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"It caused great political damage to the Greiner Government."

Mr Causley, speaking from Canberra yesterday, denied Mr Corkill's version of events in 1990.

"Mr Corkill likes to write history and tell lies to suite himself and you print them," he said. "At the time there was a decision that came out on the south-east forests that said that an EIS had to be done on a forest operation.

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Lismore Northern Star p. 3. 24/10/97

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On Sunday, October 26, 1997 from 1.00 am to 6.00 am.

NORTHPOWER WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT THIS OUTAGE IS NECESSARY TO RECONNECT THE 66Kv DUNOON / MULLUMBIMBY TRANSMISSION LINE, PRESENTLY BEING RECONSTRUCTED BY TRANSGRID, AT DUNOON SUBSTATION.

VINCE KELLY
REGIONAL NETWORK MANAGER-NORTH

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Northern Star 29/8/96 p.7

Nationals fight for heartland in row with Libs

NSW National Party politicians are fighting for the future of their North Coast heartland in the current bitter row with the Liberal Party.

Murwillumbah MP Don Beck has revealed more is at stake than an inter-party fight over the seat of Port Macquarie.

IAN CAUSLEY

A looming redistribution required by the huge increase in North Coast population means a new seat must be created in National Party heartland between Newcastle and the Queensland border before the 1999 election.

Mr Beck wants a formal, signed agreement with the Liberals that would 'make sure the Liberal Party gets back to their traditional areas — Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong'.

He said National MP's were prepared to walk away from the Coalition for 12 months to give the Liberals 'thinking time' and work out a formal Coalition agreement.

Now was the time, he said, because: "We don't want to be debating this when there is change of boundaries."

Mr Beck predicted the Murwillumbah seat would be trimmed by at least 10 per cent of voters who would join the Ballina seat.

The current Ballina seat and others including Port Macquarie would also be trimmed and a new seat created along the coast where the National Party now holds all seats bar one.

That seat, Clarence which is based on Grafton, was recently lost to former Federal MP, Harry Woods in a by-election prompted by the resignation of former National Party minister, Ian Causley who moved to Federal politics.

The current row has been sparked by the Liberal Party's decision to contest Port Macquarie following the announcement by another former National Minister, Wendy Machin, she intends resigning.

Mr Beck said he wanted the type of agreement negotiated by former Liberal Premier, Nick Greiner and former Nationals leader, Wal Murray, and for the Liberals to concentrate on city seats.

"We lost the last election because the Liberal Party lost the seat of Gladesville, lost the seat of Badgery's Creek and did not re-win Manly from (Independent) Peter MacDonald," he said.

"It's about time the Liberal Party concentrated on Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong seats and allowed the National Party to represent rural seats, coastal seats and the provincial towns such as Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah, Lismore.

"The Liberals winning a National Party seat doesn't put us any closer to Government. We have to win Labor Party seats or Independent seats."

Refshau
to unloc

By RICHARD CONRAD

The Northern Rivers area will be getting its fair share of health funding, NSW Health Minister Dr Andrew Refshauge vowed at the official opening of the $3.7-million Byron Bay Hospital redevelopment yesterday.

Dr Refshauge said the flak he had copped for 'unlocking money from Sydney' would not make him waver from his goal of putting health funding 'where the people are'.

Although Sydney media had concentrated on health funds flowing west, Dr Refshauge said his intention had always been for the money to also head north.

"I believe you (the Northern Rivers district) haven't got your fair share," he said.

"You have paid your taxes but you have been missing out because the money has been locked up in Sydney.

"I am copping flak for my stance, but I am going to keep fighting to make sure you get your fair share."

In reply to a call by Ballina MP Don Page for local representation on the area's health board, Dr Refshauge said a local appointment would be considered, if and when there was a vacancy.

But in a blunt warning, Dr Refshauge then stated he would sack members who behaved parochially.

"Your job is to look after a

NSW Health Min
yesterday's o

health service
the community
own town," he sa

A lengthy lis
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pital redevelop
day's opening.

They include
former nursing
Nelson, Ballina

Fibreglass Pools
at
Factory Prices

Plan Ahead

NEFA condemns Causley appointment

N/S 24-10-97

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REGIONAL NETWORK MANAGER-NORTH

16 AUG 1989

NEW SOUTH WALES

MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

23-33 BRIDGE STREET
SYDNEY 2000

MINISTER'S OFFICE
RECEIVED
14 JUL 1989

The Hon. Tim Moore, M.P.,
Minister for The Environment,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000 200.

13 JUL 1989

Dear Mr. Moore,

My attention has recently been drawn to your press release of 5th June, entitled "World Environment Day Part II - Saving Rainforest Timbers".

Whilst I well appreciate and sympathise with your efforts for N.S.W. to take a high profile and sympathetic stance on environmental matters, I am most concerned that your press release appears to have been based on a considerable amount of ill advice and misinformation.

It is very popular in certain quarters that espouse environmental views to blame many of the world's ills on forest harvesting operations. You know, and I know, that as far as N.S.W. is concerned, there is rarely any justification for these accusations: the forests regenerate and continue to grow, with a great network of environmental safeguards that, in both design and practice, ensure that conservation in its widest sense occurs. I am advised that in North Queensland, where the Commonwealth Government has abused its foreign affairs powers to nominate a large area of rainforest for world heritage listing, a network of no lesser standard applies.

In both of these States, where some, albeit very limited, production of rainforest timbers continues to occur, the forest services concerned are committed to the management of those forests placed under their control on a sustained yield, multiple use basis. Under these circumstances, I find it extremely difficult to envisage any rational justification for a ban on the produce from these forests.

In many tropical areas outside Australia similar environmental safeguards are much less well developed or even lacking. However, it is my understanding that, in those countries where there is some commitment to maintaining and managing a rainforest estate for its timber values, such safeguards and controls are indeed being introduced and implemented.

here such commitments do not exist, the rainforest problem is till not one of logging, even if carried out in the most estructive and uncontrolled ways. Rainforests almost niversally can tolerate these occasional massive disturbances nd still recover their structure and composition in due ourse. The real problem is that timber harvesting is merely a relude to the clearing of the rainforest and its conversion to ome other landuse, typically agricultural or pastoral.

ban on the use of rainforest timbers, even if applied by all ainforest-importing countries, would have virtually no effect n this programme of clearing and conversion. The only ifference would be that instead of some of the timber being sed, as at present, and helping to relieve the pressure on ther wood-producing sources, it would now be mostly burnt with he other clearing debris and thus add further to the level of arbon dioxide and other so called "greenhouse gases" in the tmosphere.

uch a ban would have even greater negative environmental ffects. Those countries, such as Malaysia and the hilippines, where sincere efforts are being made to reserve nd manage areas of rainforest, would find that the economic ationale for such management has evaporated. The result, would suggest, will not be to set these areas aside as ational parks, but rather to see the abandonment of controls ver their use, adding them to the bank of land headed for arly conversion away from forest. The effect of the ban would e just the reverse of what, I am sure, is intended by your ell meaning, if misguided, advisers.

here are other effects of such a ban, including some that I am ure are not appreciated by your advisers. For example, ollowing the decision by the previous government to transfer ubstantial areas of forest, including rainforest, from State orest to National Park, a number of industries previously elying on the rainforest resource had to close. Others have, o date, been able to adapt to alternative resources. In the ase of Big River Timbers, in Grafton, this has to a large xtent been possible by the import of rainforest veneer aterial, which is processed into ply in association with ocal, non-rainforest timbers. A ban on rainforest timbers ould lead promptly to the closure of this locally important, abour intensive industry. This industry happens to be in my lectorate, but I can assure you that my concern would be no ess wherever it were located.

I realise that your decision, and the consequent press release, involve only your portfolio, which is, I imagine, not a large user of rainforest timbers at any time, while perhaps its most important use, in historic restoration projects, is carefully excluded from the ban. Nonetheless, the risk remains that such token efforts can have a bandwaggon effect, particularly when involving a subject that has attracted as much publicity, largely ill-informed, as has rainforest.

Besides its basic premise - that by not using rainforest timbers we can somehow "protect" the rainforests - the press release of 5th June contains a number of very arguable statements:

* Rainforest timbers are described as "softish, light-tan or reddish wood, used for internal finishing around windows and doors. It is easy to work, with no heavy grain visible." This presumably refers to some of the red meranti timbers in one only of the numerous applications of these timbers. The merantis are among the most readily regenerated of the tropical rainforest timbers and, of all the rainforest imports, are probably those most likely to originate from stands under controlled forest management. However, they only represent one group of rainforest imports; others range from near white to almost black, from among the lightest to some of the heaviest of all timbers, and they cover a range of figure and often limited specialty uses.

* "Australian grown plantation timbers can replace rainforest timbers ....". For some end uses this is true; for many it bears no relationship to reality, now or in the foreseeable future. If the statement excluded "plantation" it would be closer to the truth, though even prior to the effective closure of the N.S.W. rainforest timber industry and to the recent withdrawal by Canberra of most of the North Queensland resource, the Australian forest industries were unable to meet the demands for these types of timbers.

* Why the emphasis on "plantation"? Does this presage a further campaign by your advisers to stop all logging in native forests, and to restrict our timber production to plantation-grown trees only? Whilst such a policy has been advocated by the Australian Conservation Foundation, it is not one consistent with the policies of our Government, nor one that I trust any responsible Australian government would ever accept.

* The statement about the destruction of rainforest by logging has already been discussed, while the area quoted (11 million hectares) seems to be well above that arrived at by the most authoritative studies of this certainly important subject. I enclose a book review, prepared some years ago by Prof. L. Roche, of Bangor, Wales. Prof. Roche has substantial tropical experience and discusses, in some detail, these estimates of rainforest destruction and suggests a figure closer to half the above estimate. I understand that there has been no significant change in the picture since Roche's review.

* Similarly, the estimate of species extinction (48 species per day) is one that should not be accepted blindly, and I enclose from the New Scientist a further article, by Julian L. Simon, who examines some of the bases for estimates of this nature.

Please do not think that I underestimate the importance of maintaining an extensive cover of rainforest globally. I fully appreciate the need to maintain such a cover. However, I do disagree with the approach taken by your advisers and, indeed, believe it to be counterproductive with respect to the very end that it was presumably designed to meet.

I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to our various Cabinet colleagues, for their information, should they be tempted in following what, in my opinion, is a dangerous and unproductive path.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Causley

IAN CAUSLEY, M.P.,
MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES,