



The Need Never More Pressing: Ros Kelly

BIO LINKS

NEWSLETTER ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS

The need to protect the planet's biological diversity has never been more pressing. It has been estimated that one plant, bird and mammal species and some 50 other species are lost from the earth's tropical forests every day. This estimate of extinctions would increase significantly if species lost from other equally important ecosystems such as temperate forests, coastal wetlands, and inland waters were also included. In Australia since 1788, 20 species of mammals and about 100 flowering plants have become extinct. More than 50 animal species, 200 plant species and an unknown number of invertebrates and microorganisms are currently facing extinction. Very few of Australia's ecosystems have escaped modification in the last 200 years. As Peter Raven (Director, Missouri Botanical Gardens) has said, the loss of biological diversity is proceeding much more rapidly than climate change and depletion of the ozone layer, is completely irreversible and will have the most tragic consequences for human beings in the future.

Australians are at last recognising that our natural resources are not endless or indestructible. We are beginning to appreciate how little we know about our flora and fauna and how essential that knowledge is to the well being of present and future generations of Australians. However, we must begin to appreciate the importance of all parts of the country such as the arid regions and not just focus on areas like the spectacular forests. Semi-arid and arid environments cover two-thirds of our land mass and make a significant contribution to Australia's status as

one of about a dozen megadiversity countries in the world.

As a nation we must come to grips with the essential importance of our biological diversity, the threats it faces, the actions required for its



conservation and what those actions will mean for all Australians. Recognising the need to take a comprehensive approach, the Prime Minister announced in July 1989 that the Government would prepare a National Strategy for the conservation of biological diversity with a view to developing a biological diversity program. The Prime Minister also announced that

Australia will play a leading role in the development of an international convention for the protection of biological diversity. Work is well underway on both these matters and I expect a draft National Strategy to be available for public comment in early 1992.

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To be effective the National Strategy will need to address conservation of biological diversity from the genetic through to the ecosystem level in all environments. It will need to strengthen cooperation within the community and involve all sectors from the national to the local level. Because of the urgency of the task priority actions will need to be established. An essential element will be increasing the understanding of biological diversity and demonstrating its benefits, so that the community will accept the proposed actions.

The National Strategy will also need to identify causes for the loss of biological diversity (such as undervaluation of some natural resources), and

propose changes to inappropriate policies and practices and suggest ways of promoting conditions which favour activities compatible with conservation and sustainable use. For the National Strategy to be successful it will be necessary for the conservation of biological diversity to be embraced by all Australians and integrated into all planning and management activities.

Many people consider the meaning of biological diversity is too difficult to grasp let alone try to protect. In reality the meaning is simple and the need for its protection straightforward. Put simply biological diversity is the variety of life on which our future depends.

Committee to Draft Strategy

The first stage in the development of a National Strategy for the conservation of Australia's biological diversity has been the establishment, by Mrs Kelly, of the Biological Diversity Advisory Committee (BDAC). The Committee's terms of reference are:

- Advise the Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories on:
 - a) the status of Australia's biological diversity;
 - b) threats to Australia's biological diversity; and
 - c) the adequacy of the existing mechanisms and legislation to conserve biological diversity.
- Develop a National Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity for consideration by the Minister.
- As necessary consult with relevant organisations and individuals, including the establishment of special working groups where necessary, to assist with the development of a National Strategy. In addition, the Committee should take account of international developments in the conservation of biological diversity.
- Monitor the adoption and implementation of the Strategy and make revisions as necessary.

Mrs Kelly has requested that BDAC provide her with a draft National Strategy to be made available for public comment in early 1992. During the public consultation period it is planned to hold a major conference involving representatives from all sectors of the community. The intention is to have the National Strategy ready for adoption in May 1992.



Parliamentary Inquiry Underway

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts is undertaking an inquiry into the extent to which Commonwealth assisted community based projects contribute, either directly or indirectly, to the protection of biological diversity and the maintenance of ecological processes and systems.

The Committee will have particular regard to the following major Commonwealth assisted community based projects: the Save the Bush Program, the One Billion Trees Program, the National Soil Conservation Program and the Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Strategy Program.

BDAC Members

Dr Don McMichael

Recognised nationally and internationally for his scientific and environmental expertise (and a member of UNEP's "Global 500"), Dr McMichael has been appointed to chair the Committee. Trained as a museum biologist, his previous positions have included Director of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Secretary of the former Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs and Environment, Chair of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and inaugural Director of the National Museum of Australia.

Prof Andy Beattie

With expertise in ecological genetics, Professor Beattie is pioneering new techniques to identify novel bioresources. One example is a project to isolate the antibiotic, metapleurin, from certain Australian ant species. This antibiotic could be used against the fungus *Candida albicans* and the bacterium *Staphylococcus aureus*. He is currently Head of the School of Biological Sciences and Director of the Research Unit for Biodiversity and Bioresources at Macquarie University.

Dr Hal Cogger

As a leading authority in Australian reptiles and amphibians, Dr Cogger's research interests include the link between the biological diversity values, classification, and conservation of arid reptiles and amphibians. He is involved in preparing a National Reptile Action Plan under the Endangered Species Program and is currently Deputy Director of the Australian Museum.

Dr Paul Gullan

Representing the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC), Dr Gullan brings a

range of scientific and policy expertise to the Committee. His research interests include ecological surveys and biological databases, while his policy expertise has been applied to the management of rare or threatened native plants and to vegetation clearance controls. He is currently a manager in the Flora and Fauna Division in the Victorian Department of Conservation and Environment.

Mr Michael Kennedy

Actively involved for many years in the conservation of threatened species, Mr Kennedy was a key player in initiating the National Endangered Species Program. He is a regional member of the World Conservation Union's Species Survival Commission, and an adviser on the Australian Government delegation to the UNEP negotiating sessions for the proposed Biodiversity Convention. He works for the WWF as a Senior Policy Advisor, and coordinates the National Threatened Species Network.

Prof Jamie Kirkpatrick

Professor Kirkpatrick is a leading authority on the evolution, distribution, classification, and description of plants and their communities. His wide-ranging research interests include the conservation of rare and threatened plant species, natural resource policy, and the management of wild areas. He is Head of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Tasmania.

Mr Richard Ledger

With a long background in conservation issues and arid land management, Mr Ledger also has expertise in liaison with Aboriginal communities, the formulation of guidelines for management of remnant vegetation on linear reserves, and in assessing land degradation problems. He works for the Northern Territory Environment Centre.



Mr Nicholas Newland

Also representing ANZECC, Mr Newland has extensive experience in national parks, wildlife and land management issues. He is currently the Acting Director of Conservation Land Management and Deputy Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service within the Department of Environment and Planning in South Australia. Among his responsibilities is the administration of the State's Native Vegetation Management Program.

Mr Don Pfitzner

As the National Farmers Federation representative, Mr Pfitzner brings a wealth of agricultural knowledge with him to the Committee. He is a farmer and grazier involved in cereal growing, sheep and wool production. He is Chairman of the Primary Industry Landcare Committee, and is on the State Executive of Landcare, SA.

Dr Margaret Roper

As a soil microbiologist, Dr Roper has expertise in the impact of soil microorganisms on soil fertility, biological nitrogen fixation, and biological control of bacteria. Her experience relates to agricultural practices, and marine and estuarine systems. She works in the CSIRO Division of Plant Industry, and is a member of the Commonwealth Government's Genetic Manipulation Advisory Committee and the Australian Society for Microbiology.

Ms Diane Tarte

Ms Tarte is involved in a variety of marine and coastal conservation issues, particularly the management of the Great Barrier Reef and Australian mangroves. Her research interests include the ecology and management of tidal wetlands and coral reefs. She is the Executive Officer for the Australian Littoral Society and is an executive member of the Queensland Conservation Council.

WHAT IS BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ?

Biological diversity is the variety of all life forms: the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems they form. It is not a fixed entity, but a constantly changing pool that is increased by new genetic variation and reduced by extinction and habitat degradation. The concept emphasises the interrelatedness of the biological world.

Biological diversity is often considered at three levels: genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity.

- Genetic diversity is the total genetic information contained in the genes of individual plants, animals and micro-organisms that inhabit the earth. Genetic diversity occurs within and between populations of species.
- Species diversity is the variety of living organisms on the earth.

- Ecosystem diversity relates to the variety of habitats, biotic communities, and ecological processes in the biosphere. It also refers to the diversity within ecosystems in terms of habitat differences and the variety of ecological processes.

The ecosystems in which we live also provide invaluable "services" such as clean water, soil formation, climate regulation and the breakdown of pollutants.

Genetic diversity provides the foundation for agricultural, forestry, and livestock breeding programs.

WHY IS BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IMPORTANT ?

There are two major reasons for conserving biological diversity; one moral and the other practical. The practical reason is that the quality of human life depends on biological diversity. From the world's species come our foods, and many of our medicines and industrial products. For example, drugs extracted from Queensland rainforest species are effective in the treatment of motion sickness and lymphoid leukemia. Given that only a small proportion of Australia's species have been investigated, the potential to discover many more useful products and drugs in the future is great.

Morally, all species and communities have an inherent right to exist. They form part of a world which is an interdependent whole, belonging to the future as well as to the present, and which no one species can claim as its own. Finally, the actions of any species, including humans, are or will be guided by ecological limits.

SIGNIFICANCE OF AUSTRALIA'S BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Australia's flora and fauna has many interesting and unique characteristics. The flora is dominated by eucalypts and acacias, two groups which have adapted to different habitats over 75% of Australia, and which range from shrubs to tall trees and from arid to tropical habitats. Australian marsupial fauna has evolved into a greatly diverse group of animals which fill an extraordinary range of niches which in other countries are filled by a range of animals such as horses, lions and wolves.

Of particular significance is the high percentage of Australian species which occur nowhere else in the world. Seven families of mammals, including that of the platypus and

that of the koala, four of birds, and twelve of flowering plants are endemic - far more endemic families than any other country. Further, 88% of our reptiles, 70% of our birds, and 94% of our frogs occur nowhere else.

The *Eucalyptus* genus consists of approximately 500 species, with all but 7 species being endemic, and most of the 835 Australian *Acacia* species occur nowhere else in the world. Indeed, eucalypts and acacias can be described as forming the basis of Australia's flora. They have diversified into almost every part of the continent, testament to the vast genetic diversity contained within these genera.

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BD TIDBITS

❑ Australia has 14 of the 16 species of wild soya bean in the world.

❑ The Aboriginal people of the Kimberleys, WA, know of a tree with bark which may be a more potent pain-killer than morphine.

❑ The sap of the Cider Gum, found on Tasmania's cold Central Plateau, could be used as a maple syrup substitute.

Eucalypts, for example, range in form from giant forest trees to mallee shrubs and can be found from the mountain snowline to the shoreline, in deserts, swamps and floodplains. The river red gum has a wider distribution than any other eucalypt. It can be found from south-east Australia to the north-west through the red centre, and is a species that contains within itself several populations, some of which differ markedly in their genetic makeup.

Australia's biota contains a number of taxonomic groups with very high species numbers. Australia has the planet's second highest number of reptile species (730), is fifth in flowering plants (24,000), and has the second largest ground orchid flora in the world. By way of comparison, the State of Victoria has around 280 species of ground orchid, while the North American continent has only 165 species and Europe 116 species. Australian deserts have a greater number of species of lizards per locality than does either the Kalahari or American deserts. With over 4,000 species, Australian ants are also diverse and abundant compared with elsewhere. Britain, for example, has only 50 species of ants, a number well exceeded by Black Mountain Nature Reserve (519 ha) in Canberra, which has at least that many genera.

The fauna of the coastal waters surrounding the Australian continent, when considered as a single zoogeographic entity, is among the most species-rich and diverse on earth. Broadly speaking, northern Australia is part of the tropical Indo-West

Pacific Faunal Region. It has an extremely high species diversity and the majority of these species are distributed widely in the tropical Indian and western Pacific Oceans. There is some Australian endemism however, and there are some differences between the faunas of the north western and north eastern coasts. In contrast, the marine fauna of temperate southern Australia is characterized by lower diversity and very high species endemism. Of the estimated 600 inshore fish species in this zone, about 85% are endemic.

Australia is also significant for examples of evolutionary links. These include the Queensland lungfish which has remained relatively unchanged for over 150 million years, and relict Gondwanan rainforest communities. These rainforests, located in north east Queensland, provide some of the world's most important ancestral links in the history of plant evolution. Nowhere else in the world is there such a concentration of primitive flowering plants. Of the 19 known families of primitive flowering plants, 12 are found in north east Australia and two of these are found nowhere else in the world.

Also of considerable evolutionary significance is Australia's southern marine platform, which is one of the largest in the world. It has also remained stable for at least the last 50 million years and is perhaps the only place in the world where continuous fossil sequences exist for such a long time period. It thus provides a unique glimpse of the direct ancestral lineages for many extant marine species found there today. Examples of ancient marine animals or "living fossils" which occur on the southern platform include *Neotrigonia*, a bivalve mollusc widespread 200 million years ago and now reduced to a single genus found only in Australian waters.

Australia's external territories also contain unusual and significant biota. The crabs of Christmas Island, for example, are a dominant component of the Island's fauna. The endemic red crab is the most abundant crab on the island, dominating the forest floor and influencing the development of the unique structural characteristics and species composition of the island vegetation.

For a number of once widespread species, Australian habitats offer them their best chance of survival. These species include the Green Turtle and the Loggerhead Turtle, now rare except in Australian waters. The Leatherly Turtle, regarded as the most endangered turtle species has a few nesting sites in Australia, but is heavily exploited in other parts of its range.



AUSTRALIA'S GENETIC INFORMATION GAP

CATEGORY	Known Species	Unknown Species (est.)
Fauna:		
Mammals	300	not many
Birds	850	not many
Reptiles	700	?
Amphibians	180	?
Fish	3,600	?
Insects	65,000	65,000
Other Invertebrates (worms, snails etc.)	65,000	65,000
Totals	135,650	130,000
Flora:		
Vascular Plants (incl ferns, flowering plants)	20,000	5,000
Bryophytes (mosses etc.)	2,000	1,000
Lichens	1,500	750
Algae (incl. seaweeds)	?	20,000
Fungi (toadstools, mushrooms)	?	20,000
Microfungi	?	250,000
Totals	23,500	296,750

Main Source: The Australian Biological Resources Study (1989)

Threats to our Biological Diversity

Despite the growing environmental awareness that has emerged in the past few decades, much of Australia's biological diversity faces continued threats to its existence, both due to the effects of past action, and ongoing activities.

Whilst human activity has been changing Australian ecosystems for approximately 60,000 years, the pace and extent of that change has significantly increased in the past 200 years. There are now few places in Australia that have not been affected, directly or indirectly, in the period since European settlement.

The numerous habitats that support our biological diversity have been rapidly converted to agricultural, forestry, fishing, urban and industrial uses. For example, low shrubland areas in Australia have declined from 4.8 per cent of the continent to 0.7 per cent, while the area covered by woodland has decreased from 7.1 per cent to 3.5 per cent. In the eastern temperate belt of Australia over 90 per cent of the native vegetation has been removed and replaced by introduced pastures and monoculture crops. This loss of habitat and the accompanying fragmentation of remaining habitat has resulted in a reduction in the biological diversity of Australia.

Fishing practices can alter entire habitats, especially through environmentally destructive techniques such as trawling or dredging. It is certainly evident that epibenthic fauna such as sponges and gorgonians have been markedly reduced in areas where trawl fishing has taken place.

The impacts of European settlements have endangered many species of plants and animals, and in some cases caused extinctions. Almost 500 vertebrate species and over 400 terrestrial and marine invertebrate species are classified as threatened in Australia. Further, twenty mammals, ten birds, and one species of lizard are known to have become extinct since European settlement. This extinction rate has been accompanied by a decline in the distribution and abundance of many other species. This has been greatest in the drier regions of the continent and

where European settlement first occurred. The rapidity of change in species abundances after settlement has been dramatic, with the time from settlement to decline being measured in decades. In many areas, the native fauna has not yet reached equilibrium with introduced species and post settlement habitat changes.

Species introduced to Australia have also had a major impact on the native biota. Australia has a large number of introduced mammals, birds and fish, an introduced toad, a few introduced invertebrates and many introduced plant species. Many of these, without predators or disease to control them, have rapidly increased in number and have had a devastating impact upon the environment. Recent studies have shown that European red foxes are implicated in the disappearance of remnant populations of endangered mammals and may be affecting ground-dwelling birds such as the mallee-fowl. One of the main reasons that yellow footed rock wallabies are rare in their former range in western New South Wales is that they may be forced out of rock shelters by feral goats.

Twenty one species of exotic fish are known to have established breeding populations in Australia. Lowland rivers have been invaded by a range of exotic species including carp, goldfish, redfin, trout and English perch.

The release of introduced substances or pollutants into the environment is both a potential and actual threat to biological diversity. Impacts range from hazardous changes to the atmosphere and climate through the release of greenhouse gases and ozone depleting substances, to localised but often severe impacts such as degradation of freshwater ecosystems or sea grass communities.

Nutrient pollution of Australia's freshwater ecosystems has become a major problem with the continued increase in the input of nutrients such as phosphates in the form of effluent and farm fertilizer runoff into lakes, dams, streams and rivers. The high levels of nutrients cause eutrophication and excessive growth of organisms such as algal blooms which lead to the depletion of respiring organisms such as fish.

Food for Thought

There is a global recognition of the role ethnobotany plays in efforts to conserve cultural and biological diversity. Increasingly, ethnobotany, which is the study of the traditional use of plants for nutritional, medicinal or cultural purposes, is being used to strengthen the link between traditional culture and biological diversity.

In Australia, Aboriginal people are concerned to prevent the loss of their traditional knowledge and culture and so are documenting ethnobotanical information for their own benefit. Other Australians have developed an interest in ethnobotany, out of an appreciation of Aboriginal culture, and because they realise the potential which exists in the relatively untapped floral resources for food and particularly for medicinal purposes. The Australian Army and others have also recognised the value of this type of knowledge for survival skills.

Ethnobotanical studies have identified hundreds of plant species which are able to be used for food and/or medicinal purposes. However, relatively few native Australian food species are being used by the wider Australian population. One of the best-known is the macadamia nut, probably more extensively cultivated in Hawaii than in Australia.

The nutritional value of many native or 'bush' foods is quite high, some having greater amounts of protein, fats, carbohydrates, minerals and vitamins than cultivated plant foods.

For example, nutritional analysis of some *Acacia* seeds has shown them to be superior to rice and wheat in energy, protein and fats. The seeds of pigweed are almost 20% protein and 16% fat, and also have very high levels of iron which is 20-30 times the recommended daily allowance (RDA) per 100g. The native fig has very high levels of calcium (4000mg/100g), as well as higher protein and fat content than expected for fruits.

The wild orange has high vitamin C levels (up to 89mg/100g - RDA being

about 30mg/100g), as well as good protein, fat and carbohydrate levels, while the wild Arnhem Land plum has spectacular amounts of vitamin C, more than 50 times the level of ascorbic acid found in exotic citrus fruit.

The Aboriginal people utilized an enormous variety of plants, or plant parts, as herbal medicines. Analysis of some plants used as medicines has revealed the presence of useful chemical substances and some have yielded possible new drugs for conventional medical use. This is currently an important field of research, and one pressing reason for preserving the diversity of native flora which remains.

Some examples of conventional medicinal use of native plants include *Duboisia myoporoides* and *D. leichhardtii*, the source of the drug Hyoscine which is used to treat eye conditions and motion-sickness. Australia provides half the world's supplies of this plant. The kangaroo apple, a shrub of rainforest edges in Australia and New Zealand, is grown in plantations in Russia for the production of steroids, derived from the alkaloid solasodine, found in its leaves.

Several native plant species have shown potential as sources or possible sources of anti-cancer drugs, including native pepper and scrub yellow-wood. The rainforest vine, *Tylophora crebriflora*, is the source of Tylocrebrine, an effective lymphoid leukaemia drug, and the seeds of the Moreton Bay chestnut or black bean contain the alkaloid castanospermine, which has shown an impressive ability to retard cancerous growth of cells.

A few traditional remedies have been adopted on a large scale, for example, *Eucalyptus* oil products for coughs, colds and muscular strains and ti-tree oil as an antiseptic.

There is obviously a great deal of food and pharmaceutical potential in native Australian plants and there is scope for development of such plants for use by the wider community.

Our "invisible" diversity

People have observed and studied many forms of plant and animal life for thousands of years. It is only in the last century that microbes have been discovered, studied and their importance realized. Microorganisms include bacteria, fungi, protozoa, algae and viruses. They are indispensable in the transformations of food, energy, chemicals and in the mineralization of nutrients, and all of these functions demonstrate the interrelatedness of all life forms in the world's ecosystems. Even though microorganisms are fundamental to the existence of higher life forms they are frequently overlooked in the debate on biological diversity and ignored in policy considerations.

It is estimated that there are hundreds of thousands of species of microbes in the world but only about 40,000 have been cultured or identified so far. Microbes make up about one-quarter of the total biomass on earth and occur in nearly all environments.

Significance of microorganisms

The role of microorganisms is fundamental to the proper functioning of ecological systems and to the very existence of plant and animal life. For example:

Nutrient transformations

Microorganisms are responsible for almost all of the nutrient and many of the mineral transformations in soils. For example, in the carbon cycle, microbes are responsible for organic matter decomposition and in particular the transformations of cellulose, hemicellulose, other polysaccharides, hydrocarbons and lignin decomposition. Microorganisms are responsible for all aspects of nitrogen transformations including nitrogen fixation (both symbiotic and asymbiotic), decomposition of animal and plant proteins and amino acids, transformation of nitrogen to forms for use by plants and other microorganisms and immobilization of nitrogen into various organic matter fractions.

Biological control

Microorganisms are extremely important in biological control mechanisms, e.g. the decline of sewage microorganisms in soils and in aquatic systems is attributed largely to the activities of naturally occurring predators and parasites. Many chemical pollutants such as oil and non-recalcitrant pesticides can be decomposed by components of soil and aquatic microbial communities. One area still being developed is the control of pests in agro-ecosystems. One example is the control of insects by *Bacillus thuringiensis*. Most groups of soil organisms, however, are insufficiently studied in Australia for their role in the dynamics of soils to be clearly

understood, far less for their populations to be manipulated to promote ecologically sustainable development.

Medicines

Antibiotics are the best known examples of medical benefits derived from microorganisms. New natural compounds are being discovered all the time and the potential contribution to medicine by microorganisms is not yet known. For example, in 1985, 512 new chemical structures of pharmacological interest were reported from lichens, fungi and bacteria. Microbial biotechnology promises further medical contributions.

Industrial

Microorganisms are also important in the production of extensive ranges of fine chemicals, agrochemicals, single-cell protein for animal feed stuffs, enzymes and biopolymers, and in the treatment of effluent and waste. Genetic engineering of microorganisms promises further advances in the production of new compounds and processes.

Although many functions of microorganisms in all environments have been identified and their value determined, our understanding of the role and significance of microbes is still very limited particularly if we consider that we have not even identified and cultured up to 90% of the world's microbes let alone studied their activities.

Causes of loss of microbial biodiversity

The extinction of species is often due to a multitude of causes related to the environment, e.g. habitat loss and fragmentation, global changes, and pollution. For example:

Habitat Loss

Two very significant causes of habitat loss in Australian soils are pH declines and salinization. Both these factors affect enormous areas across Australia and have the potential to modify microbial diversities.

a) pH change

Acidification has occurred at various degrees of severity over millions of hectares in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. Acidification tends to be greatest in light-textured soils of low initial organic matter content. There is little information on the effect of soil pH on microbial populations except on nitrogen-fixing populations. Nitrogen fixation by asymbiotic bacteria declines rapidly with decreases in pH but the presence of clay modifies this effect. Soil pH is a major determinant of the



numbers of naturally occurring *Rhizobium meliloti* in soils in central New South Wales.

b) Salinity - Salinization

Rising water tables resulting from irrigation and land clearing have led to vast areas of salinization in soils in Australia and yet we know almost nothing of their effect on microbial populations. Again nitrogen fixation has received some study. For example, declines in nitrogen-fixing activity by *Rhizobium spp.* with legumes have been observed. A similar response to salt was observed with nitrogen-fixing cyanobacteria.

Global changes

Studies on the effects of global changes on biological diversity are very new but some estimates of the impact of these changes can be made. For example, planktonic algae in the earth's oceans fix more than half of the world's carbon (10^{14} kg C annually). With the depletion of the ozone layer UV-B radiation is increasing. Experiments have shown that UV-B radiation affects the general metabolism, photosynthetic energy production, and nitrogen fixation and assimilation in many algal species. Nitrogen assimilation is one of the key processes for growth because it determines the rate of protein synthesis. A reduction in algal growth in the oceans would have a profound effect on higher organisms in the food chain.

Pollution

Terrestrial environments, in particular soils, and aquatic systems contain a wide diversity of microorganisms some of which are capable of reversing the effects of pollutants, e.g. by biological control of invading organisms or by decomposition of chemicals, particularly organics. The introduction of small amounts of pollutants, e.g. sewage, pesticides, oil or heavy metals, frequently can be contained by the natural microflora by the above mechanisms. However, where pollution is on a large scale or chronic, significant and massive changes to the natural population may occur. Where the particular habitat has spatial limits, changes to the natural microbial population may be permanent.

Sewage is a case in point since it is a major problem throughout the world. Because treatment cannot keep up with the increasing volume of sewage produced, frequently raw or partially treated sewage is discharged into the environment. When sewage containing large numbers of contaminant bacteria is introduced to a natural system, members of the natural community interact with the alien bacteria in a number of ways. Passive mechanisms include competition for limited nutrients or

antibiotic production. Following the input of sewage, sections of the natural microbial community, specifically predators and parasites, become antagonistic to the alien bacteria. These organisms range from bacterial viruses and bacteria to predacious protozoans. Besides contaminating environments with bacteria, sewage contains various contaminant organic molecules as well as large amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus. Much of this can be utilized and removed by members of the natural microflora.

However, in cases of large scale sewage pollution, the system may simply break down. The activities of microorganisms may become so intense that oxygen becomes limited and oxygen starvation can occur. Sometimes oxygen starvation causes long term effects on microbial function such as microbial respiration in soils. Also waste products of microbial activities may reach toxic levels. This can lead to a total breakdown of the natural microbial populations. Microorganisms that prefer an oxygen rich environment will be unable to survive and will disappear. These will include many organisms which are predatory or parasitic to sewage contaminant bacteria. Hence the capacity of the system to cleanse itself will be lost.

Strategies for conservation

Knowledge is the first step towards conservation. Increased research on microorganisms, especially on microbial processes, will provide a greater understanding of their potential as suppliers of alternative food and energy sources, their role in preserving or sustaining biological diversity in natural ecosystems, or controlling harmful effects of disease, food spoilage, pollution etc. The next step is to develop a system of bioindicators whereby the diversity of microbial communities can be assessed. *Escherichia coli* and faecal coliforms have been used as indicators of sewage contamination in soil and water for many years. Microalgae (diatoms) have also been used as indicators of wastewater impact, and in soils, enzyme activity has been used to monitor changes in microbial biomass/activities. In choosing bioindicators it is essential to consider genetic variation, sensitive species, featured species and special habitats.

Compiled from material provided by
Dr Margaret M Roper,
CSIRO Division of Plant Industry
Biological Diversity Advisory Committee Member

Peter Raven: *Saving Biodiversity in an Age of Extinction*



What I suggest that we need to do is to find a new way of thinking about biodiversity, one that celebrates the plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms of the world because of their beauty; because we depend on them individually as our primary source of sustainable productivity, and on the communities in which they function for the global stability that makes possible our continued existence; and simply because we have no right to destroy the organisms that share this world with us. What can we say about the dimensions of the problem of biological extinction?

....It seems likely that 20 to 25 per cent of the total species of plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms may vanish during the next 30 years or so, and that fully half of the total species may disappear before the close of the 21st century. To indicate the basis for these predictions, consider plants. In this relatively well-known group, approximately half of the world's species live in or near forested areas that will be reduced to less than a tenth of their current extent over the next 30 years. The species/area relationships predicted by the theory of island biogeography suggest that half of them will be at risk when the forests are decimated, and the extrapolations from these numbers into the future are frighteningly simple to make. Although the loss of perhaps a quarter of the world's plant and vertebrate species during our lifetimes is frightening enough, an even higher proportion of the total number of species may be lost, since much higher proportions of groups such as beetles and ants than of plants occur in the tropics. Now that we have the ability to move genes from one kind of unrelated organism to another, the loss of a single species implies not only the loss of that individual

evolutionary masterpiece, with whatever potential it possessed for human benefit; its role in an aggregate of organisms providing ecosystem services, including the protection of the atmosphere, soils, water and the like; but also the loss of tens of thousands of individual genes that might themselves be of human benefit.

....In a very real sense, the human race unwittingly has become the proprietor of a sort of gigantic, dispersed Noah's ark, with all of the responsibilities that this entails. When the global human population reaches stability, and our great-grandchildren can think again about repopulating and recreating fields and forests, the particular kinds of plants, animals, and microorganisms that are available to them will depend to a very great extent on what we all decide to do during the remainder of our lives.

"In a very real sense, the human race unwittingly has become the proprietor of a sort of gigantic, dispersed Noah's Ark, with all of the responsibilities that this entails."

All of the knowledge that is ever going to be available about the marvellously intricate patterns that have resulted from billions of years of evolution over large stretches of the world's ecosystems will be gained during the next few years and decades. The times are incredibly challenging, and our actions are of the deepest importance. Let us therefore resolve to meet this challenge, and to produce results that are really worthy of us.



Peter Raven is Director of the Missouri Botanical Gardens
Extracts from a paper presented to the Willi Hennig Society, August 1990

International Convention Progressing

Real progress was made at the meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention on Biological Diversity held in Madrid from 24 June-3 July 1991. Following the meeting, Dr Mostafa Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP, stated "I now believe there is a strong chance of a meaningful international agreement on biological diversity by June of next year."

The impetus for a convention began with a 1984 World Conservation Union General Assembly resolution, promoting the implementation of a number of principles to serve as a basis for a preliminary draft convention on the conservation of the world's wild genetic resources. A draft convention was submitted to the 1988 World Conservation Union General Assembly which agreed that the draft should be further developed.

The negotiation of a convention is currently being undertaken by UNEP. In 1987 the Governing Council of UNEP requested that a group of experts be set up to investigate the desirability and possible form of an umbrella convention to rationalise current activities in the field of biological diversity conservation. This group met in August 1988 and concluded that a global convention would be a powerful catalyst drawing together existing efforts and providing strategic direction to the whole world effort.

In November 1988, UNEP convened the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity in Geneva. This meeting agreed that existing conventions and other instruments did not adequately cover all aspects of the conservation of biological diversity and gave general support for the development of a new convention. Further sessions of this group held in Geneva in February

and July 1990 and the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts which met in Nairobi in November 1990 and February/March 1991, identified basic issues which should be covered by a convention, discussed biotechnology as it relates to the conservation of biological diversity, identified possible elements for inclusion in a convention and put in place the procedures and structures for negotiating a convention.

Actual negotiation of the articles of a convention commenced at the February/March 1991 meeting, which considered a draft text prepared by the UNEP secretariat. Negotiation on articles continued at the most recent meeting held in Madrid.

The scope of the draft convention is appropriately broad, dealing with biological diversity at all levels, in all environments, both within and beyond national jurisdictions. The basic provisions being dealt with are general obligations, implementation measures, surveys and inventories, in situ and ex situ conservation, sustainable use, research and training, education and public awareness, global lists, access to biological material, transfer of technology, financial needs and mechanisms, institutional measures and international cooperation. Major topics of discussion are the scope and nature of obligations under the convention, funding issues, access to biological material and technology transfer.

The aim of UNEP is to conclude the convention by the June 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil. Future sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee are scheduled to be held in September/October 1991, November/December 1991, February 1992 and May 1992.

In July 1989, the Prime Minister committed Australia to playing a leading role in the development of the convention. Australia will continue to promote the development of the convention and maintain a high profile in the negotiating process.

The impetus for global action comes from the present and future value of biological diversity to humanity, and the intrinsic and ethical value of the species themselves. I am neither a professional alarmist nor an apocalyptic visionary, but if Charles Darwin were alive today his work would most likely focus, not on the origins, but rather on the obituaries of species.

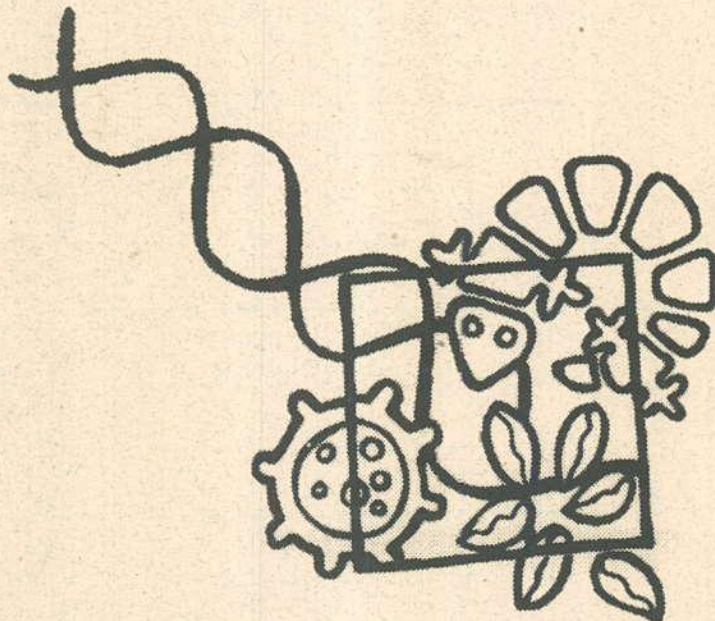
**Dr Mostafa
Tolba**

Tree

I am the tree
the lean hard hungry land
the crow and the eagle
sun and moon and sea
I am the sacred clay
which forms the base
the grasses vines and man
I am all things created
I am you and
you are nothing
but through me the tree
you are
and nothing that one living gateway
to be free
and you are nothing yet
for all creation
earth and God and man
is nothing
until they use
and become a total sum of something
together fuse to consciousness of all
and every sacred part aware
alive in true affinity.

By Kevin Gilbert

From *Inside Black Australia:*
an anthology of Aboriginal poetry,
Kevin Gilbert (ed.)



BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The Variety of Life



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA · THE SENATE

John R. Coulter

Senator for South Australia

~~Leader~~ of the Australian Democrats

Mr John Corkhill
NSW Environment Centre
39 George Street
THE ROCKS NSW 2000

11 October, 1993

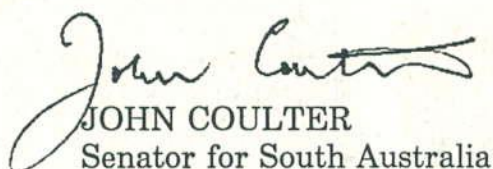
Dear John

Enclosed is the next edition of my Environment Report, together with a questionnaire.

In the course of the last 18 months names and phone numbers have changed for many on the database. If you would like to continue receiving environmental material would you please take a minute to fill in these details again so that we can update our records?

Would you also fill in the interest questionnaire? This will allow me to quickly send information to you which is specific to your interests and without over-loading you with irrelevant letters or faxes.

Yours sincerely


JOHN COULTER
Senator for South Australia

If organisation - Name of organisation.

Person to whom correspondence is sent.

Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr, Prof. Firstname or initial. Lastname.

Position in organisation.

Address.

State. Postcode.

Tel H. Tel W. Fax.

Interests (next page): Please number up to 10 areas of interest in order of priority.

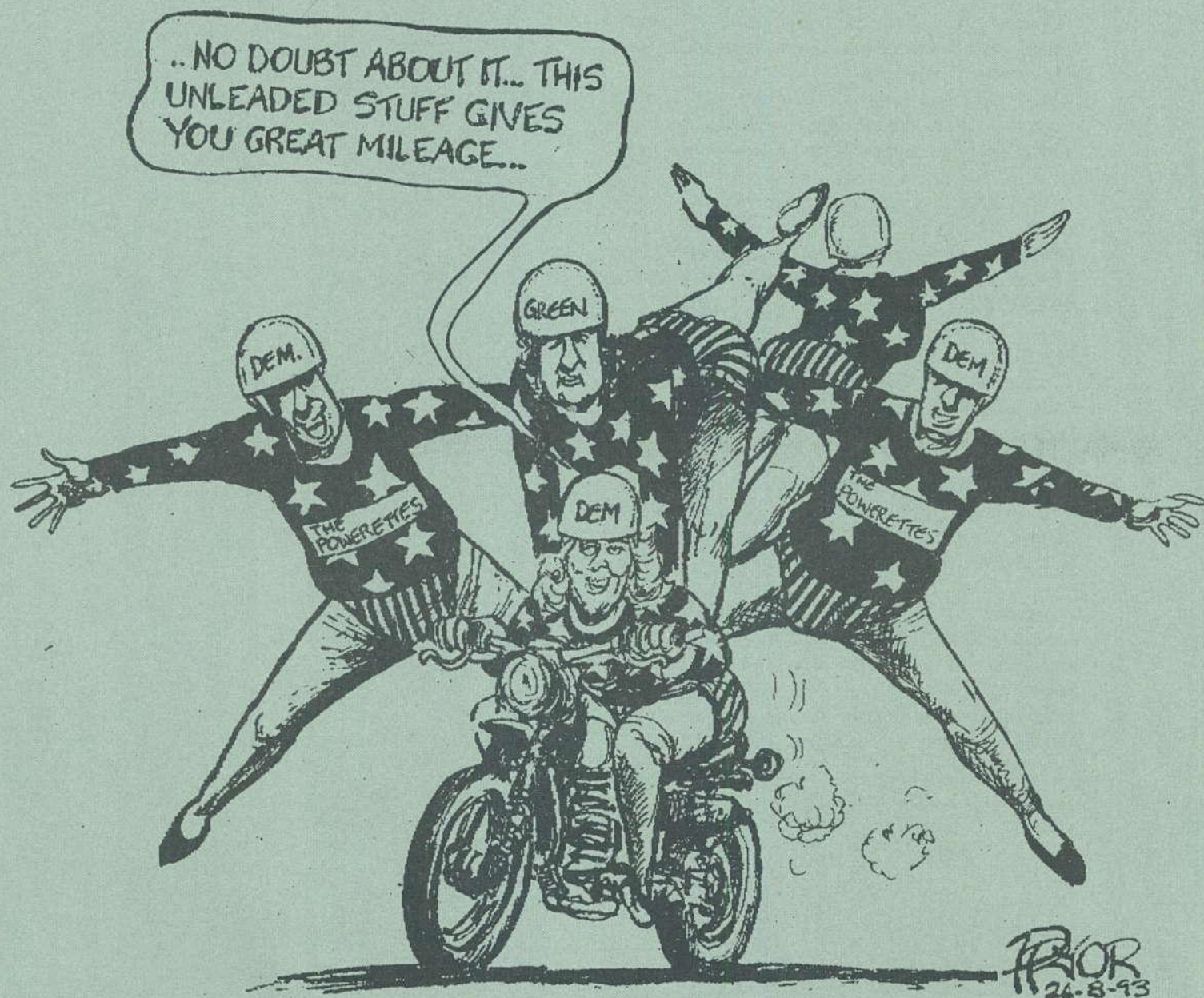
CANOPY

The National Environment Report
From the Office of Senator John Coulter
Australian Democrats



Free

October 1993



In this Edition: Fuelling Leaded Petrol Debate

The Starcke Truth

Gatt Attack and more...

Canopy

The National Environment Report

Canopy, the National Environment Report, focuses on environmental issues in Australia from a Democrat perspective.

Photocopying or publication in part or in whole is welcome. All comments on issues raised in this Report or other environmental issues are welcome.

Address all correspondence to:

The Editor, National Environment Report, 9 Druid Avenue, Stirling, SA 5152. Tel (08) 370 8055 Fax (08) 370 8050.

Produced by the Office of Senator John Coulter, Senator for South Australia and Spokesperson on Environment, Energy, Resources, Science and Technology, and Transport.

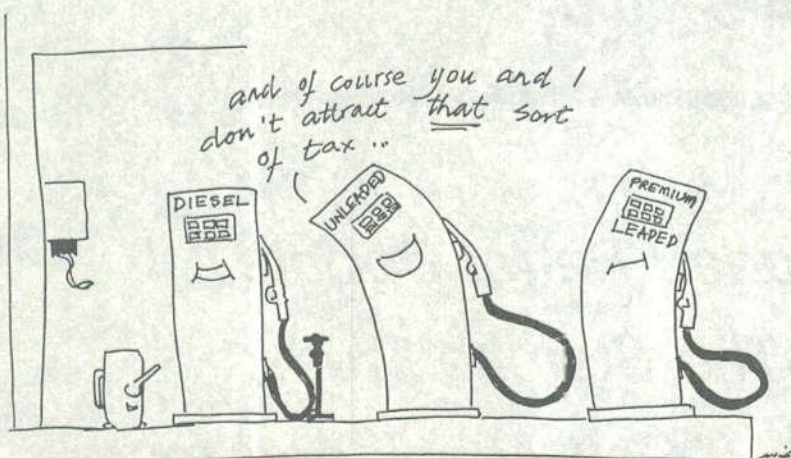
Editor: Imogen Zethoven. Subbing and Layout: Kym Winter-Dewhirst. Feature Writers: Simon Disney, Imogen Zethoven, Richard Bolt & Kym Winter-Dewhirst.

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Photographs courtesy of Senator John Coulter and The Australian newspaper.

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Editorial



This is the fourth edition of the National Environment Report and we hope that you find it the best issue yet.

As we go to press the Government's Budget is still hanging in the balance. The fuel excise may or may not get through the Senate, depending on how the various parties cast their vote on the floor of the Chamber.

The Democrats have developed a proposal to phase out lead in petrol in the near future, give a stimulus to renewable fuels, provide more funding for public transport and dramatically reduce lead pollution in the atmosphere.

The leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Cheryl Kernot, put this position to the Prime Minister and Treasurer as part of the negotiating process over the Budget. For a more detailed discussion of the issues, and the latest on the negotiations, see the article on leaded petrol over the page.

Also in this issue, the fate of our old growth forests and the failure of the Federal Government to enforce the National Forest Policy Statement.

The Statement includes what has become known as the 'moratorium' clause - an interim protection measure for old growth forests and wilderness areas until assessments have been carried out.

The states, particularly New South Wales, are violating this clause. It is up to the Federal Government to stop this logging.

We also take a look at a number of hot spots around the country: Starcke - the magnificent wilderness area in north Queensland, Shoalwater Bay, the latest news from Jervis Bay, and the World Heritage assessment of Lake Eyre in South Australia.

We investigate a number of key issues, including native title and the environment, trade and the environment, the case for a green republic (that is, constitutional change and the environment), and the Federal Government's greenhouse policy.

We also include a brief update on environmental legislation which has been debated in the Senate since the last federal election, and Federal Government developments on the nuclear front.

We hope that you find this issue interesting, informative and appealing in its format. Please ring or write to The Editor, c/- Senator John Coulter's Office if you have any comments. We'd love to hear from you.

Briefly...

Inquiry Push on National Security

Senator John Woodley wants a Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia's national security.

He intends introducing a Bill to establish a parliamentary Commission later this year.

He says that with the end of the Cold War it is time to reassess Australia's security requirements and potential threats in the region.

Senator Woodley said current defence policy is outdated and in need of a thorough overhaul.

"Australia faces many security challenges which are more serious than the unlikely military threats," he said.

"The new problems are environmental and economic in nature, but we have yet to develop adequate solutions to them."

Senator Woodley will seek support for his move from groups and individuals concerned with social justice, the environment and overseas aid.

For more information contact Senator Woodley on 07 221 2322, or Richard Bolt on 03 650 2771.

CSIRO Turmoil

A leaked Cabinet Submission recommending that the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) be incorporated into the CSIRO has come into the hands of Senator John Coulter.

Senator Coulter has publicly opposed the proposed merger on the grounds that it would perpetuate scientific research aimed at developing nuclear power and weaponry.

He said the CSIRO is also opposed to the merger on financial grounds. It would inherit an aging nuclear reactor and an institution with a poor but costly research record.

At the same time ANSTO wants to maintain its own status.

FUELLING LEADED PETROL DEBATE

by Imogen Zethoven

Just before the Budget was finalised, the Federal Environment Minister, Ros Kelly, recommended to the Treasurer that a price differential should be introduced between leaded and unleaded petrol, to get more people using unleaded.

The recommendation was hi-jacked by Treasury. The result - a 10 cent real increase in leaded petrol and a 5 cent real increase in unleaded petrol.

This caused howls of protest across the country. Even environment groups voiced concerns about the social impact of such a steep rise on those low income earners who drive cars requiring leaded petrol. Social justice groups were outraged.

The leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Cheryl Kernot, immediately convened a meeting with the President of ACOSS, Merle Mitchell, and the Executive Director of the Australian Conservation Foundation, Tricia Caswell, to discuss an appropriate response to the Government's announcement.

The meeting was very productive. It was agreed that the end of 1996 should be adopted as a phase out date for leaded petrol, that the Commonwealth should increase its spending on public transport particularly on the urban fringe, that the one cent increase on unleaded petrol planned to occur in February next year should be delayed til August next year in order to introduce a 2 cent price differential in favour of unleaded petrol as soon as possible, and that lead abatement programs be funded.

The Democrats costed a lead abatement strategy at \$20 million. The fuel excise will raise in its first year \$790 million. The Government did not allocate any expenditure in the Budget to lead abatement.

Just before a scheduled meeting between Senator Kernot and the Prime Minister and Treasurer, the anger felt by the Labor Caucus boiled over and a revolt ensued.

The Caucus demanded several changes, one of which was that the final 3 cent rise on leaded petrol due in February 1995 be abandoned. The Prime Minister agreed.

When Senator Kernot met with the Prime Minister and the Treasurer shortly afterwards, she put to them the points agreed at the ACOSS/ACF/Democrat meeting, plus additional proposals.

She also spoke about funding for alternative renewable fuels. A renewable fuel such as ethanol would eliminate the need for lead, as ethanol, like lead, is an octane enhancer.

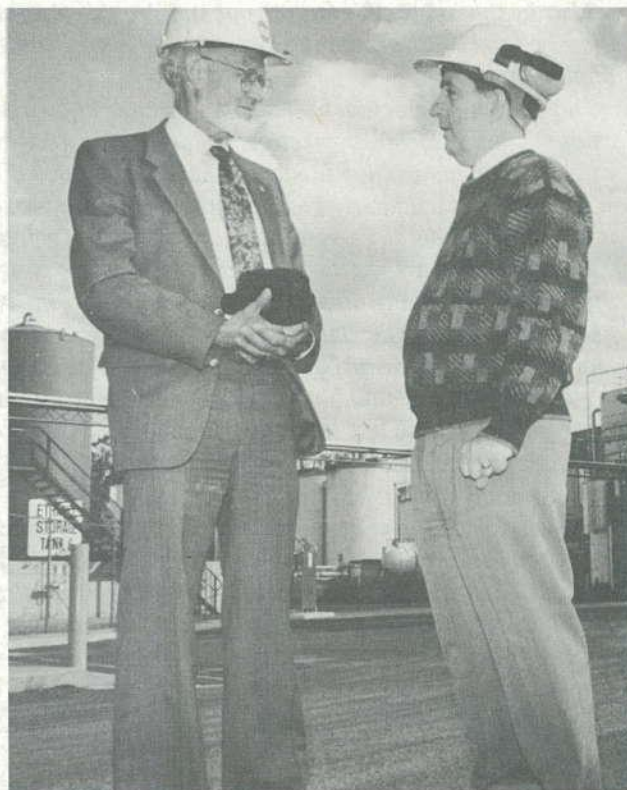
The beauty of ethanol is that it would also reduce

greenhouse gas emissions, photochemical smog and carcinogenic benzene emissions. The Government already supports renewable fuels to an extent, by giving them excise free status. But more could be done.

The final agreement between the Prime Minister and Senator Kernot has still not been determined as we go to print.

Keep scanning the newspapers for further news on this issue!

Senator John Coulter and Senator Robert Bell have a keen interest in renewable fuels. Senator Coulter recently visited an ethanol production plant at Nowra to see how it's done at first hand. The ethanol, produced by the Manildra Group, is produced from waste starch.



Senator Coulter inspects the Manildra Ethanol Plant in Nowra

The plant produces pure starch and gluten from wheat. The waste from those two processes is used to produce ethanol.

The ethanol is distributed to 23 petrol stations in New South Wales. The petrol is sold as a 10 per cent ethanol blend.

Senator Coulter recently asked the Minister for Science and Small Business, Senator Chris Schacht, who represents Mrs Kelly in the Senate, what the Government is doing to support the development of alternative renewable fuels.

The question sparked an interesting debate which was followed up later by a further comment from Senator Schacht supporting the development of ethanol production in Australia.

Senator Bell decided to take matters into his own hands and recently gave 200 litres of ethanol to a petrol station in Hobart.

The ethanol was supplied by CSR and the Queensland Sugar Growers Association. Motorists were able to drive away with a 10 per cent ethanol/petrol blend.

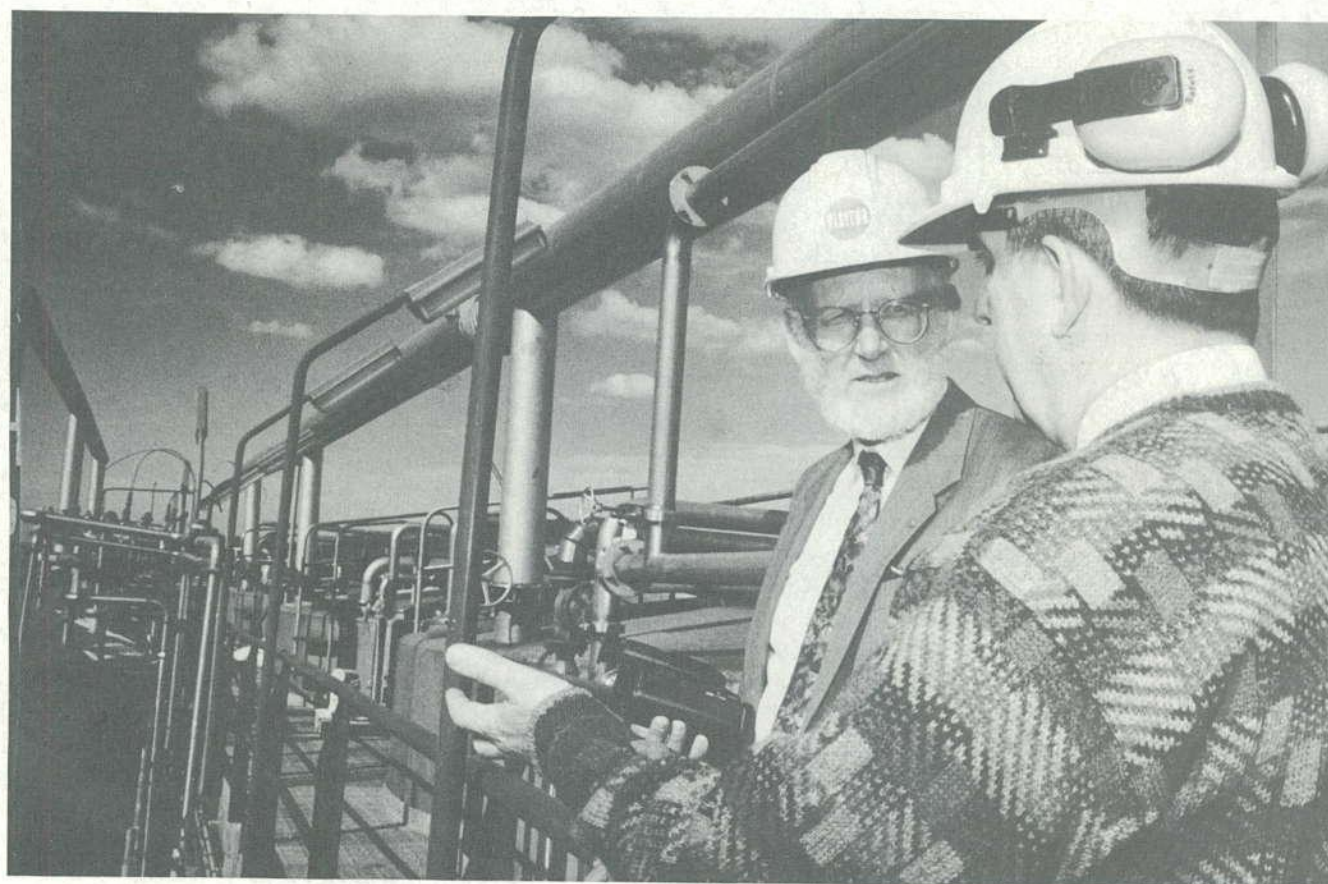
The Democrats believe that ultimately, one solution to the problem of urban air pollution is to expand public transport.

Public transport will make our cities livable again. There will inevitably be some need for cars in the future, but these must be run on renewable fuels.

We recognise that the policies we put to the Government consist of a mixture of medium term (renewable fuels) and long term (public transport) strategies.

The original Budget proposal

	Unleaded petrol
18 August 1993	3 cent rise
February 1994	1 cent rise
August 1994	1 cent rise
February 1995	nil rise
	Leaded petrol
18 August 1993	3 cent rise
February 1994	2 cent rise
August 1994	2 cent rise
February 1995	3 cent rise



Senator Coulter discussing the Manildra operations

Chipping Away at Forest Policy

The National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) was signed by the Federal Government and all States except Tasmania in December last year.

Although there were many problems with the policy, it did contain a number of initiatives which, if implemented, could save old growth forests from the axe this spring and summer. What are they?

First, the Governments agreed to set up a Working Group to develop criteria for the identification of old growth forests and wilderness.

Second, state forest agencies will - as a matter of HIGH priority - undertake assessments of forests for their old growth and wilderness values.

and by 1998 on private land.

Fifth, management plans will be developed to properly manage those areas.

In December last year the Prime Minister stated in his Environment Statement that he would commit \$2.95 million for the survey and protection of old growth forests and wilderness.

Logging in old growth forests continues in the South-East forests of NSW, WA and logging of National Estate forest in the Great Western Tiers in Tasmania is planned this summer.

It's worth remembering that the Resource Assessment Commission held that logging in old growth forests violates the precautionary principle and destroys an irreplaceable resource.

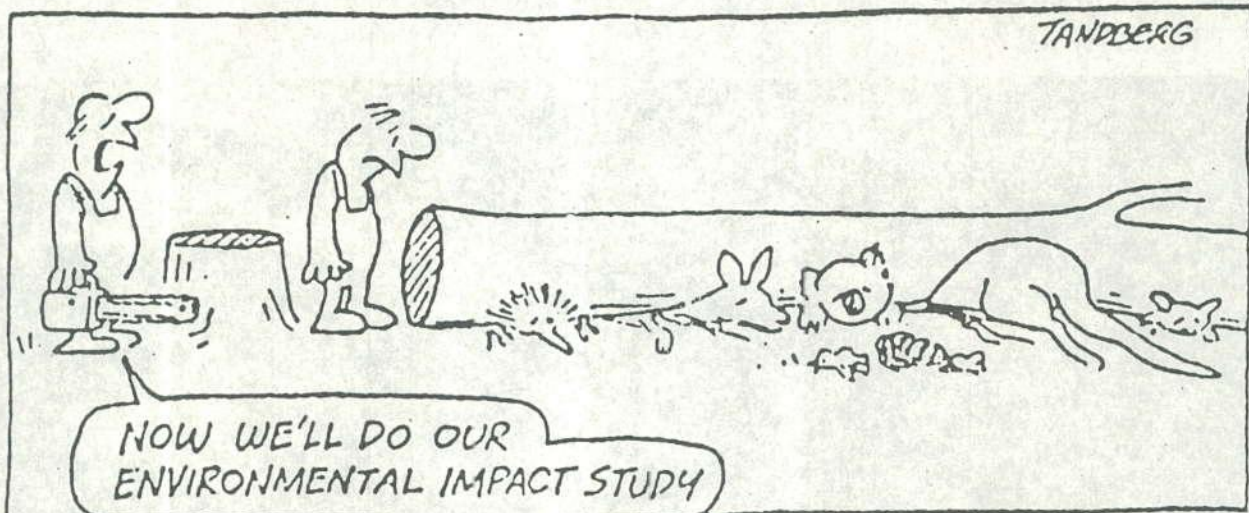
The Environment Minister wrote back in early September to inform us that Technical Working Groups had been established to "determine criteria" and "baseline environmental standards for forest use and management."

Draft criteria "should be finalised by the end of 1993 for the consideration of Governments".

Mrs Kelly conceded that she was "aware that logging in areas likely to have high conservation value does not accord with the undertakings of the NFPS".

Earlier this year Mrs Kelly had written to state forest ministers drawing their attention to the agreed conservation initiatives specified in the NFPS.

She attached an indicative list of areas of high conservation value.



Third - and this has become known as the "moratorium clause" - forest management agencies will AVOID ACTIVITIES THAT MAY SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT those areas of old growth forest or wilderness until the assessments are completed.

Fourth, a comprehensive and representative reservation system to protect old growth and wilderness forests will be in place by the end of 1995 on public land

In late August 1993, Senator Coulter's office wrote to the Federal Environment Minister, Ros Kelly, after allegations were raised of clearfelling and destruction in and around compartment 1402 in the South-East of NSW.

Senator Coulter requested a summary of progress as to any agreed criteria for old growth, as promised in the National Forest Policy.

The timing wasn't good.

A federal election was in the air, and the ALP candidates in those marginal seats where forestry was an issue reacted angrily to Mrs Kelly's legitimate attempt to enforce the Commonwealth's policy.

The result was that the Federal Government went quiet on the issue.

The NSW Government has thumbed its nose at the NFPS and advised that no new stop work

order will be issued and that logging had already commenced in compartment 1402.

The future of our remaining old growth forests is at this stage unclear.

A halt to old growth logging in 1995 should coincide nicely with a decision by the NFPS Implementation Sub-Committee Technical Working Group as to what exactly old growth forests look like; if there are any old growth forests left by 1995.

POSTSCRIPT

The Federal Government introduced the Forest Industries Research Levy Bill on the 7th September 1993 as "a key initiative".

The Government conceded at the second reading stage of the bill that all major recent reports on the forest industry, including the RAC Inquiry report, the National Plantations Advisory Committee and the ESD working group on forest use "have echoed the need for an enhanced, better coordinated and better focused research effort".

The bill, if passed, will establish the Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation on the 1st January 1994.

The corporation will not undertake any research although "organisations currently conducting forest industry research will be eligible to tender to carry out research on behalf of the corporation."

The National Association of Forest Industries will be "closely involved in the selection of a board of directors for the corporation" and "The chairperson of the corporation will also be required to report directly to the executive of NAFI on an annual basis."

Reactor Update

Last year the Federal Government set up a review to decide whether or not Australia needed a new nuclear reactor to replace the current reactor at Lucas Heights in Sydney.

The Research Reactor Review published its final report in August of this year.

It's conclusion: don't make a decision for another five years.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade argued to the Review that Australia needed a new reactor because it was in Australia's "national interest".

Senator Coulter recently asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Senator Gareth Evans, what he meant by the term "national interest", but an answer has not yet been forthcoming.

The Review recommended that the Government make a "YES" decision on a new nuclear reactor in five years time if five conditions are met, including:

- a high level nuclear waste site be identified and work started on approving its suitability;
- that there has been no practical initiation of a cyclotron (an alternative technology that avoids the production of nuclear waste) anywhere worldwide to produce technetium-99 (a radio isotope used in the diagnosis of cancer).

It is possible for the Government to argue in five years time that it has met the five conditions or make a decision about the reactor which does not comply with the recommendations.

Senator Coulter said the production of isotopes through cyclotron technology will mean that a new reactor is not justified.

Shoalwater Bay

Earlier this year the Federal Government established a Commission of Inquiry into the environmental, economic and defence values of Queensland's Shoalwater Bay.

A magnificent coastal wilderness area 50 kms north east of Rockhampton, Shoalwater Bay is rich in biodiversity, scenically very beautiful and a sanctuary for threatened wildlife.

The area was added to the National Estate in 1980 because of its high ecological values.

It contains extensive mangroves, inlets and estuaries, magnificent sand dunes, perched lakes and rainforest.

The Shoalwater Bay area represents less than 0.035% of Australia but contains 12% of reptiles, 13% of frogs, 27% of mammals and 33% of birds in Australia.

The CSIRO has called the area a "living inventory for bio-diversity" because it is essentially pristine.

Owned by the Department of Defence and managed by the army under a strict conservation regime, tourists are not allowed access.

A submission from the Federal Department of Environment, Sport and Territories (DEST) to the Inquiry said that "mining would have serious implications for many of the national estate and conservation values of the areas to be mined".

A submission from the Defence Department also supports the anti-mining position.

Senator Coulter visited the area in June 1991 and said he hopes the Commission will recommend against allowing sand mining in Shoalwater Bay.

Navy Blues Revisited

by Richard Bolt

One day in mid-1988, Democrat Senator Norm Sanders (my then employer) rang to ask: "How would you like to point at a place on the map and tell your children: I helped save it?"

The place on the map was Jervis Bay, the most gorgeous and ecologically rich bay on the New South Wales south coast.

Navy was threatening to build a large fleet base and armament wharf in it, which would have degraded the Bay at huge public expense. Norm's solution: join with environment groups to stop the relocation and have Jervis Bay and its catchments declared a National and Marine Park.

After six months, I produced a study showing that the fleet base move was a waste of money with no strategic purpose, and the armament depot plan would simply relocate the risk of an accidental explosion of naval ammunition from Sydney to motorists and town residents along the south coast.

This study was followed up with a report discrediting the Navy's environmental impact study of the relocation proposal, which was then being prepared.

This formed the basis of an award winning *Four*

Corners program ('Navy Blues') in which

Norm played a starring role.

In late 1989, we tasted success, the then Prime Minister Bob Hawke abandoned the fleet base move and said that alternative sites for the Newington armament depot would be re-evaluated.

Part of the south side of the Bay was declared Stage 1 of the Jervis Bay National Park.

But the real problems started there.

Defence Minister Senator Robert Ray kept the alternative sites review secret (despite a promise by Senator Richardson that public input would be allowed), and constantly delayed taking the armament depot relocation issue to Cabinet, hoping

that the Jervis Bay campaign would run out of steam.

Extension of the National Park has been stalled pending resolution of this issue.

It is now four years since the alternative sites review began, and we have finally reached the stage when a Cabinet decision is likely to be made.

Senator Ray now acknowledges that Jervis Bay is unlikely to get Cabinet support.

The sites under consideration, in order of Defence preference, are Jervis Bay, Pt Wilson (in Port Phillip Bay), Twofold Bay (near Eden) and Port Curtis (near Gladstone).

All have potential problems.

Pt Wilson is also the preferred site for a chemical storage facility now in Melbourne's western suburbs (remember the Coode Island facility which exploded into flames several years ago); Twofold Bay requires the armament depot to be located in the Ben Boyd National Park;

and Port Curtis is a long way from Navy's Sydney home.

Port Curtis may come into contention, however, because of a rumoured Keating-Brereton push to get the Navy out of Sydney and make way for more

appropriate development of

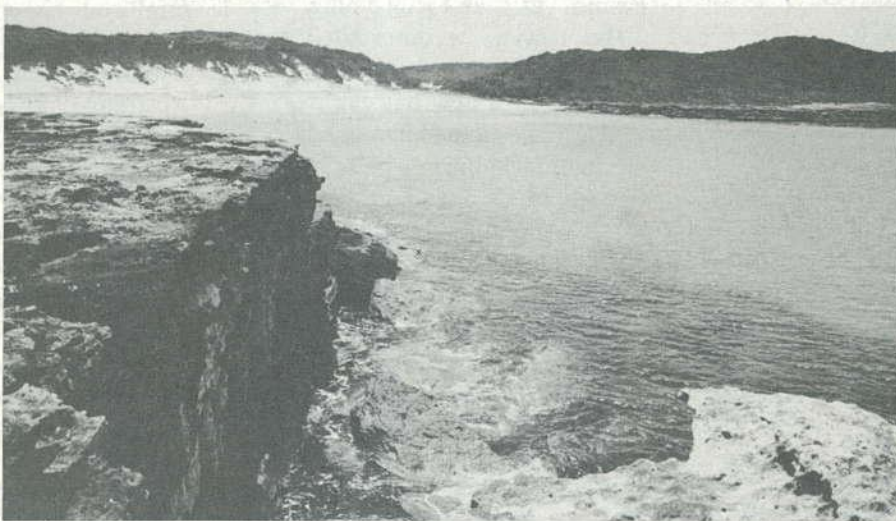
the prime harbourside land it now occupies.

The Democrats have said since 1989 that if the fleet base is to move, then Port Curtis offers clear strategic advantages.

It is far enough away from our potential enemies to be secure, but a good deal closer to the action than Sydney is.

Senator John Woodley, ex-Navy and ex-Gladstone resident, is interested in pursuing this option.

The Democrats are maintaining the call for a public inquiry into the plan, and will urge the Government to take into account the future relocation of other Sydney facilities.



Target Beach at Jervis Bay on the New South Wales South Coast

Woodley Wades into Murray-Darling Debate

The Democrats' newly elected Senator from Queensland, John Woodley, has become the Party's spokesperson on primary industries and rural Australia.

Senator Woodley took charge of the recent Murray-Darling Basin Bill which passed through the Senate on 7 September.

The Bill gives legislative force to the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement between the Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

The Queensland government has up until recently refused to be part of the Agreement.

But it has finally adopted a cooperative approach.

Given that approximately a quarter of the Basin lies in Queensland, including the headwaters of the Darling River, integrated management of the area would not be possible without Queensland coming to the party.

Senator Woodley said that the Agreement would help us move towards ecologically sustainable management of the Basin.

The Agreement includes a salinity and drainage strategy and sets up a system of water entitlements.

However, Senator Woodley said the Agreement was still very anthropocentric.

Instead of dealing with water entitlements for river users "we really need to look first at what is necessary for the Murray-Darling to regain its health and integrity.

Once that has been established, we can then look at what is left over for irrigation and other uses.

But we are still doing it the other way around.

Under the system established in this bill, the river still comes last."

Senator Woodley called for the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council to quickly develop an agreement on what is termed "guaranteed minimum environmental flow".

This means guaranteeing a minimum volume of water flows through the river each year to ensure its health and ecological vitality.

Senator Woodley also argued the case for more revegetation works along the Murray River.

He welcomed the Government's Corridor of Green program - to plant a corridor of trees along the Murray River - and urged that the Government fund the program for longer than the four years promised.



Senator Woodley and "Woody" visiting the Murray-Darling

Running out of Puff on Greenhouse

Over the last two years, the Federal Government's commitment to a strong international position on greenhouse has been considerably weakened.

It is not unreasonable to question whether mining and petroleum interests have had a major influence over Government policy.

The latest Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) meeting was held recently in Geneva to discuss a range of issues from implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change to ways and means of strengthening the Convention.

This was the eighth INC meeting.

During the early INC meetings, Australia developed a reputation for being a prominent advocate for a vigorous and timely response to the threat of climate change.

However, from the beginning of last year Australia ceased to play such a prominent role.

Whilst not actively opposing binding targets and timetables for emission reduction commitments, Australia is no longer seen to be actively PROMOTING them.

Australia's official position is support for the adoption of targets and timetables for the limitation of greenhouse gas emissions which take into account:

- available technologies and other individual circumstances; and
- the need for equitable and appropriate contributions by all countries to the global effort to meet the objective of the Convention.

It is interesting to compare this policy with the Communique signed at the Twenty-Fourth South Pacific Forum on 10-11 August this year.

Australia was a signatory to the Communique.

It states that:

The Forum reaffirmed that global warming and sea level rise are among the most serious threats to the Pacific region and the survival of some island states.

The Forum therefore reiterated its strong support for the Framework Convention on Climate Change and urged all states to sign and ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

... the Forum advocated the negotiation of binding protocols establishing emission reduction targets and timetables, the adoption of concrete measures to develop and utilise renewable and efficient energy technologies, economic instruments and afforestation/reforestation as effective means of addressing the problems of climate change.

Based on the policy signed at the South Pacific Forum, one would have expected Australia to argue for binding protocols at the recent INC in Geneva.

But it didn't.

Is there some inconsistency in the Government's approach?

Nauru, one of the signatories of the Communique, called for a review of emission reduction commitments at the latest INC.

This may lead to an amendment to the Convention to incorporate binding targets and timetables.

Its motion was supported by the US.

Australia spoke neither for or against the motion...

The Minister for Pacific Island Affairs, Gordon Bilney, wrote to the Heads of Government of the Pacific Island States after the latest INC negotiations reaffirming the Australian Government's commitment to the position outlined in the South Pacific Forum Communique.



- countries' common but differential responsibilities;
- differences in starting points and economic structures and resources bases;
- the need to maintain strong and sustainable growth;

News and Views

Energy Audit

Here at home the Government has been extremely slack in seeing that its own house is in order.

In May of this year, the Australian National Audit Office undertook an audit of the Energy Management Programs of the Primary Industry and Energy.

These programs were supposed to be part of the Department's response to the Interim Greenhouse Target - a stabilisation of greenhouse gases by the year 2000 based on 1988 levels, followed by a 20 per cent reduction by the year 2005.

The report was very damning of the Department's performance.

It said that the Department had not taken sufficient action to implement the package of energy saving measures despite the sense of urgent priority intended by the Government at the time.

It said that Australia had a poor record of energy saving and accused the Government of a loss of urgency in responding to the threat of climate change.

It said that the Department concentrated more on improving its public image than on effecting real change.

Both Senator John Coulter and Senator Robert Bell commented on the report when it was tabled in the Senate.

Senator Coulter said that energy efficiency is not only good from the point of view of greenhouse, but it is also makes sense from the point of view of saving money.

Only institutional intransigence is holding back change that would be good for both the economy and the environment.

N.B. In August Senator Coulter accused the Government of opposing moves by the Clinton Administration to introduce an energy tax. The Minister for Trade, Senator Peter Cook, admitted that the Government did make representations against a US proposal to impose an imports tax on the energy content of imports. Senator Cook said that the proposed tax would have been "particularly discriminatory against imports and for that reason we were concerned".

Nuke Signing

Australia is about to sign a nuclear science and technology agreement with Indonesia.

Indonesia plans to build 12 nuclear power reactors on Muria Peninsula near a dormant volcano on Central Java's northern seaboard.

Senator Coulter has asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Gareth Evans, to make public the details of the agreement.

The Minister refuses to do so. All he will say is that the agreement is:

to enhance existing and mutually beneficial scientific and technological cooperation in the peaceful nuclear field, including in such areas as nuclear medicine, radiation protection, nuclear-related safety information and applications of radioisotopes.

The agreement also includes a statement which foreshadows the future sale of uranium to Indonesia.

On 7 September, Senator Coulter asked Senator Evans if Australia no longer had an operating research reactor, would there by any part of any of the nuclear cooperation agreements already signed or currently being negotiated either in general or with Indonesia in particular which could not be met?

The Minister responded by saying: "Clearly, if we did no longer operate any research reactors, the scope for us to engage in nuclear science and technology cooperation with other countries would be significantly diminished."

School Visit

Democrats leader, Senator Cheryl Kernot, visited the West End State School on World Environment Day this year.

The School has developed an innovative environment code which has had some spectacular results.

Energy and water consumption have been significantly reduced.

Senator Kernot praised the School, saying politicians could learn a lot from the School's caring for the environment.

She said her Democrat colleagues had been pointing out to the Government the enormous waste of energy in the House on the Hill.

Lights are on all day in areas where the sun pours in through vast windows.

But still, the Government has not been able to fund the switch to turn the lights off.

The "Starcke" Truth

by Simon Disney

Senator John Coulter recently hosted a press conference and video presentation of the Starcke Wilderness area on the East Coast of Cape York Peninsula, North of Cooktown.

Elders from the Guugu-Yimidhirr and Guguu-Gambill-Mugu family groups, along with the Wilderness Society campaigners were in Canberra to lobby Federal Environment Minister Ros Kelly to halt the sale of the land assessed as being of high wilderness quality in a 1992 National Wilderness Inventory study.

They were also greeted by the leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Cheryl Kernot.

Traditional lands were at risk of being sold overseas after controversial Queensland developer, George Quaid, advertised the properties in the Wall Street Journal on February 26 1993.

Initial disbelief and ensuing public outcry saw a campaign to prevent the sale begin shortly afterwards.

Wilderness Society spokesperson, Michael Winer, stated that "nothing less than the lands return to its traditional owners would be fair in this year of Indigenous Peoples".

Elders, Goombra and Jimmy Jacko, weary after a whirlwind tour of the East Coast organised to draw public awareness to the sale of their traditional land, were visibly upset at news from the Queensland Labor Government during their stay in Canberra that Premier Goss had rejected claims by local aborigines that the land should be returned to them.

The Queensland Government

has agreed to consult the traditional owners of the Starcke region about the management of the proposed national park that Starcke would become under the government plan.

"The bottom line will be that it will be a national park for Queensland and all Queenslanders and that people will enjoy equal access," Premier Goss said.



Elder Jimmy Jacko has said "When we get Starcke back, we can look after Starcke with great care and responsibility. We will have control over everything that's in it.

"We will have traditional law and white man law together, if white man law is broken, we will still have traditional law.

"And so our young children will enjoy and will be learning our traditional law and custom.

"This is very important for our future, all Australians are welcome at Starcke" Mr Jacko emphasised.

The delegation expressed concern that the Queensland Government may permit a State

run "Uluru" style resort in the region against their wishes and that the National Park classification did not adequately protect the region.

The coastline all the way from Cape Flattery to Cape Melville is free of major disturbance or permanent structures and the patches of rainforest that occur throughout Starcke are remnants of the World Heritage rainforests of the wet tropics.

The 120 kms of coastline between Cape Flattery and Cape Melville have been described as one of the most varied on Cape York, including three large mangrove areas, fringing coral reefs, melaleuca forest, freshwater wetlands, tidal floodplains, sand dunes and headlands.

According to the advertisement placed by George Quaid, the "Freehold 60,000 acres would suit a frontier tourist development based on hunting, fishing, adventure tours and a possible world standard game park with ample space and buffer zones provided by 400,000 acres of forty year renewable government leases."

The Starcke Wilderness comprises almost ten per cent or 200,000 hectares of the East Coast of Cape York Peninsula.

The land is currently controlled by George Quaid Holdings and was converted to freehold for a mere \$30,000 in the dying days of the Bjelke-Petersen Government.

Quaid set an asking price of \$26 million.

In mid-September the Goss Government decided to appoint a Queen's Counsel to investigate the land deal between the Bjelke-Petersen Government and Quaid.

He told Parliament that the

review would include the validity of the freehold tenure and leases, and the compliance by Mr Quaid with lease conditions.

Senator Kernot moved a notice of motion on the 19 August expressing disgust that the Starcke land was advertised with a suggested use that it was suitable as a game park and called on the Federal Government to prevent Mr Quaid from selling Australia's crown jewels to foreign owners.

Senator Kernot concluded the motion by supporting calls for the land to be handed back to its rightful owners, the Aboriginal people of the area.

Senator Kernot followed up her motion with a question in Parliament on 2 September relating to the Foreign Investment Review Board and the use of its powers to block the sale.

After initially being unable to give an answer, the Government responded later in the day by stating that "the Foreign Investment Review Board would almost certainly be interested in and required to give approval to any proposed acquisition by foreign interests of land on Cape York Peninsula".

ALP Senator Bob McMullan said "The Minister for the Environment told me she has written to the Treasurer requesting that any application for the sale of property to foreign interests be referred to her for full investigation."

To Aboriginal people, the land and the people are indivisible.

The Australian Democrats recognise that the Aboriginal people have never surrendered this country to the original British colonisers or their successors and that the spiritual attachment of the Aboriginal people extends back in time over 40,000 years.

The Australian Democrats call on the Queensland Government, with support from the

Commonwealth, to take the opportunity to give meaning to the process of Aboriginal reconciliation in this Year of Indigenous People and return the Starcke Wilderness to the people who know best how to manage this precious region.

Donations to the Starcke Restoration Fund can be sent to: Bottoms English Solicitors, Trust Account No: 001381, Commonwealth bank, Branch No: 4804, Grafton St, Cairns, QLD 4870.

Green Workshop

In June of this year Senator Robert Bell attended a national Work and Environment Workshop on envisioning and redefining work within a framework of ecological sustainability.

The Workshop emanated from the Office of Christabel Chamarette (Greens WA).

A working group was established, including representatives from many environmental groups across the country, the Greens, and the Democrats, to organise the workshop.

The workshop looked at ways of merging environmental and social justice concerns.

The two guest speakers - Sue Jackson from the Brotherhood of St Lawrence, and Ian Lowe representing the Queensland Conservation Council - spoke of the need to reconcile environment with the fight for social justice.

The workshop filled a very successful weekend which helped to establish and strengthen links between groups that are often seen by the media to be in conflict with each other.

The participants agreed to

further develop networks at a state level. A major national conference is planned for March or April next year.

Uranium Change

In early September two related bills were passed in the Senate which imposed a charge on uranium producers.

The charge is to be levied on ERA which operates the Ranger uranium mine in the Northern Territory and Western Mining Corporation which operates the Olympic Dam mine at Roxby Downs in South Australia.

The Coalition supported the bills so the Democrats were not in a balance of power situation.

However, a decision on principle had to be made as to whether the Democrats would support or oppose the bills.

The charge imposed on industry (\$340,000 pa per company) is to pay for the services provided by the Australian Safeguards Office.

The ASO is responsible for domestic and international nuclear safeguards and physical protection programs.

The industry charge will meet ASO costs for the physical protection and safeguarding of Australian uranium, both here and overseas.

The Minister for Resources, Michael Lee, said in his speech to the bills in the House of Representatives that "those who pay should have a genuine opportunity to examine and be consulted on the necessity, quality and cost of the activities they are paying for".

Senator Coulter replied by affirming Democrat opposition to uranium mining and spoke about the inadequacies of the international safeguards regime.

Mabo - Saving future Generations

by Kym Winter-Dewhirst

When the High Court ruled in June 1992 that under certain circumstances native title has existed prior to and since European settlement it opened the door to one of the most fundamental debates on the nature of ownership and the relationship all Australians have with the land. Democrat Environment Spokesman, Senator John Coulter says the "Mabo Debate" has the potential to become more than a tool for reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people; he believes it could become an environmental safeguard for future generations.

Senator John Coulter is highly critical of the attitude of Australia's mining industry, which he says is based on the false claim that mineral exploitation is a source of wealth to the nation.

He says that Australia's mineral resources are essentially non-renewable, yet are being mined at a rate which is not sustainable and points to the controversy surrounding Mabo as a possible solution.

Speaking at a Democrat meeting in Perth recently Senator Coulter labelled the mining lobby as "deceptive" which he said argues its case in a "misleading way".

"Most minerals are non-renewable, hence a mineral deposit is like a deposit in a bank. It can only be exploited once," he said.

He argues that a proper accounting of the real value of mining to Australia would show a shift of wealth from the capital account (that is the value of minerals stored in the ground) to the cash flow account of the nation (the value in cash terms that minerals have once mined).

If this was done he said the national accounts would show no increase in wealth because the mineral can only be mined once and as he argues "Who ever heard of developing a bank account by taking money out of it?".

He said that one way of ensuring that some money remains in the bank account for future generations is not to spend it all now, but to "lock some away in reserves which might involve areas of Aboriginal ownership."

Senator Coulter believes that Aboriginals have a special relationship with the land, one which is spiritually based and non-exploitative, yet he feels that in the past that special relationship has been ignored by White Australians and sees the Mabo Debate as opening the door for a second chance at embracing aspects of Aboriginal culture.

"Objections to Mabo are of two sorts", he said "philosophical and practical. I believe most of the heat presently being generated comes from philosophical objection. Some is frankly racist."

He points to the attitudes of many Australians,

labelling them "culturists" a new phrase he has coined which he said allows a person to take the view that a certain set of cultural values, in this case European, are superior or the only set of values.

"Those who see no value in traditional or indigenous attitudes and relationships to land are not necessarily saying that whites are superior to Aborigines," he said, "but they are saying that the Aborigine must adopt white values and operate in a white milieu to prove equality."

Senator Coulter said the resolution of the philosophical and cultural clash involved in Mabo is difficult, but at the same time he believes it will be the most rewarding for it lies at the heart of reconciliation and it provides a pointer to one of the essential elements in the transition to sustainability.

"I don't think even the Government has begun to see Mabo in these terms," he said.

"Legal resolution will also involve recognition of the legitimacy of Aboriginal attitudes to the 'ownership' and use of land and nature."

He attacked the mining industry for its objections to Mabo, labelling them 'culturist', based as they are on the belief that minerals are there to be exploited and turned into cash as quickly as possible.

He said that if Coronation Hill is not mined of its platinum today "it won't go away..the chances are it will be even more valuable in future when other sources are exhausted."

"It is salutary to reflect that after 40,000 years of Aboriginal occupation most mineral deposits in Australia were largely intact.

"After only 200 years the mining industry gets very upset because some potential resources are set aside in national parks and Aboriginal reserves."

According to Senator Coulter there are real questions to be asked of the mining sector in relation to the sustainability of the industry if we must go into these remaining areas after such a short term occupation of this land.

Criticism is levelled at the Government too which he claims has taken a hard line economic rationalist approach in the past 10 years to everything from

resource development and education to nature conservation.

"A Government that increasingly is turning its back on the hard won recommendations of the Committees on Ecologically Sustainable Development is a Government that is unlikely to be able to solve the culture clash that must ultimately be resolved if Mabo is to be the turning point that it should be," he said.

"It must also be resolved if reconciliation is to mean anything."

It is a sentiment shared by more than just the Democrats.

In Melbourne on September 12 the Australian Greens, the Australian Conservation Foundation, Greenpeace and the Wilderness Society supported the Democrats in releasing a joint statement on Mabo and the environment.

Democrats Senator for Victoria Sid Spindler, said the High Court decision on Mabo offered an opportunity for a major step to be taken towards reconciliation between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginal Australians.

In releasing the joint statement, entitled "Sharing the Land, Healing the Land: Native Title and Reconciliation", Senator Sid Spindler said "The groups endorsing this statement believe that, in this International year of Indigenous Peoples, it is time to strengthen existing processes and develop new initiatives for recognising the rights of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders in order to enable reconciliation between them and non-Aboriginal Australians."

He said that identifying native title and handing back control of the land and marine areas is an integral part of the process of reconciliation.

"They are essential," he said "if Australia is to develop into a just, equitable and ecologically sustainable society in the next century."

Senator Spindler stressed that the groups supporting the statement have a "special concern" for Australia's environment.

"The groups support Aboriginal land ownership, occupation and management of those areas of special cultural and natural significance."

He pointed to the successful management of areas such as the Uluru and Kakadu National Parks as examples of good environmental management.

"These have been encouraging and constructive outcomes for the environment," he said.

The groups supporting the statement believe that such areas should be held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders communities under inalienable title "wherever possible".

They also stated that Aboriginal communities should be properly consulted and fully involved in

the identification, declaration and management of land for nature conservation.

It's a matter close to the heart of Senator Coulter who believes Australia will be all the poorer if it does not resolve Mabo effectively because it will have missed an opportunity to embrace an essential element of the culture of Aboriginal Australians.

He said that in the past 50,000 years of Aboriginal occupation of Australia a special relationship with the land, its animals and plants was developed, one which was the basis for their survival.

"We would all agree that until Mabo there had been no official recognition of this original relationship with the land," he said.

"The only rights over land were those conferred by European laws, the basis of which was ownership of the material of the land or anything on it or under it."

He criticised those in the wider community who continue to view land in this way when talking Mabo.



Murray Island in Torres Strait

He said non-Aboriginal Australia had to come to terms with the fact that Aboriginal culture simply did not support that concept of ownership.

"There is a spirituality that must be taken into account, a special relationship with the land that seems to be hard for non-Aboriginal Australians to accept," he said.

"Nevertheless it is a reality that cannot be ignored.

"That cultural characteristic, passed from generation to generation had protected both the people and the environment on which they depended, these beliefs abound among all indigenous peoples, but seem lost to non-Aboriginal Australians."

However Senator Coulter said Mabo offered all Australians a chance to rekindle that special relationship with the land.

"The land is our Mother, the earth is the womb from which all life including our own springs."

Gatt Attack

by Imogen Zethoven

Many governments around the world, including Australia, are hoping that later this year, on December the 15th, the negotiations for the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will be completed.

What exactly is the Uruguay Round and why does it have such profound implications for the protection of the environment?

The Democrats have been concerned to address these questions in the Parliament and in the community, this article examines some of the reasons for concern and explores some possible ways forward.

The GATT came into existence in 1947.

After the Second World War many countries came together to reconstruct and expand international trade; the outcome was a set of rules, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The rule book contains about 100 pages of regulations aimed at deregulating international trade.

About every ten years the rules of the GATT are revised in what is called a "Round" of negotiations. The current Round is the Uruguay Round and it began in 1986.

The current Round is debating a revised set of rules.

The text is known as the Draft Final Act and is about 1,000 pages long.

It contains a large number of agreements relating to agricultural trade, trade in intellectual property, trade in services and trade in investment related matters.

The GATT secretariat is based in Geneva and has a number of GATT dispute panels which aim to resolve disputes between countries over trade issues.

That's the background, what are the issues, why is it that environmentalists around the world are very concerned about where the GATT is heading?

In a nutshell, the Uruguay Round has failed to take into account the impact of trade liberalisation on the environment.

Governments of the world, including Australia, have simply ignored the need to integrate environment and development issues.

It is as if last year's Earth Summit had never happened.

The GATT negotiators have one agenda only and that is to get the international economy out of recession. The sustainable development agenda, the need to integrate environmental, economic and social concerns, has been abandoned.

Leading UK environmentalist, Jonathon Porritt, recently referred to GATT as THE looming threat to the environment.

For whatever is achieved at a national, regional, or international level to protect the environment, may be annulled by the rules of the new GATT.

Here are a few examples of the problems with the current Draft Final Act of the Uruguay Round:

- the Draft Final Act fails to recognise the concept of sustainable development. It does not acknowledge that the conservation of biological diversity and the maintenance of ecological integrity are fundamental conditions of international trade. The North American Free Trade Agreement at least refers to sustainable development in its preamble and recognises sustainable development as a legitimate and important trade objective;
 - the draft rules do not discriminate between sustainable process and production methods (PPMs) and unsustainable PPMs. For instance, a country importing tuna cannot discriminate between tuna caught using dolphin friendly methods and tuna caught using destructive methods such as drift netting. Another example - a country would not be permitted to ban the importation of rainforest timbers from Country X on the basis that that country harvested its rainforest timbers in an unsustainable manner;
 - the draft rules do not recognise the primacy of international environment agreements. These agreements (the Montreal Protocol, the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), etc.) could be challenged under the GATT dispute settlement system, and deemed invalid.
- In 1991 a GATT dispute panel made a decision which meant that the US could act to protect the environment only within US territory. The decision placed a large question mark over international efforts to protect and conserve the global commons;
- the draft rules appear not to recognise sovereign standards. Under Draft Final Act,

food standards set by an individual nation state which exceed standards set by the UN agency, known by the rather medieval sounding name of Codex Alimentarius, can be challenged by other countries as a technical barrier to trade. The Codex Alimentarius sets international food standards. Although Codex is a separate process from GATT, under a completed GATT, Codex standards would become internationally recognised.

The Codex committees are dominated by international bureaucrats and representatives of agribusiness. Codex standards allow high residues of pesticides such as alar and dieldrin. They even permit the use of DDT which has been banned in the United States for many years.

Under Codex "harmonised" standards, if Australia decided to ban the importation of food which contained levels of pesticides above the levels permitted by Codex, another country could challenge the Australian decision as a technical barrier to trade. Under the new GATT rules, they would win.

The Democrats have joined many other groups in Australia and overseas and called for "fair trade" rather than "free trade".

In relating to the GATT, we have made a number of specific demands:

- that where trade and environment objectives conflict, a compromise over trade rather than a compromise over environment, should steer the negotiating process;
- that countries should be able to discriminate between similar products on the basis of process and production methods. This would mean that the importation of a widget produced in a dirty polluting factory overseas would be prohibited, whilst a widget produced using clean production methods would be allowed into the country;
- the Draft Final Act should recognise the primacy of international environmental agreements; and
- the Draft Final Act should recognise the legitimacy of a country's environment and consumer standards.

Recently the European Court of Justice ruled that

Danish legislation to require the recycling of beverage containers was justifiable, even though this represented a barrier to imported products. This positive ruling represents a win for the Danish environment over a trading regime which would have discouraged recycling.

The Australian Democrats have mounted a campaign to raise public awareness about the GATT and to raise the issues within the Senate.

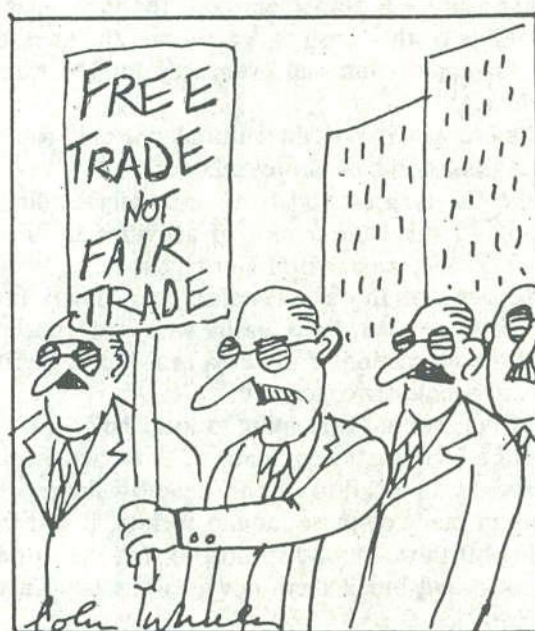
Senator Cheryl Kernot delivered a speech in Brisbane to the last Ecopolitics Conference this year calling for the above changes.

Senator John Coulter has put forward a motion in the Senate calling on the Government "to work actively to restructure the GATT so as to give priority to those measure which will move the world toward ecological sustainability and social justice".

Senator Coulter has called for the GATT to be renegotiated as the GAST - the General Agreement on Sustainable Trade.

Senator Sid Spindler has also proposed a motion in the Senate calling on the Government to safeguard Australian standards, publish details about the GATT and encourage public debate.

STOP PRESS: ACF, CAA and the Institute of Ethics and Public Policy at Monash University are organising a conference on trade and environment which will be held in Melbourne 22-24 October. Ph. Andrew Hewett at CAA on (03) 289 9444 - \$60 waged, \$30 unwaged.



Arguing World Heritage

The Lake Eyre Basin - a speech given by Senator John Coulter to the Senate on 20 May 1993

It was in 1984 when I, as President of the Conservation Council of South Australia, first proposed that the Lake Eyre basin be made a World Heritage area.

The Lake Eyre basin, with the ponds along the Cooper and Diamantina rivers, and also the mound springs, is analogous to the Galapagos Islands, the place where Darwin first conceived the notion of evolution.

The Galapagos Islands have been separated for some considerable time by water.

This is also the case in the Lake Eyre basin, where islands of water are separated by a sea of desert.

The exact same evolutionary process has occurred in both areas.

In the Lake Eyre basin some unique species are confined to a single mound spring.

For these very important biological reasons, the area demands World Heritage status.

The other characteristic which encourages us to set it aside as a World Heritage area is that it has very important links with both Aboriginal and white culture.

It was precisely because of the presence of those mound springs through that very arid desert region and the waterholes on the Cooper and the Diamantina that Aboriginal people were able, over countless centuries, to go through that area and use that area for their hunting and other purposes.

When European settlement occurred then again the availability of that fresh water allowed the area to be used for exploration and eventually for the pastoral activities.

So there are important cultural reasons also why that region should be protected.

There is a great deal of misunderstanding in relation to the continuance of activities in an area which has become a World Heritage area.

I suspect that those pastoralists and miners in the area of the Lake Eyre basin who are concerned about the protection of the area as a World Heritage area are needlessly concerned.

They believe that it is going to lock the area up and prevent a continuation of many of those activities.

Certainly, in relation to the unique wildlife which occurs in many of those mound springs, it will mean fencing off those mound springs so that the cattle do not go in and break them down as has happened in the past.

But that is already happening to some extent because the pastoralists themselves have recognised the importance of protecting those areas.

The best example of a World Heritage area which has continued to be used for a very important economic purpose is the Great Barrier Reef.

The Reef brings in somewhere between \$1 billion and \$1.6 billion each year.

The designation of the Great Barrier Reef as a World Heritage area has not stopped fishing, it has not stopped tourism, it has not stopped a whole lot of activities which are very important economic activities.

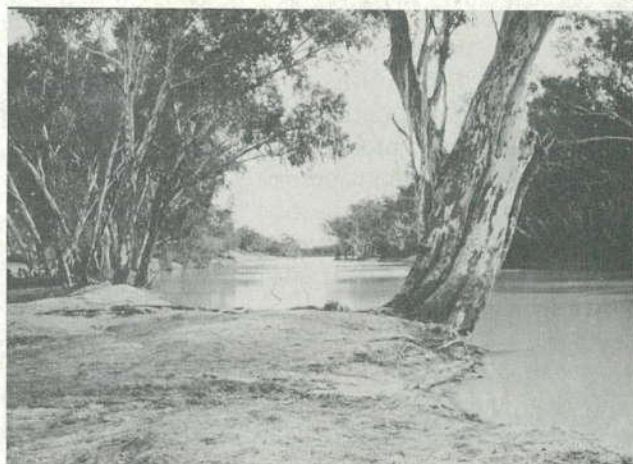
What it has done is ensure that the qualities for which the area is designated World Heritage are protected.

I think that many of the activities in the Lake Eyre Basin are quite consistent with heritage designation provided that they are carried on in a reasonable way.

I press very strongly for the protection of the Lake Eyre Basin by World Heritage listing for the reasons that I have outlined.

It has very significant qualities, not just for the people of Australia but for the people of the whole world.

I hope that the Government will properly consult the people in that area so that they feel as though they are part of it and will feel some commitment to protect the area as a suitable World Heritage property.



A waterhole on Coopers Creek SA near Lake Eyre

Constitutional Change and the Environment

Democrats leader, Senator Cheryl Kernot, has led the political debate in Australia for a "maximalist" approach to constitutional change.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister has endorsed the "minimalist" approach which calls for the barest minimum change to the Constitution to bring about an Australian republic by 2001.

Senator Kernot wants more substantial constitutional change.

For example, a revised Constitution must recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were the first and original occupants of Australia.

Senator Kernot has also called for the abolition of local and state governments and their replacement one tier of regional government.

Profound Impact

The abolition of state governments would have a profound impact on the management of Australia's environment.

When the Constitution was written, the environment wasn't recognised as an issue.

The Constitution does not invest the Commonwealth with any direct powers over the environment.

As a result, state and territory governments have taken primary responsibility for land, air and water management.

This has led to a very messy situation where environmental regulations, standards and procedures vary between each state and territory.

In a world where environmental issues are becoming increasingly transboundary it makes no sense to recognise artificial and anachronistic borders between the states.

Reconciling the Problem

The Federal Government recognised the problem in the late 1980s.

But instead of working towards nationally applicable standards and procedures legislated by a Federal Government, the Government developed the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment (the IGAE).

The IGAE was signed by the Commonwealth and all states and territories on 25 February last year.

It contains nine Schedules dealing with issues such as world heritage listing, climate change and biodiversity.

The Commonwealth and states agreed to consult each other and work together so that environmental

standards and procedures would be nationally consistent.

This sounds fine, but the reality is that the process for agreement is grindingly slow and the outcome usually lacks substance.

The Agreement gives free reign to the "lowest common denominator" principle.

The nomination of the Nullarbor for World Heritage listing is a case in point, with another good example CONTAINED IN THE "Chipping away at forest Policy" article page 6.

The Commonwealth and South Australia would be quite happy to proceed with the listing of this vast and magnificent area stretching between SA and WA.

But the West Australian Government is dragging the ball and chain.

In fact it is being totally resistant to the idea.

The IGAE requires that the Commonwealth "consult with the relevant State or States, and use its best endeavours to obtain their agreement, on nominations to the World Heritage List".

The IGAE does not include any procedures to direct the Commonwealth to act if a state refuses to cooperate.

The obvious inference is that the state has the upper hand.

The Need for Change

Interestingly, the Federal Environment Minister, Ros Kelly, was reported in *The Age* on 5 August as saying if the IGAE failed, the Constitution would need to be changed.

It is the Democrats view that the IGAE has failed and was clearly going to fail right from the very beginning.

The only way to secure a strong, national, swift response to environmental problems is to ensure that the Federal Government has the power to legislate to conserve and protect Australia's environment.

Last year we witnessed the frustrating spectacle of the Federal Government watering down its own endangered species legislation.

Now it only applies to Commonwealth land (0.2 per cent of the country!) and to Commonwealth agencies.

This is a ridiculous situation.

The legislation should apply to 100 per cent of the Australian continent.

With the promise of constitutional change, never before has the window of opportunity looked so bright for real change in the way the environment is managed in Australia.

Kirki Spill - Timely Warning

Australia's vast coastline is both an environmental treasure and an unsuspecting victim waiting for disaster to strike. With a growing amount of seaborne cargo moving to and from the mainland environmentalists fear a major oil spill or other environmental tragedy is not far away, unless proper preventative measures are taken.

Imagine the tremendous ecological damage that could result from a major oil spill in the Great Barrier Reef.

Or in the Ningaloo Marine Park off the West Australian coastline.

A major oil spill did occur off the coast of WA in July 1992, when the *Kirki* spilt 17,700 tonnes of crude oil.

Fortunately, the prevailing winds prevented the oil slick from moving towards the coast.

Prevention is the key to avoiding oil spills.

But as long as we remain dependent on an oil based economy, there is always the possibility of a tanker accident.

Australia needs to be thoroughly prepared for a major oil spill.

We also need to have a stringent compensation regime in place if an accident does happen.

In May the Senate debated a package of bills which give effect to the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage 1971 and subsequent protocols.

Senator Coulter argued the Convention was not tough enough.

He said the Convention does not make compensation available for damage to natural resources where these resources are not traded in the marketplace.

"It is unlikely that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples would be able to use the Convention to claim for loss of natural resources where the legal ownership of the natural resources is in doubt," he said.

"The compensation limits are too

restrictive with the amount available under the new legislation increasing to \$120 million.

"However we will have to wait at least five years for this amount to be raised to \$400 million."

Meanwhile the Bureau of Transport and Communications Economics estimates there is a fifty-fifty chance of a major oil spill from tankers in Australian waters in the next five years.

US legislation allows for compensation of up to \$1 billion per incident.

Senator Coulter moved that the bills be sent to a Senate Standing Committee to allow the public to comment on the legislation.

However, by sending it to a Committee, the Democrats have ensured that the Government has been fully alerted to the inadequacies of its legislation.

To →

Mr John Corkhill
NSW Environment Centre
39 George Street
THE ROCKS NSW 2000

Canopy

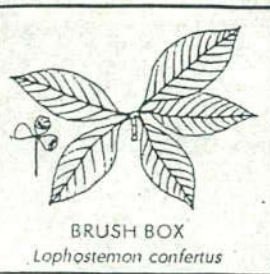
The National Environment Report
From the Office of Senator John Coulter
Australian Democrats Senator for South Australia
9 Druid Avenue, Stirling SA 5152

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N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre, Inc.
149 Keen St., Lismore. 2480.
Ph 066 21 3278 Fax 066 222676

Mrs Ros Kelly,
Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House, Canberra. 2600.

30 September 1993

< For Mrs Kelly's personal attention >

Dear Mrs Kelly,

RE: National Estate / World Heritage Nominations
and Public Participation

Please find accompanying this letter, a Report on a Proposal for Nomination for World Heritage Listing of "The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia" (CGEFA) prepared by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA).

NEFA formally proposes the area described on the maps and in the accompanying Report for nomination for World Heritage Listing. Since these areas also satisfy National Estate criteria, NEFA formally proposes these areas for entry onto the Register of the National Estate.

A set of 7 map sheets and 12 published reports are also provided to delineate the boundaries proposed, to document the natural, cultural and heritage values involved and to justify the nomination against the criteria of the World Heritage Convention and the Register of the National Estate. A list of these published reports is attached.

The CGEFA proposal for nomination supercedes the earlier 1987 World Heritage Listing of the 'Warm Temperate and Sub Tropical Rainforests of Australia' (WTaSTRA) and the recent 1992 renomination titled the 'Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia' (CERA) in that this proposal for nomination includes the properties contained in these earlier nominations and adds substantial areas of identified wilderness, unlogged forest, rainforest and the habitat of many rare and endangered species of both plants and animals.

This proposal has many advantages over earlier nominations in that it is more representative, complete and viable. A Summary of the proposal's justification against WH criteria is contained in the accompanying Report.

-2-

Many of the areas proposed here to be added in a further nomination have already been favourably assessed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service as meeting World Heritage criteria, while the North Washpool forests, long defended by north coast environmentalists, have been recently listed by AHC on the Register of the National Estate citing its exhibition of World Heritage values consistent with the adjoining WH Washpool National Park.

The recommended boundaries contained in NEFA's CGEFA proposal link with the forests proposed by the Queensland government in the 1992 renomination and incorporate all the areas suggested for inclusion by the IUCN's World Heritage Committee in its recent response to the 1992 CERA renomination.

The North East Forest Alliance is of the view that both the Commonwealth and NSW governments have substantial obligations for the identification, nomination and management of World Heritage areas and for ensuring the participation of the public and indigenous people in such processes. These obligations, detailed and discussed in the accompanying Report, are said to bind both governments. Regrettably neither government appears to have honoured these public agreements, their formal protocols or their public policy statements.

NEFA is adamant that Australia's operation of the World Heritage Convention must be conducted in accord with these commitments and meet international standards. The Commonwealth has a special role in ensuring that state governments do not compromise Australia's international conservation reputation, which has been exercised appropriately, (in the cases of the FNQ Wet Tropic Rainforests and the SW Tasmanian Forests & Wild Rivers) to overcome obstruction by hostile conservative state governments.

The New South Wales government failed to honour its commitments under the IGAE, the National Strategy on ESD and the National Forest Policy in the preparation of the 1992 CERA renomination, in that it imposed political and time constraints, and withheld necessary financial resources in the review of NSW properties potentially meeting the World Heritage criteria. The NSW government failed to provide any process of public participation in the 1992 World Heritage assessment or nomination, despite the explicit requirements of Schedule 8 of the IGAE.

NEFA believes these constraints prevented the formulation of a scientifically credible nomination, based on sound ecological assessments, because of ideological opposition to World Heritage recognition from within the NSW National Party and in order to orchestrate a 'minimalist' renomination.

These concerns have, over the last two years, been expressed to you personally, and to your staff by Alliance members John Corkill and Dailan Pugh.

This NSW political interference can be seen as the source of the disquiet expressed by the IUCN's WH Committee in its 1993 Report and the reason it asked for further work to be done on the CERA renomination, for the review of a suitable nomination name and for the consideration of including additional areas.

NEFA's proposal for a nomination of 'The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' therefore poses a special, very public test of government commitments and the Commonwealth's willingness to safeguard Australia's international scientific credibility.

That the areas of forest included within the proposed nomination boundaries are of 'high conservation value' is beyond doubt, given the abundance of supporting evidence available and attached. As such, these 'hcv' forests must be protected from damage and interference, consistent with the binding agreements of the NFPS. We acknowledge your efforts to date on this score, and thank you for them, however, we urge you to again pressure the NSW government to suspend all activities proposed for these forests, pending their independent evaluation against WH criteria, the completion of a NE NSW regional assessment and their inspection by international scientific referees.

We insist that if the NSW government again fails to agree to such action and effectively reneges on the IGAE, the NFPS and other national and international obligations, the Commonwealth must take swift, decisive action to intervene, ensure compliance and provide protection to these high conservation value forests.

The Alliance accepts that this proposal for nomination will require a technical review and the development of a detailed nomination statement which synthesises the voluminous evidence of compliance with WH criteria. Such a review could proceed in parallel with a NE NSW regional assessment under the NFPS, or with an AHC investigation of the National Estate values or could form a substantial component of such a regional assessment.

NEFA formally requests that you now 'open up' the review of the 1992 CERA renomination, to include consideration of this CGEFA proposal and to permit the public to comment on this proposal.

We request, subsequent to you 'opening up' the renomination review process to public participation, that you commission a NE NSW regional assessment and initiate appropriate processes, such as those described in the attached document 'The Way Forward', and provide the necessary resources to enable the conduct of such a technical review and the preparation of an authoritative nomination report.

NEFA undertakes in the meantime to promote the CGEFA Proposal for Nomination for World Heritage Listing, the World Heritage Convention, the IGAE, NFPS, NSESD and other public policy documents. We also promise to highlight government responsibilities under these agreements.

Just as was done in 1984 during the controversy over the initial WH Rainforest nomination, north coast environmentalists will also invite scientists and conservationists from the international community to make public comments in such a technical review and to monitor and report on Australia's performance on the World Heritage Convention and other international agreements.

NEFA is happy to provide any additional information that may be necessary to support any part of the proposed nomination and specifically offers to conduct field trips to the proposed areas to assist in any assessment of this CGEFA proposal.

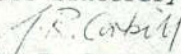
We request written confirmation of the receipt of this letter, the Report on the Proposal for Nomination, the 12 accompanying supporting publications and the set of 7 map sheets.

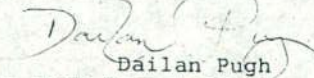
We also request advice, at your earliest opportunity, as to how:

- i) the World Heritage dimension of this proposal is to be considered by you and your Department, and
 - ii) the Australian Heritage Commission will assess the National Estate values of the area nominated and prepare a recommendation for entry of the Register of the National Estate.
- Further we seek your advice on how you will respond to the requests made above for:
- iii) moratoria over 'hcv' forests/wilderness as per the NFPS,
 - iv) Commonwealth intervention if the NSW Government refuses to honour its obligations,
 - v) 'opening up' to public participation of the renomination's review,
 - vi) commissioning a NE NSW regional assessment under NFPS, and
 - vii) the initiation and resourcing of appropriate, representative processes to conduct a public technical review of this proposal for WH and NE nomination and to prepare an authoritative reports on same.

Finally we wish to advise that copies of the Report and maps will be provided to the NSW government, ACIUCN, various other relevant government and non-government organisations and to federal ALP members for their information and appropriate action.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.
Yours sincerely


John R. Corkill
Co-ordinators for North East Forest Alliance


Dailan Pugh

LIST OF ENCLOSURES to NEFA Letter to Mrs Kelly 30/9/1993

7 x 1:125,000 scale Forestry project Map Sheets :
Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Walcha, Port
Macquarie, Barrington.

Report on Proposal for Nomination for World Heritage Listing of
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prepared by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA).

12 Published Reports supporting "The Central Great Escarpment
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- * Bindery (Mann) Wilderness Assessment Report, (1991) NSW
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Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation, (1990) NSW
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NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- * The Focal Peak Region, A Unique Part of Australia (1986)
Pugh, D and National Parks Association of NSW.



N.E.F.A.
NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre Inc.
149 Keen Street, Lismore. 2480.
Phone 066 213 278 Fax 066 222 676

7 October 1993

Mr Chris Hartcher,
NSW Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House, Sydney. 2000.

Dear Minister,

Re: World Heritage Nomination and Public Participation

Please find enclosed for your information a copy of our proposal for a World Heritage nomination, titled 'The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' and which has been submitted to the Commonwealth Government for review in the reconsideration of the 1990 renomination for World Heritage Listing, known as the Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia (CERA). Also enclosed is a copy of our letter, proposing this nomination, which was sent to Mrs Kelly recently.

Not enclosed are the 12 supporting publications, many of which are NPWS assessment reports on Wilderness nominations made under the NSW Wilderness Act 1987. A list of the supporting reports is attached to NEFA's letter to Mrs Kelly.

Also not enclosed are the seven (7) 1:125,000 map sheets which precisely map the proposals nominated boundaries. As these map sets take some time to reproduce NEFA has not been able to complete additional sets to date, but hopes to do so in the near future. A full set of these maps will be provided to you directly. A description of the areas nominated is contained in section 4 of the Report on the Proposal, as are two large scale maps.

This nomination has been sent to the Commonwealth Government for action because NEFA has no confidence that the NSW Government will honour the obligations it accepted when the InterGovernmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE) was signed. Schedule 8 of the IGAE explicitly requires public consultation in the development of an indicative list for World Heritage nomination and for the assessment of proposals for nomination.

That the NSW Government has reneged on these obligations is apparent from the secretive preparation of a 'minimalist' NSW component of the CERA renomination in 1992. NEFA has been told by the previous Director of NPWS that there were political controls imposed on areas considered, timing and funding for the preparation of the CERA renomination. No additional funds were provided to NSW NPWS, and the Cabinet Office's conditions excluded a competent biological assessment of relevant forest areas which might qualify for inclusion in the proposed renomination. Insufficient time was allowed to permit necessary field assessments or consultation with the public, including industry groups. Presumably these constraints were applied at the insistence of the Forestry Commission and National Party members who fundamentally oppose World Heritage listing and the obligations which flow from such international recognition.

This appalling state of affairs has prompted the North East Forest Alliance to 'go over the head' of a hostile and intransigent state government to the Commonwealth just as was done in the cases of Tasmania's south west forests & wild rivers and Queensland's Wet Tropic Rainforest. It is plain that the Commonwealth has significant powers to assess and nominate areas for World Heritage listing irrespective of the views of state political interests. As you will see from our letter to Mrs Kelly we will insist that the Commonwealth honour Australia's commitments to the World Heritage Convention and enforce the binding requirements made under the IGAE, the NSESD and the National Forest Policy Statement.

By providing a copy of the nomination proposal to you directly, NEFA is making one final attempt to have the NSW Government fully and effectively implement the requirements of the public commitments listed above.

Consequently we request an opportunity to discuss this proposal for nomination with you and NPWS officials at your earliest convenience. Further we seek your agreement to:

- a) negotiate & enforce a moratorium on forestry activities within this proposed nomination's boundaries, in line with the NFPS;
- b) constitute a regional assessment process for North East NSW to assess forest values and quantify sources of timber in forests, in line with the NFPS;
- c) co-operate with Mrs Kelly in initiating a formal public participation process to 'open up' the CERA WH renomination's reconsideration to include consideration of this CGEFA proposal, in line with the NS ESD, the IGAE and the NFPS.

Naturally NEFA will be happy to provide any additional information that you may seek, in support of the proposal and its boundaries. Finally, NEFA extends to you, your parliamentary colleagues and to your departmental staff the same offer made to Mrs Kelly; to conduct field trips to any area nominated in this proposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact either Dailan Pugh or me via the above contact numbers. We invite your response to the requests above at your earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

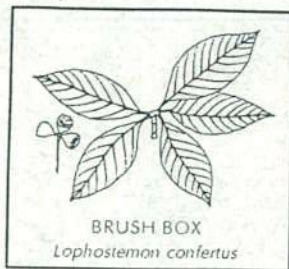


John R. Corkill
NEFA Co-ordinator.

Enclosed:

Letter to Mrs Ros Kelly, Minister for the Environment, from the North East Forest Alliance - 30 September 1993.

"Report on Proposal for Nomination for Listing on the World Heritage Register - 'The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' September 1993."



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre Inc.
149 Keen Street, Lismore. 2480.
Phone 066 213 278 Fax 066 222 676

15 October 1993

Mr Harry Woods, MHR,
Member for Page,
82 Prince Street, Grafton. 2460.

Dear Harry,

Re: World Heritage Nomination and Public Participation

Please find enclosed copies of:

- * NEFA's Report on a Proposal for World Heritage Nomination titled 'Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia';
- * correspondence to Federal Minister for the Environment, Mrs Kelly;
- * correspondence to NSW Minister for the Environment, Mr Chris Hartcher.

These documents embody NEFA's desire to see the World Heritage Convention properly applied in Australia, particularly in the north east of NSW, to encompass forests which would meet the WH criteria.

As you will see NEFA is very critical of the NSW governments approach to the consideration of areas for WH listing, and is equally critical of the federal government for its failure to remedy problems created by NSW.

It is our view that there are clear and binding obligations on both the NSW and Federal governments to require public participation in decisions which effect the environment (see pp 4-6 of NEFA's report) which have not been met.

The failure of the NSW government to meet these requirements have been advised to your federal colleague, the Minister for the Environment, Mrs Ros Kelly on several occasions. On each of those occasions NEFA has sought to have Mrs Kelly exercise her Constitutional powers to pull NSW into line and conduct nationally and internationally credible processes to evaluate areas for possible World Heritage nomination. To date Mrs Kelly has failed to accept her responsibilities on World Heritage.

Mrs Kelly's failure to act to enforce Commonwealth responsibilities stands in stark contrast to the actions of her predecessors who used the relevant powers to overturn the objections of state governments hostile to ecological based World Heritage listings for the South West Tasmania and the Wet Tropics in Queensland.

The actions of the NSW government in attempting to rort the intention of the WH convention, the IGAE, and NFPS have crossed the threshold to a situation where Commonwealth intervention in NSW on WH is now necessary.

You will see from the letters enclosed that we have made a further attempt to have Mrs Kelly accept her responsibilities and act appropriately.

A failure by the Minister for the Environment to exercise powers available to her, will be interpreted by the environment movement in NSW, and likely elsewhere in Australia, as an abandonment of the ALP's green credentials, and a 'throwback' to pre-1983 days. In other words, by sitting on her hands Mrs Kelly will erode the good work done in the last 10 years by Barry Cohen and Senator Richardson.

This letter is to inform you of this regrettable situation and to request your best endeavours to convince Mrs Kelly that she must now act to require NSW government's compliance with relevant environmental agreements and obligations.

We request that you seek an appointment with Mrs Kelly, at your earliest opportunity, and convey our concerns to her directly. We further request that, subsequent to such a meeting, you write to NEFA c/- Big Scrub EC and advise us of what the Minister's response was and what action she will now take.

Naturally, if Dailan or I can provide to you any additional information or clarification we would be happy to do so. We have written in similar terms to your colleague Mr Newell.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.
We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

John R. Corkill
Co-ordinator



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

NEWS RELEASE - 17 Oct. '93

WORLD HERITAGE PROPOSAL RELEASED

STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS CRITICISED FOR SECRET DEALS

A proposal for World Heritage listing which includes the majority of remaining forests of highest conservation value on the Great Escarpment in the north east of NSW has been submitted for assessment to the Federal Minister for the Environment by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA).

The proposal, titled 'Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' (see maps) is accompanied by a demand that the Federal Government honour its international commitments under the World Heritage Convention and require the NSW government to fulfill its obligations contained in the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE) and National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

"The Commonwealth Government is obliged under the NFPS, IGAE, National Strategy on ESD, and Agenda 21 to involve the public and indigenous people in decisions about the environment, yet it has colluded with a National Party dominated NSW government to prevent any public participation or independent Australian scientific input into the 1992 World Heritage nomination - 'The Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia' (CERA)," said Mr Dailan Pugh, spokesperson for NEFA and principal author of the proposed nomination report.

The NEFA proposal was developed after the 1992 World Heritage CERA renomination was formulated in secret by the NSW government. The CERA re-nomination had significant constraints imposed on it by NSW Cabinet Office: time available for the review was cut short and areas of rainforest that could be considered for inclusion were restricted to those acceptable to NSW Forestry Commission. No additional funds were made available to NSW NPWS to develop the joint NSW / Queensland renomination of the original Wran Government's 1986 World Heritage Listing.

The NEFA proposal encompasses all 8 areas assessed as being wilderness, most remaining areas of 'oldgrowth forest' and rainforest, and the critical habitats of an array of endangered forest species in north east NSW.

"Under Schedule 8 of IGAE it's a state government responsibility to conduct public consultation processes for World Heritage listing, but both Greiner and Fahey Governments have failed to honour these explicit requirements. So far Mrs Kelly has refused to pursue the NSW government on its breach of IGAE" Mr Pugh said.

Mr Pugh said that north coast environmentalists who had fought to protect these forests for 15 years had been frozen out of any discussions on World Heritage nominations, despite repeated requests to Mrs Kelly to ensure that consultation took place.

-2-

"Mrs Kelly must take her World Heritage obligations seriously, by exercising her clear Constitutional powers, and pull NSW into line, requiring that NSW comply with the letter and the spirit of the IGAE, or the Federal ALP can kiss goodbye its claims to be 'green' and 'environmentally responsible'," Mr Pugh said.

"A failure by Mrs Kelly to act as did previous Ministers, in standing up to hostile state governments who attempted to rot or abort the World Heritage processes will set back the ALP's green credentials to pre-1983 levels," said Mr Pugh.

"When combined with the Federal ALP Government's 10 years of failure to prepare EIS's for export woodchipping, and their tardiness in assessing National Estate proposals in the north east, the electoral impacts of an abandonment of World Heritage obligations, could be very significant on the NSW north coast."

Mr Pugh said that the 7 map sheets which indicate detailed boundaries would be placed on public exhibition at Environment Centres on the north coast and in Sydney during November. He said that copies of NEFA's Report on the proposed nomination will be on sale and the 12 supporting scientific reports would be available for pursuit.

"NEFA will conduct a public participation process on the World Heritage Convention and our proposed nomination in line with the IGAE and NFPS. We will direct all submissions to Mrs Kelly, whether she likes it or not," said Mr Pugh.

He said that NEFA and other Australian environment groups would invite the international scientific community to monitor and report on Australia's recent performance in World Heritage matters to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, (IUCN), a United Nations body.

"Australia's credibility on the world conservation stage is at stake. If Mrs Kelly continues to bungle her international obligations, NEFA will have no compunction in detailing to the IUCN how Australia has botched the identification and management of world heritage properties," Mr Pugh said.

"NEFA's larger nomination is more complete in its rainforest examples, includes a broader range of natural ecosystems and geological processes, and encompasses habitats sufficiently large as to ensure the survival of a variety of forest dependent plants and animals. This proposal has the ecological integrity which the 1992 'mimimalist' re-nomination failed to provide," he said.

The proposed nomination relies on 12 published reports, mainly written as Wilderness Assessment Reports by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, as demonstrating the ecological justification of the boundaries recommended by NEFA. A list of these reports is also attached.

For more info Phone:

Dailan Pugh 066 884 307(h) OR John Corkill 02 2474 206 w

draft 1 as @ 14/10/1993 [jrc: Ff\mailstwh.nom]

NOTES ON DISTRIBUTION OF
N.E.F.A.'s PROPOSAL FOR
WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION:

"CENTRAL GREAT ESCARPMENT
FORESTS OF AUSTRALIA".

12 Copies have already gone:

Mrs Kelly
Mr Chris Hartcher:
Total Enviornemnt Centre: Jeff Angel
Colong Foundation for Wilderness: Keith Muir
Australian Conservation Foundation: Sue Salmon
ACF Forest Campaign Group: Noel Plumb
National Parks Association: Anne Reeves; Kate Boyd
Nature Conservation Council of NSW: Sid Walker, Mr Peter Prineas
Tim Robertson
Robert Mezzatesta: AHC RO NSW

14 Copies to go to:

NEFA Network: Barry & Marg; Chris Sheed, Greg & Linda; Port
Macquarie Info shop; NVCA; NCEC inc; Bellingen EC; Clarence EC,
BSEC, Rainforest Info Centre; T-bah EC, Byron EC; Caldera EC,
WWFN, — GPO Box 528 Syd 2001

AHC: Dineen Shara Sullivan.

ANCA:
NPWS: Shepherd, Papps
FCNSW / C&LM: Warwick Watkins

✓ RCSA: Dr Aila Keto;
✓ Queensland Conservation Council:
✓ The Wilderness Society;
Dr Paul Adam:

MP's:

Federal:

3 ALP Backbenchers: Harry Woods, Neville Newell, John Langmore,
1 Democrats: John Coulter,
2 Greens: Christabelle Chamarette, OR Dee Margets, via Cathcart
Weatherly,
1 Liberals: Ms Chris Gallus,

State:

4 ALP; Allan, Martin, O'Grady, Burgmann,
1 Democrat, RSL Jones;
3 IND: Clover Moore; Peter Macdonald; Hatton?
1 Liberals: Hazzard?

21 Local councils:

Tweed, Byron, Lismore, Kyogle, Tenterfield, Copanhurst, Guyra,
Severn, Nymbodia, Bellingen, Nambucca?, Kempsey, Dumaresq,
Walcha, Hastings, Taree, Gloucester, Dungog?, Scone, Singleton,
Muswellbrook.

PO 2022 8 May
2944

descriptive
location
statements against
NE sig. criteria
veg fauna
geology

John Hunter; Megan; Aila Keto;

Oct 29/71
David Murray.

For

John Corkill

IOCN
Rue Mauverney 28
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Corkill & NEFA vs Forestry Commission of NSW - Media Checklist

ZMM

FAX Nos.

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N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

NEWS RELEASE - 21 Oct. '93

WORLD HERITAGE PROPOSAL RELEASED

STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS CRITICISED FOR SECRET DEALS

A proposal for World Heritage listing which includes the majority of remaining forests of highest conservation value on the Great Escarpment in the north east of NSW has been submitted for assessment to the Federal Minister for the Environment by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA).

The proposal, titled 'Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' (see maps) is accompanied by a demand that the Federal Government honour its international commitments under the World Heritage Convention and require the NSW government to fulfill its obligations contained in the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE) and National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

"The Commonwealth Government is obliged under the NFPS, IGAE, National Strategy on ESD, and Agenda 21 to involve the public and indigenous people in decisions about the environment, yet it has colluded with a National Party dominated NSW government to prevent any public participation or independent Australian scientific input into the 1992 World Heritage nomination - 'The Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia' (CERA)," said Mr Dailan Pugh, spokesperson for NEFA and principal author of the proposed nomination report.

The NEFA proposal was developed after the 1992 World Heritage CERA renomination was formulated in secret by the NSW government. The CERA re-nomination had significant constraints imposed on it by NSW Cabinet Office: time available for the review was cut short and areas of rainforest that could be considered for inclusion were restricted to those acceptable to NSW Forestry Commission. No additional funds were made available to NSW NPWS to develop the joint NSW / Queensland renomination of the original Wran Government's 1986 World Heritage Listing.

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"Under Schedule 8 of IGAE it's a state government responsibility to conduct public consultation processes for World Heritage listing, but both Greiner and Fahey Governments have failed to honour these explicit requirements. So far Mrs Kelly has refused to pursue the NSW government on its breach of IGAE" Mr Pugh said.

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Dailan Pugh 066 884 307(h) OR John Corkill 02 2474 206 w

Map + list follow

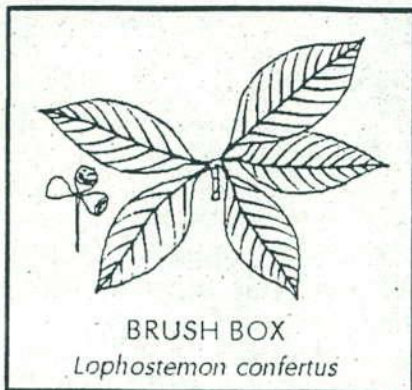
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Existing Washpool Wilderness Area, (1990) NSW National Parks
and Wildlife Service.
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(1990) NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- * Guy Fawkes River Wilderness Assessment Report, (1992) NSW
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NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- * Macleay Gorges Wilderness Assessment Report, (1992) NSW
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- * Assessment Report on the Barrington Wilderness Area, (1993)
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.
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Pugh, D and National Parks Association of NSW.



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre, Inc.
149 Keen St., Lismore. 2480.
Ph 066 21 3278 Fax 066 222676

Mrs Ros Kelly,
Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House, Canberra. 2600.

30 September 1993

< For Mrs Kelly's personal attention >

Dear Mrs Kelly,

RE: National Estate / World Heritage Nominations
and Public Participation

Please find accompanying this letter, a Report on a Proposal for Nomination for World Heritage Listing of "The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia" (CGEFA) prepared by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA).

NEFA formally proposes the area described on the maps and in the accompanying Report for nomination for World Heritage Listing. Since these areas also satisfy National Estate criteria, NEFA formally proposes these areas for entry onto the Register of the National Estate.

A set of 7 map sheets and 12 published reports are also provided to delineate the boundaries proposed, to document the natural, cultural and heritage values involved and to justify the nomination against the criteria of the World Heritage Convention and the Register of the National Estate. A list of these published reports is attached.

The CGEFA proposal for nomination supercedes the earlier 1987 World Heritage Listing of the 'Warm Temperate and Sub Tropical Rainforests of Australia' (WTaSTRA) and the recent 1992 renomination titled the 'Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia' (CERA) in that this proposal for nomination includes the properties contained in these earlier nominations and adds substantial areas of identified wilderness, unlogged forest, rainforest and the habitat of many rare and endangered species of both plants and animals.

This proposal has many advantages over earlier nominations in that it is more representative, complete and viable. A Summary of the proposal's justification against WH criteria is contained in the accompanying Report.

Many of the areas proposed here to be added in a further nomination have already been favourably assessed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service as meeting World Heritage criteria, while the North Washpool forests, long defended by north coast environmentalists, have been recently listed by AHC on the Register of the National Estate citing its exhibition of World Heritage values consistent with the adjoining WH Washpool National Park.

The recommended boundaries contained in NEFA's CGEFA proposal link with the forests proposed by the Queensland government in the 1992 renomination and incorporate all the areas suggested for inclusion by the IUCN's World Heritage Committee in its recent response to the 1992 CERA renomination.

The North East Forest Alliance is of the view that both the Commonwealth and NSW governments have substantial obligations for the identification, nomination and management of World Heritage areas and for ensuring the participation of the public and indigenous people in such processes. These obligations, detailed and discussed in the accompanying Report, are said to bind both governments. Regrettably neither government appears to have honoured these public agreements, their formal protocols or their public policy statements.

NEFA is adamant that Australia's operation of the World Heritage Convention must be conducted in accord with these commitments and meet international standards. The Commonwealth has a special role in ensuring that state governments do not compromise Australia's international conservation reputation, which has been exercised appropriately, (in the cases of the FNQ Wet Tropic Rainforests and the SW Tasmanian Forests & Wild Rivers) to overcome obstruction by hostile conservative state governments.

The New South Wales government failed to honour its commitments under the IGAE, the National Strategy on ESD and the National Forest Policy in the preparation of the 1992 CERA renomination, in that it imposed political and time constraints, and withheld necessary financial resources in the review of NSW properties potentially meeting the World Heritage criteria. The NSW government failed to provide any process of public participation in the 1992 World Heritage assessment or nomination, despite the explicit requirements of Schedule 8 of the IGAE.

NEFA believes these constraints prevented the formulation of a scientifically credible nomination, based on sound ecological assessments, because of ideological opposition to World Heritage recognition from within the NSW National Party and in order to orchestrate a 'minimalist' renomination.

These concerns have, over the last two years, been expressed to you personally, and to your staff by Alliance members John Corkill and Dailan Pugh.

This NSW political interference can be seen as the source of the disquiet expressed by the IUCN 's WH Committee in its 1993 Report and the reason it asked for further work to be done on the CERA renomination, for the review of a suitable nomination name and for the consideration of including additional areas.

NEFA's proposal for a nomination of 'The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' therefore poses a special, very public test of government commitments and the Commonwealth's willingness to safeguard Australia's international scientific credibility.

That the areas of forest included within the proposed nomination boundaries are of 'high conservation value' is beyond doubt, given the abundance of supporting evidence available and attached. As such, these 'hcv' forests must be protected from damage and interference, consistent with the binding agreements of the NFPS. We acknowledge your efforts to date on this score, and thank you for them, however, we urge you to again pressure the NSW government to suspend all activities proposed for these forests, pending their independent evaluation against WH criteria, the completion of a NE NSW regional assessment and their inspection by international scientific referees.

We insist that if the NSW government again fails to agree to such action and effectively reneges on the IGAE, the NFPS and other national and international obligations, the Commonwealth must take swift, decisive action to intervene, ensure compliance and provide protection to these high conservation value forests.

The Alliance accepts that this proposal for nomination will require a technical review and the development of a detailed nomination statement which synthesises the voluminous evidence of compliance with WH criteria. Such a review could proceed in parallel with a NE NSW regional assessment under the NFPS, or with an AHC investigation of the National Estate values or could form a substantial component of such a regional assessment.

NEFA formally requests that you now 'open up' the review of the 1992 CERA renomination, to include consideration of this CGEFA proposal and to permit the public to comment on this proposal.

We request, subsequent to you 'opening up' the renomination review process to public participation, that you commission a NE NSW regional assessment and initiate appropriate processes, such as those described in the attached document 'The Way Forward', and provide the necessary resources to enable the conduct of such a technical review and the preparation of an authoritative nomination report.

NEFA undertakes in the meantime to promote the CGEFA Proposal for Nomination for World Heritage Listing, the World Heritage Convention, the IGAE, NFPS, NSESD and other public policy documents. We also promise to highlight government responsibilities under these agreements.

Just as was done in 1984 during the controversy over the initial WH Rainforest nomination, north coast environmentalists will also invite scientists and conservationists from the international community to make public comments in such a technical review and to monitor and report on Australia's performance on the World Heritage Convention and other international agreements.

NEFA is happy to provide any additional information that may be necessary to support any part of the proposed nomination and specifically offers to conduct field trips to the proposed areas to assist in any assessment of this CGEFA proposal.

We request written confirmation of the receipt of this letter, the Report on the Proposal for Nomination, the 12 accompanying supporting publications and the set of 7 map sheets.

We also request advice, at your earliest opportunity, as to how:

- i) the World Heritage dimension of this proposal is to be considered by you and your Department, and
- ii) the Australian Heritage Commission will assess the National Estate values of the area nominated and prepare a recommendation for entry of the Register of the National Estate.

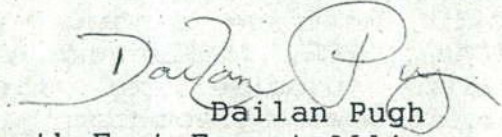
Further we seek your advice on how you will respond to the requests made above for:

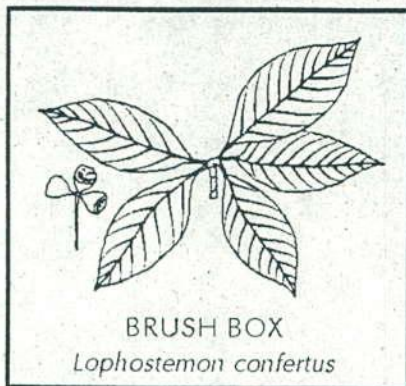
- iii) moratoria over 'hcv' forests/wilderness as per the NFPS,
- iv) Commonwealth intervention if the NSW Government refuses to honour its obligations,
- v) 'opening up' to public participation of the renomination's review,
- vi) commissioning a NE NSW regional assessment under NFPS, and
- vii) the initiation and resourcing of appropriate, representative processes to conduct a public technical review of this proposal for WH and NE nomination and to prepare an authoritative reports on same.

Finally we wish to advise that copies of the Report and maps will be provided to the NSW government, ACIUCN, various other relevant government and non-government organisations and to federal ALP members for their information and appropriate action.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.
Yours sincerely


John R. Corkill


Dailan Pugh
Co-ordinators for North East Forest Alliance



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre Inc.
149 Keen Street, Lismore. 2480.
Phone 066 213 278 Fax 066 222 676

7 October 1993

Mr Chris Hartcher,
NSW Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House, Sydney. 2000.

Dear Minister,

Re: World Heritage Nomination and Public Participation

Please find enclosed for your information a copy of our proposal for a World Heritage nomination, titled 'The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' and which has been submitted to the Commonwealth Government for review in the reconsideration of the 1990 renomination for World Heritage Listing, known as the Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia (CERA).

Also enclosed is a copy of our letter, proposing this nomination, which was sent to Mrs Kelly recently.

Not enclosed are the 12 supporting publications, many of which are NPWS assessment reports on Wilderness nominations made under the NSW Wilderness Act 1987. A list of the supporting reports is attached to NEFA's letter to Mrs Kelly.

Also not enclosed are the seven (7) 1:125,000 map sheets which precisely map the proposals nominated boundaries. As these map sets take some time to reproduce NEFA has not been able to complete additional sets to date, but hopes to do so in the near future. A full set of these maps will be provided to you directly. A description of the areas nominated is contained in section 4 of the Report on the Proposal, as are two large scale maps.

This nomination has been sent to the Commonwealth Government for action because NEFA has no confidence that the NSW Government will honour the obligations it accepted when the InterGovernmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE) was signed. Schedule 8 of the IGAE explicitly requires public consultation in the development of an indicative list for World Heritage nomination and for the assessment of proposals for nomination.

That the NSW Government has reneged on these obligations is apparent from the secretive preparation of a 'minimalist' NSW component of the CERA renomination in 1992. NEFA has been told by the previous Director of NPWS that there were political controls imposed on areas considered, timing and funding for the preparation of the CERA renomination. No additional funds were provided to NSW NPWS, and the Cabinet Office's conditions excluded a competent biological assessment of relevant forest areas which might qualify for inclusion in the proposed renomination. Insufficient time was allowed to permit necessary field assessments or consultation with the public, including industry groups. Presumably these constraints were applied at the insistence of the Forestry Commission and National Party members who fundamentally oppose World Heritage listing and the obligations which flow from such international recognition.

This appalling state of affairs has prompted the North East Forest Alliance to 'go over the head' of a hostile and intransigent state government to the Commonwealth just as was done in the cases of Tasmania's south west forests & wild rivers and Queensland's Wet Tropic Rainforest. It is plain that the Commonwealth has significant powers to assess and nominate areas for World Heritage listing irrespective of the views of state political interests. As you will see from our letter to Mrs Kelly we will insist that the Commonwealth honour Australia's commitments to the World Heritage Convention and enforce the binding requirements made under the IGAE, the NSESD and the National Forest Policy Statement.

By providing a copy of the nomination proposal to you directly, NEFA is making one final attempt to have the NSW Government fully and effectively implement the requirements of the public commitments listed above.

Consequently we request an opportunity to discuss this proposal for nomination with you and NPWS officials at your earliest convenience. Further we seek your agreement to:

- a) negotiate & enforce a moratorium on forestry activities within this proposed nomination's boundaries, in line with the NFPS;
- b) constitute a regional assessment process for North East NSW to assess forest values and quantify sources of timber in forests, in line with the NFPS;
- c) co-operate with Mrs Kelly in initiating a formal public participation process to 'open up' the CERA WH renomination's reconsideration to include consideration of this CGEFA proposal, in line with the NS ESD, the IGAE and the NFPS.

Naturally NEFA will be happy to provide any additional information that you may seek, in support of the proposal and its boundaries. Finally, NEFA extends to you, your parliamentary colleagues and to your departmental staff the same offer made to Mrs Kelly; to conduct field trips to any area nominated in this proposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact either Dailan Pugh or me via the above contact numbers. We invite your response to the requests above at your earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,



John R. Corkill
NEFA Co-ordinator.

Enclosed:

Letter to Mrs Ros Kelly, Minister for the Environment, from the North East Forest Alliance - 30 September 1993.

"Report on Proposal for Nomination for Listing on the World Heritage Register - 'The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' September 1993."

15 October 1993

Mr Neville Newell, MHR,
Member for Richmond,
133 Wharf St., Murwillumbah. 2484.

Dear Neville,

Re: World Heritage Nomination and Public Participation

Please find enclosed copies of:

- * NEFA's Report on a Proposal for World Heritage Nomination titled 'Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia';
- * correspondence to Federal Minister for the Environment, Mrs Kelly;
- * correspondence to NSW Minister for the Environment, Mr Chris Hartcher.

These documents embody NEFA's desire to see the World Heritage Convention properly applied in Australia, particularly in the north east of NSW, to encompass forests which would meet the WH criteria.

As you will see NEFA is very critical of the NSW governments approach to the consideration of areas for WH listing, and is equally critical of the federal government for its failure to remedy problems created by NSW.

It is our view that there are clear and binding obligations on both the NSW and Federal governments to require public participation in decisions which effect the environment (see pp 4-6 of NEFA's report) which have not been met.

The failure of the NSW government to meet these requirements have been advised to your federal colleague, the Minister for the Environment, Mrs Ros Kelly on several occasions. On each of those occasions NEFA has sought to have Mrs Kelly exercise her Constitutional powers to pull NSW into line and conduct nationally and internationally credible processes to evaluate areas for possible World Heritage nomination. To date Mrs Kelly has failed to accept her responsibilities on World Heritage.

Mrs Kelly's failure to act to enforce Commonwealth responsibilities stands in stark contrast to the actions of her predecessors who used the relevant powers to overturn the objections of state governments hostile to ecological based World Heritage listings for the South West Tasmania and the Wet Tropics in Queensland.

The actions of the NSW government in attempting to rort the intention of the WH convention, the IGAE, and NFPS have crossed the threshold to a situation where Commonwealth intervention in NSW on WH is now necessary.

You will see from the letters enclosed that we have made a further attempt to have Mrs Kelly accept her responsibilities and act appropriately.

A failure by the Minister for the Environment to exercise powers available to her, will be interpreted by the environment movement in NSW, and likely elsewhere in Australia, as an abandonment of the ALP's green credentials, and a 'throwback' to pre-1983 days. In other words, by sitting on her hands Mrs Kelly will erode the good work done in the last 10 years by Barry Cohen and Senator Richardson.

This letter is to inform you of this regrettable situation and to request your best endeavours to convince Mrs Kelly that she must now act to require NSW government's compliance with relevant environmental agreements and obligations.

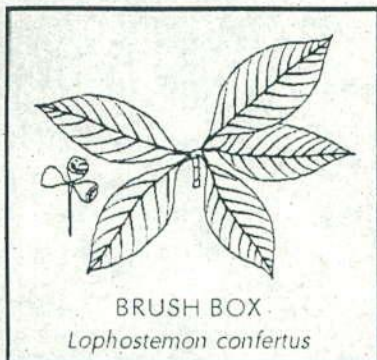
We request that you seek an appointment with Mrs Kelly, at your earliest opportunity, and convey our concerns to her directly. We further request that, subsequent to such a meeting, you write to NEFA c/- Big Scrub EC and advise us of what the Minister's response was and what action she will now take.

Naturally, if Dailan or I can provide to you any additional information or clarification we would be happy to do so. We have written in similar terms to your colleague Mr Woods.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.
We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

John R. Corkill
Co-ordinator



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

NEWS RELEASE - 17 Oct. '93

WORLD HERITAGE PROPOSAL RELEASED

STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS CRITICISED FOR SECRET DEALS

A proposal for World Heritage listing which includes the majority of remaining forests of highest conservation value on the Great Escarpment in the north east of NSW has been submitted for assessment to the Federal Minister for the Environment by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA).

The proposal, titled 'Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' (see maps) is accompanied by a demand that the Federal Government honour its international commitments under the World Heritage Convention and require the NSW government to fulfill its obligations contained in the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE) and National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

"The Commonwealth Government is obliged under the NFPS, IGAE, National Strategy on ESD, and Agenda 21 to involve the public and indigenous people in decisions about the environment, yet it has colluded with a National Party dominated NSW government to prevent any public participation or independent Australian scientific input into the 1992 World Heritage nomination - 'The Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia' (CERA)," said Mr Dailan Pugh, spokesperson for NEFA and principal author of the proposed nomination report.

The NEFA proposal was developed after the 1992 World Heritage CERA renomination was formulated in secret by the NSW government. The CERA re-nomination had significant constraints imposed on it by NSW Cabinet Office: time available for the review was cut short and areas of rainforest that could be considered for inclusion were restricted to those acceptable to NSW Forestry Commission. No additional funds were made available to NSW NPWS to develop the joint NSW / Queensland renomination of the original Wran Government's 1986 World Heritage Listing.

The NEFA proposal encompasses all 8 areas assessed as being wilderness, most remaining areas of 'oldgrowth forest' and rainforest, and the critical habitats of an array of endangered forest species in north east NSW.

"Under Schedule 8 of IGAE it's a state government responsibility to conduct public consultation processes for World Heritage listing, but both Greiner and Fahey Governments have failed to honour these explicit requirements. So far Mrs Kelly has refused to pursue the NSW government on its breach of IGAE" Mr Pugh said.

Mr Pugh said that north coast environmentalists who had fought to protect these forests for 15 years had been frozen out of any discussions on World Heritage nominations, despite repeated requests to Mrs Kelly to ensure that consultation took place.

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

THE NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW
39 GEORGE ST
THE ROCKS NSW 2000
PHONE: (02) 247 4206/247 2228
FAX: (02) 247 5945



TO: KATE SOUTH AM

URGENT!

FROM: John Conkell

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE 2 PAGES INCLUDING THIS ONE PLEASE PHONE
(02) 247 4206.

COMMENTS:

Map which explains other maps!
as requested

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

THE NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW
39 GEORGE ST
THE ROCKS NSW 2000
PHONE: (02) 247 4206/247 2228
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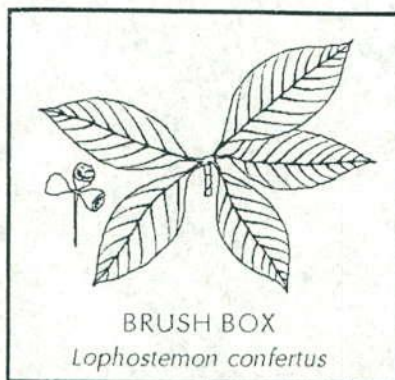


TO:

FROM:

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ____ PAGES INCLUDING THIS ONE PLEASE PHONE
(02) 247 4206.

COMMENTS:



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre Inc.
149 Keen Street, Lismore. 2480.
Phone 066 213 278 Fax 066 222 676

Mr Aidan Ricketts and NEFA crew,
Lot 2 Toonumbah Forest Road,
Toonumbah. 2474.

20 October 1993

Dear Ned & crew,

Re: World Heritage Nomination and public participation

Please find enclosed an advance release copy of NEFA's Report on a Proposal for World Heritage Nomination titled 'Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' (CGEFA); and copies of letters to Federal & NSW Ministers for the Environment, Mrs Kelly, and Mr Hartcher; and to NE NSW Labor MHR Mr Harry Woods, MP for Page. I encourage you to read the Report & the copies of letters.

These documents record NEFA's ongoing action to ensure the World Heritage Convention is properly applied in Australia, especially in the north east of NSW; and includes our latest proposal to identify & protect forests and landscapes which meet WH criteria.

You will see from the attached correspondence, and the Intro to the Report, that NEFA intends placing on public exhibition the seven (7) 1:125,00 map sheets which indicate precise proposal boundaries, the enclosed Report on the Proposal and 12 volumes being various publications which support NEFA's proposal (see attachment to letter to Mrs Kelly).

It's hoped to exhibit the CGEFA WH Proposal in Sydney, elsewhere in NE NSW and in Canberra over a period of 3 months, from November 93. Information on the World Heritage Convention and its operation in Australia will be part of the public display.

NEFA intends to invite public discussion on the CGEFA proposal and the 1992 nomination, 'Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia' (CERA). We'll request people who wish to make submissions, to forward them to Mrs Kelly as the responsible Minister. A 'pro forma' submission sheet will be available soon.

Any help you can provide in displaying a set of maps and volumes, distributing copies of the proposal, submission 'pro forma's, world heritage information sheets, or in promoting intelligent public debate on proposed boundaries, appropriate management, or Australia's performance in WH protection would be appreciated. Please write/fax us @ Big Scrub EC & tell us how you can help!

Naturally as the exhibition process gears up NEFA will need concerted efforts from a number of people to pursue submissions to Mrs Kelly. If you'd like to do this let us know that too!

If Dailan or I can provide to you any additional information or clarification we would be happy to do so. Thanks!

Finally, if it is not apparent from the attached letters and reports, the forests the subject of this proposal for a nomination for WH listing, have been identified as being of the highest conservation value, with ample documentation existing to demonstrate these values.

As such any attempt by NSW State Forests to conduct activities within the proposed nomination boundaries would constitute a breach of the National Forest Policy Statement and ought to trigger Commonwealth intervention. Please monitor the proposed boundaries in the forests adjacent to your area and let Dailan or myself know if any forestry activities are planned, underway or are commenced.

If this new line describing identified 'hcv' forests is breached we must quickly consider what action we can take, politically and on the ground to defend these areas, and force the state and federal governments to honour their agreed, public commitments.

Cheers! Om Gaia, dudes!

Yours sincerely,

John R. Corkill
Co-ordinator

N.E.F.A. CONTACT LIST AND MAILING ADDRESSES as @ 20 Oct 93

Barry Griffiths and Marg Maclean,
PO Box 9 Singleton. 2330.

Chris Sheed & WFA,
PO Elands. 2429.

Greg & Linda Gill,
21 Possum Pie Road, Wootton. 2423

Lyn Orrego,
Nambucca Valley Conservation Association,
PO Box 123 Bowraville. 2449.

Lisa Intemann,
Port Macquarie Info Shop,
PO Box 2022, Port Macquarie. 2444.

Mr Jim Tedder, Secreatry,
North Coast Environment Council Inc.,
Pavan's Road, Yarrahapinni,
Grassy Head via Stuart's Point. 2441.

Adrian Needham & NEFA crew,
Bellingen Environment Centre,
1A Church Lane, Bellingen. 2454.

Karen Rooke & NEFA crew,
Clarence Environment Centre,
127 Bacon Street, Grafton. 2460.

Richard Staples,
Byron Environment Centre,
Shop 7, Cavanbah Place,
Johnson Street, Byron Bay. 2481.

Henry James,
Caldera Environment Centre,
PO Box 90 South Murwillumbah. 2484.

Michael Kennedy,
World Wide Fund for Nature,
GPO Box 528, Sydney. 2001.

Mr Aidan Ricketts and NEFA crew,
Lot 2 Toonumbah Forest Road,
Toonumbah. 2474.

Mr Brent Co-ordinator,
Rainforest Information Centre,
PO Box 368 South Lismore. 2480.

STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS CRITICISED FOR SECRET DEALS

A proposal for World Heritage listing which includes the majority of remaining forests of highest conservation value on the Great Escarpment in the north east of NSW has been submitted for assessment to the Federal Minister for the Environment by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA).

The proposal, titled 'Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' (see maps) is accompanied by a demand that the Federal Government honour its international commitments under the World Heritage Convention and require the NSW government to fulfill its obligations contained in the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE) and National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

"The Commonwealth Government is obliged under the NFPS, IGAE, National Strategy on ESD, and Agenda 21 to involve the public and indigenous people in decisions about the environment, yet it has colluded with a National Party dominated NSW government to prevent any public participation or independent Australian scientific input into the 1992 World Heritage nomination - 'The Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia' (CERA)," said Mr Dailan Pugh, spokesperson for NEFA and principal author of the proposed nomination report.

The NEFA proposal was developed after the 1992 World Heritage CERA renomination was formulated in secret by the NSW government. The CERA re-nomination had significant constraints imposed on it by NSW Cabinet Office: time available for the review was cut short and areas of rainforest that could be considered for inclusion were restricted to those acceptable to NSW Forestry Commission. No additional funds were made available to NSW NPWS to develop the joint NSW / Queensland renomination of the original Wran Government's 1986 World Heritage Listing.

The NEFA proposal encompasses all 8 areas assessed as being wilderness, most remaining areas of 'oldgrowth forest' and rainforest, and the critical habitats of an array of endangered forest species in north east NSW.

"Under Schedule 8 of IGAE it's a state government responsibility to conduct public consultation processes for World Heritage listing, but both Greiner and Fahey Governments have failed to honour these explicit requirements. So far Mrs Kelly has refused to pursue the NSW government on its breach of IGAE" Mr Pugh said.

Mr Pugh said that north coast environmentalists who had fought to protect these forests for 15 years had been frozen out of any discussions on World Heritage nominations, despite repeated requests to Mrs Kelly to ensure that consultation took place.

15 October 1993

Anne Reeves,
President,
National Parks Association of NSW,
Level 13, 500 George St., Sydney. 2001.

Dear Anne,

Re: World Heritage Nomination and Public Participation

I refer to our conversation last week, to the attached copy of NEFA's proposal for a World Heritage nomination titled the 'Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' and to attached copies of letters to state and federal ministers. I refer also to a conversation today with Ms Kate Boyd, NPA's ACIUCN delegate.

I write to formally request that the NPA agree to include this proposal for WH nomination as an agenda item for the next meeting of the Australian Committee of IUCN.

As you can see from the Report and the enclosed letters NEFA is deeply disturbed that the NSW re-nomination of the 1986 WH Listed 'Warm Temperate and SubTropical Rainforests of Australia' repackaged as the 'Central Eastern Rainforest of Australia' has been politically perverted by the NSW Government to ensure that a minimalist re-nomination is forwarded to IUCN, rather than a proposal which truly encompasses all NSW rainforests which meet the WH criteria.

Further, we are angry that as people who have campaigned for the protection of these forests for some 15 years, we have been frozen out of any discussion of appropriate boundaries, in clear breach of the requirements of Schedule 8 of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE) et al.

Our CGEFA proposal for nomination greatly extends the limited 'rainforest' criterion to embrace the criteria of wilderness, 'oldgrowth' forests and the critical habitat of an array of endangered forest dependent species of flora and fauna. Our proposal for nomination also includes the geological formation known as the Great Escarpment, and the volcanoes of Focal Peak, Mt Warning, Ebor and Barrington.

This proposal seeks to achieve two things: a public consultation process which will permit input from the community and scientists outside of government, and through this process; a WH nomination which realistically reflects the world heritage values of the forests and landscapes of north eastern NSW.

NEFA plans to conduct a public participation process, which will be potentially embarrassing to both NSW and Commonwealth governments, to highlight their failure to honour their commitments to carry out such a process and arrive at credible nomination boundaries.

We are also applying considerable pressure to Mrs Kelly in an attempt to have her take up her WH responsibilities and to commission a regional assessment in NE NSW as per the NFPS.

NEFA seeks your support, and through NPA, the ACIUCN's support, in pursuing the agreed processess for considering WH nomnations and in seeking a wholistic assessment of the NE forests' values and the identification of areas which would meet the WH criteria.

If you agree to place this item on the agenda for the next ACIUCN meeting NEFA will be happy to provide additional copies of the Report and a full set of 1:125,000 maps (which are at present in production!). Further, since I am advised that the next meeting is to be in Sydney, a NEFA delegate would be prepared to be available to attend the ACIUCN meeting to speak to the proposal, detail political developments and answer any questions.

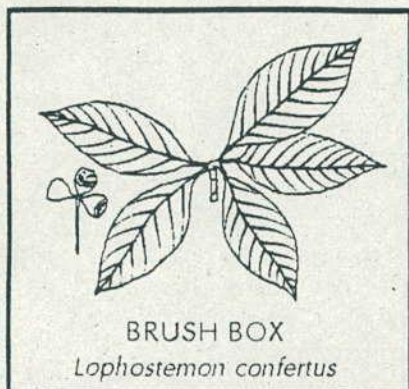
Please advise me or Dailan Pugh (Ph/Fx 066 884 307 h) at your earliest convenience: if NPA agrees to place this item on the ACIUCN agenda; how many additional copies of the Report might be required; the date and location of the next meeting, and; if it is appropriate for a NEFA person to be available to attend that meeting.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Yours sincerely,

John R. Corkill
NEFA Co-ordinator

P.S. I will be in Sydney until Monday 25 October via NCC. Cheers!



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre, Inc.
149 Keen St., Lismore. 2480.
Ph 066 21 3278 Fax 066 222676

Mrs Ros Kelly,
Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House, Canberra. 2600.

30 September 1993

< For Mrs Kelly's personal attention >

Dear Mrs Kelly,

RE: National Estate / World Heritage Nominations
and Public Participation

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The New South Wales government failed to honour its commitments under the IGAE, the National Strategy on ESD and the National Forest Policy in the preparation of the 1992 CERA renomination, in that it imposed political and time constraints, and withheld necessary financial resources in the review of NSW properties potentially meeting the World Heritage criteria. The NSW government failed to provide any process of public participation in the 1992 World Heritage assessment or nomination, despite the explicit requirements of Schedule 8 of the IGAE.

NEFA believes these constraints prevented the formulation of a scientifically credible nomination, based on sound ecological assessments, because of ideological opposition to World Heritage recognition from within the NSW National Party and in order to orchestrate a 'minimalist' renomination.

These concerns have, over the last two years, been expressed to you personally, and to your staff by Alliance members John Corkill and Dailan Pugh.

This NSW political interference can be seen as the source of the disquiet expressed by the IUCN 's WH Committee in its 1993 Report and the reason it asked for further work to be done on the CERA renomination, for the review of a suitable nomination name and for the consideration of including additional areas.

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Just as was done in 1984 during the controversy over the initial WH Rainforest nomination, north coast environmentalists will also invite scientists and conservationists from the international community to make public comments in such a technical review and to monitor and report on Australia's performance on the World Heritage Convention and other international agreements.

NEFA is happy to provide any additional information that may be necessary to support any part of the proposed nomination and specifically offers to conduct field trips to the proposed areas to assist in any assessment of this CGEFA proposal.

We request written confirmation of the receipt of this letter, the Report on the Proposal for Nomination, the 12 accompanying supporting publications and the set of 7 map sheets.

We also request advice, at your earliest opportunity, as to how:

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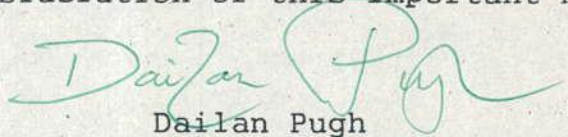
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Finally we wish to advise that copies of the Report and maps will be provided to the NSW government, ACIUCN, various other relevant government and non-government organisations and to federal ALP members for their information and appropriate action.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.
Yours sincerely


John R. Corkill


Dailan Pugh
Co-ordinators for North East Forest Alliance

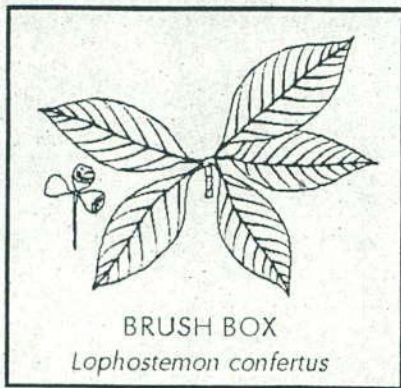
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N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre Inc.
149 Keen Street, Lismore. 2480.
Phone 066 213 278 Fax 066 222 676

7 October 1993

Mr Chris Hartcher,
NSW Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House, Sydney. 2000.

Dear Minister,

Re: World Heritage Nomination and Public Participation

Please find enclosed for your information a copy of our proposal for a World Heritage nomination, titled 'The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' and which has been submitted to the Commonwealth Government for review in the reconsideration of the 1990 renomination for World Heritage Listing, known as the Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia (CERA).

Also enclosed is a copy of our letter, proposing this nomination, which was sent to Mrs Kelly recently.

Not enclosed are the 12 supporting publications, many of which are NPWS assessment reports on Wilderness nominations made under the NSW Wilderness Act 1987. A list of the supporting reports is attached to NEFA's letter to Mrs Kelly.

Also not enclosed are the seven (7) 1:125,000 map sheets which precisely map the proposals nominated boundaries. As these map sets take some time to reproduce NEFA has not been able to complete additional sets to date, but hopes to do so in the near future. A full set of these maps will be provided to you directly. A description of the areas nominated is contained in section 4 of the Report on the Proposal, as are two large scale maps.

This nomination has been sent to the Commonwealth Government for action because NEFA has no confidence that the NSW Government will honour the obligations it accepted when the InterGovernmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE) was signed. Schedule 8 of the IGAE explicitly requires public consultation in the development of an indicative list for World Heritage nomination and for the assessment of proposals for nomination.

That the NSW Government has reneged on these obligations is apparent from the secretive preparation of a 'minimalist' NSW component of the CERA renomination in 1992. NEFA has been told by the previous Director of NPWS that there were political controls imposed on areas considered, timing and funding for the preparation of the CERA renomination. No additional funds were provided to NSW NPWS, and the Cabinet Office's conditions excluded a competent biological assessment of relevant forest areas which might qualify for inclusion in the proposed renomination. Insufficient time was allowed to permit necessary field assessments or consultation with the public, including industry groups. Presumably these constraints were applied at the insistence of the Forestry Commission and National Party members who fundamentally oppose World Heritage listing and the obligations which flow from such international recognition.

This appalling state of affairs has prompted the North East Forest Alliance to 'go over the head' of a hostile and intransigent state government to the Commonwealth just as was done in the cases of Tasmania's south west forests & wild rivers and Queensland's Wet Tropic Rainforest. It is plain that the Commonwealth has significant powers to assess and nominate areas for World Heritage listing irrespective of the views of state political interests. As you will see from our letter to Mrs Kelly we will insist that the Commonwealth honour Australia's commitments to the World Heritage Convention and enforce the binding requirements made under the IGAE, the NSESD and the National Forest Policy Statement.

By providing a copy of the nomination proposal to you directly, NEFA is making one final attempt to have the NSW Government fully and effectively implement the requirements of the public commitments listed above.

Consequently we request an opportunity to discuss this proposal for nomination with you and NPWS officials at your earliest convenience. Further we seek your agreement to:

- a) negotiate & enforce a moratorium on forestry activities within this proposed nomination's boundaries, in line with the NFPS;
- b) constitute a regional assessment process for North East NSW to assess forest values and quantify sources of timber in forests, in line with the NFPS;
- c) co-operate with Mrs Kelly in initiating a formal public participation process to 'open up' the CERA WH renomination's reconsideration to include consideration of this CGEFA proposal, in line with the NS ESD, the IGAE and the NFPS.

Naturally NEFA will be happy to provide any additional information that you may seek, in support of the proposal and its boundaries. Finally, NEFA extends to you, your parliamentary colleagues and to your departmental staff the same offer made to Mrs Kelly; to conduct field trips to any area nominated in this proposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact either Dailan Pugh or me via the above contact numbers. We invite your response to the requests above at your earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

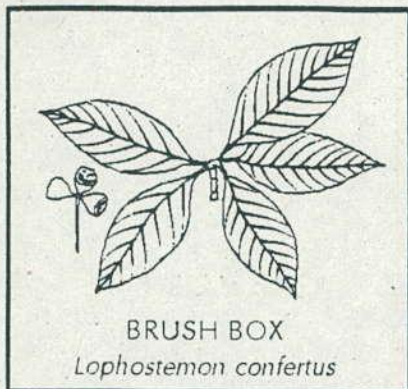


John R. Corkill
NEFA Co-ordinator.

Enclosed:

Letter to Mrs Ros Kelly, Minister for the Environment, from the North East Forest Alliance - 30 September 1993.

"Report on Proposal for Nomination for Listing on the World Heritage Register - 'The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' September 1993."



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre, Inc.
149 Keen St., Lismore. 2480.
Ph 066 21 3278 Fax 066 222676

Mrs Ros Kelly,
Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House, Canberra. 2600.

30 September 1993

< For Mrs Kelly's personal attention >

Dear Mrs Kelly,

RE: National Estate / World Heritage Nominations
and Public Participation

Please find accompanying this letter, a Report on a Proposal for Nomination for World Heritage Listing of "The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia" (CGEFA) prepared by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA).

NEFA formally proposes the area described on the maps and in the accompanying Report for nomination for World Heritage Listing. Since these areas also satisfy National Estate criteria, NEFA formally proposes these areas for entry onto the Register of the National Estate.

A set of 7 map sheets and 12 published reports are also provided to delineate the boundaries proposed, to document the natural, cultural and heritage values involved and to justify the nomination against the criteria of the World Heritage Convention and the Register of the National Estate. A list of these published reports is attached.

The CGEFA proposal for nomination supercedes the earlier 1987 World Heritage Listing of the 'Warm Temperate and Sub Tropical Rainforests of Australia' (WTaSTRA) and the recent 1992 renomination titled the 'Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia' (CERA) in that this proposal for nomination includes the properties contained in these earlier nominations and adds substantial areas of identified wilderness, unlogged forest, rainforest and the habitat of many rare and endangered species of both plants and animals.

This proposal has many advantages over earlier nominations in that it is more representative, complete and viable. A Summary of the proposal's justification against WH criteria is contained in the accompanying Report.

Many of the areas proposed here to be added in a further nomination have already been favourably assessed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service as meeting World Heritage criteria, while the North Washpool forests, long defended by north coast environmentalists, have been recently listed by AHC on the Register of the National Estate citing its exhibition of World Heritage values consistent with the adjoining WH Washpool National Park.

The recommended boundaries contained in NEFA's CGEFA proposal link with the forests proposed by the Queensland government in the 1992 renomination and incorporate all the areas suggested for inclusion by the IUCN's World Heritage Committee in its recent response to the 1992 CERA renomination.

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NEFA believes these constraints prevented the formulation of a scientifically credible nomination, based on sound ecological assessments, because of ideological opposition to World Heritage recognition from within the NSW National Party and in order to orchestrate a 'minimalist' renomination.

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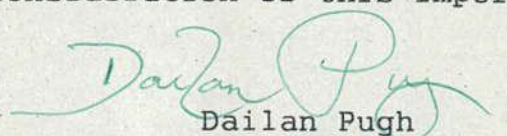
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Yours sincerely,

John R. Corkill
NEFA Co-ordinator.

Enclosed:

Letter to Mrs Ros Kelly, Minister for the Environment, from the North East Forest Alliance - 30 September 1993.

"Report on Proposal for Nomination for Listing on the World Heritage Register - 'The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' September 1993."

Mr Harry Woods, MHR,
Member for Page,
82 Prince Street, Grafton. 2460.

Dear Harry,

Re: World Heritage Nomination and Public Participation

Please find enclosed copies of:

- * NEFA's Report on a Proposal for World Heritage Nomination titled 'Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia';
- * correspondence to Federal Minister for the Environment, Mrs Kelly;
- * correspondence to NSW Minister for the Environment, Mr Chris Hartcher.

These documents embody NEFA's desire to see the World Heritage Convention properly applied in Australia, particularly in the north east of NSW, to encompass forests which would meet the WH criteria.

As you will see NEFA is very critical of the NSW governments approach to the consideration of areas for WH listing, and is equally critical of the federal government for its failure to remedy problems created by NSW.

It is our view that there are clear and binding obligations on both the NSW and Federal governments to require public participation in decisions which effect the environment (see pp 4-6 of NEFA's report) which have not been met.

The failure of the NSW government to meet these requirements have been advised to your federal colleague, the Minister for the Environment, Mrs Ros Kelly on several occasions. On each of those occasions NEFA has sought to have Mrs Kelly exercise her Constitutional powers to pull NSW into line and conduct nationally and internationally credible processes to evaluate areas for possible World Heritage nomination. To date Mrs Kelly has failed to accept her responsibilities on World Heritage.

Mrs Kelly's failure to act to enforce Commonwealth responsibilities stands in stark contrast to the actions of her predecessors who used the relevant powers to overturn the objections of state governments hostile to ecological based World Heritage listings for the South West Tasmania and the Wet Tropics in Queensland.

The actions of the NSW government in attempting to rort the intention of the WH convention, the IGAE, and NFPS have crossed the threshold to a situation where Commonwealth intervention in NSW on WH is now necessary.

You will see from the letters enclosed that we have made a further attempt to have Mrs Kelly accept her responsibilities and act appropriately.

A failure by the Minister for the Environment to exercise powers available to her, will be interpreted by the environment movement in NSW, and likely elsewhere in Australia, as an abandonment of the ALP's green credentials, and a 'throwback' to pre-1983 days. In other words, by sitting on her hands Mrs Kelly will erode the good work done in the last 10 years by Barry Cohen and Senator Richardson.

This letter is to inform you of this regrettable situation and to request your best endeavours to convince Mrs Kelly that she must now act to require NSW government's compliance with relevant environmental agreements and obligations.

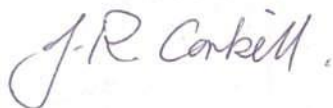
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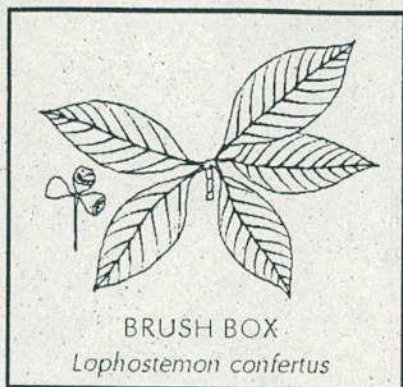
Naturally, if Dailan or I can provide to you any additional information or clarification we would be happy to do so. We have written in similar terms to your colleague Mr Newell.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.
We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

John R. Corkill
Co-ordinator





N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre Inc.
149 Keen Street, Lismore. 2480.
Ph 066 21 3278; Fax 066 222 676.

15 October 1993

Mr Neville Newell, MHR,
Member for Richmond,
133 Wharf St., Murwillumbah. 2484.

Dear Neville,

Re: World Heritage Nomination and Public Participation

Please find enclosed copies of:

- * NEFA's Report on a Proposal for World Heritage Nomination titled 'Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia';
- * correspondence to Federal Minister for the Environment, Mrs Kelly;
- * correspondence to NSW Minister for the Environment, Mr Chris Hartcher.

These documents embody NEFA's desire to see the World Heritage Convention properly applied in Australia, particularly in the north east of NSW, to encompass forests which would meet the WH criteria.

As you will see NEFA is very critical of the NSW governments approach to the consideration of areas for WH listing, and is equally critical of the federal government for its failure to remedy problems created by NSW.

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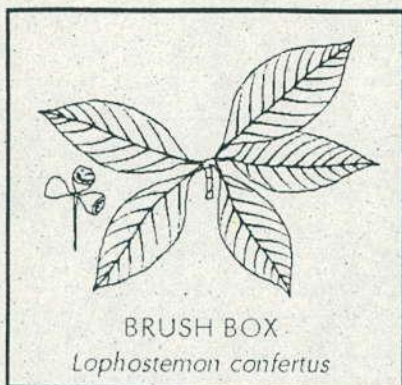
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John R. Corkill
Co-ordinator



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre Inc.
149 Keen Street, Lismore. 2480.
Ph 066 21 3278; Fax 066 222 676.

15 October 1993

Mr Harry Woods, MHR,
Member for Page,
82 Prince Street, Grafton. 2460.

Dear Harry,

Re: World Heritage Nomination and Public Participation

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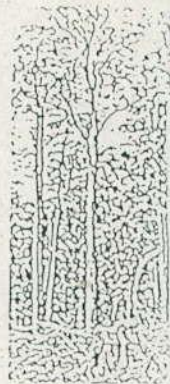
Yours sincerely,

John R. Corkill
Co-ordinator



NEFA
5 October 1993
NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

SOUTH EAST
FOREST ALLIANCE



Hon Ros Kelly
Minister for the Environment
Parliament House
Canberra. 2060

Also Lee
Reading

Dear Minister,

National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS)

You will know that the NSW Government is failing to implement the National Forest Policy Statement, in particular regional assessments and a moratorium on logging of high conservation value old growth and wilderness forests.

The efforts of the Federal Minister for Environment to date, to persuade the NSW Government to carry out its obligations in the north-east and south-east forests under the NFPS have been most welcome.

Certainly green support in the last Federal Election was significant in three rural NSW ALP seats (Page, Eden-Monaro and Richmond) and the conservation goals and mechanisms of the NFPS formed an important part in obtaining this support.

The NFPS sets a deadline of the end of 1995 for the achievement of a 'comprehensive, representative and adequate' system of conservation reserves over old growth and wilderness forests. Expectations of the environment movement, as 1995 draws to a close, will be high coincidentally in a period when the next Federal Election will be due.

None of the excuses proffered by the State Government for its inaction - current EIS processes for the north-east and the 1990 south east decision - are valid or credible.

There is overwhelming evidence from the National Forest Policy [NFPS] itself, Commonwealth and State correspondence, NSW EIS determinations, and scientific criticism of the south east decision to support our view that the NFPS is not being implemented.

The NFPS contains all the proven elements of conflict resolution and is in fact the only barrier to renewed and extensive confrontation in the forests.

We are unable to stand idly by while the best opportunity to arrive at long term economic and environmental solutions is ignored. Our organisations represent all the key local and state forest action groups and our members are totally committed to continuing, at all levels, the campaign to preserve old growth and wilderness forests

Your further efforts to obtain NSW action on the NFPS in the south-east and north-east forests would be greatly appreciated. We would

Your further efforts to obtain NSW action on the NFPS in the south-east and north-east forests would be greatly appreciated. We would be available for a meeting with you to discuss this matter if you consider this desirable.

In any case we would be grateful if you could advise us in the near future of further action you intend to take.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Angel
Convenor
South East
Forest Alliance

John Corkill
Co-ordinator
North East
Forest Alliance

Addresss for reply: Jeff Angel SEFA Shop 1, 88 Cumberland St
Sydney 2000.



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

NEWS RELEASE - 15 Oct. '93

WORLD HERITAGE PROPOSAL RELEASED

STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS CRITICISED FOR SECRET DEALS

A proposal for World Heritage listing which includes the majority of remaining forests of highest conservation value on the Great Escarpment in the north east of NSW has been submitted for assessment to the Federal Minister for the Environment by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA).

The proposal, titled 'Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' (see maps) is accompanied by a demand that the Federal Government honour its international commitments under the World Heritage Convention and require the NSW government to fulfill its obligations contained in the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE) and National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

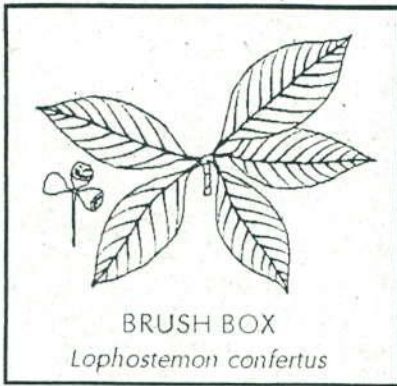
"The Commonwealth Government is obliged under the NFPS, IGAE, National Strategy on ESD, and Agenda 21 to involve the public and indigenous people in decisions about the environment, yet it has colluded with a National Party dominated NSW government to prevent any public participation or independent Australian scientific input into the 1992 World Heritage nomination - 'The Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia' (CERA)," said Mr Dailan Pugh, spokesperson for NEFA and principal author of the proposed nomination report.

The NEFA proposal was developed after the 1992 World Heritage CERA renomination was formulated in secret by the NSW government. The CERA re-nomination had significant constraints imposed on it by NSW Cabinet Office: time available for the review was cut short and areas of rainforest that could be considered for inclusion were restricted to those acceptable to NSW Forestry Commission. No additional funds were made available to NSW NPWS to develop the joint NSW / Queensland renomination of the original Wran Government's 1986 World Heritage Listing.

The NEFA proposal encompasses all 8 areas assessed as being wilderness, most remaining areas of 'oldgrowth forest' and rainforest, and the critical habitats of an array of endangered forest species in north east NSW.

"Under Schedule 8 of IGAE it's a state government responsibility to conduct public consultation processes for World Heritage listing, but both Greiner and Fahey Governments have failed to honour these explicit requirements. So far Mrs Kelly has refused to pursue the NSW government on its breach of IGAE" Mr Pugh said

Mr Pugh said that north coast environmentalists who had fought to protect these forests for 15 years had been frozen out of any discussions on World Heritage nominations, despite repeated requests to Mrs Kelly to ensure that consultation took place.



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre Inc.
149 Keen Street, Lismore. 2480.
Ph 066 21 3278; Fax 066 222 676.

15 October 1993

Anne Reeves,
President,
National Parks Association of NSW,
Level 13, 500 George St., Sydney. 2001.

Dear Anne,

Re: World Heritage Nomination and Public Participation

I refer to our conversation last week, to the attached copy of NEFA's proposal for a World Heritage nomination titled the 'Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' and to attached copies of letters to state and federal ministers. I refer also to a conversation today with Ms Kate Boyd, NPA's ACIUCN delegate.

I write to formally request that the NPA agree to include this proposal for WH nomination as an agenda item for the next meeting of the Australian Committee of IUCN.

As you can see from the Report and the enclosed letters NEFA is deeply disturbed that the NSW re-nomination of the 1986 WH Listed 'Warm Temperate and SubTropical Rainforests of Australia' repackaged as the 'Central Eastern Rainforest of Australia' has been politically perverted by the NSW Government to ensure that a minimalist re-nomination is forwarded to IUCN, rather than a proposal which truly encompasses all NSW rainforests which meet the WH criteria.

Further, we are angry that as people who have campaigned for the protection of these forests for some 15 years, we have been frozen out of any discussion of appropriate boundaries, in clear breach of the requirements of Schedule 8 of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE) et al.

Our CGEFA proposal for nomination greatly extends the limited 'rainforest' criterion to embrace the criteria of wilderness, 'oldgrowth' forests and the critical habitat of an array of endangered forest dependent species of flora and fauna. Our proposal for nomination also includes the geological formation known as the Great Escarpment, and the volcanoes of Focal Peak, Mt Warning, Ebor and Barrington.

This proposal seeks to achieve two things: a public consultation process which will permit input from the community and scientists outside of government, and through this process; a WH nomination which realistically reflects the world heritage values of the forests and landscapes of north eastern NSW.

NEFA plans to conduct a public participation process, which will be potentially embarrassing to both NSW and Commonwealth governments, to highlight their failure to honour their commitments to carry out such a process and arrive at credible nomination boundaries.

We are also applying considerable pressure to Mrs Kelly in an attempt to have her take up her WH responsibilities and to commission a regional assessment in NE NSW as per the NFPS.

NEFA seeks your support, and through NPA, the ACIUCN's support, in pursuing the agreed processess for considering WH nomnations and in seeking a wholistic assessment of the NE forests' values and the identification of areas which would meet the WH criteria.

If you agree to place this item on the agenda for the next ACIUCN meeting NEFA will be happy to provide additional copies of the Report and a full set of 1:125,000 maps (which are at present in production!). Further, since I am advised that the next meeting is to be in Sydney, a NEFA delegate would be prepared to be available to attend the ACIUCN meeting to speak to the proposal, detail political developments and answer any questions.

Please advise me or Dailan Pugh (Ph/Fx 066 884 307 h) at your earliest convenience: if NPA agrees to place this item on the ACIUCN agenda; how many additional copies of the Report might be required; the date and location of the next meeting, and; if it is appropriate for a NEFA person to be available to attend that meeting.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Yours sincerely,

John R. Corkill
NEFA Co-ordinator

P.S. I will be in Sydney until Monday 25 October via NCC. Cheers!

To: John C. Kiss

FROM: See circled name

NO. OF PAGES FOLLOWING:

MESSAGE: Just a quick note to acknowledge receipt of your report on a Proposal for Nomination for World Heritage Listing of "The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia" - The contact person in the Dept. who is responsible for World Heritage is Warren Nichols (Tel: 06-2741993) + who will be responsible for co-ordinating a response (in conjunction with Forest Policy people & the Arch. Heritage Commission).

Mark O'Neill
Consultant (Env)

Lin Isor
Peru. Secretary

Laurie Swift
Secretary

Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600. Telephone 06 277 7640 Facsimile 06 273 4130
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282 North Washington Street • Falls Church, Virginia 22046 • (703) 237-5130 FAX (703) 237-9100

Council does agree that strict minimum standards should be established for the operation of landfills, however, licensing conditions could require this. If the State Government is requiring Local Council's to become more accountable for waste management, why then is it necessary for the government to police landfill depot activities to any greater extent, particularly as many Council's currently operate and monitor their own landfill depots to strict licensing standards.

Council does recognise that in many rural areas, tips are unstaffed and do not have weighbridge facilities. Charges often do not exist and as a result there is very little policing of activities. Infiltration from State Government may enhance this but are the cost benefits really there?

Council strongly supports the idea of tipping fees cross subsidising recycling, however, the effects of the Council Recycling Rebate Scheme make the proportions appear one sided.

It may be more appropriate to require Local Governments to impose a recycling levy and use all of these funds to finance recycling services throughout their area without the inefficient flow of funds to the State Government and a much smaller flow of funds returning to Councils.

COMPOSTING

Garden and food wastes account for 55% of the domestic waste stream in New South Wales. Quite obviously, greater emphasis must be placed on diverting this waste from the landfill.

Whilst many New South Wales Council's already have compost bins available, comparatively little emphasis from Government or Industry has been placed on composting, as a waste management strategy.

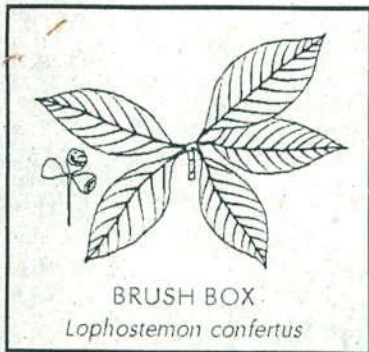
Direction should come from the State Government to ensure greater efforts are made on both a domestic and commercial level, to reduce the quantity of compostable materials going into landfill. Furthermore, forward planning needs to consider providing facilities for both recycling and composting in medium to high density residential dwellings.

LICENSING/REGULATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

If Local Government is going to have an increasing role to play in waste minimisation, a financial incentive by the State Government is favoured by Wyong Shire Council. However, this incentive would not be favourable if it is financed solely by the increases in the Section 29 levy for the reasons previously mentioned.

WASTE RECOVERY TARGETS

To what extent are Local Government bodies expected to expand their existing recycling services, in order to meet the national targets set by ANZECC for waste recovery? ie. Are Local Governments totally responsible for diverting all the items outlined from the domestic waste stream and if so what support will be offered from both State and Federal Government. Currently, Wyong Shire Council's recycling service only caters for glass containers, newsprint and PET plastic. Obviously services such as this will require reviewing if a greater responsibility is placed on Local Government.



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

NEWS RELEASE - 15 Oct. '93

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STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS CRITICISED FOR SECRET DEALS

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"The Commonwealth Government is obliged under the NFPS, IGAE, National Strategy on ESD, and Agenda 21 to involve the public and indigenous people in decisions about the environment, yet it has colluded with a National Party dominated NSW government to prevent any public participation or independent Australian scientific input into the 1992 World Heritage nomination - 'The Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia' (CERA)," said Mr Dailan Pugh, spokesperson for NEFA and principal author of the proposed nomination report.

The NEFA proposal was developed after the 1992 World Heritage CERA renomination was formulated in secret by the NSW government. The CERA re-nomination had significant constraints imposed on it by NSW Cabinet Office: time available for the review was cut short and areas of rainforest that could be considered for inclusion were restricted to those acceptable to NSW Forestry Commission. No additional funds were made available to NSW NPWS to develop the joint NSW / Queensland renomination of the original Wran Government's 1986 World Heritage Listing.

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"Under Schedule 8 of IGAE it's a state government responsibility to conduct public consultation processes for World Heritage listing, but both Greiner and Fahey Governments have failed to honour these explicit requirements. So far Mrs Kelly has refused to pursue the NSW government on its breach of IGAE" Mr Pugh said

Mr Pugh said that north coast environmentalists who had fought to protect these forests for 15 years had been frozen out of any discussions on World Heritage nominations, despite repeated requests to Mrs Kelly to ensure that consultation took place.

"Mrs Kelly must take her World Heritage obligations seriously, by exercising her clear Constitutional powers, and pull NSW into line, requiring that NSW comply with the letter and the spirit of the IGAE, or the Federal ALP can kiss goodbye its claims to be 'green' and 'environmentally responsible'," Mr Pugh said.

"A failure by Mrs Kelly to act as did previous Ministers, in standing up to hostile state governments who attempted to rort or abort the World Heritage processes will set back the ALP 's green credentials to pre-1983 levels," said Mr Pugh.

"When combined with the Federal ALP Government's 10 years of failure to prepare EIS's for export woodchipping, and their tardiness in assessing National Estate proposals in the north east, the electoral impacts of an abandonment of World Heritage obligations, could be very significant on the NSW north coast."

Mr Pugh said that the 7 map sheets which indicate detailed boundaries would be placed on public exhibition at Environment Centres on the north coast and in Sydney during November. He said that copies of NEFA's Report on the proposed nomination will be on sale and the 12 supporting scientific reports would be available for pursual.

"NEFA will conduct a public participation process on the World Heritage Convention and our proposed nomination in line with the IGAE and NFPS. We will direct all submissions to Mrs Kelly, whether she likes it or not," said Mr Pugh.

He said that NEFA and other Australian environment groups would invite the international scientific community to monitor and report on Australia's recent performance in World Heritage matters to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, (IUCN), a United Nations body.

"Australia's credibility on the world conservation stage is at stake. If Mrs Kelly continues to bungle her international obligations, NEFA will have no compunction in detailing to the IUCN how Australia has botched the identification and management of world heritage properties," Mr Pugh said.

"NEFA's larger nomination is more complete in its rainforest examples, includes a broader range of natural ecosystems and geological processes, and encompasses habitats sufficiently large as to ensure the survival of a variety of forest dependent plants and animals. This proposal has the ecological integrity which the 1992 'mimimalist' re-nomination failed to provide," he said.

The proposed nomination relies on 12 published reports, mainly written as Wilderness Assessment Reports by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, as demonstrating the ecological justification of the boundaries recommended by NEFA. A list of these reports is also attached.

For more info Phone:

Dailan Pugh 066 884 307(h) OR John Corkill 02 2474 206 w

draft 2

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draft 1 15/10/1993 - NEWS RELEASE

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"The Commonwealth Government is obliged under the NFPS, IGAE, National Strategy on ESD, and Agenda 21 to involve the public and indigenous people in decisions about the environment, yet it has colluded with a National Party dominated NSW government to prevent any public participation or independent Australian scientific input into the now failed 1992 World Heritage nomination - 'The Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia' (CERA)," said Mr Dailan Pugh, spokesperson for NEFA and principal author of the proposed nomination report.

The NEFA proposal was developed after the 1992 World Heritage CERA renomination was formulated in secret by the NSW government.

The CERA re-nomination had significant constraints imposed on it by NSW Cabinet Office: time available for the review was cut short and areas of rainforest that could be considered for inclusion were restricted to those acceptable to NSW Forestry Commission. No additional funds were made available to NSW NPWS to develop the joint NSW / Queensland renomination of the original Wran government 1986 World Heritage Listing.

The proposal encompasses 8 areas assessed as being wilderness, including substantial areas of 'old growth forest' rainforest and habitats of endangered species such as the Hastings River Mouse in north east NSW.

"Under Schedule 8 of IGAE it's the state governments' responsibility to conduct public consultation processes, but both the Greiner and Fahey Governments have failed to honour these explicit requirements. So far Mrs Kelly has refused to pursue the NSW government on its breach of IGAE," Mr Pugh said.

Mr Pugh said that north coast environmentalists who had fought to protect these forests for 15 years had been frozen out of any discussions on World Heritage nominations, despite repeated requests to Mrs Kelly to ensure that consultation took place.

"Unless Mrs Kelly ^{must} take her World Heritage obligations seriously by exercising her clear Constitutional powers, and pull NSW into line, requiring that they comply with the letter and the spirit of the IGAE, the Federal ALP can kiss goodbye its claims to be 'green'.

The CERA nomination re-nomination was treated with contempt by the NSW Government who refused to allow any valid re-consideration of boundaries, precluding decision to stick to limit the re-nomination to the minor additions made to the already listed areas since the original nomination.

11/10/93

JOHN

ATL

When combined with the Federal Government's 10 years of failure to prepare EIS's for export woodchipping or assess National Estate ~~assess~~ proposals

"A failure by Mrs Kelly to act as did previous Ministers, in standing up to hostile state governments who attempted to port or abort the World Heritage processes in Tasmanian and Queensland, will set back the ALP's green credentials to pre-1983 levels. The electoral impacts of this, especially on the NSW north coast, could be very significant," he said.

"The much touted 1980's 'Hawke-ism' of co-operation between governments on environmental issues has been sorely tested and found wanting. Why does Mrs Kelly continue to pursue co-operation with the NSW government when there is no clear intention that NSW will honour its public commitments on the environment and every indication that it will sacrifice our natural heritage to appease reactionary National Party interests?" said Mr Pugh.

Mr Pugh said that the 7 map sheets which indicate detailed boundaries would be placed on public exhibition at Environment Centres on the north coast and in Sydney during November. He said that copies of NEFA's Report on the proposed nomination will be on sale and the 12 supporting scientific reports would be available for pursual.

"NEFA will conduct a public participation process on the World Heritage Convention and our proposed nomination in line with the IGAE and NFPS. We will direct all submissions to Mrs Kelly, whether she likes it or not," said Mr Pugh.

He said that NEFA and other Australian environment groups would invite the international scientific community to monitor and report on Australia's recent performance in World Heritage matters to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a ~~UN~~ body.

"Australia's credibility on the world conservation stage is at stake. If Mrs Kelly continues to bungle her international obligations, NEFA will have no compunction in advising the IUCN that Australia is all talk and no action," Mr Pugh said.

The proposed nomination relies on 12 published reports, mainly written as Wilderness Assessment Reports by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, as demonstrating the ecological justification of the boundaries recommended by NEFA. A list of these reports is also attached.

"Under the World Heritage criteria, 'bigger is better'. NEFA's larger nomination is more complete in its rainforest examples, includes a broader range of natural ecosystems and geological processes, and encompasses habitats sufficiently large as to ensure the survival of forest dependant species of plants and animals. This proposal has the ecological integrity which the 1992 'mimimalist' re-nomination failed to provide," he said.

For more info Phone:

Dailan Pugh 066 884 307(h) OR John Corkill 02 2474 206 w

NEFA's nomination proposals completes the original 1984⁷ nomination by incorporating significant rainforest areas, all the large wet the complete wilderness areas, most remaining old growth forest and the critical habitat required to allow the majority of our endangered forest animals the best chance of surviving into the future.

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre Inc.
149 Keen Street, Lismore. 2480.
Phone 066 213 278 Fax 066 222 676

7 October 1993

Mr Chris Hartcher,
NSW Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House, Sydney. 2000.

Dear Minister,

Re: World Heritage Nomination and Public Participation

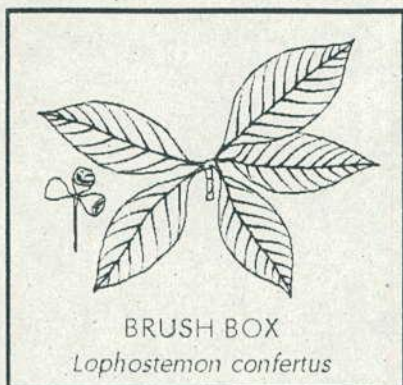
Please find enclosed for your information a copy of our proposal for a World Heritage nomination, titled 'The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' and which has been submitted to the Commonwealth Government for review in the reconsideration of the 1990 renomination for World Heritage Listing, known as the Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia (CERA).

Also enclosed is a copy of our letter, proposing this nomination, which was sent to Mrs Kelly recently.

Not enclosed are the 12 supporting publications, many of which are NPWS assessment reports on Wilderness nominations made under the NSW Wilderness Act 1987. A list of the supporting reports is attached to NEFA's letter to Mrs Kelly.

Also not enclosed are the seven (7) 1:125,000 map sheets which precisely map the proposals nominated boundaries. As these map sets take some time to reproduce NEFA has not been able to complete additional sets to date, but hopes to do so in the near future. A full set of these maps will be provided to you directly. A description of the areas nominated is contained in section 4 of the Report on the Proposal, as are two large scale maps.

This nomination has been sent to the Commonwealth Government for action because NEFA has no confidence that the NSW Government will honour the obligations it accepted when the InterGovernmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE) was signed. Schedule 8 of the IGAE explicitly requires public consultation in the development of an indicative list for World Heritage nomination and for the assessment of proposals for nomination.



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre, Inc.
149 Keen St., Lismore. 2480.
Ph 066 21 3278 Fax 066 222676

Mrs Ros Kelly,
Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House, Canberra. 2600.

30 September 1993

< For Mrs Kelly's personal attention >

Dear Mrs Kelly,

RE: National Estate / World Heritage Nominations
and Public Participation

Please find accompanying this letter, a Report on a Proposal for Nomination for World Heritage Listing of "The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia" (CGEFA) prepared by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA).

NEFA formally proposes the area described on the maps and in the accompanying Report for nomination for World Heritage Listing. Since these areas also satisfy National Estate criteria, NEFA formally proposes these areas for entry onto the Register of the National Estate.

A set of 7 map sheets and 12 published reports are also provided to delineate the boundaries proposed, to document the natural, cultural and heritage values involved and to justify the nomination against the criteria of the World Heritage Convention and the Register of the National Estate. A list of these published reports is attached.

The CGEFA proposal for nomination supercedes the earlier 1987 World Heritage Listing of the 'Warm Temperate and Sub Tropical Rainforests of Australia' (WTaSTRA) and the recent 1992 renomination titled the 'Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia' (CERA) in that this proposal for nomination includes the properties contained in these earlier nominations and adds substantial areas of identified wilderness, unlogged forest, rainforest and the habitat of many rare and endangered species of both plants and animals.

This proposal has many advantages over earlier nominations in that it is more representative, complete and viable. A Summary of the proposal's justification against WH criteria is contained in the accompanying Report.

Just as was done in 1984 during the controversy over the initial WH Rainforest nomination, north coast environmentalists will also invite scientists and conservationists from the international community to make public comments in such a technical review and to monitor and report on Australia's performance on the World Heritage Convention and other international agreements.

NEFA is happy to provide any additional information that may be necessary to support any part of the proposed nomination and specifically offers to conduct field trips to the proposed areas to assist in any assessment of this CGEFA proposal.

We request written confirmation of the receipt of this letter, the Report on the Proposal for Nomination, the 12 accompanying supporting publications and the set of 7 map sheets.

We also request advice, at your earliest opportunity, as to how:

- i) the World Heritage dimension of this proposal is to be considered by you and your Department, and
- ii) the Australian Heritage Commission will assess the National Estate values of the area nominated and prepare a recommendation for entry of the Register of the National Estate.

Further we seek your advice on how you will respond to the requests made above for:

- iii) moratoria over 'hcv' forests/wilderness as per the NFPS,
- iv) Commonwealth intervention if the NSW Government refuses to honour its obligations,
- v) 'opening up' to public participation of the renomination's review,
- vi) commissioning a NE NSW regional assessment under NFPS, and
- vii) the initiation and resourcing of appropriate, representative processes to conduct a public technical review of this proposal for WH and NE nomination and to prepare an authoritative reports on same.

Finally we wish to advise that copies of the Report and maps will be provided to the NSW government, ACIUCN, various other relevant government and non-government organisations and to federal ALP members for their information and appropriate action.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.
Yours sincerely

John R. Corkill Dailan Pugh
Co-ordinators for North East Forest Alliance

LIST OF ENCLOSURES to NEFA Letter to Mrs Kelly 30/9/1993

7 x 1:125,000 scale Forestry project Map Sheets :
Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Walcha, Port
Macquarie, Barrington.

Report on Proposal for Nomination for World Heritage Listing of
"The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia" (CGEFA)
prepared by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA).

12 Published Reports supporting "The Central Great Escarpment
Forests of Australia" Proposal for World Heritage Nomination

- * Bindery (Mann) Wilderness Assessment Report, (1991) NSW
National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- * Investigation of the Bindery (Mann) Wilderness Area -
Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation, (1990) NSW
National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- * Washpool Wilderness Assessment Report, (1992) NSW National
Parks and Wildlife Service.
- * Assessment Report on Proposed North Washpool Addition to
Existing Washpool Wilderness Area, (1990) NSW National Parks
and Wildlife Service.
- * North Washpool Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation
(1990) NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- * Guy Fawkes River Wilderness Assessment Report, (1992) NSW
National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- * Assessment Report on the New England Wilderness Area, (1992)
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- * Macleay Gorges Wilderness Assessment Report, (1992) NSW
National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- * The Flora, Fauna and Conservation Significance of Ben Halls
Gap State Forest, Nundle, NSW (1990) NSW National Parks and
Wildlife Service.
- * Assessment Report on the Werrikimbe Wilderness Area, (1992)
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- * Assessment Report on the Barrington Wilderness Area, (1993)
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- * The Focal Peak Region, A Unique Part of Australia (1986)
Pugh, D and National Parks Association of NSW.

Attention: Terry Parkhouse NCEC
this and next page = 2 only

Kelly responds to 'botching' claims

Northern Star Lismore 13/9/93 p3

By DOUG PARRINGTON

The Federal Environment Minister, Ros Kelly, has refuted claims that Australia had botched its World Heritage nomination list by omitting areas including some North Coast forests.

The North Coast Environment Council said last week that Australia's renomination of New South Wales rainforests had been rejected by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the world ruling body of the World Heritage Register.

The Federal Government had been criticised for its piecemeal approach to identifying potential sites and for omitting known rainforests such as those of the Richmond Range, according to NCEC president Terry Parkhouse.

He said the IUCN returned Australia's nomination for further work.

The IUCN also sought advice as to 'any other additions' which might be identified and included.

"It's an international embarrassment for Australia. Now we'll have to turn around and do the whole thing again," Mr Parkhouse said.

"Australia's reputation may be damaged and the IUCN may view any further submissions as shonky."

Mrs Kelly denied that the renomination of NSW rainforests had been rejected by the IUCN.

The IUCN had made a re-

quest for further information, but such a request was 'not unusual', she said.

"We definitely do not have to do it all again, as Mr Parkhouse claims," she said.

Mrs Kelly said the Federal Government had not been criticised by the IUCN.

"Before the renomination was submitted, it underwent a comprehensive scientific review," she said.

In his statement last week, Mr Parkhouse also said the omission of NSW areas such as Richmond Range was a deliberate political act by the then Premier, Nick Greiner.

This followed a rebellion by the National Party against a re-nomination of NSW rainforests in conjunction with Queensland, he said.

Draft 1 12.40pm 29/9/1993 - to go on NEFA letterhead...

Mrs Ros Kelly,
Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House, Canberra. 2600.

30 September 1993

< For Mrs Kelly's personal attention >

Dear Mrs Kelly,

RE: World Heritage Nominations and Public Participation

+ also meets Natural Estate
Please find accompanying this letter, a Report on a Proposal for Nomination for World Heritage Listing of "The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia" (CGEFA) prepared by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA). NEFA formally proposed this area for nomination for WH listing.

A set of 7 map sheets and ?? published reports are also provided to delineate the boundaries proposed, to document the natural, cultural and heritage values involved and to justify the nomination against the criteria of the World Heritage Convention. +NE

The CGEFA proposal for nomination supercedes the earlier 1987 World Heritage Listing of the 'Warm Temperate and Sub Tropical Rainforests of Australia' (WTaSTRA) and the recent 1992 renomination titled the 'Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia' (CERA) in that this proposal for nomination includes the properties contained in these earlier nominations and adds substantial areas of identified wilderness, unlogged forest, rainforest and the habitat of many rare and endangered species of both plants and animals.

This proposal has many advantages over earlier nominations in that it is more representative, complete and viable. A Summary of the proposal's justification against WH criteria is contained in the accompanying Report. Many of the areas proposed here to be added in a further nomination have already been favourably assessed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service as meeting World Heritage criteria, while the North Washpool forests, long defended by north coast environmentalists, have been recently listed by AHC on the Register of the National Estate citing its exhibition of World Heritage values consistent with the adjoining WH Washpool National Park.

The recommended boundaries contained in NEFA's CGEFA proposal ~~will~~ link with the forest proposed by the Queensland government in the 1992 renomination and incorporate all the areas suggested for inclusion by the IUCN's World Heritage Committee in its recent response to the 1992 CERA renomination.

NEFA is of the view that both
The Commonwealth and the NSW government ~~both~~ have substantial obligations for the identification, nomination and management of World Heritage areas and for ensuring the participation of the public and indigenous people in such processes. These obligations, detailed and discussed in the accompanying Report, are said to bind both governments. ~~but~~ Regrettably neither government has honoured these public agreements, their formal protocols or their public policy statements.
V appears to have

The Alliance is adamant that Australia's operation of the World Heritage Convention must be conducted in accord with these commitments and meet international standards. The Commonwealth has a special role in ensuring that state governments do not compromise Australia's international conservation reputation, which has been exercised appropriately, (in the cases of the FNQ Wet Tropic Rainforests and the SW Tasmanian Forests & Wild Rivers) to overcome obstruction by hostile conservative state governments.

necessary
The New South Wales government failed to honour its commitments under the IGAE, the National Strategy on ESD and the National Forest Policy in the preparation of the 1992 CERA renomination, in that it imposed political and time constraints, and withheld financial resources in the review of ^{NSW} properties potentially meeting the World Heritage criteria. The NSW government failed to provide any process of public participation in the 1992 World Heritage assessment or nomination, despite the explicit requirements of Schedule 8 of the IGAE.

? prevented
NEFA believes these constraints ~~militated against~~ the formulation of a scientifically credible nomination, based on sound ecological assessments, because of ideological opposition to World Heritage recognition from within the NSW National Party and in order to orchestrate a 'minimalist' renomination. These concerns have, over the last two years been expressed to you personally, and to your staff by members of the Alliance, Mr John Corkill and Mr Dailan Pugh. This NSW political interference can be seen as the source of the disquiet expressed by the IUCN's WH Committee and the reason it asked for further work to be done ~~and~~ for the consideration of including additional areas.

+ for the review of a suitable nomination name. a CERA nominator
NEFA's proposal for a nomination of 'The Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia' therefore poses a special, very public test of government commitments and the Commonwealth's willingness to ensure Australia's international scientific credibility.

safeguard
That the areas of forest included within the proposed nomination boundaries are of high conservation value is beyond doubt, given the abundance of supporting evidence available and attached. ~~even if there is some question as to whether they meet WH criteria.~~ As such these high conservation forests must be protected from damage and interference, consistent with the binding agreements of the National Forest Policy Statement. We urge you to again pressure the NSW government to suspend all activities proposed for these forests, pending their independent evaluation against WH criteria, the completion of a NE NSW regional assessment and their inspection by international scientific referees.

We insist that if the NSW government fails to agree to such action and effectively reneges on the IGAE, the NFPS and other national and international obligations, the Commonwealth must take swift and decisive action to intervene, ensure compliance and provide interim protection to these high conservation value forests.

acknowledge your efforts to date + thank you for your time, however we



ical review and the preparation of an report. *using appropriate process overseen by Region St. Cam*

see
Wayfare

John R. Corkill Dailan Pugh
Co-ordinators for North East Forest Alliance

6 September 1993

World Heritage rainforest bungle Kelly, Cabinet Office at fault

The re-nomination of NSW rainforests for listing on the World Heritage Register was an international embarrassment to Australia following the release of a report by the international supervising agency, the World Heritage Bureau of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), by the North Coast Environment Council Inc.

"The IUCN returned the nomination for further work, criticising the Australian government for its piecemeal approach to identifying potential sites and for omitting known rainforests which would qualify for listing", said North Coast Environment Council President, Mr Terry Parkhouse.

Sites named by IUCN but omitted from the NSW nomination are:

- * the Richmond Range;
- * Carrai Plateau and escarpment near Werrikimbe National Park;
- * Mount Seaview Nature Reserve linking areas;
- * the western slopes of Mt Hyland;
- * Barrington Tops plateaux links and extended boundaries.

The IUCN also sought advice as to 'any other additions' which might be identified and included.

Mr Parkhouse said that there were other known rainforest areas which would qualify for World Heritage Listing if only they were properly located and assessed.

"The omission of important NSW rainforest areas from the NSW re-nomination was a deliberate political act by then Premier Greiner, in breach of the much touted Inter Governmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE). Unfortunately instead of ensuring that NSW did the right thing, the Commonwealth effectively condoned and repeated these breaches", he said.

"When the NSW rainforest re-nomination, in conjunction with Queensland was first proposed, the NSW National Party, who continue to oppose the Wran Government's landmark 1982 Rainforest Decision, rebelled", said Mr Parkhouse.

"Greiner and then Minister Tim Moore subsequently agreed that the NSW re-nomination would be strictly limited to ensure that there was no broad re-assessment of the location and conservation values of the state's rainforests.

"A political directive was issued from NSW Cabinet office to National Parks and Wildlife Service that it could only include:
* recent additions to the National Parks rainforest estate; and
* Forestry Commission rainforest Flora Reserves that were immediately contiguous with the already listed rainforest areas."

Mr Parkhouse said that National Parks and Wildlife Service were given no additional money to complete the re-nomination and had a political deadline imposed on them by the NSW Cabinet Office.

"The then Forestry Commission of NSW sought to continue to hide from international recognition, important rainforest areas within State Forests which were of World Heritage quality but which it still has ambitions to log".

"The result was that instead of being based on sound biology, a political nomination was orchestrated to suit the NSW National Party. It was then rushed to IUCN by a federal Labor government desperate to clear its desks and appear 'green' before the 1993 federal election" he said.

"Politics have ensured that this NSW nomination lacks scientific credibility. The myth that all the important NSW rainforests have been found and saved has been perpetuated at home - but this claim hasn't washed in the international scientific community."

"The process of rushing through a political nomination breached the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE) and its Schedule 8, which requires public consultation on nominations and the preparation of an 'indicative list' for future nominations" said Mr Parkhouse.

Mr Parkhouse said that before the NSW re-nomination had been finalised, the North Coast Environment Council had warned Federal Environment Minister, Mrs Ros Kelly, of NSW government's breach of the IGAE and its manipulation of the World Heritage process.

"Mrs Kelly refused to enforce the IGAE and require full public consultation and competent biological review. She did not require Commonwealth government agencies to comprehensively review the Queensland nomination and NSW re-nomination with the result that significant rainforest areas identified by Australian Heritage Commission, such as North Washpool, were not in the Australian government's nomination" he said.

Mr Parkhouse said that the IUCN committee had expressed concerns about the proposed name 'Central Eastern Rainforest of Australia' and asked for a more explicit name to be suggested.

It had also recommended the deletion of the Iluka Nature Reserve Rainforest from the nomination and had commented on the lack of coherent argument for the proposed areas under criteria (iii) of the World Heritage Register:

'superlative natural phenomenon, formations or features, including outstanding examples of the most important ecosystems or areas of exceptional natural beauty'.

ends...

For more information: phone Terry Parkhouse 065 690 771 h
John Corkill 066 224 063 w, Dailan Pugh 066 884 307 h.

draft 2

The Hon. Secretary,
Mr James L.O. Tedder,
Pavan's Rd, Grassy Head
via Stuart's Point. 2441.
Phone/Fax 065 690 802.

Mrs Ros Kelly,
Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House, Canberra. 2601.

20 August 1993

Dear Mrs Kelly,

Re: World Heritage Nomination of
Rainforests of Central Eastern Australia

North Coast Environment Council Inc has been integrally involved in seeking the protection and international recognition of the rainforests in the north east of NSW for over a decade. It was our organisation which was at the forefront of the campaign to protect these important biological jewels from logging by Forestry Commission of NSW in the late 70's and early 80's. It was NCEC who discovered in 1987/88 and pursued for 5 years, incompetence and mis-management of these same areas under the federal-state National Rainforest Conservation Program (NRCP).

One of the Council's Vice-Presidents, Mr John Corkill, alerted you and your department in October 1991 to the inadequacies of the proposed rainforest re-nomination as it was being prepared. Our organisation sought your agreement to honour, and to require the NSW government to honour, the explicit commitments made in the Inter-Governmental Agreement of the Environment.

In particular your assurances were sought that the requirements of Schedule 8 of the IGAE, for public consultation in the preparation of proposed nominations and in the compilation of an indicative list for future nominations, would be met. This issue has been also raised on our request, but quite unsatisfactorily addressed, in meetings of the 'peak councils'. Further, these concerns were on several occasions expressed to members of your office in late 1992 and more recently at meetings held in the office of Harry Woods MHR for Page

Like our now proven allegations of incompetent management and lack of accountability of the NRCP, our protestations about the development of the NSW rainforest re-nomination fell on deaf ears because 'political considerations' were overriding concerns.

It was important, we were told, for the co-operative approach between governments on environmental matters to be pursued, rather than the Commonwealth Government display a leadership style and require performance by state governments to meet international standards. We were told that these political considerations were superior to the enforcement of the IGAE and had primacy over keeping faith with the public who actually fought for, were arrested, battered and publicly maligned because of their commitment to the rainforests' protection.

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- < UPPER PORTION
1. Purchase a copy ticket from the cashier on the ground floor.
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COPY SERVICES

Date 09.07.92

Name HAYHOE BOWNIE & CO.

COPY ORDERED

DP 222701

CARTRIDGE —

IMAGE —

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LAND TITLES OFFICE, SYDNEY, N.S.W.
ORDER FOR ONE PHOTOGRAPHIC COPY

Date 09.07.92

COPY REQUIRED OF

DP 222701

A No 213251

< LOWER PORTION

We have recently learnt that the 1992 Nomination of the Rainforests of Central Eastern Australia, rushed through your office prior to the last federal election, has been rejected by the IUCN with some telling comments made about the Australian government's approach to such nominations.

We understand that the IUCN had information before it sufficient to indicate these rainforest areas in NSW would qualify for nomination, but were not included in the nomination:

- * the Richmond Range;
- * the Carrai Plateau adjacent to Werrikimbe National Park;
- * Mt Seaview Nature Reserve link;
- * Mt Hyland western slopes;
- * Barrington Tops links and boundary.

How is it that IUCN could obtain this information but the Commonwealth Government was ignorant of it?

How is it that the resources of your agencies within the federal government were not applied to critically review the nomination put together by NSW and Queensland state governments?

Why was this not done when this organisation at least had alerted you to our grave concerns about the process and product of the rainforest review in NSW?

In addition to the areas above, this Council is of the view that the Washpool and Billilimbra State Forests which comprise an area known as 'North Washpool' would also easily qualify for inclusion. This is borne out by the Australian Heritage Commission's 1992 background notes for North Washpool area's entry onto the Register of the National Estate. AHC reports that 16% of the Willowie Scrub, the largest warm temperate coachwood rainforest in the world, lies in the North Washpool area.

We state again our very reasonable demands that:

- * the Commonwealth and state governments honour their professed agreements such as the IGAE and the NFPS;
- * no further ad-hoc World Heritage nominations be drafted;
- * an exhaustive review of all NSW rainforests be undertaken to identify all rainforest areas and evaluate their performance against the WH criteria.

In meetings and telephone conversations in 1991 and 1992 with your staff this council warned that NSW Cabinet office had imposed political constraints on the rainforest areas to be assessed by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service for inclusion in the proposed re-nomination.

We warned that these political constraints were being ~~imposed~~ ^{motivated} by conservative vested interests closely associated with exploiters: the timber industry and the Forestry Commission of NSW. We warned that there were NO additional funds being made available to NPWS by the NSW government for the proposed re-nomination review process. We also warned you explicitly that sites such as North Washpool had to be considered by the Commonwealth in a re-nomination process because of Commonwealth

+-----+
JOHN R. CORKILL
PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCATE
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR, PLANNER,
POLICY ADVISER

Nature Conservation Council of NSW delegate: Coastal Committee of NSW

Suite 313, 375 George Street, Sydney. 2001. Ph and Fax 02 299 2541;
'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre, 149 Keen Street, Lismore. 2480 Ph 066 21 3278; Fx 066 222 676;
+-----+

Ms Jan Murrell, Executive Officer,
Coastal Committee of NSW,
Department of Planning,
175 Liverpool Street, Sydney. 2000.

11.8.1993

Dear Jan,

Re: Claim for expenses Coastal Committee meetings

Please find attached receipt in support of the below claim for expenses incurred by me while participating in the business of the Coastal Committee as NCC delegate.

TRAVEL RETURN AIR FARE TO LISMORE 11/8/1993
Coastal Committee meeting 11.8.1993

\$ 214.00

MEETING FEES
Coastal Committee meeting 11.8.1993
Task Force meeting 11.8.1993

I would appreciate your assistance in processing this claim at your earliest convenience. Will you please ask that the reimbursing cheque be held for my collection please? Thank you!

Yours sincerely,

John R. Corkill

recognition of the values of this area, via the National Estate assessment being undertaken by the Australian Heritage Commission. We also warned that there were likely to be additional areas of rainforest of international significance which could be identified if a proper assessment were undertaken.

Our pressing biological and public interest arguments; our pleas for natural justice to be involved in a process of international recognition which we had begun and followed through for over a decade; and our political assessments of the intent of the NSW National Liberal Coalition government were waved away with 'superior' Canberra-centric political analyses.

For your information (again), the 1992 rainforest re-nomination was flawed for the following reasons:

- * no adequate regional assessment of rainforests in NSW has ever been completed;
- * no evaluation of the status of remnant rainforests and their bio-physical components has ever been carried out;
- * no consistent, ecologically based definition of 'rainforest' has been adopted by governments in Australia;
- * resource exploiting agencies, state forestry bodies, continue to control, but deny the existence of, importance rainforests via a discredited, timber production biased method of forest typing;
- * state governments with links to timber industry interests continue to use political processes to obscure and pervert the proper identification of rainforests and the necessary evaluation of their conservation status;
- * the Commonwealth government, pre-occupied with their re-election, failed to enforce compliance by NSW with its commitments under the IGAE, and
- * the Commonwealth government failed to review or referee the draft nomination forwarded to it by the NSW government against the Commonwealth's own criteria (National Estate) or its international obligations.

asks whether you will
The Council calls on you to immediately:

- * fund and carry out a full assessment of all Australian rainforest: its distribution, conservation status and performance against the criteria of the World Heritage Convention;
- * commence a formal public consultation process for all future World Heritage nominations consistent with the explicit agreements within the IGAE, the principles of the National Strategy on ESD and the requirements of Agenda 21;
- * prepare a new rainforest nomination, once the above have been carried out, for forwarding to the IUCN;

We await your urgent reply to this matter of international importance.

Yours sincerely,

13th July, 1988

Forestry Commission
comments on amended
boundaries received.

19th July, 1988

Letter from South-East
Forest Alliance stating their
orig boundary similar to
area of significance
proposed for NSW Parks
Service nature reserve.

19th August, 1988

Margaret Parris agrees to
prepare a report on areas
of significance excluded
from amended
boundaries in consultation
with John Briggs.

16th January, 1989

Minister for DASETT letter
to Minister for Resources
asking that logging be
deferred in areas of
national estate significance
including Yowaka.

26th February, 1989

Report by Margaret Parris
received.

draft on NCEC letterhead.

News Release - 19 August 1993

World Heritage rainforest nomination bungled Ros Kelly and NSW Cabinet Office at fault

The re-nomination of NSW rainforests for listing on the World Heritage Register has caused international embarrassment to Australia following a report by the international supervising agency, the World Heritage Bureau of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), being obtained and released by the North Coast Environment Council Inc.

"The IUCN report criticised the Australian government for its piecemeal approach to identifying potential sites and for omitting known rainforests which would qualify for listing", said North Coast Environment Council President, Mr Terry Parkhouse.

Sites recommended by IUCN but omitted from the NSW nomination are:

- * the Richmond Range;
- * Carrai Plateau and escarpment adjacent to Werrikimbe National Park;
- * Mount Seaview Nature Reserve linking areas;
- * the western slopes of Mt Hyland;
- * Barrington Tops plateaux links and extended boundaries.

The IUCN also sought advice as to 'any other additions' which might be identified and included.

Mr Parkhouse said that there were other known rainforest areas which would qualify for World Heritage Listing if only they were properly located and assessed.

"The omission of important NSW rainforest areas from the NSW re-nomination was a deliberate political act by then Premier Greiner, in breach of the much touted Inter Governmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE). Unfortunately instead of ensuring that NSW did the right thing, the Commonwealth effectively condoned and repeated these breaches", he said.

"When the NSW rainforest re-nomination, in conjunction with Queensland was first proposed, the NSW National Party, who continue to oppose the Wran Government's landmark 1982 Rainforest Decision, rebelled", said Mr Parkhouse.

"Greiner and then Minister Tim Moore subsequently agreed that the NSW re-nomination would be strictly limited to ensure that there was no broad re-assessment of the location and conservation values of the state's rainforests.

"A political directive was issued from NSW Cabinet office to National Parks and Wildlife Service that it could only include:

- * recent additions to the National Parks rainforest estate; and
- * Forestry Commission rainforest Flora Reserves that were immediately contiguous with the already listed rainforest areas."

Mr Parkhouse said that National Parks and Wildlife Service were given no additional money to complete the re-nomination and had a political deadline imposed on them by the NSW Cabinet Office.

"Forestry Commission of NSW sought to continue to hide from international recognition, important rainforest areas within State Forests which were of World Heritage quality, but which it still has ambitions to log".

"The result was that instead of being based on sound biology, a political nomination, was orchestrated to suit the NSW National Party. It was then rushed to IUCN by a federal Labor government desperate to clear its desks and appear 'green' before the 93 federal election" he said.

"Politics have ensured that the ambit of this nomination lacks overall scientific credibility. The myth that all the important NSW rainforests have been found and saved has been perpetuated at home - but this claim hasn't washed in the international scientific community."

"The process of rushing through a political nomination breached the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE) and its Schedule 8, which requires public consultation on nominations and the preparation of an 'indicative list' for future nominations" said Mr Parkhouse.

Mr Parkhouse said that before the NSW re-nomination had been finalised, the North Coast Environment Council had warned Federal Environment Minister, Mrs Ros Kelly, of NSW government's breach of the IGAE and its manipulation of the World Heritage process.

"Mrs Kelly refused to enforce the IGAE and require full public consultation and competent biological review. She did not require Commonwealth government agencies to comprehensively review the Queensland nomination and NSW re-nomination with the result that significant rainforest areas identified by Australian Heritage Commission, such as North Washpool, were not in the Australian government's nomination" he said.

Mr Parkhouse said that the IUCN committee had expressed concerns about the proposed name 'Central Eastern Rainforest of Australia' and asked for a more explicit name to be suggested. It had also recommended the deletion of the Iluka Nature Reserve Rainforest from the nomination and had commented on the lack of coherent argument for the proposed areas under criteria (iii) of the World Heritage Register:

'superlative natural phenomenon, formations or features, including outstanding examples of the most important ecosystems or areas of exceptional natural beauty'.

For more information: phone Terry Parkhouse 065 690 771 h

draft

-2-

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MEETING WITH
Mrs ROS KELLY, MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
Parliament House 22/10/1991

ATTENDING:

Professor Peter Herbst, Convenor of Forestry Working Group, CCSERAC

Mr Sid Walker, Campaign Worker, Forestry Working Group, CCSERAC

Mr Dailan Pugh, Far North Coast Co-ordinator, North East Forest Alliance (NEFA)

Mr John Corkill, Sydney Co-ordinator, North East Forest Alliance (NEFA)

AGENDA ITEMS

CRITIQUE OF DRAFT RESOURCE SECURITY LEGISLATION

NORTH COAST WOODCHIPPING AND COMPLIANCE WITH E.P.I.P. ACT

NO/SLOW PROGRESS ON NORTH COAST NATIONAL ESTATE NOMINATION ASSESSMENTS

NEED FOR FEDERAL ACTION ON ENDANGERED SPECIES LEGISLATION, BOTH COMMONWEALTH AND STATE BASED

CRITIQUE OF ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (esd) TASK FORCE REPORT

REQUEST FOR URGENT ACTION TO SUPPORT NSW ALP COMMITMENT TO SOUTH EAST FOREST LEGISLATION

NATIONAL FOREST INVENTORY

NATIONAL RAINFOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAM (NRCP)

ISSUES ON WHICH INFORMATION IS SOUGHT FROM THE MINISTER

WHAT PROGRESS ON:

NATIONAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

WORLD HERITAGE RAINFOREST RE-NOMINATION

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT COMMISSION (RAC) APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT COMMISSIONER WITH ECOLOGICAL EXPERTISE

PEAK CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS
MEETING WITH THE MINISTER FOR THE ARTS, SPORT,
THE ENVIRONMENT AND TERRITORIES

9 DECEMBER 1992

FOLLOW-UP ACTION - STATUS REPORT AS AT 19 FEBRUARY 1993

FAST TRACKING

1. Rosey Crisp to send relevant information to CEPA on the six lead zinc copper mines in Queensland, none of which are subject to an EIA requirement (unless under foreign investment). CEPA to follow through.

CEPA has not yet received the information.

GREENHOUSE

2. Department to clarify details of Council of Australian Governments (COAG) communique regarding National Grid proposals with respect to capacity contracts with electricity authorities.

The National Grid Management Council (NGMC) will shortly consider future capacity requirements for the National Grid (including demand-side management) and will be publishing, within a few months, a "Statement of Opportunities" in relation to this.

Individual proposals such as Tully Millstream were not considered during the development of the National Grid Protocol. In the future, individual bids will have to be assessed on their merit and competitively under the procedures outlined in the Protocol.

3. Department to make available to PCOs names of people DASET has been dealing with on car emissions and fuel efficiency.

DASETT has been involved in extensive negotiations with FCIA and other departments on the Ford national fuel consumption targets for new vehicles. See the attached list for names of government organisations DASET has been dealing with.

FUNDING FOR VCOS

4. Minister indicated she would seek an increase in funding either through the Prime Minister's Environment Statement or 1993-94 Budget.

The Prime Minister announced an additional \$100,000 funding for VCOS in his Environment Statement for the 1992-93 financial year, part of an additional \$700,000 to be made available to the GVCO Program over the next four years.

5. Minister's office to consult with PCOs on 1992-93 funding arrangements with the Conservation Councils and Environment Centres prior to making final decisions on 1992-93 GVCO grants.

The Minister's office consulted with PCOs in regard to 1992-93 GVCO funding in December 1992.

FORESTS

6. Minister confirmed to PCOs that she views ANZECC as the lead body and the Australian Forestry Commission (AFC) as providing technical input in regard to the development of criteria and principles for conservation reserve system under the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

Minister's commitment at PCOs meeting re ANZECC role in determining reserve system confirmed.

7. Minister confirmed that there would be no AHC regional assessment in Tasmania following the Tasmanian Government's refusal to sign the NFPS.
 - Implementation of the conservation initiatives in the NFPS would be a high priority for the Department.

Situation is as noted.

8. Minister to write to all the signatory States indicating areas of high conservation value that are likely to be subject to the "Moratorium" clause on page 10 of the NFPS, seeking their agreement to implement the necessary commitments.

Minister has written to all relevant State Ministers with forest management and conservation responsibilities on this matter. Lists of areas which were advised by PCOs as having high conservation significance were included with the Minister's correspondence.

9. Urgent attention to be given to developing the criteria for assessment of old growth and wilderness, including appointment of a consultant immediately and convening a workshop in the new year. DASET to make a high priority to get criteria done for the National Forest Policy Statement. A group of interested PCOs were invited to work with National Forests Strategies Section as an on-going reference group.

DASET has let a consultancy to undertake preliminary work on criteria and principles for forest reserves, for input into the work of ANZECC/AFC. A seminar specifically for 'reserve experts' has been developed as part of the consultancy. DASET has also recommended to ANZECC/AFC that an open workshop be held within 3 months of the joint ANZECC/AFC Working Group being established, to which PCOs and other interested groups could be invited. PCOs have not responded formally to the Minister's invitation to work with the Department although they have provided information on forest areas.

10. Minister to look into the legal aspects of Commonwealth EIS on Tasmanian forest strategy - addressing amongst others the question of identification of a 'proponent' and outline options. Minister to then write to Hon. Alan Griffiths, Minister for Resources, about his obligations as action Minister on Commonwealth EIS and copy to the Prime Minister, drawing attention to actions with environmental significance.

Response being prepared in consultation with the Environment and Conservation Policy Division of the Department.

1. The Minister to write to the Minister for Resources outlining possible obligations and options regarding an EIS into the Forest and Forest Industries Strategy (FFIS) in Tasmania and the Commonwealth's position on the FFIS.

The Minister has written to Minister Griffiths on this matter.

12. Minister to continue with negotiations in regard to EIS with particular reference to the Brisbane forest product woodchip licence. Both the Minister and Sid Walker to write to the Minister for Resources concerning the inconsistencies between woodchip licences and the Agreement, and whether the Commonwealth may be in breach of the Agreement.

Consultations being held with Department of Primary Industries and Energy regarding further action on this item.

The Minister has written to Minister Griffiths on the issue of woodchip licences.

13. The Minister to ask the Prime Minister to write to major groups confirming the Government's commitment to phase out of export woodchipping by the year 2000 or soon thereafter.

The Prime Minister has recently reiterated the Government's policy on this matter.

OCEAN RESCUE

14. Arrangements for appointing coordinator of PROMAC would be undertaken before Christmas.

The Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service (ANPWS) has been given the managing role for the development of the marine-coastal community network which it is undertaking with the Australian Littoral Society who will be the network coordinator.

A draft mission statement, objectives, terms of reference and project scope is being prepared by ANPWS for consideration by the Ocean Rescue 2000 Steering Committee.

An initial meeting to consider the above was held with the Australian Littoral Society in December.

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

15. The Minister indicated that early conservation group community consultation would occur on the scope/terms of reference for AHC regional assessments ongoing community consultation.

The Australian Heritage Commission is currently holding briefings with community organisations about the planned regional assessment projects in East Gippsland and the Central Highlands regions of Victoria.

Additionally, Community Reference groups are being established to provide a forum for dialogue between the regional community and the agencies conducting the joint project regarding issues associated with the project. Peak groups are to be invited to provide a nominee for the Community Reference Group, or to suggest a suitable individual who is capable of ensuring their representation.

WORLD HERITAGE

16. The Minister said that the department is evaluating a nomination on Tarkine supplied by the Wilderness Society.

In accordance with IGAE the Wilderness Society proposal has been referred to the Tasmanian Government for comment. No reply has been received.

The Commonwealth is evaluating the proposal.

COASTAL AND MARINE

17. Plans by Shell to establish an oil storage facility on existing refinery site at Cribb Point in Weston Port Bay, Victoria was raised by Jamie Pittock on behalf of Victorian PCO's. He suggested an EIS on the proposal. Minister noted she had written to the local federal member on this issue.

A submission on this proposal is under consideration by the Minister. Further action is subject to an incoming government.

18. Minister to check with Parks on timetable for Jervis Bay.

This action is subject to an incoming government.

GREENJOBS

19. Minister endorsed the local green jobs think tank proposed by Professor Ian Lowe and indicated the Government would provide \$24,000 for the project. To be pursued quickly rather than April-June period as requested by Professor Lowe.

Letter to Minister from Professor Lowe giving details of the proposal is under consideration.

GENETIC ENGINEERING

20. Minister to seek ANZECC support at the March meeting to sponsor a national workshop on genetic engineering to raise awareness. Minister agreed that community consultation on draft legislation would be pursued.

This action is subject to an incoming government.

INTRACTABLE WASTE

21. Minister acknowledged PCO request for involvement in consultative process of the development of the implementation plan. CEPA to follow up.

The former Independent Panel consulted effectively with all key stakeholders and representatives of the general community. This approach is to be continued by the Scheduled Wastes Working Group through an Advisory Committee which is currently being established by the Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency (CEPA). CEPA has invited the following PCOs to be part of this Advisory Committee: Australian Conservation Foundation, Conservation Council of Victoria, Greenpeace and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. It is expected that the Scheduled Wastes Working Group will meet with the Advisory Committee in late February.

LAKE EYRE BASIN

22. Minister expressed basic commitment to catchment management plans, however no commitment to put Basin on indicative list. Minister will need further information on this and if it is placed on indicative list, she undertook to support application financially and to support research into values.

In accordance with the provisions of the IGAE, Mrs Kelly recently wrote to the SA Minister seeking agreement to include the Lake Eyre region on Australia's Indicative List of prospective World Heritage properties. The SA Minister requested that consideration of this matter be deferred pending further consideration by the SA Government.

WORLD HERITAGE LIST

23. Indicative List will be compiled and provided to NGOs. Minister has written to State Ministers. ANZECC to have an indicative list by March.

The Commonwealth is required to consult with States and Territories under the provisions of the IGAE on the compilation of the Indicative List.

The Minister has not yet received responses from all States and Territories to her letters seeking agreement to the inclusion of properties on Australia's Indicative List. The Minister will compile and make available an agreed list of properties as soon as the States/Territories have advised her of their views.

EIS TIMOR GAP

24. Minister to write to the Minister for Resources, on the question of the public release of EISs prepared for the assessment of proposals in the zone of cooperation in the Timor Gap.

A submission has been prepared seeking advice from the Minister for Resources on the circumstances under which information can be publicly released and the opportunities for public review of petroleum exploration and development activities in the Timor Gap.

IGAE

25. CEPA to await contact from PCO representative about a further meeting on PCO views relating to IGAE and impact assessment (Schedule 3).

This is an issue for the ANZECC Working Group. The next ANZECC meeting is scheduled for March 1993.

Department of
THE ARTS, SPORT, THE ENVIRONMENT and TERRITORIES

MINUTE

- 8 MAR 1993

Originating
Office:

Ref:

Mr Sid Walker
Executive Officer
Nature Conservation Council of
New South Wales
39 George Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

ALL PEAK CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS

Please find enclosed the follow up action - status report
arising from the PCOs meeting held on 9 December 1992.

Please note that further follow-up action on a number of items
will be subject to an incoming government.

Lynise Witherden

Lynise Witherden
Climate Change and Environmental Liaison Branch

3 March 1993

Quality in Life

100% Recycled Paper