

FORESTRY COMMISSION OF N.S.W.

HARVESTING PLAN - DORRIGO.

1. STATE FOREST. CHAELUNDI S.F.996 COMPARTMENT No. 229

AREA: GROSS 270 Ha. NET 259 Ha.

LEASE DETAILS (i) Tenure:Cn.L.40/15

(ii) Registered Holder:M.P. Hodgkins.

TREE MARKING CODE

Tree marking for retention shall be carried out in advance of harvesting operations.

All trees required to be retained during harvesting shall be marked with yellow paint and these trees shall not be felled or damaged.

Trees specifically retained for wildlife habitat shall be marked with yellow 'H' and shall not be felled or damaged. Follow up tree marking for removal shall be carried out to ensure satisfactory utilisation. Trees specifically marked for removal shall be marked with pink paint and all trees so marked shall be felled.

AREA MARKING CODE

Blue - Denotes compartment boundary where boundary is not clearly defined by major creeks, roads or flora and fauna protection areas.

White - Denotes Dump Site locations

Orange - Denotes road or track location

Yellow (3 bars) - Denotes boundaries of filter strips and Flora and Fauna Protection areas and shall not be crossed by harvesting machinery.

4. DRAINAGE LINE PROTECTION

4.1 FILTER STRIPS - Filter strips shown on map are 20 metres each side of water course.

4.2 PROTECTION STRIPS- Protection strips shown on map are 10 metres each side of water course.

5. EROSION MITIGATION (Standard Erosion Mitigation Conditions for Logging in N.S.W. shall apply).

SOILS

Soils are derived from Siliceous Argillite of the Brooklana Formation. These soils are relatively stable and fall into the average erosion class.

5.1 MAXIMUM CROSS DRAIN SPACING ON SNIG TRACKS

Snig track drainage shall be carried out in accordance with prescriptions for average erosion class

TRACK SLOPEAVERAGE EROSION CLASS

Less than 15 degrees	60m
15 - 20	40m
20 - 25	20m
25 - 30	15m

Crossbanks shall be constructed with a minimum effective height of 50cm.

- 5.2 Minor roads used for log haulage shall be cross drained in accordance with the specifications for snig tracks on completion of harvesting on the area served by the roads.

6. ORDER OF WORKING

6.1 Dry Weather Areas: Log Dumps 1,2,3,4

6.2 Wet Weather Areas: Log Dumps 5,6,7,8.

7. PRODUCT SPECIFICATION AND ESTIMATED VOLUMES.

PRODUCT	SPECIFICATION	EST.VOLUME	LICENCEE
Poles & Girders	Conforming with AS 2209 for poles and suitable for current orders.	250m ³	Coffs Harbour Hardwoods
Quota Logs	Minimum length 3.0m, Minimum Small End diameter of 30cm. Maximum defect levels specified in Schedule of Compulsory Utilisation Limits for Dorrig District.	3000m ³	<i>Not Specified</i>
Small Logs	Minimum length .4.0.metres. Minimum Small End diameter .20..cm cdub. Maximum defect levels as specified in Schedule of Compulsory Utilisation limits for Dorrig District.		
Other	Logs not meeting specifications above.	1000m ³	Not specified

8. FOREST TYPE DESCRIPTION.

Forest types found within this compartment are:

Type 37a/37b - Coastal Blackbutt 7ha/2ha. Primarily on the western slopes falling into the major gully forming the boundary with compartment 230.

Type 53a - Brushbox 2ha. Small occurrence of this type on slopes falling into Stockyard Creek.

Type 74a/74b - Spotted Gum 50ha/83ha. Widespread over the compartment on the north and northwesterly ridges and slopes. Associates include GG, WM. Some good quality logs and poles.

Type 142/163 - Low quality New England Hardwood. 44ha. Isolated occurrences on higher ridgetops within the compartment.

Includes some NEB, WS.

Type 163b - New England Blackbutt 77ha. Some good quality stands occur on the ridges in the western part of the compartment. NEB dominates but some TWD, BBX in gullies and GG, SG, BG on slopes.

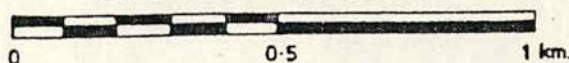
Type 168 - Silvertop Stringybark 4ha. An isolated occurrence in a northeasterly gully in the centre of the compartment. STS dominates.

STAND CONDITION DESCRIPTION.

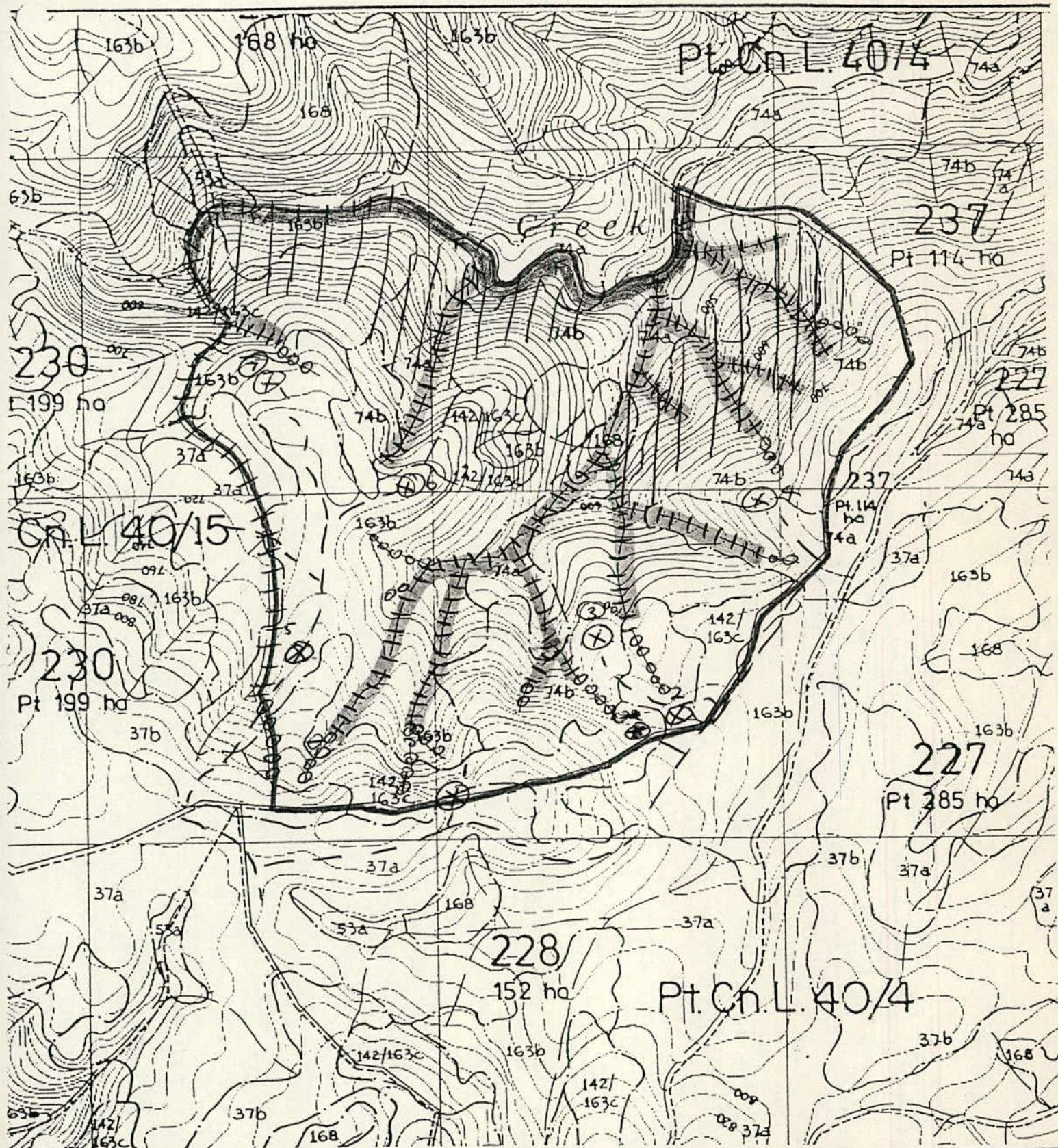
The area has not previously been logged. Evidence exists for a) a regular fire regime and b) intensive grazing of the site. The stand is very uneven aged showing a high proportion of regrowth with few scattered mature and overmature trees. The understorey is heavily modified blady grass, bracken fern and Oak.

Compartment 229

Scale — 1:15 000



G N



Compartment boundary

Fence

Filter strips

Protection strips

Reserved from logging

Rock, gravel pit, cliff

Feeder road, dump site

Special emphasis

Forest type

Wet weather dumps shown in red

Contour interval 10 m

Wm

Paula to make schedule of final report.

We want formal Response
+
General Process (Schedule)

- ⇒ Sched x P.D. area
 FOI
 Guidelines + Policies.
- ⇒ esp Re Docs on file.
- ⇒ formal response.



Process 1 - here
MKT to 'HamDrac' get back on expediting (today's)
to phone Big S. next wk.

+

Mike Hickner

02 980 4174.

10. MODIFIED PRESCRIPTION AND SPECIAL EMPHASIS AREAS.


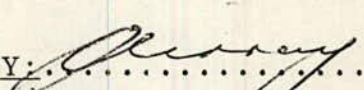
- 10.1 Mature and overmature trees suitable for provision of Wildlife habitat shall be retained at a frequency of at least 1 tree per ha, preferably in clumps of up to 5 trees scattered throughout the harvesting area.
- 10.2 All trees identified as "V notch" trees used by Yellow Bellied Gliders and nearby refuge trees shall be retained.
- 10.3 In areas designated as Special Emphasis Flora and Fauna Protection (Wildlife Corridors,) no trees shall be felled within 20 metres of the centre of the strip, while harvesting shall be modified in the outer 20 metre zone to retain at least 50% canopy cover. Only those trees marked for removal by Forestry Commission personnel shall be felled in this outer zone.

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

- 11.1 Operations shall conform with Coffs Harbour Region Code of Logging practices and Conditions of Timber/Contractors/Operators Licences.

In particular, the licensees attention is specifically drawn to the following clauses:-

- (i) 5.12 Requirements for stockpiling and spreading of topsoil on log dumps.
- (ii) 5.16 Requirements for progressive dispersal of bark from log dumps.

12. PREPARED BY:  APPROVED BY: 

S. Cottier

D.J. Murray

FORESTER

DISTRICT FORESTER.

DATE

25th June, 1991

DATE

26th June, 1991

MH

⇒ expedite avail list.

Reg Gen managers within

(7-f days.

list with 7-f days.
not ret in concrete.

by fax. next wk.

expects list to grow.

TO: All General Managers
RE: NEFA (North East Forest Alliance) Contact

Following the occupation of Head Office on Wednesday 18th November, 1992 by NEFA the Minister has instructed that the Commission has no further interaction with this group other than that which is required under the Commission's statutory responsibilities (such as Freedom of Information and EPA legislation).

This directive will apply to:

- Any person who is known to have taken part in the occupation on Wednesday, regardless of what organisation they claim to represent. A list of the names of these people is attached. (This list may contain duplications or aliases)
- Any person claiming to represent NEFA in any way.

This directive is to be interpreted as follows:

1. There should be no response to submissions or requests, either written or verbal, made by or on behalf of NEFA representatives or persons involved in the protest other than that required pursuant to the first paragraph.
2. NEFA representatives are not to be involved in any consultative processes, including the community consultative committees which have been formed to facilitate the preparation of EISs, or in any other forum.
3. There will be no attempt to initiate consultation with NEFA concerning any matter.

In the case of community consultative committees, NEFA representatives should be replaced by representatives of other conservation groups. In situations where NEFA members claim to represent another group reasonable evidence will be required to substantiate this claim

FORESTRY COMMISSION OF N.S.W.

S.O. 308

H.O. No. _____

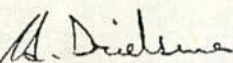
-2-

Where NEFA is represented on committees which are convened by a third party the Commission will request that NEFA be excluded from further meetings and will reserve the right not to participate if this request is not met.

In respect of Freedom of Information Applications where access to documents has been granted and NEFA representatives are advised to collect the information from a Commission Office the following conditions will apply:

- (i) the NEFA representative will at all times be restricted to the counter area of the office;
- (ii) the office manager will ensure that the NEFA representative is restricted to that area;
- (iii) advice and information will be strictly confined to that relating to the F.O.I. request.

These instructions are to be applied to all day-to-day situations. If there are any specific difficulties, or if further clarification is required, please contact John Halkett General Manager Forest Planning and Environment or Mike Hickman, Director, Planning and Support.



H. Drielsma
Commissioner for Forests

27th November, 1992

1. STRANTER, Keith
2. O'NEILL, Francis
3. L'GREEN, Rick
4. ROOKE, Karen
5. BEASLEY, Allison
6. STEVENSON, Danna
7. KIERSNER, Anna
8. BIESENBAACH, Sunja
9. AURORA, Claudia
10. TOO, Anthony
11. DAVIS, Shaun
12. CORKILL, Jchn
13. WILLIAMS, John
14. HOLBROW, Julie
15. BURGESS, David
16. PLESMAN, Melinda
17. MUNDAY, Wayne
18. JULIEN, David
19. FIELD, Greg
20. NEEDHAM, Adrian
21. SHARPE, Rod
22. SUMMERVILLE, Tim
23. JONGEN, Theo
24. FAWICK, Robert
25. O'DONNELL, Sally
26. FRASER, Vanessa
27. EVANS, Michelle
28. CURTAIN, Pat
29. KILVERT, Andrew
30. HAPP, Stephen
31. RICKETTS, Aiden
32. RATT, Andrew
33. STEED, Andrew



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW



What is Freedom of Information?

In New South Wales, the Freedom of Information Act 1989 gives you the legal right to:

- Obtain access to information held by State Government agencies, Government Ministers, local government and other public bodies;
- Request amendments to records of a personal nature that are inaccurate; and
- Appeal against a decision not to grant access to information or to amend personal records.

This leaflet provides you with information on Reviews and Appeals - what they are, when you should use them and how to use them.

For further details on how to access information held by agencies and organisations, see the leaflet called: "Guidelines For Using FOI".

What is an Internal Review?

If you are unhappy with a decision made by an agency on your FOI request, you are entitled to ask for an internal review by that agency.

You may do this if:

- You have been refused access to a document;
- You have been refused access to part of a document;
- You have been refused a request to amend a personal document;
- You believe you have been charged too much;
- You have been given access to a document but access has been deferred;
- You are a third party specified in the documents but have not been consulted about giving access to another person; or
- You have been consulted, but disagree with a decision to release the documents.

An internal review is not available on requests for access to, or amendment of, a Minister's records.

How do I ask for an Internal Review?

Applications for internal review should be made using an FOI review form or in a letter. Enclose the \$40 application fee.

What will happen with my request for a Review?

Someone senior to the person who made the original decision on your FOI application will look at your review application.

Within 14 days you will be advised on the outcome of the review.

What will it cost me to ask for a Review?

Your review application fee will be \$40 but there are no processing charges. In addition, your application fee may be refunded if the original decision is significantly altered.

If you received a reduction on your original application, the application fee for an internal review will be only \$20.

Can the Ombudsman assist me?

If you have already sought an internal review and are unhappy with the result, the NSW State Ombudsman can intervene on your behalf where, for example, an agency:

- Takes an unreasonable time to process your FOI request;
- Imposes an unreasonable charge for access to information; or
- Refuses to give you access to information that is not exempt.

Although the Ombudsman is able to investigate your complaint, he cannot change or reverse a decision. He can recommend that:

- The decision of an agency be reconsidered;
 - Action be taken to change the agency's conduct;
 - Reasons be given for a decision; or
 - The law or practice be changed.
- The Ombudsman cannot deal with matters:
- Which are before the District Court;
 - Where the information has been made exempt by a Ministerial Certificate;
 - Where a request has been made for access to, or amendment of, a Minister's records;
 - Where the applicant has complained to the Ombudsman under the Ombudsman Act about an agency and the Ombudsman previously has examined the information in relation to that investigation; and
 - Where the Ombudsman has made a decision under the FOI Act.

No fees are payable for a review by the Ombudsman.

When should I appeal to the District Court?

If you wish to pursue the matter further, you are entitled to take your appeal to the District Court in NSW.

You must lodge your appeal within 60 days of the agency's decision on your request for internal review or within 60 days of being advised of the Ombudsman's decision.

The District Court may:

- Confirm the agency or Minister's original decision;
- Disallow that decision and make another in its place; or
- Pass the matter back to the agency or Minister to be dealt with as directed by the Court.

The District Court does not have the power to determine that access can be given to an exempt document. (Exempt documents are covered in the leaflet called: "Guidelines For Using FOI").

Will it cost me anything to appeal to the District Court?

You may be required to meet the legal costs involved in taking your appeal to the District Court.

Legal Aid may be available for FOI appeals in some circumstances. Check with the Legal Aid Office on whether or not you qualify for legal aid before you incur any legal expenses.

Who can help me with more information or if I have any problems understanding FOI?

Most Government agencies have an FOI officer who can help you with any queries.

If you are unsure about the agency concerned, contact the Government Information Service on (02) 228 8900 or the FOI Unit on (02) 223 6200. Toll free on (008) 04 4051.

Request for Access to Information Under The Freedom Of Information Act

Details of Applicant

Surname _____ (Title) _____
Given Names _____
Australian Postal Address _____

Postcode _____
Telephone Number(s) _____

Details of Request

I request access to document(s) concerning matters which are
Place a tick in the appropriate box
☐ Personal ☐ Non Personal
These documents are _____

Name of Agency holding document _____

Form of Access

Place a tick in the appropriate box
I wish to inspect the document(s)
☐ Yes ☐ No
I require a copy of the documents(s)
☐ Yes ☐ No
I require access in another form
☐ Yes ☐ No
specify _____

Fees and Charges

Attached is a cheque/money order to the amount of \$30 to cover the application fee. I understand that I may be required to pay processing charges in respect of this request and that I will be supplied with a statement of charges if appropriate.
Note: In certain cases a 50% reduction in fees and charges may apply. (See the section on fees and charges in the leaflet called "Guidelines for Using FOI").
If you consider you are entitled to a reduction, submit a request with copies of supporting documents with this form.
Place a tick in the appropriate box
☐ Yes ☐ No

Lodgement of Application

This Application must be addressed to the Principal Officer of the Agency concerned.

Advice on Application

The agency will advise you on its decision to for access within 45 days of receipt of this application.

Applicant's Signature _____

Date: / /

Details of Applicant

Application for Review Of Determination Under Freedom of Information Act

Surname _____ (Title) _____
Given Names _____
Australian Postal Address _____

Postcode _____
Telephone Number(s) _____
FOI Reference Number _____

I have submitted an application requesting access to documents in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

I am unhappy with the determination made by your agency and seek a review of this determination because:

Place a tick in the appropriate box

- ☐ I have been refused access to a document
☐ I have been refused access to part of a document
☐ I have been refused a request to amend a personal document
☐ I have been given access to a document but access has been deferred
☐ I believe I have been charged too much
☐ I am a third party specified in the documents but have not been consulted about giving access to another person
☐ I have been consulted but disagree with a decision to release the documents

Comments

You may include additional comments (attach pages if necessary)

Fees

The agency granted me a 50% reduction in fees and charges when I applied for access to documents.

Place a tick in the appropriate box.

- ☐ Yes If yes, there is a \$20 fee
☐ No If no, there is a \$40 fee

Lodgement of Application

This application must be addressed to the Principal Officer of the Agency concerned within 28 days of the date of the agency's determination which is the subject of review.

Advice of Determination

The agency will undertake its internal review and advise you of its decision within 14 days of receipt of this application.

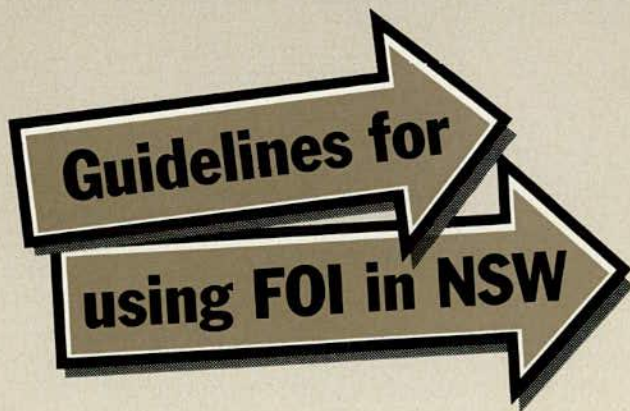
Applicant's Signature _____

Date: / /



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- Appeal against a decision not to grant access to information or to amend personal records.

This leaflet provides you with broad guidelines for using Freedom of Information.

For further information on your rights to have a decision on your FOI request reviewed or to seek an appeal, see the leaflet called: "Reviews and Appeals".

What sort of Information can I ask for?

You can ask for any kind of personal or non-personal information.

Personal information includes your public education and school records, health, welfare and superannuation records, and examination and training records.

Non-personal information includes government policy documents, research materials, instruction and procedure manuals, and market research and product testing records.

Information can be in the form of certificates, files, computer printouts, maps, films, photographs, tape recordings and video recordings.

At local government level you are only entitled to access information about your personal affairs.

What agencies and other public bodies can give me this Information?

Agencies and public bodies that must give you information under FOI include:

- Government departments and authorities.
- State boards and commissions.
- Government Ministers.
- Local and municipal councils.
- County councils.
- Universities.
- Colleges of advanced education.
- Public hospitals.
- Regulatory bodies eg the Harness Racing Authority.

} personal information only

Is any Information not available?

Under the Freedom of Information Act, wherever possible, agencies are required to make information available.

You may be denied right of access to information only where, for example, there is a legitimate need for confidentiality or where another person's privacy may be invaded. This information is called "exempt" and includes:

- State Government cabinet and executive council documents (with the exception of those that are factual or statistical and do not disclose cabinet or executive council deliberations or decisions);
 - Documents which are exempt under Commonwealth or Victorian FOI legislation (the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments have already introduced FOI);
 - Documents concerning law enforcement and public safety;
 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege; and
 - Documents subject to secrecy provisions in other legislation.
- Other information which may be exempt includes documents affecting:
- Personal affairs of another person;
 - Business affairs of another person or business; and
 - The economy of the State.

The Premier of NSW, as the Minister responsible for FOI, has the right to issue a Ministerial Certificate stating that a specific document is exempt and restricted.

How do I request Information?

Every day government and other public bodies respond to requests for general information from the public. This process will still be your first avenue of access to the information you wish to see.

To make an FOI request, however, take the following steps:

- Identify the information or document that you would like to see;
- Identify which agency or organisation is likely to keep that information. If you are unsure about the agency concerned, contact the agency's FOI officer or the Government Information Service.

- Remember, there is separate Freedom of Information legislation for Federal Government (Commonwealth). NSW State Government legislation does not cover Commonwealth agencies;
- Write your request on an FOI application form (available from all government agencies) or in a letter and post or deliver it to the agency concerned;
- Provide as much information as possible about the document you wish to see, such as file reference numbers; and
- Enclose the \$30 fee for your application.

What will the agency do when it receives my request?

All agencies and organisations covered by FOI legislation have a responsibility to deal with your request as soon as possible. You will be contacted if any difficulties arise. They must advise you in writing within 45 days that the information is available, or if your request has been deferred or refused. If your request is deferred or refused, you must be advised of the reasons. You have a right to appeal against most of these decisions. (See leaflet called: "Reviews and Appeals" for further information).

How will I receive the information that I have requested?

If the information you request is in written form, the agency can let you know when and where you can see the documents or provide you with a copy. If you have asked for access to information that is not in written form, such as video tapes, sound recordings or photographs, arrangements will be made for you to hear or view the material.

How much will it cost me to make a request for information?

Charges fall into two categories - application fees and processing fees. Application fees: A \$30 fee covers applications for both personal and non-personal information. Processing fees: Processing fees cover time for locating the information, decision-making, consultation where necessary and any photocopying. A \$30 an hour fee covers processing for both personal and non-personal information. However, you are entitled to up to 20 hours of free processing time for requests about

your personal affairs. There is no upper limit on fees.

Rebates:

- Rebates of 50 per cent are offered on all charges:
- For pensioners with the Health Benefit Card as well as those with an equivalent income who are under financial hardship;
 - For non-profit organisations under financial hardship;
 - Where public interest can be demonstrated; and
 - For Children.

Can an agency refuse to give me the information I request?

Yes. A request for information may be refused:

- If the document is exempt;
- If it would unreasonably divert the agency's resources from its normal functions. (However, before refusing a request, the agency must offer to help to amend the application so that work may be carried out without disruption);
- If an agency believes you may be seriously affected by personally accessing information relating to your physical or mental health. (You can ask that your medical doctor looks at the information and tells you about it); and
- If non-personal documents you wish to see were created before July 1, 1984. You have the legal right to appeal against a decision on any of these with the exception of "unreasonable diversion of agency resources". (See the leaflet called: "Reviews and Appeals" for further information).

Can I correct inaccurate documents about me?

Yes. If you believe any information about you is incomplete, incorrect, misleading, or out-of-date, you have the right to request that it is corrected.

How do I ask for correction of documents about me?

Applications for correction to a document should be made using an FOI amendment request form or in a letter. If you have any information to support your request, include this with your application. Post or deliver your application to the agency or organisation which gave you access to your file or documents.

Ensure that your address is included for correspondence.

What will the agency do when it receives my request for correction?

You must be advised of an agency decision on your request as soon as possible and within 45 days. If your request is refused, reasons must be given. You will be advised of the agency's findings and your rights to appeal against the decision. (See the leaflet called: "Reviews and Appeals" for further details). If the agency refuses to amend your records, you may ask that a note is attached outlining the details of your requested corrections.

What will it cost to ask for correction of documents about me?

Once you have received documents under FOI, there is no charge to apply to have personal information in them amended. Where there is significant correction of personal records and the mistakes were not your fault, all fees and charges paid for the original application will be fully refunded.

What other responsibilities do agencies and organisations covered by Freedom of Information legislation have?

All agencies (except local government) are required to publish information about their operation called a "Statement of Affairs". These statements will include details on:

- Agency structures and functions;
- How its operations affect the public;
- How members of the public can participate in formulation of its policies;
- Descriptions of all policy documents held by the agency; and
- An outline of the procedures for gaining access to those documents.

The Act allows 12 months, after its implementation, for preparation of these statements. A regularly updated "Summary of Affairs" must also be published in the Government Gazette.

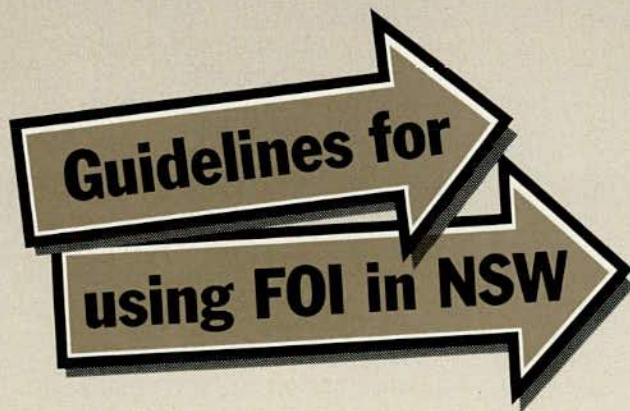
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Information can be in the form of certificates, files, computer printouts, maps, films, photographs, tape recordings and video recordings.

At local government level you are only entitled to access information about your personal affairs.

What agencies and other public bodies can give me this Information?

Agencies and public bodies that must give you information under FOI include:

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- Universities.
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What will the agency do when it receives my request?

All agencies and organisations covered by FOI legislation have a responsibility to deal with your request as soon as possible. You will be contacted if any difficulties arise.

They must advise you in writing within 45 days that the information is available, or if your request has been deferred or refused.

If your request is deferred or refused, you must be advised of the reasons. You have a right to appeal against most of these decisions. (See leaflet called: "Reviews and Appeals" for further information).

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If the information you request is in written form, the agency can let you know when and where you can see the documents or provide you with a copy.

If you have asked for access to information that is not in written form, such as video tapes, sound recordings or photographs, arrangements will be made for you to hear or view the material.

How much will it cost me to make a request for information?

Charges fall into two categories - application fees and processing fees.

Application fees:

A \$30 fee covers applications for both personal and non-personal information.

Processing fees:

Processing fees cover time for locating the information, decision-making, consultation where necessary and any photocopying.

A \$30 an hour fee covers processing for both personal and non-personal information. However, you are entitled to up to 20 hours of free processing time for requests about

your personal affairs. There is no upper limit on fees.

Rebates:

Rebates of 50 per cent are offered on all charges:

- For pensioners with the Health Benefit Card as well as those with an equivalent income who are under financial hardship;
- For non-profit organisations under financial hardship;
- Where public interest can be demonstrated; and
- For Children.

Can an agency refuse to give me the information I request?

Yes. A request for information may be refused:

- If the document is exempt;
- If it would unreasonably divert the agency's resources from its normal functions. (However, before refusing a request, the agency must offer to help to amend the application so that work may be carried out without disruption);
- If an agency believes you may be seriously affected by personally accessing information relating to your physical or mental health. (You can ask that your medical doctor looks at the information and tells you about it); and
- If non-personal documents you wish to see were created before July 1, 1984. You have the legal right to appeal against a decision on any of these with the exception of "unreasonable diversion of agency resources". (See the leaflet called: "Reviews and Appeals" for further information).

Can I correct inaccurate documents about me?

Yes. If you believe any information about you is incomplete, incorrect, misleading, or out-of-date, you have the right to request that it is corrected.

How do I ask for correction of documents about me?

Applications for correction to a document should be made using an FOI amendment request form or in a letter. If you have any information to support your request, include this with your application.

Post or deliver your application to the agency or organisation which gave you access to your file or documents.

Ensure that your address is included for correspondence.

What will the agency do when it receives my request for correction?

You must be advised of an agency decision on your request as soon as possible and within 45 days.

If your request is refused, reasons must be given. You will be advised of the agency's findings and your rights to appeal against the decision. (See the leaflet called: "Reviews and Appeals" for further details).

If the agency refuses to amend your records, you may ask that a note is attached outlining the details of your requested corrections.

What will it cost to ask for correction of documents about me?

Once you have received documents under FOI, there is no charge to apply to have personal information in them amended.

Where there is significant correction of personal records and the mistakes were not your fault, all fees and charges paid for the original application will be fully refunded.

What other responsibilities do agencies and organisations covered by Freedom of Information legislation have?

All agencies (except local government) are required to publish information about their operation called a "Statement of Affairs".

These statements will include details on:

- Agency structures and functions;
- How its operations affect the public;
- How members of the public can participate in formulation of its policies;
- Descriptions of all policy documents held by the agency; and
- An outline of the procedures for gaining access to those documents.

The Act allows 12 months, after its implementation, for preparation of these statements.

A regularly updated "Summary of Affairs" must also be published in the Government Gazette.

Who can help me with more information or if I have any problems understanding FOI?

Most Government agencies have an FOI officer who can help you with any queries.

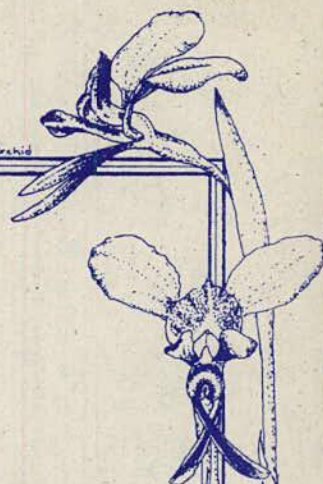
If you are unsure about the agency concerned, contact the Government Information Service on (02) 228 8900 or the FOI Unit on (02) 223 6200. Toll free on (008) 04 4051.



Olive Whistler

THE BIG SCRUB ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC.

149 Keen Street, Lismore 2480.
Phone (066) 21 3278
Fax (066) 22 2676



Dendrobium Orchid

4 November 1992

Dear Nominee,

RE NEFAs outstanding FOI requests.

The time has finally come, more than a year since our original Freedom of Information application, to finally access the information we requested. Once again the Commission has used an all too familiar mixture of stubbornness and incompetence to effectively frustrate legislative requirements that don't suit them. Through a circus of refusals, delays, meetings and lost correspondence, the Commission has finally arrived at the point of establishing an FOI procedure. (years behind most other state government departments).

Contained herein is the result of eighteen months of negotiations, thankfully being overseen by the underfunded Ombudsmans office. The question which remains is whether the delays have been the result of a deliberate intent by the Commission to frustrate the aims of the FOI Act ?.

Please find enclosed copies of :

- *Our original letter of application 22/4/91 (please note, Glen Innes region was also included on the list by our letter of 20/5/91)
- *List "A" from the Forestry Commission which outlines information now available without a formal FOI request.
- *List "B" which vaguely attempts to outline the kind of info which would be covered by our FOI request.



Rainforest Dragon



Pink Fingers

Basically what it all means is that any document which appears on list "A" should now be available by appointment from your District Office without needing a formal FOI request. Instead of wasting time trying to understand List "B" you should assume that any document not covered by List "A" will require a formal FOI request and that it will be covered by our original request.

We are still waiting on the Forestry Commission to determine our access to documents obtained from them under subpoena during the Chaelundi case.

The Ombudsmans Office wants this matter resolved as quickly as possible, and so do we. Please prepare a detailed list of all the information that you wish to obtain from your local District Office and return it to the Big Scrub as soon as possible. Lists must be finalised within the next few weeks. please ring Aidan Ricketts or John Corkill if you do not understand.

Please prepare two lists as follows,

*List "1" which will set out all of the documents that you want which are covered by Forestry's enclosed list "A".

*List "2" which will set out all of the documents which you require that are not specifically included on Forestry's list "A".

Once lists are received they will be compiled into one large schedule of specific documents requested and will be forwarded to the Forestry Commission. Remember, this is not a new FOI request, you are simply being more specific about what was requested in April 1991.

The Forestry Commission will eventually decide what exemptions it seeks to claim from release of certain documents, and it's reasons, and also whether it considers a particular request is covered by our original application.

The Commissions long overdue determination will then need to be reviewed by the Ombudsmans Office, which will adjudicate whether the Commissions claims to continue to suppress documents are sustainable.

Please access information once available through making an appointment to see the relevant District Forester. Remember to keep notes of meetings and of any difficulties experienced. As well as list "A" the Forestry Commission is required to supply us with it's "guidelines" for procedures for accessing information. These will be forwarded to you when received.

The Forestry Commission will charge very high prices for time and photocopying, so bear this in mind when tailoring your specific request, and avoid doubling up or requesting unnecessary information.

The information requested over eighteen months ago was required to enable NEFA and environmentalists from throughout the North Coast to undertake critical evaluations of Forestry Management on the North Coast as part of our commitment to informed and thorough public involvement in the EIS process. The Commission has now completed two EISs, have several more following soon and are well advanced on most of the North Coast EISs.

The Commissions frustration of the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act has been successful in preventing fully informed public consultation and makes a farce of the entire process. It is our view that the Commissions neglect has not been accidental. This particular charge is fundamental to our complaint to the Ombudsmans office.

The Forestry Commissions belated compliance with our request at least shows that with a lot of supervision the Commission is capable of adequate compliance with the law. It does not however relieve the consequences of the Commissions policy.

Yours sincerely,



Aidan Ricketts.
Research Officer



THE BIG SCRUB ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

INC.
149 Keen Street, Lismore 2480.
Phone (066) 21 3278
Fax (066) 22 2676.

4 November 1992

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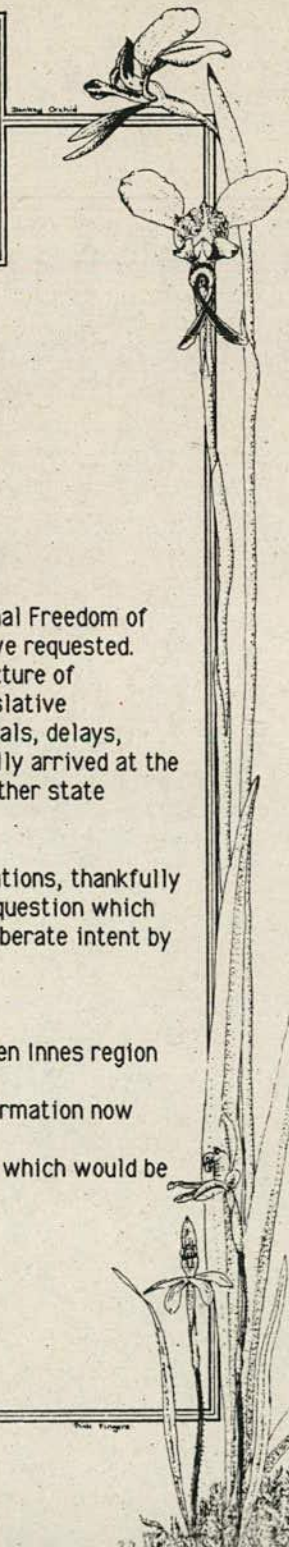
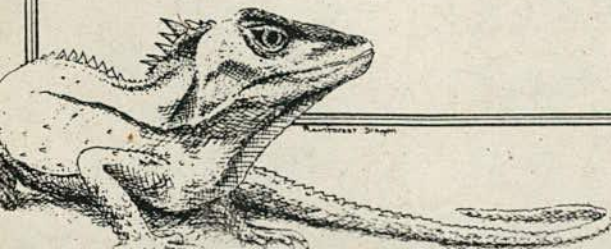
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Aidan Ricketts.
Research Officer

COMPARTMENT MAPS 1,2

FOREST TYPE MAPS 1,2

PREFERRED MANAGEMENT PRIORITY MAPS * 1,2

only after RO approval

access through DF only

LOGGING HISTORY MAPS 1,2

access through DF only

FIRE HISTORY MAPS 1,2

access through DF only

TREATMENT HISTORY MAPS 1,2

MARKETING BULLETIN, INCLUDING ROYALTY RATES 1,2

OPERATIONS MANUAL 1,2

ANNUAL FOREST MANAGEMENT REPORTS 1,2

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS/REVIEWS

AND/OR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEWS

WHERE AVAILABLE 1

FIRE SUPPRESSION PLANS 1

FUEL MANAGEMENT PLANS 1

HARVESTING PLANS * 1

ORDERS OF WORKING * (CURRENT YEAR) 1

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) access through DF only

) only after RO approval

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CLEAN WATERS ACT LICENCES * - available at relevant Regional Offices

NPWS LICENCES *

- 4 -

Notes: documents are only available when formally approved - drafts will not be supplied.

* - subject to amendment - valid as at date of supply.

The relevant office should be telephoned prior to visit to check that documents are available.

1. Documents only available by prior arrangement with the District Forester, and only when formally approved.
2. In some cases maps cannot be copied - hence available for inspection only. Coloured copies generally not available.

FIRE PROTECTION SERIES F2-F5

FOREST RESOURCES SERIES

PUBLISHED RESEARCH PAPERS

TECHNICAL PAPERS

TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS (some)

WOOD TECHNOLOGY LEAFLETS

BOOKS, MANUALS, BROCHURES, RESEARCH NOTES, PAPERS AND
VARIOUS TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS AS LISTED IN THE MOST RECENT
FORESTRY PUBLICATIONS BOOKLET

CORPORATE PLAN 1990/93

CODES OF LOGGING PRACTICE

CURRENT SOIL EROSION MITIGATION CONDITIONS

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY

FERAL PIG REPORTS

FOREST GRAZING POLICY

INTERNAL AUDIT POLICY

POLICY STATEMENTS 1-26 - as listed below

SECTION 10 EMPLOYEES GUIDE TO THE FORESTRY COMMISSION OF NSW

SICK LEAVE POLICY

WEATHER RECORDS

"A"

FORESTRY COMMISSION DOCUMENTS

Documents listed below are available without a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act. See footnotes *, 1 and 2 at end.

ANNUAL REPORTS

BUSH TELEGRAPH

DIAGRAMS D1-2

EDUCATION SHEETS ES1-ES20

EXOTIC SOFTWOOD PLANTATION POLICY 1982

EXTENSION INFORMATION LEAFLETS - NOs X1-X52

FOREST PROTECTION SERIES

GENERAL PUBLICATIONS G1-G26

INDIGENOUS FOREST POLICY 1976

COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS BOOKLET

MANAGEMENT PLANS - as per attached list

NURSERY INFORMATION

STATE FOREST MAP SERIES PUBLISHED AT 1:25 000

(These provide information on location and extent of State forests and their road networks and land tenure information)

SUMMARY SERIES

TREE NOTES TN1-TN18

TREES ON FARMS SERIES

"YOUR FORESTS FOREVER" SERIES

11 September 1992

The Big Scrub Environment Centre
149 Keen Street
LISMORE NSW 2480

Via Facsimile: (066) 222676

Attention: Aiden Ricketts

Dear Aiden

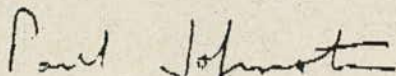
As discussed with Mike Hickman, attached are two lists of documents. The first list ("A") contains documents which are available without the need for a Freedom of Information ("FOI") request. The second list ("B") contains documents which will require the lodging of an FOI application.

In respect of list "A" the relevant Forestry Commission Office should be contacted by telephone to determine if the required documents are readily available and the cost of acquiring same. If the document(s) required are not readily available the Office will phone back with time and costs details of making the document available.

Documents within list "B" require an FOI application. However, in respect of the Big Scrub and Megan Edwards' existing applications it is intended to provide you with decisions of these in about two weeks. As discussed it may well be that some "grey" areas exist and it would be the Commission's intention to resolve these (possibly by way of meetings) at the earliest possible time.

A copy of this letter and the lists has been forwarded to David Watson of the Ombudsman's Office today.

Yours faithfully



Paul Johnston
MANAGER, PLANNING AND SUPPORT

- 5 -

POLICY STATEMENTS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
1	PREPARATION OF POLICY STATEMENTS
2	TREE NURSERIES
3	WILD DOG MANAGEMENT
4	TREES ON FARMS
5	FUEL MANAGEMENT IN INDIGENOUS FOREST
6	INTEGRATED HARVESTING IN HARDWOOD FORESTS
7	FIRE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL
8	ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF HARASSMENT
9	USE OF STATE FOREST BY RECREATION VEHICLES
10	HEARING PROTECTION - OPERATIONS ON CROWN TIMBER LAND
11	EXTRACTION OF FOREST MATERIALS ON STATE FORESTS BY OUTSIDE BODIES
12	RADIATA PINE PLANTATION PRUNING
13	STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING
14	TIMBER VALUATION FOR OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
15	WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
16	NATIVE FOREST PRESERVATION
18	SAFETY
19	SAFETY HATS
21	FOREST HEALTH
22	HUNTING WITHIN STATE FORESTS, TIMBER & FLORA RESERVES
23	USE OF FIREARMS WITHIN STATE FORESTS, TIMBER & FLORA RESERVES
24	FORESTRY COMMISSION NON-SMOKING POLICY
25	FIREWOOD
26	CONTROL OF FRAUD & CORRUPTION AGAINST THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

⇒ 2 exemptions we object to

⇒

Part 5 s 52. OMB Act.

Nominees

here, A + B please list
what you want.

⇒

+

⇒

3

P 33 FOI Act.

Amun Act s 52 as
amended

+ Gen Regn.

P 5 Item 6



**Big Scrub Environment Centre
North East Forest Alliance**

Workshop Program
Nimbin Forest Festival 1-5 Oct

Friday 2 October

10.00am - 11 o'clock

Communitiy Liaison - Andrew Steed

11.30am - 1 o'clock

Strategy & Planning - John Corkill

2.00pm - 3 o'clock

Forest Defence - Aidan Ricketts

3.30pm - 5 o'clock

Creative campaigning - Women Imagemakers

Saturday 3 October

1.00pm - 3 o'clock

Art of social action - Steve Happ

3.30pm - 5 o'clock

Forest Scouting - NEFA tribe

Monday 5 October

12 noon - 1.30

Sydney actions - NEFA tribe

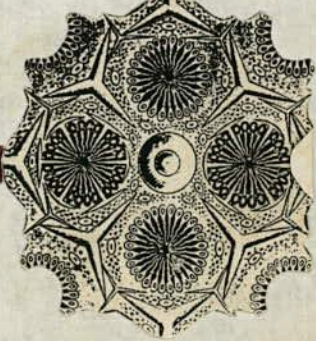

Where: at the festival site, near Nimbin

For tickets contact the Big Scrub Environment Centre on (066) 213278 or get them at the gate.

\$25 festival pass, or \$5 daily

Vegetarian food for sale

Proceeds to NEFA



BUFFERING OF H⁺ IONS

During exhaustive exercise, hydrogen ions are released within the muscle. About 94% of these H⁺ ions are the result of the accumulation of Lactic Acid (LA) (Hultman & Sahlin 1980).

The intracellular buffers that are capable of contributing to the buffering system are identified as organic phosphate, protein bound histidine residues, the dipeptide carnosine, bicarbonate and creatine phosphate (Parkhouse & McKenzie 1984).

According to Siesjo and Messeter (1971) the factors determining pH in a living tissue during acid-base changes may be divided into:

1. Physio-chemical buffering.
2. Transmembrane fluxes of H⁺ or HCO₃⁻ ions.
3. Consumption or production of non-volatile acids.

The two major factors being physio-chemical buffering and transmembrane fluxes of H⁺ or HCO₃⁻ ions (Stone et al 1977).

1. PHYSIOCHEMICAL BUFFERING

A. BUFFERING BY PHOSPHATE COMPOUNDS

The intracellular fluid has a high concentration of phosphate compounds which have values within the intracellular pH range and therefore could exert a high buffering power in the muscle.

90% of ATP is complex bound to Mg⁺⁺ in the cell which makes the buffering power of ATP in the cell very low (Dawson Gadin & Wilkie 1977; Sahlin 1978; Sahlin 1983; Burton 1978).

ADP also is complex bound to Mg^{++} and to a large extent proteins, making the buffering power of ADP also negligible (Serayderin Mommaerts & Wallner 1962).

Organic phosphate, however, in the form of 2,3-diphosphoglycerate accounts for about 16% of the noncarbonate buffer value of erythrocyte fluid (Tietz et al. 1986).

B. BUFFERING BY AMINO ACIDS AND PROTEIN

Both groups of α -amino and α -carboxyle are fully ionised in the cell and cannot exert any buffering power. Histidine has a small buffering capacity because of its small concentration in the muscle, only 0.38 mmol/L (Bergstrom et al. 1978). The appropriate molar buffer capacity value and the rather high concentration of carnosine in some muscles may make it an important buffer substrate (Bate-Smith 1938). It is estimated that during a pH change from 7.08 to 6.6 a total uptake of 1.5 mmol/l of H^+ ions is the result of carnosine (Bergstrom et al. 1978).

The content of protein in muscle tissue is high and its contribution to cell buffering is important (Bate-Smith 1938). It is estimated the buffering value of muscle proteins by titrating (finding quantity of constituent in solution by adding measured amounts of reagent) muscle homogenates and protein-free extracts to be 17-37 mmol/L.

C. BUFFERING BY THE CO_2 /Bi-CARBONATE SYSTEM

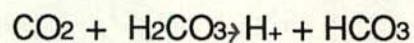
The most important buffer of plasma is the bicarbonate /carbonic acid pair. The effectiveness of the bicarbonate buffer is based on its high concentration and on the fact that CO_2 can readily be disposed of or retained in the lungs. In addition, the renal tubules

can increase or decrease the rate of reclamation of bicarbonate from the glomerular filtrate. This system obviously buffers only noncarbonic acid or base (Tietz et al. 1986).

H⁺ ions combine with bi-carbonate during metabolic acidosis and the quantitative change in bi-carbonate depends upon both pH and the CO₂ tension (Siggaard-Andersen 1963).

Direct measurement in muscle shows that the bi-carbonate concentration decreases from 10.2 mmol/L at rest to about 3.0 mmol/L at the end of exhaustive exercise. (Sahlin 1978) This decrease corresponds to an equivalent uptake of hydrogen ions.

During respiratory acidosis, a release of H⁺ ions occurs due to CO₂ retention.



In this case the HCO₃⁻/CO₂ system is involved in the generation of H⁺ ions and consequently cannot act as a buffering system. (Hultman & Sahlin 1980)

Research conducted (Beaver Wasserman & Whipp 1985) shows that the decrease in HCO₃⁻ very nearly matches the increase in LA. Beyond an initial increase of LA which is buffered in the cell, LA appears to be buffered entirely by the bi-carbonate buffer system.

TRANSMEMBRANE FLUXES OF H⁺ IONS

Transmembrane passage of the ions H⁺, OH⁻ and HCO₃⁻ ions affects the H⁺ ions balance of the cell. However an efflux of H⁺ ions gives the same net results as an influx of HCO₃⁻ ions.

Despite the higher concentration of H^+ ions inside the cell than outside the negative interior of the cell exerts a net force driving the H^+ ions into the cell. Aickin & Thomas (1977) demonstrated that the outward transport of H^+ ions in mouse soleus muscle is partly linked to the influx of Na^+ ions and partly to the exchange of Cl^- , HCO_3^- . Transmembrane fluxes of H^+ ions are thus linked to the intra and extracellular concentration of electrolytes.

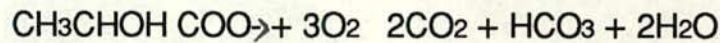
During hypercapnia (Heisler & Piiper 1972) in skeletal muscle the transfer of HCO_3^- seems to be from the cell to the extracellular fluid. The skeletal muscle would then seem to be involved in acid-base homeostasis and the buffer capacity of muscle seems to be utilised for protection of tissues such as the heart and brain.

Finally the transmembrane fluxes of H^+ and HCO_3^- ions depend upon the type (metabolic or respiratory) and degree of the acid-base disturbance. (Roy & Relman 1965a; 1965b; Burnell 1968). About 61% of the H^+ ions uptake in muscle during exercise is due to physiochemical buffering, and 39% by metabolic buffering processes.

LACTATE REMOVAL

It has been pointed out that plasma lactate concentrations represents a balance between lactate entry into and exit from plasma. Lactate metabolism in plasma can follow one of two pathways. First it may be taken up by tissues having low lactate concentrations and following conversion to pyruvate it may be used as a substrate for aerobic metabolism in the Citric Acid Cycle (Krebs). This process will regenerate HCO_3^- which may

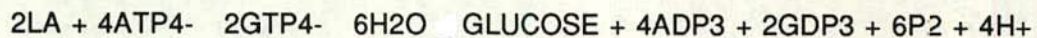
than cross the muscle membrane to maintain the acid-base status in plasma.



This process is energetically economical in that oxidation occurs in the Krebs cycle with the regeneration of ATP (Jones & Ersham 1982).

The second metabolic pathway open to lactate is the Cori Cycle in the liver and kidney in which gluconeogenesis turns the end product of glycolysis back into glucose, which may then be available to muscle, however this has a metabolic cost.

Glucose to lactate yields 2 mols of ATP for each mol of glucose, and as lactate to glucose employs six high energy phosphate groups, it is energetically wasteful.



This reaction is also associated with the production of protons, which limit the part it may play in acid-base control (Jones & Ersham 1982). As it is shown the removal of lactate as well as the removal of H^+ ions is an essential step in increasing the time to fatigue.

LACTATE REMOVAL AFTER EXERCISE

After moderate to hard work loads there is a continued output of lactate during a 30 minute recovery period with complete rest as was shown by Hermansen and Waage (1977).

Lactate disappearance rate is higher when moderate exercise is performed after a period of hard work than when complete rest follows work (Jervell 1928; Gisolfi 1966; Johnson 1937; Newman 1937). A study conducted by Hermansen & Stensvold (1972) concluded that continued work at about 60% VO_2 Max corresponded to greatest removal of lactate. It was also shown that the slowest rate of lactate removal from blood occurred in the subjects who rested after exercise.

(Sutton, Jones & Toews 1981) Data from a variety of animal preparations have established that the rates at which lactate and H^+ ions leave the muscle are influenced by the bi-carbonate concentrations of the fluid perfusing the preparation. An efflux of lactate is linked to H^+ transport out of cells (Kowalchuk 1984). The efficiency of the process is reduced by a high H^+ concentration and lowered bi-carbonate concentration outside the cell (Kowalchuk 1984,; Parkhouse & McKenzie 1984).

In progressive incremental exercise a decrease in blood bi-carbonate concentration occurs and there is a progressive increase in blood LA (Beaver, Wasserman & Whipp 1986).

Protons are associated with lactate formation accumulation within muscle and are released to blood and extracellular fluids.

PREVIOUS STUDIES

Based on data obtained principally from animal preparation studies, metabolic alkalosis has been shown to reduce muscle H^+ accumulation by increasing intracellular buffering capacity (Strome et al 1977), or by accelerating muscle H^+ removal. Hirche et al. (1975) Mainwood & Worsley-Brown (1975) designed experiments to determine the contribution of increased extracellular HCO_3^- concentration to the net extracellular to intracellular HCO_3^- flux observed in rabbit hearts during hypercapnia. The findings suggested that the major determinant of the HCO_3^- flux is a change in extracellular HCO_3^- concentration.

Hirche et al. (1974) conducted research on isolated, blood perfused, supramaximally stimulated, isotonicly working gastrocnemii of dogs. Lactate output and O_2 consumption were measured along with observations in pH and standard HCO_3^- . In one series of experiments metabolic alkalosis was induced by infusions of sodium bicarbonate. Arterial pH and HCO_3^- increased during alkalosis. Lactate permeation rate was nearly three times as high, and lactate concentration in muscle decreased more quickly in alkalosis. Conclusions drawn were that high extracellular HCO_3^- concentrations in combination with low H^+ activity increased lactate permeation rate across muscle cell membrane.

There is also much interest within the racing industry to devise ways of combating the acidosis of heavy exercise by the administration of bicarbonate. Kelso et al. (1987) investigated the effects of bicarbonate administration on blood and muscle metabolite concentrations and pH before and after supramaximal exercise bout on six thoroughbred horses.

Bicarbonate administration increased blood pH and bicarbonate concentration prior to exercise, however it did not affect pre-exercise muscle metabolites or pH. There were no post-exercise metabolite or blood differences between a placebo and bicarbonate treatment. These results do not support the contention that administration of bicarbonate improves the intracellular environment thereby allowing metabolic pathways to operate beyond the normal levels.

A more recent study on thoroughbred horses have obtained conflicting results. Utilising a similar protocol to Kelso and co-workers, with the major difference was the doses. Kelso utilised a 0.4g/kg body weight dose where Greenhaff used a 0.6g/kg body weight dose. Greenhaff et al. (1991) Following exercise after NaHCO_3 - ingestion found five of the six horses demonstrated lower muscle adenosine 5-triphosphate loss and higher glycerol 3-phosphate formation. Changes in blood lactate and base excess were greater after NaHCO_3 - administration. Their conclusions drawn were that alkalosis may delay the onset of fatigue by decreasing the extent of adenine nucleotide loss during high intensity exercise.

Several authors have investigated the effects of ingested or infused NaHCO_3 upon bouts of exercise.

Costill et al. (1984) used an interval protocol requiring five 1-minute maximal sprints at 100% of VO_2 Max, one hour after consuming 0.2g/kg B.W of NaHCO_3 or placebo. There was a one minute rest period between the one minute sprints, the fifth bout was performed to exhaustion and the time recorded to judge the effects of the NaHCO_3 drink on performance. Resting pH, HCO_3 and

21 October 1992

Mr David Watson
Investigating Officer
Office Of the Ombudsman
580 George st
Sydney 2000

Dear Mr Watson,

Re Forestry Commission FOI response

I refer to our letter to you of 14 September, and am writing to you now to keep you up to date on progress by the Forestry Commission towards satisfying our request for access to information.

I enclose for your information, a copy of the Forestry Commissions letter to us of 29 September, and the lists "A" and "B" referred to therein.

It appears from the letters that the appropriate time for this Centre to generate lists of specific documents required will not commence until such time as the Forestry Commission advises us of the status of documents obtained under subpoena, and issues "guidelines" for access to information.

I am aware of your offices desire to have this matter finalised as soon as possible, we will endeavour to keep you informed of progress. Once the Commission has dealt the outstanding matters outlined above, we will endeavour to have the matter finalised as quickly as practicable.

Yours sincerely,

Aidan Ricketts
Research Officer

Kooris, greens combine to fight govt package

An alliance has been formed between environmentalists and Kooris of the Bundjalung tribe.

The Bundjalung Alliance, which already is spreading to other parts of New South Wales, has the Fahey Government's proposed natural resources package firmly in its sights.

The North East Forest Alliance spokesman, Mr Aidan Ricketts, and the Far North Coast Regional Lands Council chairman, Mr John Roberts, were highly critical of the package yesterday.

They claimed that the package, to be voted on in the Parliament within weeks, included amendments to the Heritage Act which would remove all protection for environ-

mental heritage and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

"The Fahey Government must drop this draconian package or be driven from office by an unprecedented wave of public outrage," they said in a joint statement.

"This minority government has no mandate to continue with its agenda of environmental destruction and cultural genocide."

Mr Roberts said the Government had cooked up a disastrous package without any consultation with Koori people.

Mr Ricketts said: "The package contains four other Bills which would emasculate existing laws relating to environmental assessment and endangered species, lock up vast tracts of forest for the exclusive benefit of private timber companies and remove the public's right to judicial review of Forestry Commission activities."

The alliance was developed through a series of meetings over the past few months and was consolidated at the Nightcap Forest Festival, Nimbin Rocks, last weekend.

FILE COPY

13 February 1992

Mr David Pettigrew,
Director of Corporate Services,
Building 2,
423 Pennant Hills Road,
Pennant Hills. 2120.

Dear Mr Pettigrew,

Re: Discussions on answers to Dorriggo and Regional FOI Act applications.

I refer to our meeting yesterday 12/2/1992 at the Lismore and District Workers Club and confirm that agreement was reached between yourself and representatives of the Big Scrub Environment Centre on many of the matters arising under our Freedom of Information application.

Thank you for your advice that our application will be granted the 50% fee reduction in accordance with our public interest focus.

We note that, while the answer to the Dorriggo MA FOI application is nearly completed, there are a number of matters, mainly affecting the Regional FOI application which still require answers. These matters are noted hereunder, and we anticipate after yesterday's productive meeting that these answers will be achieved through continued discussion and negotiations.

Dorriggo MA FOI Application

On the Dorriggo FOI application we note that you agreed to organise a statement of account advising of our current credit/debit with regard to the cost of documents provided by that office.

It was agreed that even though documents requested under xx42 for the Dorriggo management area do not relate directly to that management area, that they will remain on that schedule as they contain information relevant to the wildlife management of the area. These are also likely to be background documents for other management areas.

We confirm our advice that Dailan Pugh is to comment on the need for further access to specific documents listed on schedule xx42 relating to the Dorriggo Management area. We agreed that he will contact Mr John Murray directly to clarify these matters.

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A number of documents requested on schedule xx42 were supplied to the centre by the Commission at the meeting. Thank you for these. Documents on this schedule that were not able to be located are likely to be currently held by the Crown Solicitors Office, who have not returned the files from the recent Chaelundi court case.

We note that an updated version of the schedule for this application, incorporating the various annotations made prior to and during our meeting, will be supplied in due course.

Regional FOI Application

Firstly with respect to documents available without FOI application, we confirm the following list do not require FOI applications: management plans, policy statements, annual reports, environmental reviews, forest type maps and preferred management priority plan maps.

We note that you have agreed to investigate the position with respect to FOI requests in respect of FCNSW press releases, documents generally that are still in draft form, scientific papers in preparation, and the partial exemption that you claim is appropriate with respect to information relating to the financial interests of third parties.

A schedule of which documents require FOI and which documents are to be freely available over the counter is to be made available following clarification of outstanding matters. A schedule of costs applicable to FOI applications is also to be produced. These, you advised, would form part of a FCNSW Information Circular for FOI Act operation to all District and Regional FCNSW staff.

We confirm agreement that the next years proposed schedule of operations - Proposed Order of Working - and other tables or appendices to the management areas annual reports will be regarded as separate documents in the case of the MAAR not being finalised. These are required for the Centre to determine which areas are a priority for information provision, and which further documents are required.

A future meeting was arranged to occur in Sydney on 26 or 27/2/92, between yourself and our Mr Corkill and Mr Steed, to report on progress of both parties and to clarify the issue of access to the WT&FRD library.

Specifically, you undertook to advise on the availability of bibliographies of Research Notes and scientific papers held in the

library on specified subjects, and the supply of these bibliographies to applicants on request. Further, the question of general access to the library of WTRF Division is to be investigated and reported on.

Mr Corkill will generate schedules of documents that were subpoenaed for the L&E Court cases over the Way Way, Mt Royal, Chaelundi and North Washpool areas and provide these to the Commission for FOI determination. It was agreed that the format of the schedule should be amended to include a column 'status of document' and that our schedules will reflect this change.

It was further agreed that where documents approved for FOI release are held by Mr Corkill, as part of the privileged subpoena documents, that no additional hard copy need be supplied by FCNSW. Where a document gained under subpoena is to be partially exempt in that some information should be deleted because of 3rd party disclosures, a new amended document would be issued. Documents not released and containing information not approved for release under FOI would remain legally privileged.

We note that the finalisation of these schedules of documents gained under subpoena may significantly advance the answer to the Regional FOI application.

The Centre indicated that it is likely to challenge exemptions where information relating to economic activity is deleted since the Centre believes that this information ought to be in the public domain. We agreed to note this potential area of disagreement and it was agreed that this matter would be the subject of further discussion in due course.

It was also agreed that in obtaining information with or without FOI all nominees of the Centre shall contact the relevant Commission office beforehand and arrange a mutually convenient inspection time.

It was agreed in principle that in answering the Regional FOI application a definite 'close off' date for access under this application would be appropriate. It was also agreed that the period for access and its starting date are yet to be determined. Further discussions at future meetings will nominate the starting date, and will involve negotiations on the period of access. We suggest a three months period of open access once other outstanding matters are resolved.

The Centre will co-ordinate the identification of priority areas and documents required for all Commission districts and Regions on the North Coast at a meeting of the persons nominated in the FOI application to be held at Wauchope on 29/2/ - 1/3/92. We will advise you of the outcome of those discussions soon after.

It was stated that one of the objectives of such a broad Regional FOI application was to obtain information which was considered important or essential to the preparation of public submissions to foreshadowed Environmental Impact Statements (EIS's) for the north coast area. The Centre advised that it did not accept the situation whereby a number of EISs are due to be exhibited at a time when access to information required to assess and comment on these EISs is not forthcoming due to the current negotiations.

The Centre requested that access to FOI documents be forthcoming prior to the release of any EIS for forestry operations on the North Coast. This request has also be made direct to Mr Peter Smith Head of the Commission's Environmental Assessment Unit.

As expressed at the meeting, it was felt all round that the discussion was a positive and advantageous one and we look forward to a more efficient transfer of information in the future.

If there are any further matters arising out of our meeting or this letter please do not hesitate to contact the Centre.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

NB Copy sent to Ombudsmans office 13/2/92.