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9 September 1992

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Dear Mr Corkill

**NOMINATIONS TO THE REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE NORTH  
WASHPOOL AND CHAELUNDI STATE FORESTS IN NEW SOUTH  
WALES**

Thank you for your letter of 6 July 1992 regarding the assessment of nominated areas in northern New South Wales for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate. I apologise for the delay in replying. I write also as a followup to a meeting on 8/9/92 with Dailan Pugh and others in Canberra concerning the north-east and north-coast forest areas.

The Commission has 55 outstanding natural nominations for places in north-eastern New South Wales. I have included a print-out which lists these places and their current status. A list which defines status numbers is also included for reference.

Many of the 55 nominations are for Big Scrub remnants. These nominations are currently being assessed and should be considered soon at a Commission meeting. Nominations for coastal areas are also being assessed as part of a review of coastal nominations in New South Wales and Queensland.

The Commission decided at its meeting in June to include the North Washpool Wilderness Area on the Interim List. It is scheduled for the next gazettal, which will be published on 17 November 1992. A copy of the database information and assessment table for this area and the Washpool National Park is attached.

The Chaelundi nomination is well documented and substantiated, but it has not yet been subject to Commission's assessment procedures. To date the Commission has not assessed this and other forest nominations in the region both because of the need to have a regional framework for the assessment of



many national estate values, and because it lacks the resources to extend its regional assessment work beyond the projects already in train in WA and East Gippsland and proposed in Tasmania. The East Gippsland area was given priority following an approach by the Victorian government in late 1990 to carry out regional assessment work there as a co-operative project, while Tasmania has been a priority in the context of Commonwealth-state discussions about resource security.

As I discussed with Dailan, although the Commission is unable at present to carry out a national estate regional assessment of north-eastern NSW, and will not be able to do so in the immediate future, it encourages the collection of data which will assist such an analysis. The NSW NPWS is currently carrying out relevant work with funding assistance from the National Estate Grants Program; Commission officers have had discussions with NPWS officers concerning this and other work they are doing for their GIS. For your information I enclose a list of those types of attributes which are relevant to a regional assessment of national estate values, and which could be included as data layers in a GIS.

With respect to the final three questions raised in your letter of 6 July, I would make the following points:

- When assessing values of a nominated area the Commission does not confine its assessment to the nominated boundaries. The values of the surrounding areas are also considered if relevant information is available and, if appropriate, the boundaries amended during the assessment process to include all elements of national estate significance. For other nominations the nominated boundary may be reduced because part of the area has been degraded or found not to have significant values. During the regional assessment process all areas within a given region are assessed for their national estate values, using the attributes outlined in the attached document (where sufficient data is available), and areas of significance determined by aggregating all areas significant for individual attributes. These are then compared with nominated areas.
- The Commission has no fixed time frame for the assessment of nominations. The timing of assessment and listing can be dependent on many factors including staff resources, the number of outstanding nomination, known threats, level of available information and the likelihood of a future regional or thematic assessment.
- Threats to the significance of a place is certainly one of the factors that the Commission considers when setting its priorities for assessment. However, the Commission is balancing this priority with a greater emphasis on moving from the assessment of places in isolation to assessing places regionally and

thematically. It must also consider the framework required to make decisions about the significance of such places.

Finally, as I mentioned at the meeting on 8/9/92, the Commission will shortly be sending you a copy of the draft priorities for the 1993/94 National Estate Grants Program in NSW and would welcome your comments.

I hope this letter has clarified the concerns you expressed in your letter. Thank you for your interest in the Commission's assessment procedures.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rosemary Purdie', written in a cursive style.

Dr Rosemary Purdie  
Deputy Executive Director





## **REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Regional Assessment program (RAP) is the principle initiative, funded by Government for the three year period 1992-3 to 1994-5 to identify National Estate values in major forest areas of Australia.

Regional assessment is a necessary foundation to the achievement of the forest conservation objectives in the National Forest Policy Strategy and the approach to the national estate assessment under the IGAE.

This evaluation is to review the current program and help determine the direction and extent of any continuation of the program beyond 1994-95.

### **PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW**

It is intended to undertake an evaluation of the Regional Assessment Program as part of the DEST Portfolio Evaluation Plan 1994-96.

The review will involve an assessment of:

- the objectives, role, efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission's operation of the Regional Assessment Program; and
- recommend on the direction and extent of any continuation of the program beyond 1994-95.

### **STRUCTURE OF THE REVIEW**

The review will be undertaken in two stages:

- Stage I - an independent assessment of the role and effectiveness of the Regional Assessment Program; and
- Stage II - an evaluation of the efficiency of the RAP.

State I is to commence immediately and be completed by end April 1994.

Stage II will be undertaken in the second half of 1994.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE - STAGE 1

The review will include an evaluation of the following points.

1. Evaluate the processes and outputs of the Regional Assessment Program in Western Australian and Victoria - addressing the following issues:
  - . did the Regional Assessment strategy meet the stated aims of the AHC in implementing it - that is maximum identification and conservation of the National Estate and education about it?
  - . did the assessment process meet the requirements of the AHC Act?
  - . was the quality of the output comparable to similar previous assessment and conservation work by the Commission?
  - . how effective was the natural and cultural research methodology used - did it identify National Estate values effectively and in accordance with the best methodology and technical data available?
  - . what was the role and effectiveness of local community and key stakeholder involvement and participation?
2. Evaluate the outcomes of the Regional Assessment Program - in particular whether:
  - . the National Estate was identified effectively
  - . conservation advice given without prejudice
  - . the community was effectively involved
  - . the Regional Assessment Program has contributed effectively to the wider Commonwealth environment and heritage aims, such as the National Forest Policy Strategy and the development of the National Reserve System and the development of comprehensive regional assessment.

Noting that in evaluating such outcomes account needs to be taken of the constraints that apply.

On the basis of the evaluation the review would recommend on possible changes to the role, objectives or operation of the RAP.



## **STAGE 1 REVIEW MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

### **AHC Management Team**

The Management Team will be chaired by Commissioner Glenn, with support from Sharon Sullivan and Anne-Marie Delahunt. Annette Bleys will be the Commission action officer. The Management Team will report to the Commission, which will have final oversight of the review.

### **Advisory Group**

An advisory group, representing the key stakeholder groups having an interest in the RAP will also be established. The purpose of the group is to canvass a broad range of views about the effectiveness of the RAP, and to involve key stakeholder groups in the evaluation process.

The major stakeholder groups have been identified as:

- conservationists (2 reps);
- industry organisations (1 rep)
- landowners/users groups (1 rep)
- State government resource agencies (1 rep)
- State government environment & conservation agencies (1 rep)
- Federal government environment & conservation agencies (1 rep)
- Federal government resource agencies (1 rep).

### **Independent consultants**

The independent consultants will be required to undertake Stage 1 of the review, under the direction of the Management Team.

### **Proposed consultancies**

It is proposed that a number of consultants be engaged to undertake discrete parts of the Regional Assessment program evaluation review. These parts are:

- a strategic assessment of the program, its outputs, outcomes and processes;
- a technical assessment of the methodologies used in the identification and assessment of natural environment places;

- a technical assessment of the methodologies used in the identification and assessment of cultural environment places; and,
- an assessment of the community participation program - its objectives, methods and outcomes - including a specific assessment of the views and opinions of the conservation movement about the program.

It is envisaged that the consultants will have:

- an understanding of government policies and processes, especially those relating to forests and forestry;
- the ability to assess the merits of the scientific and technical methods used in regional assessment; and
- a knowledge of the Commission's key stakeholder groups, especially the conservation movement.

### Timing

It is envisaged that Stage 1 will be completed by end April 1994.



## 1. CONSULTANTS BRIEF

### Assessment of Strategic Direction

The terms of reference for this consultancy would include:

evaluate the program against the requirements of the AHC Act - specifically identification, conservation and education

- has the National Estate been vigorously identified
- has conservation advice been provided fearlessly
- has the conservation of the National Estate been advanced
- is the community better educated about the National Estate

evaluate the regional assessment strategy - objectives, achievements and constraints

evaluate the role and effectiveness of the community participation program

evaluate the co-operative approach with State agencies - including the use of Agreements

- has the Commission's independence been compromised through its work with State agencies
- have the Agreements constrained the Commission's ability to identify the National Estate in the future
- have the Agreements constrained the Commission's ability to provide fearless conservation advice

role of the RAP in wider environmental and heritage policy such as NFPS, - NRS, CRA. For instance how does the RAP fit within the NFPS framework?

On the basis of the evaluation the review would recommend on possible changes to the role, objectives or operation of the RAP.



## 2. CONSULTANTS BRIEF

### Research Methods and Analysis - Natural Environment

The purpose of the consultancy is to assess whether the regional assessment methodology used to identify and protect the National Estate natural values is:

- . effective and efficient
- . consistent with best conservation practice

The consultant would be required to address the following questions:

- . did the research methodology undertaken to identify National Estate values accord with the best methodology and technical data available?
- . does the research methodologies identify all National Estate without compromise?
- . is the protection advice given in WA and proposed for Victoria reasonable - the best - in terms of current conservation practice?
- . was the output comparable to similar previous assessment and conservation work by the Commission?

Involve:

- . assessment of project methodologies used in the WA and Victorian projects
- . assessment of the analyses resulting from the projects
- . an assessment of the protection advice given or proposed for each of the projects
- . an evaluation of the reserved/unreserved analysis
- . comparison with previous forest nominations (eg Yowaka and older Tas sites)
- . an assessment of the RAP methodologies/analyses with the findings of technical work shops - and any relevant discussion with key figures in the field of conservation and identification

### 3. CONSULTANTS BRIEF

#### Research Methods and Analysis - Cultural Environment

The purpose of the consultancy is to assess whether the regional assessment methodology used to identify and protect the National Estate cultural values is:

- . effective and efficient
- . consistent with best conservation practice

The consultant would be required to address the following questions:

- . did the research methodology undertaken to identify National Estate cultural values accord with the best methodology and technical data available?
- . does the research methodologies identify all National Estate without compromise?
- . is the protection advice proposed for Victoria reasonable - the best - in terms of current conservation practice?
- . was the output comparable to similar previous assessment and conservation work by the Commission?

Involve:

- . assessment of project methodologies used in the Victorian projects
- . assessment of the analyses resulting from the projects
- . an assessment of the protection advice given or proposed for each of the projects
- . an evaluation of the reserved/unreserved analysis
- . comparison with previous forest nominations
- . an assessment of the RAP methodologies/analyses with the findings of technical work shops - and any relevant discussion with key figures in the field of conservation and identification



#### 4. CONSULTANT'S BRIEF

##### Assessment of the Community Participation Program

The purpose of the consultancy is to assess the regional assessment community participation program - its objectives, methods and outcomes.

A key aspect of this consultancy will be an assessment of the views and opinions of the conservation movement about the program.

The consultant would be required to:

- . evaluate the role and effectiveness of the community consultation program, in particular the effectiveness and appropriateness of the program in:
  - . involving the community and key stakeholders in the identification of the National Estate and regional assessment process
  - . informing the community and key stakeholders about the National Estate and specifically about the aims and strategies of the regional approach
- . advise on future directions for the community participation program

Involve:

- . an evaluation of the community participation processes developed in WA and used in the Victorian Projects
- . an assessment of key stakeholder and community involvement
- . an evaluation of the current position of the conservation movement towards the program
- . a comparison of community involvement in previous forest nominations
- . an assessment of the program against current approaches to community participation



Department of the

ENVIRONMENT

SPORT and

TERRITORIES

Mr James Tedder  
Honorary Secretary  
North Coast Environment Council  
Payan's Road  
GRASSY HEAD  
via STUART'S POINT NSW 2441

Dear Mr Tedder

Thank you for your letter of 6 September 1993 to the Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories concerning the World Heritage nomination of the rainforests of north-eastern New South Wales. Mrs Kelly has asked me to respond on her behalf. I apologise for the delay in doing so.

As you are aware, the World Heritage Bureau, at its meeting in June 1993 made a number of recommendations in relation to Australia's nomination of the Central Eastern Rainforests, based on an IUCN evaluation of the property, and requested a response to those recommendations by 21 October 1993. As it was not possible to conclude the necessary consultations between the Commonwealth and the States on these matters by the 21 October deadline, Mrs Kelly requested the World Heritage Centre to defer consideration of the nomination until 1994.

In the interim, the Commonwealth, New South Wales and Queensland Governments will be addressing the Bureau's recommendations with a view to finalising a response by mid 1994.

In accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment, the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) proposal for the nomination of "the Central Great Escarpment Forests of Australia" has been referred to the New South Wales Government for comment and will receive further consideration in due course. by whom  
to whom

In relation to National Estate matters in this area, I am advised by the Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) that it considers that the forest areas in the north east region of New South Wales are under-represented in the Register of the National Estate. However, as there are large areas of forest in the north-east, with a wide range of natural and cultural values, the Commission's view is that a regional assessment of National Estate values would be appropriate for this area. The Commission's 'regional assessment' is a joint process undertaken in full co-operation with the relevant State Government bodies.



The Premier of New South Wales, ~~the Hon~~ John Fahey MP, has recently written to Mrs Kelly proposing a regional assessment of the Upper North-East Region of the State, which would include surveys of the values of the north-east forests. Mr Fahey's proposal is currently being considered by the Commonwealth Government.

Yours sincerely

*Alison McCusker*

Alison McCusker  
Assistant Secretary  
World Heritage

*23 December 1993*

public part in Reg Ass<sup>nt</sup>

'CRA' guidelines need public comment

'res. selection criteria'

<sup>natural</sup> fed. best harvesting codes/standards

would heritage nam.? what funding? pub. part?

reference to who in NSW?

by when?











KEEP THIS CONFIDENTIAL  
AT THIS STAGE - IT'S ONLY A DRAFT

Environmental Conditions to be attached to the export of unprocessed wood

Addition of Standard Condition regarding NFPs old growth forests and wilderness moratorium pending assessment:

"Until assessments of forests for conservation values, including old growth and wilderness values are completed, the exporter shall avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest and wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value".

Replacement of Standard Condition regarding endangered species:

"The exporter shall ensure that any of its logging operations under this licence do not threaten with extinction, or significantly impede the recovery of, a species or ecological community listed under Schedule 1 and 2 of the Commonwealth Endangered Species Protection Act 1992. The exporter shall ensure that logging operations for the purpose of export woodchips of silvicultural thinning must only occur in accordance with advice from the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA) concerning endangered species listed on the Schedules of the Endangered Species Protection Act 1992. The exporter shall ensure that logging operations on private property for the purpose of export woodchips must not occur until a survey of species has been completed to the satisfaction of the Australian Nature Conservation Agency. Where it is possible that operations will threaten with extinction or significantly impede the recovery of listed species or ecological communities the exporter shall, in conjunction with ANCA and the relevant State agencies, prepare a recovery plan in accordance with the Endangered Species Protection Act 1992 for the species or ecological community concerned".

Addition to second Standard Condition regarding National Estate:

"The exporter shall adequately take into account advice from the Australian Heritage Commission regarding the protection of National Estate values in areas where logging is approved".

Addition of Standard Condition regarding environment protection

"The exporter shall ensure that all forest management practices are consistent with the draft nationwide baseline environmental standards (NBES) developed by ANZECC/APC and that these practices are reviewed and updated when the NBES are finalised".

Addition of standard conditions regarding steep country harvesting

"The exporter will ensure that woodchips shall not be sourced from

forests on land greater than 20% (11 degrees) slope on highly erodible soils  
forests on land greater than 35% (19 degrees) slope on moderately erodible soils  
forests on land greater than 50% (26 degrees) slope on low erodible soils.

The exporter shall ensure that no operation occur in moderate, or high to extreme landslide risk areas or areas subject to flash flooding."

DON'T LET KELLY KNOW YOU'VE GOT THIS  
KEEPING TO THE BEST OF THE PRESS  
IT TO THE PRESS