

Protesters are ready for confrontation

By DEBBIE SCHIPP

Anti-logging protesters were lying in wait in the Whian Whian State Forest ready to fight any move to begin logging operations, a spokesman for the Whian Whian Heritage and Environment Network (WWHEN) said yesterday.

Meanwhile, logging contractors yesterday refused to move logging equipment into the Murwillumbah Management Area and Whian Whian following the announcement of the blockade.

They would not move in equipment until the NSW Government could 'guarantee their safety and the right of their employees to work unhindered by protesters', Mr Russ Ainley of the NSW Forest Products Association said.

"Our experience has been that police cannot effectively control forest confrontations," Mr Ainley said.

"Violence, disruption, harassment and sabotage have been the greens' agenda in the forests and forest workers have had enough.

"It is not worth going bankrupt while the Government supports the greens.

"Unless the Government can prevent continued disruption from

extremists, then timber industry operations will not continue."

WWHEN spokesman Stephen Duthy said the blockade followed the breakdown of negotiations with State Forests over logging at Whian Whian.

"They refused to protect endangered fauna in line with what is current best practice," Mr Duthy said.

"We will take whatever non-violent action is necessary to prevent logging.

"I have spoken with police to open lines of communication, we have people in the forests and people preparing to move in and the blockade will begin at the first sign of any work."

Mr Duthy said WWHEN would not purposely put anyone's safety at risk, but nor could it guarantee safety.

Mr Ainley said the logging operations had been approved, and all necessary licences, with regulatory conditions, obtained.

Mr Duthy said WWHEN wanted no logging to start until issues of protecting fauna habitat had been addressed, and a review of the National Parks and Wildlife Section 120 licences was completed.

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Crisis talks bring peace to forests

By CHRIS LAMBERTH

CRISIS talks held in Murwillumbah succeeded after six hours of intense negotiations yesterday — bringing peace to northern New South Wales forests.

The peace talks, called on Wednesday during protracted negotiations, will end the 10-day continuous occupation of Wollumbin and Mebbin State Forests west of Murwillumbah.

Minister for Land and Water Conservation Kim Yeadon announced at 5.30pm yesterday that a compromise had been reached with conservationists.

Under the agreement Mr Yeadon said loggers would now be able to return to work on Monday, ending the forest stand-off.

Declaring the NSW Government had held firm on its position of resource security Mr Yeadon said he would look at a range of management issues in the Murwillumbah Management Area.

"We have determined some threshold is-

sues . . . and further discussions will be on-going from there," he said.

"But the Government has just simply looked at management issues in Murwillumbah and there's been no question of a roll-back in the resource that will be available and that we require up until the end of June 1996."

In the meantime the Green representatives will put the proposition to forest protesters "that the deal is acceptable and they will withdraw," he said.

"Now we have to wait and see how that's received."

The negotiations involved separate talks with six different groups representing the local community, industry and loggers, the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union, the North East Forest Alliance, Police and Forestry.

Under the negotiated settlement State Forests will undertake pre-logging flora and fauna surveys in compartments 18 and 19 of Wollumbin SF over the next three days so logging can



● Getting down to talks - NSW Minister Kim Yeadon and Federal MP Neville Newell begin discussions with conservationists and loggers.

re-commence on Monday.

The agreement would introduce, on a trial basis, pre-logging flora and fauna surveys throughout the Murwillumbah Management Area within a period of about three months.

A Murwillumbah advisory committee would also be set up to review harvest plans and that its first job will be to review the proposed harvesting plan for Whian Whian State Forest.

The Government also agreed to apply the prescriptions for flora as outlined in the Deferred Forest Agreement document in consultation with NEFA and the current fauna prescriptions adopted by State Forests would also be adhered to.

NEFA spokesperson Dailan Pugh said conservationists had given an undertaking to try and facilitate the re-commencement of logging on Monday.

"We are assured it will be a balanced committee and not dominated by any inter-

est group," he said following yesterday's protracted negotiations.

"It's a negotiated outcome - a significant compromise on our behalf but we have seen some significant gains as well.

"Getting pre-logging flora and fauna surveys up and running is a major outcome for us - that's one thing we have been after for a long time."

Community spokesperson and Mt Burrell grazier Jim O'Brien said he would just wait and see what panned out on Monday.

"We're not presuming anything. If it pans out that these gentlemen go back to work, yes, I'd welcome anything that would enable them to work," Mr O'Brien said.

And with an undertaking to stay away from the scene of the intense forest stand-off Mr O'Brien said "that'll give the people occupying the forest the opportunity to get out as speedily as they like".



● Looking for a solution - NSW Minister Kim Yeadon and Federal MP Neville Newell at yesterday's meeting.

Sawlog output from Urbenville cut 30pc

15/12/95
N. STAR.

Sawlog quotas for the Urbenville State Forests management area will be reduced by 30 per cent between July next year and June 1997.

The move is a result of an environmental impact statement released yesterday by State Forests of NSW.

The management area covers the headwaters of the Richmond and Clarence rivers, and stretches from Kyogle to the Queensland border.

The EIS and accompanying fauna impact statement took more than three years to complete and looks at forest management in the area for the next 10 years and its impact on flora and fauna, water quality, erosion and the region's

social and economic development. Forest activities looked at in the statements include logging, fire management, grazing, road construction, recreation and beekeeping.

Urbenville district forester Paul Sharpe said the existing quota of 34,600 cubic metres of quality sawlogs from Urbenville would be maintained until July, but harvesting would occur only in regrowth forests.

Other key proposals of the EIS/FIS include:

- The creation of eight extra flora reserves.
- Introduction of the gap and cluster harvesting method.
- Maintenance of current graz-

ing levels, with grazing to be excluded from flora reserves and regeneration areas.

● Continue to allow military training exercises in the forests with the exclusion of the proposed Toonumbar National Park.

● Allow gravel extraction from quarries less than two hectares in area.

The EIS/FIS will be on public display at libraries and State Forests offices until March 1 when public submissions will close.

"The public display period gives people another chance to have input into the EIS process and have their say on any issues to do with proposed forest activities," Mr Sharpe said.

Yeadon brokers forest peace

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Mr Kim Yeadon, Minister for Land and Water Conservation, announced a compromise had been reached with conservationists. Loggers will return to work on Monday.

"The Government has simply looked at management issues in Murwillumbah and there's been no question of a roll-back in the resource that will be available and

that we require up until the end of June 1996," he said.

In the meantime conservationists' leaders would tell the protesters to withdraw, he said.

The negotiations involved the local community, industry and loggers, the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union, the North East Forest Alliance, police and Forestry.

Before logging begins State Forests will survey flora and fauna in compartments 18 and 19 at Wollumbin over the next three days so logging can resume on Monday.

The agreement will introduce on a trial basis, pre-logging flora and fauna surveys in the management area within three months.

A Murwillumbah advisory committee will also be set up to review harvest plans, beginning with Whian Whian.

NEFA spokesperson Daila Pugh said: "It is a negotiated outcome. A significant compromise on our behalf, but we have seen some significant gains as well. Getting pre-logging flora and fauna survey up and running is a major outcome for us."

N.E.F.A update

15.12.95

(2 pp.)

cc: I. Cohen's office

N.C.C.

Silence follows forest chaos

Incensed loggers conduct 'ugly terror campaign'

By CHRIS LAMBERTH

FOLLOWING a chaotic chain of events the Minister for Land and Water Conservation Kim Yeadon bought another 24 hours of relative peace to an unusually silent forest west of Murrumbidgee yesterday.

For the third day in succession the sound of chainsaws and logging machinery had been silenced by the continued occupation of Wollumbin State Forest by conservationists.

And, for the third day, also loggers and supporters gathered outside the forest demanding police clear the protesters and allow them to return to work.

Scenes were tense in both camps as Casino District Marketing Manager Col Stapley jockeyed between the groups with ministerial updates under the protection of police.

After two hours of negotiations involving the Minister's office, State Forests, police, loggers and conservationists a decision was reached, which was to end - for the day - the possibility of confrontation.

Conservationists cheered the decision by Mr Yeadon to call a top level meeting of interest groups in Murrumbidgee this morning - a deal the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) negotiated by phone, in the absence of loggers, with the Minister's senior adviser Penny Wong.

But 15 minutes later the group of 70 loggers camped alongside Tyalgum Road at the northern access point to the Wollumbin forest were stunned by the news.

Believing an earlier press release by the Minister calling on conservationists to allow timber workers to continue had ended the issue in their favour, the group was incensed by the de-



● Conservationist Steve Duthy making a point at yesterday's forest blockade. Photo: Billy Mills.



This Annexure 'JRC 45' referred to in para 24 of the affidavit of John Robert CORKILL affirmed in Lismore on 27 January 1996, before me: RMB

News

Murwillumbah

Daily News 6/12/95 p5

Showdown in Mebbin looms

By CHRIS LAMBERTH

THE battle over forest logging throughout the Murwillumbah Management Area looked more like a Mexican stand-off in the banana capital of the State's north yesterday.

In a cocktail of comment matching the Tweed's diversity, antagonists from both sides of the debate hurled abuse across the divide.

While Minister for Land and Water Conservation, Kim Yeadon, again urged conservationists not to abandon the process, the Greens' MLC Ian Cohen urged protesters to greater feats of endurance in their stand against the loggers.

The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) threatened to call on the NSW Police Force to end this week's renewed blockade of Mebbin State Forest, reiterating that greens had picked on the wrong union.

And the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) advised loggers and their supporters "not to put their heads in a noose".

Green protesters plodded into Mebbin State Forest in dribs and drabs on Monday with numbers reaching almost 50 yesterday and the NEFA is expecting well over 100 by the end of today.

NEFA spokesperson, John Corkill, said yesterday numbers were building up for today's peak while a permanent base camp had been set up at the Mebbin Forest picnic area with the facilities to cope with the influx.



● Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) Forestry arm policy officer Mark Greenhill.

"We're here for the duration," Mr Corkill declared just a day after Ian Cohen, while launching the Save the Wet Sub-Tropics campaign, urged protesters to "safeguard these crucial forests of the Mt Warning Caldera".

"We're asking for as many people as possible to come to Mebbin - we'd like to see hundreds," Mr Corkill said.

"We're not expecting trouble but we will be prepared for it. We'll have people with cameras and videos so if the loggers have got half a brain they would be well advised not to put their heads in a noose."

Meanwhile CFMEU's forestry arm policy officer, Mark Greenhill, labelled the occupation of the Mebbin forest as unacceptable, unlawful and undemocratic.

Claiming protesters were "holding workers to ransom", Mr Greenhill said the union was "not going to tolerate it".

"Our response is that we will go into the forests and confront this issue with the Greens directly," he said.

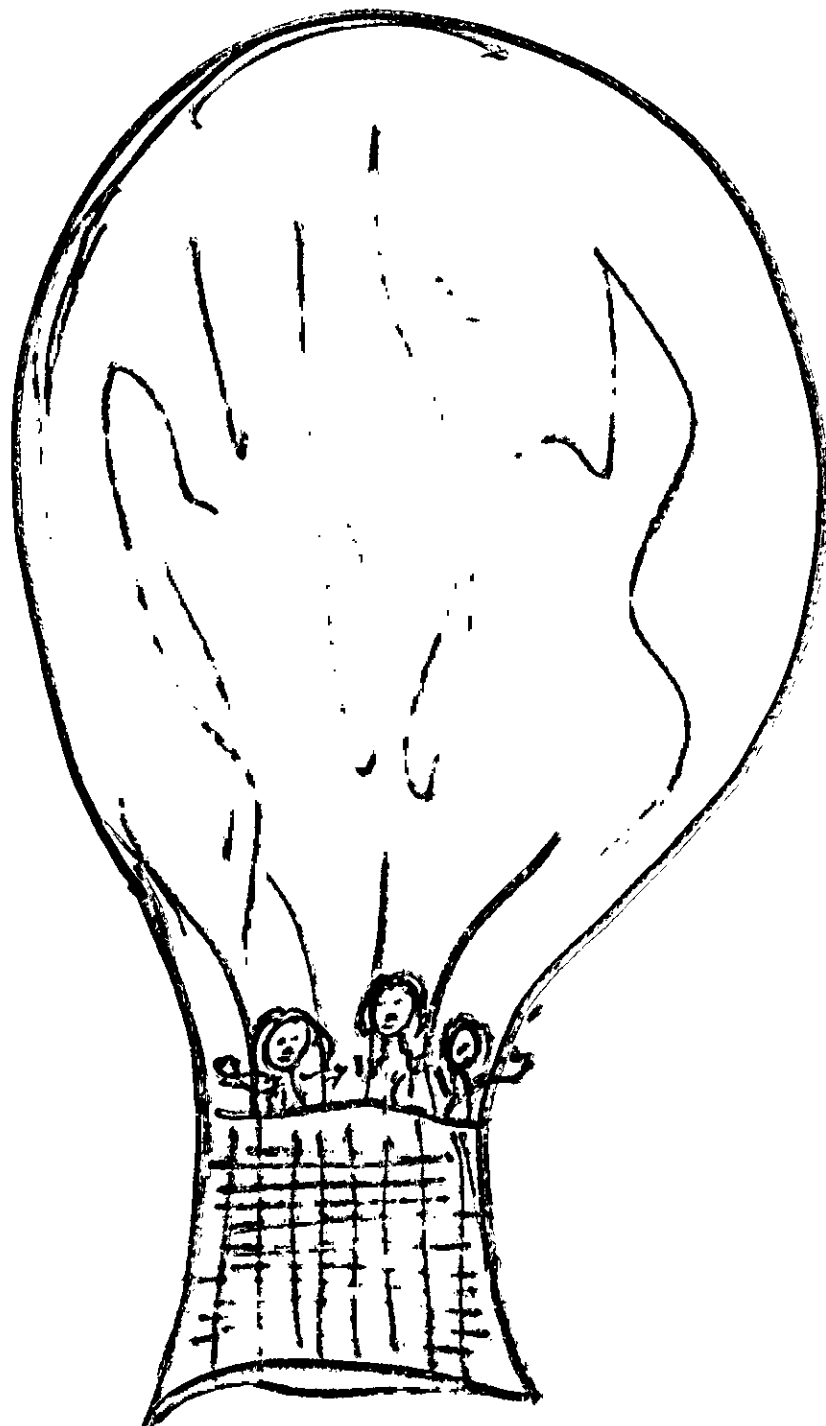
"More importantly we intend to take our story to the media and highlight the plight of innocent people whose livelihoods, whose homes and whose families are being unjustly and illegally threatened by NEFA," he said.

"We also intend to call upon the NSW police to do their job and ensure that these people and their lawful right to work is safeguarded.

"It's unacceptable, we believe unlawful, we believe it's undemocratic and we are not going to tolerate it. I don't know exactly what form confronting the Greens in the forest will take, except to say we will avoid violence at all costs."

Mr Yeadon said yesterday that 1.5 million hectares of State forests stand to be protected pending assessment following "unparalleled advances in forest conservation in NSW".

"Following the community discussion process virtually all of Nullum State Forest, more than half of Whian Whian and more than half of Mebbin State Forest are proposed for protection pending assessment.



Scientists slam policy on forests

Fauna living in 'ghettos'

BUSH clearing was forcing animals into "genetic ghettos" in which they could not develop properly, a leading biologist said yesterday.

Centre for Conservation Biology director Craig Moritz said increasing development was leaving only "small patches" of bushland for animals to live in.

The "patches" prevented interaction between animals that was vital in their evolution. Mr Moritz said at a Biodiversity Forum in Sydney.

"Imagine if you were no longer able to travel between suburbs and could only choose mates from your small local community," Mr Moritz said.

"Your local community would become inbred and, when lost, would not be restored."

"This is happening to a substantial proportion of Australia's wildlife because of fragmentation and degradation of their habitat."

Mr Moritz also said reducing animals to the "ghettos" would make them less able to deal with changes to their environment.

Several animals, including green turtles and ghost bats, are endangered because of degradation of their breeding environments.

LEADING Australian scientists condemned the Federal Government's forest policy in a rare public outburst yesterday.

At a conference in Sydney, they accused the Government of appeasing the timber industry, despite the science community's usual reluctance to criticise for fear of funding cuts.

They also attacked the national park system in NSW as being "totally inadequate".

Two members of the National Biodiversity Council warned that Canberra's determination to avoid confrontation with the logging industry would result in the loss of more native species, destruction of old growth forests and an appalling legacy of forest protection.

Professor Harry Recher, from the University of New England, and Professor Hugh Possingham, from Adelaide University, said Aust-



Prof. Harry Recher

ralia's forest reserve system would be doomed if the process of assessing forests for protection — due to be finalised on Friday — is not changed.

They said Australians should be worried about the outcome of the Federal Government's National Forest Policy Statement.

"All it is, is a political exercise to avoid a confrontation over wood-chipping," said Professor Recher, who addressed a scientific conference at University of Tech-

nology in Sydney yesterday.

The conference called Horizons of Science, which attracted some of the world's leading scientists, was convened to debate current issues on biodiversity.

"The reserve system in Australia is not very good.

"In NSW, there is very little old growth forest left. They shouldn't be allowed to touch it.

"The system is flawed and the current assessment is not the way to go."

He said the Deferred Forest Assessments system, which would identify high conservation areas to be protected from logging while more detailed examinations took place, was being abused.

Professor Recher claimed there was no biodiversity criteria being used for the assessments and more animals and plants faced extinction as a result.

Unknown animals face extinction

MILLIONS of undiscovered species are under threat of extinction in Australia simply because we do not know they exist, a new report says.

Professor Harry Recher, from the University of New England, said: "When not constrained by more conservative colleagues, I have argued that Australia has 10 million species," he said.

Prof Recher said this made estimates of 50 million species for the entire planet pale into insignificance.

Scientists have put the number of plant and animal species in Australia as low as 250,000.

By TREVOR SEYMOUR

But, says Prof Recher's report — The Horizons Of Science Forum organised by the centre for Science Communications at the University of Technology — vast numbers of unknown animals live in Australia.

"Based on the number of species we have found on just four species of eucalyptus at only two sites, even one million species is probably too conservative an estimate," Prof Recher said.

"Which considering that there are about 700 different species of

eucalyptus found in Australia, it is easy to see how the number of invertebrate species may be much greater than even we imagine."

With more than 28,000 other types of plants in Australia, estimates of up to 10 million species of animals are possible.

"By themselves, Australia's eucalypt forests are second only to the world's tropical rainforests in the number of species they support," Prof Recher said.

He said thousands of these animals could already have come extinct because of the wide-scale clearing of land.

16/11/95

MURWILLUMBEH The Daily News Thurs. 16/11/95 p.3

Tweed forest blockade stops work, confrontation tipped

By GARY CORBETT

CONSERVATIONISTS frustrated at what they describe as the mismanagement of the Tweed's State Forests, have blockaded the Mebbin, Wollumbin and Nullum State Forests.

The blockades have effectively halted all timber felling work in the three forests and threaten to spark a major confrontation between the conservationists, private tree felling contractors and the State Forest Service.

The Mebbin State Forest was the centre of the protest action yesterday, with conservationists establishing a base camp close to an area where contractors Gary Long and John Morton were felling trees for railway sleepers and posts.

Following the non-violent blockade of the forest on Tuesday the timberworkers walked off the job, however they are due back on site today to resume work.

With the conservationists vowing to halt all work, a stand-off is expected.

According to protest leaders Sue Higginson and Georgia Beger the protesters were prepared to do whatever was necessary to prevent work resuming.

Ms Higginson said the protesters intended to stay in the forest as long as was necessary to get an assurance from Land and Water Conservation Minister, Kim Yeadon, that he would improve forestry practices in the area.

"The reason we are here is to basically pull State Forests into line," she said.

"To do that, we are prepared to stay here until we get a concrete demonstration from Mr Yeadon that he intends to adopt sensible and improved forestry practices."

While not prepared to predict the outcome of the impasse, State Forests Casino District marketing forester, Col Stapley, said the



● NSW State Forest service supervisor Col McClymont with conservationists at their base camp in the Mebbin State Forest.

logging contractors had done nothing wrong to spark the protest.

He said the contractors had been working in the area for more than two years and had the full backing of the Forest Service.

"We believe they have a legitimate right to be there and would like them to continue to be there," he said.

"We certainly regard any interferences as obstruction. It is a person's right to carry on

his livelihood. They should return and continue working."

Mr Stapley said he hoped negotiations could end the blockade, however if the logging contractors were physically stopped from working, "appropriate steps would be taken".

"Obviously the protesters are sincere, however the minister (Mr Yeadon) has been briefed on the situation and he has said that logging will continue."

Blockade stand-off

By CHRIS LAMBERTH

A TENSE stand-off developed in Mebbin State Forest yesterday when 15 protesters clashed head-on with a determined group of local forest industry supporters.

During a hour of sometimes angry and abusive exchanges neither group gave ground in what turned out to be a show of force by about 80 residents and supporters from Brays Creek and Tyalgum.

Outnumbered about five to one, the small contingent of North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) protesters stood their ground demanding an end to illegal forestry practices within the Murwillumbah Management Area.

Amid accusations of "lies, unacceptable standards and incompetence", the main group of industry supporters broke from the fast-deteriorating situation to reform for discussions 50 metres away.

But blanketed in cloud and a soft drizzling rain, tensions mounted again when small groups formed throughout the Mebbin picnic area to exchange threats and innuendo.

In the end nothing was achieved according to NEFA spokesperson John Corkhill.

"It's back in the hands of the politicians again - our meeting in the forest didn't solve anything."

The call went out late on Wednesday for the local

community, many of whom gain their livelihood from the forests, to "get off their butts and get out and get wet".

According to Gary Long, a Tyalgum sleeper cutter locked out of the forest by the blockade, the community's answer was loud and clear.

"NEFA say they have the backing of the majority of the community but I dispute that - there's a lot in the community around here who don't agree," Mr Long said.

Conservationists blockaded the Mebbin and Wollumbin State Forests on Tuesday following the shut down of native forest operations in Nullum State Forest last week.

All timber felling throughout the Murwillumbah Management Area was effectively halted following the devastation of a population of a rare rainforest tree.

Two Mebbin SF timber workers voluntarily withdrew but were due back on the job yesterday morning threatening to spark a major confrontation while protesters vowed to continue their battle.

A representative from the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Engineering Union (CFMEU) was flown in from Sydney to address the gathering along with North Coast organiser Don Frater of Lismore.

Mark Greenhill from the



● In the Mebbin State Forest, shingle maker Stan Ceglinski makes a point with a conservationist in a tense stand-off yesterday.

CFMEU Policy Office in Sydney, representing Mr Long as the lone union member affected by the blockade, declared "this man is working lawfully and the community from the area is standing together saying let this man work".

"Your action is endangering the process . . . damaging the accord and this man should be left to work," Mr Greenhill said.

"This is about the Murwillumbah Management Area which is legally open to logging - let's see how long it stays closed for. We're here to protect our members. We are not going to let you shut down this area - work will continue here."

But NEFA protest leader Sue Higginson was equally determined calling for sound management practices to be adhered to throughout the management area.

Ms Higginson said protesters intended staying in the forest as long as was necessary to get an assurance from Land and Water Conservation Minister Kim Yeadon that he would improve forestry practices.

Later Gary Long, a sleeper cutter for 34 years, said he would not be returning to the forest while the blockade continued.

In an emotional appeal, Mr Long called for the community not to react with violence.



● North East Forest Alliance protest leader Sue Higginson offers information to Mt Burrell landholder and member of the Tweed Total Catchment Management Committee Jim O'Brien, while Tyalgum sleeper cutter Gary Long and Construction, Forestry, Mining and Engineering Union organiser Mark Greenhill look on.

late last month →

Stay away MP tells protesters

NEFA 'betrayed'

North coast environmental groups feel angry and betrayed about the Federal Government's decision to issue woodchipping export licences in two stages, according to North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) spokesman John Corkill.

Mr Corkill said Prime Minister Paul Keating 'must be kidding' if he expected people to believe further export woodchipping was in the national interest.

"The PM still hasn't realised that the public-interest argument of scientists and the environment movement ought to be given greater weight than the views of vested interests such as unions and woodchippers," he said.

Mr Corkill said the Federal Government would lose public support, especially among younger voters, by implementing 'profit before planet' policies.

NEFA also believed that recent Federal woodchipping decisions would force NSW Premier Bob Carr to break his pre-election promise of ending woodchip exports by the year 2000.

The Federal forests policy released last Friday appeared to be little different from the draft policy released earlier last month, according to NSW Forests.

A spokesman for NSW Forests northern region said that 696 forestry compartments would be available for harvesting over the next six months, with the same constraints as usual.

Fewer than 3000 compartments had been deferred until next June, pending environmental assessment, he said.

NSA 4/12/95 Pg 5

By
CHRIS CAMBERTH

THE NSW Minister for Land and Water Conservation Kim Yeadon sent a clear message to protesters yesterday to stay out of the forests and allow legal logging operations to continue.

Mr Yeadon was referring to the blockade of state forests last week which halted all logging operations throughout the Murwillumbah Management Area.

"We stand by that process already underway and will stand by that process," a spokesperson for the minister affirmed yesterday.

"When those DFA (Deferred Forest Area) agreements are in place we will take a really strong stance to ensure they are adhered to."

North East Forests Alliance (NEFA) "green police" blockaded Wollumbin and Mebbin State Forests last Tuesday in protest over "unacceptable standards of forestry management" throughout the Murwillumbah Management Area.

But by late last Friday NEFA changed course and called on Federal Member for Richmond Neville Newell to step in to protect endangered species known to inhabit Mebbin State Forest south-west of Murwillumbah.

NEFA spokesperson Sue Higginson claimed Wollumbin and Mebbin State Forests formed a vital corridor between the World Heritage listed Border Ranges and Mt Warning National Parks.

Ms Higginson said the parks were a haven of international significance for numerous species which were now endangered by

clearing and logging.

"The area contains eight nationally listed endangered species of flora and three species of fauna which are in danger of becoming extinct," she said.

"This includes the most endangered bird in NSW, the Coxen's Fig parrot."

A spokesperson said the minister would continue to monitor the situation closely while the DFAs were expected to be announced in the next few weeks.

"We would urge people to be constructive about this process and we certainly won't endorse extreme actions."

"There are discussions going on between the States and the Commonwealth - the various submissions put by the conservation groups and industry groups are being assessed at the moment," the spokesperson said.

Mr Yeadon last week launched investigations into alleged breaches to proper logging practices in Nullum State Forest.

"Immediately those allegations were made we moved to launch an investigation," the spokesperson said.

"While that investigation is underway we believe that people (by blockading forests) are pre-empting the outcome."

"We certainly think the investigation (involving the National Parks and Wildlife Service and NEFA in site inspections) should be allowed to run its course."

"We would not condone further disruption of the work lawfully undertaken by timber workers."

Greens warn Nth Coast Labor MPs

The
Northern
Star
(Lismore)
p-3
23/11/95

By PETER ELLEM

Federal Labor MPs Harry Woods (Page) and Neville Newell (Richmond) no longer can take green preferences for granted, according to The Greens NSW returning officer for Page, John Corkill.

Mr Corkill, a leading NSW environmentalist, said the MPs' 'weak as water' performances on Deferred Forest Areas had left members of The Greens angry, frustrated and with a sense of betrayal.

"(National candidate for Page) Ian Causley is obviously bad news for the environment, but Labor cannot lay claim to any moral high ground, particularly during its current term of office," he said.

"The Commonwealth has failed miserably to make the NSW Government protect endangered species' habitats and 32 of the most rare forest types.

"Harry Woods and Neville Newell largely owe their 1990 and 1993 electoral victories to the green vote. However, none of the major parties should assume that green preferences are 'a given'... we are considering all our options."

The Greens NSW — made up of The Summerland Greens and the

Clarence Valley Greens in Page — have opened their pre-selection process. They plan to run a strong campaign alongside the Tweed-Byron Greens, which already has pre-selected Annette Coyle as The Greens' candidate for Richmond.

Mr Corkill said The Greens NSW also was 'clearing the decks' for the next Federal election by calling on the Australian Electoral Commission to deregister Al Oshlack's Richmond-Clarence Greens.

The Greens NSW, The Summerland Greens, the Tweed-Byron Greens and the Australian Greens have written to the AEC, alleging that the Richmond-Clarence Greens does not have the required 500 individual members, is constitutionally flawed and has little or no electoral support.

Mr Oshlack said the Richmond-Clarence Greens would hold a Press conference in Lismore today and was polling its members on whether it should voluntarily deregister as an independent Federal political party.

● Do you have a comment on this issue? Ring the Star Feed Back line on 24 3266 and let us know what you think.

Stay away MP tells protesters

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"We certainly think the investigation (involving the National Parks and Wildlife Service and NEFA in site inspections) should be allowed to run its course.

"We would not condone further disruption of the work lawfully undertaken by timber workers."

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All-out war declared in forests

By Environment Reporter SIMON BENSON

THE timber unions yesterday declared war on conservationists, smashing an historic peace deal between them.

The breakdown came during the first blockades launched this week in what conservationists claim will be a renewed summer-long campaign of action in the forests.

The timber workers' union claimed yesterday it would take any action by conservationists "personally" and use force to remove protesters at any further blockades.

"They will know what the trenches are all about when we are finished with them," said Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union secretary Gavin Hillier.

"We are not copping it any more. If they want to do it, that is fine, but they have to understand we are going to do it now as well."



Gavin Hillier

The Federal Government's national forest policy statement, which it was hoped would bring an end to the bitter debate over forest conservation and logging, now looks like fueling further clashes.

The Federal Government is expected to release its final forest protection plan next week based on submissions by the States on areas deemed to be of high conservation and worthy of protection.

But the conservation lobby, convinced the

unions are driving Government policy in NSW, is not satisfied with the assessment process — a concern echoed by leading scientists — and claims the process is flawed.

"It is very disappointing," said North East Forest Alliance campaigner Dallen Pugh.

"I had hoped with this new NSW Government we could move beyond this, but conflict will be ingrained yet again, and this time we will have to deal with unions."

A national conference of conservation groups around the country has been called to devise strategies for action in protest against the Federal and State Government's process of assessing forests for protection.

It will include the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Wilderness Society, the Nature Conservation Council, the North East Forest Alliance, the South East Forest Alliance and the Total Environment Centre.

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J.R. Cartell

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Logging policy under fire

THE Federal Government's national forest policy has been branded "inadequate" by a new report, the second stinging attack in a week.

And the report, a study on the facts of logging on water quality, says the Government's current assessment of high conservation forests was "foolish" because it would set another battleground.

It follows an extraordinary attack last week by some of the country's leading scientists who accused the Government of appeasing the timber industry.

The report compiled by economists, loggers and hydrologists was released by the Australia Institute.

"The broad conclusion of this study is that existing assessment processes, including those being developed for the comprehensive regional assessments, do not adequately deal with the potential impacts of logging on water yields," the report said.

"These issues cannot be resolved through information gathering, analysis and negotiation at central levels. (It) must be resolved through detailed regional studies."

Last week two members of the National Biodiversity Council warned Canberra's determination to avoid confrontation with the logging industry would result in the loss of more native species, destruction of old growth forests and leave an appalling legacy of forest protection.

'War' threatens to break out in State forests

NEFA members on 'orange alert'

Threats of 'war' in disputed forests throughout the Murwillumbah management area could land the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) in trouble, according to a North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) spokesman.

NEFA's John Corkill said yesterday the threat by secretary of the CFMEU, Gavin Hillier, in Sydney last week could result in disciplinary action or assault charges against the union.

And as the psychological war gained momentum on the eve of the State Government's decision on Deferred Forest Assessment, three Dorrigo men were found guilty of affray after forest protesters were beaten in the streets.

Magistrate Jeff Lynden warned the three men in Bellingen Local Court yesterday that further assaults or intimidation would see them back before the court.

Mr Hillier was reported as saying the union 'would take any action by conservationists personally and use force to remove protesters at any further (forest) blockades'.

"They will know what the trenches are all about when we are finished with them," Mr Hillier reportedly said.

The statement repeated earlier threats by CFMEU (forestry arm) policy officer Mark Greenhill during a confrontation with protesters in Mebbin State Forest a week earlier.

Declaring 'war' against the conservationists, Mr Greenhill said they had picked on the wrong union.

Mr Corkill warned yesterday lawful action to remove protesters could be undertaken only by the police.

NEFA moved to 'orange alert' after rain cleared from the Tweed late last Wednesday, asking its people to stand by for further actions, including a renewed forest camp.

NEFA said protest actions throughout the Murwillumbah management area would continue and called on supporters not to succumb or be intimidated by union threats.

At the height of forest blockades two weeks ago, ugly scenes developed in Mebbin State Forest when 80 forest industry supporters confronted a small troupe of NEFA protesters.

Meanwhile, NEFA has condemned NSW Minister for Land and Water Conservation Kim Yeadon and his Deferred Forest Assessment process, claiming it had no scientific credibility and lacked published methodology.

Threat has greens on 'red' alert

Daily News

P. 1 28/11/95

Union's threats come under fire

By CHRIS LAMBERTH

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● Logging groups issue warning to Federal Government, Page 5

Attention Forest People:

Here's response to Hillier media.

X X X

NEFA

Showdown looms at world's largest ironbark

A SHOWDOWN between conservationists and the timber industry is looming in the Mebbin State Forest in northern New South Wales.

More than 100 protesters gathered at a camp west of Murwillumbah yesterday with-

in cooee of the world's largest known ironbark tree.

The timber workers' union says it will use force to remove protesters from blockades.

Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union officials have threatened to go into the

forests and confront the protesters.

Conservationists from the North East Forest Alliance moved into the camp on Sunday to stop logging in the area.

Logging contractor Gary Long said he had agreed to stop

logging this week. But he said his options for next week included to begin felling trees again at the risk of action by the protesters or move his equipment out at a cost "which no one's going to reimburse me for".

Foresters warned

By CHRIS LAMBERTH

POLICE have officially warned union members intent on ejecting protesters from Mebbin State Forest next week that their actions could lead to arrest and charges being laid.

A senior police officer issued an official warning to unionists yesterday that any action to move conservationists from the forest could lead to arrest on charges of assault.

Murwillumbah's Senior Sergeant Peter Hunt said police were monitoring the Mebbin situation but did not view the current action by conservationists as illegal.

This follows the announcement late on Wednesday that organisers from the CFMEU intend to bus timber industry workers and supporters from throughout northern New South Wales into Mebbin State Forest next Monday for a decisive showdown with conservationists.

Forestry boss Gavin Hillier said Mebbin SF was a "go" area for loggers as far as the State Government was concerned "and we will be there next Monday morning to take the appropriate action".

Mr Hillier said he intended having talks with the NSW Police Association today "to make sure they understand what we are doing".

"We'll be going down to ask them (the protesters) to leave on Monday and if

Actions 'could lead to arrest'

they don't leave we'll be having enough people there to carry them out," he warned.

But Sergeant Hunt said yesterday the action by Mebbin protesters was not a blockade.

"Vehicles can pass through the forest unhindered and the loggers are working," he said.

"What they are doing is not illegal. I was up there this morning (Thursday) and it was quiet and peaceful."

If the situation did deteriorate Sergeant Hunt said police were ready to respond but at the moment it was just "rhetoric".

However, that would change in the event State Forests closed Mebbin rendering any occupation of the forest illegal - police could then act to clear the protesters, he said.

Meanwhile a group of local residents from the Tyaigum, Brays Creek and Mt



Burrell areas with a stake in the operations of the forests have already briefed Murwillumbah police on the sort of action they would be likely to take in relation to the forest blockade.

Tweed Catchment Management Committee member and Mt Burrell grazier Jim O'Brien claimed yesterday the blockade was illegal and was not just affecting the operations of timber workers.

"Farmers depend on the forest as a source of fence posts, stockyard material, poles for houses, etc," he said yesterday.

While disturbed by the news of the union plans to bus loggers into the area next week Mr O'Brien said the local group would likely be calling on the police to clear the forest as soon as possible.

The group was also likely to seek talks with NEFA people sometime this weekend but with little hope of changing their

views.

"It's alright for big groups like the union grabbing all the Boral employees to come in and do that sort of thing," Mr O'Brien said.

"But the nastiness is created locally and the local people have to live with it.

"We will not be involved in any way in physically handling any person - we believe the cleaning out of the forests would be done by police and we wouldn't take any action in regard to that.

"That's different to what the union does but we know that the unions are fighting for credibility and membership and they've got to be seen to be an aggressive force that will stand up for their members.

"The unfortunate consequence of all this is that the union can come in and create a friction situation and walk away and the locals are left with a simmering problem."

In other developments yesterday Member for Murwillumbah Don Beck tabled a petition in Parliament containing 650 signatures bringing to the Government's attention that legitimate logging operations in Nullum, Mebbin and Wollumbin forests were being blockaded or threatened by blockades.

Mr Beck asked for the forests to remain open because of concern loggers were being held back from legally logging the forests.

Daily News

Friday
Dec 8 1995

Northern Star 9/12/95

Logging supporters to hold forest rally

A show of support for small logging operators in the Tweed caldera forests will be held on Sunday at Mebbin State Forest.

According to logger John Hall, the gathering will include representation from politicians, four-wheel-drive enthusiasts and horseback riders.

The gathering will be held on the eve of an informal summit between NEFA and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union to discuss the immediate future of the Tweed caldera forests.

NEFA has said it wants all of the forests closed to logging until detailed environmental assessment takes place.

NSW Forests is prepared to close 80 per cent of the caldera's forests under the Federal Government's Deferred Forest Agreement announced one week ago.

Mr Hall, who supplies six local mills, including those in Nimbin and Kyogle, has agreed not to cut any more timber in the Wollumbin State Forest until the dispute is resolved.

"I can understand (NEFA's) position, but it makes it hard on people like me. This is starting to hurt financially ... Forestry maintains there's nowhere else for me to go," he said.

"Eighty per cent of these forests are (temporarily) locked up. Surely we can come to some arrangement."

Mr Hall said he had worked in the bush all his life and planned to do so for the remainder of his days.

"My grandfather worked in the bush. We had 1000 acres of land on the slopes of Mt Warning," he said.

"We cut hardwood on the ridges, but were never allowed to touch the rainforest. We could only cut what

we had grown ourselves, but nothing that grew up naturally."

Mr Hall said he had red cedar in his kitchen which was milled from timber his family had grown.

"I only supply to small mills and spend 90 per cent of my time thinning regrowth. I would like to keep the (forest) argument sensible," he said.

NEFA seeks to have union de-registered

NEFA's John Corkill has responded to comments by the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union by trying to get the union de-registered.

The move follows comments made by NSW CFMEU secretary Gavin Hillier in the Sydney media late last month, in which he declared 'all-out war on conservationists' as a result of continued forests disputes.

Mr Corkill lodged his application for de-registration this week with the Industrial Relations Court.



MR CORKILL

NS Dec. 9 1995

Gold Coast
Bulletin
Wed 13/12/95

Loggers called to order

THE North East Forest Alliance has launched a bid for the cancellation of the registration of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union in the Australian Industrial Relations Court.

The alliance made a formal application to the court last week after the union declared 'all-out war on conservationists'.

Alliance co-ordinator John Corkill said the move was the latest development in the on-going dispute about forests in the Murwillumbah management area.

"These overt threats are designed to intimidate ordinary people from supporting our democratic non-violent defence of high conservation value forests," said Mr Corkill.

Violence

He said the union had not given anyone an assurance they would not use violence.

"The union has made a grave error in attempting to stand over members of the community.

"These threats have set back the union movement's environmental credentials.

"The CFMEU appears intent on burying the proud tradition of co-operation between workers and the community to protect areas of outstanding heritage value."

He said it was now a matter for the Industrial Relations Court to rule whether the union's alleged threats of violence were unlawful 'industrial action' or illegal threats made by union leaders.

Mr Corkill said he regretted making the application to the Industrial Court but he 'could not tolerate union strong-arm tactics' undermining the public's right to non-violent protest action through threats of injury.

"The forests of the wet sub-tropics, including Mebbin and Wollumbin state forests, are internationally significant and are worth defending."

'Angry' loggers set up blockade

Daily News
13/12/95
p. 5

By CHRIS LAMBERTH

A SMALL group of Tweed timber workers turned the tables in Wollumbin State Forest yesterday setting up their own blockades and isolating about 60 protesters.

Timber workers set up a vehicle blockade early yesterday morning on North Wollumbin Road a few kilometres south of the Wollumbin protest camp preventing reinforcements, food and water from reaching the group.

And at the northern end of North Wollumbin Road just off Tyalgum Road, a gate allowing access to the forest through private property was padlocked.

While the forest blockade was removed by midday alarm bells were ringing at NEFA (North East Forest Alliance) headquarters in Keen Street, Lismore.

NEFA coordinator John Corkill reported at 11 am "a group of angry loggers with sticks" had set up a vehicle blockade shouting "you've cost us our jobs".

"At this stage we're not clear whether we want to actually call for police or whether we just sit it out," Mr Corkill said.

But an hour later Mr Corkill reported the blockade on the south side of their Wollumbin camp "seemed to have been wound back... people are now gaining access".

At the same time about 40 timber workers - previously stood down from operations in Whian Whian, Nullum and Mebbin State Forests - and a handful of NEFA negotiators had gathered at the Tyalgum Road gate for discussions with State Forest personnel.

Tweed police, called to the scene to maintain the peace, ordered all forest roads to remain open to traffic while Casino District marketing foreman Col Stapley, with regional sales manager and media adviser, entered negotiations with industry workers and protesters.

Late yesterday a State Forests spokesperson said antagonists had pulled back from the brink of confrontation.

NEFA appeared satisfied its 11-point log of claims, put to assistant district forester Ray Bulley during negotiations at Monday's blockade, was moved up the line to State headquarters and the minister via the regional office.

"I really haven't got any solution I can give you over the phone," the spokesperson said late yesterday. "We're going back tomorrow for further consultation."

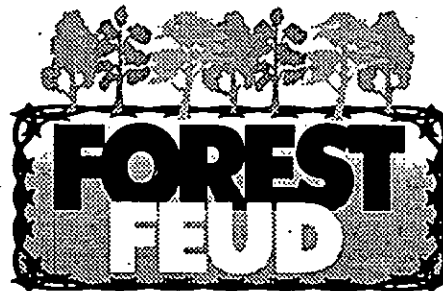
"If we can resolve this by some sort of quick consultation - we're not talking a nine months period like at Whian Whian here - there may be a solution.

"We can't afford to have industry stood down for nine months or anything like that. Something has to be resolved quickly and maybe there are some points, in this plan that can be resolved quickly."

In the meantime NEFA was directing the resolution plan through the Sydney office of The Greens MPs Ian Cohen and Richard Jones for mention in State Parliament.



● Timber workers set up a vehicle blockade yesterday preventing reinforcements, food and water from reaching the group.



"We'll be wanting a response from the Government because a promise from Col Stapley is worth nothing," Mr Corkill said.

"A number of the things we are asking for he can't promise so the matter is well and truly out of his hands... that's where the minister (Kim Yeadon) will have to get his act together."

A spokesperson for the Minister for Land and Water Conservation Kim Yeadon said late yesterday the situation was being closely monitored.

N Star Wed 13/12 1995

Forest confrontation cools

Blockade removed as peace pact is discussed

A small group of Tweed timber workers turned the tide in Wollumbin State Forest yesterday, setting up their own blockades and isolating about 60 protesters.

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While the forest blockade was removed by midday alarm bells were ringing at North East Forest Alliance headquarters in Keen Street, Lismore.

NEFA co-ordinator John Corkill reported: "At 11am a group of angry loggers with sledgehammers and vehicle blockades shouting 'you've cost us our jobs'."

"At this stage we're not clear whether we want to actually call for police or whether we just sit it out," Mr Corkill said.

But an hour later he reported the blockade on the south side of their Wollumbin camp seemed to have been wound back to "people are now gaining access."

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Editor

Write to PO Box 423, Lismore, 2480 Fax 24 4321 Email edtsar@nor.com.au

The \$2 billion a year trade deficit in forest products will only ever increase while environmentalists' demands impose job losses and destroy Australia's forest industries and rural communities.

Ignoring urban environmental degradation and acceptance of mining in the forests is clear proof that the greens campaign is politically based and has little to do with the wise conservation of our forests. The shrill cries from greens complain of the impact of forestry on koala habitat, but cannot produce any credible evidence of that impact. Meanwhile 59 koala deaths in the town of Port Macquarie in a single year passes with barely a mention. The fact is that koalas are thriving in the managed multiple-use forests.

While the media revels in the exaggerations and untruths of the greens, Australia's politicians remain deaf to the truth of forest management. Forest workers and their families demonstrate on a daily basis their commitment to the long term sustainability of their activities, the conservation of our native flora and fauna, the welfare of the rural communities and their substantial contribution to Australia's national debt. The rage and frustration of otherwise normal country folk has built to an intolerable level.

The NSW timber industry operates under the greatest burden of regulatory control of any industry in Australia or the world. More forests of Australia are reserved for no legitimate function than anywhere else in the world. Yet the extreme greens still want more and bitterly complain about the few small forests and plantations now dedicated for timber production. When will the politicians wake up! When will the rest of Australia realise that they too will become a target for the greens!

RUSS AINLEY,
Coffs Harbour

Timber future

IN reference to Natalie Falla's letter of 20/10/95 would respectfully suggest she read from the dictionary the meaning of the word 'academic' and hope that she would arrive at the conclusion that there needs to be academics and practical people for a modern society to satisfactorily function.

If working up to 70 hours a week in a

office is not tempered with practical experience, i.e. spending much time in the company of foresters, tree fellers and sniggers, the end result will be as usual, one sided and of little value.

Many timberworkers have worked 70 hours per week and more, not by choice, but by having to battle the elements of nature to stand on their feet to support their families and not be dependent on others. At the same time supplying timber requirements of society.

It is very frustrating for these hard-working sawmill workers to be thwarted by a number of people, some of whom have dubious money earning pursuits who supposedly support the native flora and fauna. My bet is that the 'locked up' forests will be infiltrated with some not so native species for the use of a select few.

Many young people to-day equip themselves for professional skills, agricultural trade pursuits etc., by firstly involving themselves with academic studies at Universities, Agricultural or TAFE colleges followed by 'hands on' learning experience. Forest management, harvesting knowledge and basic timber technology is not acquired in a day or two and needs lots of practical experience. be you mean by the term 'destroying our heritage' that trees should never be cut down? What a waste of resources!

We all agree that we need to keep as much of our flora and fauna as possible, especially koalas and rare animals. The only thing in question is how to go about it. Whether the eucalypt forests are logged or not we will eventually have bushfires.

The main and most sensible thing to do would be to minimise the ferocity and scope of these fires. Unless someone has a brilliant idea of preventing fires altogether.

This then brings us to the point of log or not to log. By not logging you will have a greater volume of fuel build-up with no means of minimising the effects. If you have fought bush fires or grass fires, and I'm sure a hell of a lot haven't, you know what I mean.

I say manage the forests on a sustainable basis, protect our fauna and flora and economy to the best of our ability for as long as possible, for who knows what the world population growth will bring. Face up to the facts.

REG HARTLEY,
Bentley

REAL COSTS.

WHEN will the State and Federal Governments realise the true cost of the environmental movement. With 1.5 million ha. of sustainably managed forest, in NSW alone, reserved in the latest round of assessments the greens' voracious appetites remain unsatisfied.

N Star wed 13/12 pg 8

LOCAL NEWS

Forest confrontation cools

Blockade removed as peace pact is discussed

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A spokesperson for the Minister for Land and Water Conservation, Kim Yeadon, said late yesterday the situation was being closely monitored.

Union backs down on threat to eject greenies by force

THE Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) backed away yesterday from its threat last week to bus timber workers into Mebbin State Forest to eject protesters.

Northern union organiser Don Frater said yesterday it was more prudent to continue negotiating behind the scenes with the New South Wales Government on timber industry restructuring than to confront greenies in the forest.

"Can you imagine what would have happened if we had bused 500 people into the forest — with 300 protesters there it would have been an unstoppable riot," Mr Frater said.

The CFMEU had been negotiating with the NSW Government since its election in March this year on industry restructuring, according to Mr Frater.

And with at least two timber mills throughout the north expected to close before Christmas and up to 10 more tipped to close within the next 12 months Mr Frater said "the union accepts restructuring must go ahead".

He said the recently announced \$120 million State and Federal Government package would be used toward retraining the workers and restructuring the industry towards value adding.

At the same time Mr Frater said there were no funds available for small forest operators like Gary Long and John Hall "because we need them for the bigger mills".

Mills at Drake, Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Armidale, Kempsey, Thora and Dorrigo (and up to four on the south coast) were tipped to close leaving only a small number of independent and larger mills operating throughout the region.

The Tweed has just one or two small mills still operating with all logs supplied from private property.

Daily News 13/12/95

GUNS FEAR IN FOREST FEUD

by SCOTT DOWNMAN

A DELEGATION of NSW Government officials is to fly to Murwillumbah this morning for crisis talks between feuding greenies and timber workers, as the threat of violence in the Wollumbin State Forest escalates.

Police reinforcements from Murwillumbah Tweed Heads and Kingscliff were called to the forest yesterday after reports some timber workers and greenies were arming themselves.

About 150 timber workers, their families and local business people joined the protests, which have seen the greenies isolated in the forest after roads to the protest site were blockaded by loggers.

The heated dispute follows three weeks of green blockades with protesters calling for pre-logging surveys to be conducted before any logging resumes in the State Forests surrounding Murwillumbah.

The greenies say rare species of trees and animals are threatened by the logging.

State Forests spokesman Col Stapley told the loggers yesterday, after a meeting with green protesters, that logging would be suspended until after today's meeting.

"We aren't selling you out," said Mr Stapley.

"But logging will be suspended until we have had these negotiations with you, the Minister and them (greenies)."

The decision came despite an earlier statement by Land Conservation Minister Kim Yeadon giving loggers the go ahead to continue their logging operations.

Mr Yeadon said conservationists in the Murwillumbah area were financially ruining the timber workers for little gain.

"Demands to halt all



TALK TIME: Forestry officer Colin Stapley addresses timber workers at Wollumbin State Forest

© Pictures: MICHAEL BATTERMAN

The green scheme

CONSERVATIONISTS protesting against logging in the Mebbin State forest want the area protected.

Their blockade is aimed at forcing the Federal Government into including all the Mebbin State Forest, between Mt Warning and the Border Ranges National Park, into a protected area.

They say the area contains rare and endangered species of trees and animals that would be threatened by any future logging operations.

logging in the entire Murwillumbah Management Area are extreme and not consistent with this government's balanced policies," he said.

"We have set up a process that will establish the world's best national park and forest reserve system and in which conservationists are involved.

"The risk of violence is growing daily and it's in no one's interests for this to continue."

Mr Stapley told the timber workers he could not guarantee the outcome of today's meeting but representatives from

all sides would be invited to air their grievances.

Loggers erupted angrily to the news, saying they would drag the greenies out themselves if the negotiations failed.

"You are forcing us to go up there and throw them out," one angry timber worker shouted.

Mr Stapley said forestry officials had considered closing the forest, which would force the green protesters out but the decision would have needed to be ratified by the Minister

• Continued on Page 2



Loggers and Tyalgum residents arrive at yesterday's forest talks

Crisis talks in logging feud

Gold Coast Bulletin 14/12/95 p.2.

● From Page 1

"We know for the protesters this fight isn't so much weighing on this forest because if they win this battle they'll just move on to the next forest," he said.

"State Forests has said small operators can stay here and work as long as it's viable, and we stand by that."

Green protesters said they supported the timber workers' protests but felt threatened after about 30 environmentalists were trapped in the forest.

North East Forest Alliance spokesman Aidan Ricketts said the group had been harassed by three 'vigilante groups' during Tuesday night.

"Environmentalists have agreed to release all felled timber and logs remaining on the ground in disputed Compartment 18 of Wollumbin State Forest in an attempt to offer an olive branch to local timber workers disadvantaged by the cur-

rent dispute," said Mr Ricketts.

"While we understand these people's concern for their jobs, this ugly campaign of terror is appalling.

"I cannot see what they are even hoping to achieve by trapping people inside a forest and conducting no less than three night-time raids on the group, other than to maintain an ugly reign of terror against their political opponents."

Greens said tempers on both sides had flared during the past two days with intervention from the Minister and Premier Bob Carr the only solution to the problem.

Senior Sergeant Peter Hunt, of Murwillumbah, said police were concentrating on keeping the peace.

"We're here to make sure everyone keeps their cool and to remind both groups action will be taken if violence erupts," he said.

15/12/95

N. STAR

LOCAL NEWS

15/12/95

Sawlog output from Urbenville cut 30pc

Sawlog quotas for the Urbenville State Forests management area will be reduced by 30 per cent between July next year and June 1997.

The move is a result of an environmental impact statement released yesterday by State Forests of NSW.

The management area covers the headwaters of the Richmond and Clarence rivers, and stretches from Kyogle to the Queensland border.

The EIS and accompanying fauna impact statement took more than three years to complete and looks at forest management in the area for the next 10 years and its impact on flora and fauna, water quality, erosion and the region's

social and economic development.

Forest activities looked at in the statements include logging, fire management, grazing, road construction, recreation and beekeeping.

Urbenville district forester Paul Sharpe said the existing quota of 34,600 cubic metres of quality sawlogs from Urbenville would be maintained until July, but harvesting would occur only in regrowth forests.

Other key proposals of the EIS/FIS include:

- The creation of eight extra flora reserves.
- Introduction of the gap and cluster harvesting method.
- Maintenance of current graz-

ing levels, with grazing to be excluded from flora reserves and regeneration areas.

● Continue to allow military training exercises in the forests, with the exclusion of the proposed Toonumbar National Park.

● Allow gravel extraction from quarries less than two hectares in area.

The EIS/FIS will be on public display at libraries and State Forests offices until March 1 when public submissions will close.

"The public display period gives people another chance to have input into the EIS process and have their say on any issues to do with proposed forest activities," Mr Sharpe said.

Yeadon brokers forest peace

Crisis talks held in Murwillumbah succeeded after six hours of intense negotiations yesterday in ending the 10-day occupation of Wollumbin and Mebbin state forests.

Mr Kim Yeadon, Minister for Land and Water Conservation, announced a compromise had been reached with conservationists. Loggers will return to work on Monday.

"The Government has simply looked at management issues in Murwillumbah and there's been no question of a roll-back in the resource that will be available and

that we require up until the end of June 1996," he said.

In the meantime conservationists' leaders would tell the protesters to withdraw, he said.

The negotiations involved the local community, industry and loggers, the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union, the North East Forest Alliance, police and Forestry.

Before logging begins State Forests will survey flora and fauna in compartments 18 and 19 at Wollumbin over the next three days so logging can resume on Monday.

The agreement will introduce, on a trial basis, pre-logging flora and fauna surveys in the management area within three months.

A Murwillumbah advisory committee will also be set up to review harvest plans, beginning with Whian Whian.

NEFA spokesperson Dailan Pugh said: "It is a negotiated outcome. A significant compromise on our behalf, but we have seen some significant gains as well. Getting pre-logging flora and fauna surveys up and running is a major outcome for us."

Crisis talks bring peace to forests

By CHRIS LAMBERTH

CRISIS talks held in Murwillumbah succeeded after six hours of intense negotiations yesterday — bringing peace to northern New South Wales forests.

The peace talks, called on Wednesday during protracted negotiations, will end the 10-day continuous occupation of Wollumbin and Mebbin State Forests west of Murwillumbah.

Minister for Land and Water Conservation Kim Yeadon announced at 5.30pm yesterday that a compromise had been reached with conservationists.

Under the agreement Mr Yeadon said loggers would now be able to return to work on Monday, ending the forest stand-off.

Declaring the NSW Government had held firm on its position of resource security Mr Yeadon said he would look at a range of management issues in the Murwillumbah Management Area.

"We have determined some threshold is-

sues . . . and further discussions will be on-going from there," he said.

"But the Government has just simply looked at management issues in Murwillumbah and there's been no question of a roll-back in the resource that will be available and that we require up until the end of June 1996."

In the meantime the Green representatives will put the proposition to forest protesters "that the deal is acceptable and they will withdraw," he said.

"Now we have to wait and see how that's received."

The negotiations involved separate talks with six different groups representing the local community, industry and loggers, the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union, the North East Forest Alliance, Police and Forestry.

Under the negotiated settlement State Forests will undertake pre-logging flora and fauna surveys in compartments 18 and 19 of Wollumbin SF over the next three days so logging can



● Getting down to talks - NSW Minister Kim Yeadon and Federal MP Neville Newell begin discussions with conservationists and loggers.

re-commence on Monday.

The agreement would introduce, on a trial basis, pre-logging flora and fauna surveys throughout the Murwillumbah Management Area within a period of about three months.

A Murwillumbah advisory committee would also be set up to review harvest plans and that its first job will be to review the proposed harvesting plan for Whian Whian State Forest.

The Government also agreed to apply the prescriptions for flora as outlined in the Deferred Forest Agreement document in consultation with NEFA and the current fauna prescriptions adopted by State Forests would also be adhered to.

NEFA spokesperson Dailan Pugh said conservationists had given an undertaking to try and facilitate the re-commencement of logging on Monday.

"We are assured it will be a balanced committee and not dominated by any inter-

est group," he said following yesterday's protracted negotiations.

"It's a negotiated outcome - a significant compromise on our behalf but we have seen some significant gains as well.

"Getting pre-logging flora and fauna surveys up and running is a major outcome for us - that's one thing we have been after for a long time."

Community spokesperson and Mt Burrell grazier Jim O'Brien said he would just wait and see what panned out on Monday.

"We're not presuming anything. If it pans out that these gentlemen go back to work, yes, I'd welcome anything that would enable them to work," Mr O'Brien said.

And with an undertaking to stay away from the scene of the intense forest stand-off Mr O'Brien said "that'll give the people occupying the forest the opportunity to get out as speedily as they like".



● Looking for a solution - NSW Minister Kim Yeadon and Federal MP Neville Newell at yesterday's meeting.

Telegraph Mirror 18/12/95 p.2

Forest union threat

AN application to deregister the timber union has been lodged with the Industrial Relations Court after alleged threats of violence against environmentalists.

Secretary of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union Gavin Hillier was the target of the application after comments about using force against protesters.

In an interview with *The Daily Telegraph Mirror* on November 23 Mr Hillier warned the unions would take blockades "personally" and use force to remove protesters.

"They will know what the trenches are all about when we are finished with them," Mr Hillier said.

The move represents increasing hostility between the two groups, which are set to go to war over the Federal Government's recent forest protection plan.

The application, under section 294(1)(c) of the Federal Industrial Relations Act 1988, has been lodged by the North East Forest Alliance whose members believe they are the intended targets of comments by Mr Hillier.

The breakdown in relations between environment groups and the union, which in March had formed an historic alliance aimed at solving the forest issue, prompted NSW Forests Minister Kim Yeadon to visit the north-east last week to try and resolve the impasse.

By Environment Reporter
SIMON BENSON

Legal advice to the NEFA said the union had "engaged in industrial action that has had, is having and is likely to continue to have a substantial adverse affect on the safety, health and welfare of the community or sections of the community".

NEFA co-ordinator John Corkhill said the "overt threats were designed to intimidate "ordinary people from supporting our democratic non-violent defence of high conservation value forests".

"The union has made a grave error in attempting to stand over members of the community," Mr Corkhill said.

"These threats have set back the union movements' environmental credentials."

After a meeting with Mr Yeadon, the greens ended blockades which were in protest at the logging of Wollumbin Forest. The minister promised to conduct flora and fauna surveys of the area, considered a high conservation area, and cease logging until they have been completed.

HI-Y-344 20-1-96

Green militant fights to ban timber union

By JOHN O'NEILL

An environmentalist whose legal action in 1991 stopped logging in the Chaelundi State Forest in northern NSW is seeking to deregister the union representing timber workers.

Mr John Corkill, a member of the North-East Forest Alliance, has asked the Industrial Relations Court to deregister nationally the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), which represents 10,000 timber workers in NSW and 150,000 nationwide.

In November, members of the alliance blockaded two State forest areas near Murrumbidgee where a timber contractor, Mr Gary Long, was legally harvesting timber for the State Rail Authority.

At the time, the State secretary of the timber division of the CFMEU, Mr Gavin Hillier, was quoted saying his members would forcibly remove the environmentalists, who had said they were "digging trenches" and planned to stay. "They will know what the trenches are all about when we're finished with them," Mr Hillier was quoted as saying in *The Daily Telegraph-Mirror*.

In December, Mr Corkill appeared before the Industrial

Gavin has to bend his stiff and arrogant neck and say: 'I was wrong. I am sorry. I will never do it again'.

Relations Court, where he claimed in an affidavit that Mr Hillier's statement constituted a threat to the "safety, health and well-being" of environmentalists and said this was grounds for cancellation of the union's registration under the Industrial Relations Act.

"Gavin has to bend his stiff and arrogant neck and say: 'I was wrong. I am sorry. I will never do it again'," Mr Corkill told the *Herald*. "If he doesn't have what it takes to be man enough to make an apology we'll continue to seek deregistration."

But Mr Hillier says his comments have been misconstrued by Mr Corkill, who, he said, he first met 10 years ago when "John had bib-and-brace overalls with flowers all over them and dirty hair. Now he dresses up in a suit and tie, and you wouldn't know it was the same guy."

Mr Hillier said Mr Corkill

effectively wanted him to "drop his pants and have me kiss his arse".

The union is arguing that the act does not apply anyway because there is no industrial dispute.

Union officials say they are surprised and alarmed at Mr Corkill's deregistration action because it paints the union as a violent, latter-day Builders Labourers' Federation and is potentially more damaging than the disputes it has had with the country's biggest companies.

Mr Corkill concedes Mr Hillier's remarks may have been hyperbolic but maintains they had the potential to incite violence.

In 1991 Mr Corkill, 36, a former primary school teacher, successfully took legal action after the then Coalition Government's Minister for Planning, Mr Robert Webster, refused an application for a conservation order on the Chaelundi Forest without seeing supporting documentation. The Land and Environment Court then ordered the minister to reconsider protecting the forest.

The Industrial Relations Court will hear the deregistration case on February 2.
SPECTRUM 1: Environmentalists and the Temple of Doom.

MEMORIES
OF
TERANIA

'It's
the
same
all
over
again'

● Story
- Page 5.



Waiting for the off: Loggers at Mebbin State Forest yesterday waiting for protestors to remove their makeshift blockade. Photos: Hugh Kearney.



● Steely resolve: After two hours of negotiations, a lone protestor, padlocked to a steel cattle grid, set herself free to allow timber workers to pick up 16 logs felled the previous week.

PEACE HOPES FADE

BY
S LAMBERTH
PETER CATON
Mebbin State Forest

Mebbin State Forest sleeper cut-ary Long summed up yesterday's futile attempt to return to the forests west of Murwillumbah claiming "it's in the hands of the police now".

the Mebbin forest over two weeks ago, Mr Long was being relocated yesterday by State Forests to the adjoining Wollumbin State Forest.

But a timber, log and human blockade across a steel cattle-grid at the entrance to the forest brought an abrupt halt to the plan.

● Continued Page 5.

This is Annexure J/RC, referred to in para _____ of the affidavit of John Robert Corkill affirmed in Lismore on _____ January 1996, before me:

Daily News 12/12/95 pa1



MEMORIES
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● Story
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● Waiting for the off. Loggers at Mebbin State Forest yesterday waiting for protestors to remove their makeshift blockade. Photos: Hugh Kearney.

PEACE HOPES FADE

By
CHRIS LAMBERTH
and **PETER CATON**
at Mebbin State Forest

MEBBIN State Forest sleeper cutter Gary Long summed up yesterday's futile attempt to return to work in forests west of Murwillumbah claiming "it's in the hands of the police now".
At the centre of a dispute in

the Mebbin forest over two weeks ago, Mr Long was being relocated yesterday by State Forests to the adjoining Wollumbin State Forest.

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● Continued Page 5.



● Steely resolve: After two hours of negotiations, a lone protester, padlocked to a steel cattle grid, set herself free to allow timber workers to pick up 16 logs felled the previous week.

This is Annexure 'JRC', referred to in para _____ of the affidavit of John Robert Corkill affirmed in Lismore on _____ January 1996, before me:

Daily News 12/12/95 p.1

Forests expected to call in police

12/12/95 NS
By CHRIS LAMBERTH and PETER CATON at
Mebbin State Forest, Murwillumbah
Mebbin State Forest sleeper cutter Gary Long
summed up yesterday's futile attempt to return to work
in forests west of Murwillumbah, saying it is in the
hands of the police now.

At the centre of a dispute in the Mebbin forest two
weeks ago, Mr Long was being re-located yesterday by
State Forests to the adjoining Wollumbin State Forest.

But a timber, log and human blockade across a steel
cattle grid at the entrance to the forest brought an
abrupt halt to the plan.

After lengthy negotiations yesterday morning
between loggers, State Forests personnel and
protesters, all hope of a peaceful solution to the logging
crisis were lost.

Late in the day it appeared certain State Forests
would close Wollumbin and Mebbin — an action which
would signal to police they could legally clear the forest
occupation.

About 200 protesters blockaded North Wollumbin
Road at the north-western edge of the forest at first
light yesterday, after setting up a second camp in the
vicinity late on Sunday afternoon.

Soon after daylight a convoy of 15 loggers in four-
wheel-drives and two timber jinkers snaked to the edge
of the forest behind an articulated log skidder.

Accompanied by three State Forest employees, heat-
ed exchanges took place over the blockade before North
East Forest Alliance (NEFA) representatives crossed
over for negotiations.

Conservationists were too pre-occupied to feel relief
at the news that threatened busloads of unionists con-
verging on Mebbin State Forest to end the occupation
would not appear.

After two hours of negotiations, a lone protester
padlocked to a steel cattle grid set herself free after
agreeing to a request for timber workers to pick up 16
logs felled the previous week.

The logs, bound for a Coffs Harbour mill, were then
loaded on to the jinkers and trucked out of the forest to
a chorus of jeers.

The operation, negotiated by State Forests's supervi-
sor of operations in the Murwillumbah Management
Area Col McClymont, took three hours to complete.

Loggers, greenies meet in forest

AS 11/12/95
An estimated 150 logging contractors and their fam-
ilies met with about 100 members of the North East For-
est Alliance (NEFA) in Mebbin State Forest yesterday.

According to a NEFA spokeswoman, the 11am meet-
ing was an opportunity for the two groups to develop
common ground on the issue of logging in the forest.

She said the meeting began well, but discussions
later became heated.

About midday a group of young people arrived with
a keg of beer, at which point police were called in.

Murwillumbah police said the meeting was disband-
ed about 1.30pm, without incident.

NEFA members and logging contractors have been
involved in a tense stand-off for more than a week at
Mebbin State Forest.

● State Forests in the Murwillumbah Management
Area are not being properly dealt with, according to the
Whian Whian Heritage and Environment Network
(WWHEN).

WWHEN spokesman Stephen Duthy has accused
NSW Land and Water Conservation Minister Kim Yead-
on of brushing Whian Whian under the rug and then
forgetting about it.

"Mr Yeadon has given this community a commit-
ment that ongoing negotiations with regard to the man-
agement of Whian Whian State Forest will take place,
and that all issues would be addressed," Mr Duthy said.

"To date, no indication has been given about when
these discussions might take place."

WWHEN claims the situation has deteriorated due
to continued chemical spraying, and the failure of con-
tractors to understand the Harvesting Plan.

News

Logger warns greens protests could hurt Mur'bah economy

● Continued from Page 1.

The protest campers who expected their ranks to swell through the week have agreed not to blockade work being done by John Hall and another logging contractor provided they only saw timber already felled.

They plan to blockade any new felling work in a protest against a Federal Government decision not to include all of Mebbin State Forest, between Mount Warning and the Border Ranges National Parks, as a protected area.

John Hall, who grew up in a sawmilling family at the base of Mount Warning is typical of the human side of the logging still done in the Tweed.

And he warns if his livelihood suffers, so will the struggling economy of

Murwillumbah along with farmers who rely on fenceposts cut from Mebbin.

Crisscrossing through the reserve and reafforested areas of Mebbin, Mr Hall readily pointed out favourite areas of forest he would "never touch" and other areas he had logged several years ago.

"This is some of my country . . . I've logged here but you can't see where I've been," he said.

Mr Hall has talked personally with groups of protesters but says he believes there is enough forest in Mebbin to satisfy the needs of both parties, an argument similar to that of State Forest which says half the forest if protected.

The protected areas include watercourses, sections of rainforest and a reserve around the world's largest ironbark tree, which has the ashes of pioneer forester, Tommy Cadell,

scattered beneath it.

Mr Hall said he and fellow contractors like Gary Long, selectively logged trees for commercial timber, poles and fenceposts.

Afterwards up to 50 licensed local people take away remnants for firewood.

And it all provides income for Murwillumbah, which suffered heavily when the Border and Nightcap Ranges were incorporated into National Parks just over 20 years ago.

"I buy fuel, tyres, machinery and spare parts and it all comes through Murwillumbah," said Mr Hall.

"I use a thousand dollars a month in diesel alone. What am I going to do if the forest is locked up?"

"I would like to see the bush run for the local area as a viable proposition".

He also points out that the work of

logging contractors keeps forestry roads open for fighting fires and for the benefit of tourists.

Meanwhile in the protester's camp in Cadell Road, named after the pioneer forester, spokesperson Georgia Beyer, said contractors would be allowed to mill what was already felled but nothing more.

She said protesters were wary their planned blockades later in the week might provoke police action to clear them from the forest.

But she said government assessment of the forest and its endangered species was deficient and called for more conservationists to join them in the forest protest.

The logging contractors are also calling for supporters with possible plans of a public meeting in the near future.

Deal averts showdown in forest

By CHRIS LAMBERTH

A VERBAL agreement between forest blockaders and Mebbin State Forest sleeper cutter Gary Long late on Tuesday afternoon averted a showdown with forestry industry supporters yesterday.

All week spokespersons from the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union and the North East Forest Alliance were talking-up the possibility of confrontation in the forests.

But yesterday that all fizzled out when the CFMEU failed to carry out a threat that it would "go into the forest and confront this issue with the greens directly".

Conservationist numbers swelled to about 100 yesterday in expectation of the confrontation following reports the CFMEU would clear the forest of protesters by the end of the week.

Protesters closed the forest on Monday disappointed with last week's Federal Government forest industry package but not in time to stop lone unionist Gary Long felling eight large tallowwood and iron bark trees for sleepers in the Mebbin forest.

In Tuesday afternoon's deal, NEFA allowed Mr Long and mate John Hall to continue to work until the timber already on the

ground had been milled and trucked out of the forest - averting the need for the CFMEU to break the blockade.

That was expected to take until Saturday but according to Mr Long the fight could be on again next week.

"I'll be finished this weekend on what's already felled but if I turn up Monday and start felling again the fight will start," he said.

"The other option is to move my equipment out of the forest somewhere else but that's going to cost around \$800 and who's going to pay for that.

"The union (CFMEU) would not be happy with that - I'm the only one in the union out here."

A heavy burden for a timber worker of 35 years who readily admits to very little formal education.

"You've pushed me into this situation. I'm not blaming you personally but there's always got to be a fall guy and this time it just happens to be me," Mr Long told NEFA protest leaders Dailan Pugh and Sue Higginson yesterday.

While it appeared any chance of a confrontation had been averted till next week NEFA spokesperson John Corkill said yesterday the blockade would continue in Mebbin.

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Gold Coast
Bulletin
Wed 13/12/95

Loggers called to order

THE North East Forest Alliance has launched a bid for the cancellation of the registration of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union in the Australian Industrial Relations Court.

The alliance made a formal application to the court last week after the union declared 'all-out war on conservationists'.

Alliance co-ordinator John Corkill said the move was the latest development in the on-going dispute about forests in the Murwillumbah management area.

"These overt threats are designed to intimidate ordinary people from supporting our democratic non-violent defence of high conservation value forests," said Mr Corkill.

Violence

He said the union had not given anyone an assurance they would not use violence.

"The union has made a grave error in attempting to stand over members of the community.

"These threats have set back the union movement's environmental credentials.

"The CFMEU appears intent on burying the proud tradition of co-operation between workers and the community to protect areas of outstanding heritage value."

He said it was now a matter for the Industrial Relations Court to rule whether the union's alleged threats of violence were unlawful 'industrial action' or illegal threats made by union leaders.

Mr Corkill said he regretted making the application to the Industrial Court but he 'could not tolerate union strong-arm tactics' undermining the public's right to non-violent protest action through threats of injury.

"The forests of the wet sub-tropics, including Mebbin and Wollumbin state forests, are internationally significant and are worth defending."

This Annexure 'JRC ___' referred to in para ___ of the affidavit of John Robert CORKILL affirmed in Lismore on ___ January 1996, before me:

Soil contamination

AN article (NS 4/12/95 Former plantation land readied for subdivision) on soil contamination gave an incorrect description of the way in which soil contamination thresholds (such as for arsenic) are determined.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) adopts levels established by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC).

These levels are based on the latest internationally accepted health and medical research and are referred to as Health Investigation Levels, calculated from tolerable weekly intake levels set by the World Health Organisation according to the amount of contaminant that can safely be consumed, taking into account the amount occurring naturally in food, water and air.

If there is potential for people to be regularly exposed to soil containing high levels of arsenic, for example, the EPA applies the Health Investigation Levels for that contaminant.

The Health Investigation Levels take into account the way in which people can be exposed to the arsenic - mainly ingestion of soil but also through the skin and by breathing in contaminated material, and are based on the people potentially most at risk - small children who are likely to eat soil sticking to their fingers.

Where soil contamination exceeds the Health Investigation Levels, remediation of the soil may be required according to the likely exposure of people to the contamination due to the type of land use at the site. If land use changes to a more sensitive type in the future further remediation could then be required.

DR IAN WOODWARD,
Regional Manager North Coast for
Director-General.

Real costs

WHEN will the State and Federal Governments realise the true cost of the environmental movement. With 1.5 million ha. of sustainably managed forest, in NSW alone, reserved in the latest round of assessments the greens' voracious appetites remain unsatisfied.

The \$2 billion a year trade deficit in forest products will only ever increase while environmentalists' demands impose job losses and destroy Australia's forest industries and rural communities.

Ignoring urban environmental degradation and acceptance of mining in the forests is clear proof that the greens campaign is politically based and has little to do with the wise conservation of our forests. The shrill cries from greens complain of the impact of forestry on koala habitat, but cannot produce any credible evidence of that impact. Meanwhile 59 koala deaths in the town of Port Macquarie in a single year passes with barely a mention. The fact is that koalas are thriving in the managed multiple-use forests.

While the media revels in the exaggerations and untruths of the greens, Australia's politicians remain deaf to the truth of forest management. Forest workers and their families demonstrate on a daily basis their commitment to the long term sustainability of their activities, the conservation of our native flora and fauna, the welfare of the rural communities and their substantial contribution to Australia's national debt. The rage and frustration of otherwise normal country folk has built to an intolerable level.

The NSW timber industry operates under the greatest burden of regulatory control of any industry in Australia or the world. More forests of Australia are reserved for no legitimate function than anywhere else in the world. Yet the extreme greens still want more and bitterly complain about the few small forests and plantations now dedicated for timber production. When will the politicians wake up! When will the rest of Australia realise that they too will become a target for the greens!

RUSS AINLEY,
Coffs Harbour

Timber future

IN reference to Natalie Falla's letter of 20/10/95 would respectfully suggest she read from the dictionary the meaning of the word 'academic' and hope that she would arrive at the conclusion that there needs to be academics and practical people for a modern society to satisfactorily function.

If working up to 70 hours a week in a

office is not tempered with practical experience, i.e. spending much time in the company of foresters, tree fellers and sniggers, the end result will be as usual, one sided and of little value.

Many timberworkers have worked 70 hours per week and more, not by choice, but by having to battle the elements of nature to stand on their feet to support their families and not be dependent on others. At the same time supplying timber requirements of society.

It is very frustrating for these hard-working sawmill workers to be thwarted by a number of people, some of whom have dubious money earning pursuits who supposedly support the native flora and fauna. My bet is that the 'locked up' forests will be infiltrated with some not so native species for the use of a select few.

Many young people to-day equip themselves for professional skills, agricultural, trade pursuits etc., by firstly involving themselves with academic studies at Universities, Agricultural or TAFE colleges followed by 'hands on' learning experience. Forest management, harvesting knowledge and basic timber technology is not acquired in a day or two and needs lots of practical experience. Do you mean by the term 'destroying our heritage' that trees should never be cut down? What a waste of resources!

We all agree that we need to keep as much of our flora and fauna as possible, especially koalas and rare animals. The only thing in question is how to go about it. Whether the eucalypt forests are logged or not we will eventually have bushfires.

The main and most sensible thing to do would be to minimise the ferocity and scope of these fires. Unless someone has a brilliant idea of preventing fires altogether.

This then brings us to the point of to log or not to log. By not logging you will have a greater volume of fuel build-up with no means of minimising the effects. If you have fought bush fires or grass fires, and I'm sure a hell of a lot haven't, you know what I mean.

I say manage the forests on a sustainable basis, protect our fauna and flora and economy to the best of our ability for as long as possible, for who knows what the world population growth will bring. Face up to the facts.

REG HARTLEY,
Bentley

ump rubbish five kilometres so long it has been provided."

esman for P&O said the id have been about nine to miles from shore when it Evans Head.

"It's disgusting, they should put it on land not in the ocean because the tides bring it in. I don't agree with any pollution, even sewage from outfalls, being dumped in the ocean, but to these companies it's out of sight, out of mind."

bringing it back to port with them."

Brian Bynon, 28, of Brisbane: "It's pretty poor, shocking really. Any stuff they take out with them should be brought back in by the ship."

ing paper, rags and glass may be dumped 3 miles offshore after being put through a grinder.

● Food waste can be dumped 12 miles offshore, or three miles offshore if it has been put through a grinder.

Kyogle district man on drugs charges

A Kyogle district man will appear in Kyogle Local Court tomorrow facing a number of drugs charges.

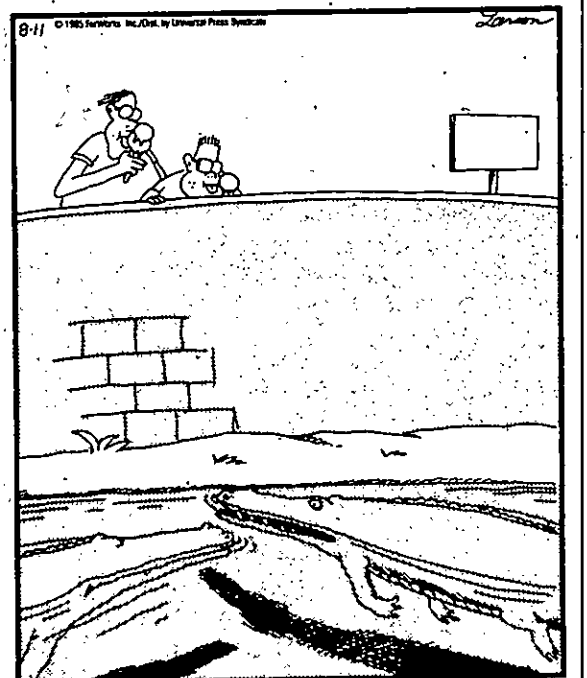
Police laid the charges earlier this week after searching a flat at Green Pigeon, where they allegedly found 15 grams of cannabis, a crossbow and two sets of handcuffs.

At a nearby address police allegedly found 32 cannabis plants, two of them 50 centimetres high, the remainder of them about two metres high.

The man was charged with cultivating cannabis, possessing cannabis, self-administering cannabis, possessing a prohibited weapon, and possessing prohibited articles.

Find the *Star* on the Internet
<http://www.nor.com.au/users/nstar>

THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON



"Great... Just great, you imbecile! I've been floating here for hours like a harmless log and you come up and start talking to me!"

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KINGSCLIFF
84 Marine Pde. Ph: 74 1598
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Daily News (Murwillumbah) p.1 Thursday 7 December 95

MY FOREST

Raping the land not on: Logger

By PETER CATON

LIFETIME resident of the Tweed Valley, John Hall, loves the forest - because he is a logger.

"It's not in my interests or any other logger's to rape the forest," he said only hours after a stand-off with anti-logging protesters who have set up camp in Mebbin State Forest west of Murwillumbah.

- Continued Page 5.
- Latest blockade news - Page 5.

- Tweed Valley logger John Hall beside the largest ironbark tree in the world, located in the Mebbin State Forest. It is trees such as this giant and the well-being of the forest which he like many conservationists, is eager to preserve.



Deal averts showdown in forest

By CHRIS LAMBERTH

A VERBAL agreement between forest blockaders and Mebbin State Forest sleeper cutter Gary Long late on Tuesday afternoon averted a showdown with forestry industry supporters yesterday.

All week spokespersons from the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union and the North East Forest Alliance were talking-up the possibility of confrontation in the forests.

But yesterday that all fizzled out when the CFMEU failed to carry out a threat that it would "go into the forest and confront this issue with the greens directly".

Conservationist numbers swelled to about 100 yesterday in expectation of the confrontation following reports the CFMEU would clear the forest of protesters by the end of the week.

Protesters closed the forest on Monday disappointed with last week's Federal Government forest industry package but not in time to stop lone unionist Gary Long felling eight large tallowwood and iron bark trees for sleepers in the Mebbin forest.

In Tuesday afternoon's deal, NEFA allowed Mr Long and mate John Hall to continue to work until the timber already on the

ground had been milled and trucked out of the forest - averting the need for the CFMEU to break the blockade.

That was expected to take until Saturday but according to Mr Long the fight could be on again next week.

"I'll be finished this weekend on what's already felled but if I turn up Monday and start felling again the fight will start," he said.

"The other option is to move my equipment out of the forest somewhere else but that's going to cost around \$800 and who's going to pay for that.

"The union (CFMEU) would not be happy with that - I'm the only one in the union out here."

A heavy burden for a timber worker of 35 years who readily admits to very little formal education.

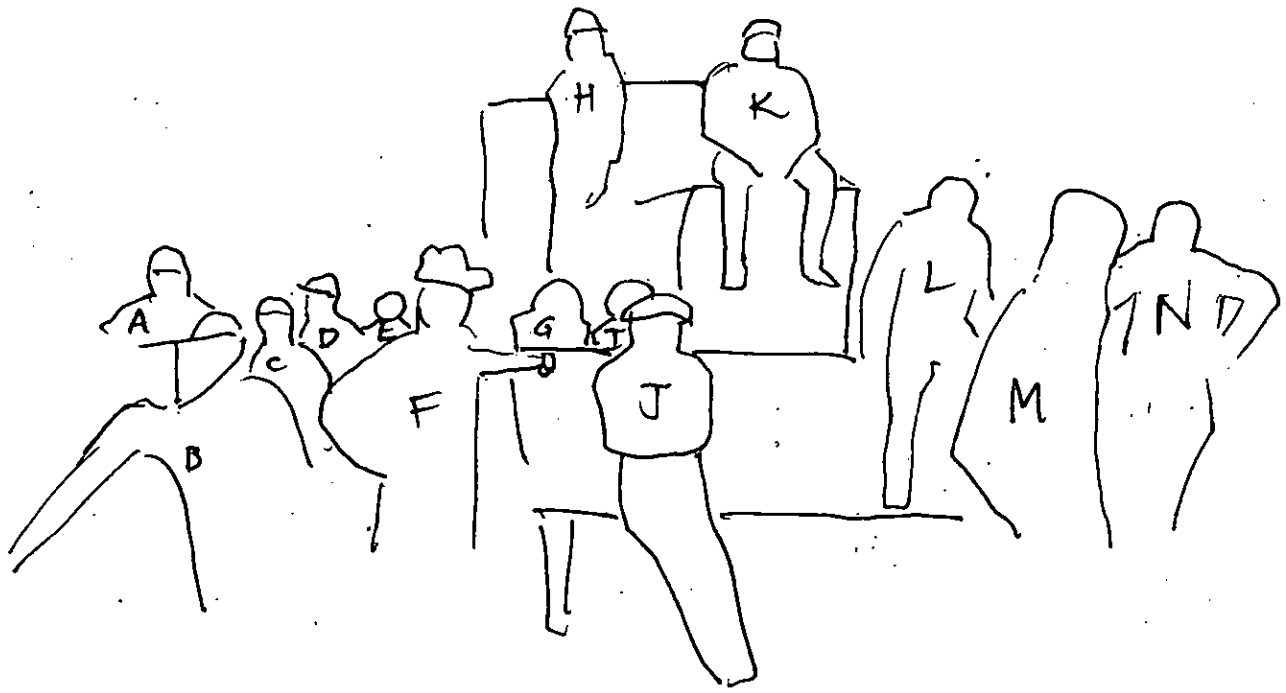
"You've pushed me into this situation. I'm not blaming you personally but there's always got to be a fall guy and this time it just happens to be me," Mr Long told NEFA protest leaders Dailan Pugh and Sue Higginson yesterday.

While it appeared any chance of a confrontation had been averted till next week NEFA spokesperson John Corkill said yesterday the blockade would continue in Mebbin.



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 Section strips
 Special emphasis
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(WOLUMBIN POLE CUTTER: CANTRECALL?)

JOHN HALL
JOHN MORTON

BARRY MUDGE (STATE FORESTS)
COL MCCLYMONT (STATE FORESTS)





● Sergeant Peter Hunt of Murwillumbah - could not move to clear the forest unless legally empowered to do so.

Calls to "Shift them (conservationists) out" could be heard above the cries of disapproval but as far as State Forests and the police were concerned, the forest crisis was averted for another day.

Loggers were clearly expecting a solution yesterday morning and indicated they were prepared to push the issue by again blockading conservationists inside Wollumbin.

Bolstered by calls from Member for Murwillumbah Don Beck for the Minister for Police, Paul Whelan to act, by an official State Forests notification of suspension of logging operations and by Mr Yeadon's declaration that the Government would not allow its policies to be derailed - they were ready to act.

The police were also called to the scene expecting the Minister to announce at 10 am closure of the forest - but Mr Yeadon declined to create the legal imperative for the police to act to clear the forest.

Sergeant Peter Hunt of Murwillumbah, in charge of the police's forest operation, at one stage sought legal clarification of the situation claiming advice from State Forests and police legal advisers was in conflict.

Referring to the situation as a "Mexican stand-off" Sergeant Hunt said he could not move to clear the forest unless legally empowered to do so.

NEFA coordinator John Corkill said yesterday morning a group of about 30 environmentalists were being held "in a state of siege" by

angry timber industry supporters.

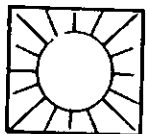
Mr Corkill said despite attempts by police on Tuesday to broker an arrangement between both sides to keep the forest open and avoid violence, harassment of the isolated group continued throughout Tuesday night.

"Whilst we understand these people's concern for their jobs this ugly campaign of terror is appalling," he said.

"I cannot see what they are even hoping to achieve by trapping people inside a forest and conducting no less than three night time raids on the group."

NS 14/12/95

● Loggers late yesterday were continuing to man two camps set up on Tuesday isolating conservationists at their North Wollumbin Road site - allowing protestors to leave but refusing reinforcements passage.



FREE INSIDE

TV

WHAT'S ON

GUIDE

GUNS FEAR IN FOREST FEUD

Eight corrupt cops sacked

by SCOTT DOWNMAN

A DELEGATION of NSW Government officials is to fly to Murwillumbah this morning for crisis talks between feuding greenies and timber workers, as the threat of violence in the Wollumbin State Forest escalates.

Police reinforcements from Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads and Kingscliff were called to the forest yesterday after reports some timber workers and greenies were arming themselves.

About 150 timber workers, their families and local business people joined the protests, which have seen the greenies isolated in the forest after roads to the protest site were blocked by loggers.

The heated dispute follows three weeks of green blockades with protesters calling for pre-logging surveys to be conducted before any logging resumes in the State Forests surrounding Murwillumbah.

The greenies say rare species of trees and animals are threatened by the logging.

State Forests spokesman Col Stapley told the loggers yesterday, after a meeting with green protesters, that logging would be suspended until after today's meeting.

"We aren't selling you out," said Mr Stapley.

"But logging will be suspended until we have had these negotiations with you, the Minister and them (greenies)."

The decision came despite an earlier statement by Land Conservation Minister Kim Yeadon giving loggers the go-ahead to continue their logging operations.

Mr Yeadon said conservationists in the Murwillumbah area were financially ruining the timber workers for little gain.

"Demands to halt all



TALK TIME: Forestry officer Colin Stapley addresses timber workers at Wollumbin State Forest

© Pictures: MICHAEL BATTERMAN

The green scheme

CONSERVATIONISTS protesting against logging in the Meebin State Forest want the area protected.

Their blockade is aimed at forcing the Federal Government into including all the Meebin State Forest, between Mt Warning and the Border Ranges National Park, into a protected area.

They say the area contains rare and endangered species of trees and animals that would be threatened by any future logging operations.

logging in the entire Murwillumbah Management Area are extreme and not consistent with this government's balanced policies," he said.

"We have set up a process that will establish the world's best national park and forest reserve system and in which conservationists are involved.

"The risk of violence is growing daily and it's in no one's interests for this to continue."

Mr Stapley told the timber workers he could not guarantee the outcome of today's meeting but representatives from

all sides would be invited to air their grievances.

Loggers erupted angrily to the news, saying they would drag the greenies out themselves if the negotiations failed.

"You are forcing us to go up there and throw them out," one angry timber worker shouted.

Mr Stapley said forestry officials had considered closing the forest, which would force the green protesters out but the decision would have needed to be ratified by the Minister.

● Continued on Page 2



Loggers and Tyalgum residents arrive at yesterday's forest talks

SYDNEY: The Wood Royal Commission yesterday toppled its most senior police officer so far when it was announced in the NSW Parliament that Chief Superintendent Robert Lysaught would be dismissed from the police service.

Police Minister Paul Whelan said the Police Board had recommended that Supt Lysaught be sacked 'for misbehaviour' as a result of evidence he had given to the commission.

It was also announced in Parliament that seven other police officers who were the subject of damning Wood Royal Commission evidence had been dismissed yesterday under new laws passed in Parliament last night.

Police Commissioner Tony Lauer used the new powers to dismiss officers including Detective Sergeant Wayne James Eade, the subject of damning video evidence this week showing him ordering a child porn video and pocketing drugs.

Detective Inspector Graham James Fowler, the first officer caught on the commission's sophisticated surveillance equipment apparently accepting bribes, was also dismissed along with five other officers.

Under the Police Service Amendment Bill passed by Parliament's Upper House on Tuesday night, Commissioner Lauer now has the power to dismiss officers on the recommendation of Justice James Wood.

Chief Supt Lysaught was the subject of a wave of adverse evidence in the Wood Royal Commission in September.

When the evidence surfaced, Chief Supt Lysaught was chief of staff to Mr Lauer and a former head of the Fraud Enforcement Agency.

Mr Whelan said the board had based its decision on evidence given by Chief Supt Lysaught to the royal commission on September 14 and 18 this year.

Other officers summarily dismissed yesterday on the basis of evidence against them in the Wood Royal Commission were Detective Senior Constable Duncan Grant Demol, Senior Sergeant Trevor David Haken, Sergeant Neville John Scullion, Detective Sergeant John Gordon Swan and Senior Sergeant Dennis Kimble Thompson.

Crisis talks in logging feud

Gold Coast Bulletin 14/12/95 p.2.

● From Page 1

"We know for the protesters this fight isn't so much weighing on this forest because if they win this battle they'll just move on to the next forest," he said.

"State Forests has said small operators can stay here and work as long as it's viable, and we stand by that."

Green protesters said they supported the timber workers' protests but felt threatened after about 30 environmentalists were trapped in the forest.

North East Forest Alliance spokesman Aidan Ricketts said the group had been harassed by three 'vigilante groups' during Tuesday night.

"Environmentalists have agreed to release all felled timber and logs remaining on the ground in disputed Compartment 18 of Wollumbin State Forest in an attempt to offer an olive branch to local timber workers disadvantaged by the cur-

rent dispute," said Mr Ricketts.

"While we understand these people's concern for their jobs, this ugly campaign of terror is appalling.

"I cannot see what they are even hoping to achieve by trapping people inside a forest and conducting no less than three night-time raids on the group, other than to maintain an ugly reign of terror against their political opponents."

Greens said tempers on both sides had flared during the past two days with intervention from the Minister and Premier Bob Carr the only solution to the problem.

Senior Sergeant Peter Hunt, of Murwillumbah, said police were concentrating on keeping the peace.

"We're here to make sure everyone keeps their cool and to remind both groups action will be taken if violence erupts," he said.

MURWILLUMBAH M-A
(Meldoni + Wollumbin SF's - 1995)
Media Stories in order

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North coast environmental groups feel angry and betrayed about the Federal Government's decision to issue woodchipping export licences in two stages, according to North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) spokesman John Corkill.

Mr Corkill said Prime Minister Paul Keating 'must be kidding' if he expected people to believe further export woodchipping was in the national interest.

"The PM still hasn't realised that the public-interest argument of scientists and the environment movement ought to be given greater weight than the views of vested interests such as unions and woodchippers," he said.

Mr Corkill said the Federal Government would lose public support, especially among younger voters, by implementing 'profit before planet' policies.

NEFA also believed that recent Federal woodchipping decisions would force NSW Premier Bob Carr to break his pre-election promise of ending woodchip exports by the year 2000.

The Federal forests policy released last Friday appeared to be little different from the draft policy released earlier last month, according to NSW Forests.

A spokesman for NSW Forests northern region said that 696 forestry compartments would be available for harvesting over the next six months, with the same constraints as usual.

Fewer than 3000 compartments had been deferred until next June, pending environmental assessment, he said.

NStar 4/12/95 Pg 5

North Star 4/12/95 Pg 3

Byron councillors move to stall forest decisions

Byron Shire Council efforts to stop logging in parts of Nullum State Forest, west of Mullumbimby, have been stalled by a rescission motion lodged by three pro-development councillors.

A majority of councillors supported a 'motion of urgency' moved last week by Cr Richard Staples for urgent representations to be made to Environment Minister Pam Allan, Greens MLC Ian Cohen and Democrats MLC Richard Jones for enlarging the proposed Mt Jerusalem National Park to include 11 compartments of Nullum State Forest.

These 11 compartments include number 61, which was the site of recent protests by environmental groups concerned about logging in high-conservation value and kpala habitat areas.

However, a rescission motion signed by Cr Ross Tucker, Cr Eric Singh and Cr Bob Higgins means the matter will now

go to the next council meeting on December 15.

A State Government Bill to declare new national parks — including Mt Jerusalem National Park — is due to be debated in State Parliament this week.

The same three councillors also lodged a rescission motion delaying another resolution on a related matter.

Cr Hugh Ermacora had successfully moved for the council to adopt the role of 'honest broker' to bring together local stakeholder groups within the forestry industry, and to facilitate development of a local management plan acceptable to all parties, for submission to Land and Water Conservation Minister Kim Yeadon by the end of this year.

Cr Staples said some councillors were now considering calling a special meeting to debate the rescission motions, so the council could still act.

Stay away MP tells protesters

By CHRIS CAMBERTH

THE NSW Minister for Land and Water Conservation Kim Yeadon sent a clear message to protesters yesterday to stay out of the forests and allow legal logging operations to continue.

Mr Yeadon was referring to the blockade of state forests last week which halted all logging operations throughout the Murwillumbah Management Area.

"We stand by that process already underway and will stand by that process," a spokesperson for the minister affirmed yesterday.

"When those DFA (Deferred Forest Area) agreements are in place we will take a really strong stance to ensure they are adhered to."

North East Forests Alliance (NEFA) "green police" blockaded Wollumbin and Mebbin State Forests last Tuesday in protest over "unacceptable standards of forestry management" throughout the Murwillumbah Management Area.

But by late last Friday NEFA changed course and called on Federal Member for Richmond Neville Newell to step in to protect endangered species known to inhabit Mebbin State Forest south-west of Murwillumbah.

NEFA spokesperson Sue Higginson claimed Wollumbin and Mebbin State Forests formed a vital corridor between the World Heritage listed Border Ranges and Mt Warning National Parks.

Ms Higginson said the parks were a haven of international significance for numerous species which were now endangered by

clearing and logging.

"The area contains eight nationally listed endangered species of flora and three species of fauna which are in danger of becoming extinct," she said.

"This includes the most endangered bird in NSW, the Coxen's Fig parrot."

A spokesperson said the minister would continue to monitor the situation closely while the DFAs were expected to be announced in the next few weeks.

"We would urge people to be constructive about this process and we certainly won't endorse extreme actions."

"There are discussions going on between the States and the Commonwealth - the various submissions put by the conservation groups and industry groups are being assessed at the moment," the spokesperson said.

Mr Yeadon last week launched investigations into alleged breaches to proper logging practices in Nullum State Forest.

"Immediately those allegations were made we moved to launch an investigation," the spokesperson said.

"While that investigation is underway we believe that people (by blockading forests) are pre-empting the outcome."

"We certainly think the investigation (involving the National Parks and Wildlife Service and NEFA in site inspections) should be allowed to run its course."

"We would not condone further disruption of the work lawfully undertaken by timber workers."

'It's
the
same
all
over
again'

● Story
- Page 5.



● Waiting for the off: Loggers at Mebbin State Forest yesterday waiting for protestors to remove their makeshift blockade. Photo: Hugh Kearney.

PEACE HOPES FADE

By
CHRIS LAMBERTH
and PETER CATON
at Mebbin State Forest

MEBBIN State Forest sleeper cutter Gary Long summed up yesterday's futile attempt to return to work in forests west of Murwillumbah claiming "it's in the hands of the police now".

At the centre of a dispute in

the Mebbin forest over two weeks ago, Mr Long was being relocated yesterday by State Foresters to the adjoining Wollumbin State Forest.

But a timber, log and human blockade across a steel cattle-grid at the entrance to the forest brought an abrupt halt to the plan.

● Continued Page 5.



● Steely resolve: After two hours of negotiations, a lone protester, padlocked to a steel cattle grid, set herself free to allow timber workers to pick up 16 logs felled the previous week.

Daily News Tues 12/12/95 page 1

LOCAL NEWS

'War' threatens to break out in State forests

NEFA members on 'orange alert'

Threats of 'war' in disputed forests throughout the Murwillumbah management area could land the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) in trouble, according to a North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) spokesman.

NEFA's John Corkill said yesterday the threat by secretary of the CFMEU, Gavin Hillier, in Sydney last week could result in disciplinary action or assault charges against the union.

And as the psychological war gained momentum on the eve of the State Government's decision on Deferred Forest Assessment, three Dorrigo men were found guilty of affray after forest protesters were beaten in the streets.

Magistrate Jeff Lynden warned the three men in Bellingen Local Court yesterday that further assaults or intimidation would see them back before the court.

Mr Hillier was reported as saying the union 'would take any action by conservationists personally and use force to remove protesters at any further (forest) blockades'.

"They will know what the trenches are all about when we are finished with them," Mr Hillier reportedly said.

The statement repeated earlier threats by CFMEU (forestry arm) policy officer Mark Greenhill during a confrontation with protesters in Mebbin State Forest a week earlier.

Declaring 'war' against the conservationists, Mr Greenhill said they had picked on the wrong union.

Mr Corkill warned yesterday lawful action to remove protesters could be undertaken only by the police.

NEFA moved to 'orange alert' after rain cleared from the Tweed late last Wednesday asking its people to stand by for further actions, including a renewed forest camp.

NEFA said protest actions throughout the Murwillumbah management area would continue and called on supporters not to succumb or be intimidated by union threats.

At the height of forest blockades two weeks ago, ugly scenes developed in Mebbin State Forest when 80 forest industry supporters confronted a small troupe of NEFA protesters.

Meanwhile, NEFA has condemned NSW Minister for Land and Water Conservation Kim Yeadon and his Deferred Forest Assessment process, claiming it had no scientific credibility and lacked published methodology.



Top award for Year 12 student

An outstanding student of Alstonville School, Andrew Rose (above), has been awarded a prestigious Minister's Award for Excellent Student Achievement.

Andrew is the eldest of seven children of Graham and Wendy Rose, of McLeans Ridge.

He will fly to Sydney with his parents for the award at the Powerhouse Museum on Wednesday.

Students throughout the State were nominated for the award on the basis of excellence in sporting and cultural achievements, leadership and contribution to the school community.

Andrew's Year 12 adviser, Lorra, described his contribution to the school as 'outstanding'. He had been dux of his class each year, particularly excelled in mathematics, sports and music.

He was one of 140 students from Australia this year to be invited to the Australian Mathematical Olympiad competition, where he was placed in the top 30, winning a silver medal.

Andrew is a school vice-captain and has won the Alstonville Lions Youth of the Year award.

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BETTER BUYING
BETTER PRICES

'War' threatens to break out in State forests

NS 28/10/95 P.2

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Loggers called to order

THE North East Forest Alliance has launched a bid for the cancellation of the registration of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union in the Australian Industrial Relations Court.

The alliance made a formal application to the court last week after the union declared 'all-out war on conservationists'.

Alliance co-ordinator John Corkill said the move was the latest development in the on-going dispute about forests in the Murwillumbah management area.

"These overt threats are designed to intimidate ordinary people from supporting our democratic, non-violent defence of high conservation value forests," said Mr Corkill.

Violence

He said the union had not given anyone an assurance they would not use violence.

"The union has made a grave error in attempting to stand over members of the community.

"These threats have set back the union movement's environmental credentials.

"The CFMEU appears intent on burying the proud tradition of co-operation between workers and the community to protect areas of outstanding heritage value."

He said it was now a matter for the Industrial Relations Court to rule whether the union's alleged threats of violence were unlawful 'industrial action' or illegal threats made by union leaders.

Mr Corkill said he regretted making the application to the Industrial Court but he 'could not tolerate union strong-arm tactics' undermining the public's right to non-violent protest action through threats of injury.

"The forests of the wet sub-tropics, including Mebbin and Wollumbin state forests, are internationally significant and are worth defending."

Labor's forest plan 'risks rare species'

by SCOTT DOWNMAN

THE Greens' federal candidate for Richmond has slammed sitting member Neville Newell following the results of the deferred forest assessment process affecting the region's forests.

Annette Coyle said the forests in the Murwillumbah management area faced losing endangered species as a direct result of the assessment, which had failed to protect sections of the Wollumbin, Mebbin, Mooball and Nullum state forests.

She said Mr Newell had failed to act in the best interests of the area.

"The Labor Party did not honour its promise to apply the Commonwealth reserve selection criteria, which included endangered species habitat, and as a result many of exquisite forests in Richmond will be chopped," said Ms Coyle.

Ineffectual

"Mr Newell either made no representations or was ineffectual because nothing has changed in the Murwillumbah management area."

She said as a result of the assessment, no endangered species in Richmond were protected despite their important conservation values.

Ms Coyle pledged the Greens allegiance with



NEWELL: Preservation of rare species paramount

other environmental groups to ensure the forests of the Murwillumbah management area remained untouched in the lead-up to the next federal election.

"It is clear that the protection of the bio-diversity of these magnificent forests is too important to leave in the hands of backward thinking Labor or coalition parties."

Mr Newell has branded Ms Coyle's outburst as 'rubbish'.

He said the Federal Labor Government was the only government that had been able to deliver a balanced solution to the issue.

"The DFA represents the most significant national step forward in for-

est conservation since the signing of the National Forest Policy statement in December 1992," said Mr Newell.

"The DFAs contained those forest areas needed for our world-class forest reserve system and were selected on the basis of the Commonwealth's reserve criteria, which was lauded by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature."

He said the preservation of endangered species had been paramount during the formation of the assessment process.

Mr Newell said outside the assessment process endangered species would be protected by management prescriptions and recovery plans.

NStar Tues 12/12/95

LOCAL NEWS

Forests expected to call in police

By CHRIS LAMBERTH and PETER CATON at

Mebbin State Forest, Murwillumbah

Mebbin State Forest sleeper cutter Gary Long summed up yesterday's futile attempt to return to work in forests west of Murwillumbah, saying it is in the hands of the police now.

At the centre of a dispute in the Mebbin forest two weeks ago, Mr Long was being re-located yesterday by State Forests to the adjoining Wollumbin State Forest.

But a timber, log and humah blockade across a steel cattle grid at the entrance to the forest brought an abrupt halt to the plan.

After lengthy negotiations yesterday morning between loggers, State Forests personnel and protesters, all hope of a peaceful solution to the logging crisis were lost.

Late in the day it appeared certain State Forests would close Wollumbin and Mebbin — an action which would signal to police they could legally clear the forest occupation.

About 200 protesters blockaded North Wollumbin Road at the north-western edge of the forest at first light yesterday, after setting up a second camp in the vicinity late on Sunday afternoon.

Soon after daylight a convoy of 15 loggers in four-wheel-drives and two timber jinkers snaked to the edge of the forest behind an articulated log skidder.

Accompanied by three State Forest employees, heated exchanges took place over the blockade before North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) representatives crossed over for negotiations.

Conservationists were too pre-occupied to feel relief at the news that threatened busloads of unionists converging on Mebbin State Forest to end the occupation would not appear.

After two hours of negotiations, a lone protester padlocked to a steel cattle grid set herself free after agreeing to a request for timber workers to pick up 16 logs felled the previous week.

The logs, bound for a Coffis Harbour mill, were then loaded on to the jinkers and trucked out of the forest to a chorus of jeers.

The operation, negotiated by State Forests's supervisor of operations in the Murwillumbah Management Area Col McClymont, took three hours to complete.

Memories of Terania

YESTERDAY'S blockade and protest in Wollumbin State Forest was nothing new for conservationist De Grebner from Lismore and sawmiller Graham Smith of Nimbin. Both had seen it all before . . . 16 years ago in the rainforest of Terania Creek about 16 km due south.

That blockade which lasted a month was followed by similar protests in surrounding rainforests and led to the declaration of huge protected area in the Nightcap and Border Ranges National Parks.

Yesterday the scene was the same . . . logging trucks waiting on forest tracks with timber workers and protesters staring each other down.

But there was one big difference. At Terania Creek dozens of police entered the fray and removed protesters.

Yesterday in Wollumbin not a policeman was to be seen — although that may change if, as expected, State Forests moves to declare the forest closed to everyone.

Back in September 1979 police were called to Terania Creek to escort logging trucks. Later confrontation prompted the NSW Government, under Premier Neville Wran, to suspend logging operations.

At the time the Daily News reported one police sergeant as saying: "We were concerned that a vocal, predominantly unproductive minority group, most of whom appear to rely on social security payments, should frustrate the rights of a productive majority to earn a living".

Yesterday loggers complained their taxes were paying the way for protesters who wanted to destroy their jobs.

The protesters responded with claims they were more concerned for the future.



Ms Grebner said other veterans of the Terania blockade were present at yesterday's event, occasionally swapping tales.

And some, whom she remembered as children at Terania, were now adults bringing their own children to the protest.

"It's much the same sort of atmosphere," she said.

"Nobody really wants aggression. People want to find the middle ground.

"But Terania lasted a full month and there were heaps of chances for people to talk.

"At the end there was supposed to be a soccer match with the police.

"There were compromises at that time too.

"We let them take out trees already cut down."

But Graham Smith who runs the Nimbin Sawmill believes the conservationists are not interested in real compromises.

He said an Environmental Impact Study had been done on the Terania Creek logging area but protesters then did not agree with the decision.

"It's the same all over again," he said.

"And it will keep going until they get the decision they want.

"They have nothing to do and all day to do it".



● (Left) For protester De Grebner yesterday's blockade had "much the same sort of atmosphere" as the protests at Terania Creek in 1979. Photo: Hugh Kearney

Police 'fully briefed'

NORTHERN Region police were fully briefed late yesterday afternoon following the blockade of Wollumbin State Forest.

A State Forests spokesperson said "the police would be contacted this afternoon and fully briefed".

"Our Act allows us to close the forest but it's up to the police after that," the spokesperson said.

"But we're hoping it doesn't go that far."

The move to brief police followed a report highlighting alleged illegal activities in Wollumbin State Forest yesterday during a five-hour blockade by 200 protesters.

"All we can do is warn them they shouldn't be there," the spokesperson said. "But there is no talk at this stage of closing the forest. We're hoping to resolve this without confrontation."

Early yesterday morning operations were stood down in Wollumbin State Forest because of protest actions, the spokesperson said.

But he said it was hoped the Deferred Forest Assessment process would have alleviated problems with logging.

Mebbin Forest dispute 'in hands of police'

● Continued from Page 1.

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After two hours of negotiations a lone protester padlocked to a steel cattle grid set herself free after agreeing to a request for

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The logs, bound for a Coffs Harbour mill, were then loaded on to the jinkers and trucked out of the forest to a chorus of jeers.

The operation, negotiated by State Forests's supervisor of operations in the Murwillumbah Management Area, Col McClymont, took three hours to complete.

But that was the only and last concession negotiated on the day by NEFA, with organiser Dailian Pugh saying further negotiations, at a higher policy level would now be sought with State Forests.

But while protesters claimed victory and sat down to a strategy meeting local loggers, gathered on private property outside the forest, were uneasy about the future of their industry.

Timber worker John Hall was already trying to sell his forest machinery and seeking work outside the Tweed.

Summing up yesterday's confrontation, Gary Long described it as a clash of ideologies with conservationists against loggers.

"In the past State Forests had called for police to come in and remove protesters — it's in the hands of the police now."

John Corkill said the move was the latest development in the on-going dispute about forests in the Murwillumbah management area.

"These overt threats are designed to intimidate ordinary people from supporting our democratic non-violent defence of high conservation value forests," said Mr Corkill.

Violence

He said the union had not given anyone an assurance they would not use violence.

"The union has made a grave error in attempting to stand over members of the community.

"These threats have set back the union movement's environmental credentials.

"The CFMEU appears intent on burying the proud tradition of co-operation between workers and the community to protect areas of outstanding heritage value."

He said it was now a matter for the Industrial Relations Court to rule whether the union's alleged threats of violence were unlawful 'industrial action' or illegal threats made by union leaders.

Mr Corkill said he regretted making the application to the Industrial Court but he 'could not tolerate union strong-arm tactics' undermining the public's right to non-violent protest action through threats of injury.

"The forests of the wet sub-tropics, including Mebbin and Wollumbin state forests, are internationally significant and are worth defending."

This is Annexure 'JRC', referred to in para _____ of the affidavit of John Robert Corkill affirmed in Lismore on _____ January 1996, before me:

on nuclear weapons

23/1/96 AVST

By DON GREENLEES

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Evans, called yesterday for the creation of a "new global nuclear compact" to build the momentum and the political will for total nuclear disarmament.

The idea of a nuclear accord was mooted as one member of the Government's Canberra Commission on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons warned urgent action was required to prevent the world drifting into "nuclear chaos".

The Swedish head of the United Nation's special commission on the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, Mr Rolf Ekeus, said the Canberra Commission was meeting against a background of "pathetic passivity" by, in particular, the nuclear States and gave the commission the potential to make a significant contribution to the cause of disarmament.

"We are moving in the direction of what I would call nuclear chaos, we are moving in a very dangerous direction," Mr Ekeus said.

"It is interesting to see how little has been done after the end of the Cold War, there has been hardly any effort by governments."

In its first meeting over three days, the 17-member group of international eminent persons started a debate on the goals of a blueprint to be handed to the Federal Government in August.

The chairman of the commission, Australia's ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Richard Butler, said there was broad agreement that eliminating nuclear weapons was an achievable ambition, but would require a new way of thinking about international security and possibly reform of the charter of the UN.

Earlier, in an opening speech

to the commission meeting in Parliament House, Senator Evans argued the group was "uniquely well-placed" to make a historic contribution to the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons.

He spelt out a complex work agenda for the commission based on simultaneous and mutually reinforcing initiatives on four levels: in the global arena, among regional organisations, between nuclear-weapon States and the threshold and undeclared nuclear-weapon States.

Although Senator Evans argued this approach could advance the goal of a nuclear free world, he added "something more is needed" to spur the push for disarmament.

"What is needed now is really a new global nuclear compact," he said. "By this I mean a shared global understanding and commitment by both the nuclear weapon States and the non-nuclear weapon States to enter, in good faith, into, separate, but related, negotiations... to fulfil the promise that we shall live in a world free of nuclear weapons."

He described this compact as not a formal treaty but a "high level political understanding between governments", that might ultimately become a written declaration.

Senator Evans, however, acknowledged that eliminating nuclear weapons would take a long time, even under the most optimistic conditions.

Presenting what the Government sees as the key issues for the commission, Senator Evans advocated the developing of linkages between nuclear weapons-free zones in the South Pacific, South-East Asia, Latin America and Africa.

He also promoted the idea of a Middle East nuclear-weapon free zone, possibly as part of the regional peace process.

Soviet fleet 'dumped' chemicals into sea: report

TOKYO (AFP). — The former Soviet Pacific fleet recently had dumped 1800 tonnes of outmoded chemical weapons into the Sea of Japan in the early 1960s.

The Tokyo newspaper reported that the weapons, including mustard gases yperite and lewisite, were thrown to the sea 80km south of Nakhodka, near the Pacific fleet home port of Vladivostok.

The report from Vladivostok, quoting an internal document of the Pacific Fleet headquarters, also said the weapons were scattered in 18 instalments between the middle of 1960 and 1961.

Of them, 613 tonnes were reloaded into containers in liquid form but 1185 tonnes were discarded together with washheads, the report said.

At the time the Soviet military was producing one lethal chemical weapons such as the Nazi-vented nerve gas Sarin, the report said.

Poisonous elements in the discarded weapons have been seeping through corroded containers in the area where the seabed is about 2000 to 3200 metres deep, the report quoted a chemistry professor from the Far East University in Vladivostok as saying.

But he said that the leakage might not be causing serious pollution as the most dangerous element of arsenic is so heavy that it might have sunk to the seabed.

Meat exports threatened by US hygiene concerns

By DAVID PASSEY
Rural Writer 23/1/96 SEM

Australian abattoirs are producing "unacceptable levels of contaminated beef" because some fail to control hygiene, inspect meat adequately and lack quality assurance procedures, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The USDA yesterday named 14 abattoirs deemed to be "unacceptable" or "marginally acceptable" and reiterated it would halt Australia's \$1 billion beef trade unless strict meat standards were met.

In releasing the report of its inspection late last year — the details of which were confidential until now — the USDA confirmed it had found contaminated meat at some of the 30 abattoirs inspected and found "large-scale non-compliance" in many.

The USDA summarised its key concerns as:

- The control of vermin;
- Ineffective contamination prevention during processing;
- Inadequate meat inspection;
- A lack of quality assurance programs.

The Australian Quarantine Inspection Service said it recognised the gravity of US sentiment but said meat sold here was safe.

Six abattoirs were rated "unacceptable" and barred from export rights to the US.

These are: Southern Country Foods in Wagga Wagga, NSW;

Rockdale Beef in Yanco, NSW; Wodonga Meats in Wodonga, Victoria; Ki Export Abattoir on Kangaroo Island, South Australia; R.J. Gilbertson, Altona North, Victoria, and E.G. Green and Sons in Harvey, Western Australia.

Eight abattoirs were rated marginally acceptable. They are: Wingham Abattoirs in Wingham, NSW; R.J. Gilbertson in South Grafton, NSW; Cargill Australia in Wagga Wagga, NSW; Portland Freezing Works in Portland, Victoria; Castrium Brothers in Dandenong, Victoria; G. and K. O'Connor in Pakenham, Victoria; South Australian Meat Corporation in Gepps Cross, South Australia; and Australian Meat Holdings in Purrawunda, Queensland.

Abattoirs contacted either refused to comment, describing the issue as "too political", or said they were on target to meet USDA requirements by the deadline of February 8.

Mr John Carter, who was for 10 years head of the NSW Meat Industry Authority, said some NSW abattoirs had a very high standard, but others were cause for concern.

"We have too many abattoirs to be economic," he said. "As a consequence corners get cut. We are the biggest exporter of beef to the world so it is vital we drive a massive rationalisation of the industry or we will be cut out."

Beef exports are Australia's second largest export earner, generating about \$3.2 billion a year.

the way of the future

NS 23/1/96

The council believes the idea will have major environmental benefits by significantly reducing the amount of rubbish used for landfill.

Residents will be given two separate rubbish bins: a green one for organic waste and another for the rest.

Organic waste is then specially heated in a way which draws out all the gases.

Gases drawn off are then captured, converted into electricity and fed directly into the electricity grid.

average of 37 years. ease appearing being an between exposure and dis- to asbestos ended by about Widespread exposure dermatology unit, said. Health and Safety's Institute of Occupational head of the National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety, Dr Leigh, the disease." Dr Leigh, sure to the time you see od from the time of expo- because there is a lag per- the peak until about 2010 "We don't expect to see Dr Leigh said. lung cancer or asbestosis, related diseases such as would get other asbestos- well over 10,000 people fatal asbestos-caused dis- people would develop the By 2010, another 6000 said yesterday. tional health Dr Jim Leigh senior lecturer in occupa- 2010, University of Sydney to peak before the year the epidemic not expected disease was rising, with toll from asbestos-linked the death.

SPDNEY 23/1/96 NS

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Discussion points and questions will be presented

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