NEFA

North East Forest Alliance

149 Keen St Lismore 2480 Phone/Fax (066) 22 4737

3 September 1996

Paul Sharpe, District Forester
State Forests of NSW
23 Beaury Street
Urbenville 2475
FAX 066 341 334

Re: Cpt 140 Yabbra State Forest

Dear Paul,

Please find attached a map of the Koala and Alberts Lyrebird records.

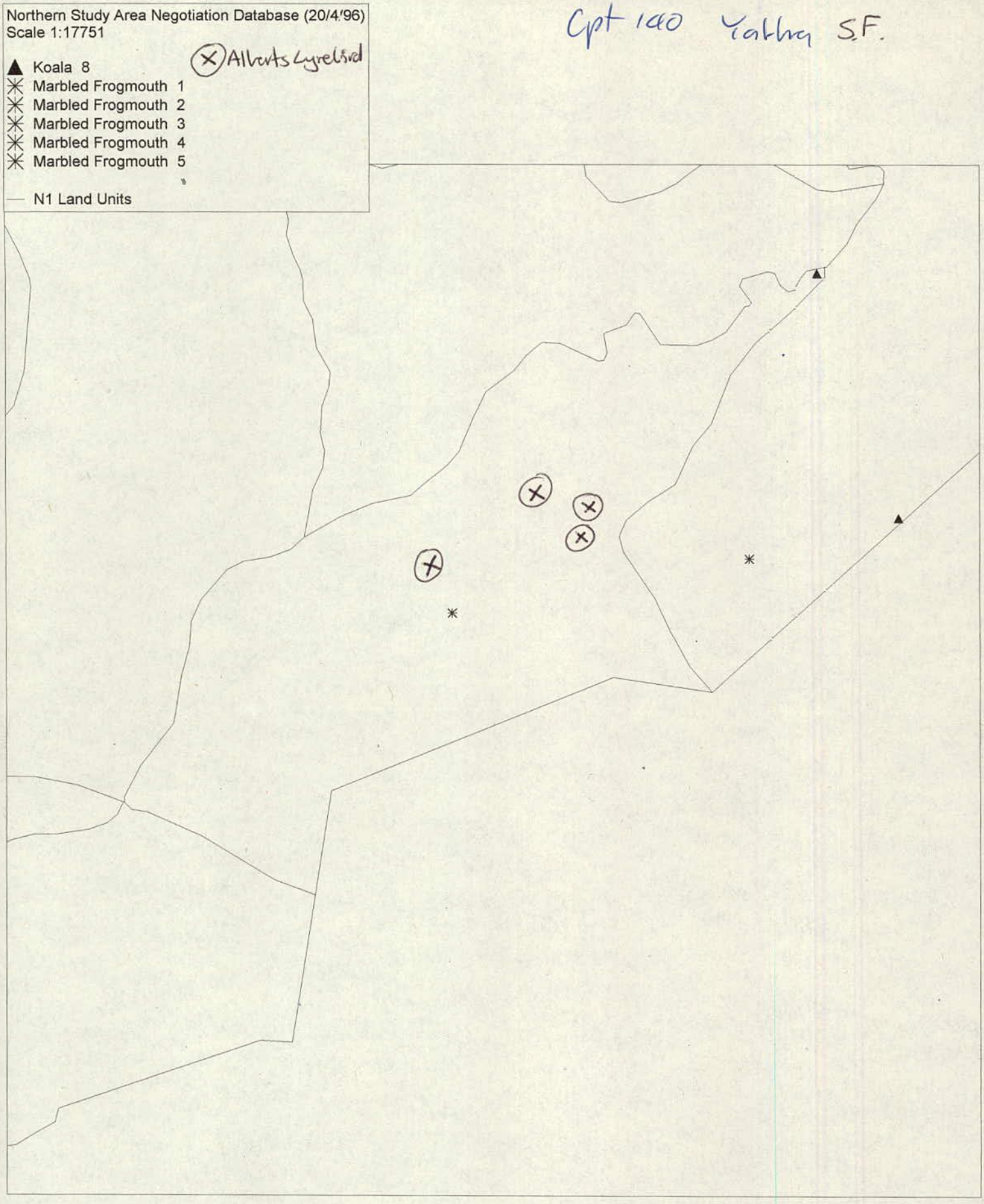
The Koala record came from the GIS database (I presume from NPWS). The Alberts Lyrebirds were identified by me on a recent inspection of cpt 140, these sites are only approximate because they were made from the calls of the Lyrebird and not by sight. I was unsure of which type of Lyrebird it was but Sandy Gilmore (an Alberts Lyrebird expert) has confirmed that only the Alberts Lyrebird lives in the area.

I have informed the NPWS of NEFA's requests regarding the logging of cpt 140 and of the Alberts Lyrebird sites.

Yours sincerely,

GB

Georgia Beyer.


Northern Study Area Negotiation Database (20/4/96)
Scale 1:17751
Koala 8
Marbled Frogmouth 1
Marbled Frogmouth 2
Marbled Frogmouth 3
Marbled Frogmouth 4
Marbled Frogmouth 5
N1 Land Units
Alberts Lyrebird
Cpt 140 Yatha S.F.

FAX

State Forests of NSW
23 Beaury St
URBENVILLE
NSW 2475

Date 30/8/96

Number of pages including cover sheet 1

To: NEFA

ATTN Georgia Beyer

Phone 066 22 4737

Fax Phone 066 22 4737

CC:

From: Paul Sharpe DF
State Forests of NSW

Attn Peter St. Clair

Phone 066 34 1318

Fax Phone 066 34 1334

REMARKS:

☐ Urgent ☐ For your review ☑ Reply ASAP ☐ Please comment

Dear Georgia,

RE: Compartment 140 Yabbra SF

Thank you for your review of our harvesting plan for the balance of this CCO compartment.

The additional logging exclusion zones do however dramatically reduce the ability of this compartment to provide timber to meet SF committments to industry.

In order that we may more closely consider the issues you have raised we would appreciate if you could provide the AMG and data sources for the Koala and Alberts Lyrebird in Cpt 140.

Thank you.

NEFA

North East Forest Alliance

149 Keen St Lismore 2480 Phone/Fax (066) 22 4737

27 August 1996

Paul Sharpe
District Forester
State Forests of NSW
Beaury Street
Urbenville 2475

Re: Cpt 140 Yabbra State Forest

Dear Paul,

After recently inspecting compartment 140 in Yabbra SF I have several requests regarding the proposed harvesting.

Marbled Frogmouth

The current Marble Frogmouth prescription is:

> *In compartments where the Marble Frogmouth is recorded or likely to occur, (and in adjacent compartments sharing a common drainage line), logging activities shall be excluded from 100m either side of drainage lines shown on the relevant 1:25,000 Topographic map.*

The NPWS is currently revising this prescription for trial application.

> *It is proposed that within 1.5km of a record, a 100m buffer zone be established either side of 2nd and 3rd order streams where the following rainforest types and moist forest types occur: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,36,47,48,49 and 53. The prescription also provides for a 50 m buffer either side of 1st order streams where these forest types occur.*

There is a record of a Marbled Frogmouth in compartment 140.

NEFA requests that either of these Marble Frogmouth prescriptions be applied in compartment 140.

Alberts Lyrebird

During my inspection I heard the distinctive calls of Alberts Lyrebirds throughout the southern sloping areas in the east of the compartment (the triangle shaped section bordered by the special emphasis reserved areas and the eastern compartment boundary - see attached map).

I have spoken with Sandy Gilmore (who is currently studying the Alberts Lyrebird) to get advise on the habitat needs of the Lyrebird.

The Alberts Lyrebird currently has an estimated population size of less than 2000 individuals and the population of the Dome Mountain/Yabbra area is approximately 200 individuals.

The Lyrebird needs wet sclerophyll forest types with deep moist litter layers. Forest types 47, 48 and 53, (especially on more gentle slopes where the moisture is more easily retained) is optimal habitat. It was previously thought that rainforest was the preferred habitat but the litter layer is not sufficient and the Lyrebirds prefer the rainforest/eucalypt mixture.

The Lyrebird is very sensitive to logging which creates regrowth that uses more water and creates a drier forest type that is not suitable as habitat. This is even more so the case in the Yabbra area where the rainfall is not as high as the main population areas in the Nightcap and McPherson Ranges.

It is crucial for the long term survival of the Alberts Lyrebird, to protect areas of optimal habitat including wet sclerophyll forests and in particular forest types 47, 48 and 53.

This area would also be used by the Marbled Frogmouth and the Sooty Owl, both recorded in the compartment. Both of these species had specific area requirements identified in the IAP and both fell short of

their set targets in the Conservation Criteria Option (the Sooty Owl only 15% and the Marbled Frogmouth only 21% or less).

This area would also form a corridor from cpt 136 through cpt 140 and along with the corridor mentioned below, through to cpt 146.

NEFA requests that the main area of forest types 47, 48 and 53 (the triangle shaped section bordered by the special emphasis reserved areas and the eastern compartment boundary - see attached map) be reserved from logging to protect the Alberts Lyrebird habitat.

Koala

There is a record of a Koala in the very top north eastern corner of cpt 140.

NEFA requests that the NPWS Koala prescription be applied in this area.

One of the conservation features of cpt 140 is that it forms a corridor from the Dome Mountain area through to Yabbra. Reserve design principles require that areas are reserved to create corridors. For this reason NEFA requests that a corridor be reserved from logging, stretching from the centre of the compartment to the rainforest area in the south west of cpt 140 adjoining the rainforest in cpt 146 (see attached map).

In addition, NEFA requests that great care be taken to properly adhere to the NPWS licence conditions for other vulnerable and endangered species within compartment 140, remembering that this compartment was identified in the recent Interim Assessment Process as likely to be required for a CAR reserve system.

Yellow-bellied Glider, Cpt 214 RRSF

I would also like to thank you for acting on the complaint of the felling of the Yellow-bellied glider feed tree in compartment 214 Richmond Range SF. The information sheet to be given to all SFO's and Contractors is a great step forward and will hopefully prevent any similar breaches occurring again.

Yours sincerely,

Georgia Beyer.

HARVESTING PLAN OPERATIONAL MAP
YABBRA STATE FOREST No. No. 394
COMPARTMENT 140

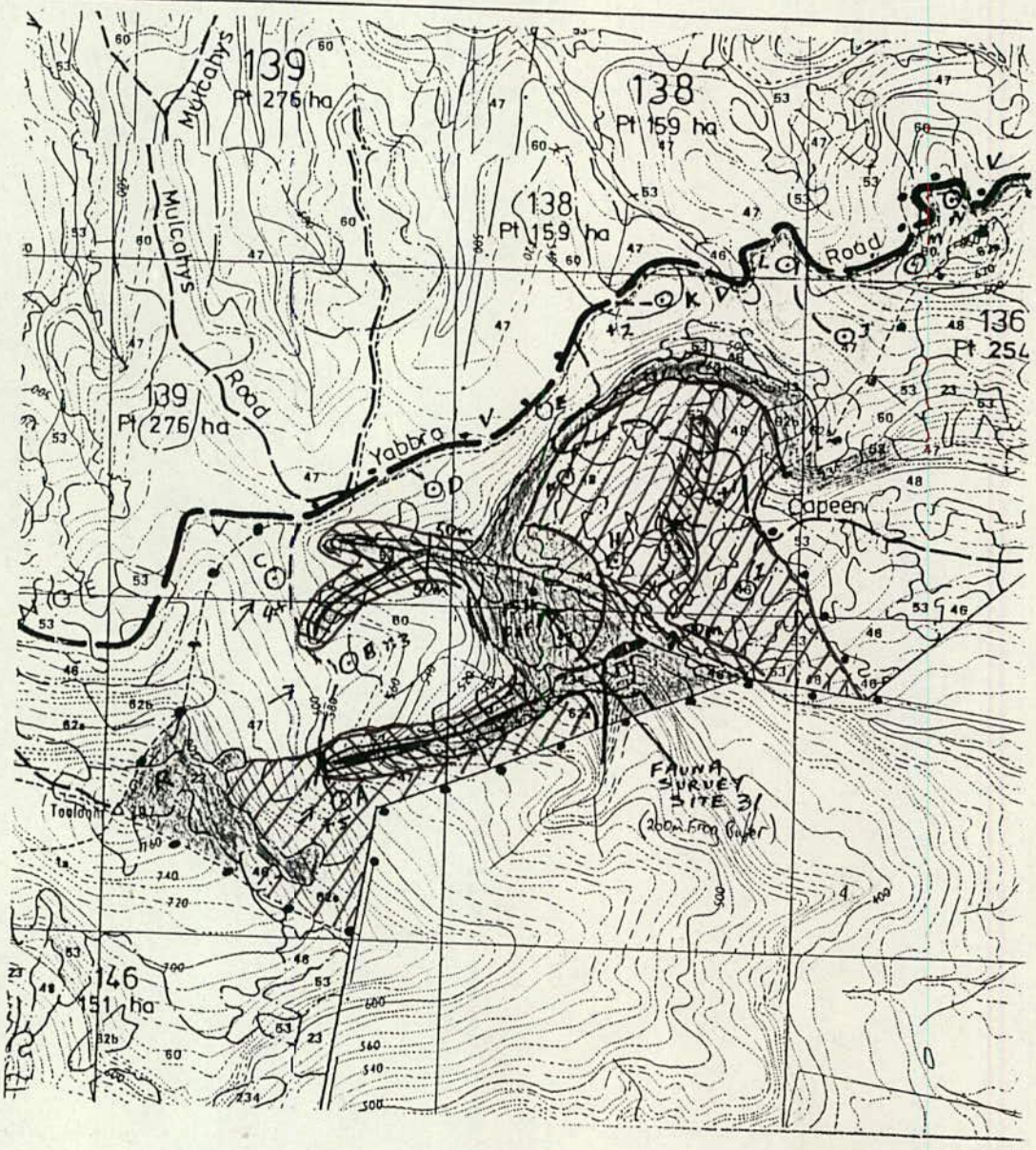
Map Reference: Capeen 9440-IV-N
AMG NW cnr 465700E 6847300N SE cnr 463750E 6845000N

Scale — 1 : 15 000 (0 — 0·5 — 1 km.)

CU / 394

Contour interval 10 m

G | N



LEGEND HARVESTING PLAN MAP
NATIVE FORESTS

Appendix 1

BOUNDARIES
- State Forest
- Compartment, Coupe, Logging Area

ROADS
- Existing Gravelled, Sealed
- Exsiting Natural Surface
- Road To Be Constructed

WATERCOURSES AND DRAINAGE LINES
- Filter Strip
- Protection Strip, Approved Crossing

AVAILABLE FOR HARVESTING
NORMAL PRESCRIPTIONS

MODIFIED PRESCRIPTIONS
- V — Special Emphasis : Visual
-
-

FLORA AND FAUNA

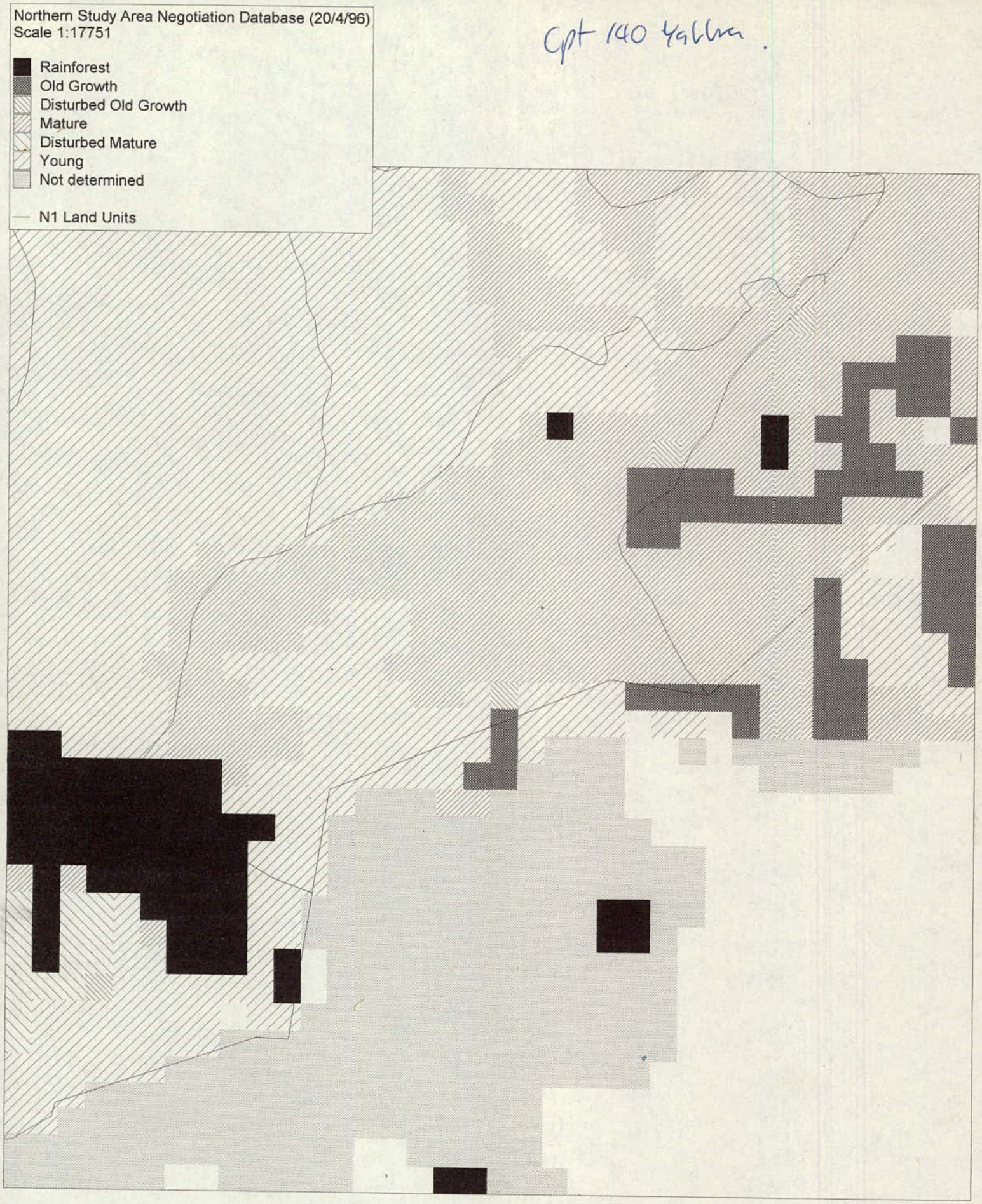
NON HARVEST AREAS
- R — RAINFOREST
- F&F — FLORA & FAUNA

DUMP SITES OR LANDINGS
- ⊗ Permanent Dry weather
- ⊠ Permanent Wet weather
- ⊙ Temporary Dry weather
- ⊡ Temporary Wet weather

+ 1-5 Soil Sample Sites

Exclusion zone for Sooty Owl & Marbled Frogmouth 100m each side of 2nd & 3rd order streams, 50 or 100m for 1st.

Exclusion zone for Alberts Lyrebird and corridor to cpt. 146

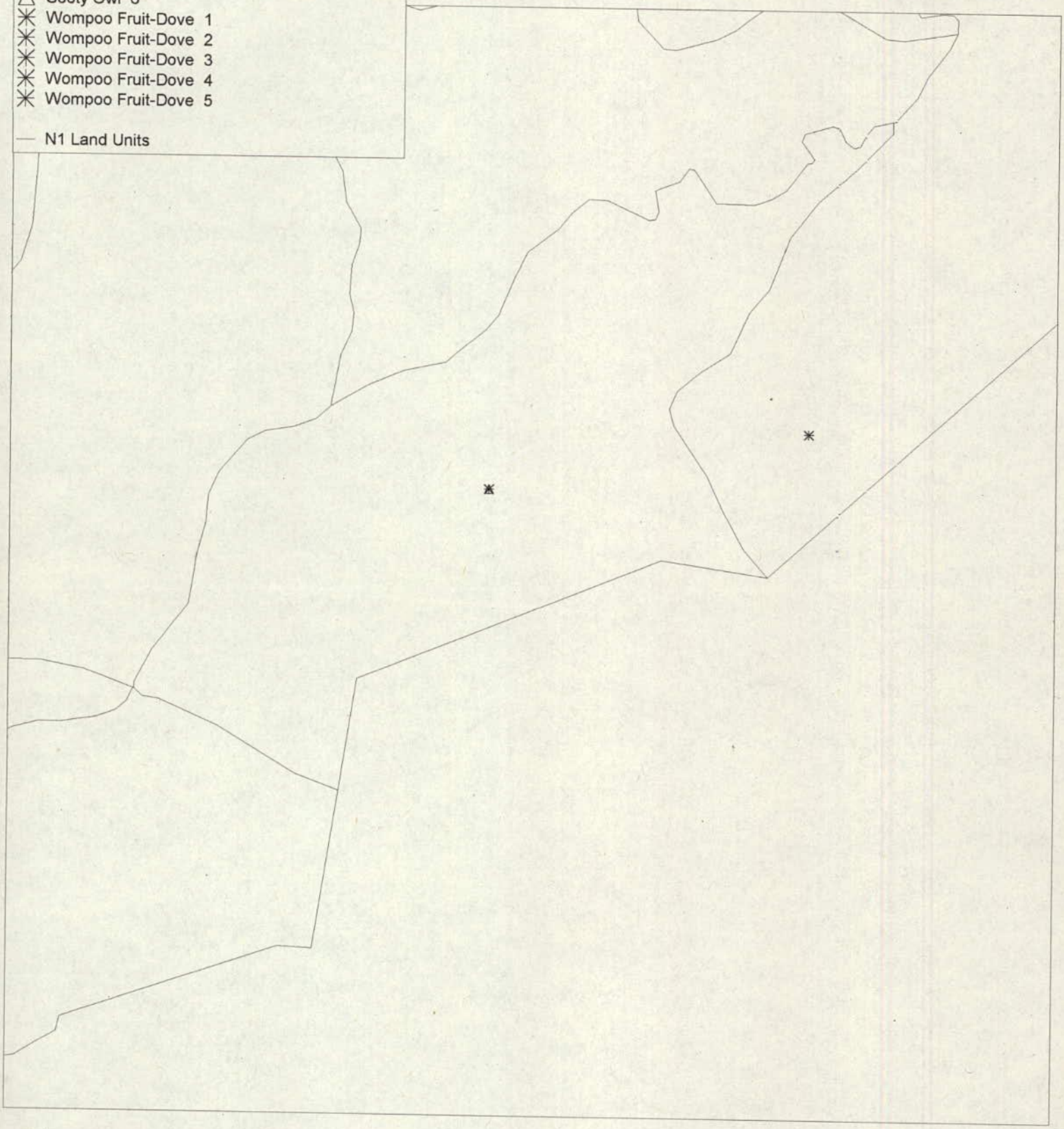

Northern Study Area Negotiation Database (20/4/96)
Scale 1:17751
Rainforest
Old Growth
Disturbed Old Growth
Mature
Disturbed Mature
Young
Not determined
N1 Land Units
Cpt 140 Yabba.

Northern Study Area Negotiation Database (20/4/96)
Scale 1:17751

△ Sooty Owl 1
△ Sooty Owl 2
△ Sooty Owl 3
△ Sooty Owl 4
△ Sooty Owl 5
△ Sooty Owl 6
✳ Wompoo Fruit-Dove 1
✳ Wompoo Fruit-Dove 2
✳ Wompoo Fruit-Dove 3
✳ Wompoo Fruit-Dove 4
✳ Wompoo Fruit-Dove 5

— N1 Land Units

Cpt 140 Yabba.



AH Dailan,

these figures weren't broken up into single compartments, ~~just~~ only 1 value for each group of cpts. Hope it can help. QG.

3/9/96

Harvesting Plan Timber Quotas

Compartments 72 & 73	m^3
Quota sawlogs (assessed)	2500
Thinnings	500
Poles, Piles & girders	200

cpts 140/145 & 146	
Quota sawlogs (assessed)	4000
Thinnings	1000
Poles, piles & girders	200

NSW
NATIONAL
PARKS AND
WILDLIFE
SERVICE

The Managing Director
State Forests of NSW
Locked Bag 23
PENNANT HILLS NSW 2120

Our reference:
Your reference: F/207: KD

Attention: Manager
Forest Planning Branch

Dear Sir,

RE: TEMPORARY SECTION 120 LICENCE TS0005
Compartments 140/145-6,
Yabbra State Forest,
Urbenville Management Area

I refer to your request for the licensing of the above compartments.

I have granted your request as per the attached Instrument of Variation, conditional upon the following additional threatened species conditions/prescriptions being incorporated into the relevant Harvesting Plans for these compartments. The prescriptions replace those in the licence variation issued on 21 February, 1996.

Conditions:

Addition of the following list of threatened fauna to the relevant section of the Harvesting Plans for these compartments. This list represents species of endangered fauna which may occur within the compartments.

Scoteanax rueppellii

Justification: Harvesting Plans should include a list of the threatened species that may occur in the compartment in order to ensure that contractors are aware of the species of threatened fauna they may encounter during operations.

Northern Zone
GIO House
24 Moonee Street
Coffs Harbour NSW
Australia
PO Box 914
Coffs Harbour 2450
Fax: (066) 516 187
Tel: (066) 515 946

Head Office
43 Bridge Street
Hurstville NSW
Australia
PO Box 1967
Hurstville 2220
Fax: (02) 585 6555
Tel: (02) 585 6444

Australian-made 100% recycled paper

Prescriptions

Prescription 1: Habitat Tree Retention
Prescription code: htr/nr/g/2

Habitat tree retention in Dry Hardwood and Moist Hardwood forests with a xeromorphic understorey shall be four trees per hectare. For the purposes of this prescription a xeromorphic understorey is considered to be one composed predominantly of grasses, heath, and/or shrubs with sclerophyllous leaves.

Habitat tree retention in Dry Hardwood and Moist Hardwood forests with a mesic understorey shall be six trees per hectare. For the purposes of this prescription a mesic understorey is considered to be one composed predominantly of moist elements such as vines, shrubs with mesophyllous leaves and/or rainforest ferns.

Habitat trees will be **live** hollow bearing trees. They are to be well spaced throughout the compartment being harvested. Where the specified density of habitat trees is not present the existing density is to be retained. Sufficient recruitment habitat trees to sustain the retained density of habitat trees into perpetuity are also to be retained. Stags shall not be counted as habitat trees.

In addition, all practical precautions shall be taken to protect identified habitat trees during logging operations. The following shall be adhered to:

1. All practical precautions shall be taken to avoid trees landing adjacent to identified habitat trees.

2. In forests with a xeromorphic understorey all substantial logging slash (including tree heads, butts, and large bark piles etc) will be removed from within approximately a 5 metre radius of identified habitat trees. Logging slash shall be removed with minimum disturbance to understorey vegetation and ground logs.

3. In forests with a mesic understorey logging slash within a radius of 10 metres of identified habitat trees is not to be spot burnt. Alternatively, if a ground burn can be carried in this forest type then burn conditions shall follow those agreed upon for xeromorphic understorey described in point 2 above.

Justification: This is the most recent NPWS habitat tree retention prescription. Note the use of the word **live** in reference to hollow bearing trees.

Prescription 2: Preservation of Critical Weight Range Species
Prescription code: cwr/nr/3

Preamble

In applying the following prescriptions it should be noted that sections 118A and 118D of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* specifically refer to the *Bush Fires Act 1949*. They provide that it is not an offence to undertake an activity which will harm or pick any threatened species or damage habitat of any threatened species, if that activity is authorised or

required under the *Bush Fires Act*, and was reasonably necessary in order to avoid a threat to life or property.

Given the above, the prescriptions should only be seen as a guide for managing the habitat of critical weight range (CWR) fauna, and regard should always be given to the provisions in the relevant section 41A plan.

It should also be noted that this s.120 licence provides permission to harm or pick any threatened species or damage habitat of any threatened species, only through those activities directly related to the conduct of logging operations within the compartments listed on this Instrument of Variation. Such activities include:

(i) the harvesting of trees;

(ii) the preparation, use and rehabilitation of logging dumps, snig tracks, and any vehicular pathways; and

(iii) post-logging burning of what is predominantly slash resulting from the harvesting operations.

Those activities do not include the conduct of broad area fuel reduction burning.

Other activities which are likely to have a detrimental effect on CWR species and their habitats (*e.g.* grazing, feral animal baiting) may be addressed in separate prescriptions.

This prescription should be viewed as an interim prescription until such time as the impacts of all forestry activities on CWR species and their habitats have been addressed.

Prescriptions: SFNSW are to ensure to the fullest extent practicable that any post-logging burning is carried out in such a manner that encroachment into critical habitat for those species listed below is prevented. This can be achieved by carrying out post-logging burning under weather and fuel conditions which minimise the chances of encroachment into critical habitat and minimise the destruction of large fallen logs (i.e. those logs with a diameter greater than 40cm).

Critical Weight Range species are those small to medium-sized mammals in the weight range 200 - 5,000 grams which are threatened by predation or competition from feral carnivores. For the purposes of this licence, these species include the Tiger Quoll, Rufous Bettong and Red-legged Pademelon which are known from within 5km of the perimeter of these compartments.

For the purpose of this variation, critical habitat for Tiger Quoll is defined as moist gullies, wet sclerophyll, rainforest and fallen logs with a diameter greater than 40cm; critical habitat for Red-legged Pademelon is defined as moist gully vegetation and rainforest; critical habitat for Rufous Bettong is defined as well grassed open forest and woodland, and large fallen logs with a diameter greater than 40cm.

Note: In this prescription, "critical habitat" does not have the same meaning as "habitat declared to be critical habitat" under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.

Justification: The NPWS and this Licence Variation recognise that there are circumstances where it may be difficult to carry out post-logging burning whilst avoiding accidental encroachment into critical habitat. Procedural guidelines for carrying out such burning whilst avoiding such encroachment are to be developed jointly by NPWS and SFNSW.

Burning is likely to have a detrimental effect on patches of vegetative ground cover used as shelter by these species and on large fallen logs which are utilised for dens by Tiger Quoll and for shelter by Rufous Bettong and Red-legged Pademelon. The Tiger Quoll, Rufous Bettong and Red-legged Pademelon have been recorded from within 5km of the perimeter of these compartments.

Prescription 3: Frugivores - Wompoo fruit-dove, Rose-crowned fruit-dove
Prescription code: fg/nr/2

Within coastal forests below 400 metres asl, all precautions shall be undertaken to protect mature rainforest trees (including native laurels, figs and palms) within 100 metres from either side of gully lines which adjoin forest types 47, 48 and 53 exhibiting a well developed rainforest understorey. Prescribed burning shall be conducted, to the fullest extent practicable, in such a way and under fuel and weather conditions that ensure its encroachment into these areas is minimal.

Justification: The specialised requirements of wompoo fruit-dove and rose-crowned fruit-dove along with the drastic decline in the extent of rainforests demands the conservative management of existing populations. Retaining feed trees and maintaining suitable habitat are the primary methods of conservation. Wompoo fruit-dove and rose-crowned fruit-dove play an important role in forest ecology, acting as seed dispersers for their preferred feed species.

Prescription 4: Sooty owl
Prescription Code: so/nr/1

In compartments proposed for harvesting, within 1.5 km of a sooty owl detection site:

a) 100 metre wide riparian reserves shall be established along all second and third order streams. Filter strips shall be established along first order streams to reserve moist gully vegetation as far as these types extend upslope;

b) a thorough search of gullylines and heads of gullies for roost and nest sites shall be carried out by a qualified person. Where roost or nest sites are recorded, these sites shall be protected by a 100 metres and 200 metres disturbance-free zone, respectively; and

c) no tree shall be felled within or, as far as is practicable, into these reserves or filter strips:

(The order of streams is that shown on the relevant topographic map for the Management Area as published by the Central Mapping Authority at a scale of 1:25 000).

Justification: The protection of sooty owl roost and nest sites is similar to that currently being applied in the Kempsey and Wauchope Management Areas. Current research indicates that populations of sooty owls are very sensitive to contractions of an individual or pair's prey base. The territories of sooty owls appear to be confined to a small number of adjacent or interconnected gullies. Additionally, minor gully lines and the heads of gullies provide important nesting and roosting habitat for this species There is a Sooty Owl record within compartment 140 (AMG 464250 6846050).

Prescription 5: Threatened Frogs
Prescription code: frog/nr/g/1

Moist habitat within 200 metres of known occurrences is to be protected from disturbance.

Justification: This is the current NPWS standard threatened frog prescription. *Philoria loveridgei* has been recorded within compartment 140 (AMG 464250 6846050).

Prescription 6: Koala (coastal)
Prescription code: k/nz/coastal/1

This prescription applies north of Sydney to the following forest types listed in Research Note 17:

- Rainforest Group
- Maritime, Blackbutt, Sydney Blue Gum and Spotted Gum Leagues
- Grey Gum - Grey Ironbark, Grey Box-Ironbark and Red Gum Leagues
- Eucalypt Plantations

Planning

At the beginning of the harvest planning process, locally compiled records will be consulted to determine if there is a reliable record of a Koala within 2 km of the boundary of the logging compartment boundary. Due recognition will be taken of local

and historical knowledge with regard to koala distribution. If a record exists as described, or consideration of historical and local knowledge (including suitability of habitat) indicates that koalas are likely to occur, a methodical survey for koala or signs of koala presence will be undertaken during inspections of the proposed logging area prior to compiling the harvesting plan.

Community dialogue about Koalas should be initiated and maintained at an early stage. This need not be high profile and time consuming , but as a minimum should include contact and exchange of information with neighbours, and local animal welfare and conservation groups. Many interest groups, and the general public, have a knowledge of Koala populations in their area. In some situations, animal care groups may be notified in case of accidental injury to a Koala.

The following procedures will be applied to EUCALYPT PLANTATIONS on State forest lands ONLY where there are more than twenty stems per hectare of primary browse species (greater than fifteen centimetres dbhob).

The first step in planning the Koala survey will be to review a forest type map (where available) and other habitat assessments of the logging area to: i) to determine and document which forest types to select as priorities for sampling, and ii) to decide which forest types may carry these species, or are used locally by Koalas. The planning documents will be available on request.

Survey Method

The survey will proceed according to the following guidelines:

- A walk transect of the logging area will be done to sample a representative and well distributed cross section of the area at a minimum rate of one kilometre for each 100 ha of the logging area. The transect may contain infrequent bends and may be broken into segments. The transect may cross small patches or narrow linear strips of non-logging area or unlikely habitat but larger area blocks (>10 ha) that will not be logged will be excluded from sampling.
- During the walk transect, the area beneath trees within 20m of the transect will be searched for dung at a rate of *FIVE* trees (if available) on each *FIFTY* metre segment of the transect.
- Primary browse species, preferably larger than 15 cm dbhob with an average of more than 50 cm dbhob, will be targeted for dung searches. Secondary and then other species will be used in that priority to make up the numbers per *FIFTY* metres of transect. (When choosing trees to be sampled, those with interlocking crowns should be avoided wherever possible).
- If trees as defined above are not available, those tree species and size classes which are present will be sampled.
- Indicative primary browse species for the Coastal zone are: tallowwood, grey gum, forest red gum, and swamp mahogany. Most other eucalypts, plus larger Casuarinaceae and broadleaf paperbark are commonly considered secondary browse species. Brushbox, turpentine, apple, and bloodwood can be considered incidental browse.

- A search of *ONE* minute per tree, within two metres concentrated around the base of the tree, will comprise the basic search unit. A scan of the area below the crown of the tree should also be done on the way to the tree.
- Scats will be left *in situ*, other than small samples taken for identification or other analyses.
- Fire events on the compartment within the past year will be recorded.
- Sampling should not be undertaken within one month following fire events.

Recording Results

- The results of this survey will be recorded on the standard format data forms. (See "Reporting" section for further requirements).
- The actual transect route taken will be accurately recorded on a map and justification given for the route taken.
- The locality of apparent runway trees found, and any Koala found (with special annotation for mother Koala with young), shall be accurately recorded on the same map.
- The number of scats beneath each tree does not need to be counted or recorded except where there is a very high number (ie close to 20) or they are of distinctly different sizes.
- The approximate locality of any transect section having *THREE* trees with Koala dung pellets out of any ten consecutive trees searched will be shown on this map as a transect section showing high use by Koala.
- "High use areas" in subsequent intensive walk surveys will be identified by this same criterion - i.e. areas with Koala dung pellets under *THREE* out of any ten consecutive trees searched.
- Subsequent intensive surveys by walk transect will be done to (i) map the extent of high use areas indicated by high use sections of transect and (ii) to determine the importance of areas adjacent to reported runway trees or mother Koalas (where these areas are not associated with high dung pellet counts).

STAR Methodology

- Walk transects will consist of six additional radiating transects to determine the high use area, sampled at the same rate as above, with primary and then secondary browse species as targets for tree searches. These will start in the centre of the high use area on the original transect. Two of these will be established perpendicular to the original. The remaining four additional transects will be done on the diagonal between the perpendicular and the original transects. These transects will thus form a STAR pattern. These transects shall be carried out for at least 100 metres beyond any delineation of the high use area. Where the person undertaking the transects is satisfied that Koala habitat is present they may choose to forego the interior parts of the additional transects and commence survey near what they consider to be the edge of the high use area.
- Intermediate use compartments will be defined as compartments in the dot point following and compartments which have Koala dung under two out of ten trees in any one 100 m segment.
- Where high use by Koalas is identified on a transect by only 3 to 4 trees with dung and where the subsequent radiating six transects fail to show high use, this area will not

be mapped to the Harvesting Plan as a high use Koala area, but defined as an intermediate use area.

- The high use area boundary will be checked by inspection around the perimeter defined by the points above. The results of this inspection will be recorded as a concise narrative on the data sheet and mapped to the Harvesting Plan. Any data collected will be clearly reported on the data sheets.
- Where high usage is detected near the boundary (within 50 m) of the proposed logging area, minor but appropriate and indicative sampling of relevant adjacent habitat - up to 100 m into adjacent State Forest or National Park - will supplement the walk transect. This sampling will consist of inspection for Koalas, Koala dung and Koala habitat.
- Where this situation occurs adjacent to private lands a comment is required on the survey record and any associated report as to whether suitable Koala habitat, and possible Koala populations, extends into that land.
- Concise notes about adjacent habitat will be made on the data form, where relevant.
- Areas identified on forest type maps larger than about 10 hectares of forest types that carry primary browse species that were not sampled by transect shall be inspected for koala evidence and results recorded as concise narrative on the data sheet. Information which should be used to identify these areas include Research Note 17 and local knowledge.

At the harvest planning stage, reserves, exclusions, and retention rates for high use and intermediate use areas will be planned and designed according to the following section.

Reserves and Exclusions

Special conditions for this species:

Individual Koalas will be protected from tree felling operations wherever detected. A tree containing a Koala will not be felled or damaged while the Koala is known to be in the tree.

Detection of a Koala will trigger actions listed below (see Operations).

Logging will be excluded from within fifty metres of high use areas. This will be documented and mapped in the Harvesting Plan.

In intermediate use areas, the following prescriptions apply:

1. Ten primary browse trees (or secondary browse species if primary are unavailable)will be retained per hectare in the compartment. These may include habitat trees if they meet the browse requirements.

2. Gap creation for silvicultural purposes will not take place in preferred forest types.

Where a high use area is identified in a eucalypt plantation, specific management of the area will be negotiated with NPWS.

Particular to this compartment:

Other reserves and exclusions will be planned by the District at this harvest planning stage. See box concerning plantations.

Extra measures required:

Proactive dialogue with contractors will be essential to ensure knowledge and attitude is compatible with compliance with this prescription. This should be initiated during the pre-logging joint inspection stage when going into known Koala areas.

Retained Habitat

Special conditions for this species:

Isolated individual trees with more than twenty Koala dung pellets beneath shall be marked and retained undamaged by logging, and logging debris shall be removed at least 10 metres from their base.

Particular to this compartment:

To be completed by District at Harvest Plan compilation.

Extra measures required:

Near koala high use areas, primary and secondary browse trees will be retained as habitat trees where available.

Operations

Compartment Marking:

Exclusion zones will be marked to clearly exclude logging from those areas of compartments with positive Koala records and where survey results show high use. If koalas are encountered during this phase of operations the prescriptions set in harvesting (below) will be followed.

Trees to be retained in intermediate use areas will be clearly marked for retention.

During tree marking, primary browse trees should be briefly scanned for Koalas and Koala pellets (see next section for description of required action if a koala is detected).

Harvesting:

Continued dialogue with contractors is needed to ensure knowledge and attitude is compatible with compliance with this prescription on all compartments. A planned and documented process for inspection of operations will be required in those compartments with exclusion zones for the protection of Koala habitat.

If a Koala is observed during marking or logging (in an area that has not previously been found to be a high use area), numerous dung pellets (more than twenty below a tree) are found, or where less than twenty pellets of two markedly disparate sizes (medium plus about half sized) are found the following procedure will be followed:

- Walk transects will be initiated consisting of eight transects in the cardinal and sub-cardinal directions, and centred on the observation, to determine the extent of any high use area that may occur. The sampling will be at the same rate as the transect method described previously, with primary and then secondary browse species as targets for dung searches. These transects shall be carried out for at least 100 metres beyond any delineation of a high use area. Where the person undertaking the transects is satisfied that Koala habitat is present they may choose to forego the interior parts of the transects and commence survey near what they consider to be the edge of the high use area.
- Any high use area boundary found will be checked by inspection around the perimeter defined by the transects. The results of this inspection will be recorded as a concise narrative on the data sheet and mapped to an Amendment to the Harvesting Plan.
- The results and maps will be promptly forwarded to NPWS (see Reporting Section).

All tree felling will immediately and subsequently be excluded from within fifty metres of a high use area, or modified within intermediate use areas.

Post-log Burning (associated with this operation):

As far as practicable post logging fire is to be kept out of the area reserved from logging for the protection of Koala habitat.

Monitoring:

Koala monitoring will be conducted as part of the general monitoring procedures planned by State Forests. Compartment monitoring may be advantageous to Districts for future planning in areas that have positive Koala records and prior management.

At the initial stage the state wide monitoring of Koala populations will require a comprehensive compilation of the location and extent of high use areas. The monitoring program will be designed to give information on the effectiveness of these prescriptions in meeting their objectives.

The survey methodology for detecting Koalas and determining high use areas (contained in these prescriptions) may be reviewed in the light of findings from the monitoring program.

Reporting:

"Hard copy" of all survey results (including Amendments to Harvesting Plans) will be archived by the District on the compartment history. All Koala sightings will be incorporated into SFNSW database with subsequent prompt transfer to NPWS. Survey records (including Amendments to Harvesting Plans) will be reported in the same manner.

Maps will accompany survey results in relevant communications in either digital format (GIS) or as a clear paper copy. This will include the actual transect route taken, accurately recorded on a map. The locality of relevant Koala or Koala sign (including that of relevant adjacent areas) will be recorded on the same map. (Positive and negative results are both important.)

Justification: This new coastal koala prescription, agreed to between NPWS and SFNSW, applies to the Forest Types listed. The new Tablelands koala prescription has not yet been finalised, therefore the older version of the koala prescription, contained in the Harvesting Plan, has also been applied to cover other forest types.

Should you have any questions regarding this licence, please contact Kate Dallimore, Project Officer, Northern Zone, on 066 515946.

Yours sincerely,

Mick Sleyd

per ROBYN KRUK
Director-General

DATE: 8/3/96