

**DORRIGO 3 YEAR EIS**

**DRAFT PROPOSAL**

November 1994

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### **DORRIGO 3 YEAR EIS Draft Proposal**

#### ***Introduction***

State Forests has prepared this Draft Proposal for the Dorrigo Community Consultative Group to consider at its next meeting. This paper has been prepared for distribution prior to that meeting so that all participants are adequately briefed on the subject.

#### **Objectives in Developing a Proposal:**

1. Minimise the impacts of the proposed activities on the biological, social, physical and cultural environments.
2. Maintain biodiversity.
3. Consider the conservation resources in a regional context.
4. Strive for a balance between the various interests.
5. Adhere to the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
6. Consider the social impacts of a proposed course of action equally with other environmental interactions.
7. Ensure consistency with Government policy and State Forests' management objectives.
8. Incorporate precautionary principles into management planning procedures.

### **The Draft Proposal and The Alternatives:**

A number of steps were followed in developing the draft Proposal and evaluating the alternatives.

1. The consultant identifies the range of feasible alternatives to be considered by the EIS with assistance from the CCG and State Forests.
2. State Forests puts forward a draft Proposal after considering the recommendations of the specialist consultants and the range of feasible alternatives.
3. The draft Proposal is considered by the CCG in comparison to the other alternatives.
4. State Forests reviews the draft Proposal in light of CCG comments.
5. State Forests puts forward a final Proposal for consideration by and approval from State Forest board of directors.
6. The final approved Proposal is examined in the EIS.
7. The Proposal and other feasible alternatives are fully evaluated and compared with each other.

The recommendations of specialist consultants have been put forward individually with the intention to safeguard that component of the environment that was studied. In meeting the objectives of developing a proposal it is not possible for State Forests to accept every recommendation of all the specialist consultants. A degree of compromise must be accepted. The draft Proposal is State Forests' initial judgement of how the various interests can be best accommodated and how to optimise the full range of forest values in a management context.

The Dorriggo 3 Year EIS has investigated the social environment of the management area and assessed the likely social impacts to an extent equal to the investigations of the biological and physical environments. This was done in response to community concerns that in the past the social environment has been overlooked in favour of the biological and physical environments and because social impacts has been consistently raised as a major issue to the community.

The Proposal does not have to be simply a selection from the range of feasible alternatives being considered by the EIS. It can be an amalgamation of a number of alternatives or parts of alternatives.

### **Key Aspects of Draft Proposal:**

The draft Proposal for this EIS is an amalgamation of a number of the current alternatives - these being:

- continuation of current management
- increased silviculture
- increased habitat trees
- increased conservation areas.



*Key aspects of the draft proposal include:*

1. No reduction in annual quota sawlog yield.
2. Logging is proposed for parts of the previously unlogged areas in eastern Chaelundi State Forest.
3. Excluding logging from a minimum of 6,800 ha of the 27,100 ha of the 3 Year EIS area.
4. Increased silvicultural treatment in identified areas to improve the productivity of the forest.
5. Increase the areas available for bee-keeping.
6. Maintain current level of controlled burning and military training exercises in management area.
7. Adopting a series of flora conservation areas designed to protect specific rare species or to increase the reservation status of a vegetation community. Four areas are proposed for either classification as Flora Reserve or for management as a special flora and fauna zone. These areas will also protect archaeological sites.
8. Adopting the majority of recommended prescriptions made by specialist consultants. Some examples are:
  - protection of all known populations of rare, sensitive and poorly known endangered species with restricted distributions by buffer zones of up to 200 metres.
  - conserving identified historical sites by management prescription.
  - widening of wildlife corridors.
9. Construction of 104 km of roads.
10. Grazing to be excluded from 50% of the 3 Year Area.

**Steps Taken in Evaluating a Recommendation:**

The recommendations of each specialist consultant were evaluated according to the following steps:

- understand the purpose of the recommendation
- consider the recommendation against accepted standards
- assess the current management practices against that recommended
- assess the impact on timber yields that would result if the recommendation is adopted
- calculate the likely impacts on employment that could result
- determine if there are other satisfactory ways of achieving the objective of the recommendation
- determine if there is any scope to modify the recommendation so that other environmental impacts are minimised.

## Status of Recommendations:

Table 1: Status of recommendations

Specialist Study	# of Recommendations	# Accepted	# Rejected	# Accepted in Modified Form	# to be considered in Dorrigo MA EIS
Fauna					
- Consultant	14	12	1	1	-
- Subconsultant	48	36	2	6	4
Aquatic Fauna	3	3	-	-	-
Flora	31	22	-	2	7
European Disturbance History	10	10	-	-	-
Archaeology	33	24	2	3	4
Historical	17	9	-	3	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>

The five recommendations that were either rejected outright or further information is being sought, are described below:

- *A detailed Anthropological study be conducted for the Dorrigo Management Area (Archaeological Consultant).*

This recommendation was from a report to the withdrawn EIS and report used for this EIS. It has been rejected. The most intensive archaeological survey to date in State Forests was conducted as part of this EIS. All recommendations from this new survey have been accepted. In addition a strategy has been devised by SFNSW's Archaeologist that will achieve the objectives of this recommendation. This strategy involves;

- \* Consultation with the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Councils.
- \* Training of State Forests of New South Wales personnel.
- \* A research project designed to provide information concerning contextual use of the area by Aborigines.
- *A program of research, site survey, sub-surface testing and site analysis (both inter and intra-site) is necessary before any logging activities can commence, including road and fire trail construction (Archaeological consultant).*

This recommendation was from a report to the withdrawn EIS and the report used for this EIS. Adopting this recommendation would have a significant adverse socio-economic impact on the local community (Kuskie 1994). Site analysis and sub-soil testing is being carried out.



- *Large reserves, based on topographical features such as creeks and catchments, should be designed for protection of fauna within the State Forests system (Fauna sub-consultant).*

Further information is needed before action can be taken on this recommendation. For example, "large reserve" needs to be defined. By favouring only creeks and catchments the reserve system will favour certain flora and fauna species and disadvantage others.

- *1,000 metre reserve be placed around known Masked Owl roosts and nest sites (Main Fauna Consultant).*

Consultant has been asked for further information. Recommendation to other EIS and FIS have only involved a 200 metre reserve.

- *Expansion of the Proposed Signata Flora Reserve to include all of compartments 165 and 164 (Fauna sub-consultant).*

Adopting this recommendation could have an adverse socio-economic impact on the local community (5% cut in resource availability for this project). These two compartments will be logged last. This will allow time for management area wide studies to be completed so that the need to reserve these two compartments can be addressed on a management area basis.











Forest Type Description	Gross Area (ha)	Area not to be logged	Gross area available for Logging	Minimum % Reserved
Rainforest	2907	2907	0	100%
Paperback	3	3	0	100%
Moist Blackbutt	660	49	611	7%
Dry Blackbutt	2573	99	2474	4%
Tallowwood	76	14	62	18%
Sydney Blue Gum	568	224	344	39%
Tallowwood-Sydney Blue Gum	5759	666	5093	12%
Flooded Gum	18	4	14	22%
Brush Box	1210	283	927	23%
Whitetopped Box	4	1	3	25%
Narrowleaved White Mahogany-Red Mahogany-Grey Ironbark-Grey Gum	758	233	525	31%
Grey Gum-Grey Ironbark-White Mahogany	1474	495	979	34%
Grey Gum-Stringybark	54	17	37	31%
Forest Red Gum-Grey Gum/Grey Ironbark-Roughbarked Apple	312	132	180	42%
Spotted Gum	438	49	389	11%
Spotted Gum-Ironbark/Grey Gum	4476	690	3786	15%
Grey Ironbark-Grey Box	5	2	3	40%
Forest Red Gum	166	166	0	100%
Eastern Red Gum	19	19	0	100%
Dorrigo White Gum	9	9	0	100%
Scribbly Gum	113	113	0	100%
Coastal Stringybark	379	147	232	39%
New England Peppermint	80	1	79	1%
New England Blackbutt	1546	107	1439	7%
Silvertop Stringybark	2	0	2	0%
Silvertop Stringybark-Gum	428	16	412	4%
Swamp	2	2	0	100%
Plantation	2646	104	2542	4%
Rock	54	54	0	100%
Other non commercial types and areas	371	371	0	100%
	27110	6977	20133	26%

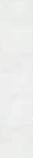
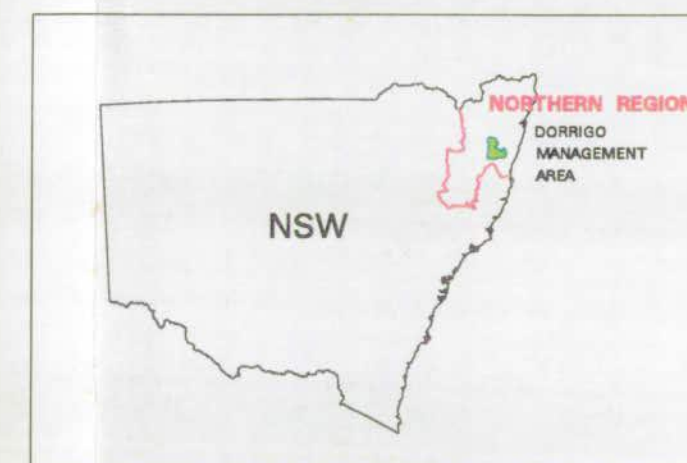
% Forest Types not to be logged



# DORRIGO (3 YEAR) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

## LOCALITY MAP

-  Environmental Impact Statement Area Boundary
-  Management Area Boundary
-  Highway, Major Road
-  Railway Line
-  Drainage
-  State Forest
-  National Park, Nature Reserve
-  Vacant Crown Land
-  Leasehold Land
-  Built-Up Area



SCALE 1 : 250000

0 1 2 3 4 5 10km



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FIGURE XX

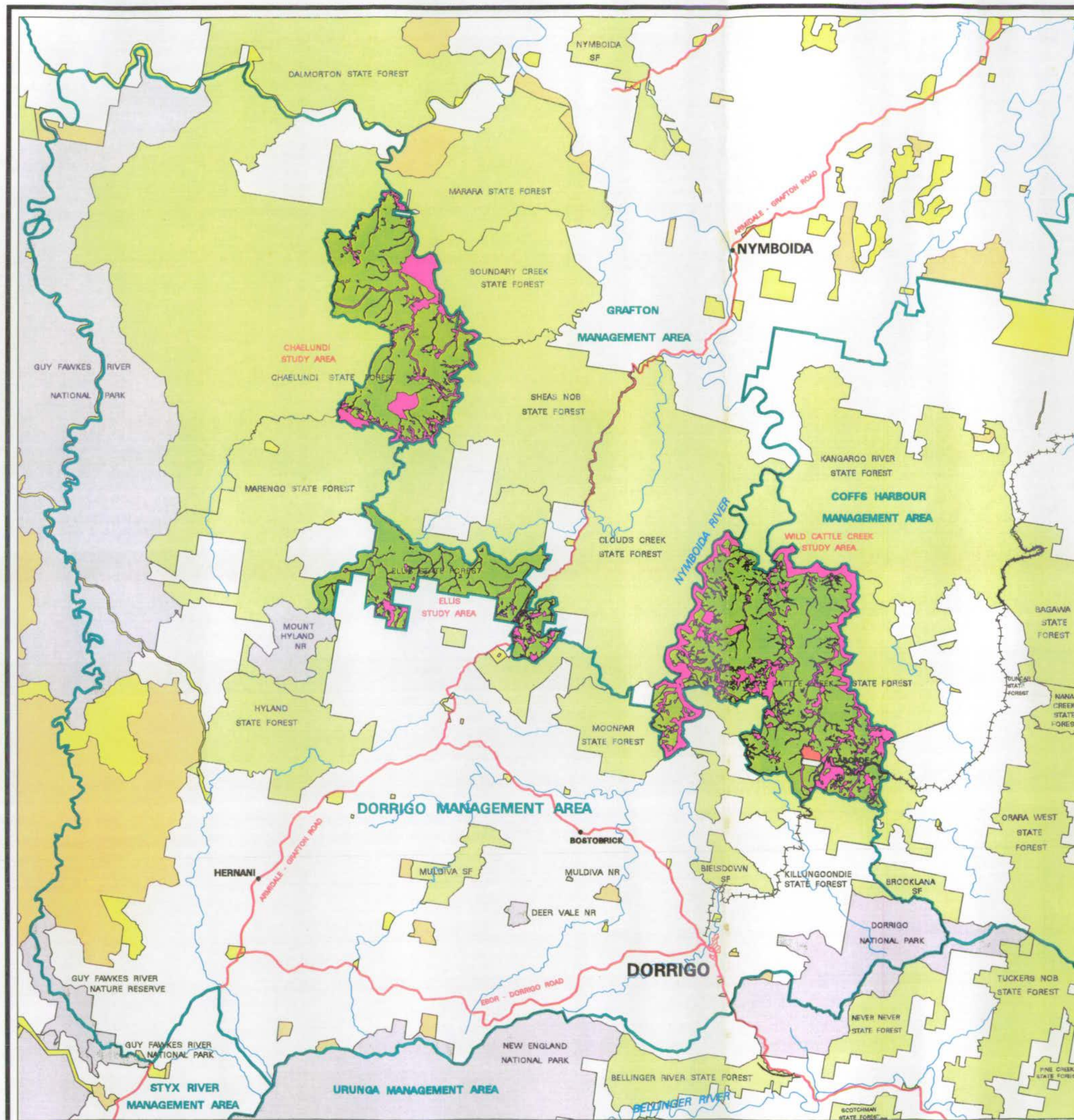
# **DORRIGO (3 YEAR) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

## **AREAS NOT TO BE LOGGED**

-  Environmental Impact Statement Area Boundary
-  Management Area Boundary
-  Highway, Major Road
-  Railway Line
-  Drainage
-  State Forest
-  National Park, Nature Reserve
-  Vacant Crown Land
-  Leasehold Land
-  Built-Up Area

## **HARVESTING**

-  Excluded, or Non-Commercial Type
-  Modified Harvesting
-  Suitable For Harvesting



SCALE 1 : 250000



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