NOT SUBMITTED YET.

WOODCHIPPING.

The Meeting against woodchipping north of the Bega River on January 13th, 1977, has since resulted in a local and political furore from which bitter recriminations have been directed against the Society, the Bega District Forest Action Council and other conservation groups by the Eden Chamber of Commerce and the N.S.W. Forestry Commission through the local media. The attacks became even more violent following the investigation ordered by Premier Wran.

The six coastal forests which lie between Tathra and Bermagui contain only 9% of the total woodchip concession and will have little bearing on maintaining the total chip quota (530,000 tonnes) for which more than ample forests have been allocated. Very few coastal forests remain on the Eastern seaboard of Australia, a fact which will be recorded by historians, lamented by scientists and criticised by future populations. The coastal belt is still relatively unspoilt in this part of Mumbulla Shire with many fine lakes and estuaries.

The consistent pressure of conservationists for operational reform since the commencement of the Eden woodchip project leading to the Senate Enquiry on Woodchipping in addition to the investigation ordered by the Premier brought violent reaction from business and woodchip interests with claims that conservationists are all out to close down the mill and throw people out of work and create economic chaos. These claims are false but have been used to seek positive assurances on all aspects of woodchipping from the NSW Government who came into office on a conservation platform, and are pressing strongly for the platform and pre-election promises to be disregarded.

Only a brief coverage can be given on the many aspects of the controversy that has raged almost continuously since last year.

Allan Sorrensen, A.C.F. National Liaison Officer at Canberra and South East Region Environment Centre kept the Committee informed on A.C.T. activities. Action taken by the Committee has been as follows:- Letters to the Premier and relevant Ministers and the State Pollution Control Commission. Points for a submission outlining proposals for the coastal forests in Mumbulla Shire were debated until the small hours. The main points of the submission were sent off to be photo copied and handed to Members of Parliament so that as many members as possible could be informed. Ultimately these points were enlarged upon and together with critical extracts from the Scott Report (a survey prepared for Daishowa) were forwarded to the Cabinet Development Co-ordinating Committee comprised of Ministers Landa, Ferguson, Gordon and Day:-

"That Mimosa Rocks National Park extend to the Bega River."

"That an independent Environmental Impact Statement determine lands to be included in the Park."

"That the six forests be left solely for sawlog production, native forest values, catchment protection to lakes and estuaries, and visual integrity."

"That equivalent areas of forest be re-allocated away from the coast and spotted gum associations. Alternatively that a buffer zone be set up between the Park boundary east of Bermagui Road and forestry operations."

"That a Land Conservation Council be set up to determine land use as promised."

Forestry Commission claims for greatly increased pulpwood supplies were pointed out. Logging over 18 degree slopes - amendment to the Forestry Act to enable public participation etc. The National Trust Plan, 1964, for a tourist visitors centre and facilities equalling the proposed employment in the logging industry was outlined together with tourist figures, cost of roads and bridges. A comment was also made on the contradictory nature of the Coastal Protection Scheme versus woodchipping in coastal forests and the adverse effect on tourism which includes road hazard of chip trucks.

Independent Member for the South Coast, Mr. John Hatton, had stated that he was against woodchipping operations in his electorate.

Mr. John Akister, Labour Member for Monaro was under pressure to support the Eden project. On February 13th the Secretary, Doreen DeOliveira (Bega-Tathra Conservation Society), Alex Lofts (Bega District Forest Action Council), and a resident of Mumbulla Shire, Miss Eleanor Williams, spent a day with John Akister in the Eden forests. Mr. Akister was handed submissions from the two groups and views were exchanged. As the result of this meeting a statement was given to

the media that conservation interests were not directed towards closure of the chipmill etc.

Bega District Forest Action Council arranged an inspection of the Tanja Forest and discussion day with Officers of the Forestry Commission, Eden and Bega offices. Members of the Bega-Tathra Conservation Society also attended. Forester, Mr. R. Dobbins, said this was a "first" by the Commission to hear the point of view of the interested public and that this would eventually become part of the Commission's policy to outline their plans for the forests. Although the discussions were amiable, doubt must be cast on the sincerity of the statements made if letters and articles in the press which followed attacking the views of conservationists can be taken as a guide.

March 17th: A discussion evening and slide showing wildlife in the forests was held at Bega Primary School. Slides and commentary by Wes Stacey and Eleanor Williams. This was repeated for the benefit of the School during the week.

March 18th: The Secretary again had discussions with Mr. Akister on the suggestion of a buffer zone and other aspects of Mimosa Park extensions.

March 31st: South Coast Committee Meeting, Canberra. As the Minister for Planning and Environment, Hon. Paul Landa, was expected to deliver a much publicised address, "Woodchipping or ? ? - positive alternatives for the N.S.W. South Coast", eight members of the B.T.C.S. and B.D.F.A.C. made the journey, only to be disappointed. Mr. Landa made late apologies and was replaced by his Secretary Paul Whitehouse. Mr. Akister also was not present. Member for South Coast, John Hatton, delivered an address, and the pro-woodchip lobby, Forestry and Contractors were represented in force. A Motion against woodchipping in the Mumbulla coastal forests was carried.

April 15th: Eden Chamber of Commerce Meeting, Eden: This meeting was organised to seek assurances from the N.S.W. Government on the future of the woodchip industry. As the industry has a legal contract with the Government until 1989 the meeting had no relevance other than to put political pressure on the Cabinet Development Co-ordinating Committee appointed by Premier Wran to investigate the industry and the proposals made by conservationists for the exclusion of the Mumbulla forests from pulpwood operations.

The Minister for Conservation and Water Resources, Mr. L.Gordon, a member of that Committee, was particularly disappointing in his role as representing conservation. The meeting was hostile and solely represented vested interests. Those who attended: Mr and Mrs F.Massen, G & J Greenland, B & S Thatcher, P & P Thogerson (Bega-Tathra Conservation Society); A.C.F. represented by Allan Sorrensens, National Liason Officer; Terry Britten, M & D Williams, Eleanor Williams (Bega District Forest Action Council). Altho few in number against a quoted 600 present they were certainly heard. Congratulations! (Regret I was in Sydney unavoidably - D.DeOliveira). Other speakers - Sawmillers Association and Member for Monaro did little else but support continuation of the Industry as expected.

April 17th: Minister for Tourism, Mr. K. Booth, cancelled his tour of Tanja Forest arranged by South Coast Member, John Hatton. Mr Hatton and his family did keep that appointment with B.D.F.A.C. & B.T.C.S. representatives and some local residents.

April 20th-21st: Inter-departmental Committee visit to Eden and Tanja Forests. Representatives of N.P. & W.L.Service, Department of Planning & Environment and the Forestry Commission, each accompanied by a staff member, and Mr. John Hatton inspected present logging operations. Jack Miller, Bournda Field Studies Centre, accompanied the Committee to Tanja at Mr. Hattons request. Unfortunately the Committee was comprised of Foresters, ex-foresters, and pro-foresters. The short-term view they portray is very convincing and obviously influenced Mr. Hatton against standing out on his own against decisions clearly already made.

~~The Committee, under pressure, is logging small areas with a great deal of~~

The Commission, under pressure, is logging small areas with a great deal of caution in Tanja State Forest.

In a release to the media, Mr. Hatton deplored the attitude of pro-woodchipping interests at Eden (one Inlay Councillor and the spokesman for the Chamber of Commerce) against Conservation groups and said he hoped and thought a compromise in the Mumbulla forests was possible.

Note:- It is seldom all aims are acceded in conservation cases where multi-national companies are involved.

The Committee's Report is now with the Cabinet Committee and the decision on the six forests will be released at any time. We can only hope an acceptable decision is made.

Jack Miller, Bournda Field Studies Centre, and several local residents, assisted by Mr. D.Yencken, Chairman of the National Heritage Commission (local land owner) carried out a survey of Forestry Commission logging coupes in Tanja spotted gum forest. A conservation assessment and a submission was sent to various authorities.

B.D.F.A.Council met weekly and wrote many letters to the press, the Premier, Ministers etc., and prepared a comprehensive submission for the State Pollution Control Commission and the Co-ordinated Development Cabinet Committee.

Harris Daishowa E.I.S. - closing date, May 10th, 1977.

Expiry date of the Company's export licence is December, 1977. The Company is seeking to lift their export quota by 46,000 tonnes to 850,000 tonnes per year. Under the Environment Protection Act (Impact of Proposals) Act, 1974, the Federal Government requested Harris Daishowa to produce an E.I.S. covering their operations.

Total Environment Centre and the N.S.W. Environment Centre were visited by the Secretary during April. Points were made that not sufficient co-operation and information was passing between conservation groups. Nothing had been heard from the NSW Centre since last year when the Centre moved to 399 Pitt Street.

May 1st, 1977: Bateman's Bay Meeting. Arranged by Mr. Allan Sorrensen, A.C.F. The following groups met for a days discussion on the present and future plans regarding the woodchip industry:- A.C.F., Ecology Action, Total Environment Centre, National Parks' Association of N.S.W., Bega District Forest Action Council, Bega-Tathra Conservation Society, Sydney Forest Action Council, Monaro Conservation Society. It was decided to boycott the Harris Daishowa E.I.S. as totally inadequate. The Scott Report necessary for reference were not readily available, therefore the Meeting decided that a letter should be forwarded to the Hon. K. Newman, Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development, and the Hon. I. Sinclair, Minister for Primary Industry, expressing objections to the E.I.S. and seeking time extensions so that the Senate Enquiry Report to be released in June is not negated by the granting of the licence to the Company in May. Note:- Latest information (May 22nd) extensions refused. Some submissions did go in from those who worked night and day and had all information to hand. Eleanor Williams, who helped prepare a submission for B.D.F.A.C. sat up all night typing. Congratulations Eleanor! All that time and effort for love of country! Note:- An answer given lately on the motivations of conservationists is "Social Conscience" - interesting and revealing. Pity there is such a lack of this motivation in the total structure of our society to-day.

BRIEFS ON BUILDING AT BOURNDA FIELD STUDIES CENTRE.

The Hut is completed to lock-up stage and is being used extensively by Bournda Field Studies Centre Teacher-in-Charge and visiting school students.

A working bee held on the 6th March completed the fixture of cover batons, cleaning up outside building, and setting up barbeque.

Much hard work has gone into itemising and preparing figures of extra costs and an explanatory submission to the Schools' Commission in order to recoup money spent above the building budget in order that other parts of the project - tracks etc - can be completed. It is expected to hear the results of this in a few weeks.

March 9th: Visit by Mr. A. Frost, Inspector Environmental Studies for N.S.W., and Mr. J. Hurley, Education Department, Wollongong.

A meeting was held at Bega High School which was attended by District Inspector, Mr. C. Titcume, and B.T.C.S. Members. A general clearing up of misunderstandings on the non-application for a lease at Bournda by the Education Department was thrashed out. It was agreed the Society would write a letter recommending that this be done. As there is some resistance from Parks and Reserves Branch on this matter it was decided the Department should undertake any negotiations regarding the lease.

FUND RAISING.

March 20th, 1977. A Stall was held at a Pambula Fete day as a voluntary effort by G & J Greenland and assisted by D.DeOliveira. Profit \$30.

April 30th, 1977. The Secretary, Assistant Secretaries and Lyn Austwick conducted a stall on behalf of the Society at the Flea Market organised by the Bega Primary School at the Bega Showground. Profit \$78.85 (11 Eucalypts still available for sale).

EVALUATION OF BOURNDA PROJECT.

Mr. Colin Boylan has made several visits to the District carrying out interviews with the Committee towards compiling a history of the Bournda S.R.A. This is now completed, also a set of psychological questionnaires to present to students of four schools chosen from different localities who will take part in the exercise. The relevance being to gauge the impact on different groups of students of a visit lasting several days to Bournda Field Studies Centre. The ultimate results of the evaluation will be available to the Schools' Commission, Bega-Tathra Conservation Society and research on education. The importance of Mr. Boylan's work is very obvious as he has been engaged through a Sydney University team working for the Commission. Mr. Boylan is not using this work as a thesis for his P.H.D. as was previously thought.

The Annual Meeting of the Society will be held on July 28th. New Executive members are urgently needed. Too much work has fallen on too few. Some of the present Committee Members wish to form a special committee to finish the Bournda project. New blood in the general executive is needed to keep the conservation movement alive on the South Coast.

D.DeOliveira.

Honorary Secretary.



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

7 MAY 1980

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

- 2 MAY 1980

Dear Mr. Willan,

Reference is made to your letter of 11th March, 1980, concerning Mumbulla Mountain.

I have noted the contents of your representations and discussed this matter with the Director of National Parks and Wildlife.

The Director has advised me that the Service is certainly aware of the importance of Mumbulla Mountain to the local Aboriginal community and is concerned to see that their interests are protected.

The Service has discussed the matter in detail with the Aboriginal community and the Forestry Commission and a paper on the future of Mumbulla Mountain is presently being prepared for submission to Cabinet.

Council's interest in this matter is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Eric Bedford'.

(ERIC BEDFORD)
Minister for Planning
and Environment

The trees are just as sacred to the Aborigines as the sites themselves.

It is to be hoped that your association is able to support the Yuin tribe in their fight to save Mumbulla Mountain. Should this be possible Ted Thomas, the tribal leader, ~~who~~ may be contacted at the following address: Wallaga Lake via Narooma, 2546. Phone (044)737233.

yours hopefully,

Sally Carthew -

Ms. Sally Carthew.

P.S. Please excuse the hastily clumsy use of language - (still, I think the points are clear-).

11th March, 1980

Hon. E. Bedford,
Minister for Planning
and Environment,
10th Floor,
139 Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000

Dear Minister,

Mumbulla Mountain

At the 1979 Annual Conference of this Council it was resolved to ask the N.S.W. Government to constitute a public enquiry into the Forest resources of N.S.W. as a matter of urgency. The Conference further recommended that the enquiry should accord a high priority to the investigation of sensitive areas including Mumbulla Mountain.

Mumbulla Mountain was the subject of an extensive anthropological and archaeological investigation conducted by John Egloff for the National Parks and Wildlife Service which has responsibility for aboriginal beliefs and sites. Egloff recommended the following:

- (a) The Yuin Tribal Council represent Aborigines living in south coast communities which as a body retain sufficient traditional concepts to serve as a basis for serious objections to the endangering of sacred Aboriginal sites.
- (b) That Mumbulla Mountain is significant, by virtue of the mountain having been the locale of Aboriginal initiations which utilized a complex of sacred sites.
- (c) That any further substantial alteration of the landscape in the vicinity of the reported sacred sites would impair the significance and value of the area to Aborigines.

These recommendations were based on the evidence presented in the report.

From the correspondence appended to the National Parks & Wildlife Service report, it appears that damage has already occurred to areas considered sacred by the Yuin tribespeople. Furthermore, the mountain is an area of great natural beauty, containing areas of rainforest.

Woodchipping and other logging is occurring over vast areas of the south coast. Its environmental effects are well documented, particularly soil loss and siltation of streams and lakes.

This Council supports the efforts of the people of the Yuin tribe to protect this sacred mountain from further desecration and calls upon the N.S.W. Government to impose a moratorium on logging until the whole question of future management of publicly-owned forests is fully and independently assessed.

Yours sincerely,

Len Willen,
Chairman

May 4, 1979

The Hon R.L. Gordon, MLA,
Minister for Conservation & Water Resources
163 Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Sir,

At the 1978 Annual Conference of the Nature Conservation Council, the following resolution (78/26) was carried:

"The Nature Conservation Council express its deep concern to the NSW Government regarding the royalty structure for pulpwood and sawlogs at Eden, pointing out that currently valuable sawlogs are being chipped. The prohibition of the use of potential sawlogs would facilitate preservation of additional lands for the purpose of nature conservation in the area without adversely affecting the economics of the industry."

Several enquiries have been held into the woodchip industry, including that of the Working Group set up in 1975 by the Australian Ministers for the Environment and Conservation and Agriculture, and that conducted by the Senate Standing Committee on Science and the Environment (1977).

The former purported to examine the economics of several woodchip projects, including the Eden operations. The Group found that "the royalties received by the forest services for sawlogs and pulpwood.... are sufficient to cover the costs of harvesting, regeneration and subsequent management." However, the costing details were not published nor discussed in the report. The Group just accepted the data and findings of the Forestry Commission without question.

The Senate Standing Committee was particularly critical of the royalty rate levied by the Commission which, according to the Commission's 1976/77 Annual Report, represents the bulk of its revenue. The Standing Committee recommended that "royalties received should properly reflect full costs of environmental protection necessitated by the industries' activities" (p.11) and goes on to note:

"The royalty rate almost invariably reflects a residual amount calculated from the market value of the product, rather than a sum reacting on market price to reflect production costs, including management, regeneration and environmental protection". (p.206)

It is clear, from the Forestry Commission 1976/77 Annual Report, that the Commission is running at a considerable loss generally, and despite assurances that the Eden project "is shown to be quite profitable" on

the basis of preparation of trial commercial accounts, is unable to produce evidence to support this statement owing to "difficulties encountered in establishing a commercial accounting system".

Ray Hammond, former Deputy Chief of Marketing, has also criticised the present method of setting royalty rates and the way in which expenditure is presented in the Annual Report. He asserts that to present costs under the headings of Reafforestation, Capital Expenditure, maintenance, protection, etc. without including any Head Office administration costs, is misleading. He further suggests that:

"all submissions for new projects should be presented with a loading of approximately 90% to cover administration and Head Office charges and revenue estimates should be reduced by the cost of marketing..."

On the question of the use of sawlogs for woodchips, there is plenty of photographic evidence to suggest that this is occurring at Eden. In 1975 the average royalty rate for pulpwood was \$2.50/cubic metre and for sawlogs, \$4.35 per cubic metre. These rates have subsequently been adjusted in accordance with rises in the c.p.i. Sawlogs are therefore of greater value. Hammond states that the imposition of a realistic stumpage rate "would increase the value of sawlogs in the Eden district to a point where woodchipping would genuinely be a by-product of a sawmilling industry and allow the Commission to take proper measures to protect the environment". This statement is supported by the Working Group who maintain that "the higher the profitability of State forestry operations, the greater will be the opportunity to forgo monetary returns in favour of potential non-monetary returns", i.e. environmental protection.

The Premier has stated on 9th October, 1978, that a large State undertaking should be run as a business. He therefore request that the following action be taken:

1. The royalty structure be modified to reflect the full production costs, including management, regeneration and environmental protection.
2. That supervision of logging operations be strengthened to ensure that sawlogs are not used for woodchips.

Yours faithfully,

C. H. Pratten
Chairman

399 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Telephone: (02) 233 5388

The Hon. W. H. Haigh, MLA
Minister Assisting the Premier
1st floor
121 Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

26 September 1977

Dear Mr. Haigh,

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales is writing to you to express its fullest possible support for the main recommendations of the Report of the Advisory Committee on South Coast Beachdrifting, especially:

11. The National Parks and Wildlife Service, in consultation with the Commission, undertake:
 - (a) an inventory of the species and a study of the population and disposition of fauna in the "5 Forests" area, as a matter of urgency; and
 - (b) an investigation into the long-term effect of such fauna or integrated logging operations.
12. The funding of this research and investigation be assisted by a levy on the concessionaire.
13. The results of the research and inventory by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and that of other related public bodies in this field be published.
14. Independent scientists be encouraged to participate or otherwise contribute to the research and inventory by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
23. Those parts of the catchments of Nelson and Middle Lagoons, within State Forests, be not logged and it is suggested that their most suitable use would be as a national park.

The Council wishes to urge Cabinet to accept the advice of its specially established expert Committee which has been headed by one of the foremost

and distinguished planners in Australia, Mr. Nigel Ashton. In keeping with the intense community interest which this issue has generated, the Council also requests Cabinet to make public copies of the Report of the Advisory Committee available as a matter of urgency.

Council therefore believes that the NSW Government should proceed to implement the major recommendations contained within the Report.

Yours sincerely,

Pam Howard
(in writer's absence)

John A. Hibbard
Executive Secretary

6

Above letter sent to all Cabinet Ministers:

Wran
Renshaw
Ferguson
Cox
Walker
Hills
Landa
Day
Bedford
Jensen
Crabtree
Stewart
Einfeld
Mulock
Booth
Gordon
Jackson
Haigh

Aug 19th 1974 Bega District Shire

TOURISM WORTH \$12 M. P.A. TO

MERIMBULA

A submission presented to the NSW Government this week stated that Merimbula annual income from tourism was estimated at \$12,274,153.

The submission represents about five months work by the Merimbula Chamber of Commerce which conducted a census involving all flats, motels and caravan parks.

The Chamber President, Mr Stan Delle Vergin, and Capt Bob Menzies presented a copy of the submission to Imlay Shire President, Cr R. Taylor at the Council meeting on Monday.

Mr Delle Vergin said the census revealed that the percentage of interstate visitors using holiday accommodation at Merimbula, is a staggering 91.1 per cent.

Statistics computerised from the Chamber's census returns, plus an assessment of 12 recognised establishments which did not complete the return, and 11 semi-commercial establishments which were not circularised, show

that there are 440 accommodation units in Merimbula plus 660 van sites providing holiday accommodation of 5,297 beds at any one time.

The submission presented to the Government gave the following breakdown of Merimbula's annual tourist income:

Spending powers from Pambula-Pambula Beach \$500,000; Domestic visitors to residents \$42,360; Private holiday houses \$160,160; Direct turnover

of commercial accommodation \$2,698,367.

Total spending power of tourists including accommodation \$8,095,101.

Building application approvals for Merimbula from period July 1976 to June 1977, \$3,476,902.

Mr Delle Vergin said the majority of permanent residents now living in Merimbula are ex-holiday makers from interstate.

The average amount of money being introduced for building or buying existing premises at Merimbula is \$80,000.

The submission pointed out that the only industry which can lay claim to the vigorous building activity in Merimbula is the tourist industry.

In the period under review the census showed that although Merimbula represented only 24 per cent of the Imlay Shire population, building applications approved in the town were 46 per cent of the Shire's total.

UNDER THREAT

The Chamber, in its submission, said the continuation of Merimbula as a tourist resort, is under threat in many directions and only the Government has the power and resources to invest in public facilities so urgently needed to promote this potential goldmine.

The Chamber said the town lived off its lakes and sea and it is these natural attractions which are

under threat.

The Chamber appealed to the Premier, Mr Wran, to provide money to build the new bridge over Merimbula Lake and do away with the present causeway which it claims is obstructing the tidal flow and causing siltation of the lake.

The causeway is also a traffic bottleneck.

The Chamber was critical of conservationists who had opposed attempts to reclaim part of the foreshore of the lake to provide car parking on what was once foreshore but is now only sand flats.

The need for a deep-water boat launching ramp at Merimbula was never greater than at present and although a proposal by a local man to build one at no cost to Council or the ratepayers was put up, it was thwarted by a group of local residents and the Lands Department.

WHARF

The submission also pointed out that with an annual income of some \$12 million from tourism, the sum of \$150,000 to restore the old Merimbula wharf "seems a pittance."

Finally, the Merimbula Chamber draws the NSW Government's attention to the fact that across the border in Victoria, the Government is promoting its coastal holiday resorts to keep holidaymakers in that State and now more than ever Merimbula needs promotion to main-

tain it as the major resort in this area.

"There is a great need for our little corner of the State to be recognised for its importance to N.S.W. At this point we could be called the 'Forgotten Far South Coast', Mr Delle Vergin told the Magnet.

"The Chamber feels that the Shire should promote itself in order to receive a bigger slice of the cake when loans and grants are being handed out, and hopes that its own contribution on behalf of Merimbula will help," he said.

Copies of the Merimbula submission to the

Government, are available to interested bodies from the Secretary of the Chamber, Sue Fane at the BP Service Station, Merimbula.

pick up out of the...

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Water use *E. Magnet* limited *Nov 25 1982* at Eden too

Restrictions on the use of water from the supply at Eden are now in force along with all other centres on the Tantawanglo water supply.

The use of fixed hoses and sprinklers is banned (see advt.).

The Council was told yesterday that the borefield in the Towamba River at Kiah is almost depleted and the flow in the pipeline from Tantawanglo creek is about half the possible gravity flow.

Pambula, Pambula Beach, Merimbula and Tura Beach are being supplemented by pumping from Eden.

The Ben Boyd dam at Boydtown is about 45% full and will become the main source of supply for the Tantawanglo scheme if the dry weather continues.

Conservation View

FROM PAGE 10

Country Sawmillers, the N.S.W. Government in making a decision about the rainforests (democratically), has recognised the fact that forests have values other than timber.

Yours etc.,

M. HISSINK,
Box 18,
Tathra.

TANTAWANGLO LOGGING CONTROVERSY

the local industry, but 'This is only guess work, because the local people never let me in on their profits.'

The timber industry, also argues that the Nimmitabel saw mill relies solely on the timber which would be logged from the catchment area to remain in operation. The sawmill employs 25 men, but Mr. Dobbyns claimed that, 'There is no guarantee that the timber logged would be going to Nimmitabel.'

Supporters of logging also used a further pressing issue in their debate, this being the decision by government to take out of use by the timber industry, over 100,000 hectares of state forests, to which someone exclaimed across the packed room, 'Let's not let that happen to us as well.'

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Jim Collins, who spoke on behalf of the Bega Valley Water Users Association, said that public meetings in the past have been well attended by people 'Who care what will happen to the catchment area,' referring especially to a meeting which was held in Candelo on April 10th, 1981. At this meeting it was voted to support the Bega Valley Shire Council's resolutions passed a month earlier.

The council had resolved that:

- 1) Representation be made to the minister responsible for the Forestry Commission to stop any plans to log the catchment area and that full discussions be held with council on the future use of the area;
- 2) The catchment area be proclaimed a catchment district under Ordinance 45 of the Local Government Act so that some control can be exercised

over the private land in the catchment.

Mr. Collins said that since that meeting, the Forestry Commission has 'Gone ahead and planned a whole series of tests for the catchment area, without one single word, or public release to let these people, who care, know what is going on.'

He was answering the earlier speech of Mr. Dobbyns, who confirmed that tests in the catchment area would soon begin, but Mr. Dobbyns had said, 'There is one thing I have to clear up, and that is we have not yet done anything in the catchment area, except start a road to the area of experiment.'

FORESTRY TESTS

The Forestry Commission decided to go ahead with planned experiments in the catchment area claiming that they had not been able to find suitable sites for research on the Tantawanglo outside the catchment area and suggested three small creeks inside the catchment.

Mr. Dobbyns outlined to the meeting the basis of the tests, which the Forestry Commission would be carrying out. He explained that the tests would involve three small streams on some 30-80 hectares of the 10,200 hectares of the catchment, and differing methods of logging would be carried out on two of these areas, and the third area would be used as a control. The tests, he added, would be carried out some 25 kilometres from the main catchment area, and any sediment which may be created by the tests would be diluted considerably by the time it reached the main catchment area.

The tests would also involve monitoring the stream flow, rainfall, and the build-up, if any, of turbidity in the catchment



Above: Mr Jim Collins, well known conservationist answers heated questions at the Wolumla meeting. Listening are (from left) Shire Engineer Mr John Boulton, Wafer Engineer Mr Doug Mien, Cr Pat Thogersen, and chairman of the meeting Shire President Mr Reg Taylor.

areas.

He concluded by saying that, 'The logging is not going to be done overnight, but it will be spread over a long period of time, with minimum disturbance to the area at one time.'

TESTING TIME

When asked what length of time the Forestry Commission plan to run these tests, Mr. Dobbyns answered, 'This depends entirely on the weather. The tests could be finished in 18 months, or they may last until well after the end of the drought to be able to monitor the rainfall patterns accurately.'

To this reply, came the question, 'How can you possibly monitor rainfall in this area, when it's record is so notoriously irregular?', to which Mr. Dobbyns responded, 'The commission would then have to study the rainfall charts for the past 100 years.'

when the water was flowing down? There is not much coming down at present, and it is not stret-

ching anywhere near what it should be. A regrowing forest would perhaps therefore mean that the water would not go as far as Candelo, or maybe not even that far,' to which her comments received loud retorts from the logging supporters in the audience.

Above the outcry, Mrs. Winters added, 'I am convinced no one at all can live and work in an area where there is not enough water.'

HORNS OF A DILEMMA

'We are on the horns of a dilemma,' claimed Jim Collins, who then added, 'I speak on behalf of all those concerned with what happens in the catchment area. The water which flows through this catchment is the blood of this area. It helps with the \$15 million a year which the dairy farmers earn, and the \$68 million a year the tourist industry brings to the area.' He continued to say, 'However, let us not kid ourselves, as a com-

munity we are dependent upon logging. I would hope it could be carried on so men of your age could continue to work in the bush, and your children as well,' stating that the areas to be logged should be selected carefully.

The meeting then converted its attention to the water plant which may have to be installed if logging does commence.

Mrs. June Morrissey of Tantawanglo, asked Mr. Dobbyns, 'Who is going to pay for the filtration plant if it is installed?' to which came the reply: 'I don't know.'

The question was then directed at Mr. Mien, but the reply was given by the Bega Valley Shire Engineer, Mr. Boulton, who said, 'Council has already put forward their point of view, and we are not here to be questioned on our professional integrity.'

Mr. Boulton and Mr. Mien had previously been bombarded with questions concerning the right of

council to stop private land owners in the catchment area tilling the land. Mr. Terry Hayes had originally asked the question, 'What control does council feel they can exercise over private land owners? Does council plan to place a blanket control over the land, which means you can't do a damn thing on your own land?' to which Cr Taylor answered, 'If the area is proclaimed a catchment area, all ploughing would have to cease.' An outburst of questioning on the right of council to be able to exercise control over private land owners followed. Cr Taylor answered the outburst with, 'We already do.'

Council representatives were also faced with questions on why they have let the catchment area supply all the water to such a vast area of land, and let it get to such a critical state. 'Council has given a very serious lack of consideration to the population explosion which has occurred,' came the state-

ment. Mr. Boulton returned a very sedate reply, 'Council is not satisfied with the present Tantawanglo water supply system, and is actively engaged in the study of an alternative supply. Nobody could have possibly foreseen the upsurge in population in this area. We are not in real trouble, we are in drought.'

DROUGHT

Mr. Dobbyns then spoke, saying 'What water we get in drought depends on the catchment, but I am ardent in saying that timber has a right to some of the water from the catchment as well as irrigation down stream.'

The conservationists had planned to put two motions to the floor, being:

- 1) That this meeting rejects any plans to log any section of the catchment of the Tantawanglo Creek Weir and calls on the N.S.W. Government and the Bega Valley Shire Council to do everything possible to prevent logging proceeding;
- 2) That this meeting calls on the N.S.W. Government to refer the matter of the Forestry Commission's proposal to intensively log the catchment to its Advisory Committee on the south coast woodchipping.

Emotionally nothing was settled at the meeting, with conservationists still holding strong feelings that the area should not be logged, and logging supporters holding on fiercely to their ideas about the area. The outcome of the meeting, could easily be summed up in what John Reynolds said at the beginning. 'Do you believe the two factions here tonight could provide a solution or compromise to this problem?'

However, when Cr. Taylor was asked, 'Who will make the final decision on whether or not the area would be logged,' he replied, 'The Minister will

December 1st Bega District Times 1982

CASE FROM ENVIRONMENT GROUP

"The tenor of the unruly Wolumla meeting held to discuss the problems associated with the proposed logging of Tantawanglo catchment prevented discussion of a number of points which the Far South Coast Environment Group now presents," said Michael His-sink, in presenting a statement to the press this week.

COURIER SERVICE

BEGA - BATEMANS BAY

DAILY

Phone: 22956

DEPARTS BEGA 10.30 a.m.
WEEKDAYS

The Forestry Commission is unlikely to deny that the primary purpose for logging Tantawanglo is to keep up its commitments of providing hardwood chips to Harris Daishowa. This was indicated during a discussion between members of the Group and Member for Monaro, Mr John Akister, who said the Forestry Commission needed all the timber it could get for that purpose.

Mr Dobbins, Regional Forester, said, at the Candelo meeting that possibly half the useful sawlogging life of the Nimmitabel sawmill would be lost if logging was not permitted at Tantawanglo. We un-

derstand the life of the mill is estimated at 20 years. Therefore, the sawmill still has 10 years before the question of timber supplies becomes crucial.

In that time the pine forests of the Bombala area planted by the Forestry Commission and Kapunda should become available to the mill.

((In fact the Forestry Commission has not yet been able to sell its pine, currently available to the market from Bombala and Queanbeyan.))

The percentage of pulpwood to be taken from Tantawanglo, should the project go ahead, far exceeds the timber which would be directed to the sawmills in the area. (Figures indicate $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{4}{5}$ ths of the total harvest will be directed to pulp).

It has been reported in a local newspaper that a pulp log pays more than a sawlog and that there is a temptation to deliberately damage a potential sawlog so that its destination become the chip mill.

As far as we know this assertion has never been denied and it is an indication of the wastefulness of an industry which utilises vast numbers of trees, for rapid consumer purposes—

paper and packaging for the export markets. Should we damage a watershed of great value for such a purpose?

Evidence of what happens to a catchment after logging, burning and heavy rain must already be available to the Commission from data collected from six catchments south of Eden, four of which were burnt in 1979. After heavy rain the Wallagaraugh River carried enormous quantities of silt, some of it left several centimetres deep on sand banks along the lower reaches of the river.

Recent publicity indicates changes in Forestry Commission policies of reducing fire hazard. They include enlargement of coupes from 15 ha to 100 ha, and increased control burning of surrounding forest to protect regeneration. The report appears to

be the result of research carried out by a Western Australian forester.

In 1975 Forestry Commission Wildfire Research Officer Rowan-Jones photographed a koala in Nangee State Forest. It is doubtful whether any koala survived the fires of 1980. Fauna such as the koala, the greater glider and other aboriginal animals are quite possibly present in Tantawanglo forest areas. What will happen to them? The Forestry Commission admits that its new policy concerning fire 'will affect water catchment and wildlife values'—a significant revelation which could, no doubt, disturb the members of the Senate Standing Committee and those who depend on water from the Tantawanglo Catchment.

A final point concerning fires in State Forests is that more than 10 years regeneration of potential pulpwood re-generating and mature forest were burnt out during the severe fires of 1980.

Could this be one of the reasons for the proposed incursion into Tantawanglo State Forest?

The Group appreciates quite sincerely the problems of employment in the timber industry and recognises the difficulties facing both the Forestry Commission and the foresters, the timber workers and the Government. It cannot, however, reconcile its views with those of the Forestry Commission on Tantawanglo and its water supplies. Water itself in this drought prone country has no price and is essential to the economies and the welfare of a very great number of people in this area. Tantawanglo should be left absolutely alone.

Despite considerable lobbying by the Forestry Commission and the Associated Country Sawmillers, the NSW Government in making a decision about the rainforests (democratically) has recognised the fact that forests have values other than timber.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tantawanglo - The Conservation View

SIR,—

B/P/W 7/12/82

The tenor of the unruly Wolumla meeting held to discuss the problems associated with the proposed logging of Tantawanglo catchment prevented discussion of a number of points which the Far South Coast Environment Group now presents.

1. The Forestry Commission is unlikely to deny that the primary purpose for logging Tantawanglo is the keep up its commitments of providing hardwood chips to Harris Daishowa. This was indicated during a discussion between members of the Group and Member for Monaro, Mr. John Akister, who said the FC needed all the timber it could get for that purpose.

2. Mr. Dobbins, Regional Forester, said, at the Candelo meeting that possibly half the useful sawlogging life of the Nimitabel sawmill would be lost if logging was not permitted at Tantawanglo. We understand the life of the mill is estimated at 20

years. Therefore the sawmill still has 10 years before the question of timber supplies becomes crucial. In that time, the pine forests of the Bombala area planted by the Forestry Commission and Kapunda should become available to the mill. (In fact, the FC has not yet been able to sell its pine, currently available to the market from Bombala and Queanbeyan).

3. The percentage of pulpwood to be taken from Tantawanglo, should the project go ahead, far exceeds the timber which would be directed to the sawmills in the area. (Figures indicate three quarters to four fifths of the total harvest will be directed to pulp).

4. It has been reported in a local newspaper that a pulp log pays more than a sawlog and that there is a temptation to deliberately damage a potential sawlog so that its destination becomes the chip mill. As far as we know this assertion has never been denied and it is an indication of the wastefulness of an industry which utilises vast numbers of trees, for rapid consumer purposes - paper and packaging for the export markets. Should we damage a watershed of great value for such a purpose?

5. Evidence of what happens to a catchment after logging, burning and heavy rain just already be available to the Commission from data collected from 6 catchments south of Eden, 4 of which were burnt in 1979. After heavy rain the Wallagaraugh River carried enormous quantities of silt, some of it left several centimetres deep on sand banks along the lower reaches of the river. Recent publicity indicates changes in Forestry

Commission policies of reducing fire hazard. They include enlargement of coupes from 15 ha. to 100 ha., an increased control burning of surrounding forest to protect regeneration. The report appears to be the result of research carried out by a Western Australian forester.

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What will happen to them?

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Could this be one of the reasons for the proposed incursion into Tantawanglo State Forest?

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ly the problems of employment in the timber industry and recognises the difficulties facing both the Forestry Commission and the foresters, the timber workers and the Government.

It cannot, however, reconcile its views with those of the Forestry Commission on Tantawanglo and its water supplies.

Water itself in this drought prone country has no price and is essential to the economies and the welfare of a very great number of people in this area.

Tantawanglo should be left absolutely alone.

Despite considerable lobbying by the Forestry Commission and the Associated

CONT. PAGE 15

Committee suggestion for Tantawanglo

SIR,—

Last week's stormy meeting at Wolumla Hall saw few, if any, winners.

What was seen however, was a strong and legitimate concern expressed by local timber industry workers, farmers, business people and ratepayers at the fate of the streams and forest within the catchment of Tantawanglo Weir. Many people from outside the Bega Valley Shire were also present.

More heat than light was thrown on the issues by many of those who spoke.

One fact that did emerge was that a committee of four had been formed jointly by Bega Valley Shire Council and the Forestry Commission to consider water testing and logging proposals within the catchment area.

It is my suggestion that this committee should be doubled in size to include a representative from the

following bodies:

Forest Products Association, Bega Valley Water Users' Association, Tantawanglo Catchment Protection Association and the Merimbula Chamber of Commerce. Each of these groups has a commitment to a rational solution to this difficult water catchment/logging problem and I believe their views should be considered.

**Yours etc.,
JACK MILLER.**

DAISHOWA INTERESTED IN LONG TERM AUSTRALIAN WOODCHIP SUPPLY

Continued from Page 1.

underground some one kilometre to the Yoshinaga mill where it is bleached.

Then the hardwood pulp is mixed with other softwood pulp and goes two ways.

One direction is to the Yoshinaga mill paper-board plant where it is made into quality white coated board for such things as food cartons.

In the second direction the hardwood pulp is mixed with softwood bleached kraft pulp and is trucked to the company's Fuji mill where it is made into high quality offset printing paper.

FINE WRITING PAPER

Half of the woodchips exported from Eden go to the Daishowa company's Shiraoi mill on the north island of Hokkaido.

These chips are carried by the "Empress of Eden" at the current rate of 400,000 tons per year and are unloaded at Muroran port.

From here the chips are railed 30 km to the Shiraoi mill for digesting, washing and bleaching.

At the same mill the eucalyptus pulp is made into special paper for use in computers and Xerox machines, as well as fine writing paper and non-coated printing papers for magazines, books, etc.

The pulp from Eden woodchips processed at the Shiraoi mill is not

mixed with any other pulp.

The advent of Australian hardwood chips in the Daishowa production line has not been, and still is not, all easy going.

As Director, Mr T. Saito, in company with Mr M. Shibuya and Mr M. Shiraishi (formerly of Eden) pointed out in Tokyo on May 6, the two main problems concerning the Daishowa Paper manufacturing Co., in regard to Eden Woodchips are:

- (a) the price; and
- (b) a printing problem in which small "vessels" in the fibre pick off in printing and this, when it occurs, causes tiny imperfections in the finished printed sheet.

This problem is being overcome by the use of starch during the making of the paper.

Daishowa executives emphasise the importance of keeping a high quality in the woodchips as the "vessel" pick off problem increases with a decline in quality.

It is of the utmost importance in this time of depressed markets in Japan for Daishowa to maintain quality as many paper companies are competing fiercely for the opportunity to supply the market.

EDEN GIVEN FAVOURED TREATMENT

Mr Shibuya, now Managing Director of Daishowa International, said Daishowa has given most favoured treatment to Harris-Daishowa at Eden in this period of recession

by not cutting back on import volumes.

In contrast the Company has cut back 20 per cent the volume coming in from America and also slashed chip production in Malaysia.

Mr Saito said usually reliable sources were predicting that the Japanese economy would take several years yet to recover most of the ground lost following the 1973 oil crisis.

He reiterated that the Daishowa Paper Manufacturing Company would be seeking an extended woodchip agreement with Australia and to this end

the company had been keenly looking forward to talks in Tokyo early in May with the NSW Premier, The Hon. Neville Wran.

Unfortunately the visit to Japan by Mr Wran was cancelled at the last minute due to the air traffic controllers strike. No new date for the visit has since been announced.

Mr T. Saito intends to visit Eden about October this year for the first time.

He will be accompanied by leading Daishowa officials including Mr Shibuya who looks forward to renewing his Eden friendships.

STONEY CK. FOREST ROAD TO COST \$122,000

The Forestry Commission will soon begin construction of Stoney Creek Road within the Timbillica State Forest about 36km south west of Eden.

The Minister for Conservation, Mr Lin Gordon, M.L.A. has approved estimated construction costs of \$122,200 on the 17.5km of road, and informed local member, John Akister, M.L.A. for Monaro, of the proposed work.

Mr Gordon said the new road would give logging access to 1000 ha of State Forest. This area is expected to yield 149,000 tonnes of pulpwood and a further 16,700 cubic metres of hardwood sawlogs.

Stoney Creek Road will form part of a roading network previously agreed with Harris-Daishowa (aust) Pty. Ltd., to be built at the rate of 8 km of road per 1000 ha

of forest.

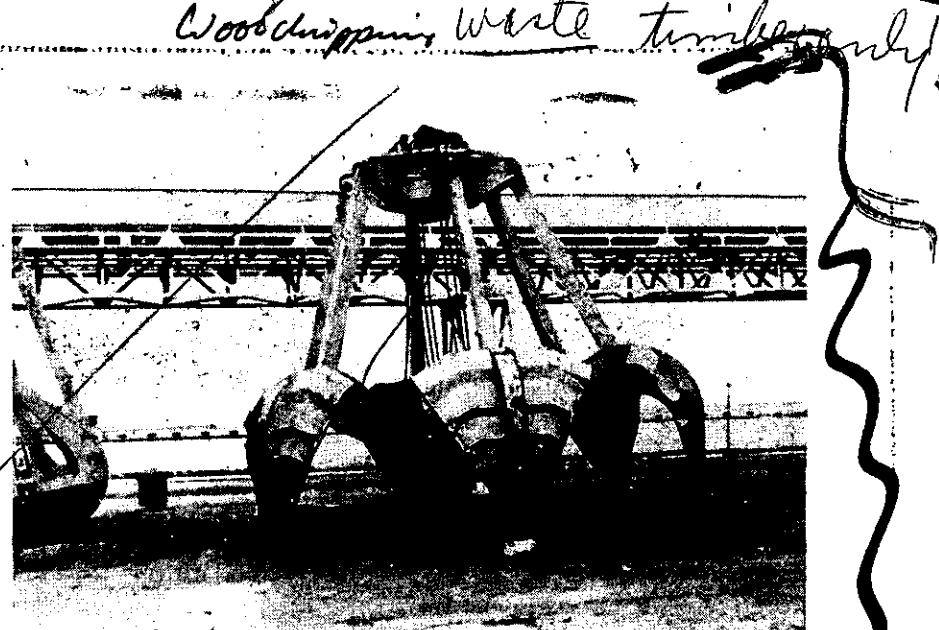
The proposed roadline encroaches on a small section of private property. The owner has consented to the roadwork and resumption action will be taken at a later date.

Stoney Creek Road will be constructed over a two year period by the Commission's Eden Roading gang.

Married

A very happy occasion was celebrated at the Eden Fisherman's Club on May 26, when Peter John, only son of Lloyd and Pat Furnell of Bega was married to Janet, daughter of Mrs Parsons and the late Mr Parsons of Geelong.

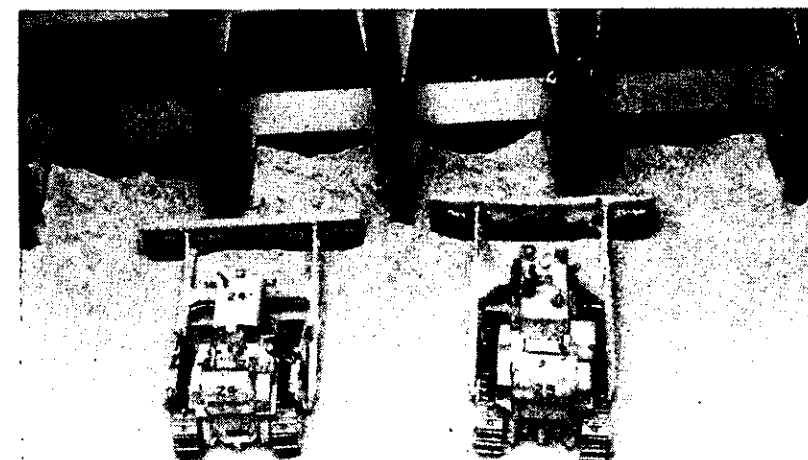
The honeymoon will be spent travelling around Suva and Fiji. They will make their home in Eden where Peter conducts his own business.



THE BIG GRAB used to unload Eden chips at Shimizu.



EDEN WOODCHIPS being loaded into semi trailers for transport to the pulpmill.



SMALL BULLDOZERS are lowered into the ships to clear the woodchips from the edge of the hold into the centre to be picked up by a grab.

EDEN

PLANT HIRE

101

ALL YOUR HIRE NEEDS

Issued: June 9, 1977

Woodchipping

NEWS RELEASE

The State Government has acted to ensure the continued supply of timber for woodchipping and logging operations on the South Coast.

The Premier, Mr. Neville Wran, said today that State Cabinet had also decided to dedicate State Forest lands between the Mimosa Rocks National Park and the mouth of the Bega River and east of the Tathra-Bermagui road as a national park.

As well, an advisory committee will be established to advise the Government on the environmental aspects of woodchipping and logging operations on the South Coast.

Members of the advisory committee are: Mr. N. Ashton, consultant to the Minister for Planning and Environment; Mr. R. Thompson, Secretary of Ecology Action; Mr. J. Millar, a well-known South Coast conservationist; Mr. L. Ferguson, Vice President of the Associated Country Sawmillers of N.S.W.; and Mr. L.W. Cocks, an Eden logging contractor.

"The committee is representative of both the woodchipping and sawmilling industries and conservationists", Mr. Wran said.

The Premier said that under its terms of reference the committee will report urgently on environmental conditions under which logging should be permitted in the "five forests" between Tathra and Bermagui.

"The Committee will also advise the Government on environmental aspects of the operations in the South Coast Woodchipping Region in general." he said.

"The Committee will, having regard to the need for the maintenance of supply of timber for the South Coast woodchipping and logging operations, consider and make recommendations to the Government on matters such as the environmental significance of the South Coast forests, the present forestry management techniques, the need for research programs and the utilisation of private forests."

12 AUG 1977

BEGA-TATHRA CONSERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 18,
TATHRA,
N.S.W. 2550

9th August, 1977.

Mr. J. Hibberd,
The Manager,
NSW Environment Centre Pty., Ltd.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY.

Dear Mr. Hibberd,

Your recent visit to the South Coast was much appreciated.

In the present tense, controversial situation our members often feel isolated through lack of contact and information. In fact it has been a considerable effort to carry on through lack of direct support. The resultant pressure through the media and in other ways, of the Forestry Commission's Public Relations Officer, who is employed full time in this district now, has penetrated into many areas of the community. The latest being the combined Bush Fire Brigades who are calling for a meeting with N.P. & W.L. Director (mistakenly being named as Dr. McMichael) in regard to fire hazard reduction in National Parks. In addition they are pressing the Premier for a continuance of integrated sawlog-pulpwood operations in the "five forests" in order to utilise (quote) "the Commissions roads and fire fighting equipment."

We are very aware that many people in the community are opposed to the all out efforts of the woodchip industry to avoid land re-allocations for suitable parks and reserves at all costs. Many of these folk are located throughout the district. We feel it would be most advantageous to the conservation movement if N.C.C. Executive would approve of quarterly visits by you to this area for a period of one week. We feel that in this way our Society and other interested people could be co-ordinated and better informed, and perhaps a more comprehensive group established here. N.C.C. would also be in a position to gain first hand knowledge and in turn present this to the Ministers concerned with the woodchip industry.

Support by a qualified person is urgently needed. In order that the costs of this proposal be kept to a minimum, reasonable accommodation is available close to Tathra.

Yours sincerely,

D. DeOliveira

(Mrs D. DeOliveira)

Joint Secretary.

*P.S. Could you please send a copy of
Planning and Environment Commission
new zoning on non-urban lands.*

355 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Telephone: (02) 355 5313

21st September 1972

Hon. L. K. Hume,
Premier of NSW,
Premier's Department,
Macquarie Street,
Sydney 2000

Dear Minister

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Nature Conserv-
ation Council of New South Wales, to present you with a personal compli-
mentary copy of the Council's recent report on Crown Land Allocations and
Forest Management Practices in the South-East Region of NSW. This
Report constitutes the Council's recent submission to the Government's
Advisory Committee on South Coast Woodchipping. Although wood chipping is not
primarily a responsibility of your Ministry, we have been led to under-
stand that it is to be debated within Cabinet shortly and hence are
providing you with this copy in order that you may fully inform us.

The Council has been most concerned for a number of years over the
effects of integrated and intensive forestry activities on the natural
environment especially in relationship to clear felling operations. The
first part of the Report details extensively the effects of pulp wood
extraction techniques on soil erosion, water quality, losses in
nutrients and flora and fauna protection. Our Report, as does the
Report of the Senate Enquiry into Woodchipping, finds a notable lack of
adequate scientific research into many aspects of these intensive
forestry operations.

The second part of the Report examines Crown Land allocations in the
Region, and, being ever mindful of the need to maintain rural employment
levels by ensuring adequate supplies of saw logs and the woodchip
resources, makes proposals for future national park investigations and
dedications. A concept central to our submission is the need for
catchment protection by the removal of sensitive areas from the woodchip
concession region. After adequate investigation of such areas for their
conservation, scenic and scientific potential, eventual land use could
be decided either as national park or as retention in the State Forest
system for selective logging under stricter environmental safeguards
than are in operation at present.

The Council's calculations, based on the Forestry Commission's own data,
indicate clearly that no jobs would be lost if the areas proposed as
national park in our Report were so dedicated. It is important to note
that South Coast Crown Land allocations are heavily biased in favour of
forestry and only as recently as the early 1970s over 300,000 acres of

native forests were dedicated as State Forest, while the only areas placed under the National Parks & Wildlife Service were a few remote mountain tops too small in size to ensure viable wildlife populations.

The scenic qualities of the south coast are well known to all those who have visited the area and the growth of the tourist industry, and the attendant employment potential that is generated, is amply illustrated by the fact that the income from tourism in Morimbula alone reached \$12 million last year - this figure is greater than that derived from forestry activities over the whole region.

In furtherance of the Labor Party's avowed aim of participation of the community in the decision-making processes, we would be most grateful if you would give your personal support to the Council's request that the Report of the Advisory Committee be now made public.

The Nature Conservation Council trust that you will give these important matters your deepest consideration. The Council believes that, even if new major national parks are not dedicated in the Region at present, a moratorium from woodchipping should be placed upon the most important scientific areas (as outlined in our Report) at least until further independent evaluation has taken place; thus leaving options open for the community in the future. The Council would be only too pleased to answer any questions that you may have on this matter or to arrange an inspection visit to the areas concerned if so wished.

Yours sincerely,

John R. Hilbert
Executive Secretary

c: All Cabinet Ministers

M

WOODCHIPPING



MINISTER FOR LANDS

14 OCT 1977

SYDNEY

11th October, 1977

Mr. J.K. Hibberd,
Executive Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council
of New South Wales,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

Dear Mr. Hibberd,

I refer to your recent letter regarding the
Report of the Advisory Committee on South Coast Woodchipping.

You may be assured that the views of your Council
will be taken into account when Cabinet gives consideration
to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W.F. Crabtree'.

(W.F. CRABTREE)
Minister for Lands.

Minister for Conservation and Water Resources
Sydney

Mr. J. K. Hibberd,
Executive Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council of
N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

Dear Mr. Hibberd,

Receipt is acknowledged of your letters dated 22nd and 26th September, 1977, concerning the South Coast Woodchip Industry.

I have noted the recommendations contained in the Report you presented to the Advisory Committee and you may be assured that I shall give them every consideration when the question comes up for discussion.

I note also that your Council has expressed support for the main recommendations of the Advisory Committee's Report especially those dealing with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Forestry Commission and your comments in that regard are indeed welcome.

You have asked in both letters that I support the public release of the Advisory Committee's Report in line with the Labor Party's concept of community participation in the decision making process.

This is, of course, a matter for the Cabinet Co-ordination Committee to decide. Accordingly, I will refer your request to this Committee.

Yours faithfully,



(A.R.L. GORDON),
MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION
AND WATER RESOURCES.

Minister for Mines
and
Energy



WOODCHIPPING

10 OCT 1977

Dear Mr. Hibberd

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 26th September, 1977, expressing your Council's support for the main recommendations of the Report of the Advisory Committee on South Coast Woodchipping.

I have carefully noted the matters raised in your letter and I will keep them in mind when this matter comes up for discussion with my colleagues.

Yours faithfully

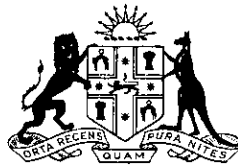
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P.D. Hills".

P.D. HILLS
Minister for Industrial Relations
Mines and Energy

Mr. J.K. Hibberd
Executive Secretary
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.
399 Pitt Street
SYDNEY. 2000

M

WOODCHIPPINGS 7 OCT 1977



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER OF JUSTICE

and
Minister for Housing

30 SEP 1977

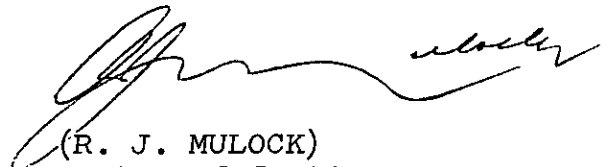
Mr. J. K. Hibberd,
Executive Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000.

Dear Mr. Hibberd,

I refer to your recent communication with which you enclosed a complimentary copy of your Council's recent report on Crown Land Allocations and Forest Management Practices in the South- East Region of N.S.W.

I have noted the contents of the document and the comments contained in your letter with great interest. Thank you for bringing them to my attention. You may be assured that I will give all matters raised my close and personal attention and that all such matters will be taken into account in any deliberations.

Yours faithfully,


(R. J. MULOCK)
Minister of Justice
and
Minister for Housing

m,

WOOD CHIPPING



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

76/890/7

11 OCT 1977

Premier's Department

7 OCT 1977

Dear Mr. Hibberd,

The Premier has asked me to let you know that he has received your letter of the 26th September concerning the Report of the Advisory Committee on South Coast Woodchipping.

Mr. Wran wishes me to say that the Council's representations have been carefully noted and will receive close consideration.

Yours faithfully,

J. Gibson
Under Secretary.

Mr. J.K. Hibberd,
Executive Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. 2000

M

WOODCHIPPING



7 OCT 1977

SYDNEY

Mr. J. K. Hibberd,
Executive Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council
of New South Wales,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. 2000

5 OCT 1977

Dear Mr. Hibberd,

Thank you for your letter of 20 September and the accompanying copy of the Council's Report on Crown Land Allocations and Forest Management Practices in South East Region of New South Wales.

I will note your comments and suggestions in my consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ken Booth'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

KEN BOOTH



WOODCHIPPING

5 OCT 1977

Mr. J.K. Hibberd, B.Sc. (Hons),
Executive Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council of
N.S.W.,
263B The Broadway,
BROADWAY. 2007.

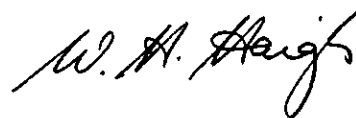
28 SEP 1977

Dear Mr. Hibberd,

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated 20 September, together with copy of "Crown Land Allocations and Forestry Management Practices in the South-East Management Area".

I have had the opportunity of perusing your submission and would like to thank you for your courtesy in forwarding it to me.

Yours sincerely,



W.H. HAIGH,
Minister for Services
and Minister assisting
the Premier.



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS
AND
MINISTER FOR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

27th September, 1977.

Mr. J.K. Hibberd,
Executive Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council
of N.S.W.,
263B The Broadway,
BROADWAY. 2007

5 OCT 1977

Dear Mr. Hibberd,

Thank you for your letter of the 20th September, with which you enclosed a copy of your Council's submission titled "Crown land allocation and forestry management practices in the South-East management area".

As a Minister of the Crown I am concerned at the maintenance of our environment for the use and enjoyment of the present community and of the generations to come.

I appreciate your Council's interest in this most important matter and will take the opportunity of looking closely at the terms of the submission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sydney D. Einfeld'.

(SYDNEY D. EINFELD)
Minister for Consumer Affairs and
Minister for Co-operative Societies

Minister for Mines
and
Energy



WOODCHIPPING

16 OCT 1977

30 SEP 1977

Dear Mr. Hibberd

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 20th September, 1977, enclosing a copy of your Council's submission to the New South Wales Government Advisory Committee on South Coast Woodchipping.

Thank you for sending me this information.

Yours faithfully

P.D. HILLS
Minister for Industrial Relations,
Mines and Energy

Mr. J.K. Hibberd
Executive Secretary
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.
263B The Broadway
BROADWAY. 2007

M

WOODCHIPPING



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR DECENTRALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

30 SEP 1977

28 September, 1977.

Mr J.K. Hibberd,
Executive Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. 2000.

Dear Mr Hibberd,

I am indebted for your courtesy in providing me with a copy of the report of the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W. concerning Crown Land Allocations and Forest Management Practices in the South East Region of N.S.W.

I have read this report most carefully and have retained it for my future use. As early as practicable I will again write to you concerning those particular aspects to which you directed attention.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Day'.

(D. Day)

Minister for Decentralisation
and Development.

M



WOOD CHIPPIING
22 SEP 1977

SYDNEY

26th September, 1977.

Dear Mr. Hibberd,

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your submission entitled "Crown Land Allocations and Forestry Management Practices in the South-East Management Area."

I have read this document with interest and I shall certainly keep your Council's views in mind when the matter next comes up for discussion.

Yours sincerely,

J. B. RENSHAW.

Mr. J.K. Hibberd,
Executive Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council
of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. 2000

M



Minister for Local Government

C.A.G.A. Building
8-18 Bent Street, Sydney 2000
Telephone: 240 4755

Mr. J.K. Hibberd,
Executive Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council
of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

26 SEP 1977

23rd September, 1977

Dear Mr. Hibberd,

Thank you for your letter of 20th September, 1977 with which you enclosed for my information a copy of the Council's Report on Crown Land Allocations and Forest Management Practices in the South-East Region of this State.

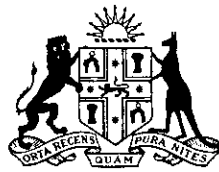
You may be assured that the terms of the Report will be kept in mind when the matter is before me for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

H.F. JENSEN
Minister for Local Government

M

WOODCHIPPING 28 SEP 1977



MINISTER FOR LANDS

SYDNEY

26th September, 1977

Mr. J.K. Hibberd,
Executive Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council
of New South Wales,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

Dear Mr. Hibberd,

I am writing to thank you for forwarding me a copy of the Nature Conservation Council's recent Report on Crown Land Allocations and Forest Management Practices in the South-East Region of New South Wales.

As you know this matter is currently receiving consideration at the most senior level of Government. I am certain that the Report of the Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales will receive every attention by the members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W.F. Crabtree'.

(W.F. CRABTREE)
Minister for Lands.

M

WOODCHIPPING



2261/1007

SYDNEY

30th September, 1977

Dear Mr. Hibberd,

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 26th September, 1977 expressing your Council's full support for the main recommendations of the Report of the Advisory Committee on South Coast Woodchipping.

I have noted your comments with interest and I will keep your views in mind when the matter next comes before Cabinet.

Yours sincerely,

J. B. Renshaw

J. B. RENSHAW.

Mr. J. K. Hibberd,
Executive Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council
of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. 2000

WOODCHIPPING

10 OCT 1977



25 OCT 1977

Mr. J.K. Hibberd,
Executive Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000.

Dear Mr. Hibberd,

Thank you for your letter of
September 26, conveying your Council's fullest
support for the main recommendations of the
Report of the Advisory Committee on South Coast
Woodchipping.

I much appreciate you bringing
Council's views to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

(KEN BOOTH)

M.

WOOD CHIPPING

New South Wales Government



5 OCT 1977

Minister for Local Government

C.A.G.A. Building
8-18 Bent Street, Sydney 2000
Telephone: 240 4755

Mr. K. Hibberd,
Executive Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

30th September, 1977

Dear Mr. Hibberd,

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 26th September, 1977 indicating your full support for the main recommendations of the Report of the Advisory Committee on South Coast Woodchipping.

The points made in your letter have been noted and will be given consideration.

Yours sincerely,

H.F. JENSEN

Minister for Local Government

399 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone: (02) 233 5388

14 September 1977

Mr. P. Ward
Manager
Batemans Bay Soldiers Club
Beach Road
Batemans Bay
New South Wales 2536

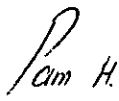
Dear Mr. Ward,

This is to confirm the telephone booking made with your Secretary on Tuesday 13 September for our use of your meeting room facility between the hours of 10.30 am and 4.30 pm on Sunday 25 September 1977. The meeting will be similar to those arranged previously with you by Mr. Allen Sorrensens of the Australian Conservation Foundation and will comprise delegates from various conservation groups in the south-east region of the State.

I will be in touch shortly with your catering manager, Mr. Lumm, and have informed all persons attending the meeting of the dress regulations of the Club.

Thank you for your co-operation,

Yours sincerely,



JK
J K Hibberd
Executive Secretary