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**Submission
to the**

**N.S.W. LABOR CABINET
of the**

**CARR GOVERNMENT
on**

**“Managing the Transition out
of High Conservation Value
(HCV) Forests”**

June 1995

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prepared by the
North East Forest Alliance

June 1995

0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Urgent rescheduling

Recommendations:

- that all forestry operations in areas of forest identified as potential 'old growth' forest (OGF) be immediately rescheduled to lesser conservation value 'recut' forest areas;
- that a process be established to identify smaller areas of OGF for exclusion from logging in the compartment planning process;
- that 'urgent rescheduling' include excluding from further logging already logged forest which exhibits outstanding conservation values.

Interim Assessment & Deferred Forest Areas

Cabinet's announcement of the initiation of the landmark consultation mechanisms contained in Labor's Forestry Policy is awaited with considerable interest.

Recommendations:

- that the interim assessment process not be restricted to only wilderness & OGF;
- that all conservation values be taken into account in identifying areas that are likely to be required for a 'c.a.r.' reserve system.
- that no logging be permitted to continue to degrade forests which will later be identified as being required for a 'c.a.r.' reserve system;

Environmental Impact Statements

NEFA believes that the intention and legal status of EISs being prepared by SFs under the requirements of the TI(IP) Act have been wholly misconceived.

Recommendations:

- that EISs approved by the National Party Minister for Planning be revisited in the light of considerations of ecological sustainability and changes in management practice and expected timber volumes;
- that the MA-wide EISs still being prepared for SFs be suspended until at least the completion of the interim regional assessment processes;
- that the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act 92 be amended a.s.a.p., & later repealed, to ensure all forestry operations are returned to the ambit of the EP&A Act;
- that SFs prepare site specific EISs, for forests proposed to be logged during this transition until a 'comprehensive regional assessment' per the NFPS, has been completed;
- that in residual native forests or plantations industry should not have 'an open go' as an unregulated rural industry;
- that at the completion of the comprehensive regional assessment, EIS be prepared for forestry operations which may cause a significant impact on the environment;

Timber Industry Restructuring

NEFA supports the structural adjustment package contained in Labor's Forestry Policy, but remains considerably less supportive of compensation to companies and mill operators.

Recommendations:

- that Labor discard a 'no job lost' position during this transition, as simplistic, misleading and undeliverable.

Recommendations (Cont'd)

- that emphasis be given to assistance for any affected parties, & the unique bio-diversity at risk, would be more credible.
- the threat of industry backlash and blaming be faced down and exposed.
- that Labor commission independent auditors to conduct essential research into factors affecting the employment of sub-groups of employees within the timber industry.
- that each Wood Supply Agreement contract be examined by counsel for the Government, to determine the opportunities to opt out of the agreements.
- that regrowth forests only be provided as substitute resources for previously allocated 'old growth' resource where there is an unavoidable and legally enforceable requirement to continue to supply timber under a WSA;
- that a rapid assessment of standing timber volumes be carried out by an independent group or agency, outside FC/SFs, in a similar fashion to the Rainforest Inventory commissioned by the Wran Government prior to its rainforest decision in 1982.
- that audits should be commissioned to provide accurate and important information:

Identification, support and case management of adversely affected parties

Suggestions are made for steps to achieve support for and assist affected parties.

Recommendations:

- that anticipated political implications and possible difficulties arising from adversely affected parties are effectively managed through a co-ordinated officer position.
- that this staff member be senior, located within the Premier's Department or the office of the Minister for L&WC and not a staff member of FC/SF;

Options for the implementation of Labor's structural adjustment program

NEFA would support your Government offering assistance to small communities to establish value adding industries e.g. a medium density fibreboard plant.

Recommendations:

- that additional redeployment and/or retraining options include:
 - forest rehabilitation and/or vegetation regeneration;
 - establishing new and maintaining existing plantations;
 - managing the new Parks and Reserves & maintaining new infrastructure

Forest Management Policies

Recommendations:

- that a total overhaul of all SF management and operational policies be now initiated;
- that the following immediate and major policy tasks be initiated:
 - a review of the ESD Working Group Report on Forests;
 - the urgent formulation of a policy framework and key indicators for the ecologically sustainable management of NSW's forests;
- that the role of forests in water production and the economic value of this resource form an important consideration in of any assessment of ecological sustainability;
- that SFs accept new principles of 'wholistic' ecologically sustainable forest management;
- that a registered Australian Standard on ESD & Forestry be developed once research into 'water valuing' has concluded, via public participation & peer review by scientists.

- that all policy documents be subject to critical review and rewriting consistent with the framework and key indicators.

Recommendations (Cont'd)

- that pending the completion of this major policy review, 'patch clearfelling' and other intensive management techniques not consistent with ESD be immediately ceased.
- that management practices and policies which prevent public accountability, such as the vicarious closure of forests cease immediately;
- that a set of interim agreements on harvesting prescriptions for regrowth forests and plantations during the transition period be urgently prepared to manage the transition.
- that qualified people be employed in the forests to monitor compliance of logging practices;
- that a comprehensive public list of forestry definitions be developed;
- that royalties that reflect the true value of native timbers be charged;
- that State Forests and the people of NSW not provide hidden subsidies to industry.

Forest Management Structures

A fundamental overhaul of State Forest management structures and personnel is urgently required if the new Carr Government and the public of NSW can have any confidence in future management of the public forest estate.

Recommendations:

- that major institutional reform of Forestry Commission and State Forests be initiated;
- that as part of the corporatisation of State Forests:
 - the Minister for L&WC review progress made in implementing the Public Accounts Committee's recommendations in its Report on FC;
 - the Forestry Act (1916) be repealed and replaced with new legislation which has ecological sustainability as the goal of forests management;
 - responsibility for the management of flora, fauna, soils and water be removed from State Forests;
 - the Government initiate a one year period of transition in forest management to prepare a new forestry Bill and create the new corporatised authority for forest estate;
 - the Principal Forest Regulator have the staff and resources to monitor compliance with regulatory requirements and act as an Environmental Ombudsman in receiving and following up upon complaints of non-compliance made by members of the public.

Comprehensive Regional Assessment

NEFA wishes to have considerable further input into the process of comprehensive regional assessment.

NEFA will make a major submission to Cabinet on comprehensive regional assessments in due course.

1. INTRODUCTION

The NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE is....

- an unincorporated network of individuals and community forest protection groups, working in the public interest to enforce and improve NSW law and protect our natural heritage;
- a volunteer decentralised alliance drawing on economic, ecological, legal and bushcraft expertise to pursue its aims;
- committed to a policy of non-violent direct action;
- active in the tableland and coastal forests of NE New South Wales.

Since its' formation in 1989, NEFA has been campaigning to achieve;

- the protection of 'old growth' forests, rainforests, endangered species, water catchments and areas of koori cultural heritage significance;
- the implementation of a '*comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system*' that is based on the best scientific research attainable (as per the National Forest Policy).
- the emergence of ecologically sustainable forest industries based on ESD management practices;
- public participation in and public accountability for public resource management by public authorities;
- effective Freedom of Information procedures;
- the recognition and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage;
- the enactment of new legislation for competent ecologically sustainable management.

2. URGENT RESCHEDULING

NEFA is concerned that the proposed 'urgent rescheduling' will remove from forestry operations only those large areas of 'unlogged' forests, as identified by State Forests.

This is not acceptable to NEFA since SF has no definition of 'old growth' forest and continues to rely on inadequate, incomplete and inaccurate compartment logging histories, in order to identify 'unlogged' or 'lightly logged' forest.

SFs OGF surveys appear to consist of limited, undocumented, unverified field inspections by junior staff. The joint NPWS and SF NRAC-funded 'Old Growth' project has utterly failed to deliver clarity on this issue, due largely to mismanagement and SF staff's ongoing hostility to the identification and protection of 'old growth forests.

In contrast, NEFA and the North Coast Environment Council Inc. have published our methodology for identifying OGF (Edwards, M. (1994) 'A Study to Identify Old Growth Forest at Wild Cattle Creek', NEFA/NCEC/CEC). This document underpins our request for the urgent rescheduling of forestry operations in the identified sections of Compartments 515, 514, 513 & 512 of Wild Cattle Creek SF.

NEFA notes with approval that in your letter to Ian Cohen, of The Greens NSW, on 16 March 1995 (page 3) you assure Mr Cohen that *"In regard to the rescheduling of State Forest's logging program in the first nine months of a Labor Government, we have clearly indicated that this will be undertaken following advice from the NPWS..."*

We are particularly concerned that reliance on State Forests identification of 'old growth' forest will fall well short of the policy commitment contained in Labor's Forestry Policy [p.7] that a Carr Government will *"urgently reschedule SFs' logging programs to avoid logging and roading in high conservation value old growth forests and identified wilderness areas pending completion of an interim assessment process."*

We are also aware that far too much forest, including many areas of outstanding conservation value have already been logged. Many conservation values are now only represented in logged forests (i.e. many endangered species, many inadequately conserved forest types) and many irreplaceable areas cannot be allowed to be further degraded. NEFA trusts that all areas likely to be required for the ALP's 24 new National Parks will also be included in the promised announcement of *'urgent rescheduling'*.

Recommendations:

- all forestry operations in areas of forest identified as potential 'old growth' forest be immediately rescheduled to lesser conservation value 'recut' forest areas;
- that a process be established to identify smaller areas of 'old growth' forest for exclusion from logging in the compartment planning process;
- that *'urgent rescheduling'* will include excluding from further logging already logged forest which exhibits outstanding conservation values.

3. INTERIM ASSESSMENT & DEFERRED FORESTS

NEFA notes with approval the commitment given by Premier Carr in his letter to Ian Cohen, of The Greens NSW, on 16 March 1995, that *"the identification of areas to be placed under moratoria during the interim assessment process will be conducted in a similar fashion to the regional assessment process"*. [page 3]

We understand that this commitment applies to both the participation of interested parties and to the application of a full range of conservation values, including those cited on page 8 of Labor's Forestry Policy, viz

"old growth, wilderness, national estate, world heritage, aboriginal heritage, endangered and other vulnerable species, biological diversity, and other cultural values;"

NEFA is also aware that the Commonwealth has requested that the States identify 'Deferred Forest Areas' by August 1995. DFAs are required to represent all forests likely to be required to a *'c.a.r.' reserve system*.

NEFA expects that the interim assessment will identify DFAs.

The Government is urged to ensure that the interim assessment process is not restricted to wilderness and 'old growth' forest and that all conservation values will be taken into account in identifying areas that are likely to be required for a *'c.a.r.' reserve system*.

We believe it is essential that the area identified in the interim assessment as being 'likely to be required' for a *'c.a.r.' reserve system*, is larger than the area finally identified.

This approach is crucial and will mean that for at least the interim process, for forests thought to be likely to be required for a *'c.a.r.' reserve system*, the 'benefit of the doubt'

must be exercised to exclude logging, consistent with the application of the ESD 'precautionary principle'.

It is unacceptable to NEFA that logging will be permitted to continue to degrade forests which will later be identified as being required for a *'c.a.r.'* reserve system

NEFA awaits with considerable interest, Cabinet's announcement of the initiation of the landmark consultation mechanisms contained in Labor's Forestry Policy: the Forestry Advisory Council, the Regional Assessment Committees and Regional Assessment Co-ordination Committee.

NEFA supports the consultation process outlined to you by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and we trust that NCC's recommendations will be reflected in the final process.

Environmental Impact Statements - What fate?

NEFA believes that the intention and legal status of EISs being prepared by SFs under the requirements of the TI(IP) Act have been wholly misconceived.

We have repeatedly rejected the notion that FC/SFs Management Area wide EISs were regional planning documents. We have publicly insisted that these EISs must not be permitted to usurp other relevant planning mechanisms, and various judgements of the Land & Environment Court have supported this view. Nonetheless FC/SFs have attempted to continue to make crucial bio-regional landuse decisions based on ignorance, bias and erroneous assumptions.

The L & E Court has (in Jarasius 1988) has already ruled that an EIS which is broad in scope could only authorise a program of logging within a region, but has confirmed that detailed site specific EISs, which examine the impacts upon the particular environments being affected, may be required. Fortunately, since 1992 and the advent of the TI(IP) Act, the role of consent authority has been transferred to the Minister for Planning.

NEFA believes that consideration of regional landuse planning lies within the ambit of the foreshadowed interim and comprehensive regional assessments, to be overseen by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, in line with the NFPS.

Recommendations:

- that EISs approved by the National Party Minister for Planning be revisited to review the areas and extent of logging approved in the plainly political EIS determination in the light of considerations of ecological sustainability and changes in management practice and expected timber volumes;
- the MA-wide EISs still being prepared for SFs be suspended until at least the completion of the interim regional assessment processes.
- the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act 1992 be amended a.s.a.p., and later repealed, to ensure all forestry operations are returned to the ambit of the EP&A Act;
- SFs prepare site specific EISs, for areas proposed to be logged during this transition until a *'comprehensive regional assessment'* in line with the NFPS, has been completed.

It will be only after the interim assessment process identifies forests potentially required for a *comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system*, that forests available for timber production will be able to begin to be properly identified. If a precautionary approach is used in identifying DFAs, as outlined above, additional areas of forest potentially available for timber production, will be identified as the process of comprehensive regional assessment proceeds.

NEFA does not support the notion that in these residual native forests or plantations that industry should have 'an open go' as an unregulated rural industry. An ecologically sustainable forest industry does not mean trashing the regrowth forests. The recent introduction of the controversial 'patch clearfelling' technique is inconsistent with ESD and cannot be permitted to continue, let alone represent the future direction of forest management. Flora, fauna, water and soil conservation and yield limits will require effective regulation if future forestry operations are to achieve ecological sustainability.

Recommendation:

- at the completion of the comprehensive regional assessment, EISs will still be required for forestry operations in forests where operations will cause a significant impact on the environment as per the existing test under ss.111 & 112 of the EP & A Act.

The information compiled during the regional assessment process should ensure that these post '*c.r.a.*' EISs are accurate and relevant documents.

4. TIMBER INDUSTRY RESTRUCTURING

NEFA supports the structural adjustment package contained in Labor's Forestry Policy. We believe that affected individuals and families should be compensated and assisted if the new Government policy adversely affects them.

We remain considerably less supportive of compensation to companies and mill operators, who have had numerous opportunities to enter into industry restructuring voluntarily, follow emerging market trends or respond to changing consumer & community attitudes.

NEFA is concerned that the context in which the new Labor Government is approaching the complex task includes a commitment that "no jobs will be lost" during the transition.

We believe that applying such a 'rule' is unrealistic and totally beyond the control of the Government. No matter what the Government does, even if it did nothing, jobs will continue to be lost in the timber industry, just as they have been steadily lost over the last three decades (at least)! A 'no job lost' position is simplistic, misleading and undeliverable. Emphasis on compassionate support and assistance for any affected parties, while highlighting the unique bio-diversity at risk, would be more credible.

NEFA is aware of numerous mills in NE NSW which, over the last few years, have been proposed for closure. These mills have only continued operations on an interim basis pending the completion of MA-wide EISs, through gross overcutting and more subsidies.

When BORAL took over Duncans operations no mill was closed, but BORAL staff said publicly that decisions on mill amalgamation were awaiting decisions on timber supply

following the completion of FC/SF's EISs. Clearly these mill closures and job losses, which are imminent, are a result of normal corporate restructuring and streamlining.

We believe that after any announcement by the new Labor Cabinet, the National Party heavyweights who have run the NE timber industry for the last 8 years will cynically sack staff and apportion blame for the lost jobs on the ALP Government and the 'greenies'.

It would be politically naive not to expect that this blame will occur no matter what the announcement contains, and should be accepted as a 'given' in timber industry politics.

The threat of industry backlash and blaming must be faced down and exposed. Industry's threatening and intimidating position must not shape what Labor decides to do for our high conservation value forests, lest attempts to avoid contrived and politically inspired industry wrath robs the Carr Government of the value of any effective action.

Hard decisions must be taken which safeguard our unique biological and cultural diversity. The National & Liberals parties could not make them. We hope that the Carr Labor Government will.

A slavish adherence to a 'no jobs lost' policy will dangerously undermine credibility in the new ALP government by players on all sides, and will effectively rule out consideration of many sensible interim arrangements which could realistically manage transition out of NSW's HCV forests.

These interim arrangements could provide tangible means of increasing employment opportunities both inside and outside the timber industry and potentially increasing overall levels of employment.

Given the massive job losses which occurred within the industry during the last 3 decades of frustratingly slow change, it is unrealistic in the extreme, to seek, or be given absolute commitments that 'no jobs will be lost' as the timber industry finally moves into this transition period of rapid change.

In order to quantify the extent of the impact of employment, the new Government's policy during this time of transition, NEFA recommends that the ALP should commission independent auditors to conduct essential research into factors affecting the employment of sub-groups of employees within the timber industry.

NEFA notes with approval Labor's Forestry Policy commitment to *'a rapid evaluation of existing regrowth forests to determine their suitability as replacement resource...'* [page 7].

The demand for fixed volumes is due to quotas cited within Wood Supply Agreements which were entered into secretly and without public tendering processes by previous governments. The legally binding nature of these contracts is in serious question and was the subject of preliminary legal opinions by barristers Messrs Robertson and Donald during the election campaign.

It is very important that each of these WSAs be examined by counsel for the Government, having regard to the Monopolies Act, to determine the existence and nature of clauses which permit FC/SF, the Government or Parliament to opt out of the agreements.

NEFA recommends that regrowth forests only be provided as substitute resources for previously allocated 'old growth' resource where there is an unavoidable and legally enforceable requirement to continue to supply timber under a WSA.

Generally, NEFA accepts that some form of agreement to supply timber to industry companies could be developed in the medium term, following the creation of the *'comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system'*, an articulation of a policy framework and key indicators to define ecologically sustainable forestry and the formulation of a *'compulsory Code of Logging Practice'* and appropriate forest management regulations.

We believe that since FC/SF have repeatedly made significant errors in quantifying standing timber volumes such a rapid assessment must be carried out by an independent group or agency, outside FC/SFs, in a similar fashion to the Rainforest Inventory commissioned by the Wran Government prior to its rainforest decision in 1982.

Such an evaluation could include:

- forest type and stand condition;
- age and disturbance history;
- slope and other site conditions relevant to access and impacts.

In addition, NEFA believes that an immediate audit should be made of:

- the volume and species of unsawn logs held in each mill's log dump, and
- the volume, species and specifications of sawn timber held in existing stockpiles.

An accurate audit of these volumes should allow estimations of:

- work still available in the mills processing unsawn logs, and
- the extent of broader employment impacts, if any, of a shortfall in the supply and demand of sawn timber;

These audits will provide important information:

- to quarantine false claims of massive impacts on employment in the broad timber industry, which includes carpenters and hardware store staff;
- for 'assistance assessment' teams to use in evaluating claims of adverse impacts
- to assess the level of adverse impact on companies and mill operators
- on the sequencing and timing of further measures to achieve structural adjustment.

Identification, support and case management of adversely affected parties

As recommended above, the Government's Forestry Policy announcements should provide considerable emphasis on the compassionate support and assistance for affected parties, while highlighting the unique bio-diversity which is at risk.

The treatment of individuals and families who are affected parties will very quickly become a 'red hot' political issue, within rural communities, if the difficulties inherent in this period of rapid transition are not foreseen and managed well.

It is recommended that the Government ensure that anticipated political implications and possible difficulties are effectively managed through a co-ordinated officer position.

It cannot be over-emphasised that this officer must not be a present staff member of State Forests or Forestry Commission. It is absolutely critical that this key position must be filled by a person who is politically astute, loyal to Government, experienced and committed to effectively managing the transition out of HCV forests.

This staff member ought to be senior, and be located within the Premier's Department or the office of the Minister for L&WC. NEFA suggests that his position could be the Government's nominee upon and convenor of the *'tri-partite committee consisting of the relevant employer, union and government'* which will operate the structural adjustment program. [Labor's Forestry Policy - NSW State Election: March 1995, page 8]

Support and assistance for affected parties

The following suggestions are made as possible steps to achieve support for and deliver assistance to affected parties:

- convene *'tri-partite committee'* to agree upon the criteria cited in Labor's Forestry Policy on p13, and to develop internal protocols & relevant materials on:
 - definition of an adversely affected party;
 - processes of assessment of extent of adverse affect;
 - the range of *'adjustment'* options available to be offered to affected parties;
 - involving other State and Commonwealth government staff in providing assistance
 - community conflict resolution and dispute mediation; etc
- identify timber workers likely to be affected in transition; medium & long terms;
Several processes could be employed to undertake this identification:
 - voluntary self identification;
 - consultations with employers, councils, unions, community groups, regional economic organisations and Chambers of Commerce;
 - advertisements inviting submissions from adversely affected parties;
 - a desktop review by a regional economist;which could contribute to :
 - the compilation of a Register of Affected Parties which would confidentially list the workers affected, their present hours worked, and wage/incomes being received ;
 - organise major public meetings within rural communities, on *'wage support'* days, to explain accurately the governments' intentions and to answer urgent concerns;
 - affected parties (be they mill workers contractors etc) could be offered one day per fortnight of wage support and contact with the *'assistance assessment'* teams working for the *'tri-partite committee'* ;
 - case-managers could be appointed for each affected party or small group of affected parties to follow individual cases and provide ongoing assistance during the transition;

These *'wage support'* days could provide immediate opportunities during the transition period for employers and government by allowing time for

- the identification of affected parties on a *'case by case basis'* ,
- the exposition of the range of state and Commonwealth programs available to affected families and individuals, and
- consultation and individual case management.

As the process of *'assistance assessment'* proceeds the rate of *'wage support'* days at designated mills could increase, culminating in a final date by which *'transition'* programs will have been effected. Ongoing income support could then be achieved from within existing or new, ongoing programs such as the education training allowance.

Options for the implementation of the structural adjustment program

NEFA notes with approval the inclusion on page 13 of Labor's Forestry Policy of two options to be considered by the *'tri-partite committee'* in implementing the structural adjustment program viz:

- redeployment and/or training to logging in an alternate area such as regrowth and/or hardwood/softwood plantation forests; and/or
- redeployment and/or retraining to value adding establishments using regrowth or hardwood/softwood plantation resource"

We would also support your Government offering assistance to small communities with significant employment in the timber industry to establish value adding industries e.g. a medium density fibreboard plant, that would use sawmill waste, thinnings, heads butts etc.

Such plants could make existing sawmills and felling operations more profitable and ecologically sustainable by using their 'waste'. The plants could, with assistance from NSW and Commonwealth governments, also retrain and employ timber workers whose jobs were affected by reduction in available 'old growth' forest sawlog supply. Assistance under your *'industry adjustment funding package'* could come in the form of interest free loans over three years of setting up such plants. Tax incentives could also be applied.

We recommend that additional redeployment and/or retraining options be considered by the *'tri-partite committee'*, including:

- forest rehabilitation and/or vegetation regeneration;
- establishing new and maintaining existing plantations;
- managing and establishing & maintaining new infrastructure within, the new Parks and Reserves which will make up the *'comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system'* promised by the National Forest Policy Statement.

In support of the first of these additional options NEFA asserts that many of the forests that will be required for a *'comprehensive adequate and representative reserve system'* will have been degraded by logging and will require some rehabilitation and/or regeneration if they are not to continue to deteriorate. This work could include:

- weed and feral animal control,
- soil conservation works
- enrichment plantings and,
- seed collection and replanting in Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) areas of SF.

Additionally, there are many rural areas in urgent need of forest regeneration i.e. mass plantouts followed by ongoing maintenance, for environmental purposes such as

- soil conservation,
- wildlife corridors,
- riparian filter strips,
- water table stability,
- flood mitigation etc.

Existing Federally funded organisations such as Greening Australia, LandCare groups etc, have significant capacities to absorb additional staff and undertake such plantings as a feature of transition. New organisations could also evolve within rural regions to tap into existing Commonwealth funding, current available through the REAP, LEAP and Jobskills employment programs.

The second suggested option is a logical outcome of the *'landmark plantation timber strategy'* outlined on page 9 of Labor's Forestry Policy.

Additionally, in areas previously intensively harvested, regrowth forests not under a moratorium, could be thinned during early stages of regeneration to diminish overcrowding, providing employment, maximising speed of growth and delivering a quick, guaranteed future resource.

The employment opportunities of NEFA's third suggested option probably has the greatest potential albeit in the medium to long terms, but should not be overlooked in the *'tri-partite committee's'* relevant considerations. It would be unfortunate if these emerging opportunities for increased employment in natural resource management went unrecognised and interested people were not encouraged to enrol in relevant training, such as TAFE or university.

In short to medium term employment opportunities could be created in overhauling the limited recreational facilities within the new Parks and Reserves, through upgrading facilities presently within State Forests, constructing walking tracks, interpretation facilities and basic management infrastructure such as fences, signage etc.

5. FOREST MANAGEMENT POLICIES

So serious have been the ongoing breaches of public trust and competent management by Forestry Commission of NSW and its trading name State Forests that nothing short of a total overhaul of all SF management and operational policies is now justified by the new Government.

That review must be carried out by personnel external to the existing FC/SF culture and must have the confidence of the community and relevant academic disciplines. The review must not be undertaken internally by the existing staff of FC/SFs.

Prior to this overhaul, an immediate and major policy task which needs initiation is the review of the ESD Working Group Report on Forests. This should lead on to the urgent formulation of a policy framework and key indicators for the ecologically sustainable management of NSW's forests in line with Labor's Forestry Policy commitment for the *'production of Forest Management Plans'* which will be statutory and *'established according to principals (sic) of ecological sustainable development...'* [page 5].

The role of forests in the production of water and the economic value of this resource must form an important consideration in of any assessment of ecological sustainability.

Currently the Commonwealth Bureau of Statistics (as per 1995 Budget figures) is conducting a four year economic analysis of the value of forests. Additionally, the North Coast Environment Council Inc has begun preliminary work on valuing forests for their water outputs, based on the landmark study of the Melbourne Water Boards Catchment in the Thomson River Catchment, commissioned and now suppressed by the Kennett Liberal Government. This research, when completed, ought to be incorporated into any emerging definition of ESD in forestry.

It is essential that SFs accept new principles of 'wholistic' ecologically sustainable forest management and harvesting, which we believe includes recognition of the value of forests in water production, mixed species plantations, organic principles, permaculture design techniques, etc.

This framework and key indicators could later be further developed into a registered Australian Standard once research into 'water valuing' has concluded, via public participation & peer review by the scientific community.

Once the crucial first step has been taken, particular documents should be subject to critical review and rewriting by say, a panel of ecologists, forest economists and management consultants, consistent with the framework and key indicators. These include:

- all internal policies including Native Forests, Wildlife, Plantations, FoI access;
- all s.120 NPWS 'licences to take & kill' and their prescriptions;
- all EPA pollution control licences ('licences to pollute') and their conditions;
- existing or draft 'new' Codes of Logging Practice.

Pending the completion of this major policy review, 'patch clearfelling' and other controversial intensive management techniques which are plainly not consistent with ESD should be immediately ceased.

Additionally, management practices and policies which prevent public accountability, such as the vicarious closure of forests to members of the public and media by District Foresters must cease immediately. The value, means & accountability of such closures ought to be examined during the preparation of new forest management legislation, suggested below.

A set of interim agreements on harvesting prescriptions for regrowth forests and plantations during the transition period is also urgently required to successfully manage the transition.

These should be prepared by the Principal Forest Regulator in line with Labor's Forestry Policy [page 6] and could form a Code of Logging Practice for the transition period.

In order to have any tangible effect this new Code will require qualified people in the forests to monitor compliance of logging practices. This could provide additional employment opportunities and would probably require specialist retraining.

A comprehensive public list of forestry definitions could be developed and adopted including commonly used terms such as: old growth forests, habitat trees, watercourse, rainforest etc. to end ongoing confusion and procrastination.

NEFA notes with approval Labor's Forestry Policy's recognition of the *'urgent need to establish an independent pricing policy based primarily on the market value of the timber resource'* [page 5]

We welcome the idea of State Forest management becoming economically viable by charging the real costs of providing timber. This could be done by charging a level of royalties that reflects the true value of native timbers as if they were grown in plantations.

NEFA urges the Government to ensure that State Forests and the people of NSW do not provide hidden subsidies to industry, through providing roading, machinery etc. Any industry subsidies should be open and transparent and provided in such a way that benefits flow to the broader community.

6. FOREST MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES

NEFA believes that a fundamental overhaul of State Forest management structures and personnel is urgently required if the new Carr Government and the public of NSW can have any confidence in future management of the public forest estate.

We support the groundswell of opinion within the NSW environment movement and other natural resources management agencies and academic institutions for major institutional reform of the NSW Forestry Commission and its trading body, State Forests.

In particular, we support a breakdown of the Forestry Commission 'culture' described by the Public Accounts Committee via the employment of people with a broad range of qualifications within a new ecologically sustainable forest management agency.

We note with approval that in Labor's Forestry Policy a commitment is given that '*A Carr Labor Government will corporatise State Forests*'. [page 4]

We recommend that as part of this corporatisation process:

- the Minister for L&WC review progress made in implementing the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee in its Report on the Forestry Commission, with a view to expediting unimplemented recommendations of the PAC;
- the Forestry Act (1916) be repealed and replaced with new legislation which embodies Labor's Forestry Policy and which has ecological sustainability as the goal of forests management;
- responsibility for the management of flora, fauna, soils and water be removed from State Forests and passed to NPWS, Soil Conservation Service and the EPA respectively, to prepare for the Principal Forest Regulator, management prescriptions and management plans for the natural attributes and relevant non-logged parts of harvesting plans;
- the Government initiate a one year period of transition in forest management to allow the preparation of new forestry legislation and the creation of the new corporatised management authority for the public forest estate;
- the Principal Forest Regulator have the staff and resources to monitor compliance with regulatory requirements and act as an Environmental Ombudsman in receiving and following up upon complaints of non-compliance made by members of the public.

7. COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL ASSESSMENT

NEFA wishes to have considerable further input into the process of comprehensive regional assessment. We note with approval that Labor's Forestry Policy guarantees a role in the assessment process for the participation of interest groups such as ours.

For example: NEFA recommends that comprehensive regional assessments should include an economic assessment of timber, water, tourism and other values of forests. i.e. if cutting timber reduces water then the cost of that lost water should be part of the cost of timber production.

NEFA will make a major submission to Cabinet on comprehensive regional assessments in due course.

REFERENCES

- Edwards, M. (1994) 'A Study to Identify Old Growth Forest at Wild Cattle Creek', NEFA/NCEC/CEC
- Regional Forest Agreements: the Commonwealth Position, February 1995
- National Forest Policy Statement, Council of Australian Governments, December 1992
- Labor's Forestry Policy - NSW State Election: March 1995,
- Letter from The Hon Bob Carr to Ian Cohen, The Greens NSW 16 March 1995:
- National Forest Conservation Reserves - Commonwealth proposed criteria: A Discussion Paper, Mar 95;

N.E.F.A.

North East Forest Alliance

Ph/ Fax 066 224 737. C/-149 Keen St Lismore 2480.

12 July 1995

MEMO

To:	NSW FOREST CONSERVATION GROUPS		
ACF	Peter Wright	NCC	Sid Walker
NPA	Annes Reeves	TEC	Jeff Angel
TWS	James Day	NCEC	Terry Parkhouse
Colong	Keith Muir	CCSERAC	Craig Darlington
SEFCC	Simon Clark		

Re: Resource and Conservation Assessment Council (RaCAC)
proposed appointment of Jeff Angel Director Total Environment Centre Inc (TEC)

Refer:

Labor's Forestry Policy statement: NSW Election Campaign March 1995
Letter 5 July to Jeff Angel TEC co-signed by Minister Knowles, Allan and Yeadon
Fax 7 July to Forest Groups from Jeff Angel of TEC encl copy of Ministers' letter

Summary

NEFA does not support:

- the proposed appointment of only one conservation interest representative;
- the Government nominating the environment movements' representative;
- under the current proposed model and process, the current nominee.

NEFA has serious queries about the RaCAC role and the implementation of other components of Labor's Forestry Policy as stated during the recent state election.

Support is sought from other NSW Forest Conservation Groups on NEFA position, as stated below, on the range of issues which arise from the Government's initiative, to build a state-wide consensus position for a credible interim assessment process.

Relevant Issues

Jeff's fax of 7 July to Forest Groups raises 3 very pertinent issues relating to the criteria defining forests to be considered via 'interim assessment' for moratorium pending the 'comprehensive regional assessments':

- what is the status of the 're-examination' of the current mapped Forest Conservation Strategy areas i.e. who will 're-examine', will areas smaller than 200 ha. be considered?;
- Commonwealth requires in addition to OGF and wilderness, a list of Deferred Forest Areas (DFAs) across the range of high conservation values, as per the recently announced Commonwealth 'C.R.A.' criteria;
- Yeadon appears personally committed to other values being protected: world Heritage, Aboriginal heritage, Bio-diversity;

NEFA believes that

- it is essential that State Forests NSW (SFNSW) not be the agency which conducts the 're-examination' of the previous announced Forest Conservation Strategy Maps
- NSW Government has to get its act together and identify DFAs using the Commonwealth criteria without further delay;
- the Commonwealth should refuse to accredit the current NSW processes of identifying OGF, & appropriate DFAs; and for conducting regional assessments (NRAC! or RaCAC);
- Yeadon is right to nominate the above issues as deserving assessment and appropriate protection, but they aren't the only ones!

Consultation process

Jeff's fax also raises the question of the consultation process for interim assessment.

He nominates a need for financial support for environment movement research and networking.

On the issue of Jeff's appointment to the RaCAC, NEFA does not support his participation in the RaCAC as proposed. No insult or offence is intended to Jeff but it is the view of NEFA that he should not be supported as the nominee of the Government as the rep for NSW forest conservation groups at this time. In the best non-violent tradition NEFA would 'block' any consensus on his appointment via the current process.

Under NEFA's proposal outlined below, the issue of who represents the Sydney based forest conservation groups would be for the groups themselves to determine. (From here, it would appear that a nominee from the NPA Reserves Committee would be a logical choice.)

Jeff's point that an efficient process is crucial is correct.

NEFA supports:

- financial support for environment movement research and networking;
- the provision of adequate support for representatives on such committees including travel and telephone budgets;
- 3 representatives nominated by the environment movement: one each for the north east & south east regions, and one for the Sydney based groups;

This broader representation by the environment movement will be most conducive to a rapid and efficient assessment process which can have the confidence of the regional forest conservation groups.

NEFA recommends that if an increase of 2 'green' reps MUST mean 2 additional appointments by industry interests, to preserve a sense of 'balance' these could be regional industry community reps: one each from the NE & SE. Though the contribution these reps might make in applying the Commonwealth criteria is presently unknown, their participation would certainly improve the co-ordination of the interim assessment.

A quick acceptance of the needs of the conservation movement, ^{by the ALP Gov't} rather than argument and defensive postures, will also speed the process of interim assessment.

Environment movement reserves the right to advise directly

NEFA supports Jeff's final point on the environment movement, particularly forest groups reserving the right to advise the Ministers and Parliament directly as important, and NEFA supports this being made clear at the outset.

Criticisms and Queries

NEFA believes that the consultation process by the Government in initiating the RaCAC is far from satisfactory.

- The 'interim assessment' process is a crucial stage for forest conservation and the credibility of any subsequent comprehensive regional assessment depends on a credible interim process;
- A lack of clarity on interim criteria leading to errors and / or omissions in decisions made now on an interim basis, will not be able to be later corrected via the comprehensive regional assessment process;
- The notion of RaCAC replacing the Natural Resources Audit Council (NRAC) is curious since NRAC was clearly the Coalition (read National Party) vehicle for pre-empting and diverting (read rorting) the public process of comprehensive regional assessments involving all stakeholders including the Commonwealth;
- Does the ALP now propose to also have a vehicle to rort the democratic, representative comprehensive regional assessment process they negotiated with the environment movement and The Greens NSW, promised in detail in their pre-election policy?
- No documentation of a change of Forestry policy, the membership of RaCAC or its precise criterion and terms of reference is available. Although the inclusion of private land is welcomed, it appears that we are being asked to sign a blank check!
- No appointments have been made to the Forestry Advisory Council (FAC), the peak consultation mechanism promised on p3 of Labor's Forestry Policy, even on an interim basis pending promised legislation. An Advisory Committee under s.22 of the EPA & A ACT is a presently available interim vehicle for the FAC;
- Labor's Forestry Policy on p.7 promises at the third dot point that the interim assessment process will *involve all stakeholders at a regional level*. NEFA believes this involvement must include participation in the overall co-ordination committee (be it RACC or RaCAC);
- No appointments have been made to either the Regional Assessment Committees (RACs) or Regional Assessment Co-ordination Committee (RACC) promised on p8 of Labor's Forestry Policy. Until the RaCAC interim assessment process is reconciled with the agreed & public policy statement it will appear 'ad hoc' and unrelated;
- Clarification from the Government via Jeff indicates that RaCAC may replace the Regional Assessment Advisory Council (RACC). Which body will RaCAC replace?
- Appointing technical committees without the constitution of the promised advisory processes of FAC & RACC is irregular and inconsistent with a commitment to 'playing by the agreed rules';
- Does the 'ad hoc' appointment of a RaCAC mean that other processes and commitments promised in the Forestry policy document have been silently withdrawn and new versions are now in place?
- The Government has effectively compromised Mr Angel's involvement by nominating him rather than seeking nominations from the NSW environment movement as has been the usual practice for many years;

Conclusion

There is an real urgency to organise and commence the interim assessment process, however this urgency cannot be allowed to overwhelm a publicly agreed process, and substitute political expediency for credible representative public participation.

Can we quickly agree to a statewide position which will allow this to occur?

JR Corkill NEFA Co-ordinator 12/7/1995

J.R. Corkill.

N.E.F.A.

North East Forest Alliance

Ph/ Fax 066 224 737. C/-149 Keen St Lismore 2480.

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 13

TO: REX BOWEN

AT:

Receiving FAX No. 02 2284967 No. of Pages incl. this one: 4

FROM: J Corbitt.

MESSAGE: Copy of Memo FYI

If this Fax is imperfect, please phone the sender on (066) ... 224 737.

N.E.F.A.

North East Forest Alliance

Ph/Fax 066 224 737. C/-149 Keen St Lismore 2480.

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 12 July 95

TO: Sid Walker

AT: NCC

Receiving FAX No. 022475945 No. of Pages incl. this one: 4

FROM: Corkeill

+ The Greens?

MESSAGE: Please group dial this to Sydney, SE + Camb. groups

If this Fax is imperfect, please phone the sender on (066) 224 737.

AX: 215/ACB, 215/TEC, 215/BLAN/NEFH,
215/SEFCC, 215/TWS, 215/ANNE/NDP

TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC.

SHOP 1, GLOUCESTER WALK, 88 CUMBERLAND STREET, SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000
Phone: (02) 247 4714 - (02) 247 6476 Fax: (02) 247 7116



FAX TO: Forest Groups

FROM: JEFF ANGEL

DATE: 7 JULY 1995

RE: RESOURCE AND CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT COUNCIL (RACAC)

Today, I received a letter from Ministers Allan, Knowles and Yeadon inviting me to become a member of the RACAC. The letter follows.

3 188m I have informed the Government that I will be first consulting with forest groups about this invitation. There are at least three issues:

1. 'Interim assessment of those high conservation old growth forests designated as unlogged or lightly logged'. This does not conform:

- ? ✓ • with our information that the current mapped Forest Conservation Strategy areas are being re-examined in terms of scale and contiguous old growth areas.
- ✓ • the fact that the Commonwealth is requiring additional conservation values to be part of deferred forest areas. I understand that the State is going to produce additional areas to the Strategy or seek accreditation of the process (in which case the other values will have to be included).
- statements by Yeadon in 'Bush Telegraph' (June 1995) that, "old growth is not the only value that will be looked at, and just what the ultimate basket of values is and what weight we put on any particular value remains to be seen. There are others such as world heritage, Aboriginal heritage, biodiversity."

The inclusion of last 2 essential
These matters need to be clarified.

2. The community consultation process for interim assessment.

X
N/V ✓ Any condition for my membership would certainly be Ministerial support for funds for environmental movement research and networking. Given that the process is to take the next nine months, an efficient process is crucial.

3. Conservation options.

✓ If agreement cannot be reached by RACAC, then environment movement options should be forwarded to the Ministers for final decision.

ie. right to go direct.
The result of the Election has provided considerable political capital for the environment and I am certainly willing to use TEC's position to help obtain the right results.

You may wish to think about all this over the weekend. Please ring me next Monday or Tuesday.

JA



MINISTER FOR URBAN AFFAIRS AND PLANNING
MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Level 33 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

PO Box 30 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Phone: (02) 228 4499
Fax: (02) 228 3716

YOUR REF:

OUR REF:

05 JUL 1995

Mr Jeff Angel
Assistant Director, Total Environment Centre
Floor 9, 15 Argyle Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Angel

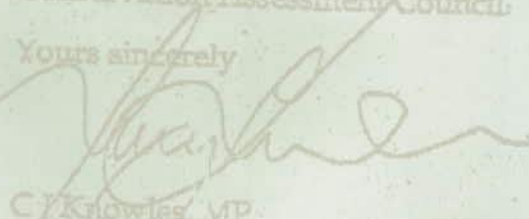
I am writing to you to invite you to become a member of the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council.


You will be aware that the Government has a clear policy to resolve a wide range of natural resource issues but, particularly, those relating to timber production in nature forests. To this end, it has been decided to abolish the Natural Resources Audit Council and replace it with a restructured and refocussed body, the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council (RACAC). The first task of this Council will be to undertake an interim assessment of high conservation old growth areas that have been set aside from any order of working by State Forests of New South Wales. These areas are confined within mapped areas designated as unlogged or lightly logged.

This interim assessment phase will be followed by a Comprehensive Regional Assessment leading to a Regional Forest Agreement with the Commonwealth and the dedication of a comprehensive adequate and representative reserve system. The regional assessments will cover both public and private forested lands.

Your experience in conservation matters would significantly enhance the deliberations of the Council. I hope, therefore, that you will accept my invitation to join the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council.

Yours sincerely


C. Knowles, MP
Minister for Urban and Affairs and Planning & Minister for Housing


K M Yeadon, MP
Minister for Land and Water Conservation


P D Allan, MP
Minister for the Environment

3 July 1995

*Confirmed with Exec of
31/7/95 Min. Env.*

Madi Maclean
Executive Officer
Minister for the Environment
Level 9
111 Elizabeth Street
Sydney 2000.

Dear Madi,

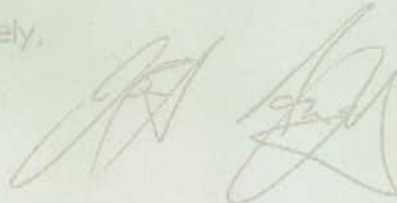
I am writing to confirm the 4 Year Project arrangements.

1. The project will last three months (two days per week). The first month will involve producing a report on the landscape (ALP Policies, legislation, international and national conventions and environmental trends). The second month producing programs for some key policy areas (obviously not all areas can be covered). The third month finalising the report.
2. I will seeking the detailed advice of environmentalists and they will be supplied with a copy of the first stage report.
3. I am independent and not under the direction of the Minister as to the content of the report.
4. The report will be from an environmentalist's viewpoint.
5. I am able to obtain information and you can arrange discussions between me and agency officers. This could involve up to one day a week in the Minister's office.
6. The Minister is not obliged to adopt the report.
7. My report will be issued as a discussion paper and will acknowledge the necessity to further negotiate programs with stakeholders.

I should note there has been comment on my potential conflict of interest. However, Total Environment Centre's Management Committee has resolved that since it is an independent project, no such conflict of interest exists.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Angel



Fax Cover Page

SUBJECT:

ATTENTION : JOHN CORKILL

FOLLOWING ARE TWO PAGES OF THE LATEST
DRAFT OF THE RACAC APPOINTMENT RESPONSE.

IT WILL BE SHOWN TO (AND AGREED TO ?) THIS
WEEKEND BY SID, CRAIG, ANNE REEVES, TWS
CANBERRA , MAYBE NOEL AND NUMEROUS
SMALLER GROUPS.

REGARDS
SIMON & KASS

To: John Corkill

From : SIMON CLARK

For Information Call:

At:

Pages: 3

My Fax Number :

The NSW ENVIRONMENT MOVEMENTS POSITION on
a PROCESS of URGENT INTERIM FOREST
ASSESSMENTS

**APPOINTMENTS to the RESOURCE and
CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT COUNCIL**

DRAFT # 2

This letter is the joint position of the co-signed groups regarding appointments to the RACAC of environmental movement representatives.

Labor's Forest Policy of March 1995 states that the interim assessment process is to involve all stakeholders at a regional level. The groups also cite the commitment to Mr Iain Cohen, The Greens NSW, made by Mr Carr in his letter of 16 March. *"The identification of areas to be placed under moratoria during the interim assessment process will be conducted in a similar fashion to the regional assessment process. The process will include relevant interest groups, including conservationists, and will be determined by the Department of Planning"*

Therefore we propose the appointment of three representatives to the RACAC; one each from the north-east, the south-east and Sydney based groups. These representatives will be nominated by the North Coast Environment Council Inc., the South East Forests Conservation Council Inc. and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW respectively. (This arrangement functioned efficiently with the previous government's Forest Policy Advisory Committee.)

We do not support the Government's appointment of Mr Jeff Angel as an environmental representative at this time and in the proposed manner.

If an increase in the representation of the environmental movement requires an increase in industry participants, then these should be regional industry community representatives.

Under this proposal the movement will reserve the right to deal directly with Ministers and Parliament. We require written advice on the terms of reference of the RACAC. The Forest Advisory Council should be instigated immediately, using interim mechanisms such as a Section 22 Committee pending formal legislation if necessary.

Mr Carr's commitment that *"the interim process will be conducted in a similar fashion to the regional assessment process"* provides a clear mandate for all conservation values listed on P.8 of the Forestry Policy, including Commonwealth criteria, to be applied. Consequently, and in accordance with the NFPS, we request that the Commonwealth CAR criteria are applied in the RACAC's interim assessment process.

Financial support should be provided for the environmental movement's involvement in this process. This will be used to fund research for the interim assessment and to support the costs incurred by representatives on the committee.

The lack of consultation by the Government in this latest initiative for forest protection has created apprehension about promised open and accountable assessment processes. Adequate representation by the environment movement will be the most conducive approach to constructing a vehicle that can achieve a rapid, efficient and credible assessment process.

We accept the urgency of making progress in the interim assessment process and request closer consultation by the Government to expedite this important step in forest protection.

N.E.F.A.

North East Forest Alliance

Ph/Fax 066 224 737. C/-149 Keen St Lismore 2480.

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 7 June 1995 TO: Bruce Hawker, Chief of Staff

AT: Office of the Premier of NSW, The Hon. Bob Carr, MLA

Receiving FAX No. (02) 230 4029

No. of Pages incl. this one: 17

FROM: John Corkill

MESSAGE:

Please ensure that the following letter and submission are drawn to Mr Carr's personal attention. I would appreciate advice of how the recommendations contained within this submission will be addressed by the new Government. Thanks for your assistance.

Cheers!

JRC

If this Fax is imperfect, please phone the sender on (066) 224 737

Hard copy of original will follow in the post JRC

Experimental Treatment	Code	Summary of Comment
City-Active Sensory Involvement	[no response]	
	- smells, traffic noise	
	+ plants and people in mall	
	- ugly buildings, new development	
	o couldn't smell anything	
	- lack of participation by other group members	
	o strange to use senses in this way, more aware of things than usual	
	- embarrassment	
	+ relaxed, carefree walk	
	- embarrassment	
	- embarrassment	
	- noise	
Park-Passive Sensory Involvement	- need for guidance, to be shown the interesting stuff	
	- noise of cars and trucks	
	- signs that failed to use 'please'	
	- animals in small cages	
	+ peaceful and enjoyable walk in an enjoyable place	
	- car noise	
	- lack of social interaction	
	+ cleanliness	
	+ whole atmosphere relaxing	
	- caged animals, ill and uncared for	
	- others in group	
	+ pleasant experience	
	+ beauty of nature	
	- artificial elements (traffic noise, false irrigation)	
	[no response]	

N.E.F.A.

North East Forest Alliance

Ph/Fax 066 224 737, C/-149 Keen St Lismore 2480.

Draft (not sent @ all following Y's of 20/6/95)

The Hon. Kim Yeadon,
Minister for Land and Water Conservation,
Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000.
Per fax no.

20 June 1995

Dear Mr Yeadon,

Re: Implementation of Urgent Rescheduling of Forestry Operations

Thank you for invitation to attend your presentation and discussion session last Tuesday at the Granville Town Hall. I was especially pleased to hear of your commitment to saving high conservation value forests and your enthusiasm for quickly achieving timber industry restructuring.

In particular your personal commitment to protect 'old growth' forest areas smaller than 200ha was recognised by the NEFA representatives present as a major step forward and crucial goal in achieving the conservation of key types and areas of 'old growth' forests. Thank you for your positive response to our expressed concerns and requests.

As you know many compartments have significant, though small, areas of 'old growth' within them, yet apparently do not 'qualify' for protection by State Forests. One very important State Forest where smaller patches of 'old growth' forest remain is the Wild Cattle Creek in Dorrig Management Area. Logging of OGF in this forest have been the subject of dispute several years. Of particular concern are compartments nos. 512 - 515, 579?

I have supplied Ms Wong in your office, with copies of maps of the areas which NEFA considers to be "contentious areas" of OGF, which require protection from logging. As usual there were several drafts of these key maps produced by NEFA. An earlier draft version was provided to District Forester John Ball, who was also provided with the later version and advice that this latest version would be provided to your office.

I confirm that the NEFA compartment maps, which identify small areas of OGF that require your protection, are the latest maps supplied by me to Ms Wong.

Following the most recent dispute in this State Forest, I received a fax message on behalf of NEFA on 9 June 1995 from Penny Wong per David Ridley, advising that

"the Minister has instructed SF to refocus logging away from contentious areas within the compartments for a short period while advice is sought from other agencies"

I spoke today with Graham King, North Region Manager, followed a media report that logging would proceed in Wild Cattle Creek SF. Our conversation reveals an apparent continuing failure by SF to understand the intent of Labor's Forestry Policy or your personal goal of resolving forest disputes in NE NSW, and/or an ignorance of the policy commitments given by you to me and other environmentalists at our briefing last week.

The Greens

The Greens NSW Election Campaign '95 • Ph (02) 267 4410 • Fax (02) 267 3158

★ Media Release ★

Attention: HEALTH / POLITICS JOURNOS

Thursday -16 March 1995

YOUTH SUICIDE RATES PROVE NEED FOR A COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

The Greens today repeated their call for a Commissioner for Children and Youth following reports of alarmingly high rates of youth suicide of approximately 16 per 100,000 of population in Australia and 'about one youth suicide a day since 1987'.

"Australian society must realise that suicide is a sign of the social alienation and deep despair Australian youth feel about our present society and their part in the future of our Australian culture," said Ms Josephine Faith, The Greens NSW No. 2 Upper House candidate, at the March 25 election.

Ms Faith said that, as a major health problem, youth suicide must be addressed urgently with adequate funding for vital social services in both city and rural areas and an end to the liberal availability of guns.

"The appointment of a Commissioner for Children and Youth would give young people a special opportunity to voice their fears and concerns and would show them that society does care about their needs," said Ms Faith.

"The Commissioner's primary role would be to independently represent the interests of young people, free from the political pointscoring and draconian 'law and order' policies which young people find repugnant," Ms Faith said.

The Greens NSW believe that a Commissioner for Children & Youth would have the advantages of reporting to the Federal Parliament, independent of any particular minister or government department, as was done in New Zealand and Britain.

"Legislation to create the position of Commissioner for Children should provide a statutory privilege for communications between children and the Commissioner, and should empower the Commissioner to draw up and circulate a proposal for a code of practice on confidentiality and other ethical issues," she said.

"The Greens reject the Shooter's Party platform and demand the registration, compulsory safe storage and monitoring of all guns in metropolitan and rural areas," said Ms Faith.

"There must be a dramatic shift in funding away from the agents of 'law and order'. Public funds must be used to meet the health needs of our despairing youth," she said.

"The American model of 'living by the gun' has failed to create a healthy society in the US. More young people than ever are dying due to guns. These US influences leading to social decay are being manifested in Australia. Youth suicide and grieving families are the results of this legacy," Ms Faith said.

"In NSW we must take action to restore young people's vision, promote life affirming values and renew their hope for the future," said Ms Faith.

...ends.

For more info Phone: Josephine Faith on 02 267 4406w or 02 550 4515 h.

(Draft 1 - 20 June 1995)

It alarms NEFA that:

- State Forests apparently intends to recommence logging in the contentious areas because 'a short period' has passed; they have technically complied with the Ministers direction; and history shows that SFNSW will do what they (and industry) want unless constrained; ~~NPWS don't~~
- we have no information on action to satisfy your earlier commitment to seek advice from other agencies on the values of these "contentious areas", nor do we know how this advice was taken into account by your office;
- it appears that advice from NPWS has not been reflected in the nomination, by SFNSW, of the key compartments in Wild Cattle Creek SF as 'Regrowth - Merchantable (Yellow)' in the maps prepared for your announcement last week;
- no direction appears to have been issued to State Forests to the effect that controversial areas of forest, said to be OGF, will NOT be logged until the Minister's office is satisfied;
- the Minister's commitment to protect small areas of OGF has not been communicated to SFNSW senior management;
- SFNSW has not told Regional and District staff that small areas of OGF are ~~NOT~~ to be logged and to revise any current Harvesting Plans accordingly;
- Regional and District Manager have not directed timber industry contractors to strictly observe revised Harvesting Plans.

My colleague Dailan Pugh is currently preparing advice to you on the grave errors and inaccuracies in the maps supplied to you for your announcement last week by SFNSW.

Before you receive his advice

~~In the meantime~~ I again request your action to ensure that Labor's Forestry Policy and your recent announcements and commitments are quickly and effectively implemented.

Will you please advise me, as soon as possible:

- what advice was sought and obtained from which other agencies regarding the conservation values of the "contentious areas" within Cpts 512-515?
- what directions have you given to SFNSW to implement your commitment to protect small areas of OGF from logging?
- what steps SFNSW have taken to revise current Harvesting Plans, for Compartments with small areas of OGF, in accordance with your policy commitments to protect these small OGF areas?
- ?

Pending your provision of answers to these questions, NEFA requests that you simply 'freeze' logging in Cpts 512-515 until you have all the necessary information we seek.

I cannot emphasise strongly enough the need for this immediate 'stop work' step given SFNSW's history of wilful action contrary to law and government policy.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Higginson

The Greens NSW

State Election 1995 Campaign Office:

GPO Box 1220, Sydney 2001: 1st Floor, 168 Day Street, Sydney
Phone 02 267 4410, 02 267 4404, 02 267 4406 02 267 4407 Fax 02 267 3158.

Monday 20 March 1995

[ver. 3.1 - 12.30am 19/3/1995]

Preference flows in Sydney based seats (Listed by group) (*) denotes marginal; (+) affected by aircraft noise.

SEAT	CANDIDATE	PREFERENCE FLOW
Ashfield(+)	Paul Fitzgerald	to Democrats, NAN, then Exhaust
Gordon	Ross Knowles	Exhaust
Heffron	Mark Berriman	Exhaust
Marrickville (+)	Bruce Welch	to Democrats, DSP, NAN, Ind. Exhaust
Maroubra	Rory Curphey	to Democrats then Exhaust
North Shore	Mervyn Murchie	Exhaust
Vaucluse	Tom McLoughlin	to Democrats then Exhaust [8] 7
Bligh	Virginia Milson	to Ind. (C. Moore) then ALP
Camden(*)	Vicki Kearney	to Ind. then ALP
Coogee (*)	Murray Matson	
Drummoyne (*) (+)	Jenny Ryde	to NAN then ALP
Davidson	Peter Tuor	
Eastwood	Alex Leplaar	to ALP
Lane Cove	Cameron Little	to Democrats, NAN then ALP
Pittwater	Chris Cairns	to Democrats then ALP [8]

Still to be announced:

Bathurst

For more info contact: Geoff Ash 02 267 4407 or John Corkill on 02 267 4406

ATTENTION JOHN CORKILL

sat arvo dear jc, a few comments on draft. Looks pretty good and we haven't much to add. Something needed for MA's where EIS's have been done, and of course I think water could pop up in a few more places. Also the Wood Supply Agreements and need to renegotiate in light of diminished resource.

[Rung bunka no possibility of file transfer will send this rave by fax so use what you will. Typos need to be checked by reader... may won't be picked up by spellchecker.] susie;-)

✓ NEFA is... not just to enforce nsw law but to see "better" laws enacted.

✓ * p.1 ESD forest industries, add "based on ESD management practices"

✓ * Include in court actions FC vs. H. Almann and 32 others (Cpt. 22 right to protest upheld by Windeyer J.)

✓ * p.2 what criteria for re-comm. at bottom of page?

✓ * p.3 re EIS's. The EIS's which have been produced and approved need to be revisited. Apart from their apparent approval on political grounds, and that most Government agencies and independent scientists were highly critical of the conclusions drawn, any change in the timber volume and therefore changes in management practices now makes them obsolete.

✓ * p.4 Sheedy thinks "trashing" is too emotive. After seeing Pine Creek I disagree.

✓ * p.5 para 7 "faced down" ?

✓ * p.5 para starting "A slavish..." this sentence is awkward and hard to understand. Put a "that" between accpet and transition might do it.

✓ * p.5 include on audit list no. of employees/ contractors, hours worked, wages/rates etc also include regrowth forest type/ age/ slope/ stand condition

✓ * It would appear the FCNSW has allowed a serious overcutting of the public forest. The figures for standing timber volumes have been reworked a number of times, and is based on best-case scenarios.

✓ A first step to determine the scale of a sustainable north coast timber industry is an accurate census of standing timber volume/ age on various slopes. Planning should be clear... if we are going to do 80 yr cycles then we need to know what is available, at what age/ size etc and then only log 1/80th of this per year. Maths should be simple...

The actual volumes are critical because of the Wood Supply Agreements particularly with BORAL. We hear that one legal opinion obtained by the FPA has it that the WSA is legally binding. This would seem unlikely given T. Robertson's recent opinion on the M2 based on the Monopolies Act. However we understand that the WSA has a number of potential "outs" - it is based on the amount of timber available (so will have to be renegotiated in the light of reserve system changes) and also if the forest is "damaged", this could be interpreted as "overcutting", insufficient regrowth, effect of insect damage etc.

So it seems to us that there is plenty of scope to renegotiate the WSA based on ESD principles. At the same time regional planning issues such as which mills are important in local economies and which are able to use smaller regrowth logs and are making the most value-added products can be taken into account.

p.7 Gov't should be careful not to close door on new information. Both the Commonwealth Bureau of Statistics (as per 1995 Budget allocations) is doing a four-year economic analysis of the value of forests. The North Coast Environment Council has also begun some preliminary work on valuing forests with respect to water outputs based on the ground-breaking study commissioned (and now suppressed) by the Victorian Liberal Government. It may be that in the next few years it will be shown that forests are most valuable for their water values and should be managed accordingly. (Interestingly, there are a number of officers with State Forests supportive of this idea). So the Gov't would be foolish to tie itself into something which may be completely out of date in say 4 years time when more information comes to hand.

~~* forest Man't Policies add to para 5 pulp wood, salvage "and sawlogs"~~

* The real price of the water that is used by the growing trees should be included in the price of timber.

* one advantage of recognising the water value of forests is that it brings on side all the downstream users from farmers to anglers and commercial fishers, oyster growers, townsfolk, gardeners etc. The support from these sectors could be important to stemming the north-coast hysteria that will be whipped up by the Nationals.

Even a commitment to investigate the link, after all the Dept. is about Water Conservation and water is the critical issue on the North Coast with Coffs Harbour unable to sustain a larger city due to water shortages, Bellinger aiming to shut out all commercial fishing from the Bellinger River; and considerable alarm about future water shortages and declining water quality. Recreational anglers are especially concerned as it is getting very difficult to catch a fish in a north-coast river and anecdotal evidence suggests this is an exponential problem.

* problem with current thinning operations which take dominant stems and leave small stuff. Forest getting progressively younger > less water, less sawlogs, less fauna and flora diversity, more fire and disease prone.

* given rainforests largely logged out, job opportunities for seed collection, propagation and planting both within identified r/f and on cleared land. Could get greenies and loggers to work together... shock horror.

* p.8 disagree with employing people with "Zoology and Hydrology degrees" What about Botanists, geologists, Ag. Sci, Resource Economists, Statisticians etc. Sure we need qualified people, ongoing training opportunities etc. but lets not limit ourselves to 2 areas of expertise. Balance and broad range of expertise are what's needed.

Use wotya will! Will try and ring in Sunday arvo.. but it's taree envirofair so i could get stuck somewhere, ☹

Wed noon.

Dear R et al

Yes, its good/altho a bit wordy + repetitive. Important
to get it in though.

Perhaps recommendations should go in exec summary
~~referred to~~ with page no referrals

I'm reminded of Penny Long's comment she was 'drowning
a paper'. Our suggestions could get lost. So they
need to stand out in the text.

lots of people will just flick over the pages + only
read the bold headers / recommendations etc

Two little changes

p2 last para 1st recommⁿ change 'low' to 'lesser'
Consistency + may be have Kev for end. sp. etc but
probably less than CGF)

+ p7
para 7

with a staff

NETA suggests this position.

Keep up the good work folks

Susie

Draft 2 (only)
Additions & comments invited
N.E.F.A.

North East Forest Alliance
Ph/Fax 066 224 737. C/-149 Keen St Lismore 2480.

Submission

to the

N.S.W.

LABOR

CABINET

of the

CARR

GOVERNMENT

on

**"Managing the Transition out
of Old Growth Forests"**

June 1995

individuals living in the central suburbs of Cairns (who therefore did not live in natural surroundings). These people were telephoned and asked how often they visited natural environments such as National Parks, State Forests, and environmental parks. Those who answered "never" or "once a year or less" were then asked to participate further in the study. This process was repeated until 5 men and 5 women agreed to an interview.

The basic method for recruitment of participants was by telephone contact, introducing myself and the basic aims of the research, and requesting the individual's involvement. The success rate with traditional farmers was 42%. All alternative lifestylers I approached for an interview (this was mostly in person, due to the lack of telephones within this community group) agreed to participate. All environmental activists selected also agreed to participate. Only 20% of non-users of natural environments contacted by telephone agreed to an interview.

3.1.4 Demographics.

3.1.4.1 Age

A wide age range of adults were interviewed (from 23 to 81). Alternative lifestylers were typically the youngest group, and traditional farmers the oldest (see Table 1).

<u>Table 1. Age.</u>		
	Age Range	Median
Traditional Farmers	31-70	55
Alternative Lifestylers	23-62	34
Environmental Activists	26-61	
43.5		
Non-Users	34-81	
49.5		

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[Section, recommendation and page numbering to be included in next draft!]

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INTRODUCTION

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE is.....

- an unincorporated network of individuals and community forest protection groups, working in the public interest to enforce nsw law and protect our natural heritage;
- a volunteer decentralised alliance drawing on economic, ecological, legal and bushcraft expertise to pursue its aims;
- committed to a policy of non-violent direct action;
- active in the tableland and coastal forests of NE New South Wales.

Since its' formation in 1989, NEFA has been campaigning to achieve;

- the protection of 'old growth' forests, rainforests, endangered species, water catchments and areas of koori cultural heritage significance;
- the implementation of a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system' that is based on the best scientific research attainable (as per the National Forest Policy).
- the emergence of ecologically sustainable forest industries;
- public participation in and public accountability for public resource management by public authorities;
- effective Freedom of Information procedures;
- the recognition and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

insert lists of court and forest protest actions during the Coalition Government terms in office

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

[insert here when we know what it is!]

URGENT RESCHEDULING

NEFA is concerned that the proposed 'urgent rescheduling' will remove from forestry operations only those state forests which are 'unlogged' or 'lightly logged' as identified by State Forests.

This is not acceptable to NEFA since SF has no definition of 'old growth' forest and continues to rely on inadequate, incomplete and inaccurate compartment logging histories, in order to identify 'unlogged' or 'lightly logged' forest.

SFs OGF surveys appear to consist of limited, undocumented, unverified field inspections by junior staff. The joint NPWS and SF NRAC-funded 'Old Growth' project has utterly failed to deliver clarity on this issue, due largely to SF staff's ongoing hostility to the identification and protection of 'old growth' forests.

In contrast, NEFA and the North Coast Environment Council Inc. have published our methodology for identifying OGF (Edwards, M. (1994) 'A Study to Identify Old Growth Forest at Wild Cattle Creek', NEFA/NCEC/CBC). This document underpins our request for the urgent rescheduling of forestry operations in the identified sections of Compartments 515, 514, 513 & 512 of Wild Cattle Creek SF.

NEFA notes with approval that in your letter to Ian Cohen, of The Greens NSW, on 16 March 1995 (page 3) you assure Mr Cohen that "In regard to the rescheduling of State Forest's logging program in the first nine months of a Labor Government, we have clearly indicated that this will be undertaken following advice from the NPWS. .."

We are particularly concerned that reliance on State Forests identification of 'unlogged' or 'lightly logged' forest will fall well short of the policy commitment contained in Labor's Forestry Policy [p.7] that a Carr Government will "urgently reschedule SFs' logging programs to avoid logging and roading in high conservation value old growth forests. and identified wilderness areas pending completion of an interim assessment process."

Recommendations:

- all forestry operations in areas of forest identified as potential 'old growth' forest be immediately rescheduled.

INTERIM ASSESSMENT

NEFA notes with approval the commitment given by Premier Carr in his letter to Ian Cohen, of The Greens NSW, on 16 March 1995, that "the identification of areas to be placed under moratoria during the interim assessment process will be conducted in a similar fashion to the regional assessment process" .[page 3]

We understand that this commitment applies to both the participation of interested parties and to the application of a full range of conservation values, including those cited on page 8, viz

"old growth, wilderness, national estate, world heritage, aboriginal heritage, endangered and other vulnerable species, biological diversity, and other cultural values;"

- the Government is urged to ensure that the interim assessment process does not narrow to identify only 'unlogged' or 'lightly logged' forests as nominated by State Forests.

We believe it is essential that the area identified in the interim assessment as being 'likely to be required' for a 'c.a.r.' reserve system, is larger than the area finally identified.

This approach is crucial and will mean that for at least the interim process, for forests thought to be of marginal 'significance' for a 'c.a.r.' reserve system, the 'benefit of the doubt' must be exercised to exclude logging, consistent with the application of the ESD 'precautionary principle'.

NEFA awaits with considerable interest, Cabinet's announcement of the initiation of the landmark consultation mechanisms contained in Labor's Forestry Policy: the Forestry Advisory Council, the Regional Assessment Committees and Regional Assessment Co-ordination Committee.

Environmental Impact Statements - What fate?

NEFA believes that the intention and legal status of EISs being prepared by SFs under the requirements of the TI(IP) Act have been wholly misconceived.

We have repeatedly rejected the notion that Management Area wide EISs were regional planning documents which should usurp other relevant planning mechanism to make crucial bio-regional landuse decisions based on ignorance, bias and erroneous assumptions.

The Land & Environment Court has (in Jurasius 1988) has already ruled that an EIS which is broad in scope could only authorise a program of logging within a region, but has confirmed that detailed site specific EISs which examine the impacts upon the particular environments being affected are required. Fortunately, since 1992 and the advent of the TI(IP) Act, the role of consent authority has been transferred to the Minister for Planning.

NEFA believes that regional landuse planning lies within the province of the foreshadowed interim and comprehensive regional assessments, to be conducted by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, in line with the NFPS.

- the MA-wide EISs still being prepared for SFs should be suspended until at least the completion of the interim regional assessment processes.
- the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act 1992 be repealed and all forestry operations return to the ambit of the EP & A Act;

It will be only after the interim assessment process identifies forests potentially required for a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system, that forests available for timber production will be able to be properly identified. Additional areas will probably be added as production forests as the process of comprehensive regional assessment proceeds.

NEFA does not support the notion that in these residual native forests or plantations that industry should have 'an open go' as an unregulated rural industry. An ecologically sustainable forest industry does not mean trashing the regrowth forests. Water and soil conservation and yield limits will require effective regulation if these operations are to achieve ecological sustainability.

- EISs will still be required for forestry operations in forests where operations will cause a significant impact on the environment as per the existing test under ss.111 & 112 of the EP & A Act.

The information compiled during the regional assessment process should ensure that these post 'c.r.a.' EISs are accurate and relevant documents.

TIMBER INDUSTRY RESTRUCTURING

NEFA supports the structural adjustment package contained in Labor's Forestry Policy. We believe that affected individuals and families should be compensated and assisted if the new Government policy adversely affects them.

We remain considerably less supportive of compensation to companies and mill operators, who have had numerous opportunities to enter into industry restructuring voluntarily, follow emerging market trends or respond to changing consumer & community attitudes.

NEFA is concerned that the context in which the new Labor Government is approaching the complex task includes a commitment that "no jobs will be lost" during the transition.

We believe that applying such a 'rule' is unrealistic and totally beyond the control of the Government. No matter what the Government does, even if it did nothing, jobs will continue to be lost in the timber industry, just as they have been steadily lost over the last three decades (at least)! 'No job losses' is simplistic, misleading and undeliverable.

We believe that after any announcement by the new Labor Cabinet, the National Party heavyweights who have run the NE timber industry for the last 8 years will cynically sack staff and apportion blame for the lost jobs on the Government and the 'greenies'.

This blame will occur no matter what the announcement contains, and should be accepted as a 'given' within timber industry politics.

The threat of industry backlash and blaming must be faced down and exposed. It's threatening and intimidating position must not shape what Labor decides to do for our high conservation value forests, lest attempts to avoid politically inspired industry wrath rob the Carr Government of the value of any effective action. Hard decisions must be taken which safeguard our unique biological and cultural diversity. The National & Liberal parties could not make them. We hope that the Carr Labor Government will.

A slavish adherence to a 'no jobs lost' policy will effectively rule out consideration of many sensible interim arrangements which realistically accept transition out of the timber industry will mean job losses. These interim arrangements could provide tangible means of increasing employment opportunities outside the timber industry and potentially increasing overall levels of employment.

An immediate audit should be made of:

- the volume of unsawn logs held in each mill's log dump, and
- the volume and specs of sawn timber held in existing stockpiles.

An accurate audit of these volumes should allow estimations of:

- work still available in the mills processing unsawn logs, and
- the extent of broader employment impacts, if any, of a shortfall in the supply and demand of sawn timber;

3.1.2 Sampling Design

Members of four community groups were chosen in an attempt to represent the array of behavioural interactions with the natural environment existing amongst local residents of the Wet Tropics region. While it cannot be said that the sample is statistically representative of the larger Wet Tropics community, the sampling design used gives voice to a number of important and influential community groups. The use of community **groups** as opposed to randomly selected **individuals** from the general community, was particularly appropriate because of the polarisation and conflict within the Wet Tropics community over the issues of environmental conservation and management strategies.

The community groups were chosen and defined on the basis of a **behavioural criterion** - the type of physical interaction they regularly have with their local natural environment, their "environmental lifestyle". In this way, it was possible to investigate what sorts of attitudes, values and experiences co-exist with different environmental behaviours and lifestyles. The groups were also chosen to maximise the spread along two postulated dimensions of physical interaction with the natural environment: degree of **interaction with nature** (amount of time x "naturalness" of environment) and the extent of their **impact on the local environment**. This results in a "behavioural array" of the study groups as illustrated in Figure 2.

These audits will provide important information:

- to quarantine false claims of massive impacts on employment in the broad timber industry, which includes carpenters and hardware store staff;
- for 'assistance assessment' teams to use in evaluating claims of adverse impacts
- to assess the level of adverse impact on companies and mill operators.

need interim agreements on harvesting prescriptions for regrowth forests and plantations during the transition period.

Answers for industry retraining, economics and alternative plantation establishment

Thinnings of regrowth forests during early stages of regeneration to diminish overcrowding could provide employment, maximise speed of growth and provide a quick future resource.

People undertaking joint venture plantation agreements with SFs should be paid 25% of the final return (every 40 years) for their plantation at every ten year interval of production. i.e. at year 31 investors would have already received 75% of their return.

The Carr Government should offer assistance to small communities with significant employment in the timber industry to establish value adding industries e.g. a medium density fibreboard plant, that would use sawmill waste, thinnings, heads butts etc. These plants would make existing sawmills and felling operations more profitable and ecological by using their 'waste'. They would also retrain and employ timber workers whose jobs were affected by reduction in available sawlog supply. Their assistance could come in the form of interest free loans over three years of setting up. In addition, tax incentives could apply.

can other Federally funded organisations such as Greening Australia, LandCare groups etc, pick up job losses and move to plantings as a feature of transition

Identification, wage support and case management of adversely affected parties

Steps to achieve support for affected parties:

- identify timber mills likely to be affected by policy decisions in short, medium and long term;
- offer mill workers and contract workers one day per fortnight of wage support and contact with the 'assistance assessment' teams working for the 'tri-partite committee'
- develop a Register of Affected Parties;
- appoint case managers for each affected party or small group of affected parties;

These 'wage support' days could provide immediate opportunities during the transition period for employers and government by allowing time for

- the identification of affected parties on a 'case by case basis' ,
- the exposition of the range of state and Commonwealth programs available to affected families and individuals, and
- consultation and individual case management.

Figure 2. Postulated Behavioural Array of Community Groups.

draft 2 - 4pm 1 June 1995 [Subn->Carr Managing Transition]

Appoint case managers for affected parties who follow the progress of parties through the assessment and adjustment processes.

As the process of 'assistance assessment' proceeds the rate of 'wage support days' at designated mills could increase, culminating in a final date by which 'transition' programs will have been effected,

FOREST MANAGEMENT POLICIES

overhaul all SF management policies
overhaul all s.120 NPWS 'licences to kill' and their prescriptions
overhaul all EPA 'licences to pollute' and their conditions

that ESD report on forests be implemented

SFs cannot be allowed to permit the trashing of the regrowth forest
Patch clearfelling is not consistent with ESD and should be banned

develop and adopt a comprehensive public list of forestry definitions including:
old growth forests, habitat trees, watercourse,

state forest management must become economically viable by charging the real costs of providing timber including the level of profit. This would be done by charging and appropriately higher level of royalties particularly for pulp wood and salvage.

State Forests and the people of NSW should not be providing subsidies, through roading, machinery provision, that royalties do not pay for.

need interim agreements on harvesting prescriptions for regrowth forests and plantations during the transition period.

need ecological standards for operations in regrowth forests. need a committee to work on an Australian Standard.

seed collection and propagation be coupled with replanting in TSI areas of SF.

that Water Resources and SCS be consulted on this process, along with local forest experts and tree growers.

small portable mills

SF must accept new principles of 'wholistic' approach to forest management and harvesting. e.g. mixed species plantations, organic principles, permaculture design techniques,

Government to buy cleared marginal farmland and pay ex-contractors etc to work setting up plantation with timber indurate and government to buy the Government out in the e medium to long term

The community groups chosen for study, with a brief description of the behavioural definition employed, are as follows*

TRADITIONAL FARMERS (mid-high interaction; substantive impact): farmers who practice mainstream farming practices such as using chemical pesticides and fertilisers.

ALTERNATIVE LIFE-STYLERS (mid-high interaction; modest impact): Individuals who live in a rural or natural environment; grow a proportion of their own food by organic methods; use alternative energy sources; have a low level of consumption; and alternative sources of income (markets, dole, etc).

NON-USERS OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS (low interaction; modest-substantive impact):

Urban dwellers who visit natural environments once a year or less. i.e., individuals who do not directly use the natural environment as a source of income or a dwelling place; are not involved in any environmental groups; nor spend much of their leisure time participating in nature-based activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS (low-high interaction; modest-positive impact):

"Active" (as defined by group organisers) members of:

(i) groups focussing on the physical activities of restoration, conservation, protection of the natural environment, permaculture, re-cycling, and tree-planting groups (Trees for the Atherton and Evelyn Tablelands, Atherton Greenhouse Information Network and Recycling Group, Tablelands Organic Growers Association);

(ii) groups focussing on social and political activities to promote protection, conservation and restoration of the natural environment, (Australian

* Employees of the timber industry were initially considered as an additional community group suitable for study. However, after completion of interviews with the four other groups (May 1993), I decided that it would be more efficient to focus on transcription and analysis of the collected data, rather than to gather further information. In addition, individuals employed by the timber industry are a declining proportion of the Cairns-Tablelands population, and occupy a similar position to traditional farmers in the "behavioural array" of environmental interaction.

FOREST MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES

NEFA believes that a fundamental overhaul of State Forest management structures and personnel is urgently required if the new Carr Government and the public of NSW can have any confidence in future management of the public forest estate.

We support the groundswell of opinion within the NSW environment movement and other natural resources management agencies and academic institutions for major institutional reform of the NSW Forestry Commission and its trading body, State Forests.

We note that in Labor's Forestry Policy a commitment is given that 'A Carr Labor Government will corporatise State Forests' .[page 4]

- that the Forestry Act (1916) be repealed and replaced with new legislation which embodies Labor's Forestry Policy and which has ecological sustainability as the goal of forests management;
- that the Government initiate a one year period of transition in forest management in to allow the preparation of new forestry legislation and the creation of a new Management Authority for the public forest estate;

need qualified people in the forests to monitor compliance of logging practices

need an Environmental Ombudsman

new management authority: revamped TCM as a realistic manager of resources; can let water, tourists, fisheries, forestry industry and forests users argue amongst themselves.

employ people with qualifications in Zoology and Hydrology in all key positions
make degree gaining opportunities available for all staff

COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL ASSESSMENT

NEFA wishes to have considerable further input into the process of comprehensive regional assessment. We note with approval that Labor's Forestry Policy guarantees a role in the assessment process for the participation of interest groups such as ours.

For example: NEFA recommends that comprehensive regional assessments should include an economic assessment of timber, water, tourism and other values of forests. i.e. if cutting timber reduces water then the cost of that lost water should be part of the cost of timber production.

Conservation Foundation; The Wilderness Society; Cairns and Far North Queensland Environment Centre).

Participants' membership in these groups was ascertained by a checklist administered as part of the interview (see Appendix A.3)

Ten individuals were randomly selected from each community group. This small number, in comparison to standard statistical surveys, made it logistically possible to elicit in-depth, detailed and personal information about the subject matter at hand. While the research findings have as much, if not more ecological validity than standard statistical surveys, the small sample size from each community group makes it unwise to claim representativeness of that community group. Group comparisons should also be made with caution. The comparisons made in this report must be taken to be comparisons between the groups of people who were interviewed, rather than direct comparisons between each community groups as a whole. However, this lack of generalizability must not be confused with lack of importance, significance, or power. Even if one individual brings up a particular theme, it means that the particular theme is OUT THERE in the socially constructed space.

lower case / undefined

3.1.3 Selection and Recruitment of Participants

The basic model for selection of participants was to generate lists of individuals who belong to each of the community groups and then select 5 men and 5 women randomly from each list. These lists were generated in different ways for each group. While the listings of farmers in the Yellow Pages could be selected from directly, the list of alternative lifestylers had to be created through many stages of contact within the local community. A list of environmental activists in the region was created by contacting the organisers of environmental groups and asking for lists of individuals regularly attending meetings or involved in the groups' activities.

The process of selecting "non-users" of the natural environment differed slightly from this. The Cairns telephone book was used to randomly select

Questions for Premier Bob Carr, re: Forestry & Conservation policies of the NSW Labor Government in 1995

[Qs 4 I Cohen - ALP Forest Pol]

Issue A : Regional Forest Agreements with the Commonwealth

- 1/ What is the status of negotiations between the NSW and Commonwealth Governments on Scoping Agreements for Regional Forest Agreements, under the framework of the National Forest Policy Statement, for the NE, SE and Western regions of NSW ? [a]
- 2/ Who in Premier's Department is co-ordinating discussions with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on behalf of the Carr Government? [b]
- 3/ Will the Premier provide a briefing on the Carr Government's internal inter-departmental arrangements for negotiating, preparing and undertaking regional assessments consistent with the National Forest Policy Statement? [c]

Issue B : Staffing of NSW forest management and assessment agencies

- 1/ What additional resources and staff have been provided to the Department of Planning, and other NSW agencies to expand these departments' capacities to implement Government's forestry policy? [d]

Issue C : Untangling the mess left by the Coalition Government

- 1/ Have written legal opinions been obtained by the Government from legal counsel on the nature and extent of commitments in, and limits on, wood supply agreements (WSAs) signed by previous governments? [e]
- 2/ Will the Government table these legal opinions and relevant WSAs in the Parliament?
- 3/ Since the Carr Government has instituted a new assessment process for forests, what action will be taken on EISs still being produced by FCNSW (SF) on a Management Area wide basis for:

i) Dorrigo MA? (31 Oct 92)	ii) Casino MA? (31 Jul 93)
iii) Casino West MA (31 Jul 93)	iv) Murwillumbah MA (
v) Gloucester MA? (30 Sep 93)	vi) Chicester MA (
vii) Tenterfield MA (31 Oct 93)	viii) Urbenville MA? (31 Dec 93)
ix) Urunga MA (28 Feb 94)	x) Walcha Nundle MA? (30 Apr 94)
xi) Styx River MA (30 Apr 94)	xii) Warung MA (30 Jun 94)
xiii) Queanbeyan MA (30 Sep 94)	xiv) Badja MA (30 Sep 94)
xv) Wyong MA (30 Sep 94)	

[f]
- 4/ Will the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act 1992 be repealed and ALL forestry operations returned to within the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979) ?

Notes:

[a] Regional Forest Agreements: the Commonwealth Position, February 1995

[b] ditto - see sections on intra-government and inter-government organisational protocols

[c] National Forest Policy Statement, see page 24

[d] Labor's Forestry Policy - NSW State Election: March 1995, see page 6 and Letter from The Hon Bob Carr to Ian Cohen, The Greens NSW 16 March 1995: see page 1

[e] Labor's Forestry Policy - NSW State Election: March 1995, see page 6

[f] as required in ss.3 et al, per Schedule 4 of the TI(IP) Act 1992 (dates when EISs were first promised to be done)

Issue D : Interim assessments process

- 1/ Is the Premier aware that the Commonwealth has requested NSW agencies to identify all areas potentially required for a '*comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system*' ('*c.a.r.*') by August 95, in order to allow the Commonwealth to exclude these areas from woodchip licences issued by the Commonwealth for 1996? [g]
- 2/ Does the Premier still agree that in order to allow all deserving areas of forests to be identified for the '*c.a.r.*' reserve system, a range of conservation criteria wider than simply 'old growth' forest and wilderness, must be applied? [h]
- 3/ Will the Premier ensure that NSW agencies apply a full range of conservation criteria (in addition to 'old growth' forest and wilderness values) in the Deferred Forest Assessment to identify all areas potentially required for a '*c.a.r.*' reserve system' for forwarding to the Commonwealth? [i]
- 4/ Who has been appointed to the "*Forestry Advisory Council*" [j]
- 5/ What progress has been made on the promised '*rapid evaluation of existing regrowth forests*'? [k]
- 6/ How has the Carr Government acted to "*urgently re-schedule State Forests' logging programs*" to ensure the protection of HCV 'old growth' forest and identified wilderness areas? [l]
- 7/ What steps have been taken to "*initiate an interim assessment process, to be completed within nine months, involving all stakeholders at a regional level*"? [m]
- 8/ Who has been appointed to the "*tri-partite committee consisting of the relevant employer, union and government*" (sic) which is to implement Labor's timber industry structural adjustment program on "*an individual case by case basis*"? [n]
- 9/ What approaches has the Carr Government made to the Federal Government "*to seek funding assistance for industry structural adjustment*"? [o]
- 10/ What funds have been identified by the Carr Government as being available from the Federal Government for "*labour market, retraining and relocation programs*"? [p]

Notes (Cont'd):

[g] advice from National Forest Policy Advisory Forum member Mr Dailan Pugh re briefing by Dept of Prime Minister and Cabinet to Australian conservation groups, Canberra, May 95

[h] ditto see page 8 for commitment in 'comprehensive regional assessments' citing full range of values, and see page 3 of Letter from The Hon Bob Carr to Ian Cohen, The Greens NSW 16 March 1995 for commitment that 'the interim assessment process will be conducted in a similar fashion to the regional assessment process'?

[i] National Forest Conservation Reserves - Commonwealth proposed criteria: A Discussion Paper, Mar 95; see page 8

[j] Labor's Forestry Policy - NSW State Election: March 1995 see page 3

[k] ditto see page 7

[l] ditto see page 7

[m] ditto see page 7

[n] ditto see pages 10 & 13;

Letter from The Hon Bob Carr to Ian Cohen, The Greens NSW 16 March 1995: see page 1

[o] Labor's Forestry Policy - NSW State Election: March 1995 see page 15

[p] ditto see page 15



PARLIAMENT HOUSE

SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000

PH: (02) 230 2310

FAX: (02) 230 2604

March 16, 1995

Mr Ian Cohen
The Greens
168 Day Street
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Mr Cohen,

Thank you for your correspondence seeking clarification of some aspects of NSW Labor's Forest Policy.

I would assure you that regional assessments in order to identify a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system will be undertaken in a balanced, open and public manner.

I would also assure you that the Regional Assessment Co-ordination Committee will be comprised of representatives of appropriate State Agencies, conservation, industry and union interests, together with scientists with applicable expertise.

I wish to make it clear that the RACC will have the role of co-ordinating Regional Assessment Committees to ensure consistency in approach and the practical implementation of the assessment process. RACCs will be constituted primarily by regional/local interest group and agency representatives to ensure the assessment process truly reflects a regional focus.

Your request that the Department of Planning and National Parks and Wildlife Service have responsibility for regional assessments under the direction of the RACCs reflects a misunderstanding of the ALP's policy. In the extensive discussions held with conservation representatives in formulating our policy, it was made clear, and was agreed, that the unit currently within the Department of Planning with responsibility for determining Environmental Impact Statements would be the determining authority in regard to Regional Assessments. It was acknowledged that this unit was regarded as credible by both sides of the debate.

Indeed, in a discussion between Mr Kim Yeadon, MP, and Mr Dailan Pugh in early January of this year, Mr Pugh stated that RACs should be information gathering committees on what are potentially high conservation areas and that the validity of the information gathered would be concisely determined at a later stage of the process.

This is precisely the approach that NSW Labor has adopted. Therefore, RACs and the RACC would comprise representatives of interest groups or stakeholders, including conservationists, and importantly, qualified scientists with appropriate expertise, in order to identify high conservation areas. Determination of those areas would rest with the determining unit within the Department of Planning which would receive further public submissions before any determination was made.

The key issue is that there is no requirement for any group or interest to feel that they must dominate membership of the RACs or the RACC as any balance should and will be centred upon scientific expertise. I am sure you will agree that this is appropriate and proper if an open, and scientifically accountable process of assessment is to be achieved for establishing a representative reserve system.

Our Wilderness Policy has been described as "world class". In the first year we will gazette seven (and possibly eight) new wilderness areas and extend eight existing wilderness areas.

The areas will include vacant crown land, Sydney Water lands, national park, state forests zoned for environment protection or is too steep to log, and lands which State Forests have previously not objected to.

For example, there are several thousand hectares of steep state forest lands in the Guy Fawkes Wilderness and important steep and environment protection zoned forest land abutting Werrikimbe National Park.

Also state forest wilderness areas will be protected under our Forestry Policy. For example, we recognise that North Washpool and Chaclundi have been identified as wilderness. They will remain off the logging schedule. Wilderness areas currently not being logged will remain off the logging schedule and will be placed under immediate moratorium.

In regard to the rescheduling of State Forest's logging program in the first nine months of a Labor Government, we have clearly indicated that this will be undertaken following advice from the NPWS. You must acknowledge that this will be the most difficult period in terms of management, as decisions may be required within a very short time-frame in order to be effective. This includes the necessity to relocate logging into other less-sensitive areas whilst at the same time ensuring proper environmental regulation in any new coupes identified for logging.

The identification of areas to be placed under moratoria during the interim assessment process will be conducted in a similar fashion to the regional assessment process. The process will include relevant interest groups, including conservationists, and will be determined by the Department of Planning.

The final decision on the expenditure available for restructuring, under the tri-partite committee process, will remain with the Minister for Forests. Monies spent on timber industry restructuring will also be clearly audited by the Auditor-General who reports to Parliament on audit issues. Importantly, compensation will only be paid to workers on the basis of a moratorium or conservation decision. In other words, people will only be eligible for restructuring funds if they are directly affected by a moratorium or a conservation decision under our policy.

We will end export woodchipping by the Year 2000 or earlier if regional circumstances permit.

A Carr Labor Government will guarantee that no plantations are established as a result of the clearing of native forests. Plantations should be established on marginal agricultural lands and unforested areas.

We are prepared to alter our policy to redirect any income from recreation facilities within state forests to further improving such facilities rather than to further plantation development.

I trust that the clarification of these issues will allow you to endorse our historic Forest Policy.

Yours sincerely,



BOB CARR, M.P.,
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

Questions for Premier Bob Carr, re: Forestry & Conservation policies of the NSW Labor Government in 1995

Sqr
ceded

➔ Draft 4 - 24 May 1995 [Qs 4 I Cohen - ALP Forest Pol]

Issue A : Regional Forest Agreements with the Commonwealth

- 1/ What is the status of negotiations between the NSW and Commonwealth Governments on Scoping Agreements for Regional Forest Agreements, under the framework of the National Forest Policy Statement, for the NE, SE and Western regions of NSW ? [a]
- 2/ Who in Premier's Department is co-ordinating discussions with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on behalf of the Carr Government? [b]
- 3/ Will the Premier provide a briefing on the Carr Government's internal inter-departmental arrangements for negotiating, preparing and undertaking regional assessments consistent with the National Forest Policy Statement? [c]

Issue B : Staffing of NSW forest management and assessment agencies

- 1/ What additional resources and staff have been provided to the Department of Planning, and other NSW agencies to expand these departments' capacities to implement Government's forestry policy? [d]

Issue C : Untangling the mess left by the Coalition Government

- 1/ Have written legal opinions been obtained by the Government from legal counsel on the nature and extent of commitments in, and limits on, wood supply agreements (WSAs) signed by previous governments? [e]
- 2/ Will the Government table these legal opinions and relevant WSAs in the Parliament?
- 3/ Since the Carr Government has instituted a new assessment process for forests, what action will be taken on EISs still being produced by FCNSW (SF) on a Management Area wide basis for:

i) Dorrigo MA? (31 Oct 92)	ii) Casino MA? (31 Jul 93)
iii) Casino West MA (31 Jul 93)	iv) Murwillumbah MA (
v) Gloucester MA? (30 Sep 93)	vi) Chicester MA (
vii) Tenterfield MA (31 Oct 93)	✓ viii) Urbenville MA? (31 Dec 93)
ix) Urunga MA (28 Feb 94)	x) Walcha Nundle MA? (30 Apr 94)
xi) Styx River MA (30 Apr 94)	✗ xii) Warung MA (30 Jun 94)
xiii) Queanbeyan MA (30 Sep 94)	xiv) Badja MA (30 Sep 94)
xv) Wyong MA (30 Sep 94)	

[f]
- 4/ Will the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act 1992 be repealed and ALL forestry operations returned to within the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979) ?

Notes:

[a] Regional Forest Agreements: the Commonwealth Position, February 1995

[b] ditto - see sections on intra-government and inter-government organisational protocols

[c] National Forest Policy Statement, see page 24

[d] Labor's Forestry Policy - NSW State Election: March 1995, see page 6 and Letter from The Hon Bob Carr to Ian Cohen, The Greens NSW 16 March 1995: see page 1

[e] Labor's Forestry Policy - NSW State Election: March 1995, see page 6

[f] as required in ss.3 et al, per Schedule 4 of the TI(IP) Act 1992 (dates when EISs were first promised to be done)

Questions for Premier Bob Carr re: ALP Forestry & Conservation policies (Cont'd)

Draft 4 - 24 May 1995

[p2. Qs 4 I Cohen - ALP Forest Pol]

Issue D : Interim assessments process

- 1/ Is the Premier aware that the Commonwealth has requested NSW agencies to identify **all areas potentially required** for a *'comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system'* (*'c.a.r.'*) by August 95, in order to allow the Commonwealth to exclude these areas from woodchip licences issued by the Commonwealth for 1996? [g]
- 2/ Is the Premier aware that NSW agencies are currently only listing areas of identified 'old growth forest' or wilderness value as deserving exclusion from woodchipping licences? [h]
- 3/ Does the Premier still agree that in order to allow all deserving areas of forests to be identified for the *'c.a.r.'* reserve system, a range of conservation criteria wider than simply 'old growth' forest and wilderness, must be applied? [i]
- 4/ Will the Premier ensure that NSW agencies apply a full range of conservation criteria (in addition to 'old growth' forest and wilderness values) in the Deferred Forest Assessment to identify **all areas potentially required** for a *'c.a.r.'* reserve system' for forwarding to the Commonwealth? [j]
- 5/ Who has been appointed to the *"Forestry Advisory Council"* [k]
- 6/ What progress has been made on the promised *'rapid evaluation of existing regrowth forests'*? [l]
- 7/ How has the Carr Government acted to *"urgently re-schedule State Forests' logging programs"* to ensure the protection of HCV 'old growth' forest and identified wilderness areas? [m]
- 8/ What steps have been taken to *"initiate an interim assessment process, to be completed within nine months, involving all stakeholders at a regional level"*? [n]
- 9/ Who has been appointed to the *"tri-partite committee consisting of the relevant employer, union and government"* (sic) which is to implement Labor's timber industry structural adjustment program on *"an individual case by case basis"*? [o]
- 9/ What approaches has the Carr Government made to the Federal Government *"to seek funding assistance for industry structural adjustment"*? [p]
- 10/ What funds have been identified by the Carr Government as being available from the Federal Government for *"labour market, retraining and relocation programs"*? [q]

Notes (Cont'd):

- [g] advice from NFPAC member Mr Dailan Pugh
- [h] ditto; also Labor's Forestry Policy - NSW State Election: March 1995 see page 7
- [i] ditto see page 8 for commitment in 'comprehensive regional assessments' citing full range of values, and see page 3 of Letter from The Hon Bob Carr to Ian Cohen, The Greens NSW 16 March 1995 for commitment that 'the interim assessment process will be conducted in a similar fashion to the regional assessment process'
- [j] National Forest Conservation Reserves - Commonwealth proposed criteria: A Discussion Paper, Mar 95; see page 8
- [k] Labor's Forestry Policy - NSW State Election: March 1995 see page 3
- [l] ditto see page 7
- [m] ditto see page 7
- [n] ditto see page 7
- [o] ditto see pages 10 & 13;
- Letter from The Hon Bob Carr to Ian Cohen, The Greens NSW 16 March 1995: see page 1
- [p] Labor's Forestry Policy - NSW State Election: March 1995 see page 15
- [q] ditto see page 15

Internal validity is maximised by the experimental design. Independent variables crucial to the environmental-transaction aspect of the "nature benefit assumption" are manipulated: the degree of "naturalness" of the environmental settings and the amount of sensory involvement in these environments. This permits the comparison of psychological responses across treatment conditions. The effects of confounding independent variables are reduced through constancy control (e.g., physical and social activities); discount control (e.g., initial mood); and the random assignment of participants to treatment groups (e.g., previous place of residence). The prior measurement of relevant personality variables (e.g., underlying environmental preference) permits the investigation of individual differences in environmental response. The range of dependent variables measured (mood change, mindfulness, physical comfort and perceptions of "being away") permits an investigation of the complexity of psychological responses to environmental experience.

The environmental-transaction aspect of the "nature benefit assumption" translates, through the theoretical framework and research design, into several major hypotheses:

- (i) the more "natural" the environment experienced, the greater the positive effect it will have on mindfulness and mood;
- (ii) activities encouraging sensory involvement will have positive effects on mindfulness and mood in all environments;
- (iii) the more "natural" the environment, the greater the positive effects of sensory involvement activities will be;
- (iv) participants with greater underlying preferences for their environmental setting will experience more mindfulness and positive changes in mood;
- (v) participants with high needs for mindfulness will experience more positive changes in mood in response to experiences of mindfulness.

The Greens

The Greens NSW Election Campaign '95 • Ph (02) 267 4410 • Fax (02) 267 3158

★ Media Release ★

EXCLUSIVE to The SYDNEY MORNING HERALD: Friday - 17 March 1995

CARR CLEARS UP DOUBTS ON A.L.P. FORESTRY POLICY

Lingering doubts about Labor's intentions on export woodchipping and the implementation of their Forestry policy have been resolved following high level discussions between The Greens and the ALP on the eve of final preference decisions, according to The Greens NSW.

"After direct discussions with senior ALP figures, The Greens have received a letter from Bob Carr clarifying aspects of his Forestry policy which were concerning us and many forest action groups," said The Greens No.1 Legislative Council candidate, Mr Ian Cohen.

The 3 page letter (attached) was released by The Greens to forest action groups who had greeted the clarifications as "significant improvements". Mr Cohen said that Mr Carr's letter had been an important factor in The Greens making final preference decisions.

"Mr Carr has dropped the worrying caveat that made his proposal to end export woodchipping vague and equivocal. The ALP is now committed to ending export woodchipping by the Year 2000 or earlier if regional circumstances permit - fullstop," he said.

Mr Cohen said that other important clarifications by Mr Carr included:

- a guarantee that no plantations will be established as a result of clearing native forests;
- a policy amendment to ensure that income from recreational facilities within state forests would be redirected to further improve such facilities rather than to fund further plantation development;
- a promise that final decisions on expenditure from the \$60m structural adjustment fund will be made by the Minister for Forests after consultation with unions and industry, rather than by the tri-partite committee;
- a commitment that the \$60m fund would be managed accountably and would be audited by the Auditor-General who will report to the NSW Parliament;
- assurances that regional assessments will be undertaken in a balanced, open and public manner and that the Regional Assessment Co-ordination Committee (RACC) and Regional Assessment Committees (RACs) will be comprised of appropriate State Agencies and reps from conservation, industry and union interests, together with scientists with applicable expertise;
- an undertaking that the interim assessment process, to identify high conservation areas to be placed under moratoria in 1996, will be conducted in a similar fashion to the regional assessment process, which involves relevant interest groups and the identification of the full range of high conservation values: i.e. old growth, wilderness, national estate, world heritage, endangered and vulnerable species biological diversity and other cultural values;
- the implementation of the 'moratorium clause' of the National Forest Policy Statement, in the first 9 months of a Carr Government, by urgently rescheduling logging to avoid forestry activities in high conservation old growth forests and identified wilderness areas, pending the completion of an interim assessment process;
- an agreement that the Department of Planning would be the determining authority for Regional Assessments.

"With these written commitments, from the man who would be Premier, the forests, and those defending them, can breathe easier. All Mr Carr needs to do now is form government and start work on these urgent priorities," said Mr Cohen.

...ends.

For more info Phone: Ian Cohen 015 895 283 or 02 30 8043h.

Response to conservation groups and NSW Greens

Thank you for your correspondence seeking clarification of some aspects of NSW Labor's Forest Policy.

I would assure you that regional assessments in order to identify a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system will be undertaken in a balanced, open and public manner.

✓ I would also assure you that the Regional Assessment Co-ordination Committee will be comprised of representatives of appropriate State Agencies, conservation, industry and union interests, together with scientists with applicable expertise.

I wish to make it clear that the RACC will have the role of co-ordinating Regional Assessment Committees to ensure consistently in approach and the practical implementation of the assessment process. RAC's will be constituted primarily by regional/local interest group and agency representatives to ensure the assessment process truly reflects a regional focus.

Your request that the Department of Planning and National Parks and Wildlife Service have responsibility for regional assessments under the direction of the RAC's reflects a misunderstanding of the ALP's policy. In the extensive discussions held with conservation representatives in formulating our policy, it was made clear, and was agreed, that the unit currently within the Department of Planning with responsibility for determining Environmental Impact Statements would be the determining authority in regard to Regional Assessments. It was acknowledged that this unit was regarded as credible by both sides of the debate.

Indeed, in a discussion between Kim Yeadon and Mr Dailan Pugh in early January of this year, Mr Pugh stated that RAC's should be information gathering committees on what are potentially high conservation areas and that the validity of the information gathered would be concisely determined at a later stage of the process.

This is precisely the approach that NSW Labor has adopted. Therefore, RAC's and the RACC would comprise representatives of interest groups or stakeholders, including conservationists, and importantly, qualified scientists with appropriate expertise, in order to identify high conservation areas. Determination of those areas would rest with the determining unit within the Department of Planning which would receive further public submissions before any determination was made.

The key issue is that there is no requirement for any group or interest to feel that they must dominate membership of the RAC's or the RACC as any balance should and will be centred upon scientific expertise. I am sure you will agree that this is appropriate and proper if an open, and scientifically accountable process of assessment is to be achieved for establishing a representative reserve system.

Our Wilderness Policy has been described as "world class". In the first year we will gazette seven (and possibly eight) new wilderness areas and extend eight existing wilderness areas.

The areas will include vacant crown land, Sydney Water lands, national park, state forests zoned for environment protection or is too steep to log, and lands which State Forests have previously not objected to.

For example, there are several thousand hectares of steep state forest lands in the Guy Fawkes Wilderness and important steep and environment protection zoned forest land abutting Werrikimbe National Park.

Also state forest wilderness areas will be protected under our Forestry Policy. For example, we recognise that North Washpool and Chaelundi have been identified as wilderness. They will remain off the logging schedule. Wilderness areas currently not being logged will remain off the logging schedule and will be placed under immediate moratorium.

In regard to the rescheduling of State Forest's logging program in the first nine months of a Labor Government, we have clearly indicated that this will be undertaken following advice from the NPWS. You must acknowledge that this will be the most difficult period in terms of management, as decisions may be required within a very short timeframe in order to be effective. This includes the necessity to relocate logging into other less-sensitive areas whilst at the same time ensuring proper environmental regulation in any new coupes identified for logging.

The identification of areas to be placed under moratoria during the interim assessment process will be conducted in a similar fashion to the regional assessment process. The process will include relevant interest groups, including conservationists, and will be determined by the Department of Planning.

Monies spent on timber industry restructuring will be clearly audited by the Auditor-General who reports to Parliament on audit issues. Importantly, compensation will only be paid to workers on the basis of a moratorium or conservation decision. In other words, people will only be eligible for restructuring funds if they are directly affected by a moratorium or a conservation decision under our policy.

We will end export woodchipping by the Year 2000 or earlier if regional circumstances permit.

✓ A Carr Labor Government will guarantee that no plantations are established as a result of the clearing of native forests. Plantations should be established on marginal agricultural lands and unforested areas.

We are prepared to alter our policy to redirect any income from recreation facilities within state forests to further improving such facilities rather than to further plantation development.

I trust that the clarification of these issues will allow you to endorse our historic Forest Policy.

Yours sincerely,

BOB CARR, M.P.;
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PAM ALLAN MP

MEMBER FOR BIRACKTOWN
SHADOW MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
SHADOW MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

Electorate Office
35 Boomerang Place
Seven Hills 2147

Tel: (02) 622 3110
Fax: (02) 831 2130

All correspondence to
P.O. Box 592
Seven Hills 2147

March 14, 1995

Dr Geoff Lambert
Secretary
Sydney branch
Wilderness Society of NSW
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Dr Lambert,

I am writing to provide further information on State Labor's Forestry and Wilderness Policies, in response to a number of concerns raised by environmentalists.

FORESTRY

Some confusion has arisen about the first part of our moratorium on logging of identified wilderness and high conservation value old growth forests.

While we appreciate the urgency felt by the environment movement about the rate of destruction of such forests, I am sure that you will understand it would be impossible to achieve an immediate moratorium in the first week of government.

In fact, if attempted, the level of disruption caused would create political and practical problems of such magnitude that the additional moratorium and regional assessment process in the Policy would inevitably be derailed.

However, we are committed to urgently reschedule logging out of identified wilderness and high conservation old growth forests and into regrowth and plantations.

As you know the 1995 logging schedule did not cover all of the native forest estate. The rapid assessment process over nine months in 1995, will establish a full moratorium for identified high conservation old growth forests that will stay in place until the completion of regional assessments.

We have committed very significant funds to assist the moratorium process and the ultimate achievement of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system, together with programs to avoid adverse impacts on workers.

As stated in our media release (8/3/95) accompanying our Forestry Policy, the National Forest Policy Statement process will be accountable and transparent.

WILDERNESS

Our Wilderness Policy has been described as "world class". In the first year we will gazette 7 (and possibly 8) new wilderness areas and extend 8 existing wilderness areas.

The areas will include vacant crown land, Sydney Water lands, national park, state forests zoned for environment protection or is too steep to log, and lands which State Forests have previously not objected to.

For example, there are several thousand hectares of steep state forest lands in the Guy Fawkes Wilderness and important steep and environment protection zoned forest land abutting Warrikimbe National Park.

Also state forest wilderness areas will be protected under our Forestry Policy. For example, we recognise that North Washpool and Chaelundi have been identified as wilderness. They will remain off the logging schedule. Wilderness areas currently not being logged will remain off the logging schedule and will be placed under immediate moratorium.

RESTRUCTURING

Monies spent on timber industry restructuring will be clearly audited by the Auditor-General who reports to Parliament on audit issues. Importantly, compensation will only be paid to workers on the basis of a moratorium or conservation decision. In other words, people will only be eligible for restructuring funds if they are directly affected by a moratorium or a conservation decision under our policy.

PLANTATIONS

A Carr Labor government will guarantee that no plantations are established as a result of the clearing of native forest. Plantations should be established on marginal agricultural lands and unforested areas.

WOODCHIPPING

We will end export woodchipping by the Year 2000 or earlier if regional circumstances permit.

We do not intend to compromise the integrity of wilderness areas, but do feel it is necessary to consult relevant community interests (including the environment movement) to allow concerns to be stated and considered. However, we will not replicate the disgraceful process undertaken by the Fahey Government.

- 3 -

I hope that you are able to give active support for our Forestry and Wilderness Policies. When taken with our Nature Conservation Policy and the promise to gazette 24 new national parks including a 90,000 ha South East Forest National Park in the first year of government, we hope you will agree that election of a Carr Labor Government provides the only chance to save our old growth and wilderness forests.

Yours sincerely

Pam Allan

Pam Allan MP
Shadow Minister for Planning and Environment



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PAM ALLAN M.P.

MEMBER FOR BLACKTOWN
SHADOW MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
SHADOW MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

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Seven Hills 2147

Tel: (02) 622 3110
Fax: (02) 831 2130

All correspondence to
P.O. Box 592
Seven Hills 2147

March 14, 1995

Mr Ernie Page MP
Member for Coogee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Ernie,

I am writing to provide further information on State Labor's Forestry and Wilderness Policies, in response to a number of concerns raised by environmentalists.

FORESTRY

Some confusion has arisen about the first part of our moratorium on logging of identified wilderness and high conservation value old growth forests.

While we appreciate the urgency felt by the environment movement about the rate of destruction of such forests. I am sure that you will understand it would be impossible to achieve an immediate moratorium in the first week of government.

In fact, if attempted, the level of disruption caused would create political and practical problems of such magnitude that the additional moratorium and regional assessment process in the Policy would inevitably be derailed.

However, we are committed to urgently reschedule logging out of identified wilderness and high conservation old growth forests and into regrowth and plantations.

As you know the 1995 logging schedule did not cover all of the native forest estate. The rapid assessment process over nine months in 1995, will establish a full moratorium for identified high conservation old growth forests that will stay in place until the completion of regional assessments.

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RESTRUCTURING

\$35m

Monies spent on timber industry restructuring will be clearly audited by the Auditor-General who reports to Parliament on audit issues. Importantly, compensation will only be paid to workers on the basis of a moratorium or conservation decision. In other words, people will only be eligible for restructuring funds if they are directly affected by a moratorium or a conservation decision under our policy.

PLANTATIONS

✓ A Carr Labor government will guarantee that no plantations are established as a result of the clearing of native forest. Plantations should be established on marginal agricultural lands and unforested areas.

WOODCHIPPING

✓ We will end export woodchipping by the Year 2000 or earlier if regional circumstances permit.

We do not intend to compromise the Integrity of wilderness areas, but do feel it is necessary to consult relevant community interests (including the environment movement) to allow concerns to be stated and considered. However, we will not replicate the disgraceful process undertaken by the Fahey Government.

I hope that conservation groups such as the Wilderness Society are able to give active support for our Forestry and Wilderness Policies. When taken with our Nature Conservation Policy and the promise to gazette 24 new national parks including a 90,000 ha South East Forest National Park in the first year of government, we hope you will agree that election of a Carr Labor Government provides the only chance to save our old growth and wilderness forests.

Yours sincerely

Pam Allan

Pam Allan MP
Shadow Minister for Planning and Environment

Draft - For John (orkill)
- Any comments ??

CONFIDENTIAL - URGENT

Regards
Craig

TO: ALL GREENS, NSW CANDIDATES

Tuesday 14 March, 1995

RE: FOREST POLICY AND PREFERENCE DISTRIBUTION IN THE N.S.W. ELECTIONS

Dear Friends,

We are writing to give our perspective on the relative merits of the forest policies presented by the Labor Party and the Liberal/National Parties in the lead up to the NSW Elections. We hope you will take these comments in to account when deciding on your preference distribution for Lower house seats.

The Liberal/National policy is very brief (less than half a page of the Environment Policy) and is basically a restatement of the Government's "business as usual" approach. The commitment to add an extra 5,000 Ha of hardwood plantations will do nothing to stop the current alarming rate of destruction of native forests, nor will such a resource be on line by the time current logging operations wipe out our remaining high conservation value forests. The policy fails in many areas as it does not:

- * Implement a moratorium on the logging of high conservation value forests;
- * Provide structural adjustment for the industry to shift to the existing plantation resource as a way of preserving both native forests and jobs;
- * Address the woodchip issue at all;
- * Provide for any community input to decision-making processes on forest management;
- * Protect any specific forest areas through an expanded reserve system.

The Fahey Government seems hell bent on continuing its current unscientific and unsustainable forestry practices against the wishes of 80% of the Australian community. We urge you not to direct any preferences to either the Liberal or National Parties or to any of their fellow-traveller "independents".

The Labor Party's Forestry Policy is far more comprehensive and has the potential to initiate a proper assessment of forest values, protect areas of high conservation value and provide resources for the industry to move to a sustainable plantation-base. However there are some flaws in the Policy such as a guarantee to end export woodchipping, a commitment to open and accountable processes in the Regional Assessment procedures, and a commitment to immediately place a moratorium on all high conservation value forests that are not adequately represented in the reserve system.

Labor's Policy is a great improvement on the Liberal/National Policy but is certainly not perfect and cannot be seen to have the approval of all conservation groups in NSW. We are calling for some changes to be made to the policy ^{that are} attached. If these changes are made then we would urge you to support the Labor Party through your preferences. If these changes are not forthcoming, then please decide your preferences on the basis that the ALP Policy does not have the unqualified support of many NSW conservation groups.

We hope this perspective is of some use to you when deciding on the all important issue of preference distribution.

Your sincerely,

Craig Darlington
 Cons. Council of the South
 East Region and Canberra

Dailan Pugh
 North East Forest
 Alliance

Geoff Lambert
 The Wilderness Society

???
 Nature Conservation
 Council

Attached - NEFA list of changes to ALP policy.

The Greens NSW

State Election 1995 Campaign Office:

GPO Box 1220, Sydney 2001: 1st Floor, 168 Day Street, Sydney
Phone 02 267 4410, 02 267 4404, 02 267 4406 02 267 4407 Fax 02 267 3158.

Mr Bob Carr,
Leader of the Opposition,
NSW Parliament House,
Macquarie Street, Sydney. 2000.
per fax 02 230 2608

11.30am - 14/3/1995

*** CONFIDENTIAL ***

URGENT - FOR MR CARR'S PERSONAL ATTENTION

Dear Mr Carr,

RE: Resolving serious concerns on ALP Forestry Policy

Please find attached a copy of a letter to you from The Greens NSW and three major NSW forest campaign organisations.

The letter and the attached schedule of requested amendments represents our **final attempt** to win your **personal support** for important amendments to your Forestry Policy. Forests are, as you know, a critical issue in this election.

The environment movement has made significant concessions in now proposing only these amendments. We believe that your **personal acceptance of and commitment** to these amendments is essential and will have a critical bearing on the attitudes and actions which the letter's signatories will take in the final days of the campaign.

We request an **urgent meeting with you** personally to discuss your response to this request. We believe that at least the signatories to the letter, or their nominees, should attend. No objection will be raised to the participation of Mr Gavin Hillier, in such a meeting should you deem his attendance suitable.

While we appreciate that you have a very busy schedule, your **participation** in the requested meeting is **considered vital**. An urgent response would be appreciated.
Yours sincerely,

Ian Cohen
The Greens NSW
No.1 Legislative Council candidate.



CONFIDENTIAL - URGENT

The Honourable Bob Carr,
Leader of the Opposition,
Parliament House
Sydney 2000

Dear Mr. Carr,

The ALP forest policy has the potential to initiate a proper assessment of forest values, protection of high conservation value forests, and provide assistance in mitigating any adverse impacts on the timber workers from establishing an adequate conservation reserve system. Should your policy achieve these admirable goals then you will indeed be setting a national precedent.

The current wording of parts of the policy are too vague. Further details are required to be able to determine how they will be interpreted and applied in practice. We therefore request that you give an undertaking to include the points on the attached page in the ALP's forest policy.

Please urgently respond to our requests for clarification to enable us to clearly articulate to the community our support for your policy should this prove to be the case.

We wish to make it clear that should we decide to provide public support for your policy this must not be considered as endorsement of all aspects of that policy. In particular we have objections to the corporatisation of the native forest sector of State Forests, guaranteeing long-term timber supply from native forests and directing revenue from recreational activities into plantations.

We also have concerns about the demands being made on the Environmental Trusts and believe that funding from these funds should only be provided in return for the direct protection of high conservation value forests. We thus request that alternative funding sources be sought after the election for the industry restructuring component of the package.

Yours sincerely,


for Geoff Lambert

The Wilderness Society

New South Wales Greens


Ian Cohen


Dailan Pugh

North East Forest Alliance


Craig Darlington

Conservation Council of the South East Region and Canberra

CONFIDENTIAL - URGENT

The Honourable Bob Carr,
Leader of the Opposition,
Parliament House
Sydney 2000

Dear Mr. Carr,

The ALP forest policy has the potential to initiate a proper assessment of forest values, protection of high conservation value forests, and provide assistance in mitigating any adverse impacts on the timber workers from establishing an adequate conservation reserve system. Should your policy achieve these admirable goals then you will indeed be setting a national precedent.

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The Wilderness Society	New South Wales Greens	North East Forest Alliance
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CONFIDENTIAL

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- *[Alter second dot point on page 7 to read]* the Department of Planning will urgently reschedule State Forests' logging programs, after taking advice from a working group of the Department of Planning, National Parks and Wildlife Service, State Forests, Nature Conservation Council and the CFMEU, to avoid logging and roading in high conservation old growth forests and identified wilderness areas pending the completion of the interim assessment process This will be the first stage in the moratorium process.
- *[Add to the end of third dot point on page 7]* The Regional Assessment Committees will oversee the interim assessment process. Forests will be assessed for all their conservation values and all areas with high conservation values which are not adequately represented in the reserve system will be placed in moratoria. This will be the second stage in the moratorium process.
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- *[Add additional dot point at end of page 9 to read]* ensure that no plantations are established via the clearing of native forest.
- *[Alter third paragraph on page 12 to read]* A committee consisting of the relevant employer, union, conservation and government representatives will determine the implementation of the structural adjustment program on an individual case by case basis. The committee will be required to provide to parliament a quarterly report and audited annual statements.
- *[Delete second and third paragraphs in Woodchipping section, pages 14-15, and replace with]* Export woodchipping will be phased out as soon as practicable within the first term of office of a Carr Government.

End.

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Hillier

CONFIDENTIAL, FOR THE ATTENTION OF ANTHONY TOO (WILDERNESS SOCIETY), IAN COHEN (GREENS), GAVIN HILLIARD (CFMEU), and DAILAN PUGH (NEFA).

URGENT

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can be attached page

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The Wilderness Society
[and other groups]

Ian Cohen
New South Wales Greens
The Greens NSW

Dailan Pugh
North East Forest Alliance

2nd para under woodchip heading should be deleted. (bottom of p.15)

⊗ Do the letter on one page + list on another

Australian Conservation Foundation
South East Forest Alliance
Total Environment Centre
South East Forests Conservation Council

MEDIA RELEASE
12/3/95

THE GREEN CHALLENGE

The Liberal National Party Coalition government led by John Fahey yesterday failed its own new "Green Challenge" environment policy. After being addressed by the Environment Minister Chris Hartcher, the Government was unanimously condemned by hundreds of conservationists. They were attending the Environment in Crisis conference called to assess the environmental policies of the major parties. After refusing to answer a questionnaire on its policies the Coalition provided an environmental policy at the last minute which contained only one sentence on forests and totally ignored wilderness.

"The Coalition was judged a very poor last out of the four major parties. Some conservationists suggested ranking them 20th to reflect their appalling record on the destruction of high conservation value old growth forests such as the Coolangubra wilderness in the south east and Wild Cattle Creek in north east NSW" said Noel Plumb, spokesperson for the South East Forest Alliance.

"Minister for the Environment, Chris Hartcher, said if re-elected the government would continue to implement the National forest Policy Statement. We assume this means continuing to target for intensive logging and woodchipping the Federal Government's list of high conservation value compartments.

"The conference congratulated the Australian Democrats and The Greens NSW on their unceasing efforts to protect our native forests. The comprehensive forest and wilderness policies of The Greens and the Democrats ranked them equal first" said Mr Peter Wright, National Biodiversity Campaigner for the Australian Conservation Foundation.

" The ALP's new forest policy was welcomed by the conference. While not as far reaching as those of the two smaller parties it offers a basis for resolution of the conflict over logging of old growth and wilderness forests. The commitment to restructure the timber industry and create a comprehensive, adequate and representative forest reserve system, together with the promise to create a 90,000 ha park in the South East Forests puts them well ahead of the Coalition. The conference stressed that the credibility of a Carr Labor Government would depend on it implementing the new policy in an open and accountable way.

" The independents Peter Macdonald, Clover Moore and John Hatton were commended by the conference for their support for environmental protection over the life of the last Parliament ".

For more information contact :

Noel Plumb (SEFA) on Ph 810 1803
or Peter Wright (ACF) on Ph 665 7085

re Call with DAILAN PUGH 8/3/95

basically the same: negotiations haven't achieved anything.
unens have completely frustrated policy initiatives
waters down language MFS.

process of interim assessment not satisfactory
resource security - not accountability.

(6/10)

FAdm. Council: only to assist Minister

Should provide more direct oversight & policy formulation

Corporatise plantations ^{maybe} okay?
but not native forests

General concerns about corporatisation

"should be prevented" \neq "will be avoided"

Kempsey MA \rightarrow New England wilderness next to be
logged.

Regional assessment committees not described
environmental "domains" \neq env. "regions"

Restructuring good

Regional restructuring committee need env. groups rep
to ensure \$ to workers \rightarrow forest protecting.

Woodchipping will continue from "silvicultural thinning".
cull trees, gap creation methods, any material \neq don't want

North East Forest Alliance

Media Release 9 March 1995

CARR'S FOREST POLICY REQUIRES MORE DETAIL

North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) spokesperson Dailan Pugh said that although the State ALP's Forest Policy offers worthwhile initiatives, until Mr. Carr provides more details it is impossible to tell whether the policy will in reality result in protection of our rapidly diminishing oldgrowth forests and wilderness.

Mr. Pugh said that it is evident that both the ALP and the Liberal/Nationals are well aware of the overwhelming public support for the protection of oldgrowth forests and that the logging of oldgrowth forests in north-east NSW will be completed within five years.

"Mr. Carr needs to give a clear and unambiguous commitment to immediately protect high conservation value oldgrowth forest and wilderness and detail the assessment process to be used to identify moratoria to protect these areas".

"Until this is done there can be no guarantee that the ALP's policy will amount to more than the hollow rhetoric of the current government".

"The initiative of committing significant funds to assist in timber industry restructuring is to be highly praised".

"Though there needs to be a commitment to an open process and guarantee that the \$60 million from the Environmental Trusts will only be used to compensate workers for the direct protection of threatened forests",

"Industry restructuring which will inevitably result after the oldgrowth forests are cut out over the next few years must not attract compensation", he said.

Mr. Pugh said that in accordance with the National Forest Policy the ALP Policy gives a commitment to undertake comprehensive regional assessments and to establish comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve systems.

"Again there needs to be a commitment to a balanced, open and accountable process that will ensure the assessment is done properly".

"Until Mr. Carr is prepared to elaborate on these aspects of his policy it will be impossible to determine whether what he is proposing will be substantially different from current practices", Mr. Pugh said.

"We can not agree with a number of other aspects of Carr's Forest Policy, such as the indefinite continuation of export woodchipping".

"But if we can get firm and worthwhile commitments on these fundamental issues we will be able to have faith that a Carr Labour Government will offer more for north-east NSW's forests than the Fahey Government",

"With less than five years left it is now or never for our oldgrowth forest and wilderness", Mr. Pugh said.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT DAILAN PUGH ON 065 882268

COMMENTS ON ALP FOREST POLICY

Dailan Pugh, North East Forest Alliance

On the 8th of March 1995 the NSW ALP released their forest policy. Following is a preliminary critical assessment of that policy. This only addresses issues raised in the policy and not the numerous issues which are not mentioned.

There are three policy commitments which are totally unacceptable:

- abandoning the commitment to phase out export woodchipping by 2000 and allowing export woodchipping to continue indefinitely;
- corporatisation of the native forest sector of State Forests so as to require State Forests to manage all native forests for maximum timber production to make a profit at the expense of other forest values. This apparently entails maintaining the current State Forests Board; and,
- redirection of income from recreational use to plantations rather than into improving recreational facilities.

There are five policy commitments for which insufficient details are provided to determine how they will be interpreted and applied in practice, these require more detail to make the intent clear and unambiguous:

- undertaking regional assessments to identify a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system is supported in principle but there is a need for detail of the process to be used before it can be accepted that there will be a worthwhile and just outcome;
- the proposed Forestry Advisory Committee is apparently a replicate of the existing Forestry Policy Advisory Committee, there needs to be improved balance on the committee and an unambiguous commitment that it will have a more meaningful role;
- urgently rescheduling State Forests' logging program to avoid logging and roading in high conservation value oldgrowth forest and identified wilderness areas while an interim assessment is completed is supported in principle, though without identification of the process to be used and a clear commitment to protect all high conservation value areas it is impossible to evaluate the merits of the process;
- undertaking an interim assessment process to identify areas to be placed under logging moratoria until a comprehensive regional assessment is completed is supported in principle, until details of the criteria and process to be used to identify these moratoria is provided it is impossible to determine whether there will be a worthwhile outcome; and,
- establishing a structural adjustment fund of \$60 million over five years, the administration of the fund only by government, industry and unions is unacceptable, there needs to be a guarantee that the fund will only be used to compensate for the protection of threatened HCV forests.

There are five policy initiatives which are supported:

- the production of legally enforceable five year Forest Management Plans with public consultation and enforcement by a Principle Forest Regulator responsible to the Minister for Planning;
- the commitment to undertake resource assessments of areas identified as not being required for the reserve system, presumably meaning an acceleration and improvement of existing programs;
- undertaking regional assessments over private as well as public lands;

- gazettal of protected lands maps which have been suppressed by the National Party at great environmental cost; and,
- expanding the hardwood plantation program.

RESERVE SYSTEM

The Policy gives a commitment to undertake Comprehensive Regional Assessments (CRAs) and identify Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve systems. Identified CAR reserve areas will be transferred to appropriate conservation agencies.

These assessments are to be undertaken by Regional Assessment Committees (RACs), co-ordinated by a Regional Assessment Coordination Committee (RACC), unfortunately no details of the membership of these committees or the assessment process is provided.

Comment: These assessments need to be undertaken in a balanced, open and publicly accountable manner which is sufficiently detailed prior to the election. It is suggested that the RACC should be comprised of a nominee from each of the Department of Planning, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Nature Conservation Council, Ecological Society of Australia, an industry group, Labour Council and a land management expert from a NSW tertiary institution appointed as chair. The RACC should appoint the RACs. The Department of Planning and the National Parks and Wildlife Service should have joint responsibility for the regional assessments.

HCV MORATORIA

The Policy states that based on the advice of the NPWS and other agencies the Government will urgently reschedule State Forest's logging programs to avoid logging and roading in high conservation value oldgrowth forests and identified wilderness areas, until the completion of an interim assessment process.

Comment: this is basically the wording of the NFPS with the exception that the moratorium will only apply until the interim assessment is complete rather than the CRA is completed and a CAR reserve system in place. Although the current government states that it is also following this process it is evident that in practice they and State Forests are flagrantly abusing the process. The policy needs to be far more specific regarding the assessment process to be used.

The second aspect to the process is a nine month interim assessment "involving all stakeholders at a regional level" to determine longer term moratorium areas within 9 months.

Comment: there is no detail of who will identify these moratoria, which stakeholders will be involved and what criteria will be used. This must be specified before it is possible to have any faith it will be done properly. It is suggested that the RACC undertake this task.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forestry Advisory Council

The policy gives a commitment to establish a Forestry Advisory Council (FAC) to advise the Minister. Membership will be 1 ministerial rep., 5 departmental (2 SF, no Soil Con.), 5 industry and union, 2 conservation and two scientist. It will also review Forest Management Plans.

Comment: the FAC is only to advise the minister and will have no direct role in setting policies and directions of State Forests aside from reviewing Forest Management Plans. The structure of FAC is similar to the current Forest Policy Advisory Committee (FPAC) from which the four conservation representatives recently resigned because the government was ignoring, or not seeking, advice on crucial forest policy initiatives and not allowing any role in directing the policies and practices of State Forests. With its stronger union membership there is no guarantee that FAC will be any more effective in improving environmental policies and standards than FPAC.

Corporatisation

The policy gives a commitment to corporatise State Forests.

Comment: the corporatisation of the native forest sector is of grave concern. The necessity of State Forests deriving a profit from native forests will continue the current massive environmental problems resulting from State Forests attempting to wring every cent out of the forests and refusing to undertake required environmental work on the grounds that they can't afford it.

Resource assessments

The policy gives a commitment to undertake timber resource assessments of areas identified as not being required for the reserve system.

Comment: resource assessments are a continuing process, though there is a need to improve the methodology and fast track the assessment. The apparent commitment to expending more effort in this area is supported, though there is an equal need to properly assess all forest values at the same time (eg. natural, recreational, water, plant products etc.).

INDUSTRY RESTRUCTURING

The policy guarantees that resource security ("guarantee long-term timber supply", "timber supply agreements") will be granted once Regional Forest Agreements are completed.

Comment: there is no guarantee that the regional assessments will be undertaken using a proper and open process, thus the danger of granting of resource security over high conservation value areas is a likely outcome.

A tri-partie committee of industry, government and unions will be established to implement structural adjustment using \$60 million from the Environment Trusts.

Comment: The establishment of a fund to provide compensation to workers for the protection of HCV forests is needed but there is a danger that the ALP proposal will simply become a slush fund to provide compensation once oldgrowth forests have been logged. There is no guarantee that the money will only be used as compensation for the direct protection of oldgrowth and HCV forests, and the committee does not include conservation representatives. This process needs to be made more accountable and balanced with a guarantee that compensation will only be provided from the Environment Trusts as a trade-off for the protection of HCV forests.

WOODCHIPPING

The policy commits the ALP to allow the export of woodchips indefinitely where they come from "genuine hardwood sawlog residue and silvicultural practices".

Comment: Silvicultural practices are any activity that State Forests wish to undertake, they include the removal of oldgrowth trees taking up space where young trees could grow, residues from the clearing of native forests for plantations (now becoming more common in north-east NSW) and any other trees that State Forests consider "useless". All woodchips currently being obtained from public forests fall within these loose definitions. It is apparent it will be business as usual. There must be a commitment to rapidly phase out export woodchipping, not continue it indefinitely.

TOURISM

The policy commits the ALP to redirect any income derived from recreational use of State Forests into the plantation development.

Comment: there is an urgent need for the upgrading of recreational facilities in State Forests. Using the user pay principle all income from recreational use should be directed into the improvement of facilities, not redirected to timber production.

PROPOSED LETTER TO CARR, RE: FOREST POLICY**DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION FOR ENDORSEMENT BY OTHER GROUPS****WILL HAVE TO BE SENT TONIGHT AT LATEST****CONTACT: Dailan Pugh, 066 882268 fax 882248**

Dear Mr. Carr,

We, the undersigned conservation groups, welcome your forest policy as including the potential to initiate a proper assessment of forest values, protection of high conservation value forests, and assistance in mitigating any adverse impacts on the timber workers from establishing an adequate conservation reserve system. We are prepared to endorse and actively support the bulk of your policy if you can expand upon commitments by detailing satisfactory processes in key areas. We would be able endorse your policy in total if you could alter two other commitments.

There are five policy commitments for which insufficient details are provided to determine how they will be interpreted and applied in practice, these require more detail to make the intent clear and unambiguous:

- undertaking regional assessments to identify a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system

This is supported in principle but there is a need for detail of the process to be used before it can be accepted that there will be a worthwhile and just outcome. We request that you consider our proposal for the assessments to be undertaken in a balanced, open and publicly accountable manner. We request that the RACC be comprised of a nominee from each of the Department of Planning, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Australian Nature Conservation Agency, Nature Conservation Council, Ecological Society of Australia, an industry group, Labour Council and a land management expert from a NSW tertiary institution appointed as chair. We request that the Regional Assessment Coordination Committee (RACC) have the role of identifying appropriate regions, establishing the RACs and coordinating the assessments. We also request that under the direction of the RACs, the Department of Planning and the National Parks and Wildlife Service shall have joint responsibility for the regional assessments.

- urgently rescheduling State Forests' logging program to avoid logging and roading in high conservation value oldgrowth forest and identified wilderness areas while an interim assessment is completed

It is agreed that this is the first requirement. Without identification of the process to be used and a clear commitment to protect all high conservation value areas it is impossible to evaluate the merits of the process. We request a categorical commitment that all high conservation value oldgrowth forests and identified wilderness areas will be included in moratoria and suggest that the identification of these areas be overseen by balanced regional working groups of the Department of Planning, National Parks and Wildlife Service, State Forests, Nature Conservation Council and the CFMEU.

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MANAGEMENT

Advisory Council

gives a commitment to establish a Forestry Advisory Council (FAC) to advise the Minister.
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 n and two scientist. It will also review Forest Management Plans.

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 representatives recently resigned because the government was ignoring, or not seeking, advice on
 icial forest policy initiatives and not allowing any role in directing the policies and practices of
 ate Forests. With its stronger union membership there is no guarantee that FAC will be any mor
 ective in improving environmental policies and standards than FPAC.

- gazettal of protected lands maps which have been suppressed by the National Party at great environmental cost; and,
- expanding the hardwood plantation program.

RESERVE SYSTEM

The Policy gives a commitment to undertake Comprehensive Regional Assessments (CRAs) and identify Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve systems. Identified CAR reserve areas will be transferred to appropriate conservation agencies.

These assessments are to be undertaken by Regional Assessment Committees (RACs), co-ordinated by a Regional Assessment Coordination Committee (RACC), unfortunately no details of the membership of these committees or the assessment process is provided.

Comment: These assessments need to be undertaken in a balanced, open and publicly accountable manner which is sufficiently detailed prior to the election. It is suggested that the RACC should be comprised of a nominee from each of the Department of Planning, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Nature Conservation Council, Ecological Society of Australia, an industry group, Labour Council and a land management expert from a NSW tertiary institution appointed as chair. The RACC should appoint the RACs. The Department of Planning and the National Parks and Wildlife Service should have joint responsibility for the regional assessments.

HCV MORATORIA

The Policy states that based on the advice of the NPWS and other agencies the Government will urgently reschedule State Forest's logging programs to avoid logging and roading in high conservation value oldgrowth forests and identified wilderness areas, until the completion of an interim assessment process.

Comment: this is basically the wording of the NFPS with the exception that the moratorium will only apply until the interim assessment is complete rather than the CRA is completed and a CAR reserve system in place. Although the current government states that it is also following this process it is evident that in practice they and State Forests are flagrantly abusing the process. The policy needs to be far more specific regarding the assessment process to be used.

The second aspect to the process is a nine month interim assessment "involving all stakeholders at a regional level" to determine longer term moratorium areas within 9 months.

Comment: there is no detail of who will identify these moratoria, which stakeholders will be involved and what criteria will be used. This must be specified before it is possible to have any faith it will be done properly. It is suggested that the RAC's undertake this task.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forestry Advisory Council

The policy gives a commitment to establish a Forestry Advisory Council (FAC) to advise the Minister. Membership will be 1 ministerial rep., 5 departmental (2 SF, no Soil Con.), 5 industry and union, 2 conservation and two scientist. It will also review Forest Management Plans.

Comment: the FAC is only to advise the minister and will have no direct role in setting policies and directions of State Forests aside from reviewing Forest Management Plans. The structure of FAC is similar to the current Forest Policy Advisory Committee (FPAC) from which the four conservation representatives recently resigned because the government was ignoring, or not seeking, advice on crucial forest policy initiatives and not allowing any role in directing the policies and practices of State Forests. With its stronger union membership there is no guarantee that FAC will be any more effective in improving environmental policies and standards than FPAC.

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW... TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE... AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION... NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW... CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH EAST REGION & CANBERRA... SOUTH EAST FORESTS CONSERVATION COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...March 8th 1995

ALP'S FOREST POLICY - A STEP FORWARD

The ALP's forest policy, released today, was viewed by environment groups as a significant advance on the NSW Coalition Government current forest policy and practices.

Forest policy is likely to be crucial in the coming State election, whose outcome may be determined by green preferences.

Mr Carr's policy shows a sense of urgency to resolve the forest dispute which recognises that it's 'now or never' for the forests.

The policy must be read in conjunction with the ALP's recently-released Nature Conservation policy, which pledged protection for some important old growth areas, notably the South East National Park. The package could be further enhanced by an anticipated announcement, later in the election campaign, of substantial commitments to protect wilderness.

The policy makes an important commitment to 'urgently reschedule logging programs... to avoid logging and roading in high conservation value old growth forests and identified wilderness areas pending the completion of an interim assessment process'

The ALP's policy also provides for expenditure of \$60 million over a five year period for timber industry structural adjustment, with \$35 in the first year. Funding is crucial to the success of any serious attempt to resolve the forest dispute. To date, no major party at State level has made an expenditure commitment of this magnitude. The pressure is now on the Federal Government to make a similar funding pledge.

Several points in the forest policy are of serious concern to conservationists, and cannot be supported. These include:

- A fudged commitment to phasing out native forest export woodchipping. The policy says that 'a Carr Government will encourage a more rapid phase-out [than by the year 2000] of hardwood export woodchipping not based entirely on genuine hardwood sawlog residue and *silvicultural practices*. This is a very qualified commitment to a phase-out of native forest export woodchipping so clearly supported by the community.

- o Failure to include all high conservation value forests in the moratorium.
- o Insufficient detail on the accountability of processes to oversight assessment. If the community lacks confidence in the process they cannot lead to a long-term resolution of the issue.
- o Lack of accountability in the expenditure of restructuring funds. Conservationists are concerned that money from the Environmental Trusts could be used for new industry projects not directly linked to saving forests.

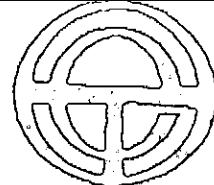
Environmentalists will continue to campaign on these matters, and to seek improvements to all parties' forest policies.

At present, there can be no comparison between the ALP's forest policy and the Coalition's, because the latter has yet to be released. So far in this election campaign, only the NSW National Party has released a forest policy - and it is appalling.

ENDS...

For further information contact:

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Jeff Angel	Total Environment Centre	02 247 4714 (w)
Peter Wright	Australian Conservation Foundation	02 247 4285 (w) 02 665 7085 (h)
Anne Reeves	National Parks Association of NSW	02 264 7994 (w) 02 660 5694 (h)



FAX: PETER/NCC DAILAN/NEFA
SIMON/BEGA
PETER WRIGHT, SID, CRAIG/CANBERRA (SEN DEVEREAUX) ←
JAMES/TWS NOEL

DATE: 2 MARCH 1995
FROM: JEFF ANGEL
RE: ALP FORESTRY POLICY - please reply by tomorrow am

CONFIDENTIAL

After a number of conversations with various people and media, it is now my view that we need to make one final offer on wording. The window of opportunity is narrowing. I think the ALP are looking for a solution and we (if we appear reasonable) offer their best hope.

I suggest the following wording to cover our three points:

- o "The moratorium and rapid assessment processes during 1995 will be undertaken in conjunction with current Commonwealth requirements for environmental values." ? under old wild
- o "A Carr Labor Government will use all available powers to achieve this program, with the State Government making the final decisions on moratoria and land-use."
- o "It is recognised that all stakeholders require transparency and accountability in decision making about moratoria; reserves; and expenditure of funds for timber industry assistance. This will include:
 - o public participation in development of assessment methodologies;
 - o the advice of independent scientists;
 - o public access and comment on draft reports;
 - o the involvement of lead planning and conservation agencies, independent scientists and stakeholder groups in regional assessment committees; and
 - o an advisory role for the FAC
 - o a public report on each program
 - o expenditure of restructuring funds and

The arrangements for these matters will be finalised within one month of taking office."

- o [after year 2000] - "Where regional circumstances permit a more rapid phase-out of export woodchipping will be investigated."

? initiated

Attention: Linda Morris

from John Conkili
267 4406

Canberra Times

28/2/95

New ALP greening likely to backfire

By PAUL CHAMBERLIN

Less than a month before the NSW election, Opposition Leader Bob Carr is likely to know today whether he will face the weight of a union- and employer-led campaign against him on forest issues.

The key Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union is threatening to "dwarf" the blockade of Parliament House in Canberra earlier this month with similar protests against Mr Carr, which could damage the Labor Leader's momentum irreparably.

NSW Labor politicians and advisers, union and green group representatives were locked in negotiations last night, the unions having put a list of five major concerns to Mr Carr yesterday.

The secretary of the forestry division of the CFMEU, Gavin Hillier, said Mr Carr's latest promise, made on Sunday, to create 24 new national parks across the state, the boundaries and size yet to be determined, was extremely worrying for 5000 CFMEU union members in the NSW timber industry.

Others problems included a proposal for 10 new wilderness areas; the planned setting-aside from logging of any area of forest regrowth deemed to have high conservation value; and planned legislation to protect scenic rivers, which might cut into catchments and logging coupes needed by industry.

"If he tries to bring in all these things, we're dead," Mr Hillier said. "On top of our members, there's TWU drivers and non-union people in the industry and in the nearby towns to consider as well."

If the CFMEU did not have a satisfactory response by 8am today, a series of meetings between federal and state union leaders, employers and workers would be convened within 48 hours to consider more action.

"Any campaign would be quick and sharp. It would be like an industrial dispute, only better, because all the parties would be trying to kill one party."

Much of the negotiating has been carried out by Labor backbenchers Craig Knowles and Kim Yeadon, effectively sidelining the Opposition's accredited environment and land spokespeople.

Mr Carr has run a pro-environment line in the lead-up to the March 25 poll, kick-started by a vow to protect from all logging any coupes in NSW among 1300 identified by the federal Environment Minister, John Faulkner, as likely to be of high conservation value.

This outraged industry and did little to appease conservation-movement leaders, who said they were still likely to campaign against Mr Carr. However, his recent announcements have calmed green anger at NSW Labor over woodchipping.

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

THE NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW
39 GEORGE ST
THE ROCKS NSW 2000
PHONE: (02) 247 4206/247 2228
FAX: (02) 247 5945



Mr Bob Carr
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
Macquarie St
SYDNEY 2000

Tue, 28 Feb 1995

In Confidence - re Forest Policy

Dear Mr Carr,

As you will be aware, representatives from the major conservation groups met yesterday with Kim Yeadon and Alan Hansell in an attempt to finalise the ALP's forest policy in a form acceptable to the conservation movement. Representatives of the CFMEU were involved in parallel negotiations with Mr Yeadon and Mr Hansell.

These negotiations broke down at 11pm, after 9 hours, following a similarly long and arduous session the previous week. We regret this, since considerable progress had been made, and your negotiators had earlier indicated that the remaining differences appeared surmountable. However, the points of difference, which were not resolved, are crucial to the conservation movement.

There were three principal areas of disagreement:

1/ The range of 'values' to be put under moratorium.

Your negotiators were willing to offer a moratorium only on 'high conservation value' old growth forests and identified wilderness areas. They were not prepared to agree to a more general moratorium commitment for high conservation value (HCV) forests. HCV in this context includes old growth,

wilderness, habitats of rare and threatened species, areas of high biodiversity, World Heritage etc (that is, the range of values applied by Minister Faulkner last year and inherent in a range of government conservation obligations and agreements).

We acknowledged that the policy would reserve ultimate decisions on moratoria to the NSW Government - but felt it imperative that a general commitment to protection of all HCV areas was enshrined in the policy.

We sought a pledge to protect all the high conservation values of areas identified as HCV by Senator Faulkner in December 1994. This would be consistent with your letter to the Prime Minister of late last year

We are most disappointed that these positions were not acceptable to the NSW ALP. We cannot support a policy which fails to acknowledge the need to protect the full range of high conservation value forests. We are surprised that the ALP could contemplate going to the electorate without a commitment to protecting, for example, the habitats of endangered species or vegetation communities which have been reduced to less than 1% of their original range!

2/ Processes relating to the moratorium and subsequent assessment processes.

All parties to the negotiations agreed to a three-stage process of (1) moratoria; (2) rapid assessments and (3) comprehensive regional assessments leading to the establishment of comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve systems.

However, your negotiators appeared unwilling to agree to our suggestions for these processes. At no point did we seek other than balanced membership on the bodies charged with undertaking the process. But the sticking point was the transparency and public accountability of these processes.

We have endured so many bad experiences at State and Federal level over the years in which secretive and biased processes have led to dismal outcomes for the forests, that we are unable in good conscience to recommend to the community processes which are not both accountable and transparent.

3/ The phase-out period for export woodchipping in south east NSW.

There is a current window of opportunity to phase out export woodchipping in the South East within the next two years without nett loss of employment. New jobs will be created by CSR's expansion and new developments at its

softwood operations in Tumut, Oberon and Bombala, and these are more than equal to the total employment levels in the region's woodchip-driven native forest timber industry.

In the spirit of compromise, we merely requested a pledge from the ALP to "seek to initiate" such a phase-out by consulting with industry and the unions. After initial suggestions that this would be acceptable, the ALP negotiators later withdrew this possibility. Unwillingness to initiate even such a limited process leaves us with no confidence that the ALP intends to make any significant changes to industry structure.

Without commitments on these three vital principles, we believe it will be difficult for Labor to convince the public that there is a clear difference between the ALP and the Coalition on forest policy. Nor do we believe the conservation movement can support the ALP's forest policy in the form currently proposed, notwithstanding some positive elements in the current draft.

We seek an urgent meeting with you to resolve the key outstanding differences, which we believe can be overcome only through your direct intervention.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Lambert
The Wilderness Society

Noel Plumb
South East Forest Alliance

Sid Walker
Nature Conservation Council of NSW

- on behalf of NSW environment groups represented at the negotiations -

NSW FOREST SUMMIT: MEDIA RELEASE

5th February 1995 EMBARGO TO MIDNIGHT

FORESTS CRUCIAL TO NSW STATE ELECTION RESULT

Conservationists attending the NSW Forest Summit on Sunday 5th February affirmed that protection of native forests will be a central issue in the coming State election, and the NSW environment movement will mobilise as never before to influence the outcome.

x? The Summit recognised that the next four years are crucial for NSW's remaining old growth and wilderness forests. If current policies are not reversed, old growth and wilderness forests outside the existing, grossly inadequate, forested reserve system will all be gone in north-eastern NSW within the next five years, even sooner west of the divide, and within a decade in all regions. Unless these areas within the next term of government, as well as all rare ecological communities and habitats of endangered species, a wave of extinctions will inevitably follow.

The meeting believed the crisis in our forests presents a challenge to all political parties and candidates contesting the March 25th State election. Any party whose policy is not substantially better than the Keating Government's current position will be vigorously opposed.

The Summit condemned the Fahey Government for its despicable role in the recent woodchip licence controversy. It is responsible for the NSW logging program. The NSW Coalition Government's vandalism is illustrated by the fact that 20% of all State forests in north east NSW was earmarked for logging in 1995 - and half the compartments throughout Australia recommended for protection by Senator Faulkner are located in NSW.

The meeting noted that while a growing number of Liberal Party supporters are concerned about the Coalition's appalling forest policy, the National Party's stranglehold has so far frustrated all attempts at improvement.

The Summit called on the Fahey Government to immediately place under moratorium all the 674 areas identified as potentially high conservation value by the Federal Environment Minister (the credibility of this list has been falsely attacked - see attached). It demanded protection of all remaining old growth forest, a rapid phase-out of export woodchipping and the establishment of a fully comprehensive forest reserve system.

As well as State election strategy, the Summit considered the forthcoming by-election in the Federal seat of Canberra in which woodchipping will be a major issue. The coming Federal election was also discussed.

The Summit reiterated the conservation movement's commitment to a sustainable wood products industry increasingly based on plantations and other fibre resources. It called on the NSW and Federal Governments to stop appeasing multinational logging companies which are destroying native forests for short-term profits, and immediately fund a restructuring program to accompany emergency measures to save the forests.

Groups at the NSW Forest Summit expressed anger and frustration that in all the years that of striving to ensure protection of our precious forest heritage, their repeated calls for provision of sustainable jobs and the protection of local communities has been ignored. Industry and governments need to work with the conservation movement to secure the protection of the forests and of the regions in the interests of us all.

ENDS

For further information contact:

Sid Walker 018 - 464 671 02 30 5090 h 02 247 4206 w
 Brooke Watson 015 899 514
 Anne Reeves, National Parks Association of NSW Inc 02 660 5694
 Craig Darlington 015 488845 - 06 2477808 (w)

For further information contact:

Groups attending the February 5th NSW Forest Summit included:

Australian Conservation Foundation
 Bathurst Conservation Society
 Conservation Council of the South East Region & Canberra
 Earth Repair Foundation
 National Parks Association of NSW
 Nature Conservation Council of NSW
 North Coast Environment Council
 North East Forest Alliance
 South East Forest Alliance
 South East Forests Conservation Council
 Tamworth Environment Centre
 The Oxygen Farm
 The Wilderness Society
 Total Environment Centre
 Wingham Forest Action

TO JEFF ANGEL, DAILAN PUGH
SID WALKER

From Peter Prineas

To make it possible to arrive at an agreed position today I have drafted a joint proposal which combines the proposals and suggestions put forward by Jeff and Dailan and the claims put at our last meeting with the ALP.

1. formally dedicate all of the ALP's promised new national parks and wilderness areas in the first year of government. ✓
2. impose immediately a 12 month moratorium on logging in all high conservation value forest compartments identified by Commonwealth Environment Minister Faulkner, where such compartments are not protected by national park or wilderness dedication under (1) above. } ✓
3. retain and enforce fully all existing environmental controls in areas where logging is to continue, including environmental impact assessment, fauna impact assessment, soil conservation and pollution controls. ✓
4. immediately direct the NPWS, in co-operation with ANCA, to undertake a rapid assessment of all NSW public forests within a period of eight months to identify those forest areas likely to be required to secure a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system. The rationale, process, and methodology for the assessment will be stated at the commencement of the process in an initial report exhibited for public comment. The draft final report with recommendations on forest areas needed for the reserve system will be exhibited for public comment. The recommended areas will be protected from logging by moratorium until the completion of comprehensive regional assessments of NSW public forests and a final determination by the NSW Government. ✓
5. Establish by legislation a process for comprehensive regional assessment of public forests to be completed for all regions of the State within three years. (Structure and membership/control as per the proposal drafted by Dailan). At the end of the CRA process the Government will dedicate a comprehensive forest reserve system under legislation as identified by the process.
6. Establish immediately a Forest Practices Review Board (as per proposal by Dailan). ✓

DRAFT VERSION OF
CONSERVATION GROUPS.

5.8. Establishment within the first three months of a Carr Labor Government of a process for comprehensive assessment of native forests, to be completed for the whole State by March 1997. The structure, membership, control and related aspects of this process are currently under discussion by the environment groups and our position will be advised in two weeks. The environment groups agree that the ALP's current policy for an assessment process, as proposed by the ALP's spokesman on forestry policy, is wholly unacceptable. At the end of the assessment process the Government will dedicate a comprehensive ^{adequate and representative} forest reserve system under legislation in accordance with the recommendations produced by the process.

8.7. an immediate direction to CALM and the Soil Conservation Service to fully implement and enforce all private land clearing and land protection controls, including immediate gazettal of maps for all protected lands. ✓

6.8. Establishment within the first three months of a Carr Labor Government, under legislation, of a Forest Practices Review Board charged with establishing a code of practice controlling logging on lands of all tenures and regulating forestry operations. The draft code of practice is to be exhibited for public comment before adoption. The code of practice is to be fully enforceable by third parties in the Land and Environment Court. The FPRB is to be comprised of representatives of State Forests, NPWS, EPA, Soil Conservation Service, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, CFMEU, Ecological Society of Australia and an independent (non government) chairperson. ✓

9. Establishment and implementation in the first six months of a Carr Labor Government of a timber industry restructuring program with priority to those areas of the State affected by the 1995 new national park and wilderness area gazettals. The restructuring program is to be devised by a committee comprising representatives of DoP, Premier's Office, State Forests (pine section), NPWS, two persons nominated by NCC, a nominee of the CFMEU. Local area consultations are to be undertaken. Key elements of the program will include:

- * provision of low conservation value native forest areas to meet transitional needs;
- * comprehensive assessment of available resource (particularly

pine plantations and native forest regrowth), value adding potential, review of logging quotas;

- * integration of pine industry developments with withdrawal of native forest resources from industry;

- * open tendering process for identified forest resources and consultation with local communities prior to allocation;

- * government assistance for mill restructuring and manufacturing based on small wood;

- * government assistance for alternative industry and employment projects based on management of new national parks, ecotourism, local improvement programs;

- * government assistance for new hardwood plantation projects;

- * government assistance for structural adjustment packages including redundancy payments and acquisition of plant and equipment.

10. Commitment to phase out woodchipping in NSW native forests within the first term of a Carr Labor Government.

3 January 1995

ENDS.

319 1513

Environment groups favouring the construction of a
leader of the NSW Rural Workers Labor Party

his statement has been agreed to by MCC, RWC, AGF, NPA, SECCO, NEFA.

The environment groups are seeking a comprehensive review of ALP forestry policy. The ALP policy should give the following firm undertakings:

1. the ALP's previously announced promises of new national parks and wilderness areas to be reaffirmed and all of the new areas to be dedicated within the first 12 months of a Cam Labor Government.
2. immediate establishment of a 12 month moratorium on logging in all of the high conservation value forest compartments identified by Commonwealth Environment Minister Bullock.
3. immediate establishment of a moratorium on logging in (a) wilderness areas as determined by the Director-General of National Parks and Wildlife, and (b) all old growth and high growth native forest. This moratorium is to be followed by a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system protecting NSW native forest communities.
4. retention and good full enforcement of all current environmental controls in forest areas where logging is so continue, including environmental impact assessment, fauna impact assessments, soil conservation and pollution controls.
- 4.3. an immediate direction to the NPWS, to conduct, in co-operation with ANCA, a rapid assessment of all NSW public forests within a period of six months to identify those forest areas likely to be required to secure a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system. The rationale, process, and methodology for the assessment will be stated at the commencement of the process in an initial report exhibited for public comment. The draft final report with recommendations on forest areas needed for the reserve system will be exhibited for public comment. The recommended areas will be protected from logging by moratorium until the completion of a ^{comprehensive} final assessment of NSW forests and a final determination by the NSW Government establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system.

3. Establishment within the first three months of a Carr Labor Government of a process for comprehensive assessment of native forests, to be completed for the whole State by March 1997. The structure, membership, control and related aspects of this process are currently under discussion by the environment groups and our position will be advised in two weeks. The environment groups agree that the ALP's current policy for an assessment process, as proposed by the ALP's spokesman on forestry policy, is wholly unacceptable. At the end of the assessment process the Government will dedicate a comprehensive ^{proposed and representative} forest reserve system under legislation in accordance with the recommendations produced by the process.
87. an immediate direction to CALM and the Soil Conservation Service to fully implement and enforce all private land clearing and land protection controls, including immediate gazettal of maps for all protected lands.
68. Establishment within the first three months of a Carr Labor Government, under legislation, of a Forest Practices Review Board, charged with establishing a code of practice controlling logging on lands of all tenures and regulating forestry operations. The draft code of practice is to be exhibited for public comment before adoption. The code of practice is to be fully enforceable by third parties in the Land and Environment Court. The FPRB is to be comprised of representatives of State Forests, NPWS, EPA, Soil Conservation Service, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, CFMEU, Ecological Society of Australia and an independent (non government) chairperson.
9. Establishment and implementation in the first six months of a Carr Labor Government of a timber industry restructuring program with priority to those areas of the State affected by the 1995 new national park and wilderness area gazettals. The restructuring program is to be devised by a committee comprising representatives of DoP, Premier's Office, State Forests (pine section), NPWS, two persons nominated by NCC, a nominee of the CFMEU. Local area consultations are to be undertaken. Key elements of the program will include:
- * provision of low conservation value native forest areas to meet transitional needs;
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to plantations and native forest regrowth), value adding potential, review of logging quotas;

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- * open tendering process for identified forest resources and consultation with local communities prior to allocation;
- * government assistance for mill restructuring and manufacturing based on small wood;
- * government assistance for alternative industry and employment projects based on management of new national parks, ecotourism, local improvement programs;
- * government assistance for new hardwood plantation projects;
- * government assistance for structural adjustment packages including redundancy payments and acquisition of plant and equipment.

10. Commitment to phase out woodchipping in NSW native forests within the first term of a Carr Labor Government.

3 January 1995
ENDS.

319 1513

A, ACF, SEFA, TEC etc 3 pages

PROPOSED POLICY INITIATIVES FOR NSW

At - prepared by Dailan Pugh.

It is time to overcome the divisiveness in our community and progress NSW towards the next millennium. We need to ensure that we establish an adequate reserve system and manage our resources wisely and sustainably. To help achieve this it is proposed to initiate regional assessments throughout NSW and ensure the involvement of all interest groups and the wider community. It is only through a balanced and open process that the community can have faith that the outcome is fair and equitable.

Due to the inaction of the current government it is no longer feasible to complete regional assessments of forests by the 1995 deadline set by the National Forest Policy. In order to protect high conservation values while regional assessments are undertaken interim processes will immediately be initiated.

COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS

Comprehensive Regional Assessments (CRAs) will collate comprehensive and adequate information on each region to: identify comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve systems, develop strategies to maintain biodiversity, assist in regional planning, provide baseline data for environmental auditing, and identify the resources available for sustainable communities and industry.

CRAs will be completed for all ~~forest~~ regions in NSW by the end of this millennium. Within three years CRAs will be completed for all forest regions. The Department of Planning will be the responsible agency for regional assessments.

A Regional Assessment Co-ordination Committee will be established to oversee the identification of regions and the assessment process. The Regional Assessment Co-ordination Committee will be comprised of one representative of each of the Department of Planning, National Parks and Wildlife Service, State Forests, Environmental Protection Authority, Soil Conservation Service, NSW Tourism, Department of Water Resources, Department of Mineral Resources, Nature Conservation Council, National Parks Association, Trades Labour Council, and [industry group].

Regional Assessment Forums will be established in each region to guide and supervise the assessment process. Membership of this committee will be comprised of the chair of the Regional Assessment Co-ordination Committee, National Parks and Wildlife Service, State Forests, Environmental Protection Authority, Soil Conservation Service, NSW Tourism, Department of Water Resources, Department of Mineral Resources, Local Government, Nature Conservation Council, National Parks Association, Trades Labour Council, and [industry group]. The Regional Assessment Forum, amongst these members, will include representatives from each of the Project Steering Committees. All meetings of the Regional Assessment Forum will be open to the public.

Project steering committees will be established ^{within each region} for each major subject area. These committees will include representatives of each of the responsible government agencies and relevant community interest groups:

Conservation Evaluation Steering Committee.

Duties: to oversee the collation of adequate data on flora and fauna for each region, oversee oldgrowth forest assessments, design options for comprehensive adequate and representative reserve systems and identify strategies to protect biodiversity.

Responsible agencies: National Parks and Wildlife Service, Australian Nature Conservation Agency.

O JEFF ANGEL, DAILAN PUGH
SID WALKER

from Peter Prineas

To make it possible to arrive at an agreed position today I have drafted a joint proposal which combines the proposals and suggestions put forward by Jeff and Dailan and the claims put at our last meeting with the ALP.

1. formally dedicate all of the ALP's promised new national parks and wilderness areas in the first year of government.
2. impose immediately a 12 month moratorium on logging in all high conservation value forest compartments identified by Commonwealth Environment Minister Faulkner, where such compartments are not protected by national park or wilderness dedication under (1) above.
3. retain and enforce fully all existing environmental controls in areas where logging is to continue, including environmental impact assessment, fauna impact assessment, soil conservation and pollution controls.
4. immediately direct the NPWS, in co-operation with ANCA, to undertake a rapid assessment of all NSW public forests within a period of eight months to identify those forest areas likely to be required to secure a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system. The rationale, process, and methodology for the assessment will be stated at the commencement of the process in an initial report exhibited for public comment. The draft final report with recommendations on forest areas needed for the reserve system will be exhibited for public comment. The recommended areas will be protected from logging by moratorium until the completion of comprehensive regional assessments of NSW public forests and a final determination by the NSW Government.
5. Establish by legislation a process for comprehensive regional assessment of public forests to be completed for all regions of the State within three years. (Structure and membership/control as per the proposal drafted by Dailan). At the end of the CRA process the Government will dedicate a comprehensive forest reserve system under legislation as identified by the process.
6. Establish immediately a Forest Practices Review Board (as per proposal by Dailan).

7. Establish and begin implementing in the first six months of government a timber industry restructuring program (as per proposal by Jeff with Dailan's suggestions; conservation representative to be nominated by NCC). The basis of the restructuring program is to reflect the Prime Minister's recent promise to reduce the access of the export woodchip industry to native forests by 20% per annum.

Does this meet with broad agreement? Can we use this as a basis for discussion in the phone conference as it allows for all matters of concern to be raised and dealt with.

PP

319 1513

ALP FORESTRY POLICY - PROGRAM FOR FOREST CONFLICT RESOLUTION
Final Draft/peak groups proposal
Jeff Angel Spm 3/1/95

1. Gazette national park premises during 1995. These involve significant areas of high conservation value forest, particularly in the south east and gazettal intentions immediately require development and implementation of timber industry restructuring plans.

2. Implement a moratorium on logging of all old growth and wilderness forests, including high conservation value compartments identified by Federal Minister for Environment. In most areas the Faulkner list will apply to the 1995 year of logging planned by State Forests.

During this period undertake a rapid assessment of all remaining high conservation value forests likely to be required for a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system, as the basis for a further moratorium during 1996.

The assessment to be undertaken by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

3. During the first year of government begin development and implementation of timber industry restructuring programs, with priority for areas affected by 1995 park gazettals. The program to be devised by Departments of Planning; Premiers Office; State Forests (pine section); National Parks and Wildlife Service; a conservation representative and CFMEU rep. Local consultations to be undertaken. Key elements to include:

- * provision of transitional low conservation value native forest areas;
- * comprehensive assessment of available resources and value-adding (especially pine plantations and native forest regrowth) and review logging quotas;
- * integration of pine industry developments with withdrawal from native forest logging;
- * oversee an open tendering process for identified resources and consultation with local communities before allocation of resources;
- * government assistance with mill restructuring and alternative manufacturing based on small wood;
- * alternative industry/job projects based on new national park management, ecotourism and local improvement programs;
- * expansion of hardwood plantation projects;
- * development of structural adjustment packages including redundancy payments and acquisition of equipment.

4. Comprehensive regional assessments over 1995-96, integrated with rapid moratorium assessment to finalise conservation reserve boundaries by the end of 1996. Note: these are in addition to park gazettals of 1995. Assessments to be undertaken by the NSW NPWS and Australian Nature Conservation Agency as part of federal/state co-operation mechanism.

5. a) Retention of environmental impact statement; fauna impact statement; national parks legislation; stop work orders and pollution control laws over areas where logging of native forest continues;
b) Establishment of a Forest Practices Review Board to develop a code of logging practices to be applied across all land tenures and to regulate forestry activities, during and after the CRA process. Codes to be publicly exhibited and third party rights to assist in enforcement. The Board to comprise representatives of State Forests; NPWS; EPA; Soil Conservation Service; Nature Conservation Council; CFMEU; Ecological Society of Australia and an independent facilitator.

JOINT CONSERVATION GROUP POSITION

- 1/ Moratorium on logging within all compartments containing high conservation value forests as listed by Senator Faulkner.
- 2/ Rapid assessment process, controlled by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment the National Parks & Wildlife Service with substantial public input, to identify additional high conservation value (including old growth) compartments in order to put them under moratorium as well.
- 3/ All the NSW ALP's wilderness and National Park proposals to be reaffirmed and implemented within the first year of taking office.
- 4/ Rapid phase out of all export woodchipping in the term of office of the Labor Government.
- 5/ Review of all existing Wood Supply Agreements and rapid reduction in quotas to ecologically sustainable levels; regional economic restructuring to protect employment and shift the timber industry from reliance on high conservation value forests to plantations and other acceptable wood and fibre sources.
- 6/ The NSW ALP to press the Commonwealth to use all its available powers to reduce negative effects of Beddall's decision.
- 7/ establishment of a meaningful process for the conservation movement to input to ALP's forest policy, which must henceforth be under the Opposition Leader's direct control.

→ ~~Historical Processes~~ J.C.

(one page only - from Lid Walker)

NB These were talked by the environment groups which met Bob Carr yesterday ~~at the~~ meeting on 27.12.94

Policy detail - FORESTS

The Greens NSW will work to:

- * achieve as soon as possible, but by the end of 1996, the end of export woodchipping from NSW native forests;
- * ensure that already identified ~~reserve~~ ^{park and wilderness areas} ~~proposals~~ ^{forests} are immediately dedicated ~~as National Parks~~ as a first step towards high conservation value (HCV) forest protection; ^{examples ...}
- * achieve an immediate moratorium on forestry operations in all high conservation value (HCV) forests identified by Federal Environment Minister Senator Faulkner and the Department of Environment, Sport and Territories;
- * have established immediately a rapid assessment of forests likely to be required for 'a comprehensive, adequate and representative' reserve system, to be completed by end of 1995, via a co-operative arrangement between Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA) and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, which employs consultation with aboriginal people, public participation and scientifically valid and publicly accepted methodologies;
- * achieve an immediate moratorium on forestry operations in forests identified as being likely to be required for 'a comprehensive, adequate and representative' reserve system;
- * achieve immediately, the effective implementation and enforcement of vegetation clearance controls and environmental protection measures, on private lands, via the adoption and gazettal of Protected Lands maps;
- * have NSW legislation enacted by end of 1995, to achieve comprehensive regional assessments, to be completed in all regions of the state by end of March 1997: the process to involve public participation, and be publicly discussed and agreed before being legislated;
- * achieve a public review of all Wood Supply Agreements entered into by Forestry Commission of NSW (State Forests NSW) to evaluate their ecological sustainability and their continued desirability in the light of changes in Government policy and altered market and industry conditions;
- * have devised and implemented by end of 1995, a restructuring program for the NSW timber industry to effect the rapid transition to plantation and re-growth based timber resources, which is steered by a committee representing NSW government, NSW environment movement, and relevant union(s);
- * ensure that the regulation of forestry operations via fauna impact assessment, environmental impact assessment, water pollution control, licences and soil conservation standards are enforced, and where appropriate reviewed to increase effectiveness and breadth of application;
- * establish a publicly accountable agency to review ^{and monitor} forest management practices and prepare a draft 'code of logging practice' capable of third party enforcement, for forestry operations on all land tenures, for public exhibition and comment;

pose resource security and the allied
basis of environment protection laws;

Policy Detail - WILDERNESS

The Greens NSW will work to:

- * ensure the secure protection under the Wilderness Act 1987, of all 15 wilderness areas identified by the Director of The National Parks and Wildlife Service: being Nadgee, Goodradigbee, Duela, Ettrema, Budawang, Kanagra Boyd, Barrington, Werrikinbe, Macleay Gorges, New England, Guy Fawkes, Mann, Washpool, Binghi, and Lost World wilderness areas;
- * protect all areas of wilderness within existing National Parks where the management for wilderness qualities is recommended by ~~in~~ a Plan of Management for the park or reserve;
- * achieve substantial funding of the Wilderness Fund, set up under the Wilderness Act 1987, to permit public education, preparation of Plans of Management and formulation of conservation agreements with private landholders;
- * institute an immediate moratorium on clearing and all other threatening activities within identified wilderness areas and wilderness nominations under assessment;
- * prevent and prohibit the further conversion of leasehold Crown land to freehold title; where such land is within an identified wilderness or a wilderness nomination under assessment;
- * have a future NSW Government commit to and participate in the continued development, maintenance and implementation of the National Wilderness Inventory, as a key tool for wilderness quality assessment throughout NSW and Australia;

Wollemi cont.

national park to Mt Kerry to be closed and rehabilitated.

Mann

AREA FOR IMMEDIATE DECLARATION
a 30,400 ha wilderness extension
including:

- 10,373 ha of Gibraltar Range National Park; and
- 20,027 ha of state forest.

Mann Moratorium Area
of 2,983 ha of Crown leasehold land.

Key Issue

The 23% of Grafton mill quota timber contained in the wilderness more than compensated by the recently identified extra 30% of quota sawlogs available in already logged forests.

Washpool

AREA FOR IMMEDIATE DECLARATION
a 12,900 ha wilderness extension
including:

- 7,900 ha of North Washpool state forests;
- 5,000 ha New England escarpment areas in state forests.

Moratorium Area
of 23,736 ha including:

- 17,056 ha of state forests; and
- 6,680 ha of Crown leasehold lands.

Key Issues

The extra 7% of regrowth sawlogs in Grafton Management Area will be reallocated to protect North Washpool. Other areas for immediate declaration are escarpment forests too steep to log.

Leasehold land identified as wilderness must be protected from conversion to freehold and be acquired by the NPWS.

- Bicentennial National (horseriding) Trail to be relocated.

Guy Fawkes

AREA FOR IMMEDIATE DECLARATION
a 26,162 ha wilderness extension
including:

- 13,708 ha of vacant and reserved Crown lands;
- 3,739 ha of Guy Fawkes River National Park and Nature Reserve; and
- 8,715 ha of state forests.

Guy Fawkes Moratorium Area
protect 61,333 ha including

- 15,361 ha of state forests;
- 45,972 ha of Leasehold land

Key issues

Over a third of state forests are too steep to log and will be immediately declared wilderness with no job losses.

Leasehold Crown land protected from conversion to freehold title by moratorium.

Travelling stock routes through the national park core area will be revoked.

Lost World

AREA FOR IMMEDIATE DECLARATION
A 650 ha wilderness extension within the Border Ranges National Park.

About 750 ha of the Mebbin State Forest will be added to the Border Ranges National Park outside the wilderness.

Key Issues

Wilderness management of Lamington National Park in Queensland to be negotiated with the Goss Labor Government.

Tweed Range Scenic Drive will be retained.

New England

AREA FOR IMMEDIATE DECLARATION
a 4,800 ha wilderness extension
including:

- 1,500 ha of Nulla-Five Day state forest not available for logging; and
- 3,300 ha of Oakes State Forest referenced for addition to New England National Park.

New England Moratorium Area
of 20,880 ha of state forests, and 48 ha
of Crown leasehold land.

Key Issues

No environmental impact statement
prepared for the 10,000 ha of identified
wilderness in the Urunga Forest
Management Area.

Logging program sufficiently flexible
for logging moratorium, but quota
reductions inevitable to achieve
sustained timber yields and wilderness
protection.

Werrikimbe

AREA FOR IMMEDIATE DECLARATION
a 42,240 ha new wilderness including:

- 32,956 ha of Werrikimbe National Park; and
- 12,284 vacant Crown land.

Werrikimbe Moratorium Area
protects 21,290 ha approx including:

- 20,712 ha of state forest; and
- 578 ha leasehold land.

Key Issues

Logging program sufficiently flexible
for logging moratorium, but quota
reductions inevitable to achieve
sustained timber yields and wilderness
protection.

Macleay Gorges

AREA FOR IMMEDIATE DECLARATION
a 95,711 ha new wilderness including

- 90,833 ha of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park;
- 3,516 ha of Winterbourne State Forest;
- 931 ha of Enmore State Forest;
- 42 ha of Styx River State Forest; and
- 389 ha of vacant Crown land.

Macleay Gorges Moratorium Area
of 62,692 ha of Crown leasehold land.

Key Issues

Two large inholdings in the national
park acquired as a priority.

The three state forest areas identified
for immediate wilderness declaration
contain no commercial forests.

The Bicentennial National (horseriding)
Trail will to be relocated to outside the
national park. Fourteen 4WD trails for
fire management and private access will
need gates.

Binghi

Immediately declare a 24,487 ha
Beardy River National Park including:

- 24,000 ha of Torrington reserve R.110107; and
- 487 ha of Torrington State Forest.

Moratorium Area
of 5,400 ha of Crown leasehold land.

Key Issues

Independent review of mineral potential
of the area required, especially
leasehold lands.

No leasehold conversion to
freehold title and no new leases
issued for pastoral activity in the
area.

* Overwhelming conservation case justifies
immediate wilderness declaration.

Kamilaroi

AREA FOR IMMEDIATE DECLARATION
a 36,400 ha new wilderness including:

- 22,000 ha of Pilliga Nature Reserve;
- 4,916 ha Schmidt property recently acquired by the NPWS;
- 7,500 ha of the Timmallee State Forest; and
- Timber Reserves 73014 & 79962.

Key Issues

Forestry is minimal due to low productivity and the dissected nature of the terrain.

Most of the 4WD access in the wilderness has overgrown. Many alternative tracks are available in adjoining state forests and nature reserve areas.

Very significant biodiversity in the wilderness area needs protection from feral animals and an appropriate fire management regime.

Nadgee:

The future Government will declare a wilderness extension that protects 6,350 ha, including 2,920 ha of Nadgee State Forest, Nadgee 3,380 ha in the Nature Reserve and 50 ha of Crown land that form the bed and banks of the Merri and Nadgee River estuaries within the nature reserve.

KEY ISSUES: (logging, 4WD access, fishing)

Nadgee is the only coastal wilderness in NSW, and Wonboyn Beach is the largest beach that can be managed as wilderness.

The Wonboyn estuary and access road to the mouth of the estuary are excluded from the proposed wilderness extension. The Nadgee wilderness extension, however, will close 4WD access to Newtons Beach and Disaster Bay (Wonboyn Beach). Access to fishing in these beach areas will be on foot. The Aboriginal art and burial sites at Wonboyn Beach can be severely damaged by motorised transport. Walking reduces the potential for environmental damage especially where car camping occurs in remote, small sheltered camp sites on the coast. Accordingly, the primitive toilets and camping facilities at Newton's Beach will be removed. Alternative vehicle access to the coast is available just to the north within Ben Boyd National Park, less than half an hours drive from Wonboyn village, and at Mallacoota less than half an hours drive to the south.

Logging issues:

The 2,920 ha of Nadgee State Forest in the identified wilderness forms the western half of the Merri River catchment. The area is not proposed to be logged under the current three year EIS and is not proposed to be logged until after 2010. These forests can be included in the Nature Reserve as part of the phase out of woodchipping. The area was promised for addition to the nature reserve under the 1970 Beale-Lewis woodchip agreement.

Goodradigbee:

The future Government will declare a wilderness extension that protects 42,140 ha of identified wilderness including 4,900 ha of Buccleuch State Forest, 3,320 ha of Scabby Range Nature Reserve and 33,970 ha of Kosciusko National Park - the Fiery Range/Goobarragandra section.

The proposal will reinstate the Goodradigbee wilderness zone established in the 1974 plan of management for the Kosciusko National Park, and add the old growth forests that remain in the Buccleuch State Forest. The Scabby Range is contiguous with already protected wilderness in ACT's Namadgi National Park, and is included in the Goodradigbee wilderness extension.

The 330 kV powerlines that traverse the northern section of Kosciusko National Park are incompatible with wilderness and are excluded from the proposal. These structures should be relocated outside the park at the end of their design life. As these powerlines are excluded, the Goodradigbee wilderness is in four sections (Bogong Peaks; Bimberi Range; Fiery Range/Goobarragandra; and Scabby Range).

KEY ISSUES: (timber, grazing, and 4WD and horse riding access issues)

Grazing officially discouraged in Kosciusko State Park in areas over 1,350 metres by the late 1950's, and phased out by 1969. However, the Broken Cart Track, that borders the central Fiery range section of the wilderness, is still used as a 'long paddock' even though the Travelling Stock Reserves in the park were revoked on 5 June, 1981. Use of the Track is not justified as cattle can be transported around the Park by truck. Grazing causes pollution with manure, weed invasion, soil erosion and stream sedimentation. The licences for movement of stock through the national park will be immediately cancelled.

Horse riding and vehicle access is virtually unchanged by this wilderness declaration. The wilderness borders follow either side of the 330 kV powerlines which are excluded from the declaration. The access to the Coleman homestead and Blue Waterhole is retained.

The Bicentennial National (horseriding) Trail passes through the Park but not the proposed wilderness. Large horseriding parties, cause soil compaction, erosion, introduce weed species through manure and disturb wilderness appreciation. The Trail was imposed on current park management without public comment and review.

Logging issues:

No EIS has ever been prepared for logging in the Tumut Forest Management Area that embrace the sections of the Buccleuch State Forest identified as wilderness.

In 1967, 34,000 ha was transferred from the then Kosciusko State Park to Buccleuch State Forest with the passage of the National Parks and Wildlife Act. The state forest extension created remains a substantial incursion into the park's northern tall old growth forest section. The alpine ash forests around Big Dubbo Hill that remain in a wilderness condition will be returned to the Kosciusko National Park.

Deua

The future Government will declare a wilderness extension that protects 12,435 ha of the Central Deua wilderness within the Deua National Park.

The moratorium state forest area should include all identified wilderness, that is at least 6,765 ha of Dampier State Forest, 734 ha of Tallaganda State Forest and 2,265 ha of Badja State Forest and additional forest areas that may have been identified since.

Another 3,600 ha of the Crown leasehold in the Appletree property will be protected from conversion of leasehold to freehold title and clearing so as to assist the acquisition of this property and addition to the Deua National Park.

KEY ISSUES: (4WD vehicle access, forest logging moratorium and NRAC issues)

The 4WD use of the Merricumbene, Dampier Mountain, Mongamula, Olla and Bendethra fire trails within the national park will be closed under this proposal. The primitive camping area at Bendethra will be closed to vehicle access.

Declaration of the wilderness will not affect the popular camping area on the Araluen Road or vehicle access to the Big Hole area and nearby camping facilities. Popular tourist roads circling the edge of the wilderness will not be affected. Fire management will be unaffected by the declaration.

There are roughly 100,000 ha of state forest near to the Deua wilderness that can cater for off road vehicles users and horseriders. There are 2,808 km of unsealed roads in the Batemans Bay region. The loss of the Deua wilderness roads only represents 3.7% of the available roads in this region.

These affected trails traverse many of the wilderness peaks of the wilderness, including Bendethra, Deua and Dampier Mountains. Public vehicle use of trails does not comply with the management principles laid down in the Wilderness Act. Use of these trails contribute to water pollution from soil erosion, fragmentation of wilderness areas, provide ingress for feral predators such as foxes and dogs, causes noise and visual pollution, spread weeds and greatly increase the risk of incendiarism. Two government inquiries have recommended that wilderness areas, and other environmentally sensitive areas, should exclude off road vehicles.

Logging issues:

The Deua wilderness contains at least 9,764 ha of state forests. Under the Fahey Government's Christmas 1993 gift, the state forest areas in the Deua wilderness were to be referred to NRAC.

The Natural Resource Audit Council was established in November 1993. NRAC has never been issued a brief to examine these forests. Meanwhile the Dampier, Tallaganda and Badja State Forests referred to NRAC continue to be logged.

Logging activities in the identified Deua wilderness occurs in breach of the National Forest Policy Statement. There has been no environmental impact statement prepared for logging in the Badja State Forest. The EIS for Dampier State Forest is twelve years old (1983) and inadequate by modern standards. State Forests estimate that nine logging compartments remain to be logged in the upper Deua River catchment and Georges Creek in the Dampier State Forest representing less than 20,000 m³ gross timber. This relatively minor resource will be logged over the next two to five years and requires protection under an immediate moratorium.

State Forest's grossly exaggerated report titled *Economic Impacts of Wilderness*
Proposals on State Forests (1993) estimates that 19 jobs will be lost if the Deua
wilderness is declared over the affected state forests. This represents one four
hundredth of the of 6,500 employed people in the Eurobodalla Council area.

Kanangra-Boyd

The future Government will immediately declare about 143,377 ha to make a Kanangra-Boyd wilderness, including 70,058 ha of the Blue Mountains National Park, 63,297 ha of Kanangra-Boyd National Park, 9,512 ha of land vested in Sydney Water, 410 ha of other Crown lands and 100 ha of Jenolan State Forest within the recommended wilderness. The Kanangra Walls Road will be excluded from the wilderness.

KEY ISSUES: (the Kanangra Walls Road, horseriding, national park extensions)

The Kanangra Walls Road on the Boyd Plateau should be closed to public vehicle access, contingent on an adequate bus service to and from the various sites along the Road. Such a policy is practical if the Jenolan Caves Trust adopts a bussing strategy for managing the reorientated access to the caves.

In 1994, the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust examined various access options to Jenolan Caves. The Trust's preferred option has not been disclosed, but the groups consulted strongly support the proposed closure the existing access to the caves which is damaging to the Grand Arch and dangerous for large buses to negotiate. Redirecting visitors to the west along the Oberon Road and creating a substantial carpark on top of the hill behind the caves is preferred. A service using small buses could then ferry passengers safely down the hill to the caves.

The carpark also would provide a safe place for walkers and park visitors to leave their car when visiting the Kanangra-Boyd National Park. A bus service for Jenolan Caves visitors could also service park users visiting the Boyd Plateau and Kanangra Walls.

The incorporation of Jenolan Caves Reserve into the national parks estate and into the proposed World Heritage property would be a means to put the above plan into effect. When this Reserve is declared national park, it would be appropriate for the Kanangra Walls Road, to be revoked as a public road and brought into the NPWS estate, paving the way for a NPWS regulated bus service.

The 'Wild Dogs' at the northern end of the wilderness are the birth place of the bushwalking and wilderness conservation movements in NSW. Horseriding tours from the Carlon's farm have been conducted through the Wild Dogs to the Konangaroo Clearing on Kanangra Brook. Horseriding will be excluded from the Wild Dogs. The Carlons Farm has recently been put up for sale. The NPWS will not reissue a horseriding tour licence over the Wild Dogs in the Kanangra-Boyd wilderness area.

The Kedumba Valley and environs will be managed as if it were wilderness. The Kedumba Pastoral Company property acquired by Sydney Water and surrounding lands managed by Sydney Water will be incorporated into the National Parks estate. The future removal of the sewage treatment works on Leura Creek and rehabilitation of the site will ensure the integrity of Kedumba Creek catchment. Rehabilitation will vastly improve the views from many of the escarpment walks around Katoomba and Wentworth Falls and eliminate bothersome odours.

Ettema

A further 18,320 ha wilderness extension will be declared by the Government. The wilderness includes 4,655 ha of Morton National Park, 263 ha of NPWS managed land, 1,568 ha Yalwal State Forest and 11,834 ha of vacant Crown land.

KEY ISSUE: (4WD access)

The eastern extension to the existing wilderness area, centred around Yalwal, can be divided into three areas (A, B & C).

Area A lies north of the Shoalhaven River entirely within the National Park and contains no known significant disturbance except one 2 km section of minor 4WD fire road along a plateau.

A nearby alternative 4WD road along the wilderness boundary would provide similar views of the Shoalhaven Valley as the closed trail. No opposition to all of area A being declared is known.

Area B lies south of the Shoalhaven River, east of Yalwal Creek, the present wilderness boundary, north of Yalwal and covers 1,568 ha of Yalwal State Forest and 263 ha of NPWS managed land.

4WD access will still be retained to Yalwal, a Council managed camping area for 4WD vehicles. Recreational vehicle use centres on this area to the north of Area B, outside the identified wilderness. A short access corridor from Yalwal to Yalwal trig will be retained for 4WD use, providing these park users with views over the surrounding valleys and wilderness.

The Two Rivers Walking Trail supported by Shoalhaven Council will not be blocked by the declaration of the wilderness, although development of the trail would be limited in scale where it passes through the wilderness.

Alternative areas for 4WD and trail bike riding activities in neighbouring State Forests (eg. Yerriyong and Jerrawangla and McDonald State Forests) will be promoted as substitute activity areas for off road vehicle use.

Recreational vehicle use in Area B along the Yalwal Creek fire trail, leading north from Yalwal and a number of side roads is incompatible with wilderness in the area. The trail crosses from the eastern to the western bank of Yalwal Creek many times. 4WD use of this trail, which passes through the declared Ettema wilderness, is illegal and will be closed to public use. Steep terrain prevents the construction of a new road entirely on the eastern side. The road also provides illegal 4WD access into Bundundah Creek to the west, well within the declared Ettema wilderness.

The wilderness extension also will assist in preventing trail bike access to Ettema Gorge. 4WDs and trail bikes use the river bed of Yalwal Creek near the junction of the Shoalhaven River. Wilderness declaration would prevent access to the last 1/2 km of Yalwal Creek. Trail bikes would then be unable to use this access route to illegally enter the lower Ettema Creek and Gorge, well within the declared wilderness area.

Logging issues:

State Forests do not object to the wilderness extension but expresses "concern" over declaration as Yalwal State Forest contributes to the sustained yield. The flatter, more suitable terrain for logging in the state forest exists in the area excluded from the

identified wilderness. Declaration of the identified state forest will protect the steep slopes adjacent to Yalwal Creek and scenic features of Mount Barron and Grady Hill from logging.

Area C contains 11,834 ha of vacant Crown Land and small number of freehold portions acquired by NPWS with the view to obtaining this area as an extension to Morton National Park. The area lies south of Area B and Yalwal, and is bounded by the declared wilderness in the west, a transmission line in the east and the Nowra-Nerriga road to the south.

Like several popular wilderness areas in NSW, limited mining and logging has degraded the area in the past. The only threat remaining is recreational vehicle use along several trails in the area. These trails are badly eroded in places and degrade the otherwise pristine catchments of Boolijong and Yarramunmun Creeks. Trail bike riding is currently unchecked.

The natural values of Area C recognised by NPWS include poorly conserved tall eucalypt forests, rare and endangered species and the limits of distribution of other species. Further, the unusual complex of vegetation types in the area differs from many of the higher altitude areas of Morton National Park. The rare and localised *Eucalyptus sturgissiana* is located in this area.

Binghi

A 24,487 ha Beardy River National Park will be declared, and the Torrington Regional Reserve R. 110107 of 24,000 ha and the Torrington State Forest of 487 ha will be revoked.

A moratorium on leasehold conversion to freehold title will be imposed on the remaining 5,400 ha Crown leasehold lands and these lands will also be protected from clearing.

KEY ISSUES: (assessment of mineral potential, moratorium of lease conversion)

In May 1992 the Minister for Conservation and Land Management made a multiple use park allowing mining, gem fossicking, logging and grazing. The identified wilderness is very rich in rare plants and is unsuitable for pastoral use. The Torrington Regional Reserve R. 110107 of 24,000 ha will be revoked and the area included in the proposed Beardy River National Park.

Pending favourable assessment and independent review of the area's mineral potential, the remaining leasehold lands that be declared national park and the area declared wilderness. It should be noted that despite claims that the area considerable mineral potential, no large scale mining has been attempted since 1945. The area has been explored for over 100 years and the resulting level of mining activity is in stark contrast to the claimed mineral potential.

'Pub Crawls on Horseback' horseriding tour organisation use the southern section of the identified wilderness and will be rerouted around the new national park

Logging issues:

The EIS for the Glen Innes Forest Management Area reported that the Torrington State Forest is not a commercial forest. The Torrington Land Assessment by the former Department of Lands considered the area contained wilderness values but limited forestry potential.

Budawang Wilderness

The Government will declare a new 72,629 ha Budawang wilderness area protecting almost all of the southern section of Morton National Park of 52,005 ha and 13,927 ha of Budawang National Park, 6,500 ha of State Forests of outstanding value to conservation, 100 ha of freehold land protected by a wilderness conservation agreement and 97 ha of vacant Crown land.

Approximately 7,000 ha of Yadbore State Forest will be subject to a logging moratorium and 692 ha of leasehold land will be subject to a moratorium on conversion to freehold title and protection from clearing.

KEY ISSUES: (freehold wilderness, immediate protection some state forests and a logging moratorium for other areas)

The voluntary conservation agreement recently established between the Minister for the Environment and Dr Val Plumwood to protect a rainforest wilderness of 100 ha on her private property near the western boundary of the Budawangs will be included in the declared wilderness (the first wilderness declaration over freehold land in NSW).

There is strong support for the declaration of the entire Budawang wilderness. Most recreational vehicle users support the closure of the 4WD road to Tianjara Plateau in the national park since it is too sensitive, with crossings of boggy marsh areas which are impassable during the frequent wet weather. The roads leading to Mount Tianjara and Kangaroo Hill from the north and east (Twelve Mile Road, part of Tianjara Trail) will be closed due to the sensitive nature of the otherwise undeveloped nature of headwaters of several catchments. There is little interest in continued recreational vehicle access to these and other minor roads within the identified wilderness area.

Logging issues:

About 6,500 ha of state forests (see below) will be immediately declared wilderness because of the overwhelming case for conservation of these areas.

About 4,500 ha of the Croobyar and Flat Rock State Forests in the vicinity of Pigeon House Mountain will be immediately declared wilderness. Protection of this area from logging is required to protect walking access to the Mountain. These forests also are the visual buffer for the views enjoyed from Pigeon House. A short and effective blockade by environmental activists prevented logging activities in Croobyar State Forest during 1994. Logging plans were finally halted upon sighting of Schedule 12 fauna. The Flat Rock State Forest comes within 500 metres of Pigeon House and logging in this sensitive area will not be permitted under any circumstances.

About 2,000 ha of the Yadbore State Forest north of the Yadbore River also will be immediately declared wilderness to protect walking access and visual catchment of The Castle. The Yadbore State Forest comes within 250 metres of The Castle, arguably the most popular destination for visitors to the Budawang National Park. The section of state forest between the campsite on the Yadbore River and The Castle will be included in the national park and declared wilderness.

The remainder of the state forests identified as part of the Budawang wilderness, about 7,000 ha, will be placed in a logging moratorium. No EIS has been conducted for the Batemans Bay Forest Management Area that covers these forests. A moratorium

imposed over the southern section of the identified wilderness in this management area is required under National Forest Policy Strategy.

These moratorium state forests are largely undisturbed, except for a number of overgrown fire trails penetrating the eastern boundary of the identified wilderness. Eventual declaration of this section of wilderness area will protect almost the entire Yadboro River valley and Belowra Creek catchment.

Declaration of these state forests will not prevent effective fire management.

Washpool

The Government will immediately declare a Washpool wilderness extension containing 12,900 ha of forests, comprising 7,900 ha of north Washpool state forests (the unprotected section of the Willowie Scrub coachwood forest - the largest remaining Coachwood stand in the world), plus about 5,000 ha of state forests areas on very steep lands to the west and south west below the New England escarpment or in unproductive timber types.

A moratorium on logging will be extended over a further 17,056-ha of productive state forest areas within the identified wilderness.

A moratorium on conversion to freehold title affecting 6,680 ha of Crown leasehold lands along the upper Rocky (Timbarra) River also will be established and these lands protected from clearing.

KEY ISSUES: (timber resource alternatives, lease conversion moratorium)

The Hakea, Coachwood and Bellbird picnic and rest areas are unaffected by the wilderness declarations.

The Bicentennial National (horseriding) Trail traverses approximately 13 km of wilderness. Horseriding undermines the wilderness value of the area through the introduction of weeds in droppings, soil erosion, especially of walking tracks, and occupation and general degradation of favoured camping sites. The Trail should be re-routed around the Washpool wilderness.

Logging issues:

The timber from the Billilimbra and Washpool State Forests goes to the Grafton mills. The 7% percent of additional quota sawlogs in regrowth forest in the Grafton Forest Management Area that remains following protection of the Mann Wilderness can be substituted for the withdrawal of old growth in the abovementioned state forests within the identified wilderness. Much of these state forests at the northern end of the Washpool wilderness embrace extremely steep terrain and for the most part are unsuitable for logging. There will be no job loss for protection of the remainder of the outstanding Willowie Scrub area as alternative resources will be substituted.

Parts of the Moogem, Curramore, Spirabo and Little Spirabo State Forests that are below the escarpment, zoned steep lands (PMP 1.2) or in forest preserves that will not be logged. These forests are included in the area identified for immediate declaration. About a quarter, or 5,000 ha, of the abovementioned state forests to the west and south west of the Washpool National Park fall within this category. These PMP 1.2 lands and other forests below the New England escarpment can be added to the Washpool National Park with no job losses. These forest areas can be effectively linked to the Washpool National Park by the acquisition of leasehold lands in the headwaters of Rocky (Timbarra) River.

Barrington Wilderness

A Barrington wilderness of 41,193 ha will be declared by a Government, including 36,600 ha of national park, 800 ha of vacant Crown land, 1,600 ha of land managed by the Hunter Water Corporation and 2,193 ha of the Mount Royal State Forest.

A further 21,787 ha of state forest will be set aside in a logging moratorium.

KEY ISSUES: (off road vehicles, logging moratorium)

The majority access to this national park upon which most tourism and recreation depends is by two wheel drive vehicle. Two wheel drive road access to camping areas, lookouts and walking tracks will not change with the declaration of this wilderness.

The Barrington Trail, including the Polblue extension, Kholwa, Mt Carson, Carters Brush, Cabre Bald, Mt Nelson, Glowang, Mountaineer, Junction Hole and Wombat Creek 4WD trails will be closed to off road vehicles to prevent the spread of Scotch Broom, a very serious invasive weed menace.

The Bicentennial National (horseriding) Trail passes through a Scotch Broom infested area and will be relocated to outside the Barrington National Park.

Visitor facilities within the identified wilderness serve 4WD users and will be relocated to the edge of the wilderness. The Selby Hut within the wilderness will be managed as a historic ruin.

Areas infested with Scotch Broom are included in the declared wilderness area as the Government is determined to eradicate this weed menace. Limiting vehicle access to those for essential management purposes will aid in Broom control. Management vehicles access for weed control will be retained.

Logging issues:

In the upper Kholwa Creek catchment about 660 ha of vacant Crown land has been referenced for inclusion into Barrington National Park following logging as outlined in the park's draft plan of management. The area is free of Scotch broom and logging would certainly lead to infestation of the weed. This vacant Crown land separates the Devils Hole section of the national park from the rest of the park, and, along with another smaller section of Crown land of about 140 ha, should be added to the park and declared wilderness without logging.

A further 2,193 ha of the Mount Royal State Forest will be immediately declared wilderness, consisting of 993 ha of identified wilderness in the Davis Creek catchment and approximately 1,200 ha of identified wilderness in the Carrow Brook catchment.

The remaining wilderness in the Mount Royal State Forest is essentially very steep land, containing substantial rainforest pockets. The 1992 EIS reports that only half of the Davis Creek catchment can be logged (ie 532 ha out of 993 ha) and only two thirds of the Carrow Brook catchment (ie 1,600 ha out of 2,990 ha). Close scrutiny of the EIS reveals that only a fifth of the Carrow Brook area is accessible without pushing roads through rainforests and lands over 30% slope. In fact the Department of Planning rejected this logging proposal.

The present quotas of 4,500 cu m/ha of first class logs is not sustained yield, as the log supply run will out in 2002 and there will be no more sawlogs till 2040. As there are

eight mammal species listed in the defective EIS as rare and vulnerable, the Government will protect all identified wilderness in the Mount Royal State Forest rather than have this sensitive area wrecked by pulling the last old growth logs out of steep lands with substantial rainforest components.

A logging moratorium will be declared over 21,787 ha of productive forest.

Two Environmental Impact Statements for Chichester and Gloucester Forest Management Areas covering part of the wilderness were required to be published by 30/9/93 according to Schedule 4 of the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act. These EIS's have not been published. The EIS for Mount Royal was released in November 1992 and rejected by the Department of Planning as inadequate in February 1993.

The existing logging moratorium over approximately 18,400 ha will be retained over the state forest areas in these three Forest Management Areas within the Barrington wilderness as environmental assessment is inadequate.

About a further 5,580 ha of identified wilderness, excluded from the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act, is being logged contrary to the National Forest Policy Strategy (eg Whispering Gully area). The logging moratorium will be extended over these forests consistent with the National Forest Policy Statement.

Guy Fawkes

The Government will immediately declare a 26,162 ha extension to the Guy Fawkes wilderness consisting of the unprotected remainder of Mr Fahey's wilderness promise, travelling stock routes and state forests on steep terrain.

The 26,162 ha wilderness includes 3,739 ha of the Guy Fawkes River National Park and Nature Reserve identified but not yet declared wilderness, 13,708 ha of vacant and reserved Crown lands, and an approximately 8,715 ha of unloggable state forest (including 1,561 ha of Chachundi State Forest).

A logging moratorium over 15,361 ha over the productive state forest will be established to protect the identified Guy Fawkes wilderness in the state forests of the Glen Innes, Dorrigo and Styx River forest management areas.

A moratorium over the 45,972 ha of Crown leasehold lands will be established to prevent conversion to freehold title and clearing for bushland.

KEY ISSUES: (protect steep state forest lands, logging moratorium over other forests, revoke travelling stock routes and relocate horseriding)

Two travelling stock routes fragment the Guy Fawkes National Park and allows regular illegal grazing in the park along the river valley. The travelling stock routes will be revoked and added to the national park. The National Bicentennial (horseriding) Trail that passes along these stock routes will be relocated to outside the national park.

Logging issues:

Of the approximately 24,076 ha of state forest identified as wilderness by the NPWS, 15,361 ha are productive forests (ref: Forestry Commission response to the Guy Fawkes Wilderness, page 3, 23/9/92, Appendix L to the Dorrigo FMA EIS, 1992).

About 8,715 ha of state forests will not be logged and can be declared wilderness without causing job losses. Some 6,923 ha of the 45,972 ha of Crown leasehold lands are claimed by State Forests to have some value for timber production. This 6,923 ha area is second-rate timber country that could produce less than 20,000 cu m of gross timber. These Crown leasehold forests area also should never be logging but retained as old growth for future incorporation an the expanded wilderness area.

Werrikimbe

About 45,240 ha of the identified Werrikimbe wilderness will be immediately declared. This area consists of 32,956 ha in Werrikimbe National Park and 12,284 ha of vacant Crown land within the identified wilderness. Most of the vacant Crown land has been referenced by the NPWS as part of the Willi Willi National Park proposal (1986) and Kemps Pinnacle Nature Reserve proposal (1989).

The declaration of the abovementioned Crown land areas as wilderness is best achieved if the section of Carrai State Forest between the national park and the vacant Crown land to the east is declared wilderness as well. Over half this section of the Carrai State Forest is too steep to log, or has been already logged, and the remainder contains important 'Macleay' dry rainforest types already protected from logging.

The identified Werrikimbe wilderness contains 578 ha of Crown leasehold land. These leasehold lands will be protected from conversion to freehold title, and from clearing bushland by a moratorium.

KEY ISSUES: (logging moratorium, transitional arrangements, leasehold conversion moratorium, relocation of 4WD tours and horseriding operations)

The popular Carrai and Cockerawombecba roads have been excluded from the wilderness, the latter providing access to camping and picnic grounds in Werrikimbe National Park, that also will be excluded from the wilderness.

There are a limited number of formed tracks and 4WD vehicle trails in the wilderness. In order to protect the future integrity of the area from roading activity, however, the Government will ban the proposed logging road through the World Heritage property of Banda Banda Flora Preserve.

Three commercial 4WD tour companies have licences to conduct tours in state forests in the nominated area but are not specific to these forests and will be relocated to other areas.

The unused travelling stock route between the Hastings Valley and the Walcha Plateau though the Werrikimbe National Park will be revoked and added to the declared wilderness and national park.

The Bicentennial National (horseriding) trail passes along Kunderang Brook and north into the Macleay Gorges wilderness. The Trail will be relocated outside the wilderness and national park areas in order to protect the long term integrity of the park.

Logging issues

The NPWS identified as wilderness 20,712 ha of State Forests, including parts of the Mount Boss, Yessabah, Carrai State Forests, and a small section of Doyles River State Forest. Most of the Mt Boss State Forest is too steep to log and the minor portion of the forest that can be logged was identified in the EIS harvesting plan as an area not to be logged in the next ten years. The Department of Planning determination, however, brought forward the Mt Boss logging program, but flexibility in the logging programme to allow for moratorium on this forest is possible.

All the 20,712 ha of state forest within the identified wilderness will be placed in a logging moratorium. The Kempsey/Wauchope EIS for the management area identifies substantial areas of regrowth forest that can be logged whilst alternatives to logging

these old growth forests are developed (ref: Kempsey/Wauchope Management Area EIS, 1993 Map 17).

The Department of Planning notes that the forests of the Kempsey Management Area have been overcut for some time and there is to be a 60% quota reduction to be achieved from 1987 and 1997. The Department also notes that the first cutting cycle annual harvest of quota sawlogs of 20,300 m³ gross can be expected to be reduced in the second cycle. The Wauchope Management Area, on the other hand, is on a sustained yield but even in this management area the Department cautions that other constraints may reduce sawlog quotas in the second logging cycle. In the light of the above quota limitations, transitional arrangements to protect wilderness and old growth forests, and to ensure implementation of a sustained timber yield strategy may require compensation for those displaced from the industry (see: DOP, 1994 Environmental Impact Assessment, pgs 224-226).

Lost World

The Government will add part of the Mebbin State Forest of approximately 900 ha to the Border Ranges National Park and 650 ha of the Border Rangers National Park in the Brindle Creek catchment will be added to the Lost World wilderness. The state forest additions are part of the December 1993 Fahey wilderness commitment.

KEY ISSUES: (2WD vehicle access, closure of Brindle Creek 2WD one way road)

On further consideration of the proposed Lost World wilderness, the Tweed Range Scenic Drive will be retained to allow 2WD vehicle access to the rainforests in the southern section of the national park. The one way traffic road around the catchment of Brindle Creek, however, will be closed and Brindle Creek headwaters added to the Lost World wilderness area.

Wilderness management of the appropriate sections of Lamington National Park in Queensland will be negotiated with the Goss Labor Government.

Mann

The Government will declare a wilderness extension of 30,400 ha in the NPWS identified Mann wilderness. The wilderness contains 10,373 ha of the Gibraltar Range National Park [two thirds of this national park area (6,400 ha) is already wilderness under the NPW Act, but not the Wilderness Act].

Another 20,027 ha of identified wilderness will be protected in state forests, including 10,901 ha of the Dalmorton State Forest, 597 ha of the Ramornie State Forest, 3,119 ha of the Cangai State Forest. A further 5,410 ha of the Gibraltar Range State Forest is in the Glen Innes Management Area adjoining the national park. These affected sections of the Gibraltar Range State Forest are mostly steep lands zoned PMP 1.2 and would not be logged under current management.

The 2,983 ha of Crown leasehold in the identified Mann wilderness will to be protected from conversion to freehold title by moratorium and from clearing.

KEY ISSUES: (alternative timber resources, lease conversion moratorium)

Grazing leases or licences in Dalmorton and Cangai State Forests should not be renewed on expiry. Until expiry, stock numbers should not exceed the carrying capacity for unimproved rough grazing of bushland.

The Mulligans Hut camping ground is unaffected by the wilderness declaration. The identified wilderness receives very little 4WD use.

Logging issues:

The Mann wilderness falls mostly within the Grafton Forest Management Area. State Forests have identified 30% more quota sawlogs in this management area within already logged forest areas (ref: Grafton Forest Management Area EIS, 1994 exec summary, page xviii).

According to the Grafton EIS, about 180,000 cu m of quota sawlogs and 10,000 cu m of poles are proposed to be taken from the 20,027 ha of state forests and 2,983 ha of Crown leasehold lands within the identified Mann wilderness providing 23% of the input to Grafton's timber industry (ref: Appendix 13A, Volume B, Grafton EIS, 1994).

The affected state forest areas can be added to the declared Mann wilderness with no job losses by substituting regrowth sawlogs available elsewhere in the management area. The remaining 7% of additional timber resources in the Grafton Forest Management Area forest regrowth areas can be allocated to other wilderness protection projects. Such an action could take place when the incoming Government determines the Grafton EIS in April or May 1995.

Macleay Gorges

The Party will immediately declare a 95,711 ha wilderness, including 90,833 ha of the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, 3,516 ha of the Winterbourne State Forest and 931 ha of the Enmore State Forest, 42 ha of Styx State Forests and 389 ha of vacant Crown land. In the case of the Macleay Gorges, wilderness declaration is an indication of future Government intention regarding management of the remaining leasehold.

A further 62,692 ha of Crown leasehold lands in 41 properties will be set aside from lease conversion to freehold title under a moratorium. Further clearing of these properties will also be prevented by the moratorium.

KEY ISSUES: (moratorium of Crown lease conversion, horseriding)

The Fahey Government promised to declare 94,245 ha of wilderness. The Government will declare 42 ha of the Styx River State Forest and 931 ha of the Enmore State Forest and some additional areas of vacant Crown land, in addition to the areas promised by Mr Fahey.

The historic East Kunderang homestead will be excluded from the declared Macleay Gorges wilderness.

The 62,692 ha of Crown leasehold lands subject to moratorium will be acquired by the NPWS over time to protect catchment and wilderness values and to bring these very steep rain shadow lands into the National Park estate. The two large inholdings will in the national park will be acquired as a priority so as to ensure appropriate wilderness management.

Stock levels will be monitored by the Department of Conservation and Land Management to ensure grazing impact is reduced on this very rough unimproved bushland terrain. Continued cattle grazing in the Macleay Gorges has brought considerable changes to native vegetation, including weed infestation, notably khaki weed and Noogoora burr. These occur along bridle paths between the tableland and the rivers below. The cattle also cause considerable damage to stream banks and create river pollution.

The Bicentennial National (horseriding) Trail traverses the Kunderang Brook and the lower Macleay River valley. A number of vehicle tracks traverse the wilderness. The National Trail will be relocated outside the national park and the access tracks closed to off road vehicles.

Logging issues:

The small areas of Styx and Enmore State Forests can be added to the wilderness without significant impact to timber resources. Whilst the Forestry Commission objected to these forests being included in the wilderness the Commission commented that the "crown lands contain timber resources not important for local industries and the Enmore State Forest is not of great commercial value and is managed in a low key way" (Forestry Commission submission on the wilderness nomination, 1992). The section of the Styx River State Forest in the identified Macleay Gorges wilderness is zoned Special Emphasis Recreation under the PMP and can be added to the wilderness because it will never be logged.

New England

The national park section of the identified New England wilderness has already been declared but only protects little more than half of the identified wilderness.

The Government will immediately declare about 4,800 ha as New England wilderness extension over the adjoining steep state forest lands in the Kempsey/Wauchope (1,500 ha) and Urunga (3,400 ha) Forest Management Areas.

A logging moratorium will be placed over the remaining 20,880 ha of state forests within the identified wilderness.

The 48 ha of Crown leasehold lands will be protected by a moratorium on conversion to freehold title and on clearing of bushland.

KEY ISSUES: (protect steep state forest lands, logging moratorium over other forests)

Logging issues:

The identified New England wilderness has the greatest topographic relief in continental Australia. There are opportunities for immediate wilderness declaration over some of these vulnerable steep lands that adjoin the New England National Park to the south and east.

About 5,000 ha of state forests in the Kempsey/Wauchope Forest Management Area within the identified wilderness are either inaccessible to logging operations, within the Petroi Plateau conservation area or in the Burri Bulai Aboriginal Place (ref: Kempsey/Wauchope Management Area EIS, 1993 Maps 16). Unfortunately these unloggable forest areas are scattered throughout the southern section of the identified New England wilderness. To make rational boundary extensions to New England National Park, about a third of this area or 1,500 ha of these forests unsuitable for timber protection and already set aside for conservation will be added to the wilderness inside an extended New England National Park.

A further 3,300 ha of the Oakes State Forest in the Sunday and Scraggy Creek catchments adjoining and to the east of the national park have been referenced by the NPWS for addition to the New England National Park. These biologically important areas of the Urunga Forest Management Area ^{are} not protected from logging by the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act moratorium. These NPWS referenced state forests will be immediately added to the national park (and declared wilderness unless heavily logged).

There are 25,680 ha of state forest in the identified wilderness. About 20,880 ha in the Urunga and Kempsey/Wauchope Management Areas will be placed in a logging moratorium in addition to the 4,800 ha that will be immediately to be added to New England National Park and declared wilderness.

Almost 15,000 ha of these state forests was listed on Schedule 1 of the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act. Since the determination of the Kempsey/Wauchope Forest Management Area EIS in March 1994, these forests are no longer protected by a logging moratorium. The Kempsey/Wauchope EIS for the management area, however, identifies substantial areas of regrowth forest areas that can be logged in the short term whilst alternatives to logging these old growth forests are developed (ref: Kempsey/Wauchope Management Area EIS, 1993 Map 16).

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The Department of Planning notes that the forests of the Kempsey Management Area have been overcut for some time and there is to be a 60% quota reduction to be achieved from 1987 and 1997. The Department also notes that the first cutting cycle annual harvest of quota sawlogs of 20,300 m³ gross can be expected to be reduced in the second cycle. The Wauchope Management Area, on the other hand, is on a sustained yield but even in this management area the Department of Planning cautions that other constraints may reduce sawlog quotas in the second logging cycle. In the light of the above quota limitations, transitional arrangements to protect wilderness and old growth forests, and to ensure implementation of a sustained timber yield strategy may require compensation for those displaced from the industry (see: Department of Planning, 1994 Environmental Impact Assessment for Kempsey/Wauchope, pgs 224-226).

No environmental impact statement has been undertaken for the Urunga Forest Management Area. Logging is occurring in the identified New England wilderness in the 10,000 ha of state forests in this management area (possibly including the 3,300 ha in the NPWS referenced Sunday and Scraggy Creek catchments).

Kamilaroi (Pilliga)

The Government will declare a Kamilaroi wilderness of approximately 36,400 ha following a favourable wilderness assessment by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Kamilaroi wilderness consists of the recently NPWS acquired Schmidt property of 4,916 ha that will be added to the Pilliga Nature Reserve, another 22,000 ha or so of the Pilliga Nature Reserve, approximately 7,500 ha of the Timmallallie State Forest and about 2,000 ha of Timber Reserves 73014 and 79962.

KEY ISSUES: (protecting of rare and endangered species, logging and 4WD tracks)

The adjoining landholder, Mr Richard Rickert, nominated the Kamilaroi wilderness. Mr Rickert considers control of the feral goats, pigs and foxes is the main issue regarding management of the wilderness area. Over the last 175 years the area has experienced only low intensities of grazing, even during the rabbit plague.

The 4WD trails in adjoining state forest and nature reserve areas in the Pilliga Scrub will remain available. The 4WD Yearin, Punks, Badham, Gibbican Four Ways, Caravan Corner, Banksia and Southeast and a small part of the Dandry Trails will be closed. Only the Southeast and Dandry trails are in good condition. The Banksia, Badman, the Gibbican Four Ways and Caravan Corner to Top Crossing are overgrown and not in use. Punks and Yearinan trails pass over treacherous creek crossings and rough ground.

The area is part of the largest area of continuous semi-arid woodland left in temperate eastern Australia and the old old growth portion of the Pilliga Scrub. The wilderness encompasses habitat critical to maintaining regional populations of at least 20 species of fauna listed on Schedule 12 of the NPW Act, including koala, Squirrel Glider, Greater Long-eared bat, Large Pied Bat, Little Pied Bat, Glossy Black Cockatoo, and the very endangered Regent Honeyeater.

There has been no environmental impact assessment of the logging activities in the Pilliga forests in the Dubbo Region. The Government will require an environmental impact assessment of this biologically important forest area.

Logging issues:

The State Forest managed areas within the wilderness are mainly composed of many small gorges and ridges in sandstone country. Only a small volume of cypress sawlogs and eucalypt sleepers has been taken from the Timmallallie State Forest and virtually none from Timber Reserves 73014 and 79962. In view of the enormous biodiversity of rare and endangered animals in this semi-arid woodland wilderness, nature conservation clearly outweighs any competing claims for continued low level commercial timber production.

Wollemi wilderness

A 410,000 ha Wollemi wilderness recommended in draft management plans for Wollemi and Blue Mountains National Parks will be immediately declared by the Government to protect the largest wilderness in NSW.

The declaration of the Wollemi wilderness has been recommended through the plan of management process and declaration does not need further assessment. The Government will declare about 384,000 ha in Wollemi National Park and further 26,000 ha in the Blue Mountains National Park, as recommended by the respective draft plans of management for these parks.

KEY ISSUE: (4WD vehicle access)

The Wirraba track provides access to an inholding on Gaspers Mountain and Mount Wirraba that will be purchased by the NPWS as a priority. Cattle grazing continues on inholdings at Gaspers Mountain and Mount Wirraba. The grazing and frequent overburning is having an adverse effect on the adjoining national park areas.

The Hunter and Wirraba 4WD tracks bisect the wilderness from east to west and should be closed off by locked gates. An access track established last year from Mount Coricudgy to Mount Kerry through the national park along a very scenic ridge. This track will be removed and rehabilitated.

Kanangra-Boyd cont.

Mountains National Park and manage as if it were wilderness.

Rehabilitate sewage treatment works' site on Leura Creek when redundant.

Ettrema

AREA FOR IMMEDIATE DECLARATION a 18,320 ha wilderness extension including:

- 4,655 ha of Morton National Park;
- 263 ha of NPWS managed land;
- 1,568 ha of Yalwal State Forest;
- 11,834 ha of vacant Crown land.

Key Issue

Access to Yalwal and Yalwal Trig lookout retained but Yalwal Creek fire trail to be closed. Alternative off road vehicle opportunities nearby.

Budawang

AREA FOR IMMEDIATE DECLARATION a 72,629 ha new wilderness including:

- 52,005 ha of Morton National Park;
- 13,927 ha of Budawang National Park;
- 6,500 ha of state forest* ;
- 97 ha of vacant Crown land;
- 100 ha of freehold land (Dr Plumwood's wilderness conservation agreement area)

Budawang Moratorium Area of 7,000 ha of Yadboro State Forest adjoining Budawang National Park, and 692 ha of Crown leasehold land.

Key Issues

Immediate national park wilderness extension over state forest that directly adjoin The Castle and Pigeon House required to protect direct views and

very popular walking access to these scenic attractions.

No EIS for Batemans Bay Forest Management Area which embraces the identified Budawang wilderness.

Barrington

AREA FOR IMMEDIATE DECLARATION a 41,193 ha new wilderness including:

- 36,600 ha of Barrington National Park;
- 2,193 ha of Mt Royal State Forest;
- 800 ha of vacant Crown Land containing timber resources but referenced for addition to national park*; and
- 1,600 ha of Hunter Water Corporation land.

Barrington Moratorium Area of 21,787 ha of state forests.

Key Issues

Environmental assessment of logging proposals within wilderness either not undertaken or rejected as inadequate.

National park 2WD access and most park facilities unaffected. 4WD access to be closed and associated park facilities removed. Bicentennial National (horseriding) Trail to be relocated.

Wollemi

AREA FOR IMMEDIATE DECLARATION a 410,000 ha new wilderness including:

- 384,000 ha of Wollemi National Park; and
- 26,000 ha Blue Mountains National Park.

Key Issue

Hunter and Wirraba 4WD tracks will be closed. New unauthorised track through

* Overwhelming conservation case justifies immediate wilderness declaration.