

Act NOW for our FORESTS

For those who came in late ...

In 1992 then PM Paul Keating, then Premier John Fahey and the Premiers of all other mainland states signed the National Forests Policy Statement, promising a "comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system" on public lands by 1995.

In late 1993 the then NSW Coalition Government made a very lack lustre attempt to commence the assessment of lands with the formation of the Natural Resources Audit Council (NRAC).

This body, stacked against conservation, never won the support of the NC environment movement due to its bias and limited brief. After funding a number of studies and collating a data directory, NRAC disappeared into the NSW bureaucracy of L & WC.

In March 1995, after years of court cases & protest actions to put forests on the agenda, ALP Leader Bob Carr became NSW Premier, pledging to create a world class (CAR) reserve system & to restructure the timber industry.

After 3 years of stalling, the Commonwealth's first step towards the CAR reserve system was the disastrous 1995 Deferred Forest Areas (DFA) which was criticised by conservationists, scientists and the timber industry. Premier Carr was not impressed.

So unimpressed was Carr with the DFA's reception, that he insisted on the opportunity for NSW to revise the Commonwealth DFA following a further NSW interim assessment.

Towards a CAR reserve system

During May 1996, the NSW Government's Interim Assessment Process (IAP), identified areas that are "likely to be required" for a CAR reserve system. The IAP, unlike the DFA, was a transparent, scientific process that involved for the first time some non-government stakeholders: the Forest Products Association, the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union and the NSW conservation movement.

The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) & North Coast Environment Council (NCEC) are represented on the body carrying out the interim assessment, the Resource & Conservation Assessment Council (RACAC), by Mr Dailan Pugh.

RACAC interpreted the Commonwealth reserve criteria and developed detailed targets, for use in the IAP's recent negotiation stage, to ensure key conservation goals could be actually achieved.

Latest news on the recent negotiations

These criteria and targets were applied, using an interactive computer process, to meet bio-diversity goals. Thus RACAC was able to identify & map forest areas in "conservation criteria outcomes" for public lands in NE NSW.

Other maps developed in the negotiations by the timber industry, take back forest areas required in the conservation criteria outcome. These industry maps identify forest compartments needed to supply industry at levels equivalent to 70%, 50% & 30% of the '95/'96 timber quota.



Brush Tailed
Phascogale
Phascogale tapoatafa -
Dailan Pugh

RACAC's Draft Interim Forest Assessment Report, which documents with detailed maps, the so-called 'options' developed during the negotiation phase, is out now on public display. Maps & copies of the Report are on display at most environment centres, or SFNSW or NPWS offices'.

Public comment will be invited until 11 July, after which RACAC will write up a Final Report.

What happens next?

It's crucial that members of the public make their views known NOW. More on this overleaf....

NSW Cabinet's Natural Resources Subcommittee of Ministers Knowles, Allan & Yeadon will prepare a submission for Cabinet to consider in early August.

Soon after that, the NSW Government must be ready to ask the Commonwealth to amend its list of Deferred Forest

Areas (DFAs), to include all those areas identified during the IAP as being required for a CAR reserve system.

Hopefully the Commonwealth will quickly agree because new Federal Minister for the Environment, Senator Robert Hill, (Liberal SA) has said that the new Federal Cabinet has set a deadline of mid-1998 for resolving controversial forest issues!

These criteria and targets will be reviewed again prior to the final assessment stage, Comprehensive Regional Assessments (CRA's), also promised in the 1992 National Forest Policy Statement.

These final assessments are meant to review areas placed under moratoria to decide finally, whether, they are to be included into the CAR reserve system or available for logging.

Don't believe their hype!

It's important not to be confused by percentages in industry hype.

A 30% across-the-board cut in timber quotas has already been announced by the Carr Government, to reduce '96/'97 quotas volumes to 70% of the 1995 / 1996 levels. The new quota levels will come into effect on 1st July 1996.

That 30% cut was made as an urgent measure to bring quotas **closer** to sustainability, without guaranteeing that these new levels of quota were **actually** 'ecologically sustainable'.

No conservation goals were involved in this nearly one-third quota reduction. Anyone arguing for a 70% 'option' is really supporting the status quo '30% cut', & no conservation gains at all.

All industry 'options' prevent the creation of 'a comprehensive, adequate & representative reserve system' and are by definition 'unsustainable' because they require the logging of areas needed as crucial habitat, or home ranges, of many plant and animal species.

Quotas will have to again be reduced if the CAR reserve system and the 'ecologically sustainable timber industry' promised in the National Forest Policy Statement are to be delivered.

NEFA & NCEC want the industry to accept the volumes available once a CAR reserve system is in place, and restructure to operate at these new levels, rather than supporting the continuation of the old 'unsustainable' levels of logging in recognised high conservation value forests.

For sustainability's sake, companies with Wood Supply Agreements with SFNSW must also agree to vary existing contracts to greatly reduce volumes.

John Corkill

Originals

Table of Contents		Page
0.1	Executive Summary	i
0.2	Summary of conservation outcomes	iv
0.3	Summary of recommendations	viii
1.0	Introduction	
1.1	Introduction to NEFA	1
2.0	The General Context of this Submission	2
2.1	Extant policy and prior commitments	3
2.2	An Overview of North East NSW	7
2.1.1	A description of forest conservation values in NE NSW	8
3.0	General Comments on the Interim Assessment Process	11
3.1	An evaluation of the 'Conservation Criteria Outcomes'	12
3.1.1	General comments	12
3.1.2	Review of 'old growth' forest targets	13
3.1.3	Review of fauna targets	19
3.1.4	Review of forest types targets	25
3.1.5	Review of wilderness targets	30
3.2	Remarks on the Draft Interim Forest Assessment Report	
3.2.1	Introduction	35
3.2.2	IAP Framework & Methodology	42
3.2.3	Environmental data collection & assessment	44
3.2.4	Social data collection	48
3.2.5	Economic data collection	49
3.2.6	Negotiation outcomes	49
3.2.7	Succeeding activities	50
4.0	Proposed Wilderness & National Park dedications	51
5.0	Comprehensive Regional Assessment Processes	
5.1	Key ingredients for a successful CRA	58
5.2	Important matters to be addressed in the CRA	58
5.2.1	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	58
5.2.2	Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management	59
5.2.3	Industry Restructuring Fund	61
5.2.4	Recreation & Tourism values	64
5.2.5	Non-timber values of forests	65
5.2.6	Fire Grazing	66
5.2.7	Water quality and yield	67
5.2.8	Wood Supply Agreements (WSA)	68
5.2.9	'Sustained Yield'	70
5.2.10	~ Case studies	75
5.2.10	Global warming	78
6.0	Critique of Economic Analyses	82
6.1	General comments	82
6.2	Review of 'The Economic Impact of the NSW Timber Industry'	84
6.3	Comments on 'A Framework for Economic Efficiency Analysis'	89
6.4	Comments on Bennett, J	91
7.0	Critique of Social Impact Analyses	93
7.1	Comments on 'Preliminary Forestry Social Impact Assessment'	93
7.2	Comments on Final Draft 'Socio-Economic and Regional Impact Study'	95
8.0	Critique of SFNSW's 'Wood Resources Study'	96
9.0	Concurrent processes	109
9.1	The new Threatened Species Act	110
9.2	Forestry Regulation review	110
9.3	Environmental Impact Statements	110
9.4	Re-structuring of SFNSW	111
9.5	Review of SEMGL's	111
9.6	EPA Pollution Control Licences	113
9.7	Gap & Cluster Review	114
10.	Acknowledgments & Thanks	114
11.0	References	
12.0	Appendices	

identifying the least disturbed (mostly non-regrowth) areas of these forest types that were within remaining targets.

A further layer depicting all old growth forest and Provisionally Identified Wilderness was included. These were assumed to have a 100% reservation target.

These maps were then used, along with reserve design principles, to identify compartments with the highest priority for inclusion in moratoria. The resultant areas identified are proposed for addition to the CCO as the Environment Movement's Moratorium Areas (EMMA).

Two series of maps summarising most of the data used to develop EMMA were presented as Appendix 1 of this submission to RACAC and the Commonwealth Forest Taskforce. Detailed descriptions of these maps are included as Appendix 1 of this submission.

Final Process

The Conservation Criteria Outcome (CCO) was reviewed for the whole of north-east NSW in this submission by removing negotiation region boundaries and only considering the ecological boundaries implemented by the Flora and Fauna Panels. Further to this the conservation targets were considered without the constraint of the tenures being assessed in the IAP by ignoring "effective" and "trimmed" targets and applying actual targets to see how they were achieved in the IAP. This enabled a holistic assessment of the conservation outcomes and achievement of targets.

The negotiation data base and the Win.ERMS Geographic Information System were used to assess the data. There were some problems with the land tenure layers in the data base.

Identified Wilderness had been mapped as a protected layer across all land tenures (despite an agreement that private and leasehold tenures in wilderness would not be used to contribute to targets), this was in part accounted for by using the NPWS land-tenure layers to separate out National Parks, State Forests and Vacant Crown Land within the wilderness layer. For a few compartments digitising errors precluded their being able to be taken into account in identifying conservation outcomes.

Achievement of targets was assessed by using the reporting function of Win.ERMS and manipulation of the data in EXCEL.

3.1.2 A detailed review of 'old growth' forest targets

The Resource Assessment Commission (1992a) gave two options for the management of identified old growth forest:

- 1. require a rapid cessation of all logging operations within old-growth forests;*
- 2. identify and rank old-growth forests in terms of their full range of values, then after adequately protecting viable examples of old-growth forest some may be available for logging if there are no feasible alternative sources of timber.*

Once the old growth stages of all plant communities have been identified, it is necessary to identify their conservation values in order to ensure they are adequately protected.

3.1.3 A detailed review of fauna targets

An effective population size is one that is able to be maintained in perpetuity and provide the genetic variability for continued ability to adapt to environmental changes and pressures (Tyndale-Biscoe and Calaby 1975, Soule and Simberloff 1986, Mackowski 1986, Dunning and Smith 1986, Davey 1989, Hopper and Coates 1990, Davey and Norton 1990, Possingham 1990, 1991, Reed 1991, Archer, Hand and Godhelp 1991, Goldingay and Kavanagh 1991, Kavanagh 1991, RAC 1992a, Possingham and Noble 1992, Lindenmayer, Norton and Possingham 1993).

Natural population fluctuations, catastrophes (such as fire, drought and disease), and global warming, need to be accounted for in assessing the population size of a species needed for it to survive into our uncertain future (e.g. Tyndale-Biscoe and Calaby 1975, Soule and Simberloff 1986, Davey 1989, Possingham 1990, 1991, Possingham and Noble 1992, Lindenmayer, Norton and Possingham 1993).

The need to reserve viable populations of species as a basis for conservation planning has long been recognised, ie Tyndale-Biscoe and Calaby (1975), Dunning and Smith (1986), Mackowski (1986, 1987), Soule and Simberloff (1986), Davey (1989) Possingham (1990), Davey and Norton (1990), Clark, Backhouse and Lacy (1991), Johnson et. al. (1991), RAC (1992a p210), Lindenmayer and Possingham (1994), Goldingay and Possingham (1995).

There are three basic biological principles that need to be applied in deriving reservation targets for fauna:

1. Species are more secure from extinction if habitat and local populations are distributed throughout their entire range,
2. Providing for species in large habitat blocks is superior to providing small blocks, and
3. Movement of individuals throughout the landscape is vital to the maintenance of all local populations within the range.

Population Viability Analysis (PVA) is recognised as the most appropriate methodology to inform reserve design to encompass viable populations. As noted by DASET (1993, p107):

"PVA is an explicit, quantitative technique for modelling the population dynamics of a target species based on its ecological response (Possingham and Noble 1992; Boyce 1992). Although relatively new in Australia (Clarke et al. 1991), the technique has been used under a range of conditions overseas (e.g. Thomas et al. 1990; Denies et al. 1991). PVA is used to provide information about the relationship between population size and probabilities of extinction under different management scenarios. As such, it permits the critical issue of extinction across the entire landscape to be addressed, taking into account conservation reserves and off-reserve management (Possingham et al. 1991). The technique provides an explicit basis for deciding the minimum area of individual reserves and the optimum spatial arrangement of a reserve network within the landscape (see Thomas et al. 1990)."

Conclusions

Many of our fauna are in serious trouble even if all habitat included in the Conservation Criteria Outcome and the Environment Movement's Moratorium Areas is reserved. Their survival depends upon management of their habitat across all land tenures, but even then it is apparent that some species and many sub-populations which are effectively isolated by dispersal barriers may not be viable in the long-term.

When these targets are translated into numbers of territories (breeding units) their magnitude becomes more apparent (see Appendix). If all Wilderness, all Vacant Crown Land, all State Forests claimed reserves and all the compartments identified in the Conservation Criteria Outcome were added to the reserve system this would still only represent in the order of no territories of Red Goshawk, 36 territories of Square-tailed Kite, 70 territories of Powerful Owl, 162 territories of Barking Owl, 242 territories of Sooty Owl, 245 territories of Masked Owl, and 386 territories of Tiger Quolls. The long-term survival of these higher-order predators should be of major concern as they are essential to maintaining the ecological balance of our forests.

State Forests excluded consideration of resource reductions due to fauna prescriptions (aside from habitat tree retention) from their Wood Resources Study as part of their continuing push to be exempted from such restrictions on harvesting. It is evident from the data that this must not be allowed to occur, in fact the data proves that it is essential that prescriptions for most species need to be greatly improved to ensure their survival throughout the forest estate. Once the data is further validated and refined during and subsequent to the CRA it may be possible to reduce restrictions for some species in some areas.

In the timeframe of the IAP it was not possible to adequately account for a number of issues which will have to be pursued through the CRA process.

Rec. # 5 ~ It is recommended that account be taken of the degree to which fauna & flora species achieved targets in the IAP in developing and applying impact mitigation prescriptions.

Rec. # 6 ~ It's recommended that the CRA process:

- (i) refine predictive models for fauna through targeted fauna surveys and incorporating more refined variables in modelling;
- (ii) refine population targets and identify key variables using population viability analysis (PVA);
- (iii) account for population continuity and dispersal distances between populations; and
- (iv) assesses the effectiveness of off-reserve areas in maintaining populations and connectivity between populations.

3.1.4 A detailed review of 'forest type' targets

"As a rule, then, we suggest it would be wise to design refuges to conserve large fractions of a functioning community whenever possible. Though rigorous and intensive management may allow small sites to maintain populations of certain species, others will require much larger sites, and the larger the site, the larger the fractions of the community that one can expect to persist."

Soule and Simberloff (1986)

further 5 forest types achieving targets in all sub-regions and 5 types achieving targets in at least one additional sub-region.

On the "available" State Forests targeted in the assessment there was no occurrence of three of the 88 forest types used. Of the 85 "available" forest types, 24 achieved overall targets for "available" forests under the CCO, though 11 of these did not achieve targets in all sub-regions. EMMA increased this to 31 achieving targets, with 9 of these not achieving targets in all sub-regions.

Under the CCO a total of 72,569 ha of the "available" 'non-rainforest' forest types and 62,000 ha of "available" rainforest are still required to meet targets, on a sub-regional basis. EMMA encompasses an additional 45,134 ha of the 'non-rainforest' forest types and 17,886 ha of rainforest required to meet targets. Under EMMA a total of 27,435 ha of the "available" 'non-rainforest' forest types and 44,144 ha of the "available" rainforest are still required to meet targets on a sub-regional basis. Even with sub-regional boundaries for forest types ignored the CCO still requires 127,739 ha of the 'available' forest types to meet targets, with EMMA leaving 71,635 ha required.

There can be no doubt that the Environment Movements Moratorium Areas significantly improve the achievement of forest type targets and thus should be placed under moratorium if there is any intent to fully comply with the intent of the IAP to put all forests likely to be required for a reserve system under moratoria.

It is evident that even with the inclusion of EMMA in moratoria there still remains 54 forest types under target which occur on state forests available for logging. Forty eight of these require 100% of their extent on state forests to be protected to achieve targets and thus should be fully deferred from logging, with the other 6 types partially deferred, if there is to be a genuine attempt to meet the IAP targets.

Rec. # 7 ~ It is recommended that in order to fulfil the requirements of the National Forest Policy Statement, the NSW Government develop a strategy to enable the assessment of forest values on private land in the comprehensive regional assessment, and to ensure the effective protection of high conservation value forests on private land following the CRA.

3.1.5 A detailed review of 'Wilderness' targets

"It is a formidable decision falling to a mere generation or two. It is a heavy responsibility, especially for Australia, where there still are opportunities, more than in most other continents, for safeguarding an evolutionary future for the genetic heritage of the past. Future generations will make their own decisions which we cannot foresee. But in this period of unprecedented change, should we not keep some options open for them? No longer can we claim innocence or ignorance. We have acquired evolutionary responsibility. The time for decision is now."

Frankel (1975)

The concept of wilderness (literally "place of wild beasts") is now changing from meaning something that has not yet been brought under human dominion to something that has value in its own right, the development of this appreciation is "symptomatic of the emergence of an Australian national identity and an empathy with the Australian landscape" (Hobbs and Hopkins 1990).

While the sets of maps produced for the public exhibition phase were generally adequate in that they clearly showed the different map outcomes produced during the IAP, the published Draft Interim Forest Assessment Report was far from satisfactory.

The public exhibition document did not do the rest of the IA process the credit the foregoing parts deserved.

In particular, the Draft IFA Report

- failed to adequately report the results of the Conservation Criteria Outcomes against the range of targets set prior to the assessment;
- omitted any detail about which targets had been met, providing only a general summary;
- appeared to give greater emphasis to matters social & economic rather than biological;
- is very poorly referenced and footnoted. Constant reference is made to the Project Report yet the correct title and publisher of this paper is nowhere described. No Bibliography or reference list is included;

3.1 An evaluation of the 'Conservation Criteria Outcomes'

3.1.1 General Comments ~ Initial Assessment

The Conservation Criteria Outcomes were initially reviewed by assessing achievement of targets within each negotiation region (N1-N6) by reference to the target outcomes reported by NPWS for the Conservation Criteria Outcomes. This was reviewed by both

- i) identifying the shortfalls in area targets and
- ii) manually identifying compartments to better fulfil targets and by preparing a series of maps depicting reservation requirements beyond the CCO.

A base map was prepared which depicted the forest types and fauna species for which targets had still not been achieved under the Conservation Criteria Outcome. Maps specific to each negotiation region were prepared and aggregated into an overall map for north-east NSW. These maps were prepared and utilised in the computerised Geographic Information System provided to stakeholders for the process.

Predicted habitat of fauna species and populations which had not achieved 90+% of their target in the CCO was mapped over available forests. These forests were identified from the target reports on the CCO for each negotiation region. For most such species more than 90% of all classes of their predicted habitat was required, so all habitat was mapped. For those species requiring less than 90% of the available predicted habitat the classes of habitat best approximating requirements was used. A second layer for all identified species and populations depicting class 1 habitat was prepared in order to identify areas of higher priority. A third layer depicting Class 1 habitat for those species requiring less than 700 ha in area to meet targets was also prepared.

Forest types under target in the CCO were aggregated into 6 classes (1-19, 20-39, 40-59, 60-79, 80-99 and 100+) according to the percentage of remaining available forest types required to meet targets within each negotiation region. A further layer was prepared

IAP conservative on conservation? 10 Reasons Why

- Limited time imposed a massive constraint to developing the 'best' outcome for conservation;
 - Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW State Forests has not been assessed though it's clear that Koori people have special interests in NE forests;
 - Only 60 of 150 priority fauna species were able to be assessed in the IAP - many birds, mammals & reptile species were not considered;
 - Rare species of plants were not considered at all, while only 60 endangered & vulnerable plant species are said to have been considered on the basis of museum records only;
 - No flora modelling was included due to a lack of systematic records of sites;
 - Many 'targets' for both plants and animals were not met in the Conservation Criteria Outcomes.
 - Mr Carr pledged to protect all wilderness areas & all high conservation value old growth forests, while the Commonwealth's Reserve Criteria requires only 60 to 100 % of remaining 'old growth' forest and 90 % of wilderness to be reserved.
 - The Commonwealth may allow up to 40% of remaining 'old growth' forest and 10% of wilderness to be logged!
 - Major problems were also found with the SFNSW's Wood Resources Survey data, incorrectly stating the actual 'standing volume' in some areas.
 - It doesn't address water quality & quantity issues as did the Thomson River catchment study report. (Nor are bee-keeping or eco-tourism assessed!!)
- Unless these issues are taken into account in CRA's they won't be either comprehensive or regional.*

Cover these points when you ring, write or fax the polities

Thank Labor Ministers & MPs for:

- their pre-election promises on forests;
- the new National Parks of 1995;
- the 30% timber quota cut of 1 July 96;
- the RACAC process itself;
- the opportunity to comment.

Request Mr Carr & his Ministers to adopt & act on ALL the following :

- the **FOREST RESERVE PLAN** proposed by the NSW environment movement, consisting of 2 parts:

i) immediate protection of the environment movement's 'moratoria areas' (EMMA), by banning logging pending further assessment, and these areas' included in an amended list of Commonwealth Deferred Forest Areas (DFAs);

[Noting the IAP's limitations above, NEFA & NCEC re-mapped areas which they want placed under logging moratoria until final Comprehensive Regional Assessments, are done over the next 2 years. These EMMA maps are slightly larger than the 'Conservation Criteria Outcomes', aim to meet all or many more of the RACAC 'targets' & include all old growth forest & all wilderness.]

ii) dedication immediately of already identified wilderness areas under the NSW Wilderness Act and the creation of more new National Park's to cover 'irreplaceable' areas, identified in the IAP as having very high conservation values, for which the community or NPWS have previously sought protection.

[Because we, & the forests, can't wait for all the National Parks to come at once.]

These are crucial, but not final, steps towards the Carr Government fulfilling its promise of a 'CAR' reserve system.

Ask the ALP Government to also bring in a broader range of measures in a larger

FOREST RESERVE PACKAGE

before the interim assessment concludes. E.g.

- iii) rapid timber industry restructuring with full public accountability;
- iv) fair compensation to affected workers & their families;
- v) reductions in Government wood supply agreements (WSA's) to the timber industry generally and especially to BORAL;
- vi) any further WSA's to be at reduced levels & apply only until the CRAs are completed in late June 1998;
- vii) further regional surveys, data collection and verification;
- viii) working groups of all regional stakeholders, be formed to decide how to refine the interim process & to begin to co-operatively plan their CRA;
- ix) these final assessments (CRAs) to be done in the regions, not from Sydney;
- x) major public reviews of best practice standards of forest management for:
 - areas available for harvesting; and
 - areas required to be managed for conservation values 'off-reserve'.

... please!

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

- **get a copy** of the Draft Interim Forest Assessment Report, by ringing RACAC, on 02 2283166 or faxing an order to 02 228 4967. Or ask at NWPS's & State Forest's offices;

• Write a letter to NSW Premier Bob Carr

at: NSW Parliament House,
Macquarie St, Sydney. 2000.

- **write to the Ministers** below at the same address;
- **make a submission** on the Draft Interim Forest Assessment Report; & send it to RACAC at GPO Box 3927 Sydney 2000.
- **write a Letter to the Editor**;
- **phone in to talk-back radio**;
- **lobby your local MP**;



• Ring or fax these Ministers

PAM ALLAN

Environment

02 233 4044 ph 02 233 3617 fax
KIM YEADON

Land & Water Conservation

02 228 3688 ph 02 228 3801 fax
CRAIG KNOWLES

Urban Affairs & Planning

02 228 4499 ph 02 228 3716 fax

Or ring the Parliament House
switchboard on 02 230 2111 & ask
to be connected to their advisers

For more info call the:

North East Forest Alliance
066 224 737 or

North Coast Environment Council
065 690 802.

21/6/1996 ~ Printed on recycled paper

SAVE OUR NORTH EAST FORESTS !

The story so far ...

In December 1992 then PM Paul Keating, then Premier John Fahey and the Premiers of all other mainland states signed the National Forests Policy Statement, promising a "comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system" across public lands by the end of 1995.

In March 1995 after years of court cases and forest protest actions ALP Leader Bob Carr became NSW Premier, pledging to create such a system of reserves and to restructure the timber industry.

After 3 years of stalling, the first step towards the CAR reserve system was the Commonwealth's disastrous 1995 Deferred Forest Areas (DFA) which was criticised by conservationists, scientists and the timber industry. Premier Carr was not impressed.

Carr Government moves forward

During May 1996, the NSW Government's Interim Assessment Process (IAP), identified areas that are "likely to be required" for a CAR reserve system. The IAP, unlike the DFA, was a transparent, scientific process that involves all stakeholders.

NEFA supports this process and is represented on the body carrying out the interim assessment, the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council (RACAC), by Mr Dailan Pugh.

Two working groups were established: on conservation & on socio-economic assessments.

Earlier this year RACAC interpreted the Commonwealth reserve criteria and developed detailed targets, for use in the IAP's recent negotiation stage, to ensure key conservation goals are actually achieved.

Further Quota Cuts Required

A 30% across-the-board cut in timber quotas has already been announced by the Carr Government, to reduce '96/'97 quotas volumes to 70% of the 1995 / 1996 levels. The new quota levels will come into effect on 1/7/1996.



Spotted-tail Quoll - *Dasyurus maculata*
(Tiger Cat) Dailan Pugh

That 30% cut was made as an urgent measure to bring quotas closer to sustainable yield, without guaranteeing that these new levels of quota were themselves 'sustainable'. No conservation goals were involved in this nearly one-third quota reduction. Thus anyone arguing for "only a 30% cut" is arguing for the status quo, & no conservation gain.

Quotas will have to again be reduced if the 'comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system' promised in the National Forest Policy Statement is to be delivered.

Essential reading: The IAP Draft Report

A publicly exhibited draft report on the IAP, complete with detailed maps, is due in mid June.

By using an interactive computer process and applying these criteria and targets to meet biodiversity goals, RACAC was able to identify & map forest areas in "conservation criteria outcomes" for public lands in northern NSW.

Other map outputs developed in the negotiations, clawed back forests required in the conservation criteria outcome, and identified timber areas needed under cuts of 30%, 50% & 70% to the '95/'96 timber quota.

Public comment will be invited for a month, after which RACAC is to write up a Final Report.

NSW Cabinet's Natural Resources Sub-Committee of Ministers Knowles, Allan & Yeadon will prepare a submission for the whole Cabinet to consider later in July.

INTERNET saves TREES and FORESTS!

For those so inclined, Thursday Plantation & local world wide web-zine, planet_byron, have co-sponsored a special page on the Internet where users can log-on and leave their comments on forest protection.

This initiative was developed by planet_byron since Kim Yeadon's office doesn't have an e-mail address and faxing comments through will only use more paper!

Or if you can't do it today - use your own personal computer at home & log on to:

http://www.om.com.au/thursday_plantation/loggerheads.html & leave your forest protection message.

For more info contact Pierre Geslin today or e-mail him @ http://www.om.com.au/planet_byron

Weaknesses in the Interim Assessment

The Interim Assessment has several weaknesses which limit the reliability of the computer based mapping. This is due to new technology and processes, limited data & time and the fact that this has never been done before! Thus...

- only 50 of 150 priority fauna species were able to be assessed in the IAP - many birds, mammals & reptile species were not considered.
- Many 'targets' for both plants and animals were not met even in the Conservation Criteria Outcomes.
- Major problems with the accuracy of SFNSW Wood Resources Survey (WRS) data, were also found, with the WRS figures apparently understating the actual 'standing volume' in many compartments.

And since the IAP is using the Commonwealth Reserve Criteria, as adapted by RACAC for use in NSW, mis-matches in policy goals have also been identified.

- Premier Bob Carr has pledged to protect all wilderness & high conservation value old growth forests, while the Commonwealth's Reserve Criteria requires only 60 to 100 % of remaining 'old growth' forest to be reserved.
- The Commonwealth may allow up to 40% of remaining 'old growth' forest to be logged!
- the IAP does not address water quality & quantity issues nor the protection of aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW State Forests

It's plain that a further, final comprehensive regional assessment is required to gain real certainty about the actual areas requiring protection.

Responding to the IAP Draft Report

NEFA is re-mapping the areas which the north coast environment movement wants to see placed under logging moratorium until the final comprehensive regional assessment is completed.

These maps aim to meet all or many more of the RACAC 'targets', including all old growth & provisionally identified wilderness areas. More on this later...



NEFA is also requesting working groups of regional stakeholders, be formed to meet once the Draft Report goes on display, to begin to plan what happens next, leading to up to the final assessment.

This final assessment must be done in the region, not from Sydney.

But we can't wait for two or more years for all the National Parks to come at once!

Premier Carr will be asked to dedicate several more new National Parks this year to cover: identified wilderness areas and 'irreplaceable' areas, identified as having the highest of the high conservation values, particularly where these forests have been previously proposed for protection by the community or NPWS.

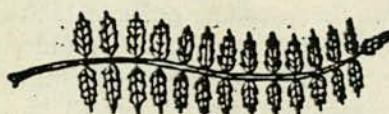
WOODCHIPPING Aaarrrgh!

The Federal Government is planning a major expansion of the export woodchip quotas and may make a decision on this as early as this week! The plan is to exempt sawmill residue woodchips from the export quota, effectively removing any limit on this source, allowing the existing quotas to be made up from roundwood only. This could lead to a rapid doubling of the volumes of woodchips exported from Australian forests.

Please ring (06 2777 111) and ask to be connected with PM John Howard, Minister for Resources John Anderson or Environment Minister Sen. Robert Hill &/OR write to them C/- Parliament House Canberra. 2600 & insist on no increase in woodchip exports. Ask them to ensure that woodchip exports are phased out and Australia's forest resources receive maximum domestic value adding.

For more info on IAP or other forest issues call NEFA 066 224 737.

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WHAT YOU CAN DO...

It's essential that the public get involved e.g.

• get a copy of the IAP Draft Report, available from: RACAC, GPO Box 3927 Sydney, 2000. Ph 02 228 3166 or from State Forests or National Parks & Wildlife Service offices;

• write a letter to the Ministers, or Premier Bob Carr, @ NSW Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney. 2000.

• make a submission to RACAC on the IAP Draft Report;

• write a Letter to the Editor;

• phone in to talk-back radio;

• lobby your local MP in person;

.Ring these Ministers NOW!

PAM ALLAN

Environment

02 233 4044 ph 02 233 3617 fax

KIM YEADON

Land & Water Conservation

02 228 3688 ph 02 228 3801 fax

CRAIG KNOWLES

Urban Affairs & Planning

02 228 4499 ph 02 241 3716 fax

Or ring the Parliament House switchboard on 02 230 2111 & ask

• Ask for:

- the moratorium areas sought by the environment movement;
- new Stage 2 National Parks;
- further timber industry restructuring;
- help for affected workers;
- regional groups to prepare for CRA's;
- finally, a reserve system of integrity.

• Thank them for

- the new Parks of Stage 1;
- last years 30% quota cut;
- the RACAC process itself.

They deserve our encouragement & thanks. **But the job's not done yet!**