

SITE VISIT TO BLUFF MOUNTAIN - 20-1/9/89

The area is an unlogged dry sclerophyll forest on sandstone in the southern Richmond Range west of Whiporie, halfway between Casino and Grafton. It contains many cliffs and caves that may have an Aboriginal significance. It is stunningly beautiful.

The Forestry Commission are intending to construct about 30 kms of roads into the area, and they have already surveyed the road. The timber will go to Lismore and Casino via a road that will bisect the Richmond Range between Mt Neville and Bluff Mountain called Dobie Mountain Road.

During a day walk in the six mile swamp creek catchment, a high diversity of Eucalypts and flowering plants, especially Orchids, was observed. Areas of blady grass were evidence of too frequent burning, and dominated northerly and easterly aspects, especially on the lower altitudes.

Potential trapping sites with the best representation were identified in the vicinity of Mt Neville in moist gullies and on unburnt ridges. Access could be obtained via the Mt Neville track that eventually becomes access for the tick fence along the section of the Richmond Range near Bluff Mountain.

In terms of gaining public support, the presence of arboreal mammals and Orchids could possibly be of the most value. The uniqueness of the area due to its virgin state, sandstone substrate and proximity to Lismore would be advantageous in attracting support to stop future logging.

Ideally it would be most appropriate to have the area reserved as an extension of the adjacent Mt Neville Nature Reserve since it is worthy of this status due to its undisturbed nature. It may also be worthy of an Aboriginal land claim as the abundance of caves may indicate importance for burial, spiritual and ceremonial sites.

In this regard, contact with the Baryulgil Koori's should be a high priority, and if they are keen, then their involvement should be of prime importance. The media can be involved, but only after we have done our research thoroughly to ascertain the attitude of the Gubba Forestry Commission and the Koori's, as well as after we have conducted a comprehensive fauna and flora study.

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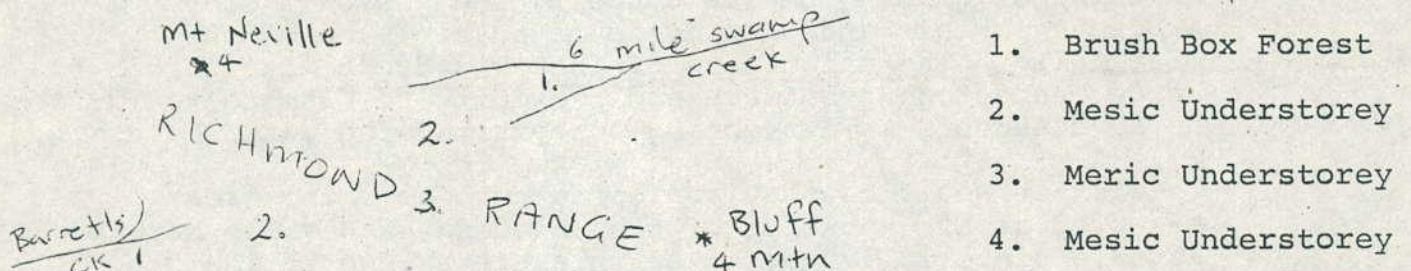
The intention to conduct a survey over 4 days is essential, and the selection of sites is critical.

Ideally, it would be best to sample as many representative habitats that will be traversed by the proposed road and therefore subject to logging. Practically, the lower ranges at the start of the road have already been severely disturbed, as seen by the current harvesting operation in Camira SF at the start of the Dobie Mountain Road.

The creek valleys on the eastern side of the Richmond Range, i.e. 6 Mile Swamp Creek, have been partially cleared previously for cattle, and this reduces their potential and it is these areas that should be targetted.

Access can be gained via the Mt Neville track that services the tick fence between Mt Neville and Bluff Mountain. In this way it would be possible to survey both sides of the Richmond Range as well as providing a focus of the Mt Neville area which would be the basis for an extension to the existing Nature Reserve.

The areas to be surveyed should include 4 distinct areas:-
1) Gullies. 2) Midslopes. 3) Ridge Tops.
4) Mountain Tops. In this regard I suggest the following areas would be suitable:-



Surveys should try to sample mammalian, avian, reptilian and anurid communities as well as documenting the flora of each site. As such traps for mammals should be checked early morning and late afternoon, with avian observations occurring after trap checking.

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SITE VISIT TO BLUFF MOUNTAIN cont...

In conclusion, if a co-ordinated approach to the survey is demonstrated from the outset, it will encourage participation and will thus produce useful information. Contact must be made with the Baryulgil ALC so that we can coalesce our ambitions to ensure that the Forestry Commission doesn't butcher our heritage.

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MT. MARCH STATE FOREST cont...

EUCALYPTS (13+)

E. gummifera - red bloodwood
E. pilularis - blackbutt
E. maculata - spotted gum
E. resinifera - red mahogany
E. acmenoides - white mahogany
E. planchoriana - bastard tallowwood
E. microcorys - tallowwood
E. grandis - flooded gum
E. tereticornis - forest red gum
E. propinqua - grey gum
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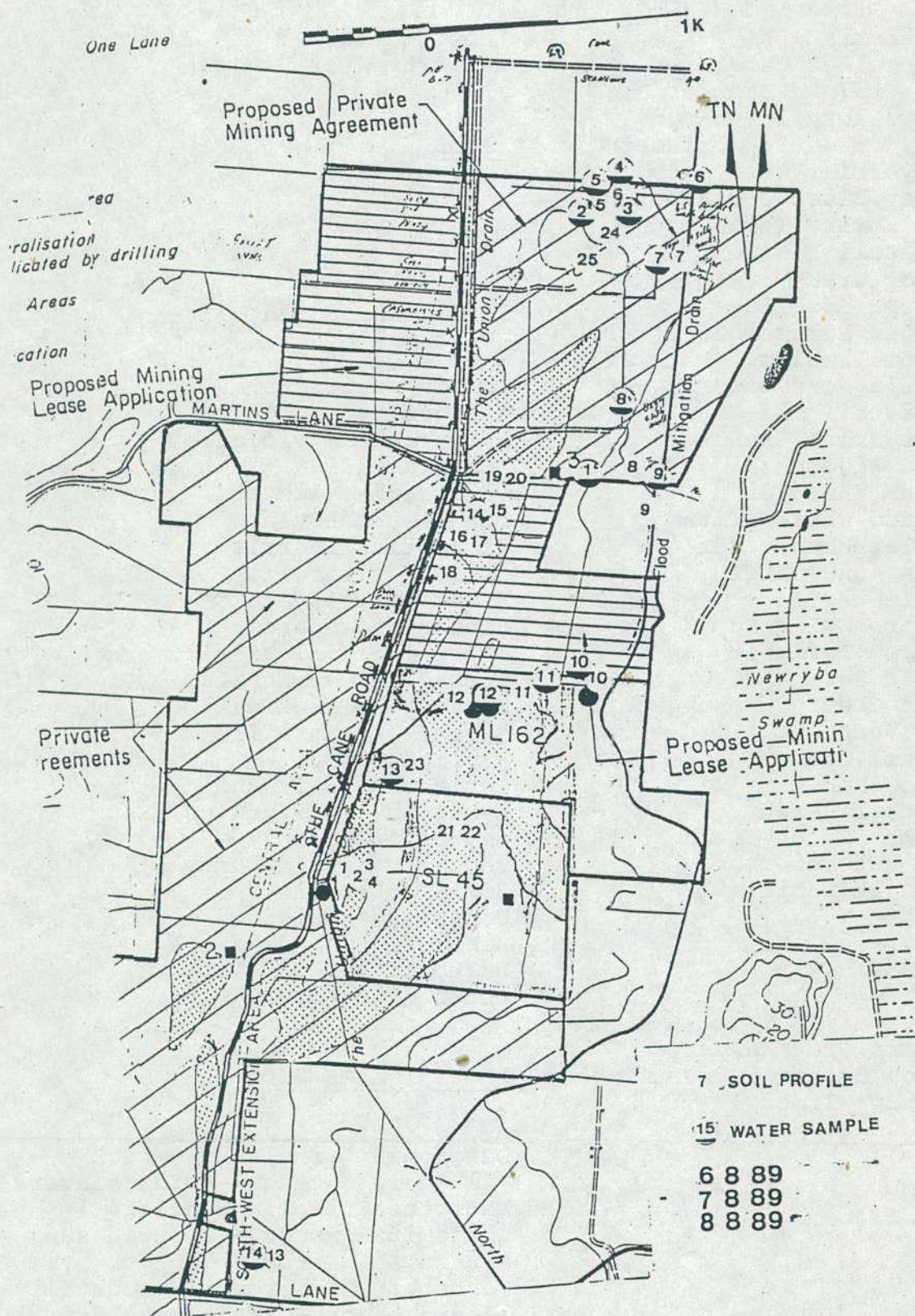


Fig. 3.2 Traverses and Sites examined in August 1989. S refers to soil examinations, W to water sampling.

1. CASINO WEST MANAGEMENT REPORT 1986/87

FORESTRY COMMISSION

2.4.1. Capital Improvement Works

2.4.1.1. Roads

2.4.1.1.1. Richmond Range Working Circle

Near the end of the year survey work commenced on the main access road for Mt. Marsh State Forest; Dobie Road. When completed, Dobie road will be 34 kilometres and provide access to the last unlogged areas of Richmond Range Working Circle. Construction of this road should commence this year to allow logging next year.

All road construction was done under the sawmiller rebate system to allow access to logging area. Most of these roads were bedded down when harvesting operations were completed. However some roads were left open and will be maintained for permanent use. These were:-

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|-------|
| 1. | Access to Fullers S.F. along road reserve | - | 1.5km |
| 2. | Extension to Bennetts Road | - | 9.0km |
| 3. | Richmond Range | | 6.0km |

2.4.1.1.2. Ewingar Working Circle

Apart from the construction of short life expectancy logging roads there was no road construction carried out during the year.

2.4.1.2. Fire Trails

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As a consequence of the severe fire season this year several kilometers of fire trails were constructed to allow access to control fires. Due to their strategic importance some of these trails will be maintained and added to the permanent system. These trails are mainly in the Mt. Belmore S.F. and Mt. Marsh S.F. area. The length of trails to be maintained is 19km, about 15% of trails constructed during the fire season (R.R.W.C.).

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2.4. Miscellaneous Prescriptions

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
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==== 4WD

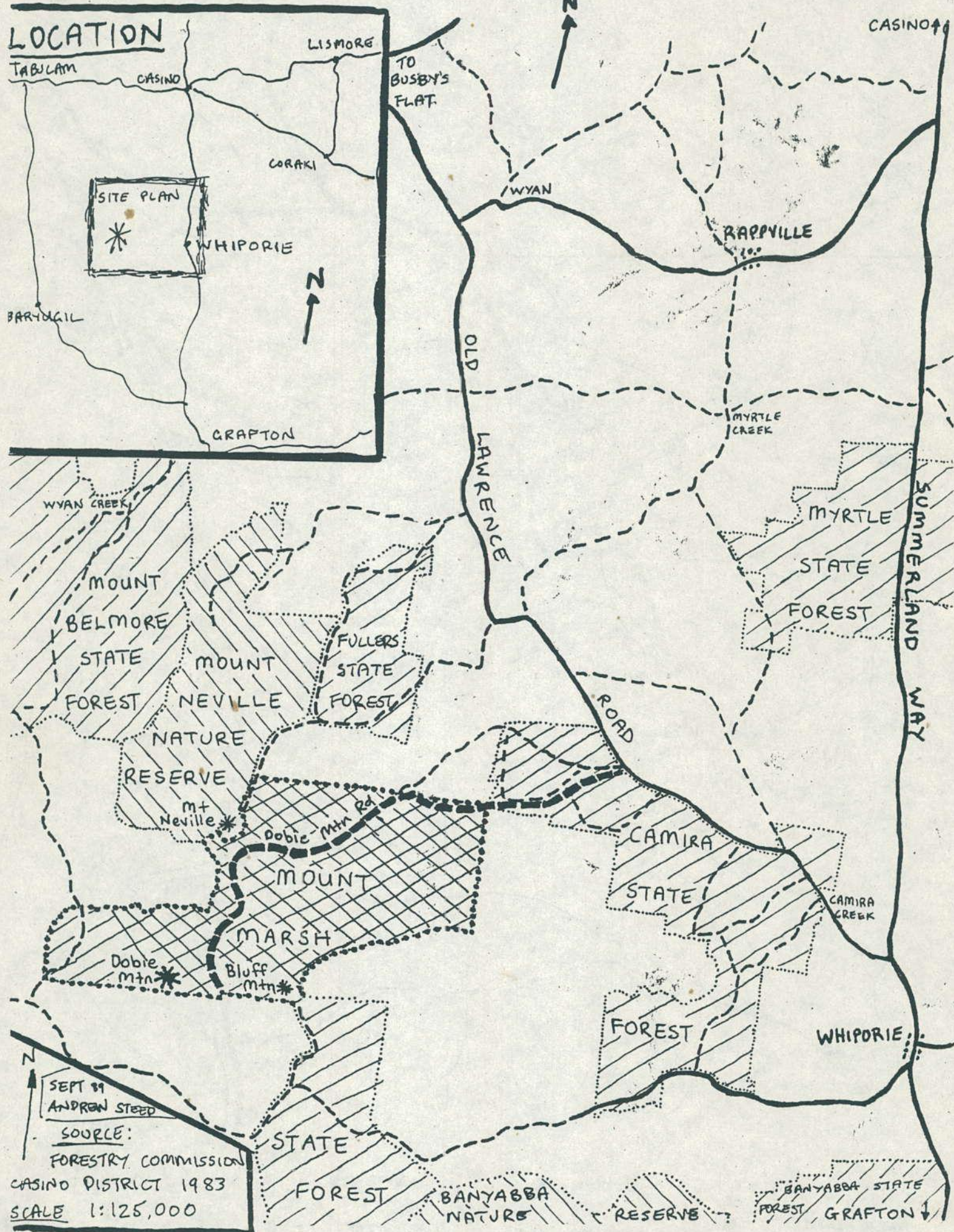
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fence

|||| - cliffs 1-5 trapsite.

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MT DOBIE ROAD LOCATION MAP

----- proposed road. - - - - - main roads + tracks



XXXX - area of interest. see over for detail

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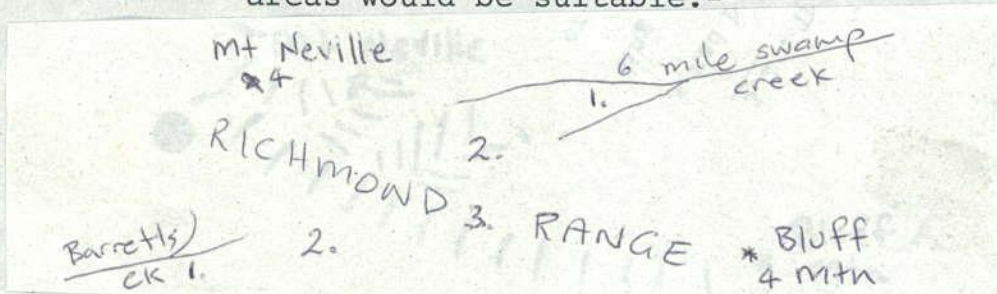
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1. Brush Box Forest
2. Mesic Understorey
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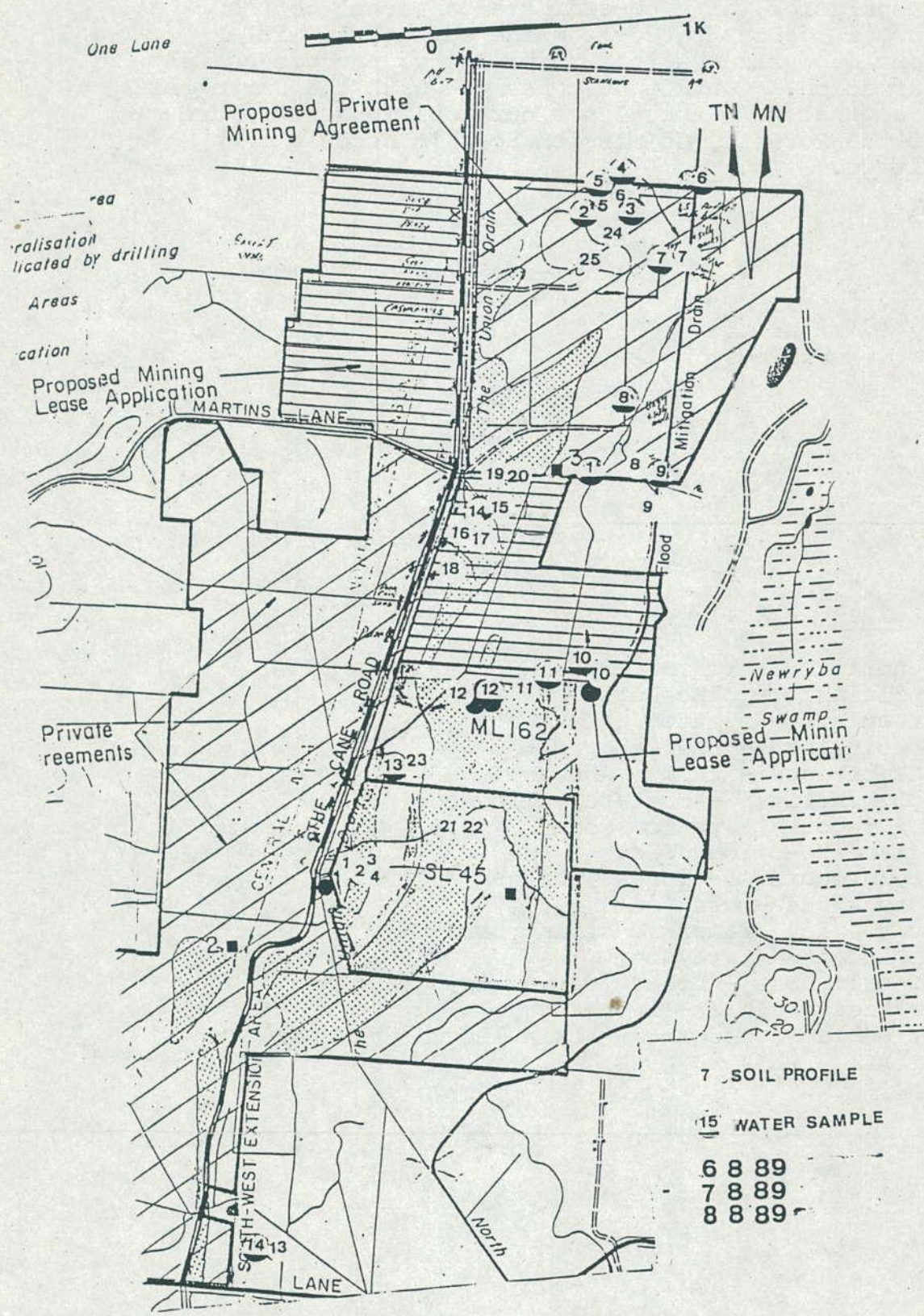


Fig. 3.2 Traverses and Sites examined in August 1989. S refers to soil examinations, W to water sampling.

MT. MARSH STATE FOREST 21/9/89

BIRDS (33)

Kookaburra
Rainbow Bee Eater
Grey Crowned Babbler
Willy Wagtail
Scaly Breasted Lorikeet
Noisy Friar Bird
Glossy Black Cockatoo
Grey Shrike Thrush
Wedgetail Eagle
Scrub Turkey
Eastern Rosella
Spotted Pardalote
Welcome Swallow
Lewin's Honeyeater
Currawong
Superb Blue Wren
Wonga Pigeon
Rufous Whistler
Crested Shrike Tit
Scarlet Honeyeater
Brown Honeyeater
Magpie
Eastern Whipbird
Rainbow Lorikeet
Masked Owl
White Cheeked Honeyeater
Grey Fantail
Fantail Cuckoo
Yellow Robin
Firetail Finch
Double Barred Finch
Pied Butcherbird
Brown Thornbill

MAMMALS (4)

Eastern Grey Kangaroo
Common Bushtail Possum
Greater Glider
Red Necked Wallaby

REPTILES (2)

Lace Manitor
Eastern Water Dragon

FROGS

Litoria fallax

FLOWERING PLANTS (25)

Acacia fimbriata
Indigofera australis
Hardergergia violacea
Schizea bifida
Patersonia glabrata
Dianella caerulea
Hibbertia linearis
Daviesia ulcifolia
Hibbertia vestita
Hibbertia aspera
Gompholobium latifolium
Gompholobium pinnatum
Pultanea elliptica
Boronia rosmarinifolia
Stylidium sp.
Actinotus helianthi
Hybanthus monopetalus
Leptospermum sp.
Phebalium squamulosum
Smilax glycena
Comesperma ericium
Hibbertia scandens
Pultanea sp.
Aotus ericoides

FLOWERING ORCHIDS (9)

Dendrobium kingianum - rock
Caladenia Catenta - pink fingers
Microtus Unifolia - onion
Thelymita Ixodes - spotted sun
Diuris Sulphurea - donkey
Dendrobium Speciosum - rock lily
aleana Major - flying duck
Calochilus paludosus - red beard
Dendrobium tetragonum

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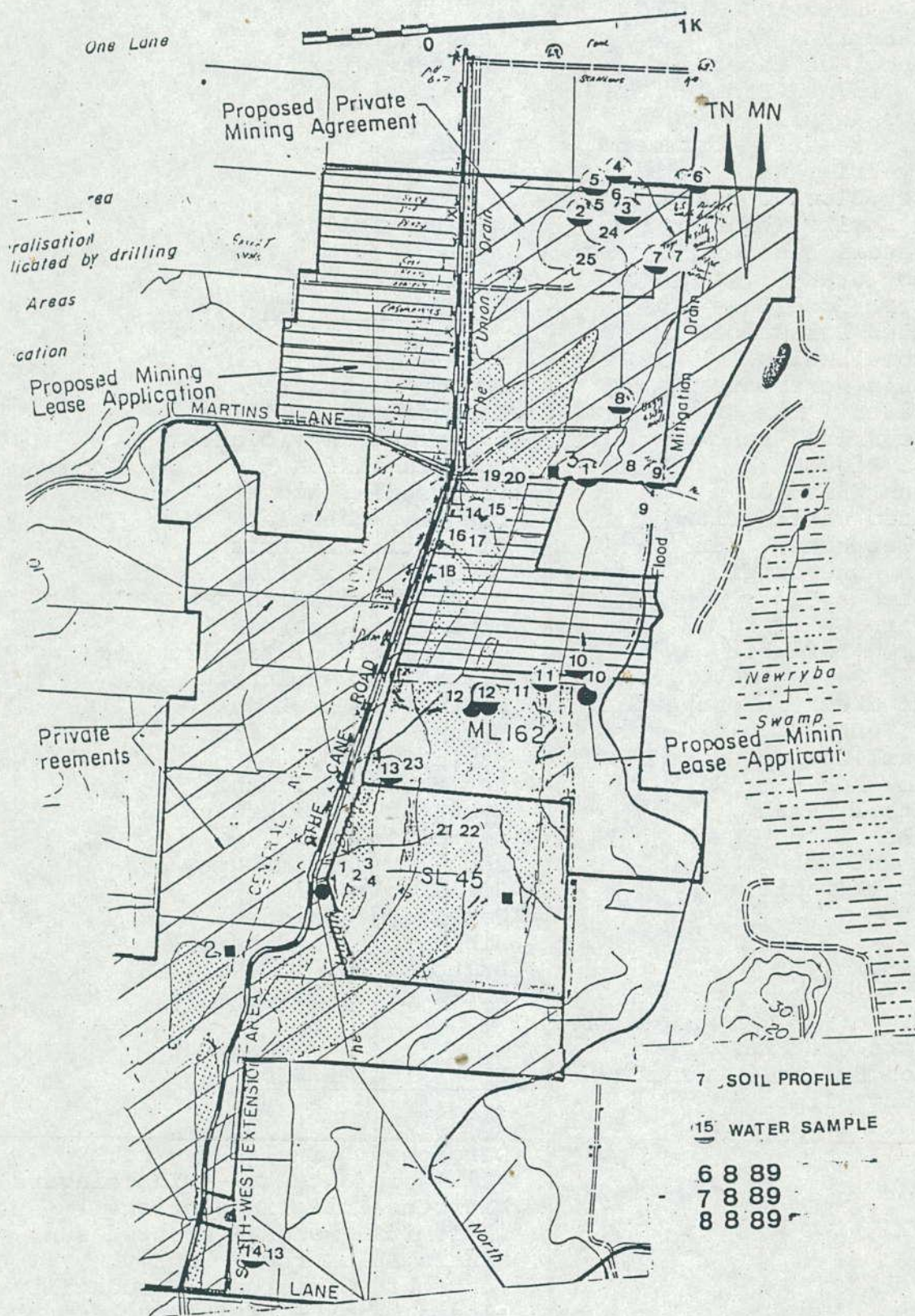


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28th September, 1989.

N.E.F.A.
c/- B.S.E.C.,
88a Keen Street,
LISMORE NSW 2480

PAULINE GOODMAN
BARYULGIL ALC
C/--POST OFFICE
BARYULGIL 2460

Dear Secretary,

The North East Forest Alliance, NEFA, would like to draw your attention to a proposed new road in the Richmond Range, east of Baryulgil. We have enclosed a map for your information, and would like to work with your council to prevent the destruction of our natural and archaeological heritage.

We wish to thank you for your essential support in the Washpool dispute, and are endeavouring to mount a similar campaign in the Mount Marsh State Forest. A recent visit to this area revealed a fascinating landscape with many sandstone cliffs and caves that may have special significance to your council.

At this stage we would like to inform you of the situation so that we can co-operate effectively to stop any wanton destruction by the Forestry Commission due to their lack of research into the area's archaeological heritage.

It would be useful if you could inform your members of this proposed development, and to ascertain what the area's significance is for your people. Could you please tell us if you know of any sites in the area and the nature of their significance. We do not want specific details, but rather an idea of the importance of the area to your people.

NEFA recognises that the area may contain a range of sites and we trust that the council will respond to this warning of future imminent destruction of the area for our environment.

Many thanks,

ANDREW STEED
N.E.F.A.

BLUFF MOUNTAIN AREA

SCALE 1:25 000

Kilometres 0.75 0.5 0.25 0

MOUNT NATURE
37a
2666 ha

NEVILLE
RESERVE

Swamp
Creek

92

74

76

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FOREST TYPES

- 31 Paperbark
- 37 Dry Blackbutt
- 41 Blackbutt - Bloodwood/Apple
- 60 Narrow leaved White Mahogany - Red Mahogany - Grey Ironbark - Grey Gum
- 62 Grey Gum - Grey Ironbark - White Mahogany
- 65 Forest Red Gum - Grey Gum/Grey Ironbark - Roughbarked Apple
- 74 Spotted Gum - Grey Ironbark/Grey Gum
- 92 Forest Red Gum
- 63 Brush Box
- 39

