

Resource and Conservation Assessment Council

RACAC
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INFORMATION ON THE INTERIM FORESTRY ASSESSMENT

A kit of information relating to the Government's recent announcement of the Interim Forestry Assessment is enclosed. This includes:

- a summary sheet, *Major Elements of the Proposals*
- media releases from the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Mr Craig Knowles; the Minister for the Environment, Ms Pam Allan; and the Minister for Land and Water Conservation, Mr Kim Yeadon
- black and white maps of the Interim Deferred Forest Areas [note these maps do *not* show the wilderness areas]
- Interim Forestry Assessment Questions and Answers
- an A4 summary map showing the new national parks and nature reserve and wilderness areas with a wilderness fact sheet and summary of features of the new national parks and nature reserve

A copy of *RACAC News* – issue #3 which describes the negotiations is also enclosed. The *Draft Interim Forestry Assessment Report* is available on request.

If you would like to see more detailed maps of the Interim Deferred Forest Areas, reference copies are available for viewing at both National Parks and Wildlife Service and State Forests of NSW offices.

If you would like more information there are a number of places you can contact, depending on your enquiry.

If you would like more information on wilderness or to see maps of these areas: the National Parks and Wildlife Service is coordinating management of wilderness areas and you can contact the National Parks and Wildlife Service Wilderness Conservation Unit on (02) 9585 6846.

If you would like more information on the new national parks and reserve or on local wilderness areas: numbers for the offices nearest to the new national parks, nature reserve and wilderness areas are listed over the page.

If you would like more information relating to forestry management: contact State Forests of NSW at head office on (02) 9980 4100 or at regional offices at Coffs Harbour (066) 52 8900; Taree (065) 51 0074; Eden (064) 96 1547; or Albury (060) 43 1007.

If you would like information on the Forestry Industry Structural Adjustment Package: to assist the native forest industry in making the adjustments resulting from the forestry assessment process, contact the toll free hotline number: 1300 360 844.

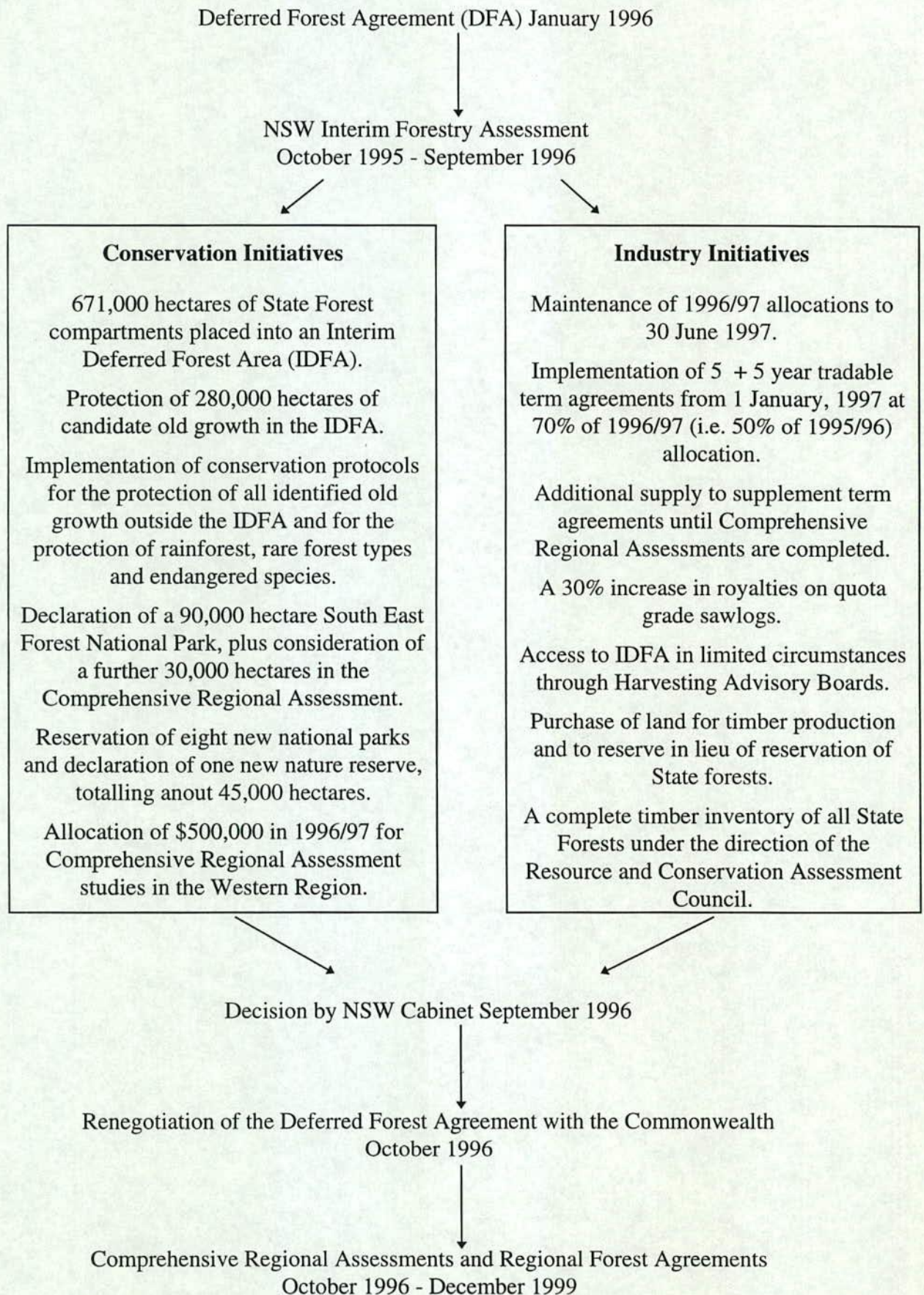
If you would like more information on the Interim Forestry Assessment: contact the Resource and Conservation Council Secretariat on (02) 9228 3166.



For information on the new national parks and reserve or local wilderness areas, contact the National Parks and Wildlife Service on the following numbers:

LISMORE DISTRICT Ph: (066) 28 1177 Colonial Ave, Alstonville NSW 2477	<i>Richmond Range National Park</i>
GRAFTON DISTRICT Ph: (066) 42 0613 50 Victoria Street, Grafton NSW 2460	<i>Fortis Creek National Park</i>
GLEN INNES DISTRICT Ph: (067) 32 5133 68 Church Street, Glen Innes NSW 2370	<i>Washpool Wilderness Area</i> <i>Bindery-Mann Wilderness Area</i> <i>Timbarra Wilderness Area</i>
DORRIGO DISTRICT Ph: (066) 572 309 Cnr Dome Rd & Lyrebird Lane Dorrigo NSW 2453	<i>Nymboi Binderay National Park</i> <i>Chaelundi National Park</i> <i>Guy Fawkes Wilderness Area</i> <i>New England Wilderness Area</i> <i>Bellinger River National Park</i> <i>Dunggir National Park</i>
ARMIDALE DISTRICT Ph: (067) 73 7211 87 Faulkner Street, Armidale NSW 2350	<i>Macleay Gorges Wilderness Area</i> <i>Kunderang Wilderness Area</i>
PORT MACQUARIE DISTRICT Ph: (065) 84 2203 152 Horton Street, Port Macquarie NSW 2444	<i>North Brother National Park</i> <i>Mount Boss Nature Reserve</i> <i>Werrikimbe Wilderness Area</i> <i>Willi Willi Wilderness Area</i>
UPPER HUNTER DISTRICT Ph: (065) 43 3533 160 Bridge Street, Muswellbrook NSW 2333	<i>Mount Royal National Park</i>
HUNTER DISTRICT Ph: (049) 87 3108 22-24 Burke Street Raymond Terrace NSW 2334	<i>Barrington Wilderness Area</i>
EDEN DISTRICT Ph: (064) 95 4130 Cnr Merimbula & Sapphire Coast Dr, Merimbula NSW 2548	<i>Nadgee Wilderness Area</i> <i>South East Forests National Park</i>
NAROOMA DISTRICT Ph: (044) 76 2888 36 Princes Highway, Narooma NSW 2546	<i>South East Forests National Park</i>
NOWRA DISTRICT Ph: (044) 23 9800 24 Berry Street, Nowra NSW 2541	<i>Budawang Wilderness Area</i>

MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSALS



INTERIM FORESTRY ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What does the Cabinet decision mean?

The Cabinet decision is an interim determination of those areas of the State's forests to be deferred from timber production while further detailed assessments are completed.

The Comprehensive Regional Assessments will determine the environmental and economic values of these forests as agreed under the joint State-Commonwealth National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS). These assessments will form the basis for Regional Forest Agreements on which forests will be set aside for conservation in reserves and which forests will be made available for timber production.

The interim determination reflects the NSW Government's commitment to preserving forests with high biodiversity, old growth and wilderness values while maintaining a viable, ecologically sustainable high technology native timber industry.

Core wilderness and national parks will be declared now, while other reserves will be decided through the Comprehensive Regional Assessments.

To achieve this, the Cabinet decision outlines new procedures for managing State forests and to implement reforms to arrest industry decline and reshape it to a more efficient industry for the future, with a focus on value-adding.

What are the major features of the Interim Forest Assessment?

The Interim Forestry Assessment is part of the NSW Government's historic package of forestry reforms which are made up of interim and longer term strategies. This interim assessment provides a firm footing to meet the twin objectives for a world class reserve system and to create a more sustainable and efficient timber industry.

When implemented, the NSW forestry policy aims to remove the uncertainty which has existed for many years for all stakeholders in the State's public forests and to promote growth and community well being.

The Government established the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council to provide informed advice on forestry issues as part of role in underpinning broad based decision making on land use in New South Wales. The Council is chaired by Mr Gerry Gleeson and includes representatives of Government agencies, industry, the union, conservation groups and the scientific community.

A primary benefit of the Interim Forestry Assessment has been unprecedented stakeholder co-operation. Stakeholders have also played key roles in negotiating outcomes for conservation and a series of levels of wood supply for the assessment, paving the way for co-operative forest management in the future.

The assessment utilised state of the art technology, matched to development of cutting edge methodology in analysing the most comprehensive collection of scientific, social and economic data ever available for NSW forests.

For the first time the eastern forests of NSW have been part of a coordinated assessment, bringing to an end decades of conflict on a limited site-by-site basis.

With these initiatives NSW has provided a model for change management.

How did the negotiations work?

The database of information on biological features and wood resources for the Interim Forestry Assessment covered 11 forest areas spanning eastern NSW.

Stakeholders were involved in setting the conservation criteria for negotiations based on the Commonwealth Reserve Criteria. Over a four week period stakeholders then negotiated a range of conservation and wood supply outcomes in each of these areas.

The outcomes showed the degree that conservation targets were met at different levels of wood supply. Wood supply estimates were based on current wood supply with identified wilderness areas excluded.

The four outcomes were:

- Conservation Criteria Outcome - meeting the conservation needs as fully as practicable;
- Wood supply at approximately 30 percent of current quota log allocation;
- Wood supply at approximately 50 percent of current quota log allocation; and
- Wood supply at approximately 70 percent of current quota log allocation.

Why was the Eden area treated differently in the assessment?

Assessment of the south east forests was due to a Government requirement to satisfy two outcomes:

- ability to supply a minimum of 20,000 m³ of quota sawlogs per year on a sustainable basis. The Wood Resources Model was used to provide the yield figure;
- proposing of additional national parks/reserves to bring the total to 90 000 hectares including the national parks/reserve of the Southeast Forests Agreement of 1990.

What social factors were taken into account?

A study was undertaken to assessing the potential social impacts of reductions in wood supply on people in timber communities.

People in these communities consider the benefits of conservation to be national and worldwide and the disadvantages to be localised.

The study highlighted the need to involve local communities in the decisions that affect their future and to better inform these communities of Government initiatives and strategies that could alleviate their concerns.

What economic factors were considered?

A study detailed the indicative economic impacts of changes in wood supply. This work included details on the potential changes in employment and mill operations within regions and across the state.

A structural adjustment package of \$120 million is available to assist workers in retraining and relocation. Industry development initiatives and improved resource security will also be important in terms of addressing change within the timber industry.

Was the community consulted on the assessment?

The interim assessment is essentially a cooperative venture between government agencies, the forestry industry, the union covering employment forestry industry, conservation groups and the academic community. Stakeholders have a direct input through their membership of the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council as well as Socio-Economic and Conservation Working Groups advising Council.

As part of its commitment to open communication, the Council gives a high priority to keeping members of the community informed of its activities and has issued a newsletter, *RACAC News* to keep people up to date with its activities.

The Council held information sessions on the assessment in March and April in centres throughout the study area. With the release of the draft report for comment, a series of public consultation sessions were held in Lismore, Grafton, Kempsey, Maitland, Sydney, Batemans Bay, Merimbula and Armidale. As well as briefings by the Director and representatives of agencies, stakeholder representatives described how they were contributing to the assessment.

The level of interest in the assessment was reflected in over 20,000 submissions received following an invitation to comment on the draft assessment when it was placed on public exhibition.

Issues that emerged from the consultation sessions, together with the submissions, were then considered by Government.

The way forward

The Interim Assessment has been a major step towards determining a Comprehensive, Representative and Adequate reserve system in New South Wales. It will now be followed by a more detailed Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA). This assessment will investigate a wide range of uses on all forested land including economic, social, environmental and heritage values.

The CRA process will expand the community's involvement by establishing regional committees. These committees will provide 'grass roots' feedback and advise the Government on forest issues relating to the assessments in their region.

As a result of the Cabinet decision there will also be new procedures for managing State Forests, including greater stakeholder involvement in forest planning at operational level.

Ultimately, the CRA process will lead to Regional Forest Agreements between the State and Commonwealth Governments.

These Regional Forest Agreements will be the means by which decisions are recorded about forest use and management. They will give industry the certainty necessary to make investment decisions which will underpin sustainable industry development. They will also provide a firm basis for nature conservation through Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative reserves and complementary off-reserve management.

Wilderness Fact Sheet

- Wilderness is a large natural area of land that, together with its native plant and animal communities, is essentially unchanged by human activity.
- Wilderness areas are managed so that native plant and animal communities are disturbed as little as possible. Pest animal control, weed control and bushfire management are important parts of this management. Bushfires are managed under the *Bushfire Act, 1940* to protect life and property. Weed and feral animal control programmes are implemented to protect the wilderness values and neighbouring properties. During 1996, the NPWS will spend \$4.4m on weed and feral animal control - an increase of 150% over the previous two year's expenditure.
- Wilderness areas are open to people who wish to walk, swim, canoe, rockclimb, picnic, camp and cave in them. In order to protect the wilderness values and animal and plant communities, vehicles and horses are not permitted.
- These additions, totalling 153,430 ha, increase the total land areas in NSW declared as wilderness to 1.44% and the total area of wilderness from 1,002,133 ha to 1,155,563 ha.
- Very limited areas of disturbance have been identified as wilderness in some cases because they are needed for the management of adjacent wilderness or contribute to its integrity. This is entirely consistent with the Wilderness Act.
- During the recently completed Interim Forestry Assessment Process, identified wilderness was protected from logging. The Draft Interim Assessment Report described identified wilderness as deferred from logging.
- Identified wilderness in State Forest, not declared as wilderness or national park, will continue to be unavailable for logging and will be subject to the Comprehensive Regional Assessment.
- Vehicle and horse based recreationalists will not be greatly affected by the additions. Most areas proposed for addition are not used by vehicles or horses.
- Each area considered by Government has undergone extensive public consultation of at least five months.
- More than 12,000 individual submissions on each area and 4,000 submissions on the declarations in general were received in response to the most recent round of public consultation during June and July this year.

September 23, 1996

HISTORIC DECISION MARKS NEW ERA IN FORESTRY

The Carr Government today delivered on its commitment to save the State's high conservation forest areas while moving to create a more efficient and sustainable timber industry, the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Mr Craig Knowles said today.

Mr Knowles was commenting on Cabinet's approval of the Interim Forestry Assessment which details what public forest areas are to be protected from timber production and what forests will be available to industry.

"The Government has established the means to create an efficient, high technology and ecologically-sustainable sawlog-driven timber industry with a focus on value adding.

"The Government is also committed to conserving forests with high biodiversity, old growth and wilderness values in a world class reserve system.

"For the first time in a generation, the State Government has established a forestry framework which balances the need to conserve our precious forests with the timber industry's need for certainty of supply.

"This decision shows the Government is vitally concerned with employment. While job losses have been occurring in the industry for decades, the Government's restructuring will turn this around. Industry reinvestment and redeployment will be assisted with a \$120 million restructure package which also serves to support rural communities.

"The initiatives also demonstrate the Government's commitment to creating a 'Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative' reserve system - a true national system of protected forests.

Key achievements for industry include:

- term agreements guaranteeing quota grade sawlogs - initially set for five years at 50 percent of 1995/96 levels with a guarantee of supply for a further five years contingent on sawmills meeting conditions for value adding;
- maintaining existing supply of quota grade sawlogs at current levels until July 1997;
- for the next three years or until the end of the more detailed forest assessment;
 - sawmills in northern NSW will receive 60 percent of their 1995/96 quota levels (ie a 10 percent cut from July 1, 1997)
 - sawmills in central and southern NSW will receive 65 percent of their 1995/96 quota levels (ie a 5 percent cut from July 1, 1997)
 - Tumut will remain at 100 percent of 1995/96 levels pending the completion of a Regional Forest Agreement (ie no cut from current allocations);
- an aggressive private forested land purchase scheme to supplement timber supplies; and
- providing \$120 million for a Structural Adjustment Package to retrain and relocate affected timber workers and to restructure the industry.

...2/

Key achievements for conservation include:

- the exclusion of harvesting on public land of all high conservation old growth areas, wilderness areas and other areas likely to be included in National Reserve System. All public rainforest will be protected;
- the deferral from logging of 671,000 ha to be assessed for inclusion in the comprehensive adequate and representative reserve system;
- the identification of 120,000 ha National Park in the south east forests - 90,000 ha to be declared immediately with the rest to be confirmed through the Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA);
- nine significant additions to the national parks system at Richmond Range (8,325 ha), Dunggir National park (2,491 ha), Bellinger River (2,863 ha), Chaelundi (10,314 ha), Mount Boss (480 ha), Mount Royal (3,341 ha), Nymboi Binderay (8,800 ha) Fortis Creek (7,747 ha), North Brother National Park (717 ha); and
- the protection of 12 wilderness areas totalling 153,430 ha including 31,590 ha on existing national parks.

In addition:

- State Forests will establish Harvest Advisory Boards to advise on the implementation of the new timber allocations. The Boards will comprise representatives of industry, conservation and government;
- where deferred areas must be harvested to maintain supply, the Harvest Advisory Boards will be consulted on which areas are to be accessed; and
- a comprehensive timber inventory of all State Forests and Crown land will be undertaken by State Forests.

“The Interim Forestry Assessment decision is a crucial step in fulfilling the Government’s election commitment to:

- establish a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system;
- develop an efficient high technology and ecologically sustainable sawlog-driven timber industry;
- create an ecologically sustainable value-adding timber industry while providing protection and retraining to workers;
- implement the National Forest Policy Statement; and
- systematically transfer timber production from high conservation forests and identified wilderness areas to plantation and regrowth forests.

“The decision is based on the most thorough and scientifically based assessment of the State’s forests ever undertaken. This involved extensive data collection, scientific analysis and resource modelling using state of the art computer technology as well as development of new methodologies.

“The assessment was coordinated by the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council, chaired by Mr Gerry Gleeson. Council members include representatives of Government, the union, industry and conservation groups as well as the academic community,” Mr Knowles said.

Contact: Matthew Shaw (02) 9228 4499 or 0419 239 178

RACAC news

Issue No. 3

Resource and Conservation Assessment Council

May 1996

The negotiations... stakeholders get together on forests

In an unprecedented move, industry, union, conservation and government representatives have recently completed four weeks of intensive negotiations to agree on a range of outcomes for the future use of public forests in eastern New South Wales.

The negotiators worked out up to four alternative outcomes for each of the eleven negotiation areas. These give options for which areas will be available for timber production and which will be set aside until completion of comprehensive regional assessments and establishment of a reserve system. The development of these outcomes is a major step towards resolving the long running forestry debate.

The negotiators used computer programs containing extensive databases of information about the biological features and wood resources of the forests. On screen, they then identified high conservation areas and those areas which may be needed to supply industry needs at a range of proportions of sawlog quotas. Conservation targets were determined by the New South Wales and Commonwealth Governments in their Scoping Agreement which was signed early this year.

The negotiations have been an important phase in the interim assessment which recognises the values of these forests to conservation and industry. This type of face-to-face negotiation – in which stakeholders



Stakeholders in negotiation L to R: Annemarie Watt (Commonwealth), Col Dorber (Forest Products Association), Rex Bowen (RACAC), David Ridley (SFNSW), Mark Greenhill (Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union), Leanne Wallace (NPWS) and Dailan Pugh (Conservation).

themselves are directly involved in developing outcomes – has not been attempted before in the forestry debate. The process produced outcomes negotiated by all sides rather than a victory for just one side.

What happens next

- At the end of the negotiations the outcomes were considered by the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council. A draft interim assessment report will be released for public comment in early June. The report will outline the ways conservation, wood resource, social and economic data were assessed and the results of the negotiations.
- A consultation period begins with the release of the draft report when RACAC will be seeking the views of all the community and conduct-

ing consultation sessions (see inside for more details).

- Submissions will be considered by RACAC before the report is forwarded to the Government for finalisation. The Government's decision will be an *interim* determination of those areas to be deferred and those which may be logged. It is emphasised this is a temporary measure to allow logging to continue while the longer and far more comprehensive forest assessment occurs.
- The community will continue to have its say in the development of the comprehensive, adequate and representative forest reserve system. Committees made up of regional representatives will be integral to the development of regional forest agreements.



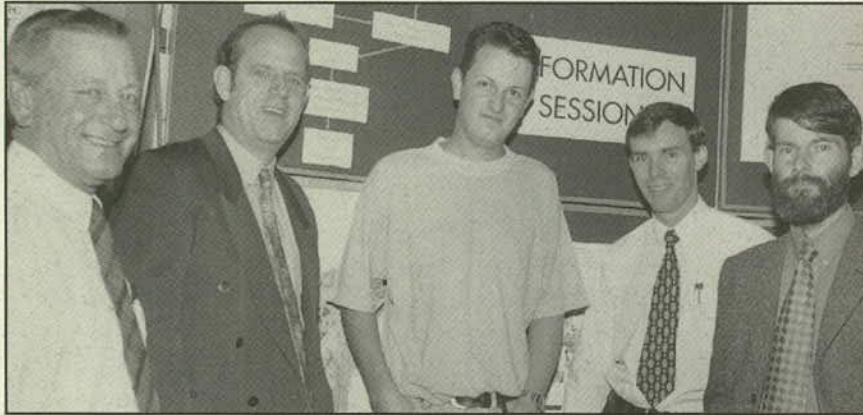
How the negotiation process worked

The negotiations produced up to four outcomes for each of the eleven negotiation regions for the consideration of the Government. For all regions except Eden, these outcomes were arrived at by:

- Progressively building up a deferred forest area option on conservation features. The deferred area was 'built' until all conservation targets were satisfied as far as possible. Choices were made to least affect timber volumes.
- 'Rollback' of the deferred area taking account of industry considerations. Scenarios giving 70%, 50% and 30% of quota allocations at July 1995 were documented where possible, given the yield available at the start. The process also minimised, as far as possible, effects on conservation targets.
- The computer program allowed selection of forestry compartments for their importance for meeting conservation targets. Various combinations of questions put to the computer allowed selection of the best combination of required areas.
- The allocation-reduction targets were based on the calculation of sustained yield from the Wood Resources Study (prepared by State Forests of NSW). Forestry operational management implications were also considered in developing the outcomes.
- In the case of the Eden Management Area the Government required outcomes which produced a maximum 90 000 hectare reserve and provided a minimum per annum level of sawlog quota of 26 000 cubic metres.



Information session feedback



Batemans Bay information session. RACAC Director, Rex Bowen, with representatives Tim Shepherd (NPWS), Andrew Harden (union), Peter Moore (SFNSW), and Simon Clark (conservation), who described how stakeholder groups are contributing to the assessment.

We hope those who attended the information sessions in March and April found them useful. The sessions demonstrated that many people already had a good understanding of the forest assessment process in New South Wales. The speakers welcomed the chance to meet and listen to members of the community and to emphasise the importance of their participation in RACAC's open process.

Following the information sessions RACAC reviewed the main issues which came out of them. In this newsletter we record the answers to those questions most frequently raised by you in our meetings.

Q: The process seems to be taking place in a rather short time. I am concerned that some forest areas will not be properly assessed and considered.

The State Government makes its decision on the *interim* forest assessment in July. It is not a final decision. The interim assessment will determine the timber resource which will be available to industry while the longer, more comprehensive process continues. It 'aims to identify on a regional basis those forested areas that may need to be deferred from logging for inclusion in a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system.'

The determination of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system will take longer and is

a more detailed process. It depends on continuing community involvement for its success.

Soon after the interim assessment is finalised you will be informed about the next step in consultation. Committees made up of regional representatives will be integral to the development of the regional forest agreements (RFAs).

Q: Apiarists use our forests. How are they affected by this interim forest assessment? What happens to them next?

While RACAC recognises the apiarists are stakeholders in the forests, the deferrals following the interim assessment will only affect logging. Other forest uses can continue.

The comprehensive regional assessments (CRAs) which will begin immediately following the finalisation of the interim assessment will deal with those issues and will consider private as well as public land. With the establishment of regional committees there will be further opportunity for stakeholders to participate. Socio-economic aspects of the apiary industry will be considered.

Q: Why aren't areas of old growth less than 25 hectares being considered?

Time constraints during the interim assessment involved some limitations. The old growth mapping project mapped 3.3 million hectares of forests in just six months. A minimum area of 25 hectares was used in mapping growth stages.

There may be parts of forests less than 25 hectares which are significant. However, the current process covers all the eastern forest regions in order to secure important conservation options and timber resources *in the interim*. There is a limit to the level of detail which could be considered in the time available.

Q: What does the 15 per cent benchmark mean?

The 15% benchmark was developed by the Commonwealth and agreed to by New South Wales in the Scoping Agreement between the governments. It requires a broad benchmark of 15% of pre-1750 vegetation to be reserved but can vary according to natural rarity, past depletion and level of threat. The interim assessment targets are adjusted to take into account natural rarity according to a formula which sets some common types at 10% of pre-1750 distribution and adjusts other types so that the overall level of reservation is maintained at 15%. For example, naturally very rare types have a reservation target of 100% and other types have an intermediate target.

Q: How was old growth defined for the purposes of data collection? How do we know the data on which this interim assessment is based is reliable?

There is no unanimous definition of old growth. For the interim assessment RACAC developed a definition of likely, or 'candidate', old growth to guide interim deferral.

'Growth stage' mapping was done by twenty four air photo interpretive contractors who interpreted from aerial photos the current growth stage and disturbance. The methodology was to map the growth stages of forests in terms of the proportion of regrowth trees, mature trees, overmature or senescent trees and obvious past evidence of logging or fire damage in each stand.

The project was a cooperative one, coordinated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service with State Forests of NSW providing trained aerial-photo-graph interpreters to make detailed checks of the aerial photographs.

continued on next page....

Information session feedback

...continued

Project workers spent 60% of their time in the field and State Forests checks came up with 80% agreement.

From the mapped growth stages, categories were selected to be treated as possible old growth for the interim assessment.

The validation of the aerial photography interpretation project is ongoing and there will be ground truthing of areas in dispute.

Q: How do we know the data is sufficiently detailed?

New South Wales is the only state which has a policy to make data available to stakeholders. Some data is not owned by the Government and is therefore not ours to release.

Government agencies have cooperated in the production and verification of data, which will be subject to continuing validation. Rather than use pre-existing and possibly outdated data, fresh studies and projects were undertaken for this forest assessment. The level of detail sought was that which was needed to provide a regional overview.

Those areas where the data has not been as comprehensive as for other areas – the Central region in particular – will receive special attention during the comprehensive assessment.

Q: What are the socio-economic studies looking at – and are you also taking non-timber values, such as those from tourism and water quality, as well as other economic impacts into account?

The timber industry is the industry most directly affected and therefore RACAC is supervising studies on how changes may affect industry at the micro-economic level as well as a regional level. Community profiles and social studies are also being conducted.

The socio-economic studies will provide information about the likely effects of options of resource changes and the significance of these changes will be taken into account in implementing the interim assessment.

The socio-economic studies are a starting point. For the comprehensive regional assessment it is proposed that a full benefit/cost analysis of future resource options will consider non-use values and the best *net* result from land use decisions.

Consultation on the interim assessment report ... how, where, when

The draft report will be released for public comment in early June. A four week consultation period will then

begin and during that time RACAC will be visiting communities from Lismore to the south coast to hear your views on the report. We will notify you about the time and venues for those meetings through ads in your local papers.

The aim of the sessions is to inform people about the proposals for the deferred forest areas and get your views on the proposed outcomes. We expect the meetings to run from 4.30 to 8.30 pm.

The issues which emerge in these consultations will be considered along with the submissions in the preparation of the final report. We invite you to these meetings to have your say.

New on RACAC...

Mark Blecher Conservation Representative

Mark Blecher has been appointed to RACAC as a second conservation representative on the 14 member Council.

Mark has had a long association with conservation issues in this state and is currently President of the South East Forests Conservation Council which provides a forum for ongoing community consultation on all forestry issues.

Mark has a background in landscaping, cabinetmaking and schoolteaching in Bega and Eden. His knowledge of forest management, forest ecology, timber industry, wood products industry, State, federal and local government political processes, community networking and advocacy is extensive. Mark has authored and co-authored numerous papers and submissions on the NSW timber industry. His knowledge and experience will contribute another conservation voice to the RACAC process.

DISCLAIMER

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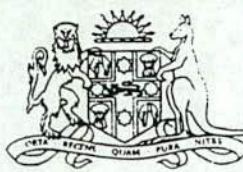
RACAC members

Mr Gerry Gleeson, Chair
Mrs Gabrielle Kibble, Director-General, Department of Urban Affairs and Planning
Mr Roger Wilkins, Director-General, The Cabinet Office
Dr Col Gellatly, Director-General, Department of Land and Water Conservation
Ms Robyn Kruk, Director-General, National Parks and Wildlife Service
Dr Hans Drielsma, General Manager, State Forests of NSW
Dr Neil Shepherd, Director-General, Environment Protection Authority
Mr Geoff Scott, Director-General, Department of Aboriginal Affairs
Professor Andrew Beattie, Scientific Representative
Mr Col Dorber, Industry Representative
Mr Gavin Hillier, Union Representative
Mr Dailan Pugh, Conservation Representative
Mr Mark Blecher, Conservation Representative
Mr Phillip Glyde, Commonwealth Representative

Further information

RACAC News is an occasional publication. It will keep you up to date with relevant information, including details of projects, consultations and general progress. If you wish to be placed on the RACAC News mailing list, please call the RACAC Secretariat on (02) 228 3166, or write or fax a request to:

Rex Bowen, Director – RACAC Secretariat, GPO Box 3927, Sydney NSW 2001
Phone (02) 228 3166 Fax (02) 228 4967



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NEW SOUTH WALES

Level 9 St James Centre 111 Elizabeth Street Sydney 2000
Telephone: (02) 233 4044 Facsimile: (02) 233 3617

23 September 1996

NSW DELIVERS WORLD'S BEST NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

The Carr Government today delivered its historic forestry reform package which confirms NSW as the world leader on nature conservation and gives it the best national parks system in the world - even better than Canada or South Africa's.

Environment Minister Pam Allan said the forestry reform package guaranteed the best conservation gains ever achieved in NSW with a total of 37 new parks being established since March 1995.

She said this exceeds Labor's election commitment.

"Every hectare of land to be dedicated as national park or wilderness by this decision was on the Coalition's logging schedule.

"With Australia having the worst rate of mammal extinction in the world it is incumbent on us to make the bold conservation decisions for future generations.

The package announced today includes:

- The establishment of 10 new parks and reserves including:
 - The identification of 120,000 ha national park in the South East Forests, 90,000 to be reserved immediately with the rest to be confirmed through our six month comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA). This exceeds Labor's election promise of a 90,000 ha South East Forest National Park.
 - New parks on the north coast of Richmond Range (8,325 ha), Dunggir National Park (2,491 ha), Bellinger River (2,863 ha), Chaelundi (10,314 ha), Mount Boss (480 ha), Mount Royal (3,331 ha), Nymboi Binderay (8,800 ha), Fortis Creek (7,747 ha), North Brother National park (717 ha).
- The protection of 12 new areas as wilderness totalling 153,230 ha. This is in addition to the 350,133 ha of wilderness declared earlier this year and means 1.44% of the state is now permanently protected as wilderness.
- The formal establishment of a \$5 million Milo Dunphy Wilderness Fund to support the acquisition of private and lease hold land for wilderness additions. \$1 million a year for five years will be provided for this purpose.
- A deferred from logging area of 671,000 ha pending further assessment to establish a comprehensive adequate and representative reserve system.

- Allocation of \$500,000 in 1996/97 for Comprehensive Regional Assessment studies in the Western Region.

“The Government is acting to honour its commitment to protect the South East Forests and to extend the protection of wilderness areas.

“At the same time our \$120 million investment in the timber industry ensures its modernisation and a sustainable future for timber workers,” Ms Allan said.

September 23, 1996

NEW FUTURE FOR THE NSW TIMBER INDUSTRY

The Carr Government today announced historic reforms which will create new, better paid and safer jobs in a revitalised NSW timber industry.

Lands Minister Kim Yeadon said today's package would create an industry which would lead the world in efficient and profitable production of sustainably managed hardwood.

"We put people into this equation," he said. "As a result, any change will be about creating better paid jobs and a more stable industry and will be progressive, orderly and well-managed.

"It gives industry the certainty it needs to invest in the future and to create jobs.

"We have delivered to the NSW timber industry what no other NSW Government has been able to deliver - a solid framework for efficient and sustainable development. It is now up to industry to take up the challenge.

"Yearly quota allocations of timber will be replaced by five year term agreements with scope for an additional five years, conditional on millers demonstrating a commitment to value-adding."

Today's decision provides for:

- No change to timber supply levels until July 1, 1997, giving industry players time to consider investment options and plan for their futures.
- On coming to office the Carr Government took action to bring timber supplies back to sustainable levels. In line with this policy, from July 1, 1997, sawlog supplies will fall a further 5 to 10 per cent to between 60 and 65 per cent of 1995-96 levels, while a more detailed assessment of the State's forest resources is carried out.
- The commitment to timber supply will be underpinned by tradeable five year term agreements for 50 per cent of 1995-96 sawlog quotas.
- There will be scope for a further five year agreement at the same level - contingent on individual saw millers demonstrating their commitment to value-adding to gain the highest return for native timber.

Mr Yeadon said the outcome of the historic Interim Forestry Assessment announced today provided a balanced result negotiated by major forest stakeholders.

"Combined with the \$120 million forest industry structural adjustment package, there is now the incentive to invest in new technology and to create new, better paid jobs and wider community benefit from forest industries," he said.

The State Government will embark on an aggressive program to buy private forested land in order to maintain a guaranteed flow of timber resource to the timber industry.

This resource will be sustainably harvested and sold to the timber industry at market prices to ensure ongoing ability to meet allocations for the next three years and term agreements.

Artificial boundaries between existing State Forest regions will also be removed to allow logs to flow between regions with abundant timber supplies to those with less immediately available timber.

"A further initiative is the creation of Harvesting Advisory Panels in contentious areas to give key stakeholders - including conservationists and industry - an unprecedented say in timber harvest planning and operations," Mr Yeadon said.

"Forest stakeholders will work with Government agencies to secure environmental values of forests while meeting Government commitments on timber supply levels.

"Additionally, the price for quota sawlogs will increase on January 1, 1997 by an average 20 per cent to reflect the opportunities for further value-adding and the granting of term agreements."

From July 1, 1997, sawlog supplies for the next three years or until the end of further forest assessments will be reduced by:

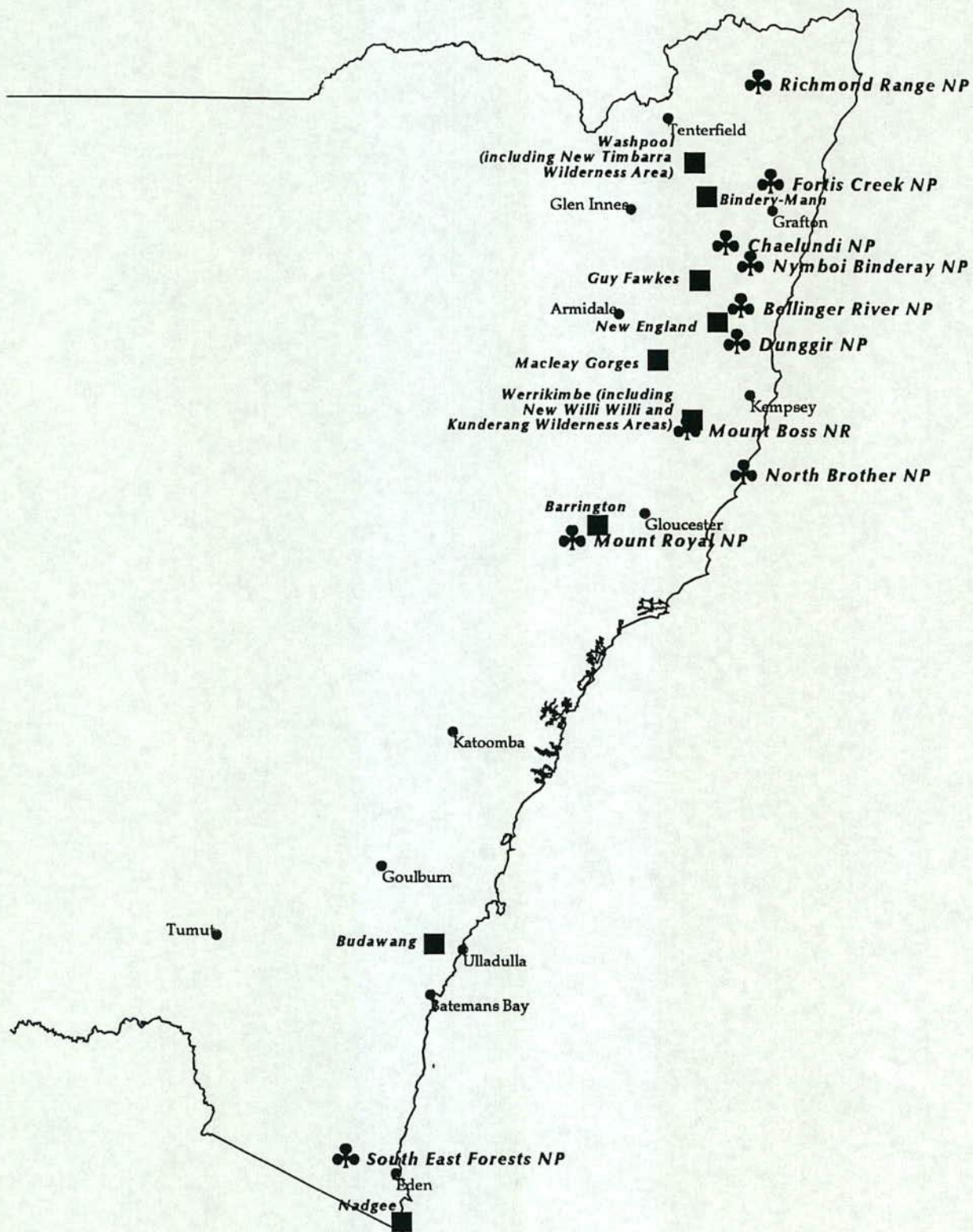
- 5 per cent of 1995/6 quota levels in the areas around Wyong and Cessnock
- 5 per cent of 1995/96 quota levels in Southern region (Nowra, Batemans Bay, Narooma, Moss Vale, Queanbeyan and Badja)
- 10 per cent of 1995/96 quota levels in Northern NSW and the Northern Tablelands (ie from the Queensland border to the Hunter River and west to Tenterfield and Glen Innes).
- No change on 1995/96 quota in Tumut

A 90,000 hectare National Park will be established in Eden with a further 30,000 hectares placed under moratorium pending further assessments.

NEW NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE RESERVE

Name	Location	Area (hectares)	Features	Comments
Bellinger River National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N3 south of Dorrigo on the New England Escarpment. Bellinger River State Forest. Adjacent to New England and Dorrigo National Parks. 	2,860	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a link between New England and Dorrigo National Parks. Extensive areas of Dry Blackbutt old growth forest. Regionally significant habitat for threatened fauna. Contains three rare and threatened plant populations. The area includes subtropical and warm temperate rainforest. 	Contains a flora reserve.
Chaelundi National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N2 north-west of Dorrigo and south-west of Grafton. Includes parts of Chaelundi State forest, Boundary Creek State forest, Marara State forest. 	10,314	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protects significant forest types. Diverse dry forest environments. 60% of the area is old growth forest making this one of the largest and most diverse contiguous stands of dry old growth forest. The area includes part of Chandlers Creek provisionally identified wilderness. Supports nationally important populations of threatened fauna. 	Includes small in-holdings. Contains Chandlers Creek, Shannon, and Sailors Hill Flora Reserves.
Dunggir National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N3 west of Urunga. Mistake State forest. 	2,491	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protects old growth forest. Contains a large population of <i>Bosistoa floydii</i> (Five-leaved Bosistoa). Encompasses three different types of rainforest. 	
Fortis Creek National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N2 north of Grafton and adjacent to Banyabba Nature Reserve. Fortis Creek State forest. 	7,747	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains 20 forest types and old growth forest. Provides habitat for more than 20 species of threatened fauna including the Koala, the Masked Owl and Common Bent-wing Bat. Contains at least four significant plants. 	Includes small in-holdings.
Mount Boss Nature Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N3 west of Wauchope. Mount Boss State forest. 	480	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 275 hectares of rainforest. 15 threatened fauna. 	
Mount Royal National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N4 east of Muswellbrook and adjacent to Barrington National Park. Mount Royal State forest. 	3,341	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area contains 11 forest types. 20% of the area is rainforest. It provides habitat for the Hasting River Mouse and Parma Wallaby. <p>A further 19 threatened fauna are predicted in the area.</p>	
North Brother National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N3 on the coast between Taree and Port Macquarie. Camden Haven State forest. 	717	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30% of the area is old growth forest which includes some of the best examples of old growth Blackbutt in NSW. Supports a suite of threatened and other regional priority fauna. The area contains significant rare and threatened plant populations including the endemic <i>Acacia courtii</i> (Courtii Wattle). Contains subtropical rainforest. 	Contains a flora reserve.
Nymboi Binderay National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N2 north of Dorrigo. Includes parts of Wild Cattle Creek State forest, Clouds Creek State forest and Kangaroo River State forest. 	8,800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area includes patches of rainforest. The area is renown for its floristic diversity, natural grasslands and its high number of rare and threatened plants. The area includes extensive sections of the Nymboi wild and scenic river which is nationally significant. 	Contains two flora reserves.
Richmond Range National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N2 west of Casino and includes the Cambridge Plateau. Richmond Range State forest. 	8,325	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This area includes the rare Richmond Range Spotted Gum and a large area of Flooded Gum. This area is renown for the tall, moist sclerophyll forests and old growth forests. Supports exceptionally high fauna diversity and many significant plants. Over 40% of the area is rainforest including the largest stand of dry rainforest in NSW. The area includes the World Heritage listed Cambridge Plateau Flora Reserve. 	Contains the Cambridge Plateau Flora Reserve.
Total hectares		45,075		

NSW Wilderness Areas and New National Parks and Nature Reserve






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Map Compiled from:
Wilderness and National Parks data from
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-  New National Parks Sept 1996
-  Declared Wilderness Sept 1996
-  Town Centres

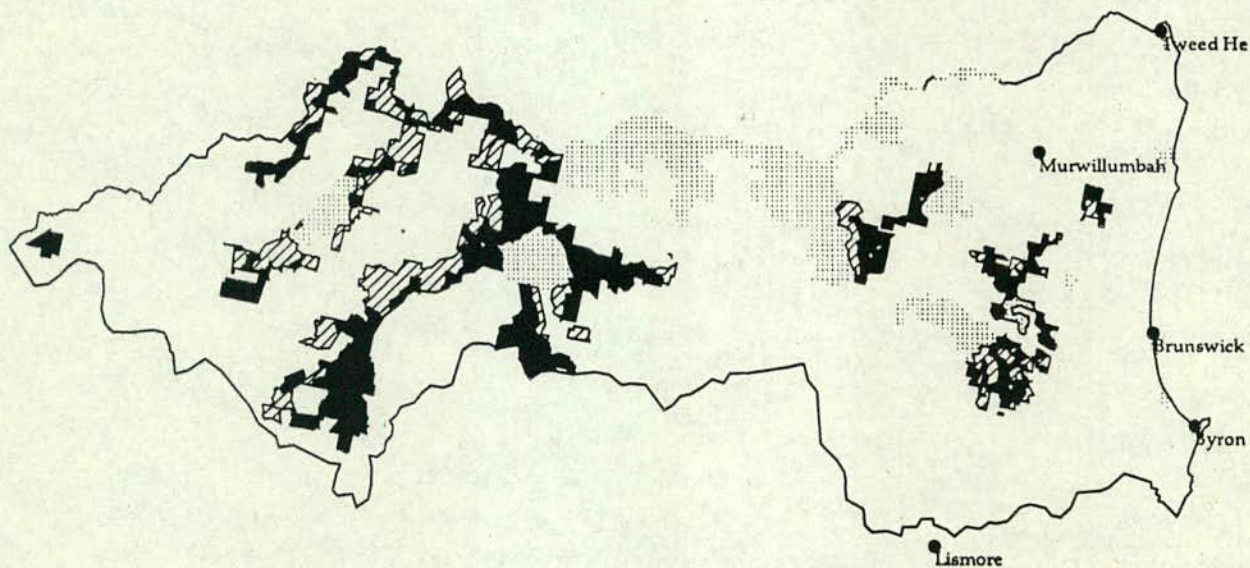
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PROJECTION

REF: CAB200996NSWNPWA4_1

Lamberts Conic Conformal

Interim Deferred Forest Areas N1 Study Area








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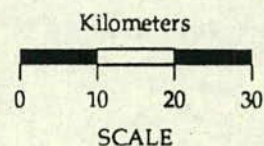
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-  National Parks and Nature Reserves
-  Interim Deferred Forest Areas
-  Other Forest Areas

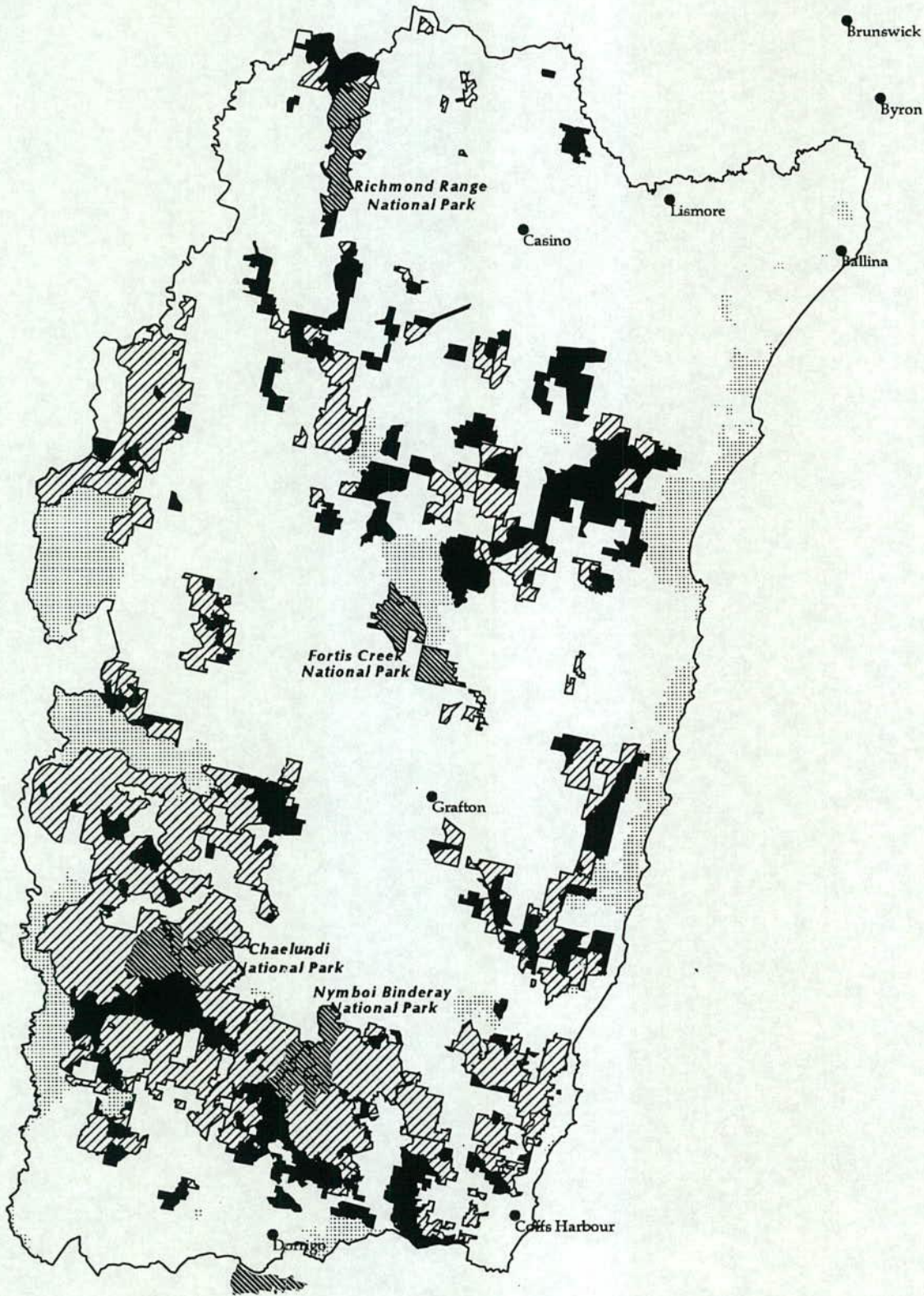
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REF: CAB200996N1A4_1

PROJECTION
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Interim Deferred Forest Areas
and New National Parks and Additions
N2 Study Area







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-  New National Parks and Additions
-  National Parks and Nature Reserves
-  Interim Deferred Forest Areas
-  Other Forest Areas

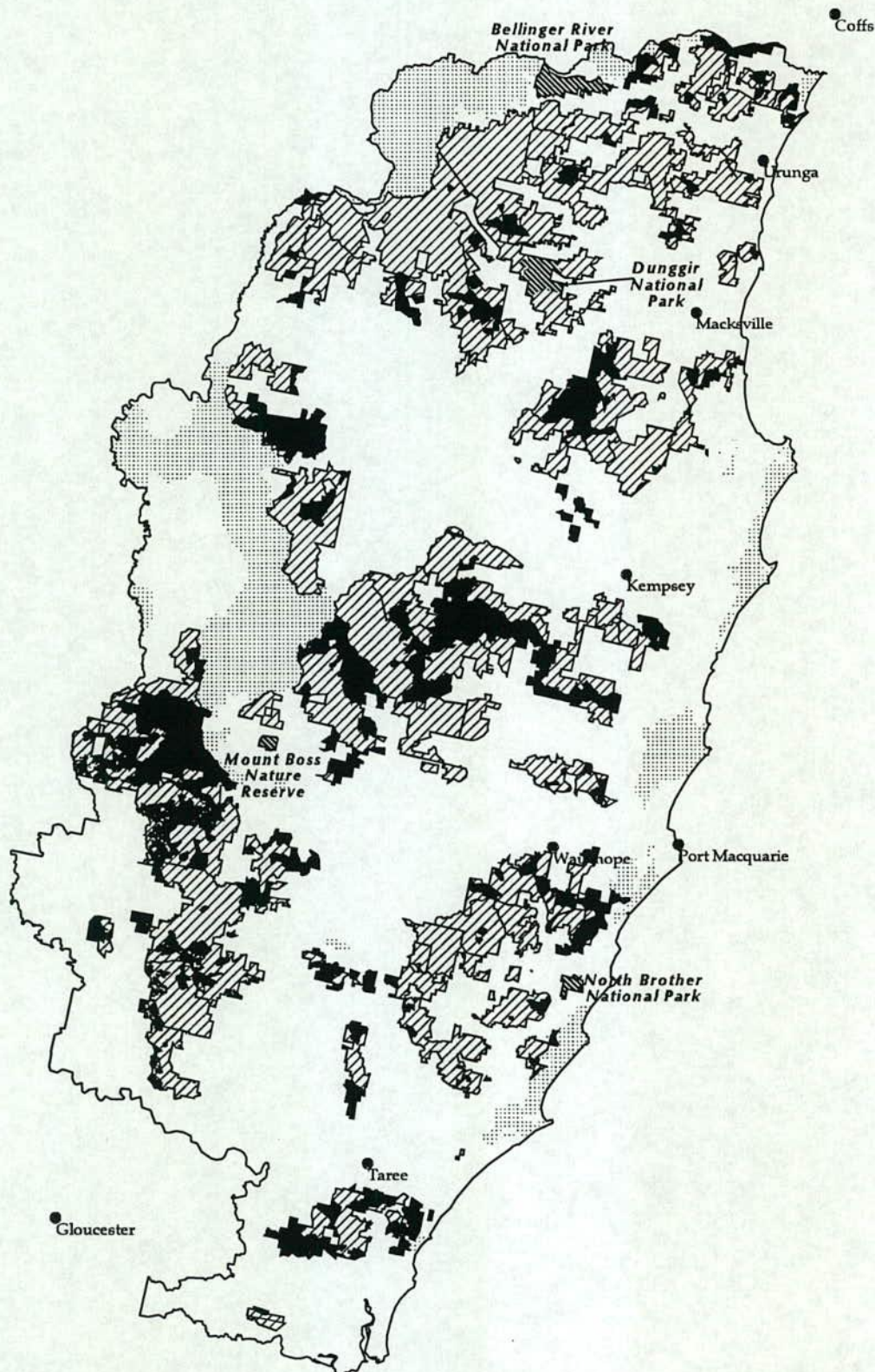
— State Forests
● Towns

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REF: CAB220996N2A4_1

PROJECTION
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Interim Deferred Forest Areas and New National Parks and Additions N3 Study Area



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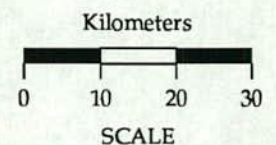
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- New National Parks and Additions
- National Parks and Nature Reserves
- Interim Deferred Forest Areas
- Other Forest Areas

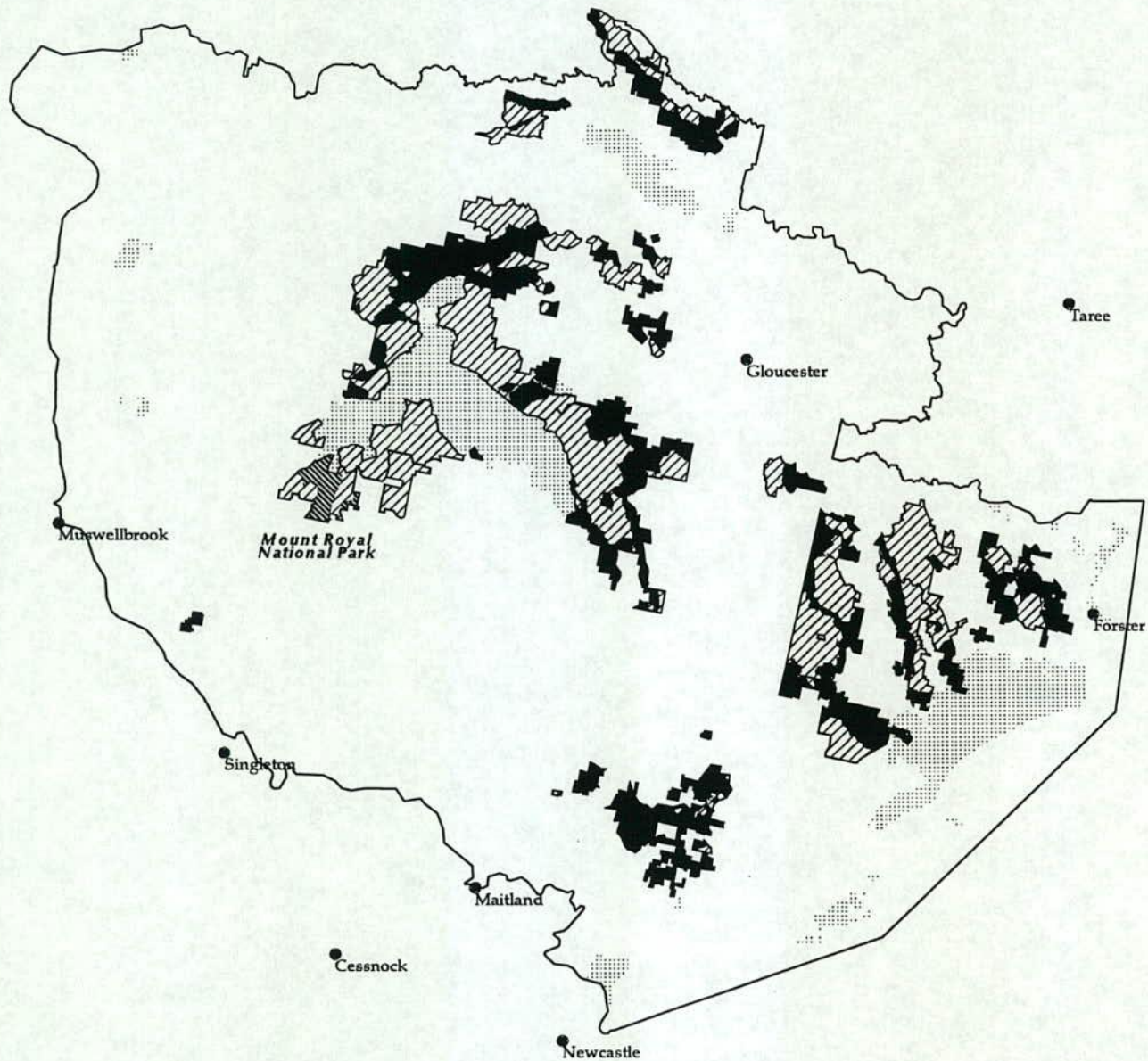
- State Forests
- Towns



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PROJECTION
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Interim Deferred Forest Areas
and New National Parks and Additions
N4 Study Area









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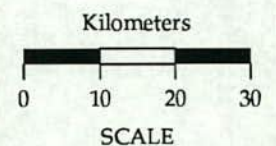
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-  New National Parks and Additions
-  National Parks and Nature Reserves
-  Interim Deferred Forest Areas
-  Other Forest Areas

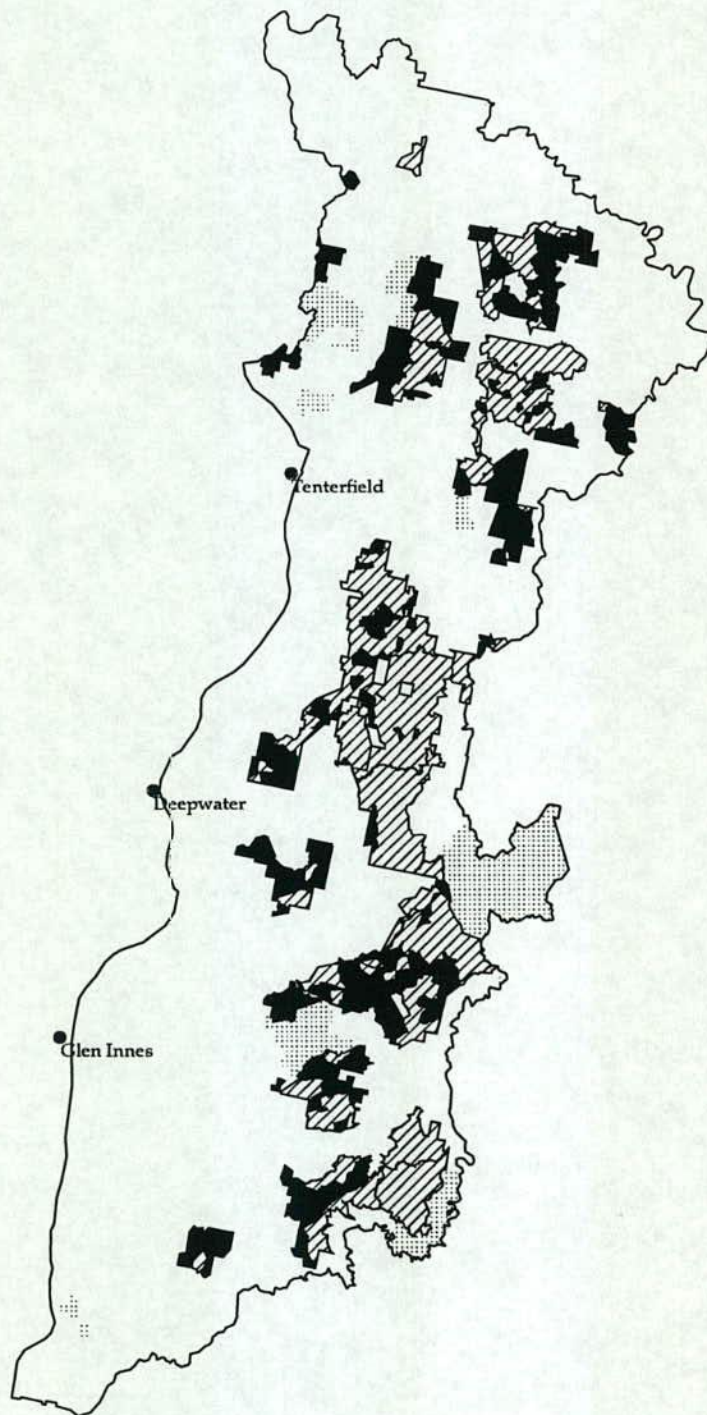
-  State Forests
-  Towns



REF: CAB220996N4A4_1

PROJECTION
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Interim Deferred Forest Areas N5 Study Area








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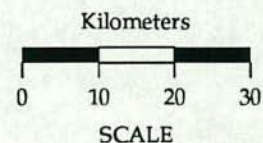
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-  National Parks and Nature Reserves
-  Interim Deferred Forest Areas
-  Other Forest Areas

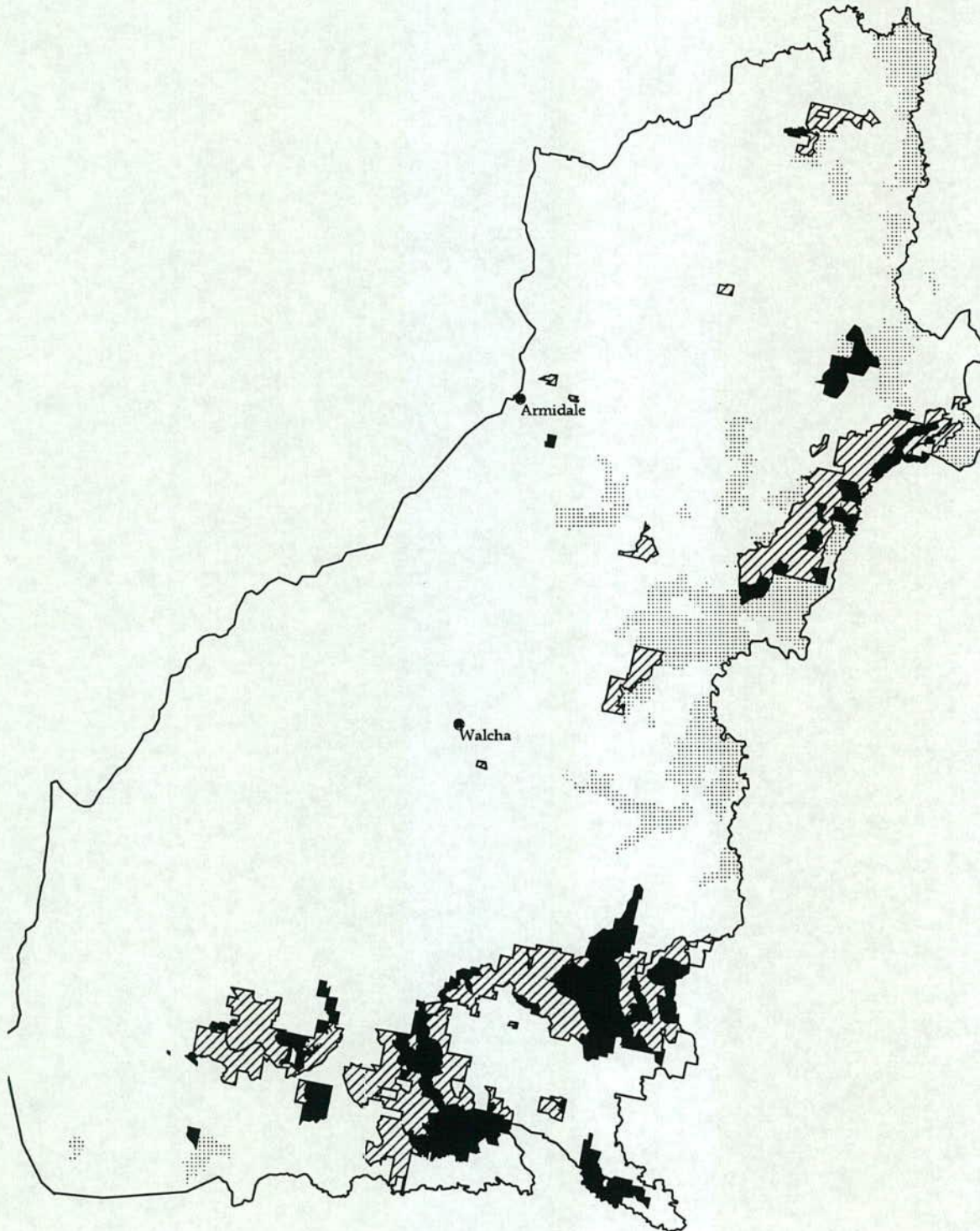
-  State Forests
-  Towns



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PROJECTION
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Interim Deferred Forest Areas N6 Study Area








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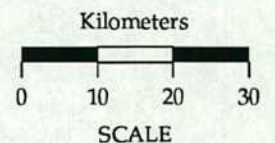
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-  National Parks and Nature Reserves
-  Interim Deferred Forest Areas
-  Other Forest Areas

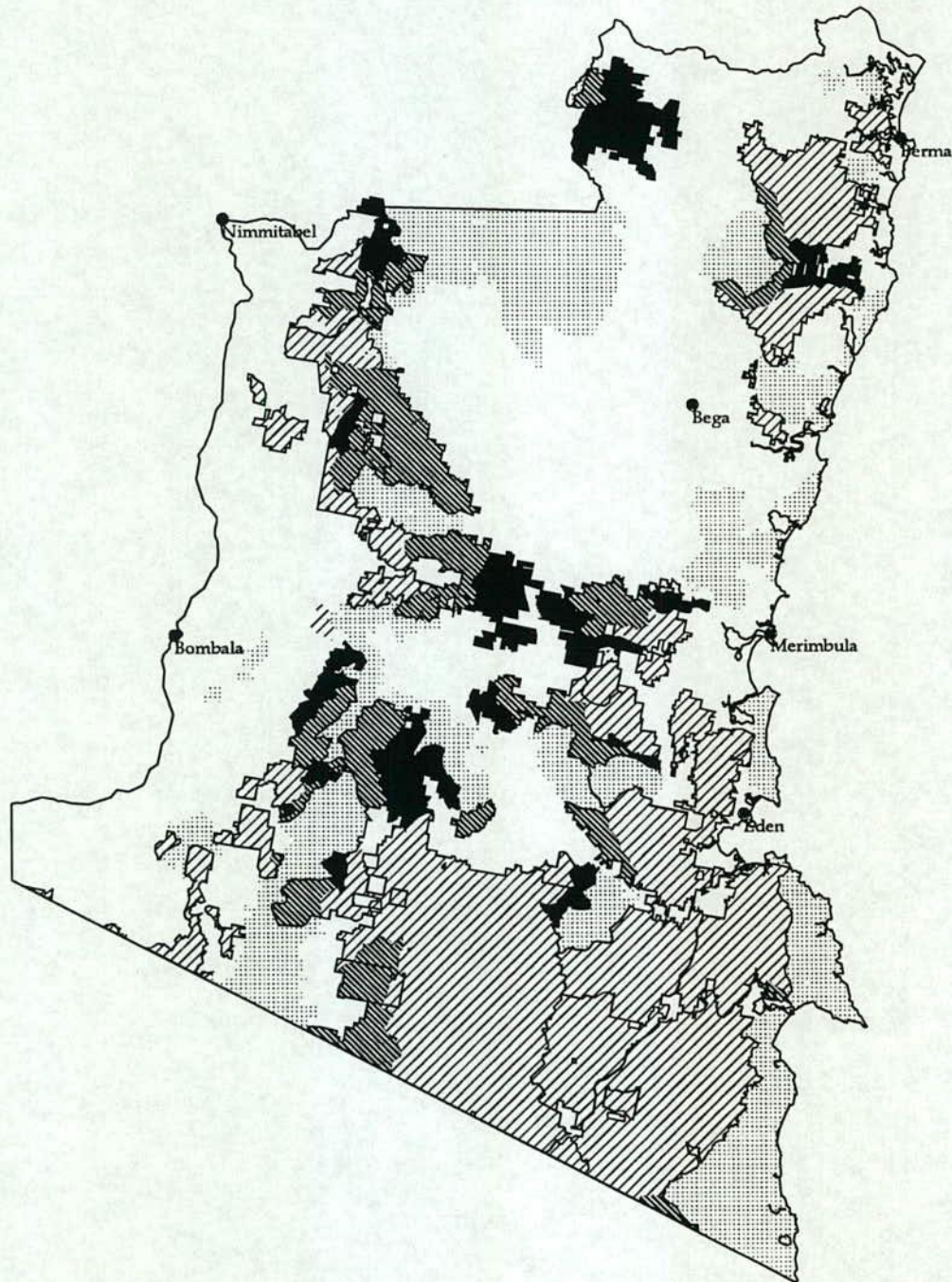
-  State Forests
-  Towns



REF: CAB200996N6A4_1

PROJECTION
Lamberts Conic Conformal

Interim Deferred Forest Areas and South East Forests National Park Package Eden Study Area









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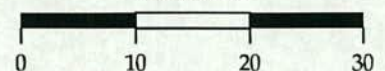
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-  National Parks and Nature Reserves
-  Interim Deferred Forest Areas
-  Other Forest Areas

-  State Forests
-  Towns

Kilometers



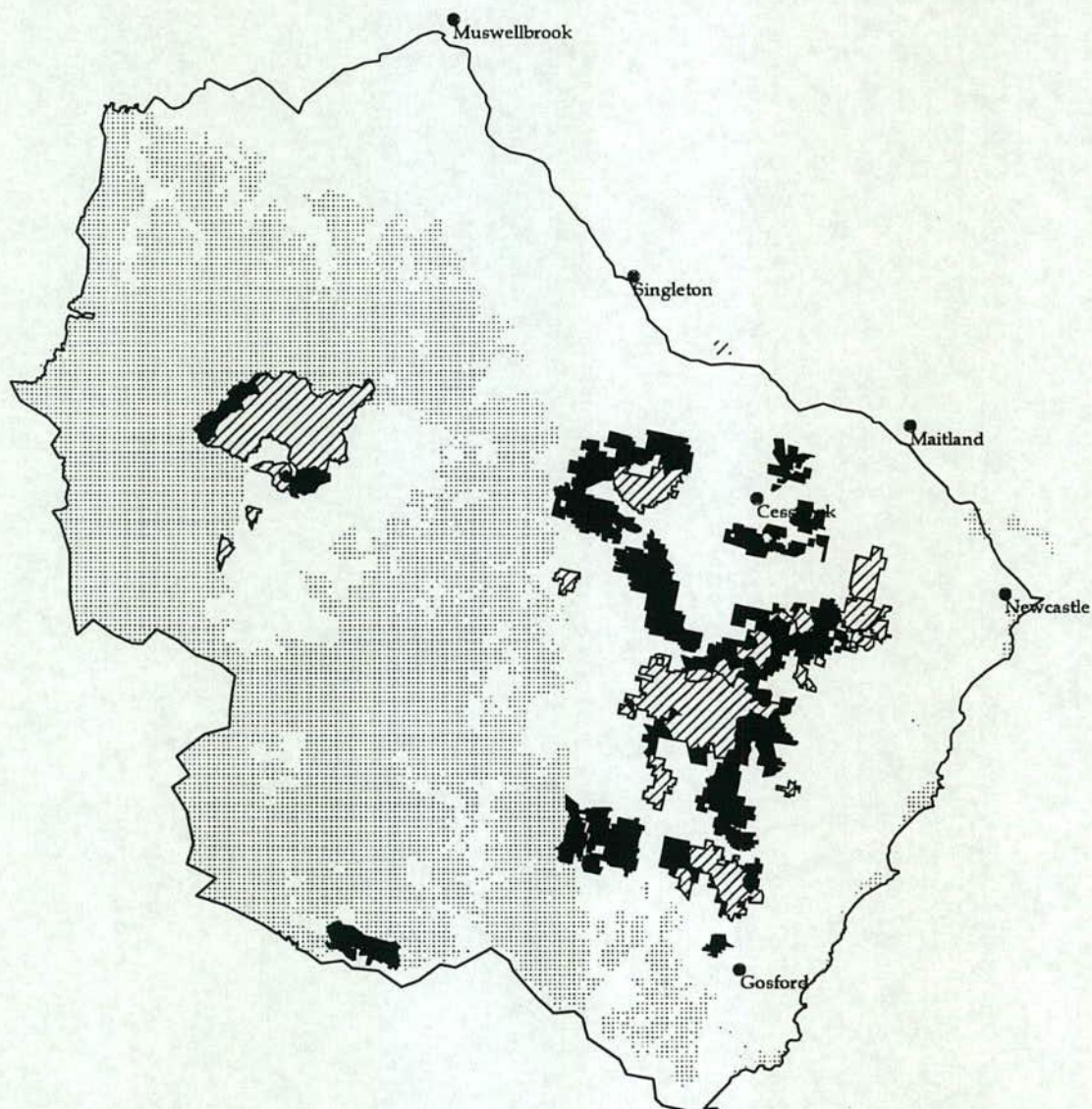
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PROJECTION

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Interim Deferred Forest Areas C1 Study Area








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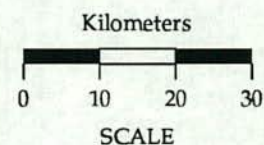
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-  Interim Deferred Forest Areas
-  Other Forest Areas

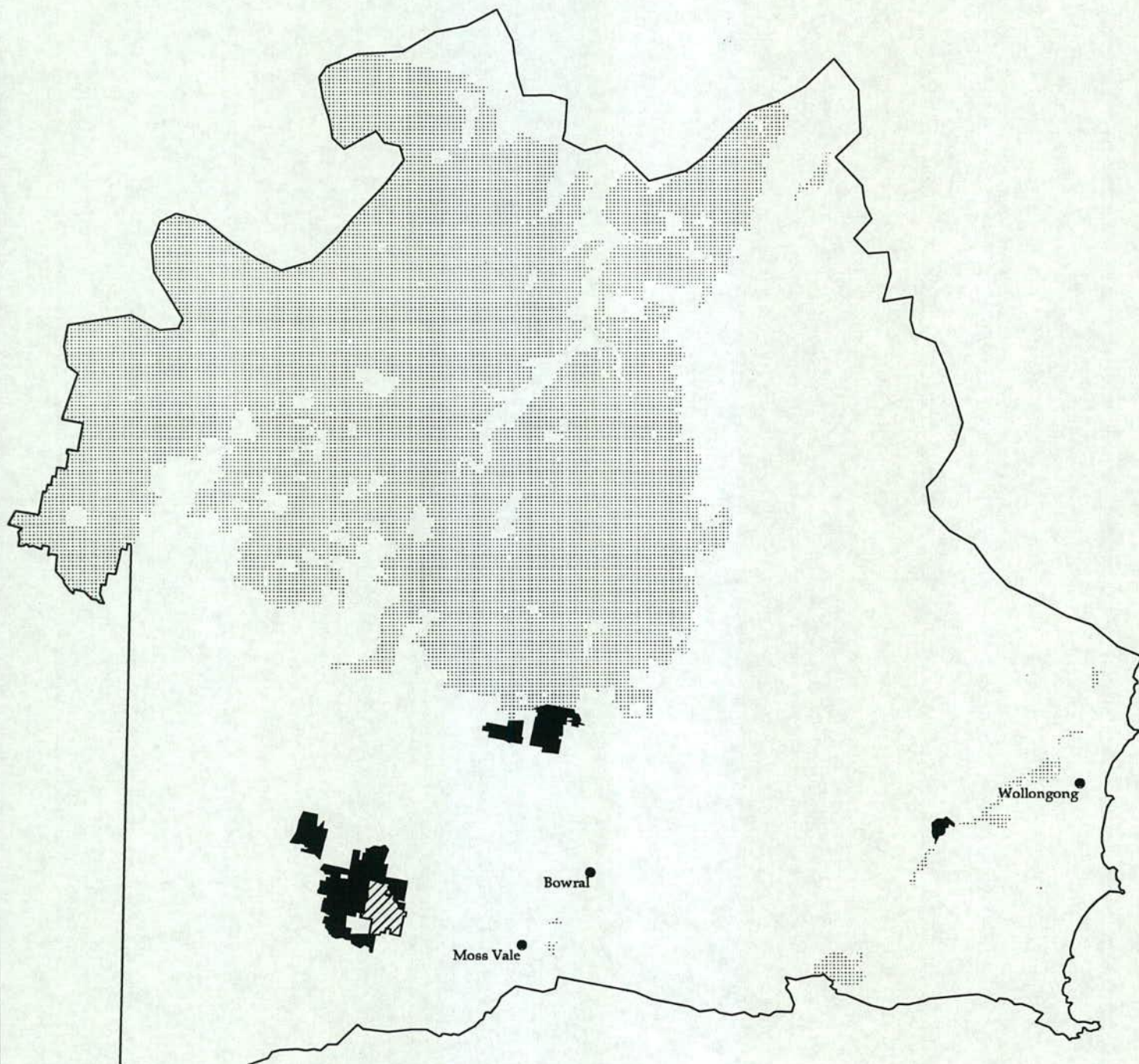
-  State Forests
-  Towns



REF: CAB200996C1A4_1

PROJECTION
Lamberts Conic Conformal

Interim Deferred Forest Areas C2 Study Area

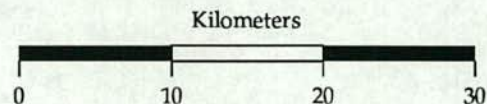


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SCALE

-  National Parks and Nature Reserves
-  Interim Deferred Forest Areas
-  Other Forest Areas

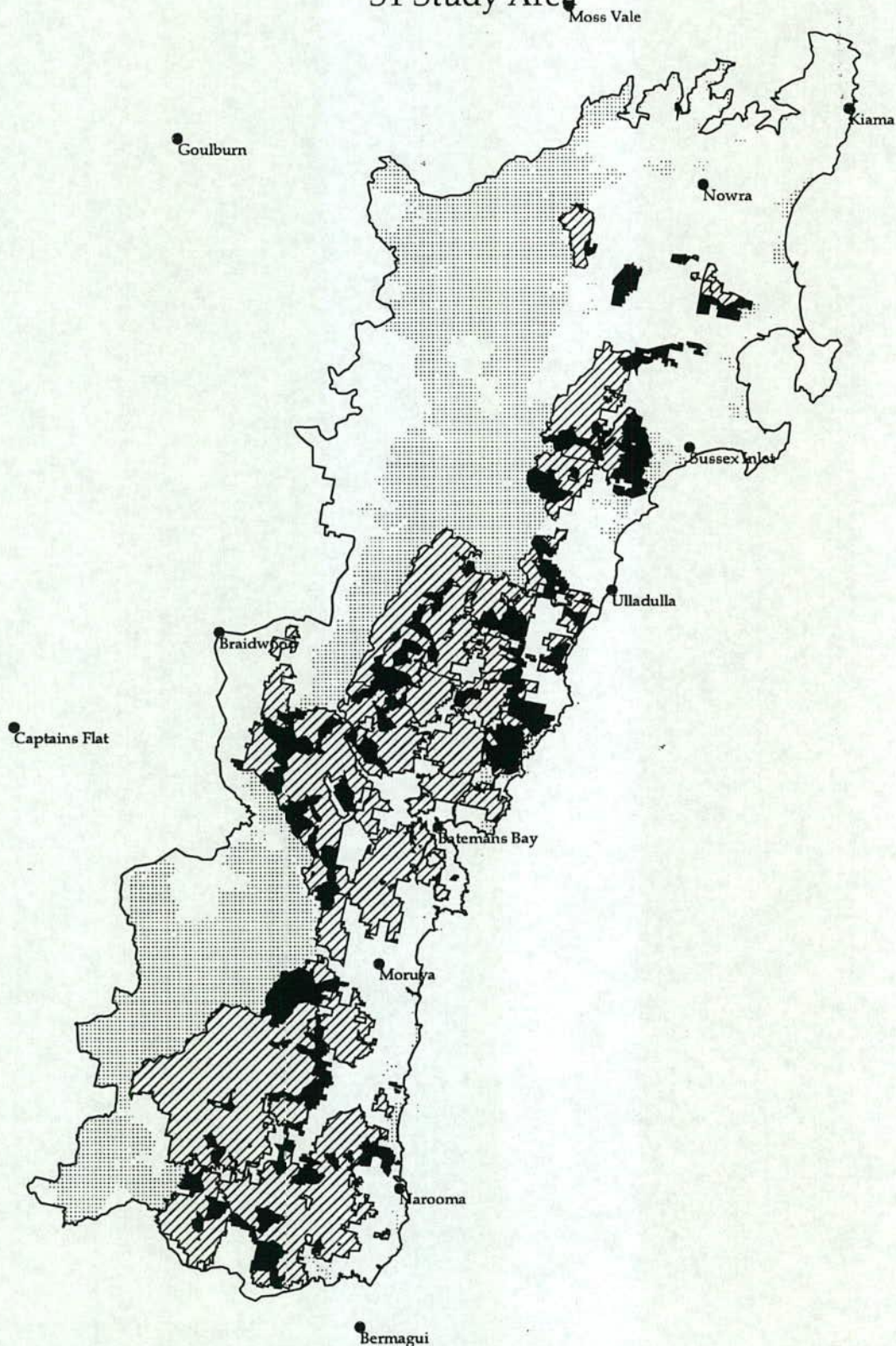
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-  State Forests
-  Towns

PROJECTION
Lamberts Conic Conformal

Interim Deferred Forest Areas

S1 Study Area








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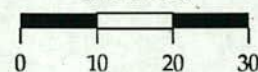
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-  National Parks and Nature Reserves
-  Interim Deferred Forest Areas
-  Other Forest Areas

-  State Forests
-  Towns

Kilometers



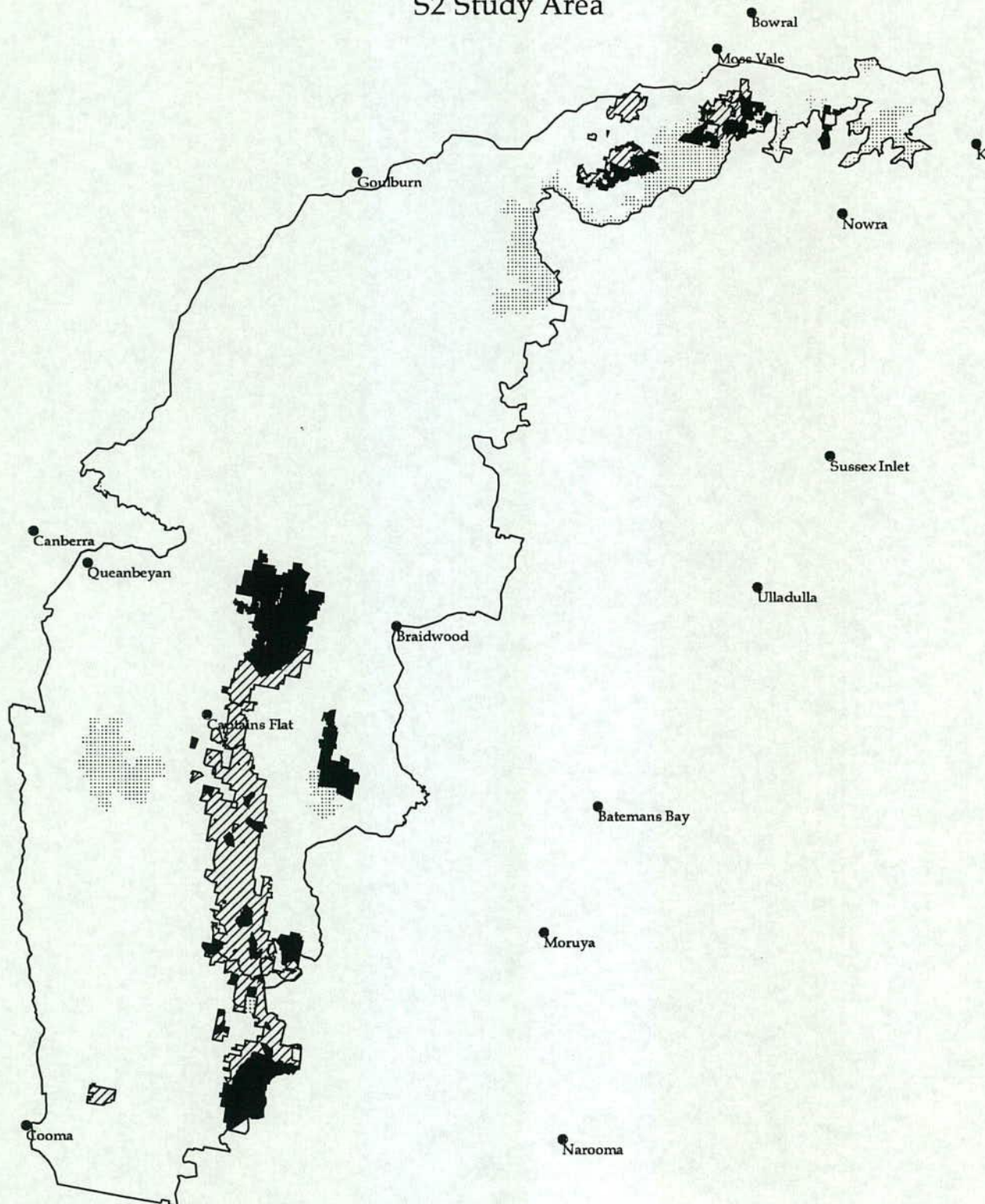
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PROJECTION

Lamberts Conic Conformal

Interim Deferred Forest Areas S2 Study Area








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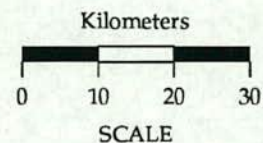
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-  Interim Deferred Forest Areas
-  Other Forest Areas

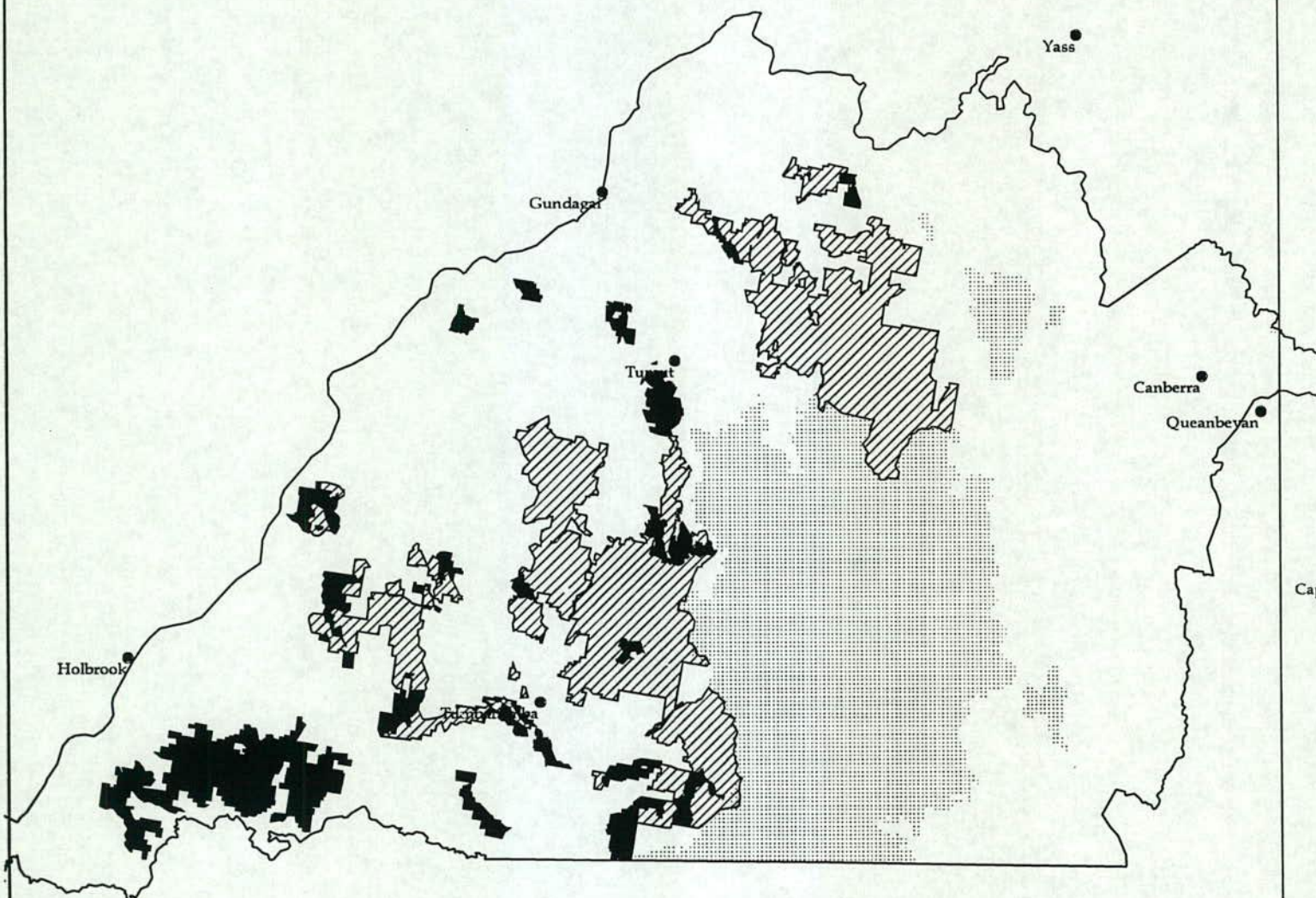
-  State Forests
-  Towns



REF: CAB200996S2A4_1

PROJECTION
Lamberts Conic Conformal

Interim Deferred Forest Areas Tumut Study Area








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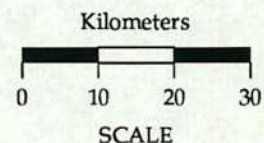
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-  National Parks and Nature Reserves
-  Interim Deferred Forest Areas
-  Other Forest Areas

-  State Forests
-  Towns



REF: CAB200996TUMA4_1

PROJECTION
Lamberts Conic Conformal