

Despite recent negotiations with this State Government on implementing stronger legislation in the form of an Aboriginal Heritage Act for NSW, this Government is presenting us with a document which goes against all the talking and progress made.

The NRP will also undermine our rights to claim Crown land under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

The package ignores the ongoing process of reconciliation between Koori and non-Koori Australians.

In view of the recent high court decisions in the Mabo case and the finding of the Royal Commission into Black Deaths in Custody, this discriminating package is an insult of immense proportions.

Management Council

According to the Natural Resources Management Council Bill, all land use planning decisions over public land will be made by a Council of 13 members.

The membership of this Council consists of:

- * a chairman chosen by the Premier,
- * 7 public servants representing the following departments:
 - Planning
 - Environmental Protection

- National Parks and Wildlife
- Natural Resources
- Forestry Commission
- State Development
- Conservation & Land Mgmt
- * 4 non-Government members selected by the Premier to represent the following disciplines:
 - resource economics,
 - natural resource conservation,
 - natural resource extraction and processing,
 - biodiversity conservation,
 - industry and commerce.
- * Commonwealth member who is a Commissioner of the Australian Heritage Commission.

There is no scope for Aboriginal people to have representation on this Council and no guarantees that consultation between Kooris and the Council will take place.

This Council is obviously stacked with Government officers appointed by the Premier and is subject to direction and control by the Premier in many respects.

The information in this leaflet has been prepared by the North East Forest Alliance and has been endorsed by the John Roberts, Chairman of the Far North Coast (Bundjalung nation) Regional Lands Council.

Koori issues

Archaeological Assessment

A 2 year moratorium on "consents to destroy" sites, pathways and their surrounding environments is needed so that a detailed archaeological assessment can be made.

Koori culture, land and the significance of sites are far more important and fulfilling than any European or Anglo Saxon laws or faith.

During the last 10 years 45 sites have been destroyed in the Bundjalung Nation alone. The NPWS and Dept of CALM endorsed the "consent to destroy" for these sites without any consultation with Koori elders and the Bundjalung Nation.

Because of this we demand that a comprehensive assessment of all Koori sites and pathways be carried out as a matter of urgency.

This is fundamental to preserving Koori heritage, history and culture intact.

Forests are the energetic protector of sites and their pathways. The particular areas and natural features have been chosen and are essential to the site's effectiveness.

Forests need to be preserved at all costs. Bastardisation of the land and the people has continued for the entire time since European occupation.

The indigenous people of this country were systematically massacred in an attempt to destroy their racial identity and culture.

Despite this the people of the Bundjalung Nation survived and today their number is actually higher than what it was before the invasion.

We are a young and united community speaking out and condemning the destruction of our sites and forests within the Bundjalung Nation.

When Europeans arrived in this country they found the forests intact after thousands of years of habitation by Kooris. After only 140 years Europeans have virtually destroyed all of the great forests, coastline and wetlands.

The destruction of the forests has slowly but surely undermined the true identity of this country and Koori culture.

What has European culture done for the indigenous people of this country?

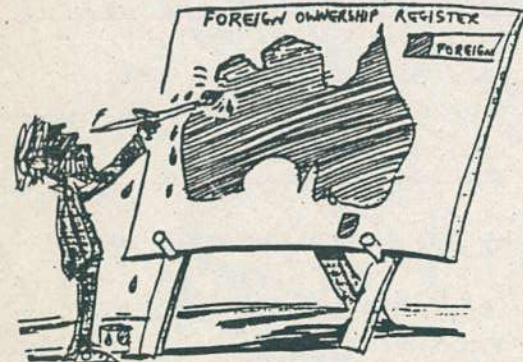
When will non koori Australians recognise Koori culture and respect the land and its law?

Terra Nullius **"Land of Nobody"**

On the 28th April 1770, Captain James Cook entered Botany Bay and claimed possession of the land for the English Crown. The ceremony Cook performed was a symbolic act under the Law of *Terra Nullius*; ie "Land of Nobody" or "Land not under Sovereignty".

Despite clear evidence of occupation, Australia was treated as though it was unpopulated.

The recent High Court decision in the Mabo case has focussed attention on the long standing failure by successive Australian governments to give proper recognition to the traditional territorial rights of Australian Aboriginal people.



The judgement recognised the ownership of the Murray Islands in Torres Strait by the Meriam people. The High Court finally buried the notion of *Terra Nullius* upon which the occupation of Australia had been based.

The High courts ruling has removed one of the legal fictions which for years has stood in the way of recognising the traditional rights of Aboriginal people, but there is still a long way to go before we change the attitudes that have grown from the circumstances of the invasion of 1770.

It was only **25 years** ago that Aboriginal people were even given the right to vote!

Bundjalung Alliance

A fresh approach to crucial environmental and cultural heritage issues.

On the Far North Coast of New South Wales a process of recognition and reconciliation is underway, in the form of a group calling itself the Bundjalung Alliance.

The Bundjalung Alliance is the result of meetings held between North Coast Koori people and representatives of environmental groups on the North Coast.

The Alliance aims to promote a recognition and understanding of the historical link of the Bundjalung people to the land within their Nation, and to teach people of the North Coast a respect for the land of the Bundjalung Nation.

The Bundjalung Nation was one of the most heavily populated Aboriginal Nations prior to European settlement and covers the area between Grafton and the Qld border that is now commonly referred to as the Far North Coast.

Recognising the Bundjalung Nation as the traditional home of the Bundjalung people engenders respect between people and a shared respect for the earth.

The Bundjalung Alliance can be contacted through the Far North Coast Regional Aboriginal Lands Council or the Big Scrub Environment Centre.

Resource Security

Provisions in the Resource Security Bill allow for compensation payments to private companies if timber supply agreements cannot be met.

Once an area of public land has been allocated for timber production, for example, changing its allocation for the purpose of preservation will require these compensation claims.

As many of the sites have not been surveyed or documented the potential for some sites to be classified for timber production or other destructive uses is very real.

Where Aboriginal sites and relics fall within the boundaries of forested public land, consideration may not be given to the value of these sites when determining the land use and management of these areas.

Under the Resources Security Bill sites discovered in the future may not be preserved.

To protect these sites by preservation would cost the people of NSW a fortune in compensation payouts.

Heritage

The Heritage (Amendment) Bill seeks to exclude Aboriginal relics and places from the operation of the Heritage Act. If relics and sites are no longer heritage, then the legal grounds to obtain conservation orders would be lost.

Without these legal avenues to protect sacred sites it is unlikely that the Council or Government bodies will have any obligation to preserve sites on behalf of Koori people.

LONG TERM SUSTAINED YIELD

"An indication of the potential long term sustainable yield can be obtained by subjective comparison with the estimated productivity of other Management Areas with broadly similar forest types, a long term management history and better growth data." (1988 1.5.3)

"On the basis of such subjective comparison, very broad estimates of likely volume productivity on available productive forests on the area ... should only be regarded as presumptive and hypothetical estimates." (1988, 1.5.3)

"Using unverified productivity assumptions the potential long term sustained yield is for a gradual although limited increase in quota sawlogs..... " (1988, 1.5.4.3)

BORAL (ALLEN TAYLOR)

"The annual yield shall be limited to the total of the allocation negotiated under the terms of the Wood Supply Agreement (WSA) with Allen Taylor's and that part necessarily supplied from this MA of the other existing commitments from the Port Macquarie Region." (1988, 2.2.2.1)

"Negotiations shall be undertaken in the early in the MP period for progressive reduction in quota sawlog allocation to take advantage of the recent industry amalgamation. Reductions shall be agreed to by the FC and Allen Taylor." (1988, 1.7.3.1)

In 1968 Allen Taylor acquired total quota, outside of the Carrai forests, of 9 000 m3. Between 1971 - 81 Allen Taylor purchase mills with quota of 3 380 and 4 040 m3 N on completion of harvesting, a terminating allocation of 3 230 m3 N from Lower Ck. In 1981 this quota allocation was amalgamated to give a total of 20 840 m3 N. In 1981 Allen Taylor were advised of future quota allocations reductions. (1988, 1.7.2.3)

"Allen Taylor subsequently entered into a Wood Supply Agreement with the FC, pertaining to all its interests in the Port Macquarie Region, including the two Carrai allocations." (1988, 1.7.2.3)

"The WSA between the FC and Allen Taylor for a period of 20 years from the 1.1.1 provides for the following annual allocations of quota sawlogs:-

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Carrai forests | 12 600 m3 N | |
| Remainder of MA | 15 630 m3 N | |
| Total | 28 230 m3 N" | (1988, 1.7.3.1) |

Under the WSA "a review will be undertaken before 30.9.90 and at 5 yearly intervals thereafter. Any reductions in the annual supply deemed necessary shall be made at times and in a manner agreed to by the FC and Allen Taylor." (1988, 1.7.3.1)

"Timber markets contracted sharply during the year. (1989/90, 2.2.2.1) Yields have decreased due to a downturn in market conditions over the last 2 years." (1990/1, 2.2.2.1).

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NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

SYDNEY: NSW Environment Centre, 39 George St, The Rocks, 2000. Ph. 02 2474 206, Fx 02 2475 945

LISMORE: The Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc, 149 Keen St, Lismore, 2480. Ph 066 213 278, Fx 066 222 676

ATTENTION ANNE SUSKIND

MEDIA RELEASE 20 July 1992

Old growth battle escalates in North East Forests.

Forest blockades of old growth logging operations in the southern New England tablelands have expanded to cover both the Walcha and Styx River Forestry Commission management areas. Members of the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) have restricted access to the Mummel gulf area for over a fortnight now, and last friday moved to blockade another old growth logging operation at the Styx River near Armidale.

Mr Aidan Ricketts, a spokesman for the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) said "NEFA is attempting to blow the whistle on unsustainable logging volumes being taken from these areas. Information contained in Forestry Commissions own plans of management point to the fact that at current rates of exploitation, all available hardwood supplies in those areas will be exhausted within ten years."

"Unless quotas are reduced urgently both the old growth forests of New England and the local industry will become a mere memory," Mr Ricketts said.

"The blame must rest squarely with the current NSW governments irresponsible and confrontational approach to forestry issues. This government has actively encouraged continued irresponsible management of the states forest industries despite repeated court rulings revealing breaches of environmental laws by the Forestry Commission".

"This government through the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act has enshrined a policy of "log now, assess later" and in so doing has promoted a late great resource grab, throughout the states remaining old growth areas. Clearly this government prefers confrontation to rational scientifically based assessment and decision making".

The North East Forest Alliance will today occupy the office of the Forestry Commission in Armidale to highlight the continued mismanagement of state forests, by the Forestry Commission and it's political masters, the state coalition government.

For more information contact Mr Aidan Ricketts 066 213 278



N.E.F.A.

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MEDIA RELEASE 17th JULY 1992

NEFA ACTS AGAIN TO SAVE OUR FORESTS

Early this morning, as part of an ongoing strategy of focusing public attention on the destruction of the last remnants of unlogged old growth forests in northern NSW, the North East Forest Alliance blockaded logging operations in compartment 35 of the Styx River State Forest 50 KM north east of Armidale.

NEFA volunteers and supporters moved in at first light preventing the contractors from continuing their harvesting operations in one of the last old growth compartments in the Styx River Forest. No environmental assessment of the area was undertaken prior to logging commencing and there has been no significant harvesting in the area before.

NEFA spokesperson Christopher Sheed said today that the logging regime by Fenning Timbers in the Styx River State Forest was recognised as unsustainable by the Forestry Commission as long ago as 1982. This damning evidence was contained in an Forestry Commission briefing note to Conservation Minister Gary West leaked to the North East Forest Alliance earlier this year.

"The Forestry Commission approached Fenning Timbers in 1983 asking them to reduce quotas from Styx River in the interests of achieving sustained yield. The Company refused to accept any quota cuts and the Forestry Commission capitulated. Fenning timbers continued to harvest at almost twice the level of sustained yield for the next nine years," he said.

"NEFA's three year long struggle to halt old growth forest logging has been totally vindicated by the recommendations of the Commonwealth Resource Assessment Commission who have labelled such logging as the "destruction of an irreplaceable resource." Such logging is ecologically unsustainable and must cease until all the values of old growth forests have been thoroughly assessed."

"In May this year the Forestry Commission and NEFA agreed to work together on an assessment of the old growth resources available in the Styx River and Walcha Nundle Management Areas. A month later the Commission broke the agreement and commenced logging without any assessment whatsoever."

"Such assessments must occur prior to logging and NEFA will continue with all available non violent actions until the RAC recommendations are implemented." Mr Sheed concluded.

NEFA BLOCKADES CONTINUE TO BE SUCCESSFUL

MEDIA RELEASE

20TH JUNE 1992

Following Friday's successful blockade of old growth forest logging in the Styx River State Forest, east of Armidale, the North East Forest Alliance is continuing its campaign of direct action to save the last remaining stands of old growth forests.

NEFA has substantial public support to continue this campaign until all old growth forest logging stops once and for all. NEFA is preparing to recommence direct action with new tactics designed to stop the logging of old growth forests.

"The Styx River blockade effectively stopped work for the day, and it now appears the wet weather may prevent further old growth logging in the immediate future," NEFA spokesperson Andrew Steed said this morning.

"While the area is drying out, it is still very muddy and this has allowed NEFA to temporarily withdraw the blockades. In the meantime we will be presenting a list of demands to the Forestry Commission.

"NEFA is demanding an immediate end to old growth forest logging and access to all information on old growth forests in the Styx River Management Area.

"Our previous attempts to gain Forestry Commission information on the old growth forests of the Styx River Management Area have failed because the Commission has been unable to provide it," Mr Steed said.

During the weekend the Forestry Commission have prematurely closed public access to the Styx River State Forest in an attempt to stop the public seeing what damage is being done to the old growth forests.

"The Commission's closure of the Styx River Forest this weekend is a farce. They tried the same thing at Mummel Gulf a month ago, and it is now the public who controls access there, not the Forestry Commission. NEFA rejects their attempts to exclude public access.

"The NEFA blockade at Mummel Gulf near Walcha is still strong, with new arrivals and reinforcements occurring daily. Public access is still allowed through the area and we are monitoring logging operations in the area," Mr Steed said.

For further information contact Andrew Steed Ph 066 213 278 now

NEFA CLAN CAMP

NEFA Camp at Myall Lakes (Mungo Brush)

Sat 7 Nov. - Mon 9 Nov.

STOP THE NATURAL RESOURCES PACKAGE

The NSW Government wants to change the way we make decisions about the use of land, including high conservation value forests, the coast, crown lands and waterways.

It has proposed five new laws which will override existing legislation which currently protects the environment and allows public participation. The new laws will create confrontation - worsening divisions over the future of the natural environment.

NEFA CLAN GATHERING prior to Sydney rally against the **NATURAL RESOURCES PACKAGE**

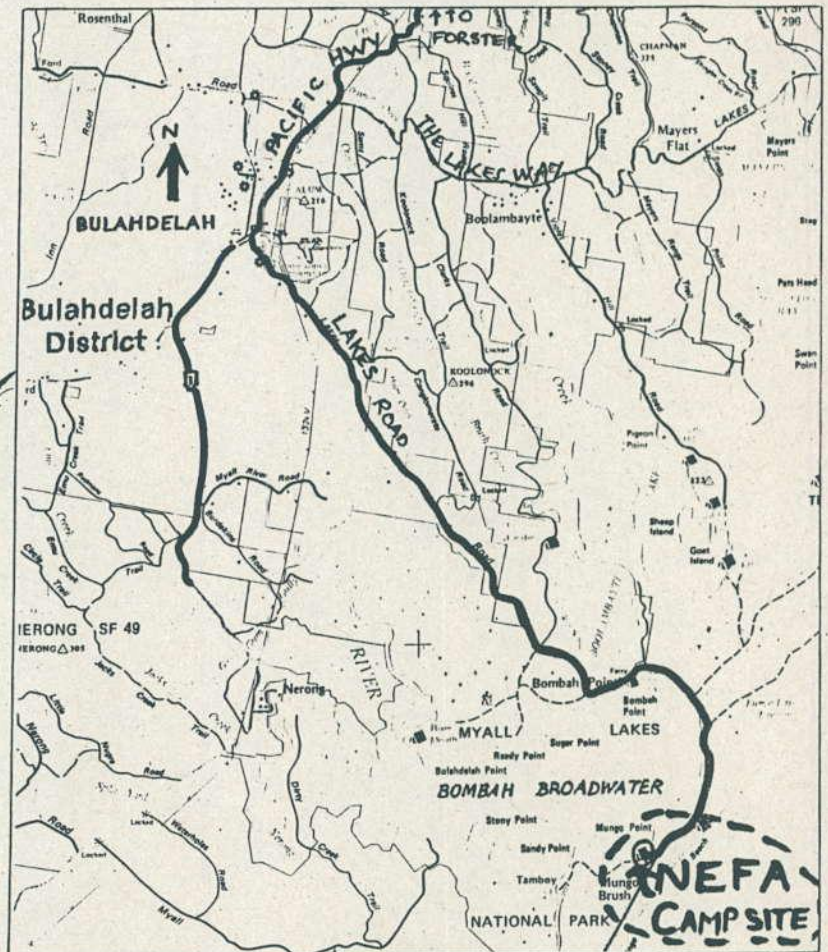


RALLY

Friday 13 Nov.

Parliament House,
Maquarie St, SYDNEY

12 - 2 pm



EARTH FIRST - NO COMPROMISE

RED ALERT

ACTION ON THE RESOURCE PACKAGE

Dear friends,

The previously proposed rally against the **Natural Resource Package** has been brought forward to early November due to the possible early introduction of these Bills. It will be a modest but carefully focused event, and is intended to secure maximum political advantage from the energy and resources deployed.

We now urge your group/centre to join us to oppose this package and the environmental destruction to our urban and natural areas which would accompany this legislation.

WHEN : Friday 13th November

WHERE : Parliament House, Macquarie St, SYDNEY

We ask that representatives of each group/centre meet with their Member of Parliament, drawing attention to these regressive Bills and their implications for your local area. We hope that at least one representative from each State electorate can attend, to help the public and politicians appreciate the very broad geographical opposition to the introduction of the Natural Resource Package.

TIME: 12 - 2pm

WHAT TO BRING : A banner or placard with your group/centre's name and what electorate you're from. We will have a large banner for the combined Environment/Conservation movement.

Due to the short notice of this rally would you please contact us as soon as possible to register your group/centre and M.P.'s name. Also can you make arrangements to meet your M.P. on the day, we can help to arrange the meeting for you, if you like.

Your help and participation in this campaign is vital, please do not hesitate to contact us for more information:

Linda Gill (02) 2472228 or home ph (049)977263

Nature Conservation Council: (02) 2474206
Total Environment Centre : (02) 2474714
South East Forest Alliance : (02) 2471737
North East Forest Alliance : (02) 2472228

FOR OUR FUTURE
STEP OUT FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY