

Forest Parks Countdown

Australian Conservation Foundation - Conservation Council of the South East Region and Canberra -
Friends of the Earth, Sydney - National Parks Association of NSW - Nature Conservation Council of
NSW - North East Forest Alliance - South East Forest Alliance - South East Forest Conservation
Council - Total Environment Centre - Wilderness Society

Media Alert Media Alert Media Alert

For the Events Diary:

Town Hall Meeting Calls Carr to Account on Forests

When: 7pm, Thursday 20 June 1006

Where: Sydney Town Hall

What: The NSW Government's forest reform program is at a crucial turning point. The Government will shortly decide which areas are off limits to logging as a first step in establishing a "world-class forest reserve system". Will they get it right and ensure that areas likely to be needed for the world class reserve system are protected from logging, at least on an interim basis? Alternatively, will the government sell out to the loggers - and forego all prospect of adequate forest reserves?

Why: Bob Carr that the people of NSW want him to deliver on his much repeated election promise to save the forests.

For more information:

Virginia Milson, Australian Conservation Foundation
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ATT² SID WALKER.

Brewarrina Bulletin

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PHONE: (068) 392 451 FAX: (068) 392 153

Brewarrina's Only Local Newspaper
PROPRIETORS: North Star Aboriginal Corp.

Dear Sid.

Here are faxes from
Col Dorber. If you
find out about BORAL
tonight please contact me
on 068 392 451.

Thanks.

3. 79% (196 of the compartments) have been logged at least once before and are regrowth forests:
4. 28% of the compartments have been logged twice and are also regrowth forests;
5. Over 65 of the compartments are not scheduled for harvesting in 1995."

Mr. Dorber went on to say, "When the reporter spoke to me late last night, he made no mention of his allegations of a separate, allegedly illegal logging operation in the Nulla/Five Day State Forests, west of Kempsey. Again it appears the truth has got in the way of a good story. The facts about this operation are:

1. Logging commenced (and finished) well before Christmas 94;

*This is Dorber's claim
I have since heard logging
finished*

*30.1.95
is this
accurate?*

2. State Forests in fact discovered that the Section 120 Licence had not been issued, and State Forests immediately stopped the operation and reported the oversight. (No prosecution in fact has been launched and even if it were, it would be a matter for the National Parks and Wildlife Service, not the EPA).
3. The Compartments have been subjected to an Environmental Impact Statement and a Faunal Impact Statement and are surrounded by similar compartments all of which are properly approved."

Mr. Dorber went on, "Following discussions with Dr Drielsma of State Forests I am satisfied that this was an administrative error. Given that operations cover over 4000 compartments annually it is difficult to get too worked up about it. What it does demonstrate is that our claims about the lack of co-ordinated regulation, the plethora of government agencies and the generally chaotic state of forest management in NSW, brought about by the antics of independents in a hung Parliament, is doing no one any good. Add to that the huge emotional beat up of the Wilderness Society and you have a recipe for conflict."

FAX:

02-14-1995 14:02 PAGE 01

BREWARRINA BULLETIN



media release

FEDERAL MINISTERS ACCUSED OF HYPOCRISY BY LOGGERS REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Col Dorber, executive director NSW FPA and Secretary, NSW Logging Association criticised Federal Ministers Faulkner and Collins for their unjustified remarks today concerning violence in the forests. Mr. Dorber denied that he has advocated violence in the forests. Any analysis of the long standing industry position shows that violence is not condoned. Mr. Dorber said the point he consistently sought to make is that industry workers have been subjected to victimisation and harassment for ten years now and people were simply reaching breaking point.

Mr. Dorber said, "For two Federal Ministers, who are part of a government that has brought this sorry state of affairs about, to now piously distance themselves from the outcome of government incompetence on forest policy making, is breathtaking. If the Federal Government had exercised its judgement in accordance with the National Forest Policy Statement and, if Mr. Faulkner had not paid thousands of tax payers dollars to green groups to write biased and unscientific reports, we would probably have never have gone to Canberra and certainly tempers would not have reached crisis point."

Mr. Dorber concluded saying, "Shooting the messenger will not take away from the fact that thousands of ordinary Australians working in the forest industry have had enough. I totally support the logging contractors who seek to exercise their right to work in accordance with the law, on a daily basis. I invite the media or anyone else interested to come into the forests and observe for themselves the working conditions that these people face every day, as they are subjected to blockades, abuse and insult from professional anti logging protesters." Ends/....14.2.95

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION RING COL DORBER 02 360 4022.

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(2)

media release

Forest Industry Welcomes Moves By Government To Curb Illegal Presence At Logging Sites

The move by the NSW Government to restrict the presence of illegal protesters at logging sites within NSW is a welcome development in attempting to ensure that workers in the forest industry are able to carry out their lawful work without fear of personal intimidation and harassment or having specialised harvesting equipment sabotaged, according to Michael Taylor, Assistant director of the NSW Forest Products Association.

Mr Taylor said, "Increasing the fines for wantonly breaking the law by trespassing into areas of forest closed during logging operations may not altogether prevent the illegal activities of anti-logging protesters but will certainly act as a deterrent, particularly to those people who seem to adopt protesting as a full time career."

He went on to say, "Fines of this nature, although not large, will not only enable forest workers to carry out their jobs following approval from a range of government agencies, but will also help deter the extreme green movement from attempting to "immobilise" logging equipment as they have recently threatened to do."

"What may also be required is the deputation (under the Forestry Act) of selected and appropriately trained industry personnel who would be given the authority to detain protesters illegally entering into an exclusion zone until police were able to be present. Naturally, such people would need to act in a lawful and responsible manner."

He concluded by saying, "With an expected increase in anti logging protests following threats from the green movement, what may also help to reduce levels of conflict would be the establishment of a specialised "fly-in" conflict management team. Such a team should be trained in professional conflict resolution and mediation. This would then take some of the pressure off forest workers and allow them to carry out their lawfully approved job of harvesting timber."

"With close to \$1 million worth of sabotage to logging equipment in NSW during 1994 alone, something must be done to help reduce the level of protests and conflict at logging sites."

Ends.../6.1.95

For more information contact Michael Taylor 02 3604022 or 016 631741

Another urgent fax on HCV \$

Dear Mike Lynch TCT /Beht Schulz WACC/ Nicky Hungerford QCC/Sid Walker NCC,

(SA and NT and ACT cons councils please ignore this I'm using group dial fax)

Another quick fax on the HCV \$. I was not clear on who and how to send your budget details to. Please send them asap to Linda Parlane at EV (fax⁹³ 6505684). We will also need a disk in the mail from you (small 3 inch disk, on Word 4 Mac if at all possible) We will then put them together polish it into a single smooth document and deliver it to Canberra. Linda or an EV forests team person will be ringing you on Tuesday to remind you and answer any questions. If you need to please pass this process on to other people in your state that are involved in this process (eg Dailon Pugh, Mark Blecher, Sean Cadman)

Thank-you

Talk to y'all when I'm back from holidays

Cheers

Barry Traill

SEFA POSITION ON CURRENT TIMBER SUPPLY PROBLEMS IN THE EDEN MANAGEMENT AREA

- SEFA notes the timber industry's need for action to alleviate timber supply problems but will not enter into discussions if future protection of the environment will be prejudiced, in the short and long term. Significant environmental damage has already been caused by the woodchip/sawlog industry.

- SEFA does not relinquish its campaign to obtain, as soon as possible, comprehensive, representative and adequate conservation reserves which must be additional to the Inter-Governmental South East Agreement. SEFA has previously attempted to put in place an environment protection/assessment and job security package with the South East Forest Protection Bill (which contained significant compromises).

- There must only be a very short period during which logging occurs without EIS (up to the 30/11/94). Such logging must not occur in high conservation value forests, identified by SEFA.

Evasion of EIS is directly due to the incompetence of State Forests and should not be rewarded by suspending environmental laws. The lack of an EIS means there is a lack of public accountability. Licences issued by the NPWS (endangered fauna) and EPA (pollution) during this period are issued 'in-house' without public comment.

- In order to ameliorate the lack of public accountability during the (short) non-EIS period (up to 30/11/94) a local committee comprised of representatives of the NPWS, EPA, Soil Conservation, industry and environment movement should oversee logging plans, in terms of schedules and prescriptions.

The Committee should be regarded as an interim arrangement only and should not retard the production of an adequate EIS by 30 November 1994. It is noted that evasion of EIS laws is wrong in principle and any alternative arrangements are a political compromise.

- The EIS produced during the 'non-EIS' period should only apply to non-contentious areas as agreed by SEFA.

It is understood that work on a three year EIS (covering logging in non-contentious areas between 1994-1997) was already in train, after discussions between the NPWS and State Forests. These should be finalised and the EIS exhibited in 1994.

- There must be a moratorium on logging in high conservation value areas [identified by

SEFA], during the period 1994-1997. Such areas include national estate forests; unfragmented* old growth; endangered species habitats; wilderness; and aboriginal sites.

*may include minor roading

This allows a breathing space to complete in-depth research such as regional assessments. The NPWS have indicated such research must cover the four seasons in the case of fauna and some 18 months would be required to examine old growth. Such research is vital to ensure a legal and adequate document and avoiding a tokenistic EIS. It would be totally unacceptable if this does not occur

- There should be an urgent independent inquiry into the competence of State Forests to produce adequate EIS according to set timetables.

Their failure to produce an adequate EIS on time is severely disrupting the timber industry and environment protection laws. Several millions of dollars of taxpayer's money is being wasted. It is clear that State Forests has not appropriately liaised with regulatory authorities; believed until recently that mediocre EISs would be acceptable; and adopted shoddy planning processes.

- Parliament should pass legislation that obliges compliance by State Forests with the legislated timetable for production of EIS; or if compliance is not possible instructs another authority to complete EIS. Legislation passed to give short term relief to the industry should not be extended.

If an EIS does not appear at the time required then logging continues for some time without EIS coverage and public scrutiny. This has occurred under the TIIP Act in the north of the State and is unacceptable.

- There needs to be a public assessment of sawlog quotas in the 1994-1997 EIS in view of the ecological unsustainability of the logging industry.

The Duncan's sawmill is uneconomic and is on the market. An alternative proposal for a Timber-town at the site would create more employment than at present. The removal of their sawlog quota and review of the woodchip quota would improve the ecological sustainability of the region's timber industry. Restructuring funds made available under the South East Forest Agreement could assist.

- SEFA is willing to 'engage' the Government, CALM, ALP, Ind and AD to obtain more information on the current proposals to assess if the above points are satisfied.

ATTENTION SEFA, ELO AND NCC EXECUTIVE
*** CONFIDENTIAL ***

This is version 3 (final draft) of the SEFA position re the TIIP Act.

There are two key concerns driving it:

1. We can obtain a larger moratorium over old growth forest for a longer period under the TIIP Act scenario than with the South East Bill. My information is that the SEFPB would not pass in its existing or an amended form.

In the absence of a larger moratorium unfragmented old growth in Murrabrine and north Yambulla will be logged this year (even with a South East Bill)

2. There is the complication that the Government wishes to extend the expiry date of the TIIP Act to end of 1995. This has implications for the north east where EIS timetables are also not being met, thus extending the period of logging without EIS.

The ALP will support an extension purely for political reasons as the current expiry date (end 1994) is just three months from the State Election. However, an alternative accountability process must operate while there is logging without EIS. SEFA is proposing a committee of regulators and us to oversee State Forests logging plans during this period.

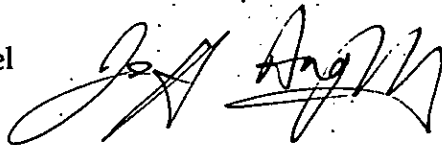
So in a strategic sense we must condemn the situation but in the real political world the TIIP alternative is inevitable. Richard Jones has reintroduced the South East Forest Protection Bill which he described 'as a sword of damocles which will be activated if the Government does not protect sensitive areas'. [Note: The SEFPB did not create any parks just a process leading to them. A parks decision would still have to be made at the political level].

However, the Bill does not solve the wider expiry date problem of the TIIP Act and thus the TIIP Act will stay on the agenda.

The only thing to be careful about is that we should not push the ALP into the arms of the timber unions and bosses by our rhetoric and letters, because we then make it too hard for them to negotiate on the TIIP Act for us.

It is for this reason that I am expressing myself in the media in terms of results (and outrage) rather than any particular legislative instrument.

Jeff Angel



RICHARD JONES MLC

Australian Democrat Member of the NSW Legislative Council
Parliament House, SYDNEY, 2000 Telephone (02) 230 2858 Fax (02) 230 2871

MEDIA RELEASE

10 March 1994

GOVERNMENT REFUSED OFFER OF FUNDING AID FOR SE FORESTS STUDY

The Honourable Richard Jones asked the following question in Parliament today:-

1. Did the Federal Minister for the Environment write to the NSW Minister for the Environment on 22 December 1992 offering funds for assessment of old growth forests and wilderness?
2. Did Chris Hartcher write back on 18 May 1993 saying he was unable to provide advice on priority for assessment in NSW?
3. Did the Prime Minister then write to the NSW Premier on 24 August 1993 saying that the Commonwealth considered the survey of old growth forests and wilderness a matter of high priority and that substantial funding was available to do this?
4. Did the Federal Minister for the Environment also write to Minister for Land and Water Conservation on 31 May 1993 asking him to give support for the undertaking of old growth studies as a matter of high priority?
5. Did the Minister also write to the NSW Minister for the Environment on 9 September 1993 stating that the Commonwealth would welcome substantive assessment proposals from NSW?
6. Why is it after all of these requests since December 1992 that the Commonwealth still has not received any proposals or old growth forest and wilderness surveys from your Government?
7. Is it a fact that if your Government had taken up the offer of substantial funding for old growth forest assessment, then there would have been absolutely no need to extend the Timber Industry Interim Protection Act?
8. Can you explain your Governments failure to take up the offer of funding?

For further information please contact Richard Jones on (02) 230 2858.

END



MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER FOR
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION

GOVERNMENT ACTS TO SAVE JOBS IN THE SOUTH EAST

9th March 1993

N S W. Land and Water Conservation Minister, George Souris, has announced the Government will extend the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act, in order to prevent a temporary sawlog supply shortfall in the State's south-east resulting in mill closures or job losses.

Mr Souris said the Act would be extended to cover the embattled South East forests, giving job security to timber workers while still protecting environmental concerns.

"Difficulties in obtaining fauna licences and delays in completing the Eden EIS had created the situation where industry in the south-east was facing a 30 percent supply shortfall for the first three quarters of this year," Mr Souris said.

"A shortfall of that magnitude would seriously threaten the viability of at least one of the four sawmills in the south-east, and this is certainly not what we envisaged when we signed the Commonwealth/State Agreement on the South East.

"Extending the TIIP Act will assure continuity of supply while still providing for a moratorium on logging in areas of notable conservation value.

"Basically, the TIIP Act amendment will allow logging operations to continue in less sensitive areas, while the more sensitive areas will be placed under a moratorium pending the completion of the Eden EIS.

"Those operations will still be required to conform with relevant regulatory controls and the amendment will stipulate a completion date for the Eden EIS, which will then be determined by the Department of Planning.

"I know that the 28 workers at the Boral sawmill in Eden have been worried about the possibility of lay offs in recent weeks, but they can rest assured that the Liberal/National Party Government will not sit back and allow a sawmill to close."

"The move represents a sensible and balanced solution to a difficult problem," Mr Souris said.

The Minister said that this action demonstrated the commitment given by Premier Fahey in recent months to provide genuine resource security for the timber industry.

FORESTWATCH N.S.W. 1992

volume 1

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1. INTRODUCTION.

During 1990, The Wilderness Society (TWS) and The South East Forest Alliance (SEFA) began to contemplate conducting surveys to establish whether the Forestry Commission of New South Wales (FCNSW) had been adhering to its prescriptions.

These prescriptions are designed to ensure that the essential components of a forested ecosystem remain basically intact.

The "Forestwatch" study was instigated to test the commonly held perception that if the FCNSW was self-regulating, then a blindness to any breaches would be prevalent on the ground.

The FCNSW is currently targeting forests registered as National Estate with the Australian Heritage Commission (AHC).

The Register is a list of places in Australia with a demonstrated set of significant values. For those forested places on the register, these values include:

- #Variety or exceptional quality as an ecosystem, landform or feature;
- #Demonstration of botanical, geological or geomorphological evolution
- #Representativeness or diversity as an ecosystem, landform or feature;
- #Habitat of an endangered species;
- #Aesthetic qualities as a natural or modified landscape;
- #Scientific value for research or reference purposes.

A discussion of the current management of the National Estate values of the forests in the study area is detailed in section 2.2

The Study is based on the Victorian Forestwatch series (Pittock 1988, 1989 & 1991) with amendments relating to the forests of south eastern New South Wales. The Victorian "Code of Forest Practices" (CFP) is very similar to the FCNSW's prescriptions and therefore this study follows Mr Pittock's work. It is the first time an independent check has been conducted on the FCNSW's prescriptions.

"FORESTWATCH N.S.W. 1992" was instigated as a campaign tool to have the Harris-Daishowa (Australia) Pty Ltd (HDA) export woodchip licence either revoked or substantially altered. Many conservation groups (TWS, SEFA, The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and the Nature Conservation Council (NCC)) and individuals believe that the presence of the HDA operation at Eden is directly responsible for many of the ecologically-related problems in the forests of the South East.

HDA commenced their Australian operations in 1967, with the first shipload of woodchips leaving the facility at Eden in 1970, bound for Daishowa Seishi, the parent company, in Japan. Since then there has been a great deal of opposition to the operation from the local community.

The conflict became more widespread in the latter part of the 1980's when it became obvious that the FCNSW intended to begin harvesting Coolangubra, Nullica, Bondi, Tantawangalo, Cathcart and Nalbaugh State forests which are on the National Estate register as either interim listings or fully registered.

2. BACKGROUND

In October 1990 Mr Gerard Keenan approached SEFA with the survey concept, and requested support in the way of limited funding for petrol, some equipment and transport costs.

A SEFA conference in Canberra in October 1990 decided to back the study. A number of weeks were then spent designing the survey methodology. Dr P. Fairweather was consulted as to the validity of the methods, and these methods were revised accordingly.

Fieldwork commenced in October 1991. Subsequent field trips continued until April 1992. (see Appendix 6)

During January 1992, a number of people connected with the Australian Capital Territory branch of the Wilderness Society became involved, and a further amount of funding was made available by TWS to purchase equipment. This was to allow the Canberra TWS participants to undertake field trips from Canberra on weekends.

A complete list of field trips, showing locations, dates and survey staff is provided in Volume 2 as Appendix 6

2.1 STUDY LOCATION

The study was based in the forests of the South Eastern region of New South Wales. These forests are part of the Great Dividing Range coastal escarpment. They lie between the towns of Bega, Eden, Nimmitabel and Bombala. Each of the areas is on the AHC's register of the National Estate, with the exception of Yurammie State Forest.

Various studies (e.g. NPWS 1987, Kieth and Saunders 1990) have indicated that many of the landforms in the region are seriously under-represented in the current reserve system, with only ___% of the escarpment forests conserved as National Park or Flora Reserve.

The geomorphology of each forest study site is detailed below:

1. Tantawangalo
(1 compartment surveyed)

The area is between 500 and 900 metres above sea level (ASL)

The climate is characterised by long, cold winters with many frosts and occasional snowfalls and short, mild summers.

The area receives approximately 1 000mm rainfall per year.

The soil structure is one of sandy to clayey loams overlaying a basis of Devonian biotite granodiorite.

Vegetation is characterised by both wet and dry sclerophyll forest types, with an understory of dense shrubby acacia species, *Bedfordia arborescens*, *Olearia*, *Pomaderris*, and grass species.

2. Cathcart
(2 coupes surveyed)

The area is between 320 and 900m ASL. The surveyed coupes are located in the upper section of the area.

The climate is the same as Tantawangalo, above.

The area receives an annual rainfall of 816mm per year (Recorded at Cathcart Post Office, approximately 5Km to the west of the study site.)

The soil structure is one of shale, hornblende granodiorite, and biotite granodiorite parent materials.

Vegetation of the area is characterised by a mix of open to dense, dry sclerophyll types, with *Eucalyptus sieberii*, *E. fastigata*, *E. cypellocarpa* and *E. macrorrhyncha* forming the bulk of the tree species. The understory is comprised of species such as *Platysace lanceolata*, *Exocarpus strictus*, *Acacia falsiformis*, *Lomatia myricoides*, and *Pteridium esculentum*.

3. Yurammie

(1 compartment surveyed)

The area is between 400m ASL in the eastern section and 820m ASL in the west

The climate of the area is somewhat milder than the higher escarpment forests, with the occasional drought of three to four months duration.

Rainfall is distributed evenly throughout the year, with an average of 800 to 1 200mm per year.

Soil structure is of the grey granite type, which is highly erodible. The parent materials are predominantly Devonian granitoids including tonalite, biotite, granodiorite and granite/adamellite.

The forest is dominated by *E. fastigata*/*E. viminalis*, with *E. sieberii*, *E. cypellocarpa* and *E. macrorryncha* occurring on the drier ridges. The understory is sparse and characterised by *Acacia* spp, *Persoonia linearis*, *Davesia ulicifolia*, *Poa* spp, *Danthonia* spp, and *Lomandra longifolia*.

4. Coolangubra

(7 compartments surveyed)

The area is between 600m ASL and 1 000m ASL.

Climate is characteristic of the higher parts of the region similar to Tantawangalo and Cathcart.

Annual precipitation is in the range of 800mm to 1 000mm.

Soil structure is poor quality with parent material of Devonian hornblende granodiorite.

Vegetation structure is a mixture of many forest types, with the main species being *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa*, *E. fastigata*, *E. maidenii*, *E. sieberii* and *E. obliqua*

The understory comprises those species associated with dry sclerophyll forests and include

5. Nullica
(1 compartment surveyed)

The area is between 300m ASL and 800m ASL.

Climate is milder than the higher escarpment forests, with three to four month droughts not uncommon.

Annual precipitation is in the range 800 to 1 200mm per year.

Coupes in the study area occur on mainly Ordovician sediments which occur mainly as shales, with some Eden Rhyolite present, forming very stable soils.

Vegetation of the Nullica forests is mainly *Eucalyptus sieberii*, *E. muellerana*, *E. bosistoana*, *E. cypellocarpa* and *E. globoidea* overstory, with the lower story comprised of *Acacia cognata*, *Notelaea venosa*, *Polyscias sambucifolia*, *Lomandra spp.* and *Poa spp.*

6. Malbaugh
(1 compartment surveyed).

The area lies between 700m and 1 060m ASL.

As the forest is in the highest area of the region the climate is characterised by short mild summers and long severe winters with many frosts and the occasional snowfall.

Approximately 1 000mm precipitation per year occurs in the area.

Soils are stable red granites with hornblende granodiorite parent materials.

A large proportion of the Malbaugh forest area is wet sclerophyll, dominated by *Eucalyptus fastigata*. The understory is comprised of *Acacia dealbata* and *Bedfordia arborescens*. The understory is sparse to absent. In the lower part the Forest is comprised of dry open sclerophyll forest, with *E. sieberii*, *E. cypellocarpa*, *E. globoidea* and *E. maidenii*.

7. Bondi

(1 coupe surveyed)

The area is between 400m ASL and 600m ASL.

The climate of the area is milder than that of the tablelands, with summers and winters of approximately equal duration. 40 to 50 frosts may occur in winter.

Annual rainfall is generally greater than 750mm per annum.

Soils of the area are characterised by deep red to grey granitic types underlain by granite parent materials. The grey soils are particularly susceptible to erosion.

Vegetation comprises tall, open, dry sclerophyll forest with a open to sparse understory.

2.2 MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL ESTATE

The FCNSW is the body responsible for the management of the State's Crown Timber Reserves, more commonly known as State Forests. These forests are managed primarily for wood production, although a range of other values are acknowledged and managed accordingly. At the present, no distinct management policies exist for those forests on the register of the National Estate

The FCNSW have a range of management objectives including:

#to provide, in perpetuity, a yield of hardwood pulpwood of sufficient magnitude to supply a pulpwood industry located in or near [the Eden Native Forest] management area,

#to supply sawlogs to industry in the short term at a rate designed to meet commitments, and in the long term to sustain a yield of sawlogs commensurate with the productive capacity of the area,

#to maintain the management area.....under indigenous forest cover adequate to:-

1. conserve the soil resource and water catchment capabilities,
2. maintain a diversity of habitat suitable for wildlife indigenous to the area,
3. retain an aesthetic forest environment acceptable to the public generally.

#To maintain any unique or rare, ecological, historical, floral, faunal or other scientific values occurring within the area.

#To provide for the use of forests for public recreation in accordance with FCNSW general policy on recreation in State forests, and for educational purposes.

(extract from FCNSW Eden Native Forest Management Plan, 1982)

The FCNSW has designed a set of guidelines known as "prescriptions" which are intended to help the staff of the FCNSW to achieve the management objectives detailed above. These prescriptions are set out in Volume 2, appendix 5, in full, and the relevant sections are detailed immediately preceding each of the sections in Section 3.3.; "Prescriptions Surveyed"

2.3 EFFECTS OF HARVESTING OPERATIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

What environmental effects the woodchipping industry has on the environment has been one of the central areas of conflict over the previous twenty years. It has received much in the way of research in this period.

Much of this work has focussed on those areas which are easily quantified: soils (e.g. Schuster 1979), water quality (e.g. Burgess 1988), flora (e.g. Kirkpatrick et al 1990), The invasion of weeds (e.g. Duncan 1985) and feral animals (e.g. ABRG 1984)

There are many gaps in our knowledge of forested ecosystems, and although more and more research is focussing on forests and their biota, the current rate of harvesting will mean that much of the high conservation value forests will disappear even though many research projects will be incomplete.

Most of the research is concentrated in a short period relative to the lifespan of trees, and much less than the expected rotation of the harvesting cycle of sixty to one hundred years. Therefore assessments of impacts on the forest biota have been limited in their extent.

The continuation of the integrated harvesting operation in the south east has been in spite of studies (e.g. Kavanagh and Webb 1986) which show that the current high impact silvicultural practice of ten percent canopy retention has a long term impact on those species dependant on arboreal nesting or den locations.

The FCNSW acknowledge that these animals are the most disadvantaged by this regime, yet there is much reluctance to a shift to practices of a less intensive nature.

However, as pressure increases, the FCNSW is altering their practices to better integrate the often competitive goals of wildlife management and silvicultural procedures. The end result is designed to "ensure that all forest species of plants and animals which were originally present in the forest are retained for the long term future. (FCNSW Resource Assessment Commission (RAC) submission, no. 200, p. 16.)

Discussed below are some of the areas which have had some impact on the forested areas of the south east, and the way in which the prescriptions are designed to alleviate these often deleterious effects.

IMPACTS ON SOILS

Timber harvesting effects forest soils by compaction caused mainly through machinery, log dumps and roads. This results in loss of porosity by increasing the density of the soil, leading to increased runoff and erosion. The chemical composition of the soil is altered resulting in increased salinity and loss of nitrates and other nutrients. This is due to the removal of large amounts of understory biomass (Attiwell 1981), and is especially evident in areas where the surface is scoured as in log dumps, road construction and useage and regeneration burning. (Raison et al 1986, Attiwell 1986)

The prescriptions relating to log dumps would have the desired effect of covering these larger, more heavily compacted and scoured areas of the coupe by returning the topsoil once the operation has finished. These dumps may take up to 5% of the area of the coupe, so the rehabilitation of these areas is significant.

The prescription relating to the rehabilitation of snig tracks (minor roads forming a network spreading outwards from the log dumps) and non-permanent roads was not covered in this study. However, the survey staff could not help but notice that the erosion along these tracks was of significant proportions. They did not seem to be affected by the prescription's intentions, which call for an "erosion bank" to be constructed perpendicular to the alignment of the road and at a specified distance apart, which depends on the slope of the road. Deep erosion gullies occurred between these banks, deep accumulations of sand at the toe of the bank and increased siltation around the outlet of the bank. A similar effect was noticed in the log dumps, with large pools of water common, often being several months old.

WATER QUALITY

This issue has been the subject of much analysis and the monitoring of runoff rates, increased siltation and suspended sediments such as salts, nutrients and chemicals is an ongoing management priority.

Studies indicate that on the effects of logging and subsequent regrowth on water yield show an initial period of markedly increased runoff lasting five to six years. The yield then falls well below that of a mature forest for many decades (Langford et al 1982)

However, if carefully managed prescriptions are placed upon harvesting operations, other effects such as changes in water chemistry and increased suspended sediment loads are minimised and could be said to be negligible. (Langford and O'Shaunessy 1977, Langford et al 1982 & Turner 1990.)

IMPACTS ON FLORA

Current silvicultural practices in the south east forests of New South Wales have followed the pattern of other integrated harvesting operations in Australia: 90% canopy reduction, a hot regeneration burn followed by direct seeding of the log dumps and natural seeding of the remainder of the coupe.

As with other areas discussed in this report, these techniques have only been in practice since the early 1970's. Little study has been made of the long-term effects on species of flora which comprise a forested ecosystem.

Some of the effects on flora which have raised some questions as to the suitability of integrated harvesting are:

#Changes in structural diversity.

This is caused by short rotation lengths and the removal of a large amount of the biomass. The forest resulting after harvesting is a structurally simple, even-aged stand of usually a monoculture of eucalypts.

#Change in species composition.

This is brought about by management regimes which specify the removal of the most valuable timber and an apparent lack of concern for the continuing existence of non-commercial species. These are the most disturbed section of the forest community. However, these deleterious effects may be lessened over time by the same biological mechanism that allow plants to recover after natural disturbances such as wildfires. (Loyn et al 1980, 1983.)

The FCNSW has a valuable database of rare, threatened and endangered species of plants in the south east, held in the regional office in Eden. The research on these species tends to concentrate on studying the effects after harvesting has taken place. Nationally there is a lack of knowledge as to minimum viable population sizes of threatened species and their conservation needs, so there is a need to address this gap in the FCNSW's harvesting policies. This is currently a low priority.

#Reduction in diversity of the gene pool.

This comes about by the removal of large amounts of the seed available for recolonisation. The timespan for trees to mature to seed-producing status is around forty years. This is around half the expected rotation period for harvesting. This may result in the seed bank being reduced to a level from which it may not recover. The prescriptions call for a number of mature trees to be retained as a seed bank. However, other pressures such as greater exposure to wind and disturbances to the soil around the base of these trees often leads to their premature demise, raising the question of the viability of this practice. The disturbance associated with integrated harvesting also favours those species which can recover very quickly. These are plants which tend to take over completely in their early stages, leaving little room for other slower growing plants.

#Introduction of feral plants.

Most weed species spread through disturbed environments very efficiently, with their ingress hastened by logging machinery and the network of roads necessitated by a large operation such as the one conducted by Harris-Daishowa. The intense nature of the pine plantations adjacent to much of the native forest in the region is also a contributing factor, with fertilization responsible for a greater concentration of weed species close to the forest.

#Effects on Fauna.

Old growth forests such as Coolangubra and Tantawangalo provide some 60% of mammals and 30% of birds with den and nesting sites in the large old trees characteristic of these type of forests. The hollows upon which these fauna rely do not begin to form until the trees are over eighty years old, and the larger hollows do not form until between 150 and 200 years. These old trees are the first victims in a harvesting operation and the expected cutting cycle will mean that such trees will not be in abundance in the future. Prescriptions calling for the retention of five habitat trees per fifteen hectares have little or no basis in scientific fact. For example, the Feathertailed Glider (*Acrobates pygmaeus*) can glide up to twenty metres through the canopy. In a logged forest the distance between the large retained trees can be over 100 metres.

The FCNSW recognise this and base their filter strip prescriptions on the fact that many arboreal species are disadvantaged by harvesting procedures. Leaving a strip of up to eighty metres next to watercourses and logging coupes on an alternate basis may alleviate the problem in the short term, but the resultant forest after the second cutting cycle will leave only those trees in the reserves along watercourses for the arboreal mammals to rely upon. Animals which are then forced to recolonise do not seem to reestablish elsewhere. Individuals of some species such as the greater glider (*Petauroides volans*) dying rather than emigrating to other forests (Kavanagh and Webb 1986, ASRC 1984).

There is also a reduction in the abundance of food supply characteristic of an old growth forest. This can be reduced by as much as 40% in the short term. Small ground-dwelling mammals suffer the effects of harvesting to a lesser extent, with most species able to recolonise a disturbed ecosystem after only two or three years. The populations of the more common species such as the bush rat (*Rattus fuscipes*), brown antechinus (*Antechinus stuartii*) and the white footed dunnart (*Sminthopsis leucopus*) increase markedly as these animals are able to exploit the dense regrowth more efficiently than other mammals (Braithwaite 1983, Lunney and Ashby 1987, Lunney and Leary 1989).

Fauna can also be affected by the resultant decrease in genetic and structural diversity of flora following harvesting.

Fire affects both flora and fauna by:

- #Reducing total biomass

- #Reducing phosphorous content, thereby disturbing the chemical cycle in the soil

- #Reducing critical shelters needed by some animals

- #The death of large hollow-bearing trees

- #Altering the seed bank in the soil

- #Destroying invertebrates which may have a vital role in nutrient cycling

- #Altering the mixture of understory species if the forest is burnt too regularly, or not often enough.

2.4 PRESCRIPTIONS

The current FCNSW prescriptions resulted from criticism of silvicultural practices prior to 1980. Recher et. al. published a paper entitled "Effects of the Eden Woodchip Industry on Terrestrial Vertebrates with Recommendations for Management" in 1980. (FCNSW research note no. 42). These recommendations were designed to alleviate the ecological problems inherent in a clearfelling operation, the method of harvesting prior to 1980.

The suggestions were wide ranging, and not all were put into practice. The main recommendations were that a filter strip be left between the harvesting area (known as a "Compartment" which is subdivided into a "Coupe") and permanent watercourses, no tracked vehicles be moved across swampy or poorly drained areas within the coupe, a group of trees be left as habitat trees, another group be left as seed stock for the coupe and a third group be left so as to provide future sawlogs.

Recher's suggestions were put into practice and the task of overseeing their implementation was written into the FCNSW's charter by means of the prescriptions. These are designed to:-

1. To minimise potential erosion sources,
2. To ensure that the residual stands of trees maximise future harvesting potential,
3. To ensure that the flora and fauna of the area are conserved,
4. To preserve and improve the soil resource and water catchment capabilities,
5. To utilize the timber on crown land forests to the best advantage of the state.

(extracted from FCNSW 1988 E.I.S. volume 1, section 2, P.3)

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Study sites were located in such a way as to give a broad geographic spread over the forests in the Eden Native Forest Management Area (ENFMA), and were not intended to place undue emphasis on any particular forest.

Fieldwork was carried out between October 1991 and April 1992, (see Appendix 6) with the help of many volunteers who travelled to the study sites mainly on weekends.

Two workshops were conducted during January 1992, in Malbaugh State Forest, to teach a number of volunteers the methods for the collection of data.

The data was collated and analysed during April 1992 and the report was presented to two scientists for verification of the analysis methods.

3.2 FIELDWORK

It was decided that only those prescriptions which were able to be physically measured would be surveyed, as well as some prescriptions where a presence/absence criteria could be employed. As many of the prescriptions rely on a qualitative assessment, it was decided to avoid these as many of the survey staff have little or no experience in forest management, and this type of assessment would open any survey results to criticism from the FCNSW and timber industry.

To this end, a Field Data Collection Manual was developed with clear, concise instructions as to methods to be utilised. Illustrations of the main prescriptions, examples of:

- (a) field data books,
- (b) field maps,
- (c) the FCNSW prescriptions, and
- (d) completed data sheets were included.

All those taking part in the study either attended the workshops in January, or were given a thorough briefing prior to their field trips commencing.

3.3 PRESCRIPTIONS SURVEYED

3.3.1 FILTER STRIPS

The maintenance of filter strips at their required width is considered to be of great importance in maintaining water quality and to prevent those problems associated with increased siltation in streams and rivers. Prescriptions applying to Filter Strips state:

A filter strip shall be retained on a stream or drainage line downstream from the point where its catchment exceeds the area listed below.

AVERAGE GRADE OF CATCHMENT	MAXIMUM CATCHMENT AREA	
	EROSION HAZARD	
	AVERAGE	HIGH
LESS THAN 15 DEGREES	50ha	40ha
15 DEGREES - 20 DEGREES	45ha	35ha
GREATER THAN 20 DEGREES	40ha	30ha

The filter strip shall be a minimum of 20 metres each side of the watercourse for slopes under 18 degrees. Where the fall into the watercourse is over 18 degrees the filter strip shall be a minimum of 40 metres each side of the watercourse. The width and upstream extension of the strip may be increased as considered necessary by the Forester

As those collecting data in the field found the table above (a) difficult to visualise and (b) even more difficult to measure, it was agreed to measure the filter strip from the point which it became obvious.

This was very obvious on all sites surveyed. The filter strip forms one or more boundaries of the coupes in the study, and did not begin within the coupe once.

The prescription is very clear in its intent: a tree must not be felled within the 20m. or 40m. limit. The following, therefore, was surveyed, with any breaches noted:

* The width of the strip was paced out from the coupe edge to the edge of the watercourse. (all survey staff were trained in converting paces to metres)

* The angle of fall from the edge of the coupe to the watercourse was measured using either a clinometer or a specially constructed 18 degree set square. When the clinometer was employed the actual angle of the bank was recorded. When the set square was used, a simple over 18' or under 18' indication was recorded.

* The above measurements were recorded at the beginning of the strip and thence every 50m along the length.

No tree shall be deliberately or negligently felled into a stream within a filter strip,....

* The presence of any trees felled within the strip were noted.

....felling and snagging shall be excluded from filter strips except as specifically authorised by the supervising Officer.

Trees may be felled into the strip provided that no part of the tree enters the bed of the stream and provided excessive damage does not occur to standing trees within the filter strip

* Any trees felled into the strip, but having a stump outside the boundary of the strip, were recorded.

* Any trees within the filter strip showing signs of damage from the harvesting operation were recorded.

For the above three prescriptions, the presence of a breach was recorded as a yes and a chainage from the beginning of the strip was also recorded.

3.3.2 LOG DUMPS

These prescriptions have been put in place because the soil on the log dumps becomes heavily compacted during the harvesting operation, and those dumps with no remedial action carried out take much longer to recuperate.

....They (the dumps) shall not be located closer than 10m from a filter strip or drainage line.

When ungravelled dumps are constructed and unless otherwise specified (in the harvesting plans), topsoil is to be stockpiled in a recoverable position, and either:

Upon temporary termination of logging, and no further logging is contemplated in the near future, the dumps are to be levelled unless otherwise authorised, drained so that the runoff is directed onto surrounding vegetation and ripped where specified.

Upon completion of logging the dumps are to be levelled unless otherwise authorised, drained so that runoff is directed onto surrounding vegetation, and the topsoil spread evenly over the dump. The dump shall be revegetated and/or ripped where specified.

Dump ripping is to be done progressively and unless otherwise approved by the supervising officer, commencement in a new compartment is not permitted until all completed dumps are resurfaced and ripped.

The finished surface of the dump following ripping must be free from consolidated bark deposits.

Surface soil is to be stockpiled around the dump such that upon completion of harvesting and removal of timber, the surface soil is readily available to be respread over the dump and the dump ripped to an average depth of 35cm, the rip lines being not less than one metre apart.

Each log dump in the coupe was located and visited during the survey, the following was recorded for each dump:

- * grid reference
- * location on field map
- * presence/ absence of:
 - (i) ripping
 - (ii) topsoiling
 - (iii) revegetation
 - (iv) percentage survival of seedlings

3.3.3 NON FILTER STRIP AREAS

Where a filter strip is not being retained, machines shall not be taken within 5 metres of any drainage line except with the specific approval of the supervising Forester.

Machines shall not be taken within 5 metres of the border of any swamp or area showing surface seepage or poor drainage.....Access tracks may be constructed through these areas only in circumstances where they can be adequately drained, as specifically approved by the supervising Forester and marked on the harvesting plans.

Each non filter strip area (NFSA) was located on the first walk through the coupe. Subsequently a visit was made to the NFSA to locate any breaches of the prescription.

If a breach was discovered, the area was marked on the field map, and noted in the survey staff's field note book.

3.4 TREE TRANSECTS.

Approximately half the time spent in the field was spent walking a series of transects through the coupe, to record the presence of habitat trees, and to provide a sample of the basal area of the trees harvested and the trees retained. It was felt that the transects were the most reliable and statistically correct way of recording this data.

Before the fieldwork was commenced, each compartment was transferred from the 1:125 000 scale maps from the 1991 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) onto 1:25 000 scale topographic maps published by the Central Mapping Authority of New South Wales (CMA).

Once this was completed, each compartment was photocopied at a ratio of 2:1, to result in a compartment map at 1:12 500 scale. It was felt that this size would facilitate the locating of each survey component, as well as allowing simple divisions to be made for the placement of the transects.

Each CMA topographic map has a 1 000m grid marked. For the field maps, each 1 000m grid square was subdivided with another grid at 125m intervals in both north-south and east-west directions. Each 125m grid line was then accorded a number.

From this point the relevant transects were selected using a standard random number table. The number of transects then selected per coupe was a reflection of the relative size of the coupe on the 1:12 500 scale field map.

Generally, for the standard coupe size of eighty hectares, four randomly obtained transects were selected for the survey.

In the field, the start point of each transect was located by pacing from the nearest prominent landmark featured on the field map. This was usually a road or a coupe/creek interface.

The direction of the transect was established using a compass and the map. One of the survey staff was employed to record the data and keep an account of the distance travelled, while the second person keeping to the bearing and measuring the trees and stumps.

Staff recorded the following statistics for each tree and stump which fell within two metres of either side of the transect:

1.(a) Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) in centimetres, for trees larger than 20cm DBH.

For trees in this category the following was also recorded:

(i) The condition, with note made of one of the following categories: Good overall condition; More than half the trunk burnt; If the presence of epicormic buds was apparent

(ii) Damage to tree, with note made of one of the following categories: No damage; significant crown damage (i.e. more than 50% missing or dead) ; Physical damage to trunk; physical damage to root system; obviously dead.

(iii) Whether the tree was considered to be a habitat tree or not.

1.(b) If it was decided by the survey staff that the tree was of obvious habitat value (established by checking for the presence of hollows on the trunk or in the crown for trees of (generally) more than 220cm DBH) the following additional data was recorded:

(i) the number of hollows present

(ii) the height of the tree.

Two distinct methods were used for this:

if the survey staff had a clinometer, one person would pace between 15 and 20m away from the base of the tree keeping to the same contour. a reading of the angle to the top of the crown was recorded, as well as the precise number of paces. this was then converted to a height using the following formula:

$$\tan \angle \times d = h,$$

where $\tan \angle$ is the angle on the clinometer,
 d = the number of paces from the tree,
 and h = the height of the tree.

if a clinometer was not available, a 45 degree set square was used. The staff member would walk away from the tree until the top of the crown coincided with the top point of the set square when held level. The distance from the observer to the base of the tree was recorded as the tree's height.

table 1. Filter Strips.

Forest name	Comp no	No of strips	under width	% of strips over width	correct width
Coolangubra	1330	3			
	(FS01)		75%	50%	25%
	(FS02)		70%	30%	nil
	(FS03)		68%	26%	6%
	1333	1	6%	87%	6%
	1408	2			
	(FS01)		57%	40%	3%
	(FS02)		78%	22%	nil
	1434	1	32%	53%	15%
Nullica	705	1	nil	100%	nil
Cathcart	1370	1	53%	42%	5%
	1372	3			
	(FS01)		24%	53%	23%
	(FS02)		36%	64%	nil
	(FS03)		67%	16%	17%

Note: Compartments on Waratah Road were experimental coupes and the filter strips were over 150m. wide. They were not included, as they are not standard.

Table 2 Filter Strip Violations

Forest name	Comp. no.	No. of trees		
		felled into strip	felled with strip	damaged in strip
Coolangubra	1330	9	3	7
	1333	2	nil	1
	1408	nil	nil	2
	1434	5	nil	5
Yurammie	982	1	1	1
Cathcart	1372	6	1	nil

Note: All compartments did not have (a) filter strips, (see note on table 1.0 above) and (b) violations under categories above.

Table 2.1 Trees

Forest name	comp. no.	area in ha.	% of coupe trees in t/sect retained		trees harvested
Coolangubra	1314	48.76	1.20%	212	N/A
	1315	43.78	0.90%	106	N/A
	1317	39.68	1.00%	109	N/A
	U/10g	99.60	0.60%	118	N/A
	1330	32.10	4.40%	129	13
	1333	51.25	1.00%	61	37
	1408	52.03	1.50%	53	67
	1434	19.84	2.00%	21	23
Nullica	705	54.38	2.20%	29	35
Yurammie	982	86.25	1.20%	133	72
Cathcart	1370	58.67	1.20%	72	81
	1372	68.90	1.70%	104	114
Bondi	1727	23.98	1.70%	67	30

Trees Retained
Table 2.2

Forest name	comp no.	number retained	basal area in transect	basal area m2/ha
Coolangubra	1314	212	1625m2	9.2
	1315	106	651m2	14.9
	1317	118	827m2	20.8
	Unlogged	109	3954m2	39.7
	1330	125	128m2	4.0
	1333	61	896m2	17.5
	1408	53	446m2	8.6
	1434	21	287m2	6.9
Nullica	705	29	1107m2	20.4
Yurammie	982	133	1612m2	18.7
Cathcart	1370	72	525m2	9.0
	1372	104	1619m2	23.5
Bondi	1727	63	571m2	23.8

Trees harvested
Table 2.3

Forest name	comp.number on no. transect,		basal area m ²	basal area m ² /ha
Coolangubra	1330	130	5280m ²	164.5
	1333	37	1079m ²	21.1
	1408	67	2382m ²	45.8
	1434	23	1171m ²	50.6
Nullica	705	35	1858m ²	34.2
Yurammie	982	72	1421m ²	16.5
Cathcart	1370	81	2487m ²	42.4
	1372	114	4466m ²	64.8
Bondi	1727	30	666m ²	27.8

Note: As the Waratah Rd Compartments were harvested in 1984, the stumps were very difficult to locate, therefore they were not included in the study.

Trees: Condition and Damage
Table

Forest name	Comp. No.	1. Good Condition	2. Dead	3. Damaged	4. (2 + 3)
Coolangubra	1314	97.6%	2.4%	nil	2.4%
	1315	95.2%	0.9%	3.9%	4.8%
	1317	90.4%	3.9%	5.7%	9.6%
	1330	62.4%	16.0%	21.6%	37.6%
	1333	60.3%	20.7%	19.0%	39.7%
	1408	69.8%	5.7%	24.5%	30.2%
	1434	43.8%	nil	56.2%	56.2%
Nullica	705	62.5%	4.2%	33.3%	37.5%
Yurammie	982	68.9%	16.5%	14.6%	31.1%
Cathcart	1370	56.4%	18.2%	25.4%	43.6%
	1372	72.6%	12.3%	15.1%	27.4%
Bondi	1727	14.3%	47.6%	38.1%	85.7%

Habitat trees
Table 2.3

Forest name	comp. number of no	hollows	no. of trees	average height, m
Coolangubra	1314	13	2	35.5
	1315	3	1	31.0
	1317	23	4	32.8
	U/109	27	4	53.8
	1330	46	8	38.9
	1333	4	1	28.0
	1408	nil	nil	nil
Nullica	705	4	2	32.5
Yurammie	982	15	8	34.8
Cathcart	1370	8	3	26.3
	1372	26	5	40.2
Bondj	1727	6	1	17.0

Log Dumps
Table 3.0

Forest name	comp. no and dump	ripped Y/N	revegetated Y/N	topsoiled Y/N
-------------	-------------------------	---------------	--------------------	------------------

Coolangubra
Waratah Rd.
(see note)

B	n	y	n
C	n	y	n
D	?	n	n
E	n	n	n
G	n	n	n
H	n	n	n
I	y	n	n
J	n	n	n
1330/1	y	n	n
1330/2	y	n	n
1330/3	y	n	n
1330/4	50%	n	n
1333	?	y	n
	?	y	n
1408/1	y	n	n
1408/2	y	n	n
1408/3	y	n	n
1408/4	y	n	n
1408/5	y	n	n
1408/6	y	n	n
1434/1	n	n	n
1434/2	n	n	n
1434/3	n	n	n
1434/4	n	n	n

Nullica	705/1	y	n	n
	705/2	y	n	n
	705/3	y	n	n
	705/4	y	n	n
Yurammie	982/1	y	50%	n
	982/2	y	n	n
	982/3	y	n	n
	982/4	y	1%	n
	982/5	y	5%	n
	982/6	y	5%	n
Cathcart	1370/1	y	n	n
	1370/2	n	n	y
	1370/3	y	n	n
	1372/1	n	n	n
	1372/2	n	n	n
	1372/3	y	n	n
	1372/4	y	y	n
	1372/5	y	40%	n
Bondi	1727/1	y	n	n
	1727/2	n	n	n
	1727/3	n	10%	n
	1727/4	n	n	n

Note; Log dumps for Compartments 1314, 1315 and 1316 could not be positively linked to the relevant coupe, so they have been tabled as they occur on Waratah road, from the northernmost intersection with Coolangubra Forest Way.

SUMMARIES

1. Filter Strips

Percentage of Filter Strips which are underwidth:	37.5%
Percentage of Filter Strips which are overwidth:	54.8%
Percentage of Filter Strips which are correct width	7.7%
Average width of Filter Strips in Study:	32.0m
Number of trees felled into Filter strips:	23
Number of trees felled within Filter Strips:	16
Number of trees damaged Within Filter Strips:	5
Total number of violations of Filter Strip Prescriptions:	104

2. TREES

Average area of compartments surveyed:	52.25ha.
Average area of transect:	0.7ha.
Average percentage of compartment in transect.	1.6%
Average number of trees retained:	86
Range:	16 in 1434 - 212 in 1314.
Average number of tree harvested:	49
Range:	23 in 1434 - 130 in 1330
Average basal area retained,	16.7m ² / ha
Average basal area harvested,	52.0m ² / ha
Ratio of trees retained to trees harvested:	26 : 74

Our Forests:



Who is Responsible?

The three levels of government in Australia have specific interests and responsibilities for forest management.

State and Territory governments have primary responsibility for forest management, including public and private forests. This is in recognition of the constitutional responsibility of the States for land use decisions and their ownership of large areas of forest.

Local governments have responsibilities for local land use planning and rating systems, which affect public and private forest management and use.

Commonwealth involvement in the forestry industry is limited largely to the approval of woodchip export licences. Responsibility for this lies with the Minister for Resources. Under current Commonwealth procedures, the Minister for the Environment has an advisory role in determining the conditions attached to woodchip export licences. The Australian Heritage Commission also provides advice in relation to the obligations under Section 30 of the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*.

The Australian Nature Conservation Agency is involved

in providing advice on the impact of forestry operations on endangered species.

A Nation of Stakeholders

Our forests benefit every Australian in some way. They are an integral element of our biodiversity; they provide enjoyment and pleasure; and they provide employment.

Apart from government, forest industries and unions share the responsibility of managing our forests in an ecologically sustainable manner.

There are also hundreds of community-based groups across the country that take an active role in conserving our forests.

Further information:
Community Information Unit
Department of the Environment, Sport
and Territories
Tel: 06 274 1221 or (toll free) 008 803 772

Our Forests:



National Leadership

Commonwealth Obligations

The Commonwealth Government is responsible for coordinating a national approach to both environmental and industry development issues.

Commonwealth obligations include assessment of national estate values, World Heritage values, Aboriginal heritage values, endangered species, environmental impacts, and obligations relating to international conventions, including those for protecting biological diversity and wetlands of international significance.

Legislation

A range of legislation provides a basis for Commonwealth involvement in land use and forest management issues, including:

*World Heritage Properties
Conservation Act 1983
Export Control Act 1982
Australian Heritage Commission Act
1975
Environment Protection (Impact of
Proposals) Act 1974
Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers
Act 1975
Endangered Species Protection Act
1992.*

The Commonwealth Government has an interest in achieving the efficient and effective management of the nation's

resources, including forests and forest products. Controls on the export of woodchips are in place under the *Export Control Act 1982*.

Improving Knowledge and Management

The Commonwealth has taken a major role in developing policies which will achieve ecologically sustainable management of Australia's forests. It has also introduced a number of initiatives over the past decade, and provided substantial funding to improve our knowledge of Australia's native forests and their management. These include:

*National Rainforest Conservation
Program
National Forest Inventory
National Wilderness Inventory
Surveys of old growth forests
Comprehensive Regional
Assessment Program
Australian Heritage Commission
Regional Assessment Program
Agreement between the
Commonwealth and NSW
Governments on the South East
Forests Region of NSW
East Gippsland Forest Agreement*

Over the past six years the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments have developed a range of initiatives for the future of Australia's forests.

These initiatives are a direct response to advice given to the Government through the Resource Assessment Commission Forest and Timber Inquiry, the Ecologically Sustainable Development working group on forests and the National Plantations Advisory Committee report 'Integrating Forestry and Farming'.

The National Forest Policy Statement

In December 1992 the *National Forest Policy Statement* was endorsed by the Commonwealth and all mainland governments. The *National Forest Policy Statement* lays the foundation for consistent forest management and protection across Australia, and for closer cooperation between governments. It provides for improved protection of environmental values, increased value-added wood processing, and greater emphasis on plantations. It also provides, through a joint Commonwealth/State Comprehensive Regional Assessment process and the development of a Regional Forest Agreement, a mechanism to ensure the protection of important conservation values and to assist planning certainty.

World Heritage

The Commonwealth Government has also identified and conserved special areas of outstanding value by having them included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. This gives world-wide recognition to the universal value of these places.

World Heritage sites containing significant areas of high conservation forest include the Wet Tropics World Heritage area in north Queensland, the Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia, the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area and Fraser Island.

Our Forests: An Information Kit

The Commonwealth has an international responsibility to protect and conserve these areas, while allowing them to be used in ways that do not damage or threaten their universal values.

Register of the National Estate

Forests may also be listed on the Register of the National Estate. Listing serves to alert people that the particular natural, cultural or Aboriginal heritage values of the area are of national significance. A Commonwealth Minister is required not to approve action which would damage the values of a listed place unless there is no prudent and feasible alternative.

Further information:

Community Information Unit

Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories

Tel: 06 274 1221 or (toll free) 008 803 772

November 1994

Our Forests:



Conservation Strategy Within the *National Forest Policy Statement*

The Conservation Goals

The conservation goals of the *National Forest Policy Statement* include the maintenance of an extensive and permanent native forest estate in Australia and the management of that estate in an ecologically sustainable manner. This is to achieve the conservation of the full suite of values that forests provide for current and future generations.

The *National Forest Policy Statement* describes the range and importance of these values: "The protection of the full range of forest ecosystems and other environmental values is fundamental to ecologically sustainable forest management. It entails the maintenance of the ecological processes that sustain forest ecosystems, the conservation of the biological diversity associated with forests (particularly endangered and vulnerable species and communities), and the protection of water quality and associated habitats."

The *National Forest Policy Statement* has recognised the importance of old growth forest and

wilderness, and established a strategy to conserve and manage areas of old growth and wilderness as part of the reserve system.

It has been agreed, within the *National Forest Policy Statement*, that comprehensive, adequate reserve systems to protect old-growth forest and wilderness values will be in place by the end of 1995 for public land and by the end of 1998 for private land, providing there is satisfactory agreement by the Commonwealth and States. For old-growth forest, the nature conservation reserve systems will be the primary means of protection, supported by complementary management outside reserves.

The *National Forest Policy Statement* contains the further agreement that, until assessments are completed, forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value.

It also provides for sympathetic management of old-growth forest values in areas outside the reserve system.

Regional Forest Agreements

It is envisaged that the processes set out in the *National Forest Policy Statement* will lead to a single agreement between the Commonwealth and the States relating to their obligations for forests in a region.

These Regional Forest Agreements would cover the full range of Commonwealth and State obligations including assessments of the environmental and heritage values of regional forests, and assessment of the economic opportunities and social impacts of alternative uses of these forest areas.

The full range of the Commonwealth's environmental and heritage obligations include assessment of national estate values, World Heritage values, Aboriginal heritage values, environmental impacts, and obligations relating to international conventions, including those for protecting endangered species and biological diversity.

Regional Forest Agreements will provide an opportunity to ensure protection of important conservation values as well as providing greater certainty of resource supply to industry.

Comprehensive Regional Assessments

In order to meet all Commonwealth and State obligations for the forested areas of a region, a number of assessments will be necessary. These assessments can be achieved by a single comprehensive process which is identified in the *National Forest Policy Statement* as a Comprehensive Regional Assessment.

Comprehensive Regional Assessments will involve the collection and evaluation of the full range of environmental and heritage aspects of forests in the region.

Where there is a Commonwealth interest in an environmental matter the Commonwealth may accredit a State's environment related processes. The Commonwealth will negotiate with individual States on the elements of the State process that may be accredited and determine whether any additional information and assessments are necessary.

If Governments agree that the process of accreditation is unlikely or unable to meet all the obligations of the Commonwealth, other measures, such as comprehensive regional assessments will be used.

Plantations

Plantations can play a role in relieving pressure on native forests, while at the same time offering

significant expansion of the industry's resource base.

There are approximately one million hectares of plantations in Australia. Softwood plantations (mainly pine) account for 90% of the total area while hardwood plantations (predominantly Eucalypt) make up the remaining 10%.

The *National Forest Policy Statement* recognises that plantations provide a wide range of commercial, environmental and aesthetic benefits to the community. The *National Forest Policy Statement* contains a number of initiatives that will assist plantation development including:

- the development of demonstration plantations on farms and the provision of extension services; and
- research for plantations and agroforestry.

Significant progress towards the implementation of these initiatives has been made at the Commonwealth and State and Territory levels of government.

Pulp and Paper

Pulp for paper and paper products can be produced using a wide range of fibre. The most frequently utilised source of pulp for these products at present is wood.

In Australia, the virgin fibre for many types of paper and paper products, such as newsprint, tissue paper and paperboard and

packaging products is sourced mainly from pine plantation.

Because of its pulping qualities and short fibres, Eucalypts are the most favoured tree species for fine paper making. Woodchips produced as by-products from integrated sawlog harvesting operations in native forests, are the main virgin fibre source for fine paper making.

Australia is now a world leader in recycling of waste paper. Waste paper represents 48% of the total fibre used in the production of paper products in Australia, with the remainder being sourced from domestic plantations, native forests and imported fibre. However, waste paper can only be recycled about five times as its strength declines each time it is recycled. Therefore, virgin fibre must continually be added to the process.

When recently announced investments in new paper recycling plants totalling \$160 million come on stream, over 50% of the total fibre used in the production of paper products will be from waste paper.

The technology exists to produce pulp and paper from alternative materials, such as straw, bagasse, kenaf and cotton linters. The latter is already fully utilised as a paper making fibre source by toilet tissue manufacturers. A frequently suggested alternative source is hemp, which contains extremely long fibres and has a rapid growth rate when compared to timber.

While there are environmental advantages to the use of alternative pulp sources, there are a number of other considerations which must be taken into account.

These include the nature of the waste product and, in relation to straw, the value of its use for papermaking in comparison to its value for soil conservation if left untouched. It is important that the associated environmental and economic issues be addressed when promoting the use of alternative pulp sources.

The environmental advantages of using alternative pulp sources relate primarily to reducing the pressure on Australia's native forests, and the often more environmentally benign by-products of the pulping processes used.

The Commonwealth has developed environmental guidelines for new pulpmills, designed to avoid any adverse impacts from pulpmill effluents and emissions. The approach used in the guidelines is internationally acknowledged as an appropriate model.

Further information:
Community Information Unit
Department of the Environment, Sport and
Territories
Tel: 06 274 1221 or (toll free) 008 803 772

Our Forests:



Export of Woodchips

Woodchips from native forests are currently exported from seven locations around Australia: Triabunna, Bell Bay and Burnie in Tasmania; Geelong in Victoria; Eden and Newcastle in New South Wales, and Bunbury in Western Australia.

Australian woodchip exporters are currently licenced to export 5.675 million tonnes of hardwood chips and 1.4 million tonnes of softwood chips.

Shared Objective

At the July 1991 Special Premiers Conference, the Commonwealth and all State and Territory governments announced the shared objective of "phasing out woodchip exports from native forests in favour of downstream processing of the resource (pulp and paper mills) by the year 2000, such projects being subject to environmental and economic assessments. Woodchip export approvals will be considered on a case by case basis with full regard to the objective that Australia achieves the fullest possible return from its forest resources."

Domestic value-added processing of woodchips will provide jobs to Australians, increase regional economic growth and reduce

Australia's deficit in timber products, pulp and paper.

Export Control Act 1982

The Commonwealth Government has an interest in achieving the efficient and effective management of the nation's resources, including forests and forest products. Controls on the export of woodchips are in place under the *Export Control Act 1982*.

The Commonwealth Government uses its export powers to ensure that the industry operates in an environmentally sound manner, that the price received is adequate and that woodchips are not exported if they are needed by domestic processors.

Commonwealth environmental impact assessment of proposals for woodchip exports is carried out in accordance with the Administrative Procedures under the *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974* (the Act).

Ministerial Responsibility

The Minister for Resources, who issues woodchip export licences, is responsible for deciding environmental significance and, therefore, for initiating assessment action under the Act regarding those licences. The Minister for the Environment has responsibility for

providing advice to the Minister for Resources on the conservation implications of export woodchip operations.

Under Government policy, the Minister for the Environment is also required to provide the Minister for Resources with advice on the applicability of the *National Forest Policy Statement* to the export licences.

The Australian Heritage Commission also provides advice to the Minister for Resources under section 30 of the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*.

Endangered Species

Under the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992*, the Minister for Resources is required to ensure that licences do not threaten with extinction, or significantly impede the recovery of an endangered species. The Australian Nature Conservation Agency is involved in providing advice on the impact of forestry operations on endangered species.

The National Forest Policy Statement

The *National Forest Policy Statement* explains that "at present the Commonwealth Government approves the export of unprocessed wood and woodchips from integrated harvesting operations and sawmill residues, subject to controls aimed at ensuring that environmental values are protected, that the price obtained is consistent with prevailing world market prices, and that unprocessed wood is not exported if it is commercially feasible to process and add value to it in Australia".

The '*Conservation Strategy within the National Forest Policy Statement*' factsheet provides information on mechanisms to facilitate the interim protection of old-growth and wilderness forest likely to have high conservation value in the context of the 1995 woodchip export licence renewals process.

Further information:
Community Information Unit
Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories
Tel: 06 274 1221 or (toll free) 008 803 772

Our Forests:



Facts and Figures

How Much Forest Do We Have?

- Forest covers 5.3% of the continent:
 - 43% of the forest area existing at the time of European settlement has been cleared or severely modified.
- Australia has an estimated 40.7 million ha, or about 5.3% of the total land surface, reserved for conservation purposes. The current forested component of this reserved area was estimated by ABARE (1993) as approximately 6.6 million ha or 16.2% of the total area under forest.
- Australia has 40.7 million hectares of native forest:
 - 29.8% in state forests, of which around two-thirds is available for wood production
 - 16.2% in conservation reserves
 - 26.3% in other crown lands
 - 27.7% in private forests
 - only three per cent is controlled by the Commonwealth Government.
- Forest types* and areas in Australia are as follows:

Forest type	% of Forested Area
Rainforest	8
Wet Eucalypt	29
Dry Eucalypt	14

Dry forest and woodland	48
River red gum forest	1

How Much Forest is Protected?

- There are approximately 3.2 million ha of forest and woodland in World Heritage areas. The remainder of reserved forest is located in a number of different types of reserves administered by the various states and territories.
- Approximately 85% of the remaining rainforest is in conservation reserves, but less than 10% of some drier forest types are reserved.
- There are currently 713 places containing forests listed on the Register of the National Estate, amounting to a total of approximately 4% of Australia's land mass. Many of the places listed are within existing reserves.

Plantations

- There are approximately one million hectares of plantations
 - 90% softwood
 - 10% native hardwood.
- Plantations are expanding at about 30 000 hectares a year.

Recycling

- Recycled fibre now represents 48% of the total fibre used to make paper in Australia. This is a record level and represents a 13% increase in the quantity of waste paper being recycled since 1992. This level of recycling has been estimated to lead to corresponding savings of the order of \$80 million a year for local authorities in waste disposal costs.
- When recently announced investments in new paper recycling plants totalling \$160 million come on stream, over 50% of the total fibre used in the production of paper products will be from waste paper.

How is the Timber Used?

- Over 85 000 people are directly employed in growing and harvesting wood and the manufacture and processing of wood and paper products:
 - the industry has an annual turnover of about \$10 billion,
 - contributing about 1% to Gross Domestic Product.
- In 1993-94 Australia produced 77% of its sawntimber needs
 - native forests provide approximately 45% of this, the balance is from softwood plantations.
 - imported sawntimber is mostly Douglas Fir from North America, and Radiata Pine from New Zealand.
- In 1992-93 there were 1175 hardwood mills and 230 softwood mills

-with the hardwood mills being generally small scale, and the softwood mills being large and integrated with other processing.

- Australia has 21 mills producing pulp or paper products
 - 7 pulp and paper mills (NSW 1, Vic 1, QLD 1, Tas 3, SA 1)
 - 12 paper mills (QLD 2, NSW 3, Vic 5, WA 2)
 - 2 pulp mills (Vic 1, SA 1).
- Australia produced 1 544 000 m³ of hardwood and 1 899 000 m³ of softwood sawn timber in 1993-94.
- The 1993-94 trade figures show that total exports of forest products were \$859 million, of which 53% were woodchips and 25% paper and paperboard products:
 - total imports were \$2 639 million
 - of which 48% was paper, mainly from North America, Finland, New Zealand, Japan and Germany
 - and 34% of paper imports was from North America and New Zealand
 - the trade deficit in forest products was \$1 780 million.

• Forest type information is drawn from figures published in the Final Report of the Resource Assessment Commission's Forest and Timber Inquiry. Figures on forest cover, type and tenure are currently being checked revised for inclusion in the forthcoming State of the Forests Report

Further information:
Community Information Unit
Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories
Tel: 06 274 1221 or (toll free) 008 803 772

Our Forests:

A Precious Asset

Forests cover 5.3 percent of the Australian continent. Our forests have a number of important values. The Federal Government has a leadership role to play in protecting and conserving many of these values.

Biodiversity

Australia is one of 12 countries in the world recognised as being outstandingly rich in biodiversity. Australia has over half a million species, many of which are found nowhere else on earth. Our forests form a crucial element of Australia's biodiversity.

Forests are essential in terms of their role in ecological processes, as habitat for flora and fauna, as catchments for water supply, as a resource for recreation pursuits and as a source of timber and a range of non-wood products.

Rainforest

Currently, rainforests cover about 23 000 square kilometres in Australia, which is about 0.3 per cent of the country. In other words, all of Australia's remaining rainforests could fit within a circle with a radius of about 85 km.



There are over 1500 tree species known from Australia's rainforests.

Rainforests in Australia are scattered along the northern and eastern coasts. Australia has a range of rainforest types, from the hot, humid rainforests of northern Queensland, to the cool-temperate rainforest types of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

More than half of the rainforest occurs in the Queensland wet tropics.

Old-growth forests and wilderness

Old-growth forests are defined in the *National Forest Policy Statement* as those that have reached full ecological maturity and have been subject to negligible unnatural disturbance.

Wilderness includes those areas which are valued by the community for their remote and natural attributes (see *National Forestry Policy Statement* for more detailed definitions.)

Old-growth forests contain a rich diversity of plants. Dead trees and fallen logs add to the diversity of habitats available for species.

Many trees in their ageing, or senescing, phase also have dead branches and frequent hollows which provide important nesting habitats for tree-dwelling mammals and many native birds. Many of these species do not flourish in an immature forest.

For these reasons, old-growth forests are important for the protection of biodiversity.

Old-growth forests are often found in areas remote from the influences of our modern industrial society. Consequently they may be associated with wilderness qualities, and with ongoing natural processes.

Because of their undisturbed state of growth, old growth and wilderness forests are extremely important as reference sites for scientific research. Their aesthetic quality is also well recognised.

These values can be adversely affected by certain forestry practices, particularly clearfelling.

Native tall, open forests can take some 200 to 300 years to develop. Eucalypt forests managed for timber production are generally cut in regular cycles of much greater frequency than the time required for the forests to reach their old-growth stages.

Further information:
Community Information Unit
Department of the Environment, Sport
and Territories
Tel: 06 274 1221 or (toll free) 008 803 772

Our Forests:



The Pressures

Australia's forests and the species that inhabit them have suffered significant decline and extinction over the past 200 years.

Clearing of native vegetation can result in the loss of tree cover and in a significant loss of biodiversity. It can also add to land degradation problems, for example by increasing the sediment loads in our rivers. Tree planting cannot replace all the biodiversity values, particularly the habitat values, that are lost when large areas of native vegetation are cleared.

Deforestation and Vegetation Clearance

Since European settlement approximately half of Australia's forests have been cleared or severely modified for farming and urban development (43 per cent according to the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group).

Native vegetation clearance has occurred throughout Australia and has been particularly evident in the eastern half and south-west corner of the continent.

Vegetation clearance and tree decline cause the loss of native plants and animals. These impacts can be especially pronounced at the local level. For instance leading to the local extinction of certain species. Introduced species also contribute to this decline.

Vegetation clearance can lead to the exposure of soils, which makes the soils susceptible to erosion. Removal of trees can lead to rising water tables, resulting in water-logging and salinity.

Disturbance of forest ecosystems can allow for the invasion or spread of weed species.

Vegetation clearance can also promote the spread of diseases. The insidious dieback fungus *Phytophthora* poses a threat to whole forests and other ecosystems as well as many endangered species.

Although rates of deforestation have slowed, clearing still occurs in many parts of Australia, particularly in rangelands and woodlands.

Extensive clearing and vegetation modification continues to result in severe reduction and fragmentation

of the mallee, mulga and brigalow woodlands.

The Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council has listed habitat destruction as one of the main factors leading to extinction of species in Australia. The spread of two other factors, introduced predators and introduced herbivores, has in many cases been advanced by land clearing or vegetation modification.

About three quarters of our rainforests have been cleared since European settlement, mainly for agriculture. With protection and good management, the remaining rainforests can be conserved and some can expand to reoccupy cleared land.

Further information:
Community Information Unit
Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories
Tel: 06 274 1221 or (toll free) 008 803 772



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MEMBER FOR BLIGH

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MEDIA RELEASE
10 November 1993

NATIONAL FOREST POLICY - HEAT NOW ON THE NSW GOVERNMENT

An urgency motion calling on the Ministers for Land and Water Conservation and Environment to implement the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) has put the heat on the NSW Government, with the possibility of a censure motion early next year.

'While the motion was only defeated on the Speaker's casting vote, I have been informed by Independent John Hatton who voted with the Government that he will support a censure motion if satisfactory agreement has not been reached with the Commonwealth Government by February next year,' Ms Moore said.

'He has also informed the Government of his position'.

'Such an agreement must embrace the fundamental conservation processes of the NFPS and include agreement to:

- * joint Commonwealth/State regional assessments of old growth, world heritage, biodiversity and other forest values as required by the NFPS and across NSW and including the south east forests;
- * a moratorium on logging activities in high conservation old growth and wilderness forests with delineation of areas and special NSW legislation, as required (as may be the case in the south east forests);
- * supply of federal funds for regional assessments;
- * measures to ensure employment and alternative supplies of timber during the moratorium period.'

'Such arrangements are already being made by the Queensland and Victorian Governments who also signed the National Policy. In fact in Victoria they are already carrying out the old growth forest surveys right across the border from the NSW south east forests,' Ms Moore said.

'The NFPS provides for a period of regional assessment and moratorium up to the end of 1995, at which point a new system of comprehensive, adequate and representative conservation reserves are to be created over old growth and wilderness forests.'

'If the Government has not arrived at the basic agreement with the Commonwealth by the end of February 1994, then I will move a censure motion in the March sitting of Parliament - which I have every expectation will be carried.'

Further information: Clover Moore 230 2076

1.141. Simply placing existing stands in conservation reserves is not, in itself an adequate long-term method of conservation. Ecologically mature stands will inevitably be lost as a result of natural disturbances such as wildfires or storms. Maintenance of the spectrum of regeneration stages is important for conserving the suite of ecological processes and species diversity that characterises the forests of a region. This will require detailed and flexible planning of conservation reserves and management of ecologically mature forests.

1.142. The second option is to prepare comprehensive regional management plans that identify and rank old-growth forests in terms of their range of values. Sufficient old-growth areas must be placed in conservation reserves to protect the range of values associated with them. The remaining old growth should be allocated to forest reserves, stream-side retention areas and wildlife corridors wherever possible. Some may be allocated to continued logging, but only after the preparation of a comprehensive regional management plan involving nationally recognised standards, and only where no alternative supplies of timber exist. The collaborative arrangement between the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Australian Heritage Commission appears to be an appropriate starting point for this approach.

1.143. Chapter 6 provides more information on old-growth forests.

Integrated regional assessment

1.144. Disputes about the allocation and management of forested land have frequently arisen because interested parties have disagreed on the extent and relative importance of the values contained within the forests. Community values change with time, but the Inquiry identified a range of issues that many Inquiry participants believed must be taken into account in forest use decisions. Among these issues are social and cultural considerations, old-growth forests, endangered species, biological diversity, National Estate and World Heritage listings, weeds and animal pests, fire management, and water catchment protection.

1.145. The Inquiry has concluded that if decisions to use forested land are to be accepted by interested parties, and if those decisions are to provide an adequate basis for future adaptive management, there is a need for processes that integrate the assessment of all values across as large a planning area as possible. The Inquiry endorses as a possible model the work undertaken by the Australian Heritage



CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF THE
SOUTH-EAST REGION & CANBERRA (Inc.)

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FAX COVER NOTE

Our fax number: (06) 248-5343

TO: HCC
YOUR FAX NUMBER: 02 247 5945
ATTENTION: SID WALKER
FROM: Barbara Schreiner
RE: Forestry
DATE: 10.2.94 TIME: 11.05
NUMBER OF PAGES: 3 (including this one)

Please phone us on (06) 247-7808 if any part of this transmission didn't reach you.

MESSAGE:



AF10

For Sid Walker

We must treasure wilderness

THE CURRENT debate about wilderness declarations serves to highlight the obvious that there is a considerable shortage of public land for recreational use in NSW.

When I look at my NSW map, I see that many national parks are surrounded by state forests, particularly in the north-east and south-east.

The question arises: What is wrong with state forests for trail-bike and horse riding, 4WD driving and car camping? In a few places, nothing.

In many places, the woodchipping and sawlog industry has destroyed the value that the forest had as a recreational area, turning

once clear creeks into rivers of mud when it rains and dry, sandy gullies when it doesn't, turning open, shady old-growth forest (a natural fire-break) into desolate patches of rocky ground.

On impenetrable, fire-prone regrowth, turning interesting trails which are gentle on horses' hooves into hard, blue-metal logging highways.

Rebel MPs, particularly Messrs. Coughlin, Schultz and Smith, have a political problem, because a timber-based lumber industry that has destroyed "the bush" which everyone wants to enjoy. Other MPs, who would they want to drive 40km through Dampier State Forest (near

Moruya) just to ride a horse in the Deua wilderness? I say that the rebel MPs should be made to lie down in the bed of their own making and to keep their machines, horses, livestock, mining and logging mates out of wilderness areas and national parks and instead work towards and achieve an end to the single most environmentally destructive industry in their electorates, namely logging and woodchipping.

Until then, they are welcome to clean up the mess they've made in state forests, but are not welcome to destroy everyone else's wilderness.

PETER WOOP
Cremorne, NSW

The Canberra Times

Saturday

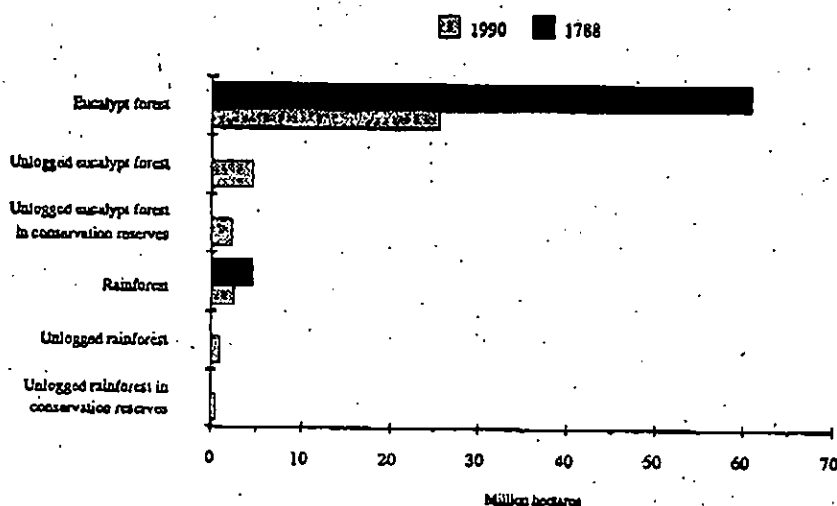
Jan 29 1994

pg 16

disturbed by other activities such as grazing or altered fire regimes and some are not ecologically mature, having been burnt in relatively recent wildfires.

1.139. The Inquiry concludes that logging of old-growth forest, as defined, potentially violates the precautionary principle of sustainable development in that an irreplaceable resource is being destroyed. Although the ecological attributes of old growth may be regenerated in the long term (a century or more), the values associated with the pristine attributes cannot be replaced. The Inquiry supports the efforts currently being made by the National Forest Inventory in collaboration with Commonwealth and state and territory government agencies to develop a consistent procedure for identifying and comprehensively surveying the extent of Australia's old-growth resource.

Figure 1.2 Remaining forest that is unlogged, 1990



Source: AUSLIG (1990) and Resource Assessment Commission.

1.140. In the Inquiry's view, governments have available to them two options for dealing with the areas identified as old-growth forests by the proposed comprehensive survey. The first option is to require a rapid cessation of all logging activities within those forest areas, and placing them in conservation reserves. This would result in the significant loss of timber resource in some regions.

1.141. Simply put, adequate long-term management of the inevitably be lost. Maintenance of the suite of ecological values in the region. This will require management of the

1.142. The second option is to identify and protect old-growth areas and the values associated with them. These reserves, stream-reserves, may be allocated to comprehensive management and only where necessary, an arrangement between the Commonwealth and the state. Management and starting point for

1.143. Chapter 6

Integrated regional

1.144. Disputes about the frequently arisen to the importance of the with time, but the believed must be to social and cultural diversity. National management, and

1.145. The Inquiry accepted by interested parties for future adaptive assessment of all values endorses as a possible

113 JAN 1994



CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

79 Stirling Street, Perth 6000
Phone (09) 220 0652 Fax (09) 220 0653

15 October 1993.

Sid Walker
Coordinator
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
39 George Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Coordinator,

Enclosed is a questionnaire which is being undertaken by one of our members who is also researching Environmental Education at the University of Western Australia. I believe this sort of research is very important and hope that you will give time in answering it.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Siewert
Coordinator

rs kla

CALL FOR ACTION ON NATIONAL FOREST POLICY

10 NOV 1994

To the Honourable the President and Members of the Senate in Parliament assembled,

We are dismayed at the continuing destruction of old growth and wilderness forests around Australia, despite the National Forest Policy Statement jointly signed by the Commonwealth and all States except Tasmania.

Intensive logging, most often to feed a voracious woodchip industry is underway or planned for many high conservation value forests. These forests should be protected by the commitments of the Commonwealth and State Governments under the NFPS.

THESE FORESTS INCLUDE:

- Coolangubra Wilderness and other areas of the S.E. Forests of NSW along with rainforest and other N.E areas of NSW including Wingham, Mistake, Richmond Range, Chaelundi, North Washpool, Barrington and Dorrigo.
- The Southern Highlands, Great Western Tiers and Tarkine Wilderness of Tasmania.
- The Karri and Jarrah forests of S.W. Western Australia.
- The Errinundra Plateau and Other areas of the East Gippsland forests of Victoria.
- The rainforests of the Proserpine region of Queensland.

We request that the Government act urgently to protect our precious forests by utilising the Commonwealth's legal and constitutional powers, including:

- Refusal of export woodchip licences
- Powers to control corporations
- Protection of areas listed on the register of the National Estate
- Protection and effective funding of areas identified for their World Heritage values

Genuine and effective action by the Government to protect these and other old growth and wilderness forests is critical. A comprehensive plantation strategy rather than exploiting native forests is the way forward for a truly environmentally responsible timber industry. We further request that the Government take effective action without further delay.

Name	Address	Postcode	Signature
J. BURGESS	32 LOBB CRESCENT, BEVERLEY PARK.	2217	J. Burgess
R. TOSELAND	44 NORTHOTE RD LEURA	2780	R. Toseland
D. TOSELAND	44 NORTHOTE RD. LEURA	2780	D. Toseland
J. Ferrogia	4 Heals Rd. Leura	2780	J. Ferrogia
Grace BAYLEY	"Felix" Adelaide ST LAWSON	2783	Grace Bayley
KIT THOMAS	51 Railway Pde Leura	2780	Kit Thomas
Ann Holey	92 Valley Rd Hazelbrook	2779	Ann Holey
D THOMAS	51 Railway Pde Leura	2780	D. Thomas
C. L. WILLIAMS	2 HESTER RD LEURA	2780	C. L. Williams
N. LAMPHAN	28 RIDGE ST. LAWSON	2783	Natalie Lamphan
J. F. Schache	8 CENTRAL ST WENTWORTH FALLS	2782	J. F. Schache
LNA WHITE	222 HAT HILL RD BLACKHEATH	2785	L. White
JOAN GAHL	125 Sublime Pt. RD LEURA	2780	Joan Gahl
E. F. GAHL	125 Sublime Pt. Rd Leura	2780	E. F. Gahl
J. F. Schache	8 CENTRAL ST WENTWORTH FALLS	2782	J. F. Schache
R. WHEELER	20 LAWSON VIEW RD. WENTWORTH FALLS	2782	R. Wheeler

✓ Place a tick next to your name if you would like further information or can help with this important campaign.

• Please copy blank & distribute. Return when completed to: Nature Conservation Council of NSW,
39 George St., The Rocks, NSW, 2000

To: ForestCountdownCommittee
From: NCC <nccnsw@peg.apc.org>
Subject: FCC meeting 5pm 28.7.97
Cc:
Bcc:

Reminding all that there is a FCC meeting at NCC 5pm 28.7.97. Minutes from the last meeting will be circulated beforehand, along with an agenda. Any new business items, anyone?
Please contact Elke/Therese with PLU contact details by 3pm Monday 28.7.97 if you haven't done so already.

Elke

Your reference

Our reference

DX 4713 Pennant Hills
Tel No. (02) 980 4175 Fax No. (02) 484 5346

12 July, 1994

The Secretary
NSW Environment Centre Pty Ltd
39 George Street, The Rocks
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Forestry Regulation 1994

The Forestry Regulation 1983 made under the Forestry Act 1916 will be automatically repealed by the Subordinate Legislation Act 1989 on the 1st September 1994. State Forests proposes to replace the existing regulation with the Forestry Regulation 1994.

I am writing to your organisation in its capacity as a representative of persons who may be affected by the provisions of the proposed regulation.

Copies of the proposed regulation and a Regulatory Impact Statement are enclosed for your consideration. I note that the proposed regulation is a remake of the provisions of the existing regulation, (the Forestry Regulation 1983), expressed in a more modern drafting form and with a number of now irrelevant clauses deleted. That is to say, the proposed regulation will have the same effect as the existing regulation on the matters addressed in the proposed regulation.

Your organisation's comments and admission's concerning the proposed regulation are invited. I would be particularly interested in you identifying significant costs imposed by the proposed regulation on forest users, or others affected by the regulation, which have not already been identified in the Regulatory Impact Statement.

B-D
15 JUL 1994



State Forests of
New South Wales

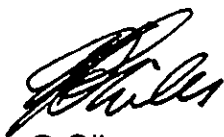
Building 2
423 Pennant Hills Road
Pennant Hills NSW 2120
Phone (02) 980 4100
Fax (02) 484 1310

Your submissions, comments or any queries you may have
should be addressed to:

Mr M. Hickman
State Forests
Building 2/423 Pennant Hills Road
PENNANT HILLS NSW 2120

no later than the 8th August 1994.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Giles', written in a cursive style.

D Giles
Senior Legal Officer



23 FEB 1993

Department of
THE ARTS, SPORT, THE ENVIRONMENT and TERRITORIES

Dr J Messer
Chairperson
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
39 George Street
THE ROCKS NSW 2000

Judy
Dear Dr Messer

I refer to your letter of 18 December 1992 to Mrs Kelly, concerning forest protection, and implementation of the conservation initiatives of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS). Mrs Kelly has asked me to thank you for your letter and respond on her behalf.

Mrs Kelly has written to the NSW Forests Minister, the Hon Gary West MP, calling on him to 'avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have a high conservation value' as was agreed by all States and Territories, excepting Tasmania, in the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

Accompanying the letter was a list of areas within NSW forests this Portfolio considers to be of high conservation value.

At the same time Mrs Kelly wrote to the NSW Environment Minister, the Hon Chris Hartcher MP, advising him of the letter to Mr West and including the list of areas of high conservation value. The letter also requested advice from Mr Hartcher on priorities for assessment of old-growth forest and wilderness areas. The Department has since undertaken preliminary discussions with NSW officials on projects which could possibly be brought forward for funding consideration.

Mrs Kelly wrote to Minister Griffiths on 18 December 1992 stating that she expected that wood from areas likely to have a high conservation value would be excluded from any woodchip export approvals, pending an adequate reserve system being in place, and the Commonwealth being satisfied that the complementary management proposed for areas outside the reserve system adequately protected old-growth values.

The Department has recently engaged Drs John Woinarski and Tony Norton to lead a consultancy to progress the issue of criteria for a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system in forests. Leading scientists have also been engaged to assist them, including Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick, Dr Chris Margules, Professor Henry Nix, Dr Hugh Possingham, Mr Peter Woodgate and Mr Rob Leslie.

The Departmental representative on the ANZECC Standing Committee, Ms JoAnne DiSano, has written to her colleagues on

the Committee informing them of this work, and requesting that the Technical Working Group, to be established to determine the criteria for a reserve system, include as one of its terms of reference the requirement for an open workshop to be held within 3 months of the completion of the work being done by Drs Woinarski and Norton. This will enable the conservation movement to have considerable input into the development of the criteria for a reserve system in forests.

Ms DiSano has suggested that the Technical Working Group should comprise a representative of ANZECC Standing Committee, a representative of the Standing Committee on Forestry (SCF), and a number of technical experts on reserve selection, most of who work within State and Commonwealth conservation agencies.

I expect that through this process the criteria can be developed, endorsed by the leading scientists in the field, and forwarded to Governments through ANZECC and the Australian Forestry Council (AFC) for agreement.

The Prime Minister has recently reiterated the Government's position on woodchip exports, which is that 'The Commonwealth will offer a longer term export licence up to the year 2000 and thereafter on a case by case basis, on the understanding that if the woodchips are required for domestic use then, subject to market considerations, they should be directed to that end. This should not detract from the Commonwealth's firm desire to achieve maximum domestic processing of woodchips by the year 2000 or soon thereafter'.

The Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency (CEPA) is currently considering the questions you have raised in relation to woodchip export licences.

Yours sincerely



Alison McCusker
Assistant Secretary
Natural Resources Management Branch

/8 February 1993



21 JUL 1994

Mr Sid Walker
Executive Officer
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
39 George Street
THE ROCKS NSW 2000

Dear Mr Walker

I refer to your letter of 20 April 1994 to the Prime Minister and copied to Mr Beddall, Minister for Resources concerning the Commonwealth's Regional Forest Agreement discussion paper and the implementation of a number of National Forest Policy Statement initiatives. The majority of the issues you have raised fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories, Senator the Hon John Faulkner. Senator Faulkner has asked me to reply on his behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Commonwealth has adopted a coordinated, whole of government approach to the development of a Commonwealth position on the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) process. An Inter Departmental Committee has been established to manage Commonwealth involvement in the process, and is at present considering comments on the discussion paper, *Regional Forest Agreements - a Commonwealth Position*, circulated to peak conservation groups and other non-government groups in early March this year. Comments received from conservation groups, industry and state governments are currently being incorporated in a revised paper.

The input of non-government organisations to the development of the CRA process its implementation in particular forest regions, is seen as a pre-requisite for sound and balanced decision-making. While we would be happy to receive comments on the original paper it may be more useful for you to wait for the revised paper which is expected to be finalised in the near future. We expect to visit key stakeholders in the states shortly to discuss the revised position paper and will be in touch with the Nature Conservation Council of NSW to arrange an appropriate time and venue.

An Environment portfolio working group has been established to develop broad guidelines for biodiversity assessment, to assist the portfolio to meet the objectives of the Biodiversity Convention as part of the comprehensive regional assessment and Regional Forest Agreement process. Draft guidelines are being developed to meet the requirements of all areas of the portfolio, and then will be circulated to other Commonwealth agencies for comment. Biodiversity assessment is an evolving field, and the guidelines represent a

tentative early attempt by the Commonwealth to operationalise the broad-ranging requirements of the Convention.

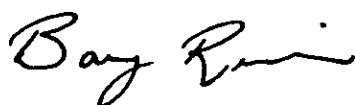
Draft reports of the Joint ANZECC/MCFFA Technical Working Groups on Reserve Criteria, and Forest Use and Management, are currently being developed for submission to Ministerial Councils. I understand that the reports are presently being revised for the consideration of the Joint ANZECC/MCFFA NFPS Implementation Sub-committee (JANIS). Subject to the agreement of the JANIS and Ministerial Councils, it is expected that the draft reports will then be circulated to peak interest groups as *discussion documents* for comment.

Early input to the development of the criteria was sought from peak national and state industry and conservation NGOs, including the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, on 23 November 1993. Information flowing from this exercise has been useful in determining the approach adopted by the Technical Working Group, and has made JANIS aware of the expectations of industry and conservation groups.

The Commonwealth is committed to the establishment of an effective policy advisory body to assist in the development of forest policy and participate in decisions relating to the implementation of the NFPS. Consistent with the NFPS, the body's membership will reflect representation from conservation, industry and union organisations. Proposals for membership of the advisory body and its terms of reference are currently being considered by Senator Faulkner and the Minister for Resources, the Hon David Beddall MP.

Thank you for writing to the Government with your concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Barry Reville'.

Barry Reville
Assistant Secretary
Forests Branch
15 July 1994



PO Box 269
Engadine
NSW 2233

02 5209341
FAX 02 6448157

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY PRELIMINARY INVENTORY OF FORESTS

Respected Inogen Zethoven

1. Apology for not being able to attend the meeting on Thursday. I am teaching at that time.

2. Congratulations on getting out a working document at such short notice.

3. NPA concerns are that the definition of forests has limited the NFPS to escarpment forests. In order to get a CAR reserve system in place under the guidance of the Commonwealth Government we would wish to include the forests that are being cut or cleared in the West as well as these escarpment forests. We have written to the Commonwealth Government and requested that box, river red gum and callitris forests be added and under the same process.

4. I have noted a few gaps..all the Gungahlin lands, Indi, etc in the Kosciusko area, for example. The Costin/Mosely Report for the SE and ALPS also needs to be incorporated into the study. However this is a most impressive working document for the time frame. Well done.

John Birmingham
Governor - Reserves Committee
National Parks Association of NSW Inc

Environmental Conditions to be attached to the export of unprocessed wood

Addition of Standard Condition regarding NFPS old growth forests and wilderness moratorium pending assessment:

"Until assessments of forests for conservation values, including old growth and wilderness values are completed, the exporter shall avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest and wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value".

Replacement of Standard Condition regarding endangered species:

"The exporter shall ensure that any of its logging operations under this licence do not threaten with extinction, or significantly impede the recovery of, a species or ecological community listed under Schedule 1 and 2 of the Commonwealth *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992*. The exporter shall ensure that logging operations for the purpose of export woodchips of silvicultural thinnings must only occur in accordance with advice from the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA) concerning endangered species listed on the Schedules of the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992*. The exporter shall ensure that logging operations on private property for the purpose of export woodchips must not occur until a survey of species has been completed to the satisfaction of the Australian Nature Conservation Agency. Where it is possible that operations will threaten with extinction or significantly impede the recovery of listed species or ecological communities the exporter shall, in conjunction with ANCA and the relevant State agencies, prepare a recovery plan in accordance with the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992* for the species or ecological community concerned".

Addition to second Standard Condition regarding National Estate:

"The exporter shall adequately take into account advice from the Australian Heritage Commission regarding the protection of National Estate values in areas where logging is approved".

Addition of Standard Condition regarding environment protection

"The exporter shall ensure that all forest management practices are consistent with the draft nationwide baseline environmental standards (NBES) developed by ANZECC/AFC and that these practices are reviewed and updated when the NBES are finalised".

Addition of standard conditions regarding steep country harvesting

"The exporter will ensure that woodchips shall not be sourced from

forests on land greater than 20% (11 degrees) slope on highly erodable soils
forests on land greater than 35% (19 degrees) slope on moderately erodable soils
forests on land greater than 50% (26 degrees) slope on low erodable soils.

The exporter shall ensure that no operation occur in moderate, or high to extreme landslide risk areas or areas subject to flash flooding."

Should the Minister for Resources seek to frustrate the objectives and operation of the *Endangered Species Act* and the *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974* the Council calls upon the Minister to exercise her power to issue Impact Assessment Conservation Orders under the Act to give interim protection to threatened species habitat.

The Council also calls upon the Minister to ensure that, where export woodchips are to be sourced from areas with recognised or likely National Estate values (*Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*), conditions of export woodchip licences prevent the degradation of those values. Such a condition could state that logging operations for the purpose of providing export woodchips must only occur in accordance with advice from the Australian Heritage Commission.

The Council reminds the Minister that NSW has not undertaken the assessments required of it under the NFPS. This has left many areas of old growth and high conservation value at the mercy of a State Forests agency consistently unable to prepare adequate environmental, including faunal, impact assessments. Any export licences granted must contain conditions which prohibit activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest and wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value.

In short, the Council seeks enforcement by the Federal Government of the promised moratorium on the logging of high conservation value old growth and wilderness forests.

The Council calls upon the Minister to also ensure that woodchips are only sourced from areas which are managed for all forest values on an ecologically sustainable basis (*National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development, 1992*). In particular, the Council is concerned that such conditions address the risks associated with logging in the South-East forests regarding steep slopes and erosion.

In conclusion, the Council urges the Federal Government to honour its various conservation obligations by using its export woodchip licensing powers to give strong protection to old growth and high conservation value forests, including endangered species. If this cannot be achieved, no licences should be issued.

Yours sincerely



Sid Walker
Executive Officer

JOINT STATEMENT

**Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories, Senator John Faulkner
and the Minister for Resources, David Beddall MP**

NATIONAL FOREST CONSERVATION RESERVES COMMONWEALTH PROPOSED CRITERIA - DISCUSSION PAPER

The Minister for the Environment, Senator John Faulkner, and the Minister for Resources, David Beddall, today released a Commonwealth Discussion Paper on criteria for the development of a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system for forests.

The central conservation element of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) - agreed by the Commonwealth and all mainland States and Territories - is the establishment of a CAR forest reserve system.

The Ministers said the Commonwealth had become frustrated at the lack of progress in negotiations with the States in developing criteria for this reserve system.

"The Commonwealth drew together a high level group of scientists, chaired by Chief Scientist Professor Michael Pitman, to develop advice on a scientifically based set of criteria for a CAR reserve system for forests. The Discussion Paper we are releasing today drew heavily on their report."

"The Government hopes this Discussion Paper will stimulate the policy debate and move it forward," the Ministers said.

The Discussion Paper, titled "National Forest Conservation Reserves Commonwealth Proposed Criteria", proposes criteria including:

- a broad benchmark of 15% of the pre 1788 distribution of each forest community within conservation reserves
- retention in reserves of at least 60% of existing old growth or more than 90% where it is severely depleted
- protection of 90 per cent or more wherever practicable of high quality wilderness

The Discussion Paper suggests the proportion of each forest community reserved should be varied according to the natural extent of the community and the level of threat. This approach is designed to protect Australia's biodiversity.

The criteria have been developed bearing in mind the uncertainties regarding forest values and their conservation status, the differences among regions in the nature of their forests and the different levels of data availability in States and Territories.

The criteria describe a national approach to reservation that is pragmatic about the differences among States, Territories and regions but has the potential for a consistent approach across Australia.

Australia has unique forest ecosystems and we are determined to ensure that they are adequately protected in forest reserves.

Forests outside the reserve system will continue to be available to our forest industries for use on an ecologically sustainable basis.

The Ministers said there will be a six week consultation period with State and Territory Governments, industry, unions, conservation and community groups with the aim of developing agreed criteria at the end of this period. The discussion paper will also be open for general comment.

The group of eminent scientists comprised of:
Professor Michael Pitman - Chief Scientist
Professor Ralph Slatyer - former Chief Scientist
Dr Keith Boardman - former Chief Executive of CSIRO
Dr Ian Noble - ecologist and former Commissioner on the RAC Forest and Timber Inquiry
Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick - Head of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Tasmania

To obtain a copy of the Discussion Paper please contact:
David Woods
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
06 271 5027

Media Inquiries:

Carolyn Betts (John Faulkner's office) 06 277 7640
Tamara Johnson (David Beddall's office) 06 277 7440

30 March 1995

Internal use only

Environment groups' forests policy submission to Bob Carr MP leader of the NSW Parliamentary Labor Party.

This statement has been agreed to by NCC, TEC, ACF, NPA, SEFCC, NEFA.

The environment groups are seeking a comprehensive revision 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 Carr Labor Government.

2. immediate establishment of a moratorium on logging in all of the high conservation value forest compartments identified by Commonwealth Environment Minister Faulkner. This moratorium is to remain in effect until superseded by the further forest assessment and protection measures set out in (4) below.

3. *immediate dedication as wilderness Areas of all areas identified by the Director-General of the NPWS*
immediate establishment of a moratorium on logging in (a) unprotected wilderness areas as identified by the Director-General of National Parks and Wildlife, and (b) all remaining areas of unprotected old growth native forest. This moratorium is to remain in effect until the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system protecting NSW native forest communities.

4. an immediate direction to the NPWS to conduct, in co-operation with ANCA, a rapid assessment of all NSW native 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 assessment of NSW forests and a decision by the NSW Government establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system.

5. Establishment within the first three months of a Carr Labor Government of a process for comprehensive assessment of native

forests, with the assessment completed for the whole State by March 1997. 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. (Note: The structure, membership, control and related aspects of this comprehensive assessment process are currently under discussion by the environment groups and our joint position will be advised in two weeks. The environment groups agree that the ALP's current proposals for an assessment process, as outlined by the ALP's spokesman on forestry policy at our last meeting, are wholly unacceptable).

6. 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 all forestry operations. The FPRB will assume the role and operating procedures of the Regulatory and Public Information Committee (RAPIC). 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.

7. retention and full enforcement of all current environmental controls in forest areas where logging is to continue, including stop work orders made under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, environmental impact assessment, fauna impact assessment, soil conservation and pollution controls.

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

~~At these maps~~ *ungazetted proposed protected land maps*
are to review all maps and incorporate those ~~are~~ *inadequately reserved*
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 where the existing timber industry may be 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 *plant communities and habitats of endangered plants and animals onto a new revised set of protected land maps to be displayed gazetted by March 1996.*

As State comprehensive regional assessment have been complete

are completed for each region

a final set of 003/004

are will be attached

(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:

- * immediate negotiations with the federal government for funding assistance for timber industry restructuring;
- * 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, investigation of alternative fibre sources;
- * co-ordination 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 milling and manufacturing based on small wood;
- * government assistance for ecologically sustainable alternative industry and employment projects including those based on value adding, 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. In keeping with the principle of ecologically sustainable development, the precautionary principle and the commitment to conserve the State's biodiversity, a pledge to phase out ^{export} woodchipping based on NSW native forests within the first term of a Carr Labor Government.

3 January 1995

ENDS.

ELECTION PROMISES HISTORIC GAINS FOR ENVIRONMENT

The NSW elections was characterised by a large imbalance in the quantity of environmental policies released by the major political parties. The Coalition effectively relinquished the policy contest, relying only on PR to fabricate a 'green image'.

The ALP, by contrast, released quite thorough documents for a number of policy areas including Nature Conservation, Forests, Coastal Management, Energy and Waste Minimisation. The NSW Greens produced a lengthy document covering a wide policy spectrum, with strong environment policies, while the Democrats relied more on Federal policies, as well as the excellent environmental track record of Richard Jones MLC.

QUIZZING THE PARTIES

NCC's involvement in the NSW Election focused on the development and application of a questionnaire to test the commitment of parties facing election on a wide range of environmental issues.

The content of the questionnaire was generated in a lengthy process which started early in 1994 with preparations for the 'Environment in Crisis' Conference. This Conference, held in August '94, generated over 100 unanimous policy motions which formed the basis for a questionnaire of over 130 carefully-worded questions in 23 policy areas. NCC sent the questionnaire to all registered political parties in January 1995.

Responses trickled back as late as early March. The ALP responded as late as March 8th. The Coalition chose not to answer the questionnaire, responding instead with an invitation to NCC to nominate five representatives to a 'Special Taskforce on the Environment'.

PRE-ELECTION CONFERENCE

On March 11th - a fortnight before the Election - NCC hosted another Conference for NSW environmentalists to consider the results of the questionnaire and other available policy materials, and to rank the

parties according to the respective merits of their environmental policies. The Conference was addressed in the morning by NSW Environment Minister Chris Hartcher, the ALP's Environment Spokesperson Pam Allan, Upper House Greens candidate Ian Cohen, Democrat MLC Richard Jones and Manly Independent Dr Peter Macdonald. During the afternoon, attendance was restricted to *bona fide* activists from NSW environment groups who were asked to carry out a policy evaluation in closed session.

The Conference split into six sections, each of which considered several policy areas. In the final plenary report-back, the result became clear: Greens and Democrats scored highest in most policy areas, the ALP was ranked third (although in one or two policy areas, notably protection of urban bushland, it was ranked first). The Coalition came last in almost every policy area, and was ranked highest in only one: environmental education.

CLEAR RESULT

The result was hardly unexpected, but it was clear and easily communicable to press and public. It was sad that the Liberal/National Coalition failed to rise to the challenge of competing with the other parties - especially by not answering the the NCC Questionnaire. Inevitably it rated worst overall. Doing better next time - and avoiding the same outcome at the next Federal Election - is a challenge for both Coalition parties.

The ALP benefitted from well-developed policies and an unequivocally positive response to more than 60 questionnaire questions, while the Greens and Democrats scored highest and won the strongest plaudits.

ELECTION IMPACT

To what extent these events helped determine the election outcome is a subject for debate. A Sydney Morning Herald report of the Questionnaire /Conference party ranking was letterboxed to many thousands of households in marginal electorates. The press generally accepted that a credible authority had carried out a fair and even-handed evaluative process and arrived at a clear result. Consequently, media coverage of the Fahey Government's environmental 'initiatives' were typically rather sceptical, and few interested voters entered the booths on March 25th without a clear idea of the parties' respective

environmental credentials.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Looking to the future, the potential benefits of process will lie in seeing the NSW Parliament implement the extraordinary environmental reform agenda for which it lays the basis. To achieve the full benefits, vigilance and hard work from the conservation movement will be needed over the coming three and a half years.

Substantially this will be matter of ensuring that the Government implements its commitments in full. These include exciting pledges across a wide range of policy areas: endangered species, coastal protection, community right-to-know, planning and assessment etc.

Several individual candidates and smaller parties also declared their hand by completing the questionnaire. Both Clover Moore and Peter Macdonald gave extremely positive responses, which would become fully potent were the Government ever to lose its one-seat advantage resulting once again in a hung Legislative Assembly.

With regard to the new NSW upper chamber, three parties representing four MLC's answered the questionnaires with an overwhelmingly positive response: Ian Cohen (Greens), Richard Jones and Liz Kirby (Democrats), and Ian Corbett (Better Future for our Children). Four cross-benchers votes - plus the Government - is a majority of one in this Legislative Council.

A CONTRACT FOR REFORM

Hence in both chambers of the NSW Parliament, there is now a numerical majority committed to an unprecedented program of progressive environmental reforms, including scores of specific environmental commitments systematically generated from the grass-roots of the NSW environment movement via the NCC.

There will be many pitfalls, but great gains for conservation in NSW are possible during the late 1990's if community pressure keeps politicians true to their commitments.

883 words.

Also need to include, in box form, the following commitments from the 'Promises' Booklet: 4.1, 5.1, 6.1, 12.1, 15.2, 18.2, 22.1

51D

The ATO would redraft and update a recommended categorisation of plant and equipment by the new four depreciation categories. Normally, business would adopt the ATO guidelines, but would have the right to use a different classification for well argued different circumstances.

All plant and equipment, regardless of the particular month in which it is installed, would be given a full year's depreciation claim in the initial year.

To simplify further the calculation of depreciation, it is proposed that existing plant and equipment be brought into line with the new schedule. Otherwise, some items will be treated under the 20% loading schedule; some under the "One Nation" schedule; some under the 1/3/5/10 schedule; and some under older depreciation regimes.

Specifically, for existing plant and equipment, it is proposed that each business taxpayer be given the option to:

retain current depreciation schedule; or

apply the new depreciation rate to the written down value of existing items using the diminishing balance methods; or

use a straightline schedule applied to the written down value with the remaining depreciation period given by new tax life less years since installed.

This proposal would bring forward effectively many items now in the 20% loading schedule to the time at which depreciation is claimable.

3.2 THE REBUILD AUSTRALIA FUND

A Coalition Government will allocate \$3 billion to a Rebuild Australia Fund to enable large infrastructure projects of national economic merit, that would not be undertaken by the private sector in current circumstances, to go ahead quickly.

We have appointed Mr John Ralph AO, Chief Executive of CRA Limited, as Chairman of a committee to identify projects that the Fund might finance.

There have been repeated calls from the private sector and State Governments for the Commonwealth Government to provide funding for infrastructure projects.

The Rebuild Australia Fund will be used to fund major infrastructure projects such as educational centres, road building, airport upgrading, port development, and water storage and reticulation.

It is envisaged that some projects undertaken by the Commonwealth would be operated, on contract, by the private sector. Clearly, some of these projects could be privatised eventually.

objective
~

NATIONAL ESTATE GRANTS PROGRAM

Project No. 51

WETLANDS OF THE SYDNEY REGION

FINAL REPORT

Project Director: Dr. Paul Adam

Research Officer: Ms Jay Stricker

This study was funded by a National Estate Grant and was undertaken by the Nature Conservation Council during 1988/89.

Tuesday, February 23, 1993

Forestry bill will dismay greens

BY PAUL CHAMBERLIN

BRISBANE: The Coalition would attempt to ram through tough legislation guaranteeing resource security for the forest industry almost immediately it came to power, by way of a bill which has been drawn up and approved by the National Association of Forest Industries.

The proposed bill would also consider calling a double dissolution if it was blocked in the Senate.

It calls for, among other things, the removal of restrictions on wood chip exports and compensation to loggers prevented from entering agreed forests because of conservation reasons.

Such moves would infuriate environmental groups, which have not been consulted on the legislation.

Groups such as the Wilderness Society have called for export woodchipping to be immediately phased out, and would be expected to battle this legislation as they fought similar resource security plans of the Government last year.

The proposed legislation is part of the Coalition's primary industry policy, released yesterday in Brisbane by the Opposition spokesman on primary industry and Deputy Leader of the National Party, Mr Bruce Lloyd.

Mr Lloyd said the ultimate test of a government's strength on a particular issue was calling a double dissolution.

He believed this would not be necessary on resource security but left little doubt that if the ALP and the Democrats combined in the Senate to block a Coalition mandate, a new election for both chambers of Parliament would be strongly considered.

"Remember, all of these things we are putting forward before the election," he said.

"There is no hidden agenda with us, everything is out there, that's what we are being elected for. That's what we expect to be passed."

The legislation would encourage projects large and small and give them the required access to forests, provided they met current pulp mill pollution guidelines and relevant heritage, social and economic requirements, he said.

The forest industry was ready to expand and create thousands of jobs, and could eat into the nation's trade deficit in timber products standing at about \$2 billion a year.



Mr Lloyd

The primary industry policy in general involves little new funding, and essentially is a case of tinkering at the edges of previous Coalition policies on rural issues.

One new development would be to offer tax credits to low income farmers to help them introduce conservation works such as drainage, salinity and water table control, soil conservation through tree planting, and restoring native vegetation.

In an effort to relieve a government burden of providing relief for farmers in bad times, the Coalition wants the farmers to shoulder more of the responsibility.

To do this, the Coalition plans to increase the interest bearing proportion of the Income Equalisation Scheme from 61 per cent of 85 per cent. This would encourage more farms to put aside more money in the scheme in good seasons so that they could call upon it later if their fortunes declined.

Mr Lloyd said that if the States attempted to increase their taxes on fuel after the Coalition abolished all Federal fuel excises, then they would be penalised in annual Federal funding.

Other measures include:

- A commitment to keep the wool tax as low as possible.
- Retaining severe drought to the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements.

- Retaining the Australian Wheat Board as the sole exporter of wheat and replacing the present borrowing guarantee of 85 per cent with price underwriting of 95 per cent.

- Fully recognizing the fishing industry as a primary industry for the first time, by including fishermen in the same tax and other arrangements available to farmers.

The policy was praised by the Nation Farmers' Federation and the NSW Farmers' Association, which both said it responded to key issues facing the farm sector.

NATIONAL ESTATE GRANTS PROGRAM

Project No. 51

WETLANDS OF THE SYDNEY REGION

FINAL REPORT

Project Director: Dr. Paul Adam

Research Officer: Ms Jay Stricker

This study was funded by a National Estate Grant and was undertaken by the Nature Conservation Council during 1988/89.

Federal Coalition Primary Industry Policy - Election 1993

Blue Green Algae

Toxic Blue Green Algae is of concern to both human and stock health and every effort must be taken to reduce the amount of nutrients entering the river system.

The Coalition will:-

- continue to finance the research work already being conducted by the Murray Darling Basin Commission and the Fresh Water Research Institute.
- continue the COWSIP program to assist Local Government to improve water quality and sewage treatment and reduce nutrients entering the rivers.

FOREST DEVELOPMENT

Resource Security

The forest industry is ready to expand and has the capacity to value-add to products in Australia and create thousands of jobs, provided it has resource security.

It also has the capacity to reduce Australia's trade deficit in timber products which is about \$2 billion a year.

The Coalition will promote sustainable forest development by providing consistent development guidelines which will promote both a growing economy and effective environment protection.

The Coalition after consultation with the industry, has already introduced a private member's bill to give resource security. This will be enacted as a matter of urgency in Government.

This legislation will set a 12-month time limit on conservation and heritage assessments and provide for compensation to be determined if the resource is withdrawn after it has been legislated.

The Coalition will also:-

- give full faith and effect to State or

regional forest strategies which are drawn up and implemented according to Commonwealth approved procedures by providing legislative backing

- legislate to allow any pulp mill proposal which meets the current pulp mill pollution guidelines and which satisfies relevant heritage, social and economic requirements

- ensure that any Commonwealth Forestry Strategy provides equality for owners of plantations and native forests.

- provide a one-stop shop at Commonwealth level to assess proposals according to pre-specified deadlines

- place no time limits on the export of wood chips

Plantations

Plantation forestry must be encouraged if there is to be an expanded industry and a sustainable balance between controlled harvesting in State forests and plantations on private property.

The long delay between planting and harvesting, even if the tax treatment is the same as for other forms of agriculture, is a significant disincentive to investment.

However investors who plant trees in Australia are often subjected to inconsistent rulings by the Taxation office, particularly in regard to the definitions of "capital" and "revenue". If the plantation is deemed "capital", deductions may be allowed only over a 10-year period or even disallowed as coming under "capital gains" rather than "income" provisions.

The Coalition will:

- organise a meeting between the industry and the Taxation Office in order to reach clear definitions.

- review tax arrangements to encourage plantation forestry, including allowing five-year averaging

- investigate whether lifting the limit on

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the amount of money that can be invested in IEDs will encourage plantation forestry

- *clarify the situation in relation to capital gains tax being applied to timber sold now from land owned before September 1985.*
- *undertake an inquiry on how to set a cost base for the purposes of capital gains tax.*

Currently the establisher of a plantation can obtain deductions for the cost of the trees and must pay full tax on the value of the trees if selling the plantation before harvest. However the buyer of an immature plantation who wants to resell before maturity does not obtain any deduction for the value of the trees.

The Coalition will:

- *Review the technical aspects of, and is disposed to amend, section 124J of the Taxation Act to ensure that the buyer of an immature plantation will not be taxed on the full value of the trees, but receive a deduction for the value of the trees at purchase. The buyer will pay full tax on the difference between the buying value and the selling value.*

INCOME STABILISATION

The rural sector is characterised by fluctuations in income resulting from seasonal conditions and vagaries of international markets. This requires special measures to be instituted by industry and government to assist income stability.

This not only benefits farmers but the rural communities upon which the farm sector depends for its services. It also reduces the need for special Government relief assistance.

Income Equalisation Deposits (IEDs)

IEDs should be an important incentive to encourage farmers to protect their incomes from drought, crop failure, flood and falls in commodity prices.

The Government's latest attempt at an IED scheme allows farmers to deposit up to \$300,000. They are paid interest on only 61 per cent of their deposit and there is a 20 per cent withholding tax when it is withdrawn.

The Government has also established Farm Management Bonds which allow farmers to deposit \$80,000 and be paid interest on 80 per cent of it. However these can only be withdrawn in certain circumstances and again the withdrawal tax is 20 per cent.

The Coalition will:-

- *Increase the interest bearing portion of the investment from 61 to 85 per cent for both IED and Farm Management Bonds.*
- *Review the equity of applying withholding tax at the time of withdrawal as farmers have already paid provisional tax*

Natural Disasters

Arrangements to deal with natural disasters are of great importance to rural communities as they are directly affected by flood, fire, drought etc.

Until recently all of these were included in the Co-operative Federal/State Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements. However, the Labor Government has removed drought from these arrangements.

Because of the gradual nature of the onset of drought, there is justification in treating drought assistance separately from other natural disasters, and in the past this has been recognised by Liberal and National Party Governments.

Drought policy must include encouragement to farmers to adopt financial and physical management practices to alleviate the impact of drought.

The Coalition recognises that for normal drought, that is prolonged dry periods occurring every three to four years, these management strategies and the Rural Adjustment Scheme are adequate.

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NATIONAL FOREST POLICY AND
OLD GROWTH FOREST AND WILDERNESS PROTECTION IN N.S.W.

Following the informal meeting between officers of the N.P.W.S. and conservationists, the Colong Foundation makes the following comments regarding the (National Forest Policy Strategy) N.F.P.S:

1. The N.P.W.S. wants to undertake Stage 2 (assessment of old growth forest for the S.E. and N.E. forests), prior to the definition of Stage 1 (identification of conservation criteria by DASET) and apparently has been encouraged to do so by people controlling the funds (eg. Toni Bigwood). This suggests that the Commonwealth is keen to get the forest assessment job done regardless of the order its done in.
2. A number of points can be made in regard to stage 1 of the NFPS:
 - a) The identification of appropriate conservation criteria is unlikely to be agreed to amongst and within the various stakeholder interests;
 - b) The proposed criteria are unlikely to correspond with those chosen by the N.P.W.S. for their proposed Stage 2 assessment studies of the N.E. and S.E. forests;
 - c) The wilderness identification criteria will almost certainly be based on what has been done in other states (so that a national overview is not lost);
 - d) The Colong Foundation strongly opposes the use of remoteness criteria in wilderness identification at will advise DASET of its objections;
 - e) The wilderness which has been identified under the provisions of the Wilderness Act will not correspond with those identified by the foreshadowed national wilderness inventory approach. The wilderness areas identified by the national wilderness inventory approach will almost certainly be smaller than those already identified by the N.P.W.S. These already identified areas will be to some extent discredited by the new assessment, especially

as it will be done by outside "independent" consultants using computer to produce maps of various shades of green. The Colong Foundation supports the use of the community controlled Wilderness Act identification process and opposes "expert" identification of wilderness. The Foundation has ample evidence to sustain its opposition to the foreshadowed national wilderness assessment (it is the reason why the N.P.W.S. has held out so long on against the national wilderness methodology).

3. The N.P.W.S. old growth forest assessment is based on a definition of old growth which considers woodlands and true forest as forest. This has important political implications. To say, as the N.P.W.S. has, that there are 3.9 million hectares of forest north of Newcastle will reduce the apparent proportion of old growth forest in state forests proposed to be logged. True forests have trees greater than 25 metres high. The Forestry Commission has most of the areas which grow these big trees. There are 359,000 ha. of old growth forest in state forests (R.A.C. final report figures). These big old trees are what the forest industry wants, it doesn't want the stunted woodlands which comprise the bulk of the "forest" as described by the NPWS (the landholders want to clear some of these woodlands for grazing land). The woodlands should be assessed, but it is unwise and incorrect to describe them as forest.
4. The NFPS may be used by the Government to shore up Mark 2 of the Natural Resources Package. We were saying in 1992 that the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act had all the powers available for open and public review of land use allocation. To be consistent, we have to explain how the implementation of NFPS can be married into the existing planning legislation framework. The wetlands SEPP set a precedent for this approach. In that case the NPWS did the wetland assessment, and the Dept. of Planning and Environment did the SEP.
5. For the record, it was Mr. Tom McLoughlin of TWS who identified the loophole in the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act which may be used to ensure that the Schedule 1 and 2 areas remain in the moratorium even if other areas covered by the environmental assessments are logged. It was the Colong Foundation phoned Mr. Tony Bigwood of DASET on this matter and he obtained legal advice on what the Minister for Planning and the Director of Planning may do in regard to moratoriums and the NFPS.

Conclusions:

The N.S.W. Government is stuck with the NFPS. It can't

pull out of it without being seen as anti-conservation and irrational. The Minister for Planning, on the otherhand, is committed to determining the logging proposals. He apparently instructed the Dept. of Planning to ignore the NFPS when assessing the Forestry Commission's logging proposals. Sources close to the Minister have said it is impossible for the Dept. of Planning to recommend national park reserves as consent conditions. The Colong Foundation has already challenged Minister Webster regarding the NFPS and whether adequate, representative and secure conservation reserves will be established. Such reserves cannot be made under the provisions of the Forestry Act.

The National Party is unlikely to concede a hectare of state forest as a secure reserve under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. The Government is may embrace a moratorium of sorts. However, just how much the forest industry will put up with before calling another forest resource lock-out is a moot point.

The N.S.W. Government may try and implement the NPFS through Mark 2 of the Natural Resources Package. This does not necessarily mean that moratoriums, wilderness and OGF assessments will not be implemented, however, they would be under the control of development orientated Government Departments.

Our best option is to block the Natural Resources Package Mk. 2 and seek to delay logging of key areas until a politically opportune moment.

Colong Foundation
February 16th, 1993

Environment groups' forests policy submission to Bob Carr MP leader of the NSW Parliamentary Labor Party.

This statement has been agreed to by NCC, TEC, ACF, NPA, SEFCC, NEFA.

The environment groups are seeking a comprehensive revision 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 Carr Labor Government.
2. immediate establishment of a moratorium on logging in all of the high conservation value forest compartments identified by Commonwealth Environment Minister Faulkner. This moratorium is to remain in effect until superseded by the further forest assessment and protection measures set out in (4) below.
3. immediate establishment of a moratorium on logging in (a) unprotected wilderness areas as identified by the Director-General of National Parks and Wildlife, and (b) all remaining areas of unprotected old growth native forest. This moratorium is to remain in effect until the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system protecting NSW native forest communities.
4. an immediate direction to the NPWS to conduct, in co-operation with ANCA, a rapid assessment of all NSW native 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 assessment of NSW forests and a decision by the NSW Government establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system.
5. Establishment within the first three months of a Carr Labor Government of a process for comprehensive assessment of native

forests, with the assessment completed for the whole State by March 1997. 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. (Note: The structure, membership, control and related aspects of this comprehensive assessment process are currently under discussion by the environment groups and our joint position will be advised in two weeks. The environment groups agree that the ALP's current proposals for an assessment process, as outlined by the ALP's spokesman on forestry policy at our last meeting, are wholly unacceptable).

6. 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 all forestry operations. The FPRB will assume the role and operating procedures of the Regulatory and Public Information Committee (RAPIC). 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.

7. retention and full enforcement of all current environmental controls in forest areas where logging is to continue, including stop work orders made under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, environmental impact assessment, fauna impact assessment, soil conservation and pollution controls.

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

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 where the existing timber industry may be 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:

- * immediate negotiations with the federal government for funding assistance for timber industry restructuring;
- * 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, investigation of alternative fibre sources;
- * co-ordination 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 milling and manufacturing based on small wood;
- * government assistance for ecologically sustainable alternative industry and employment projects including those based on value adding, 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. In keeping with the principle of ecologically sustainable development, the precautionary principle and the commitment to conserve the State's biodiversity, a pledge to phase out woodchipping based on NSW native forests within the first term of a Carr Labor Government.

3 January 1995
ENDS.

Our Forests:



Facts and Figures

How Much Forest Do We Have?

- Forest covers 5.3% of the continent:
 - 43% of the forest area existing at the time of European settlement has been cleared or severely modified.
- Australia has an estimated 40.7 million ha, or about 5.3% of the total land surface, reserved for conservation purposes. The current forested component of this reserved area was estimated by ABARE (1993) as approximately 6.6 million ha or 16.2% of the total area under forest.
- Australia has 40.7 million hectares of native forest:
 - 29.8% in state forests, of which around two-thirds is available for wood production
 - 16.2% in conservation reserves
 - 26.3% in other crown lands
 - 27.7% in private forests
 - only three per cent is controlled by the Commonwealth Government.
- Forest types* and areas in Australia are as follows:

Forest type	% of Forested Area
Rainforest	8
Wet Eucalypt	29
Dry Eucalypt	14

Dry forest and woodland	48
River red gum forest	1

How Much Forest is Protected?

- There are approximately 3.2 million ha of forest and woodland in World Heritage areas. The remainder of reserved forest is located in a number of different types of reserves administered by the various states and territories.
- Approximately 85% of the remaining rainforest is in conservation reserves, but less than 10% of some drier forest types are reserved.
- There are currently 713 places containing forests listed on the Register of the National Estate, amounting to a total of approximately 4% of Australia's land mass. Many of the places listed are within existing reserves.

Plantations

- There are approximately one million hectares of plantations
 - 90% softwood
 - 10% native hardwood.
- Plantations are expanding at about 30 000 hectares a year.

Recycling

- Recycled fibre now represents 48% of the total fibre used to make paper in Australia. This is a record level and represents a 13% increase in the quantity of waste paper being recycled since 1992. This level of recycling has been estimated to lead to corresponding savings of the order of \$80 million a year for local authorities in waste disposal costs.
- When recently announced investments in new paper recycling plants totalling \$160 million come on stream, over 50% of the total fibre used in the production of paper products will be from waste paper.

How is the Timber Used?

- Over 85 000 people are directly employed in growing and harvesting wood and the manufacture and processing of wood and paper products:
 - the industry has an annual turnover of about \$10 billion,
 - contributing about 1% to Gross Domestic Product.
- In 1993-94 Australia produced 77% of its sawntimber needs
 - native forests provide approximately 45% of this, the balance is from softwood plantations
 - imported sawntimber is mostly Douglas Fir from North America, and Radiata Pine from New Zealand.
- In 1992-93 there were 1175 hardwood mills and 230 softwood mills
 - with the hardwood mills being generally small scale, and the softwood mills being large and integrated with other processing.
- Australia has 21 mills producing pulp or paper products
 - 7 pulp and paper mills (NSW 1, Vic 1, QLD 1, Tas 3, SA 1)
 - 12 paper mills (QLD 2, NSW 3, Vic 5, WA 2)
 - 2 pulp mills (Vic 1, SA 1).
- Australia produced 1 544 000 m³ of hardwood and 1 899 000 m³ of softwood sawn timber in 1993-94.
- The 1993-94 trade figures show that total exports of forest products were \$859 million, of which 53% were woodchips and 25% paper and paperboard products:
 - total imports were \$2 639 million
 - of which 48% was paper, mainly from North America, Finland, New Zealand, Japan and Germany
 - and 34% of paper imports was from North America and New Zealand
 - the trade deficit in forest products was \$1 780 million.

* Forest type information is drawn from figures published in the Final Report of the Resource Assessment Commission's Forest and Timber Inquiry. Figures on forest cover, type and tenure are currently being checked revised for inclusion in the forthcoming State of the Forests Report

Further information:

Community Information Unit
Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories

Tel: 06 274 1221 or (toll free) 008 803 772

Our Forests:



Export of Woodchips

Woodchips from native forests are currently exported from seven locations around Australia:

Triabunna, Bell Bay and Burnie in Tasmania; Geelong in Victoria; Eden and Newcastle in New South Wales, and Bunbury in Western Australia.

Australian woodchip exporters are currently licensed to export 5.675 million tonnes of hardwood chips and 1.4 million tonnes of softwood chips.

Shared Objective

At the July 1991 Special Premiers Conference, the Commonwealth and all State and Territory governments announced the shared objective of "phasing out woodchip exports from native forests in favour of downstream processing of the resource (pulp and paper mills) by the year 2000, such projects being subject to environmental and economic assessments. Woodchip export approvals will be considered on a case by case basis with full regard to the objective that Australia achieves the fullest possible return from its forest resources."

Domestic value-added processing of woodchips will provide jobs to Australians, increase regional economic growth and reduce

Australia's deficit in timber products, pulp and paper.

Export Control Act 1982

The Commonwealth Government has an interest in achieving the efficient and effective management of the nation's resources, including forests and forest products.

Controls on the export of woodchips are in place under the *Export Control Act 1982*.

The Commonwealth Government uses its export powers to ensure that the industry operates in an environmentally sound manner, that the price received is adequate and that woodchips are not exported if they are needed by domestic processors.

Commonwealth environmental impact assessment of proposals for woodchip exports is carried out in accordance with the Administrative Procedures under the *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974* (the Act).

Ministerial Responsibility

The Minister for Resources, who issues woodchip export licences, is responsible for deciding environmental significance and, therefore, for initiating assessment action under the Act regarding those licences. The Minister for the Environment has responsibility for

providing advice to the Minister for Resources on the conservation implications of export woodchip operations.

Under Government policy, the Minister for the Environment is also required to provide the Minister for Resources with advice on the applicability of the *National Forest Policy Statement* to the export licences.

The Australian Heritage Commission also provides advice to the Minister for Resources under section 30 of the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*.

Endangered Species

Under the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992*, the Minister for Resources is required to ensure that licences do not threaten with extinction, or significantly impede the recovery of an endangered species. The Australian Nature Conservation Agency is involved in providing advice on the impact of forestry operations on endangered species.

The National Forest Policy Statement

The *National Forest Policy Statement* explains that "at present the Commonwealth Government approves the export of unprocessed wood and woodchips from integrated harvesting operations and sawmill residues, subject to controls aimed at ensuring that environmental values are protected, that the price obtained is consistent with prevailing world market prices, and that unprocessed wood is not exported if it is commercially feasible to process and add value to it in Australia".

The '*Conservation Strategy within the National Forest Policy Statement*' factsheet provides information on mechanisms to facilitate the interim protection of old-growth and wilderness forest likely to have high conservation value in the context of the 1995 woodchip export licence renewals process.

Further information:
Community Information Unit
Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories
Tel: 06 274 1221 or (toll free) 008 803 772

Our Forests:



Who is Responsible?

The three levels of government in Australia have specific interests and responsibilities for forest management.

State and Territory governments have primary responsibility for forest management, including public and private forests. This is in recognition of the constitutional responsibility of the States for land use decisions and their ownership of large areas of forest.

Local governments have responsibilities for local land use planning and rating systems, which affect public and private forest management and use.

Commonwealth involvement in the forestry industry is limited largely to the approval of woodchip export licences. Responsibility for this lies with the Minister for Resources. Under current Commonwealth procedures, the Minister for the Environment has an advisory role in determining the conditions attached to woodchip export licences. The Australian Heritage Commission also provides advice in relation to the obligations under Section 30 of the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*.

The Australian Nature Conservation Agency is involved

in providing advice on the impact of forestry operations on endangered species.

A Nation of Stakeholders

Our forests benefit every Australian in some way. They are an integral element of our biodiversity; they provide enjoyment and pleasure; and they provide employment.

Apart from government, forest industries and unions share the responsibility of managing our forests in an ecologically sustainable manner.

There are also hundreds of community-based groups across the country that take an active role in conserving our forests.

Further information:
Community Information Unit
Department of the Environment, Sport
and Territories
Tel: 06 274 1221 or (toll free) 008 803 772

Our Forests:



Conservation Strategy Within the *National Forest Policy Statement*

The Conservation Goals

The conservation goals of the *National Forest Policy Statement* include the maintenance of an extensive and permanent native forest estate in Australia and the management of that estate in an ecologically sustainable manner. This is to achieve the conservation of the full suite of values that forests provide for current and future generations.

The *National Forest Policy Statement* describes the range and importance of these values: "The protection of the full range of forest ecosystems and other environmental values is fundamental to ecologically sustainable forest management. It entails the maintenance of the ecological processes that sustain forest ecosystems, the conservation of the biological diversity associated with forests (particularly endangered and vulnerable species and communities), and the protection of water quality and associated habitats."

The *National Forest Policy Statement* has recognised the importance of old growth forest and

wilderness, and established a strategy to conserve and manage areas of old growth and wilderness as part of the reserve system.

It has been agreed, within the *National Forest Policy Statement*, that comprehensive, adequate reserve systems to protect old-growth forest and wilderness values will be in place by the end of 1995 for public land and by the end of 1998 for private land, providing there is satisfactory agreement by the Commonwealth and States. For old-growth forest, the nature conservation reserve systems will be the primary means of protection, supported by complementary management outside reserves.

The *National Forest Policy Statement* contains the further agreement that, until assessments are completed, forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value.

It also provides for sympathetic management of old-growth forest values in areas outside the reserve system.

Regional Forest Agreements

It is envisaged that the processes set out in the *National Forest Policy Statement* will lead to a single agreement between the Commonwealth and the States relating to their obligations for forests in a region.

These Regional Forest Agreements would cover the full range of Commonwealth and State obligations including assessments of the environmental and heritage values of regional forests, and assessment of the economic opportunities and social impacts of alternative uses of these forest areas.

The full range of the Commonwealth's environmental and heritage obligations include assessment of national estate values, World Heritage values, Aboriginal heritage values, environmental impacts, and obligations relating to international conventions, including those for protecting endangered species and biological diversity:

Regional Forest Agreements will provide an opportunity to ensure protection of important conservation values as well as providing greater certainty of resource supply to industry.

Comprehensive Regional Assessments

In order to meet all Commonwealth and State obligations for the forested areas of a region, a number of assessments will be necessary. These assessments can be achieved by a single comprehensive process which is identified in the *National Forest Policy Statement* as a Comprehensive Regional Assessment.

Comprehensive Regional Assessments will involve the collection and evaluation of the full range of environmental and heritage aspects of forests in the region.

Where there is a Commonwealth interest in an environmental matter the Commonwealth may accredit a State's environment related processes. The Commonwealth will negotiate with individual States on the elements of the State process that may be accredited and determine whether any additional information and assessments are necessary.

If Governments agree that the process of accreditation is unlikely or unable to meet all the obligations of the Commonwealth, other measures, such as comprehensive regional assessments will be used.

Plantations

Plantations can play a role in relieving pressure on native forests, while at the same time offering

significant expansion of the industry's resource base.

There are approximately one million hectares of plantations in Australia. Softwood plantations (mainly pine) account for 90% of the total area while hardwood plantations (predominantly Eucalypt) make up the remaining 10%.

The *National Forest Policy Statement* recognises that plantations provide a wide range of commercial, environmental and aesthetic benefits to the community. The *National Forest Policy Statement* contains a number of initiatives that will assist plantation development including:

- the development of demonstration plantations on farms and the provision of extension services; and
- research for plantations and agroforestry.

Significant progress towards the implementation of these initiatives has been made at the Commonwealth and State and Territory levels of government.

Pulp and Paper

Pulp for paper and paper products can be produced using a wide range of fibre. The most frequently utilised source of pulp for these products at present is wood.

In Australia, the virgin fibre for many types of paper and paper products, such as newsprint, tissue paper and paperboard and

packaging products is sourced mainly from pine plantation.

Because of its pulping qualities and short fibres, Eucalypts are the most favoured tree species for fine paper making. Woodchips produced as by-products from integrated sawlog harvesting operations in native forests, are the main virgin fibre source for fine paper making.

Australia is now a world leader in recycling of waste paper. Waste paper represents 48% of the total fibre used in the production of paper products in Australia, with the remainder being sourced from domestic plantations, native forests and imported fibre. However, waste paper can only be recycled about five times as its strength declines each time it is recycled. Therefore, virgin fibre must continually be added to the process.

When recently announced investments in new paper recycling plants totalling \$160 million come on stream, over 50% of the total fibre used in the production of paper products will be from waste paper.

The technology exists to produce pulp and paper from alternative materials, such as straw, bagasse, kenaf and cotton linters. The latter is already fully utilised as a paper making fibre source by toilet tissue manufacturers. A frequently suggested alternative source is hemp, which contains extremely long fibres and has a rapid growth rate when compared to timber.

While there are environmental advantages to the use of alternative pulp sources, there are a number of other considerations which must be taken into account.

These include the nature of the waste product and, in relation to straw, the value of its use for papermaking in comparison to its value for soil conservation if left untouched. It is important that the associated environmental and economic issues be addressed when promoting the use of alternative pulp sources.

The environmental advantages of using alternative pulp sources relate primarily to reducing the pressure on Australia's native forests, and the often more environmentally benign by-products of the pulping processes used.

The Commonwealth has developed environmental guidelines for new pulpmills, designed to avoid any adverse impacts from pulpmill effluents and emissions. The approach used in the guidelines is internationally acknowledged as an appropriate model.

Further information:
Community Information Unit
Department of the Environment, Sport and
Territories
Tel: 06 274 1221 or (toll free) 008 803 772

Our Forests:



National Leadership

Commonwealth Obligations

The Commonwealth Government is responsible for coordinating a national approach to both environmental and industry development issues.

Commonwealth obligations include assessment of national estate values, World Heritage values, Aboriginal heritage values, endangered species, environmental impacts, and obligations relating to international conventions, including those for protecting biological diversity and wetlands of international significance.

Legislation

A range of legislation provides a basis for Commonwealth involvement in land use and forest management issues, including:

- World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983*
- Export Control Act 1982*
- Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*
- Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974*
- Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975*
- Endangered Species Protection Act 1992.*

The Commonwealth Government has an interest in achieving the efficient and effective management of the nation's

resources, including forests and forest products. Controls on the export of woodchips are in place under the *Export Control Act 1982*.

Improving Knowledge and Management

The Commonwealth has taken a major role in developing policies which will achieve ecologically sustainable management of Australia's forests. It has also introduced a number of initiatives over the past decade, and provided substantial funding to improve our knowledge of Australia's native forests and their management. These include:

- National Rainforest Conservation Program
- National Forest Inventory
- National Wilderness Inventory
- Surveys of old growth forests
- Comprehensive Regional Assessment Program
- Australian Heritage Commission Regional Assessment Program
- Agreement between the Commonwealth and NSW Governments on the South East Forests Region of NSW
- East Gippsland Forest Agreement

Over the past six years the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments have developed a range of initiatives for the future of Australia's forests.

These initiatives are a direct response to advice given to the Government through the Resource Assessment Commission Forest and Timber Inquiry; the Ecologically Sustainable Development working group on forests and the National Plantations Advisory Committee report 'Integrating Forestry and Farming'.

The National Forest Policy Statement

In December 1992 the *National Forest Policy Statement* was endorsed by the Commonwealth and all mainland governments. The *National Forest Policy Statement* lays the foundation for consistent forest management and protection across Australia, and for closer cooperation between governments. It provides for improved protection of environmental values, increased value-added wood processing, and greater emphasis on plantations. It also provides, through a joint Commonwealth/State Comprehensive Regional Assessment process and the development of a Regional Forest Agreement, a mechanism to ensure the protection of important conservation values and to assist planning certainty.

World Heritage

The Commonwealth Government has also identified and conserved special areas of outstanding value by having them included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. This gives world-wide recognition to the universal value of these places.

World Heritage sites containing significant areas of high conservation forest include the Wet Tropics World Heritage area in north Queensland, the Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia, the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area and Fraser Island.

The Commonwealth has an international responsibility to protect and conserve these areas, while allowing them to be used in ways that do not damage or threaten their universal values.

Register of the National Estate

Forests may also be listed on the Register of the National Estate. Listing serves to alert people that the particular natural, cultural or Aboriginal heritage values of the area are of national significance. A Commonwealth Minister is required not to approve action which would damage the values of a listed place unless there is no prudent and feasible alternative.

Further information:

Community Information Unit

Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories

Tel: 06 274 1221 or (toll free) 008 803 772

Our Forests:

The Pressures



Australia's forests and the species that inhabit them have suffered significant decline and extinction over the past 200 years.

Clearing of native vegetation can result in the loss of tree cover and in a significant loss of biodiversity. It can also add to land degradation problems, for example by increasing the sediment loads in our rivers. Tree planting cannot replace all the biodiversity values, particularly the habitat values, that are lost when large areas of native vegetation are cleared.

Deforestation and Vegetation Clearance

Since European settlement approximately half of Australia's forests have been cleared or severely modified for farming and urban development (43 per cent according to the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group).

Native vegetation clearance has occurred throughout Australia and has been particularly evident in the eastern half and south-west corner of the continent.

Vegetation clearance and tree decline cause the loss of native plants and animals. These impacts can be especially pronounced at the local level. For instance leading to the local extinction of certain species. Introduced species also contribute to this decline.

Vegetation clearance can lead to the exposure of soils, which makes the soils susceptible to erosion. Removal of trees can lead to rising water tables, resulting in water-logging and salinity.

Disturbance of forest ecosystems can allow for the invasion or spread of weed species.

Vegetation clearance can also promote the spread of diseases. The insidious dieback fungus *Phytophthora* poses a threat to whole forests and other ecosystems as well as many endangered species.

Although rates of deforestation have slowed, clearing still occurs in many parts of Australia, particularly in rangelands and woodlands.

Extensive clearing and vegetation modification continues to result in severe reduction and fragmentation

of the mallee, mulga and brigalow woodlands.

The Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council has listed habitat destruction as one of the main factors leading to extinction of species in Australia. The spread of two other factors, introduced predators and introduced herbivores, has in many cases been advanced by land clearing or vegetation modification.

About three quarters of our rainforests have been cleared since European settlement, mainly for agriculture. With protection and good management, the remaining rainforests can be conserved and some can expand to reoccupy cleared land.

Further information:
Community Information Unit
Department of the Environment, Sport and
Territories
Tel: 06 274 1221 or (toll free) 008 803 772

CONSERVATION REPRESENTATIVES ON THE FOREST POLICY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ASK, AS A MATTER OF URGENCY:

- 1/ That the Premier, the Minister for Land & Water Conservation, the Commissioner for Forests and the NSW Government as a whole:
 - (a) abide by the conservation commitments of the National Forest Policy Statement.
 - (b) issue a public statement reaffirming their commitment to abiding by the the conservation commitments of the National Forest Policy Statement, with specific reference to ensuring (c) below.
 - (c) ensure that, within NSW, "forest management agencies avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth or wilderness forest that are likely to have high conservation value".
 - (d) in view of uncertainty caused by the events described in 2 (a) below, accept that forthwith the onus of proof as to which areas of old growth and wilderness forests are unlikely to have high conservation value lies with the proponents - not the opponents - of any proposed logging activity.
 - (e) make public the methodology used within NSW to ensure compliance with the relevant clause of the NFPS, and also make public and easily available a list of the specific areas of native forest in which imminent logging activity is planned.
- 2/ That the Premier and Minister for Land & Water Conservation:
 - (a) provide a valid explanation as to why logging of high conservation value old growth forest in compartment 579 of Wild Cattle Creek was permitted in breach of the NFPS commitment cited in 1 (c) above. (It is relevant here that Mr Kim Ritman, a member of staff within CALM, who had been appointed via a dispute mediation process, established that the logging area was old growth forest, and further that the NPWS had identified the area as of high conservation value. A list of documents and correspondence containing relevant background on this issue are available).
 - (b) ensure that this continuing breach be halted, by ordering an immediate cessation of logging in the remaining high

conservation value old growth areas of the Compartment 579.

- 3/ That the Premier and Minister for Land & Water Conservation prohibit logging operations approved by the Minister for Planning in identified high conservation value old growth and wilderness forests in the Kempsey, Wauchope, Glen Innes and Wingham Management Areas (following recent determination of EIS's for those areas).
- 4/ That with regard to implementation of the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act in the Eden Management Area:
 - (a) the Commission for Forests and the Managing Director of State Forests ensure that, consistent with their statements at the 1st August meeting of the Forestry Policy Advisory Committee, no further logging is permitted in moratorium areas at least until determination of the next EIS for the Eden Management Area, and that logging is confined to areas identified as 'lesser conservation value' in the inter-departmental process preceding enactment of TI(IP) Act amendment.
 - (b) the Minister for Land & Water Conservation issues a public pledge, in keeping with his second reading speech when the TI(IP) Act was extended to the Eden Management Area, affirming that logging activity in the EMA will be constrained in the manner described above.

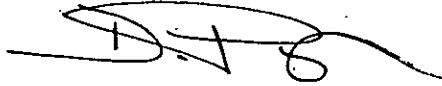
These concerns are expressed as requests, but the NSW Government should be aware that the community's faith in the integrity of the Government, and specifically in the Government's commitment to the National Forest Policy Statement - the only forest policy which it has - is seriously in jeopardy. As the NFPS was signed by the Premier, we believe that his personal credibility is at stake, although the integrity of the Minister for Land and Water Conservation, the Commissioner for Forests and the Managing Director of State Forests are also at issue.

In seeking the above, we ask no more than that the Government abides by its own policy, and that the Minister for Land and Water Conservation and senior government officials keep their word.

The eyes of the NSW conservation movement will be focused on the Government's response, sought by Monday November 7th at the latest, c/o The Nature Conservation Council, 39 George St., The Rocks 2000.

SIGNED, Mon, 17 Oct 1994

Dailan Pugh (North East Forest Alliance)



Lyn Orrego (North Coast Environment Council)



Steve Jago (South East Forests Conservation Council)

 per STEVE JAGO

Sid Walker (Nature Conservation Council of NSW)



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



MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...Wed, 5 Oct 1994

CONSERVATIONISTS DEMAND FAHEY INTERVENES TO STOP BREACHES OF NATIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

Conservation representatives on the NSW Government's 'Forestry Policy Advisory Committee' (FPAC) demand direct intervention from Premier John Fahey to stop logging of high conservation value forests, which is in violation of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

"The NFPS was signed by Premier John Fahey in December 1992. To date, the NSW Government's progress in achieving the conservation pledges of the NFPS has been pitifully slow - and in practice the NFPS has been little more than a recipe for 'business as usual'" said Sid Walker, Executive Officer of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and one of the four conservation representatives on the FPAC.

"Now evidence has come to light that Minister for Forests George Souris has authorised blatant breaches of the NFPS, and may have misled Parliament over plans to continue logging high conservation value forests in the south east forests" said Mr Walker.

"On the north coast, in the Dorrigo Management Area at Wild Cattle Creek State Forest, a particularly outrageous example of an NFPS violation is continuing, as trees up to 2,000 years old are logged destroying potential habitat for over 50 threatened species" said Lyn Orrego, a Co-Ordinator for the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) and FPAC conservation representative.

"In an attempt to avoid conflict over this area, an independent arbitrator was agreed upon between the North East Forest Alliance and State Forests. He concluded that NEFA was correct in its assessment

that the area (Compartment 579) is substantially unlogged old growth forest. The National Parks & Wildlife have also indicated that the area has high conservation value and should be reserved under the terms of the NFPS" Ms Orrego added.

"Yet logging continues, in spite of all appeals, protests and the arrest last week of Parliamentarian Richard Jones. Minister Souris has ignored expert advice and claims the logging is legitimate" she said.

"It is particularly ironic that this logging in Wild Cattle Creek is not even to supply local sawmills and sustain local employment. These magnificent and ancient trees are being trucked to the Boral sawmill at South Grafton, many miles away" she added.

"The patience of the NSW community is running out over continuing mismanagement of our native forests" said Mr Walker.

"We appeal directly to the Premier to take a precautionary approach - as required by the NFPS - and stop logging in all old growth forests likely to have high conservation value throughout the State - especially in Compartment 579 Wild Cattle Creek and in the South East Forests 'moratorium' areas" Mr Walker said.

"Failure to do so would destroy the Premier' own credibility over forest management in NSW. The NFPS - the only forest policy which NSW has - bears his personal signature" Mr Walker concluded.

For further information contact: Sid Walker 02 247 4206 (w) 02 305 090 (h)

**SPEECH BY SENATOR JOHN FAULKNER
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, SPORT AND
TERRITORIES
ALP CONFERENCE : HOBART
29 SEPTEMBER 1994**

Anyone listing issues which Australians really care about must acknowledge the environment has a central place on our political agenda. While issues come and go, the interesting thing about the environment, is that since it appeared as a real concern in the eighties, it has remained fairly and squarely in the public consciousness.

In fact a number of recent opinion polls point to a stronger and growing concern for the protection of the environment. It is one of a group of issues, including health and education, that rank second only to unemployment as an issue of current concern. But by a long shot it is the issue people feel will be the most important in ten years time.

Growing concern is paralleled by increasing community awareness, sophistication and expectations about the environment

This is demonstrated conclusively by ANOP research which was commissioned by my Department last year. The results reinforce other poll results which indicate the community shows a clear appreciation of the impact of the environment on quality of life and on future generations. They also show clear support for Commonwealth leadership in this area.

Sixty three percent believe the Commonwealth should set national standards on air and water quality and about the same number believe there should be national action to protect flora and fauna.

We need to recognise the environment is still firmly on the agenda and will remain there.

In the community, we have seen an explosion in the number of people directly involved in community based environment protection activities.

The success of Clean Up Australia, Landcare and other programs such as One Billion Trees and Save the Bush have involved tens of thousands of Australians in "hands on" activities.

And there are a host of lesser-known activities. For example, about 20,000 people now participate in a community based program that monitors water quality. And in NSW, about 140 schools regularly check their local waterways. Nothing raises awareness like this direct participation.

These farmers, students, tree planters, and clean up squads are demanding an equal commitment from governments. But even those who aren't directly involved are becoming increasingly vocal about the state of our environment. Often for good reason.

They expect their drinking water to be safe. They expect to be able to fish and swim at the beach and in rivers. They demand clean air and reasonable noise levels.

Our Labor Government has recognised the importance attached to the environment by the Australian people. And it has reflected this in its policies, priorities and actions. Since the decision to save the Franklin in 1983, there are many examples to demonstrate the Government's green credentials.

We protected Queensland's Wet Tropics rainforests and we have recently committed \$11.5 to a Daintree Rescue Package. We doubled the size of Kakadu. We listed the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. We established the Environment Protection Agency. We led the international fight to protect Antarctica from mining and to establish the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary.

And then there are all the examples of the things we didn't do. The decision not to mine Coronation Hill. The decision not to relocate the naval armaments depot to Jervis Bay and the decision not to allow mineral exploration or mining at Shoalwater Bay.

These are just a few of the highlights in a decade of achievement.

None were easy decisions. As a Government, we must weigh carefully the benefits and costs of each proposal. In the case of Shoalwater Bay, for example, the costs of a ban on mining against the benefits of preserving a special, natural environment. This Government can rightly be judged on where it comes out on such difficult decisions. And time and again, we have come out on the side of the environment and good sense.

Environmental issues do not really fit into the classic 'development versus conservation' mould. Increasingly we recognise that the value judgements we're accustomed to making in such cases are flawed. We under-value, or sometimes even fail to recognise, the long-term costs like loss of biodiversity, land degradation and water salinity. Too often, we see jobs and conservation as being mutually exclusive.

Again, the Shoalwater Bay decision is a good example of how things have changed. While the mining industry was disappointed with the result, the Government's decision was welcomed by the fishing industry, by the local councils and by the vast majority of the community. It was seen as a win which

will protect local jobs. For the Australian Defence Force, who have a military training facility at Shoalwater Bay, it was also an important decision.

Contrary to the rhetoric, the area was not simply 'locked up'. It remains an area which will continue to bring benefit - including jobs - to the local and regional communities and the Australian Defence Force, consistent with the protection of its undoubted environmental values.

The Ecologically Sustainable Development Strategy is relevant in this regard. It aims to establish an accord between environmental and economic objectives by integrating both into decision-making. ESD cannot be an isolated process. It must become a way of thinking, an automatic reflex in decision-makers at all levels - in government and business. We've obviously got a long way to go before we get to that point, but progress is being made.

The concept of green jobs is a good example of ESD at work.

Green jobs come in many forms. They include jobs which redress past environmental damage and jobs which have a relatively neutral impact on the environment such as ecotourism. Green jobs also include those jobs which minimise environmental impacts through the development of improved methods of production.

Take the ACTU/ACF Green Jobs Research Project, which was funded by this Government. It demonstrated that green industries and green employment have experienced strong growth over the past few years, despite the recession. And the growth in green industries is sustainable, both environmentally and economically. It also provides export opportunities.

The project has demonstrated that environmental protection, economic interests and employment growth can be complementary. I am keen to develop the ideas put forward in the project.

Ecotourism is one industry which has grown enormously as a direct result of greater environmental awareness and appreciation world wide. Since 1988, employment in the Australian ecotourism industry has more than doubled. Green industries, such as ecotourism, will also clearly accelerate ecologically sustainable employment opportunities in regional Australia.

In addressing the problem of unemployment, the Government included in the 'Working Nation' White paper, provision for employment programs. One of these is the Regional Environmental Employment Projects (REEP), which will bring social, economic and environmental benefits. The Minister for Employment, Education and Training and I recently established the Advisory Council on Environmental Employment Opportunities. This Council will

identify and stimulate environmental employment opportunities and green jobs in our regions.

The work of the Environment Protection Agency's Cleaner Production Program is another excellent way in which ESD is made practical. It aims to help businesses show other businesses how to clean up production processes. The results are better environmental outcomes as well as better financial returns: a win win result!

Plantation forestry can also be described as a "green" industry.

I'm looking at how plantations can play a role in relieving pressure on native forests, while at the same time offering significant expansion of the industry's resource base.

To this end, I have recently agreed to fund a National Plantations Study involving State and Territory based Conservation Councils. The Study will provide an information base on Australia's plantation resource and encourage a greater understanding of the critical issues surrounding the shift to plantation processing.

It's quite clear we can accommodate both environmental protection and economic and employment growth. But to get there it will require proper research, planning and co-operation between government, unions, conservation groups and industry.

In this spirit, in consultation with the Minister for Resources, I have agreed to a formal Review of how the objective of the 1991 Special Premiers' Conference Communiqué can best be achieved. The Communiqué reflected the State and Federal Governments shared objective of phasing out woodchip exports from native forests in favour of downstream processing by the year 2000.

A consultant will shortly be appointed to conduct the review and will report by May next year. I am keen to see movement on this issue in a way which maximises environmental, employment, economic and regional gains. Clearly consultation with unions, conservation groups and industry has to be a fundamental part of this Review.

The forests issue in general is undoubtedly the most complex, polarised, sensitive and time-consuming issue I have had to confront in my six months in this portfolio. At least I've had the advantage of having inherited an agreed policy framework. Agreed, that is, by the Commonwealth Government and all states except our host state.

The National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS), which is a carefully crafted document, balances the needs of the forest industries with the imperatives of forest conservation. Given my portfolio responsibilities, I have a particular interest in pursuing the conservation goals of the NFPS. It is worth repeating what those goals are:

"to maintain an extensive and permanent native forest estate in Australia and to manage that estate in an ecologically sustainable manner so as to conserve the full suite of values that forests can provide for current and future generations. These values include biological diversity, and heritage, Aboriginal and other cultural values."

A central conservation objective of the NFPS is the commitment to establish a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of reserves to protect old growth forest and wilderness values on public lands by the end of 1995.

It is worth reflecting on this objective. The end of 1995 is now only 14 months away. And yet governments have not settled on the criteria for such a reserve system, let alone put the system in place.

If the NFPS is to have the community's confidence then we must make real progress on this point. I have asked the new Forests Branch of my Department to give it priority. Delivery of the NFPS conservation objectives will also be an important test of the capacity of Commonwealth-State processes to deliver on the environment.

I have said it before and I will repeat it here. I will be working within the framework of the NFPS and, consistent with my portfolio responsibilities and our party platform, I'll make every effort to achieve its conservation objectives. It is only then that the forest industries will have the security they are seeking.

I believe one of the reasons we are still so far from achieving these objectives is the continuing unresolved tension between conservation and labour interests. Timber workers not unnaturally see moves which limit or have limited logging operations as threatening their livelihood. In an effort to identify the common ground on which the union and conservation movements can work co-operatively and constructively on a range of forest issues, I have set up a working group. Gerry Hand will chair a group of representatives from the conservation movement and the CFMEU which will report directly to me on a range of issues. These include:

- increasing regional employment in the forest industry
- safeguarding and where possible increasing regional employment
- structural adjustment

- assisting the Forestry Sector to achieve global best practice in terms of ecologically sustainable development and
- progressing the government's environmental, social and economic objectives in the forest area

When I drew attention to another of the important conservation elements of the NFPS - the so-called moratorium clause - in an earlier speech in June I upset a few people in this part of the world.

But I make no apologies for setting as my goal the implementation of the NFPS, including its so-called moratorium provision. This provision is important to the overall NFPS objective of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of reserves to protect old growth and wilderness values. It is also relevant to my responsibility to provide advice on the applicability of the NFPS to woodchip export licences.

The NFPS makes it clear that areas of old growth and wilderness forest that are likely to have high conservation value should not be logged until assessments of these values are completed. My obligation to reflect this in my advice on woodchip export licences is also clear.

It is for this reason I have initiated an exercise to try to identify those areas of old growth and wilderness that are likely to be of high conservation value - and therefore warrant interim protection. I have asked my portfolio agencies to assemble and assess the available data and have written to my state counterparts, industry and the unions inviting their participation. I have also authorised my department to seek substantiated advice from voluntary conservation organisations on those areas they consider to have high conservation value. I have also made funds available to assist them in this task. It is my intention that this advice be rigorously assessed in advance of the next round of licence renewals.

It is a matter of regret that Tasmania, alone among the States and Territories, has chosen to remain outside the NFPS. As you know, talks are in progress to secure Tasmania's signature. Let me assure you that will be on the same terms as all other signatories. There will be no special deals. Signature will entail for Tasmania, as for all other States and Territories, acceptance of a specific forest policy framework. It also provides a basis for meeting Commonwealth and State obligations under a Regional Forest Agreement. These include assessment of national estate, world heritage and Aboriginal heritage values, environmental impacts, and obligations relating to international conventions, including those for protecting endangered species and biological diversity.

Accreditation processes will also be the same for Tasmania as for other signatories. These are set out for all to see in the NFPS and the

Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment, which Tasmania signed in 1992.

Forests are a vital part of Australia's biodiversity. Australia has an extraordinarily vast range of plants and animals, most of which are found nowhere else in the world. In fact, we have a greater diversity of species than any other developed nation.

There is no doubt that we have an international responsibility to protect our biodiversity. The Federal Government accepts this responsibility. We played an active role in the development of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, and we are determined to pursue its implementation.

However, we recognise this requires a co-ordinated and strategic approach to be adopted by all governments. To that end the Commonwealth and most States and Territories (the exceptions being NSW and WA) have agreed to a draft National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity.

I am hoping that the Strategy can be finalised in the next couple of months. There is a pressing need to get on with it.

I have asked my Department to develop a specific biodiversity program. They will report to me on measures the Commonwealth can take on matters such as the protection of habitat through reservation, controlling land clearance and off-reserve conservation of remnant ecosystems.

Of course, this country's biodiversity has been managed for many thousands of years by Australia's Aboriginal people. They have skills and expertise we shouldn't ignore. They should be closely involved in programs for the protection and management of our natural resources.

This Government has actively promoted a partnership with Aboriginal people that has proven invaluable in the protection of internationally significant areas such as Kakadu and Uluru National Parks. The joint management arrangements at these Parks are seen as models both nationally and internationally.

The management of other world heritage areas is also set to benefit from Aboriginal expertise. I recently announced the appointment of Noel Pearson (from the Cape York Land Council) to the Wet Tropics Management Authority. I will likewise be including Aboriginal representation on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Delegates, it's vitally important we care for our environment and learn to use its resources in a sustainable way. The Australian people expect no less. They look to our party and government for leadership.

I believe the Labor Party recognises this and, in approving the environment platform today, has put in place policies which will enable us achieve these objectives. I commit myself to giving effect to those policies and seek your continuing support.

Tel: (02) 229 7337

Fax: (02) 221 6944

(02) 221 5747

(02) 810 7590 A.H.

DX: 450 SYDNEY

TIM ROBERTSONFrederick Jordan Chambers
53 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000FACSIMILE TRANSMISSIONTO: SYD WORKERFAX: 02 247 5945

DATE:

PAGES (including this page):

THE AUST. LABOR LAWYERS REQUESTED MOTION B AT THE
WEEKEND BUT HAS NOT PUBLICLY RELEASED DECISION.
I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ADVICE ON THE MOST
APPROPRIATE TIME, PLACE + PERSONS TO REQUEST MOTION.
PLEASE REPLY BY RETURN FAX.

BEST REGARDS

T.F.R.

For the reasons set out in paragraph 4 of the Secretary's report it was **Resolved** that the Society congratulate Senator Gareth Evans on his achievement in negotiating the passage of the Native Title Bill through the Senate.

(??)

B. Ecologically Sustainable Development

For the reasons set out in paragraph 6 of the Secretary's report, it was **Resolved** that the Society call on the Federal Government:

- (a) to implement ESD principles in the exercise of legislative and executive power, including by conditioning grants to State and local government bodies on observance by them of ESD principles;
- (b) to ensure that no discretion is exercised by any Minister directly or indirectly to condone old growth logging of forests which have not undergone a Federally approved conservation significance assessment in accordance with the National Forests Policy;
- (c) to implement the moratorium on old growth and wilderness forest logging as required by the National Forest Policy;
- (d) to exclude old growth forests of high conservation value and wilderness forests from woodchip export licences;
- (e) to reform Federal environmental law so that it conforms to national best practice and, in particular, implements ESD principles, ensures public accountability, makes provision for public participation in all decisions under the law and confers rights on any person to enforce its provisions;
- (f) to develop a Federal environmental regulatory agency which respects best regulatory practice, including the principles of openness, transparency, accountability and public participation.

(Robertson/Howie)

C. Nuclear Regulation

For the reasons set out in paragraph 7 of the Secretary's report, it was **Resolved** that the Society request the President of the ALP to bring to the attention of the National ALP Conference next week the parlous state of nuclear regulation in Australia and the urgent need to ensure that an independent regulatory system be established which encourages public participation, is governed by ESD principles and ensures that siting and licensing decisions are enforceable by third parties as well as by the regulator.

(Robertson/White)

D. Access to Justice Report

For the reasons set out in paragraph 9 of the Secretary's report, it was **Resolved** that the Society support the application of the Trade Practices Act to the national legal profession and urge the Federal Government to use its full measure of constitutional powers to ensure the widest application of the Trade Practices Act to all commercial enterprises, whether or not incorporated, and not to await the outcome of further negotiations with the States and Territories.

(Robertson/Roche)

D. Freedom of Speech and Racial Vilification Laws



Mr Sid Walker
Executive Officer
Nature Conservation council of New south Wales
and Environment Centre (NSW)
THE ROCKS NSW 2000

Dear Mr Walker

Roundtable discussions on high conservation value forest

As part of the implementation process for the National Forest Policy Statement, the Department is seeking to identify those areas of high conservation value which warrant interim protection from activities, such as logging, pending establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system.

In order to assist the Department in this task the Forests Branch is seeking input to the identification process from non-government organisations. The Branch is currently considering how best this process might proceed. An example of how this process could proceed is, for NGO's to identify areas which they consider as warranting interim protection and to discuss these with Departmental officers. A series of meetings with regional and national conservation groups could then be held to consider identified areas.

To assist organisations in identifying areas of high conservation value the portfolio has developed the attached criteria. It is important to stress that these criteria are not fixed but are presented as a basis to promote discussion.

Further information on these criteria is contained in attachments to the discussion paper 'Regional Forest Agreements - A Commonwealth position' February 1994. Copies of this paper are available from the Department.

The identification of areas considered to have high conservation value should wherever possible be supported by evidence, including documented research.

The contact officers on this matter are Ms Jennie Ludlow (06 274 1319, Fax 06 274 1927) or Mr Tony Bigwood (06 274 1837).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Barry Reville', with a stylized, flowing script.

Barry Reville
Assistant Secretary
Forests Branch
13 July 1994

13
Forests which are recognised as being of outstanding national estate value;

Forests that have identified world heritage values;

Forests that can be identified as being important to the survival or recovery of species on the schedule of the Endangered Species Protection Act 1992; important to the survival of a species listed on a state endangered species act; or a forest community in danger of extinction;

Forests which are recognised as having exceptional value for the protection of biological diversity;

Forests which are recognised as having high wilderness value;

Forests in their old-growth phase, where this age class for the community is not well represented in the nature conservation reserve system;

Forests requiring at least interim protection pending the development of a CAR nature conservation reserve system in forests;

Forests important internationally, for their wetlands, as roosting for migratory birds, or in terms of climate change;

Forests important to indigenous Australians.

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Cpt. 579 Wild Cattle Creek : Background

DOWNFALL CREEK BACKGROUND BRIEFING

KEY ISSUES: Oldgrowth logging, breach of National Forest Policy Statement, no EIS, breach of Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act, no FIS, NPWS failure to responsibly manage Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act, unsustainable logging.

LOCATION: Downfall Creek. Compartment 579, Wild Cattle Creek State Forest. Dorrigo Management Area. 11 kilometres north-east of the town of Dorrigo.

Located on the junction of Downfall Creek and Cooperbrook Creek is a small fragment of oldgrowth forest. While only about 100 hectares in size it is dominated by gigantic Brush Box and Tallowood, trees whose lifespans are measured in thousands of years not just hundreds. This is more than oldgrowth, it is truly ancient forest.

It is home for a variety of endangered species of plants and animals. It is one of the few natural refuges remaining in a forest that has mostly been converted to plantations and dense regrowth. It, and the few other small fragments of high quality oldgrowth left, are absolutely vital for the survival of a number of species in the area.

NEFA have proven beyond doubt that the Downfall Creek oldgrowth forest is of high conservation significance and conveyed this to State Forests and their Commissioner. Despite the NPWS's recommendation that the area be protected, half the area was logged last year and logging operations commenced in the last bit on Wednesday 16 March. The Director of the NPWS has so far failed this last chance to fulfil his duty and impose a Stop Work Order.

The NSW Government is still intent upon ignoring legal and moral requirements in their pogrom of tall oldgrowth forests. The Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act, Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act and National Forest Policy Statement have all been rorted. The Government turns a blind eye to the timber industry's lawless activities.

The destruction of Downfall Creek is a national scandal and epitomises the wanton vandalism this Government still allows the State Forests to perpetuate. NEFA may, or may not, be able to stop it. But NEFA will not allow the destruction of this jewel to occur unheeded.

THE REQUIREMENTS TO PROTECT DOWNFALL CREEK

The failed Dorrigo EIS identified the Downfall Creek area as the only unlogged forest in the south-east of the Dorrigo MA. In its submission to the EIS the National Parks and Wildlife Service stated:

"The Service recommends that the unlogged forest in the Saddle and Down Fall Creek Catchments be reserved. This area includes extensive stands of rainforest and any logging of adjoining eucalypt forest would involve unacceptable roading through the rainforest. This area provides an ideal opportunity for a large unlogged forest reserve in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest. Consistent with the National Forest Policy Statement forestry activities must be excluded from this area

of oldgrowth forest as it has recognised high conservation values, including rainforest, and inadequately conserved plant communities and is likely to contain rare and endangered species."

NEFA has been undertaking a comprehensive survey of oldgrowth forest in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest, as finances have permitted, for the past year. The survey utilised methodology pioneered in Victoria, which is now being adopted nationally. This assessment clearly shows that Downfall Creek is the largest stand of tall oldgrowth forest left in the study area.

While the written report has not yet been finalised, NEFA have shown the results to the Department of Planning, NPWS, State Forests and on the 11 March gave a presentation to the Commissioner for Forests, Warwick Watkins, at Coffs Harbour.

The National Forest Policy Statement places an obligation upon the NSW Government to avoid activities in oldgrowth forests likely to be of high conservation significance. There is no doubt that the Downfall Creek oldgrowth forest is an exceptional and irreplaceable stand of forest that the National Forest Policy binds the NSW State Government into protecting.

There are records of a number of endangered species from the vicinity of Downfall Creek: Tiger Quoll, Koala, Parma Wallaby, Red-legged Pademelon, Greater Broad-nosed Bat, Great Pipistrelle, Sooty Owl and Marbled Frogmouth. The State Forests list an additional 32 endangered species that they consider may occur in the area. Of the total of 39 endangered species that State Forests consider may occur in the area, they only propose specific token mitigation prescriptions for 5 species, three of which are unlikely to inhabit the area.

Reprehensibly the NPWS have allowed State Forests to begin logging without any fauna survey and thus there is no specific information on the populations of species in the area upon which to base any conservation strategy. There must be a fauna survey in the area to determine its fauna values before any further habitat destruction is allowed.

This patch of oldgrowth, along with the few other remnants in Wild Cattle Creek SF, undoubtedly plays a disproportionate role in the maintenance of populations of a variety of endangered species in the area. When the remnant patches of tall oldgrowth forest are fully plundered, as is almost the case, and as the remnant oldgrowth habitat trees die and crash to the forest floor, the reverberations will be felt throughout the ecosystem.

Any further diminution of the already severely depleted oldgrowth habitat elements will further threaten the survival of a number of endangered species in the Dorrigo area. Compartment 579 must be reserved in its own right as habitat for endangered fauna and more importantly as a likely source area critical to maintaining populations of a variety of endangered species throughout Wild Cattle Creek State Forest.

LICENCE TO KILL ENDANGERED ANIMALS ISSUED WITH NO ASSESSMENT AND NO CONSTRAINTS

The National Parks and Wildlife Service issued licences to log Downfall Creek in February 1992 as part of a mass temporary licencing operation for the whole of NSW. These licences were issued prior to the licencing provisions of the Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act coming into full force. The licences were only meant to be temporary, until the NPWS had time to get its act together, for compartments the then Forestry Commission claimed they had to log in the next four months. There was no assessment of the compartments by the NPWS and only a few token conditions put on all the licences. These licences have been renewed ever since with no further assessment.

Over the past two years NEFA has made repeated requests to the Director of the NPWS to withdraw licences for the most significant oldgrowth compartments, including Downfall Creek. Now yet another of these supposedly urgent compartments is being chainsawed without adequate consideration of its faunal significance and without a Fauna Impact Statement.

On the 10 December 1993 the Director General of the NPWS, Dr. Neil Shepherd, gave a commitment to the North Coast Environment Council to review the temporary licencing system, most particularly the early licences issued without due process. He said that he would respond within two weeks, though there has still been no response. On 17 March 1994 he was asked to impose a Stop Work Order over Downfall Creek. He has so far failed to do so.

It is clear that the Director of the NPWS has failed to fulfil his legal duty for the protection and care of fauna in NSW.

TI(IP) ACT FAILURE - NO EIS.

Under the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act 1992 the State Forests were exempted from having to prepare EISs for logging in most of the Dorrigo MA until the end of October 1992. By this time they were meant to have prepared an EIS for the whole of the Dorrigo MA. They prepared what they called an EIS, though none of the other Government departments agreed with them. Political pressure seemed to be prevailing to force the Department of Planning to determine the purported EIS until NEFA commenced legal proceedings. Planning then refused the EIS on the grounds that it had too many manifest deficiencies, but before the Minister for Planning could formally refuse the EIS, the State Forests hastily withdrew it and wrongfully blamed the Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act for their failure.

Reprehensively half of the Downfall Creek oldgrowth (compartment 578) was logged last year while the purported EIS was being assessed by the Department of Planning. Now State Forests are exploiting what they perceive to be a loophole in the TI(IP) Act, which allows them to go on failing to get their EISs together while they log the rest of Downfall Creek's oldgrowth.

Over 17 months after the TI(IP) Act specified that an EIS should have been prepared and over a year since the TI(IP) Act's exemption from the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act's requirements should have

ceased. State Forests are logging an area of outstanding environmental significance without an EIS.

UNSUSTAINABLE LOGGING

In 1988 the State Forests realised that they had over-estimated available yields of quota sawlogs from the Dorrigo Management Area by over 20% and yields of small logs from Wild Cattle Creek State Forest by over 60%. They made no attempt to reduce yields in line with new estimates and continued unsustainable logging. The failed Dorrigo EIS made no mention of this yield deficit and instead claimed that they would have to reduce quota yields by 9.4% due to the creation of new reserves. NEFA estimated that less than 15% of the proposed yield reduction was due to the creation of new reserves, with the vast majority attributable to their erroneous yield assessments.

There are three mills with quota sawlog allocations from the Dorrigo MA. Two mills owned by Boral, one at Bostobrick (near Dorrigo) and one in South Grafton, and one owned by the Briggs family at Briggsvale (next to Downfall Creek). The two Boral mills have long term Wood Supply Agreements (defacto resource security) with State Forests. In their submission to the Dorrigo EIS in February 1993, G.L. Briggs and Sons Pty Ltd stated:

"We would be likely to experience a 30% reduction if companies with Wood Supply Agreements recieved preferential treatment. Independent assessment advises that G.L. Briggs and Sons would not be viable with a 9.4% quota reduction ... At 30% the Directors would be bound to recommend to the owners that the operation be discontinued."

In July 1993 fire destroyed part of Briggs' mill. The fire was apparently deliberately lit by persons unknown; though it was evident that they knew the layout of the mill sufficiently to target the most damaging area to burn and to turn off a crucial water pump. The mill has not yet been rebuilt though Briggs' quota continues to be taken and sold by Briggs to mills elsewhere.

It is evident that the Dorrigo MA is still being grossly overcut and that there needs to be an immediate quota reduction to introduce some measure of sustainability. The full measure of this reduction will only be able to be determined once an adequate reserve system has been identified and the impact of other constraints required to safeguard natural values in other areas detailed. There is no doubt that the adoption of ecologically sustainable practices in the Dorrigo MA will necessitate a significant reduction in quota sawlogs. The future of timber production in the Dorrigo MA is one based on utilising the over abundance of small logs, not increasingly scarce oldgrowth trees.

The continuation of unsustainable logging rates in the Dorrigo MA is the principle factor responsible for current resource problems. It is essential that there be an immediate reduction in quota's, by at least 50%, until ecologically sustainable practices can be introduced and long term yields properly assessed.

The Minister for Resources
The Hon M. J. Lee, MP
House of Representatives,
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Facsimile: 06 273 4154

11th December, 1993.

Dear Minister,

Implementation of the National Forest Policy,
specifically with respect to Export Woodchip Licences and including Agreements affecting the
SE Forests of NSW

In accordance with the unanimous resolution of the twentieth Annual Meeting of the The Australian National Parks Council, we call on you:

- to strongly promotes the implementation of the environmental protection aspects of the National Forest Policy, and specifically the proposals for a moratorium on logging in significant forests until the regional assessment programme has been adequately completed and the foreshadowed establishment of a reserves system been implemented.

With respect to determination of export woodchip licences it is anticipated that this will require careful and specific conditions to ensure that the National Forest Policy is upheld.

Particular and detailed scrutiny of any proposals affecting the South East Forests of Australia are essential in the light of renewed consideration of the "1990 Agreement". The Agreement in its original form was widely recognised as seriously flawed. Subsequent events, notably the adoption of the National Forest Policy, but also the findings of the Resource Assessment Commission Inquiry; additional scientific research into specific aspects of the flora and fauna of the region; and the publication of a Report on the World Heritage Values and their Protection by Mosley and Costin all need to be considered in arriving at an acceptable Agreement.

The extensive coverage in the Sydney Morning Herald (Saturday, 11/12/93) reinforces the important role that the Federal Government has to play if the Forest Policy is to be upheld.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Reeves
Hon. Secretary.

The Minister for Environment Sport and Territories,
The Hon R.J. Kelly MP
House of Representatives,
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Facsimile: 06 273 4130

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Yours sincerely,

Anne Reeves
Hon. Secretary.

PLEASE FORWARD FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION THANK
You!



**EARTH REPAIR
FOUNDATION**



36 MOUNT VIEW AVENUE, HAZELBROOK NSW 2779 AUSTRALIA
PO Box 15, HAZELBROOK NSW 2779 AUSTRALIA
TELEPHONE: (047) 58 6393 • TEL/FACS: (047) 58 6904
INCORPORATED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET
FROM FACS. NO. (047) 58 6904 to 247 5945

TO: SID, TOM, MARGARET, SUE ETC.

FROM: LISA & TOM EARTH REPAIR
FOUNDATION

Number of pages including this one: 2.

PLEASE ADVISE IF THIS COPY IS ILLEGIBLE
OR INCOMPLETE BY CALLING (047) 58 6393

Hi all,

Suggestion for cover letter for Roz Kelly.

Can you add, refine, or improve quality
or content before we send it off

Thankyou for the Synergy
For the Forests,



EARTH REPAIR FOUNDATION

36 MOUNT VIEW AVE, OR PO BOX 15, HAZELBROOK, NSW, 2779, AUSTRALIA
PHONE: (047) 58 6393, Fax: (047) 58 6904, E-mail: earthrepair@peg.apc.org
Incorporated in New South Wales, Australia. ACN # 003 198 981



Draft: 10/12/93

Attention: Hon Ros Kelly,

Please find following our FOREST PROTECTION NOW letter to John Fahey plus our Petition to the NSW Parliament and an OPEN LETTER on the subject.

We have become aware of the plans to sign a ratification of the discredited 1990 agreement for the South East of New South Wales on Monday 13th December, 1993. On behalf of the major conservation groups I would like to express that under no circumstances will the signing of the above ratification be accepted.

The moratorium on all old growth forests must be honoured and implemented in line with the conservation clause of the National Forest Policy Statement signed by the Prime Minister Paul Keating, Premier John Fahey and all the other Premiers, excluding Tasmania.

Accurate environmental assessments including fauna impact must be completed by independent agencies before any licences are issued or renewed.

Woodchip and logging licences should be issued only for plantation timber, preserving once and for all, the remaining old growth and wilderness forests in NSW and Australia.

We demand that the Federal Government fulfil its legal responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act 1992, which implements the United Nations Biodiversity Convention to which Australia is a signatory.

We have been informed that much essential data concerning this issue has not been forwarded to the Prime Minister and relevant policy makers. The majority of public sentiment and opinion in the form of letters, actions and petitions, supported by research information and reports from many government and independent authorities is in support of the afore-mentioned moratorium.

We humbly request and strongly urge democratic justice, and immediate action on this moratorium.

Yours for a repaired Earth,

The Earth Repair Foundation, in association with the Environment Program of UNAA (NSW) Inc. is working to implement the Australian ERA (Earth Repair Action) Decade, as proclaimed in 1988 by the United Nations Association of Australia.



The precautionary principle is essentially a risk management tool - the end-purpose is prevention rather than control.

The implications of actually applying this principle is however, little understood. There are no national legislative or even policy initiatives which effectively implement the principle. In NSW, the only legislative definition is a rather timid one focussed more on the "elimination of damage which has occurred" rather than on true precautionary policy:

... s. ? Environment Protection Authority Administration Act 1991 (NSW)

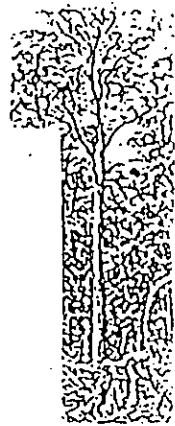
BOX: Case Study of Barramundi Grow Out Facility, Narrandera, NSW

The precautionary principle is based on a realisation that we are, and to an extent always will be, managing in a climate of uncertainty. The uncertainty exists not only to the likely impacts of products and processes but to the very operation of nature itself. The Groups see absolutely no evidence that the NSW Government, or the Commonwealth Government, are addressing this matter. The Commonwealth's Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) Report on Intersectoral Issues stressed the need for governments to examine and implement means for dealing cautiously with environmental risks.

The consequences of not not dealing cautiously with these risks is of far greater significance than financial risks. The ESD Report referred to above discussed not only the issue of uncertainty but also of the irreversibility of failing to deal cautiously with risk. The precautionary principle, properly implemented is not only a matter of good management but it is fundamental to inter-generational equity.

Recommendation #: *That the NSW Government urgently examine it's approach to environmental risk management and incorporate the precautionary principle as a fundamental part of risk management strategies.*

SOUTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE



MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

6 October 1993

NSW GREENS SUPPORT NATIONAL FOREST CENSURE MOTION

Environmentalists today urged NSW Parliamentarians to support Clover Moore's proposed censure motion of the Premier and Minister for Environment for their breaking of the National Forest Policy.

"The NSW Government deserves to be censured for breaking its obligations under the national forest contract because it is destroying the last chances for preservation of the last old growth and wilderness forests and long term peace in forest disputes," said Jeff Angel, Convenor of the South East Forest Alliance.

"The arguments by the Government for not applying the Policy to the south east forests are fatuous. They are trying to hide behind the endangered fauna licences of the National Parks Service but this is wrong because:

- * many licences are issued without a fauna impact statement and thus are not based on the law's required level information about the wildlife in the logging area;
- * many logging plans are given the go-ahead by the NPWS without public comment under the Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act as they are simply added onto temporary general licences in a legally suspect manner [such licences were issued as a short term transitional measure when the Act came into force];
- * endangered fauna licences cover only one of the many environmental values required to be assessed by the National Forest Policy and are not a substitute for the regional assessment process mandated by the Policy;
- * the Government is refusing to undertake a regional assessment of the south east forests;
- * the intensive logging and burning of old growth and wilderness forests in the south east is severely fragmenting the old growth and wilderness forests thus destroying the chance for the National Forest Policy to achieve its aim of a 'representative, comprehensive and adequate' system of nature conservation reserves by the end of 1995.

"We also believe the NPWS are under political pressure to fudge endangered species laws."

"Add all this to the NSW Government's obsessive adherence to the scientifically incompetent 1990 south east forest decision and discredited biological study upon which it was based, and you have the recipe for explosive political and community conflict," Mr Angel said.

"The fact is that the logging is causing irreparable harm to the forests and the moratorium clause of the Policy should be implemented. With the moratorium in place then a credible regional assessment can take place. The Commonwealth is even offering funds for the study."

"Passing the South East Forests Protection Bill will achieve this aim; otherwise the Government will further entrench the public view that they are environmental vandals". Mr Angel concluded.

Further information: Jeff Angel (02) 247 8476 or 247 4714

P.S. Have just heard that West has not only summarily sacked Wickham, he has abolished the whole Conservation section of CALM (now "ALM"), subsumed under Warwick Watkins, Director of Land Management. "Conservation" has been abolished!

NORTH-EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

Fal Brook Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 9 Singleton 2330 Australia

phone: (065) 77.3105

fax/data: (by prior notice)

E-mail: peg: ganref

April 27th 1993

By facsimile.

Ms Ros Kelly, Environment Minister

ATTENTION: PHIL HOYSTED

Dear Ms Kelly,

RE: IMPLEMENTING OF NATIONAL FORESTS POLICY

I refer to previous letters and press releases and other material relating to this matter, which is now of the utmost urgency. Over the past four years NEFA has brought numerous cases before the NSW Land and Environment Court proving breaches of legislation, regulation and codes of practice. Having legally enforced the preparation of EISs, we are currently in the situation of having to prepare further litigation challenging Forestry Commission EISs, in order to seek to ensure the provisions of your so-called National Forests Policy are adhered to. It is outrageous that we should have to continue to litigate to prevent roading and logging in these old forests before proper assessment.

Forestry Commission EISs have been shown to be deliberately misleading, scientifically inept, and failing to meet minimal legal requirements. Yet the Forestry Commission has the effrontery to lobby your Government for access to Commonwealth funds for old growth assessment, and to seek to gain endorsement of these "EISs" as adequate regional assessments. Apparently both Gary West and Fahey have written to you recently in support of such ridiculous claims by the Commission - unsuccessfully, we assume. The Commission is being prosecuted by the EPA for flagrant breaches, yet in areas such as in Mistake State Forest, are proposing in current harvesting plans to offend yet again. There is the appearance of fraud or impropriety in relation to wood supply agreements by an Assistant Commissioner for Forests, who was also Director of a company benefitting from wood supply agreements at the time these were signed. There is evidence of illegal woodchip operations and of sawlogs being chipped at Tea Gardens mill....

Gary West has aggressively supported the Forestry Commission and the industry and defended breaches and operations found to be illegal. Finally now we have just heard that West has sacked Graeme Wickham, Director of Conservation for CALM, for standing up to the Commission by insisting reasonable standards be applied!

The situation has become critical for old growth forests in North-East and South East NSW and East Gippsland. Your Government is aware of what is going on currently in these forests; inaction is allowing these conservative State Governments to get away with murder, ignoring the National Forests Policy and thus discrediting your Government's commitment to environment protection generally. There must be no further delay in acting to ensure the policy agreement to avoid activities harmful to old growth and wilderness pending proper independent assessment is adhered to.

Yours faithfully

Barrie Griffiths

cc. Tony Bigwood, Rick Pickering

attached: 2-page Summary of Dept Planning Report on Mt Royal EIS

by mail: copy of Mt Royal EIS Report by Director of Planning

30 NOV 1992

POSITION STATEMENT

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY IN AUSTRALIA: FUTURE DIRECTIONS Dr.J.A. Duggin
Head of Department

The Maurice Wyndham Conference on Sustainable Forestry in Australia: Future Directions will be held at UNE ARMIDALE on 7-10 February 1993. The conference organisers are seeking a position statement from all major organisations with interests in forest management in Australia. The position statement should clearly state the position (specific policies) of each organisation in relation to key issues in the sustainable forest management debate. Position statements should also consider addressing such issues as:

1. What does sustainable forest management mean as far as your organisation is concerned?
2. What are the major sustainable forest values and which values should be given priority in a multiple use environment?
3. What portions of the forest estate should be available for timber production (eg old growth, national parks, state forests, crown lands, protected lands, regrowth, etc)?
4. What do you consider to be the major adverse impacts of current forest use?
5. What general planning and mitigation prescriptions are or should be applied to forest management to mitigate impacts and ensure sustainable use of all values?
6. What procedures are or should be in place to ensure adequate compliance, monitoring, and review of impacts and mitigation prescriptions?
7. What do you consider to be the most important future directions to ensure sustainable forest management?
8. Any other issues which you consider to be important and which you would like to see addressed and debated at the Conference.

It is intended that all position statements will be freely available to all delegates at the conference and be considered public documents. Statements should summarise the viewpoints of your organisation clearly, precisely and without ambiguity. The use of motherhood statements should be avoided and the overall statement should not exceed 2000 words. Key organisations will be allocated a short time for spoken presentation of position statements at the conference, and all organisations will be allocated time to field questions on their statements.

Position statements are seen by the conference organisers as an important mechanism for focussing debate and fostering dialogue on the use and management of Australia's forest resource. Your co-operation in preparation of a careful statement would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to contribute please fill in and return the attached form by 15 December 1992.

Position statements should be sent to:

Mrs. Jean Seppelt,
New England Conference Management,
University of New England,
Armidale, NSW 2351
FAX: (067) 71 1713 PHONE: (067) 73 2154
by 7 January 1993 at the latest.

For further details please contact Associate Professor Andrew Smith, Department of Ecosystem Management, UNE-Armidale. Phone (067) 73-3001: FAX: (067) 73-2769.



My organisation intends to submit a POSITION STATEMENT

Organisation Name:.....

Organisation Address:

.....

.....

Contact Person:.....Phone:.....

FAX:.....

The following representative(s) from the organisation will be attending the Conference and will be available to answer questions and make a short spoken presentation if required:

Name:.....Phone:.....

FAX:.....

Please return this form by **15 December 1992**

Mrs. Jean Seppelt,
New England Conference Management,
University of New England,
Armidale, NSW 2351

FAX: (067) 71 1713

Phone: (067) 73 2154

**STYLE GUIDE FOR THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON
SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY IN AUSTRALIA: FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

J.A. Duggin
Department of Ecosystem Management
University of New England,
Armidale, NSW 2351

Style Guide:	These notes conform to the style guide required for the conference.
Length:	Paper presentation - a two-page summary. Paper summary of more than two pages will be cut by the Organising Committee to fit two pages. Poster presentation - a one-page summary. Poster summary of more than one page will be cut to fit one page. Position Statement - a four-page statement of about 2000 words.
Paper:	A4 white bond
Margins:	25mm on both sides and 20mm top and bottom (as per these notes, but do not include the box borders).
Typeface:	Times 10 point or equivalent
Printing:	Laser printer is preferred - <u>NOT</u> dot matrix
Title:	Upper case, centred and bold. Do NOT underline. Use single space if title goes over more than one line
Author(s):	Lower case (except initials), centred, with an abbreviated address, single spaced
Structure:	Block typed with no indentations for paragraphs
Spacing:	Single spacing in text. Double spacing between title and authors. Double spacing between paragraphs
Headings: (if necessary)	First-order : Capitalised and centred Second-order : Lower case except for the first letter of each word. The headings must be on a separate line Third-order : Lower case except for the first letter of each word and end with a period. The text follows on the same line.
Units:	SI units must be used throughout the paper
Use of common and scientific names for organisms:	At the first mention of the organism give its common name followed by with its scientific name in italics in parentheses - spotted gum (<i>Eucalyptus maculata</i>) - thereafter use the common name unless it is necessary to use the scientific name for accuracy.
Spelling:	Spelling should follow the Macquarie Dictionary.
References:	References should be cited in the text by author's name and year where there are three or more authors, the first author's name is given followed by <i>et al.</i> An alphabetical list of references should be provided at the end of the text giving surnames of authors, initials, year of publication (in parentheses), title of paper, name of journal (in italics), volume number and first and last page numbers. (over)

For example:

Vancley, J.K. (1970). Effects of selection logging on rainforest productivity. *Aust. For.* 53: 200-214.

Copy:

Please supply both a hard (printed) copy which is correctly formatted and camera ready and a disc copy of your paper. Disc copy should be on IBM formatted (DOS) discs (any size, any density). Preferred word processing is Microsoft Word for Windows. Other processing packages include WordPerfect, MS Word, RFT-DCA, Wordstar, Win Write, Works. For Macintosh the only acceptable form is MSWord, version 4 or 5.

Poster displays:

Poster displays should be confined to a maximum 100cm wide x 130cm high. The title, author(s) and organisation must be at the top of the board. A photograph at the top right hand corner will help delegates identify the author(s) for discussions. Make sure poster elements flow in a logical pattern across and down the poster. Make the message clear, simple and self-explanatory as delegates will read your poster outside formal tour sessions.

All lettering must be read easily from a distance of 3 metres. Avoid typefaces made of thin strokes as readability is reduced. Use bold typeface for titles, headings and sub-headings.

Poster elements should be mounted on cardboard which can be easily transported. You may wish to consider having your poster plastic laminated.

Remember: A poster is not a vehicle to present the detail normally contained in a scientific paper. The simplest posters are often the most successful. Make sure there is a clear **take home message**.

30 NOV 1992

ARMIDALE
Department of Ecosystem Management
Armidale, NSW 2351 Australia
Telephone (067) 73 2539 Fax (067) 73 2769

POSITION STATEMENT

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Dr.J.A. Duggin
Head of Department

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*Call - Next
2 day - sid
can do
brief
post paper*

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Organisation Address:

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J.A. Duggin
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Printing:	Laser printer is preferred - <u>NOT</u> dot matrix
Title:	Upper case, centred and bold. Do NOT underline. Use single space if title goes over more than one line
Author(s):	Lower case (except initials), centred, with an abbreviated address, single spaced
Structure:	Block typed with no indentations for paragraphs
Spacing:	Single spacing in text. Double spacing between title and authors. Double spacing between paragraphs
Headings: (if necessary)	First-order : Capitalised and centred Second-order : Lower case except for the first letter of each word. The headings must be on a separate line Third-order : Lower case except for the first letter of each word and end with a period. The text follows on the same line.
Units:	SI units must be used throughout the paper
Use of common and scientific names for organisms:	At the first mention of the organism give its common name followed by with its scientific name in italics in parentheses - spotted gum (<i>Eucalyptus maculata</i>) - thereafter use the common name unless it is necessary to use the scientific name for accuracy.
Spelling:	Spelling should follow the Macquarie Dictionary.
References:	References should be cited in the text by author's name and year where there are three or more authors, the first author's name is given followed by <i>et al.</i> An alphabetical list of references should be provided at the end of the text giving surnames of authors, initials, year of publication (in parentheses), title of paper, name of journal (in italics), volume number and first and last page numbers: (over)

For example:

Vancly, J.K. (1970). Effects of selection logging on rainforest productivity. *Aust. For.* 53: 200-214.

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Please supply both a hard (printed) copy which is correctly formatted and camera ready and a disc copy of your paper. Disc copy should be on IBM formatted (DOS) discs (any size, any density). Preferred word processing is Microsoft Word for Windows. Other processing packages include WordPerfect, MS Word, RFT-DCA, Wordstar, Win Write, Works. For Macintosh the only acceptable form is MSWord, version 4 or 5.

Poster displays:

Poster displays should be confined to a maximum 100cm wide x 130cm high. The title, author(s) and organisation must be at the top of the board. A photograph at the top right hand corner will help delegates identify the author(s) for discussions. Make sure poster elements flow in a logical pattern across and down the poster. Make the message clear, simple and self-explanatory as delegates will read your poster outside formal tour sessions.

All lettering must be read easily from a distance of 3 metres. Avoid typefaces made of thin strokes as readability is reduced. Use bold typeface for titles, headings and sub-headings.

Poster elements should be mounted on cardboard which can be easily transported. You may wish to consider having your poster plastic laminated.

Remember: A poster is not a vehicle to present the detail normally contained in a scientific paper. The simplest posters are often the most successful. Make sure there is a clear **take home message**



Joint Statement

DPIE92/60GR

7 JULY 1992

A NEW FOCUS FOR AUSTRALIA'S FORESTS

Australia will have a comprehensive system of forest conservation reserves, more productive and efficient forest industries, increased plantation development and eco-tourism growth, under a draft National Forest Policy Statement released today.

The draft Statement was released on behalf of the Federal Government by the Minister for Resources, Alan Griffiths and the Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories, Ros Kelly.

The Statement is also being released across Australia by State and Territory Ministers responsible for forests, conservation and the environment.

Mr Griffiths and Mrs Kelly said the Statement will, for the first time since Federation, take a co-ordinated approach to the conservation and sustainable management of Australia's forests.

The Statement's strategy and initiatives are comprehensive and far reaching. They address the fundamental issues of conservation, commercial use, value-adding investment, sustainable employment and the protection of old growth and wilderness values through a transition strategy, all of which have been at the centre of the forests debate over the last 15 years.

The new focus seeks to achieve the best mix of conservation and commercial uses of native and plantation forests, in an integrated planning and management framework.

As part of this, the Statement outlines a shared vision of Australia's forests and forest industries into the next century. Its main features are outlined in the attached summary document.

"The statement includes a draft national plantations strategy that will provide an increased commercial wood resource for industry and, in some cases, should also help to rehabilitate degraded farmland and improve water quality.

"The draft statement also proposes an increased and better focussed national research and development effort, and more opportunities for effective public participation in decision-making about forest use," the Ministers said.

"It is particularly pleasing for me to see a national approach to establishing a comprehensive reserve system for forests," Mrs Kelly said.

"A commitment to have the best of our old growth forests and wilderness protected by 1995 will go a long way to resolving the contentious forestry debate."

People interested in forest policy will have an opportunity to submit comments to Commonwealth, State or Territory governments.

When finalised later this year, the draft statement will be the response by the governments to three major forest inquiries: the reports of the Ecologically Sustainable Development Working Group on Forest Use, the Resource Assessment Commission Forest and Timber Inquiry, and the National Plantations Advisory Committee.

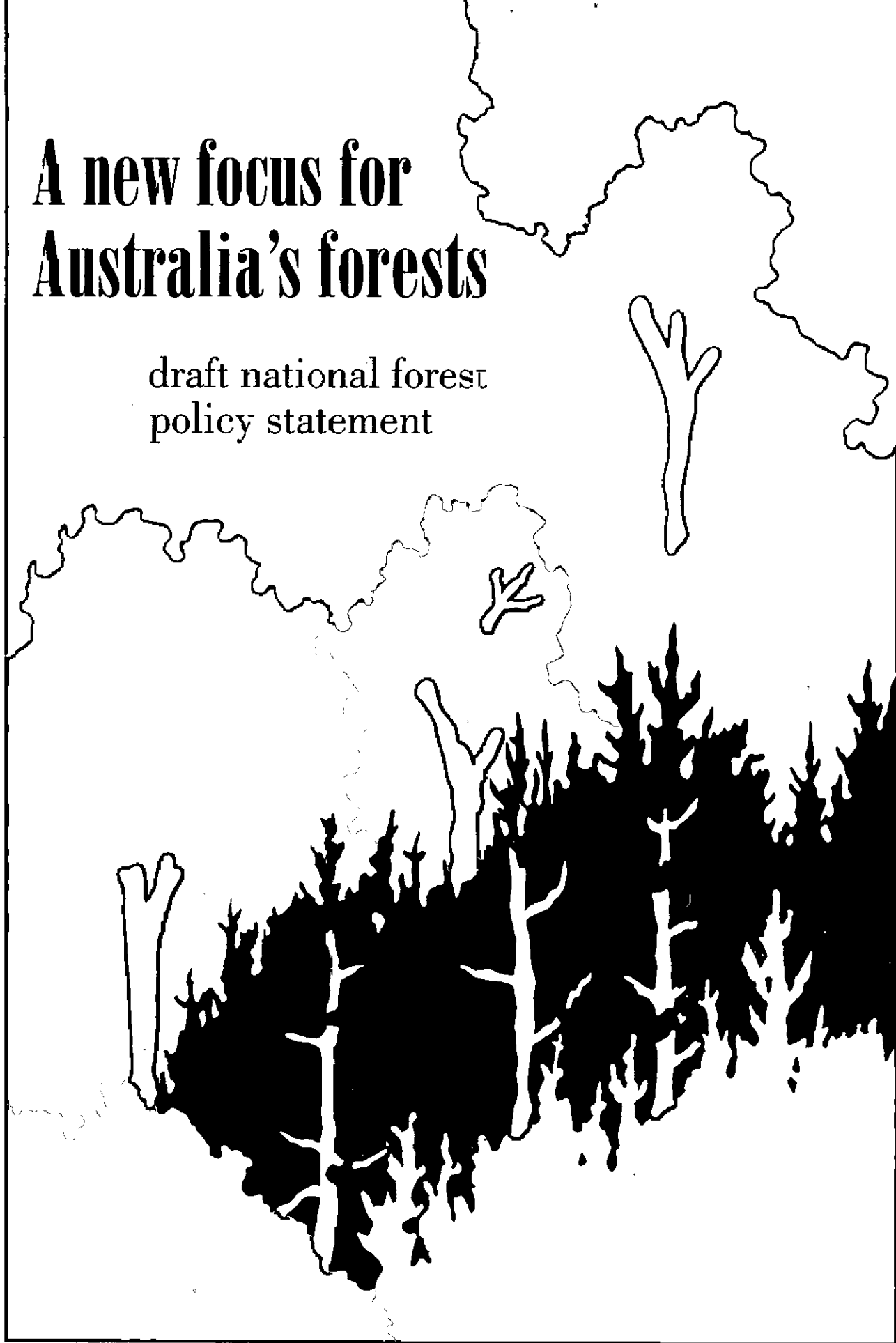
Public comment on the draft policy statement is welcome. Copies are available from:

The Secretariat
Forests Policy Analysis Unit
Land Resources Division
Department of Primary Industries and Energy
GPO Box 858
Canberra City ACT 2601

More information:	Kristen Barry	Mr Griffiths' office	(06) 277 7480
	Garrie Hutchinson	Mrs Kelly's office	(06) 277 7640
	Rick Pickering	DPIE	(06) 272 5113
	Bob Pegler	DASET	(06) 274 1399

A new focus for Australia's forests

draft national forest
policy statement



Summary

AT A GLANCE - THE DRAFT NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT

For the first time, Australia is to take a co-ordinated national approach to the sustainable management and use of Australia's forests. The Statement outlines a vision of Australia's forests and forest industries into the next century. The cornerstone of the vision is the principle of ecologically sustainable development.

The Statement has been prepared by Commonwealth, State and Territory officials under the auspices of the Australian Forestry Council and the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council, and has yet to be endorsed by Governments.

THE POLICIES AT A GLANCE

1. *Forest Conservation*

Two principal objectives outlined in the Statement are the maintenance of a permanent forest estate in Australia and the protection of nature conservation values in forests.

1.1 *Adequate nature conservation reserves*

It is important that Australia protects and manages conservation values in forests. This will be achieved by:

- determination of agreed criteria for a comprehensive and representative reservation system;
- establishment of a comprehensive network of secure and representative reserves, supported by complementary management outside reserves;
- adequate resources for forest reserve management;
- further developing management plans for reserves to ensure protection of conservation and heritage values.

1.2 *Protection of old-growth and wilderness values through a transition strategy*

A transition strategy has been agreed which will conserve and manage forests with old-growth and wilderness values by:

- ensuring that a representative reserve system of forests with old-growth values and wilderness areas is in place by the end of 1995, complemented by sustainable management outside reserves.

1.3 *Ecologically sustainable forest management*

Ecologically sustainable management of native forests and plantations will be given effect through:

- further developing and applying codes of practice for all commercial and high impact uses;
- avoiding or limiting clearing of public native forests to cases where national and regional conservation objectives and catchment management objectives are not compromised;
- encouraging sustainable management of private native forests;
- managing unallocated and leased Crown land consistent with ecologically sustainable practices.

1.4 *Adequate forest protection*

Protection of the conservation and commercial values of forests will necessitate:

- addressing threats to forests from disease, pests, fire and pathogens;
- strict guidelines for use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals;
- adequate quarantine measures against introduction of plant diseases and pests;
- monitoring and control of feral animals and exotic plants.

2. *Wood Production and Industry Development*

Sustainable economic use of native forests and plantations is a major objective outlined in the Statement.

2.1 *Promotion of efficient use and value adding industries*

The benefit to the community from using multiple purpose forests for wood production can be increased through efficient use of wood by industry and value-adding forest products industries. This will be achieved by:

- cooperative arrangements between Governments aimed at providing certainty and security to industry so that it can make significant long term investments in value-adding projects;
- lifting export controls on private and public plantation woodchips, subject to satisfactory codes of practice;
- following comprehensive forest assessments, the Commonwealth will consider longer term export licence approvals;
- providing domestic processors with the first opportunity to use pulpwood from native forests to facilitate domestic value adding processing;
- adoption of the national environmental guidelines for new bleached eucalypt kraft pulpmills;
- reviewing existing taxation provisions for recycled paper.

2.2 *Structural assistance and improving international competitiveness*

The forest and forest products industries need to be internationally competitive and adjust constantly to changing consumer preferences, market conditions and the availability and quality of wood resource. This will be assisted by:

- promoting industry development initiatives of Governments, including participation in the Best Practices Program;
- structural adjustment assistance should resource be withdrawn by Governments.

2.3 *Improving employment opportunities, labour productivity and safety*

There are important regional and local employment effects of wood production and processing. Increased labour productivity is important for improving industry efficiency. This will be pursued by:

- continued skills up-grading, workplace reform and occupational health and safety programs.

2.4 *Wood pricing and allocation*

The pricing and allocation system for wood from public native forests has a major bearing on industry performance and community returns. Appropriate policies will be achieved by:

- further developing pricing and allocation systems which are market based and allow transferability of rights, a fair return to the community and promote the most efficient use of resources;
- revised accounting procedures to reflect costs associated with wood production and community services.

3. *Integrated Decision Making and Management*

It is important to ensure that Governments have access to the same information and consider issues concurrently rather than sequentially to avoid duplication and fragmentation in decision making. This will be achieved by:

- implementing land use decision-making processes agreed in the context of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment;
- integrated management of conservation and commercial uses of forests;
- development of regional management plans by forest management agencies, consulting with regional organisations and the community.

4. *Private Native Forests*

The management of forests in private ownership is integral to achieving the objectives for the management of the native forest estate. This will be achieved by:

- future land development being in line with soundly-based regional conservation and development strategies;
- encouraging the application of Codes of Practice covering wood production and other uses;
- the provision of incentives, information and technical advice to encourage conservation;
- promotion of sustainable forest management through Landcare groups;
- land clearing controls and/or other measures to encourage forest retention.

5. *Plantations*

Plantations can provide a wide range of commercial, environmental and aesthetic benefits to the community. Plantation development will be facilitated by:

- reviewing the taxation treatment of plantations;
- provision of extension services;
- development of demonstration plantations on farms;
- tree breeding and research program;
- simplifying approval processes;

6. *Water Supply and Catchment Management*

The value to the community of a reliable, high quality water supply is very great. Water quality will be maintained by:

- the promotion of integrated catchment management among public and private forest owners.

7. *Public Awareness and Involvement*

Forest management agencies manage public forests on behalf of the community. It is important that these agencies are accountable to the community for their stewardship of the community's assets. This will be achieved by:

- improve community awareness of forest management and conservation through forest information facilities and school education initiatives;
- public involvement in land use decision making.
- producing "state of the forests" reviews every five years for public information on forest management;

8. *Tourism Recreation*

In an increasingly competitive tourist market, Australia's natural environment is a major attraction for domestic and overseas visitors. Tourism and recreation will be enhanced by:

- developing an ecotourism strategy for Australia covering tourist use of Australia's forests;
- international marketing of forest-based tourism;
- providing appropriate infrastructure and visitor facilities;
- increasing ecotourism related research and monitoring the impact of tourism and recreation.

9. *Research and Development*

An enhanced, better coordinated and focussed research and development effort is important to the future of Australia's forests and forest industries. This will be achieved by:

- establishment of a Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation, additional research into conservation and environmental aspects of forests, and plantations research;
- continued support for the national pulpmill research program.

10. *International Responsibilities*

As a world leader in developing sustainable forest management, forest practices and community involvement in forestry, Australia will continue to be a model for the conservation and sustainable use of forests. This will require:

- promoting sustainable forest management internationally;
- continuing the development of an international agreement on forests.

Public comments on the draft National Forest Policy Statement are invited prior to the finalisation of the Statement for consideration by Governments. Details on where to send comments are included at the back of the Statement.

Nature Conservation Council of NSW • Australian Conservation Foundation • Friends of the Earth
National Parks Association of NSW • Total Environment Centre • Greenpeace



Environment Liaison Office

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Email: elo@nccnsw.org.au • Internet: http://www.nccnsw.org.au

June 23, 1998

The Hon. Bob Martin
Minister for Mineral Resources
Parliament House
Macquarie St
SYDNEY 2000

DRAFT

BY FAX: 9230 3046

Dear ~~Mr~~ ^{Minister} Martin,

Re: Offshore Mining Bill 1998

The Environment Liaison Groups view with grave concern the above Bill currently before the Parliament, and will be seeking significant amendment in the Upper House. The issue of mining in potentially ecologically sensitive marine areas is under-researched to say the least, and it is our position that such a Bill could not possibly be supported by the conservation movement unless it was firmly based on the precautionary principles of ecological sustainability.

The Groups would prefer alternative non-marine sources of production, but where mining projects do exist, we maintain that such activities should only occur within a comprehensive planning framework. Secondly, they should be subject to full environmental assessment and very strict controls over all phases of the activity.

The amendments we seek will focus on the following deficiencies in the Bill:

Research:

The NSW Government should

a) impose an absolute moratorium on further exploration and minerals exploitation in its territorial waters until management authorities have carried out environmental studies of the nation's marine environment to ensure identification of:

- i) areas to be incorporated into marine and protected estuarine areas;
- ii) areas in which fisheries management has priority;
- iii) areas of high environmental sensitivity (eg replenishment sands);
- iv) areas of cultural heritage significance;

Coastal reserves

a) ensure that no exploration or mining takes place in marine parks or aquatic reserves

comprehensive management

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MEDIA RELEASE... MEDIA RELEASE... MEDIA RELEASE... Thu, 22 Dec 1994

CARR MUST COME CLEAN ON FOREST PROTECTION

"It has been encouraging that NSW Opposition leader Bob Carr has lined up with Senator Faulkner in the furore over woodchip licence renewals" said Sid Walker, Executive Officer of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

"However, he has yet to commit an incoming Carr Government to protecting all the areas identified as high conservation value forests by the Federal Environment Minister" Mr Walker said.

"This is a pledge Mr Carr can and must make if he is to clearly distinguish the State ALP from the gross environmental vandalism of his Federal colleagues" he added.

"Bob Carr took action to distance the NSW ALP from the Keating Government over the Third Runway debacle."

"A clear statement that a Carr Government will not permit logging in all these magnificent high conservation value forests is needed to ensure that the State ALP does not also get dragged into the woodchip mire by its Federal counterparts" Mr Walker concluded.

For further information contact Sid Walker on 02 247 4206 (w) 02 305 090 (h)

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21 December 1994

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE
Immediate Attention Chief of Staff/ Environment Reporter

WOODCHIPPING DISASTER — FATE OF SOUTH EAST FORESTS HINGES ON STATE ELECTION

"The South East Forest Alliance welcomes the State Opposition's repudiation of the Keating Government's export woodchip licences. This should be a first step to protect all high conservation value forests in the south east", Noel Plumb, spokesperson for the Alliance said today.

"With the resignation of Senator Devereaux, it is clear that the ALP has lost its way and is divided on environmental issues."

"The NSW ALP's proposal for a 90,000 hectare South East Forest National Park does not fully cover all high conservation value forests in the south east," said Mr Plumb, "but it is a glimmer of hope for the forests which the Keating and Fahey Governments have gift wrapped for the multinational woodchipper Harris Daishowa."

The Australian Democrats, the Australian Greens and high profile independents Peter Macdonald and Clover Moore have also condemned the export licences and called for full protection of high conservation value forests.

"The issue is now shaping up as a major state election focus. The community must now look to the March 1995 State election for a government which will protect old growth and wilderness forest and remove them from the control of a rapacious State Forest bureaucracy which has completely lost sight of its environmental responsibilities," said Mr Plumb.

"Yesterday's announcement of 1995 export woodchip licences was the last chance for the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) to be implemented. It is supposed to commit the Federal Government and State Governments to protect likely high conservation value forests, especially old growth and wilderness areas and impose a moratorium so that high conservation values are not sterilised before a new park system is realised."

"Clearly, Paul Keating has abandoned any pretence that the Federal Government will implement the conservation provisions of the NFPS, especially the crucial moratorium clause. The Fahey Government has refused consistently to honour its NFPS responsibilities over the last two years," said Mr Plumb.

"Mr Carr's position provides some hope for NSW forests but the electorate will want to support those who clearly oppose any continuation of the present environmental and economic vandalism of woodchipping in the south east," concluded Mr Plumb

Further information and comment

Noel Plumb 247 4714 or 247 1737 or 817 5240 ah

Jeff Angel 247 4714

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MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...Tue, 20 Dec 1994



KEATING'S FOREST BETRAYAL

The Keating Government's decision on export woodchip licence renewals for 1995 has betrayed the aspirations of millions of Australians, and is an indictment of the Federal ALP's careless attitude to environmental protection" said Sid Walker, Executive Officer of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

"The Prime Minister decided, once again, to allow the Resources Minister to authorise logging for woodchips throughout vast areas of Australia with minimal environmental control or monitoring" he said.

"Only a handful of compartments, most of them suspiciously close to areas favoured by Canberra public servants for country homes, have been protected. New and additional woodchip licences have been issued, including a 140,000 tonne licence for 'Queensland Hardwood Resources' which will draw woodchips from northern NSW. All in all, today's decision is a woodchippers' dream" he added.

"Last week's announced discovery of a new genus of native pine in unexplored bushland close to Sydney gave an indication of the diversity of our native forests and the many biological secrets they still contain.

"Yet thanks to the Keating Government, tens of thousands of hectares of NSW will be woodchipping in the coming year. The inadequacy of the information base before and after logging activity means we will never know what we have lost in the process.

"It will be hard for the Prime Minister to salvage any image he may have left as environmentally responsible after this appalling decision. Mr Keating is personally responsible, because he was able to call the issue in to cabinet but declined to do so.

By adopting such a restrictive interpretation of the National Forest Policy Statement's conservation commitments, the Keating Government has effectively signalled that it is unwilling to use the NFPS as a means of protecting forests from devastation. This is a slap in the face for Environment Minister John Faulkner who has tried hard to bring balance and fairness into a woodchip-driven Government".



Christabel Chamarette

Senator for The Greens (WA)

20th December 1994

ALP Fails Community on Forests

Greens (WA) Senator Christabel Chamarette said today that the Federal Government has lost all credibility in the eyes of the community with the decision by the Minister for Resources, Mr Beddell, to approve all woodchip export licences.

Senator Chamarette said "The Minister and the Government have blatantly ignored the comprehensive advice of the Environment Minister Senator Faulkner and the Australian Heritage Commission and betrayed the wishes of the community to keep our old-growth forests safe from woodchipping for future generations."

"It is apparent that the only criteria taken into account were the economic needs of the timber industry. This is irrational in the extreme considering the economics of woodchipping remain questionable and almost certainly not sustainable."

"Not only has the Minister approved current export volumes but approved two extra export licences in Tasmania and Victoria."

"In Western Australia where some 370 areas were targeted by the conservation movement for exclusion from woodchip export licences, only three coupes were excluded. This not only threatens the forests, but also the tourism industry."

"The total disregard for the overwhelming community protest at woodchipping in our native forests would suggest that the government has changed its plans for an election in the near future."

It is cynical in the extreme that the Federal Government acts as though environmental issues operate only in pre-election periods and assume the community forgets in between."

This decision could not have been any worse if made by the opposition. The voting public are in a position between a rock and a hard place when it comes to environmental issues," Senator Chamarette said.

"It is clear that the community needs to work harder to get the message through to the Federal and State Governments and both major political parties that saving our forests is vital not just for our future and our children but for the electoral survival of those political parties," Senator Chamarette concluded.

For more information contact:

Christabel Chamarette

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RICHARD JONES MLC

Australian Democrat Member of the NSW Legislative Council
Parliament House, SYDNEY, 2000 Telephone (02) 230 2858 Fax (02) 230 2871

MEDIA RELEASE

20 December 1994

Woodchip decision will cost Paul Keating government & may rebound on Bob Carr

"David Beddall's woodchip decision is certain to rebound on Paul Keating at the upcoming Federal Election," said Democrat Richard Jones, MLC.

"I have talked to a number of key people and it is clear that the green voters are set on teaching Paul Keating a lesson at the next election. The third runway fiasco has already alienated many city-based green voters, this woodchip decision will alienate every green voter.

"Paul Keating arrogantly assumes that green voters will automatically give their preferences to Labor. This is not so.

"Every tree that is logged for woodchipping will have Paul Keating's name on it.

"This woodchip decision is not only environmentally catastrophic, it is also economically stupid and politically inept.

"Huge areas of high conservation value old-growth forest, habitat for endangered species, will be totally destroyed by this stupid decision.

"I have had information from small sawmillers that high quality saw logs, which they call their bread and butter, are going to the woodchip facilities. Many jobs will be lost in the sawlog industry.

"It is politically inept because it is certain to rebound not only on the Federal Government but also on Bob Carr. The last thing Bob Carr needed was a decision like this added to his problems with the noise from the third runway.

"Paul Keating forgets that he cannot get elected without the preferences from people he contemptuously refers as the 'basket-weavers of Balmain'," concluded Richard Jones.

For further information please contact Richard Jones on (02) 230 2858 or (02) 977 6894

8 December 1994

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

80.3% 'no' to woodchipping: *Newspoll* survey

80.3% of Australians do not approve of trees from Australia's native forests being felled and exported as woodchips to Japan.

These are the results of a survey conducted by *Newspoll* in five capital cities last weekend and released today by conservation groups.

'This poll proves beyond any shadow of doubt that Australians from every walk of life are unequivocally opposed to the export woodchipping of native forests', said Linda Parlane, Campaign Coordinator with Environment Victoria.

'The Keating Government's imminent decision on woodchip licences will reveal its responsiveness to community views on this issue. At least 764 forest areas with high conservation value are under immediate threat from logging and woodchipping in Victoria, Tasmania, and Western Australia', said Mr. Kevin Parker, National Campaign Co-ordinator of the Wilderness Society.

'Prime Minister Keating can now move decisively to protect our native forests knowing he has the overwhelming support of Australians', said Mr. Peter Wright, Biodiversity Campaigner for the Australian Conservation Foundation.

'The poll confirms previous surveys that a decision by the Keating Government to end export woodchipping in native forests would gain clear support from the vast majority of Australians', she added.

'As a minimum he needs to ensure that the 764 identified areas of high conservation forests are protected from woodchipping'.

80.3% of people surveyed are opposed to export woodchipping; 11.7% are in favour, while 8.0% remain undecided.

The *Newspoll* survey found revealed that woodchipping and export of native forests is opposed by:

- 83.2% of blue collar workers and 76.3% of white collar workers
- 86.5% of women and 73.7% of men.

For further information call Ms Linda Parlane
 Mr Kevin Parker
 Mr. Peter Wright

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018 449 080

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MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...Thu, 8 Dec 1994



WOODCHIP POLL VINDICATES CARR

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW today welcomed a Newspoll public opinion survey which shows that over 80% of the Australian public do not "approve of Australia's native forests being felled and exported as woodchips to Japan".

"The poll confirms what has been apparent for years: export woodchipping is deeply unpopular with the Australian public. Despite millions spent on advertising and PR by the woodchip lobby, most Australians continue to agree with conservationists that native forest woodchipping should cease" said Sid Walker, Executive Officer of the Nature Conservation Council.

"Respondents who identified themselves as 'blue collar' workers were even more supportive of ending woodchipping than 'white collar' workers. Similarly, a very high 85.6% of respondents with a household income less than \$30,000 per annum opposed woodchipping, while the percentage for high income earners was somewhat lower" Mr Walker said.

"This shows that protection of native forests is not only a 'middle class' concern. Bob Carr's recent appeal to the Prime Minister seeking protection of high conservation value forests in the coming round of export woodchip licence renewals was good politics - as well as good for conservation.

"Australians who have most to fear from loss of employment are the strongest opponents of woodchipping. They can see the folly of destroying irreplaceable heritage for the sake of a few short term jobs" he said.

"Prime Minister Keating needs to show leadership on the forest issue. Having signed the National Forest Policy Statement on behalf of the Federal Government, he should now ensure implementation of its essential conservation commitments. In particular, Mr Keating must ensure that high conservation value forests are protected - not licenced as a source of woodchips for export" Mr Walker concluded.

For further information contact Sid Walker on 02 247 4206 (w); 02 305 090 (h)

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MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...Fri, 2 Dec 1994

CONSERVATIONISTS SUPPORT WORKERS' PUSH TO STOP RAW LOG EXPORTS

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW supports today's protest by the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) over the export of raw pine logs via Port Kembla" said Sid Walker, the Council's Executive Officer.

"Conservationists have consistently supported the development of the plantation industry in NSW. But if Australia exports unprocessed plantation logs, this country will fail to capture the full benefits of this rapidly expanding resource" he said.

"Australia's native forest export woodchip industry is the type of industry one would expect to find in the third world. Now our Government seems prepared to allow the plantation industry - with its enormous potential to create jobs and new industry within Australia - to go down the same dismal third world route" said Mr Walker.

"The Nature Conservation Council of NSW supports today's protest by the CFMEU and calls on the Federal Government to ensure that plantation logs are offered first to domestic processors.

"Raw log exports should only be allowed if a market cannot be found for this resource within Australia" Mr Walker concluded.

For further information contact Sid Walker on 02 247 4206 (w) 02 305 090 (h)



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23 December 1994

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE
ATTENTION CHIEF OF STAFF / ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

STATE GOVERNMENT MISLEADS PUBLIC ON WOODCHIPPING

"With the controversy raging over woodchip licences, the State Government is attempting to hide from the public its record of logging high conservation value forests and the part it played in the Federal Government's woodchip decision," the South East Forest Alliance's spokesman, Noel Plumb, said today.

The State Minister for Forests George Souris today claimed on radio that logging in the State's forests was environmentally responsible even though the Federal Minister for Environment has classified at least a third of the 1995 areas to be logged, as worthy of a prohibition on logging due to their high conservation value.

"Mr Souris just cannot get it right. Only yesterday, he issued a public apology for defamatory remarks made about forest ecology researcher Mr Stephen Taylor who had pointed out in early October that State Forests was logging old growth forest in Glenbog State Forest in the South East Forests. Mr Taylor was part of the research team commissioned by the Federal Minister for the Environment to identify high conservation value forests including old growth and wilderness areas."

The Fahey Government has destroyed a further 10,000 hectares of largely old growth, wilderness and National Estate heritage forests in the south east in the last two years despite its claim to be environmentally responsible."

"The public would not believe Mr Souris and the Fahey Government on their claims of environmental responsibility and they are actively misleading the public with their repeated claims that New South Wales is meeting its conservation commitments under the National Forest Policy Statement", said Mr Plumb.

"There is an irresponsible and deeply anti-environment concord between the Keating and Fahey Governments to destroy our precious heritage forests for a few short term jobs at the cost of our unique forest bio-diversity and a vigorous and sustainable forest industry based on plantations," concluded Mr Plumb.

For further information and comment please call:-

Noel Plumb 247 4714/247 1737 or 817 5240 (ah).

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

CI- Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc, 149 Keen St Lismore. 2480. Ph 066 21 3278. Fax 066 222 676

Media Release - 28 December 1994

KEATING CREATES FOREST EMERGENCY

An emergency meeting of the North East Forest Alliance has been called for early January to prepare non-violent direct action protest strategies in the wake of the Federal Resources Minister's renewal of BORAL's export woodchip licence & the issue of a new licence for the export of woodchip from north east NSW through the port of Brisbane.

This follows Prime Minister Keating's failure last week to protect any of the 495 forest areas of high conservation value in north east NSW nominated for protection from woodchipping under the National Forest Policy by Federal Environment Minister, Senator Faulkner.

"Despite the vast majority of people, more than 80%, wanting 'old growth' forest protected and export woodchipping ended, the timber industry and politicians are intent on accelerating the destruction of 'old growth' forest, wilderness and endangered species," said NEFA spokesperson Mr John Corkill.

"We have all but given up on politicians saving these exquisite areas of ancient forest. Once again it's up to people power to intervene between these environmental jewels and the bulldozers," said Mr Corkill.

The 495 are part of 1300 areas across Australia proposed for logging in 1995, identified as being of high conservation value in detailed advice by Senator Faulkner to Resources Minister, David Beddall.

"Beddall ignored Senator Faulkner's advice and issued the woodchip export licences, but it was Paul Keating who refused to allow the issue to be resolved by Cabinet and who intervened to ensure Faulkner's advice was not accepted. The Prime Minister has to personally accept ultimate responsibility for the acrimonious confrontations which will surely follow," Mr Corkill said.

Mr Corkill said that Mr Keating had betrayed the public and reneged on his promise to enforce the National Forest Policy Statement moratorium which states that *'forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forests and wilderness that are likely to contain high conservation values.'*

"That these forests are of irreplaceable ecological value is beyond doubt. The Department of Environment prepared these lists of HCV forests, based on the best advice available to the Commonwealth. North east NSW has a hugely diverse forest biology. No-one can credibly claim that these forests are not worth saving," he said.

Mr Corkill said that the culture of protest was now certain to develop into a major element of the Australian society, and would become endemic across the continent.

"NEFA's protests and defensive protest actions will be paralleled by blockades and forest occupations in Tasmania, West Australia, Victoria and south east NSW until the Federal election or until Keating comes to his senses," he said.

...ends.

For more info ph John Corkill 066 21 3278w (21 6824h) or Dailan Pugh 066 88 2268h

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

THE NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

39 GEORGE ST

THE ROCKS NSW 2000

PHONE: (02) 247 4206/247 2228

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MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...Thu, 8 Dec 1994



WOODCHIP POLL VINDICATES CARR

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW today welcomed a Newspoll public opinion survey which shows that over 80% of the Australian public do not "approve of Australia's native forests being felled and exported as woodchips to Japan".

"The poll confirms what has been apparent for years: export woodchipping is deeply unpopular with the Australian public. Despite millions spent on advertising and PR by the woodchip lobby, most Australians continue to agree with conservationists that native forest woodchipping should cease" said Sid Walker, Executive Officer of the Nature Conservation Council.

"Respondents who identified themselves as 'blue collar' workers were even more supportive of ending woodchipping than 'white collar' workers. Similarly, a very high 85.6% of respondents with a household income less than \$30,000 per annum opposed woodchipping, while the percentage for high income earners was somewhat lower" Mr Walker said.

"This shows that protection of native forests is not only a 'middle class' concern. Bob Carr's recent appeal to the Prime Minister seeking protection of high conservation value forests in the coming round of export woodchip licence renewals was good politics - as well as good for conservation.

"Australians who have most to fear from loss of employment are the strongest opponents of woodchipping. They can see the folly of destroying irreplaceable heritage for the sake of a few short term jobs" he said.

"Prime Minister Keating needs to show leadership on the forest issue. Having signed the National Forest Policy Statement on behalf of the Federal Government, he should now ensure implementation of its essential conservation commitments. In particular, Mr Keating must ensure that high conservation value forests are protected - not licenced as a source of woodchips for export" Mr Walker concluded.

For further information contact Sid Walker on 02 247 4206 (w); 02 305 090 (h)



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday April 19, 1994

Ref:JW/AB/LW

94/122

DEMOCRAT BACKS CALL FOR CENTRAL QUEENSLAND RAINFOREST LOGGING TO STOP

Rainforest logging in the Eungella area must cease immediately, Queensland Democrat Senator John Woodley said after a visit to the area.

"The Mackay region is graced with magnificent sub-tropical rainforest which is being irreparably destroyed by a short-sighted State Government."

"Having seen the area, I can safely say any claims that 'selective-logging' is sustainable and does no long term damage is simply laughable."

"There is widespread weed infestation, erosion and canopy destruction all of which leaves the remaining forest vulnerable to further destruction and degradation."

The loss of rainforest erodes the thin topsoil and makes regeneration of the forest almost impossible. The soil washes into the creeks and rivers and pollutes the waters.

Senator Woodley called on the Federal Government to extend joint funding of the Commonwealth Rainforest Reforestation Program to ensure that jobs are not lost and a rainforest timber supply is still available, but from a truly sustainable resource.

This would provide further employment for the region and prevent a valuable resource being lost forever.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SENATOR WOODLEY Ph: 015 173 622
OR (07) 862 9255**



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Attn: Chiefs of Staff / Environment & Political Reporters

AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT 22/4/94

NSW GOVT AND ALP TO DESTROY 60,000 HECTARES OF SE FORESTS

The *Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Amendment Bill* was passed by the NSW Legislative Assembly last night at about 9.00 p.m. The Government and the ALP reached agreement on the *Bill* so that no vote was taken. The *Bill* guarantees logging in 40,000 ha of high conservation value forest without Environmental Impact Statements, and fast tracks an EIS (read logging proposal) for another 20,000 ha including 10,000 ha of National Estate Forest.

The fast track EIS is likely to be completed by the end of this year.

Claims by the Government and Forest Products Association that the *Bill* provides for a temporary moratorium on 200,000 hectares are extremely misleading. About 120,000 ha of this 200,000 ha is already logged and not even sought for logging by the timber industry. The main result of the *Bill* is that the native forest woodchipping industry has succeeded in accessing another 40,000 ha of high conservation value forest for Daishowa at Eden with another 20,000 ha on the way. (90% of all logs in SE NSW are woodchipped.)

Claims that the *Bill* is aimed at protecting jobs at the Duncans sawmill at Eden are false. Only 28 jobs at the mill are in issue and Boral who own the sawmill are trying to sell up as soon as possible (with or without the *Bill*) because the operation is simply uneconomical. The jobs will go anyway. The mill currently has no logging quota and the *Bill* simply provides a windfall increase in sale value to Boral.

Two amendments were also agreed relating to:

1. A new committee to control logging approvals throughout all of NSW consisting of representatives of the Environmental Protection Authority, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Soil Conservation Service and Forestry Commission (now called State Forests of NSW);
2. 8 or so extremely high conservation value small compartments of forest, unlikely to ever be granted logging approvals (fauna licences) by the NPWS, were excluded from the 'resource guarantee' in the *Bill*.

The NSW Legislative Council is sitting on Friday 22/4/94 and may well rubber stamp the *Bill* into law given the Government/ALP deal to woodchip the forests.

Further information: Tom McLoughlin tel. 02/365 3837 till 8.00 a.m.
tel. 02/305 371 from 8.30 - 11.00 a.m.
tel. 02/ 267 7929 (work)

SOUTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

SHOP 1, GLOUCESTER WALK, 88 CUMBERLAND STREET

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MEDIA RELEASE

14 APRIL 1994

MEDIA RELEASE

GOVERNMENT FOREST LEGISLATION RAILROADS ENVIRONMENT

"The Fahey Government's proposed extensions to the controversial Timber Industry Interim Protection Act amount to a further attempt to fast track the destruction of National Estate and other unfragmented old growth forests in the South East Forests of New South Wales", said Jeff Angel, Convenor of the South East Forest Alliance today.

"The Government announced the legislation yesterday and clearly wants to rush it through Parliament despite the consequences for endangered species from the destruction of further old growth forest habitat", he added.

The legislation gives interim resource security and excludes environmental impact assessment. It ensures within months a grab by State Forests, of 20,000 hectares of the Coolangubra Wilderness and Yowaka National Estate forests, together with other crucial high conservation value areas in the south east.

"This flies in the face of recent warnings from the Australian Heritage Commission that it may have to remove these forests from the Register of the National Estate if further logging occurs."

"Despite the recent cosmetic changes to the Forestry Commission, the same outrageous games are being played with our natural heritage - what a way to celebrate Heritage Week!", said Mr Angel.

"The Minister, George Souris, and the new Commissioner for Forests, Warwick Watkins have failed dismally to ensure a change of direction by State Forests. It continues to thunder down the track of old growth forest destruction," he said.

"The people of New South Wales are not going to cop this heritage vandalism and the Government can expect a strong reaction from the community", Mr Angel said in conclusion.

Further information - Jeff Angel or Noel Plumb - 247 4714



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Attn: Chiefs of Staff / Environment and Political Reporters

Media Release

EMBARGOED UNTIL Monday, 31 January 1994

FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION ADVOCATES - JOB LOSSES, NO INVESTMENT AND NO VALUE ADDING!

The Wilderness Society today "slammed" the "pathetic claims" by Mr Colin Dorber, of the Forest Products Association of NSW, who is promoting the discredited concept of 'resource security' as a method of job creation in NSW's forestry industry (as reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* 28/1/94).

Mr Tom McLoughlin, NSW Campaign Officer for the Society said today, "Mr Dorber's ignorance of recent history in the native forest sector is appalling and dangerous. For instance in Tasmania, where 'resource security legislation' was passed in November 1991, it has proved a dismal failure. The Tasmanian Government claimed it would:

- 1) guarantee all existing jobs when in fact a total of 1,200 jobs have been lost - that's a rate of 2 jobs per day;
- 2) encourage value adding investment when in fact the only new project is another woodchip mill at Hampshire, creating *only 10 jobs!* (Compared with 30 jobs created in a recently opened recycled cardboard factory.) In an even more retrograde step, 'resource security' has also seen the advent of "whole log" exports. Call that value adding?

"Mr Dorber is trying to peddle to the Premier, and the people of NSW, the same lemon that the people of Tasmania have had to suck for the last two years. It's just as well Mr Fahey is committed to improving the health of NSW and not taking us backwards, otherwise Mr Dorber's dangerous nonsense might just be taken seriously.

"Job losses, no investment and no value adding are the real reasons why similar 'Resource Security' failed to pass through the Federal Parliament in 1992 and why similar proposals will be rejected by the community - they lack ecological, social and economic integrity.

"Mr Dorber would be better off making constructive proposals about jobs and investment in agro-forestry and the 250,000 hectares of softwood and hardwood plantation in NSW," concluded Mr McLoughlin.

For more information contact Tom McLoughlin, ph: (02) 267 7929, (02) 365 3837(h)

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE**MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE****Tuesday 28 June 1994****PROTECTION NEEDED FOR KOALAS**

The North East Forest Alliance has once again taken non-violent direct action to halt logging it claims is unlawful in high conservation forests.

The protest action in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest near Dorrigo follows the discovery of a large number of trees used by koalas in an area where logging is already underway. It also follows a failure by National Party Minister for Planning Mr Robert Webster to issue an Interim Conservation Order under provisions of the Heritage Act 1977, over high conservation value 'old growth' forests in the area.

"Both State Forests and the logging contractors are in clear breach of the NPWS licence and the harvesting plan for Compartment 562" said Ms. Megan Edwards, spokesperson for NEFA.

"State Forests have the legal responsibility to do pre-logging Koala surveys, which involves marking trees which koalas use. However this has not been done."

"Contractors began logging last Thursday, in a part of the compartment that had not been marked by State Forests. This is a breach of the legally binding Harvesting Plan and is a typical example of how logging contractors operate without proper supervision and in contravention of their legal obligations."

"The currently accepted prescriptions for Koalas require that if evidence of Koalas is found at a tree, such as tree scratches or fresh scats, then surveys will be carried out to identify the density of the trees being used by koalas. This information is needed to determine if the area is a "core area" for koalas. If the compartment is found to be a core area, then it is up to State Forests to stop logging immediately and notify the Director General of the NPWS," said Ms Edwards.

"NEFA's actions involved protesting to the contractors, who stopped work, and undertaking their own survey, which should have been completed by SF's before logging began. 30 Koala trees were identified by NEFA in an area where only 3 trees had been marked for retention by State Forests, so this area may well be a core area."

Ms Edwards rejected claims made by the Forest Protection Society that logging did not affect forest animals or bio-diversity.

"Mr Attiwill has no evidence to prove that logging does not significantly impact upon biodiversity. He has done none of his own research or fieldwork on the effects of logging on biodiversity, and is quoting results from a literature review he did of other ecologists's work. His review does not reflect views of researchers whose work he has used, and many disagree with his interpretation of their results."

"Normal logging practices have been found by the then Forestry Commission of NSW (now State Forests) to have a significant impact on wildlife, causing elimination or severe reductions of a variety of animals in logged areas. So how does the industry based research of FPS come to these convenient conclusions?" said Ms Edwards.

"The species considered to be most affected, are those requiring tree-hollows and other aspects of mature trees for denning, roosting and/or nesting, species utilising large logs, such as small terrestrial mammals, and native predators, such as quolls, owls and hawks. The Chaelundi court case found that logging would have a significant impact on the forest environment, and this led to the instigation of the EIS process for North Coast forests," Ms Edwards said.

"The Fauna Impact Study for the Glen Innes Management Area, states that Koalas may prefer 'old growth' forest, since they have been found to prefer the largest trees in mixed age stands. The FIS includes Koalas as "likely" to be one of the species which depend upon mature and old growth trees for foraging and nesting hollows, which may be severely reduced or permanently eliminated from forests disturbed at frequent intervals (< 100 years) or maintained on short harvesting rotations. This is particularly relevant to Compartment 562 which is to be logged for the third time in 20 years."

"The area around Compartment 562 may be of regional, and therefore national significance, due to the frequency and intensity of evidence of Koala habitation. Koala populations are declining on the North Coast and areas where they occur in high densities may be critical for their long term survival," said Ms Edwards.

"State Forests own researchers recommended 6 years ago that a research program should be initiated to identify what the movements, home ranges and habitat requirements of Koalas are. This has still not been completed by State Forests and should be initiated immediately so that adequate management prescriptions can be developed and implemented. State Forests must also act immediately to stop logging in the Compartment until adequate surveys have been completed and all Koala trees identified and protected," Ms Edwards said.

Ms Edwards said that NEFA was maintaining a 'forest watch' camp in the Wild Cattle Creek SF and would take further action if attempts were made to carry on further logging in the area.

For more information contact: Megan Edwards (066) 431 863 w, (066) 433 204 h



Pam Allan, M P

Member for Blacktown

Shadow Minister for Planning and Environment

Shadow Minister for Women's Affairs

MR

20 December, 1994.

WILDERNESS THE LOSER FROM WOODCHIP DECISION

The logging of NSW wilderness areas will be expanded as a result of the decision by the Federal Minister for Resources on the renewal of woodchip licences, NSW Shadow Minister for Planning and Environment, Ms Pam Allan, said today.

"This decision is a disaster for the protection of old growth forests in NSW.

"The Federal Government and the Fahey Government have clearly jettisoned the National Forest Policy.

"This policy provided a co-ordinated framework for the enhancement of jobs in forest industries and the protection of precious old growth forests.

"It was agreed upon by State and Federal Resource and Environment Ministers, the forest industry and conservationists.

"Yet this approach - agreed to by all parties - has been sacrificed to open slather logging of environmentally sensitive forests.

"The advice of Federal Government conservation departments has clearly been ignored.

"Mr Beddall has merely given lip-service to environmental protection in the rush to approve expanded logging of high conservation areas.

"The NSW Parliament has already placed a moratorium on the logging of sensitive forestry areas through timber industry interim protection legislation.

"Mr Beddall's decision appears to override the will of the NSW Parliament in this regard.

"Labor in NSW remains committed to the creation of 10 new wilderness areas and a 90,000 hectare South East Forests National Park when elected after March 25", Ms Allan said.

MR.

Media Release

Senator John Faulkner

Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories

20 December 1994

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER EXPRESSES DISAPPOINTMENT AT OUTCOME OF WOODCHIP LICENCE RENEWALS

The Minister for the Environment, Senator John Faulkner, today expressed his extreme disappointment at the outcome of the current round of export woodchip licence renewals.

"It seems from a first reading that Minister Beddall has taken on board very little of my advice, particularly in relation to the protection of old growth forest and wilderness. I had recommended that 1297 coupes and 11 forest blocks be excluded from logging under the moratorium clause of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS)."

"My advice represented about 40% of the total number of coupes referred to my Department as being scheduled for logging and which are associated with the production and export of woodchips."

"It appears from an initial examination of the licences that Minister Beddall's decision excludes from logging very few of the areas my portfolio identified as being of high conservation value."

"I also provided advice on changes to, and additional requirements for, export licence conditions to better reflect the obligations of the NFPS."

"I have asked my department to provide me with a detailed report on how my advice has been reflected in the licences which have now been issued."

"The response to my advice compounds my concern about the lack of progress on the conservation elements of the NFPS."

Senator Faulkner said his advice, which he was making public today, was in line with the December 1993 decision of Cabinet. In that decision the Government agreed that the Environment Minister should advise the Resources Minister on the applicability of the NFPS to the issuing of woodchip export licences.

The NFPS requires that areas of old growth and wilderness likely to have high conservation value should not be logged until environmental assessments are completed and a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system put in place.

Senator Faulkner said that in previous years implementation of this provision had been hampered by a lack of information on which areas may be of high conservation value.

"This year I took steps to remedy this situation. I asked my portfolio to identify forest likely to be of high conservation value and to invite conservation organisations to contribute to this process" Senator Faulkner said.

"Based on the information made available, my portfolio has developed co-ordinated, scientific and thorough advice which has been provided to Minister Beddall."

Media Inquiries:

Tony Fleming

06 277 7640 or 018 625 020

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Media Inquiries:

Tony Fleming

06 277 7640 or 018 625 020

DPIE 94/64B

20 December 1994

TOUGH NEW CONDITIONS FOR 1995 WOODCHIP EXPORT LICENCES

The Minister for Resources, David Beddall, today announced woodchip export licence renewals for 1995 which are consistent with the Commonwealth Government's commitment to the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

"The decision reflects the Commonwealth's desire to maintain our native forests while at the same time ensuring the viability of the Australian timber industry. This is consistent with the NFPS goal for internationally competitive and ecologically sustainable wood production and wood product industries," Mr Beddall said.

"Woodchips are by-products of sawlog harvesting, milling and thinning operations. The export of woodchips as a by-product enables small sawmillers in country towns to remain viable and maintains the economic base of regional Australia.

"The decision I have made was based on three criteria, social, economic and environment. In relation to the environment, I have taken advice from the Minister for Environment, Senator Faulkner, and the Australian Heritage Commission.

"In addition, I have taken further advice from the Department of Primary Industries and Energy, DPIE, the Australian Bureau of Resource Economics, ABARE, and State agencies. This has led to the imposition of the toughest conditions yet applied to woodchip export licences," he said.

Following advice from Senator Faulkner licence conditions have been strengthened by:

- Annual reporting of compliance with export conditions;
- Tougher reporting mechanisms on sourcing;
- Private plantations subject to the same conditions as Crown land for the first time.

The above can be audited, monitored and enforced through the inspection provisions of the licences.

70
"Last September I announced a review of the monitoring of export licence conditions at the Commonwealth level. The review has found shortcomings, and I have introduced changes to fix these. It also requires action by State forest management agencies, and I will be seeking action from State colleagues," Mr Beddall said.

"The development of a transparent, reputable monitoring system is critical to ensuring adherence to licence conditions. I will be taking forward in the budget process a proposal for a license fee to recover the cost of the monitoring regime.

"What is not commonly appreciated is that all of these licences are long-term with expiry dates ranging from 31st December 1996 to 31st December 2006. But until the full implementation of the NFPS, they are subject to annual review," he said.

Mr Beddall said that in addition to the annual renewal of long-term licences he has had several requests for new licences.

"I have made decisions on two of these today, the rest will be dealt with as soon as practicable.

- North Forest Products proposed to export an additional 700,000 tonnes per year of woodchips from Tasmania. I have advised the Minister for the Environment of this proposal and designated it in accordance with the *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974*.
- Midway Wood Products proposed to export 64,000 tonnes of woodchips from the Midlands Forest Management Area. Midway has a long-term supply arrangement with Victoria and therefore could have potential long-term impacts on the environment. I have advised the Minister for the Environment of this proposal and designated it in accordance with the *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974*.

"I will also be taking action as a result of the investigation of alleged breaches of Wombat Forest logging licence conditions. The investigation concludes that the problems relate to responsibilities with the Victorian Department of Conservation and National Resources rather than the responsibilities of the exporter.

"I will be taking these up with my Victorian colleague. Through new licence conditions, the company will be required to maximise sawn timber recovery and demonstrate the measures it will be taking," he said.

SEE ATTACHMENTS A, B, & C

Further information:

Minister's office

Tamara Johnson

06 277 7440

015 266370

ATTACHMENT A

ANNUAL WOODCHIP LICENCE RENEWALS - THE FACTS

1. WOODCHIPS

How and why are woodchips produced?

Woodchips are a by-product of sawlog harvesting, milling and silvicultural operations. State government agencies are responsible for planning, managing and monitoring these functions.

The export of woodchips, derived from integrated harvesting operations and sawmill residues, enables the community to derive a return from felled wood that is unsuitable as sawlogs and is not required by domestic processors.

How are woodchips used?

The pulpwood and sawmill residues are made into woodchips which are the principal raw material for making paper and particleboard.

2. DEFINITIONS (From the National Forest Policy Statement)

Old-growth forest -

"forest that is ecologically mature and has been subjected to negligible unnatural disturbance such as logging, roading and clearing. The definition focuses on forest in which the upper stratum or overstorey is in the late mature to overmature growth phases." (page 49)

Wilderness -

"land that, together with its plant and animal communities, is in a state that has not been substantially modified by, and is remote from, the influences of European settlement or is capable of being restored to such a state; is of sufficient size to make its maintenance in such a state feasible; and is capable of providing opportunities for solitude and self-reliant recreation." (page 50)

Interim protection of high conservation value old growth and wilderness (commonly known as 'the moratorium clause') -

"until the assessments are completed, forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value." (page 11)

Comprehensive Regional Assessments (CRA)-

will involve the collection and evaluation of information on environmental and heritage aspects of forests in the region, and economic and social implications of forest use. The Commonwealth will ensure that its evaluation of information is efficient, avoiding duplication and delays wherever possible and taking into account the analyses of other Commonwealth agencies where appropriate.

Regional Forest Agreements (RFA)-

Comprehensive Regional Assessments will provide the basis for enabling the States to reach a single agreement relating to their obligations for forests in a region. The agreement may therefore address land use, forest management and consultative arrangements between governments.

The duration of each agreement will be subject to negotiation between governments and may vary, but it is expected that agreements will operate for ten to twenty years, subject to a regular review cycle.

3. RENEWAL OF WOODCHIP EXPORT LICENCES

Before approving the export of woodchips, each proposal is examined to ensure that environmental values are protected, that the price obtained is consistent with prevailing world market prices, and that unprocessed wood is not exported if it is feasible to process and add value to it in Australia.

For major woodchipping operations, the Commonwealth has previously given long term approvals, subject to annual export licences. The Minister for Resources considers export applications on a case-by-case basis. That consideration addresses Commonwealth legislative requirements and policy objectives.

Woodchip export licences generally contain similar conditions addressing pricing, export limitations, source material, environmental protection, inspection and domestic processing.

EXPORT CONTROL ACT

The Commonwealth Export Control (Unprocessed Wood) Regulations made under the Export Control Act 1982, came into force on 1 July 1986 when Customs legislation, which had controlled export of woodchips and unprocessed wood since 1968, was repealed.

Export licences issued under the Export Control Act establish conditions under which exports of these goods can take place. Regulation 5 prohibits the export of prescribed goods unless the person exporting the goods is the holder of a licence to export those goods granted by the Minister for Resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (IMPACT OF PROPOSALS) ACT 1974

Under the Impact Act the Minister for Resources is required to assess whether or not the issue of an export licence will have a significant impact on the environment. If so, the Minister is required to designate the applicant as a proponent under the Impact Act and advise the Commonwealth Environment Minister.

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION ACT 1975

Prior to approving exports derived from a national estate place, section 30 of the AHC Act requires the Minister to

- determine whether an action (i.e. export approval) would adversely affect the national estate and, if so
- determine whether there are prudent and feasible alternatives to the Minister's proposed action and, if none exists
- satisfy himself that all reasonable measures will be taken to minimise any adverse effects.

The Minister for Resources seeks the views of the Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) before giving final approval for any exports from national estate places.

ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION ACT 1992

Under the Commonwealth's Endangered Species Protection Act 1992 the Minister is required to consider whether an export proposal could threaten with extinction, or significantly impede the recovery of a listed native species or a listed ecological community.

When considering the protection of environmental values the Minister for Resources takes into account advice from the Australian Heritage Commission concerning National Estate issues. The Minister for Resources also considers advice from the Minister for the Environment.

ATTACHMENT B

MONITORING OF WOODCHIP EXPORTS

The Commonwealth is responsible for the licensing and monitoring of woodchip exports. The Minister for Resources examines all applications for woodchip export licences to ensure that environmental values are protected, that the price obtained is consistent with prevailing world market prices, and that unprocessed wood is not exported if it is feasible to process and add value to the wood in Australia.

Specific conditions are attached to the licence covering such areas as:

- volumes;
- harvesting activities which minimise environmental impacts;
- protection of endangered species;
- pricing;
- access to information and operations.

The Minister for Resources has initiated a *Review into the Monitoring of Hardwood Woodchip Export Licences*. This initiative was in response to concerns about public confidence in the monitoring process and concerns regarding company breaches of license conditions.

The Report found shortcomings in the present process and recommended:

- 1 That all exporters will be required to:
 - (a) comply with State codes of logging practice for operations in both public and private forests.
 - (b) provide harvesting plans for private property operations
 - (c) report annually on compliance with all export licence conditions.
- 2 That a random system of inspections of private property operations by State forest management agency officers be instituted.
- 3 Annual reports to be prepared by State agencies on exporters' compliance with specified export licence conditions.
- 4 A system of random audits of exporters' accounts by consultants.
- 5 Standardised conditions relating to domestic processing, including a condition prohibiting exports of pulpwood for which an economic demand can be demonstrated.

- 6 | Provision of regular reports by exporters on domestic processing alternatives to woodchip exports.
- 7 | The Department of Primary Industries and Energy to continue to investigate alleged breaches of licence conditions and keep a record of investigations conducted into each allegation.
- 8 | The Commonwealth acting by itself or in co-operation with States consider cost recovery options for proposed increased monitoring of woodchip export operations.

The Minister has had preliminary advice canvassing cost recovery for licence fees or levies for export licences and discussions will be held with industry and the States.

Additional resources will also be allocated for forest monitoring in the Department of Primary Industries and Energy.

ATTACHMENT C
Table 1: Companies with Longterm Commonwealth export licences for hardwood woodchip exports (1995)

Company and Port	Annual Licence		In Principle Approval		Sources
	Volume (green tonnes)	Expiry date	Volume	Expiry date	
Woodchips					
North Limited (Burnie/Bell Bay/Triabunna, Tasmania)	1,878,000	31 Dec 1995	1,878,000	31 Dec 2003	logging, silvicultural & sawmill residues & other pulpwood from crown & private forests
Boral Limited (Bell Bay, Tasmania)	947,000	31 Dec 1995	947,000	31 Dec 2003	logging, silvicultural & sawmill residues & other pulpwood from crown & private forests
Gunns Limited (Bell Bay/Burnie, Tasmania)	200,000	31 Dec 1995	200,000	31 Dec 1999	sawmill residues
WA Chip and Pulp Company (Bunbury, Western Australia)	900,000	31 Dec 1995	900,000	31 Dec 1998	sawmill & silvicultural residues & other pulpwood from crown & private forests
additional licence	70,000	31 Dec 1995	-	-	private plantations
Southern Plantation and Chip Company (Bunbury, Western Australia)	110,000	31 Dec 1995	110,000	31 Dec 1998	sawmill residues
Harris-Daishowa Australia (Eden, New South Wales)	950,000	31 Dec 1995	950,000	31 Dec 2006	logging, silvicultural & sawmill residues & other pulpwood from crown & private forests
* Sawmillers Exports (Newcastle, New South Wales)	500,000*	31 Dec 1995	500,000	31 Dec 1996	logging, silvicultural & sawmill residues & other pulpwood from crown & private forests
* Midway Forest Products (Geelong, Victoria)	170,000	31 Dec 1995	170,000	31 Dec 1999	sawmill & silvicultural residues from private forests
additional licence	96,000*	30 Jun 1995	-	-	logging, silvicultural & sawmill residues from crown & private forests
Queensland Hardwood Resources	140,000	31 Dec 1995			sawmill residues only
SUBTOTAL	5 961,000				
Proposals designated under the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act					
North Forest Products	700,000	-	-	-	Designated
Midway Wood Products	64,000	31 Dec 1995	-	-	Designated
TOTALS	6 725,000		5 655,000		

* Approved earlier in 1994



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MEMBER FOR MANLY

DR PETER MACDONALD

21 December 1994

MEDIA RELEASE



Electorate Office
35 Sydney Road
Manly 2095

Tel: (02) 976 2773
Fax: (02) 976 2993

Parliament House
Tel: (02) 230 2073
Fax: (02) 230 2945

Woodchipping Day of Shame for Labor and Liberals

"Yesterday's decision to renew 11 woodchipping licences and to grant two new licences will be looked back on in disbelief by future generations," said Dr Macdonald, Independent MP for Manly today. "Yesterday was a day of shame for both Labor and Liberal parties. It not only marks the destruction of high conservation value old growth and wilderness forests but further entrenches an ecologically unsustainable industry degrading and devaluing our native forests."

"The spotlight now must be on the State Government to conserve these precious areas in the coming year," said Dr Macdonald. "On current form, the people of NSW can only despair if they have to rely on either of the major parties. All of the initiatives to protect areas of high conservation value came from the Independents. The political parties must commit themselves to protecting old growth and wilderness areas and transform forestry management in NSW."

"My Forestry Amendment Bill, which was not supported by the government, was designed to move forestry operations out of areas of high conservation value and to promote the protection of these areas in national parks," said Dr Macdonald. "The Bill had objectives which provided a scheme for forest management based on principles of ecologically sustainable development mostly reliant on timber plantations - objectives that now need to be urgently put into practice."

"100 000 ha of high conservation value forests in the South East of NSW would have been protected by now had the government supported the South East Forest Bill - another independent initiative - moved by Clover Moore, independent MP for Bligh," said Dr Macdonald. "I'll be pushing for the speedy but permanent protection of areas of old growth and wilderness forests all across NSW in the next Parliament," said Dr Macdonald.

"The National Forestry Policy Statement, signed by both State and Federal Governments, was an undertaking to protect these areas that has been regularly and disgracefully dishonoured by both governments and both political parties," said Dr Macdonald. "This decision, to protect only 29 out of over 100 identified areas of high conservation value in NSW, was the final death blow to whatever vestige of life or credibility that document had."

"Clearly this has now become a key election issue and I call on all parties and candidates to declare their position - do they support immediate protection of high conservation value forests and a transition to ecologically sustainable plantation forestry practices or not?"

For further information contact Dr Peter Macdonald on 976 2773.



Bob Carr M.P.
Leader of the Opposition

21 December, 1994

CARR TO PROTECT OLD GROWTH FORESTS

A Carr Labor Government will protect sensitive old growth forests at risk from the Federal Government's renewal of woodchip licences.

NSW Labor Leader, Mr Bob Carr, said today it was a disgrace the Fahey Government submitted this logging program to the Federal Government for approval in the first place.

"John Fahey has now absolutely no credibility on environmental protection.

"The result of the next State election is of critical importance to the protection of our old growth forests.

"The new licences mean expanded logging of wilderness areas and a disaster for nature conservation in NSW.

"The old growth areas proposed for logging are irreplaceable.

"This decision abandons the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) which was agreed to by Resource and Environment Ministers from both State and Federal Governments and was accepted by the forest industry and the conservation movement.

"In Government we will act swiftly to review this decision to protect areas of high conservation value while allowing the continuation of legitimate forestry activities.

"Protection of jobs would be a high priority. The over-riding aim will be to see the National Forest Policy is fully implemented.

"I will insist on the enforcement of the pledge by the Federal Government in the NFPS to:

"Avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth and wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value."

"The Opposition remains committed to its long-standing policy to create 20 new national parks and 10 new wilderness areas across the State following the election of a Carr Labor Government.

"At the same time we will ensure we have a sustainable forest industry which, through the adoption of value adding processes, can create jobs and generate new exports for NSW.

"There needs to be a balance between the protection of sensitive old growth forests and the enhancement of forestry activities, Mr Carr said.



December 22, 1994

"We will also consult Federal Environment Minister, Senator Faulkner," Mr Carr said.



Bob Carr M.P.
Leader of the Opposition

27 December 1994

CARR ANNOUNCES PACKAGE TO PROTECT FORESTS AND JOBS

State Labor Leader, Bob Carr, today announced his package of reforms to protect old growth forests and timber industry jobs.

Mr Carr described the package as a bold, positive solution to the forest crisis.

"The choice is now very clear.

"NSW will lose its old growth forests if Mr Fahey is returned or the forests will be saved by a Carr Labor Government."

Mr Carr was speaking after a meeting with key conservation groups to assess the impact of Mr Beddall's woodchip licences on NSW forests.

He will meet again with conservationists early in January to pursue a number of issues.

Mr Carr said his package honoured the National Forest Policy Statement to which the State and Federal Governments are signatories.

The package of reforms included:

- * Establishing 90,000 hectares of South East forests as a national park as part of Labor's plan to establish 20 new national parks and 10 new wilderness areas;
 - * Ensuring a minimum of 5,000 hectares of plantation timber is planted each year;
 - * Announcing a moratorium on the logging of old growth forests to re-order the State Forests works schedule;
- Forestry activities would continue in plantation and regrowth forests.
- * Commencing regional assessments of forests in the moratorium area to establish new reserves in line with the National Forests Policy statement;
- Areas which do not meet reserve criteria may be later released for forestry activity.
- * Entering into agreements to value-add to timber products when renewing logging contracts to create new jobs and better use timber resources;

PLEASE REPLY TO THE SECRETARY OF THE PARLIAMENT

Companies without a commitment to value add will not be given contracts.

- * Reducing waste in forest industries and enhance value-adding processing and creating jobs through:
 - better recovery of timber waste from the forest floor;
 - encouraging the woodchipping of off-cuts;
 - utilise timber normally burned for line and road clearing;
 - encourage advanced technology in mills to better utilise sawdust and trimmings.
- * Approaching the Commonwealth to fund any necessary structural assistance packages to protect jobs.

Mr Carr said that by establishing value-adding processes, hardwood plantations and through import replacement initiatives, he was confident Labor would create jobs in the timber industry.



⑦

MR.

media release

MASSIVE GREEN SUPPORT FOR TIMBER INDUSTRY

The current frenzied green campaign against Australia's native timber industry is producing real benefits for the industry all around Australia, claims the NSW Forest Products Association. Media outlets and politicians are currently being bombarded with faxes, press releases and petitions from the green machine and this paper driven campaign is music to the ears of the very industry that it seeks to attack.

Southern Field Officer for the NSW Forest Products Association, Vince Phillips, revealed today that the hardwood sector across Australia is enjoying very buoyant market conditions, certainly the best for a number of years. Mr Phillips said, "The Australian public continues to support the timber industry by buying vast quantities of timber products and the current paper war by the greens is proving a boon to the pulp and paper sector."

The FPA has claimed that consumption of wood based products continues to rise, both in the domestic and international markets and that, given the environmentally friendly nature of timber, this trend can be expected to continue in the future. The Association said that figures show that the bulk of the world's wood fibres are grown in native forests where the full range of natural checks and balances are present to provide a natural environment.

Australia had taken a conscious decision to utilise a part of its hardwood forest estate for timber production, claimed Mr Phillips, just as it had taken an equally conscious decision to reserve areas from commercial activity in National Parks and Reserves. In doing so, we had created one of our largest rural manufacturing industries and had regrown many millions of new trees for the future.

"The wood chip sector has been an integral part of providing long term future resource from our forests and it, or some very close clone of it, will continue to play a vital role wherever wood fibre is produced for world markets." Mr Phillips said. He added that the current paper driven campaign by the greens was a simple example of how our society had come to rely on their industry.

Mr Phillips said, "There is no greater testimony to the real role of an industry in everyday life, than to have its most strident opponents distributing its products all around the country in ever increasing volumes. It is the ultimate irony."

The NSW Forest Products Association says that it expects export licences in South East NSW to be renewed by the Federal Government. The region was one of the few in Australia to be covered by a Regional Forest Agreement and the current Agreement, signed by the Keating and Fahey Governments in December 1993, was committed to maintaining and developing further, the considerable industry based in the South East.

Ends ... 9th December 1994

For further information, contact:

Vince Phillips, FPA Southern Field Officer on PH: (064) 949 142

Col Dorber, FPA Executive Director on PH: (02) 981 4596 or PAGER: 016 286 359

Michael Taylor, FPA Assistant Director on PAGER: 106 631 741

FPA

NSW Forest Products
Association Ltd
A.C.N. 001 866 468

13-29 Nichols Street
Surry Hills
NSW 2010

PO Box 903
Darlinghurst
NSW 2010

Phone (02) 360 4022
Fax (02) 361 0374

The Wilderness Society
North East Forest Alliance
South East Forest Alliance
Environment Victoria

Australian Conservation Foundation
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
National Parks Association of NSW
Conservation Council of WA
Total Environment Centre

Media Release Thursday, 20th October 1994

Beddall dumps Faulkner's Woodchip Advice

Following a detailed analysis of the export woodchip licence for north-eastern NSW, peak environment groups today accused Resources Minister David Beddall of dumping the environmental protection requirements of the National Forest Policy.

He ignored the advice of Environment Minister Senator John Faulkner which sought to implement the conservation aspects of the Federal-State agreement.

The peak environment groups have written to Mr Beddall demanding an urgent meeting to express their concerns.

Mr Beddall has completely ignored or has rendered ineffective most of Senator Faulkner's recommendations and failed to honour a pledge to consult him before signing the licence.

The groups are concerned that the final decision on environmental conditions falls to the industry oriented Resources Minister. Mr Beddall has no clear policy or process for protecting old growth and wilderness forests or for implementing the Government's policy of phasing out export woodchipping.

Unless the Prime Minister steps in to support the clear recommendations of his Environment Minister, Mr Beddall is likely to continue to ignore Senator Faulkner's advice on each of the new export licences. The groups are insisting that the Boral licence for north-eastern NSW is taken to Cabinet with the Prime Minister's support, so that it and the impending licences for south-eastern NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and WA can be considered together. Strong measures to protect native forests of high conservation value must be included in the licences.

Mr Beddall has included no provisions in the licence which protect old growth and wilderness forest of high conservation value, and which begin the phase out of export woodchipping. The Minister has claimed that this licence renewal is a "win-win situation", but from any analysis the old-growth and wilderness forest is the loser.

Environment groups will be lobbying Caucus and Cabinet members to ensure that Mr Beddall does not use the same flawed process to renew licences for south-eastern NSW, WA, Victoria and Tasmania due in November.

Of the 21 specific recommendations made by Senator Faulkner on the Sawmillers Exports licence, nine were rejected and six were only partially implemented. We have identified a number of major recommendations, designed to meet the commitments under the National Forest Policy, which have been omitted:

- * It is clear that Mr Beddall intends approving logging in old growth and wilderness forest of high conservation value. The protection of these areas has been left to the NSW Government, an administration which is currently logging identified old growth forest and wilderness areas.
- * Mr Beddall intends to approve logging in forests on the National Estate register or the National Estate interim list.
- * Significant forest types on private land not yet within reserves are not protected.
- * Nationally listed endangered species are not guaranteed protection through recovery plans.
- * Logging can proceed without ensuring that the habitat of forest dependent wildlife is protected.
- * Action to protect streams, water quality and streamside vegetation is not required.
- * Logging can proceed in regions where the environmental impact of logging cannot be adequately determined. Many State forests and areas of private land in NSW are logged without environmental impact assessment.
- * There is no provision for the public monitoring and reporting of the impact of woodchip operations.

For more information contact:

Jeff Angel (Total Environment Centre)	Ph: 02 247 4714
John Corkill, (North East Forest Alliance)	Ph: 066 21 3278
Anne Reeves, (National Parks Association of NSW)	Ph: 02 264 7994
Barry Traill, (Environment Victoria)	Ph: 03 654 4833
Kevin Parker, (The Wilderness Society)	Ph: 018 449 080
Noel Plumb, (South East Forest Alliance)	Ph: 02 247 4714
Peter Robertson, (Conservation Council of WA)	Ph: 09 220 0652
Sid Walker, (Nature Conservation Council)	Ph: 02 247 4206
Peter Wright, (Australian Conservation Foundation)	Ph: 02 247 4285

The Wilderness Society
North East Forest Alliance
South East Forest Alliance
Environment Victoria

Australian Conservation Foundation
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
National Parks Association of NSW
Conservation Council of WA
Total Environment Centre

20 October 1994

ALP Caucus member
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear ALP Caucus member

Woodchip export licence conditions

The peak environment groups are concerned that Resources Minister David Beddall ignored many of Senator Faulkner's recommendations when issuing the Sawmillers Export Pty Ltd woodchip export licence. We believe that his actions are in breach of the National Forest Policy, and that he is failing to implement the Government's policy to phase out export woodchipping.

Senator Faulkner made 21 specific recommendations which aimed to implement the moratorium clause of the National Forest Policy (i.e. "until the assessments are completed, forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value").

Of the 21 specific recommendations, nine were rejected and six were only partially implemented. The major differences between Senator Faulkner's advice and Mr Beddall's response are as follows:

- * It is clear that Mr Beddall intends approving logging in old growth and wilderness forest of high conservation value. The protection of these areas has been left to the NSW Government, an administration which is currently logging identified old growth forest and wilderness areas.
- * Mr Beddall intends to approve logging in forests on the National Estate register or the National Estate interim list.
- * Significant forest types on private land not yet within reserves are not protected.
- * Nationally listed endangered species are not guaranteed protection through recovery plans.
- * Logging can proceed without ensuring that the habitat of forest dependent wildlife is protected.
- * Action to protect streams, water quality and streamside vegetation is not required.

- * Logging can proceed in regions where the environmental impact of logging cannot be adequately determined. Many State forests and areas of private land in NSW are logged without environmental impact assessment.
- * The licence has no provision for the public monitoring and reporting of the impact of woodchip operations.

We are also concerned that the export volume has been renewed at 500,000 tonnes, the same volume as last year. There is no sign that the Minister intends to implement the Government's policy of phasing out export woodchipping. We understand that the letter to SEPL which accompanied the licence suggests that export woodchipping may be allowed beyond 2000.

Mr. Beddall did not respond to Senator Faulkner on his recommendations and determined the licence conditions without consulting his office. Mr Beddall's staff have since obstructed our attempts to have the licence publicly released, and only provided a copy of the licence on 14th October, two weeks after Mr Beddall signed it.

The export licensing process empowers the Federal Government to protect the environment in areas where State Governments are failing. Given the appalling performance of the States in forest protection, we believe that the Federal Government must ensure that strong environmental protection measures are placed on export woodchip licences. Senator Faulkner's recommendations were a move in the right direction, but Mr Beddall's actions have made them all but ineffective.

During November Mr Beddall is expected to issue woodchip licences which affect large areas of forest in WA, Victoria, Tasmania and NSW. We urge you to do all in your power to ensure that Senator Faulkner's recommendations for all licences are adopted in full.

We would be pleased to discuss any of these matters with you personally. All our representatives will be in Canberra between the 24th and 28th October, and separately at other times during November. Please contact us directly at the phone and fax numbers listed below.

Yours sincerely

Jeff Angel (Total Environment Centre) (Ph: 02 247 4714, Fax: 02 247 7118)

John Corkill (North East Forest Alliance) (Ph: 066 21 3278, Fax: 066 22 2676)

Anne Reeves (National Parks Association of NSW) (Ph: 02 264 7994, Fax: 02 264 7160)

Barry Traill (Environment Victoria) (Ph: 03 654 4833, Fax: 03 650 5684)

Kevin Parker (The Wilderness Society) (Ph: 018 449 080, Fax: 02 264 2673)

Noel Plumb (South East Forest Alliance) (Ph: 02 247 4714, Fax: 02 247 7118)

Peter Robertson (Conservation Council of WA) (Ph: 09 220 0652, Fax: 09 220 0653)

Sid Walker (Nature Conservation Council) (Ph: 02 247 4206, Fax: 02 247 5945)

Peter Wright (Australian Conservation Foundation) (Ph: 02 247 4285, Fax: 02 247 1206)

The Wilderness Society
North East Forest Alliance
South East Forest Alliance
Environment Victoria

Australian Conservation Foundation
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
National Parks Association of NSW
Conservation Council of WA
Total Environment Centre

20 October 1994

Hon. David Beddall
Minister for Resources
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Minister

Woodchip export licence conditions

The peak environment groups request an urgent meeting with you to discuss the export woodchip licence renewal process. We are concerned that many of Senator Faulkner's recommendations for the SEPL licence were either rejected or weakened.

There is no indication that you intend to exclude any old growth or wilderness forests of high conservation value from export woodchipping, or that you have any scientifically valid or environmentally responsible processes or policies in place to guide your decision-making.

We are also unaware of any strategy to achieve the Government's policy to phase out export woodchipping.

We believe that if you intend to protect old growth and wilderness forests of high conservation value, and phase out export woodchipping, processes for achieving this must be incorporated into the export woodchip licence applications. Export volumes must be reduced immediately if the necessary phase-out period is to commence.

We wish to discuss these matters with you directly and seek an urgent meeting. Representatives of all the major groups will be in Canberra from 24th to 28th October and would be keen to see you at that time if possible. Our contact person to arrange this meeting is Peter Wright (Ph: 02 247 4285, Fax: 02 247 1206). Please direct any correspondence to him at:

Australian Conservation Foundation, 33 George St, Sydney 2000.

Yours sincerely

Jeff Angel (Total Environment Centre)
John Corkill (North East Forest Alliance)
Anne Reeves (National Parks Association of NSW)
Barry Traill (Environment Victoria)
Kevin Parker (The Wilderness Society)
Noel Plumb (South East Forest Alliance)
Peter Robertson (Conservation Council of WA)
Sid Walker (Nature Conservation Council)
Peter Wright (Australian Conservation Foundation)

OUR FAX NO: 264 2673

NOV 16 '94 19:56



The Wilderness Society
1A JAMES LANE
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Telephone : 267 7929

DATE: 16/11/1994

06/273 4130

TIME: : AM/PM

FAX NUMBER

TO : George Masri for Minister
Faulkner

FAX NO : 06/0

ATTN :

FROM : Tam McLaughlin

RE : HCV forest near Canberra

NO OF PAGES : 4 (Including this one)

FACSIMILE MESSAGE

NOTES :

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
SYDNEY

TWS PP MAC FAXSHEET 6/93

SYDNEY OFFICE INCORPORATED IN NSW
AS THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY INC. (SYDNEY)

COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION

16/11

to Vanessa, Ben,
S.D., Noel

Tan -> Friends, F.X.I.



The Wilderness Society (Sydney) Inc.

1a James Lane Sydney 2000 Ph: 267 7929 Fax: 264 2673

MEDIA UPDATE MEDIA UPDATE MEDIA UPDATE

Wednesday, 16th November 1994

State Forests Decieve Public about Logging in Croobyar State Forest

- * Ian Barnes, the Batemans Bay State Forests representative, has said that logging in the area will ease the bushfire threat.

This is an example of the type of misinformation the forestry industry has engaged in throughout the whole woodchipping debate. Wet old growth forests, especially those with rainforest understorey, as in Croobyar State Forest, act as buffers in case of fire. Logging these wet old growth forests actually allows the area to dry out, thus creating more of a fire hazard. (This process is called 'conversion' and was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald recently.)

- * Ian Barnes also said that logging has been carried out for 100 years.

This statement may be true, but the hidden fact is that logging earlier this century was not as intensive as present logging practices. Selective logging in Croobyar in the 1930's and 40's was much more sensitive, and very few of the trees were taken out, without causing much damage to the surrounding area.

Current logging practices involve removing most of the large old growth trees. This destroys the habitat for animals dependent on tree hollows for shelter and nesting.

For more information contact:

Christina Potts (in the forest)

tel. 018 97 0017

Tom McLoughlin

tel. 02- 267 7929 / 365 3837 a.h.

REMINDER: A media tour of the contraversial area is planned for Thursday 16th of November. Meet in Milton, the closest town, at 11a.m. For further information regarding directions, please telephone Christina on the above number.

Protecting, promoting and preserving wilderness



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

NEWS RELEASE

High Conservation Value Forest Woodchipped On the Scenic South Coast near Milton

Wednesday, 16th November 1994

Croobyar State Forest, a Mecca for nature enthusiasts is situated on the mid-south coast between Batemans Bay and Nowra in the Batemans Bay Forest Management Area. It is part of a large tract of relatively undisturbed forest catchment adjoining the legally identified Budawang Wilderness area containing such majestic sites as Pigeon House Mountain, Byangee Walls and The Castle.

According to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, this area together with the proposed Deua Wilderness and the Brogo Wilderness in Wadbilliga National Park forms one of the largest significant refuges for forest dependent fauna in the south-east of NSW.¹ In the South East NSW Batemans Bay region only 7.0% of rich old growth forest favoured for logging is conserved in National Parks (as at 1993)².

The Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries and Energy describes the logging operations by the NSW Forestry Commission in the area as; "Sawlog integrated with pulpwood as a by-product *salvaged from reject sawlogs* and heads and butts from sawlogs. Yields ratio of 1:2 sawlog to pulp (approximately) on average."³ Local Forester Ian Barnes makes no secret that whole logs are sent to the Daishowa woodchipper at Eden some 3 hours drive south.

¹ Assessment Report on the Ettrema/ Budawang Wilderness Area. Prepared by the Director NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. June 1993.

² Norton, T.W and Kirkpatrick, J.B. (1993) 'Sustainable forestry - the urgency to make the myth a reality'. in Conserving Biodiversity: Threats and Solutions, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

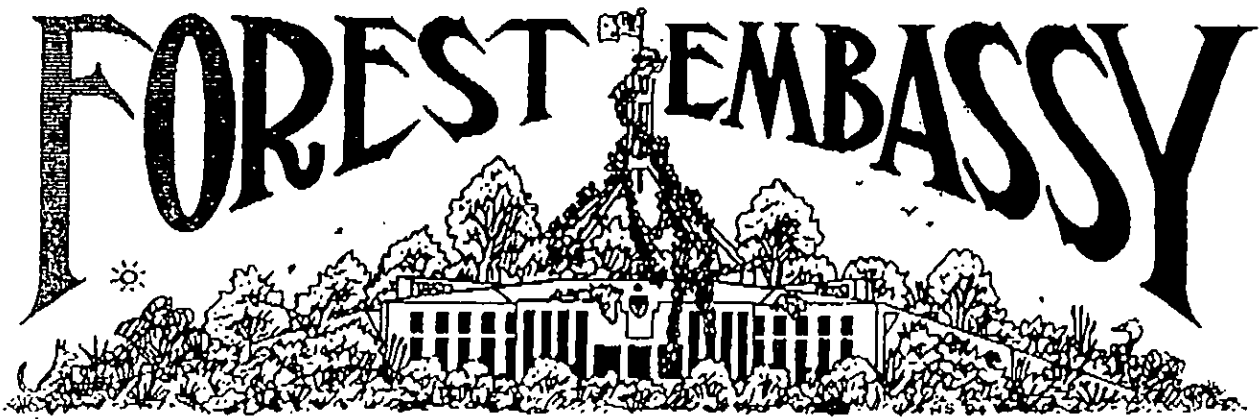
³ Letter re 1995 Forest Operations in Western Australia and New South Wales from Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Forests Branch to Department of the Environment Sport & Territories 4th Oct 1994.

There is no Environmental Impact Statement or Fauna Impact Statement either prepared or under preparation for this forest management area. This fact alone raises doubts as to the legality of the forestry operations. There is no Federal or State government monitoring of the number of logs woodchipped and whether sawlogs are being downgraded for woodchips.

Conservationists will attempt to stop work in Compartment 11 of Croobyar State Forest on Wednesday 16th November. They believe that this is an area of high conservation value and as such should not be logged.

Further Information Tom McLoughlin tel. 02-2677929/365 3837
Christina Potts (in the forest) tel. 018 970 017

NOTE: A Media Tour of the controversial area is planned for Thursday 16th of November. Meet in Milton, the closest town, at 11.am. For information regarding directions please telephone Christina on tel. 018 970 017.



Save Australia's Forests—Stop Export Woodchipping.
4–8 Nov 1994, Parliament House, Canberra. Contact (06) 249 6491

Media Release

3 November, 1994

Forest Embassy Looming Large as Conservationists Descend on Capital

Hundreds of forest conservationists protesting against the continued export of woodchips from Australia's ancient forests have started arriving in Canberra from all over Australia. Environmentalists have come from as far afield as Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania to take part in an historic Forest Embassy to be conducted over a four day period from Friday 4th November to Tuesday 8th November in Federation Mall opposite Parliament House. Potential conflict between conservationists and the Federal authorities was averted in last minute negotiations with permission being granted to hold the gathering in Federation Mall rather than a distant site.

"Fortunately sanity has prevailed and the right of Australian Citizens to voice issues of concern to them in our public space opposite Parliament House has been reaffirmed after looking in doubt for some days" said Kevin Parker spokesperson for the Forest Embassy and a united forest conservation movement to-day.

"We are delighted at the outcome and the responsible role played by the National Capital Planning Authority during negotiations. Brian Howe's office also played a valuable mediating role throughout which has resulted in a win-win situation for all concerned. The concern of the NCPA was with regard to hundreds of conservationists camping on the site and we have given our undertaking that conservationists will be directed to a series of alternative camp sites around Canberra although there will obviously be people on site overnight for security purposes".

"We can now get on with the job of bringing home to the Federal Government and the wider Australian Public the message that it is not appropriate to continue to export woodchips from our fast diminishing native forests with the resultant massive loss of wildlife habitat, devastating soil erosion, degraded water catchments and polluted river systems. The writing is on the wall for the industry with community attitudes no longer willing to accept such practices. We obviously need to work collectively to ensure a rapid transition to plantation sourced timber in a manner which recognises the need for human and non-human equity".

The conservation movement is calling upon Prime Minister Paul Keating to continue his recently demonstrated concern for the environment by considering this years round of export woodchip licence renewals in Cabinet.

"This issue is just too important to be considered by a Junior Minister (David Beddall) in consultation with the Environment Portfolio. It must go before Cabinet and current studies regrading forest areas of High Conservation Value must be taken into consideration when granting export woodchip licences. Paul Keating and his Government have demonstrated that they are willing to act responsibly and tackle hard issues which combine vision with common sense. No-one is under any illusion that this is an easy task but we are confident that the PM will not duck the challenge and will demonstrate his leadership once again. Anything else is not appropriate for so contentious an issue. The Australian public will undoubtedly draw their own conclusions should he fail to take action" concluded Mr. Parker.

A full program of entertainment and workshops are scheduled during the four day festival, educative and lobbying exercise including guest speakers such as International celebrity conservationists Dr. David Bellamy, Dr. Bob Brown, Dr. Helen Caldicott, Christine Milne and Jackie French. Over a dozen bands will also provide entertainment.

MORE INFORMATION :

KEVIN PARKER 018-449-080 OR 06-257-5122

LUCY HORODNY W. 06-257-5122 - H. 06. 257-6597



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

MEDIA UPDATE

ATTN: Chiefs of Staff / Political & Environment Reporters

3.00 p.m. November 15, 1993

NSW MINISTER MISLEADS PUBLIC IN FORESTRY COVER-UP IN DEUA

The Hon. George Souris, NSW Minister for Water and Land Conservation misled the public on the 11.00 a.m. ABC 2BL Radio news bulletin today. Mr Souris was responding to protests by conservationists who successfully stopped logging of 'brown barrel and monkey gum' wilderness today.

Mr Souris said this morning that "92% of old growth areas" in NSW were already in 'conservation reserves' of one form or another. Mr Souris was implying that most old growth in official Wilderness areas or elsewhere are safe and conservationists are wrong to protest.

Minister Souris has misled the public because:

- * Only approximately 0.5-10% of several of the richest types of remaining NSW old growth forest (those on *high nutrient soils and having high bio-diversity values*) are safe in National Parks or other *official* reserves [Norton T. W. & Kirkpatrick J. (1993) *Sustainable Forestry - The Urgency To Make the Myth A Reality* (1993) unpublished, in review]

- * A moratorium for old growth wilderness under NSW *Timber Industry legislation* is not comprehensive and a temporary respite only. The moratorium area is not an official conservation reserve.

- * 38% of NSW old growth forest is in State Forests and available for logging now or the near future. This 38% is made up *mainly of the richest old growth forests on high nutrient soils*. The 58% in official conservation reserves contains largely old growth on dry, nutrient poor soil unsuitable for logging [Resource Assessment Commission *A Survey of Australia's Forest Resource* (1992)];

- * Nationally, only approximately 9 per cent of all remaining "unlogged" eucalypt forest is in official conservation reserves: Resource Assessment Commission's *Forest and Timber Inquiry Final Report* (1992 Volume 1, p 145, para 6.21).

For further information contact in Sydney ..Tom McLoughlin..(02) 953 7684(h)/ 267 7929(w)
Canberra...Lucy Horodny.....(06) 257 5122(w) / 281 6754(h)

ATTN TV STATIONS: FOOTAGE OF THE PROTEST WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER TODAY OR EARLY TOMORROW (TUES 15/11/93). TEL. (06) 249 8874 / 257 5122.



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

ATTN: Chiefs of Staff / Political & Environment Reporters

MEDIA UPDATE

*****TV FOOTAGE OF THE PROTEST IN DEUA AVAILABLE TODAY *****

7.30 a.m. November 16, 1993

CONSERVATIONISTS CLAIM EARLY VICTORY IN DAY 2 OF 'STATE FORESTS COVER-UP' AT DEUA

25 peaceful conservationists with the Wilderness Society have stopped logging operations twice yesterday in the official Deua Wilderness, proving that their peaceful tactics do work. 'Black wallaby' protests [hiding in the undergrowth after telling the logging crew] will be used today, if necessary, to highlight inaction by NSW and Federal Governments to save vital wilderness areas.

Yesterday work was halted for most of the morning. But about 11.30 a.m. police from Bateman's Bay, officers from Narooma Forestry and their logging crew, took the protesters by surprise. As a result 3 wooden tripod blockades were peacefully taken down and logging of Deua Wilderness re-commenced. There were no arrests.

After re-grouping the protesters returned to the logging area carrying banners one of which read "REAL MEN PLANT TREES" and another saying "SAVE THE FORESTS". The logging crew, apparently acting on instructions, then left for the afternoon.

Tom McLoughlin spokesperson for the Wilderness Society said "Yesterday Minister Souris misled the public by implying the best and richest old growth wilderness were already conserved. In fact 10% or less of many old growth forest types are conserved, some less than 1% [B.G. 1) In the Narooma region only 9% of 31 old growth tree associations remain intact, and only 7% are conserved; B.G. 2) Only 0.1% of 'dry/warm' old growth in NE NSW is conserved; Norton T. & Kirkpatrick J. (1993) Sustainable Forestry - The Urgency To Make The Myth A Reality, p8] .

"Perhaps in their hearts the logging crew don't want to follow the directions of State Forestry to destroy old growth wilderness?" Mr McLoughlin concluded.

For further information contact in Sydney ..Tom McLoughlin..(02) 953 7684(h)/ 267 7929(w)
Canberra...Lucy Horodny.....(06) 257 5122(w) / 281 6754(h)

ATTN TV STATIONS: FOOTAGE OF THE PROTEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TODAY TUESDAY 16/11/93. TEL (06) 249-8874 / 257-5122.

OUR FAX NO: 264 2673



The Wilderness Society
1A JAMES LANE
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Telephone : 267 7929

DATE: 16/11/1993

Various.

TIME: : AM/PM

FAX NUMBER

TO : Groups

FAX NO :

ATTN :

FROM : Tam

RE : For you info

NO OF PAGES : 3 (Including this one)

FACSIMILE MESSAGE

NOTES: Note - 38%

O.G. refers only to

Tall ~~forest~~ eucalypt

forests "unlogged"

Cheers Tam.

TWS PP MAC FAXSHEET 6/93

SYDNEY OFFICE INCORPORATED IN NSW
AS THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY INC. (SYDNEY)

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
SYDNEY



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

MEDIA UPDATE

ATTN: Chiefs of Staff / Political & Environment Reporters

3.00 p.m. November 15, 1993

NSW MINISTER MISLEADS PUBLIC IN FORESTRY COVER-UP IN DEUA

The Hon. George Souris, NSW Minister for Water and Land Conservation misled the public on the 11.00 a.m. ABC 2BL Radio news bulletin today. Mr Souris was responding to protests by conservationists who successfully stopped logging of 'brown barrel and monkey gum' wilderness today.

Mr Souris said this morning that "92% of old growth areas" in NSW were already in 'conservation reserves' of one form or another. Mr Souris was implying that most old growth in official Wilderness areas or elsewhere are safe and conservationists are wrong to protest.

Minister Souris has misled the public because:

- * Only approximately 0.5-10% of several of the richest types of remaining NSW old growth forest (those on *high nutrient soils and having high bio-diversity values*) are safe in National Parks or other official reserves (Norman T. W. & Kirkpatrick J. (1993) *Sustainable Forestry - The Urgency To Make the Myth A Reality* (1993) unpublished, in review).

- * A moratorium for old growth wilderness under NSW *Timber Industry legislation* is not comprehensive and a temporary respite only. The moratorium area is not an official conservation reserve.

- * 38% of NSW old growth forest is in State Forests and available for logging now or the near future. This 38% is made up *mainly of the richest old growth forests on high nutrient soils*. The 58% in official conservation reserves contains largely old growth on dry, nutrient poor soil unsuitable for logging. (Resource Assessment Commission *A Survey of Australia's Forest Resource* (1992)).

- * Nationally, only approximately 9 per cent of all remaining "unlogged" eucalypt forest is in official conservation reserves: Resource Assessment Commission's *Forest and Timber Inquiry Final Report* (1992 Volume 1, p 143, para 6.21).

For further information contact in Sydney Tom McLoughlin (02) 953 7684(h) / 267 7929(w)
Canberra Lucy Horodny (06) 257 5122(w) / 281 6754(h)

ATTN TV STATIONS: FOOTAGE OF THE PROTEST WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER TODAY OR EARLY TOMORROW (TUES 15/11/93). TEL. (06) 249 8874 / 257 5122.



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Attention: chiefs of staff/environment reporters
Tuesday 16 November 1993

MEDIA UPDATE DAY 2 - FOREST PROTEST AS NATIONAL POLICY IS IGNORED!

Wilderness Society activists set up tripods across the Sugarloaf Mountain Road in the Deua Wilderness at 4 pm this afternoon. The tripods were erected to delay the delivery of logs from the log dump in the Deua Wilderness to the likely destination at the Daishowa chipmill in Eden.

When asked by the police to remove the tripods under threat of arrest with intimidation, the protesters obliged. Work was stopped for most of the afternoon as the protesters hid in the forest and refused to leave the logging site.

"The National Forest Policy, launched a year ago, states that old growth and wilderness forests are to be protected until the regional assessments process is completed. Now we have a situation where people are having to go into the forests to highlight the fact that this policy is being repeatedly breached by State Governments," said Lucy Horodny, campaigner for The Wilderness Society.

"What do people have to do to force the State and Federal Governments to uphold their own policy? The situation is quite ridiculous. The industry is pushing strongly for the status quo in forestry because they continue to make a healthy profit at the expense of the Australian taxpayer.

"We see all sorts of justification from the industry to continue logging our precious native forests. When we have a huge plantation resource already in the ground which will provide further employment opportunities, there is no excuse to continue this destructive and costly exercise. Its time we stopped pandering to an industry which is ripping the heart out of our last wilderness forests and costing us a fortune to do it." concluded Ms Horodny.

The activists will continue their peaceful blockade to draw the public's attention to this serious breach of government policy.

★ FOOTAGE OF THE PROTEST IS AVAILABLE ★

For further information contact Tom McLoughlin (02) 267 7929
953 7684(H) Lucy Horodny (06) 257 5122 281 6754 (H)

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



Media Release

Thursday 11 November 1993

Remember the Good Old Days?

... drinks were sold in refillable glass bottles and you got a refund when you returned them to the shop — usually enough for pocket money, or to buy a bag of mixed lollies. The scouts did remarkably well in those "bottle-deposit" days as well and there was significantly less litter on the streets, in the bush, and in the water.

But although times have changed — even the 'traditional' Coke bottle is now made of plastic — *"the deposit on bottles may soon be back to help ease the waste crisis"* says Mr Peter Hopper, Project Officer for the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

"Despite opposition from the beverage and packaging industries, who reap enormous

WINGHAM FOREST ACTION Media release, Monday 6 December 1993

BLOCKADE BUILDS

AN ETHICAL QUESTION FOR NEW SOUTH WALES

Forest action

Continuous rain and muddy conditions in the trashed area of Compartment 209 failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the WFA front line.

Numbers are growing and treesits, tripods, dragons, lockons, logs, stones and fires, all used to slow logging in a nonviolent way, are beginning to multiply.

You would do well to come and see for yourself the defence of this beautiful forest, being destroyed by forces that are currently beyond our control.

Forest law

A WFA representative spent Friday afternoon in Sydney with lawyers and came home depressed.

"As the law stands, there is nothing we can do to save compartment 209 which the Government cannot undo with relative ease", he said.

"The laws of New South Wales allows the logging of old growth. These laws are out of step with the nation and with rational government.

National Forest Policy

"On page 11 of the National forest policy statement we read *The governments have agreed to a strategy designed to conserve and manage areas of old-growth forests and wilderness as part of the reserve system.*"

"The signatories of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS), who include John Fahey Premier of NSW, said that *In endorsing this Statement, we commit our respective Governments to implement, as a matter of priority, the policies in it, for the benefit of present and future generations of Australians* (Foreword, page ii.).

"The Government of New South Wales is acting contrary to this commitment. On 18 March 1993 the NSW Minister for Planning, Mr Webster, determined that *The Forestry Commission may carry out ... logging operations described in the Wingham Management Area (WMA) EIS (as modified by this approval) for a ten year period* ...

"The EIS provides for *harvesting of 10,750 ha of old growth hardwood forest ... at an average rate of about 400 ha per year*... (p 10).

Some questions

"Are the people of NSW being served well by a government that destroys irreplaceable treasures in the face of national policy?

"Does NSW Government's attitude to the old growth forest represent the informed will of the people of NSW?

"Would a reasonable and scientifically well informed person act as the Government of NSW is acting?

"We believe that an ethical Parliament would pass into law, rather than resist, the National Forest Policy" he said.

Further information contact WFA on (065) 50 4572, 50 4402, 50 4503

WINGHAM FOREST ACTION Media Release 17 February 1994

TREESITS AND BANNERS PROTEST OLD GROWTH LOGGING 'BORAL RAPES VIRGIN FOREST'

Treesits erected by forest defenders 20 metres above the forest floor yesterday halted road construction in Compartment 209, Doyles River State Forest, near Wingham, NSW.

Two days ago, construction workers began bulldozing a road through rainforest on a 30 degree slope to get to the last old growth forest to be cleared from the compartment.

The huge tree holding the treesits is decorated with banners representing of the Spotted Quoll and Yellow Bellied Glider, both endangered species. One banner declares 'Boral rapes virgin forest'. There are numerous others.

The banners are highly visible from above the forest canopy. They were first spotted by the plant operators building the road as they worked their way down the hill.

They came to investigate and found the line of the road blocked by the treesits, well out of cherry picker reach, and an elaborate system of trees roped together so that they could not be felled without endangering the treesitters.

Wingham Forest Action has written to State Forests requesting them not to log the area below the treesits. This area is the best part of the Compartment and comprises a magnificent parklike stand of huge ancient tallowwoods and other species in the headwaters of Tirrel Creek.

"The destruction of this forest would be a major blow to Australian Heritage and to the wildlife and tourist potential of the area" WFA spokesperson Jeffrey Nicholls said.

"Nothing in our built or cultural heritage compares to the grandeur of this forest" he said. "Because it is out of sight of the people, the NSW State Government, State Forests and their contractors destroy it with impunity."

"The forest defenders hope to save the forest by making it visible to the people. The people struggling to save the forest want everyone to see what they are losing" he said.

"The authorities who are supposed to be protecting our heritage from criminal destruction haven't even been to look" Mr Nicholls said. "The licences to destroy the forest, kill its wildlife and pollute its water have been issued with no real assessment of the forest. The process enacted by the National Parks and Wildlife Act has been bypassed", he said.

Further information contact WFA on (065) 50 4519, 50 4402, 50 4572

WINGHAM FOREST ACTION Media Release 17 February 1994

TREESIT ENTERS FOURTH DAY

Forest protesters in Compartment 209 of the Doyle's River State Forest are looking forward to the end of a long wet weekend. They are supporting a treesit, established to protect and draw attention to "The Avenue", is still in place.

The treesit comprises two platforms suspended about twenty metres above the ground in a huge tree. Forest defenders occupy these platforms to make it impossible for the trees to be cut down or bulldozed. The tree blocks the path of a road that is being cut through steep forest to give access to the last part of the compartment to be logged.

The treesit was established last Wednesday. Work on clearing the line of road stopped and police visited the site last Thursday, but took no action.

The Avenue is a magnificent stand of old growth forest in the headwaters of Tirrel Creek, a tributary of the Manning River. It is due to be destroyed in the next few weeks. It is being logged on a 120 day temporary licence to take and kill endangered species issued two years ago.

A photograph widely distributed by WFA to media and government shows one of the trees in The Avenue. Six people with arms outstretched can just reach around its trunk. There are many trees of comparable size and age in the compartment.

"In an urban landscape, such trees would be given a dollar value somewhere between \$40 000 and \$100 000 each", WFA person Jane Watson said. "Their high value arises from their replacement cost and their social, cultural, biological and heritage contribution to the human environment."

"In these terms, the minimum value of the Avenue and surrounding area is about \$8 million. This valuation does not take into account the fact that we are not dealing here with a few isolated street trees, but a living forest, populated with magnificent plants and many rare and endangered animal species " she said.

"Because it is far from human habitation, however, the State of NSW places negligible value on these trees. Half of them will be simply cut and left on the ground and the remainder will bring a royalty of about \$500 each" Ms Watson said.

Further information contact WFA on (065) 50 4519, 50 4402, 50 4572

WINGHAM FOREST ACTION Media release, Monday 13 December 1993

POLICE EXPECTED TODAY

WE SEEK MEDIATION

NATIONAL FOREST POLICY MUST AND WILL PREVAIL

Forest Action

If the weather is fine this morning, we expect the police to begin efforts to remove us from Compartment 209, Doyles River State Forest.

"We have captured two bulldozers and a road grader with tripods and blocked the access road with the debris created by logging operations" WFA spokesperson, Susie Russell said today.

Mediation

"The situation in Compartment 209 could develop into an expensive standoff." Ms Russell said. "In the recent logging of the old growth forest of Compartment 22 in the Bulga State Forest the cost of a large police presence for two months easily exceeded the royalties earned from the logging."

"This standoff could be avoided by mediation. Early in this dispute, we asked the Police to engage the Community Justice Centre in Newcastle to mediate between ourselves, Police and Forestry."

"We are ready to talk. There is an urgent need for the mediation process to begin before large scale Police action." Ms Russell said.

National Forest Policy

WFA has written to the Prime Minister, Mr Keating, urging him to exert pressure on NSW to conform to National Forest Policy.

"There is no doubt that National Forest Policy must and will prevail" we wrote.

"The more quickly this issue is resolved, the more painless it will be for everybody. The old growth logging sector of the timber industry must be shut down.

"Serious negotiations toward closing down the sector must begin as soon as possible.

"This closure is for the good of all, so we must all contribute to just compensation to those who will lose when old growth can no longer be logged."

Further information contact WFA on (065) 50 4572, 50 4402, 50 4503

A.C.N. 002 880 864

Environmental Defender's Office Ltd

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Sydney 2000 Australia
DX: 722 Sydney
Pcg: EDO

TEL: (02) 261 3599

FAX: (02) 267 7548

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION SHEET

Date: 9 June 1993

To: Sue Salmon /sid walker

Number: 247 1206 /247 5945

From: David Mossop

Number of Pages Sent (incl.. this page): 2

If there are any transmission difficulties please telephone (02)
261-3599

Following is a media release issued (not by us) this afternoon. In the matter of Forestry Commission v Sheed the Commission sought interlocutory orders in the Supreme Court against "unknown persons" to restrain them from protesting over what they allege to be illegal logging in the Wingham Management Area. Windeyer J dismissed the application at midday today and Meagher JA dismissed an application to have three judges of the Court of Appeal convened to hear an application for special leave to appeal from that decision this afternoon. He allowed the Commission to bring their application for special leave to appeal next Tuesday. Unfortunately for the Commission this is after the end of the protests which commenced today and are due to end on Friday.

Of particular importance are two issues in this matter

(1) whether the Commission should attempt to use equitable remedies to protect its interests when these are essentially duplicating the criminal penalties available under the Forestry Act;

(2) the outrageous suggestion that the Court should make orders against unknown protesters. Not only is this a total denial of natural justice but it also seems to be to be contrary to the rule of law to make such orders.

Fortunately the Commission has not been successful to date. Let us hope that they get suitable quantities of egg on their face over this fiasco and don't try it again.

MEDIA RELEASE 9TH JUNE 1993 1.00PM**FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION****WINGHAM FOREST ACTION****FORESTRY COMMISSION REFUSED INJUNCTION**

THE NEW SOUTH WALES FORESTRY COMMISSION HAS BEEN DENIED RESTRAINING ORDERS AGAINST "UNKNOWN PERSONS" BY HIS HONOUR JUSTICE WINDEYER, IN THE SUPREME COURT THIS MORNING.

THE COMMISSION WAS SEEKING RESTRAINING ORDERS FROM THE COURT AGAINST UNKNOWN PERSONS TO PREVENT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FROM EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO PROTEST.

THE ORDERS HAD BEEN SOUGHT BY THE COMMISSION TO PREVENT ANTICIPATED PROTESTS AGAINST ALLEGED ILLEGAL LOGGING OF EXTREMELY HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE OLD-GROWTH FOREST IN COMPARTMENT 22 OF THE WINGHAM MANAGEMENT AREA.

THE PROTEST BEGAN IN THE FORESTS OF THE WINGHAM MANAGEMENT AREA EARLY THIS MORNING AND ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

THE COMMISSION IS EXPECTED TO APPEAL THE DECISION LATER THIS AFTERNOON.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT (065) 50 4572

BARRIE GRIFFITHS / CHRIS SHEED

018 658016

WINGHAM FOREST ACTION Media Release

Tuesday 15 March 1994

LICENCE APPEAL LODGED IN LAND AND ENVIRONMENT COURT

Yesterday afternoon Wingham Forest Action lodged an appeal in the Land and Environment Court against the new General Licence to Take or Kill Endangered Fauna issued to the Forestry Commission of NSW by the Director-General of National Parks and Wildlife.

The issue of this licence is the final step in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) / Fauna Impact Statement (FIS) process for the Wingham Management Area (WMA).

WFA spokesperson, Jeffrey Nicholls, said "The new licence places some conditions on the logging of Old Growth Forests, but it is still not good enough. The NPWS *Decision Report* states the problem clearly (p 48):

A critical resource in the WMA is old growth hardwood forests on gentle slopes ... They comprise 11,452 ha or 60.8% of all unlogged forest in the WMA. Based on information provided in the EIS, the Service estimates that by the end of the first cutting cycle as proposed in the EIS, 96% of the unlogged hardwood on gentle slopes will have been logged. Neither the EIS nor the FIS considered the implications of this for fauna.

"The simple fact is, if you destroy habitat, you destroy fauna" Mr Nicholls said. "This fact is implicitly recognised by the licensing process. Logging kills endangered species, so a licence is required. There is no evidence to suggest that the 80% canopy removal sought by the Forestry Commission does not kill 80% of canopy dependent species" he said.

"These animals are in Schedule 12 of the NPW Act because they are Endangered. The Scientific Committee gave the following reasons for listing the Yellow-bellied Glider in Schedule 12: *"Population severely reduced; poor recovery potential; threatening processes severe; ecological specialist."* All the other endangered species are in similar straits. Of the 72 species listed as Threatened, 38 are already considered extinct.

"The Government is sailing far too close to the wind. The *Decision Report* repeatedly emphasises the lack of data about our endangered species. The potential loss here is so great that the Director General must use the precautionary principle if you don't know, say no. We must take the pressure off these endangered species immediately", Mr Nicholls said.

For further information contact WFA on (065) 50 4402, 50 4503, 50 4519, 50 4572



Sydney Rainforest Action Group

LOCATED AT: 4th floor, Suite 8. 134 Broadway, Sydney 2007

PO Box A474
Sydney South
Australia 2000

ph: (02) 212 1132
fx: (02) 212 1132

MEDIA ALERT * MEDIA ALERT * MEDIA ALERT * MEDIA ALERT *

PROTESTERS PADDLE AGAINST SHIPMENT OF TIMBER FROM MALAYSIA

**HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN SARAWAK ESCALATE - MILITARY INVADES
PENAN VILLAGE- 20 PEOPLE FLEE**

WHEN: 12 NOON TOMORROW (Thursday Nov. 25 1993)
WHERE: Jubilee Place (off Darling st. Balmain)
CONTACT: Alex or Gabby- 212 1132 office ph.
015 02 060 mobile ph.

Tomorrow peaceful protesters from a number of NSW peak environment groups will be paddling out against a shipment of tropical timber from Southeast Asia, mainly Malaysia. They will be blockading the "Socofl Lake", the ship that was met by over 50 protesters in Brisbane on Monday earlier this week.

This action coincides with recent events that have been happening in the Malaysian State of Sarawak, where the Indigenous people have been defending their lands for over 15 years against logging.

The Penan blockade at Long Moboi was broken up last month by the Military, who used extreme force and tear gas against the peaceful demonstrators. On the 2nd of November, 3 truckloads of the army "visited" their village. The military were said to have threatened to bomb their village if they did not give information about the organisers.

Spokesperson for the Rainforest Action Group, Gabby Greyem said "This is another notch in a long stream of events where the Malaysian Government is acting against the will of its own Indigenous people. It is pursuing short term economic prosperity, but what the Government obviously does not realise is that it is forfeiting the oldest rainforests on Earth, and one of the last remaining nomadic rainforest tribes in the World."

The protesters are deeply distressed that these events have not been brought to the attention of the International Community. No political action has been taken by any Government anywhere to secure Native Customary Rights to the Indigenous People of Sarawak. They are acting upon this issue themselves by increasing public and political awareness through direct action and by encouraging Australian consumers not to buy rainforest timbers.

KAYAKERS: Paddlers launching from "JUBILEE PLACE" off Darling St, Balmain at 10.30am.

SHIP DOCKING TIME: 12 NOON TOMORROW (Thursday Nov. 25 1993)
WHITE BAY terminal num. 6

BRIEFING SHEET

Southeast Asia-

- Southeast Asia possesses one-fifth of the world's tropical forests and some of its worst rates of deforestation.
- Southeast Asia was once almost completely blanketed by forest. More than half of that forest cover has been obliterated, mainly within the last 30 years.
- Southeast Asia is experiencing an ecological crisis of unprecedented magnitude. Deforestation has wreaked havoc on climatic patterns, water resources, and soil productivity. Cleared forests attract less rain and create arid conditions conducive to forest fires.
- Commercial logging is cited as the main cause of rainforest destruction in Southeast Asia.
- Virtually no where in Southeast Asia is commercial logging being carried out in a sustainable way.
- Every year 4 million hectares, an area equal to the size of Switzerland, is lost.

Malaysia-

- Malaysia is the world's largest supplier of tropical logs, with over 80% coming from Sarawak, on the island of Borneo.
- Malaysia is losing its forests at the rate of approximately 500,000 hectares each year, primarily in the states of Sarawak and Sabah.
- Over 82.5% of Australia's tropical sawnwood imports come from Malaysia.
- At present rates of logging, Malaysia's forests will be exhausted by the turn of the century.
- Malaysia's biggest timber market is Japan, where companies like Marubeni, C. Itoh, and Mitsubishi have invested heavily in Malaysia's logging industry.

Sarawak -Indigenous People

- The Indigenous people of Sarawak make up half the population, yet their pleas for the logging to stop and recognition of their Native Customary Rights to their lands are largely ignored.

- The Indigenous people of Sarawak have been blockading their lands for over 15 years in attempts to stop the encroachment of logging companies, development schemes and plantation projects which do not benefit them.
- Since 1987, over 400 arrests have been made, with many people being further detained without trial.
- Sarawak's 700,000 Indigenous peoples are grouped into 20 tribes including the Iban, Kenyah, Kelabit, Kayan and Penan. These people are collectively known as Dayaks.
- Most of Sarawak's tribal people settled around 500 years ago, apart from the Penan, who have remained nomadic and are dependant on the rainforest for their livelihood.
- The Penan are the most affected tribe by the rampant and uncontrolled logging in Sarawak, which in some places continues 24 hours a day, using floodlights at night.

- Logging Industry & Political Involvement

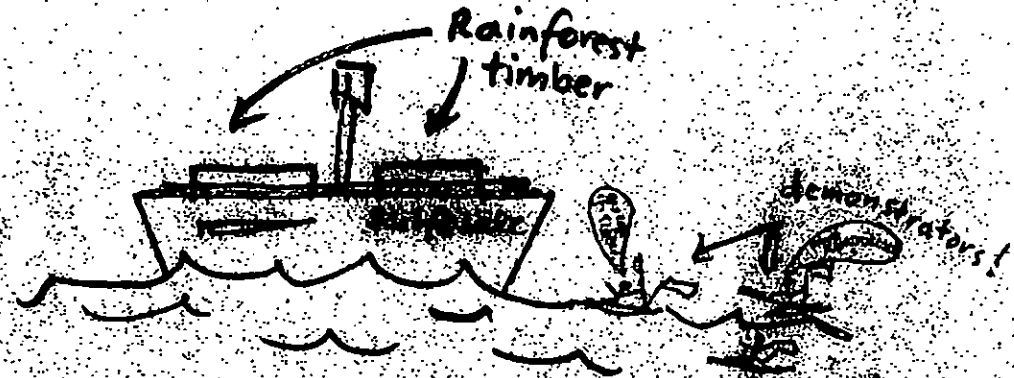
- Sarawak's Chief Minister, Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, who is also Minister of forests, has reportedly amassed as much as US\$4 billion through his connections to the timber industry. He also controls the allocation of all Sarawak's timber concessions.
- Sarawak's Environment and Tourism Minister, James Wong, controls 300,000 hectares of logging concessions and owns Limbang Trading, one of Malaysia's largest timber companies.
- The logging industry accounts for 50% of Sarawak's income.
- Although there have been recent official pronouncements to slow down logging in Sarawak, this has had little immediate impact on indigenous communities in Sarawak, who's land and resources are increasingly threatened.

Australia's Role-

- Australia is directly involved in the destruction of Southeast Asia's rainforests and the disruption of Indigenous cultures through:
 - Imports of tropical timber (171.207m³ in 1990-91.) and furniture (worth \$49 million p.a.)
 - Australian companies' involvement in logging activities in Southeast Asia.
 - Refusing to act on this issue of urgency by subscribing to the International Tropical Timber Organisation's "Year 2000" target of sustainability. By then it will be too late for the forests of Malaysia.

SHIP ACTION

PROTEST THE IMPORTATION OF TIMBER
IMPORTS FROM THE ANCIENT RAINFOREST
OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA.



WHAT: Thursday 23 November
WHERE: Meet at Jubilee place
(off Darling St. Balmain)
TIME: 10.30



WATER ACTION ON THURSDAY.
LAND ACTION ON FRIDAY (still looking for more people)

ACTION PLANNING MEETING FOR THIS ON THURS. NITE -
8pm - "Green Iguana Cafe" - KING ST.



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

BRIEF TO ALL NSW MEDIA ON WOODCHIPPING

10.00 a.m. 30 JUNE 1994

NATIVE FOREST WOODCHIPPING IS AN ECONOMIC DISASTER, RURAL COMMUNITIES SUSTAINED BY PLANTATIONS CREATING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND FOREST PROTECTION

Timber industry groups are misleading the community and politicians over the economic importance of native forest woodchipping. The two attached information leaflets from The Wilderness Society confirm that:

- Native forest woodchipping is an economic disaster for Australia and NSW regional communities: The native forestry sector produces predominantly woodchips (eg 90% of all wood production in SE NSW, about 60% in NE NSW) and now has an accumulated debt of over \$5 BILLION DOLLARS (\$1.121 BILLION in NSW).

- A rapid transition into the plantation timber industry is underway with hundreds of millions of dollars of investment and thousands of jobs to be created in rural areas. THE PLANTATION TIMBER INDUSTRY WILL SUSTAIN REGIONAL COMMUNITIES LONG AFTER NATIVE FOREST LOGGING HAS GONE.

In addition see the following summary:

5 REASONS TO STOP EXPORT WOODCHIPPING!

- Less than 5% of Australia is covered with native forest, and less than 20% of this is protected. The woodchippers want access to all the unprotected forests in the next decade, before the millions of hectares of eucalypt plantation in other countries price them out of the market.
- Every year, more than 2 million mature trees die in native forests to supply the export woodchipping companies. These are the trees used for habitat by some of our most endangered animals.
- Large-scale woodchipping operations lead to soil erosion and decline in water quality.
- Since export woodchipping began, almost 40% of all jobs in the timber industry have been lost. In this period, the amount of wood taken from forests has increased by 40%.
- State forestry agencies usually run at a huge loss, yet export woodchipping companies make huge profits. The massive profits made from native forest woodchipping are the major obstacle stopping the industry from moving into existing plantations.

More information: Tom McLoughlin tel. 02-267 7929w or 02-365 3837

/3 pages following

debt costs Australian taxpayers an additional several hundred million dollars each year.

This does not make economic sense. This money has to be raised by additional taxation or a cutback in government services. (Saddler H. et al, 1991, Value for Money, Forestry as if Economics Mattered, Consultancy to C. Milne MHA, Tasmania.)

Australia could earn far more from a value added timber industry based on plantations instead of native forests.

c) Woodchipping employs a lot of people: MISLEADING

The export woodchip industry accounts for 45 per cent of the native forest harvested in Australia (Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics 1990/1, Australian Forest Resources, AGPS Canberra). However it only employs a total of 804 people throughout Australia (Resource Assessment Commission, Forest and Timber Inquiry, Draft Report 1991). This represents less than 2 per cent of total employment in the forest products industry.

now
30%
more
7.772
30/6/94

d) There is no scientific evidence to stop woodchipping: WRONG

In a compilation of the most recent scientific research on forest fauna in Australia, the introductory chapter states:

"...research has shown that there has been a decline in many species as a result of logging and that extinctions are likely if current logging regimes persist."

(Lunney D., in Conservation of Australia's Forest Fauna, Royal Zoological Society of NSW, 1992, page 4.):

In addition to such research the Resource Assessment Commission (RAC) concluded that:

"It is not feasible to log old-growth forests, as defined by the Inquiry, and yet retain their full complement of old growth attributes and values."

(RAC, Forest and Timber Inquiry, 1992, Overview, page 68)

On the same page the RAC went further than this and recommended a cessation of logging in wilderness areas.

For further information contact:

Stephen Taylor or Andrew Wong ph: 06 257 5122

JUN 30 '94 11:06

P.4/5



1

PO Box 188, Civic Square, ACT 2608. Ph: (06)257-5122. Fax: (06) 247-7270

21 January 1993

MORE FOREST FURPHIES

The woodchipping debate has been marred by furphies spread by the National Association of Forest Industries. A number of these, often quoted by Robert Bain of the National Association of Forest Industries, are revealed and corrected below. Keep this information sheet for future use.

Robert Bain has been reported saying:

"We must make sure we have got our facts right. It is the thing which would bring us undone most quickly."

(Canberra Times, 18/1/92, page C1, "The Lobby game")

It seems that Dr Bain does not take his own advice because every part of the following set of claims about woodchipping, also made by him, is in fact either wrong or misleading.

"We're exporting a waste product. We're earning \$500 m/year toward Australia's worsening trade deficit and we're employing a lot of people, and there is no scientific evidence that it should stop."

(ABC Radio, Bega 14 December 1992)

Each of these claims are addressed below.

a) Woodchipping is a waste product: WRONG

The Public Accounts Committee of NSW reported that 90 per cent of the trees logged in the Eden area are old growth and go directly to the woodchip industry (PAC Report no. 52, December 1990, to the Parliament of NSW). The situation is similar in the southern forests of Tasmania, where over 85 per cent of the trees extracted from the forest are woodchipped.

b) Woodchipping earns \$500m/year: MISLEADING

This is misleading on a number of counts. Firstly the income from export woodchipping in 1991-92 was actually \$415 million (Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics). More importantly the claim ignores taxpayer subsidies and other economic costs associated with this export income. Woodchipping is heavily subsidised. The accumulated debt of government forestry agencies is now over \$5 billion (Byron R.N. 1991 Fiscal Approaches of State Forest Management Agencies, RAC Consultancy Series, AGPS Canberra.) The interest on this

11.121
\$415m
in 1991

2.172
20/1/94



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Attn: Chiefs of Staff / Environment & Political Reporters

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday May 25, 1994

SOCIETY VINDICATED: REPORT SHOWS PLANTATION INDUSTRY WILL SUSTAIN RURAL COMMUNITIES LONG AFTER NATIVE FOREST LOGGING IS GONE

The Wilderness Society welcomes the recent release of an economic report by consultants BIS Shrapnel Pty Ltd vindicating the Society's promotion of a speedy transition out of native forests and into the expanding plantation industry. **Existing** plantations will be part of the self sufficiency and \$500 million in exports predicted in the report for the year 2000. Rural NSW can expect the lion's share of the new jobs and investment associated with this export revenue based on the **existing** 250,000 hectares of softwood plantations in the ground *now*.

Spokesperson for The Wilderness Society, Ms Lucy Horodny said today "The BIS Shrapnel report highlights Federal and NSW Government inaction on utilising **existing** plantation resources. The consequence has been the disastrous, unnecessary woodchipping of rural catchments and tourism assets.

"In Australia **existing** plantations will replace the native forest sector with its 40% job losses in the last 20 years. In NSW alone this sector has accrued a loss of \$1.121 billion in taxpayers money. Many native forest sawmills have closed in South East NSW in recent years to make way for woodchipping- at Tumut, Nimmitabel and Bega - directly affecting over 30 jobs [9, 8 & 14 respectively]. By comparison, softwood projects are taking off. It's these **existing** plantations that will sustain regional communities in the future.

"This industry report highlights the opportunities still available to government to help speed up the transition to plantations with projects like:

- the CSR high tech sawmill to be built at Bombala by 1995-96 using plantations and creating 370 jobs over the next few years;
- Tri-Forestry P/L initial export deal of 168,00 cubic metres of sawlogs from Braidwood over the next 2 years expanding to 1000 potential jobs in the future;
- \$500 million export deal by CSR involving 50% production increase at Tumut including \$10 million plant upgrade and a new plant at Mt Gambier;
- 380,000 cubic metres per annum from State Forest plantations at Bathurst involving a potential 350 jobs and \$150-200 million capital development.

"People don't realise the majority of Australian sawlogs, wood-panels and paper products are now produced from **existing** plantations, not native forests. There is no economic reason to avoid native forest protection" Ms Horodny concluded.

More information: Lucy Horodny (06) 257 5122w (06) 247 0815h
Tom McLoughlin (02) 267 7929w (02) 365 3837h

(Note: References for figures used above are available upon request.)



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

Attn: Chiefs of Staff / Environment and Political Reporters

Sunday - Monday, 29-30 May 1994

SECRET REPORT DISCREDITS SURVEYOR-GENERAL ON WILDERNESS

The Wilderness Society understands Mr Don Grant, the NSW Surveyor-General (S-G) employed within the Department of Conservation & Land Management, will present a secret wilderness report to the Director-General of the Cabinet Office on Monday 30/5/94. The S-G has been considering whether off-road vehicle users, horse-riders and possibly others have special "interests" in three legally defined Wilderness areas (Deua, Oxley and Goodradigbee).

Mr Tom McLoughlin, spokesperson for the Wilderness Society said "The Surveyor-General process is discredited. Conservationists at the local level as well as peak environmental groups such as The Wilderness Society, Total Environment Centre and National Parks Association have either rejected the submission process outright, or participated under protest."

"The reason is that the Surveyor-General does not have ecological expertise in conservation issues. He is basically a map-designer, and a bureaucrat favoured by the National Party. The National Parks & Wildlife Service are the real authority on Wilderness boundaries. No wonder Bob Carr described the process earlier this year as a "rort of the statutory framework".

"The whole Surveyor-General process diverts attention from the nature conservation purpose of Wilderness areas - they are not recreational racetracks for four-wheel drive vehicles, horse-riding or trail-biking which can go on in less sensitive areas.

"There is only about 4.4% of NSW which is natural enough and intact enough to qualify as Wilderness. Only low impact activities* are compatible with protection of our Wilderness heritage" Mr McLoughlin concluded.

Information: Tom McLoughlin tel 02-267 7929 w or 02-365 3837 h

* Includes camping, sight-seeing, canoeing/kayaking/rafting, bird & animal watching, photography, bushwalking/hiking, climbing/abseiling, scientific study and any other low impact activities. Even these activities should be managed to protect the ecosystem.

FROM

TUE 11.02.93 16:54

NO. 3080398497 P.



media release

SID

have you seen this! Judy

ALP DESERTS FOREST INDUSTRY AND UNION MOVEMENT

Statements in the NSW Upper House overnight by the NSW ALP have demonstrated once and for all that they have deserted the blue collar workers and are threatening thousands of jobs in New South Wales because of their refusal to allow the defeat of the Clover Moore South East Forests Protection Bill, according to Col Dorber, Executive Director NSW Forest Products Association.

* Mr. Dorber said, "Not only has the Prime Minister said he will sign the South East Forests Agreement as soon as this Bill is defeated, Mr. Michael Easson, Secretary of the NSW Labor Council, representing hundreds of thousands of blue collar workers in NSW, yesterday wrote to Fred Nile pleading for the South East Forests Protection Bill to be defeated as a matter of urgency in order to save jobs in south eastern New South Wales.

He went on to say, "Using a parliamentary filibuster the ALP have kept the debate going since midnight and look as if they are determined to stretch this debate into the weekend rather than admit their mistake in supporting Clover Moore and voting to get rid of this Bill which sits like an albatross around both their necks and that of the Prime Minister".

"Using a parliamentary filibuster the ALP has forced the NSW Upper House to sit all night to debate this matter. I call upon the ALP to place jobs and investment before petty political interests and defeat this Bill now."

For further information contact Col Dorber, Executive Director, NSW Forest Products Association Pager No. 016 286359 or David Prestwich 02 360 4022.

(Mr. Dorber is also available at Parliament House - Legislative Council

Issued 5.45am 29 Friday October, 1993. Parliament House - NSW.

FPA

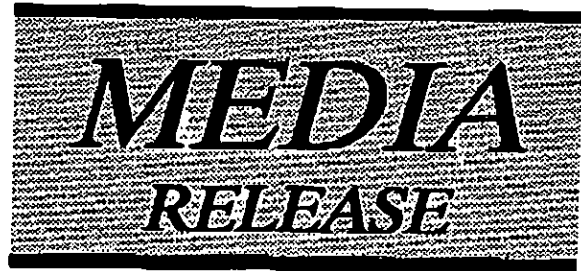
NSW Forest Products
Association Ltd
A.C.N. 001 866 468

13-29 Nichols Street
Surry Hills
NSW 2010

PO Box 903
Darlinghurst
NSW 2010

Phone (02) 360 4022
Fax (02) 361 0374

Senator John Coulter
Australian Democrats
Spokesman on Environment,
Energy & Resources, Science,
Technology, Population & Transport



93/533

9/12/93

Forest's National Day of Action

The Australian Democrats have come out in support of Environmental Groups in the push to end export woodchipping.

Democrats Environment Spokesman Senator John Coulter said the proposed National day of Action set down for Monday, December 13 would thrust the woodchipping issue onto the national agenda.

"Vast tracts of Australia's valuable old growth native forests are being increasingly hacked into as the overseas demand for woodchips grows," said Senator Coulter.

"Up to 60% of all logged forests are being used for woodchipping at a rate that simply cannot be sustained; it must be stopped.

"I endorse the actions of the Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth, the Rainforest Action Group and others in bringing the nation's focus onto the woodchip issue through the National Day of Action.

"I call on all environmental groups to support non-violent protest and to continue to lobby against the devastation caused by extensive and destructive logging practices."

Senator Coulter recently returned from a trip to the Nalbaugh State Forests of New South Wales where he saw first hand the results of irresponsible logging among old growth forests.

Further Comment: Senator John Coulter (06) 277 3645

WINGHAM FOREST ACTION Media release, Wednesday 8 December 1993

STEADY RAIN ASSISTS THE DEFENCE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL REFUSES STOP WORK ORDER
WHAT DOES BORAL THINK?

Forest Action

Taking advantage of continuous rain, forest protestors have settled into Compartment 209, Doyles River State Forest, near Wingham.

There has been no logging since Friday, 3 December. We have heard on the grapevine that State Forests would like us removed, but the police have been slow to act. Policy, or a shortage of raincoats and wellies?

We expect some sort of effort to get the logging going again this morning, but believe that our obstacles to old growth destruction will take some time to move.

Stop work order

Last Wednesday 1 December we wrote to the Director General of the National Parks and Wildlife Service requesting a stop work order on compartment 209. Our request was refused

We have written to the Minister for Environment, Mr Hartcher renewing our request.

Our letter reads, in part

" Mr Papps replied by letter dated 3 December ... refusing our request. He noted the circumstances of issue and conditions on the licence, TS 0016 and stated:

"The Service considers that, with these additional endangered fauna conditions, the impact of forestry operations on endangered fauna should be adequately ameliorated. ...

Mr Papps has missed the point of our letter. We are not simply trying to save endangered fauna, but old growth forest. To this end we reminded him in our letter that the DG is the *authority for the protection of native plants* (S113). *Wildlife* in the NPW Act *means fauna and native plants* (S5(1)).

"We believe that the DG must act reasonably and that his consent to the taking or killing of wildlife must be based on proper information.

"We believe that proper information in this context means information obtained by scientific method. The scientific method requires observation, and the computation (by standard mathematical methods) of the probability of the link between the observation and a

particular conclusion. In general, the firmness of the conclusion depends upon the extent of observation. Without observation, one cannot assign any certainty to a conclusion.

"We note that no officer of the Service visited Compartment 209 after our request. ... Any decision made by the DG with respect to compartment 209 has very probably been made in negligent ignorance of the environment of the Compartment which State Forests is destroying."

What does Boral think?

WFA has also written to Boral seeking to clarify its position on old growth logging. Our questions:

"Has Boral developed ethical positions on its operations? As a supplier of resources to the building and construction industries, are you in a position to give professional advice to your clients on the environmental implications of their choice of particular materials for the realisation of their designs?

"Would you accept the view that a floor made from wild grown tallowwood or brush box carries the same ethical problems as a fur coat made from the skins of wild animals?

"Do you believe that the policies proposed in the National Forest Policy Statement will prevail before you are able to take full advantage of the supply agreements you have with State Forests?

"If the answer to this question is yes, have you made provision in your accounts for the possible loss of this resource?

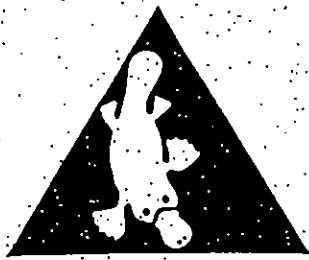
"Do you feel any embarrassment at being permitted (and perhaps encouraged) by the NSW Government and State Forests to accept old growth logs into your mills in the face of National Forest Policy?

"Do you feel that your wood supply agreements with State Forests entitle you to compensation should National Forest Policy prevail over local NSW policy? Could you give us an order of magnitude figure for the compensation you would expect if this resource ceases to be available?

"As a corporation with diverse interests in the resource sector, are you in a position to retrain and redeploy workers from your Mt George mill who may lose their jobs as a result of the implementation of National Forest Policy?"

Further information contact WFA on (065) 50 4572, 50 4402, 50 4503

27 SEP 1993



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

★ ★ ★ Media Release ★ ★ ★

ATTN: Chiefs of Staff / Political & Environment reporters

Monday Sept. 27, 1993

STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 7.00 A.M. MONDAY SEPT. 27, 1993

FOREST BLOCKADE RETURNS AS NSW GOVT FAILS TO '*SHARE THE SPIRIT*' ON OLD GROWTH & WILDERNESS PROTECTION

NSW State Forestry destroys international tourism assets while in breach of conservation obligations under the National Forest Policy Statement.

Approximately 35 conservationists have occupied the 'closed forest' at compartment 1402 in the Coolangubra Wilderness in the south east of NSW in protest at the logging of Old Growth Wilderness in breach of the National Forest Policy Statement. The last of 400 hundred year old giant eucalypts growing in '1402' are expected to be targeted for logging today for woodchips.

Today's action marks stage 2 of peaceful forest protests by the Wilderness Society in the area. Last week NSW State Forestry, loggers, local police and NSW MP's attempted to thwart (separately or in combination) stage 1 of the protests by various means including 'closing' the forest; evicting conservationists; felling trees near members of the public; arresting six peaceful protesters; publicising confidential charge sheets; and refusing to inspect breaches of the National Forest Policy.

"This logging in south east NSW proves that Premier Fahey and Prime Minister Keating are breaching their own commitment in the National Forest Policy Statement to protect Old Growth Wilderness forests" said Tom McLoughlin, NSW Campaigner for the Wilderness Society.

"This logging is an ecological disgrace. But to make matters worse this logging is contrary to the economic interests of the general community.

"For instance international tourists will marvel at the remaining Old Growth Wilderness forests of NSW - between now and the Sydney Olympics, and beyond. Yet NSW State Forestry is destroying forest tourism assets by logging massive 400 year old forest giants in the south east for woodchips, and by targeting other Wilderness forests at Washpool and Guy Fawkes in the north east.

"International tourists won't be interested in seeing the dead tree stumps, the moonscape clearfells, or the less inspiring regrowth being created by NSW State Forestry.

"Premier Fahey should act immediately, in the wake of the Olympic bid success, to honour his commitment to Old Growth Wilderness protection under the National Forest Policy Statement: The Premier should halt all Old Growth and Wilderness logging. He should also designate the 13 officially assessed forest Wilderness areas, several of which NSW Cabinet has been 'deliberating' on for over 12 months", Mr McLoughlin concluded.

For further information contact:

Tom McLoughlin

(02) 267 7929 (w),



Category: Australian News

Priority: LOW

Date: 9-NOV-1993 14:18

MPs IN SLANGING MATCH OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT OVER FORESTS
FORESTS NSW

SYDNEY, Nov 9 AAP - Three politicians got into a slanging match on the steps of New South Wales parliament house during a demonstration today against logging in the state's south east forests.

Democrat MLC Richard Jones, who recently supported a bill deferring logging in the forests, argued with National MPs Andrew Fraser and Peter Cochrane, whose Monaro electorate covers the region.

Demonstrators and journalists looked on as the three hurled abuse and talked over the top of one another.

Mr Jones called the two Liberal MPs "rednecks" and said they would be out of office in 18 months.

Mr Fraser said Mr Jones was a "nonsense" and should go back to sleeping in the upper house.

"Do you care at all Richard that what you are doing and what this bill is doing is costing 700 jobs," Mr Cochrane said.

Mr Cochrane also called the demonstrators "no more than bludgers and layabouts".

The demonstration was staged to mark the defeat in the upper house last week of Independent Clover Moore's south east forest bill.

AAP cjs/sk/bwl

09-11 1418

Senator John Coulter

Australian Democrats



93/444

26/10/93

Forest Policy gets the Chop

The failure by the Federal Government to use reserve powers to stop logging in old growth forests and wilderness areas has been labelled a "national disgrace" by the Australian Democrats and may lead to the blocking of a multi-million dollar government forest research levy.

Democrats Environment spokesman Senator John Coulter launched a scathing attack on the government and the role of Environment Minister Ros Kelly and Resources Minister Michael Lee in failing to take decisive action to prevent controversial logging and wood-chipping in wilderness areas.

"Not only is this government failing to act, it evens propounds the view that there is nothing it can do to save the forests," Senator Coulter said during an urgency debate in the Senate earlier today.

"It is the Government's failure of political will that allows the destruction of Australia's magnificent ancient forests."

Senator Coulter said the government's failure to act to enforce its National Forest Policy signed by all states except Tasmania had allowed the continued destruction of old growth forests at an alarming rate with various state governments thumbing their noses at Canberra.

He called on the government to use the Corporations Act to prohibit logging in all of Australia's wilderness and old growth areas as has been threatened by both the Government and Opposition in relation to tobacco and industrial relations.

"There is a long list of options for the government, providing it has the guts to use them, including refusing to renew permits for the export of woodchips, the introduction of tighter controls on foreign ownership of corporations involved in wood-chipping, the prohibition of logging by using trade and commerce powers and the use of the Commonwealth's tied grants power to make forestry funding conditional on prohibiting logging in old growth and wilderness areas.

"Unless there is decisive action by the Government the Democrats will not support the package of bills dealing with the introduction of a forest research levy worth millions of dollars.

"We cannot support isolated aspects of the Government's pathetic National Forests Policy while the government caves in to the forest industry lobby and sits on its hands claiming it is powerless to enforce policy."

Further Comment: John Coulter (06) 277 3645

Senator Cheryl Kernot
Leader of the Australian
Democrats

AUSTRALIAN
DEMOCRATS

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, December 3, 1993

MR 93/516

FOREST POLICY: SHAM & SHAME

The Australian Democrats have called on the Keating government to take urgent action to save huge areas of old growth forest and wilderness being destroyed by forestry in five states.

Democrats' leader Cheryl Kernot says despite a moratorium negotiated by federal and state governments at a meeting in December last year, millions of tonnes of woodchip have been taken from high conservation value forests in 1993.

The National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS), which was agreed to by state and federal governments on December 7 last year, provides for long term security of supply for the industry as well as containing a strategy to protect Australia's rapidly diminishing areas of old growth forest and wilderness.

As part of that strategy the states agreed to undertake "high priority assessments" to determine which tracts of forest should be saved.

The governments agreed in the statement that until those assessments were completed: "Forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value".

Just days after that agreement federal cabinet approved woodchip export licences for 1993. In 1992/93 some 5.32 million tonnes of woodchip was taken, much of which came from those areas identified as likely to have high conservation value.

The moratorium is still in place but the new Minister for Resources, Michael Lee, is set to announce the next round of export licences for 1994 within weeks.

"Unless action is taken cabinet will once again clear the way for the destruction of vast tracts of irreplaceable forest, despite being a party to an agreement which specifically says such activity should be avoided until a national forest survey is concluded and a national system of reserves is put in place," Senator Kernot said.

Senator Kernot said she fully supported the efforts of Federal Environment Minister Ros Kelly, who has asked for the licence renewal issue to be listed urgently on the cabinet agenda.

.../2 (more over)

2.

"Ros Kelly knows irreplaceable forest is being destroyed because her ministerial colleague Mr Lee refuses to accept that the NFPS includes this moratorium clause," Senator Kernot said.

"That is despite it being in black and white. He argues forest management agencies should only avoid old growth and wilderness areas if, in his own words, prudent and feasible alternatives are not available.

"But this semantic device is not good enough. It is just dressed-up and convenient wording disguising a disgraceful sell-out of a precious natural resource by a government which pretends to be environmentally-aware.

"The fact is the woodchip export licence allocation set in train logging in areas which are listed on the Register of the National Estate, some of which has been identified as having World Heritage value."

Senator Kernot said the Democrats believed the new round of export licences should exclude woodchips derived from old growth forest and wilderness areas.

She said Mrs Kelly, who has ministerial responsibility for advising Mr Lee on the license issue, had prepared a list of exclusion areas and she called on Mr Lee to accept this list.

"In short, the forest protection strategy should be reflected in the conditions Mr Lee attaches to this round of licences."

Senator Kernot said her party senate colleagues, led by South Australia's John Coulter, had journeyed to forest areas around the nation this week to examine, first hand, the incidence of forest felling in contravention of the COAG (Council of Australian Governments) agreement.

The senators would bring information about activities on the ground to a special party room discussion of the issue when parliament resumes in Canberra next week on the eve of Mr Lee's licence decision.

Senator Kernot said the logging in question was under way in five states - NSW, Queensland, Victoria, West Australia and Tasmania.

In NSW an agreement, first negotiated between the Hawke and Greiner government in 1990 but which was left on hold for some years, is now being renegotiated to reserve only 55,000 hectares of forest.

"In our view the NFPS should supersede this agreement and open the way for more forest to be saved in the south east of NSW. If the Keating and Fahey governments can't agree to increase the area to be protected, then Canberra should take unilateral action on the woodchip licences."

In Queensland the state government has been reluctantly forced to concede that rainforest logging was under way. Areas threatened by logging this season include

.../3 (more over)

3.

forest on the Clarke Range, west of Mackay and the Connors range, south of Sarina. These comprise a mixture of rainforest and old growth eucalypt forest.

"Some 4,000 cubic metres of rainforest timber per year is taken from central Queensland to be used for structural purposes rather than for high grade use, such as furniture. This continued logging of timber from virgin rainforests is a national disgrace."

Senator Kernot said about a third of the area up for logging in 1993 in Victoria's East Gippsland involved old growth or wilderness forests and she called for a hold on logging until the results of Commonwealth surveys in the area were completed.

The West Australian government has just increased the area of clear felling from around 1,500 hectares of forest per year to 2,000 per year for the next decade.

"It is a tragedy that up to 85% of some species of trees being felled in the west is just exported as woodchips."

Tasmania was the only state not to agree to sign the NFPS but this is no reason to condone the further destruction of Tasmania's wilderness.

Senator Kernot said that forests now threatened by logging were the Picton, Weld and Huon Valleys in the south west of the state with others in the Great Western Tiers area and on the west coast.

She said it was one of the great myths that clear felling did not happen any more. "Nothing could be further from the truth. Large patches of forest listed on the National estate are currently being felled in Tasmania. Clear felling of old growth forest occurs in Tasmania, Western Australia, Victoria and in NSW."

TO ARRANGE INTERVIEW: Geoff Dodd (06) 277-3203

FOREST POLICY INQUIRIES: Imogen Zethoven (03) 650-2771

RICHARD JONES MLC

Australian Democrat Member of the NSW Legislative Council
Parliament House, SYDNEY, 2000 Telephone (02) 230 2858 Fax (02) 230 2871

MEDIA RELEASE

24 May 1994

Democrat's initiative on hardwood plantations accepted by Government

"Last year during the Estimates Committees I suggested to George Souris, Minister for Land and Water Conservation that legislation be introduced to give resource security to farmers who plant hardwood plantations," said Democrat Richard Jones, MLC.

"George Souris turned to Dr Hans Drielsma and ordered him to start preparing the legislation.

"I wrote to the Premier, the Minister for Land and Water Conservation, and the Treasurer asking them to consider lifting last year's \$1 million hardwood plantation budget to \$5 million next financial year.

"I met with the Treasurer, Peter Collins, and CaLM Director-General, Warwick Watkins, to promote the increased budget for plantations.

"I am delighted that John Fahcy has taken up my suggestion with the \$6 million programme for hardwood plantations on private land. The programme will create many new jobs, give security to farmers, increase the value of their land and end logging in our irreplaceable old growth forests.

"With the creation of these new jobs and other plantations coming on stream, it will no longer be necessary to log the moratorium areas in the South East forests nor the high value habitat old growth forests on the north coast," concluded Richard Jones.

For further information please contact Richard Jones on (02) 230 2858.

* * * * *



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Attn: Chiefs of Staff / Environment & Political Reporters

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday May 25, 1994

SOCIETY VINDICATED: REPORT SHOWS PLANTATION INDUSTRY WILL SUSTAIN RURAL COMMUNITIES LONG AFTER NATIVE FOREST LOGGING IS GONE

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Spokesperson for The Wilderness Society, Ms Lucy Horodny said today "The BIS Shrapnel report highlights Federal and NSW Government inaction on utilising **existing** plantation resources. The consequence has been the disastrous, unnecessary woodchipping of rural catchments and tourism assets.

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More information: Lucy Horodny (06) 257 5122w (06) 247 0815h
Tom McLoughlin (02) 267 7929w (02) 365 3837h

(Note: References for figures used above are available upon request.)

Fax sent by : 003 622713

DELRRAINE ENVIRONMENT A4->A4 04/05/12 15:02

Pg: 1



NATIVE FOREST NETWORK



112 Emu Bay Rd Deloraine Tasmania 7304 Australia
T/Ph: (003) 622713 E-mail: cadwood@peg.apc.org

DRAFT MEDIA RELEASE REQUESTED BY PARTICIPATING GROUPS

AUSTRALIAN FOREST GROUPS SPEARHEAD WORLD ANTI-WOODCHIP DAY,
Tuesday April 18.

Australian environmental groups will be calling on the public to boycott companies woodchipping native forests in a bid to highlight the destruction of Australia's native forests by the woodchipping, pulp and paper industries. Demonstrations are also planned in thirty cities throughout America, Canada, Australia, Europe and Japan.

(INCLUDE LOCAL ANGLE HERE!)

"It is clear we cannot look to Canberra for a solution to the continued destruction of our forests by companies such as Boral, Amcor, Bunnings and North Forest Products. The answer lies with the general public who are outraged at the Keating government's woodchip sell-out. Many of the companies clearfelling and exporting our forests have commercial outlets in Australia, and it is these we will be targetting over the ensuing months. Companies like Boral are active internationally, and their associated companies will be also be targetted until native forest woodchipping ends.

"Over 100 billion trees are cut down annually across the world to feed the insatiable appetite of the global pulp and paper multinationals. Australia is an important player in this destruction and provides Japan with 50% of its hardwood woodchip imports. Native forest woodchipping has entrenched corporate irresponsibility. There are many alternatives available, including fibres such as hemp and bagasse (sugar cane waste). Recycling is languishing in Australia, while companies like Amcor are increasing their production of paper from old growth forest areas such as the Tarkine."

Copies of the *Who's Who of Export Woodchipping* are available on request.

For further information contact:

* UPDATED *

April 18th - International Day of Action on Pulp and Paper Companies Australia-wide Protests

Melbourne - Amcor Head Office occupation and day of protest, office occupation?, stalls, speakers, street theatre, music and bands. Speakers and information display on plantations and alternative fibres.

Sydney - Protest outside Harris Daishowa Head Offices; South-east NSW "stump truck".

Northern Tasmania - Action/protest targetting a chipmill in northern Tasmania owned by Boral or North Forest Products.

Perth - Targeting Bunnings/Whitakers; funeral procession, death notice, banner drops, disinvestment campaign, letters to shareholders.

Cairns - Target as yet unknown - banner drops, information stalls.

Canberra - Banner Hang "Save the forests - think before you buy: Mitsubishi, Boral, Reflex Paper, Kleenex products". Stalls and perhaps street theatre.

Newcastle - Huge banner drop from helicopter targetting Boral. Unconfirmed.

Adelaide - Protest/action unfinalised. 1. Funeral procession through main street of Adelaide finishing at ALP SA headquarters or;
2. Action at Bunnings; mulching forest and fake animals and then selling it to onlookers, customers and employees at \$18 per tonne

Daylesford/Ballarat - NFN, in conjunction with the Wombat Forest Society and Earthwise will have an information stall outside the bi-annual conference of the Institute of Foresters of Australia. The aim will be to inform the foresters of the international action, and debate in a positive and proactive way the issue of pulp and paper manufacturing. There will also be a musical gathering following the stall.

Australian protests/actions co-ordinated by Native Forest Network - Melbourne.
For more information contact Gavan or Anthony; ph: (03) 419-8700 fax: (03) 416-2081. Please contact NFN - Melbourne if your group is conducting an action on the day.

Well done to all involved,
NFN - Melbourne.



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Peter McDonald MP
Attn = 2 Ann's.

★ ★ ★ Media Release ★ ★ ★

Attn: Chiefs of Staff / Environment reporters / Political correspondents

~~Thursday~~
Wednesday, April 28²⁹ 1993

WILDERNESS & WORKERS, NOT JOB LOSSES & NO FORESTS

Society replies to desperately skewed report from NSW Forestry, proposing economic & ecological disaster.

The Wilderness Society today condemns the misleading claims in a secret NSW Forestry Commission 'Report' the subject of a news wire story circulated last night at 5.35 p.m. eastern standard time. The 'Report' makes spurious allegations regarding lost investment, job losses and adverse economic impacts on regional economies if nine NSW Wilderness forests are protected under the *Wilderness Act* by the NSW Government.

Tom McLoughlin, NSW Campaigner for the Society said today "This so called 'Forestry Report' is a desperate attempt to justify the ongoing debt ridden, and subsidised activity of the native forest timber industry in NSW, and Australia generally".

"Throughout Australia the accumulated debt of government forestry agencies is now over \$5 billion [Source: Byron R.N. (1991) *Fiscal Approaches of State Forest Management Agencies* RAC Consultancy Series AGPS Canberra].

"The Victorian experience where separate accounting for native and plantation logging is used indicates the trend with a \$13.2 million loss to the State Government on native forest logging in financial year 1990-91. This was offset by a \$4 million profit in softwood plantations. [Source: *The Age* p4 22/7/1992]

"The NSW Public Accounts Committee in 1990 found State agency subsidisation of native forest logging through, for example, free forest roading was a major impediment to transition to plantations [Source: NSW Public Accounts Committee (1990) *Report on the Forestry Commission*, Parliament of NSW, Sydney].

"Native forest logging is going out backwards in a sunset industry trying to squeeze the ecological blood out of our last pristine forests before it collapses. The pressure is coming from superior plantation timber from here and overseas for pulp and timber production [Source: The Wilderness Society. (1992) *Wilderness not woodchips* Sydney].

"In fact the timber industry has increased wood production by 40% in the last 20 years while shedding jobs by a massive 40%. [Source: RAC (1991) *Forest & Timber Inquiry Draft Report* AGPS Canberra].

"The growth sector in NSW regional economies is tourism including eco-tourism. [Source: Formby J (1991) *Employment in South-East NSW: A Review and Proposed Employment Package*, SEFA Sydney]. For instance Australia will host an international Eco-tourism conference in 1994 because our economic future is largely with the beautiful natural areas of Australia. A good example is the huge increase in visitation rates after the protection of the Washpool Subtropical Rainforest in northern NSW in the '80's.

"Job loss estimates by Forestry are not only **exaggerated**, they are **totally off the planet**. These sorts of figures have been bandied about by development interests well before the days of the Franklin dam. They have never been substantiated. For example with the Franklin issue Robin Gray himself has admitted more jobs have been created by not building the Dam. The NSW Forestry figures should probably be divided by ten to get any real picture of job losses, and these losses pale into insignificance compared with massive industry rationalisation of recent times.

"The 'multiplier figures' used by Forestry to calculate 'flow on' job losses are similarly ludicrous and reflect dodgy statistics for scaremongering purposes. Job losses will be small or non existent as workers find other jobs in the region.

"The NSW Forestry Commission is well and truly politicised, and determined to buffer itself from economic reality by sacrificing the community's Wilderness forests, and by blocking healthy restructuring of the timber industry.

"What will be the cost to regional communities of Wilderness **NOT** preserved? Chris Hartcher, our NSW Environment Minister has pointed out that: "*It is widely recognised that [wilderness areas] do provide valuable ecosystem services by maintaining the quality of air and water, slowing soil erosion, reducing salinity through lowering of the water table, releasing water during drought and slowing run-off during floods - all of which are quite costly to undertake or provide once natural systems are disrupted.*" [Source: *Sydney Morning Herald* on 24/8/92]

concluded Mr McLoughlin for the Society.

For further information please contact:

Tom McLoughlin

tel. (02) 267 7929 (w) or (02) 953 7684 (h)

Karenne Jurd

tel. 018 449 080



NEW SOUTH WALES

**MINISTER FOR PLANNING
AND
MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

175 NOV 1993

Level 12 Westfield Tower
100 William Street
DARLINGHURST, Sydney 2010

Phone: (02) 368 2666
Fax: (02) 368 2688

YOUR REF:

OUR REF:

RML 49353
S93/01192/001

Mr S Walker
Executive Officer
The Nature Conservation Council of NSW
39 George Street
THE ROCKS NSW 2000

11 NOV 1993

Dear Mr Walker,

I refer to your recent correspondence regarding a resolution of the Annual Conference of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW relating to private logging operations on leasehold and freehold land.

Policy options about this matter are being developed at the present time and your suggestion that private logging operations should be an activity under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 will be considered in detail.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Webster MLC
Minister for Planning and
Minister for Housing



THE NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT
Putting people first by managing better

COPY BLANK & DISTRIBUTE. RETURN TO SENATOR JOHN COWLING, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA, 2600
ATTENTION: SIMON DISNEY.

DEL-74 MON 11:53 P. 02

MINUTES OF NATIONAL FOREST PLU

TUESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

IN ATTENDANCE : Barbara Shreider, Simon Disney, John Corkhill, Noel Plumb, Tim Cadman, Rowena Skinner, Jill Redwood, Leoni Cameron, Peter Robinson, Suzi Madagan, Nicky Hungerford, Simon Clark, Dalian Pugh, Tom McLoughlin, Sid Walker, Louise Mathesson, Peter Wright, Alec Marr, Linda Parlain.

1: FEDERAL UPDATE

Alec said HCV was discussed with DEST last Friday. A major problem being that the dept. is taking a narrow approach to what would be covered under the woodchip licence and NE NSW and Victoria would be dropped out initially and then the other areas would just be designated sawlog operations by the State Governments and be logged anyway. DEST has no idea of how to resolve the issue.

Government flagging the environment as a major election issue. Word from the Prime Ministers office is that Beddall is seen as incompetent and has no respect within his own faction. Faulkner has been reticent to push HCV hard because Keating hasn't shown his hand yet, so the major concern is to get Keating involved. Bob Brown and others met with Bob Carr and he has agreed to call Keating and ask for a meeting with peak groups.

This is the most opportune time to gain ground for years with the NSW election coming up the NSW Right is sensitized and looking for a way to get Green preferences.

There is a current lack of publicity and the call Paul campaign is essential right now. Has been decided before that each organisation would get their own celebrities and run with campaign.

Noel asked for help to do letter box drops in marginal electorates for NSW election.

Sid suggested that a clear statement of the position of all the groups to Faulkner would be useful. Linda has one already half done. Agreed to get Linda's finished letter out today.

2: REGIONAL UPDATES

Tom on Croobyar (upper SE NSW) said there was an alliance of local people, Wilderness Society and other small groups which has stopped logging for ten days and is embarrassing to State Forests due to lack of EIS.

Dailan, new EIS out for Grafton proposing to log Bindery Wilderness but it shows that enough resource exists in other areas to make it unnecessary to log the wilderness areas.

Simon said new EIS out for SE NSW which is big and colourful but of no substance.

Louise, in Victoria have got Kate Cebrano to launch call Paul campaign. Plans to dump dead animals on the steps of Parliament House. Midways ship coming in next week which may attract an action and two coups of woodchipping for Daishowa in East Gippsland have been found in old growth and endangered species habitat which are also likely to entice an action. Suggests an action at the Eden mill.

Peter W said a letter to Paul co-signed by a number of celebrities was to be sent and Peter Garret was getting a letter together from the arts community suggesting a similar commitment to the environment as Keating gave to the arts community.

Noel, Forest Campaign Group is to do handouts in Sydney railway stations for Call Paul.

Peter W, CFMEU having a picket in Port Kembla and have asked for green support, ACF is going but who else? Simon, this is first step in getting unions on side for Daishowa Out campaign and Wolongong TWS is going down.

3: TAPING OF PLU'S

The question of security and confidentiality has been raised. Are they necessary to making minutes?

Decided not to tape PLU's anymore.

4: COORDINATION OF PLU

Barbara, very few agenda items coming in before PLU, so anyone with agenda items simply phone Barbara at 11:30 am on day of PLU.

5: NEXT NATIONAL FOREST SUMMIT

Louise, some money for last one still not paid so send cheques for \$40 to FOE Melbourne.

May be in Sydney, to be discussed between NSW people and brought back to PLU.

6: WORLD ANTIWOODCHIP DAY

Tim, Native Forest Network is to have a global day of action on Tue 18th April 94. Australia is first cab off rank due to time zones. Would be good for attacking international companies such as Daishowa. Should be an item for next National Forest Summit. Interested parties contact Tim on Fax 003 62 2713.

NEXT PLU: TUESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 12NOON EST



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA · THE SENATE

John R. Coulter

Australian Democrat Senator for South Australia

MEMORANDUM

TO: All forest campaigners
FROM: Simon Disney - Canberra Office
DATE: 6 September 1994
RE: Call for action petition

Just a short note to let you know that so far, John has presented signatures from 1,122 people in Parliament calling for a halt to old-growth logging.

Here is another copy of the petition if you have run out. Please copy blank and distribute it far and wide. Every petition and letter written in defence of our forests counts. Remember, the last Federal election was only won by a mere 1550 votes in a handful of seats, so keep them rolling in.

With best wishes,

SIMON DISNEY
Canberra Office

To the Honourable the President and Members of the Senate in Parliament assembled,

We are dismayed at the continuing destruction of old growth and wilderness forests around Australia, despite the National Forest Policy Statement jointly signed by the Commonwealth and all States except Tasmania.

Intensive logging, most often to feed a voracious woodchip industry is underway or planned for many high conservation value forests. These forests should be protected by the commitments of the Commonwealth and State Governments under the NFPS.

- Coolangubra Wilderness and other areas of the S.E. Forests of NSW along with rainforest and other N.E areas of NSW including Wingham, Mistake, Richmond Range, Chaelundi, North Washpool, Barrington and Dorrigo.
- The Southern Highlands, Great Western Tiers and Tarkine Wilderness of Tasmania.
- The Karri and Jarrah forests of S.W. Western Australia.
- The Errinundra Plateau and Other areas of the East Gippsland forests of Victoria.
- The rainforests of the Proserpine region of Queensland.

We request that the Government act urgently to protect our precious forests by utilising the Commonwealth's legal and constitutional powers, including:

- **Refusal of export woodchip licences**
- **Powers to control corporations**
- **Protection of areas listed on the register of the National Estate**
- **Protection and effective funding of areas identified for their World Heritage values**

Genuine and effective action by the Government to protect these and other old growth and wilderness forests is critical. A comprehensive plantation strategy rather than exploiting native forests is the way forward for a truly environmentally responsible timber industry. We further request that the Government take effective action without further delay.

[illegible]

☒ Place a tick next to your name if you would like further information or can help with this important campaign.

A Joint Position Paper

Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI)

Draft

October 1993

OBJECTIVE:

To establish a closer working relationship between local governments and the forest industries, and to provide a mechanism for identifying, and developing local, national and international solutions to issues associated with forest industry development.

BACKGROUND:

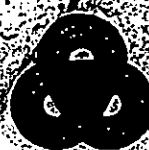
The interface between local governments and the forest industries occur at many levels. Local governments are large consumers of forest products, such as building materials and office paper. In some regional communities, the forest industries are a major source of revenue through direct land taxes and employment generation. Forests can also have significant environmental benefits: they help protect and maintain water quality; they provide recreational opportunities; and they provide essential habitats for many native species and thus promote biodiversity.

The forest products industries are a major contributor to the Australian economy. With an annual sales turnover of \$10 billion, the forest sector is the country's second largest manufacturing industry and employs about 85,000 people. The industries also have the potential to help reduce the nation's forest products trade deficit of \$1.4 billion through increased exports and import substitution.

The industries are highly decentralised and contribute to many regional economies. As a component of a diversified regional economy, the forest industries can help increase regional stability. Regions that have major forest industries include the Latrobe Valley (Vic), south-east N.S.W., Gympie (Qld.), Southwest W.A., Mt. Gambler (SA) and northern Tasmania.

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SRSC



Australian
Local
Government
Association

ACN 008 613 876

22 October 1993

Dear Cr

I am writing to invite you or your nominee to attend "Building Regional Partnerships: Government and the Forest Industries", seminar. The seminar, cohosted by the ALGA and National Association of Forest Industries, will be held in Canberra on 24 and 25 November.

political alliance
The seminar is aimed at facilitating communication between Local Governments and the industries, and between regions that prima facie have a comparative advantage in forest growth and processing. Regional development is becoming a priority issue for Canberra policy makers. This seminar is intended to raise awareness of the issues and help identify solutions. ALGA/NAFI have been working together to promote a sectoral approach to regional development, includes a draft joint position statement on issues of concern (attached).

The seminar will be restricted to a small number of representatives from five selected regions. Restricting numbers the seminar will allow the seminar to be highly interactive with participants exchanging information on problems and solutions to the issues of major concern to development of the industry in their region. A copy of the seminar program is also attached.

Evidence - alliance

There is no registration fee for the seminar and we would be pleased for you to be our guest dinner on 24 November. After dinner, it is hoped that Mr Graham Ogilvie, a Member of the Taskforce on Regional Development will brief participants on the Taskforce's work.

I would appreciate it if you advise Ms Lisa Florian, Rural Affairs, Policy Officer at the ALGA if you are able to attend.

I look forward to meeting you on the 24th November.

Yours sincerely

A E DYSTER

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ALGA and NAFL Seminar:
Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th, November, 1993

"Building regional partnerships:
local government and the forest industries"

Objectives:

1. To facilitate communication between local governments and the forest industries, and between regions that have a *prima facie* comparative advantage in forest growing and processing.
2. To identify regional impediments to investment and further value-adding within the forest sector.
3. To develop a prospectus for regions that can be used to encourage further investment.
4. To provide input to the Commonwealth Regional Development Taskforce.

Attendees:

Forest industry and local government representatives from the following regions: Latrobe valley (VIC); Southeast NSW; Riverina (NSW); Northern Tasmania; North coast NSW.

Programs:

Wednesday 24th - Overview and Introductions

7:00 PM - Hosted dinner and overview of the program and the Commonwealth's Regional Taskforce (Ogilvie/Wood)

Thursday 25th

8:30 AM - Identifying the issues and problems

The morning session will consist of short presentations (5 min.) by representatives from each of the participating regions. Presentations will be followed by a short discussion period.

8:30 - 8:40 Introduction
8:40 - 9:20 Planning controls
9:20 - 10:00 Transportation Infrastructure

10:00 - 10:30 Morning tea break

10:30 - 11:10 Approval processes
11:10 - 11:50 Quantifying the economic benefits
11:50 - 12:00 Summary

12:00 - 1:00 PM Hosted lunch

1:00 PM - Providing the solutions

1:00 - 2:00 PM Participants will break into syndicates to review the issues and problems, and develop a list of possible solutions.
2:00 - 2:30 PM Syndicate presentations

2:30 - 3:00 PM Afternoon tea break

3:00 - 3:45 PM Develop action plan
3:45 - 4:00 PM Wrap-up

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the Environment Protection Authority and the State Environment Protection Community Consultation Forum.

Subject to the matters detailed below, it is agreed that this document will detail the responsibilities and functions of the Environment Protection Authority and the Environment Protection Community in regard to the terms of reference of the Environment Protection Community Consultation Forum.

DEFINITIONS

In this Memorandum, except when the subject matter otherwise indicates or requires:

1. "EPA" means the Environment Protection Authority as represented by the Director General acting as Chairman.
2. "Forum members" means statutorily appointed members of the State Environment Protection Community Consultation Forum other than the Chairman.
3. "Representative base" means the sector in which a Forum member represents, with particular regard to the nominating organisation.
4. "Terms of reference" means the terms of reference of the State Forum which are:
 - advise the EPA on community attitude and concerns;
 - foster debate on environment protection matters; and
 - promote and provide the opportunity for community involvement decisions about environment protection and pollution prevention and control programs.
5. An "observer" means a person who represents the views of a Forum member attends Forum meetings when a Forum member is unavailable to attend.

ROLE OF THE EPA IN SERVICING THE FORUM

To achieve the terms of reference of the State Forum the EPA will:

- coordinate and circulate appropriate papers three weeks prior to a meeting;
- process and pay sitting fees and associated costs as soon as possible following a meeting;
- make online resources available to Forum members to facilitate debate and communication;
- indicate deadlines in the draft minutes of the previous meeting by which Forum members may raise agenda items and submit papers for the next meeting

ALGA/NAFI joint position paper (draft)

5. The forest industries will ensure that its activities, especially timber harvesting, are consistent with local, State and Federal Government controls, codes of forest practice and codes of environmental management that are established in different jurisdictions.
6. Local governments will ensure that purchasing policies consider ESD principles and economic criteria.
7. The forest industries and local government recognise the important environmental and economic benefits provided by conserved (protected) and non-harvested forests.
8. The forest industries recognise that timber transport and processing can have an impact on local infrastructure.
9. The forest industries and local government recognise the desirability of adding value to forest products in Australia whenever it is financially feasible.
10. The forest industries and local government will work together to develop a cooperative process to identify and resolve issues relating to forest industry development.

REGIONAL FRAMEWORK:

A system of cooperative Regional Wood Production Councils (RPCG) should be established to further the mutual interests of local governments and the forest industries.

The RPCG would provide a formal mechanism of communication between the local governments and the forest industries as a forum to discuss relevant issues and to assist in dispute resolution. In addition, the RPCG could assist in the collation and distribution of information on the growing of trees for commercial and environmental purposes. Finally, the RPCG could give the two parties a means of direct representation to State and Commonwealth governments.

The RPCG should consist of representatives of local government, forest products industry, independent growers, and State forest services in those regions that currently have, or may in future develop, a substantial forest-based industry.

ALGA/NAFI joint position paper (draft)**MAIN ISSUES:**

The issues that confront local governments and the forest industries can be divided into seven categories.

1. The siting and location of processing plants and support services, such as power and effluent treatment.
2. The construction, maintenance and traffic flows on regional road infrastructure.
3. The purchasing policies of local governments that disadvantage the forest industries.
4. The environmental effects that can result from forest resource extraction and processing activities, including issues such as water quality, local biodiversity and tourism.
5. The amount of employment created and the degree of associated financial effects to local communities from economic stability and diversity.
6. The approval process for crown and private forest development and extraction in both native forests and plantations.
7. The development of forest industries to a scale that is economically and ecologically sustainable.

PRINCIPLES

To resolve the issues identified above, local governments and the forest industries will accept the following principles as the means for developing mutually acceptable solutions.

1. The forest industries and local government accept the importance of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) as a framework for maximising social welfare and maintaining ecological integrity.
2. Local governments recognise the economic importance of the forest industries, and will work towards overcoming any artificial impediments to development.
3. The forest industries recognise their role in providing employment and community stability, especially in rural Australia.
4. Local governments will recognise that forestry activities are a legitimate land-use.

ANALYSIS OF NAFI APPROACH TO ALLGA MEMBERS (EG SNOWY RIVER SHIRE)

By Tom McLoughlin Bsc/L1b (hon)
NSW Campaign Officer

COVERING LETTER TO CR ROBIN SEVENOAKS

The letter emphasises the perceived need to promote "communication" between Local Government (LG) and the timber industry. Who stands to benefit from this investment of time and some \$ in liaison?

It may be that both parties do, however I suggest that the benefits are predominantly in the direction of NAFI and big native forest logging interests who stand behind NAFI (eg Daishowa woodchipping operation in Eden, Sawmillers Exports Pty Ltd, a woodchipping operation wholly owned by Boral P/L in operation in NE NSW, often illegally: see Appendix A)

Elements of the letter suggest to me the vested interest of NAFI in building an alliance for predominantly their own benefit

1. the targetting of a small number of regions at one time - to more effectively massage support, and lobby LG participants?;
2. No registration fee. NAFI are going to a lot of trouble for no immediate financial gain;
3. Again, reference to the key word "communication" (read lobbying).

In addition to the letter there is much other evidence of a NAFI game-plan to build alliances to shield big, influential, NAFI members involved in short term profiteering from logging native forests (including logging of official old growth wilderness, and remnant old growth forest). One such strategy is to build alliances at a grassroots level - see excellent paper attached by Bob Burton at Appendix 8, and article by myself in response to a flimsy alliance promoted by Peter Cochrane MP (NP, NSW) at Appendix C.

This approach by NAFI to LG should be seen as analogous to pro-native forest logging alliance building at grassroots community level i.e. a pro-native forest logging alliance with another level of the community namely LG.

'DRAFT' JOINT POSITION PAPER

The "OBJECTIVE" is consistent with the alliance building strategy of NAFI referred to above to promote continued access to native forests.

Significantly, the "BACKGROUND" section omits reference to the role of forests in the economic boom activity of tourism, especially sensitive eco-tourism. This is quite probably because logging of native forest and eco-tourism is fundamentally incompatible.

The 'big' figures used to aggrandise the timber industry should be viewed in perspective especially re-native forest logging. Government forest agencies involved in native forest logging nationally have a \$5 billion (not million) accrued debt. Be wary therefore of claims to great export income for Australia. Interest payments on this \$5 billion debt are ultimately paid by taxpayers.

Also much export income is derived from an overall very economically damaging activity - woodchipping - which is subsidised by taxpayers to the tune of \$10 per taxpayer per year. Woodchipping destroys other preferable economic activities or devalue existing economic assets (see below).

I would also make another general comment. There is an old saying in commercial law, my previous employment, that always attempt to be the party in a transaction which does the first draft - it sets up directions to be taken, creates assumptions that can avoid scrutiny etc etc. In short it is a power play strategy.

So who did the first draft? NAFI I bet, or possibly with help of ALGA though almost certainly without LG membership direct involvement. I suggest GREAT CAUTION regarding the draft principles.

critique

The reason for caution is the draft paper totally fails to take account of the ecological and economic imperatives for ending old growth wilderness, old growth remnant and native forest logging generally. These imperatives are described below.

But first, what is wrong with logging old growth wilderness, old growth remnants, and native forest logging generally? Isn't it healthy for forests to be logged/thinned?; old trees removed for new growth?; aren't NSW Forestry the forest management experts involved in 'sustainable' forestry?; Aren't the conservationists extreme by rejecting exploitation of a renewable resource?

All these nauseous cliches are easily rebutted: For a start see Appendix D for the NSW context and Appendix E for an economic assessment nationally of the timber industry. Some choice matters to be aware of are (taking the questions above in turn):

- Logging forests, particularly old growth wilderness/remnants, is ecologically unsustainable because the old and dead trees are essential habitat for arboreal mammals and ground dwellers. These trees take at least 100 - 120 years to establish hollows, dead wood etc while logging rotations are much less, say 60 - 80 years. The animals don't have anywhere else to go given the territorial nature of animals. The whole forest eco-system takes up to 1000 years to re-establish itself after logging: Dr Tony Norton to Legislation Committee Nov. 1992 on the *South East Forests Protection Bill*

- NSW Forestry have shown through their failed EIS process they are ecologically incompetent - the NSW NPWS are the lead conservation agency, and expert on ecological matters so its not surprising the Mt Royal EIS has been rejected, the Dorrig EIS was rejected, the Wingham EIS severely criticised etc etc.

The outcome of wrong people advising on non-wood production values is exemplified by the NSW forestry Minister, George Souris, misleading the public twice in the last week on conservation of wilderness and old growth: Appendix F. Fact is NSW Forestry are barely complying with *sustainable wood production* principles let alone *ecological sustainability* principles

- In fact the Wilderness Society and conservationists generally are bearing witness to the reality of a native forest timber industry 'land grab and conversion operation' i.e. log the ecological integrity out of bio-diverse natural forests, convert to ecologically sterile plantations over time.

The above is a discussion of some only of the ecological problems with NAFI's approach: The economic problems are at least as great considering:

- there is a global trend to eucalypt and other plantations which produce superior quality woodchip, and sawlogs (seven million ha exist in the world today and they are coming on stream).

- there is a quarter of a million ha of softwood and hardwood plantations in NSW which timber industry interests are saving for as long as possible until transition out of native forests is forced on them. Native forest logging is actually blocking future investment in Australian owned

plantations. However the transition is irresistible as recent mega-million dollar plantation projects show: Appendix H.

- in the south east 85-90% of wood production from native forest is woodchipped. Woodchipping is highly mechanised with nationally only 2% of timber industry employment but 60% of wood production from native forests (45% export, 15% domestic). Isn't this valuable export income I hear you say? Overall NO. See Appendix G.

- there is positive economic harm from native forest logging to rural industries through soil erosion pollution of water supplies, silting of private property water courses, flood damage, water table effects eg salination. Other economic harm relates to destruction of eco-tourism assets, scientific and medical research material, genetic stock

new premise for joint position paper of ALGA/NAFI

The moral imperative ecologically speaking is to end native forest logging by first ending all wilderness and other old growth forest logging, then transition out of native forest generally by 1995.

The economic imperative is the same as the ecological one i.e. to speed transition out of native forests and into tree cropping/plantations/agro-forestry. This is similar to the change in society from hunter gathering (native forest logging) to agriculture (tree cropping etc). In fact profitability from tree growing agriculture is skyrocketing while NSW generally drags its feet - see appendix H clippings of mega softwood developments in recent times.

The crux of the lie behind the NAFI native forest logging line is that natural forests can be all things to all people in a 'multiple use' type scenario i.e. logging, ecosystems, water values, aesthetics, eco-tourism etc etc. Multiple use is an intellectual abomination.

specific points for the 'main issues' section of the 'draft position paper

Given the important omission of the essential premise of ending old growth wilderness, old growth remnant and native forests logging generally the following criticisms can be made:

- point 4 subject matter re ecological issues should be at the top (I am a green after all), and crucially should refer to "biodiversity" AND DEFINITELY NOT LIMITED TO "local biodiversity". Otherwise a numerous species in the region

but extinct everywhere else could be halved in numbers in a parochial environmental assessment.

- point 1 looks okay I think

- point 2 should refer to user pays as native forestry is outrageously subsidised by taxpayer road funding and maintenance

- point 3: There is a very dangerous slant here I suspect. The point implies LG's should divest itself of its social responsibility to ensure timber used is from ecologically sustainable sources. NAFI must not dictate to LG on this policy area.

- point 4 see above

- point 5: This point implies the economic virtues of native forest logging without accounting for the medium to long term employment crisis to come, or the ecological and land care or eco-tourism and rural industry disasters from native forest logging now.

More crucially again though, is the failure of this point to acknowledge the tertiary or at most secondary importance of native forest logging to regional communities as in the SE of NSW as shown by a study by Dr John Formby (1991).

Plantation etc forestry on already cleared land and value adding from this source is a different story.) This is the area of potential for real resource security for the timber industry.

- Point 6. There should be no further clearance of native vegetation which Associate Professor Harry Recher at the Uni of New England has shown is directly linked to rates of extinction (1993). There should be enforceable prevention of this clearing, often illegal, on Crown land or freehold land.

- Point 7 smacks disturbingly of guaranteed access claims by NAFI to native forests for world scale pulping of native forests they say are fed by ecologically sustainable rotational harvesting. SERIOUS CAUTION HERE The broader community interest is well and truly in ecological sustainability of wood production.

Additional point is suggested i.e. point 8:

- point 8: Unethical manipulation of local politics by big players in the native forest timber industry e.g.

comment on the 'draft principles'

- Point 1: "Ecological sustainability" is a far superior guiding concept than "ecologically sustainable development". To borrow from the North American Indians our society is far better off at this time in history consulting our ancestors of five generations ago, and descendants five generations ahead before development is approved. This is a way of protecting environmental values including wilderness in perpetuity.

- point 2. Beware "artificial impediments" which sounds seriously like green bashing of environmental protection regulations. Again note the timber industry, especially the native forest sector, is exaggerating their economic importance particularly in relation to the forest assets for eco-tourism which outperforms native forest logging. Note projections by Minister Michael Lee of 3 million overseas tourists for this year 1993, and at least 6 million by 2000. Australia should economically speaking protect its natural assets.

- point 3 note absence of recognition of responsibility to restructure the native forest logging industry for the ecological and economic benefit of regional communities as whole. Again exaggeration of importance in regional economies.

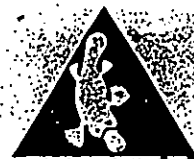
- point 4: BE VERY WARY HERE given native forest logging is NOT a legitimate land use given present position in history, while tree-cropping etc is legitimate.

- point 5: NAFI has consistently distorted the inter-governmental policy obligation of the native forest timber industry under page 11 of the National Forest Policy Statement of December 1992 signed by Mr Fahey, Keating and others, to

"avoid any activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value"

until assessments for national forest reserve system is set up by 1995. Industry are logging old growth wilderness and old growth remnants eg Deua, Coolangubra wilderness areas, Bulga State Forest in Wingham, Mistake State Forest in New England Area, McDonald S.F. in Budawang

This is a broad conservation obligation because, as mentioned above, old growth in wilderness or remnants take 1000 years or more to re-establish this ecosystem after logging. Therefore this logging certainly "may significantly affect" these natural assets.



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

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15 April 1992

BORAL'S 85,000 TONNE WOODCHIP FANTASY EXPOSED

In Newcastle court yesterday, the woodchip company Boral contradicted the logging industry's public fantasy that it only produces woodchips from waste wood. The Wilderness Society said today.

Boral's Operations Manager admitted before the court that its woodchip operations do involve the felling of native forest solely for the purpose of producing woodchips.

The Operations Manager, Mr. Gallagher, was being cross examined at the hearing of 3 people charged with Malicious Damage over the painting of the slogan "BAN WOODCHIP EXPORTS - SAVE THE FORESTS" on a woodchip vessel in Newcastle harbour on 18 November last year.

The Society's NSW Campaign Coordinator, Rodney Knight, said "Boral admitted yesterday that approximately 85,000 tonnes - about a quarter of its annual export of woodchips - was not from sawmill waste, but from sources which include the felling of whole trees solely for woodchipping.

"Boral has been heavily involved in the logging of outstanding wilderness quality forests in the Washpool and Chaelundi areas, where logging was found to have been illegally approved by the NSW Forestry Commission.

"Now the Federal Government has required the company to produce an Environmental Impact Statement under the Commonwealth Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act.

"Compliance with the law will not solve the problem, however, as the EIS may well be used to approve the logging and woodchipping of high value native forests throughout northern NSW which should be in National Parks and wilderness areas.

"The only option for the company and the Government is to face up to the community's opposition to the woodchipping of native forests. They must adopt The Wilderness Society's objective for Australia to be Woodchip Free in '93," Mr Knight concluded.

Further information:

Rod Knight (060) 24 63 73

Peter Warrington (018) 449 080

- point 6 No, no, no - LG must protect its discretion over social issues e.g. timber sourced from rainforest, or wilderness/old growth are wrong, wrong, wrong. See the attached alternative timber guide at Appendix I

- point 7. Insert after "... provided by" - "conservation of all native forest remaining", and as a fall back position, insert "conservation of all old growth wilderness and old growth remnant forest".

- point 8. incorporate user pays

- point 9. Yes, provided value adding is not a way of entrenching a short term and narrow economic benefit from native forest logging, which has deleterious effects on other social, economic and ecological values. See in comparison for SE NSW the potential now for a world scale soft wood panels plant fed by plantation stock: Appendix J.

- point 10. Recognised and independent conservationist/s should also participate in such a cooperative process, the process should be transparent as with any other developer/land user, and their should no compromise by LG on environmental regulation.

the regional wood production councils (RWPC/RPCG(?))

This initiative should be resisted until the fundamental issue of restructuring and transition into plantation wood production is clarified. Otherwise there is no guarantee of the good faith of NAFI. Also upon creation of such a group independent conservationist/s, rural industry reps, tourism reps, local NPWS, local EPA, local fisheries and local soil con. should be included.

END



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

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15 April 1992

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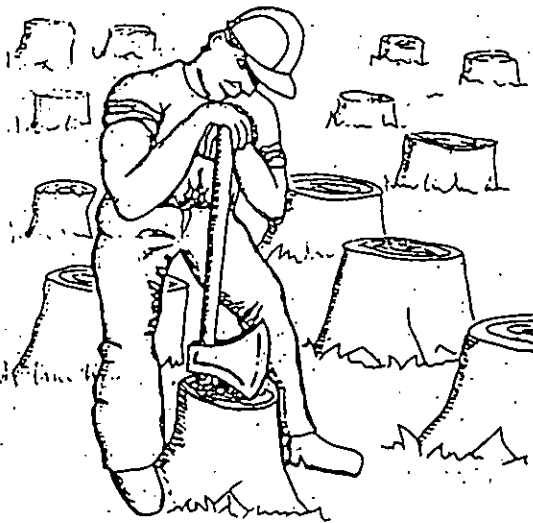
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Nice Names, Pity About The Policies: Industry Front Groups

Bob Burton

The National Wetlands Council, Clean Sites, Consumer Alert, and People for the West! all sound like organisations we'd like to get involved in, subscribe to their newsletter or even listen to a news story about. Before you get too enthusiastic a little investigation would reveal that the National Wetlands Council argues to make it easier to develop wetlands, Clean Sites is concerned about the costs of toxic clean-ups, Consumer Alert opposes government regulations concerning product safety and People for the West opposes the imposition of royalties on minerals from public lands. Dig a little further and you will discover that the National Wetlands Coalition has as members Shell Oil, BP, AMAX, Exxon, Consumer Alert boasts the support of Chevron and Exxon while People for the West! has as contributor Kennecott Corporation, Cyprus Minerals, Chevron USA and many others¹. If you went to the conference of Environment and Conservation Organisations you would find yourselves in the company of many of the above.

Mark Megalli and Andy Friedman in a study of corporate front groups in the US noted that

"the rise of corporate front groups in the US is a recent phenomenon, a direct response to the burgeoning consumer, citizen and environmental movements. Before these movements took hold in the late 1960's, major corporations delivered their messages through their lobbyists in Washington. The names of these traditional associations told the stories - National Coal Association, Chamber of Commerce, American Petroleum Institute. But as public-interest groups began to win widespread public support, it became clear that new mechanisms were needed to deliver the corporate message. If Burger King were to report that a Whopper is nutritious, consumers would probably roll their eyes in disbelief... But when the American Council on Science and Health and its panel of 200 expert scientists report that Whopper are not so bad consumers might actually listen... Increasingly big business is creating front groups to influence legislators, the media and consumers. These corporate front groups advertise, hold conferences, publish newsletters and reports, write editorials and appear on talk shows in an effort to sway public opinion toward industry views"².

Megalli and Friedman identified a number of characteristics of industry front groups:

1) The use of a scientific, public interest or green sounding name:

While the role of many of the groups is to mobilise pro-industry supporters their names are often more designed to ensure that people listening to their media message get past their name. If the name of an organisation sounds like it is a pro-environment group it is more likely to have an impact in neutralising or countering support for environmental protection by public interest groups.

2) Corporate agenda with grassroots involvement:

According to Megalli and Friedman "front groups funding, control and membership are usually exclusively corporate although groups often purport to have high grassroots involvement in one of these areas to give an air of authenticity". While some of the corporate fronts rely solely on their name and comprise no more than corporate members, those industries that have had difficulty retaining favour via their traditional top-down methods have sought to build coalitions with other groups such as labour, recreationalists and grassroots people.

George Frampton, President of The Wilderness Society (US) stated that "they claim they lead a grassroots movement, but they are in fact speaking for industry and their grass is well watered with corporate money" up to 3. It is however important to recognise that some of these groups do tap a real community concern that will not simply go away if dismissed as corporate fronts.

3) Passing coalitions

The other manifestation of industry fronts is a temporary coalitions under a reasonable sounding name that lobby on a particular issue or piece of legislation and then fade away. The Clean Capital Cities Committee was formed in 1987 to fight a proposed mandatory bottle deposit law in Washington DC. The group, which was created by beverage companies, boulders and grocery stores dismantled when it succeeded in defeating the bill. For example the Clean Air Working Group, which fought to weaken the Clean Air Act of 1990 dispersed upon the bills passage. The group was the creation of several coal companies.

There are two additional aspects worth commenting on which, while not associated with corporate front groups, have been increasingly used to stifle public dissent. The first is the use of legal actions designed to intimidate citizens into silence - called Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation and the second an increased level of violent harassment of activists.

The anti-environment movement in the US

Ron Arnold, from the Centre for the Defense of Free Enterprise and one of the leaders of the pro-industry movement, told a pesticide lobby group in 1984 "it takes a movement to fight a movement". Another anti-environment movement adviser at the same seminar Dave Dietz of Oregonians for Food and Shelter told the meeting that a citizens agency can attack environmentalists in ways that industry never could. It can create media events of its own and in the process divert the time and money of environmental groups into defending themselves.

By the late 1980's the emerging anti-environment movement, initially focussing on pesticides, developed into broader areas such as mining, forestry and private landowners issues. It also encompasses anti-gay, religious and pro-gun groups. It is now a growing movement aimed at undermining environmental standards and laws that limit the activities of government agencies, individuals and corporations.

Ron Arnold stated "Our goal is to destroy, to eradicate the environmental movement. We're mad as hell. We're dead serious, we're going to destroy them".

In 1988 a conference of such groups in Reno published a manifesto which reflects the flavour of the movement and some of the developments that we can expect.

4. Passage of Global Warming Prevention Act

to convert in a systematic manner all decaying and oxygen using forest growth on the National Forests into young stands of oxygen producing, carbon dioxide absorbing trees to help ameliorate the rate of global warming and prevent the greenhouse effect.

18 Endangered Species Act Amendments. The Endangered Species Act shall be amended to specifically classify the appropriate scientifically identified endangered species as relict species in decline before the appearance of man, including non-adaptive species, such as the California condor, and endemic species lacking the biological vigour to spread in range such as the wind-flower *Pipers harebells*.

19 Obstructionism liability. Any group or individual that challenges by litigation an economic action or development on federal lands and subsequently loses in court shall be declared "not acting in the public interest" and shall be required to pay to the winner the increase in costs for completing the project plus money damages for loss of economic opportunity. Congress should provide for obstructionists to indemnify American industry against harm when they use the law to delay economic progress...16

The movement has already demonstrated its ability to build substantial support for legislative initiatives that would have major impacts on the environment. In Washington State the Property Rights Protection Act, which would have barred the state from regulating landowners use of their own property, passed both houses in 1989 and was only stopped by the exercise of a veto by the Governor. A National Recreation Trails Fund Act of 1990, which would divert gasoline tax fund receipts to build trails for off road motorised vehicles, is still in the pipeline.

Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation

Two University of Denver academics have coined the term "Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation" (SLAPP's) to describe the phenomenon of public interest advocates being sued for damages (the average amount being \$9 million) for "simply for exercising one of our most cherished constitutional rights - speaking out on political issues". Pring and Canan's

decade long study found that "SLAPP's are filed by one side of a public political dispute to punish or prevent opposing points of view. They are an attempt to 'privatise' public debate - a unilateral effort by one side to transform a public political dispute into a private legal adjudication shifting both forum and issues to the disadvantage of the other side".⁷ Pring, G and Canan, P. *Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP's): An introduction for Bench, Bar and Bystanders, Bridgeport Law Review*, Volume 12, No 4, Summer 1992, page 937-961. See also Pring, G and Canan, P. *Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation, Social Problems*, Volume 35, No 5, December 1988, page 506-519.

They note that SLAPP's as lawsuits go are losers; the vast majority ultimately are dismissed but as a New York judge observed, they frequently succeed in the real world chilling the politically outspoken as well as observers and chilling important public discussion and dispute. "Short of a gun to the head, a greater threat to First Amendment expression can scarcely be imagined".⁷

Their study found that over 77% of SLAPP's are ultimately won in the courts by their targets with the remainder being where the targets gave up and entered into settlements to dismiss the case. The average duration of SLAPP's was 3 years.

Some of the cases before the courts are being filed against citizens and groups for:

- * circulating a petition for signatures;
- * voicing criticism at a schools board meeting;
- * sending a letter to public officials
- * reporting a police misconduct;
- * lobbying for reform legislation;
- * just going to a public meeting and signing the attendance sheet.⁸

While all this sounds a bit ominous there has been a significant counter-attack that is likely to reduce the incidence of SLAPP's. The key features of this are:

- * ensuring that activists have good access to legal advice on SLAPP's before and after they happen;
- * exposing the phenomena so that it is seen for what it is by the public;
- * launching SLAPP-back suits: countersuits for damages (to date 21 have been won and 10 lost); (One union attorney who had told state health officials that pipe resin used by Shell Oil Company in domestic water pipes contained a cancer causing substance won \$US\$1 million in a SLAPP back suit).⁹
- * two states, California and Oregon, have passed legislation in 1992 aimed at preventing SLAPP's.

Violent harassment:

An investigation by the Center for Investigative Reporting uncovered a pattern of death threats, fire bombings, shootings and assaults targeting green activists across the country. The Center logged more than 100 reports of attacks and harassment that have taken place since 1988 including 12 arson attacks, 16 assaults and battery, 21 death threats, 8 gunfire incidents, 24 harassment incidents and 17 incidents of vandalism and theft.¹⁰

The CIR investigation found no evidence of a concerted campaign but others such as Paul de Leon of the Highlander Research and Education Center in Tennessee believes that the violence is both "disorganised and highly organised ranging from employer intimidation to organised crime and hate groups". "What is clear" he says "is that there is a climate of polarisation that defines environmentalists as eco terrorists and gives permission to marginalise and threaten them".¹¹

While leaders of pro-industry groups decry "eco-terrorism" much of the rhetoric is such that followers of the movement are seen as legitimate targets. Franklin notes "Ron Arnold of the Wise Use movement speaks of 'destroying environmentalists' and organising to 'kill the bastards'. Most people on both sides of the environmental debate view Arnold's talk as rhetorical grandstanding. Still his comments, like calling Chuck Cushman 'our top bomb-thrower' and suggesting the environmentalist Barry Commoner be 'utterly destroyed' might well be misconstrued".

Corporate fronts in Australia?

Given that there is no such overt movement in Australia how does one determine whether their influence extends this far? The challenge is to try and distinguish between the aspects of pro-industry campaigns that are nothing new and those which have emerged only recently and bear remarkable similarities to recent events in the US and Canada. The danger of course is to interpret everything as a well organised industry conspiracy and in so doing not only magnifying their role but obscuring the concerns that allow them to undertake grassroots mobilisation.

The Forest Protection Society:

The Forest Protection Society is an organisation that could be described as preferring old growth forests in the horizontal plane instead of the vertical. Its style of operation is remarkably similar to that of the "Share our Forests" groups in British Columbia and other groups in the Pacific North-West of the US. Are they a front group? Well let's say there is some interesting documentation on their activities that raises ones suspicions such as:

- * When the Forest Protection Society was launched on November 23 1987 it was announced that the network would be backed by the ACTU and the Forest Industry Campaign Association (FICA). FICA Executive Officer stated that the community group network would be independent of existing bodies but would be funded by the industry to get it off the ground.¹²

* A leaked set of minutes from a strategy meeting dated 19/8/1988 under the item of "Long term program" recorded that "Robyn Loydell discussed activities by her group which involved taking over local environmentalist meetings, with the result that they became distracted from their ongoing campaign. Robyn's group actually controls the voting on several groups and could therefore vote to have them join the Forest Protection Society".¹³

* advertisement by the Forest Protection Society for its Tasmanian State Coordinator position, which gave as its contact Dr Robert Bain from the National Association of Forest Industries.¹⁴ It is worth noting that the Forest Protection Society not only uses an industry spokesman as its contact for positions vacant ads but also shares the same post office box as the National Association of Forest Industries.

* issuing a press release on June 24 1991 at the ALP National Conference which had APPM (Australia's largest woodchip exporter) Public Relations Officer Mr Chris Oldfield as the contact;¹⁵

* a special mention of the Forest Protection Society in the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania 1992 Annual Report which stated that "FIAT is providing assistance and support on an ongoing basis" as well as claiming that "Forest Protection Society remains an independent organisation".

Tasmanian Traditional Recreational Land Users Federation (Tasmania)

Since 1990 a coalition of traditional land users groups (four wheel drivers fishermen, hunters etc) have been campaigning to ensure that their various recreational activities are allowed in the Western Tasmania World Heritage Area Management Plan.

More broadly however they have been echoing the rhetoric of the mining and forestry industry in arguing that no more land should be "locked up", and that all areas should be set aside for "multiple land use". In describing themselves they use the words "moderate" conservationists and attack environmental "extremism" and the anti-human nature of wilderness.¹⁶ While not overtly arguing for industry their style is similar to a number of groups in the US which argue against the protection of additional areas.

Interestingly the formation of this community group in 1990 received front page coverage in the Tasmanian Chamber of Mines "Mines Report".

¹⁸ Could it be that they are more than casual acquaintances? There are striking policy similarities between the Chamber of Mines and TRLUF. When recently asked on ABC radio whether they opposed mining in National Parks and the Western Tasmanian World Heritage Area TRLUF President (and senior Forestry Commission employee) Simon Cubitt refused to answer the question. On every subsequent occasion where they have been asked they have avoided the issue.¹⁹ In 1987 the Mountain Cattleman's Association, now a TRLUF member, made a submission, authored by Simon Cubitt, to the Helsham Inquiry arguing against protecting the Lemonhyme forest from logging.²⁰

While TRLUF are quick to be critical of National Parks planning processes they have yet to manage a whisper of concern about the appalling process used to allocate mineral exploration licences or decide on State Forests or hydro schemes.

TRLUF leaders are now campaigning to overturn the additions to the National Park system made in 1989 on the pretext of the process by which these additions were decided.²¹ Revocations of such areas reflects the policies of the Chamber of Mines too who have recently gained government support for the proposition that mining and mineral exploration should be allowed in all areas declared as National Parks under the Labor-Green accord in 1989-91.

But by no means however are TRLUF united or consistent. While part of the four wheel drive fraternity want to be able to drive on existing tracks (no matter how environmentally inappropriate) some fisherman want them banned from certain areas. While TRLUF Executive members argue about areas being "locked up" and about restrictions on "access", the West Coast Recreation Association opposed a tourism project at Kelly Basin on Macquarie Harbour on Tasmania's West Coast while in 1989 fisherman successfully campaigned against helicopter flights being allowed to intrude into the wild areas of the Central Plateau.

Such recreation based coalitions are not unique to Tasmania. For example they seem to be springing up in places such as Newcastle area in relation to the Management Plan for Barrington Tops and elsewhere.

Legal actions against environment groups in Australia

The Greenpeace 1989 protest against BHP's seismic testing in whale calving grounds in Bass Strait saw the first attempt by a major corporation to use Section 45D and E against environment groups. The action was dropped. Last summer, the giant woodchipping company APPM threatened the Wilderness Society with legal action under Section 45D and E of the Trade Practices Act for any protests disrupting its operations in Tasmania.

Recently an injunction was sought by the NSW Forestry Commissioner, Mr Drielsma in the Supreme Court of NSW to retain 32 anti-logging protesters and others from "aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring any other person" from entering Bulga State Forest near Taree on the north coast of NSW. The restrictions were rejected.²² There has also been a spate of threats of legal action, usually for supposed defamation, against environmentalists in the last year.

Harassment:

To date there has been no systematic investigation of incidents of harassment of Australian environmentalists despite numerous incidents.

In Tasmania alone there have been a number of incidents including an assault on Bob Brown with a tyre lever in the Franklin campaign, rifle shots fired at Farmhouse Creek forest protests, attempts to chainsaw the tree of a tree-sitter at Farmhouse Creek in 1986, the fire bombing of a car in the Picton blockade in 1992 and an assault at Exit Cave by a pro-mineral activist. Despite the rhetoric of concern from industry lobby groups and media commentators about "ecoterrorism" their response when violence has been directed at environmentalists has been muted.

What to make of all this?

It seems inevitable that Australian industry groups will seek to emulate their North American counterparts and increase the use of positive legal actions. It is therefore vital that environment groups ensure that they have a much greater access to legal services and a greater awareness of what is happening in North America.

As Mark Megalli and Andy Friedman noted "for those industries that perceive themselves as under attack from citizens organisations, however, front groups are an ever more popular tool. They promise to proliferate unless citizens groups can successfully unmask them". An increasing level of information sharing between groups, both within Australia and overseas, will be important to alert others within the movement as to what is going on. Simply revealing their backing and real agenda will only adversely affect a part of their constituency. Ultimately it must be recognised that different values and perceptions of economic prospects are the basis for the gap between environmentalists and supporters of many pro-industry groups. Some differences are irreconcilable especially those based on recreation preferences. For example debate over the hunting of wildlife, off road recreation vehicles and other issues associated with management of natural areas are not economic issues but value based.

Ultimately the biggest single factor in the effectiveness of anti-environment groups is the level of grassroots organising. Such groups are most effective at organising in vulnerable and resource dependent towns especially in rural areas which tend to be more conservative. In planning campaigns it would be wise to learn from what is a reasonably predictable pattern of corporate campaigns. Campaign strategies of the 1980's are far less likely to work in the 1990's. Anticipation, innovation and grass roots mobilisation will be the hallmarks of the successful campaigns of the 1990's.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

If there are groups that you consider suspicious it is worth collecting a their public statements and publications. The author is interested in hearing of other groups and details of their activities. Please forward any information to Bob Burton 002 130 Davey Street Hobart 7000.

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- 4) George Fumpton cited in Lewis, Thomas A. "Cloaked in a Wise Disguise", *National Wildlife*, October-November 1992, page 4-8.
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- 22) *Tasmanian Traditional and Recreational Land Users Federation*, "Boundary Deception comes under fire", Media Release, 24th March 1993.
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Dear Editor, Mr Peter Cochrane ('Public land users group formed', *Tallaganda Times* 20/10/93) forget the interests of the local community by arguing against wilderness protection. For a start Mr Cochrane forgets that his own National Party voted for the Wilderness Act in 1987. Back in 1987 all the Parties agreed that we have to make proper plans for the last natural areas that qualify as 'wilderness'.

In NSW there is only about 4.5% of these wilderness areas left - some of it is forest, some of it heath lands, some of it alpine plains, or semi-arid and arid areas. Everyone knows we are losing our natural areas - the places not being used for grazing, cropping, being ridden or driven over, or cleared or logged. (There is plenty of land for these

things too.)

Wilderness areas are a wonderful gift to our kids. And the Australian animals and plants need these safe places. A wilderness is big enough to keep native populations a healthy size. We risk losing the lot if we rely on a zoo, or small areas that are easily taken over by introduced creatures. (First the roads, then the rabbits, then the foxes, cats and dogs follow.) Wilderness protection really is a wise decision for the future.

Unfortunately Mr Cochrane is mistaken about his figures. There is about 750,000 hectares of wilderness in the 10 official wilderness areas along the NSW coast, not millions of hectares as suggested. And there is little or no affect on access because these areas are usually found in rugged places with no roads. For exam-

ple in the Ettrema-Budawang, the wilderness plan covers 130,000 ha of a National Park already off limits to vehicles to stop the breaking up of the area (except for essential fire trails). The popular Yalwal Property next to Danjara Dam, which is used by 4WD, trail-bike and campers, is outside the wilderness area so nothing is changed there either. There are minor track closures further south in Yarramanun Valley, but nearby there is about 70,000 ha of land (16 State Forests) which can be used by 4WD and trail-bikes.

All kinds of people can enjoy wilderness areas. In the United States there is a Wilderness Preservation System and 16,800 disabled people visit them every year. In 1992 a survey found that 85% of the disabled people have spent more than 4 days in

a wilderness, and 76% did not believe mechanised transport was needed.

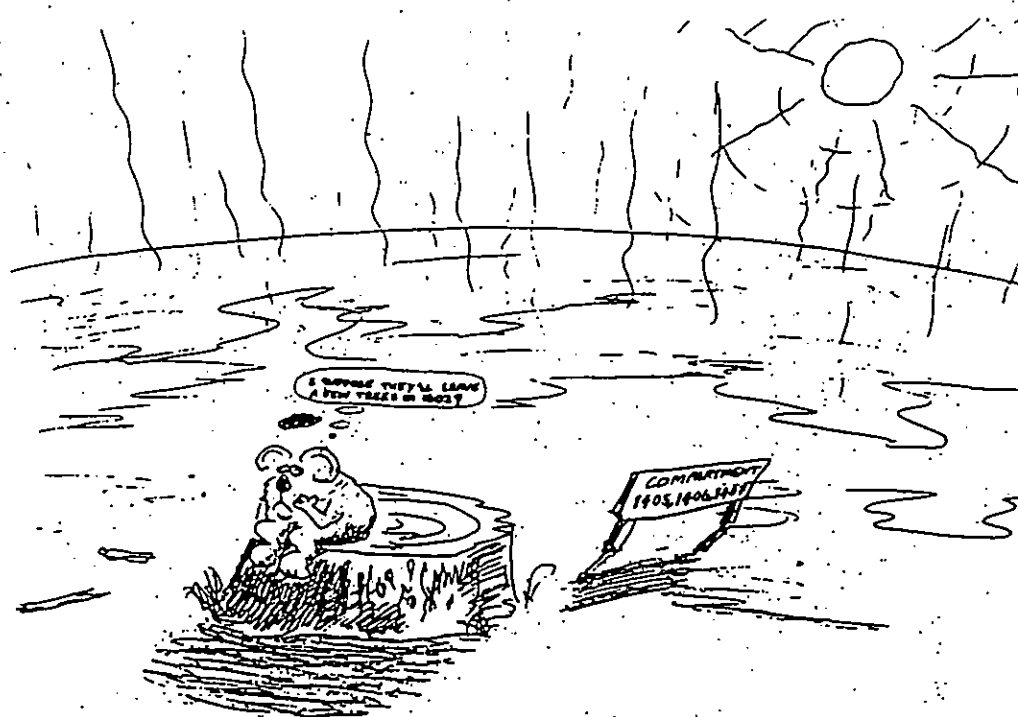
As for the National Trail - the organisers have said that they don't need to take the trail through the wilderness areas.

NSW is lucky. Most other countries don't have wilderness areas. The Australian tourism industry is aiming at 6.5 million international visitors by the end of this century. My bet is these visitors will love our wilderness areas too.

I would be happy to talk about the economic benefits from these wilderness areas in another letter.

Yours sincerely,

Tom McLoughlin,
NSW Campaign Officer
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
C/o 9 Geringa Ave,
Cooma 2630



SENSITIVE LOGGING REGIME BY NSW FORESTRY, SOUTH EAST NSW 1992



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

July 1993

FACT SHEET

WILDERNESS & WORKERS, NOT JOB LOSSES & NO FORESTS

Society replies to desperately skewed report from the NSW Forestry Commission

The Wilderness Society condemns the misleading claims in a NSW Forestry Commission 'report' released earlier this year entitled 'Economic Impacts Of Wilderness Proposals On State Forests'. The 'report' makes spurious allegations regarding lost investment, job losses and adverse economic impacts on regional economies if NSW Wilderness forests are protected under the *Wilderness Act* by the NSW Government.

The 'report' is a desperate attempt to justify the ongoing debt ridden, and subsidised activity of the native forest timber industry in NSW, and Australia generally.

Throughout Australia the accumulated debt of government forestry agencies is now over \$5 billion. [Source: Byron R.N. (1991) *Fiscal Approaches of State Forest Management Agencies*. RAC Consultancy Series AGPS Canberra].

The Victorian experience where separate accounting for native and plantation logging is used indicates the trend with a \$13.2 million loss to the State Government on native forest logging in financial year 1990-91. This was offset by a \$4 million profit in softwood plantations. [Source: *The Age* p4 22/7/1992]

The NSW Public Accounts Committee in 1990 found State agency subsidisation of native forest logging through, for example, free forest roading was a major impediment to transition to plantations [Source: NSW Public Accounts Committee (1990) *Report on the Forestry Commission*, Parliament of NSW, Sydney].

Native forest logging is going out backwards in a sunset industry trying to squeeze the ecological blood out of our last pristine forests before it collapses. The pressure is coming from superior plantation timber from here and overseas for pulp and timber production [Source: The Wilderness Society (1992) *Wilderness not woodchips* Sydney].

In fact the timber industry has increased wood production by 40% in the last 20 years while shedding jobs by a massive 40%. [Source: RAC (1991) *Forest & Timber Inquiry Draft Report* AGPS Canberra].

The growth sector in NSW regional economies is tourism including eco-tourism. [Source: Formby J (1991) *Employment in South-East NSW: A Review and Proposed*

Employment Package. SEFA Sydney]. For instance Australia will host an international Eco-tourism conference in 1994 because our economic future is largely with the beautiful natural areas of Australia. A good example is the huge increase in visitation rates after the protection of the Washpool Subtropical Rainforest in northern NSW in the '80's.

Job loss estimates by Forestry are not only exaggerated, they are totally off the planet. These sorts of figures have been bandied about by development interests well before the days of the Franklin dam. They have never been substantiated. For example with the Franklin issue Robin Gray himself has admitted more jobs have been created by not building the Dam. The NSW Forestry figures should probably be divided by ten to get any real picture of job losses, and these losses pale into insignificance compared with massive industry rationalisation of recent times.

The 'multiplier figures' used by Forestry to calculate 'flow on' job losses are similarly ludicrous and reflect dodgy statistics for scaremongering purposes. Job losses will be small or non-existent as workers find other jobs in the region.

The NSW Forestry Commission is well and truly politicised, and determined to buffer itself from economic reality by sacrificing the community's Wilderness forests, and by blocking healthy restructuring of the timber industry.

What will be the cost to regional communities of Wilderness NOT preserved? Chris Hartcher, our NSW Environment Minister has pointed out that: "It is widely recognised that [wilderness areas] do provide valuable ecosystem services by maintaining the quality of air and water, slowing soil erosion, reducing salinity through lowering of the water table, releasing water during drought and slowing run-off during floods - all of which are quite costly to undertake or provide once natural systems are disrupted." [Source: *Sydney Morning Herald* on 24/8/92].

For further information please contact your local branch of the Wilderness Society.



FOREST JOBS



Wilderness: the price is right

Wilderness IS good for our NSW regional economies both in the rural and tourism sectors. This compares with the economic costs of logging wilderness forests.

On the rural front the NSW Environment Minister, Chris Hartcher, stated in 1992 that forest wilderness provides "valuable ecosystem services" to our rural industries. These include:

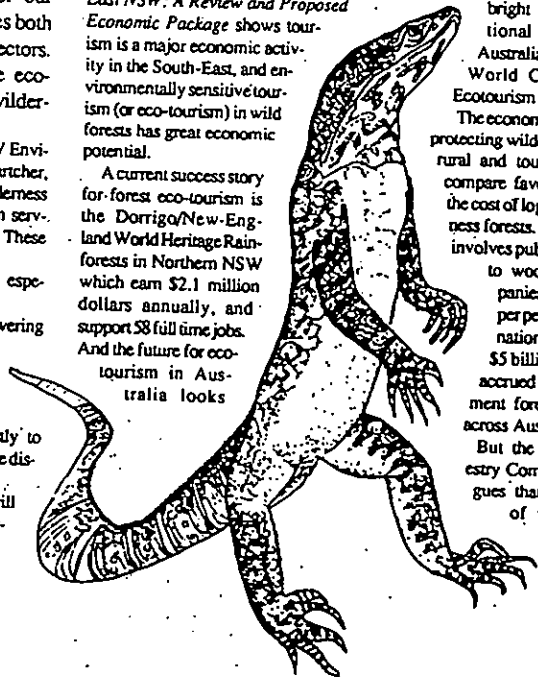
- abundant water retention, especially during drought;
- a reduction in salinity by lowering the water table
- high water and air quality
- soil erosion prevention
- flood control

All these services are costly to replace once natural systems are disrupted.

NSW regional economies will also benefit from forest wilderness protection because these areas can act as a tourism magnet. For example, John Formby (1991) in *Employment in South-*

East NSW: A Review and Proposed Economic Package shows tourism is a major economic activity in the South-East, and environmentally sensitive tourism (or eco-tourism) in wild forests has great economic potential.

A current success story for forest eco-tourism is the Dorrigo/New-England World Heritage Rainforests in Northern NSW which earn \$2.1 million dollars annually, and support 58 full time jobs. And the future for eco-tourism in Australia looks



bright with international support for Australia to host the World Congress on Ecotourism in 1994.

The economic benefits of protecting wilderness for the rural and tourism sectors compare favourably with the cost of logging wilderness forests. This logging involves public subsidies to woodchip companies (about \$10 per person per year nationally) and a \$5 billion total debt accrued by government forest agencies across Australia.

But the NSW Forestry Commission argues that protection of wilderness for

ests will be "too dear" because it will remove native forest timber resources from their management areas. Yet in 1992 the Resource Assessment Commission found that the NSW Forestry Commission had exaggerated the impact of conservation measures on its 'sustainable yield' harvesting plans. RAC also showed that there are 250,000 ha of softwood and hardwood plantations. Why isn't the industry extracting its yield from these plantations?

The argument that protection of forest wilderness removes valuable resource from the timber industry tends to ignore the costs of logging forest wilderness - loss of ecosystem services, loss of present and future tourism potential and the debt burden. These costs mean it is actually too dear to not save forest wilderness.

So remember 'Wilderness & Workers' do go together. And that's without even considering the future economic benefits of new pharmaceuticals and genetic stock from wilderness forest.

WHAT FUTURE?

Logging losses are exaggerated

The *Herald* (April 29) reported a study by the NSW Forestry Commission examining the declaration of nine wilderness areas in NSW. The study concluded that these declarations would immediately drain \$596 million from regional economies, with continuing losses currently valued at \$338 million. It is difficult to assess the commission's analysis, since the methods used in its report are poorly described. However, a review of this study suggests that the commission's report has grossly exaggerated in three different ways the potential losses from declaring these wilderness areas.

Firstly, it assumes that the current timber resource is harvested now, and any regrowth is available to be harvested from next year onwards. If the old growth forest is harvested sustainably (say over the next 80 years), then - using the commission's own valua-

tion methods - the current value of the timber not harvested is about \$67 million, not \$378 million as it estimated. If the regrowth is valued from the time mature timber becomes available with sustainable logging, then its current value is about \$5 million, not \$227 million as estimated by the commission.

Secondly, the commission used regional multipliers to scale up the value of the timber to reflect losses in timber-associated activities. However, its method of valuing the timber appears to value many of these activities directly, and so its use of multipliers double-counts post-forest activities. The total value to regional economies of the currently available timber not being harvested is therefore more likely to be about \$70 million, rather than the \$596 million estimated by the commission.

Thirdly, in valuing the regrowth June 11

timber losses, the commission managed to triple-count some elements. Rather than being a loss of as much as \$338 million from not being able to harvest regrowth in the proposed wilderness areas, the current value of the regrowth, using the commission's own methods and assuming sustainable harvesting, is of the order of \$5 million.

Clearly, there will be output reductions in the timber industry from declaring the nine proposed wilderness areas. But, rather than costing about \$940 million, as estimated by the Forestry Commission, the value of the forgone output is more likely to be \$70 million-\$100 million.

David Godden,
Senior Lecturer,
Department of Agricultural
Economics,
University of Sydney,
Sydney.

4 - THE AGE WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 1992

State loses \$13m on native forest harvesting

By KAY ANSELL, *Environment reporter*
The State Government lost \$13.2 million on the commercial logging of Victoria's native forests for the 1990-91 financial year, according to a report released by the Department of Conservation and Environment yesterday.

The Australian Conservation Foundation said that in doing so, the department also failed to meet the government's policy requirements that it produce a four per cent annual return on spending.

Royalties charged by the State Government are expected to rise and the department is likely to cut costs further in the 1992-93 financial year.

The first detailed financial analysis of the department's operations has revived the Conservation Foundation's charge that Victorians are paying millions of dollars each year to subsidise the destruction of old-growth forests at "bargain-basement prices".

The Government was moving towards achieving full cost recovery, but not at the expense of jobs. The shortfall was partly offset by a \$4 million surplus in state softwood plantation revenues and the loss was largely due to the drop in timber sales during the recession. Full cost recovery could have been achieved in a better year, he said.

The Conservation Foundation rejected this, saying the Economic Planning and Advisory Council report earlier this year showing that the State Government had lost \$40 million on its forestry operations in 1989 pointed towards an accrued loss over a very long time: "This is not a one-off by any means," Mr Fisher said.

Mr Richard Rawson, a general manager in the department's forestry division, denied that the government was "subsidising" the timber industry. "We are providing a resource for a major Victorian industry and this report indicates there is a margin there for improving our operations."

He agreed that making up the \$13.2 million shortfall (together with the four per cent return the department should be making was a "fair way to go"). "But don't forget we are judging it on the basis of the worst possible year for revenue, 1990-91." The forests were also managed for conservation objectives and this cost money even when revenue dropped.

The truth about timber and trees

Appendix E
(2 pages)



The preservation of Australia's native forests needs no economic justification. Forests irreplaceably possess vital ecological, cultural, social and heritage values. However, a purely economic evaluation of the forest industry highlights widespread economic inefficiency. This is characterised by sustained job losses, high Government subsidies, a high level of environmental damage and an inability to respond to trends in world markets.

Peter Warrington and Andrew Donovan make sense of the dollars we spend to support a sick industry and show that job creation and environmental protection can mix.

Woodchipping

THE FACTS:

The export woodchip industry employs, in total, 804 people throughout Australia (RAC, 1991). This represents less than 2% of total employment in the forest products industry, while export woodchipping accounts for 4% of the harvested log volume in Australia (ASARE, 1990a/1991). Australia's export income in 1989-90 from harvested woodchips was \$16.6 million, Japan being the destination for 91 per cent of these woodchips. Australia imported a total of \$2.1 billion worth of forest products back into the country. The contribution of forest products to Australia's current account deficit in 1989-90 was \$1.6 billion, which is around 7% of the total deficit (ASARE, 1991).

THE ISSUES:

The advent of large-scale woodchipping in Australia has contributed to a massive decline in jobs in the industry. In the period 1965-83, timber output increased by 40%, while employment fell by 40% (RAC, 1991). Woodchipping, a capital intensive sector, has replaced other more labour intensive, value adding timber uses, such as sawn timber.

Indeed, 50% of the volume of hardwood logs in South-East NSW is now exported as woodchips (Forbes, 1991).

Profit is the Australian timber industry depend heavily on subsidies from tax-payers. In Tasmania Forestry Commission made a loss of \$80.5 million in 1989-90. Victoria lost \$41.7 million in 1990-91 and \$26.2 million loss was incurred by the NSW Forestry Commission in 1989-90 (Byrne, 1991).

Woodchipping with the least value of all forest sectors to the Australian economy (AIS, 1989).

Moreover, much of the economic surplus generated by the woodchip trade between Australia and Japan accrues to Japanese pulp and paper manufacturers (Shawing & Butler, 1991). The domestic economy fails to benefit from profits made by companies wholly owned by Japanese interests, such as Marukawa (Daiwa) (Aust Pty Ltd). Whilst profits are overseas in the form of dividends, Marukawa's success is an after tax profit as a percentage of overseas shareholders' funds of 0.7% about three times above the rate for successful commercial businesses (Clark, 1991). The transfer of profits can also be mitigated through transfer pricing (RAC 1991).

Japan is the destination for 91 per cent of

Australian woodchip exports. Hardwood pulpywood consumption in Japan has been steadily increasing. However, Australia's share of the market declined from 64% in 1986 to 43% in 1989 (Shawing & Butler, 1991). This movement away from Australia's woodchip resource is due to price and quality concerns. Japan's desire to diversify sources and forest conservation in Australia (Clark, 1991).

The world pulp market is exceptionally volatile and is currently in a depressed state. International trade in hardwood is exposed to decharacterised by continuing low prices and an increased market share for high quality woodchips harvested from the more than 7 million ha of eucalypt plantations in Brazil, South Africa, Portugal, Spain, South East Asia and China (Clark, 1991). Clark (1991) also predicts increases in pulp prices, reflecting a number of factors, including a general decline by state governments to improve the financial performance of forest agencies.

In January 1992, the annual export licences for all 9 native forest export woodchipping operations were suspended. This will result in the export of 3.5 million tonnes of unprocessed woodchips and the destruction of over 2 million tonnes of trees.

The opportunity cost of forest destruction from export woodchipping is also high. The destruction of forest habitats reduces the value of the forest for other uses, which can contribute to economic and employment growth.

ALTERNATIVES:

Export woodchipping can continue, making use of more \$4,000 ha of hardwood plantations in Australia and further plantings on cleared agricultural land. The National Plantations Advisory Committee recommended that the Commonwealth Government announce a specific policy commitment to facilitate the establishment of these forests (RAC, 1991).

Bioresource conservation and rehabilitation programmes can also provide employment opportunities and contribute to the economy. These, along with the development of an economic industry, represent the best return on Australia's native forests.

Sawmilling

THE FACTS:

Sawn timber accounts for approximately 40% of total timber removals from native forests in Australia. When plantations are included, the proportion rises

to 47% (RAC, 1991). Softwood sawlogs account for 46% of all sawlogs known to be in the country, which varies greatly from state to state (Clark, 1991). Sawmilling provides 11,893 jobs nationally. This represents 54% of total employment in the wood and wood products industry (RAC, 1991).

THE ISSUES:

The sawn timber sector is undergoing rapid and fundamental structural change. Hardwood sawmilling is shifting to the south-east and will continue to do so. This is due to competition from softwood plantations, increasing prices for hardwood sawlogs and falling hardwood sawlog quality (Clark, 1991).

Major employment growth in this sector will come from the harvesting of eastern softwood plantations. Clark (1991) predicts that the domestic supply of softwood sawlogs will be at least double by the year 2000, due to the maturation of plantations established in the 1960's and 1970's.

Softwood mills provide economies of scale unmatched by hardwood mills. Softwood mills can process more than 10 times the average log volume for a hardwood sawmill (Clark, 1991).

Impending changes in hardwood sawlogs are predicted by Shawing & Hamilton (1991). This is due to both alterations for pulp and a past history of overcutting. As RAC (1991) notes:

"It seems to the inquiry that for much of its history the native forest sawn timber industry has been in disrepair... Milling capacity has almost always been greater than the supply of logs to the mill. Individual mills can only survive if the forest within their radius of collection is managed on a sustained yield basis. As far as the inquiry is aware, this has never happened in Australia."

RAC (1991) also states emphatically that the impending change of sawlogs is not due to additions to conservation reserves but are rather a result of past overcutting.

Clark (1991) outlines the close correlation between native forest logging disputes and expansion in softwood sawmilling. Northern Tasmania, East Gippsland, The Otways, Eden/Riverina, South-West Western Australia and Central Queensland are all examples of this phenomenon. This simply reflects the past history of clearing native forests and subsequent softwood plantation establishment.

Nevertheless, this phenomenon would greatly minimise the economic and economic damage of the transition to a plantation basis.

ALTERNATIVES:

The future of sawmilling lies in existing softwood plantations. Sawmilling in native forests is both unnecessary and uneconomical. Softwood plantations are of sufficient volume and suitable location to eliminate the social and economic impacts of an immediate transition out of native forests. High value timber for crafts and fine furniture can be harvested from plantations established especially for this purpose.

Softwood can be substituted for virtually all uses of native sawlogs. Levels of woodcut substitution in the total consumption of sawmiller (including imports) vary from state to state, ranging from 91% in South Australia to 20% in Western Australia.

Clark (1991) asserts that all states will quickly approach the level of substitution evidenced in South Australia, given increased hardwood royalties. Softwood imports from New Zealand will also provide alternatives to hardwood sawlogs from native forests.

In its analysis the economic and employment implications of possible preservation of native forests in the South-East forests of NSW, Ramsey (1991) states that the main growth in the region will come outside the hardwood sawmilling sector i.e. in the softwood sawmilling, tourism, services and construction industries. This analysis is based on the availability of large softwood plantations at Bonville. The thinning of this plantation and chipping of the residue alone would create 100 jobs, cancelling out the total loss arising from the removal of the native forest resource (Forbes, 1991). It is estimated that by the year 2000, the softwood sawmill would provide an additional 215 jobs. The establishment of a peripheral plant would create additional jobs. Major employment growth would also emanate from tourism and from the establishment of new softwood plantations (see 6, below).

Pulp and Paper

THE FACTS:

There are twenty-one pulp and paper mills operating currently in Australia and they employ a total of 8,671 people (RAC, 1991).

An average size mill (500 - 1000 tonnes of pulp per day) using conventional bleaching technology discharges between 30 and 80 tonnes of organochlorine each day (Greenpeace International, 1990).

Nationally, approximately 1,054,000 tonnes of pulp are produced each year (RAC, 1991).

12% of pulp is currently recycled. This compares poorly with the 43% rate in Japan. The Federal Government plans to increase paper recycling to 40% by 1995 (DASET, 1992).

THE ISSUES:

Since the mid-1950's pulp is output, the industry has continued to shed jobs and close mills while persisting with claims for increased access to native forests. Reports indicate that for the pulp and paper sector to remain internationally competitive, there will be a need to close plants and shed jobs as the industry becomes more capital-intensive. The Bankers' Group World report (1991) on North America's pulp (NBP) makes numerous references to NBP's job-shedding program, and further states that job-shedding and plant closures in the pulp and woodchip industries will escalate. The number of employees per 1000 tonnes of production will decrease from 9.83 in 1991 to 7.00 in 2000. The number of jobs lost as a result of this scenario could be as high as 700.

State-of-the-art pulp mills are capital intensive, computer-automated operations and would have minimal employment benefits. The Pines & Kinross Industries Unit of Tasmania found that, after construction, only some 400 jobs would be created in such a mill. This contradiction occurs with

comparisons of similar proposals overseas, (Greenpeace Australia, 1991).

Further, overseas investors, such as Noranda, have ruled out their involvement in the construction of new world scale export pulp mills in Australia in the foreseeable future due to the current world market environment (The Secretary Ministry, September 7, 1991).

The major issues in the 1989 Tasmanian election were the proposed Westley Vale pulp mill, and the associated native forest destruction and unemployment problem. The public reaction to this proposal led to the landmark election of the Green Independent and the defeat of the Liberal Government. Market research has since shown that only 12% of Australian voters increases in exports of paper and pulp products over protection of native forests (Frank Smith & Associates, 1991).

Shawing & Hamilton (1991), in discussing the viability of constructing a domestic pulp mill at Orford in Victoria using pulpwood from the South-East Australian forests, state that the old-growth forests would be fully cut by 2012 (Edon and 2001 (East Gippsland). At no point over the period 2000 to 2050 would replant be able to support the pulp mill. They also recognise that all of the South East forest pulpwood resources would need to be harvested to Orford in order to fulfil the demands of a world-scale mill. Furthermore, they state that such a mill would only be marginally profitable and that the rate of return appeared too low to justify the investment of over 1 billion dollars.

be one of the growth industries of the future, offering significant business opportunities for Australia in research and manufacturing. Suggestions for alternative foodstock sources include fibre crops such as kenaf. Kenaf has advantages which include the ability to grow well in a wide variety of areas, a high cell tolerance and high growth rates.

Resource Security

THE FACTS:

The Commonwealth's proposed resource security legislation (RSL) is opposed by an overwhelming majority of the Australian population and all the major parties involved in disputes over native forest logging. Market research has shown that only 1 in 10 Australians support RSL (Frank Smith & Associates, 1991). Over 25,000 Australians have written to the Federal Government expressing their opposition to RSL.

The community's opposition has led to major internal division in Federal Cabinet. Repeated public calls for the abandonment of RSL, many by backbenchers in marginal electorates, ensured that RSL became an issue in the resolution of the ALP leadership.

The timber industry has repeatedly expressed its

The Wilderness Society urges the Federal Government to

- Stop the passage of Resource Security Legislation
- Terminate export woodchip licences in 1992
- Implement the recommendations of the National Plantations Advisory Committee Report to increase use of existing plantations and establish further plantations
- Implement a National Forest Protection Strategy
- Provide institutional and taxation reforms to industry
- Actively promote ecotourism in Australia and
- Establish job-generating ecosystem conservation and rehabilitation programs.

ALTERNATIVES:

The development of small scale pulp mills, operating with low technology and utilising existing hardwood plantations is the most viable alternative to the large-scale pulp mill options preferred by the industry. Very significant areas of hardwood plantations have already been established in Australia, currently in Tasmania, Roff and Graham (1991) estimate that by 1994, half a million tonnes of plantations could be available for harvest. This will increase to one million tonnes per year by 1996, and two million tonnes by 1998.

Evidence suggests that plantations can be economically harvested after only 13 years at much higher growth rates than timber industry publicity suggests.

It has been suggested that NBP have been reluctant to use their plantation pulpwood due to the low royalties they are currently charged for old-growth hardwood pulp. Simply by charging the same price for all pulpwood, the differential between the cost of harvesting wood in public native forests in Tasmania and the cost of growing plantation wood almost disappears. By 1996, the price of using plantations would be lower than logging old-growth forests (Roff & Graham, 1991).

Small scale mills would lead to a greater generation of jobs and help achieve native forest protection. Bleached chemical pulping mechanical pulp and paper mills have some economic and environmental advantages when compared to the proposed mill at Westley Vale (Clark, 1991).

There also needs to be a shift in the employment of waste paper. Production of one tonne of recycled paper uses half the water and energy required to produce an equal amount from virgin pulp (Greenpeace 1990). DASET (1992) also predicts that waste management and associated technologies will

disincentivise with the legislation. The Federal Opposition has echoed that disincentivisation and announced its intention to block the passage of RSL in the Senate, in tandem with the Australian Democrats. Most left-leaning parties, who would be expected to pass legislation to complement the Commonwealth legislation, expressed either direct opposition or disinterest.

All of these factors led to a senior bureaucrat with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Mr Sandy Holburn, to recommend to the then Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, that RSL should not proceed. Referring to the likelihood that major new investments would not proceed, even if the industry was granted resource security, Mr Holburn said that RSL was "a dead end" (The Australian, October 30, 1991).

The Tasmanian Labor Government, relying on the votes of the Liberal Opposition, cracked over RSL in late 1991. This followed soon after Premier Michael Field's endorsement of an early election by pledging to the parliament that he would not reintroduce such legislation in the life of this parliament. In the Tasmanian election held on February 1, the Labor Government has office, its primary vote sinking at a historic low of 29%. The NSW Labor Leader of the Opposition, Mr Bob Carr, was quoted as saying "The Tasmanian deal was a warning from across the party line with the idea of resource security" and referred to RSL as "a dead end" (Telegraph Mirror, February 3, 1992).

THE ISSUES:

Resource security does nothing to address the fundamental inefficiencies in the timber industry price system. Indeed, it will work to entrench them. Indeed, as the need for the industry to achieve a transition to a plantation basis will not be addressed by RSL.

Green, Dynamic and Prosperous

ECOTOURISM:

Ecotourism is already the world's largest industry (The Green Independent, 1992). The intrinsic heritage values of Australia's native forests endow them with high potential as tourism generators. RAC (1991) presents compelling statistics concerning the economic virtues of tourism in forested areas. For instance, the worth of national parks and reserves in Tasmania is estimated at some \$150 million.

Both international and domestic ecotourism exist for appropriate forest-based tourism. This type of tourism is labour intensive and, being based on the uniqueness of Australia's native forests, ecotourism is shifts in currencies and market trends. Many long-term, socially useful jobs can result from this type of development.

RAC (1991) provides specific evidence of job creation from tourism. Protection of rainforests in the New England region has resulted in the attraction of 200,000 visitors to the region every year, supporting 55 full-time jobs and injecting \$1.7 million to the local economy.

Similar results are observed in areas as diverse as the Warangal region, the Gold Coast and Fraser Island, Scotland.

CONSERVATION AND REHABILITATION:

Job creation can result from environmental rehabilitation and investment in sustainable technology, such as plantation forestry on cleared agricultural land. Incentives, such as tax rebates, should be considered for expenditure incurred in plantation establishment or active vegetation regeneration.

The Federal Government should also consider taking a more active role in promoting conservation and rehabilitation activities at the Local Government level. These could be encouraged through such measures as concessional pricing, zoning and incentives provisions to ensure compliance with sustainable development strategies.

This report formed part of the Wilderness Society submission to Federal Cabinet on the One Million Settlement.

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The future of both Australia's environment and economy will

depend on the realisation that their destinies are inseparable



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

★ ★ ★ Media Release ★ ★ ★

ATTN: Chiefs of Staff / Political & Environment Reporters

Sunday, 21 November 1993

NSW MINISTER MISLEADS PUBLIC TWICE IN 5 DAYS ON WILDERNESS LOGGING

George Souris, NSW Minister for Land & Water Conservation has misled the public on logging of official Wilderness areas twice in the last five days. The Wilderness Society claimed today.

MR SOURIS: There is "serious doubt" whether there is any logging taking place in NSW Wilderness areas now: Spokesperson for Minister Souris reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (Saturday 20/11/93, p4). *wrong!*

FACT: The Deua and Coolangubra - both legally identified wilderness areas in south east NSW - are being logged daily. Only 5 days ago Mr Souris was required to explain on ABC Radio 2BL (15/11/93 see attached media release) why Narooma Forestry was logging in the official Deua Wilderness on the NSW south coast. (Mr Souris misled the public on that occasion also by claiming most old growth forest was already "safe" in reserves.)

The Wilderness Society also rejected another claim made by Minister Souris as reported in the *Herald* article:

MR SOURIS: If nine official wilderness areas are excluded from logging "every forest in NSW would be nominated as a wilderness by conservationists, leaving the timber industry with no wood supplies for the next two years" *wrong!*

FACT: 1. Only approximately 2.5% of NSW is forest wilderness capable of satisfying the criteria in Section 6 of the *Wilderness Act 1987* (NSW);

2. Over 90% of State Forests in NSW is unaffected by Wilderness proposals and realistically does not qualify under The *Wilderness Act 1987* (NSW) [e.g. approx. 100,000 ha State Forest adjacent to Barrington Tops Wilderness, 80,000 ha of State Forest adjacent to Ettrima & Budawang Wilderness areas];

3. All the nominations for wilderness assessment by conservation groups have been accepted with only minor changes. The only frivolous nominations have been made by anti-environmental groups as a cynical stunt. These vexatious nominations will simply be thrown out.

Tom McLoughlin, NSW Campaign Officer for the Wilderness Society said "Mr Fahey must pull Mr Souris into line. The Minister is repeatedly using baseless claims to mislead the community about wilderness and old growth forests. In reality only 10% or less of rich old growth forest types are being conserved. Much of this threatened forest is in legally identified Wilderness areas waiting for protection."

For further information contact in Sydney Tom McLoughlin..(02) 267 7929(w)/(02) 953 7684



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

MEDIA UPDATE

ATTN: Chiefs of Staff / Political & Environment Reporters

3.00 p.m. November 15, 1993

NSW MINISTER MISLEADS PUBLIC IN FORESTRY COVER-UP IN DEUA

The Hon. George Souris, NSW Minister for Water and Land Conservation misled the public on the 11.00 a.m. ABC 2BL Radio news bulletin today. Mr Souris was responding to protests by conservationists who successfully stopped logging of 'brown barrel and monkey gum' wilderness today.

Mr Souris said this morning that "92% of old growth areas" in NSW were already in 'conservation reserves' of one form or another. Mr Souris was implying that most old growth in official Wilderness areas or elsewhere are safe and conservationists are wrong to protest.

Minister Souris has misled the public because:

- Only approximately 0.5-10% of several of the richest types of remaining NSW old growth forest (those on *high nutrient soils and having high bio-diversity values*) are safe in National Parks or other *official* reserves (Norman T. W. & Kirkpatrick (1993) *Sustainable Forestry - The Urgency To Make the Myth A Reality* (1993) unpublished, in review)

- A moratorium for old growth wilderness under NSW *Timber Industry legislation* is not comprehensive and a temporary respite only. The moratorium area is not an official conservation reserve.

- 38% of NSW old growth forest is in State Forests and available for logging now or the near future. This 38% is made up *mainly of the richest old growth forests on high nutrient soils*. The 58% in official conservation reserves contains largely old growth on dry, nutrient poor soil unsuitable for logging (Resource Assessment Commission *A Survey of Australia's Forest Resource* (1992));

- Nationally, only approximately 9 per cent of all remaining "unlogged" eucalypt forest is in official conservation reserves: Resource Assessment Commission's *Forest and Timber Inquiry Final Report* (1992 Volume 1, p 145, para 6.21).

For further information contact in Sydney Tom McLoughlin..(02) 953 7684(h)/ 267 7929(w)
Canberra...Lucy Horodny.....(06) 257 5122(w) / 281 6754(h)

ATTN TV STATIONS: FOOTAGE OF THE PROTEST WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER TODAY OR EARLY TOMORROW (TUES 15/11/93). TEL. (06) 249 8874 / 257 5122.

debt costs Australian taxpayers an additional several hundred million dollars each year.

This does not make economic sense. This money has to be raised by additional taxation or a cutback in government services. (Saddler H. et al, 1991, Value for Money, Forestry as if Economics Mattered, Consultancy to C. Milne MHA, Tasmania.)

Australia could earn far more from a value added timber industry based on plantations instead of native forests.

c) Woodchipping employs a lot of people: MISLEADING

The export woodchip industry accounts for 45 per cent of the native forest harvested in Australia (Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics 1990/1, Australian Forest Resources, AGPS Canberra). However it only employs a total of 804 people throughout Australia (Resource Assessment Commission, Forest and Timber Inquiry, Draft Report 1991). This represents less than 2 per cent of total employment in the forest products industry.

d) There is no scientific evidence to stop woodchipping: WRONG

In a compilation of the most recent scientific research on forest fauna in Australia, the introductory chapter states:

"...research has shown that there has been a decline in many species as a result of logging and that extinctions are likely if current logging regimes persist."

(Lunney D., in Conservation of Australia's Forest Fauna, Royal Zoological Society of NSW, 1992, page 4.):

In addition to such research the Resource Assessment Commission (RAC) concluded that:

"It is not feasible to log old-growth forests, as defined by the Inquiry, and yet retain their full complement of old growth attributes and values."

(RAC, Forest and Timber Inquiry, 1992, Overview, page 68)

On the same page the RAC went further than this and recommended a cessation of logging in wilderness areas.

For further information contact:

Stephen Taylor or Andrew Wong ph: 06 257 5122

support
for local
sustainability

21 January 1993

MORE FOREST FURPHIES

The woodchipping debate has been marred by furphies spread by the National Association of Forest Industries. A number of these, often quoted by Robert Bain of the National Association of Forest Industries, are revealed and corrected below. Keep this information sheet for future use.

Robert Bain has been reported saying:

"We must make sure we have got our facts right. It is the thing which would bring us undone most quickly."

(Canberra Times, 18/1/92, page C1, "The Lobby game")

It seems that Dr Bain does not take his own advice because every part of the following set of claims about woodchipping, also made by him, is in fact either wrong or misleading.

"We're exporting a waste product, we're earning \$500 m/year toward Australia's worsening trade deficit and we're employing a lot of people, and there is no scientific evidence that it should stop."

(ABC Radio, Bega 14 December 1992)

Each of these claims are addressed below.

a) Woodchipping is a waste product: WRONG

The Public Accounts Committee of NSW reported that 90 per cent of the trees logged in the Eden area are old growth and go directly to the woodchip industry (PAC Report no. 52, December 1990, to the Parliament of NSW). The situation is similar in the southern forests of Tasmania, where over 85 per cent of the trees extracted from the forest are woodchipped.

b) Woodchipping earns \$500m/year: MISLEADING

This is misleading on a number of counts. Firstly the income from export woodchipping in 1991-92 was actually \$415 million (Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics). More importantly the claim ignores taxpayer subsidies and other economic costs associated with this export income. Woodchipping is heavily subsidised. The accumulated debt of government forestry agencies is now over \$5 billion (Byron R.N 1991 Fiscal Approaches of State Forest Management Agencies, RAC Consultancy Series, AGPS Canberra.) The interest on this

Japan invests \$260m in WA hardwood plantations

By NIGEL WILSON

THE Japanese pulp and paper industry has made a 30-year investment in hardwood plantations in Western Australia worth at least \$260 million.

And negotiations are continuing which could see the investment commitment more than double within the next year.

A senior executive with the Japanese New Oji Paper Company, Mr Kenji Kanda, said on Friday an agreement to plant 20,000ha with hardwood on farms in the Albany region was only a first step.

"This plantation resource will become a very important contributor of wood fibre to our pulp and paper mills in Japan," he said.

The company looked forward, with its joint-venture partner, Itochu Corporation, to 30 years of partnership with farmers and local officials to develop the resource.

Mr Kanda was speaking at a ceremony near Albany to mark the signing of an agreement between the Japanese companies and the WA Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) which will manage the huge tree-planting program. A special State agreement act will be introduced in Parliament to formalise the arrangement.

After the ceremony it was confirmed that CALM is negotiating a similar deal with Mitsubishi Corporation.

CALM estimates that within 15 years the south-west of Western Australia will supply \$500 million a year in wood fibre exports.

Under the Oji/Itochu scheme some 20 million blue-gum trees will be planted during the next 10 years in the Albany region. CALM's executive director, Dr Syd Shea,



PAPER PROFITS: Plans to plant 20,000ha with hardwood

said trials in the region had produced results which indicated that the equivalent of about 25 tonnes of usable timber could be produced from each of the plantation hectares. This contrasted with less than three tonnes a hectare yield from native jarrah forests in the WA south-west.

"The big difference to earlier tree planting projects is the way blue-gums are integrated on to farms rather than just planted from fence-line to fence-line," he said.

"Farmers are paid for making land available to the project and for their contribution to establishing and managing the trees by sharing the profits when the trees are harvested."

At the Albany ceremony a new super tree species was launched - the western blue-gum which is claimed to be 40 per cent more productive than the Tasmanian blue-gum which is already a world-wide favourite for pulp production.

Greenpeace targets drilling on WA reef

THE world environmental movement will be trying to focus international attention

to drill two shallow-water pros-

By NIGEL WILSON

VITAL GOVERNMENT

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Premier and
Minister for Economic Development

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IMPROVE YOUR COMPETITIVENESS...

Whether your business is small, medium or large, 'Making it Happen in NSW' could help you become more competitive. The book is not available from retail

CSR to expand its softwood operations

By JAMES WALKER
and MARYANN STENBERG

CSR Ltd has announced a significant expansion in its softwood operations, including a \$300 million export deal and 50 per cent production increase at its Tumut-based plant.

CSR, Australia's largest producer of sawn softwood, will build a \$15 million timber mouldings processing facility at Mt Gambier in South Australia to service the export contract.

The \$50 million per annum 10-year venture, signed with FibreForm Wood Products, will see CSR supply specialised timber finger-joined mouldings for later sale by the US timber products distributor.

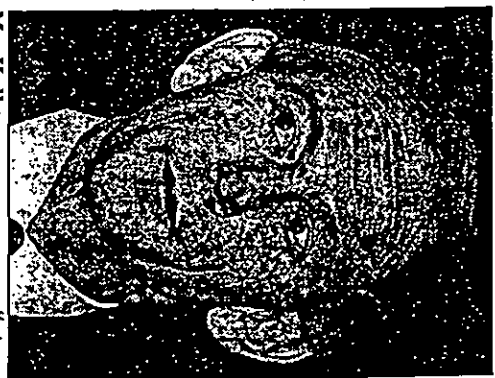
The new plant will augment the existing Mt Gambier sawmill and wood panels, creating 120 jobs.

"The moves announced today are steps two or three of many steps towards making our softwood production highly value-added," said CSR managing director Mr Geoff Kells.

"The move reflects the advantages that we are now gaining from our world competitiveness and from our growing ability to reap higher benefits for Australia through capturing world markets with value-added products."

Mr Kells said the deal benefited from the sustainable and renewable timber reserves guaranteed by the company. The 90,000 cubic metres of timber supplied annually will be sourced from South Australian State forests and the company's own plantings.

Earnings from the new softwoods processing facility at Mt Gambier will



Mr Kells ... moves are "steps two or three of many steps".

boost the group's annual revenue to more than \$250 million.

CSR's Tumut sawmill in south-western NSW will undergo a \$10 million face-lift two years earlier than planned due to heavy demand for its log products. The plant will move from two to three shifts a day, pushing production from 300,000 to 450,000 cubic metres of logs a year.

Mr Kells said the upgrade was aimed at ensuring international competitiveness.

Tom
→ Bob Ross
Annie Daly
Albert Norman

I-H

MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE IN TIMBER

ALTERNATIVES TO NATIVE FOREST TIMBERS IN RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTIONS



Photo by David Tamall

INTRODUCTION

As part of the campaign to save native forests The Wilderness Society is encouraging the use of plantation softwood (eg radiata pine) for house constructions, renovations and landscaping, instead of native forest timbers.

In Australia, housing construction still consumes a significant amount of Australian native forest timber (over 1.4 million cubic metres in 1992). This timber is sourced from our beautiful unprotected tall eucalypt forests from North-East NSW to East Gippsland, Tasmania and South-West WA. Using native forest timber in your house contributes to the destruction of these forests.

By using a native forest sawlog you are not only accounting for that particular log but also for all the timber that is cleared to obtain that log.

This enables the Timber Industry to try to justify the logging of native forests under the guise of being 'sawlog driven' (i.e. for sawn timber) when in fact the majority of logging is for woodchips. Up to 60% of all trees logged in Australia are woodchipped, whilst in Tasmania the figure is as high as 90%. This logging is done through clearfelling and has led to significant loss of forest habitats, further pressure on threatened species of plants and animals, increased soil erosion and water pollution.

The need for the timber industry to move from native forest logging to plantation timber is necessary for the survival of not only the remaining

native forests but for a long-term viable timber industry. The only real sustainable alternative is in properly managed timber plantations –most of which in Australia are *pinus radiata* (pine).

The use of tropical rainforest timber from South East Asia is widespread with significant amounts of Merbau and Meranti timber being used in housing constructions. All of the tropical rainforest timbers should be avoided as they contribute to widespread environmental devastation (such as plant and animal species extinction, massive loss of habitat, etc.) and the abuse of the rights of indigenous peoples.

Plantation Radiata pine can be used for all timber applications in the house and is widely available.

Not only are pine and pine products good environmental choices, but in most cases are superior quality and competitively priced when compared with native forest hardwood. In Australia there is almost 1 million hectares of plantation timber (most of which is pine), and when combined with extensive New Zealand pine plantations there is a more than adequate supply to meet Australia's sawntimber requirements.

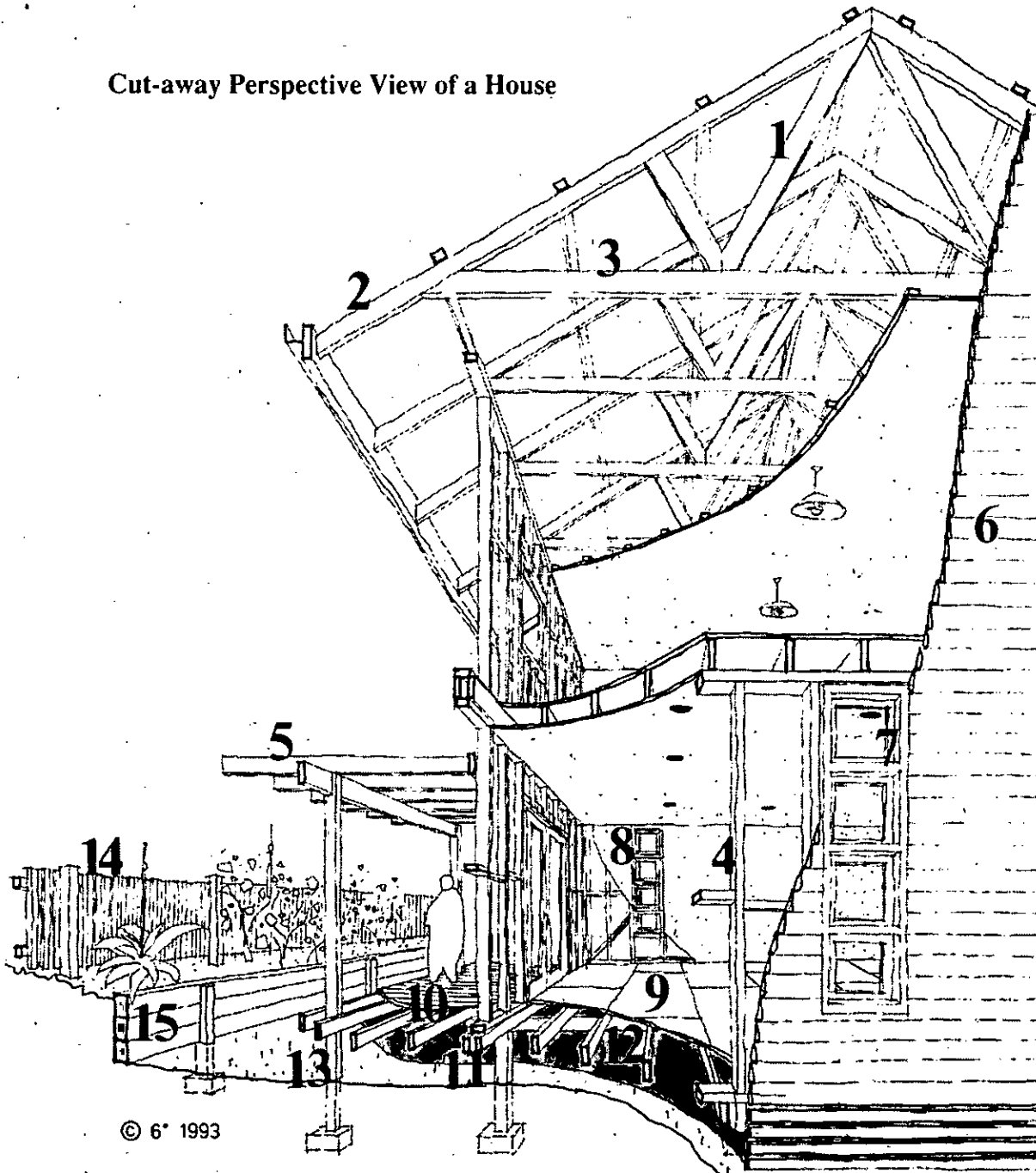
Apart from recycled timber, plantation timber is the only realistic environmental timber choice. Australian native forest timbers should not be used instead of tropical rainforest timber or any other native forest timber (such as Oregon or Western Red Cedar). They may have been logged from Wilderness or even Rainforest and are likely to be from unsustainable logging operations.

Most plantation timber available in Australia is radiata pine. There are plantations of Oregon (Douglas Fir) in New Zealand, however most Oregon is imported from North American old growth forests and should be avoided unless it definitely comes from New Zealand.

It should also be noted that recycled timber can be used directly for any non-structural use including: framing with non-load bearing walls, landscaping, decking, cladding etc. For other structurally significant uses pine and pine products are the best alternatives.

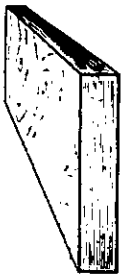
This guide sets out realistic, viable plantation pine alternatives to the use of native forest timber in most areas of house constructions. These are recommendations only. Please check suitability of materials with suppliers.

Cut-away Perspective View of a House



© 6° 1993

Available Pine Products

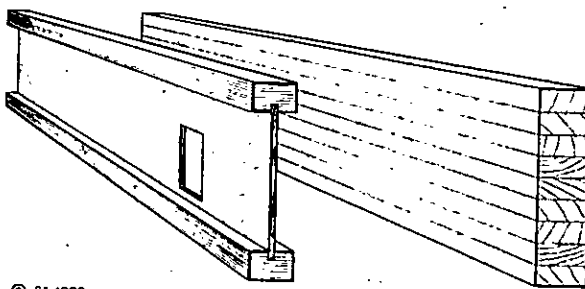


LVL:

Is suitable for:

- Floor bearers and joists (available with insect/rot protection)
- Hanging & Strutting beams
- Ceiling joists & Underpurlins
- Lintels, Rafters & Ridge beams

LVL has a high strength-to-weight ratio, can achieve large spans, is cost competitive compared to green hardwood and is widely available



© 6° 1993

HYBEAM:

Is suitable for Upper Storey floor joists where it is particularly good at replacing Oregon, having a similar span length and is cost competitive.

HYBEAM is much lighter than Oregon, providing easier installation and allows larger holes to be cut in it for services.

Glu-Lam Radiata Pine:

Is suitable for:

- Lintels and beams
- Roof beams and rafters
- Other large span applications

Glu-Lam beams are often exposed internally because of their aesthetic appeal.

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

ITEM	COMMONLY USED TIMBER	RECOMMENDED MATERIAL	COMMENTS	AVAILABILITY*
1. ROOF TRUSS	Radiata Pine Oregon	Radiata Pine	Economical-particularly in large spans, less labour	Truss Manufacturers
2. RAFTERS	Aust. Hardwood (OB)	Radiata Pine LVL	LVL superior quality to hardwoods	Most Timber Suppliers
3. CEILING JOISTS	Oregon Aust. Hardwood (OB)	LVL, Radiata Pine HYBEAM	Large spans, less material reqd in LVL/HYBEAM	Most Timber Suppliers
4. WALL FRAME	Radiata Pine Aust. Hardwood (OB)	Radiata Pine	Pine widely considered cheapest & easy to use	Timber Suppliers
5. PERGOLA	Oregon Treated Pine	Treated Pine Recycled Timber	Recommend oil based treated pine-PEC, LOSP	Timber Suppliers
6. WALL CLADDING	Western Red Cedar Oregon, Hwd Wthrboard	Treated Pine Cladding Plyboard, PineW'board	Pine considered cost effective & easiest to use	Timber Suppliers
7. WINDOW/DOOR FRAME	Western Red Cedar Meranti, Merbau	Treated Pine Recycled Timber	Consult timber suppliers, recommend LOSP pine	Timber Suppliers
8. SKIRTING/ ARCHITRAVES	MDF Meranti	MDF, Clear Pine Radiata Pine	Use clear pine for staining	Timber Suppliers
9. FLOORING	Pine Fibreboard Hardwood, Pine Flooring	Pine Particleboard Radiata Pine/Plywood	Clear pine easily stained to any colour	Timber Suppliers
10. EXTERNAL DECKING	Merbau Jarrah, Cypress Pine	Treated Pine-CCA Recycled Hardwood	Most recycled timbers can be used. Seek advice on staining	Timber Suppliers
11. JOISTS	Aust. Hardwood (OB)	LVL	LVL allows larger spans, can be treated against rot	Most Timber Suppliers
12. BEARERS	Aust. Hardwood (OB)	LVL	LVL allows larger spans, can be treated against rot	Most Timber Suppliers
13. STUMPS	Aust. Hardwood (Red Gum, Cypress Pine)	Concrete Recycled Hardwood	Concrete stumps durable and industry standard	Building Suppliers
14. FENCES	Aust. Hardwood Treated Pine	Recycled Hardwood Treated Pine-PEC	Recommend PEC painted onto posts rails & pailing	Recycled Timber Suppliers
15. LANDSCAPING	Recycled Timber e.g. Railway Sleepers	Recycled Hardwood Treated Pine	Suitable for most in-ground applications	Recycled Timber Suppliers

PINE PRODUCTS AND TREATMENTS

RADIATA F5 & F7 PINE	Radiata pine is grown in plantations, widely used and replacing native forests timber. Stronger structural pine (F7) is also available from selected pine suppliers and in some cases can supply large section pine for structural beams replacing Oregon.
LAMINATED VENEER LUMBER (LVL)	Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL) is a superior alternative to commonly used unseasoned hardwoods and Oregon. LVL is manufactured from <i>pinus radiata</i> veneers which are seasoned and laminated together with glue under heat and pressure.
GLUE LAMINATED RADIATA PINE	Glue laminated radiata pine (or glulam) is manufactured from seasoned pine structural timbers which are joined face-to-face with glue under pressure. Its use extends to anywhere long span lengths are required such as roof beams.
PLYWOOD & FIBREBOARD	Plywood consists of layers of glued, orientated timber fibre compressed into a panel. In Australia it is manufactured from plantation pine. However most imported plywood is manufactured from tropical rainforest timber and should be avoided. Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF) is usually manufactured from plantation pine. Hardboard in Victoria is manufactured from native forest timber by CSR Woods & Panels also known as <i>masonite</i> and <i>burnie board</i> and should be avoided.
TREATED PINE:	There are two types of CCA (Copper-Chrome-Arsenic) treatments – the green coloured water based (<i>PermaPine</i>) which can warp and twist timber due to it absorbing water, and the brown-gold coloured oil based (<i>PROCCA</i> or <i>Tanalith Gold</i>) which is water resistant. The main problem with CCA is not the concerns about leaching in the soil etc, but the disposal of offcuts and CCA timber after its useful life. There are no adequate disposal methods.
• CCA : Oil & Water Based	
• LOSP	Light Organic Solvent Preservatives (LOSP) treated pine is a less environmentally damaging alternative to CCA treated pine. LOSP treated pine is an envelope treatment and is not chemically fixed in the timber or as durable as CCA. It is best painted. It is suited for joinery, cladding, framing, flooring, fascias etc, which are above ground.
• PEC (Creosote)	Pigmented Emulsified Creosote (PEC) is a new, less environmentally damaging treatment available for treating pine. Unlike creosotes of the past, pigmented creosote is 'clean' and contains no heavy metals (like CCA). Unlike LOSP, PEC is chemically 'locked' in the wood, is very durable, and gives an aesthetically pleasing finish to timber.
• PRESERVATIVE STICKS	A Preservative stick is a solid, slow-release preservative for timber. It is in the form of a solid stick with fluoride and boron as the active ingredients, and is used on existing timber in the home. The preservative stick dissolves when the timber becomes wet and permeates through the wood to protect the timber from rot and insects
• NEW DEVELOPMENT	The new treatment for pine which is still being developed is a copper-boron treatment. This treatment eliminates the hazardous heavy metals associated with CCA (i.e. chromium and arsenic), but like CCA it is chemically fixed in the wood. It seems very promising and may become available in the next few years - perhaps completely replacing CCA.

* See overpage for glossary of terms and list of suppliers

CONSUMER CHECKLIST

For all house constructions and landscaping you need to ensure that only plantation or recycled timber is used for all construction applications. Pay particular attention to unseen areas such as:

- Floor bearers and joists
- Ceiling joists
- Roof frame
- Upper storey joists

To be certain that plantation timber is used in your house, ensure that your timber type requirements are written into the contract.

COMMONLY USED TIMBERS IN RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

NAME	STRESS	MAIN ORIGIN	USES	COMMENTS
RADIATA PINE	F5-F14	Plantation	Framing - floor, roof, etc; see previous table	Recommended for all applications
OREGON	F7	Native forest -Nth America	Framing - joists, beam; fascias	Should be avoided unless from NZ plantations
HARDWOOD	F8, F11*	Native forest -Australia	Framing - floor, roof; cladding, fences	To be avoided-native forest timber. Alternatives available
HARDWOOD -KILN DRIED	F17	Native forest -Australia	Large span applications in framing, lintels, beams	To be avoided-native forest timber. Alternatives available
CYPRESS PINE JARRAH		Native forest -Australia	Exterior posts, fences Decking, exterior applications	To be avoided-native forest timber. Alternatives available
RECYCLED			Beams, posts in houses. Feature timbers, landscaping	Recommended for appropriate applications
WESTERN RED CEDAR		Native forest -Nth America	Window & door frames, joinery, decking, cladding	To be avoided-native forest timber. Alternatives available
MERANTI & MERBAU		Sth East Asian Rainforest	Window & door frames, skirting & architraves, decking	To be avoided-native forest timber. Alternatives available

*hardwood also includes WA eucalypts: Karri and Marri

GLOSSARY

Architrave: A separate moulding fixed to surround a door or window opening.

Bearers: The timbers supporting floor joists.

Fibreboard: Panel made from compressed wood fibres used mainly for floors and cladding.

Floor framing: The supporting structure for the floor.

Glulam: Glue laminated timber.

Hanging beam: The beam supporting the ceiling joists.

Joists: Parallel beams supporting floors or ceilings.

Lintels: horizontal supporting member across spans such as windows and doors.

LVL: Laminated veneer lumber.

MDF: Medium Density Fibre-board

OB: Ordinary Builders unseasoned hardwood
Rafter: Sloping timbers or members supporting outer covering of the roof.

Ridge board: The horizontal member at the apex of the roof supporting the ends of rafters.

Seasoned: Air or kiln dry dried timber to a moisture content of 10 to 15%.

Skirting: The usually wood board which protects the base of an interior wall.

Strutting beams: Members transferring roof loads to internal supporting walls.

Tasmanian Oak: Commonly sold native forest hardwood timber from Tasmania which is a mixture of *Eucalyptus regnans* (Mountain Ash), *Eucalyptus delegatensis* (Alpine Ash) and *Eucalyptus obliqua* (Messmate).

Truss: A prefabricated, engineered, load-bearing structure containing diagonal members. Radiata pine roof trusses are the most common trusses.

Underpurlins: Horizontal member supporting the rafters.

Victorian Ash: Commonly sold native forest Australian hardwood timber which is a mixture of Mountain Ash and Alpine Ash.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further or more specific information please contact:

☐ The Wilderness Society in Victoria on: (03) 670 5229 or
WA: (09) 430 6088 NSW: (02) 267 7929 TAS: (002) 34 9366
SA: (08) 231 6586 ACT: (06) 257 5122 QLD: (07) 229 4533

☐ Call our Hotline on 008 030 641 and Join the Wilderness Society

☐ Individual manufacturers and suppliers of:

- LVL/HYBEAM (contact IPL on: 008 088 860)
- Treated pine,
- Pine frames and trusses,
- Plywood and particleboard manufacturers,
- Recycled/Second-hand Building materials

This leaflet was produced by:
The Wilderness Society in conjunction with:



SIX DEGREES
1st Floor Rear, 34 Swan St
Richmond 3121
FAX: (03) 427 8848
Ph: (03) 428 3733

SIX DEGREES is a group of Architects committed to working in the Visual Arts, Architecture and Design.



E-2 MAY 1994

KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT AMENDMENTS

NSW
NATIONAL
PARKS AND
WILDLIFE
SERVICE

INVITATION

The NSW Minister for the Environment, the Hon Chris Hartcher MP, has announced a package of new environmental and tourism initiatives for the Kosciusko National Park. A copy of the Minister's statement is attached for your information.

The proposals are contained in formal amendments to the Park's Plan of Management, now adopted following an extensive public exhibition and community consultation process.

Because of the complex and wide-ranging nature of the proposals and community interest in them, the National Parks and Wildlife Service is offering a detailed briefing on the initiatives for interested persons and organisations.

Key Service officers will be available to explain the proposals and to answer any questions.

Details of the briefing are as follows:-

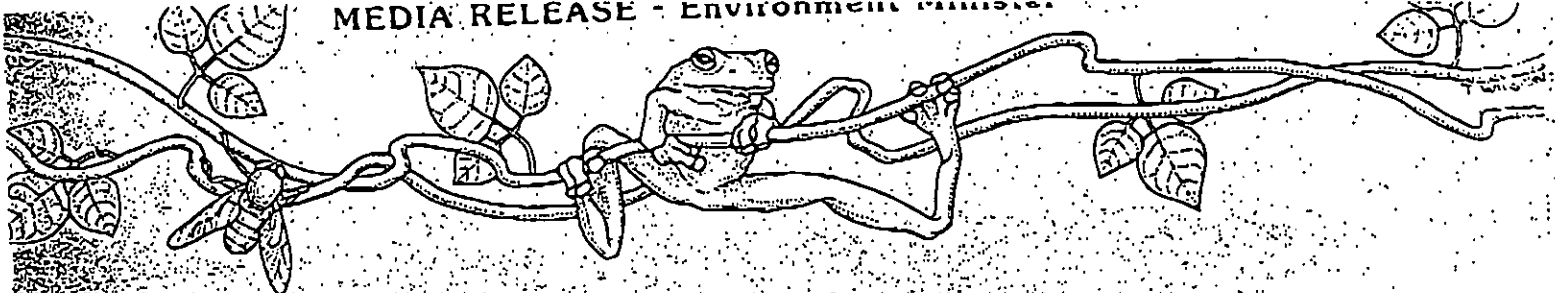
DATE: Tuesday 3 May 1994
TIME: 2.30 p.m.
VENUE: Room - Bligh AB
Camperdown Travelodge
9 Missenden Road
(Cnr Marsden Street)
Camperdown.

You are cordially invited to attend and hear details of the Service's plans for one of our State's most valuable and most visited National Parks.

NEIL SHEPHERD
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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

Copy to
M.I., PP.
4/5/94.



MAY 1, 1994

NSW GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES NEW PLANS FOR KOSCIUSKO

The NSW Minister for the Environment, Mr Chris Hartcher, today announced a package of wide-ranging environmental and tourism initiatives for the Kosciusko National Park and the State's ski resorts.

"The proposals provide a framework for the planned development and future management of visitor facilities within the resort areas, while ensuring continued adherence to the highest environmental standards," Mr Hartcher said.

"Today's announcement concludes probably the most exhaustive community consultation program ever undertaken by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service," said the Minister.

"The result is an environmentally responsible package that will also fulfil the needs of the Park's three million visitors each year and provide tangible benefits to the community at large. Local tourism and employment in particular are certain to get a significant boost."

Initiatives announced by the Minister include:

- Plans to upgrade existing resort facilities to meet recreational needs of visitors in summer as well as winter;
- A proposal for better arrival facilities and the development of a village centre in Perisher Valley;
- An overall increase of 987 beds in the resorts of Perisher Valley, Guthega and Smiggin Holes - a 10% increase on the existing Park accommodation limits;
- Allocation of accommodation to the volunteer Ski Patrols at Perisher Valley, Thredbo and Guthega to increase visitor services and safety;

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- Relocation of the NPWS Visitors' Centre and Regional Office from Sawpit Creek to Jindabyne, to provide a new modern public facility for joint community and government use;
- Allocation of \$1 million p.a. to progressively seal the Alpine Way west of Thredbo to the Victorian border, boosting local tourism opportunities;
- Proposals for conservation works and public use of three major historic sites within the Park - Yarrangobilly Caves House; Currango Homestead and the Kiandra Courthouse/Chalet;
- Existing accommodation leases due to soon expire will be re-negotiated and extended to achieve a common expiry date;
- Support for the development of a ski circuit - Australia's first - by the Perisher/Smiggins and Blue Cow/Guthega operators to enable a more integrated approach to resort planning.

The package also confirms that proposals for head leases at Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega have been rejected by the State Government as a result of strong representations made during the community consultations.

Mr Hartcher said that over 2,600 written submissions were received by the NPWS in response to two public discussion papers released on the future of the resort areas and other Park issues. Expert advice on safe and sustainable development was also received from international consultants who helped plan facilities for the Calgary Winter Olympics.

"The Government is appreciative of the enormous effort by the community and interest groups in contributing their ideas and opinions during the consultation period," said the Minister. "Today's decisions are in keeping with the bulk of the views expressed by the many respondents."

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The proposals, which are contained in amendments to the Park's Plan of Management, allow for some further development in existing resort areas, while confirming that no new resorts will be established. Much of the new work is expected to comprise redevelopment and modernising of existing lodges and other facilities.

Mr Hartcher stressed that all new works would be subject to strict environmental impact assessment and detailed resort plans. The increased limits on bed numbers would see a gradual expansion of accommodation options over the next decade.

Commenting on the proposals, the Director-General of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dr Neil Shepherd, said that sound environmental management and protection of the Kosciusko National Park was the Service's paramount concern.

"The proposals include a major program to upgrade the environmental standards of infrastructure services such as sewerage treatment, water supply and roads," Dr Shepherd said.

In addition, new funds would be generated for scientific research in other areas of the Park beyond the resorts.

In conjunction with the Environment Protection Authority, the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation will be engaged as consultants to review and recommend further improvements to the Perisher Sewerage Treatment Plant.

"This will complement recent improvements and ensure that the standard of treated effluent meets the most stringent licence conditions.

"In addition, the University of Canberra Water Research Centre will continue to be engaged as independent consultants, monitoring water quality.

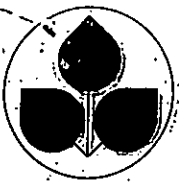
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"Their work on biological, physical and chemical monitoring will cover Rock/Perisher, Spencer, Pipers and Sawpits Creeks. Water quality data will be available for public scrutiny."

Dr Shepherd said the Service was also keen to build on the already increasing number of visitors during the summer months and to encourage year-round use and enjoyment of the State's largest National Park. "At the same time, these proposals will allow the skiing industry to plan for the future with greater confidence and certainty," said Dr Shepherd.

* * * * *



ACF

Australian Conservation Foundation

3 August 1994

Dear Friends

Forests for Life Poster and National Forests Campaign

There is a new National Forests Campaign gearing up with the support of all peak groups and many others directly involved in forest protection. The campaign focus will be on stopping export woodchipping and the genuine implementation of the conservation provisions of the National Forest Policy Statement.

The Forest Campaign Group of ACF and the National Union of Students have combined to produce this new poster **Forests for Life - Woodchips Kill** which will complement the campaign.

We are enclosing ten posters for your group and for your distribution to other groups or individuals which you believe would be interested.

The posters are donated to your group but we are enclosing a "Request for Donation" in the sum of \$25 to cover initial production costs, postage and allow another print run. If your group cannot afford a donation, please use the posters to maximum effect to raise public awareness.

If your group wants a bulk order of 50 or more to carry out a community awareness campaign in your area (any way you fancy!) then we can provide these at a very economical rate.

If your group cannot use the posters please return them and we will pay the postage.

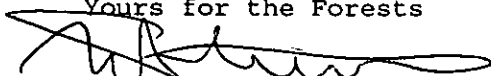
The National Forests Campaign Team is preparing a community information leaflet which encourages the public to write to Paul Keating on this issue and this will be available in a few weeks. Any community group can distribute these and supplies can be ordered from Andrew Beswick at the Melbourne Wilderness Society (03 670 5229). The budget price is 10-15 cents each leaflet and there will be a space to put your own group identification.

We have also developed a **National Forest Policy Petition** with the Australian Democrats which will enable a daily presentation in Parliament to the Environment Minister, John Faulkner, to enable him to demonstrate the extent of public concern on this issue. A "master" is enclosed and we ask you to widely distribute this to both environment and other community groups.

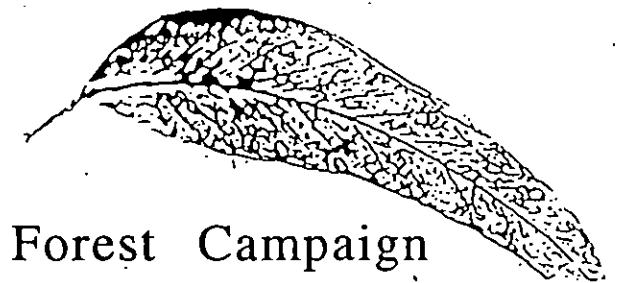
Please let us know what you think of the poster and we would really appreciate your "Donation" to enable us to do another print run.

If you have any enquiries please call me or Margaret Barnes at the Sydney ACF office.

Yours for the Forests



Noel Plumb



Forest Campaign Group

33 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000
ph (02) 247 4285 fax (02) 247 1206

National Forest Summit Communique

18 July 1994

Forests will be a major Federal election issue, after a National Forest Summit of conservation groups from around the country met this weekend in Canberra.

The Summit called on the Federal Environment Minister, Senator John Faulkner, to immediately start the implementation of the requirements of the National Forest Policy Statement, namely to "avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value".

As Senator Faulkner has noted, the moratorium clause clearly states that logging should be excluded from forests of high conservation value.

The groups affirmed the shared commitment to a national campaign to end export woodchipping from native forests as soon as possible.

The Summit also called on the Minister to:

- immediately implement his promise to assess forests in Tasmania for their World Heritage values; and
- ensure that no further woodchip export licences from native forests are granted and that all export woodchip operations are subject to a Commonwealth environmental impact assessment.

The Summit has resulted in a high level strategy targeted at the Federal Government to override the States to ensure forest protection.

All national and regional conservation groups will dedicate their resources to ensure that the promises made by Senator Faulkner are carried through.

The Summit agreed with Senator Faulkner's recent comment that "it's just crazy to be assessing the values of old growth forests while logging them at the same time".

The conservation groups attacked the States for not living up to their conservation obligations under the NFPS.

The credibility of the NFPS has been irrevocably damaged - it is now dead in the water.

For more information:

Alec Marr mobile 018 55 00 33
Peter Robertson (06) 257 5122

The Wilderness Society, Australian Conservation Foundation, Friends of the Earth, Environment Victoria, Nature Conservation Council, Western Australia Conservation Council, Queensland Conservation Council, Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Western Australian Forest Alliance, North East Forest Alliance, North Coast Environment Council inc., South East Forest Alliance, Rainforest Information Centre, The Big Scrub Environment Centre, Native Forest Network, Australian National Parks Council, Great Western Tiers National Park Campaign, Geelong Environment Council, Tasmanian Greens, Australian Democrats and the Office of Senator Christabel Chamarette

Tel: (02) 229 7337

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(02) 221 5747

(02) 810 7590 A.H.

DX: 450 SYDNEY

TIM ROBERTSON

**Frederick Jordan Chambers
53 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000**

4 January 1994.

**Dailan Pugh
Fax 066 884 307**

Dear Dailan

I am faxing you excerpts from the Forestry Commission's Annual Report 1992-93. The Managing Director's Report asserts that difficulties with the endangered fauna legislation was the main reason for withdrawal of the Dorrigo EIS.

My understanding of the situation is that this is an untruth.

The telling of an untruth in an annual report is a disciplinary offence.

It is also a matter which all Independents would treat seriously.

Can I suggest that you put together all the documents relating to the decision to withdraw the EIS, including documents obtained under the FOI Act. I suggest that you also write to the Director General of the NPWS asking him to confirm or deny Dr Drielsma's statement.

If sufficient evidence can be obtained to give the lie to Dr Drielsma's assertion, then you might consider the following possibilities:

- complaining to the ICAC (I do not advise this course)
- complaining to the Office of Public Management
- requesting that the Independents or the ALP raise the matter by way of cross-examination during the Estimates Committee when it inquires into the Forestry Commission's accounts
- other Parliamentary action (questions without notice, urgency motions or motions of no confidence in the Managing Director of the Forestry Commission)

I am also faxing you an excerpt from the Auditor-General's Report on the Forestry Commission which suggests that the new structure for the administration of the Forestry Commission "varies somewhat from the lines of responsibility set down by the Act". It is arguable that the system of administration is indeed contrary to the Act and unlawful. This may need to be closely examined by us, although at the moment a breach of the Forestry Act does not entitle a person without a legal interest in the subject matter of the breach to enforce the provisions of the Act. It does enable, however, a complaint to the Ombudsman.

Is it worthwhile approaching individual board members with a view to backgrounding them on the incompetence of the Commission (if they have not already discovered it for themselves)?

The new State Auditor-General, Tony Harris, is an economic rationalist with some years on the Industry Commission and in the Federal Treasurer's Office. He is independent of the Government. If we can establish that the Commission is an incompetent manager or, because of its lax of environmental standards, is building into the areas it administers a substantial cost penalty in later years, he may decide to engage in a special audit of its

Page 2

4 January 1994

environment management and protection programmes. His 1993 report is reasonably favourable to the Commission, except for the caveat that the Commission will have difficulty achieving a target return rate on its asset base when the native forest and plantations are valued on an appropriate basis.

Another matter we could ask the Auditor-General to examine is whether the Commission is obtaining an appropriate return from its high conservation value forests (ie Dorrigo) which are adjacent to tourism areas.

Why has the Commission not commissioned a cost-benefit assessment of the transfer of its high value conservation forests from logging to recreation? I have constantly urged the importance of us establishing that the rate of return from conservation plus ecotourism is greater than the rate of return from logging. We should encourage the Auditor-General to examine whether both the rate of return to the asset manager (financial analysis) and the welfare benefits (socio-economic cost-benefit to society as a whole) exceed those gained from logging.

Another matter which you should consider is the attempt by the Commission to improve its image in the community. It has syndicated a newspaper column to more than 30 regional newspapers and magazines and it has hosted "proactive" tours and inspections "for media representations specialising in environmental and natural resource matters" (p.32). Importantly, it is developing a high school teachers' manual "designed to encourage the teaching of forest management and appreciation as part of environmental education".

It has also prepared a computerised database with the names and addresses of more than 6000 individuals, associations and institutions to "more effectively target information to the community and industry". This obviously has a prepay purpose. What relevance to Commission functions is the information which is preferred?

Perhaps an FOI request should be made for the computerised database. In any event, there must be close liaison between conservation groups and the Department of School Education to ascertain precisely what propaganda the Forestry Commission will swamp the schools with in its manual. Perhaps we should insist that before the Department of School Education agrees to its distribution and use in schools, that a committee of scientists should review it. No doubt the ACF and the NCC have developed close liaison with the Department on such matters.

I am also copying p.34, 69, 80, 84 and 88-90. There are no doubt other parts of the report which will be of interest to you and I suggest that you obtain your own copy.

Best regards.

Yours sincerely

TIM ROBERTSON

c.c. Jeff Angel
John Corkill
Sue Salmon

S. W. 05 JAN 1995



Tel: (02) 230 2858

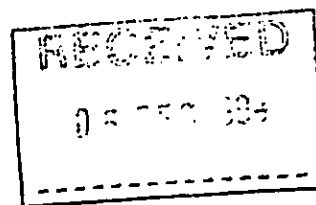
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
SYDNEY 2000

Forwarded with the Compliments of

The Hon. Richard Jones, M.L.C.



Premier of New South Wales
Australia



The Hon. R.S.L. Jones, M.L.C.,
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY 2000

- 6 DEC 1994

Dear Mr Jones,

I am writing to you concerning your letter regarding the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) (which you also raised at the Joint Estimates Committee No. 2 on 19th October) and your earlier representation arising from a letter from South East Forests Field Naturalists, also concerning the NFPS. As I stated at the Estimates Committee, I am happy to provide information on how New South Wales has honoured its obligations under the NFPS.

The NFPS is a jointly formulated policy statement on the future management of Australia's forests. The NFPS commits the Governments to a strategy to conserve and manage areas of old-growth forests as part of a reserve system. The first step in this strategy is a commitment to develop criteria for old-growth forests and then use these criteria to assess the conservation values of forests including old-growth values.

The criteria are being developed by a working group under a Steering Committee of the Australia and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) and the Ministerial Council on Forests, Fisheries and Aquaculture. NSW State Forests (SF) and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) are represented on this working group. Once the criteria are finalised, then (conditional on satisfactory agreement on criteria by participating governments), assessment of old-growth forest values by State agencies can commence, with a view to establishing a reserve system to protect old-growth forest and wilderness values.

The NSW Government has commenced initial assessment of old-growth forests, as the first step towards adequate protection. The Joint Old-Growth Forest Project (which you raised in the Estimates Committee) is funded by the Natural Resources Audit Council (NRAC) and is being jointly undertaken by the NPWS and SF. The Project will refine and pilot test a methodology to clearly identify and delineate "old-growth" forests in NSW. The project will provide an agreed methodology and approach which will form the basis for any future surveys. Development of a methodology for identifying old growth forest is the first stage in implementation of a strategy for their conservation and management.

NSW has in place a system to comply with the NFPS statement that forest management agencies should avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value, until the assessments of forests for conservation values to establish a reserve system are completed. Under the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) [TI (IP)] Act 1992, forests have been categorised into areas which are not to be logged until an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is obtained (ie. Schedule 1), whilst less sensitive, lower value areas have been categorised as 'Other Forest Areas in which logging operations may be carried out pending obtaining of EIS', under Schedule 4.

Upon completion of State Forests' EIS program, all areas covered by the TI (IP) Act will have been thoroughly assessed. It should also be noted that the NFPS states that Australia will continue to use old-growth timber for many years.

The Government is also implementing other elements of the NFPS, including the formulation of a Private Property Logging Protocol, to meet the NFPS guidelines concerning codes of forest practice. Another area where significant progress has been made is in encouraging plantations. You may recall that in May this year I announced the commitment of \$6M to encourage hardwood plantations in joint venture agreements with farmers, landholders and investors and reduce the pressure on existing forests. This will see the current program of establishing 500 hectares a year, increase to 2000 hectares in 1994/95. The ultimate goal is to have 100,000 hectares of hardwood providing a harvestable, renewable timber resource.

Further, the Government has recently introduced the Tree Plantations (Harvest Security) Bill into Parliament. This Bill is designed to remove impediments to the existing harvesting of trees planted for the purpose of producing timber or timber products, so as to encourage the establishment of commercial tree plantations. These actions are consistent with the thrust of the objectives for plantations in the NFPS. The Government is also examining actions to be taken regarding wood pricing and allocation.

In relation to the specific issues raised in your earlier representations on behalf of the South East Forests Field Naturalists, I am advised that most consolidated rainforest communities occur in flora reserves and national parks and that neither the Southern Sassafrass nor the Black Olive-berry is listed as rare or threatened. Prior to logging in compartment 2324 of Glenbog State Forest, the rainforest species were identified and small consolidated patches were reserved from logging.

On the issue of the Yellow Bellied Glider and the Sooty Owl, pre-logging surveys detected neither of these species in or near the logging area. Compartment 2324 is part of the Least Sensitive Area (LSA) which was identified by State Forests in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). All known occurrences of the Sooty Owl were excluded from the LSA. Protection of these two species has been considered by the NPWS prior to the issuing of a Section 120 licence to cover logging operations in this compartment.

I am further advised on the issue of water supply that the most obvious reasons for reduced stream flows in this area are the low rainfall in recent years and the resultant increased irrigation off-take in the Bega Valley. The water level in the Bemboka River is also influenced by the operation of Brown Mountain Power Station and controlled releases from the Cochrane Dam. State Forests (excluding flora reserves and proposed national parks) make up only 18% of the total area of the Bemboka River catchment, upstream of Tantawangalo Creek and only one third of this area has been logged since 1977. It is estimated that 66% of this catchment is freehold land.

I trust that the above information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Fahey', followed by a period.

John Fahey
Premier

6 October 1994

The Hon John Fahey MP
Premier of NSW
and Minister for Economic Development
8th Floor State Office Block
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

My Dear Premier

I received this letter from the South East Forests Field Naturalists and I believe you should be aware of matters raised in this letter.

It is abundantly clear to me from my own observations and from photographs and from information supplied to me, that you are not abiding by the National Forest Policy which you signed personally.

It would seem to me that State Forests are deliberately flouting the National Forest Policy,, and perhaps misleading the Minister for Land and Water Conservation in the process.

I believe that if you are to re-gain credibility with the conservation movement of this State, that you should take an active involvement in the National Forest Policy and ensure that areas such as this Sassafras-Black Oliveberry rainforest are not logged.

At Wild Cattle Creek, there are trees there being cut down which are nearly 2,000 years old. I am sure that scientists would be happy to verify this for you.

It's time for you to get involved in this issue if you are to have any chance of winning the next election.

Yours sincerely

RICHARD JONES

ENCL

6 October 1994

The Hon Bob Carr Mp
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Bob

I thought it would be worthwhile sending you a copy of this letter I received from Stephen Taylor of the South East Forests Field Naturalists.

It's abundantly clear that the National Forest Policy signed by the Premier is being grossly flouted by the State Forests and I am sure with the connivance of the Minister for Land and Water Conservation.

You will note in this letter that Southern Sassafras-Black Oliveberry rainforest is being logged in the Glenbog State Forest, even though no mention of this is made in the harvesting plan.

The other day I got arrested attempting to enter one of the most magnificent forests in New South Wales at Wild Cattle Creek. This forest contains trees which I have been told are up to 2,000 years old. They are the same size trees as were being logged in Terranea Creek, which were verified as being 1,700 years old.

Tim Robertson has told me that the logging of this area is in fact illegal and no doubt this will come out in court in the near future.

I feel that the Minister for Land and Water Conservation should be held to account for the misinformation he has fed the media and for the fact that he has allowed compartments in the supposed moratorium area in the South East Forests to be logged in the last few weeks. I feel he has conned Parliamentarians into supporting the extension of the Timber Industry Protection Act to the South East Forests. We felt that the 200,000 hectares in the moratorium was in fact a genuine moratorium and not a Clayton's moratorium.

I feel that Peter Macdonald, Clover Moore and John Hatton would also feel that they have been conned into believing that the area would be protected. If I had known that logging would continue within the moratorium area, I would never have supported the extension of the Timber Industry Protection Act to the South East Forests.

Best Wishes

Yours sincerely

RICHARD JONES

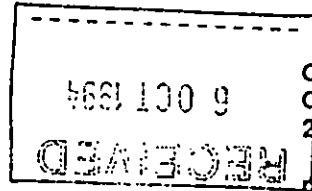
ENCL

To: Richard Jones, Pam Allan,
John Hutton, Clover Moore

South
East
Forests



Field Naturalists



GPO BOX 968
CANBERRA ACT
2601

ph: 06 249 1163

6 October 1994

Dear Member of Parliament,

Just 2 days ago I dropped off a laser photocopy of a photo of 500 year old trees that were logged in Glenbog State Forest in S.E NSW. The photo speaks for itself but I thought it would be wise to ask you to write to the Premier, demanding an explanation.

Some points to raise:

- 1) Logging of the old growth forest in compartment 2324 of Glenbog State Forest is also destroying an important (regionally significant) southern Sassafras-Black Oliveberry rainforest. Notably the Forestry Commission harvesting plan makes no mention of the Sassafras rainforest.
- 2) The forest contains Yellow-bellied Gliders, an Endangered Species. The Sooty Owl, another endangered species, would be expected to use such forest, as the combination of old growth forest and rainforest is their preferred habitat.
- 3) The catchment for the area is Corters Creek. This creek is fed (by pipe) into Cochrane Dam. The dam provides water for the people of Bega and Bemboka. The water level in the dam is at an all time low due to past logging. Logging old growth forests, replaces them with regrowth forests. But regrowth forests dry up water catchments, and thus water supplies because they are growing rapidly. Old growth forests, on the other hand, provide a reliable clean water supply.

Yours Sincerely, Stephen Taylor

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



MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...Mon, 14 Mar 1994

CONSERVATION PEAK GROUP WILL OPPOSE S.E. T.I.(I.P.) BILL

"The Nature Conservation Council of NSW has reaffirmed opposition to the Timber Industry [Interim Protection] Act 1992, and will resist moves by the NSW Government to introduce a second TI(IP) Bill and allow logging in the South East forests without Environmental Impact Assessment" said Sid Walker, the Council's Executive Officer.

"The plan to introduce a second TI(IP) Bill is being sold as 'environmentally friendly'. But any attempt to carry out intensive logging in native forests without first producing an EIS is repugnant" said Mr Walker.

"A second TI(IP) Bill may well put large areas of forest under moratorium, but the government clearly plans to log them eventually. If not, it would do the right thing by declaring these areas National Parks and conserving them for posterity. Meanwhile, under a TI(IP) Act, non-moratorium' areas could be logged to the

SOUTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

SHOP 1, GLOUCESTER WALK, 55 CUMBERLAND STREET

SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000

Media Release

29 July 1994

Ph: (02) 247 1737

Fax: (02) 247 7118

Attention Chief of Staff/Environment Reporter

STATE FORESTS CHALLENGE MINISTER AND NSW PARLIAMENT ON SOUTH EAST FORESTS

State Forests officials will be confronted by local conservationists today as they attempt to clearfell National Estate listed old growth forest in the Coolangubra Wilderness.

"This logging is illegal and in direct contravention of statements by the Forests Minister, George Souris, to Parliament in April this year said Noel Plumb, spokesperson for the South East Forest Alliance.

"We have legal advice that State Forests could not possibly justify logging in this area (compartment 1451) before a comprehensive survey on old growth values had been carried out in the South East Forests. Even the Minister admitted in Parliament that such a survey was lacking", said Mr Plumb

State Forests is also defying the authority of Parliament which approved interim timber supplies to the south east region drawn from designated areas on the basis of the Minister's statement that "The areas where logging will proceed have been restricted to those identified in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service as the least sensitive areas."

Compartment 1451 is clearly not on the Government's map of those areas to be used for interim supply or even to be included in the next Environmental Impact Statement for logging by State Forests.

The Minister and the Premier have not responded to repeated requests from the Alliance and Democrat's MP Richard Jones to take urgent action to rein in State Forests and stop the destruction of Compartment 1451.

"Once again conservationists have to stand in front of the bulldozers and risk injury and arrest because this government lacks the guts to take on an out of control State Forests which is defying the clear intention of Parliament and the Minister's statements", Mr Plumb said.

We demand to know what the Minister is doing to rein in State Forests or whether he is going to admit that he has misled Parliament on the issue", Mr Plumb concluded.

Further information:- Noel Plumb 247 4714 (until 9.00 pm)
817 5240 (home)

sefand!6

cc John Fahey
Richard Jones
Bob Carr
Ted Pickering
George Souris
All Major NSW Media



It is my impression that urban bushland as faunal habitat for native fauna other than birds, has been written off by many biologists - it is assumed that much of the larger fauna is locally extinct and that much of the fauna that may occur is introduced. Before we can manage urban bushland for fauna we must have more up to date and accurate data. We cannot rely on supposition.

Threats to Fauna

That said, it is undoubtedly true that the populations of many animals have declined in urban areas (although a number of birds have increased, for example: silver gull, pied currawong, sulphur crested cockatoo and galah), and some species appear to have suffered local extinction.

We need to identify the threats to the fauna and seek to mitigate them. As with managing flora and vegetation, a management goal of self sustainability cannot be met unless the threatening processes are controlled.

Fragmentation

A small, isolated area of bushland will not maintain the same species diversity nor population numbers of a larger area. This is true not just on a unit area basis; an area embedded within a larger area of continuous bush will support greater diversity than exactly the same area in isolation.

The impacts of fragmentation will be greater on larger animals, with greater habitat requirements and lower population densities, but there is little data to assess the impacts on invertebrates.

Fragmentation has happened and in most cases the impacts cannot readily be undone. As Sydney continues to grow we need to ensure that 'new' urban bushland isn't merely what's left over after development, but is specifically selected in advance and that the fragmentation effects are minimised. In some instances it may be possible to create corridors between existing fragments, thus reducing their isolation. In the case of birds, and possibly some insects, suburban gardens already provide de facto corridors; provision of corridors for mammals and herpetofauna will be more difficult.

Small population size

Small isolated populations may undergo genetic drift or suffer from the adverse consequences of inbreeding. Again such problems are more likely to be experienced by vertebrates than invertebrates which, in general, will have higher population densities. Small populations are also always at risk of local extinction following catastrophic disturbances - even though in larger less isolated populations the disturbance may be a predictable event (ie. fire, or storm), from which recovery by recolonisation would be expected.

TO: ENVIRONMENT AND POLITICAL REPORTERS

George Souris, NSW Minister for Forests has issued the attached media release.

The release supports Senator Faulkner's position on using scientific experts from the conservation movement to assist him with the identification of old growth forests of high conservation value.

This is yet another slap in the face for the Federal Resources Minister, Mr Beddall who ignored Senator Faulkner's advice.

For more information contact: Stephen Taylor B.AppSc. B.Ec. ph: 02 230 2023

MEDIA RELEASE**MINISTER FOR
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION****22 December 1994****FROM GEORGE SOURIS MP**

On 7 October, 1994 I made comments and remarks on ABC Radio concerning survey work carried out by Mr Stephen Taylor in Glenbog State Forest in the South East Forests and on Mr Taylor's comments on the result of his work.

In my statement I questioned Mr Taylor's credentials, I called him extreme in view, I said that he was participating in a hunger strike and demonstrating in Sydney. I said that he was engaged in a clandestine study and that he knew he was lying when he discussed the issue of logging the old growth forest in Glenbog State Forest.

It has been drawn to my attention that my remarks were incorrect and without foundation. I unreservedly withdraw these remarks. I had no intention of making comments defamatory of Mr Taylor and regret that I may have unintentionally caused him any hurt.

....ends

MEDIA RELEASE**MINISTER FOR
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION**

22 December 1994

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8 December 1994

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

80.3% 'no' to woodchipping: *Newspoll* survey

80.3% of Australians do not approve of trees from Australia's native forests being felled and exported as woodchips to Japan.

These are the results of a survey conducted by *Newspoll* in five capital cities last weekend and released today by conservation groups.

'This poll proves beyond any shadow of doubt that Australians from every walk of life are unequivocally opposed to the export woodchipping of native forests', said Linda Parlane, Campaign Coordinator with Environment Victoria.

'The Keating Government's imminent decision on woodchip licences will reveal its responsiveness to community views on this issue. At least 764 forest areas with high conservation value are under immediate threat from logging and woodchipping in Victoria, Tasmania, and Western Australia', said Mr. Kevin Parker, National Campaign Co-ordinator of the Wilderness Society.

'Prime Minister Keating can now move decisively to protect our native forests knowing he has the overwhelming support of Australians', said Mr. Peter Wright, Biodiversity Campaigner for the Australian Conservation Foundation.

'The poll confirms previous surveys that a decision by the Keating Government to end export woodchipping in native forests would gain clear support from the vast majority of Australians', she added.

'As a minimum he needs to ensure that the 764 identified areas of high conservation forests are protected from woodchipping'.

80.3% of people surveyed are opposed to export woodchipping; 11.7% are in favour, while 8.0% remain undecided.

The *Newspoll* survey found revealed that woodchipping and export of native forests is opposed by:

- 83.2% of blue collar workers and 76.3% of white collar workers
- 86.5% of women and 73.7% of men.

For further information call Ms Linda Parlane
 Mr Kevin Parker
 Mr. Peter Wright

015 103 063
018 449 080



94/620

MEDIA RELEASE

REGROWTH NOT OLD GROWTH !

23 December 1994

"The Prime Minister's statement on wood chipping is again just a sweetener to help the medicine go down. But if old growth forests are to be included in the 5 million tonne quota, then the medicine just won't go down !", said Senator Lees.

"The volume of wood-chips may well be fixed at 5 million tonnes, but the type of trees felled to make up that amount is not specified".

"If the woodchip licences that have been signed are legally binding and irrevocable, then the Democrats focus will have to be on making sure that the trees to be chopped down are regrowth, and not old-growth trees".

"There may be a range of powers available to the Environment Minister Senator John Faulkner, and possibly also to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Mr Tickner, to ensure that our heritage is not trashed", said Senator Lees.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT :

**Senator Meg Lees on (08) 295 8911 (office)
or 356 8876 (home after 5.00pm)**

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LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION**

22 December 1994

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....ends

NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL Inc.

Hon. Sec. Mr Jim Tedder, Pavans Road, Grassy Head via Stuarts Point 2441. Ph/Fax 065 690 802

Media Release - Friday, 16 December '94

Woodchip Minister setback by Federal court decision

Federal Minister for Resources David Beddall today suffered a major setback in his plans for increases in export woodchipping from the north coast of NSW following a decision of the Federal Court in Sydney to grant 'standing' to the North Coast Environment Council Inc.

Mr Justice Sackville, today found in favour of the North Coast Environment Council Inc. and upheld their right to require the Minister for Resources to justify and explain his decision to further licence BORAL subsidiary, Sawmillers Export P/L for the continued export of woodchip.

The legal action was brought under the Commonwealth Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977.

"The Minister repeatedly refused to recognise the North Coast Environment Council's rights as a party "aggrieved" by his decision to continue to licence the export of woodchips from the NSW north coast. Mr Beddall did not accept that he must be publicly accountable for his decisions, nor did he recognise the massive groundswell of public opinion opposed to more export woodchipping.

"The Minister's views have been shown to be wrong at law by the Federal Court. The decision means that the Minister must now provide to the Environment Council his findings of fact and the reasons on which he based his decision to issue a further woodchip export licence to Sawmillers Export P/L," said Council President, Mr Terry Parkhouse.

Mr Parkhouse said that the 15 month export licence, issued by Mr Beddall in October 1994 to the BORAL subsidiary, "flouted the policy announced by Prime Minister Keating in 1992 to end export woodchipping by the year 2000".

"Mr Beddall must now publicly explain why he has rejected Commonwealth Government policy".

Co-ordinator of the legal action for the Environment Council, Mr John Corkill said that the Federal Court judgement was a precedent setting ruling which would have continuing significance for environment groups seeking accountability of Federal Ministers.

He said that once Mr Beddall's facts and reasons were provided they would be closely scrutinised.

"It is very likely that the Environment Council will mount a further Federal Court challenge on the 'reasonableness' of the findings and reasons supplied by the Minister in an attempt to modify or overturn the woodchip export licence.

Mr Corkill said that while costs had been awarded against the Minister, donations for the further legal action were being actively solicited in anticipation of a lengthy and expensive main hearing later in 1995. He said that North Coast Environment Council Inc had been granted tax deductible status, allowing donors to claim back from their taxable income, the costs of any donations made.

ends

For more information Phone

Mr Terry Parkhouse 065 690 771 h &/or Mr John Corkill 066 21 32 78 w

**Australian Conservation Foundation Environment Victoria Friends of the Earth Nature
Conservation Council of NSW North East Forest Alliance
South East Forest Alliance The Wilderness Society W.A. Forest Alliance**

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE



16th December 1994

Faulkner's woodchip advice: "an environmental milestone"

The conservation movement today backed Environment Minister John Faulkner's recommendations on the woodchip licences as setting new standards for forest protection around Australia. The advice from the Environment portfolio has vindicated the conservation movement's stand on the destructive impact of woodchipping on Australia's forests. The Environment Minister's advice is clearly an environmental milestone for forest conservation in Australia.

The conservation movement is concerned that xxx of the areas it identified as of high conservation value have been left off the list of Senator Faulkner's advice. We will be calling on Senator Faulkner to reconsider adding these these areas to his advice.

This is the first serious attempt by any state or federal government to implement the moratorium clause of the National Forest Policy. That clause states that "forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value."

It is also the first step in ensuring that another of the Policy's promises is put in place - a national reserve system to protect old-growth and wilderness forest on public land by the end of 1995, and on private land by the end of 1998.

The conservation movement now calls on the Prime Minister to make sure that Resources Minister Deddall fully implements Senator Faulkner's advice. If Labor wants to be seen as a party concerned for the environment, Prime Minister Keating must back Senator Faulkner in the same way that Bob Hawke backed Graham Richardson.

If Senator Faulkner's advice is fully implemented it will be the first step on the long journey to the permanent protection of Australia's native forests.

For further information contact:

National	Alec Marr, Wilderness Society	015 805 850
	Barry Traill, Environment Victoria	015 103 063
	Peter Wright, Australian Conservation Foundation	02 247 4285
Tasmania	Geoff Law, Wilderness Society	015 805 850
NSW	John Corkill, North East Forest Alliance	066 213 278
	Noel Plumb, South East Forest Alliance	02 247 1737
	Sid Walker, Nature Conservation Council	02 247 4206
Victoria	Linda Parlane, Environment Victoria	03 654 4833
	Fenella Barry, Wilderness Society	015 310 995
	Louise Matthieson, Friends of the Earth	03 419 8700
WA	Peter Robertson, W.A. Forest Alliance	09 220 0651



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

NEWS RELEASE

Thursday, 15th December 1994

TWS CALLS FOR POLICE INVESTIGATION INTO 'REAL POSSIBILITY OF LOGGER'S BREACH OF FAUNA LAW' AS PROTESTER APPEAL REACHES NEW STAGE

The Wilderness Society (TWS) today called for action by NSW Police to fully investigate the killing of endangered fauna and damage to the habitat of endangered fauna by loggers operating in high conservation value forest areas in NSW. The logging is highly controversial and may breach State environmental laws and the Federal-State National Forest Policy.

The call follows a decision of the Court of Criminal Appeal in Sydney today on a stated case from a conservationist Mr Gerard Keenan who was convicted in 1993 under s.545B of the *Crimes Act* in 1993 for 'hindering the lawful activity' of a logger carrying out woodchip and sawlog operations in old growth forest at Badja State Forest near Cooma in south east NSW. No Environmental Impact Statement or Fauna Impact Statement had been completed at the time Mr Keenan was arrested while peacefully protesting.

In the course of Mr Keenan's first appeal to the District Court Judge Bell sitting at Cooma heard evidence of endangered species - Tiger Quoll and Squirrel Glider - in the area and said "*There is ... a real possibility that in the course of the intended logging activities Mr O'Reilly might have committed a breach of s 99 [National Parks & Wildlife Act].*"

In today's decision the Court of Criminal Appeal (Hunt CJ, Dowd & McInerney JJ) said that a crucial element in proving an offence under s.545B was the state of mind of Mr Keenan:

"the prosecution must eliminate any reasonable possibility that the defendant's purpose in hindering.... was to compel [the other person] to abstain from doing an act where the defendant honestly and reasonably believed[the] other person had no right to do so."

The CCA referred the matter back to the District Court to resolve the issue of Mr Keenan's actual state of mind re legality of the operations.

Spokesperson for TWS, Mr Tom McLoughlin said today "The lawfulness of logging in high conservation value forests in NSW has been a subject of intense controversy and dispute for years - in the forests, the courts and in Parliament and the political arena. The present federal government process - to exclude forests from export woodchip licences - followed by serious industry restructuring and assistance to displaced workers would go a long way to resolve this issue.

"But until forest protection occurs we believe the NSW police should investigate whether loggers are committing offences under section 99 of the *National Parks & Wildlife Act*. We believe these offences may be occurring in **many** out-dated forestry operations in south east and north east NSW.

"We will be writing to the NSW Police Commissioner and the National Parks & Wildlife Service drawing their attention to the need to investigate whether loggers are committing offences against endangered fauna. It is important police enforce the environmental laws of the land" concluded Mr McLoughlin.

More information: Tom McLoughlin tel. 02/267 7929 or 365 3837

MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...Wed, 16 Nov, 1994

PLANTATIONS BILL: CARR MUST INTERVENE

"The NSW ALP is taking a reckless approach to the Government's mischievous and misleadingly-titled *Tree Plantations Harvest Security Bill 1994*", Sid Walker, Executive Officer of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW said today.

"We urge Bob Carr to take direct charge and over-ride his Shadow Forestry Spokesman Bob Martin. Labor should send the Bill to Committee, to allow adequate time for Parliamentary scrutiny of its controversial provisions. At the very least, it must support Clover Moore's amendments to the Bill which rectify the most offensive aspects of the Bill.

"As drafted, it is a back-door 'resource security' Bill, likely to encourage clearance native vegetation and conversion of public and private native forests to tree farms.

"It is sadly predictable that, in the dying days of this Parliament, the Government should use this Bill, with its innocuous title, as a vehicle to push through anti-environment measures to pander to rural rednecks.

"But who could have predicted that the ALP would fall straight into the National Party's trap? Along with Bob Martin's recent statement that Labor will allow grazing in National Parks, this signals that the ALP has a disposable commitment to the environment.

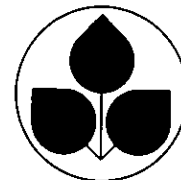
"In its current form, the 'Tree Plantations Harvest Security Bill 1994':

- is anti-wildlife and pro-extinction.
- could be used to give 'resource security' over many native forests, is likely to encourage native vegetation clearance.
- fails to address the real concerns of the plantation industry - an industry which conservationists wish to support and encourage.
- may push environmentalists and the plantation industry into needless conflict, which would decrease the industry's security.
- disregards principles agreed by industry and the conservation movement in a Government-organised consultation process.

For more information contact Sid Walker on 02 247 4206 (w); 02 305 090 (h)

ACF

Australian Conservation Foundation (A.R.B.N.007 498 482)
33 George Street Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone: (02) 247 4285 Fax: (02) 247 1206



re: Media Campaign - "Call Paul"

16th November, 1994
Attn: George Negus
via facsimile :

Dear George,

The A.C.F is cooperating with The Wilderness Society and many other local, regional and State forest conservation organisations in a national campaign to end export woodchipping and protect forests of high conservation value.

The current phase of the campaign is directed at the Federal Government, who are currently considering renewing licences to export woodchips. The industry is felling trees many hundreds of years old, some in wilderness areas, and exporting the vast bulk of them to Japan as woodchips. Japanese companies use them to make paper, some of which is imported back into Australia.

We are seeking your help in a media campaign: "Call Paul". The campaign will feature prominent people calling the Prime Minister (in phone booths, on mobile phones etc.) to call for an end to export woodchipping and the protection of high conservation value forests. We hope in this way to persuade large number of people to also "Call Paul".

Vince Jones commenced the campaign in Canberra last week.

The Government's decision is expected within weeks, so we are hoping to arrange a media photo opportunity in next week. We would be very grateful if you could participate there, or in some other way.

We would also appreciate you passing our idea on to any others who may be able to help in this campaign.

If you can participate please contact Biodiversity Campaigner Peter Wright or myself regarding this sometime soon (Ph: 02 247 4285, Fax: 02 247 1206). Thanks.

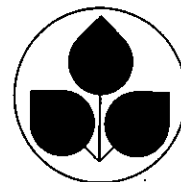
Yours sincerely,

Libby Diedrich
Administration/Campaigns Assistant.



ACF

Australian Conservation Foundation (A.R.B.N.007 498 482)
33 George Street Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone: (02) 247 4285 Fax: (02) 247 1206



Celebrities to track down

Ask Penny Figgis if she knows how to get in touch with these people or any others.

Sid, we have faxed the names with a ✓ so far

- ✓ John Williamson Fax letter to 349 8635
- Lorraine Bayley
- ✓ Jack Thompson
- Noni Hazelhurst
- ✓ Pat Cash
- ✓ Wendy Harmer Fax letter to her at 2DAY-FM
- Michael Leunig Try the Melbourne Age?
- ✓ Patrick Cook Try the Independent Monthly
- ✓ Jean Kitson ABC TV should have a contact.
- Glynn Nicholas
- ✓ Gough Whitlam Parliament House in Canberra should have his office no.
- ✓ Jeanine Haines
- ✓ Angry Anderson Ring Midday Show for number
- Tim Winton
- ✓ Ruth Cracknell ABC TV should have a contact.
- Morris West
- Tom Kenneally
- ✓ Peter Carey
- David Williamson
- Colleen McCulloch
- Sally Morgan
- ✓ Phillip Adams Call ABC Radio National for contact
- ✓ Magda Szubanski Call Artists Services Mgmt in Melbourne for contact
- Tom Uren Call Milo for number
- Dr Jim Cairns Tom Uren should have his contact
- ✓ Penny Cook
- Cathy Freeman
- Kieran Perkins
- Eric Bogle
- ✓ John Clarke Call A Current Affair at Channel 9.
- ✓ Gary Macdonald ABC TV should have a contact.

Sid, Gough rang - I can tell you what he said if you like

+ ✓ Denton

MEDIA RELEASE

For 22nd November 94.

Croobyar Blockade Ph: 018 970017
or Indra - 06 2575122 / 06 249 1163**Local Support for Forest Blockade.**

The Forest Blockade at Croobyar State Forest is being visited daily by concerned local residents. The Blockade visitors are appalled at the damage created by the logging activities, the size of the trees that have been removed, and the fact that no environment or fauna impact studies have been done in the area.

"The local people have been very supportive, bringing fresh food and water and offering facilities. They realise that we are here to protect a beautiful part of their community area which is well known for its scenic bushwalking and eco-tourism values," Lisa, one of the blockaders reported. Pigeonhouse Mountain and the Budawang Wilderness is renowned world-wide for rock climbers and bush walkers, and contains rainforests, caves, sacred Aboriginal sites, and fossils that speak of the millions of years of evolution of these old growth forests. Logging in these areas is just short-sighted lunacy."

The Croobyar forest area is listed in the High Conservation Value (HCV) Report, recently completed for the Federal Environment Minister, Mr. John Faulkner, and immediate action is required by the Federal Government to avoid further damage. Since the Blockade began last Wednesday, endangered species such as the Powerful, and Sooty Owls, and the Yellow-bellied Glider have been observed in the surrounding area.

The compartment where the logging has been halted is the doorway to other areas which State Forests plan to log next year. The Blockaders intend to hold strong, and demand to know the conditions under which the temporary licence "to take or kill endangered fauna" was approved by National Parks and Wildlife. They also feel the public should have the right to see the environmental and fauna impact statements, and the Aboriginal site survey for the region.

Three ambassadors from the Aboriginal Embassy in Canberra are at the blockade and in communication with the local Aboriginal Land Councils. One of the representatives from the Embassy, Mr. Paul Ferguson said, "Our sacred sites, medicinal, and food supplies are constantly being destroyed by a commercially driven society. We Aboriginal Australians would like to know why local Aboriginal tribes are not respectfully consulted with, by the industries involved in the continuous exploitation of our land."

Over thirty people at the blockade site joined hands in solidarity with those involved in high conservation value forest protection blockades around Australia. "This is not an isolated incident", Indra Esguerra from the Wilderness Society said, "We are continuously getting reports from around the country of breaches of the moratorium clause of the National Forest Policy Statement, which was signed by Prime Minister Paul Keating, and each mainland state Premier, including our own, John Fahey. The Batemans Bay Forestry area is in no way exempt from the process of preparing environmental and fauna impact studies, and we are taking this situation to the full extent of the law," she added. "We are very happy that we can support the local community in their efforts to protect their special places from this short-term economic plundering of HCV forests."

Meetings with the local community, police, conservationists, and State Forest representatives are scheduled over the next 24 hours. Media should contact Peter, Christina or Lisa on site at 018 970017, or Indra Esguerra at the Wilderness Society (06) 257 5122.

To achieve this the environment movement would need to be resourced to employ:

- one full-time National Waste Reduction Co-ordinator,
- four full-time National Waste Reduction Issue Convenors (ie. one for each of the priority areas; household hazardous waste reduction, home and municipal scale composting, cradle to grave responsibility from industry, and government purchasing policies and programs),
- eight full-time State Waste Reduction Officers (ie. one in each state/territory),
- 13 casual National Waste Reduction Steering Committee Members (ie. one Conservation Council representative for each state/territory full-time position and one national group representative for each 'national' full-time position).

In addition, the existing support offered to local government in the form of Environmental Resource Officers (EROs) should be expanded to include a National Waste Reduction Resource and Liaison Officer for Local Government. Such a 'waste-specific ERO' would be able to facilitate the exchange of information from the rest of the National Waste Reduction Network, through the existing network of EROs, to local government, and visa-versa. It could be expected that the National Waste Reduction Resource and Liaison Officer for Local Government would provide special attention to areas which do not have an ERO.

Appendix II identifies some of the responsibilities envisaged for these personnel.

Appendix III sets out the proposed structure of the Network.



CROOBYAR

We make homes in the forest
like our ancestors
Collect wood for the fires at night
to warm our souls and the earth
And the trees protect us and
Shelter the many dreams
and we live with the peace
for it surrounds us each moment and the summer
breeze soothes the expectations
of life's trickery and pain
For we only have now
And these tall proud trees as our search
for peace means nought if we haven't
each other
And tomorrow they may bring the bulldozers
and our sanctuary may one day be
another car park
And all the old people and the
children will have to sing the songs
of when the forest did no harm.

Winiata Nov '94
Croobyar Forest Blockade

Budget

Based on:

<u>Item Description</u>	<u>Per Unit Annual Cost</u>	<u>Multiplier</u>	<u>Total</u>
• One-time cost to advertise for and hire personnel	\$750	13	\$9,750
• Salary for full-time personnel (up to)	\$38,000	13	\$494,000
• Salary-related on-costs for full-time personnel at 5% of salary (up to)	\$1,900	13	\$24,700
• Overheads for full-time personnel at 25% of salary & on-costs (up to)	\$9,975	13	\$129,675
• Travel & accommodation expenses for full-time personnel	\$4,000	13	\$52,000
• Supplementary travel & accommodation expenses for State Officers in WA & NT and the National Co-ordinator	\$6,000	3	\$18,000
• Publications (production, printing, and distribution)	\$50,000	1	\$50,000
• Misc expenses including: purchase of reports, subscriptions, conference enrolments, computer software & networking	\$35,000	1	\$35,000
• Sitting fees for steering committee members (@ \$50/person/hr x 4hrs/mth x 12 mths/yr for mthly PLUs)	\$2,400	13	\$31,200
• National PLUs	\$500	12	\$6,000
• Costs associated with disbursement & acquittal of all monies by the national co-ordinator (except his/her salary) and for admin and funds management by the PCO responsible for receipt of the original payment by the Commonwealth (@ 5% of all the above)			\$42,516
TOTAL			<u>\$892,841</u>

Note: Employment of the 'Waste Reduction Resource and Liaison Officer for Local Government' is anticipated to occur with funds provided by the Commonwealth as part of its program to support the employment of Environmental Resource Officers. Thus, funding for this position is not considered above.

Thus, an annual budget allocation of \$893,000 per year for four years is sought.

Options

The least disruptive means of reducing the cost of this proposal would be to scale down the hours of work for all personnel. If a scaled down proposal is required to meet budgetary constraints, a $2/5$ reduction in costs could be achieved by moving to a part-time situation where Network personnel are employed for 3 days per week.

However, this would be problematic for a number of reasons, including the fact that:

- it would allow little more than basic maintenance of the Network;
- different days of work for different personnel would cause the partial breakdown and inefficient operation of the Network;
- host organisations would be forced to provide cover, to some extent, during the absence of Network personnel.

A Network employing personnel for 4 days per week would be far more manageable and productive than a Network employing personnel for 3 days per week.

Peter Hopper
Project Officer
Nature Conservation Council of NSW

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ACF SYDNEY

NCC

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FROM THE COMBESLAND

28 OCT 1994

P.2 P. 2

MEDIA RELEASE

NAFI

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOREST INDUSTRIES LTD

ACN 010 621 910

Forest Industries House

24 Napier Close

Deakin, A.C.T. 2600

P.O. Box 389

Queen Victoria Terrace

Canberra A.C.T. 2600

Telephone (06) 283 8831

NAFI WELCOMES FULL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR LOGGING OF NATIVE FORESTS.

The Executive Director of the National Association of Forest Industries, Dr Robert Bain today welcomed the statement by Resources Minister, Mr David Beddall that the Government sees the continuation of logging in our native forests as an integral part of the Nation Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

"The Government clearly recognises that resource security under the NFPS is the key to investment and employment as well as good environmental management" Dr Bain said.

"Implementation of the NFPS will finally establish a system of forest reserves and multiple use areas that will ensure sustainable management of Australia's forests".

"We also welcome the Ministers' announcement that the first stage of the joint Commonwealth - Queensland comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA) of forests under the NFPS has begun and that arrangements are nearly finalised in Victoria", Dr Bain said.

"We have been most concerned at delays in the CRA process and urge the Federal and State Governments to move as quickly as possible down this path".

Speaking at the AUSTIS 94 conference in Marysville, Victoria, where Mr Beddall made his announcement, Dr Bain said, "The direction of the NFPS and of the industry development has now been endorsed by numerous independent inquiries and the sooner we act the better."

Dr Bain strongly supported Mr Beddall's statement, "What we have in the NFPS is a clear way ahead - I believe that the responsible parts of the conservation movement know this and support it."

Contact: Robert Bain (018) 622791 or (053) 633203 or (06) 2833833

WRIGHT
(02) 2574280
4161166

- f) to identify clear targets such as a 30% per capita reduction in consumption by the Year 2010 or better;
- g) ensure that true cost water pricing be operational by the Year 2000;
- h) ensure that a comprehensive demand management strategy is based on additional supplies from onsite harvesting of rainwater and re-use; more efficient water usage systems (eg. efficient appliances, reduced leakage and wastage); mandatory water efficient appliances for all new buildings and renovations; comprehensive cost-effective financial incentive schemes to promote the uptake of water efficient appliances; and
- i) to enact legislation to require that all water is managed on the basis of ecological sustainability, and that standards be enforced.

Late Motion 3 - Welcome Reef Dam

Submitted by the Australian Conservation Foundation (Sydney Branch)

THAT noting and commending the Australian Capital Territory's *Strategy for Future Water Supply for the ACT*, the NCC calls upon the NSW Government to:

- (i) ensure that future development in the Sydney-to-Canberra corridor and associated areas is based on ecologically sustainable water use; and
- (ii) discourage any expectation of supplies from the proposed Welcome Reef Dam.

**THE
WILDERNESS
SOCIETY**



★ ★ ★ Media Release ★ ★ ★

**NERVOUS TIMBER INDUSTRY THROWS GOOD
MONEY AFTER BAD PRACTICE**

27 October 1994

The Wilderness Society today condemned a new \$1.5 million "feel good" advertising campaign by the National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI).

A TV commercial of the campaign reportedly features a "cute child, timber, a wooden rocking horse and four generations of a family."

"The timber industry is clearly unsettled by how informed and vocal the community has become in its opposition to native forest destruction," said Ms Fenella Barry, Victorian spokesperson for The Wilderness Society.

"NAFI is running scared at the recent and unprecedented alignment of environment groups against native forest woodchipping. With the woodchip export licences coming up for consideration at the end of November, they plainly wish to influence proceedings with a thoroughly cynical advertising campaign."

"The community doesn't have a problem with a timber industry based in sustainable plantations. It most certainly does have a problem with an industry that destroys irreplaceable native forests for a quick and taxpayer subsidised buck."

"Unsurprisingly, the new campaign doesn't even mention native forest operations or woodchipping and in a sneaky way seeks to associate such destruction with good, warm and traditional family values."

"If the four generations depicted in the advertisement knew what they were losing to greed, for example of the deaths of scores of thousands of native animals and other life-forms and of the loss of clean air, water and biodiversity - all associated with native forest destruction - they'd call for an end to native forest logging immediately" Ms Barry said.

"This advertising campaign is an attempt to get "back-door" support for activities extremely few people want. It will take a lot more than \$1.5 million to buy off community opposition to such blatant and destructive self-interest." Ms Barry concluded.

**For further information or comment contact Fenella Barry
03-670 5229 or 015 310 995**

MEDIA RELEASE

8 December 1994



**Conservation Council
of South Australia**

Incorporated

120 Wakefield Street
Adelaide

South Australia 5000

Telephone

(08) 223 5155

Facsimile

(08) 232 4782

80.3% say NO to woodchipping

Newspoll survey reveals

80.3% of Australians do not approve of trees from Australia's native forests being felled and exported as woodchips to Japan.

These are the results of a survey conducted by *Newspoll* in five capital cities last weekend and released today by conservation groups.

The poll found that 80.3% of people surveyed are opposed to export woodchipping, 11.7% are in favour, while 8.0% remain undecided.

'The poll confirms that the vast majority of Australians are opposed to the woodchipping and export of native forests', said Vera Hughes, Wilderness Society SA.

'The Keating Government's imminent decision on woodchip licences will reveal its responsiveness to community views on this issue. At least 764 forest areas with high conservation value are under immediate threat from logging and woodchipping in Victoria, Tasmania, and Western Australia', said Mr Kevin Parker, National Campaign Co-ordinator of the Wilderness Society. 'As a minimum these areas of high conservation forests should be protected from woodchipping', he added.

Of the five major capitals, Adelaide showed the strongest disapproval of woodchipping. 'In Adelaide, 85.3% of people polled disapproved of woodchipping. South Australia has less than 8% of its original vegetation cover and the Adelaide poll shows that South Australians do not want Australia's remaining forests to suffer the same destructive fate', said Stephen Baker of Friends of the Earth and the Conservation Council of South Australia.

The Newspoll survey revealed that woodchipping and export of native forests is opposed by:

- 83.2% of blue collar workers and 76.3% of white collar workers
- 86.5% of women and 73.7% of men.

'The poll sends the clear message to the Keating Government that an end to the woodchipping and export of native forests would have overwhelming public support', said Jo De Silva, South Australian Project Officer for the National Plantation Study. 'Wood resources from plantations have the potential to provide Australia with an ecologically sustainable alternative to what amounts to the destruction of our native forests', she added. 'Prime Minister Keating can now move decisively to protect our remaining native forests knowing he has the overwhelming support of Australians', said Jo.

For further information:

Jo De Silva
Vera Hughes
Stephen Baker
Kevin Parker

223 5155

231 6586

232 4866

018 449 080

A Healthy Environment for South Australia

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY



★ ★ ★ Media Release ★ ★ ★

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**For further information or comment contact Fenella Barry
03-670 5229 or 015 310 995**

NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL Inc.

Hon. Sec. Mr Jim Tedder, Pavans Road, Grassy Head via Stuarts Point 2441. Ph/Fax 065 690 802

Media Release - Thursday, 3rd November '94

No end to woodchips: Beddall

Export woodchipping from NE NSW will continue beyond the year 2000, despite a growing outcry, at increased volumes, contrary to stated Commonwealth policy. The Federal Minister for Resources has rejected the Environment Minister's advice for environmental controls, according to official Ministerial correspondence released today by North Coast Environment Council.

Council President, Mr Terry Parkhouse said that Resources Minister, Mr David Beddall's new 15 month woodchip export licence to BORAL's subsidiary, "flouted the policy announced by Prime Minister Keating". Mr Parkhouse said Mr Beddall had rejected most of the recommendations made by Environment Minister, Senator John Faulkner on the Sawmillers Export woodchip licence and had failed to implement the Government policy to "end to export woodchipping by the year 2000".

"Two Commonwealth Ministers are at loggerheads and cannot agree. Instead of making progress the Resources Minister is will substantially increase the volume of woodchips exported from the Port of Newcastle, to more than half a million tonnes a year," Mr Parkhouse said.

Mr Parkhouse said Mr Beddall's letter to Sawmillers Export parent company Boral Timber, notes :
'I understand that Sawmillers Export may seek to export more than 500, 000 tonnes a year, in the period covered by the enclosed licence. I will consider issuing an additional licence to cover the increased volume if that proves necessary.'

He said that in addition to these "serious contradictions" Mr Beddall also advised Senator Faulkner that he intends to "consider providing SEPL with 'in-principle' approval for woodchip exports covering at least the period 1996 to 2000."

"On all counts Minister Beddall has acted contrary to the stated Commonwealth government position as announced by Prime Minister Keating in the Industry Statement of 12 March 1991 and as confirmed by Senator Faulkner in the Senate on 30 June 1994," said Mr Parkhouse.

"Unless the PM pulls Mr Beddall into line, north coast NSW will have very few environmental protection conditions as recommended by Senator Faulkner, the volume of woodchips obtained will exceed 500,000 tonnes a year and exports would go on beyond the year 2000," he said.

"If this were not bad enough, the Department of Primary Industries has confirmed that it is currently considering an application from a Brisbane based company Queensland Hardwood Resources to export 140,000 tonnes of woodchips a year, obtained from between Rockhampton and Coffs Harbour. If this is approved northern NSW will be supplying two woodchip licences and the area between Grafton and Coffs Harbour will be supplying BOTH operations," Mr Parkhouse said.

Mr Parkhouse said that the concerns of north coast environmentalists would be expressed to the Keating government at the National Forest Embassy being held in Canberra 4 - November.

He said that the new SEP/L export woodchipping licence would become a major new focus in the Federal Court legal challenge to Minister Beddall's decisions, already underway in Sydney. Early in October the Minister failed to have the case rejected by the Court, who found that the case should be heard and ordered the Minister to pay the Council's legal costs.

ends

For more information Phone Mr Terry Parkhouse 065 690 771 h.

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

MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...Sun, 4 Dec 1994



NEW STUDIES SHOW WOODCHIP FORESTS' UNIQUE VALUES

"Studies released today by the Nature Conservation Council show that many areas of NSW forest targeted for woodchipping during 1995 have exceptional biological and heritage values. These forests must immediately be safeguarded from logging" said Sid Walker, the Council's Executive Officer.

The studies, commissioned and funded by Federal Environment Minister John Faulkner, are 'rapid assessments' of the conservation values of areas of native forest in NSW targeted for woodchipping during 1995.

One study examines the south east of NSW where woodchipping is most intensive; the other considers the north east of the State, from Newcastle to the Queensland border - a vast area of forests with exceptional biodiversity.

"These reports are a triumph for our consultants who worked round the clock, over a very short period, to piece together available information about the forests subject to immediate threat in NSW" said Mr Walker.

"Last year, during the same year-end woodchip licence renewal process, the Federal Environment Minister claimed she lacked sufficient information about areas due for woodchipping to be able to argue for their conservation.

"The new Environment Minister, Senator Faulkner, decided to rectify the situation by funding peak State conservation bodies to provide information about the values of forests before they are destroyed by woodchipping.

"The two NSW reports show that the Fahey Government continues to allow high conservation value (HCV) forests to be pulped, and that only Federal intervention can save irreplaceable forest heritage from destruction.

"Excluding from the 1995 woodchip licences forest areas which have clearly identified high conservation values is the least the Keating Government can do to meet its own policy commitments. Anything less would be a betrayal of Senator Faulkner, the conservation movement and the public interest.

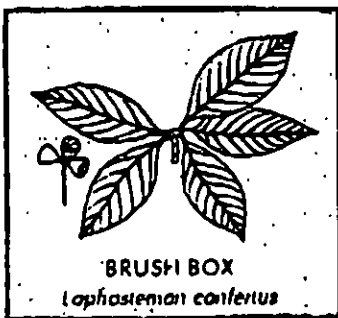
"A recent letter to the Prime Minister from a majority of the ALP caucus showed he has strong back-bench support for protecting HCV forests from woodchipping. Will Paul Keating lead on this issue, and adjudicate - for the first time - in favour of forests instead of woodchippers?" asked Mr Walker.

For more information contact Sid Walker on 02 247 4206 (w); 02 305 090 (h)

IUCN
The World Conservation Union

NOTE: FIND ATTACHED 2 PAGE SUMMARY OF N.C. REPORTS.

OK
1/12/94



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre Inc.
149 Keen Street, Lismore. 2480.
Phone 066 213 278 Fax 066 222 676

Media Release - 5 October 1994

25 'FOREST INSPECTORS' ARRESTED in WILD CATTLE Ck State Forest TODAY

Over 120 environmentalists from the North East Forest Alliance again massed outside the 'closed' Compartment 579 of the Wild Cattle Creek SF near Dorrigo today, as two people, arrested earlier this week, began a hunger strike in Grafton gaol, following their refusal of bail conditions prohibiting their return to the forest.

NEFA spokesperson Ms Megan Edwards said that when Dorrigo District Forester, Mr John Ball refused permission for the public to enter the forest to inspect State Forests' and the timber industry's compliance with harvesting plans and their adherence to conditions of the 'licence to kill' endangered species, 30 'forest inspectors' attempted to enter the forest.

25 of NEFA's 'forest inspectors' were then arrested Ms Megan Edwards said. She said that 19 were arrested at the front gate and 6 were arrested in the compartment itself.

"These latest arrestees will be refusing to sign any bail conditions further restricting their right to inspect the ongoing destruction of this old growth forest, in solidarity with those already on hunger strike in Grafton gaol."

"Despite these arrests, 10 'forest inspectors' were able to gain access to the forest and are presently attempting to gain access to sites where breaches of harvesting plans and wildlife prescriptions are alleged to have occurred," she said.

Ms Edwards said that the on-going logging of Compartment 579 was a blatant and deliberate breach of the National Forest Policy Statement, signed in December 1992 by Premier John Fahey, which states that:

"forest agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value" [page 11 NFPS]

"Forests Minister Mr George Souris has utterly failed to direct State Forests to comply with this inter-governmental agreement. Instead Mr Souris decided to perpetuate the falsehood that Wild Cattle Creek SF is not 'old growth or of 'high conservation value'," she said.

Ms Edwards said that Mr Souris had access to the reports of two NSW agencies including his own Department of Conservation and Land Management, which had documented the forests of Compartment 579 of Wild Cattle Ck as both 'old growth forest' and of 'high conservation value'.

"The Premier cannot allow his Ministers to wilfully mislead the public in this manner. Mr Fahey must personally intervene to halt the destruction of these ancient forests, or invite, through his inaction, the intervention of the Federal Government.

... ends

For more info: phone Ms Edwards @ the forest 018 672 044 or
contact John Corhill @ Big Scrub Env Centre 066 21 3278.

URGENT

- Peter Wright, ACF Sydney
- Noel Plumb, TCC Sydney
- Sid Walker, NCC "
- Beth and Peter WA CON CONNSW
- Michelle O'Grady SA "
- Nicky Hungerford QCC "
- Craig Darlington ACT "
- Michael Lynch TASSIE CON (RUST).

Dear folks

* 80.3% say 'no' to woodchipping

Here are the poll results and a press release which you are welcome to use or not as you please.

DO NOT RELEASE IT TO ANYONE BEFORE 1.00PM THURSDAY.

You may wish to emphasise the particular results in your city over the national results. And please coordinate with others in your city in releasing it.

Anyway do your best and enjoy it!!!!

Love Linda

Linda

PS I will send you the bill as soon as I get back to Melbourne. It will be a little bit more expensive, but I'll also see if I can get some more groups to put in some \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$.

PPS Work it really hard - it's a great result.
The more publicity the more areas get protection!

PPPS Ring me or Alec on mobile #s that are on the release.

Senator John Woodley
Australian Democrat
Senator for Queensland



MEDIA RELEASE

21 December 1994

49/6.6

KEATING'S CAPITULATION MEANS WOODCHIPPERS WIN & QLD LOSES

The Federal government's decision to increase the level of woodchipping exposes the Prime Minister's rhetoric on the importance of the environment to be nothing short of fraudulent.

Queensland Democrat Senator, John Woodley, labelled the decision as economic, environmental and political lunacy.

"Despite all the evidence showing the high conservation value of many native forest areas, this Labor government is going to permit Queensland's forests to be put through a shredder for the first time, with 140 000 tonnes being sacrificed."

"Mr Keating cannot expect to be taken seriously on environmental issues in Queensland unless he steps in to reverse this shocking decision," Senator Woodley said.

"All of this destruction is occurring just to enable overseas companies to produce paper for us to buy back again, leading to a further blow out in our current account deficit."

"The Democrats call on the Federal government to drop its commitment to woodchipping and concentrate on establishing a sustainable industry through plantation programs."

"Only then will Australia establish a sustainable industry and avoid the environmental vandalism and economic damage caused by woodchipping."

For further comment:

John Woodley

07 862 9255 or 015 173 622



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

SOCIETY JOINS UNION IN PROTEST OVER WHOLE LOG EXPORTS TO SAVE HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS

Friday, 2nd December 1994

Members of the The Wilderness Society, Illawarra Branch will join a protest today against the Federal Government's failure to ensure the domestic processing and value adding of raw pine logs now to be shipped out of the Port Kembla export facility in the near future by new player in the industry Tri-Forestry.

The Society shares the concerns of the CFMEU (Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union), and Greenpeace that the export initiative by Tri-Forestry, although confirming the bright future for the plantation timber industry, *will promote further logging and woodchipping of wilderness and old growth forests in NSW*. According to union sources there are several Australian plantation processing operations willing to value add the logs.

Mr Tom McLoughlin, NSW Campaign Coordinator for the Society said today "We see several problems - environmental and economic:

- * The logs are not processed here so they cannot act as a substitute for native forest logs used domestically in processing and sold in the domestic timber market. This will cause real damage to our forest heritage.
- * An enormous amount of time, money and energy of community, industry and Government has gone into developing a plantation resource base to save our native forests. To allow this plantation timber sell-off overseas for a pittance is squandering all that hard work in a most irresponsible way.
- * In pure economic terms we see the export of Australian jobs to processing and value adding overseas - a trap we as a community have fallen into too many times already" concluded Mr McLoughlin.

More information: Tom McLoughlin, tel. 02-267 7929w, 02-365 3837.

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



MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...Fri, 2 Dec 1994

CONSERVATIONISTS SUPPORT WORKERS' PUSH TO STOP RAW LOG EXPORTS

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW supports today's protest by the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) over the export of raw pine logs via Port Kembla" said Sid Walker, the Council's Executive Officer.

"Conservationists have consistently supported the development of the plantation industry in NSW. But if Australia exports unprocessed plantation logs, this country will fail to capture the full benefits of this rapidly expanding resource" he said.

"Australia's native forest export woodchip industry is the type of industry one would expect to find in the third world. Now our Government seems prepared to allow the plantation industry -with its enormous potential to create jobs and new industry within Australia - to go down the same third world route" said Mr Walker.

"The Nature Conservation Council of NSW supports today's protest by the CFMEU and calls on the Federal Government to ensure that plantation logs are offered first to domestic processors.

"Raw log exports should only be allowed if a market cannot be found for this resource within Australia" Mr Walker concluded.

For further information contact Sid Walker on 02 247 4206 (w) 02 305 090 (h)

WINGHAM FOREST ACTION

Media release Friday August 5, 1994 - Phone/fax 02 318 1940

WFA goes alone...

The Land and Environment Court heard evidence from one expert only in *Nicholls vs National Parks and Wildlife Service and State Forests* today. The main drama surrounded the decision by Wingham Forest Action to dispense with legal representation.

"It is now up to Susie Russell to present the defence for endangered species against the National Parks and Wildlife Service, State Forests and their counsel, ex-Land and Environment Court Judge, Noel Hemmings," WFA spokesperson Mr Helmuth Aimann said.

"Ms Russell's success today exceeded our hopes and reaffirmed our ability to put relevant issues before the court", he said.

"Ms Russell's move to the bar table was eased by the absence of Mr Hemmings" Mr Aimann said.

... and sticks case together with PVA

The expert witness for the day was Dr Hugh Possingham, who is both a mathematician and an ecologist.

Dr Possingham's written statement quoted studies which showed the need for Population Viability Analysis (PVA) of endangered species in the Wingham Management Area.

Population Viability Analysis uses computer models of the life cycles of species to predict the probability of extinction locally or generally over a certain period of time.

PVAs are necessary in order to establish scientifically whether an endangered species requires special logging management prescriptions in order to keep that species from extinction.

"Dr Possingham's evidence boosts WFAs push for 'state of the art' wildlife management in logging areas of NSW", Mr Aimann said. "WFA have lined up a formidable array of scientific experts to fight for more stringent controls on the licence to take or kill endangered fauna which is issued to State Forests by the National Parks and Wildlife Service before logging can proceed in Old Growth Forests", he said.

"Yesterday three other experts gave evidence to support WFA's draft Licence Conditions. They were Dr Chris Dickman, an expert on Tiger Quolls and Phascogales; Dr Michael Mahoney a frog expert; and Dr Harry Parnaby, whose testimony was about bats.

"All three experts told the Court there were inadequacies in the NPWS licence provisions related to endangered species. They said that if the draft conditions proposed by Wingham Forest Action were adopted, endangered species would have a better chance of survival", Mr Aimann said.

08 JUL 1994

RICHARD JONES MLC

Australian Democrat Member of the NSW Legislative Council

Parliament House, SYDNEY, 2000 Telephone (02) 230 2858 Fax (02) 230 2871

MEDIA RELEASE

8 July 1994

NPWS LICENSES STATE FORESTS TO KILL KOALAS IN GOONENGERRY STATE FOREST

"I have received a letter from the Minister for the Environment Chris Hartcher, making it quite clear that National Parks and Wildlife Service has no interest in acquiring Goonengerry State Forest as a koala reserve," said Democrat Richard Jones, MLC.

"Licences were issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service on the 26th of March 1992 to take or kill endangered fauna in association with proposed logging operations in compartments 101, 102 and 103 in Goonengerry State Forest.

"All that the National Parks and Wildlife Service will do to maintain the koala population in Goonengerry State Forest is to evaluate and trial different logging prescriptions. The Service will recommend that sufficient numbers of prescribed koala feed trees are retained to maintain the viability of koala populations.

"There is no doubt that koalas will die during the logging operations, but this appears to be of no concern to the Minister for the Environment. He informs me that the dedication of Goonengerry State Forest as a koala sanctuary is a matter for consideration by State Forests of NSW and the Minister for Land and Water Conservation, Mr George Souris.

"Having seen the damage that George Souris has allowed to occur in highly sensitive habitat areas in South East New South Wales, I think it is highly unlikely that the Minister will have any concern for the koalas in Goonengerry State Forest.

"It would appear that as this matter is now in the hands of State Forests, there is no chance of Goonengerry State Forest becoming a koala sanctuary. **It will merely become yet another killing ground for koalas in our State.**

"Clearly the few dollars derived from logging Goonengerry State Forest are far more important than the lives of our endangered koalas. It is about time that this Government got its priorities right and ensured that our koalas do not become extinct in this State. At the current rate of koala loss, there is no doubt in my mind that koalas will become extinct in New South Wales within the next 20 to 30 years," concluded Richard Jones.

**For further information please contact Richard Jones on (02) 230 2858
or (066) 871 900 after 8pm Friday.**



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

ATTENTION TV STATIONS AND OTHER MEDIA

2.00 pm Tuesday 5th July 1994

MEDIA UPDATE

COLOURFUL AND EXCITING BORAL 'WOODCHIPPING' DEMO IN SYDNEY

Today's colourful demonstration against renewal of BORAL Ltd's woodchip export licence (covering NE NSW) has gone off in spectacular form. 4 police and about 80-100 conservationists attended the noisy but peaceful demonstration in Sydney.

TV FOOTAGE OF THE DEMONSTRATION IS AVAILABLE FROM SBS TV IN SYDNEY ON TEL. 02-430 2828 showing the 30 foot 'BORAL MARU' 'woodchip ship' sailing down Phillip Street, protester chants, placards, TRG Koalas and 25 BORAL 'shock troops' escorting the satirical figure Mr Phoney Ice-Berg the 'managing-director' of Boral.

Resources Minister Beddall responsible for rejecting the destructive woodchip licence is contactable on tel. 06-277 7440, fx 06-273 4134.

Mr Berg the actual Managing Director of BORAL Ltd can be contacted for comment on BORAL woodchipping of Wilderness and old growth forest in Sydney on tel. 02-232 8800, fx 02-233 3448. Mr Berg has so far refused to respond to a challenge by The Wilderness Society to withdraw BORAL's woodchip licence application, or to meet with green representatives.

BORAL's subsidiary Sawmillers Exports wants to renew its 500,000 tonnes per year licence to continue wilderness and old growth forest woodchipping.

WHAT?: BORAL clones in their concrete suits and jack boots. BORAL Managing Director (Mr Phoney Ice-Berg) meets the 'BORAL MARU' woodchip ship (10 metres long, 3 metres high) sailing down Phillip Street. Koalas and 100 conservationists (from Sydney, Canberra, Newcastle, Blue Mountains, Wingham etc) confront Mr Ice-Berg with his obscene licence and obscene woodchip cargo to be delivered to the ship. Chants like "BORAL WANTS A LICENCE - FORESTS DIE, PROFITS HIGH". Leaflets to the public, banners, scathing messages on placards.

WHERE?: Outside the Sydney office of Federal Resources Minister David Beddall. ANZ Building 70 Phillip Street, Sydney City (just down from the State Office Block parallel to Macquarie Street).

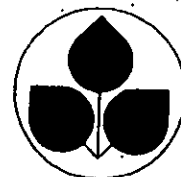
WHEN?: 12.15 - 12.45 pm. today 5th July 1994.

WHY?: To call on the Federal Resources Minister David Beddall and Paul Keating's Government to end BORAL's woodchip slaughter of our last wilderness and old growth forest heritage in Northern NSW.

More information: Tom McLoughlin 02-267 7929 /02-365 3837 or
Jules McMahon 02-267 7929

ACF

Australian Conservation Foundation (A.B.N.007 488 482)
33 George Street Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone: (02) 247 4285 Fax: (02) 247 1206



Media Release Thursday, 30 September 1994

Woodchip Announcement Will Test Beddall on Government Forest Policy

"Federal Resources Minister David Beddall will face a major test of his commitment to his Government's environment policies tomorrow," said Peter Wright, National Biodiversity Campaign Convenor for the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF).

Friday is the day that Mr Beddall is due to announce the terms of the woodchip export license for Sawmillers Exports Pty Ltd, a decision affecting large areas of forest in north-eastern New South Wales.

"The ACF will be looking for two key indicators of Mr Beddall's commitment to forest conservation," said Mr Wright, "the exclusion of high conservation value forests, and a lower woodchip volume in line with a phase out of export woodchipping."

"North-eastern NSW is the best place to commence phasing out export woodchipping, as there is an 'in-principle' commitment to supply pulpwood only until 1996. If Mr Beddall intends ending export woodchipping, he should start now with these forests," said Mr Wright.

"Mr Beddall has received clear advice from Environment Minister John Faulkner. Senator Faulkner has recommended no logging in old growth or wilderness forests with high conservation value. We will be watching very closely to see if Mr Beddall acts on that advice."

"Mr Beddall's record in forest issues has not been good. When he ruled on an export license for Gunn's operation in Tasmania earlier this year, National Estate forests were approved for logging, against the advice of the Australian Heritage Commission and the Commonwealth EPA. Environment Minister Faulkner was not consulted."

ACF was further disappointed by statements made by Mr Beddall on *Lateline* on 12 September. Mr Beddall said: "If there is no alternative area [to that identified by the Australian Heritage Commission] I have the power to actually override that advice. But that has not happened." Clearly from his record in Tasmania, and the records of his predecessors in WA, Victoria and NSW, it has happened.

Mr Beddall also said: "If areas of high conservation value are put forward by a State Forestry Commission for export woodchips or for any other activity, and those areas are of high conservation value, they will not be approved for licenses."

The export license for Sawmillers Exports Pty Ltd covers a vast area of north-eastern NSW. The company ships woodchips through the port of Newcastle.

For more information contact: Peter Wright (02) 247 4285 (w)
(02) 665 7085 (h)

Everything you need to know about an Environmental Audit

Learn from an expert what constitutes an environmental audit and how to execute it.
Attend this unique workshop which combines on-site workshops, a presentation and guidebook.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT — Workshop Program

DAY 1 — Sydney October 17

- Environmental issues of the 1990s and how they affect industry
 - global
 - regional
 - local
- The Environmental Movement
 - role of the environmental/conservation movement
 - structure of the movement
 - public expectations
 - political power
- How Governments have reacted to environmental issues
 - environmental/pollution/planning legislation (including penalties)
 - administration (current and proposed)
 - government policies and how they are changing
- Government requirements
 - approvals
 - licences
 - permits
 - agreements
 - environmental impact assessments
 - planning permits
 - others
- Environmental Audits
 - definition
 - history
 - types
 - environmental audit systems including computerised systems and rating systems
 - objectives
 - protocols
 - conducting an environmental audit
 - environmental audit follow-up — the 'after sales service'
 - case studies of environmental audits already carried out for industry and governments
- Workshop
 - review of the environmental audit protocol to be used in the Day 2 training program
- Arrangements for Day 2 trial environmental audits
- Workshop summary and close

DAY 2 — Sydney October 18

Delegates will conduct a trial environmental audit on a composite industrial facility or mine by way of colour slides taken during actual audits. In this way, the most extensive exposure to actual situations is achieved in the classroom environment while the trainer is able to impart his wide experience and explain each situation in detail. Delegates will be divided into small groups and will conduct a practical audit on a composite facility or mine using the protocol provided and documentation presented by the trainer. A detailed examination of the site will be conducted using a site plan and colour slides, this enables the delegates to participate in a practical walk through of the site without leaving the classroom.

DAY 3 — Sydney October 19

Each of the small groups of delegates will prepare a detailed report on that part of the audit nominated by the trainer. The reports will include findings and recommendations developed by the trainees. Each group will present its audit findings and recommendations verbally, in the sequence of the protocol provided, so that the class builds up a composite picture of the environmental status of the site. An environmental action plan for the following year will be developed as a class exercise. The workshop will close with a practical demonstration of a computerised environmental audit system, into which some of the results of the trial audit will be entered.

SESSION TIMES EACH DAY

Seminar starts	9.00 am
Morning tea	10.30 to 11.00 am
Lunch	12.30 to 1.30 pm
Afternoon tea	3.00 to 3.30 pm
Seminar finishes	5.00 pm

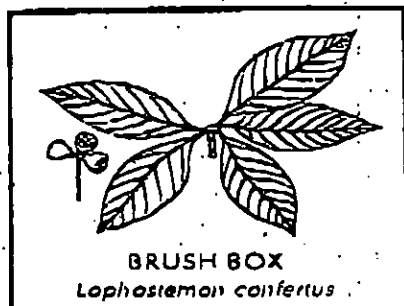
ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT GUIDEBOOK — Essential component of the Program

Great take home value with all the working tools you require to conduct an Environmental Audit
As an integral part of this workshop and included in your registration fee you will receive the 550 page Environmental Audit Guidebook.

Complete with a unique self-audit protocol, the Environmental Audit Guidebook contains an extensive audit program — detailed checklists and questions designed to save you time and focus your attention on the critical environmental issues that directly affect your own and your clients' business. This Guidebook also provides the basis for an environmental improvement program through generic strategies and indicators. Updated when laws change, this is the only system of its type available in Australia.



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N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre Inc.
149 Keen Street, Lismore. 2480.
Phone 066 213 278 Fax 066 222 676

MEDIA RELEASE - Monday 28 March 1994

Licences to kill endangered species must go!

Licences to kill endangered species in Compartment 579 of Wild Cattle Ck State Forest, issued to Forestry Commission of NSW, by National Parks and Wildlife Service must be immediately withdrawn because the area provides 'critical habitat' for dozens of endangered species, said Ms Megan Edwards, spokesperson for the North East Forest Alliance.

Logging and roading were underway in old growth forest in Compartment 579, off Downfall Ck Road, north of Dorrigo, until tree felling which had proceeded apace in the deteriorating weather, was forced to a halt by heavy rain. The logging was earlier described by NEFA as 'provocative', and 'posing a direct threat to important endangered species'.

NEFA will take their request for urgent action, to protect 39 species of endangered species believed to occur in Wild Cattle Ck SF, direct to the NPWS with an occupation of its Grafton Northern Regional Office this morning, while they 'wait for action' by Director Dr Neil Shepherd. The direct action protest follows an urgent written request for a 'stop work order' by the NPWS made by NEFA 10 days ago, on 17 March, but which still has not been responded to by the Director.

"While NPWS allows logging and road works to continue under temporary licences, which were issued in 1992, without any assessment of fauna significance or likely impacts, they fail to meet their statutory duties of protecting the wildlife of this state", said Ms Edwards.

Ms Edwards said that Compartment 579 was exceptional old growth forest and as such provided high quality habitat, in a variety of forms, for up to 39 endangered animals, including:

- * bats: Golden Tipped Bat, Large-footed Mouse-eared Bat;
- * frogs: Sphagnum Frog, Giant Barred Frog, Green Thighed Frog;
- * mammals: Koala, Spotted-tailed Quoll, Parula Wallaby, Long-nosed Potoroo, Yellow-bellied Glider;
- * birds: Sooty Owl, Wompoo Fruit Dove, Marbled Frogmouth, Rose-crowned Fruit Dove, Olive Whistler.

"The NPWS Director should not attempt to attach a string of conditions to a licence to kill endangered species in this area, because any conditions would be experimenting with our unique endangered wildlife heritage, and because bitter experience has shown that Forestry Commission cannot meet its legal obligations."

"This compartment should be protected under the moratorium announced in the National Forest Policy Statement, since it is an area of undoubted high conservation value for its old growth Brush Box /Tallowwood/warm temperate rainforest forest types, and its habitat for numerous endangered species," said Ms Edwards.

"The fact that State Forests NSW is logging this important area shows that nothing has changed at the Forestry Commission except the letterhead. This is more of the same confrontation, provocation and log at all costs," she said. She said that the people of Dorrigo had nothing to lose from an end to the logging at Wild Cattle Creek SF since all the timber harvested in this disputed area was being processed 'off the plateau' in Grafton or beyond.

Ms Edwards said that the unique old growth forests of Downfall Ck Rd, with their proximity to Dorrigo, were a potential tourism attraction of far greater economic and ecological significance than a truckload of sawn timber. She said that the timber industry should have begun their restructuring and transition out of old growth forests and into harvesting and value adding softwood, native regrowth and mixed species plantations sooner.

"The writing has been on the wall for the old growth logging industry since 1990, but instead of beginning that transition, we've seen a desperate rush to log every remaining available old growth tree."

"What they harvest today will be timber tomorrow, but what is saved should be protected for all time," she said.

NEFA's call for the withdrawal of the licences to 'take or kill' endangered species is the first of a three part grievance list prepared at a recent meeting held near Dorrigo. NEFA says it is also calling for timber industry restructuring, an industry adjustment package and a broadening of the avenues for public participation in forest management.

"The most urgent need is for an independent dispute mediation process which will allow all parties to nominate their concerns and seek resolutions. Our repeated requests to Premier Fahey and The Cabinet Office for such a process have been denied and frustrated. Without such a process the dispute will continue & potentially escalate," Ms Edwards said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION Phone Megan Edwards, Clarence Environment Centre 066 431 863

MEMBER GROUPS

Augusta-Margaret River Friends of the Forest • Australian Conservation Foundation
 • Balingup Friends of the Forest • Blackwood Environment Society • Bunelton Peace & Environment Group
 • Bridgetown-Greenbushes Friends of the Forest • Campaign to Save Native Forests • Crowea Committee
 • Coalition for Denmark's Environment • Conservation Council of WA • D'Entrecasteaux Defence Group
 • Dwellingup Greenbelt Committee • Friends of the Blackwood Valley • Great Walk Networking
 • Leeuwin Conservation Group • South-West Environment Centre • South-West Forests Defence Foundation
 • Sustainable Agriculture Research Institute • The Wilderness Society • Warren Environmental Group

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY



MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

ATTENTION: Forest ~~blockade reporters/Chiefs of Staff~~ *ABC Regional*

"Logging Halted by Forest Blockaders"

The Wilderness Society and the Western Australian Forest Alliance claimed success again today after halting logging operations for a second day in a row in a further old growth forest block - Sutton.

Following the announcement that logging operations would be halted if protesters were in the vicinity of logging operations, blockaders have commenced a campaign of visual presence in a 50km radius around Pemberton, thus hindering logging operations in all high-conservation value forest.

"We have achieved two of the main aims of our direct action campaign" said Fenella Barry, Wilderness Society spokesperson. "We have stopped logging and avoided confrontation.

"The Court government is clearly embarrassed about having the eyes of the nation on the needless destruction of these ancient forests for export woodchipping.

"The fact that 85% of these forests is ending up as woodchips is a concern to all Australians. It is costing us jobs and the earth. In the past 30 years the timber industry has almost doubled the amount of timber it extracts while halving the number of people it employs.

"There is a lot of common ground between us and the timber workers. We are now setting up stalls in the towns of Pemberton and Manjimup to listen to the concerns of the community and offer information to help firmly establish our common goals" she said.

Contacts: Fenella Barry or James Duggie
 on phone/fax (097) 762 049

EAST FOREST



GIPPSLAND ALLIANCE

East Gippsland Forest Alliance
Goongerah, Victoria, 3888.

Telephone/fax: (051) 540 156.

MEDIA ALERT

URGENT

BULLDOZERS AND BLOCKADERS SET TO CLASH

Embargoed until 7.30 am 18.2.94

Today, the two Department of Conservation and Natural Resources bulldozers which were locked onto by protesters on Monday, have cut through a rainforest creek and are now only 50 metres from two tree platforms. The road line is on the edge of the Errinundra National Park. Confrontation is expected tomorrow as DCNR workers and police will try to remove the tree sitters, perched 30 metres above the ground.

The arboreal protesters are determined to stay in the trees for months if need be, having food, stove, bedding and tarps with them. The tree platforms are connected to surrounding trees by a web of steel cable. If any attempt is made to fell trees in the vicinity of the platforms there is a high likelihood that the platforms and sitter will be pulled out of the tree.

In order to stop the bulldozers from reaching the platforms further blockade tactics will be used tomorrow.

WHAT: Bulldozers reach tree-top blockaders.

WHEN: Friday 18th Feb. Action commences at 7.30am.

WHERE: Sellers Road off Goonmirk Rocks Road. See map.

WHO: East Gippsland Forest Alliance, Police and DCNR.

WHY: To prevent road into significant old growth and rainforest area designated as National Estate.



PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES: Tree platforms 30 metres above the ground. Tripods immobilising bulldozers. Arrests. DCNR workers and police teaming up to clear the blockade.

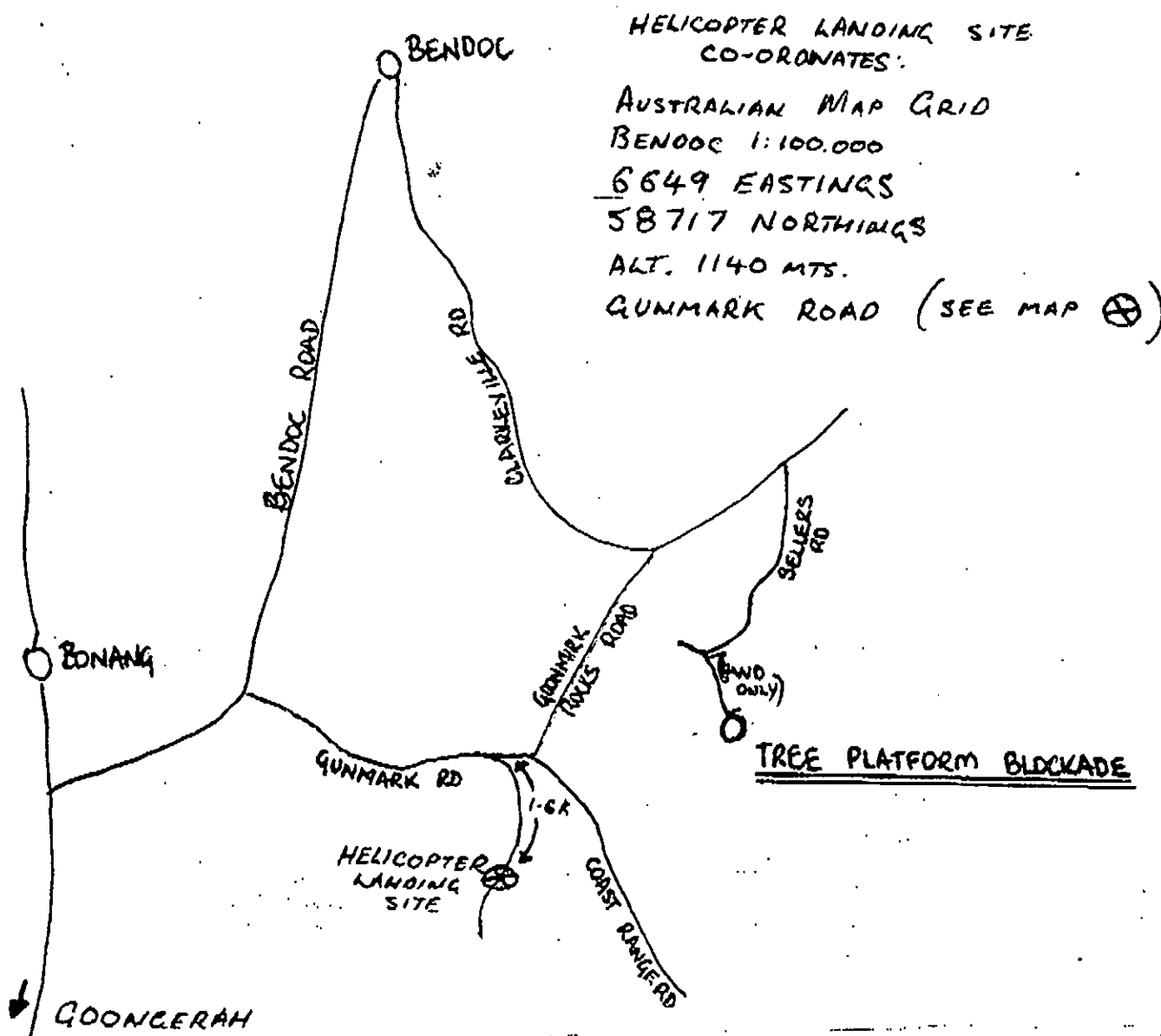
HELICOPTER LANDING SITE WITHIN 20 MINUTES

For more information contact:

Fenella Barry 015 310 995

Jill Redwood (051) 54 0145 for helicopter landing site details

On site - Louise Mattheisson



26 APR 1994

Env. Ctr.

NEWS RELEASE

Water



Resources

NEWS RELEASE FROM TONY BURGIN, HUNTER REGION
ALGAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

April 20 1994

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE WARNING LIFTED

The blue-green algae warning placed on Muswellbrook golf course in February has been lifted by the Hunter Region Algal Co-ordinating Committee.

Tony Burgin, the committee chairman and Department of Water Resources Hunter Region Director, said the warning has been removed because algae numbers have been low for more than a week.

The algae was in dams which are used only to water the golf course.

Mr Burgin warned, however, that blue-green algae numbers can change suddenly. People using the course should be aware of the signs of algae contamination - an unpleasant smell, algae clumps, and an appearance of dirty, green or discoloured water.

ends

For more information please contact Fergus Hancock, Department of Water Resources catchment management officer, on
065 421 222.

*Copy to SW.P.O
8/5/94*

NEWS RELEASE



29 APR 1994

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE HUNTER REGIONAL ALGAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

April 22 1994

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE WARNING REIMPOSED

A blue-green algae warning has been reimposed on dams on Muswellbrook golf course, only days after a previous warning was lifted.

Tony Burgin, Hunter Regional Algal Co-ordinating Committee Chairman and Department of Water Resources Regional Director, today said the algae numbers are in the high range and are a potential health risk.

The dams are used only to irrigate the golf course and the water is not used for any other purpose. Warning signs have been posted.

Mr Burgin warned golfers to keep clear of the dams, especially if the blue-green algae is obvious by its strong odour or if the water is dirty, green, or discoloured.

Blue-green algae can cause severe stomach upsets, nausea and skin irritations in people and animals. Boiling the water does not remove the toxins.

People who believe they may be affected by the algae should seek medical treatment.

ends

Fergus Hancock, Department of Water Resources catchment management officer, telephone 065 42 1222,
and John James, Public Health Unit, telephone 049 29 1292,
can provide more information.

*Copy to SWPO
4/5/94*



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA · THE SENATE

John R. Coulter

Australian Democrat Senator for South Australia

MEMORANDUM

TO: FOREST CAMPAIGNERS

FROM: Simon Disney - Canberra Office

DATE: 5 December 1994

RE: NAFT'S LATEST PRESS RELEASE

Things are hotting up in the battle to win the hearts and minds of the people in the great woodchip debate.

For the forests,

SIMON DISNEY
Canberra Office

FORESTS UPDATE

Canberra

5 December 1994

FORESTS AND THE MEDIA

While the leadup to the renewal of woodchip licences and the issue of preserving forests has seen a great deal of debate in the media it appears the issue is rapidly running out of steam from a journalist point of view as writers learn more and more about the truth of the matter.

From an industry point of view it is heartening to see the media is doing its homework and reporting the facts as they actually are. Newspapers such as the Australian Financial Review, the Sun Herald (NSW) and the Canberra Times to name a few, have all filed accurate reports, and generally have not pumped the emotive line that the "greens" feed.

One of the most recent examples of this was a succinct and accurate editorial on the woodchip debate in the Financial Review of Tuesday Nov 8, 1994. It reads:

"It will no doubt come as a surprise to most of the environmentalists camped out in Canberra, but it is not government policy to ban woodchipping by the end of the decade, nor is it government policy to ban woodchip exports, despite claims to the contrary by some leaders of the environmental movement.

The 1991 Special Premiers Conference, which is so often referred to approvingly by the environmentalists, merely decided that the "State and Federal governments share the objective of phasing out woodchip exports from native forests in favour of downstream processing of the resource (pulp and paper mills) by the year 2000".

This is not a policy to reduce the production of woodchips. It is simply policy to put the woodchips to a different use.

As the Minister for Resources, Mr Griffith's, made clear in 1993, the Federal Government's policy is to encourage further processing of woodchips in Australia when this was both feasible and appropriate.

Obviously what the leaders of the environmental movement really want is to reduce the level of logging in native forests for woodchips.

But it should be clear: phasing out woodchip exports regardless of whether there is domestic demand for the woodchips is the environmentalists policy. It never has been the policy of the Federal Government or the states.

Unlike the environmental movement, the Federal Government must be concerned about the employment consequences of its actions, and it must examine dispassionately claims about environmental value."

The report goes on to say, "The uncertainty of short term export licences makes it more difficult for firms to invest and capture market share. Undoubtedly it has encouraged the Japanese to diversify their supply sources".

In another report in the Sun Herald (NSW) November 27 titled 'Trees can obscure the wood', journalist Eric Rolls talks about resource security. He reports, "There is a danger in locking up any part of Australia's forests without substantial study. It could destroy it more slowly but just as completely as clearing it.

No forest in Australia is accustomed to looking after itself. For more than 100,000 years they were modified by intelligent humans. Aborigines worked them with fire and stone axes and there was constant disruption to small areas of forest."

And even Richard Neville, in an article in the Canberra Times, Tuesday 29 November, makes it hard to take the greens protest too seriously when he describes a demonstration in NSW. "At one demo in northern NSW, female Ferals marched naked against the hard-hats, ochre-daubed and with used tampons dangling as earrings - a comment on consumer waste. The dozen drivers didn't know which way to turn. The old-time country coppers did their best, but most are now on psychiatric leave."

Finally, Michael Gordon, the new national political editor of The Australian noted in a page one piece on 29 November that the environment was back on the political agenda. The issues predicted to be relevant are coastal management specifically and sustainable development generally. Other matters noted were greenhouse, the drought and farming.

As mentioned in our last Forest Update the "greens" have enjoyed the high moral ground, virtually unchallenged, for so long. Now they are being questioned not just by a more informed public, but the media also.

As this is the last Forest Update for 1994 the staff of NAFI and its members would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of Parliament a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.



Compiled by the Media Office of
The National Association of Forest Industries Ltd

PO Box E89, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600
Telephone (06) 2853833, Facsimile (06) 2853855

- DRAFT -

N.S.W. FOREST SUMMIT

MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...Wed, 27 Apr, 1994

CONSERVATIONISTS GRAPPLE WITH INDUSTRY FEARS

The Forest Summit - a conference of NSW environment groups working for the conservation of the State's native forests - today released a resolution on 'resource security for plantations' in NSW (see attached).

Carried as a unanimous motion at a Forest Summit meeting in Newcastle earlier this month, it responds to claims by some timber industry representatives that plantation establishment in NSW has been retarded by uncertainty over conservationists' long-term goals.

"The resolution offers support to the sector of the wood extraction industry genuinely interested in a long-term future" said Forest Summit spokesperson Sid Walker.

Mr Walker added three personal observations:

- 1 Support for establishment of new plantations does not imply that native forest logging rates will correlate closely with their harvesting. A continuing transition to plantation forestry will occur in any case, as vast amounts of *existing* exotic softwood plantations are harvested in coming years.
- 2 Decisions made in good faith by the today's conservation movement may not be considered binding by future generations.
- 3 In cases where a dedicated plantation timber resource is withdrawn from harvesting on environmental grounds, financial compensation should be paid.

Commenting on the second point, Mr Walker said "I don't plan to stand in front of bulldozers in 50 years time - but I can't speak for the grandchildren of Peter Cochran, Col Dorber, Robert Bain, Robin Loydell and Rhonda O'Neill. Neither can their grandparents".

For more information and further comment call Sid Walker: 02 247 4206 (w); 02 305 090 (h)

NSW Forest Summit April 1994: Participating Groups:

Nature Conservation Council of NSW

National Parks Association of NSW

North East Forest Alliance

The Wilderness Society (Central West Branch) The Wilderness Society (Newcastle Branch) The Wilderness Society (Sydney Branch)

Australian Conservation Foundation (Forest Campaign Group)

Total Environment Centre

South East Forest Alliance

Bathurst Conservation Group

Tamworth Environment Group

Wingham Forest Action

- DRAFT -

The NSW Forest Summit of 9th April 1994 discussed the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) and the grossly inadequate progress to date in implementing its conservation provisions. The summit expressed alarm at the non-implementation of the 'moratorium clause' in the NFPS, the recent Intergovernmental Agreement on the South East Forests' which clearly breaches the NFPS (this was publicly acknowledged by ex-Federal Resources Minister Michael Lee), and related issues including the following:

- 1 A Commonwealth Discussion Paper entitled 'Regional Forest Assessments' was recently released with a very short time-frame for public comment. It was inadequately advertised and was not circulated to a comprehensive range of potentially-interested conservation groups. The Summit demands that the Commonwealth Government extends the period for public comment on this document until at least mid-May 1994.
- 2 Two draft documents, one which seeks to define the 'comprehensive, representative and adequate' reserve system referred to in the NFPS, and another on 'baseline standards for environmental management' in native forests, are currently circulating within bureaucratic circles but are not available for public comment. The Forest Summit believes that these documents may be of crucial interest to the conservation movement and the community as a whole, and demands that they are made available for public comment as soon as possible, with adequate publicity and time for comment.
- 3 The Commonwealth Government has still not established the Policy Advisory Committee promised in the NFPS, despite the fact that almost one and a half years has elapsed since the NFPS was signed. This is the only body promised in the NFPS which explicitly provides for community input. The summit demands that the Commonwealth Government establishes this Committee forthwith, and appoints suitable and well-supported conservation representatives to it.

Endorsed by the following groups at the NSW Forest Summit April 9th 1994:

Nature Conservation Council of NSW

National Parks Association of NSW

North East Forest Alliance

Australian Conservation Foundation (Forest Campaign Group)

Total Environment Centre

South East Forest Alliance

Bathurst Conservation Group

Tamworth Environment Group

Wingham Forest Action



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 29th September 1994

PM MUST STOP IMMINENT EXPORT WOODCHIP APPROVAL THREATENING SEVEN NE NSW WILDERNESS AREAS

The Wilderness Society have stepped up protests again today against renewal of the Boral Ltd subsidiary (Sawmillers Exports P/L) export woodchip licence which expires tomorrow Friday September 30, 1994. The protesters are calling on Prime Minister Keating to ensure federal resources minister David Beddall rejects the licence application to protect seven wilderness areas as already advised by environment minister John Faulkner on 29th July 1994.

A nationwide protest against export woodchipping of high conservation value forest was held earlier this year (Sept. 1) by a unified environment movement.

Direct actions today include a blockade of the Taxation Office at Newcastle highlighting tax payers subsidies of woodchipping, a hunger strike in King George Square in Brisbane (Mr Beddall's home State), and the 16th day of a fast for the forests by environmentalist Brooke Watson in front of NSW Parliament, Sydney. Environmentalists are also blockading Wild Cattle Creek State Forest near Dorrigo NE NSW where 1000 year old trees are being logged some for woodchips.

Tom McLoughlin, NSW spokesperson for The Wilderness Society said today "Minister Beddall has said *"If I believe an area is of high conservation value, I would not allow that to be woodchipped."* [The Australian 5/9/94]. It is up to the Prime Minister to ensure Mr Beddall keeps his word or have his minister be seen as a sham.

"There is no doubt all of the 7 wilderness areas within Boral's woodchip concession are "high conservation value". They will be included in a study of important forests to be protected being funded by Minister Faulkner. The study is due by November. The NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service has also described these areas in inch thick reports recommending protection under the

historic NSW *Wilderness Act*. Five of these areas have unprotected world heritage quality forest.

"The Fahey State Government recently disgraced itself by not providing full protection to four of these threatened wilderness areas resulting in an historic censure by NSW Parliament initiated by Bob Carr. There is now an extreme risk these heritage areas with crucial habitat for threatened species will be woodchipped. Mr Keating sets the tone and he can rein in the woodchipping minister" concluded Mr McLoughlin.

More information: Tom McLoughlin tel. 02-267 7929 or 02-365 3837h
Anthony Too tel. 049-294 395 in Newcastle
Lyndon Schneiders tel. 018 088 543 in Brisbane

**NOTE TV FOOTAGE OF THE ACTION IN NEWCASTLE AVAILABLE FROM NBN
9 ON TEL. 049-292 933/292 813 AND PRIME 7 ON TEL 049-256 500**

Shareholders at Monday's meeting of Boral have announced their intention to challenge the company's environmental record with claims that statements made in their Annual report are both misleading and incorrect and should therefore be withdrawn from the report..

Mr. Paul Hennelly shareholder for Boral claims that statements made by the company in which it states that "we only source timber from forests that are harvested on a sustained yield basis" is incorrect and misleading.

In at least four management areas it has been found that they are not being managed on a sustained yield basis. These areas include Macksville, Dorrigo, Grafton and Kempsey. In each case the yields have been over estimated with much of the resource to be retained for the next cutting cycle, being harvested prematurely. In the Kempsey Management Area an ex-forester John Gralter claimed in 1993 that "in essence yield can not be sustained even at proposed lower level as regrowth forests of

Kempsey area have been made depauperate

Furthermore, the company claims that "caring for the environment is a social responsibility. I am also wondering how this company is being socially responsible when they continue to log high conservation value forests and koala habitat

< As a shareholder I am concerned that making incorrect and misleading statements such as this is not giving us the right information and is this company continues their logging activities conservationists may call for a boycott on the company's products, Paul Hennelly said today, I am concerned that making incorrect and misleading statements such as this is not giving us the right information and is this company continues their logging activities conservationists may call for a boycott on the company's products, Paul Hennelly said today,"

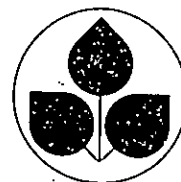
MEDIA RELEASE.....MEDIA RELEASE.....MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 1 June 1994

Title

Blah, blah, blah

For more information contact:



COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION

from Margaret Barnes.

8 December 1994

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

Prominent Australians support anti-woodchip campaign

A group of prominent Australians and community leaders have written an open letter to the Prime Minister calling for Federal intervention to protect Australian forests from woodchipping. They include:

Singers and Musicians	Deborah Conway, John Williamson, Mandawuy Yunupingu and Eric Bogle
Actor	Ruth Cracknell
Surfing champions	Tom Carroll and Mark Richards
Comedians	Wendy Harmer and John Clarke
Ethnic community leaders	Victor Rebikoff, Angela Chan and Ross Tzannes
Church leaders	Reverend Harry Herbert and Reverend Kenneth Cornwell
Broadcaster & Writer	Phillip Adams
Publisher	Jill Hickson
Designer	Jenny Kee
International adventurer	Peter Treseder
Ecologist	Professor Paul Erlich (presently visiting Australia)
Environmentalists	Ian Kiernan, Vincent Serventy and Matt Keys
NSW Independent MPs	Dr Peter McDonald and Clover Moore
NSW Democrat MLC	Richard Jones

"A nation-wide opinion poll released today shows that more than 80% of Australians do not want to see our forests exported as woodchips to Japan," said Peter Wright, Biodiversity Campaigner for the Australian Conservation Foundation. "From the range of people who have signed this open letter it is clear that there is broad community concern about this issue."

The letter urges the Prime Minister not to undervalue our forests: "They are a beautiful and vital part of our national identity. They contribute to the ecological life of the country, and to the spiritual life of all its inhabitants."

According to Peter Wright, "It is these sentiments which are fuelling concern in the community. People know that it is economic and ecological madness to send our forests to Japan to become waste paper. The future of our timber industry lies in plantations, not in destroying forests."

"Woodchipping is no way to save jobs or forests and Australians are looking to the Prime Minister for decisive leadership," concluded Mr Wright.

For more information contact Peter Wright (02) 247 4285.

Environment Victoria
Wilderness Society
North East Forests Alliance; South East Forests Alliance;
Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales
Tasmanian Conservation Trust
Australian Conservation Foundation
Conservation Councils of Western Australia, South Australia & Queensland
Conservation Council of Conservation Council of Canberra and the South East Region

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

80% 'no' to woodchipping: *Newspoll* survey

An overwhelming 80.3% of Australians are opposed to trees from Australia's native forests being felled and exported as woodchips to Japan. These are the results of a survey conducted by *Newspoll* in five capital cities last weekend and released today by conservation groups.

'This poll proves beyond any shadow of doubt that Australians from every walk of life are unequivocally opposed to the export woodchipping of native forests', said Linda Parlanc, Campaign Coordinator of Environment Victoria. 'The Keating Government's imminent decision on woodchip licences will reveal its responsiveness to community views on this issue' she added.

'At least 764 forest areas with high conservation value are under immediate threat from logging and woodchipping in Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, and Western Australia. Prime Minister Keating can now move decisively to protect our native forests knowing he has a clear mandate to act. With a Federal election in the air and a NSW State election in March next year this is obviously a pivotal issue and the public will be watching closely the Government's actions on native forests', said Mr. Kevin Parker, National Campaign Coordinator of the Wilderness Society.

The poll confirms previous surveys that the vast majority of Australians view protection of the environment as a very high priority; and have consistently opposed export woodchipping of trees from native forests.

'The *Newspoll* survey shows that people support significantly stronger action than is being considered by the Keating Government. Mr Keating could go all the way, end export woodchipping altogether and still enjoy strong and widespread community support', said Mr. Peter Wright, Biodiversity Campaigner with the Australian Conservation Foundation.

The *Newspoll* survey asked '*Do you personally approve or disapprove of trees from Australia's native forests being felled and exported as woodchips to Japan?*'

80.3% of people surveyed are opposed to export woodchipping; 11.7% are in favour, while 8.0% remain undecided. Woodchipping and export of native forests is opposed by:

- 83.2% of blue collar workers and 76.3% of white collar workers
- 86.5% of women and 73.7% of men.

For further information call

Ms Linda Parlanc
Mr Kevin Parker
Mr. Peter Wright

015 103 063
018 449 080
02 247 4285

8 December 1994

The Hon PJ Keating MP
The Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

We are writing to express our deep concern about the continuing destruction of Australia's native forests.

Australia's cultural identity is inextricably linked with the land and the flora and fauna it supports.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have always understood this important relationship and the Australian landscape remains a unique source of inspiration for our artists and creators.

Our native forests form part of that landscape and we cannot afford to lose them.

If we continue logging this resource just to support export woodchipping, we run the risk of destroying an essential part of Australia's cultural heritage.

We commend the Government's policy to phase out the export of woodchips from native forests in favour of downstream processing by the year 2000.

However, it is alarming that recent comments by the Minister for Resources indicate that the Government will continue to allow logging for export woodchipping in areas of high conservation value.

Your stand on significant national issues, such as Aboriginal reconciliation, the republic debate and the arts has been visionary.

We urge you to now intervene in the current round of licence renewals to ensure Australia's forests of high conservation value are protected.

Yours sincerely

8 December 1994

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

Peter Garret and Arts identities urge PM to protect forests

Today an open letter was delivered to the Prime Minister from Peter Garrett and the leaders of the Australian arts community. It called on the PM to intervene in the current round of woodchip export licences to ensure that high conservation value forests are protected.

The letter was signed by:

Richard Meale
Peter Sculthorpe
Nigel Westlake
Roger Woodward AC OM
Yothu Yindi
John Bell AM
Joan Carden AO OBE
Barry Conyngham
Elektra String Quartet
Rodney Hall

Midnight Oil (Peter Garrett)
Martin Wesley-Smith
Tim Winton
Judith Wright McKinney
Professor Michael Atherton
Nigel Butterley AM
Circus Oz
Ross Edwards
Carrillo Gantner
Hunters and Collectors

The letter says "Your stand on significant national issues, such as Aboriginal reconciliation, the republic debate and the arts has been visionary. We urge you to now intervene in the current round of licence renewals to ensure Australia's forests of high conservation value are protected."

The letter has been released on the day that a Newspoll commissioned by the peak environment groups has found that over 80% of the population do not approve of export woodchipping.

For more information contact:

Di Lindsay, Midnight Oil office 02 660 0677

Phillip Adams

Eric Bogle

Tom Carroll

John Clarke

Deborah Conway

Ruth Cracknell

Prof. Paul R. Ehrlich

Ethnic
Communities'
Council of NSW

Federation of
Ethnic
Communities'
Council of
Australia

Wendy Harmer

Jill Hickson

Richard Jones

Jenny Kee

Ian Kiernan

Dr Peter McDonald

Clover Moore

Mark Richards

Vincent Serventy

Surfrider
Foundation

Peter Treseder

Uniting Church
in Australia,
NSW Synod

John Williamson

Mandawuy
Yunupingu

An open letter to the Prime Minister of Australia re: Renewal of Export Woodchip Licences

8th December, 1994

Hon. Paul Keating
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

We write to express our concern for the way our native forests are being managed. Large areas of high conservation value forest - old growth, wilderness and endangered species habitat - are threatened by export woodchipping. The Jarrah and Karri stands in WA, Victoria's Mountain Ash, and World Heritage value forests in Tasmania and NSW - all face the woodchip mill in the next 12 months.

While the costs to our environment are substantial, the economic benefits are meagre. Employment in the timber industry has been falling since the 1950s and woodchipping now employs only 600 people nationwide. By providing short-term profits to a few large companies, the woodchipping industry is stifling investment in plantations and the many jobs that they would bring.

The recent High Conservation Value Forests Study has found that 764 areas in NSW, Victoria, WA and Tasmania are in imminent danger. The Federal Government must protect these forests by excluding them from the woodchip export licences.

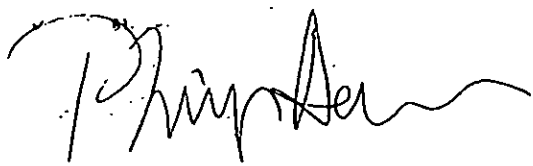
The way forward is simple:

- * Protect the forests of high conservation value in a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system,
- * Manage the transition of the industry out of native forests and into plantation forestry,
- * Encourage the development of industries based on Australia's vast plantation resource,
- * Phase out export woodchipping in line with the Federal Government's policy.

Please do not undervalue our forests. They are a beautiful and vital part of our national identity. They contribute to the ecological life of the country, and to the spiritual life of all its inhabitants. Your actions today can preserve our heritage for future generations.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Adams
Writer , Broadcaster



Eric Bogle OAM
Musician , Songwriter



Tom Carroll
Two time world Surfing Champion



Angela Chan
Chairperson
Ethnic Communities' Council
of NSW



John Clarke
Comedian , Actor



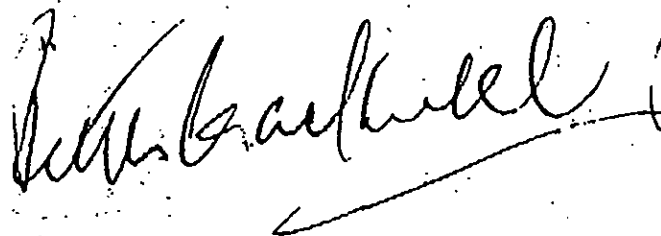
Deborah Conway
Musician , Songwriter



Rev Kenneth Cornwell
Moderator
NSW Synod
Uniting Church in Australia



Ruth Cracknell
Actor



Clover Moore
Independent member for Bligh



Victor Rebikoff
Chairperson
Federation of Ethnic Communities'
Council of Australia (FECCA)



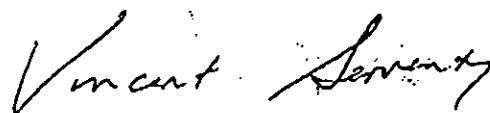
Mark Richards
Four time World Surfing Champion



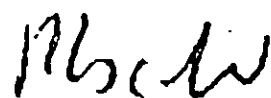
Matt Keys
Executive Director
Surfrider Foundation



Vincent Serventy OAM
Author , Conservationist , Naturalist



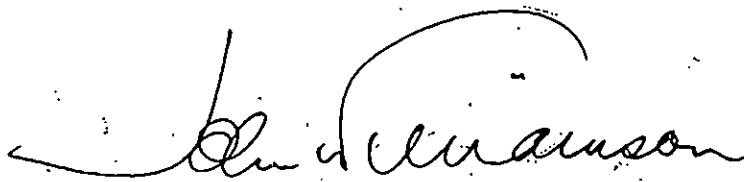
Peter Treseder OAM
International explorer and adventurer



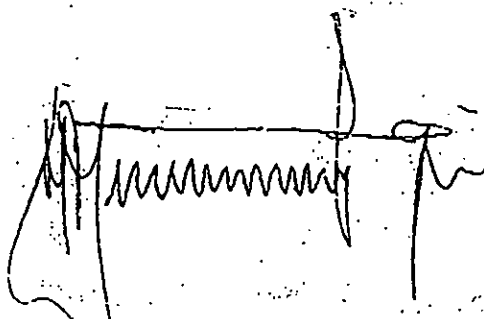
Ross Tzannes
National Covenor
FECCA Evironment Network



John Williamson
Musician , Songwriter



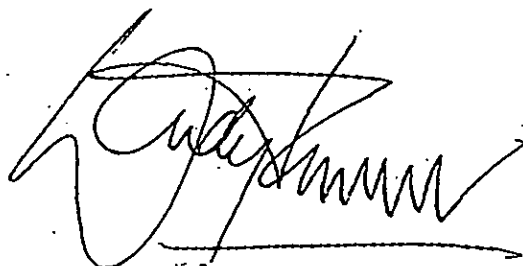
Mandawuy Yunupingu
Singer of Yothu Yindi




Prof Paul R Ehrlich
Author ,
President of Centre for
Conservation Biology
Stanford University



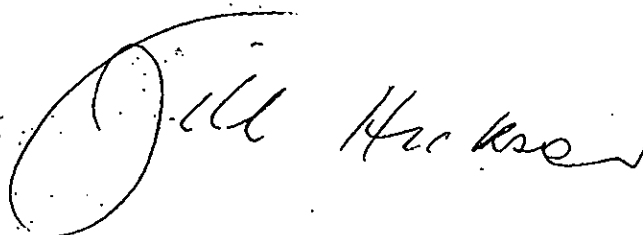
Wendy Harmer
Comedian



Rev Harry Herbert
General Secretary
Board for Social Responsibility
NSW Synod
Uniting Church in Australia



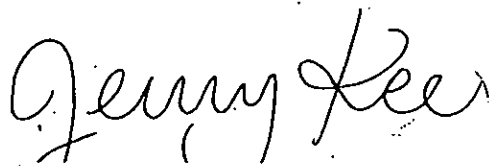
Jill Hickson
Publisher



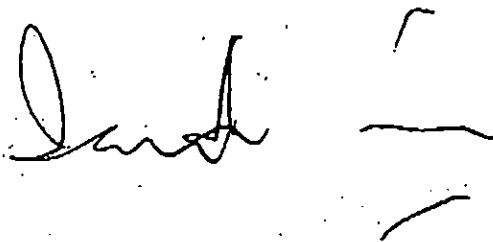
Richard Jones
Democrat member
Legislative Council of NSW



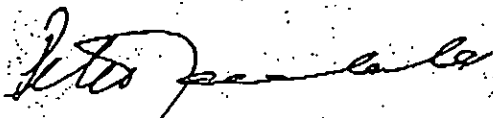
Jenny Kee
Fashion Designer



Ian Kiernan OAM
Chairman
Clean Up Australia



Dr Peter McDonald
Independent member for Manly



RICHARD JONES MLC

Australian Democrat Member of the NSW Legislative Council
Parliament House, SYDNEY, 2000 Telephone (02) 230 2858 Fax (02) 230 2871

MEDIA RELEASE

14 November 1994

BORAL SHAREHOLDERS **MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY**

"Those who invest in Boral have to take responsibility for what their company does," said Democrat Richard Jones, MLC.

"I was arrested at Wild Cattle Creek State Forest while attempting to observe some of the damage occurring in an old-growth forest, which was known koala habitat and where the trees were judged to be up to one-and-a-half thousand years old.

"In order to log these forests on a 'sustained yield basis' as alleged by Boral, they would need to be logged only once every one thousand years, which is patently absurd.

"Boral shareholders have to accept responsibility for the destruction of these ancient forests and the killing of endangered species such as koalas, tiger quolls and parma wallabies. They have to decide whether an investment in Boral is a sufficiently ethical investment.

"Ethical investment in the United States is proving far more profitable than investing in companies which profit out of destroying the environment.

"It is time now for all investors in Australia to consider whether their investments in companies are contributing to the destruction of the environment, the worsening of the greenhouse effect and additional air and water pollution. Companies which damage or destroy the environment should not be supported by investors.

"I urge the management and shareholders of Boral to look at Boral's activities in the old growth forests of New South Wales and Tasmania and to consider whether those activities are worthy of the name of Boral," concluded Richard Jones.

For further information please contact Richard Jones on (02) 230 2858.

NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL Inc.

Hon. Sec. Mr Jim Tedder, Pavans Road, Grassy Head via Stuart's Point 2441. Ph/Fax 065 690802

Media Release - Sunday 9 October '94

COURT CHALLENGE TO WOODCHIP EXPORT LICENCES CLEARS FIRST HURDLE

The regional umbrella environment organisation, the North Coast Environment Council Inc. has succeeded in its first step of a legal challenge to the Commonwealth government's issuing of export woodchipping licences, following a decision made late on Friday 7th October in the Federal Court, Sydney, by Mr Justice Sackville, according to NCEC spokesperson Mr John Corkill.

"Lawyers acting for Commonwealth Minister for Resources, Mr David Beddall, have today failed in their application to have our case thrown out of court. They based their application on a claim that, because the export woodchipping licence, the subject of our objection, has been allowed to lapse temporarily, our case was 'futile'. However the Minister's lawyers were forced to admit that a new export licence to Boral company, Sawmillers Export P/L (SEP/L) is being now considered. Mr Justice Sackville found that our case had 'utility' and awarded costs against the Minister," Mr Corkill said.

Mr Corkill said that the successful court action under the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act, was 'a preliminary skirmish', before a further hearing likely to be held in mid-November. The action is an appeal to the Federal Court to review the Labor Minister for Resources' decision not to recognise the North Coast Environment Council Inc. as a party 'aggrieved' by his decision to grant further export woodchip licences to the Boral company SEP/L.

A similar case is also being brought in the same court by the Tasmanian Conservation Trust, over Minister Beddall's decision, earlier this year, to issue a 200,000 tonne export woodchip licence to Gunn's P/L, without reference to Environment Minister, Senator Faulkner for his advice.

Mr Corkill said that the Council had provided evidence to the Federal Court that one of the prime motivations for its formation in 1977 had been the threat of large scale export woodchipping from the port of Coffs Harbour. Further evidence had shown that this concern had been repeatedly demonstrated in actions and submissions in its 17 year history.

"This question of 'standing' is vital to the public interest. Mr Beddall still thinks that the people of the north coast have no right to request his reasons for issuing another export woodchipping licence to Boral when no adequate Commonwealth environmental impact statement has been produced."

"The Minister believes that his decision to allow 500,000 tonnes of woodchip from north coast native forests, including 'old growth' forest, to be sent to Japan every year, cannot be questioned by the public and should not be reviewed by the court," Mr Corkill said.

Mr Corkill said that northern NSW / south-east Queensland was one of three only regional centres of high biological diversity in Australia, along with the Wet Tropics of FN Queensland and the south-west of West Australia. He said that other Commonwealth agencies such as CSIRO and Australian Nature Conservation Agency (formerly ANPWS) acknowledged this high bio-diversity ranking and rated north east NSW and SE Queensland as the area facing the greatest threats.

"The woodchip supply zones include lands which contain 87 nationally endangered plants and 8 nationally endangered animals, and we intend to ensure that they are protected while the Commonwealth Government decides how to implement its decision to end export woodchipping by the year 2000. To do this we will take every legal opportunity available to demonstrate our concern at poor environmental impact assessment under Commonwealth law and the utter failure of state based assessment processes in NSW, on which the Commonwealth foolishly rely," said Mr Corkill.

...ends.

For more information Phone John Corkill 066 21 3278 w, 066 21 6824h,
Terry Parkhouse 065 690 771 h+w, OR Jim Tedder 065 690 802 h+w

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY



Media Alert

11 October 1994

MEDIA ALERT

Outrage over Export Woodchip licence renewal

The Wilderness Society was outraged today by the decision of Federal Resources Minister, David Beddall to renew an export woodchipping licence for the Boral subsidiary Sawmillers Exports Ltd.

The licence allows Boral to export a further 500,000 tonnes of woodchips from the native forests of north east New South Wales.

Following earlier controversy surrounding the licence, Boral was operating on an interim three-month licence pending advice from the Federal Environment Minister, John Faulkner.

The advice that came from the Environment Minister's department included strict restrictions on export woodchip licences and an unequivocal "No" to the logging of high conservation value forests including endangered species habitats.

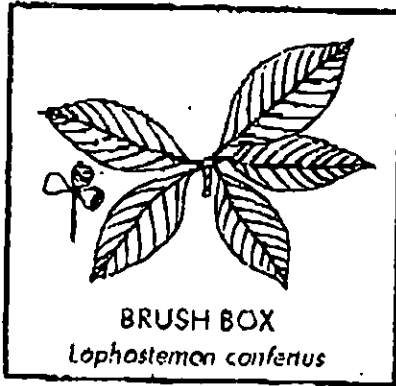
"The advice given by John Faulkner was to be the bare minimum applied on export woodchip licences. It is entirely regrettable that the extent to which this advice has been adhered to is still unknown. We have requested a copy of the licence and the conditions from the Minister's office and have been told the information will be made available within a few days," said Kevin Parker, National Campaign Co-ordinator of the Wilderness Society.

"That the Federal government can announce that 500,000 tonnes of our native forests is going to be destroyed - without revealing any of the environmental guidelines to be applied on this debacle - is a matter for grave concern. The Federal government should not be issuing export woodchip licences at all and certainly not in a manner which heightens community concerns.

"The fact is David Beddall has behaved inappropriately with regard to the issuing of this licence from the beginning. There is little indication the Federal Government is acting in an integrated manner and enforcing its own policy with regard to forest management.

"The advice that the Paul Keating and David Beddall should be responding to is the opinion polls which state that the community does not want export woodchipping in our native forests. The Federal government sanctioned destruction of our forests must stop. Paul Keating's environmental credentials are on the line on this issue.

For further information contact Kevin Parker 018 449 080
Fenella Barry 015 310 995 or 03)670 5229



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre Inc.
149 Keen Street, Lismore, 2480.
Phone 066 213 278 Fax 066 222 676

MEDIA RELEASE - SEPTEMBER 29, 1994

WILD CATTLE CREEK LOGGING PROTESTS TO ESCALATE AS RICHARD JONES MLC VISITS AREA FRIDAY

"Many North East Forest Alliance supporters will gather tomorrow at Wild Cattle Creek for noontime ceremonies and speakers in protest against the continued destruction of this precious old growth forest. Some may choose to place themselves in an arrestable position by setting out into this "closed" public forest in an attempt to see these ancient trees, some of which were seedlings at the time of Christ, before they are destroyed," according to NEFA spokesperson Lyn Orrego.

"Mr Richard Jones MLC will attend and speak to the gathering. Anyone concerned about the logging of our old growth forests is welcome. Families and children are expected. There will also be eulogies for the forest and a flag ceremony designed to remind people of the respect for the land which our original inhabitants had.

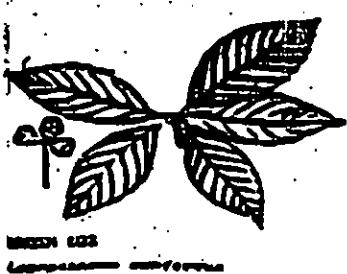
"NEFA has vowed to continue its campaign to stop the Fahey government from destroying the public's high conservation value old growth forests. State Forests own figures show they are logging NSW's old growth forests at a rate of 60 hectares a day. This shows wanton disregard for the majority of the public who wish old growth forests to be protected.

"Cpt 579 in Wild Cattle Creek has been documented by expert government department reports as being both old growth and of high conservation value. Despite these reports being before the Minister for Forests, Mr Souris, he still endorsed the logging and even contradicted the expert reports in his statements to the public.

"This is a willful breach of the National Forest Policy Statement. NEFA, earlier this week, called for Mr Souris to resign. We are now calling on Mr Fahey to censure him, stop the logging of old growth at Wild Cattle Creek and reaffirm his commitment to the National Forest Policy. It was Mr Fahey who signed the policy in December 1992. How much is Mr Faheys word worth, we ask.

"Old growth forests have a far greater value than for a one off timber cut. After four years of drought we might better understand the need to keep old growth which is responsible for yielding larger amounts of water to streams than regrowth forests. Our growing coastal communities need this water. The governments actions in targetting high conservation value water-producing forests is crazy, even in economic terms." she said.

For further info: Lyn Orrego (065) 647478 or 647808
Dailan Pugh (066) 882268



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

SYDNEY: NSW Environment Centre, 39 George St, The Rocks, 2000. Ph. 02 2474 206, Fx 02 2475 945
LISMORE: The Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc. 149 Keen St, Lismore, 2480. Ph 066 213 278, Fx 066 222 676

Media Release Monday 26 September 1994

Suspend Contracts and apologise to Dorrigo, NEFA tells Souris

The people of Dorrigo deserve an apology from the Minister for Land and Water Conservation, George Souris, for the situation at Wild Cattle Ck according to NEFA spokesperson, Mr Aidan Ricketts.

"The timber being removed at Wild Cattle Ck is being taken off the plateau to Boral's Mill at South Grafton. Dorrigo gains no benefit from the logging operation because State Forests are already overcommitted to Boral under "Long Term Wood Supply Contracts", Mr Ricketts said

Under the Long Term Wood Supply Contracts, State Forests has promised Boral access to far greater amounts of timber than either the industry or the forests can sustain. If for any reason the timber is unavailable, Boral can sue State Forests.

"The promised timber simply doesn't exist and the contracts will only lead to the closure of many family owned mills and to costly compensation pay outs to Boral," Mr Ricketts said.

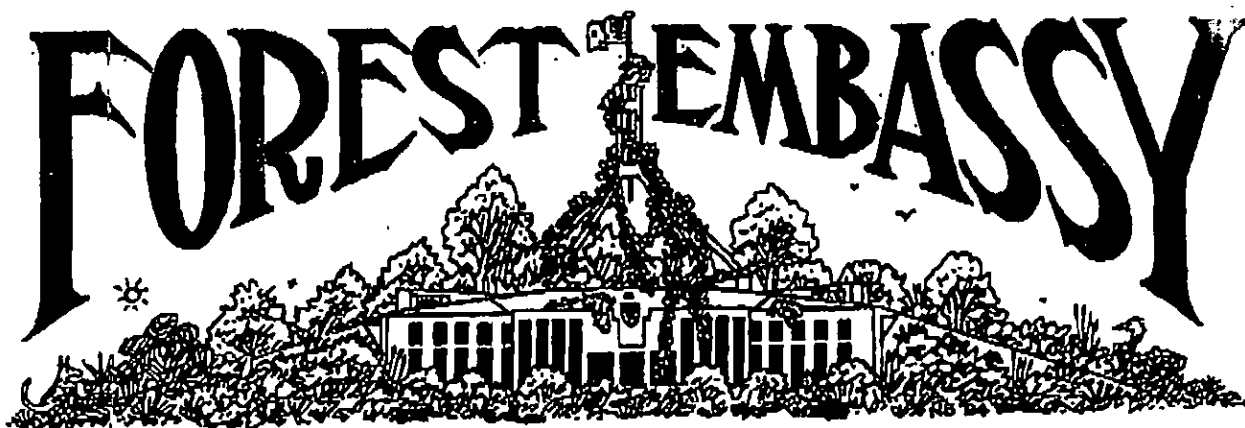
"The Long Term Wood Supply Contracts have pre-empted all of the EISs, and are in breach of NSW obligations under the National Forest Policy", Mr Ricketts said

NEFA again calls upon Mr Souris to suspend these contracts. There is no doubt he has the power to do so, NEFA has obtained legal advice that whilst these contracts may bind State Forests, they do not bind the Government.

"Every day that Mr Souris leaves these contracts in place is another day he abandons the old growth forests, the people of Dorrigo and the general public in favour of corporate monopoly. Mr Souris is bungling the issue if he does not suspend the contracts," Mr Ricketts said.

The Wild Cattle Ck blockade is set to intensify on Monday morning following swelling of numbers to over the weekend. There will be about 70 people inside the compartment on Monday morning aiming to prevent the recommencement of logging.

For more information or blockade updates
contact Aidan Ricketts ph 066 333 292.



Save Australia's Forests—Stop Export Woodchipping.
4-8 Nov 1994, Parliament House, Canberra. Contact (06) 249 6491

Tuesday 1 November 1994

MEDIA RELEASE

TENSION LOOMS BETWEEN CONSERVATION MOVEMENT AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES

Tension is looming between a united forest conservation movement and federal authorities after conservationists were denied permission to hold a peaceful "Forest Embassy" in Federation Mall opposite Federal Parliament from 4 to 8 November, by the National Capital Planning Authority.

Conservationists from around the country are expected to converge on Canberra for the five day educative and lobbying exercise designed to bring a halt to export woodchipping from Australia's native forests.

"As Australian citizens we are being denied the right to voice our concerns in a public area opposite our Parliament House. On top of our campaign to stop export woodchipping, we now have to deal with the issue of basic human rights" said Lucy Horodny spokesperson for the Forest Embassy.

"The irony of this situation is that a small action with a couple of banners would be acceptable to the NCPA while a large protest such as ours, representing the enormous extent of community concern and involving thousands of people across the country and ALL major conservation groups, has been fobbed off to an area near Lake Burley Griffin that is out of sight and therefore out of mind," continued Ms Horodny.

"We are anxious to ensure that families are not exposed to any potential conflict with police. We have been threatened under trespass laws should we seek to hold the festival in Federation Mall in front of Parliament House. Families need not have any fears as we will be holding many events away from Parliament House for their benefit but it is outrageous that citizens should not be allowed to hold a peaceful gathering in the very centre of our democracy", said Kevin Parker spokesperson for the Forest Embassy.

"This is a clear case of environmental prejudice, and is a blatant attempt to muzzle the community's concern about the continued destruction of our forests. Gatherings outside Parliament house have occurred many times before - by Aboriginal people, farmers and log truck drivers for instance - yet it is the conservation community that is to be the "test case" against democracy. Refusing the right to gather en masse outside Parliament House is unconstitutional.

"This could become a major embarrassment for the Federal Government. We are calling on Brian Howe - who is ultimately responsible for this fiasco - to make a stand for human rights and give the Forest Embassy the go-ahead. Urgent talks with relevant authorities are continuing" concluded Mr Parker.

For further information contact:

Kevin Parker 018 449 080

Lucy Horodny 06 257 5122 (W) 06 257 6597 (H)

Show your support
Presented by Australia's conservation groups

warmly congratulated the Federal Minister for the Environment, Senator John Faulkner, on the key role he played in achieving this major conservation victory for the "jewel in the crown" of NSW's coastal heritage.

On the other hand, the Council is very disappointed by the failure of both the Federal and NSW governments to effectively implement the **National Greenhouse Response Strategy**. Action is particularly called for in NSW which generates about a third of Australia's Greenhouse gas emissions and where urban freeways and road-based transport continue to proliferate without regard to the environmental consequences. The Council believes that firm targets should be mandated to demonstrate an effective commitment by the Federal and NSW governments towards energy conservation and a reduction in fossil-fuel based energy consumption.

The Council is also strongly concerned that the Federal Government has still not achieved endorsement of the **National Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity**, in part due to the NSW Government's refusal to endorse this most vital initiative in support of the Biodiversity Convention. It is also disappointing that the NSW Government has not yet introduced adequate comprehensive endangered species legislation.

Native Vegetation Loss

The loss of native vegetation continues virtually unabated throughout NSW making a mockery of government policies promoting ecological sustainability. The clearing of **native vegetation** for the expansion of broad-acre and irrigated farming in inland NSW, the continuous logging of NSW's **old growth forests**, the destruction of **bushland** by urban development and the loss of **remnant vegetation** due to the conversion of Crown lands to freehold and the widening and/or clearing of roadside verges, all contribute to the net loss of native vegetation, habitat and genetic diversity. At the present time over 60 ha of old growth forest are destroyed every day in NSW while governments procrastinate, committees proliferate and the life support systems of endangered species rapidly decline or disappear.

The Council congratulates the Federal Government on its support for the **Desertification Treaty** and once again expresses its disappointment that the NSW Government did not fully endorse Australia's commitment.

National Parks and Protected Areas

Although the Council is of the view that all landholders and land users must accept responsibility for conserving biodiversity, it is essential that a **comprehensive system of national parks and protected areas** be established

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



MEDIA ALERT...MEDIA ALERT...MEDIA ALERT... Wed 5th 1994

NSW FOREST POLICY FAILURE - PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY

Last week, NSW Parliamentarian Richard Jones was arrested - along with 37 other protesters - while attempting to inspect old growth forest being logged in Compartment 579 in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest near Dorrigo.

This area has been verified as old growth forest by an independent arbitrator appointed by the Department of Conservation & Land Management. The National Parks & Wildlife Service has verified that the area is of high conservation value. Many trees in the compartment are extremely ancient - some Brushbox may be up to 2,000 years old!

Logging old growth forest of this significance is a flagrant breach of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) signed by Premier John Fahey and Prime Minister Paul Keating in December 1992.

At 2.15pm on Wednesday 5th October Richard Jones will host a Media Conference in the Media Room, Level 6, NSW Parliament House. Two members of the NSW Government's Forest Policy Advisory Committee will be present to detail the Government's failure to meet the conservation requirements of the NFPS.

On display at the Media Conference will be photographs of old growth forest at Wild Cattle Creek - an example of the magnificent ancient forests being destroyed as the NSW Government continues to authorise logging of approximately 60 ha of old growth forest per day.

For further information contact Sid Walker 02 247 4206 (w) or 02 305 090 (h)

SENT BY:GEORGE SOURIS.MP

:15- 4-94 :10:46AM ; MINISTER LAND&WATER-61 2 2475945

: 1/ 2

MEDIA RELEASE**MINISTER FOR
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION****MAJOR BOOST FOR FORESTRY ENVIRONMENT STUDIES****14 April 1994:**

N.S.W. Land and Water Conservation Minister, George Souris, has announced a substantial upgrading of State Forests' Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) program.

Mr Souris said he intended New South Wales to lead the way in Australia in environmental assessment and set an example for the other States.

Currently, the 12 EISs for areas which include Old Growth forests are being prepared under the Timber Industry Interim Protection Act, introduced in March 1992. The total cost of the program is \$15 million over 5 years.

"Since that time, there have been several very important developments affecting forest management and environmental assessment," Mr Souris said.

These included the release of the final Resource Assessment Commission Report, the adoption of the National Forest Policy, and the appointment of a State Forests Board.

"Both documents stress the importance of Old Growth forest values, and the need to assess them very carefully," the Minister said.

"There is no doubt that community expectations about the need to reduce the impact of commercial activity on forests are much higher than they were.

"I am pleased to announce that State Forests has introduced the following new measures:-

- * State Forests is working with the NPWS to refine endangered fauna survey methods and appropriate management prescriptions to ensure that management does not adversely affect the conservation status of this important group of species. Known or expected occurrences of these animals are set aside from logging or have logging practices altered to limit impact.

- * Review of fauna surveys by recognised external experts;

- * An interim process has been developed which enables State Forests to identify candidate areas of old growth forest and within those areas to assess relative conservation, recreation, aesthetic and archaeological values. These assessments will be used to avoid scheduling operations in old growth forests which potentially have high conservation values, pending a comprehensive state-wide assessment to meet National Forest Policy undertakings. A pilot project is underway involving State Forests and the NPWS, funded by the Natural Resources Audit Council.

...../2

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*External review of legal aspects of EISs;

*Implementation of a specially developed wildlife training program for State Forests staff.

"At the end of the EIS program State Forests will have the best information on distribution and abundance of animals and measurement of their habitat of any equivalent agency in the world," Mr Souris said.

The Minister said the fauna studies were being designed in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

"This complements a data base recently compiled by the NPWS on animal distribution. Collectively there is no equivalent body of information of forest animal populations anywhere in the world."

In addition, although State Forests was entitled, under existing legislation, to determine the EIS for Eden, State Forests has requested that the Eden EIS should be brought under the TIIP Act and determined by the Department of Planning.

"State Forests is committed to a transparent process of external review and regulation, as well as to pursuing the highest possible standards of environmental care.

"The information gained from the EIS process will provide a sound basis for the ecologically sustainable management of the State's precious native forests for present and future generations."

Mr Souris said the upgraded EISs would take longer to complete, and would require an amendment to the TIIP Act to ensure the time needed was available.

"The amendment to the Act should be endorsed by all who have the best interests of the environment at heart," the Minister said.

_____ends

DAY OF ACTION

AGAINST RESOURCE SECURITY

WHAT: WHEN: WHERE: WHY: WHO:

WHO?

Members and Supporters of The Wilderness Society

Other Environment groups in Sydney eg:

- National Parks Association
- NSW Nature Conservation Council
- Paddlers for Peace
- and others

WHAT?

Peaceful demonstration with quality speakers

WHEN?

12 - 2pm, Tuesday April 19th, 1994

WHERE?

Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney
(Meeting at TWS, 1A James Lane, at 11am)

WHY?

To halt the implementation of "Resource Security" Legislation by NSW Parliament, being railroaded through by the native forest logging industry in defiance of legislation that currently demands environmental impact statements BEFORE any logging approvals are considered

RESOURCE SECURITY

The term "Resource Security" refers to the government mechanisms for guaranteeing timber companies the right to continue logging priceless native forests through the creation of permanent logging zones. Publicly-owned forest resources will be alienated for control by private companies, mainly to feed huge export woodchip projects and new export pulpmills.

"Resource Security" is the same as 'nature destruction'. If it continues to be pursued by the NSW Government, it will forever deny people the chance to properly protect our native forests.

Native forest logging is subsidised by the people of NSW to the tune of over \$1 billion. Tax payers subsidies include financing industry infrastructure such as access roads and the unrealistically low royalties paid by woodchip companies. These costs would be avoided if plantation timber which is now available was utilised. (There is 250,000 hectares of these plantations available in NSW NOW!!!)

The native forests sector of the Timber Industry in the State's SE has run out of trees because of overcutting and current forest protection legislation. The NSW Govt's Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Amendment Bill is a secret initiative attempting resource guarantees in the face of the rising tide of community concern for our dwindling native forests. This Bill would be a disastrous precedent for all NSW forests.

We will continue to lose control over our heritage as public resources are converted to private assets - without guarantee of environmental security or economic return.

Resource security in the proposed Timber Industry Bill guarantees access to native forests for woodchipping and sawlogging. This directly contradicts the conservation provisions of the National Forest Policy signed by all mainland states, territories and the Commonwealth Government, in December 1992.

Resource security makes no economic sense, especially in light of the Federal governments Commitment to restructuring the logging industry into lucrative plantation resources. "Resource Security" amounts to promises to a few select companies of wind-fall profits from guaranteed access to public forests. This restrictive trade practice will halt micro-economic reform by locking the industry into current unsustainable practices.

At the moment, 'resource security' is really a guarantee of continued access and rock-bottom prices for overseas and local woodchipping interests, and of free land for future pulpwood plantations - even though enough existing plantation resources and cleared land are available to support a domestic, ecologically sustainable timber and paper industry.

For more info please contact Jules McMahon on 267 7929



Attachment

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

★ ★ ★ Media Release ★ ★ ★

ATTN: Chiefs of Staff / Political & Environment Reporters

Sunday, 21 November 1993

NSW MINISTER MISLEADS PUBLIC TWICE IN 5 DAYS ON WILDERNESS LOGGING

George Souris, NSW Minister for Land & Water Conservation has misled the public on logging of official Wilderness areas twice in the last five days. The Wilderness Society claimed today.

MR SOURIS: There is "serious doubt" whether there is any logging taking place in NSW Wilderness areas now. Spokesperson for Minister Souris reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (Saturday 20/11/93, p4): *wrong!*

FACT: The Deua and Coolagubra - both legally identified wilderness areas in south east NSW - are being logged daily. Only 5 days ago Mr Souris was required to explain on ABC Radio 2BL (15/11/93 see attached media release) why Narooma Forestry was logging in the official Deua Wilderness on the NSW south coast. (Mr Souris misled the public on that occasion also by claiming most old growth forest was already "safe" in reserves.)

The Wilderness Society also rejected another claim made by Minister Souris as reported in the *Herald* article:

MR SOURIS: If nine official wilderness areas are excluded from logging, "every forest in NSW would be nominated as a wilderness by conservationists, leaving the timber industry with no wood supplies for the next two years" *wrong!*

FACT: 1. Only approximately 2.5% of NSW is forest wilderness capable of satisfying the criteria in Section 6 of the *Wilderness Act 1987* (NSW);

2. Over 90% of State Forests in NSW is unaffected by Wilderness proposals and realistically does not qualify under *The Wilderness Act 1987* (NSW) (e.g. approx. 100,000 ha State Forest adjacent to Barrington Tops Wilderness, 80,000 ha of State Forest adjacent to Etrema & Budawang Wilderness areas)

3. All the nominations for wilderness assessment by conservation groups have been accepted with only minor changes. The only frivolous nominations have been made by anti-environmental groups as a cynical stunt. These vexatious nominations will simply be thrown out.

Tom McLoughlin, NSW Campaign Officer for the Wilderness Society said "Mr Fahey must pull Mr Souris into line. The Minister is repeatedly using baseless claims to mislead the community about wilderness and old growth forests. In reality only 10% or less of rich old growth forest types are being conserved. Much of this threatened forest is in legally identified Wilderness areas waiting for protection."

For further information contact in Sydney Tom McLoughlin. (02) 267 7929(w) (02) 953 7684



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

MEDIA UPDATE

ATTN: Chiefs of Staff / Political & Environment Reporters

3.00 p.m. November 15, 1993

NSW MINISTER MISLEADS PUBLIC IN FORESTRY COVER-UP IN DEUA

The Hon. George Souris, NSW Minister for Water and Land Conservation misled the public on the 11.00 a.m. ABC 2BL Radio news bulletin today. Mr Souris was responding to protests by conservationists who successfully stopped logging of 'brown barrel and monkey gum' wilderness today.

Mr Souris said this morning that "92% of old growth areas" in NSW were already in 'conservation reserves' of one form or another. Mr Souris was implying that most old growth in official Wilderness areas or elsewhere are safe and conservationists are wrong to protest.

Minister Souris has misled the public because:

- Only approximately 0.5-10% of several of the richest types of remaining NSW old growth forest (those on *high nutrient soils and having high bio-diversity values*) are safe in National Parks or other *official* reserves (Norton T. W. & Kirkpatrick J. (1993) *Sustainable Forestry - The Urgency To Make the Myth A Reality*. (1993) unpublished, in review)

- A moratorium for old growth wilderness under NSW *Timber Industry legislation* is not comprehensive and a temporary respite only. The moratorium area is not an official conservation reserve.

- 38% of NSW old growth forest is in State Forests and available for logging now or the near future. This 38% is made up *mainly of the richest old growth forests on high nutrient soils*. The 58% in official conservation reserves contains largely old growth on dry, nutrient poor soil unsuitable for logging (Resource Assessment Commission *A Survey of Australia's Forest Resource* (1992));

- Nationally, only approximately 9 per cent of all remaining "unlogged" eucalypt forest is in official conservation reserves: Resource Assessment Commission's *Forest and Timber Inquiry Final Report* (1992 Volume 1, p 143, para 6.21);

For further information contact in Sydney Tom McLoughlin. (02) 953 7684(h) / 267 7929(w)
Canberra...Lucy Horoday.....(06) 257 5122(w) / 281 6754(h)

ATTN TV STATIONS: FOOTAGE OF THE PROTEST WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER TODAY OR EARLY TOMORROW (TUES 15/11/93). TEL. (06) 249 8874 / 257 5122.

MEDIA RELEASE

BLUE GUM FOREST ANNIVERSARY

September 2nd marks the 60th anniversary of the protection of Blue Gum Forest in the Blue Mountains. The gazettal of Blue Gum Forest as a public reserve on 2nd September 1932 marked the completion of one of the State's earliest conservation battles. The campaign to save Blue Gum Forest was also the catalyst for the formation of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs.

'We owe a great debt to those early conservationists who battled to save the Forest', Bushwalkers NSW Secretary, Mr Roger Lembit, said today. 'Faced with the prospect of the Forest being cleared for growing walnuts, a coalition of conservationists including bushwalking clubs, the Wildlife Preservation Society and the Boy Scout Association, raised £150 during the depth of Great Depression to buy out the lease.'

'The Blue Gum Forest Committee, as the coalition was known, enlisted the help of Sydney businesses to assist the campaign. Prominent in providing assistance were J.G. Lockley ('Redgum') of the 'Sydney Morning Herald' and W.J. Cleary, a former Commissioner for Railways. The willingness of the lessee, Mr C.A. Hungerford of Bilpin, to halt work whilst the Committee attempted to raise funds should also be acknowledged', Mr Lembit said.

'A program of events has been arranged to recognise the significance of the occasion' Mr Lembit said. On Friday night, the Blue Gum Ball is being held at Petersham Town Hall. On Saturday 4th September bushwalkers will meet near Blue Gum Forest for a campfire celebration (camping in the Forest itself is now prohibited due to overuse). On Sunday a formal celebration will be held in the Forest. Attending the Sunday celebration will be relatives of the original Blue Gum Forest Committee, old time bushwalkers and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Bob Carr.

In October the National Parks and Wildlife Service will be holding a workshop to discuss future management of the Forest and the nearby camping area at Acacia Flat. Further information on the workshop can be obtained from the Service's Blackheath office.

Contact for further information :

Roger Lembit (047) 51 6550 (H/B)



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

★ ★ ★ Media Release ★ ★ ★

ATTN: Chiefs of Staff / Political & Environment Reporters

EMBARGOED UNTIL 6.30 A.M. MONDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER 1993

NSW FORESTRY COVER-UP

MORE BREACHES OF NATIONAL FOREST POLICY IN DEUA

State Forests of NSW are attempting to cover up more flagrant breaches of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS); this time in the official Deua Wilderness about 40 kilometres west of Moruya on the NSW south coast. This follows protests by the Wilderness Society against similar ongoing breaches in the degraded Coolangubra Wilderness in September of this year. State Forestry posted signs in the Deua on the weekend prohibiting the public, including 20 conservationists with the Wilderness Society, from areas where natural forest is being devastated.

The NFPS at page 11 provides for interim protection from logging of wilderness, such as Deua, while assessments for a national forest reserve system is being set up by 1995. This logging also pre-empted NSW Cabinet deliberations, in train for over a year, on protection of Deua under the *Wilderness Act* (NSW). The logging is also unlawful because no proper fauna studies have been undertaken as required by State Forestry's own *Report* (at page 22) on their 1983 *Environmental Impact Statement* for the Narooma Management area.

Conservationists protesting against the logging are using the nonviolence principles of Gandhi and Martin Luther King (see attached). Details of peaceful tactics to be used will be revealed this morning and could include: 'road scrubbing' (laying dead branches and rocks along kilometres of logging roads); 'black wallabies' (conservationists hiding in undergrowth after telling loggers their cause); and the traditional wooden tripod and human blockades.

Tom McLoughlin, NSW Campaign Officer for the Wilderness Society said "Mr Fahey and his Cabinet controls approval for wilderness declarations for areas like Deua, which alone has been waiting for protection for over a year. NSW Forestry are destroying parts of this wilderness forever and laughing at Mr Fahey's commitments, at NSW Cabinet, and at the majority public support for wilderness protection.

"NSW Forestry are also laughing at Mr Keating and the National Forest Policy. Yet the Fed's control the Daishowa woodchip licence which accounts for 50% of the logging in Deua. They could stop this tragic conversion of wilderness to woodchips which is no better than torching a Renault or a Van Gogh.

"Ecologist Margaret Turton has found the endangered Sooty Owl, Powerful Owl, and Tiger Quoll in the area" Mr McLoughlin concluded.

For further information contact in Sydney ..Tom McLoughlin..(02) 953 7684(h) / 267 7925(w)
Canberra...Lucy Harroday.....(06) 257 5122(w) / 281 6754(h)

ATTN TV STATIONS: FOOTAGE OF THE PROTEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TOMORROW (TUES 15/11/93). TEL. (06) 249 8874 / 257 5122.



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Summary of Gandhi Nonviolence Principles

1. Humiliating or deliberately provoking your opponent invites violence;
2. Knowing your facts and arguments well helps to avoid violence;
3. If you are open about your cause your opponent is less likely to be violent;
4. Look for common ground between you and opponents to promote trust and understanding;
5. Do not judge others harder than yourself. [Alternative: Do not judge others.]
6. Try to trust opponents - they will sense this trust;
7. Compromise on inessential items to promote resolution;
8. Sincerity helps convert an opponent;
9. By making a personal sacrifice you show your sincerity;
10. Avoid exploiting weaknesses in your opponent [for its own sake]. Aim for integrity, not simply to win.

OVER 500 FOREST AREAS ACROSS AUSTRALIA THREATENED BY LOGGING ACTIVITIES

A coalition of conservation groups today released details of over 500 areas of forest that are threatened by logging across Australia that should be protected from logging activities by the Federal Government.

The coalition of environment groups, including The Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth, Victorian Conservation Council, Conservation Council of the South East Region and Canberra, East Gippsland Forest Alliance, the Western Australian Conservation Council and the New South Wales Conservation Council of NSW called on the Federal Government to ensure that the moratorium agreed to as clause of the National Forests Policy is implemented to protect the areas.

Last Monday night Federal Cabinet agreed that the Federal Environment Minister Mrs Kelly should formally advise the Minister for Resources Mr Lee which areas should be excluded from the woodchip export licences.

Spokesperson for The Wilderness Society, Mr Alec Marr, said that Environment Minister Mrs Kelly has written to Mr Lee with a list of forest areas that would see extensive areas of forest with comprehensively documented high conservation values left open for logging.

Mr Marr said that the Federal Government has the opportunity to protect the best of Australia's forests in 5 Australian States.

Spokesperson for the Victorian Conservation Council, Ms Linda Parlane, said that Mrs Kelly has proposed protection for none of the 185 areas of wilderness, old growth forests which the and rainforests that the Victorian Government is about to log.

Spokesperson for the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Mr Sid Walker, said that it was essential that, as well as provision for moratoria, the 1994 woodchip licences ensure that the Australian Nature Conservation Agency has the role of protecting endangered species in all affected areas.

"This condition has already been applied to woodchipping on the north coast of New South Wales and there is no excuse for it not to be extended to all other woodchip licences" Mr Walker said.

For further information call 018 550 289

viomr/1/s

FAX: TOM/TWS - SUE/ACF; - SID/NCC; -
URGENT
PLEASE COMMENT BY 12.30 TODAY
JEFF

JOINT PEAK ENVIRONMENT GROUPS
M E D I A R E L E A S E M E D I A R E L E A S E
28 September 1993

National and statewide environment groups representing over 100,000 people today condemned the actions of the NSW Government and the Rev Fred Nile as 'creating the environment in which the violence at this morning's attack by loggers on a peaceful demonstration by conservationists, could take place'.

'The NSW Government has broken the conservation principles of the national forest contract signed by them and the Commonwealth last year; and the Rev Fred Nile has said he will block the South East Forest Protection Bill - the only road to peace'.

'In the light of what happened this morning they need to look long and hard at their consciences. Peaceful protestors trying to protect irreplaceable ancient wilderness forest were attacked without provocation.'

'Do the Government and the Rev Fred Nile endorse this thuggery?', the groups asked.

'We are determined that the destruction of the south east forests will not occur without protest; that the NSW Government and Rev Nile will be held accountable; and the conservation principles of the National Forest Policy be upheld'.

The peaceful protest has been taking place for over a week in an effort to draw attention to the logging of 400 year old trees, in contravention of the National Forest Policy.

GROUPS ENDORSING THIS STATEMENT:
AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
SOUTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE
NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

BIG TIMES

WILD
AND
FREE

HELP SAVE YOUR PLANET NOW

ISSUE ONE 17-10-92

Amid the vast changes passing through all our lives some things have always remained constant - until now. Economic and emotional depressions come and go, but our world is changing in ways it never has before. We can't really know what we've lost when it's gone, and right now the heritage of us all is being plundered by the mindless games of a few. If we bury our heads in the sand now, our bodies will surely follow soon.

Anyone who has spare time or skills is needed NOW to help save this part of our planet, our home. Camps of forest occupiers have been created in the highland forests of New South Wales, on the edge of forests closed to the Australian people and media. Come see for yourself, while our ancient ecosystems still exist. There is really very little time left to act. You are herein invited to join the bands of forest defenders in whatever capacity you are capable. We are saving the OLD GROWTH trees, the ancient dreaming ecosystems which still sustain us all - thousands of years old, and about to be pulped for transnational paper.

Many important issues confront us in these Big Times - but our priority is the survival of the forests and all the species therein. Once they're gone, they can't come back - unlike uranium or chemical waste, this is an issue that WILL go away if we don't all actually do something NOW.

ACT NOW! THIS IS REALLY HAPPENING!

THE FORESTS NEED US - WE ALL NEED AIR AND WATER! COME TO THE CAMPS OF THE FOREST DEFENDERS NOW AND LEARN ABOUT YOUR WILD HERITAGE - WHILE YOU STILL HAVE ONE!

THE MEDIA HAS BEEN BANNED FROM WITNESSING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE LAST FRAGMENTS OF AUSTRALIA'S ANCIENT FORESTS! DON'T BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU READ OR HEAR - COME SEE FOR YOURSELF WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!

The camp of the forest defenders currently occupies the CARRAI PLATEAU. We invite anyone who wants to make a difference to come and stay with us, sharing the earth, food, water and skills. Come and share the good times and help us save ourselves. The last thousand year trees are being torn out NOW, this Spring, while the corporations believe they still have the time to do it. This is happening NOW. Pack NOW. Tomorrow WILL be too late. Many other forests on the East Coast are scheduled for destruction in the weeks and months ahead.

But the Carrai Plateau is being defended NOW.

ACTUALLY DO IT! PACK AND LEAVE NOW FOR CARRAI!

WHAT TO BRING

Warm clothes, food, water, tarps, rope, camping gear, cameras (still and video), radios and any communications equipment, musical instruments, tools, chocolate, etc, etc.

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

If you can't make it to the blockade immediately, the forest defenders need donations of MONEY OR ANY OF THE ABOVE EQUIPMENT URGENTLY. We are operating on a self-generated shoestring budget while the timber industry approaches the forests with millions of dollars worth of heavy logging equipment. Send cheques or cash to:

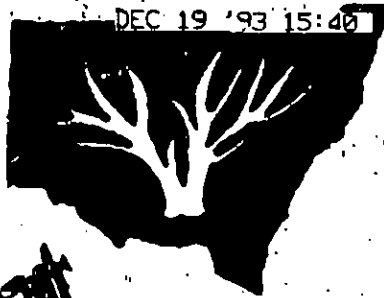
CARRAI DEFENDERS DONATION

C/- the CLARENCE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

PO BOX 1073 GRAFTON NSW 2460 (066) 431 863 - FOR MORE INFO: THE BIG SCRUB (066) 213 278

YOU CAN ALSO HELP BY WRITING LETTERS TO NEWSPAPERS AND POLITICIANS, PHONING RADIO TALKBACK SHOWS AND ORGANISING PROTESTS IN YOUR OWN AREA

PLEASE COPY THIS AND PASS IT ON!



NEW SOUTH WALES ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL

**Protect Your Culture
Protect Your Future**

Protest March

December 22 at Lady Macquarie's Chair - 11am.

To protect the old growth forests which have provided food, shelter and cultural sites since time began. Our cultural practices depend on the survival of the environment. No forests, no sites, no ceremonies, no animals.

The indigenous population of NSW must stand up for our Mother the Earth. She raised us from the dreaming to the present and she needs us now. The Government must be stopped from allowing the continued destruction of our culture and our cultural resources.

Its Time to Hit the Streets



NATIVE
FOREST
NETWORK

MELBOURNE
PO BOX 222
FITZROY, VICTORIA
3065

8 JUN 1994

MELBOURNE NATIVE FOREST NETWORK
C/O FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
PO BOX 222
FITZROY, VICTORIA, 3065
PH: (03) 419 8700
FAX: (03) 416 2081

Dear

Judy

This is a brief note concerning the Australian Forest Conference to be held in Melbourne in the last week of October 1994. As our flyer states we intend to bring together indigenous people, forest dwellers, forest activists, conservation scientists and NGO's from all over Australia to come to Melbourne to discuss the crisis facing Australia's forests.

We hope to do this by having representatives from forest groups around the country speak on the second day of the conference about what is happening to the forests of their bio-region. Given the aims which this conference hopes to achieve, the conference organisers strongly encourage as many regional environmental networks/campaigns throughout Australia to be represented. NFN perceives this to be an integral component towards establishing a co-ordinated national action plan to rescue what remains of Australia's forests.

Our intention is to formulate an Australian Forest Action Plan, as well as setting in place a national grassroots network of forest groups. The Native Forest Network (NFN) can then provide local campaigns with both national and international focus via the NFN Newsletter and offer NFN members up to date information concerning local, national and international efforts towards the protection of forest ecosystems.

It would be great if a representative of your group could make the journey to Melbourne. We realise that there are time and financial constraints to consider, especially the further from Melbourne a delegate has to come. Fundraising will be happening in Melbourne during the year to help cover some transport costs, however as this fund is bound to be limited don't rely 100% on this.

Could you please inform us as early as possible of your group's decision to send a delegate (or delegates). If you do attend we will promise you a great couple of days in Melbourne. Hope to hear from you soon.

Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY AMIS
GAVAN MCFADZEAN

A.J.O.

Conference Organisers

AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONFERENCE 1994 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

Please tick, circle or fill in where appropriate; and send it back to us ASAP. Thanks!

This is a form for you/your group or organisation to fill out and send to us to give the conference organisers an idea of how many people are coming and from where, how many we need to cater for, accommodate and provide child care for etc.

Your registration will need to be forwarded by Friday, October 7, 1994. We'll be sending out registration forms before then.

Name/Organisation:

Address:

Phone:

Approx. Number Attending from your Group/Organisation/Network:

ATTENDANCE

Remittance

Non-Government Organisation	\$100	\$
Others	\$350	

Students and Unemployed	1 day	\$15	\$
	2 days	\$25	

Waged	1 day	\$25	\$
	2 days	\$40	

(includes lunch, morning and afternoon tea, and conference programmes)

Childcare: Please tick if childcare required ☐

Discount of 10% for payment in full before September 1, 1994.

ACCOMMODATION: (please specify)

☐ **Billeting:** We would like an idea of numbers of people wishing to billet so that we can arrange accommodation. No. of people....

☐ **Backpackers:** (\$12 to \$15 per night) No. of people....

☐ **Motel:** (\$30 to \$40 per night) No. of people....

CONFERENCE ENTERTAINMENT: (Please indicate if/how many attending)

☐ Conference Dinner on Monday Evening (24/10/94) at \$30 per head \$
Special Dietary Requirements?.....
No. of people.....

☐ Field Trip to Central Highlands on Wed (26/10/94) at \$25 per head \$
No. of people.....

Total Remittance: \$

MEDIA RELEASE

16TH DECEMBER 1993

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For further information call 018 550 289

T

200 Ocean Street,
Narrabeen 2101.
phone 913.9203
fax 913 9203
14 December 1993

The Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.
Attn: Ben Pearson
39 George St.
The Rocks
N.S.W. 2000.
ph: 2474206
fax: 2475945

TO: Ben Pearson
ATTENTION: BEN
FAX NUMBER: 2475945
FROM: Julia Short
DATE: 15th December
TOTAL PAGES (including this one): 5
Subject: Application



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

ATTN: Chiefs of Staff / Political and Environmental Reporters

Saturday, 4 December 1993

RECREATION GROUPS, GENERAL COMMUNITY AND LOCAL LAND-HOLDERS SOLD OUT BY ANTI-WILDERNESS LOBBY

The "anti-environment rally" at Moruya on the NSW South Coast is "a sell-out of decent recreation groups, the community and local land-holders". The Wilderness Society said today. The rally is organised by a minority within the new 'Public Land Users Alliance' which also staged a demonstration on November 18 this year led by Peter Cochrane (NSW NP) in Macquarie Street, Sydney.

Tom McLoughlin NSW Campaign Coordinator for the Wilderness Society said today "Unfortunately some of the same organisers of last month's anti-environment rally are again misleading many decent people who will attend this rally in good faith and whose concerns can mostly be resolved.

"For instance most responsible off roaders at the rally may not realise that:

- * For the officially assessed Deua Wilderness, vehicular access to popular camping areas at Bakers Flat and Deua River Camping area both on Araluen Rd, and the Big Hole recreation area, are unaffected. Similarly popular access roads encircling the edge of the wilderness are unaffected. Walking, camping, climbing and canoeing are all legitimate activities in the Wilderness. For safety reasons fire management is unaffected under the NSW Bushfire Act. Thousands of disabled people are known to use wilderness areas according to latest research in the United States (1992 Report available on request);

- * There is roughly 100,000 hectares of NSW State Forest adjacent to the officially assessed Deua Wilderness accessible by off-road vehicle from Moruya (Moruya S.F., part Dampier S.F., Bodalla S.F., Wanders S.F., part Tallaganda S.F., Mungerarie S.F., Berlang S.F., Bendoura S.F.) and from Bateman's Bay (Mogo S.F., Buckenbowra S.F., Bolero S.F., Boyne S.F., Benandarah S.F., Quant Pot S.F., Monga S.F.). So off roaders are definitely catered for without a doubt;

- * The Australian 4WD Clubs Association, from as far back as 1983, acknowledges that fragile wilderness areas like the officially assessed Deua "should contain no man made intrusions, such as roads, powerlines or constructions ..." (Submission on Land Management for Recreation Use By 4WD Vehicles (1983)). Similarly South Coast Off Road Preservation Enthusiasts agree the Budawang Wilderness is too sensitive for off road vehicles (South Coast Register 29/10/93 p2). Yet another newly formed recreation lobby group acknowledges "when [off road vehicles] are driven improperly, in wrong places, or at the wrong times, these vehicles seriously damage vegetation, disturb wildlife, scar the landscape, create soil erosion and water pollution..." ("Tread Lightly! On Public and Private Land in Australia" Information leaflet (1993))

- * The research has been done: Two Government inquiries have recommended that sensitive wilderness areas should be off limits to off road vehicles (Federal House of Representatives Inquiry Into Off Road Vehicles (1977), State Pollution Control Commission Off Road Vehicles Inquiry (1979));

"The general community made their wishes on Deua Wilderness known last year in the advertised 4 month public submission period which ended on 4/9/1992 - about 80% were in favour of the Wilderness. This result is reinforced by the recent news that about 5000 original submissions out of a total of 7000 for another official Wilderness - the Ettrema & Budawang area near Nowra - were also in favour of wilderness management.

"Land-owners in the local Deua Catchment and Wilderness Protection Association, Martin Phillips and Geoff Ashman, told the Wilderness Society yesterday that the *overwhelming majority* of local land-holders around Deua support the Wilderness proposal. They believe the plan will protect their water catchment especially in beautiful Georges and Diamond Ck areas which are threatened by old growth logging. This catchment also provides clean water for Moruya and Tuross Head townships".

Other land-holders, Bernie & Therese Kocur from Moruya, support the Deua Wilderness plan. Bernie Kocur said "I've been visiting the Deua for 10 years now. In that time the roads have become more and more eroded. The responsible 4WD people reckon they don't leave their rubbish but they can't control the irresponsible ones because I've seen their bottles and tin cans. I've also seen trail-bikers in there ripping up the ground".

"Last Easter while we were walking in Deua with friends at Diamond Ck we found a trail slashed right through the pristine old growth forest catchment. There were hoof prints, and horse droppings, and tomahawk and machete marks on trees to blaze the trail" Bernie Kocur concluded.

Peter Woof who owns land at Peak View 8 kilometres from Numeralla on the western side of Deua Wilderness said "I know of plenty of pretty stream and river-sides that have been devastated by logging. Recreational users won't go to them after that. The native forest timber industry are the real culprits in removing recreational areas".

In conclusion Mr McLoughlin said "Perhaps the most devastating effect of 4WD and horse tracks in wilderness is the fragmentation which promotes the spread of feral predators and noxious weeds. These affect rare and endangered species in Deua such as the Squirrel Glider and many others. [See 'Keep the Deua Wild' The Wilderness Society (1993)]

For more information please contact:

Tom McLoughlin ... ontel.(02) 953 7684 (h) or (02) 267 7929 (w), or

Bernie Kocur on ... tel. (064) 937 398

Peter Woof on ... tel. (044) 561 574



4WD TRACK IN DEUA & BARRINGTON TOPS WILDERNESS AREAS (BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST)



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

★ ★ ★ Media Release ★ ★ ★

ATTN: Chiefs of Staff/Political & Environment reporters

NSW FORESTRY ECONOMIC IMPACT ADVICE: "BIZARRE", "GROSSLY EXAGGERATED", "DEMEANING TO COUNTRY PEOPLE"

Wednesday, 8 December 1993

The Wilderness Society has received a copy of a letter containing damning criticism of State Forests of NSW (formerly the NSW Forestry Commission) and its economic impact 'report' on Wilderness areas from April this year.

The letter of 2/12/93 (attached) was written by David Godden, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Sydney. The letter responds to George Souris Minister for Land and Water Conservation who has dismissed Mr Godden's findings, published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 17/6/93, that the Forestry 'report':

- * exaggerates timber values from \$5 million to \$227 million;
- * incorrectly uses "multipliers" to determine flow-on effects to local communities;
- * double counts some elements in its calculations.

In his 3 page letter Mr Godden rejects the Minister's explanations and further finds that the NSW Forestry 'report':

- relies on several bizarre economic assumptions.
- appears to grossly over-estimate impacts of withdrawal of logging resource
- uses a questionable methodology
- is demeaning to country people by assuming their lack of entrepreneurial spirit

Tom McLoughlin NSW Campaign Coordinator for the Wilderness Society said today, "Mr Godden, an independent expert, has comprehensively dumped NSW Forestry and their 'report' on state Wilderness areas. His letter confirms that Forestry bureaucrats are misleading the community, misleading industry, misleading their Minister, and in effect misleading NSW Parliament.

"The timber industry doesn't need to woodchip wilderness forests. There are 250,000 hectares, or more, of hardwood and softwood plantations in NSW already available for logging. This tree cropping can provide booming exports without woodchipping old growth wilderness.

"Wilderness areas are an eco-tourism asset of international significance" Mr McLoughlin concluded.

More information: Tom McLoughlin..t.(02) 267 7929(w)/(02) 953 7684.

DEC 07 '93 21:22

P.3/5



3 pages

The University of Sydney
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Head of Department
T O MacAulay

New South Wales 2006
Australia
Telephone (02) 692 4814 (direct)
(02) 692 2574 (sec)

2 December 1993

Mr. G. Souris MLA
Minister for Land and Water Conservation
Level 3, State Office Block
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

fax: 228 3801

Dear Mr Souris

The Wilderness Society has sent me a copy of your letter of 5 October 1993 to Ms Gladys Boulton, Coordinator of the Society's Central West Branch. In your letter, you mentioned comments I made earlier this year on the Forestry Commission's report *Economic Impact of Wilderness Proposals on State Forests*. L letter to SMH 17/6/93 p 12

Your letter makes four points about my comments on this report:

1. I deliberately downplayed the magnitude of the losses by misconstruing the principles of sustained yield harvesting.

In his letter to the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 1 July 1993, Mr R.J. Harvey of the Forestry Commission argued that "Existing old growth would be harvested over 20 years, not 80 years as Mr Godden suggests." The problem with this argument is that, in the Forestry Commission's report, no information was given about the assumptions as to the period over which the old growth forest was to be harvested. Moreover, as I show below, this after-the-event explanation of assumptions supposedly embodied in the report is simply inconsistent with information contained in the report itself.

The analysis in the Forestry Commission's report indicates that *re-growth* would be harvested at a constant annual rate for 20 years starting at year 1. In the analysis of Forestry Commission royalty losses, the study notes:

"loss of the resource currently contained in the State Forest areas included in the nine wilderness nominations could impose a one-off loss of over \$50 million for the Forestry Commission over the period during which the old growth resource is harvested. Furthermore, beyond this period an ongoing annual loss of over \$1.8 million would be imposed by the loss of the regrowth resource. ... After completion of 'old growth' harvesting the value of the loss from the regrowth resource would be \$19m, over the subsequent 20 year period, assuming a real discount rate of 7%." (*Economic Impact of Wilderness Proposals on State Forests*, pp.4-5)

The assumptions used to arrive at these conclusions can be deduced from the results. If an annual value of \$1.8m is converted to a discounted present value of \$19m at a real discount rate of 7%

(the information presented in the Commission's report), then the period over which the discounting has occurred is years 1-20 of a planning horizon. But, according to the report, the "ongoing annual loss of the regrowth resource" of \$1.8m occurs *after* logging the old growth forest: "beyond this period [i.e. the period during which the old growth resource is harvested] an ongoing annual loss of over \$1.8 million would be imposed." But, if the re-growth is valued over years 1-20 and its harvest only occurs *after* the old growth forest has been harvested, it has therefore been assumed in the Commission's report that all the old growth has all been harvested in the initial year (year zero in a present value analysis).

It is easy for the Commission to claim after its report was published that the analysis is based on an assumed harvest period of 20 years for old growth forest. But, if we are to believe the Commission's own published report and not its after-the-event rationalisations, its own analysis clearly indicates that its estimates of the costs are based on assuming that all the old growth forest is logged in year zero, not over 20 years.

* There is a further, bizarre assumption in this part of the Commission's analysis. As shown above, re-growth timbers are valued in the Forestry Commission's report from the *first* year of a planning horizon (assuming that all the old growth is harvested in year zero). But - particularly with slow-growing Australian hardwoods - no logger is going to fell mature trees in the year *immediately following* the harvest of old growth timber. There will be no logging in the first year after logging old growth for two reasons: firstly, any tree that was mature one year after logging the old growth would have been sufficiently mature to have been logged with all the other old growth timber; secondly, even if a mature tree was left during the original old growth logging - e.g. it was overlooked - it would be too costly for a logger to re-enter the forest to fell isolated trees. It may be *decades* after initial harvesting of the old growth forest before sufficient re-growth has occurred to make it worthwhile to re-enter a logged old growth forest and extract more logs. Thus the estimated present values of re-growth presented in the report are likely to be wild over-estimates. For example, if the re-growth timber is harvested from years 21-40, rather than years 1-20, then the present value of the re-growth resource at a 7% discount rate is only 20 per cent of the values presented by the Forestry Commission. Not only is the Commission's assumption of re-growth timber being harvested from year 1 bizarre in terms of the implied assumptions derived from the original report, harvesting re-growth from year 1 is even more bizarre under the Commission's after-the-event rationalisation of its report which implies the old growth is harvested over 20 years.

Because the report makes no explicit mention of harvest and re-growth periods, there is no information from which to make an assessment about what appropriate harvest periods might be for both the old growth and re-growth timbers. These harvest periods will partly depend on species - the slower the growth of the timber, the longer the return period in a sustainable harvesting regime. Thus, for slow-growing Australian hardwoods, the harvest periods may be significantly longer than the 20 years implied in the Forestry Commission's report. I understand that, in many cases, it is not unusual for hardwood forest compartments to stay unlogged for at least 70 years following felling of the old growth timbers. In this case, as I argued in my letter to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, if the old growth timber in the proposed wilderness areas was harvested sustainably - i.e. felling of old growth timber in the last compartment occurs just before felling re-growth in the first compartment that was logged - then the present value of timber would be dramatically less than the Forestry Commission's estimates.

Finally, in my letter, I played to the Commission's own rules by assuming that the losses from not logging the wilderness areas were represented by foregone *turnover*. While this may be true in the very short run, it is not true for more than a year or so. Using turnover as an estimate of losses assumes that extraction of the forest resource is cost-less - which is even more bizarre than some of the Commission's other assumptions. If a profit rate of 20 per cent on turnover is assumed (and this assumed rate is likely to be very high compared to achievable rates in business), then the losses from not logging the proposed wilderness areas are no more than 20% of the Commission's estimates. Since my estimates of not logging the proposed wilderness areas are substantially lower than the Commission's estimates, the true net losses may be dramatically less than those presented in the Commission's report.

The Forestry Commission failed to present the assumptions underlying its analysis in its original report, and has subsequently claimed assumptions for the analysis which appear to be inconsistent

with that report. The Commission has also made what appear to be bizarre assumptions about sustainable logging regimes in the proposed wilderness areas, and appears to have used inappropriate methods of accounting for the costs of not logging these areas. I'm far from me being guilty of "deliberately downplaying" the magnitudes of the losses, the Commission appears to have grossly over-estimated the losses of not logging these areas.

2. I mistakenly confused old growth and re-growth losses.

Since I used the distinction between old growth and re-growth timber that was presented in the Forestry Commission's report, and accepted their data on the logged value of this timber, it is hard to see how I could have mistakenly confused old growth and re-growth losses.

3. I raised questions about the method used to estimate regional impacts.

I certainly did raise questions about the method used to estimate regional impacts. The Forestry Commission's analysis used simplistic input-output multipliers to scale-up turnover losses into regional impacts. Firstly, it is important to note that - since the Commission's estimates of logging losses are grossly exaggerated - the method it used for estimating regional impacts by simply scaling up logging losses will therefore result in commensurately gross over-estimates of the regional impacts. Secondly, would have been preferable to have derived estimates of regional impacts directly in a regional input-output model rather than using a simple scaling-up procedure. Thirdly, the use of input-output analysis may be questioned in this context, since this technique assumes that resources do not shift between sectors of the regional economy. However, one of the obvious facts about rural Australia - in farming, other resource industries, and in their service industries - is its outstanding capacity to adjust to changing economic circumstances. Thus, to use input-output analysis to assess the impact of not logging these areas is to assume that resources that would otherwise have been used in this logging would never be used elsewhere in the economy. This assumption is clearly not true with regard to capital, and is unlikely to be true with regard to other resources except in the very short run. This assumption is actually demeaning to country people because it assumes they will never look for another job whereas, as I'm sure you would be aware, rural people are very entrepreneurial in the use of their resources.

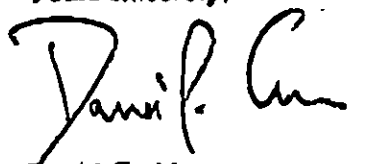
Thus, the methods used in the Forestry Commission report to account for the regional impacts of not logging the proposed wilderness areas are likely to grossly over-estimate the costs of not logging.

4. that the method of discounting I used was misleading.

As shown in #1 above, I derived the assumptions used in the Forestry Commission's study from its own analysis and I was using discounting in exactly the same way as in the Commission's report. Therefore, if my use of discounting was misleading, so too was the Commission's!

In conclusion, therefore, none of the information provided by the Forestry Commission and contained in your letter of 5 October 1993 to the Coordinator of the Wilderness Society's Central West Branch leads me to revise my original conclusion about the Forestry Commission's report Economic Impact of Wilderness Proposals on State Forests. I still firmly believe that the estimates of not logging the proposed wilderness areas as presented in this report are grossly exaggerated.

Yours sincerely,



David Golden
Senior Lecturer

EAST FOREST



GIPPSLAND ALLIANCE

East Gippsland Forest Alliance
Goongerah, Victoria, 3888.

Telephone/fax: (051) 540 156.

MEDIA ALERT

GREENS AND DEMOCRATS DECLARE WORLD HERITAGE PARK IN EAST GIPPSLAND

3rd February 1994

Greens Senator, Christabel Chamarette and Democrats Senator Sid Spindler will declare East Gippsland's forests a "World Heritage Park" this Saturday morning. The "opening ceremony" will be performed at Hensleigh Creek, which is currently being blockaded by the East Gippsland Forest Alliance. East Gippsland has been identified as having World Heritage values.

WHAT: Grand opening of the East Gippsland World Heritage Park.

WHO: Democrats Senator Sid Spindler and Greens (WA) Senator Christabel Chamarette.

WHERE: Hensleigh Creek, Errinundra Plateau, East Gippsland.

WHEN: Saturday morning, 5th February 1994, 9am.

PHOTOGRAPHIC OPPORTUNITIES: Spectacular mountain views, rainforest, entrenched blockade site, banners, Park opening ceremony.

For more information contact:

Jill Redwood (051) 54 0145
Senator Chamarette's office (06) 277 3790
Senator Spindler's office (06) 277 3640
Dr Geoff Mosley (03) 718 2998

Directions to the site are available from:

Jill Redwood (051) 540 145 or
Goongerah Environment Centre (051) 540 156

Betacam footage available



• WILDERNESS NOT WOODCHIPS FOR EAST GIPPSLAND •



Christabel Chamarette

Senator for The Greens (WA)

5th February 1994

World Heritage Forest Park Declared Open in East Gippsland

Greens (WA) Senator Christabel Chamarette this morning joined with Democrat Senator Sid Spindler and members of the East Gippsland Forest Alliance (EGFA) to declare open a World Heritage Park on the Errinundra Plateau in East Gippsland.

Senator Chamarette said "I welcome the opportunity to join with the Democrats and the East Gippsland Forest Alliance to highlight the need to fully protect this critical link between the Errinundra and Cooperanbra National Park."

"The forests of South Eastern Australia are biological jewels and much of this area contains large stretches of rainforest and other vegetation communities which have close resemblance to the ancient Gondwanic forests of 40 million years ago."

"I applaud the actions of the EGFA in working so hard to protect these areas. They, like their counterparts in my own State of Western Australia, have come to realise the importance of our high conservation value forests."

For the past month, members of the EGFA have been blockading two important areas in the Hensleigh Creek catchment to prevent them from being clearfelled.

Senator Chamarette said "I note the concerns of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature last month that many areas of native forest of high conservation value are still being logged and that a fully comprehensive, adequate and representative system is yet to be put in place."

"The time for action by the Federal Government is well overdue. The Keating Government must move to fulfil its international obligations by protecting the remaining areas of native forest throughout Australia."

"I will certainly do what ever I can to see that the Federal Government uses its power to intervene to protect our irreplaceable forest heritage," Senator Chamarette concluded.

Contact: Christabel Chamarette (Saturday 11.00 - 12.30)
Geoff Moseley (Sunday)

051 540 145
018 905 321
03 718 2998

NORTH-EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

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phone: (065) 77.3105

fax/data: (by prior notice)

E-mail: peg: ganref

NOVEMBER 12th 1993 MEDIA RELEASE

HUNTER FORESTRY OPERATIONS A TRAGEDY - NEFA

Spokesperson for North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) Barrie Griffiths described current harvesting operations in the Barrington Tops and Chichester areas as "really tragic". Mr Griffiths said that after decades of gross mismanagement and overcutting of Hunter region forests, significant increases in pulpwood for export to Japan as woodchips in recent years were completely degrading the forests of the region.

"In the late sixties and seventies the Forestry Commission cleared native hardwood forests in the Barrington area for pine plantations, established at huge expense. Today these plantations are useless and degraded, many have died. Hardwood plantations are also degraded because they were not thinned, whilst harvesting in the eighties removed most of the old growth as rapidly as possible. Inaccessible areas and forests once too steep and uneconomic to log are now being trashed for woodchips for Japan. At the same time, the few remaining areas of high quality forests on good soil and moderate slopes are rapidly disappearing. Supplies of quality sawlogs will run out. At this moment, extensive operations across the Barrington from East to West are targetting all forests not subject to moratorium in a huge "claim-staking exercise."

"The EIS for Barrington operations is overdue, and publication has now been deferred until next year. Documents obtained from the Forestry Commission indicate that during the period of EIS preparation, Harvesting Plans have allocated areas to crown sawmills which total 8 to 10 years supply of sawlogs", Mr Griffiths said.

Mr Griffiths was responding to news received today that representatives from Boral Timber were pressuring the Federal Resources Minister, Michael Lee, to issue a special export licence to their subsidiary, Sawmillers Exports, for a huge stockpile of woodchips at Newcastle. A temporary licence has expired, pending determination of an EIS assessing the impacts of a proposal to export woodchips derived from "residue" logs from State Forests, for a period of ten years.

"These impacts are clearly very significant indeed. Volumes of timber removed will almost double, with consequent loss of habitat, simplification of species composition and reduction of understorey, virtual elimination of old growth elements, nutrient depletion, compaction, erosion and siltation, proliferation of weeds and fire hardy species with increased fire frequencies, lower stream flows, reduction in water quality, and so on", Mr Griffiths said.

"The public are losing these forests to Boral and Japanese profits. The community also loses money and jobs: The Forestry Commission lost an average of almost half a million dollars per annum during the eighties in Chichester and Gloucester Management Areas, not including the value of huge public subsidies, and Boral's near monopoly of the industry is costing jobs."

"Forests supplying Boral's Newcastle exporter have been plundered, and prescriptions are being breached, in recent operations to create this stockpile whilst the EIS was being prepared. Mr Lee should comply with Federal legislation requiring proper assessment and refuse Boral this licence, and ensure that no further silvicultural residues are taken from public or

private land until the assessment process has been completed", Mr Griffiths said. "Environment Minister Ros Kelly should immediately issue an impact assessment order under the Endangered Species Act to prevent this licence being issued."

Further information: See attached sheet, and contact:
Barrie Griffiths (065) 77.3105

NEFA MEDIA RELEASE attachment 1 SUPPORTING INFORMATION - NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SUMMARY OF GROSS OVERCUTTING: CHICHESTER MANAGEMENT AREA.

The Management Plan (1980) calculated sustained yield at 15,800 m3 net, whereas actual cut in the seventies was up to 180% of sustained yield (1978). However, the M.P. fixed the quota allocation at 21,500 m3 net. That is, the Commission deliberately set the quota at 136% of sustained yield. In the six years following the Plan, actual cut averaged 22,424 m3 p.a., or 140% of the figure given as the sustained yield in the Plan, but in fact by 1986/87 actual cut was over 300% of the sustained yield figure of 5,818 m3 net, calculated after a new assessment in 1982, and adjustments resulting from the rainforest decision in 1984. The true position is worse however, since the records show that assumptions and calculations forming the basis of the 1982 assessment were incorrect. As early as the Annual Report for 83/84, the District Forester is reporting that actual volume is significantly less than assessed, because of errors in forest typing and increasing proportion of steep and inaccessible areas. Despite this there was no revision of the Management Plan, which has still not been updated, and the quota remained the same throughout the eighties. From 1.1.90 revised annual quotas were finally implemented, but at 11,000 m3 net, are still about double the sustained yield.

The Management Plan provided for the First cutting cycle to end in 2039; however the new reduced quotas are about double the figure required to "eke out the resource until 2039", and will result in a hiatus in supply from about 2015 until 2040, on the Commission's figures. Thus the present quotas are overcutting the resource in accordance with the policy of cutting out "overmature" forests as rapidly as possible.

GLOUCESTER MANAGEMENT AREA

Gloucester was grossly overcut from the late sixties by deliberate decision, "due to the perceived need at the time to remove the hardwood resource to make way for a proposed Barrington Toops pine plantation program" (M.P. 1984 p.36). On the basis of "a recent cursory assessment", "limited information" and "on somewhat subjective estimates", the M.P. guessed that the long-term sustained yield (10,000 m3 net) wouldn't be available until towards the end of the next century (2090), that the then-current levels of yield could not be maintained much beyond the year 2000; that from about 2020 until end of the century, about 5,000 m3 would be possible. Nevertheless the Management Plan approved maintaining the existing quota of 26,780 m3 net plus 25,840 m3 net parcel (parcel terminating December 1985) - almost three times the long-term sustained yield figure subjectively estimated on the basis of limited information to be available from 2090; and almost six times the estimate for the second cutting cycle (2020 - 2090) !

Quota allocation was reduced to 14,200 m3 net in 1988/89; but was overcut in that year and the following two years, 1989/90 and 90/91. The Annual report for 1988/89 states that the new quota "is sustainable until 2020 at which time a quota of 5,000 p.a. will apply until 2070, thence 10,000 m3 p.a." The Annual Report for 1990/91 states that

"Despite virtual halving of quota allocations over the past few years, current allocations will continue to exceed the theoretical long term sustained

yield level for the Management Area."

A strategy which will not achieve sustained yield until 2090, whilst fixing quotas at 285% of the volume available for the second cutting cycle, is indefensible.

NEFA MEDIA RELEASE attachment 2.
SUPPORTING INFORMATION - NOT FOR PUBLICATION

BRIEF EXTRACT FROM REPORT ON CURRENT OPERATIONS

1. STEWARTS BROOK STATE FOREST: TUBRABUCCA ROAD EXTENSION.

Compartments 5 to 9 inclusive in the Tubrabucca area of Stewarts Brook S.F. (unlogged except for a small area near Barrington Trail in cmpt 6 and a small area of cmpt 9 in 1991/92) are covered by one harvesting plan, no. 93/G1, comprising over 1,000 ha with an estimated volume of 45,370 m3 quota sawlog volume. In addition, roading work has been done and logging operations are about to commence in compartments 1 to 4, unlogged except for a small area in compartment 2, logged 1980/81, and comprising an additional 644.5 ha. There is a bulldozer currently in compartment 2, which has just been very severely burnt (see photo 1.) NEFA has not been able to obtain copy of a harvesting plan for these four compartments. In addition, Harvesting Plan no. 92/141 dated December 1992 covers compartments 10, 20 and 22 of Stewarts Brook S.F., comprising 602 ha just north of Poleblue Swamp, with an estimated volume of 9,900 m3. The Wildlife Prescription is only two trees per hectare. A request to add compartments 10 & 20 to the Gloucester M.A. General S.120 licence is dated 5th March 1993. Both these Harvesting Plans refer to the Tubrabucca Environmental Impact Assessment, which has not been made available. Reference is also made to Paddy's Ridge Environmental Review, which has not been made available either. There is only a brief checklist attached to these harvesting plans, which state that "the area is covered by the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act until the Gloucester-Chichester Environmental Impact Statement is completed around mid 1993"; and conclude that "the environmental effect of this proposal is not significant and therefore an environmental impact statement will not be prepared".

2. BARRINGTON TOPS STATE FOREST.

One Harvesting Plan, no. 93/G2, covers compartments 55 and 60 to 65 of Barrington Tops S.F., comprising 2,257 ha in the Kangaroo Creek area, with an estimated volume of 71,851 m3 ! In addition, operations have been ongoing in compartments 22, 23, 20 & 21 of Bowman S.F. under General Licence no. TS0021 & TS0045. Harvesting Plans have not been made available for these Bowman compartments, which total 950 ha. Compartment history cards do not record logging history prior to operations in compartment 22 in 1990/92 (2,081 m3 nett quota sawlogs plus 5,251 tonnes of pulp), except for 43 m3 in 1975/76 from compartment 22. Forester Craig Hawkins suggested Bowman S.F. was selectively logged in the sixties and seventies (pers. comm.) In addition, "Bowman West" is included in the Order of Working for 1993/94, presumably comprising at least compartments 26 & 29 to 31. The total gross area of Bowman S.F. is 2,987 ha, much of which appears to have been made available to the crown sawmiller, Allen Taylor & Co. (Boral Timber) for 1991 - 1994.

Consequently during the course of the EIS preparation both Upper Hunter Timbers (Stewarts Brook S.F.) and Allen Taylor & Co. (Barrington Tops S.F.) have been allocated areas with estimated volumes equivalent to 8 to 10 years' quota allocation, "to ensure supply until the EIS is completed in mid-1993" !

- ends

Environment Liaison Office

• Nature Conservation Council of NSW • The Wilderness Society •
Total Environment Centre • Australian Conservation Foundation •
National Parks Association of NSW

10 November '94

★ Media Release ★

Moore, Macdonald and Jones Join Environment Groups to Slam Government Forestry Bills

Independent MPs Clover Moore, Peter Macdonald and Democrat MLC Richard Jones combined with the NSW Peak Environment Groups to condemn two National Party inspired Forest Bills due for debate in the last sitting weeks of the NSW Parliament.

"The *Forestry (Environmental and Fauna Impact Assessment) Bill 1994* would gut the Endangered Fauna Act and drastically reduce the applicability of the EP&A Act when dealing with forestry operations. This is the National Party agenda, it's a recipe for sending forest management in NSW back to the dark ages and must be opposed outright," said Ms Clover Moore Independent MP for Bligh.

"The Bill also attempts to radically reduce the community's right to enforce the law by exempting State Forests from being subject to legal challenge. It is simply outrageous to create public duties and then deny the community the right to enforce them," said Dr Peter Macdonald Independent MP for Manly.

"I proposed resource security for plantations to the minister 12 months ago, but regret to say that the *Tree Plantations (Harvest Security) Bill* is badly flawed legislation. The definition of plantations is so broad that it could include large areas of High Conservation Value native forests which have been damaged by woodchipping. Whilst I wholeheartedly support new plantations, this Bill must be amended," said Richard Jones, Democrat MLC.

"We have prepared amendments to the Plantations Bill which prevent native vegetation clearance and actually improve the level of financial security for *bona fide* plantation growers. If the Government is serious about promoting new plantations then they should support our amendments and foster a bi-partisan position on this Bill," said Tom McLoughlin, NSW spokesperson, The Wilderness Society.

"Environmentalists deplore this desperate lunge for 'resource security'. Indeed the NSW Nature Conservation Council Annual Conference (a policy-making umbrella group for over 90 NSW environment groups) unanimously condemned the Bills just 2 weeks ago" said Sid Walker, Executive Officer of NCC.

"This Parliament, in its final sitting, must not allow the National Party to rush through its reactionary agenda. We urge the Government to drop the *Forestry Assessment Bill* - and to base any legislation for plantation security on the outcomes of broad community consultation. True security for any industry must be based on goodwill - not conflict," concluded Mr Walker.

Ms Clover Moore MP 2302076/ 3603053 • Dr Peter Macdonald MP 9762773

Mr Richard Jones MLC 230 2858

Ben Oquist (Peak Environment Groups) 247 4206/ 015 70 40 95

NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL Inc.

Hon. Sec. Mr Jim Tedder, Pavans Road, Grassy Head via Stuarts Point 2441. Ph/Fax 065 690 802

Media Release - Wednesday 12 October '94

MORE WOODCHIP 'MADNESS'

A new woodchip export licence issued yesterday by Federal Minister for Resources has been described today by the North Coast Environment Council President, Mr Terry Parkhouse as 'more woodchip madness'.

"The Ministers office has today confirmed that Mr Beddall has issued a new woodchip export licence to Boral subsidiary company Sawmillers Export P/L, but he is being very coy about exactly what his decisions has been, and how many of Environment Minister John Faulkner's recommendations he has incorporated into the new licence," Mr Parkhouse said.

He said that the Environment Council had tried today, several times, to obtain a copy of the decision, but the Minister's office insisted that requests for information were put in writing.

"We have now made a written request. We also asked Federal MP for Page Mr Harry Woods to also seek copies of the relevant information, but his office too was asked to make a written request.

Mr Parkhouse said that the Minister Beddall's decision was curious, since it followed his failure to convince the Federal Court on Friday 7 October to 'strike out' the legal proceedings already commenced by the Environment Council.

"We're all still waiting to find out exactly what conditions have been attached by the Minister for Resources. We don't know how Mr Beddall reconciles this new licence with the Minister for the Environment's and the 1991 Premier's conference plans to phase out export woodchipping by the year 2000," he said.

Mr Parkhouse said that the Environment Council would be seeking urgent legal advice once the exact decision of the Minister was known.

"We are certainly planning an appeal of this new licence in the Federal Court," he said.

Mr Parkhouse said that he would make further comment as more information came to hand.

...ends.

For more information Phone Mr Terry Parkhouse 065 690 771.



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 11th October 1994

RESOURCE MINISTER BEDDALL'S WOODCHIP DECISION IMMINENT HUNGER STRIKER'S 9TH DAY IN GRAFTON GAOL

The Wilderness Society today called on federal resources minister David Beddall to keep his word and not allow Boral Ltd to export woodchips from high conservation value forests. Seven north east NSW legally defined Wilderness areas and other Old Growth Forest at Wild Cattle Creek State Forest (WCCSF) near Grafton are at risk. At WCCSF 80 conservationists have now been arrested over logging by Boral Ltd of 1000 plus year old trees: Environmentalist Mark Campbell has been on a hunger strike at Grafton gaol for nine days.

Spokesperson for The Wilderness Society Mr Glen Klatovsky said "On 5th September this year minister Beddall said *"If I believe an area is of high conservation value, I would not allow that to be woodchipped [The Australian]"*. The imminent export licence decision by minister Beddall over woodchipping by Boral subsidiary Sawmillers Exports P/L will show whether Mr Beddall keeps his word or is seen to be a sham.

"The Wilderness and Old Growth Forests within Boral's licence application area are definitely of high conservation value. This has been proven by inch thick reports by the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service and an independent report by the NSW Department of Conservation & Land Management [re WCCSF]. There is no way minister Beddall can justify allowing export woodchipping of hundreds of thousands of hectares of our best forest heritage. Plantations are the responsible alternative.

"Federal environment minister John Faulkner has already said it is crazy to log these forests contrary to the moratorium clause of the National Forest Policy. This logging is also a breach of international obligations under the Biodiversity Convention signed by Australia.

"The general community are outraged by the immoral woodchip trade. Only today a petition against woodchipping with 11,000 signatures was presented by Brooke Watson at the end of his fast for the forests at State Parliament. Mr Watson estimated that over the 28 days of his fast 80% of people who stopped to see his display signed the petition.

"There is no legal export market for Boral's woodchipping operations since their licence expired on September 30th" concluded Mr Klatovsky.

More information: Tom McLoughlin 02-267 7929 or 02 365 3837
Glen Klatovsky 049-294 395 or 049 682 881

Senator John Coulter

Australian Democrats

NEWS RELEASE

94/200

24/5/94

WOODCHIP EXPORTS FACE THE CHOP

The Australian Democrats have called for all logging to end in Tasmania's old growth forests and wilderness areas.

Speaking in Launceston today Democrat Environment spokesman Senator John Coulter said the Commonwealth must take its responsibilities for forest conservation seriously.

"The granting of woodchip licenses in old growth forests and wilderness areas must end", said Senator Coulter "and there must be no increase in export woodchip quotas."

Senator Coulter, who will visit the Great Western Tiers in Tasmania's north later today, said it is outrageous that the Tasmanian Government is pushing for an increase in the woodchip export quota.

"The latest information I have is that the Tasmanian Government wants to do a deal with Canberra and will sign the National Forest Policy if all limits on woodchip exports are removed!

"If so, it's an environmental disgrace.

"Areas such as the Great Western Tiers, which has been an environmental versus logging battleground since the late 1970's, is of high conservation value and must be protected from logging.

"Moves to log there must be stopped, the carnage cannot be allowed to continue.

"The area should be protected by the National Reserve system or through a national park given that most of the area is already listed on the Register of the National Estate or the Interim Register."

Further Comment: Senator John Coulter 018 856 584



NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

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MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...Wed, Mar 9, 1994

NEW S.E. FORESTS BILL CAUSED BY INCOMPETENCE: CARR MUST STAND FIRM

The Nature Conservation Council, umbrella group for more than 80 NSW environmental organisations, has reacted angrily to news that the Fahey Government plans to rush legislation through Parliament to guarantee timber supplies in the south east forests for the next three years, which would remove the need for the Forestry Commission to carry out adequate Environmental Impact Assessment prior to logging.

"The Government has known of an impending 'resource supply crisis' in the south east for months. Yet it is trying to rush through legislation, to fix up a 'crisis' of its own making, without allowing time for proper consideration by Parliament or the community" said Sid Walker, NCC Executive Officer.

Mr Walker added "this so-called crisis has been caused by the NSW Forestry Commission's incompetence. It has had plenty of time to produce an adequate environmental impact statement for the south east in order to comply with the law. Now it seeks new legislation to remove current legal requirements to conduct environmental assessment before logging the region's native forests. It is scandalous that the Fahey Government has agreed to go along with this plan to sidestep the law.

"No doubt the timber industry, and the Government, will argue that job losses are imminent unless the new Bill is passed - and that current environmental requirements are too severe. But that argument will not stand up to scrutiny. The community expects that native forest logging - if it's to occur at all - does not drive endangered species to extinction and does not smash up what's left of our old growth forests. An Environmental Impact Assessment, if carried out properly, helps to avoid these outcomes.

"There is great irony in the Government's current predicament. Last year, along with Fred Nile, the Government helped defeat the South East Forest Protection Bill, which had been introduced by Clover Moore and had the support of the other non-aligned independents, the NSW ALP and the Democrats. Yet the South East Forest Protection

Bill would have avoided the current supply crisis because it gave exactly the type of guarantees to the industry for short-term resource supply which the Government now seeks.

"The Nature Conservation Council calls on the Government to swallow its pride and to support the South East Forest Protection Bill as an appropriate compromise measure which would solve the industry's short term difficulties.

"To have the Nature Conservation Council's support, the South East Forest Protection Bill should be amended to ensure that the Bill's moratorium areas include all areas which are known to need protection to conserve endangered species, and all unfragmented areas of old growth forest. We also believe that the industry must be given lower short-term quota guarantees, as the current quotas are grossly unsustainable. Money is available from the Commonwealth Government to fund a restructuring package to ensure that no workers are disadvantaged as a result."

"We urge Mr Carr and the NSW Labor Party to support a suitably amended South East Forest Protection Bill. If, however, they cave in to pressure and support the Fahey Government's new Bill, they may jeopardise the considerable goodwill gained by their support for the south east forests in recent years."

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SID WALKER ON 247 4206 (w) and 305 090 (h)



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

SOURIS VAINLY PATCHES UP ANOTHER STATE FORESTS' FAILURE

- MAKING A VIRTUE OUT OF NECESSITY -

18 April

The announcement (14 April) by the Minister for Forests, George Souris, of an upgrading of the State Forests EIS program was described by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) as a token attempt to yet again patch up the State Forests' fourteen year failure to abide by the law and ensure that it adequately and truthfully assesses the environmental and economic consequences of logging.

NEFA spokesperson, Dailan Pugh, said that Mr. Souris is just attempting to patch up two of the mainfest failings of the EIS assessments, when what is needed is the wrenching of control of EISs from State Forests and the establishment of a credible process.

"The incompetence and mis-management of State Forests has cost taxpayers millions of dollars on inadequate, misrepresented and biased environmental and economic assessments throughout NSW".

"The State Forests' fauna survey and analysis methods were used to misrepresent the impacts of logging on native fauna. For over three years their methods have been subject to repeated and mounting criticism from conservationists, the Australian Museum, National Parks and Wildlife Service, the scientific community and even their own consultants".

"Despite the clear condemnation of its methods the State Forests still continue to use inappropriate methods and conduct scientifically invalid analyses".

Mr. Pugh said NEFA recently provided the government with a report it commissioned from Dr. Des Nicholls, Reader in Statistics and Dean, Faculty of Economics and Commerce, at the Australian National University.

"Dr Nicholls' report is highly critical of State Forests fauna surveys for not using the most appropriate methodologies or accounting for the numerous physical differences between sites. It also dismisses their simplistic statistical analyses as invalid", Mr. Pugh said.

The Department of Planning released its report on the Kempsey/Wauchope EIS earlier this month. It states (1994, p83):

"It is therefore concluded that, given all of the above, the results of the Fauna Survey in respect of the impacts of logging must be disregarded."

"It has taken years of criticism, mis-directed survey effort, invalid analyses and millions of dollars for George Souris to finally admit that State Forests got it wrong yet again. Now he intends to allow the same people to do it one more time."

"Mr. Souris has also announced that there will be a revamping of the oldgrowth assessment process. Given State Forests' abysmal failure to identify oldgrowth forests and their conservation values to date, it is impossible to expect that they will try to get it right next time" Mr. Pugh said.

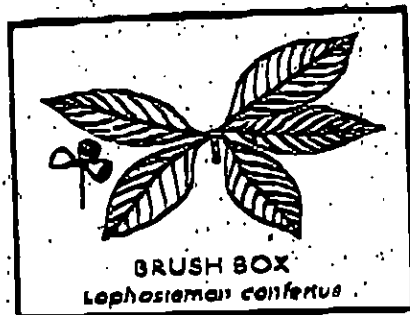
Mr. Pugh stated that all of State Forests' recent EISs have been strongly criticised by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Department of Water Resources, Department of Fisheries, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Planning, Australian Museum and numerous scientists.

"They have been particularly critical of the failure to adequately, reliably or honestly assess soils, erosion, streams, flora, archaeology, economics or conservation requirements - not just fauna and oldgrowth", Mr. Pugh said.

"Mr. Souris must give up his vain attempts to patch up a failed process. It is not a matter of what State Forests got wrong, but rather whether they got anything right. State Forests must no longer be allowed to squander taxpayers money on discredited EISs".

"The responsibility for the EIS process must be taken off State Forests. It needs to be administered independently in an open process, incorporating representatives from public interest groups, if it is to be done properly, honestly and credibly", Mr. Pugh said.

For further information please contact Dailan Pugh on 066 882268.



NEFA

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre Inc.
149 Keen Street, Lismore. 2480.
Phone 066 213 278 Fax 066 222 676

MEDIA RELEASE - Monday 28 March 1994

Licences to kill endangered species must go!

Licences to kill endangered species in Compartment 579 of Wild Cattle Ck State Forest, issued to Forestry Commission of NSW, by National Parks and Wildlife Service must be immediately withdrawn because the area provides 'critical' habitat for dozens of endangered species, said Ms Megan Edwards, spokesperson for the North East Forest Alliance.

Logging and roading were underway in old growth forest in Compartment 579, off Downfall Ck Road, north of Dorrigo, until tree felling which had proceeded apace in the deteriorating weather, was forced to a halt by heavy rain. The logging was earlier described by NEFA as 'provocative', and 'posing a direct threat to important endangered species'.

NEFA will take their request for urgent action, to protect 39 species of endangered species believed to occur in Wild Cattle Ck SF, direct to the NPWS with an occupation of its Grafton Northern Regional Office this morning, while they 'wait for action' by Director Dr Neil Shepherd. The direct action protest follows an urgent written request for a 'stop work order' by the NPWS made by NEFA 10 days ago, on 17 March, but which still has not been responded to by the Director.

"While NPWS allows logging and road works to continue under temporary licences, which were issued in 1992, without any assessment of fauna significance or likely impacts, they fail to meet their statutory duties of protecting the wildlife of this state", said Ms Edwards.

Ms Edwards said that Compartment 579 was exceptional old growth forest and as such provided high quality habitat in a variety of forms, for up to 39 endangered animals, including:

- bats: Golden Tipped Bat, Large-footed Mouse-eared Bat;
- frogs: Biphymn Frog, Giant Barred Frog, Green Thighed Frog;
- mammals: Koala, Spotted-tailed Quoll, Parula Wallaby, Long-nosed Potoroo, Yellow-bellied Glider;
- birds: Sooty Owl, Whistled Fruit Dove, Marbled Frogmouth, Rose-crowned Fruit Dove, Olive Whistler.

"The NPWS Director should not attempt to attach a string of conditions to a licence to kill endangered species in this area, because any conditions would be experimenting with our unique endangered wildlife heritage, and because bitter experience has shown that Forestry Commission cannot meet its legal obligations."

"This compartment should be protected under the memorandum announced in the National Forest Policy Statement, since it is an area of undoubted high conservation value for its old growth Brush Box /Yellowwood/warm temperate rainforest forest types, and its habitat for numerous endangered species," said Ms Edwards.

"The fact that State Forests NSW is logging this important area shows that nothing has changed at the Forestry Commission except the letterhead. This is more of the same confrontation, provocation and log at all costs," she said. She said that the people of Dorrigo had nothing to lose from on and to the logging at Wild Cattle Creek SF since all the timber harvested in the disputed area was being processed 'off the plateau' in Grafton or beyond.

Ms Edwards said that the unique old growth forests of Downfall Ck Rd. with their proximity to Dorrigo, were a potential tourism attraction of far greater economic and ecological significance than a truckload of sawn timber. She said that the timber industry should have begun their restructuring and transition out of old growth forests and into harvesting and value adding softwood, native regrowth and mixed species plantations sooner.

"The writing has been on the wall for the old growth logging industry since 1990, but instead of beginning that transition, we've seen a desperate rush to log every remaining available old growth tree."

"What they harvest today will be timber tomorrow, but what is saved should be protected for all time," she said.

NEFA's call for the withdrawal of the licences to 'take or kill' endangered species is the first of a three part 'avenue list' prepared at a recent meeting held near Dorrigo. NEFA says it is also calling for timber industry restructuring, an industry adjustment package and a broadening of the avenues for public participation in forest management.

"The most urgent need is for an independent dispute mediation process which will allow all parties to ventilate their concerns and seek resolutions. Our repeated requests to Premier Fahy and The Cabinet Office for such a process have been denied and frustrated. Without such a process the dispute will continue to potentially escalate," Ms Edwards said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION Phone Megan Edwards, Clarence Environment Centre 066 431 863

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc, 149 Keen St Lismore. 2480. Ph 066 21 3278, Fax 066 222 676

Media Release - 29 December 1994

ABANDON STUDIES for FOREST PROTESTS

The North East Forest Alliance has called on students to defer their further studies and public servants to take leave for at least 12 months to join its planned non-violent forest protest actions.

"Young, energetic men and women are urgently needed to intervene between bulldozers and exquisite ancient forests to ensure these forests' survival. We especially need young people with quick intellects, self confidence, a sense of daring and a commitment to caring for the natural environment," said NEFA spokesperson Mr John Corkill.

"This is *beyond* urgent. We have an ecological disaster of massive proportions unfolding NOW! We are at a forest crisis point where we cannot contemplate the loss of anymore old growth forest or wilderness. For survivals sake, no area of endangered species habitat can be sacrificed. The timber industry knows the next 12 -18 months is the critical time and we MUST make the same recognition and act accordingly," Mr Corkill said.

"It's crucial that people in the cities, who can travel, respond to this call to the forests' defence."

Mr Corkill said that the mobilisation of protestors have been made essential by the Federal Resources Minister's renewal of export woodchipping licences & Prime Minister Keating's failure to protect any of the 495 forest areas of high conservation value in north east NSW nominated for protection under the National Forest Policy by Federal Environment Minister, Senator Faulkner.

"We hope there are many young people out there who see their contribution to society as more than simply earning a pay packet or holding down a job for the sake of it. If wilderness and 'old growth' forests are to survive the Keating Labor Government, the culture of student protest must be revived and translated into the remote rural environment," said Mr Corkill.

Mr Corkill said that during protests over the past 5 years, many NEFA activists had developed essential bush survival skills, ecological understandings and forest protest 'know how' which they were prepared to pass on to a new wave of protestors.

"The hard core of activists who have stood firm against the forest destruction ordered by the Greiner and Fahey governments now need re-inforcements. We are urging young people to reconsider what is really valuable in Australian society, and make a decision for the forests, endangered species, koori cultural heritage and long term water quality.

"In return for their commitment to non-violent protest, we can offer young protestors the gratitude of the creatures and people of the future, a wild and exciting lifestyle and the opportunity to visit & defend places rarely seen by white people," Mr Corkill said.

"Come prepared for a long and perhaps bitter struggle with loggers and woodchippers. Bring your swag, tools and instruments & your sense of humour, but please, no dogs!" he said.

Mr Corkill called on volunteer protestors to contact an environment centre in any regional centre for more information and directions to protest sites. ...ends.

For more information phone John Corkill 066 21 3278w or 066 21 6824 h

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

Cl- Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc, 149 Keen St Lismore, 2480. Ph 066 21 32 78, Fax 066 222 676

Media Release - 28 December 1994

KEATING CREATES FOREST EMERGENCY

An emergency meeting of the North East Forest Alliance has been called for early January to prepare non-violent direct action protest strategies in the wake of the Federal Resources Minister's renewal of BORAL's export woodchip licence & the issue of a new licence for the export of woodchip from north east NSW through the port of Brisbane.

This follows Prime Minister Keating's failure last week to protect any of the 495 forest areas of high conservation value in north east NSW nominated for protection from woodchipping under the National Forest Policy by Federal Environment Minister, Senator Faulkner.

"Despite the vast majority of people, more than 80%, wanting 'old growth' forest protected and export woodchipping ended, the timber industry and politicians are intent on accelerating the destruction of 'old growth' forest, wilderness and endangered species," said NEFA spokesperson Mr John Corkill.

"We have all but given up on politicians saving these exquisite areas of ancient forest. Once again it's up to people power to intervene between these environmental jewels and the bulldozers," said Mr Corkill.

The 495 are part of 1300 areas across Australia proposed for logging in 1995, identified as being of high conservation value in detailed advice by Senator Faulkner to Resources Minister, David Beddall.

"Beddall ignored Senator Faulkner's advice and issued the woodchip export licences, but it was Paul Keating who refused to allow the issue to be resolved by Cabinet and who intervened to ensure Faulkner's advice was not accepted. The Prime Minister has to personally accept ultimate responsibility for the acrimonious confrontations which will surely follow," Mr Corkill said.

Mr Corkill said that Mr Keating had betrayed the public and reneged on his promise to enforce the National Forest Policy Statement moratorium which states that 'forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forests and wilderness that are likely to contain high conservation values.'

"That these forests are of irreplaceable ecological value is beyond doubt. The Department of Environment prepared these lists of HCV forests, based on the best advice available to the Commonwealth. North east NSW has a hugely diverse forest biology. No-one can credibly claim that these forests are not worth saving," he said.

Mr Corkill said that the culture of protest was now certain to develop into a major element of the Australian society, and would become endemic across the continent.

"NEFA's protests and defensive protest actions will be paralleled by blockades and forest occupations in Tasmania, West Australia, Victoria and south east NSW until the Federal election, or until Keating comes to his senses," he said.

...mcs.

For more info ph John Corkill 066 21 3278w (21 6824h) or Dorian Pugh 066 88 2269h

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc, 149 Keen St Lismore. 2480. Ph 066 21 3278, Fax 066 222 676

Media Release - 29 December 1994

ABANDON STUDIES for FOREST PROTESTS

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FROM TALKS H.S.U.394 1400

7.15.1993 12:27

P. 2

Press Release



**RADIO
NATIONAL**

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Perth 6RN 810
and to regional centres
throughout Australia

ABC TO BROADCAST UPDATE ON THREATS TO AUSTRALIA'S FORESTS
Tall eucalypt forests characterise Australia's landscapes, yet they are also among the country's most controversial environments.

Over the next two weeks, Radio National's Saturday morning environment program, 'Green and Practical', takes a closer look at Australian forests in a special two part series.

On July 17 the program will broadcast an overview of the timber industry.

Producer Peter Jacklyn said many people believe the timber industry world-wide is undergoing an inexorable change.

"Some people say this change is similar to the revolution that occurred when we stopped hunting and looking for berries and settled down to grow crops," Peter Jacklyn said.

"Australia is too caught up in this change which will transform the industry over the next 20 years."

Economists, foresters, timber workers and ecologists explain how our native forests will be affected by these changes. The implications for employment are also examined.

In the second part of the series on 24 July, 'Green and Practical' will focus on the "old growth" eucalypt forests, to see whether these forests are under threat from logging. Peter Jacklyn will also examine why the National Forest Policy, the result of years of research and consultation, has not taken the heat out of the forest debate.

For an update on Australia's forests, listen to 'Green and Practical' on Radio National on Saturdays 17 and 24 July.

'Green and Practical' can be heard on Radio National every Saturday from 8.00am to 10.00am.

Further Information:
Janet Prowse, RN Publicist
W: (02) 333 2694

Tuesday 13 July, 1993



Fax Cover Sheet

Christabel Chamarette

Senator for Western Australia - The Greens (WA)

To: Sid Walker From: Veronica

Fax No: _____ Return Fax No: _____

Number of Pages: (including cover) 3Date: 5.8.94

Message: FYI. We sent a similar let. to
Ed to the West Australian to date,
neither has been published

Veronica ☺



THE SENATE

Christabel Chamarette

Senator for The Greens (WA)

To the Editor
The Australian
Fax: (02) 288 3077

August 3, 1994

Dear Sir

I was extremely pleased that forests have featured so highly on the agenda of the South Pacific Forum meetings being held in Brisbane. It is very appropriate given the extent of forest destruction around the world and the pressing need to conserve what little is left.

I was especially pleased to hear the Prime Minister speak of the need to manage forests sustainably so they can be passed on to our children even though he and his government continue to allow high conservation value forests across Australia to be logged for export woodchips.

Mr Keating and the mainland Premiers clearly stated that they recognised the need to conserve these areas when they signed the National Forest Policy Statement in December 1992. However, since that time, little has been done to put into effect the conservation clauses in that statement, in particular the moratorium clause that requires forest management agencies to refrain from activities, such as logging, in areas likely to have high conservation value until they are assessed.

Although the Federal Environment Minister has demonstrated an understanding of the importance of this clause, the Federal Government has yet to show the political will to implement it.

The Federal Government has a national and international responsibility to protect high conservation value forests. It also has a duty to current and future generations protect and pass on our natural heritage.

The onus is now on Mr Keating's government to show that it practices what it preaches.

Yours faithfully

Christabel Chamarette
Senator for Western Australia
The Greens (WA)

3-AUG-94 WED 15:41

P. 01



FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

222 BRUNSWICK ST., FITZROY 3065, AUSTRALIA, TELEPHONE: (03) 419 8700, FAX: (03) 416 2081

KEATING'S "ENVIRONMENTALISM" SHOULD BEGIN AT HOME

August 3rd 1994

Friends of the Earth has called Prime Minister Keating a hypocrite following his pronouncements on unsustainable logging and fishing in the South Pacific.

"It is hypocritical for Keating to denounce resource piracy by Japanese and Malaysian companies, whilst supporting Australian companies that have an equally poor environmental record in the South Pacific and Australia" said the organisation's spokesperson Mr Damien Lawson.

"Whilst policies promoting environmental responsibility in the South Pacific are welcome, the Keating Government's record on environmental protection hardly puts Australia in a position to dictate environmental policy to other countries" Mr Lawson continued.

"It is significant that Keating made no mention in his speech of the operations of mining companies in the South Pacific"

"For example 'The Big Australian', B.H.P. is responsible for causing horrific pollution and dislocating the lives of local communities around it's Ok Tedi copper mine in Papua New Guinea."

"BHP is on record admitting the mine is pumping about 100 000 tonnes of tailings and heavy metals into the Ok Tedi river each day, and has done so for the past ten years. Despite this issue being taken to the Australian courts by PNG traditional landowners, the Australian Government refuses to regulate the activities of Australian mining operations overseas"

"Although we welcome Keating's stance in support of protection for World Heritage nominated areas in the Solomon Islands, surely it is not too much to expect that he would extend the same concern to World Heritage nominated forests in Australia," said FOE Forest campaigner Louise Mathiesson

"The Keating government is currently being scrutinised by the United Nations nature conservation unit for backing logging operations in Tasmania which have been proven to be drastically degrading the value of already listed World Heritage areas. Meanwhile old growth and wilderness forests are being woodchipped all over Australia in direct contravention of Keating's National Forest Policy Statement."

"Keating must also take responsibility for allowing the importation of rainforest timbers from known unsustainable sources in the South Pacific"

"Keating's double standards are breathtaking. If he is sincere about preventing environmental damage in Australia and the region, his government should get serious about regulating the activities of Australian resource companies actions here and overseas"

For more information (03) 419 8700 Damien Lawson or Louise Mathiesson

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NORTH-EAST FOREST ALLIANCE
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FOR GENERAL RELEASE 5.30 pm MARCH 18th 1993

DECISION TO LOG OLD GROWTH "TOTALLY INDEFENSIBLE"

Spokesperson for the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) Barrie Griffiths today described the State Government's decision to proceed with old growth logging operations in the Wingham area as "arrogant, irresponsible and provocative". Mr Griffiths said that the Planning Minister, Robert Webster, had largely ignored the advice of independent experts, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Australian Museum and the Department of Conservation and Land Management, all of whom have strongly criticised the EIS as completely inadequate and as failing to meet legal requirements.

Mr Webster today released the Government's decision to approve logging in Wingham Management Area for ten years, with operations in only 20 compartments deferred pending further assessment, and a mere 5% increase in proposed reserves. There is no reduction in sawlog quotas to industry. The Minister's statement said the EIS for Mt Royal had been rejected.

These are the first of 14 EISs being conducted by the Forestry Commission as a result of successful actions in the Land and Environment Court by NEFA.

"The NPWS, the Australian Museum and CaLM dismissed the Wingham EIS as unscientific and misleading, and expressed 'great concern' that proper regional assessments currently being undertaken by the NPWS would be pre-empted by any decision to commence roading or logging in these areas. The Service noted in its submission that 'old growth forest receives minimal discussion in the EIS'", Mr Griffiths said.

"In addition, the NSW Government is in breach of the National Forests Policy Agreement to defer operations until regional assessments are completed and regional management plans and representative reserves are finalised. The Government's decision is totally indefensible."

However, Mr Griffiths acknowledged that details of constraints and prescriptions supplied by the Department of Planning indicated some attempt to take account of expert opinion. "Certainly, the decision would have been significantly worse under the old system whereby the Forestry Commission determined their own EISs", Mr Griffiths said.

Mr Webster also announced that the EIS for Mt Royal State Forest, in the Upper Hunter valley, had been rejected as "inadequate and containing inconsistencies and confused analysis."

Mr Griffiths said that this was a fatal admission by the Government. "The survey design, analysis and interpretation were fundamentally flawed in both EISs for identical scientific reasons, as all experts agree. Operations in the much larger Wingham area have obviously been approved in response to industry pressure, especially from Boral", Mr Griffiths said. "

"We call on the Federal Government to act to ensure the process of proper regional assessments of these remaining ancient forests and wilderness areas is completed before they are irreparably damaged by roading and logging".

CONTACT: Barrie Griffiths (065) 77.3105

NORTH-EAST FOREST ALLIANCE
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MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR RELEASE September 7th 1993

DEPARTMENT APPROVES LOGGING IN WILDERNESS

The decision by the N.S.W. Department of Planning to allow logging of old growth forests within recommended wilderness areas in the Glen Innes district is further evidence that assessments of Forestry Commission EISs are ill-conceived and politically driven, according to the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA). Spokesperson Barrie Griffiths said consideration of impacts on industry has overridden the environmental consequences of decisions.

The Department's Report approved logging in parts of Binghi, Bindery, Guy Fawkes and Washpool wilderness areas because "the ecological benefits of wilderness do not warrant the economic and social impacts" (page 94), although the Report admits the decision "will significantly impact upon the wilderness values".

Mr Griffiths said the decision pre-empts Cabinet's decision on these proposed wilderness areas, a decision which is already overdue. "The Glen Innes decision shows the Government is as hypocritical regarding wilderness assessments as it is regarding old growth assessment."

"The Mt Royal EIS was rejected by the Department as inadequate. The Department's Reports are also very critical of both the Glen Innes and Wingham EISs, yet approve old growth logging operations despite the manifest deficiencies they identify; and the Department was about to approve operations in Dorrigo when NEFA initiated court proceedings to restrain such approval. The Department of Planning justify the approvals by stating they want to avoid any disruptions to industry", Mr Griffiths said.

Mr Griffiths said it is significant that Boral Timber Division has a monopoly on quota allocations in Wingham and Glen Innes and a virtual monopoly in Dorrigo. Operations in the small management area of Mt Royal have not been approved, but the approval for Wingham operations has not been withdrawn, even after the Department discovered information supplied by the Forestry Commission which formed the basis of the approval, has been found to be incorrect.

Deficiencies in EISs identified by the Department include failing to assess old growth or take account of regional conservation objectives, failing to comply with the Resource Assessment Commission objectives and National Forest Policy agreements, failing to meet the Director of Planning's requirements, and significant deficiencies in the fauna survey design and analysis. In the case of Wingham, even the mapping of old growth areas was significantly incorrect. Nevertheless because of economic impacts, disruption to industry and "time and resource constraints for EISs", the Department has approved old growth logging operations without adequate assessments. After all, these are legally supposed to be assessments of §environmental§ impacts.

The reversal of priorities is taken to a ludicrous extent in the Department's failure to alter fire and grazing policies in Glen Innes forests, because it would cost six graziers about \$5,000 each, and the Forestry Commission about \$4,000 annually! The fauna consultant found that "fire has been the most harmful agent to the State Forests", and concluded that "grazing and

associated burning is responsible for the greatest loss of fauna biodiversity and habitat simplification of any land use practiced within the Management Area" (Fauna Report page 65).

"The Government promised a review of the EIS process, yet the process is continuing, squandering public money and resources to sacrifice old growth to big industry interests before adequate reserves can be dedicated on the basis of proper assessments. We call on the Government to institute a comprehensive and open review of the assessment process, with full participation by public interest groups", Mr Griffiths said.

Contact: Barrie Griffiths (065) 77.3105

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



MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...MEDIA RELEASE...Mar 9th 1993

INACCURACIES IN FIGHTBACK USED TO JUSTIFY FAST-TRACKING

"There is a serious flaw in Fightback 2 which has received little publicity to date - and on which the Coalition should be subjected to scrutiny" said Sid Walker, Executive Officer of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, peak body for the NSW environment movement.

Mr Walker continued continued "Fightback 2 (pages 54-56) alleges that numerous major investment projects are stalled due to environmental constraints. It cites '24 projects Australia wide with a capital value of \$8,712 million and the potential to earn \$2,630 million in foreign exchange. It is estimated that 4,500 jobs would be constructed during the construction phase of these projects - a decision on approvals will be made by a Hewson Government on strict guidelines (but) if no decision is given within the deadline, most likely a maximum of 12 months, the project goes ahead automatically.'"

Mr Walker explained "in other words, the Coalition claims that major investments - and employment opportunities - are being blocked in these 24 cases through excessive environmental bureaucracy. The Coalition has pledged to sideline the environment movement, 'fast-track' these projects, and provide beneficial consequences in terms of investment, foreign exchange earnings and job creation."

"Unfortunately, the Coalition hasn't done its homework. Its list of allegedly stalled projects is based on a similar list produced by Access Economics - a list which has been thoroughly discredited by an analysis carried out by the Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency. CEPA shows that most of these projects are not stalled by environmental constraints at all. Many are projects without serious proponent and might be more accurately described as fantasies." Mr Walker added.

Mr Walker continued "The environment movement is vehemently opposed to 'fast-tracking'. Automatic approvals on projects after a given period - irrespective of the availability and quality of data and the concerns of the community - are an absurdity. Such a policy is likely to give rise to increased conflict and to a succession of major environmental disasters in the coming decades, with incalculable ecological and economic costs."

"It is therefore very disturbing that Coalition justifies a crude policy of fast-tracking by asserting that over \$8 billion worth of projects are currently stalled. This assertion is patently incorrect." Mr Walker added.

"In the case of NSW, the Coalition list four allegedly stalled projects - yet analysis shows each of these is a furphy. One of the four projects is actually going ahead after meeting environmental approvals. Another is not proposed until the end of the century, if at all. In the case of the the third allegedly stalled project - a very dubious proposition by all accounts - if it is blocked by anything at all, the NSW Coalition Government must carry the responsibility. The fourth 'project' - a world scale bleached kraft eucalypt pulpmill in Grafton - is so unpopular with the local community that even the National Party candidate for Page has disowned it!"

Mr Walker concluded "In NSW, the Coalition's fast-tracking policy in NSW will jeopardise the State's environment, yet the jobs and investment which it is claimed will result are illusory. In the light of this, we call on the Coalition to withdraw its commitment to fast-tracking. We also call on the ALP (which has shown a similar willingness to fast-track some major projects such as the Mount Todd gold mine), to make full and publicly accountable environmental impact assessment a bedrock of its policy"

For more information contact Sid Walker on 02-247-4206 (w); 319 1484 (h)

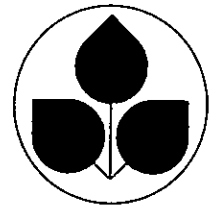
ACF

Australian Conservation Foundation

1st Floor, 88 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Phones: NSW Campaign Office: (02) 247 4285

Fax: (02) 247 1206

Judy. fyi



24th January 1993 Attention: Chiefs of Staff; Environment Reporters
Embargoed: 6am 25th January 1993

Media Release

Water Treatment Plants first stage of Sydney Water Board privatisation

The Australian Conservation Foundation today said that the four new Water Treatment Plants to be run by private companies signalled the Government's clear intention to privatise the Sydney Water Board. The ACF was finalising its comments on the Environmental Impact Statements for the Water Treatment Plants. ACF called for a Commission of Inquiry on a number of grounds.

"If Water Board's proposed four new Water Treatment Plants get the go ahead the Sydney Water Board will be part privatised before the community realises what the Water Board and the Government are up to, Ms Sue Salmon NSW Campaign Co-ordinator said.

"The Prospect Water Treatment Plant will be run by a private company. This one plant alone will supply 80% of Sydney's drinking water for the next twenty-five years. That's effectively the privatisation of most of Sydney's drinking water until 2022AD.

"The Water Board is the determining authority for its own environmental impact statements. The Government and the Minister, Mr Webster are clearly happy to have no checks and balances in the process and for this part of the water system to be privatised.

"Recently the Government took the chance to determine EISs away from another controversial agency the Forestry Commission. As the process stands, privatisation of an important part of the Sydney Water Board's operations is a fait accompli.

"The Water Board does not even own the water that it will sell to these private operators. The water is owned by the Department of Water Resources. The community has a right to know what arrangements have been made between the Water Board, the Department of Water Resources, and the private contractors.

"The Government is allowing The Water Board to privatise water it doesn't even own. Water is a critical life sustaining resource, not a commodity to sell off to private interests. It's time for a major public debate on this issue, Ms Salmon concluded.

For Further Information: tel: Sue Salmon w) 2474285 h) 2115984

Nambucca Valley Conservation Association
South Arm Protection Group
Bowra Action Tribe
Bellingen Environment Centre and,
Armidale Wilderness Society

12/9/93

MISTAKE!

- Endangered compartment is NO° 357 in Mistake of
- Compartment 357 Harvest Plan to be given to logging contractors on Monday 13th August (i.e. Tomorrow! - logging can then commence!)
- Significant Koala sites found in compartment 357
- Alternative Harvest Plan was produced by above groups and presented to Forestry - "State forests" on Thursday (last week) and was predominantly rejected
- Area is to be inspected by NPWS on Monday 20th August to see if Koala sightings are "Valid". This leaves one week "GAP" ... as logging can and will start tomorrow
- We are staying put in the forest until these surveys are done without allowing logging to continue
- Please come and express yourself! Bring WATER!

Contact: NVCA (065) 647808
SACPC (065) 647808
BEC (066) 552599

WAIT FOR IT

NAMBUCCA VALLEY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION . . .
SOUTH ARM CATCHMENT PROTECTION GROUP . . .
BELLINGEN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE . . .
BOWRA ACTION TRIBE . . .
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY, ARMIDALE . . .

MEDIA RELEASE

12TH SEPTEMBER 1993

Five local environment groups are calling on the Forestry Commission (now called State Forests) to defer logging in a new compartment in Mistake State Forest until National Parks and Wildlife Service officers can inspect koala sites found by group members, scheduled for one week's time.

The groups: Nambucca Valley Conservation Association, Bellingen Environment Centre, South Arm Catchment Protection Group, the Bowra Action Tribe and the Armidale Wilderness Society have all endorsed an ammended harvesting plan they put to State Forests last week which seeks to balance timber interests with conservation of koalas and other identified endangered species.

"We want the wildlife experts to inspect the 5 koala sites that have been found to see if the area is signifigant for koalas. There are a lot mature tallwoods and Grey Gums in compartnnet 357 which are koala food trees," said NVCA spokesperson, Lyn Orrego.

"However, State Forests say they cannot delay logging for even 24 hours. It is unaccptable to us that logging should begin before the inspection by NPWS, due on the 20th September," she said.

"The implementation of adequate koala reserves is vital for the survival of local populations of this vulnerable species. Our ammendments do not halt all logging," said Ms Georgia Beyer of BAT.

Concerned citizens and some members of the groups are camped in the forest and said to be considering a response to the refusal by State Forests to delay logging.

The four groups have also stated that NPWS have been irresponsible in allowing the Fauna Impact Statement (FIS) for Mistake State Forest to sit, unapproved, on their desks for 12 months.

"This has allowed logging to continue, under a temporary license to take and kill endangered species, in other compartments when the FIS is clearly inadequate and does not comply with the 22 requirements of the Director of NPWS," said Trevor Bailey of SACPG.

"The FIS involved only three days in the field and relied on opportunistic sightings only. A Freedom of Information request for more details of the survey revealed no records of site specific work or methodology," he said.

"It is therefore essential that NPWS inspect this compartment and apply mitigation prescriptions to protect the other 21 endangered species likely to be present as well, and that logging not begin before this," said Rob Mylan of BEC.

"Concerned citizens, qualified wildlife experts and some members of the environment groups have been camped in the forest for 2 months documenting the high conservation values of the Mistake State Forest. With 2100 hectares of old growth plus a significant spread of individual old growth trees, numbers of sacred and significant sites to the aboriginal people and the large number of endangered species we believe our requests are extremely reasonable," said Mr Marty Branagan of TWS Armidale.

We are also still concerned about erosion and siltation of streams from logging on steep slopes. Despite sending our scientists reports warning of environmental damage, State Forests continue to allow logging up to 35 degree slopes. It's crazy that Landcare groups with government funding are working on riverbank restoration projects downstream at Taylor's Arm while a government department, State Forests, continue creating the problems by their upstream activities, said Mr Trevor Bailey of SACPG.

"If the State Forests were genuine about ensuring sustained yield and biodiversity they would not find our requests unreasonable, but rather, good management practice," said wildlife ecologist Christina Potts.

"The job of ensuring this good management for all forest values should not be left in the hands of a few concerned citizens," she said.

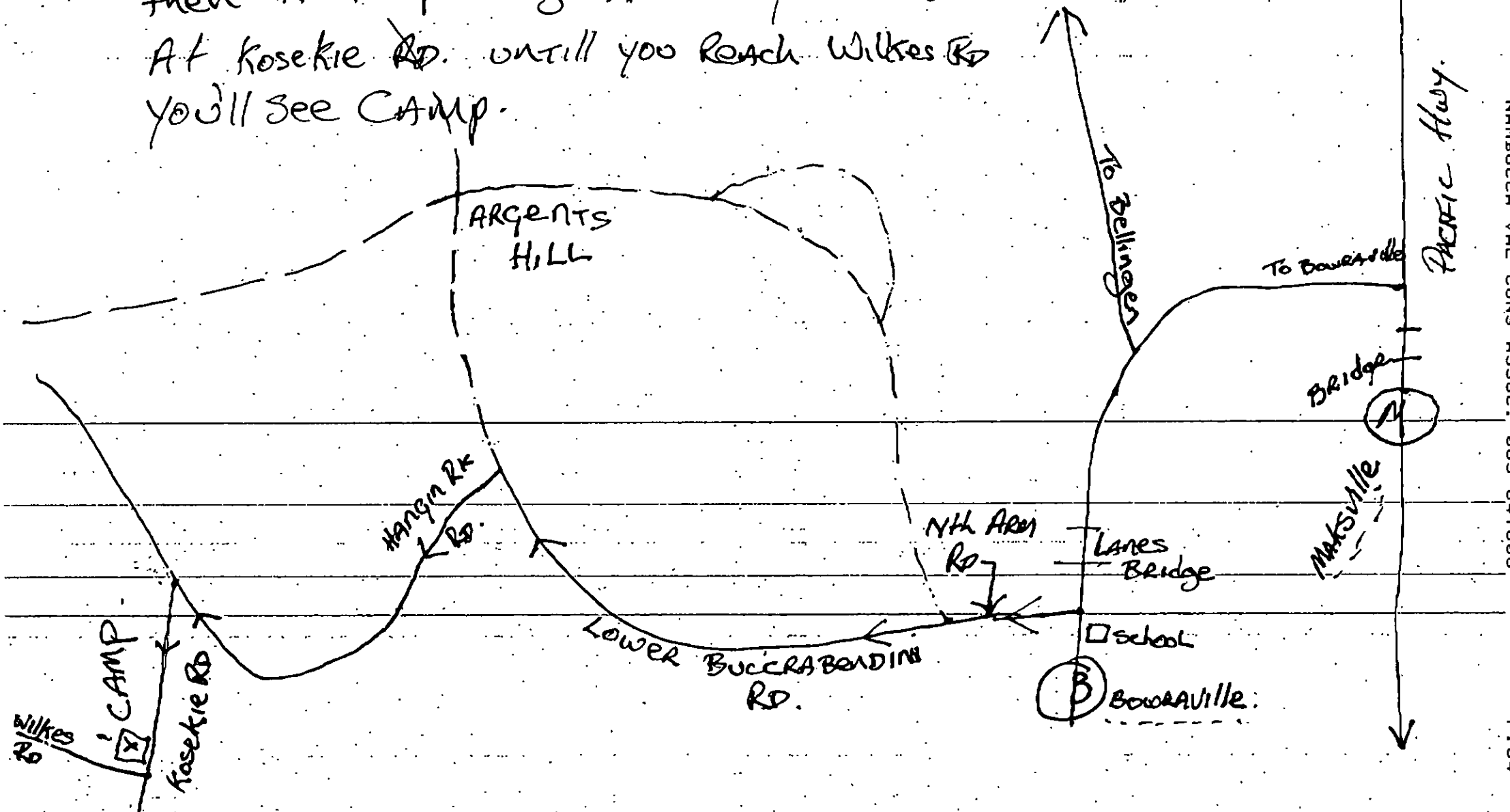
For further information contact;

Lyn Orrego (NVCA)
Trevor Bailey (SACPG)
Rob Mylan (BEC)
Marty Branagan (TWS)

(065) 647478 or (065) 647808
(066) 551973 or (065) 647633
(066) 551128 or (066) 552599

To Bellingham
+ Corps Hbr.

Base Camp is 43 mins from Bowersville
Along Nth Arm Rd. then Along lower Buccrabendini Rd
then Left up Hangin Rock Rd / Left Again
At Kosekie Rd. untill you reach Wilkes Rd
you'll see Camp.



NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

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39 GEORGE ST
THE ROCKS NSW 2000
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FAX: (02) 247 5945



MEDIA RELEASE....MEDIA RELEASE....MEDIA RELEASE....Tue, 24 May 1994

PLANTATIONS BOOST WELCOME - BUT OLD GROWTH FORESTS NEED *DIRECT* PROTECTION

"Today's announcement by Premier Fahey of a \$6 million funding program to expand NSW's hardwood plantations is welcome - but his claim that 'expansion of hardwood plantations is a positive way of protecting our old growth forests' is a dangerous furphy" said Sid Walker, Executive Officer of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

"The key to protecting old growth forests is to stop cutting them down. To date, the Fahey Government has failed to make that commitment" he said.

"The Resource Assessment Commission found that old growth forests, like wilderness, are essentially a 'non-renewable resource'. In plain language, they are irreplaceable. Yet NSW continues to log many thousands of hectares of old growth forests each year" Mr Walker added.

"Establishing hardwood plantations will create jobs now - and will generate a new timber resource more than a decade down the track. But currently unprotected old growth forests in NSW will be largely wiped out over the next ten years, unless there is a change of government policy" Mr Walker added.

"This welcome hardwood plantation package cannot be allowed to obscure the NSW Government's failure to act on protecting old growth forests" he said.

"If the Government wants to make a more accurate connection between plantations and the issue of logging old growth forests, it should encourage and help speed up the transition from utilising native forests as a source of timber to the full utilisation of existing softwood plantations. This market-driven transition is already underway, in spite of government inaction.

"NSW has mature softwood plantations in abundance. They could satisfy most of our timber needs from now on, while the 'dinosaur' native forest timber industry lumbers towards extinction" Mr Walker concluded.

For more information contact Sid Walker: 02/247 4206 (w); 02/ 305 090 (h).

Sid

From Peter Woof

BORAL DECEIVES SHAREHOLDERS!

Media Release. For Immediate Release.

Fri 9/12/94

In a letter to all shareholders signed by retiring chairman Jim Leslie, Boral claims the following:

[Boral is]

"Operating strictly in accordance with the National Forest Policy Statement"

Quoting the National Forest Policy Statement (p11)

"Agreed criteria for old-growth forests will be determined through the working group".

Our comment to Boral is that this hasn't happened yet.

"using those criteria, State agencies will undertake assessments of forests for conservation values"

Our comment is that these assessments have not happened at a State level.

"until the assessments are completed, forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest or wilderness that are LIKELY to have high conservation value."

"Forested wilderness areas will be protected"

Logging licences to Boral or its subsidiaries are being issued in areas of Old Growth Forests (as defined by the National Forest Policy Statement) and Boral subsidiaries are logging both in old growth forests and both proposed and identified wilderness areas. (See p16, Forestry Commission Eden EIS, 1988, SEPL EIS 1993). In Tasmania, Boral is logging in what was once a National Park, and we ask whether that will happen elsewhere in Australia.

Mr. Peter Woof, of the Friends of Badja environment group launched their whistle-blowing on Boral at the company's recent AGH. Boral's only defense in reply to questions put to the board was to say that logging was legal. "Even that is doubtful," said Mr. Woof, "given that a Boral subsidiary, Saw Millers Exports P/L (SEPL) would be able to obtain residue and woodchips, via the Davis & Herbert mill at Nowra from Croobyar State Forest where logging had proceeded without the EIS required under Part 5 of the Environment Planning and Assessment (EPA) Act, nor had a general licence to "take or kill" the endangered species present been obtained from the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

"Information from other parts of NSW indicate a similar brutal disregard for the law, endangered species, old growth forests and the National Forest Policy Statement.

MORE DECEPTIONS:

Boral further claims that they are
"harvesting only on a sustainable yield basis and operating
only in forests where sustained yield is practiced."

Our comment is that the Duncan's mill (owned by Boral) at Eden is operating where sawlogging has been at twice the sustainable yield, and according to State Forests, is still at greater than the sustainable yield. (See pp35, 36, 37 of the F.C. of NSW Eden Native Forest Management Plan, 1982)

HAS BORAL BEEN MISLED?

With the letter to shareholders is include a leaflet called "Green Gold", produced by the National Association of Forest Industries. On p9 it says "Australia has a large, sustainably managed forest estate" and goes on to reference p80 of the Resource Assessment Commission's Forest and Timber Enquiry, 1992. But what does p80 really say? "No comprehensive native forest inventory exists for Australia" Without such an inventory it is impossible to prove that logging is sustainable. Page xxxvi says "Logging of old-growth forest .. violates the .. principle of sustainable development in that an irreplaceable resource is being destroyed"

The Friends of Badja call on Boral to get out of old growth forests immediately, and to stop its policy of unsustainable deception.

CONTACT SPOKESPERSON: Peter Woof (06) 249 1163

Address: P.O. Box 305 Dickson 2602. (65 David St, O'Connor 2601)



WWF World Wide Fund
For Nature

media / press release

WWF International

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May 28, 1990

Press Announcement

MAJOR CHANGES IN FOREST MANAGEMENT BY 1995

In a speech which captured global attention, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, International President of WWF, pointed out the impact of the human population explosion on the world's dwindling natural resources. For excerpts of Prince Philip's highly-publicized lecture and a full report on the links between population growth and the environment see pages 4 and 5.

Also in this issue, the newspaper reports on why WWF has set 1995 as a target date for tropical timber consuming countries to change radically their methods of forestry management. Speaking at the eighth session of the International Tropical Timber Organization in Jakarta recently, WWF Tropical Forest Conservation Officer, Christopher Elliott, said that within the next five years all tropical timber should come from sustainably managed sources. See page 1.

For further information:

Elizabeth Kemf

Editor

WWF News

Tel 41/22/64 91 11

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NOTE: Editors are invited to reproduce articles in the WWF News, provided that authors are credited and the WWF News is attributed as the source. Permission is not required but the WWF News requests that copies of articles be sent to the editor.

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Hon. Treasurer: John E. Nash
Director General: Charles de Haes

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

THE NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW
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PROPOSAL FOR AN NCC SEMINAR ON THE COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL ASSESSMENT (CRA) PROCESS

A Proposal from the NCC to the Federal department of the Environment

Wed, 19 Oct 1994

BACKGROUND

Many conservationists believe the credibility of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) is in serious jeopardy because of governments' inadequate compliance with NFPS conservation commitments.

One key NFPS element is a commitment that governments undertake 'Comprehensive Regional Assessments' in each major forested region of Australia.

The NFPS specified that these assessments would be carried out co-operatively between relevant Commonwealth and State agencies, with provision for significant community input.

The NFPS target date for establishing a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative' forest reserve system on public lands is the end of 1995, with necessary additions from private forests to complete the reserve system within three more years. The CRA process is preparatory to the establishment of such a reserve system and would help determine its boundaries. More generally, CRA's would generate a wealth of information about social, economic and environmental values of each forested region of Australia.

Yet nearly two years after the NFPS was signed - with just one year left before the due date for establishing a 'comprehensive, adequate and

page 1

representative' forest reserve system on public lands - a CRA has yet to begin in NSW, and the Fahey Government appears unclear about how it will fulfil the CRA commitment in the NFPS.

THE NSW CONTEXT

NSW differs from most of the other forested States in that some key conservation groups active on the forest issue - including NCC - support the *principle* of comprehensive regional assessments. Others are more sceptical, and some groups operating in NSW have expressed opposition to the process.

The closed nature of Commonwealth-State processes for implementing the NFPS has not aided public understanding and trust. To date, discussion on CRA's has been confined almost entirely to bureaucratic circles and there is very little community awareness about the nature and potential of CRA's. Uncertainty about the role and function of the NSW Government's Natural Resources Audit Council has further complicated the debate.

An informed debate is needed about what CRA's could and should be. Commonwealth and NSW government agencies should provide easily digestible information to - and establish dialogue with - other stakeholders, to facilitate public understanding of the CRA process.

This may help allay suspicions currently held about the CRA; alternatively it may exacerbate those concerns. But although greater public understanding may lead to widespread rejection of the process, acceptance without understanding is also impossible. In the final analysis, CRA's will succeed only if the community is well informed and committed to the process.

SEMINAR PROPOSAL

NCC proposes to organise a one-day (possibly one and a half day) Seminar, ideally in late November / early December 1994 - but if that proves too soon, early in February 1995.

Speakers from the following agencies would be invited to the Seminar: the Federal Department of the Environment, the Australian Nature Conservation Agency, the Australian Heritage Commission, the Federal Department of Primary Industry and the EPA, State Forests of NSW, the National Parks & Wildlife Service, the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the NSW EPA, .

Speakers would also be invited from conservation organisations with an interest in NSW forests, such as The Wilderness Society, Australian Conservation Foundation, North East Forest Alliance, National Parks Association of NSW, World Wide Fund for Nature and Nature Conservation Council. NCC would also seek speakers from industry and from the CFMEU and Trades and Labor Council. Contributors from the scientific community would be invited.

Each government agency would be asked to inform the Seminar about:

- goals and process needed to achieve a *comprehensive* regional assessment.
- relevant datasets currently held by the agency
- datasets which they believe must be acquired for a *comprehensive* regional assessment.
- proposed public participation process
- budgetary requirements and realistic timeframes

Conservation groups - and other key stakeholders - would be invited to express their views, concerns, hopes and expectations about CRA's.

A provisional title for the Seminar is: 'CRA's: what role in NSW forests future?' The Federal Environment Minister would be invited to open the Seminar. Invitations would be issued to key State and Federal politicians.

We anticipate considerable interest in the Seminar, and would book a venue accommodating up to 150 participants. An essential aspect of the proposal is the rapid publication of proceedings after the event, to serve a wider audience in NSW and interstate.

BUDGET

A total of \$12,000 is sought from the Federal Department of the Environment to make this Seminar possible. This would be expended as follows:

Venue Hire	\$1,000
NCC's Administrative Costs	\$2,500
Travel Fares*	\$3,500
Publicity	\$1,000
Organiser's Wages	\$2,500
Proceedings Editor's Fees	\$1,500
Conference Proceedings Publication Costs	\$2,000
TOTAL	\$14,000

**Based on the assumption that some speakers would require fares paid, and that coverage of travel costs may be necessary to ensure participation of key conservation groups from non-metropolitan NSW.*

The National Trust
of Australia (New South Wales)



NATIONAL TRUST

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FORESTS CONSERVATION - NATIONAL TRUST POSITION PAPER

Following the 9th November, 1993 joint meeting to discuss the South East Forests Campaign and as requested at that meeting, I set out below the Trust's present position on this issue and proposals for a higher profile Trust involvement.

Current Trust policy on forests is set out in a March 1986 Policy Paper which covers issues such as rainforest conservation, clearing of native forests and woodlands for exotic softwood plantations, woodchipping, private forestry and rural tree dieback. The concept of ecologically sustainable development was foreshadowed in a section entitled "Sustained Yield or Sustained Resource?" The Policy Paper contains no reference to "old growth forest". A first and urgent goal would be the revision of the policy to address the issue of old growth forest and its conservation. It is anticipated that this could be accomplished by February, 1993, given the Trust's Committee and Board structure and meeting dates.

Trust letters to the Prime Minister or the Premier must be signed by the Trust President who is currently Chief Judge Barry O'Keefe. The election of a new Trust President will take place tomorrow (Saturday 13th November) at the Trust's Annual General Meeting when the newly elected Board is first convened. The terms and wording of such a letter will depend on the person elected President and the problem that the Trust has currently no policy specifically relating to Old Growth Forest. It should be possible to sort this out early next week, hopefully before the 16th November meeting.

Given the Trust's Classification and listing on its Register in May, 1991 of the Ben Halls Gap (Old Growth Forest) Landscape Conservation Area, a very strong position will be taken on the pending EIS for forestry in the area.

We are currently looking at the production of school education kits similar to the Rainforest Kit we produced back in 1983. These will be based on a video and we are exploring avenues for the establishment of a Desktop Video Unit at the Trust for this purpose. If all goes well, this should be up and running in the next few months.

The Trust, because of the wide cross-section of its membership, may be able to greatly assist the campaigns for protecting wilderness, old growth forest and other threatened ecosystems. We can preach to many who are "unconverted" and thus swing the political balance. To do so effectively we must maintain a strictly non-partisan approach and act in an even-handed and non confrontationist manner.

Graham Quint



CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH-EAST REGION & CANBERRA (Inc.)

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Veronica Varn (09) 322 1048

NATIONAL FOREST CAMPAIGN P.L.U.

November 15th, 12 noon (N.S.W. time)

Co-ordinator: Barbara Schreiner

Facilitator:

Time Keeper:

Minutes:

AGENDA

1. Woodchip licence for Hyne and Sons - Jenny James - 5 minutes
2. Outcomes of Forest Activist Workshop held on weekend - Jenny James - 5 minutes
3. Forest Embassy - Lucy - 15 minutes

NOTE: Any additional items to agenda please ring Barbara Schreiner at TWS (ACT) on (06) 257 5122 at 11.30 on Tuesday 15th November 1994 (N.S.W. time).

We need a Facilitator, Time Keeper, Minute Taker

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1771-97
FAXED

Mrs Ros Kelly,
Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600

Wed, 17 Nov, 1993

**re: Implementation of conservation provisions of the NFPS, and the
Commonwealth's legal responsibility to protect endangered species**

Dear Minister,

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW writes once again on this topic to express grave concern about the inadequacy of the process currently underway to implement the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

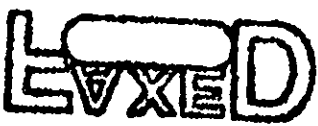
Today, the Reserve Criteria Technical Working Group meets. This is one of two inter-governmental working groups established to advise the signatory governments on crucial policy issues relevant to NFPS implementation. It is likely to make crucial decisions which will have a significant effect on the future direction of the NFPS process.

It is now nearly one year after the signing of the NFPS, and only two years before the comprehensive, representative and adequate reserve system to protect old growth and wilderness, promised under the NFPS, is due to be in place.

The Council seeks answers to the following questions:

1/ Why is community access to the NFPS process so restricted? In this context, we remind you once again that the Policy Advisory Group promised on page 20 of the NFPS has yet to be established, one year into the process. When will it be set up?

2/ From now on, what opportunity will the community be given to make effective input into processes for determining reserve design criteria, off-



reserve management principles (which we understand to be the task of the other NFPS Technical Working Group), and other matters crucial to the implementation of the NFPS?

3/ Do you acknowledge that NFPS implementation is seriously behind schedule, and that NSW and other States have repeatedly breached the letter and the spirit of the NFPS?

4/ Do you accept that this situation necessitates the direct application of Commonwealth powers to ensure that Australia's forest estate is not irreparably degraded?

This Council believes that the Commonwealth's integrity over the NFPS process (the linchpin of the Commonwealth Government's forest policy) is at stake.

The Government must demonstrate- by actions not words - its commitment to implementation of the NFPS. This entails forcing recalcitrant States to abide by the conservation provisions of the NFPS, opening up the entire process to satisfactory public involvement, setting explicit standards of best practice for the States to follow, and providing sufficient resources so that all necessary tasks are carried out to meet the timetables specified in the NFPS.

Alternatively, the Commonwealth could acknowledge that the NFPS process has been a failure, and apply its full range of powers to protect Australia's forest estate from further desecration.

.....

On a related matter, the Council understands that a renewed woodchip licence was granted for the NSW north coast Sawmillers Export operation early this week, despite the incomplete EIS process for that operation. We note that, in recognition of the Commonwealth's new responsibilities under the Federal Endangered Species Act and related amendments to the Environmental Protection (Impact of Proposals Act), the new licence agreement assigns an explicit role to the Australian National Conservation Agency (ANCA) to act as an approval authority for woodchipping operations on private and public land.

More than forty Federally-listed threatened species are potentially at risk in the north east of NSW as a result of woodchipping operations. Most of these are plants, which have no legislative protection in NSW. Under the circumstances, we will expect ANCA to exercise the precautionary principle and to resist pressure to permit logging operations before thorough surveys

and assessments have been completed.

Similar considerations apply to the south east forests of NSW. Once again, a significant number of endangered species are involved. The generic 20-year EIS conducted by Harris-Daishowa under the EP (IP) Act in the late 1980's was a quite inadequate basis for determining whether more recently legislated Commonwealth responsibilities to protect endangered species have been met.

The next site-specific EIS for the Eden Region is still at early draft stage. There are indications that it is a grossly inadequate document, similar in standard to recent notorious north coast EIS's rejected by the NSW Department of Planning.

Meanwhile, wood supplies available under the 1991 EIS are running out fast, and early in the new year there is likely to be a shortfall in timber legally available for extraction. This may tempt the NSW Government to permit logging in some areas without prior environmental impact assessment, and to further weaken the ability of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to protect endangered fauna. Clearly, it would be the height of irresponsibility for the Commonwealth to grant an export woodchip licence in respect of wood which has yet to be legally approved for extraction under State law. To do so would amount to Commonwealth connivance in a push by the NSW Government to disregard current State environmental protection legislation.

This Council believes that the Eden export woodchip licence should be terminated forthwith. If, however, the Commonwealth ignores this view and renews the licence, **it is imperative that it sets licence conditions which give ANCA an explicit role to protect endangered species in the south east. ANCA must be given the role of approval authority, with unfettered power to deny approval in cases where there are grounds for believing that threatened species may be in jeopardy**

.....

The Council looks forward to decisive action from you and your colleagues to restore community confidence in the Keating Government's commitment to forest conservation. We request a prompt reply to this letter, and will raise these matters with you at the Peak Councils meeting in mid-December

Yours sincerely,

Sid Walker
Executive Officer



cc. Prime Minister, Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet

SID

ATTENTION: NAT. FOREST CAMPAIGN PLU "NETWORKER"
(listed in **BOLD TYPE** ON PARTICIPANT LIST P. 5 of this FAX)

PLEASE:

- i) **Distribute March 7 PLU minutes to people listed at your node;**
- ii) **Confirm that for the next PLU (April 9: 12 noon Sydney time) the participant list, contact telephone number and fax number for your node are correct; and**
- iii) **Fax proposed agenda items for April 19 PLU to Fiona McCrossin at SEFA (02) 247 7118 (FAX) by Thursday April 14.**

MINUTES: PLU National Forest Campaign : 7.3.94

Participants: refer previous list

Facilitator: Peter Robertson

NOTES FROM MINUTE TAKERS

Due to the diversity of issues discussed; the range and number of regions and groups represented; and the length of the PLU - minutes were not easy to record accurately. To assist future minute takers we suggest that:

- i) **PLUs be taped**
- ii) **each participant identify themselves by name every time they speak**
- iii) **acronyms be avoided or explained**
- iv) **reports presented in a structured and unrushed form**

REPORTS from participants

QUEENSLAND: Nicky Hungerford: to parallel the State Gov'ts proposed regional assessments (NFPS) the Rainforest Conservation Society (for the Queensland Forest Alliance) is preparing a data base on forests; focus on old growth and sustainability; 20 March Peak Council Meeting day for forests discussion.

NEW SOUTH WALES

NEFA: Dailan Pugh: NFPS regional assessments are secretive and not comprehensive; Sawmillers Export Woodchip licenses coming up mid year; EIS is currently with Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency (CEPA) and think that it will be approved - the North Coast Environment Council (NCEC) will consider taking legal action; Dailan and John Corkhill will be lobbying in Canberra next week.

SYDNEY: Jeff Angel: State Gov. resource security legislation highly possible; South East Forests - legislation via Timber Industry Protection Act (TIP Act) may happen due to impending sawlog resource shortfall and failure of State Forests (ex. Forestry Commission) to produce an adequate EIS; may get reasonably sized moratorium area.

: Sid Walker: Forest Policy Advisory Committee (FPAC) agreed first meeting should have three agenda items: EIA/ CRA; Plantations; Resource Security

: Kareene Jurd: TWS developing own forest data process; Fed. Budget Launch March 8; working process follow up from Peak Council meetings in Canberra; in Victoria considering role in East Gippsland Forest Alliance; Geoff Law having 6 month break - new contact.

CANBERRA

Lucy Horodny: TWS preparing brochures for media and polities at branch level; consolidating internal strategy on wilderness and forests.

VICTORIA

East Gippsland: Jill Redwood: reassessing position and winter operations; all major groups have rejected Dep't of Cons. and Nat. Res. (DCNR) forest management plans - consultative process; waiting for release of DCNR old growth report; Trade Practices Commission (TPC) action against NAFI for misleading advertising.

Jayne Weepers: Indications that Land Conservation Council's final recommendations on land use in Central Highlands will not provide sig. protection.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Beth Shultz: West Australian Forest Alliance (WAFA) meeting with Carmen Lawrence re forests; sounded supportive; not happy with outcome of CALM "independent" review of fire; Wittakers hopes to get woodchipping export licence; attempting to get CEPA involvement in stopping it; suggests reading of Daniel Rosauer's report on Australian Heritage Commission's (AHC) involvement in regional assessments (Sen Chamarette's Office).

TASMANIA

Tim Cadman: Parliamentary debate re new Forestry Commission Legislation; conflict with state police re protection of protestors; Tassie Greens initiating debate on police intimidation; logging imminent in Great Western Tiers; Environment Minister (Kevin Minsob) has asked for names of experts to prepare a transfer option from native forests to tree crops.

SEN. CHAMARETTE'S OFFICE

Veronica Van: at meeting between Greens and AHC agreed to disagree; chasing Beddall re woodchip licensing conditions; want shift of focus to PM - rhetoric accompanied by action.

DEMOCRATS

Imogen Zethoven: no response to Parliamentary questions to Collias re export woodchipping licences; trying to get a meeting with Beddall (resistance); has correspondence (b/t Lee, Kelly, AHC); contact Imogen.

COMMONWEALTH BUDGET PROCESS

Imogen: no commitment to employment interventionist policy by Government; making a budget submission - have received proposals from green groups and have incorporated most of these; Biodiversity and forest initiatives submission will be released in late March; coalition unlikely to oppose budget; conflicting views and messages emerging.

Veronica: document copy to be in by March 14; received input on forests from Con. Councils and Green Groups.

Imogen and Veronica leave PLU

BUDGET

Kareene: joint position on budget with peak groups and Con. Councils; launch document March 8; document available for public comment then.

PEAK COUNCIL OUTCOMES

Kareene: summary doc. available; Kareene to FAX; note-dot points.

Nicky: Forest Session at 'open' Con. Council Meeting - Coffs Harbour March 20 - contact Jim Tenner (065) 690 802.

WOODCHIP LICENSE CONDITIONS

Dailan: License due June 30; Gov't intent to force through inadequate EIS; legal position based on: i) inadequate EIS; ii) Minister issuing licence without EIS.

Sid: put pressure on Beddall; Q'ld contact should be invited to Coffs Harbour

Dailan: met with Beddall's adviser; meeting with him in electorate

Barry: Fennealla doing an FOI on licences

Noel: Democrats have FOIed licences; Sen. Collins delaying but continue to push

NFPS (National Forest Policy Statement)

Dailan: discussed in Canberra; Fed Gov't has discussion paper on accreditation processes - available next week; reserve selection criteria and code of logging practices - development of consistent nationwide base line data standards for native forests - being sent to individual scientists and then to Ministers - end of April; CRA guidelines will be available today from DEST; open for public comments until end of March; NFPS NFPAC Committee (p. 20 NFPS) - being put to Richardson as a priority - 8 people - 2 conservationists (Dailan Pugh; Judy Clarke but not willing); 2 independent scientists (Ian Noble and Graham Cawley; 4 others???)

Beth: suggests Peter Robertson

Peter: willing - as a WA Con. Council nominee - will contact Dailan

Kareene: TWS not happy about committee; PLU is for information sharing - not a decision making forum; TWS has made a submission to ANZEC and AFC on reserve system and has circulated to other Peak Council Groups - wants copies of submissions from other groups

Tim: Deveraux has got PM to convene separate inquiry into forests - TOR to be decided; suggest we await the outcome of this

Dailan: Deveraux hopeful it will get up; but our input needed in all processes

Sid: we need to air differences of opinion on NFPS - at Coffs Harbour and at NSW Forest Summit - discussion papers needed; Fed Government accreditation process - Victoria has asked for accreditation through its Land Conservation Council - Forest Management Plans being put up, NSW through NRAC and also Q'ld

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION (AHC)

Peter: CALM/ AHC Joint Assessment of kauri forests on 8th - identified areas dropped; WA Greens have prepared response to AHC's criticism of Greens doc

Dailan: have met AHC - very worried about Cons. Groups response to them (NB WA); AHC have prepared response doc. to WA Greens doc.

Peter: Chamarette grilling AHC in Parliament (refer Hansard)

Noel: are we damaging potential allies if funding withheld for AHC's assessment?

Peter: defence of WA Greens report has been prepared by Rusauer (Green's Consultant); available Chamarette's office

Sid: Joint Budget Submission from Con. Groups rushed and NCC made point strongly that was unhappy about scaling down of AHC role - NB need for continued Comm. Gov't involvement in assessment.

CHRIS GALLUS

Jeff: has been in contact - wants forests on Lib. agenda; written joint letter with Anderson which has upset NAFI who have asked for withdrawal; Gallus meeting with Uniting Church post NFPS joint letter

Dailan: no support in Party; wants support beyond conservation groups eg. churches

Kareene: her response variable; note NFF alignment re licences (NFF going underground on this!!!)

Barry: arranged through Murray Meggat to talk to Fed. Back Bench Committee; but postponed; date to be set; Gallus can't take old growth and wilderness - likes plantations

Sid: believes she's trying but calling for help; we have ignored liberal local members - need to change their views

Noel: ask groups to ask her to put questions in question time/ support Green and Democrat motions; NAFI has made her angry

Sid: ANM have dropped out of NAFI; sick of it; Gallus wants dirt on NAFI

NATIONAL FOREST SUMMIT

Kareene: suggests peak Meeting in June (Canberra) as appropriate

Jeff: needs to include groups beyond these

Fiona: needs to be a weekend; and someone to organise

Kareene to contact Peak Council Secretariat - Claire Henderson

NATIONAL FOREST NEWSLETTER

Peter: WAFA to do state based publication

Jeff: put national newsletter on June agenda

NEXT PLU

Thursday April 19 -12.30; Fiona to organise

NATIONAL FOREST CAMPAIGN PLU 19 APRIL 1995
PARTICIPANT LIST: as predicted 27/3/94

Contact node; groups represented.	Contact names (networker listed first in <u>bold</u>)	Contact number for PLU	FAX
Nature Conservation Council NSW (NCC; NPA; FCG; ACF; TWS; TEC; SEFA)	<u>Fiona McCrossin</u> ; Sid Walker; Anne Reeves; Margaret Barnes; Noel Plumb; Kareene Jurd; Jeff Angel;	(02) 247.2228	(02) 247 5945
NEFA	<u>Dailan Pugh</u>	(066) 882 268	(006) 882 248
Bega Network Centre; SE Conservation Council	<u>Mark Blecher</u> ; Chris Allan	(064) 92 3385	(064) 923 266
Environment Victoria FOE; ACF	<u>Margaret Blakers</u> ; Jayne Weepers; Barry Trail; Linda Parlane; Tim Fisher	(03) 654 4833	(03) 650 5684
East Gippsland Forest Alliance	<u>Jill Redwood</u>	(051) 540 154	(051) 540 154
Queensland Conservation Council; Rainforest Preservation Society	<u>Nicky Hungerford</u> ; Aila Keto	(07) 221 0188	(07) 229 7992
Jackey's Marsh	<u>Tim Cadman</u> ; Sean Cadman	(003) 695 150	(003) 623 056
Tasmanian Conservation Trust; TWS	<u>Suzie Mannigan</u> ; TWS contact??	(002) 349 366	(002) 235 112
Canberra Conservation Council; ACF; TWS CCWA	<u>Barbara Schreiner</u> ; Jacquie Gillen; Lucy Horodny <u>Peter Robertson</u> ; Beth Schulz; Carol Perrin	(06) 257 5122 (097) 611 176	(06) 248 5343 (09) 220 0653
Sen. Chamarettes Office	<u>Veronica Vann</u>	(09) 481 1244	(09) 322 1048
Sen. Kernot's Office	<u>Imogen Zethoven</u>	(03) 650 2771	(03) 650 3784

08 JUL 1994

S. +1

NATIONAL FOREST INVENTORY STEERING COMMITTEE 12TH MEETING - 21 JUNE 1994

SUMMARY OF KEY ITEMS

State of the Forests Report

The NFI has been formally approached by the Committee responsible for implementing the National Forest Policy Statement to coordinate the preparation of the first State of the Forests Report.

The NFI has also been working closely with relevant interests in Commonwealth Departments to produce an agreed process for producing a State of the Forests Report which was directly linked to the State of the Environment Report, but did not have any overlaps or duplications.

The first State of the Forests Report is due out in mid 1995.

Update of the Continental Inventory

The Committee noted progress on the update of the NFI's Continental Inventory of broad forest types by land tenure

- woodland areas are being included for the first time, following revision of the definition of 'forest' in the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS)
- the updated inventory will be a key data source for the first NFPS State of the Forests Report.

Data Standards

The Committee indicated broad agreement with the thrust of a report proposing uniform national standards for the classification of forest and woodland vegetation

- based on standards recommended by various workshops sponsored by the NFI over the last three years and those being developed by the Victorian Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- although some refinements are still required, the development of uniform data standards will be a significant achievement for the NFI

- it was agreed the outstanding matters would be urgently resolved out of session as many aspects of uniform standards will be crucial for preparation of the State of the Forests Report.

Further Projects

The NFI has invited further proposals for projects to build datasets in respect of both native and plantation forests

- proposals targetted at the abovementioned update of the NFI's Continental Inventory will be given priority.

Applications have been sought from both government and non-government organisations.

It is expected that the processing of applications will commence in July.

State of the Environment Reporting

An officer of the State of the Environment Reporting Unit delivered an address to Steering Committee on State of the Environment Reporting

- including its linkages with the State of the Forests Report.

SOE reporting is a tool for informing policy and decision makers and the community about our environment

- it will present a report card on how human activities are affecting environmental conditions and the implications of this for human health and economic well being.

The first national report on the state of the Australian environment is due in late 1995.

Note: On 28 June 1994, the Federal Environment Minister released a national framework which sets up a scientifically credible system for regular reporting on key environmental issues.

The Interim Assessment Process Decision - an Appraisal

The decision of NSW cabinet at the conclusion of the Interim Assessment Process was a major milestone for the environment movement's campaign to protect NSW's native forests. The campaign will now enter a new phase.

The decision has good and bad elements. To understand and make a fair overall assessment of the decision, some context is essential...

Background

1: the National Context

In 1992, after years of conflict over native forests and inquiries into their future, Australian Governments, including the Commonwealth and NSW, signed the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

The NFPS promised the establishment of a 'Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative' (CAR) forest reserve system on public land by the end of 1995, supplemented with needed private forests by 1998. It also promised ecologically sustainable 'off-reserve management'.

Based on achievement of those key environmental goals, the NFPS also promised long-term security of wood supply to the native forest-based timber industry.

In view of the vast and poorly-understood biological complexity and heritage values of native forests, many conservationists believed an ongoing native forest timber industry is unacceptable, and opposed the NFPS.

However, most environment groups active on forest issues in NSW were prepared to accept the NFPS framework - as long as its environmental promises are honoured.

2: NSW before March 1995

After signing the NFPS, the Keating and Fahey Governments failed to take serious steps to implement

these commitments. Government attempts to fake progress while continuing to allow unsustainable levels of logging were a dominant theme during 1993 and 1994. Conflict over forests intensified.

In late 1994, a national furore erupted over woodchipping, when it became evident that logging for woodchips was proposed for the coming year in thousands of areas of high conservation value forest.

The March 1995 State election in NSW was drawing close. Conservationists sought discussions over forest policy with the major political parties. Unlike the Fahey Government, Bob Carr responded positively.

The ALP then negotiated with unions and conservation groups to develop a policy broadly agreeable to both. To achieve this, conservationists made significant compromises, but also gained important improvements in Labor's policy - notably a firm commitment to establish a CAR reserve system through an open, sequential and science-based assessment process, involving stakeholders to a meaningful degree.

Labor's forest policy was finalised shortly before the election. It was justifiably claimed as a breakthrough. Successful marketing of this achievement - along with active support from many conservationists and green preferences in crucial marginal seats - helped Labor win Government in a very close election.

3: progress under Carr

The ALP's pre-election environmental policies also promised immediate progress to enhance the reserve system by creating more than 20 new national parks and declaring new wilderness areas within 12 months of government. This promise of early, tangible conservation outcomes was additional to more distant yet more significant promise of a CAR reserve system.

In a first stage, Labor declared the smaller of its promised national parks and dealt with some wilderness decisions. However, many areas with important conservation values were excised from new parks and wilderness areas to accommodate logging, mining, and high-impact recreational interests.

The Interim Assessment Process Decision - an Appraisal

Starting from a low base, NSW's forest reserve system had been almost static during the Greiner and Fahey administrations. The new parks were welcome, but did not address the overall inadequacy of NSW's forest reserve system.

In particular, more productive forest types rich in timber values remain seriously under-represented in national parks. Often, these same forests are also richest in biological diversity.

Hence the importance of a forest assessment process leading to a CAR reserve system.

A CAR reserve system must be comprehensive (sample all vegetation communities), adequate (able to conserve biodiversity long-term), and representative (protect the range and diversity of species and ecosystems).

Criteria for a CAR reserve system were endorsed by the Commonwealth in late 1995, following advice from advisers including the Chief Scientist. These were used as the basis for targets for protection of old growth, wilderness, biodiversity and endangered species developed specifically for NSW, and agreed this year between State and Federal Governments and applied in the Interim Assessment Process.

The recent IAP decision

Progressing to a full CAR reserve system in one step was not feasible, and Labor's policy provided for an Interim Assessment Process (IAP). It is this stage in the assessment process which has just been completed.

1: a good moratorium decision

The main purpose of the IAP was to undertake a rapid assessment of public forests in eastern NSW, and then determine a moratorium (logging ban) over those forests most likely to be needed for the eventual CAR reserve system.

Once the moratorium is in place, government policy provides for further, more detailed 'Comprehensive Regional Assessments' (CRAs) - leading to finalisation of the CAR reserve system and off-reserve management issues.

Because of the way the IAP had been set up, cabinet was faced with a set of options for the moratorium, all of which fell far short of agreed conservation targets except for one, which met the criteria to a reasonable degree. This was known as the 'Conservation Criteria Outcome' or CCO.

To its credit, the Carr Government chose a moratorium based on the CCO. For this reason, prominent conservationists said that "the Carr Government has given interim protection to the most important public forests". However, some qualifications are needed.

2: limitations of the moratorium

The CCO represented a 'realistic best fit' of the agreed reserve criteria - but falls far short of achieving some of these - especially criteria for long-term protection of fauna. Even if a permanent reserve system is established based on the IAP moratorium, many species are likely to decline - including well-known vertebrates such as owls - unless management outside reserves is significantly improved.

The issue of developing standards for ecologically sustainable off-reserve management, long promised by governments since the NFPS, is therefore crucial. This becomes even clearer when one realises that even under the Government's decision to effectively protect the CCO, more than half of State forests are available for logging.

Given its incessant propaganda about logging 'only 1% of the forests every year', one might imagine the timber industry would be delighted with a moratorium which leaves it access to over half of State Forests. Surely such a large area must contain ample timber for many years?

In reality, the industry's situation is far more desperate. Massive overcutting over many decades has left our public forests in very poor condition. Old growth forests have been targeted for logging, rapidly depleting timber stocks. The available quality sawlog resource has declined dramatically, forcing last year's 30% quota cut as an initial adjustment to bring the industry closer to sustainable yield. At current cutting rates, there is only a few years supply

The Interim Assessment Process Decision - an Appraisal

of quality timber left in NSW's State Forests. Much of this is inside the new moratorium.

The main drawback to the IAP moratorium, which casts a shadow over the prospect of its eventual conversion to a permanent reserve system, is that it is subject to industry's demand for timber being met. Crucially, the same cabinet decision which declared the moratorium also guaranteed ten years of timber supply to the sawlog industry at levels only slightly below current (1996/7) cutting rates.

3: betrayal over wood guarantees

The decision by cabinet to grant guarantees of long-term wood supply to the timber industry at the end of the *interim* stage in the assessment process was a flagrant breach of the NFPS and the Carr Government's pre-election forest policy. This broken promise has marred the forest decision and may well return to haunt the Government.

State and national policy made provision for 'resource security' - but only after completion of the entire assessment process (2-3 years from now in most of NSW). There are very good reasons why.

Through the CRA process, reserves will be finalised along with management prescriptions outside reserves. As well, a full and accurate inventory of available timber will be carried out for the areas left open to logging. With all that information, it will be possible to set long-term timber quotas which - for the first time - are genuinely sustainable.

Instead of following this logical process which could have brought about long-term resolution of forest conflict in NSW, cabinet chose the politically expedient path of placating the timber industry by literally giving away long-term tradeable and compensatable timber rights to vast quantities of timber from NSW's public forests - gifts potentially worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

It is impossible to be sure just how serious the situation is, because State Forest's standard of timber assessment is so abysmal. It changed its estimates of the quantity of available timber on several occasions during the IAP. There are grounds for believing its advice to Government exaggerated the available

supply of quota sawlogs by more than 100%!

If that proves to be correct, the Carr Government will effectively set up a situation in which most of the forests now under moratorium will either have to be logged - or Treasury will be forced to pay timber companies compensation.

As the CRAs progress it will become clear whether there is enough timber outside these areas to supply these guaranteed amounts.

On to the CRAs...

The struggle to save NSW's native forests is far from over!

The recent cabinet decision means that most high conservation value forests will be saved from logging on the short-term - but immense pressure from industry to abandon the moratorium is also likely.

The next phase of the forest assessment process is the comprehensive regional assessment (CRA) process. There will be several CRAs in different parts of the State. Cabinet also set a timetable for completing these assessments and finalising 'Regional Forest Agreements' between now and the end of the century.

The Eden region CRA is due to be finished first. In fact, both Governments propose it will be done by mid 1997. At that time, an additional 30,000 hectares at minimum will be added to the South East Forests National Park.

In the other regions of eastern NSW the proposed time-frame for CRAs is more appropriate (2 - 3 years). CRAs are proposed for five eastern regions in total - two on the north coast, two on the south, and one region including the Sydney basin.

An exciting outcome of the cabinet decision is that at long last the forests of the western slopes and the Murray Darling Basin will be assessed; the Government announced that half a million dollars will be spent on a CRA for western NSW, to be completed by the end of 1999.

It's up to you!

The Interim Assessment Process Decision - an Appraisal

The forthcoming CRAs in NSW represent a major challenge for the environment movement.

The conservation successes of the IAP would not have been possible without the active involvement of many people in the conservation movement.

Yet CRAs will require continued involvement if they are to succeed from a conservation perspective...

Please maintain your support for the forest campaign, and help conserve NSW's wonderful forest heritage for future generations.

Things to do and ways you can help

- Complete the attached one-page questionnaire and return it to us. This will help us understand your future information needs.
- Maps of the moratoria and official government information on the forest decision has not been included in this mailout to avoid wasting paper. If you wish to obtain copies, contact the Resource & Conservation Assessment Council (RACAC) (address: xxxxxxxxx; phone xxxxxxxx; fax: xxxxxxxx). Specify which regions you are interested in. To obtain fact sheets on the new wilderness and national parks decisions, contact the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS head office, xxxxxxxxxxxx; phone xxxxxxxx; fax: xxxxxxxx). If your requests are unsuccessful, contact Elke at the NCC on xxxxxxxxx.
- Write to Bob Carr, thanking him for the environmental positives in this decision - especially the moratorium, new parks and wilderness declarations. You might also tell him you're disappointed about giving long-term timber guarantees now - in breach of a clear election promise and before the forests and the timber

resource have been properly assessed. Ask him to retain the moratorium until a genuine permanent CAR reserve system is in place.

- Contact us if you are interested in being actively involved in the CRA process! We need people to participate on many different levels - from intensive involvement on committees to other, varied (and often more enjoyable!) kinds of assistance. To register your interest please complete and return the attached form or call Elke at the NCC on xxxxxxxxx.

Dear forest supporter,

In late September, the Carr Government made a momentous decision on the State's native forests. Even though it is called the 'interim' forest decision, the key elements of the decision will be of long-term significance:

- creation of 240,000 hectares of new wilderness and national parks - including 98% of candidate state forest wilderness, over 40,000 new hectares in the south east forests parks (with the promise of an additional 30,000 hectares to come), and major new old growth and rainforest parks on the north coast;
- 670,000 hectares of high conservation value forest placed under moratorium while comprehensive regional assessments are undertaken;
- ten-year guarantees of wood supply to industry, at levels approximately 50% of 1995/6 quotas.

The first two parts of the decision are a great achievement. The new parks will fully protect these marvellous forests from logging. The much larger moratorium area - although smaller in size than previous moratoria - at last covers forests most likely to be needed for a CAR reserve system. It gives temporary protection these important forests.

However, the decision to give out long-term timber contracts ('resource security') threatens the integrity of the overall policy. Resource estimates vary, but the promised level of supply probably cannot be met outside the moratoria areas - leading to pressure to log these important forests and weaken environment protection rules where logging occurs.

This will be the focus of the continuing campaign to protect NSW's native forests in the coming years.

With your help, we have convinced government to protect some of the State's best high conservation value forests. We hope you will continue to help us. The result will truly be a gift to future generations.

Please send this back to we can help you better!

As a result of the Interim Assessment Process, we are now sending information such as this package to hundreds of people such as you around NSW.

We need to know a little more about you to help serve your needs better from now on.

Please complete this short questionnaire and return it to XXXXX XXX.

I DO / DO NOT wish to keep receiving information about the forests

This amount of information contained in this package is TO LITTLE / TOO MUCH / ABOUT RIGHT for my needs

I AM / AM NOT currently involved with a conservation group working to save the forests

I wish to become more involved in the forest campaign. Please contact me to tell me how. I am interested in:

WRITING LETTERS / JOINING A FOREST ACTION GROUP /
PARTICIPATING IN FOREST ASSESSMENTS / HELPING WITH
THE CONSUMER CAMPAIGN / MAKING REGULAR DONATIONS

Name

Address

Phone Number

OLD GROWTH AND WILDERNESS FORESTS

In the early 1980's the National Trust played a key role in the campaign for the permanent protection of our state's rainforest. With school education kits, media advertisements and by mobilising its membership the Trust was able to achieve a significant shift in community perceptions on rainforests.

A public opinion poll commissioned by the Trust at that time indicated overwhelming public endorsement of the need to conserve our rapidly diminishing rainforests through National Park and Nature Reserve dedications. These areas were later to be included on the Register of the National Estate and then listed as World Heritage Areas.

But what of our wilderness and old growth forests? Are they, like the rainforests, under dire threat? In 1991, the Trust Classified the Ben Halls Gap Old Growth Forest Landscape Conservation Area south of Nundle for its exceptional heritage importance. Although the area meets six of the criteria for listing on the Register of the National Estate it is now subject to a logging proposal with an Environmental Impact Statement for the development about to be released.

There has been considerable promotion of the "sustainable forestry" concept by the forests industry. It is understandable that the broader community has not recognised the magnitude of the threat posed to our heritage eucalypt forests and the urgent need for their protection.

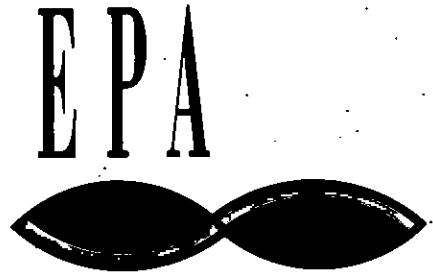
Latest scientific opinion casts grave doubts on the concept of "sustainable forestry". The present reserve system is inadequate. Of the remaining "old growth forest" in New South Wales four types are very poorly reserved with only 5.4%, 0.9%, 0.8% and 0.1% protected in conservation reserves.

In a recent open letter to the Prime Minister and the NSW Premier, the Trust joined with the other peak conservation organisations, the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW and environmental committees of the Uniting, Baptist and Catholic Churches, calling for the effective implementation of the conservation obligations in the National Forest Policy Statement, signed jointly by Mr Keating and Mr Fahey in 1992.

The Trust also strongly supports a National Parks & Wildlife Service recommendation that there be a full audit of old-growth forests in line with the recommendations of the National Forest Policy which states that forest management agencies should avoid activities likely to affect old-growth forests or wilderness until such audits are completed.

The Trust is currently revising its 1986 Forests Policy and this revised policy will form the basis of a major campaign to protect this important natural heritage.

24 AUG 1993



Mr Sid Walker
The Nature Conservation Council of NSW
39 George Street
THE ROCKS NSW 2000

Environment
Protection
Authority
New South Wales

PO Box 1135 Chatswood NSW 2057
Tel .02. 795 5000 Fax .02. 325 5678

Director
General

Our Reference:

Your Reference:

Contact: Donna Campbell 325-5609

20 AUG 1993

Sid
Dear Mr Walker

Forestry Commission - Pollution Control Licences

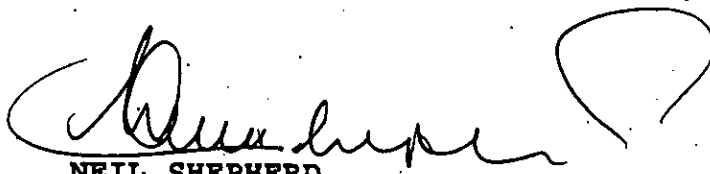
The EPA held a further meeting with environmental groups on 21 June 1993 at which we discussed the framework of the licences which the EPA may in the future issue to the Forestry Commission. At that meeting, it was foreshadowed that the EPA would issue a discussion paper concerning the framework of the proposed licences.

That discussion paper is currently being prepared and will be made available for public comment.

To allow sufficient time to receive and consider public submissions prior to issuing a revised licence, the existing licences were renewed on 7 August 1993 subject to the same conditions for a further period of 6 months. Copies of these licences will, of course, be available for inspection at EPA offices.

I intend to convene a further meeting with the environmental groups once the discussion paper is released, and will contact you in due course concerning arrangements for that meeting.

Yours sincerely


NEIL SHEPHERD
Director-General

**NATIONAL FOREST CAMPAIGN
PLU**

Tuesday, 4 October, 12 noon EST

Facilitator:
Time-keeper:
Minutes:

FINAL AGENDA

1. Letter writing campaign update - 5 mins.
2. Forest Embassy update - 15 mins.
3. Forest Summit & NFN Conference - 10 mins
4. Lobby group report - Noel/Alec - 10 mins
5. HCV Study report - 10 mins.
6. Plantation study - Judy - 5 mins
7. Export Woodchip Licence update - 5 mins
8. Pictorial Display of Woodchip Areas - Sid - 5 mins
9. Keating's environment performance - Tom - 5 mins
- impact of Uranium decision

A facilitator, minute taker and task taker are needed.

Minutes of the National Forest Groups PLU on Tuesday 6th September 1994.

Chair Person - Barbara Schrider

Facilitating - Jayne Weepers

Barbara Schrider - Apologies to Niki Hungerford for not getting things on the agenda, problem at office they are on now.

Apologies - Niki not on phone link up.

Ila (Bris) - Want minutes moved to start of meeting as needs to go to another meeting.

AGENDA REVIEW

Additions - No. 10 Save the Forest Action Lisa 10 min

No. 11 Fraser Island

No. 12 Status of CRA

No. 13 Woodchip exports in Queensland 3-5 minutes

No. 14 Wet Tropics Plan

No. 15 Rain Forest Logging

No. 11 - 15 Comprise those item that Aila wishes to speak to and will be moved to the front. - Agreed.

Time - Lucy Canherra

Minutes - Melbourne will do Minutes - Tape will be passed on.

No 1. - REPORT BACKS - Short dealing with National Day of Action - other vital facts if needed

QLD - Linden - Banner drop in morning - 50-60 at the foot of the Kangaroo Point Cliffs - media not too interested - 100+ letters at King George Square - first action for TWS in Bris for a while.

NE NSW - John Corkhill - Billboard went up - banner drop in co-op with QLD - Big Scrub went off - Signatures and 80 letters 1/2 day - more planned - small leaflet SNAFU.

SYD - Sid - Excellent demo at Circular Que. - organised by Sydney TWS - good media.

NEWCASTLE - No.

CANBERRA - Lisa - 150 people in city - Banner Hang - Good action - Saturated media - bad article

SEFA - Chris - Occupied logging coupe in State Forest - Picketed restructuring committee - union person announcing strike at Daishowa.

MELB - Louise - 100 people outside ALP offices - police present - all wrote letters - banner drop from roof - media good.

TAS - Protest on parliament house lawns - 200-300 people turned up - ute load of dead animals poisoned by 1080 - 3 wombats (1 baby), 2 echidna - 2 tiger quol - pile of wallabies etc. - got media focus on issue.

EG - No

WA - Carl - 700-100 people - \$600 raised - first action of Friends of the South West Forests.

Action also in Cairns

(1)

No. 2 SEPTEMBER 1ST LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION

Noel - Were are the leaflets?

Ring Andrew Beswick in Melbourne TWS - 03 670 5229

Melbourne's has arrived so they are on the way - glitch with printer.

No. 2a QLD ISSUES

Aila - Will correct errors and request action

Error in minutes and national newsletter

- No logging on Fraser Is, and this is not likely.

- No exports of woodchips from native forest in QLD.

- No comprehensive regional assessment done. Priority areas has been looked at.

- Tim Cadman is on Line

- Rain forest logging - Govt said will stop by end of September

- FOIs show it has been redefined in SE QLD.

Help - need a national response to wet tropic plan because of potential development in World Heritage area - need Newsletter dates etc. to alert people can people let me know. 221 0188 QCC

Report released on the 1st of November - Open for response till the end of February.

QCC - got lots of good FOI request in.

No 3. FOREST EMBASSY

Already cover in another item - will do now.

Louise - steering group has had lots of discussion - you should have received

Preparations Camp hand book ring if you've missed out - need to have separate phone link up

NOW DEAL with

- reconfirm support - AGREED - dates length - what are people doin

- \$\$\$\$\$\$ money

Western Tiers - Yes

NEFA - wont to go

WA - bus being organised

NCC - no \$?, tight for funds

Budget

\$4000 total - wages \$500 - need money to pay for posters etc.

Con Council member groups need to be contacted, we need money now expenses are running up.

Proposal \$400 con. councils, National TWS, ACF - \$100 major groups - and/or bartering

Response

QLD Keen, Given \$50 from Rain Forest Preservation Society, Need inf. for TWS.

NEFA - Will provided \$, will ask other groups to donate.

Can Con Council - Several \$100, will contact member groups

NCC - Sid Walker - needs someone to find the money within his group.

Forest Campaign Group Sydney - Noel - \$100

FOE - will be putting money in.

SEFA - \$100 ok?

NFN - will alert member groups \$100-400 Tasmania wide
TCC - strapped for cash, looking for 11,000 dollars will look for other ways to get \$
EV - will contact member groups, and get \$ in
TWS - Kevin Parker looking at \$ amount ???
WA - \$400 ??

MONEY - to go to TWS Canberra

GROUPS that cant commit need to commit by Friday - this is the third dead line -
contact LISA in Canberra

DATES - LENGTH - 4th to the 8th of November

Feed back - no definite stop date.

NEFA - John - too short - need to keep political pressure up - keep it going till Friday

Lisa - can go longer if people take on roles to organise it and extra costs are covered.

Louise - proposal organised 5 days and allow people to stay on.

Noel - would like it longer, at least over sitting week.

NEFA - when are licences renewed

Louise - licences aren't likely renewed before then because of HCV report is due
around that time.

Noel - 7th to 12th

Lisa - Why weekend - allows families to join on weekend for a big Sunday action and
media on Monday.

*Proposal - 4th to the 8th minimum and co-ordination group will discuss
extension. Proposal Agreed*

Louise - Things for groups to do, get money in, please fill in group questionnaire, need
to distribute posters, each region will set up a regional village, banners, displays,
organise transport, wider community groups, need people to take on organisational
roles.

Lucy - Posters are on line, entertainment, and police parliament house liaison have
begun.

NEFA - John - dates must be finalised before posters going to print.

Firm Commitment and support by Friday or next PLU, ring if you don't have
handbook.

No. 4 OCTOBER FOREST SUMMIT

Mail Out done - there is support - need to reply by September the 14th - 22nd 23rd of
October Sat Sun - Immediately prior to NFN Melbourne Conference. Big Party
- Kevin Parker on Line

No. 6 LOBBY GROUP REPORT

Noel, John C (Alec not line)

John - Successful meeting with a number of MP who will be activists on export
woodchipping will undertake to see Faulkner on 1st of September. Were going to
check Faulkner's strategy - good - hit Keating - Bad - improve Faulkner. Critical to
lock in PM to difficult to get across on caucus floor, with PM support cabinet
outcomes will be successful. No information on this groups meeting with Faulkner.

3

Kevin - Group of MPs were a bit nervous, letter had been drafted to give to back benches to give to Faulkner

Peter Robinson - Had spoken with Alec, Faulkner moving extremely slowly, needs lobby group PLU to discuss this problem

John - MPs Group - Harry Woods NSW, Linsy Tanner Vic, Bob Chynoweth Vic, John Deborah Tasmania, Margret Renols QLD.

Tim C - Marginal seats is a good tactic.

John - Good Opportunity for people to be inside the house visiting their polities during the sitting time at the Forest Embassy.

Sid W - Should a delegation meet with Keating.

John - Lobby Group will discuss this.

Jane - Women on Lobby group?

No? - Yes one, Linda Parlane

No 7. HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE (HCV) REPORT.

Sean Cadman - Still trying to get a minor change to the contract. At Peak council Faulkner made commitment to fund a study of HCV forest in area where wood chipping is going on - Vic, Tas, NSW, and WA. Teams are in place waiting for signing of contract. Deadline for report is almost certainly by the end of October.

Noel - Some preliminary work begun.

John - Negative fallout from Bedall or industry statements?

No

Sean Cadman - Industry confused, not know how serious to take it. Faulkner is not taking us seriously enough because he doesn't believe we can deliver electoral pain or gain.

No. 9 TCC LEGAL CHALLENGE TO WOODCHIPPING

Susy - Beddall gave Gunn's a licence to export, TCC wrote a letter under the Administrative Decisions Judicial Review Act, asking him to give reasons, required 28 days to reply, was over time by 1 month. EDO has taken this case on breached ADJ act. TCC standing in federal courts. Cost \$800 dollars a day. Democrats taken out FOI - refused - Democrats will take out censure motion. 21st of November TCC will get standing. \$16,000 - \$4,000 democrats, \$1,000 Tas Greens, please give money. Fought on 200,000 tones permit on without EIS.

Noel - Group would like to provided assistance.

NEFA - doing similar action, challenging adequacy of EIS.

Susy - Beddall making funning noises in the Australian

No. 10 ANOTHER NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION PROPOSAL

Lisa - Looking at sitting dates, Tuesday - better media day, 20th of September or 11th of October.

Kevin - Not NDA but lobbying activity, spontaneous actions, better to lobby.

Tim - I didn't get my letters nor Tas, what is happening, monitoring.

Noel - Lobby group marginal seat activity is important

Barry - Agree with Noel focus on marginal seats, to deliver fear to Canberra. Use state action appropriately.

*Proposal - Jane - Another National Day of Action***Proposal Not Agreed to.**

John - State by state and focus on woodchipping, move on plantations later on.

Lisa - Put out media, and maintain national focus.

Jane - Send information about marginal electorate actions to lobby group members -

Alec in Hobart, Linda Parlane in Vic, Peter Robinson in WA, John NEFA.

John - Inf. should go to Alec

Letter Writing

Louise - In Vic we have organised a state wide focus.

Tim - Organising letter writing campaign in district.

Keep Tally, report back at PLUs

Thank to Andrew and people who wrote leaflet

No. 11 ADDITIONAL ITEMS*Industry Leaflet*

Tim Cadman - Industry Material outstanding, Harris Daishowa, Bunnings etc. on all existing and planned woodchipping - send it in. Hopefully be done in the next month.

NFPS leaflet

Lisa - What about NFPS leaflet??

Sid - Co-ordination has been slow moving, now high on priorities, next few weeks, lacks list of name on group. Anyone who is interested should get in contact with Sid even if your name was not on the list.

Noel - has names, will pass on.

Environmental Law Reform

John - Sean and John developing firm proposals for reform of Commonwealth Environmental Law, draft includes as priority a new act for Commonwealth environmental impact assessment. Com Govt has dropped ball on review of EPIP act., big problems - need to move now. Fax to Sean points on Envi Law Reform.

NSW Fay Wilderness

Tom - Fay over a barrel after losing Bye election, may cave into Wilderness.

CEPA - Preferred PAPER

Jane - Joint group report being completed

Noel - Need to pass inf. on this issue to membership bases.

Jane - Will network EV's copy, and putting an info sheet on what people need to do. Perth & Tim Cadman wants copy....

No 12. PHONE LINK UP

Barbara - Agenda items sheet sent out a week before due, this is not being networked, nor is feed back coming from these sheets. Can't do the next one - going away.

When is the Next one?

Proposal 4th of October

Proposal Accepted

Co-ordinator/ Minutes - Debbie / TWS SYD

Facilitator - Jane

Thanks to democrats

Minutes by Adrian Whitehead (Happy to do it next time)

5



Contact: Colin Dimitroff
Telephone: 372 8540
Your Ref:
Our Ref: "Timpol.doc"

Chris Harris
Campaigns Manager
Greenpeace Australia
PO. Box 800
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

8th September 1994

Re: Draft Rainforest Policy

Dear Chris.

Your reply to our draft policy is much appreciated.

The more I delve into timbers the more impediments to common sense arise. Public Works is committed to pursuing more responsible environmental design. We see ourselves as in a critical and somewhat influential position between industry and the expenditure of public monies hence our need for probity is paramount.

In the course of furthering the establishment of a design policy to reduce the propensity to use environmentally unsuitable wood in government projects I have had dealing with the Rainforest Information Centre and others. It is becoming clear that sustainable forestry, at least the style desired by the NGOs, is not being practiced in this state.

Our draft policy made reference to "old-growth", "re-growth", and "plantation" timbers. Advice received from bodies such as Greenpeace reinforce the feeling that "old-growth" forests are not easily identified as least in the eyes of the forestry authorities and legally. "Re-growth" forests seem not to be managed in a sustainable manner, and "plantations" may have detrimental ecological consequences particularly for biodiversity.

With this in mind we still see merit in pursuing the establishment and implementation of a "rainforest policy". Our intention is to raise the profile of timber selection in both project briefs, design phases, and construction. By requiring contractors to seek written assurances from suppliers as to the source of particular timbers the message may begin to get through to those who can facilitate the data collection and labelling needed to more responsibly market timber products.

I have no doubt that our contractors will express difficulty and in many cases documentation may not be possible or reliable. Change has to start on many fronts.

We do not discount the benefit the policy will eventually have in focusing the client and the designer on more environmentally responsible material choices. A bit of research in the front end may save unnecessary confrontation during construction.

To that end I will amend the policy only slightly. Reference to the Forestry Commission will be deleted for the time being until their ability to effectively and productively assist in the sourcing and labelling of forest products is better established.

I will reinforce the desirability of recycled timbers, engineered timbers, and plantation timbers in preference to "old-growth" timber. The prohibition on imported and local rainforest species will be maintained until a truly viable and sustainable source is clearly identified.

As with your organisation Public Works will keep a "watchful brief" on the development of responsible labelling and production. I was unaware of the Forests Stewardship Council. Can you provide me information on this body ?

Looking forward to the continuing co-operation with Greenpeace Australia.

Yours faithfully



Colin Dimitroff
Development Manager
Client Service Division

DRAFT
28 JUNE 1994

Dear Mr Faulkner

CONSERVATION OF NATIVE FORESTS

We are pleased with the importance given to forest management issues in your speech of 28 June. In particular we welcome your commitment to implement the moratorium clause of the National Forest Policy Statement.

As you know, forests will be a major item for discussion at the forthcoming Peak Council meeting in Canberra ^{in the week of 18 July} on 27 July. There are a number of important matters relating to native forests which require urgent action before this meeting. We are therefore writing to bring these to your attention.

They are:

1. Current applications for new or additional woodchip export licences.

- Act urgently to reverse the decision to grant an export licence for 200 000 tonnes of woodchips to Gunns, Tasmania. *and the report of the Gunns Export PL's*
- Act urgently to ensure that no licence is granted for export of woodchips from northern NSW by Boral PL. This decision is due on 8 July. *See the report of the Boral PL's*
- Ensure that a full EIS is undertaken before any approval to increase woodchip exports from Tasmania.
- Ensure that a full EIS is undertaken on the new woodchip mill proposed by Whittakers near Mt Baker, WA.

2. Implementation of the moratorium clause in the NFPS.

- Initiate a full environmental assessment, together with an immediate moratorium on logging and roading, in the Rocky, Sharpe, Hawke and Giblett blocks in WA.
- Provide funding to conservation groups for the identification of high conservation value forests before the process of assessment of woodchip licence renewals for 1994 begins.

3. *Separate point - why?* National Plantations: Environment, Industry Development and Employment study. You and your predecessor have both made commitments to fund this work, but the funding has still not been provided. *We are seeking your immediate written confirmation of this.*

4. Briefing by forest economist, Ms Judy Clark. You agreed at a meeting with Environment Victoria to arrange time for this briefing. *See Tom Grant*

5. World Heritage listings. Assessment of the eastern boundary of the Western Tasmanian World Heritage Area and the Tarkine must start by the first week in July to enable nominations to be considered at the October meeting of ?? *See the report of the Tasmanian World Heritage Area*

6. Scientific criteria for environmentally preferred paper products. The draft criteria prepared by CEPA are not satisfactory. We are requesting in a separate letter that you indicate to CEPA that criteria must distinguish between fibre sourced from native forests, plantations and recycled material.

Dates for other renewals? - yes!



11 APR 1994

REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

The Regional Assessment program (RAP) is the principle initiative, funded by Government for the three year period 1992-3 to 1994-5 to identify National Estate values in major forest areas of Australia.

Regional assessment is a necessary foundation to the achievement of the forest conservation objectives in the National Forest Policy Strategy and the approach to the national estate assessment under the IGAE.

This evaluation is to review the current program and help determine the direction and extent of any continuation of the program beyond 1994-95.

PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW

It is intended to undertake an evaluation of the Regional Assessment Program as part of the DEST Portfolio Evaluation Plan 1994-96.

The review will involve an assessment of:

- the objectives, role, efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission's operation of the Regional Assessment Program; and
- recommend on the direction and extent of any continuation of the program beyond 1994-95.

STRUCTURE OF THE REVIEW

The review will be undertaken in two stages:

- Stage I - an independent assessment of the role and effectiveness of the Regional Assessment Program; and
- Stage II - an evaluation of the efficiency of the RAP.

State I is to commence immediately and be completed by end April 1994.

Stage II will be undertaken in the second half of 1994.

TERMS OF REFERENCE - STAGE 1

The review will include an evaluation of the following points.

1. Evaluate the processes and outputs of the Regional Assessment Program in Western Australian and Victoria - addressing the following issues:
 - did the Regional Assessment strategy meet the stated aims of the AHC in implementing it - that is maximum identification and conservation of the National Estate and education about it?
 - did the assessment process meet the requirements of the AHC Act?
 - was the quality of the output comparable to similar previous assessment and conservation work by the Commission?
 - how effective was the natural and cultural research methodology used - did it identify National Estate values effectively and in accordance with the best methodology and technical data available?
 - what was the role and effectiveness of local community and key stakeholder involvement and participation?
2. Evaluate the outcomes of the Regional Assessment Program - in particular whether:
 - the National Estate was identified effectively
 - conservation advice given without prejudice
 - the community was effectively involved
 - the Regional Assessment Program has contributed effectively to the wider Commonwealth environment and heritage aims, such as the National Forest Policy Strategy and the development of the National Reserve System and the development of comprehensive regional assessment.

Noting that in evaluating such outcomes account needs to be taken of the constraints that apply.

On the basis of the evaluation the review would recommend on possible changes to the role, objectives or operation of the RAP.

STAGE 1 REVIEW MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

AHC Management Team

The Management Team will be chaired by Commissioner Glenn, with support from Sharon Sullivan and Anne-Marie Delahunt. Annette Bleys will be the Commission action officer. The Management Team will report to the Commission, which will have final oversight of the review.

Advisory Group

An advisory group, representing the key stakeholder groups having an interest in the RAP will also be established. The purpose of the group is to canvass a broad range of views about the effectiveness of the RAP, and to involve key stakeholder groups in the evaluation process.

The major stakeholder groups have been identified as:

- conservationists (2 reps);
- industry organisations (1 rep)
- landowners/users groups (1 rep)
- State government resource agencies (1 rep)
- State government environment & conservation agencies (1 rep)
- Federal government environment & conservation agencies (1 rep)
- Federal government resource agencies (1 rep).

Independent consultants

The independent consultants will be required to undertake Stage 1 of the review, under the direction of the Management Team.

Proposed consultancies

It is proposed that a number of consultants be engaged to undertake discrete parts of the Regional Assessment program evaluation review. These parts are:

- a strategic assessment of the program, its outputs, outcomes and processes;
- a technical assessment of the methodologies used in the identification and assessment of natural environment places;

- a technical assessment of the methodologies used in the identification and assessment of cultural environment places; and,
- an assessment of the community participation program - its objectives, methods and outcomes - including a specific assessment of the views and opinions of the conservation movement about the program.

It is envisaged that the consultants will have:

- an understanding of government policies and processes, especially those relating to forests and forestry;
- the ability to assess the merits of the scientific and technical methods used in regional assessment; and
- a knowledge of the Commission's key stakeholder groups, especially the conservation movement.

Timing

It is envisaged that Stage 1 will be completed by end April 1994.

1. CONSULTANTS BRIEF

Assessment of Strategic Direction

The terms of reference for this consultancy would include:

evaluate the program against the requirements of the AHC Act - specifically identification, conservation and education

- has the National Estate been vigorously identified
- has conservation advice been provided fearlessly
- has the conservation of the National Estate been advanced
- is the community better educated about the National Estate

evaluate the regional assessment strategy - objectives, achievements and constraints

evaluate the role and effectiveness of the community participation program

evaluate the co-operative approach with State agencies - including the use of Agreements

- has the Commission's independence been compromised through its work with State agencies
- have the Agreements constrained the Commission's ability to identify the National Estate in the future
- have the Agreements constrained the Commission's ability to provide fearless conservation advice

role of the RAP in wider environmental and heritage policy such as NFPS, - NRS, CRA. For instance how does the RAP fit within the NFPS framework?

On the basis of the evaluation the review would recommend on possible changes to the role, objectives or operation of the RAP.

2. CONSULTANTS BRIEF

Research Methods and Analysis - Natural Environment

The purpose of the consultancy is to assess whether the regional assessment methodology used to identify and protect the National Estate natural values is:

- effective and efficient
- consistent with best conservation practice

The consultant would be required to address the following questions:

- did the research methodology undertaken to identify National Estate values accord with the best methodology and technical data available?
- does the research methodologies identify all National Estate without compromise?
- is the protection advice given in WA and proposed for Victoria reasonable - the best - in terms of current conservation practice?
- was the output comparable to similar previous assessment and conservation work by the Commission?

Involve:

- assessment of project methodologies used in the WA and Victorian projects
- assessment of the analyses resulting from the projects
- an assessment of the protection advice given or proposed for each of the projects
- an evaluation of the reserved/unreserved analysis
- comparison with previous forest nominations (eg Yowaka and older Tas sites)
- an assessment of the RAP methodologies/analyses with the findings of technical work shops - and any relevant discussion with key figures in the field of conservation and identification

3. CONSULTANTS BRIEF

Research Methods and Analysis - Cultural Environment

The purpose of the consultancy is to assess whether the regional assessment methodology used to identify and protect the National Estate cultural values is:

- effective and efficient
- consistent with best conservation practice

The consultant would be required to address the following questions:

- did the research methodology undertaken to identify National Estate cultural values accord with the best methodology and technical data available?
- does the research methodologies identify all National Estate without compromise?
- is the protection advice proposed for Victoria reasonable - the best - in terms of current conservation practice?
- was the output comparable to similar previous assessment and conservation work by the Commission?

Involve:

- assessment of project methodologies used in the Victorian projects
- assessment of the analyses resulting from the projects
- an assessment of the protection advice given or proposed for each of the projects
- an evaluation of the reserved/unreserved analysis
- comparison with previous forest nominations
- an assessment of the RAP methodologies/analyses with the findings of technical work shops - and any relevant discussion with key figures in the field of conservation and identification

4. CONSULTANT'S BRIEF

Assessment of the Community Participation Program

The purpose of the consultancy is to assess the regional assessment community participation program - its objectives, methods and outcomes.

A key aspect of this consultancy will be an assessment of the views and opinions of the conservation movement about the program.

The consultant would be required to:

- evaluate the role and effectiveness of the community consultation program, in particular the effectiveness and appropriateness of the program in:
 - involving the community and key stakeholders in the identification of the National Estate and regional assessment process
 - informing the community and key stakeholders about the National Estate and specifically about the aims and strategies of the regional approach
- advise on future directions for the community participation program

Involve:

- an evaluation of the community participation processes developed in WA and used in the Victorian Projects
- an assessment of key stakeholder and community involvement
- an evaluation of the current position of the conservation movement towards the program
- a comparison of community involvement in previous forest nominations
- an assessment of the program against current approaches to community participation



Department of
THE ARTS, SPORT, THE ENVIRONMENT and TERRITORIES

Dr J Messer
Chairperson
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
39 George Street
THE ROCKS NSW 2000

Judy
Dear Dr Messer

I refer to your letter of 18 December 1992 to Mrs Kelly, concerning forest protection, and implementation of the conservation initiatives of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS). Mrs Kelly has asked me to thank you for your letter and respond on her behalf.

Mrs Kelly has written to the NSW Forests Minister, the Hon Gary West MP, calling on him to 'avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have a high conservation value' as was agreed by all States and Territories, excepting Tasmania, in the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

Accompanying the letter was a list of areas within NSW forests this Portfolio considers to be of high conservation value.

At the same time Mrs Kelly wrote to the NSW Environment Minister, the Hon Chris Hartcher MP, advising him of the letter to Mr West and including the list of areas of high conservation value. The letter also requested advice from Mr Hartcher on priorities for assessment of old-growth forest and wilderness areas. The Department has since undertaken preliminary discussions with NSW officials on projects which could possibly be brought forward for funding consideration.

Mrs Kelly wrote to Minister Griffiths on 18 December 1992 stating that she expected that wood from areas likely to have a high conservation value would be excluded from any woodchip export approvals, pending an adequate reserve system being in place, and the Commonwealth being satisfied that the complementary management proposed for areas outside the reserve system adequately protected old-growth values.

The Department has recently engaged Drs John Woinarski and Tony Norton to lead a consultancy to progress the issue of criteria for a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system in forests. Leading scientists have also been engaged to assist them, including Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick, Dr Chris Margules, Professor Henry Nix, Dr Hugh Possingham, Mr Peter Woodgate and Mr Rob Leslie.

The Departmental representative on the ANZECC Standing Committee, Ms JoAnne DiSano, has *written* to her colleagues on

the Committee informing them of this work, and requesting that the Technical Working Group, to be established to determine the criteria for a reserve system, include as one of its terms of reference the requirement for an open workshop to be held within 3 months of the completion of the work being done by Drs Woinarski and Norton. This will enable the conservation movement to have considerable input into the development of the criteria for a reserve system in forests.

Ms DiSano has suggested that the Technical Working Group should comprise a representative of ANZECC Standing Committee, a representative of the Standing Committee on Forestry (SCF), and a number of technical experts on reserve selection, most of who work within State and Commonwealth conservation agencies.

I expect that through this process the criteria can be developed, endorsed by the leading scientists in the field, and forwarded to Governments through ANZECC and the Australian Forestry Council (AFC) for agreement.

The Prime Minister has recently reiterated the Government's position on woodchip exports, which is that 'The Commonwealth will offer a longer term export licence up to the year 2000 and thereafter on a case by case basis, on the understanding that if the woodchips are required for domestic use then, subject to market considerations, they should be directed to that end. This should not detract from the Commonwealth's firm desire to achieve maximum domestic processing of woodchips by the year 2000 or soon thereafter'.

The Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency (CEPA) is currently considering the questions you have raised in relation to woodchip export licences.

Yours sincerely



Alison McCusker
Assistant Secretary
Natural Resources Management Branch

18 February 1993

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



Thursday, February 18, 1993

The Editor,
Sydney Morning Herald,
Jones St.,
Ultimo NSW

Dear Sir/Ms

Your editorial (SMH, Feb.18) regarding the \$100 million special dividend paid to NSW Treasury by the Water Board correctly draws attention to the inadequacy of the present strategy to protect Sydney's highly polluted waterways.

The policy of the Nature Conservation Council is to oppose the payment of dividends by water authorities until such time as they have achieved the standards of environmental management necessary to ensure that water and waste water systems are ecologically sustainable in the long term.

At the same time, the Council strongly supports a pricing system based on "true-cost, user-pays" for water, sewerage treatment and stormwater management while taking account of social equity issues through the provision of rebates to low income earners.

It is vital that the people of Sydney realise that the Water Board needs a real increase in revenue to overcome problems such as the sewerage overflows noted by the Deputy Mayor of Woollahra Council ("Sydney's poor sewerage system", SMH, Feb.18.). Significant additional revenues are also needed to stop the existing 70-100 year old system from literal collapse.

Sydney's profligate domestic water consumers are cross-subsidised by industry and commerce to the tune of more than \$250 million dollars p.a. This results in a pricing system whereby consumers get more than 784 litres of WB water (delivered and disposed of), for the same price (\$1.49) as a 1.25 litre bottle of Coca-Cola from the supermarket!



10 NOV 1994

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Messrs. S Walker, D Pugh, S Jagoe
and Ms L Orrego
C/- Nature Conservation Council of NSW
39 George Street
THE ROCKS NSW 2000

Dear Mr Walker et. al,

I refer to your letter dated 17th October, 1994 in which you make a number of requests relating to the implementation of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

Having regard for the fact that the Forestry Policy Advisory Committee (FPAC), of which you are all members, was established primarily to provide advice on forestry policy issues to the Minister for Land and Water Conservation, I will, in my capacity as Chairman of FPAC, bring your letter to the Minister's attention together with a copy of this reply.

You have made various requests of either the Premier, the Minister or the Commissioner, Forestry Commission to issue public statements, or to take other action in relation to conservation prescriptions set out in the NFPS, and also in relation to specific operations which you claim are in conflict with NFPS principles. In this regard, I should point out that the Government's and the Minister's position on these issues has been outlined on a number of occasions in public statements and in correspondence with a range of interested parties and individuals. I will, however, endeavour to restate this position as it relates to the issues you have raised.

As a signatory to the NFPS the Government has expressed its commitment to implementing the principles and actions contained in the policy statement. The management of the State's publicly-owned native forest reflects this commitment.

As members of the FPAC you will be aware that the Office of Forestry is preparing a report on the State's progress in implementing the conservation aspects of the NFPS and that this report will be forwarded to all members as soon as it is completed.

You will also be aware that the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) (TI(IP)) Act imposed a moratorium on logging in forest areas with notable conservation values pending the completion and determination of EISs in those areas. By way of example, under the Act, about 10,000 hectares of forest in the Dorrigo Management Area, (which includes Wild Cattle Creek State Forest) has been placed

The Department of Conservation and Land Management incorporates:

Soil Conservation Service, Crown Lands Service, Land Information Centre, Land Titles Office, Valuer-General's Office and Forestry Policy Unit.

23-33 Bridge Street Sydney NSW 2000 GPO Box 39 Sydney NSW 2001 Phone (02) 228 6321 Fax (02) 231 3280

under a moratorium. Under the Act less 'sensitive' areas of forest were also identified as continuing to be available for timber production to maintain supplies of logs necessary to avoid mill closures and to safeguard the jobs and welfare of people employed in the timber industry.

With reference to your suggestion that logging in Compartment 579 of Wild Cattle Creek was permitted in breach of the NFPS, the Minister has already written to Mr Pugh and others rejecting this suggestion. In his letter the Minister, while acknowledging that the definition and delineation of old growth forests is a difficult issue, pointed out that the NFPS states, on page 16, that "Australia will continue to use old growth timber for many years. It will come from disturbed forests containing some old growth trees".

Given the statutory background and that the portion of Compartment 579 being logged is covered by the necessary licence approvals, from both the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Environment Protection Authority, the Government is clearly of the view that logging in this compartment is not inconsistent with the broad intent of the NFPS.

In Item 3 of your letter, a request is made to prohibit logging operations approved by the Minister for Planning in old growth forest and wilderness areas in the Kempsey/Wauchope, Glen Innes and Wingham Management Areas. Your letter also acknowledges that determinations of Environmental Impact Statements (EIS's) have been made by the Minister for Planning for these areas. The EIS process is based upon existing statutory requirements and your proposal to override these procedures and legitimate outcomes is simply untenable from a whole-of-Government perspective.

In Item 4 of your letter a request is made for the Commissioner, Forestry Commission and the Managing Director, State Forests to ensure that no further logging is permitted in South East forest moratorium areas, at least until determination of the next EIS for the Eden Native Forest Management Area. In this regard the Managing Director, State Forests issued a statement, dated 29th July, 1994 following the passage of the TI(IP) Amendment Act and gave an undertaking to discontinue logging in Compartment 1451 and three other areas subject to licences and approvals for replacement compartments being obtained. I am advised that logging in these four compartments has been halted.

In a recent letter to Mr Jagoe, (copy attached) I pointed out that it was generally accepted that when the TI(IP) Act was extended to cover the Eden Native Forest Management Area harvesting would continue in compartments where logging was underway and was properly authorised and licenced. In order to ensure that the 'spirit' of the Act is observed, an undertaking was given not to initiate operations in compartments where logging had not commenced before the enactment of the legislation, notwithstanding that such areas may have been approved under the earlier EIS determinations and be licenced under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

Against this background I believe that the Minister's and the Government's commitment to the NFPS is clear and I do not accept that a case has been made to warrant any further public statements or commitments in this regard.


I will, however, as indicated draw the Minister's attention to the issues you have raised.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W A Watkins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

W A WATKINS
Director-General and
Commissioner of Soil Conservation
Commissioner, Forestry Commission

4. 11. 94.

A single, long, curved horizontal line drawn in black ink, likely a decorative flourish or a checkmark.



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DGC94/130

~~Mr Stephen Jagoe
PO Box 16
BEGA NSW 2550~~

Dear Mr Jagoe

I refer to your letter of 27th September, 1994 concerning aspects of the implementation of the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Amendment (TI(IP)A) Act.

Having enquired into the allegations you have made concerning "breaches" of the TI(IP)A Act, I do not accept your proposition that the Managing Director of State Forests attempted to mislead the Forestry Policy Advisory Committee (FPAC), or has in any way authorised logging activity which is at odds with statements made or directions given by the Minister.

As I understand it, although I have not seen the letter to Mr Jeff Angel, the logging activity in the compartments identified in the Minister's advice was quite in order and not at variance with statements made by State Forests.

The compartments identified by the Minister were areas approved for logging from an environmental impact assessment perspective, and licensed under the National Parks and Wildlife Act and pollution control legislation. It was generally accepted that when the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act was extended to cover the Eden Native Forest Management Area compartments already properly 'processed', and where logging was underway, would continue to be harvested.

Actions aimed at meeting the "spirit" of the amended Act related to areas where, whilst approved and fully licensed, logging had not commenced before the amended legislation was enacted.

The issue of "logging priorities to be directed to least sensitive areas" has been included on the agenda for the next meeting of FPAC scheduled for Monday, 7th October as discussion on this item was deferred at the September meeting.

Yours sincerely

W A WATKINS
Director General and
Commissioner of Soil Conservation
Commissioner, Forestry Commission

B. G. G. The Department of Conservation and Land Management incorporates:
Crown Lands Service, Land Information Centre, Land Titles Office, Office of Forestry, Office of Land Information Policy and Coordination,
Office of Water, Soil Conservation Service, Valuer-General's Office.

Shareholders at Monday's meeting of Boral have announced their intention to challenge the company's environmental record with claims that statements made in their Annual report are both misleading and incorrect and should therefore be withdrawn from the report..

Mr. Paul Hennelly shareholder for Boral claims that statements made by the company in which it states that "we only source timber from forests that are harvested on a sustained yield basis" is incorrect and misleading.

In at least four management areas it has been found that they are not being managed on a sustained yield basis. These areas include Macksville, Dorrigo, Grafton and Kempsey. In each case the yields have been over estimated with much of the resource to be retained for the next cutting cycle, being harvested prematurely. In the Kempsey Management Area an ex-forester John Gralter claimed in 1993 that "In essence yield can not be sustained even at proposed lower level as regrowth forests of

Kempsey area have been made depauperate

Furthermore, the company claims that "caring for the environment is a social responsibility. I am also wondering how this company is being socially responsible when they continue to log high conservation value forests and koala habitat

< As a shareholder I am concerned that making incorrect and misleading statements such as this is not giving us the right information and is this company continues their logging activities conservationists may call for a boycott on the company's products, Paul Hennelly said today, I am concerned that making incorrect and misleading statements such as this is not giving us the right information and is this company continues their logging activities conservationists may call for a boycott on the company's products, Paul Hennelly said today,"

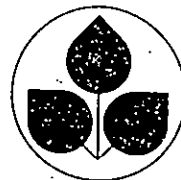
MEDIA RELEASE.....MEDIA RELEASE.....MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 1 June 1994

Title

Blah, blah, blah

For more information contact:



COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION

from Margaret Barnes.

8 December 1994

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

Prominent Australians support anti-woodchip campaign

A group of prominent Australians and community leaders have written an open letter to the Prime Minister calling for Federal intervention to protect Australian forests from woodchipping. They include:

Singers and Musicians	Deborah Conway, John Williamson, Mandawuy Yunupingu and Eric Bogle
Actor	Ruth Cracknell
Surfing champions	Tom Carroll and Mark Richards
Comedians	Wendy Harmer and John Clarke
Ethnic community leaders	Victor Rebikoff, Angela Chan and Ross Tzannes
Church leaders	Reverend Harry Herbert and Reverend Kenneth Cornwell
Broadcaster & Writer	Phillip Adams
Publisher	Jill Hickson
Designer	Jenny Kee
International adventurer	Peter Treseder
Ecologist	Professor Paul Erlich (presently visiting Australia)
Environmentalists	Ian Kiernan, Vincent Serventy and Matt Keys
NSW Independent MPs	Dr Peter McDonald and Clover Moore
NSW Democrat MLC	Richard Jones

"A nation-wide opinion poll released today shows that more than 80% of Australians do not want to see our forests exported as woodchips to Japan," said Peter Wright, Biodiversity Campaigner for the Australian Conservation Foundation. "From the range of people who have signed this open letter it is clear that there is broad community concern about this issue."

The letter urges the Prime Minister not to undervalue our forests: "They are a beautiful and vital part of our national identity. They contribute to the ecological life of the country, and to the spiritual life of all its inhabitants."

According to Peter Wright, "It is these sentiments which are fuelling concern in the community. People know that it is economic and ecological madness to send our forests to Japan to become waste paper. The future of our timber industry lies in plantations, not in destroying forests."

"Woodchipping is no way to save jobs or forests and Australians are looking to the Prime Minister for decisive leadership," concluded Mr Wright.

For more information contact Peter Wright (02) 247 4285.

Environment Victoria
Wilderness Society
North East Forests Alliance; South East Forests Alliance;
Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales
Tasmanian Conservation Trust
Australian Conservation Foundation
Conservation Councils of Western Australia, South Australia & Queensland
Conservation Council of Conservation Council of Canberra and the South East Region

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

80% 'no' to woodchipping: Newspoll survey

An overwhelming 80.3% of Australians are opposed to trees from Australia's native forests being felled and exported as woodchips to Japan. These are the results of a survey conducted by *Newspoll* in five capital cities last weekend and released today by conservation groups.

'This poll proves beyond any shadow of doubt that Australians from every walk of life are unequivocally opposed to the export woodchipping of native forests', said Linda Parlanc, Campaign Coordinator of Environment Victoria. 'The Keating Government's imminent decision on woodchip licences will reveal its responsiveness to community views on this issue' she added.

'At least 764 forest areas with high conservation value are under immediate threat from logging and woodchipping in Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, and Western Australia. Prime Minister Keating can now move decisively to protect our native forests knowing he has a clear mandate to act. With a Federal election in the air and a NSW State election in March next year this is obviously a pivotal issue and the public will be watching closely the Government's actions on native forests', said Mr. Kevin Parker, National Campaign Coordinator of the Wilderness Society.

The poll confirms previous surveys that the vast majority of Australians view protection of the environment as a very high priority; and have consistently opposed export woodchipping of trees from native forests.

'The Newspoll survey shows that people support significantly stronger action than is being considered by the Keating Government. Mr Keating could go all the way, end export woodchipping altogether and still enjoy strong and widespread community support', said Mr. Peter Wright, Biodiversity Campaigner with the Australian Conservation Foundation.

The *Newspoll* survey asked 'Do you personally approve or disapprove of trees from Australia's native forests being felled and exported as woodchips to Japan?'

80.3% of people surveyed are opposed to export woodchipping; 11.7% are in favour, while 8.0% remain undecided. Woodchipping and export of native forests is opposed by:

- 83.2% of blue collar workers and 76.3% of white collar workers
- 86.5% of women and 73.7% of men.

For further information call

Ms Linda Parlanc
Mr Kevin Parker
Mr. Peter Wright

015 103 063
018 449 080
02 247 4285

8 December 1994

The Hon PJ Keating MP
The Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

We are writing to express our deep concern about the continuing destruction of Australia's native forests.

Australia's cultural identity is inextricably linked with the land and the flora and fauna it supports.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have always understood this important relationship and the Australian landscape remains a unique source of inspiration for our artists and creators.

Our native forests form part of that landscape and we cannot afford to lose them.

If we continue logging this resource just to support export woodchipping, we run the risk of destroying an essential part of Australia's cultural heritage.

We commend the Government's policy to phase out the export of woodchips from native forests in favour of downstream processing by the year 2000.

However, it is alarming that recent comments by the Minister for Resources indicate that the Government will continue to allow logging for export woodchipping in areas of high conservation value.

Your stand on significant national issues, such as Aboriginal reconciliation, the republic debate and the arts has been visionary.

We urge you to now intervene in the current round of licence renewals to ensure Australia's forests of high conservation value are protected.

Yours sincerely

8 December 1994

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

Peter Garret and Arts identities urge PM to protect forests

Today an open letter was delivered to the Prime Minister from Peter Garrett and the leaders of the Australian arts community. It called on the PM to intervene in the current round of woodchip export licences to ensure that high conservation value forests are protected.

The letter was signed by:

Richard Meale
Peter Sculthorpe
Nigel Westlake
Roger Woodward AC OM
Yothu Yindi
John Bell AM
Joan Carden AO OBE
Barry Conyngham
Elektra String Quartet
Rodney Hall

Midnight Oil (Peter Garrett)
Martin Wesley-Smith
Tim Winton
Judith Wright McKinney
Professor Michael Atherton
Nigel Butterley AM
Circus Oz
Ross Edwards
Carrillo Gantner
Hunters and Collectors

The letter says "Your stand on significant national issues, such as Aboriginal reconciliation, the republic debate and the arts has been visionary. We urge you to now intervene in the current round of licence renewals to ensure Australia's forests of high conservation value are protected."

The letter has been released on the day that a Newspoll commissioned by the peak environment groups has found that over 80% of the population do not approve of export woodchipping.

For more information contact:

Di Lindsay, Midnight Oil office 02 660 0677

Phillip Adams

Eric Bogle

Tom Carroll

John Clarke

Deborah Conway

Ruth Cracknell

Prof. Paul R. Ehrlich

Ethnic
Communities'
Council of NSW

Federation of
Ethnic
Communities'
Council of
Australia

Wendy Harmer

Jill Hickson

Richard Jones

Jenny Kee

Ian Kiernan

Dr Peter McDonald

Clover Moore

Mark Richards

Vincent Serventy

Surfrider
Foundation

Peter Treseder

Uniting Church
in Australia,
NSW Synod

John Williamson

Mandawuy
Yunupingu

An open letter to the Prime Minister of Australia re: Renewal of Export Woodchip Licences

8th December, 1994

Hon. Paul Keating
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

We write to express our concern for the way our native forests are being managed. Large areas of high conservation value forest - old growth, wilderness and endangered species habitat - are threatened by export woodchipping. The Jarrah and Karri stands in WA, Victoria's Mountain Ash, and World Heritage value forests in Tasmania and NSW - all face the woodchip mill in the next 12 months.

While the costs to our environment are substantial, the economic benefits are meagre. Employment in the timber industry has been falling since the 1950s and woodchipping now employs only 600 people nationwide. By providing short-term profits to a few large companies, the woodchipping industry is stifling investment in plantations and the many jobs that they would bring.

The recent High Conservation Value Forests Study has found that 764 areas in NSW, Victoria, WA and Tasmania are in imminent danger. The Federal Government must protect these forests by excluding them from the woodchip export licences.

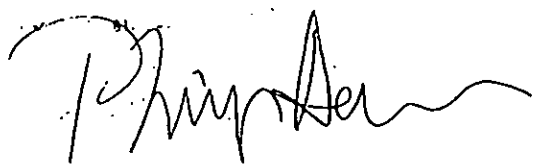
The way forward is simple:

- * Protect the forests of high conservation value in a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system,
- * Manage the transition of the industry out of native forests and into plantation forestry,
- * Encourage the development of industries based on Australia's vast plantation resource,
- * Phase out export woodchipping in line with the Federal Government's policy.

Please do not undervalue our forests. They are a beautiful and vital part of our national identity. They contribute to the ecological life of the country, and to the spiritual life of all its inhabitants. Your actions today can preserve our heritage for future generations.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Adams
Writer , Broadcaster



Eric Bogle OAM
Musician , Songwriter



Tom Carroll
Two time world Surfing Champion



Angela Chan
Chairperson
Ethnic Communities' Council
of NSW



John Clarke
Comedian , Actor



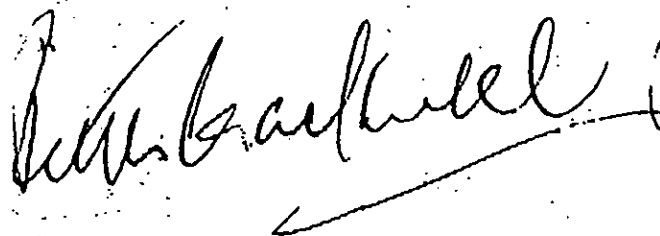
Deborah Conway
Musician , Songwriter



Rev Kenneth Cornwell
Moderator
NSW Synod
Uniting Church in Australia



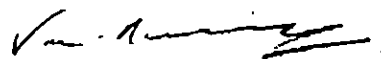
Ruth Cracknell
Actor



Clover Moore
Independent member for Bligh



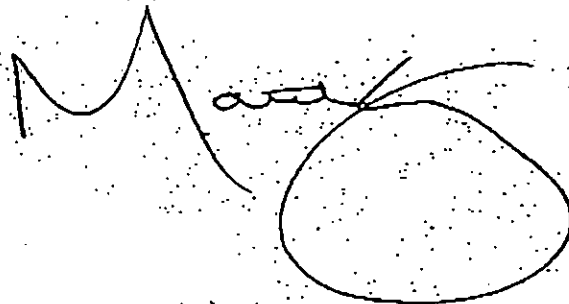
Victor Rebikoff
Chairperson
Federation of Ethnic Communities'
Council of Australia (FECCA)



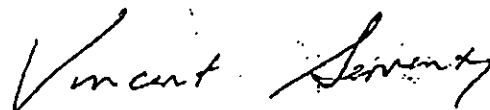
Mark Richards
Four time World Surfing Champion



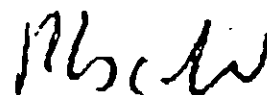
Matt Keys
Executive Director
Surfrider Foundation



Vincent Serventy OAM
Author , Conservationist , Naturalist



Peter Treseder OAM
International explorer and adventurer



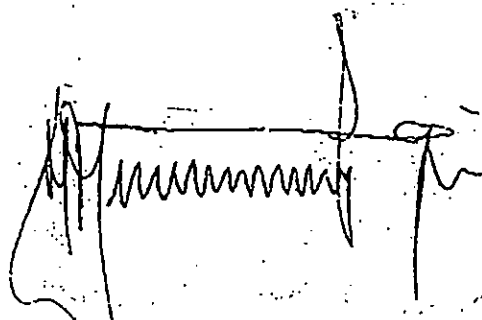
Ross Tzannes
National Covenor
FECCA Evironment Network



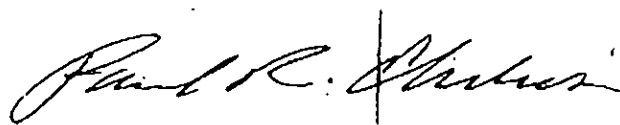
John Williamson
Musician , Songwriter



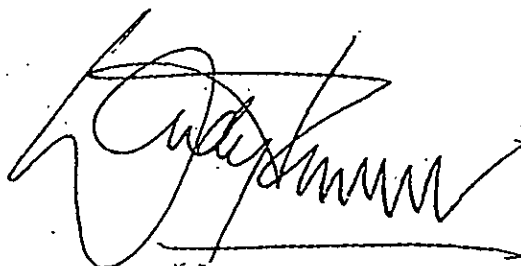
Mandawuy Yunupingu
Singer of Yothu Yindi



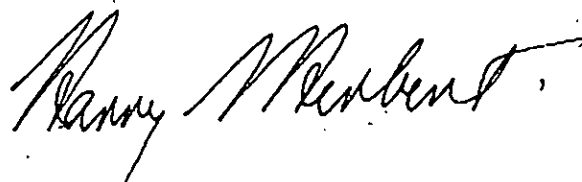
Prof Paul R Ehrlich
Author ,
President of Centre for
Conservation Biology
Stanford University



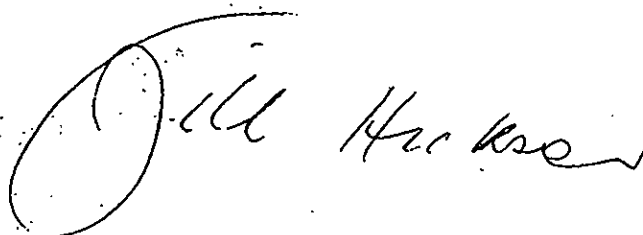
Wendy Harmer
Comedian



Rev Harry Herbert
General Secretary
Board for Social Responsibility
NSW Synod
Uniting Church in Australia



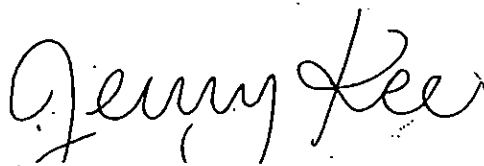
Jill Hickson
Publisher



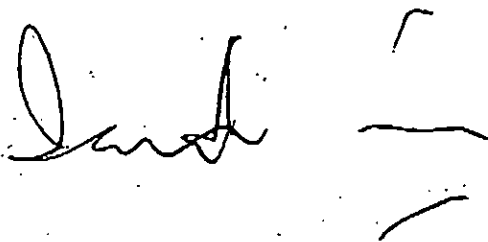
Richard Jones
Democrat member
Legislative Council of NSW



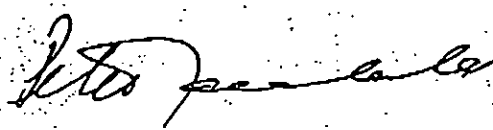
Jenny Kee
Fashion Designer



Ian Kiernan OAM
Chairman
Clean Up Australia



Dr Peter McDonald
Independent member for Manly



RICHARD JONES MLC

Australian Democrat Member of the NSW Legislative Council
Parliament House, SYDNEY, 2000 Telephone (02) 230 2858 Fax (02) 230 2871

MEDIA RELEASE

14 November 1994

BORAL SHAREHOLDERS **MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY**

"Those who invest in Boral have to take responsibility for what their company does," said Democrat Richard Jones, MLC.

"I was arrested at Wild Cattle Creek State Forest while attempting to observe some of the damage occurring in an old-growth forest, which was known koala habitat and where the trees were judged to be up to one-and-a-half thousand years old.

"In order to log these forests on a 'sustained yield basis' as alleged by Boral, they would need to be logged only once every one thousand years, which is patently absurd.

"Boral shareholders have to accept responsibility for the destruction of these ancient forests and the killing of endangered species such as koalas, tiger quolls and parma wallabies. They have to decide whether an investment in Boral is a sufficiently ethical investment.

"Ethical investment in the United States is proving far more profitable than investing in companies which profit out of destroying the environment.

"It is time now for all investors in Australia to consider whether their investments in companies are contributing to the destruction of the environment, the worsening of the greenhouse effect and additional air and water pollution. Companies which damage or destroy the environment should not be supported by investors.

"I urge the management and shareholders of Boral to look at Boral's activities in the old growth forests of New South Wales and Tasmania and to consider whether those activities are worthy of the name of Boral," concluded Richard Jones.

For further information please contact Richard Jones on (02) 230 2858.

NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL Inc.

Hon. Sec. Mr Jim Tedder, Pavans Road, Grassy Head via Stuart's Point 2441. Ph/Fax 065 690802

Media Release - Sunday 9 October '94

COURT CHALLENGE TO WOODCHIP EXPORT LICENCES CLEARS FIRST HURDLE

The regional umbrella environment organisation, the North Coast Environment Council Inc. has succeeded in its first step of a legal challenge to the Commonwealth government's issuing of export woodchipping licences, following a decision made late on Friday 7th October in the Federal Court, Sydney, by Mr Justice Sackville, according to NCEC spokesperson Mr John Corkill.

"Lawyers acting for Commonwealth Minister for Resources, Mr David Beddall, have today failed in their application to have our case thrown out of court. They based their application on a claim that, because the export woodchipping licence, the subject of our objection, has been allowed to lapse temporarily, our case was 'futile'. However the Minister's lawyers were forced to admit that a new export licence to Boral company, Sawmillers Export P/L (SEP/L) is being now considered. Mr Justice Sackville found that our case had 'utility' and awarded costs against the Minister," Mr Corkill said.

Mr Corkill said that the successful court action under the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act, was 'a preliminary skirmish', before a further hearing likely to be held in mid-November. The action is an appeal to the Federal Court to review the Labor Minister for Resources' decision not to recognise the North Coast Environment Council Inc. as a party 'aggrieved' by his decision to grant further export woodchip licences to the Boral company SEP/L.

A similar case is also being brought in the same court by the Tasmanian Conservation Trust, over Minister Beddall's decision, earlier this year, to issue a 200,000 tonne export woodchip licence to Gunn's P/L, without reference to Environment Minister, Senator Faulkner for his advice.

Mr Corkill said that the Council had provided evidence to the Federal Court that one of the prime motivations for its formation in 1977 had been the threat of large scale export woodchipping from the port of Coffs Harbour. Further evidence had shown that this concern had been repeatedly demonstrated in actions and submissions in its 17 year history.

"This question of 'standing' is vital to the public interest. Mr Beddall still thinks that the people of the north coast have no right to request his reasons for issuing another export woodchipping licence to Boral when no adequate Commonwealth environmental impact statement has been produced."

"The Minister believes that his decision to allow 500,000 tonnes of woodchip from north coast native forests, including 'old growth' forest, to be sent to Japan every year, cannot be questioned by the public and should not be reviewed by the court," Mr Corkill said.

Mr Corkill said that northern NSW / south-east Queensland was one of three only regional centres of high biological diversity in Australia, along with the Wet Tropics of FN Queensland and the south-west of West Australia. He said that other Commonwealth agencies such as CSIRO and Australian Nature Conservation Agency (formerly ANPWS) acknowledged this high bio-diversity ranking and rated north east NSW and SE Queensland as the area facing the greatest threats.

"The woodchip supply zones include lands which contain 87 nationally endangered plants and 8 nationally endangered animals, and we intend to ensure that they are protected while the Commonwealth Government decides how to implement its decision to end export woodchipping by the year 2000. To do this we will take every legal opportunity available to demonstrate our concern at poor environmental impact assessment under Commonwealth law and the utter failure of state based assessment processes in NSW, on which the Commonwealth foolishly rely," said Mr Corkill.

...ends.

For more information Phone John Corkill 066 21 3278 w, 066 21 6824h,
Terry Parkhouse 065 690 771 h+w, OR Jim Tedder 065 690 802 h+w

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY



Media Alert

11 October 1994

MEDIA ALERT

Outrage over Export Woodchip licence renewal

The Wilderness Society was outraged today by the decision of Federal Resources Minister, David Beddall to renew an export woodchipping licence for the Boral subsidiary Sawmillers Exports Ltd.

The licence allows Boral to export a further 500,000 tonnes of woodchips from the native forests of north east New South Wales.

Following earlier controversy surrounding the licence, Boral was operating on an interim three-month licence pending advice from the Federal Environment Minister, John Faulkner.

The advice that came from the Environment Minister's department included strict restrictions on export woodchip licences and an unequivocal "No" to the logging of high conservation value forests including endangered species habitats.

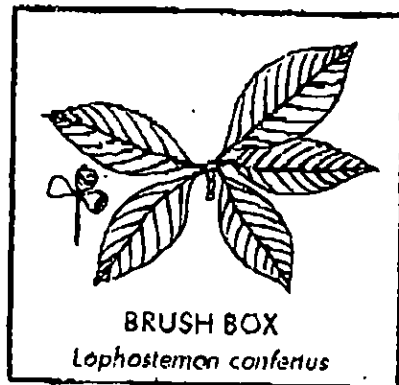
"The advice given by John Faulkner was to be the bare minimum applied on export woodchip licences. It is entirely regrettable that the extent to which this advice has been adhered to is still unknown. We have requested a copy of the licence and the conditions from the Minister's office and have been told the information will be made available within a few days," said Kevin Parker, National Campaign Co-ordinator of the Wilderness Society.

"That the Federal government can announce that 500,000 tonnes of our native forests is going to be destroyed - without revealing any of the environmental guidelines to be applied on this debacle - is a matter for grave concern. The Federal government should not be issuing export woodchip licences at all and certainly not in a manner which heightens community concerns.

"The fact is David Beddall has behaved inappropriately with regard to the issuing of this licence from the beginning. There is little indication the Federal Government is acting in an integrated manner and enforcing its own policy with regard to forest management.

"The advice that the Paul Keating and David Beddall should be responding to is the opinion polls which state that the community does not want export woodchipping in our native forests. The Federal government sanctioned destruction of our forests must stop. Paul Keating's environmental credentials are on the line on this issue.

For further information contact Kevin Parker 018 449 080
Fenella Barry 015 310 995 or 03)670 5229



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre Inc.
149 Keen Street, Lismore. 2480.
Phone 066 213 278 Fax 066 222 676

MEDIA RELEASE - SEPTEMBER 29, 1994

WILD CATTLE CREEK LOGGING PROTESTS TO ESCALATE AS RICHARD JONES MLC VISITS AREA FRIDAY

"Many North East Forest Alliance supporters will gather tomorrow at Wild Cattle Creek for noontime ceremonies and speakers in protest against the continued destruction of this precious old growth forest. Some may choose to place themselves in an arrestable position by setting out into this "closed" public forest in an attempt to see these ancient trees, some of which were seedlings at the time of Christ, before they are destroyed," according to NEFA spokesperson Lyn Orrego.

"Mr Richard Jones MLC will attend and speak to the gathering. Anyone concerned about the logging of our old growth forests is welcome. Families and children are expected. There will also be eulogies for the forest and a flag ceremony designed to remind people of the respect for the land which our original inhabitants had.

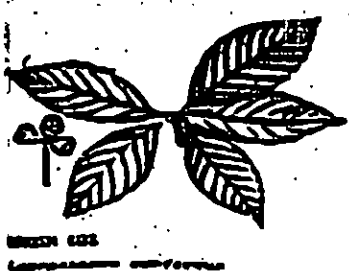
"NEFA has vowed to continue its campaign to stop the Fahey government from destroying the public's high conservation value old growth forests. State Forests own figures show they are logging NSW's old growth forests at a rate of 60 hectares a day. This shows wanton disregard for the majority of the public who wish old growth forests to be protected.

"Cpt 579 in Wild Cattle Creek has been documented by expert government department reports as being both old growth and of high conservation value. Despite these reports being before the Minister for Forests, Mr Souris, he still endorsed the logging and even contradicted the expert reports in his statements to the public.

"This is a willful breach of the National Forest Policy Statement. NEFA, earlier this week, called for Mr Souris to resign. We are now calling on Mr Fahey to censure him, stop the logging of old growth at Wild Cattle Creek and reaffirm his commitment to the National Forest Policy. It was Mr Fahey who signed the policy in December 1992. How much is Mr Faheys word worth, we ask.

"Old growth forests have a far greater value than for a one off timber cut. After four years of drought we might better understand the need to keep old growth which is responsible for yielding larger amounts of water to streams than regrowth forests. Our growing coastal communities need this water. The governments actions in targetting high conservation value water-producing forests is crazy, even in economic terms." she said.

For further info: Lyn Orrego (065) 647478 or 647808
Dailan Pugh (066) 882268



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

SYDNEY: NSW Environment Centre, 39 George St, The Rocks, 2000. Ph. 02 2474 206, Fx 02 2475 945
LISMORE: The Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc. 149 Keen St, Lismore, 2480. Ph 066 213 278, Fx 066 222 676

Media Release Monday 26 September 1994

Suspend Contracts and apologise to Dorrigo, NEFA tells Souris

The people of Dorrigo deserve an apology from the Minister for Land and Water Conservation, George Souris, for the situation at Wild Cattle Ck according to NEFA spokesperson, Mr Aidan Ricketts.

"The timber being removed at Wild Cattle Ck is being taken off the plateau to Boral's Mill at South Grafton. Dorrigo gains no benefit from the logging operation because State Forests are already overcommitted to Boral under "Long Term Wood Supply Contracts", Mr Ricketts said

Under the Long Term Wood Supply Contracts, State Forests has promised Boral access to far greater amounts of timber than either the industry or the forests can sustain. If for any reason the timber is unavailable, Boral can sue State Forests.

"The promised timber simply doesn't exist and the contracts will only lead to the closure of many family owned mills and to costly compensation pay outs to Boral," Mr Ricketts said.

"The Long Term Wood Supply Contracts have pre-empted all of the EISs, and are in breach of NSW obligations under the National Forest Policy", Mr Ricketts said

NEFA again calls upon Mr Souris to suspend these contracts. There is no doubt he has the power to do so, NEFA has obtained legal advice that whilst these contracts may bind State Forests, they do not bind the Government.

"Every day that Mr Souris leaves these contracts in place is another day he abandons the old growth forests, the people of Dorrigo and the general public in favour of corporate monopoly. Mr Souris is bungling the issue if he does not suspend the contracts," Mr Ricketts said.

The Wild Cattle Ck blockade is set to intensify on Monday morning following swelling of numbers to over the weekend. There will be about 70 people inside the compartment on Monday morning aiming to prevent the recommencement of logging.

For more information or blockade updates
contact Aidan Ricketts ph 066 333 292.



Save Australia's Forests—Stop Export Woodchipping.
4-8 Nov 1994, Parliament House, Canberra. Contact (06) 249 6491

Tuesday 1 November 1994

MEDIA RELEASE

TENSION LOOMS BETWEEN CONSERVATION MOVEMENT AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES

Tension is looming between a united forest conservation movement and federal authorities after conservationists were denied permission to hold a peaceful "Forest Embassy" in Federation Mall opposite Federal Parliament from 4 to 8 November, by the National Capital Planning Authority.

Conservationists from around the country are expected to converge on Canberra for the five day educative and lobbying exercise designed to bring a halt to export woodchipping from Australia's native forests.

"As Australian citizens we are being denied the right to voice our concerns in a public area opposite our Parliament House. On top of our campaign to stop export woodchipping, we now have to deal with the issue of basic human rights" said Lucy Horodny spokesperson for the Forest Embassy.

"The irony of this situation is that a small action with a couple of banners would be acceptable to the NCPA while a large protest such as ours, representing the enormous extent of community concern and involving thousands of people across the country and ALL major conservation groups, has been fobbed off to an area near Lake Burley Griffin that is out of sight and therefore out of mind," continued Ms Horodny.

"We are anxious to ensure that families are not exposed to any potential conflict with police. We have been threatened under trespass laws should we seek to hold the festival in Federation Mall in front of Parliament House. Families need not have any fears as we will be holding many events away from Parliament House for their benefit but it is outrageous that citizens should not be allowed to hold a peaceful gathering in the very centre of our democracy", said Kevin Parker spokesperson for the Forest Embassy.

"This is a clear case of environmental prejudice, and is a blatant attempt to muzzle the community's concern about the continued destruction of our forests. Gatherings outside Parliament house have occurred many times before - by Aboriginal people, farmers and log truck drivers for instance - yet it is the conservation community that is to be the "test case" against democracy. Refusing the right to gather en masse outside Parliament House is unconstitutional.

"This could become a major embarrassment for the Federal Government. We are calling on Brian Howe - who is ultimately responsible for this fiasco - to make a stand for human rights and give the Forest Embassy the go-ahead. Urgent talks with relevant authorities are continuing" concluded Mr Parker.

For further information contact:

Kevin Parker 018 449 080

Lucy Horodny 06 257 5122 (W) 06 257 6597 (H)

Show your support
Presented by Australia's conservation groups

warmly congratulated the Federal Minister for the Environment, Senator John Faulkner, on the key role he played in achieving this major conservation victory for the "jewel in the crown" of NSW's coastal heritage.

On the other hand, the Council is very disappointed by the failure of both the Federal and NSW governments to effectively implement the **National Greenhouse Response Strategy**. Action is particularly called for in NSW which generates about a third of Australia's Greenhouse gas emissions and where urban freeways and road-based transport continue to proliferate without regard to the environmental consequences. The Council believes that firm targets should be mandated to demonstrate an effective commitment by the Federal and NSW governments towards energy conservation and a reduction in fossil-fuel based energy consumption.

The Council is also strongly concerned that the Federal Government has still not achieved endorsement of the **National Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity**, in part due to the NSW Government's refusal to endorse this most vital initiative in support of the Biodiversity Convention. It is also disappointing that the NSW Government has not yet introduced adequate comprehensive endangered species legislation.

Native Vegetation Loss

The loss of native vegetation continues virtually unabated throughout NSW making a mockery of government policies promoting ecological sustainability. The clearing of **native vegetation** for the expansion of broad-acre and irrigated farming in inland NSW, the continuous logging of NSW's **old growth forests**, the destruction of **bushland** by urban development and the loss of **remnant vegetation** due to the conversion of Crown lands to freehold and the widening and/or clearing of roadside verges, all contribute to the net loss of native vegetation, habitat and genetic diversity. At the present time over 60 ha of old growth forest are destroyed every day in NSW while governments procrastinate, committees proliferate and the life support systems of endangered species rapidly decline or disappear.

The Council congratulates the Federal Government on its support for the **Desertification Treaty** and once again expresses its disappointment that the NSW Government did not fully endorse Australia's commitment.

National Parks and Protected Areas

Although the Council is of the view that all landholders and land users must accept responsibility for conserving biodiversity, it is essential that a **comprehensive system of national parks and protected areas** be established

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



MEDIA ALERT...MEDIA ALERT...MEDIA ALERT... Wed 5th 1994

NSW FOREST POLICY FAILURE - PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY

Last week, NSW Parliamentarian Richard Jones was arrested - along with 37 other protesters - while attempting to inspect old growth forest being logged in Compartment 579 in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest near Dorrigo.

This area has been verified as old growth forest by an independent arbitrator appointed by the Department of Conservation & Land Management. The National Parks & Wildlife Service has verified that the area is of high conservation value. Many trees in the compartment are extremely ancient - some Brushbox may be up to 2,000 years old!

Logging old growth forest of this significance is a flagrant breach of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) signed by Premier John Fahey and Prime Minister Paul Keating in December 1992.

At 2.15pm on Wednesday 5th October Richard Jones will host a Media Conference in the Media Room, Level 6, NSW Parliament House. Two members of the NSW Government's Forest Policy Advisory Committee will be present to detail the Government's failure to meet the conservation requirements of the NFPS.

On display at the Media Conference will be photographs of old growth forest at Wild Cattle Creek - an example of the magnificent ancient forests being destroyed as the NSW Government continues to authorise logging of approximately 60 ha of old growth forest per day.

For further information contact Sid Walker 02 247 4206 (w) or 02 305 090 (h)

SENT BY: GEORGE SOURIS.MP

15- 4-94 ; 10:46AM ; MINISTER LAND&WATER-61 2 2475945

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MEDIA RELEASE*PEN-O*MINISTER FOR
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION**MAJOR BOOST FOR FORESTRY ENVIRONMENT STUDIES**14 April 1994

N.S.W. Land and Water Conservation Minister, George Souris, has announced a substantial upgrading of State Forests' Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) program.

Mr Souris said he intended New South Wales to lead the way in Australia in environmental assessment and set an example for the other States.

Currently, the 12 EISs for areas which include Old Growth forests are being prepared under the Timber Industry Interim Protection Act, introduced in March 1992. The total cost of the program is \$15 million over 5 years.

"Since that time, there have been several very important developments affecting forest management and environmental assessment," Mr Souris said.

These included the release of the final Resource Assessment Commission Report, the adoption of the National Forest Policy, and the appointment of a State Forests Board.

"Both documents stress the importance of Old Growth forest values, and the need to assess them very carefully," the Minister said.

"There is no doubt that community expectations about the need to reduce the impact of commercial activity on forests are much higher than they were.

"I am pleased to announce that State Forests has introduced the following new measures:-

- * State Forests is working with the NPWS to refine endangered fauna survey methods and appropriate management prescriptions to ensure that management does not adversely affect the conservation status of this important group of species. Known or expected occurrences of these animals are set aside from logging or have logging practices altered to limit impact.

- * Review of fauna surveys by recognised external experts;

- * An interim process has been developed which enables State Forests to identify candidate areas of old growth forest and within those areas to assess relative conservation, recreation, aesthetic and archaeological values. These assessments will be used to avoid scheduling operations in old growth forests which potentially have high conservation values, pending a comprehensive state-wide assessment to meet National Forest Policy undertakings. A pilot project is underway involving State Forests and the NPWS, funded by the Natural Resources Audit Council.

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*External review of legal aspects of EISs;

*Implementation of a specially developed wildlife training program for State Forests staff.

"At the end of the EIS program State Forests will have the best information on distribution and abundance of animals and measurement of their habitat of any equivalent agency in the world," Mr Souris said.

The Minister said the fauna studies were being designed in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

"This complements a data base recently compiled by the NPWS on animal distribution. Collectively there is no equivalent body of information of forest animal populations anywhere in the world."

In addition, although State Forests was entitled, under existing legislation, to determine the EIS for Eden, State Forests has requested that the Eden EIS should be brought under the TIIP Act and determined by the Department of Planning.

"State Forests is committed to a transparent process of external review and regulation, as well as to pursuing the highest possible standards of environmental care.

"The information gained from the EIS process will provide a sound basis for the ecologically sustainable management of the State's precious native forests for present and future generations."

Mr Souris said the upgraded EISs would take longer to complete, and would require an amendment to the TIIP Act to ensure the time needed was available.

"The amendment to the Act should be endorsed by all who have the best interests of the environment at heart," the Minister said.

—ends

DAY OF ACTION

AGAINST RESOURCE SECURITY

WHAT: WHEN: WHERE: WHY: WHO:

WHO?

Members and Supporters of The Wilderness Society

Other Environment groups in Sydney eg:

- National Parks Association
- NSW Nature Conservation Council
- Paddlers for Peace
- and others

WHAT?

Peaceful demonstration with quality speakers

WHEN?

12 - 2pm, Tuesday April 19th, 1994

WHERE?

Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney
(Meeting at TWS, 1A James Lane, at 11am)

WHY?

To halt the implementation of "Resource Security" Legislation by NSW Parliament, being railroaded through by the native forest logging industry in defiance of legislation that currently demands environmental impact statements BEFORE any logging approvals are considered

RESOURCE SECURITY

The term "Resource Security" refers to the government mechanisms for guaranteeing timber companies the right to continue logging priceless native forests through the creation of permanent logging zones. Publicly-owned forest resources will be alienated for control by private companies, mainly to feed huge export woodchip projects and new export pulpmills.

"Resource Security" is the same as 'nature destruction'. If it continues to be pursued by the NSW Government, it will forever deny people the chance to properly protect our native forests.

Native forest logging is subsidised by the people of NSW to the tune of over \$1 billion. Tax payers subsidies include financing industry infrastructure such as access roads and the unrealistically low royalties paid by woodchip companies. These costs would be avoided if plantation timber which is now available was utilised. (There is 250,000 hectares of these plantations available in NSW NOW!!!)

The native forests sector of the Timber Industry in the State's SE has run out of trees because of overcutting and current forest protection legislation. The NSW Govt's Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Amendment Bill is a secret initiative attempting resource guarantees in the face of the rising tide of community concern for our dwindling native forests. This Bill would be a disastrous precedent for all NSW forests.

We will continue to lose control over our heritage as public resources are converted to private assets - without guarantee of environmental security or economic return.

Resource security in the proposed Timber Industry Bill guarantees access to native forests for woodchipping and sawlogging. This directly contradicts the conservation provisions of the National Forest Policy signed by all mainland states, territories and the Commonwealth Government, in December 1992.

Resource security makes no economic sense, especially in light of the Federal governments Commitment to restructuring the logging industry into lucrative plantation resources: "Resource Security" amounts to promises to a few select companies of wind-fall profits from guaranteed access to public forests. This restrictive trade practice will halt micro-economic reform by locking the industry into current unsustainable practices.

At the moment, 'resource security' is really a guarantee of continued access and rock-bottom prices for overseas and local woodchipping interests, and of free land for future pulpwood plantations - even though enough existing plantation resources and cleared land are available to support a domestic, ecologically sustainable timber and paper industry.

For more info please contact Jules McMahon on 267 7929



Attachment THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

★ ★ ★ Media Release ★ ★ ★

ATTN: Chiefs of Staff / Political & Environment Reporters

Sunday, 21 November 1993

NSW MINISTER MISLEADS PUBLIC TWICE IN 5 DAYS ON WILDERNESS LOGGING

George Souris, NSW Minister for Land & Water Conservation has misled the public on logging of official Wilderness areas twice in the last five days. The Wilderness Society claimed today.

MR SOURIS: There is "serious doubt" whether there is any logging taking place in NSW Wilderness areas now. Spokesperson for Minister Souris reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (Saturday 20/11/93, p4): *wrong!*

FACT: The Deua and Coolagubra - both legally identified wilderness areas in south east NSW - are being logged daily. Only 5 days ago Mr Souris was required to explain on ABC Radio 2BL (15/11/93 see attached media release) why Naroomba Forestry was logging in the official Deua Wilderness on the NSW south coast. (Mr Souris misled the public on that occasion also by claiming most old growth forest was already 'safe' in reserves.)

The Wilderness Society also rejected another claim made by Minister Souris as reported in the *Herald* article:

MR SOURIS: If nine official wilderness areas are excluded from logging, "every forest in NSW would be nominated as a wilderness by conservationists, leaving the timber industry with no wood supplies for the next two years" *wrong!*

FACT: 1. Only approximately 2.5% of NSW is forest wilderness capable of satisfying the criteria in Section 6 of the *Wilderness Act 1987* (NSW);

2. Over 90% of State Forests in NSW is unaffected by Wilderness proposals and realistically does not qualify under the *Wilderness Act 1987* (NSW) (e.g. approx. 100,000 ha State Forest adjacent to Barrington Tops Wilderness, 80,000 ha of State Forest adjacent to Etters & Budawang Wilderness areas)

3. All the nominations for wilderness assessment by conservation groups have been accepted with only minor changes. The only frivolous nominations have been made by anti-environmental groups as a cynical stunt. These vexatious nominations will simply be thrown out.

Tom McLoughlin, NSW Campaign Officer for the Wilderness Society said "Mr Fahey must pull Mr Souris into line. The Minister is repeatedly using baseless claims to mislead the community about wilderness and old growth forests. In reality only 10% or less of rich old growth forest types are being conserved. Much of this threatened forest is in legally identified Wilderness areas waiting for protection."

For further information contact in Sydney Tom McLoughlin, (02) 267 7929(w) (02) 953 7664



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

MEDIA UPDATE

ATTN: Chiefs of Staff / Political & Environment Reporters

3.00 p.m. November 15, 1993

NSW MINISTER MISLEADS PUBLIC IN FORESTRY COVER-UP IN DEUA

The Hon. George Souris, NSW Minister for Water and Land Conservation misled the public on the 11.00 a.m. ABC 2BL Radio news bulletin today. Mr Souris was responding to protests by conservationists who successfully stopped logging of 'brown barrel and monkey gum' wilderness today.

Mr Souris said this morning that "92% of old growth areas" in NSW were already in 'conservation reserves' of one form or another. Mr Souris was implying that most old growth in official Wilderness areas or elsewhere are safe and conservationists are wrong to protest.

Minister Souris has misled the public because:

- Only approximately 0.5-10% of several of the richest types of remaining NSW old growth forest (those on high nutrient soils and having high bio-diversity values) are safe in National Parks or other official reserves (Norman T. W. & Kirkpatrick J. (1993) *Sustainable Forestry - The Urgency To Make the Myth A Reality*. (1993) unpublished, in review)

- A moratorium for old growth wilderness under NSW *Timber Industry legislation* is not comprehensive and a temporary respite only. The moratorium area is not an official conservation reserve.

- 38% of NSW old growth forest is in State Forests and available for logging now or the near future. This 38% is made up mainly of the richest old growth forests on high nutrient soils. The 58% in official conservation reserves contains largely old growth on dry, nutrient poor soil unsuitable for logging (Resource Assessment Commission *A Survey of Australia's Forest Resource* (1992)).

- Nationally, only approximately 9 per cent of all remaining "unlogged" eucalypt forest is in official conservation reserves: Resource Assessment Commission's *Forest and Timber Inquiry Final Report* (1992 Volume 1, p 143, para 6.21).

For further information contact in Sydney Tom McLoughlin, (02) 953 7664(h) / 267 7929(w) Canberra...Lucy Horodoy, (06) 257 5122(w) / 281 6754(h)

ATTN TV STATIONS: FOOTAGE OF THE PROTEST WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER TODAY OR EARLY TOMORROW (TUES 15/11/93). TEL. (06) 249 8874 / 257 5122.

MEDIA RELEASE

BLUE GUM FOREST ANNIVERSARY

September 2nd marks the 60th anniversary of the protection of Blue Gum Forest in the Blue Mountains. The gazettal of Blue Gum Forest as a public reserve on 2nd September 1932 marked the completion of one of the State's earliest conservation battles. The campaign to save Blue Gum Forest was also the catalyst for the formation of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs.

'We owe a great debt to those early conservationists who battled to save the Forest', Bushwalkers NSW Secretary, Mr Roger Lembit, said today. 'Faced with the prospect of the Forest being cleared for growing walnuts, a coalition of conservationists including bushwalking clubs, the Wildlife Preservation Society and the Boy Scout Association, raised £150 during the depth of Great Depression to buy out the lease.'

'The Blue Gum Forest Committee, as the coalition was known, enlisted the help of Sydney businesses to assist the campaign. Prominent in providing assistance were J.G. Lockley ('Redgum') of the 'Sydney Morning Herald' and W.J. Cleary, a former Commissioner for Railways. The willingness of the lessee, Mr C.A. Hungerford of Bilpin, to halt work whilst the Committee attempted to raise funds should also be acknowledged', Mr Lembit said.

'A program of events has been arranged to recognise the significance of the occasion' Mr Lembit said. On Friday night, the Blue Gum Ball is being held at Petersham Town Hall. On Saturday 4th September bushwalkers will meet near Blue Gum Forest for a campfire celebration (camping in the Forest itself is now prohibited due to overuse). On Sunday a formal celebration will be held in the Forest. Attending the Sunday celebration will be relatives of the original Blue Gum Forest Committee, old time bushwalkers and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Bob Carr.

In October the National Parks and Wildlife Service will be holding a workshop to discuss future management of the Forest and the nearby camping area at Acacia Flat. Further information on the workshop can be obtained from the Service's Blackheath office.

Contact for further information :

Roger Lembit (047) 51 6550 (H/D)



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

★ ★ ★ Media Release ★ ★ ★

ATTN: Chiefs of Staff / Political & Environment Reporters

EMBARGOED UNTIL 6.30 A.M. MONDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER 1993.

NSW FORESTRY COVER-UP

MORE BREACHES OF NATIONAL FOREST POLICY IN DEUA

State Forests of NSW are attempting to cover up more flagrant breaches of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS); this time in the official Deua Wilderness about 40 kilometres west of Morryn on the NSW south coast. This follows protests by the Wilderness Society against similar ongoing breaches in the degraded Coolangubra Wilderness in September of this year. State Forestry posted signs in the Deua on the weekend prohibiting the public, including 20 conservationists with the Wilderness Society, from areas where natural forest is being devastated.

The NFPS at page 11 provides for interim protection from logging of wilderness, such as Deua, while assessments for a national forest reserve system is being set up by 1995. This logging also pre-empts NSW Cabinet deliberations, in train for over a year, on protection of Deua under the *Wilderness Act* (NSW). The logging is also unlawful because no proper fauna studies have been undertaken as required by State Forestry's own *Report* (at page 22) on their 1983 *Environmental Impact Statement* for the Narooma Management area.

Conservationists protesting against the logging are using the nonviolence principles of Gandhi and Martin Luther King (see attached). Details of peaceful tactics to be used will be revealed this morning and could include: 'road scrubbing' (laying dead branches and rocks along kilometres of logging roads); 'black walkabouts' (conservationists hiding in undergrowth after telling loggers their cause); and the traditional wooden tripod and human blockades.

Tom McLoughlin, NSW Campaign Officer for the Wilderness Society said "Mr Fahey and his Cabinet controls approval for wilderness declarations for areas like Deua, which alone has been waiting for protection for over a year. NSW Forestry are destroying parts of this wilderness forever and laughing at Mr Fahey's commitments, at NSW Cabinet, and at the majority public support for wilderness protection.

"NSW Forestry are also laughing at Mr Keating and the National Forest Policy. Yet the Fed's control the Daishowa woodchip licence which accounts for 50% of the logging in Deua. They could stop this tragic conversion of wilderness to woodchips which is no better than torching a Renault or a Van Gogh.

"Ecologist Margaret Turton has found the endangered Sooty Owl, Powerful Owl, and Tiger Quoll in the area" Mr McLoughlin concluded.

For further information contact in Sydney ..Tom McLoughlin..(02) 953 7684(h) / 267 7929(w)
Canberra...Lucy Harroday.....(06) 257 5122(w) / 281 6754(h)

ATTN TV STATIONS: FOOTAGE OF THE PROTEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TOMORROW (TUES 15/11/93). TEL. (06) 249 8874 / 257 5122.



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Summary of Gandhi Nonviolence Principles

1. Humiliating or deliberately provoking your opponent invites violence;
2. Knowing your facts and arguments well helps to avoid violence;
3. If you are open about your cause your opponent is less likely to be violent;
4. Look for common ground between you and opponents to promote trust and understanding;
5. Do not judge others harder than yourself. [Alternative: Do not judge others.]
6. Try to trust opponents. - they will sense this trust;
7. Compromise on inessential items to promote resolution;
8. Sincerity helps convert an opponent;
9. By making a personal sacrifice you show your sincerity;
10. Avoid exploiting weaknesses in your opponent [for its own sake]. Aim for integrity, not simply to win.

OVER 500 FOREST AREAS ACROSS AUSTRALIA THREATENED BY LOGGING ACTIVITIES

A coalition of conservation groups today released details of over 500 areas of forest that are threatened by logging across Australia that should be protected from logging activities by the Federal Government.

The coalition of environment groups, including The Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth, Victorian Conservation Council, Conservation Council of the South East Region and Canberra, East Gippsland Forest Alliance, the Western Australian Conservation Council and the New South Wales Conservation Council of NSW called on the Federal Government to ensure that the moratorium agreed to as clause of the National Forests Policy is implemented to protect the areas.

Last Monday night Federal Cabinet agreed that the Federal Environment Minister Mrs Kelly should formally advise the Minister for Resources Mr Lee which areas should be excluded from the woodchip export licences.

Spokesperson for The Wilderness Society, Mr Alec Marr, said that Environment Minister Mrs Kelly has written to Mr Lee with a list of forest areas that would see extensive areas of forest with comprehensively documented high conservation values left open for logging.

Mr Marr said that the Federal Government has the opportunity to protect the best of Australia's forests in 5 Australian States.

Spokesperson for the Victorian Conservation Council, Ms Linda Parlane, said that Mrs Kelly has proposed protection for none of the 185 areas of wilderness, old growth forests which the and rainforests that the Victorian Government is about to log.

Spokesperson for the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Mr Sid Walker, said that it was essential that, as well as provision for moratoria, the 1994 woodchip licences ensure that the Australian Nature Conservation Agency has the role of protecting endangered species in all affected areas.

"This condition has already been applied to woodchipping on the north coast of New South Wales and there is no excuse for it not to be extended to all other woodchip licences" Mr Walker said.

For further information call 018 550 289

viomr/1/s

FAX: TOM/TWS - SUE/ACF; - SID/NCC; -
URGENT
PLEASE COMMENT BY 12.30 TODAY
JEFF

JOINT PEAK ENVIRONMENT GROUPS
M E D I A R E L E A S E M E D I A R E L E A S E
28 September 1993

National and statewide environment groups representing over 100,000 people today condemned the actions of the NSW Government and the Rev Fred Nile as 'creating the environment in which the violence at this morning's attack by loggers on a peaceful demonstration by conservationists, could take place'.

'The NSW Government has broken the conservation principles of the national forest contract signed by them and the Commonwealth last year; and the Rev Fred Nile has said he will block the South East Forest Protection Bill - the only road to peace'.

'In the light of what happened this morning they need to look long and hard at their consciences. Peaceful protestors trying to protect irreplaceable ancient wilderness forest were attacked without provocation.'

'Do the Government and the Rev Fred Nile endorse this thuggery?', the groups asked.

'We are determined that the destruction of the south east forests will not occur without protest; that the NSW Government and Rev Nile will be held accountable; and the conservation principles of the National Forest Policy be upheld'.

The peaceful protest has been taking place for over a week in an effort to draw attention to the logging of 400 year old trees, in contravention of the National Forest Policy.

GROUPS ENDORSING THIS STATEMENT:
AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
SOUTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE
NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

BIG TIMES

WILD
AND
FREE

HELP SAVE YOUR PLANET NOW

ISSUE ONE 17-10-92

Amid the vast changes passing through all our lives some things have always remained constant - until now. Economic and emotional depressions come and go, but our world is changing in ways it never has before. We can't really know what we've lost when it's gone, and right now the heritage of us all is being plundered by the mindless games of a few. If we bury our heads in the sand now, our bodies will surely follow soon.

Anyone who has spare time or skills is needed NOW to help save this part of our planet, our home. Camps of forest occupiers have been created in the highland forests of New South Wales, on the edge of forests closed to the Australian people and media. Come see for yourself, while our ancient ecosystems still exist. There is really very little time left to act. You are herein invited to join the bands of forest defenders in whatever capacity you are capable. We are saving the OLD GROWTH trees, the ancient dreaming ecosystems which still sustain us all - thousands of years old, and about to be pulped for transnational paper.

Many important issues confront us in these Big Times - but our priority is the survival of the forests and all the species therein. Once they're gone, they can't come back - unlike uranium or chemical waste, this is an issue that WILL go away if we don't all actually do something NOW.

ACT NOW! THIS IS REALLY HAPPENING!

THE FORESTS NEED US - WE ALL NEED AIR AND WATER! COME TO THE CAMPS OF THE FOREST DEFENDERS NOW AND LEARN ABOUT YOUR WILD HERITAGE - WHILE YOU STILL HAVE ONE!

THE MEDIA HAS BEEN BANNED FROM WITNESSING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE LAST FRAGMENTS OF AUSTRALIA'S ANCIENT FORESTS! DON'T BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU READ OR HEAR - COME SEE FOR YOURSELF WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!

The camp of the forest defenders currently occupies the CARRAI PLATEAU. We invite anyone who wants to make a difference to come and stay with us, sharing the earth, food, water and skills. Come and share the good times and help us save ourselves. The last thousand year trees are being torn out NOW, this Spring, while the corporations believe they still have the time to do it. This is happening NOW. Pack NOW. Tomorrow WILL be too late. Many other forests on the East Coast are scheduled for destruction in the weeks and months ahead.

But the Carrai Plateau is being defended NOW.

ACTUALLY DO IT! PACK AND LEAVE NOW FOR CARRAI!

WHAT TO BRING

Warm clothes, food, water, tarps, rope, camping gear, cameras (still and video), radios and any communications equipment, musical instruments, tools, chocolate, etc, etc.

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

If you can't make it to the blockade immediately, the forest defenders need donations of MONEY OR ANY OF THE ABOVE EQUIPMENT URGENTLY. We are operating on a self-generated shoestring budget while the timber industry approaches the forests with millions of dollars worth of heavy logging equipment. Send cheques or cash to:

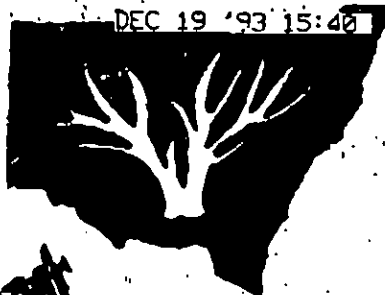
CARRAI DEFENDERS DONATION

C/- the CLARENCE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

PO BOX 1073 GRAFTON NSW 2460 (066) 431 863 - FOR MORE INFO: THE BIG SCRUB (066) 213 278

YOU CAN ALSO HELP BY WRITING LETTERS TO NEWSPAPERS AND POLITICIANS, PHONING RADIO TALKBACK SHOWS AND ORGANISING PROTESTS IN YOUR OWN AREA

PLEASE COPY THIS AND PASS IT ON!



NEW SOUTH WALES ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL

**Protect Your Culture
Protect Your Future**

Protest March

December 22 at Lady Macquarie's Chair - 11am.

To protect the old growth forests which have provided food, shelter and cultural sites since time began. Our cultural practices depend on the survival of the environment. No forests, no sites, no ceremonies, no animals.

The indigenous population of NSW must stand up for our Mother the Earth. She raised us from the dreaming to the present and she needs us now. The Government must be stopped from allowing the continued destruction of our culture and our cultural resources.

Its Time to Hit the Streets

J.M.



NATIVE
FOREST
NETWORK

MELBOURNE
PO BOX 222
FITZROY, VICTORIA
3065

8 JUN 1994

MELBOURNE NATIVE FOREST NETWORK
C/O FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
PO BOX 222
FITZROY, VICTORIA 3065
PH: (03) 419 8700
FAX: (03) 416 2081

Dear

Judy

This is a brief note concerning the Australian Forest Conference to be held in Melbourne in the last week of October, 1994. As our flyer states we intend to bring together indigenous people, forest dwellers, forest activists, conservation scientists and NGO's from all over Australia to come to Melbourne to discuss the crisis facing Australia's forests.

We hope to do this by having representatives from forest groups around the country speak on the second day of the conference about what is happening to the forests of their bio-region. Given the aims which this conference hopes to achieve, the conference organisers strongly encourage as many regional environmental networks/campaigns throughout Australia to be represented. NFN perceives this to be an integral component towards establishing a co-ordinated national action plan to rescue what remains of Australia's forests.

Our intention is to formulate an Australian Forest Action Plan, as well as setting in place a national grassroots network of forest groups. The Native Forest Network (NFN) can then provide local campaigns with both national and international focus via the NFN Newsletter and offer NFN members up to date information concerning local, national and international efforts towards the protection of forest ecosystems.

It would be great if a representative of your group could make the journey to Melbourne. We realise that there are time and financial constraints to consider, especially the further from Melbourne a delegate has to come. Fundraising will be happening in Melbourne during the year to help cover some transport costs, however as this fund is bound to be limited don't rely 100% on this.

Could you please inform us as early as possible of your group's decision to send a delegate (or delegates). If you do attend we will promise you a great couple of days in Melbourne. Hope to hear from you soon.

Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY AMIS
GAVAN McFADZEAN

Conference Organisers

AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONFERENCE 1994 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

Please tick, circle or fill in where appropriate; and send it back to us ASAP. Thanks!

This is a form for you/your group or organisation to fill out and send to us to give the conference organisers an idea of how many people are coming and from where, how many we need to cater for, accommodate and provide child care for etc.

Your registration will need to be forwarded by Friday, October 7, 1994. We'll be sending out registration forms before then.

Name/Organisation:.....

Address:.....

.....Phone:.....

Approx. Number Attending from your Group/Organisation/Network.....

ATTENDANCE				Remittance
Non-Government Organisation		\$100		\$
Others		\$350		
Students and Unemployed	1 day	\$15		\$
	2 days	\$25		
Waged	1 day	\$25		\$
	2 days	\$40		

(includes lunch, morning and afternoon tea, and conference programmes)

Childcare: Please tick if childcare required ☐

Discount of 10% for payment in full before September 1, 1994.

ACCOMMODATION: (please specify)

- ☐ **Billeting:** We would like an idea of numbers of people wishing to billet so that we can arrange accommodation. No. of people....
- ☐ **Backpackers:** (\$12 to \$15 per night) No. of people....
- ☐ **Motel:** (\$30 to \$40 per night) No. of people....

CONFERENCE ENTERTAINMENT: (Please indicate if/how many attending)

- ☐ Conference Dinner on Monday Evening (24/10/94) at \$30 per head \$
Special Dietary Requirements?.....
No. of people.....
- ☐ Field Trip to Central Highlands on Wed (26/10/94) at \$25 per head \$
No. of people.....

Total Remittance: \$

MEDIA RELEASE

16TH DECEMBER 1993

OVER 500 FOREST AREAS ACROSS AUSTRALIA THREATENED BY LOGGING ACTIVITIES

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For further information call 018 550 289

T



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

ATTN: Chiefs of Staff / Political and Environmental Reporters

Saturday, 4 December 1993

RECREATION GROUPS, GENERAL COMMUNITY AND LOCAL LAND-HOLDERS SOLD OUT BY ANTI-WILDERNESS LOBBY

The "anti-environment rally" at Moruya on the NSW South Coast is "a sell-out of decent recreation groups, the community and local land-holders", The Wilderness Society said today. The rally is organised by a minority within the new 'Public Land Users Alliance' which also staged a demonstration on November 18 this year led by Peter Cochrane (NSW NP) in Macquarie Street, Sydney.

Tom McLoughlin NSW Campaign Coordinator for the Wilderness Society said today "Unfortunately some of the same organisers of last month's anti-environment rally are again misleading many decent people who will attend this rally in good faith and whose concerns can mostly be resolved.

"For instance most responsible off roaders at the rally may not realise that:

- * For the officially assessed Deua Wilderness, vehicular access to popular camping areas at Bakera, Fiat and Deua River Camping area both on Araluen Rd, and the Big Hole recreation area, are unaffected. Similarly popular access roads encircling the edge of the wilderness are unaffected. Walking, camping, climbing and canoeing are all legitimate activities in the Wilderness. For safety reasons fire management is unaffected under the NSW Bushfire Act. Thousands of disabled people are known to use wilderness areas according to latest research in the United States (1992 Report available on request);

- * There is roughly 100,000 hectares of NSW State Forest adjacent to the officially assessed Deua Wilderness accessible by off-road vehicle from Moruya (Moruya S.F., part Dampier S.F., Bodalla S.F., Wanders S.F., part Tallaganda S.F., Mungerarie S.F., Berlang S.F., Bahdoura S.F.) and from Bateman's Bay (Mogo S.F., Buckenbowra S.F., Bolero S.F., Boyne S.F., Benandarah S.F., Quant Pot S.F., Monga S.F.). So off roaders are definitely catered for without a doubt;

- * The Australian 4WD Clubs Association, from as far back as 1983, acknowledges that fragile wilderness areas like the officially assessed Deua "should contain no man made intrusions, such as roads, powerlines or constructions ..." (Submission on Land Management for Recreation Use By 4WD Vehicles (1983)). Similarly South Coast Off Road Preservation Enthusiasts agree the Budawang Wilderness is too sensitive for off road vehicles (South Coast Register 29/10/93 ps). Yet another newly formed recreation lobby group acknowledges "when [off road vehicles] are driven improperly, in wrong places, or at the wrong times, these vehicles seriously damage vegetation, disturb wildlife, scar the landscape, create soil erosion and water pollution..." ("Tread Lightly! On Public and Private Land in Australia" Information leaflet (1993))

- * The research has been done: Two Government inquiries have recommended that sensitive wilderness areas should be off limits to off road vehicles (Federal House of Representatives Inquiry into Off Road Vehicles (1977), State Pollution Control Commission Off Road Vehicles Inquiry (1979));

"The general community made their wishes on Deua Wilderness known last year in the advertised 4 month public submission period which ended on 4/9/1992 - about 80% were in favour of the Wilderness. This result is reinforced by the recent news that about 5000 original submissions out of a total of 7000 for another official Wilderness - the Ettrema & Budawang area near Nowra - were also in favour of wilderness management.

"Land-owners in the local Deua Catchment and Wilderness Protection Association, Martin Phillips and Geoff Ashman, told the Wilderness Society yesterday that the *overwhelming majority* of local land-holders around Deua support the Wilderness proposal. They believe the plan will protect their water catchment especially in beautiful Georges and Diamond Ck areas which are threatened by old growth logging. This catchment also provides clean water for Moruya and Tuross Head townships".

Other land-holders, Bernie & Therese Kocur from Moruya, support the Deua Wilderness plan. Bernie Kocur said "I've been visiting the Deua for 10 years now. In that time the roads have become more and more eroded. The responsible 4WD people reckon they don't leave their rubbish but they can't control the irresponsible ones because I've seen their bottles and tin cans. I've also seen trail-bikers in there ripping up the ground".

"Last Easter while we were walking in Deua with friends at Diamond Ck we found a trail slashed right through the pristine old growth forest catchment. There were hoof prints, and horse droppings, and tomahawk and machete marks on trees to blaze the trail" Bernie Kocur concluded.

Peter Woof who owns land at Peak View 8 kilometres from Numeralla on the western side of Deua Wilderness said "I know of plenty of pretty stream and river-sides that have been devastated by logging. Recreational users won't go to them after that. The native forest timber industry are the real culprits in removing recreational areas".

In conclusion Mr McLoughlin said "Perhaps the most devastating effect of 4WD and horse tracks in wilderness is the fragmentation which promotes the spread of feral predators and noxious weeds. These affect rare and endangered species in Deua such as the Squirrel Glider and many others. [See 'Keep the Deua Wild' The Wilderness Society (1993)]

For more information please contact:

Tom McLoughlin ... ontel.(02) 953 7684 (h) or (02) 267 7929 (w), or

Bernie Kocur on ... tel. (064) 937 398

Peter Woof on ... tel. (044) 561 574



4WD TRACK IN DEUA & BARRINGTON TOPS WILDERNESS AREAS (BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST)



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

★ ★ ★ Media Release ★ ★ ★

ATTN: Chiefs of Staff/Political & Environment reporters

NSW FORESTRY ECONOMIC IMPACT ADVICE: "BIZARRE", "GROSSLY EXAGGERATED", "DEMEANING TO COUNTRY PEOPLE"

Wednesday, 8 December 1993

The Wilderness Society has received a copy of a letter containing damning criticism of State Forests of NSW (formerly the NSW Forestry Commission) and its economic impact 'report' on Wilderness areas from April this year.

The letter of 2/12/93 (attached) was written by David Godden, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Sydney. The letter responds to George Souris Minister for Land and Water Conservation who has dismissed Mr Godden's findings, published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 17/6/93, that the Forestry 'report':

- * exaggerates timber values from \$5 million to \$227 million;
- * incorrectly uses "multipliers" to determine flow-on effects to local communities;
- * double counts some elements in its calculations.

In his 3 page letter Mr Godden rejects the Minister's explanations and further finds that the NSW Forestry 'report':

- relies on several bizarre economic assumptions.
- appears to grossly over-estimate impacts of withdrawal of logging resource
- uses a questionable methodology
- is demeaning to country people by assuming their lack of entrepreneurial spirit

Tom McLoughlin NSW Campaign Coordinator for the Wilderness Society said today "Mr Godden, an independent expert, has comprehensively dumped NSW Forestry and their 'report' on state Wilderness areas. His letter confirms that Forestry bureaucrats are misleading the community, misleading industry, misleading their Minister, and in effect misleading NSW Parliament.

"The timber industry doesn't need to woodchip wilderness forests. There are 250,000 hectares, or more, of hardwood and softwood plantations in NSW already available for logging. This tree cropping can provide booming exports without woodchipping old growth wilderness.

"Wilderness areas are an eco-tourism asset of international significance" Mr McLoughlin concluded.

More information: Tom McLoughlin..t.(02) 267 7929(w)/(02) 953 7684.

DEC 07 '93 21:22

P. 3/5



3 pages

The University of Sydney
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Head of Department
T G MacAulay

New South Wales 2006
Australia
Telephone (02) 692 4814 (direct)
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2 December 1993

Mr. G. Souris MLA
Minister for Land and Water Conservation
Level 3, State Office Block
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

fax: 228 3801

Dear Mr Souris

The Wilderness Society has sent me a copy of your letter of 5 October 1993 to Ms Gladys Boulton, Coordinator of the Society's Central West Branch. In your letter, you mentioned comments I made earlier this year on the Forestry Commission's report *Economic Impact of Wilderness Proposals on State Forests*. L letter to SMH 17/6/93 p 12

Your letter makes four points about my comments on this report:

1. I deliberately downplayed the magnitude of the losses by misconstruing the principles of sustained yield harvesting.

In his letter to the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 1 July 1993, Mr R.J. Harvey of the Forestry Commission argued that "Existing old growth would be harvested over 20 years, not 80 years as Mr Godden suggests." The problem with this argument is that, in the Forestry Commission's report, no information was given about the assumptions as to the period over which the old growth forest was to be harvested. Moreover, as I show below, this after-the-event explanation of assumptions supposedly embodied in the report is simply inconsistent with information contained in the report itself.

The analysis in the Forestry Commission's report indicates that *re-growth* would be harvested at a constant annual rate for 20 years starting at year 1. In the analysis of Forestry Commission royalty losses, the study notes:

"loss of the resource currently contained in the State Forest areas included in the nine wilderness nominations could impose a one-off loss of over \$50 million for the Forestry Commission over the period during which the old growth resource is harvested. Furthermore, beyond this period an ongoing annual loss of over \$1.8 million would be imposed by the loss of the regrowth resource. ... After completion of 'old growth' harvesting the value of the loss from the regrowth resource would be \$19m, over the subsequent 20 year period, assuming a real discount rate of 7%." (*Economic Impact of Wilderness Proposals on State Forests*, pp.4-5)

The assumptions used to arrive at these conclusions can be deduced from the results. If an annual value of \$1.8m is converted to a discounted present value of \$19m at a real discount rate of 7%

(the information presented in the Commission's report), then the period over which the discounting has occurred is years 1-20 of a planning horizon. But, according to the report, the "ongoing annual loss of the regrowth resource" of \$1.8m occurs *after* logging the old growth forest: "beyond this period [i.e. the period during which the old growth resource is harvested] an ongoing annual loss of over \$1.8 million would be imposed." But, if the re-growth is valued over years 1-20 and its harvest only occurs *after* the old growth forest has been harvested, it has therefore been assumed in the Commission's report that all the old growth has all been harvested in the initial year (year zero in a present value analysis).

It is easy for the Commission to claim after its report was published that the analysis is based on an assumed harvest period of 20 years for old growth forest. But, if we are to believe the Commission's own published report and not its after-the-event rationalisations, its own analysis clearly indicates that its estimates of the costs are based on assuming that all the old growth forest is logged in year zero, not over 20 years.

* There is a further, bizarre assumption in this part of the Commission's analysis. As shown above, re-growth timbers are valued in the Forestry Commission's report from the *first* year of a planning horizon (assuming that all the old growth is harvested in year zero). But - particularly with slow-growing Australian hardwoods - no logger is going to fell mature trees in the year *immediately following* the harvest of old growth timber. There will be no logging in the first year after logging old growth for two reasons: firstly, any tree that was mature one year after logging the old growth would have been sufficiently mature to have been logged with all the other old growth timber; secondly, even if a mature tree was left during the original old growth logging - e.g. it was overlooked - it would be too costly for a logger to re-enter the forest to fell isolated trees. It may be *decades* after initial harvesting of the old growth forest before sufficient re-growth has occurred to make it worthwhile to re-enter a logged old growth forest and extract more logs. Thus the estimated present values of re-growth presented in the report are likely to be wild over-estimates. For example, if the re-growth timber is harvested from years 21-40, rather than years 1-20, then the present value of the re-growth resource at a 7% discount rate is only 20 per cent of the values presented by the Forestry Commission. Not only is the Commission's assumption of re-growth timber being harvested from year 1 bizarre in terms of the implied assumptions derived from the original report, harvesting re-growth from year 1 is even more bizarre under the Commission's after-the-event rationalisation of its report which implies the old growth is harvested over 20 years.

Because the report makes no explicit mention of harvest and re-growth periods, there is no information from which to make an assessment about what appropriate harvest periods might be for both the old growth and re-growth timbers. These harvest periods will partly depend on species - the slower the growth of the timber, the longer the return period in a sustainable harvesting regime. Thus, for slow-growing Australian hardwoods, the harvest periods may be significantly longer than the 20 years implied in the Forestry Commission's report. I understand that, in many cases, it is not unusual for hardwood forest compartments to stay unlogged for at least 70 years following felling of the old growth timbers. In this case, as I argued in my letter to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, if the old growth timber in the proposed wilderness areas was harvested sustainably - i.e. felling of old growth timber in the last compartment occurs just before felling re-growth in the first compartment that was logged - then the present value of timber would be dramatically less than the Forestry Commission's estimates.

Finally, in my letter, I played to the Commission's own rules by assuming that the losses from not logging the wilderness areas were represented by foregone *turnover*. While this may be true in the very short run, it is not true for more than a year or so. Using turnover as an estimate of losses assumes that extraction of the forest resource is cost-less - which is even more bizarre than some of the Commission's other assumptions. If a profit rate of 20 per cent on turnover is assumed (and this assumed rate is likely to be very high compared to achievable rates in business), then the losses from not logging the proposed wilderness areas are no more than 20% of the Commission's estimates. Since my estimates of not logging the proposed wilderness areas are substantially lower than the Commission's estimates, the true net losses may be dramatically less than those presented in the Commission's report.

The Forestry Commission failed to present the assumptions underlying its analysis in its original report, and has subsequently claimed assumptions for the analysis which appear to be inconsistent

with that report. The Commission has also made what appear to be bizarre assumptions about sustainable logging regimes in the proposed wilderness areas, and appears to have used inappropriate methods of accounting for the costs of not logging these areas. Thus, far from me being guilty of "deliberately downplaying" the magnitudes of the losses, the Commission appears to have grossly over-estimated the losses of not logging these areas.

2. I mistakenly confused old growth and re-growth losses.

Since I used the distinction between old growth and re-growth timber that was presented in the Forestry Commission's report, and accepted their data on the logged value of this timber, it is hard to see how I could have mistakenly confused old growth and re-growth losses.

3. I raised questions about the method used to estimate regional impacts.

I certainly did raise questions about the method used to estimate regional impacts. The Forestry Commission's analysis used simplistic input-output multipliers to scale-up turnover losses into regional impacts. Firstly, it is important to note that - since the Commission's estimates of logging losses are grossly exaggerated - the method it used for estimating regional impacts by simply scaling up logging losses will therefore result in commensurately gross over-estimates of the regional impacts. Secondly, would have been preferable to have derived estimates of regional impacts directly in a regional input-output model rather than using a simple scaling-up procedure. Thirdly, the use of input-output analysis may be questioned in this context, since this technique assumes that resources do not shift between sectors of the regional economy. However, one of the obvious facts about rural Australia - in farming, other resource industries, and in their service industries - is its outstanding capacity to adjust to changing economic circumstances. Thus, to use input-output analysis to assess the impact of not logging these areas is to assume that resources that would otherwise have been used in this logging would never be used elsewhere in the economy. This assumption is clearly not true with regard to capital, and is unlikely to be true with regard to other resources except in the very short run. This assumption is actually demeaning to country people because it assumes they will never look for another job whereas, as I'm sure you would be aware, rural people are very entrepreneurial in the use of their resources.

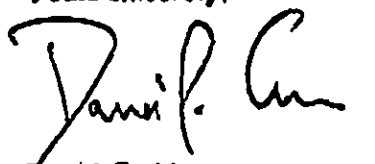
Thus, the methods used in the Forestry Commission report to account for the regional impacts of not logging the proposed wilderness areas are likely to grossly over-estimate the costs of not logging.

4. that the method of discounting I used was misleading.

As shown in #1 above, I derived the assumptions used in the Forestry Commission's study from its own analysis and I was using discounting in exactly the same way as in the Commission's report. Therefore, if my use of discounting was misleading, so too was the Commission's!

In conclusion, therefore, none of the information provided by the Forestry Commission and contained in your letter of 5 October 1993 to the Coordinator of the Wilderness Society's Central West Branch leads me to revise my original conclusion about the Forestry Commission's report Economic Impact of Wilderness Proposals on State Forests. I still firmly believe that the estimates of not logging the proposed wilderness areas as presented in this report are grossly exaggerated.

Yours sincerely,



David Golden
Senior Lecturer

EAST FOREST



GIPPSLAND ALLIANCE

East Gippsland Forest Alliance
Goongerah, Victoria, 3888.

Telephone/fax: (051) 540 156.

MEDIA ALERT

GREENS AND DEMOCRATS DECLARE WORLD HERITAGE PARK IN EAST GIPPSLAND

3rd February 1994

Greens Senator, Christabel Chamarette and Democrats Senator Sid Spindler will declare East Gippsland's forests a "World Heritage Park" this Saturday morning. The "opening ceremony" will be performed at Hensleigh Creek, which is currently being blockaded by the East Gippsland Forest Alliance. East Gippsland has been identified as having World Heritage values.

WHAT: Grand opening of the East Gippsland World Heritage Park.

WHO: Democrats Senator Sid Spindler and Greens (WA) Senator Christabel Chamarette.

WHERE: Hensleigh Creek, Errinundra Plateau, East Gippsland.

WHEN: Saturday morning, 5th February 1994, 9am.

PHOTOGRAPHIC OPPORTUNITIES: Spectacular mountain views, rainforest, entrenched blockade site, banners, Park opening ceremony.

For more information contact:

Jill Redwood (051) 54 0145
Senator Chamarette's office (06) 277 3790
Senator Spindler's office (06) 277 3640
Dr Geoff Mosley (03) 718 2998

Directions to the site are available from:
Jill Redwood (051) 540 145 or
Goongerah Environment Centre (051) 540 156

Betacam footage available



• WILDERNESS NOT WOODCHIPS FOR EAST GIPPSLAND •



Christabel Chamarette

Senator for The Greens (WA)

5th February 1994

World Heritage Forest Park Declared Open in East Gippsland

Greens (WA) Senator Christabel Chamarette this morning joined with Democrat Senator Sid Spindler and members of the East Gippsland Forest Alliance (EGFA) to declare open a World Heritage Park on the Errinundra Plateau in East Gippsland.

Senator Chamarette said "I welcome the opportunity to join with the Democrats and the East Gippsland Forest Alliance to highlight the need to fully protect this critical link between the Errinundra and Cooperanbra National Park."

"The forests of South Eastern Australia are biological jewels and much of this area contains large stretches of rainforest and other vegetation communities which have close resemblance to the ancient Gondwanic forests of 40 million years ago."

"I applaud the actions of the EGFA in working so hard to protect these areas. They, like their counterparts in my own State of Western Australia, have come to realise the importance of our high conservation value forests."

For the past month, members of the EGFA have been blockading two important areas in the Hensleigh Creek catchment to prevent them from being clearfelled

Senator Chamarette said "I note the concerns of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature last month that many areas of native forest of high conservation value are still being logged and that a fully comprehensive, adequate and representative system is yet to be put in place."

"The time for action by the Federal Government is well overdue. The Keating Government must move to fulfil its international obligations by protecting the remaining areas of native forest throughout Australia."

"I will certainly do what ever I can to see that the Federal Government uses its power to intervene to protect our irreplaceable forest heritage," Senator Chamarette concluded.

Contact: Christabel Chamarette (Saturday 11.00 - 12.30) 051 540 145
Geoff Moseley (Sunday) 018 905 321
03 718 2998

NORTH-EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 9 Singleton 2330 Australia

phone: (065) 77.3105

fax/data: (by prior notice)

E-mail: peg: ganref

NOVEMBER 12th 1993 MEDIA RELEASE**HUNTER FORESTRY OPERATIONS A TRAGEDY - NEFA**

Spokesperson for North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) Barrie Griffiths described current harvesting operations in the Barrington Tops and Chichester areas as "really tragic". Mr Griffiths said that after decades of gross mismanagement and overcutting of Hunter region forests, significant increases in pulpwood for export to Japan as woodchips in recent years were completely degrading the forests of the region.

"In the late sixties and seventies the Forestry Commission cleared native hardwood forests in the Barrington area for pine plantations, established at huge expense. Today these plantations are useless and degraded, many have died. Hardwood plantations are also degraded because they were not thinned, whilst harvesting in the eighties removed most of the old growth as rapidly as possible. Inaccessible areas and forests once too steep and uneconomic to log are now being trashed for woodchips for Japan. At the same time, the few remaining areas of high quality forests on good soil and moderate slopes are rapidly disappearing. Supplies of quality sawlogs will run out. At this moment, extensive operations across the Barrington from East to West are targetting all forests not subject to moratorium in a huge "claim-staking exercise."

"The EIS for Barrington operations is overdue, and publication has now been deferred until next year. Documents obtained from the Forestry Commission indicate that during the period of EIS preparation, Harvesting Plans have allocated areas to crown sawmills which total 8 to 10 years supply of sawlogs", Mr Griffiths said.

Mr Griffiths was responding to news received today that representatives from Boral Timber were pressuring the Federal Resources Minister, Michael Lee, to issue a special export licence to their subsidiary, Sawmillers Exports, for a huge stockpile of woodchips at Newcastle. A temporary licence has expired, pending determination of an EIS assessing the impacts of a proposal to export woodchips derived from "residue" logs from State Forests, for a period of ten years.

"These impacts are clearly very significant indeed. Volumes of timber removed will almost double, with consequent loss of habitat, simplification of species composition and reduction of understorey, virtual elimination of old growth elements, nutrient depletion, compaction, erosion and siltation, proliferation of weeds and fire hardy species with increased fire frequencies, lower stream flows, reduction in water quality, and so on", Mr Griffiths said.

"The public are losing these forests to Boral and Japanese profits. The community also loses money and jobs: The Forestry Commission lost an average of almost half a million dollars per annum during the eighties in Chichester and Gloucester Management Areas, not including the value of huge public subsidies, and Boral's near monopoly of the industry is costing jobs."

"Forests supplying Boral's Newcastle exporter have been plundered, and prescriptions are being breached, in recent operations to create this stockpile whilst the EIS was being prepared. Mr Lee should comply with Federal legislation requiring proper assessment and refuse Boral this licence, and ensure that no further silvicultural residues are taken from public or

private land until the assessment process has been completed", Mr Griffiths said. "Environment Minister Ros Kelly should immediately issue an impact assessment order under the Endangered Species Act to prevent this licence being issued."

Further information: See attached sheet, and contact:
Barrie Griffiths (065) 77.3105

NEFA MEDIA RELEASE attachment 1 SUPPORTING INFORMATION - NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SUMMARY OF GROSS OVERCUTTING: CHICHESTER MANAGEMENT AREA.

The Management Plan (1980) calculated sustained yield at 15,800 m3 net, whereas actual cut in the seventies was up to 180% of sustained yield (1978). However, the M.P. fixed the quota allocation at 21,500 m3 net. That is, the Commission deliberately set the quota at 136% of sustained yield. In the six years following the Plan, actual cut averaged 22,424 m3 p.a., or 140% of the figure given as the sustained yield in the Plan, but in fact by 1986/87 actual cut was over 300% of the sustained yield figure of 5,818 m3 net, calculated after a new assessment in 1982, and adjustments resulting from the rainforest decision in 1984. The true position is worse however, since the records show that assumptions and calculations forming the basis of the 1982 assessment were incorrect. As early as the Annual Report for 83/84, the District Forester is reporting that actual volume is significantly less than assessed, because of errors in forest typing and increasing proportion of steep and inaccessible areas. Despite this there was no revision of the Management Plan, which has still not been updated, and the quota remained the same throughout the eighties. From 1.1.90 revised annual quotas were finally implemented, but at 11,000 m3 net, are still about double the sustained yield.

The Management Plan provided for the First cutting cycle to end in 2039; however the new reduced quotas are about double the figure required to "eke out the resource until 2039", and will result in a hiatus in supply from about 2015 until 2040, on the Commission's figures. Thus the present quotas are overcutting the resource in accordance with the policy of cutting out "overmature" forests as rapidly as possible.

GLOUCESTER MANAGEMENT AREA

Gloucester was grossly overcut from the late sixties by deliberate decision, "due to the perceived need at the time to remove the hardwood resource to make way for a proposed Barrington Toops pine plantation program" (M.P. 1984 p.36). On the basis of "a recent cursory assessment", "limited information" and "on somewhat subjective estimates", the M.P. guessed that the long-term sustained yield (10,000 m3 net) wouldn't be available until towards the end of the next century (2090), that the then-current levels of yield could not be maintained much beyond the year 2000; that from about 2020 until end of the century, about 5,000 m3 would be possible. Nevertheless the Management Plan approved maintaining the existing quota of 26,780 m3 net plus 25,840 m3 net parcel (parcel terminating December 1985) - almost three times the long-term sustained yield figure subjectively estimated on the basis of limited information to be available from 2090; and almost six times the estimate for the second cutting cycle (2020 - 2090) !

Quota allocation was reduced to 14,200 m3 net in 1988/89; but was overcut in that year and the following two years, 1989/90 and 90/91. The Annual report for 1988/89 states that the new quota "is sustainable until 2020 at which time a quota of 5,000 p.a. will apply until 2070, thence 10,000 m3 p.a." The Annual Report for 1990/91 states that

"Despite virtual halving of quota allocations over the past few years, current allocations will continue to exceed the theoretical long term sustained

yield level for the Management Area."

A strategy which will not achieve sustained yield until 2090, whilst fixing quotas at 285% of the volume available for the second cutting cycle, is indefensible.

NEFA MEDIA RELEASE attachment 2.
SUPPORTING INFORMATION - NOT FOR PUBLICATION

BRIEF EXTRACT FROM REPORT ON CURRENT OPERATIONS
1. STEWARTS BROOK STATE FOREST: TUBRABUCCA ROAD EXTENSION.

Compartments 5 to 9 inclusive in the Tubrabucca area of Stewarts Brook S.F. (unlogged except for a small area near Barrington Trail in cmpt 6 and a small area of cmpt 9 in 1991/92) are covered by one harvesting plan, no. 93/G1, comprising over 1,000 ha with an estimated volume of 45,370 m3 quota sawlog volume. In addition, roading work has been done and logging operations are about to commence in compartments 1 to 4, unlogged except for a small area in compartment 2, logged 1980/81, and comprising an additional 644.5 ha. There is a bulldozer currently in compartment 2, which has just been very severely burnt (see photo 1.) NEFA has not been able to obtain copy of a harvesting plan for these four compartments. In addition, Harvesting Plan no. 92/141 dated December 1992 covers compartments 10, 20 and 22 of Stewarts Brook S.F., comprising 602 ha just north of Poleblue Swamp, with an estimated volume of 9,900 m3. The Wildlife Prescription is only two trees per hectare. A request to add compartments 10 & 20 to the Gloucester M.A. General S.120 licence is dated 5th March 1993. Both these Harvesting Plans refer to the Tubrabucca Environmental Impact Assessment, which has not been made available. Reference is also made to Paddy's Ridge Environmental Review, which has not been made available either. There is only a brief checklist attached to these harvesting plans, which state that "the area is covered by the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act until the Gloucester-Chichester Environmental Impact Statement is completed around mid 1993"; and conclude that "the environmental effect of this proposal is not significant and therefore an environmental impact statement will not be prepared".

2. BARRINGTON TOPS STATE FOREST.

One Harvesting Plan, no. 93/G2, covers compartments 55 and 60 to 65 of Barrington Tops S.F., comprising 2,257 ha in the Kangaroo Creek area, with an estimated volume of 71,851 m3 ! In addition, operations have been ongoing in compartments 22, 23, 20 & 21 of Bowman S.F. under General Licence no. TS0021 & TS0045. Harvesting Plans have not been made available for these Bowman compartments, which total 950 ha. Compartment history cards do not record logging history prior to operations in compartment 22 in 1990/92 (2,081 m3 nett quota sawlogs plus 5,251 tonnes of pulp), except for 43 m3 in 1975/76 from compartment 22. Forester Craig Hawkins suggested Bowman S.F. was selectively logged in the sixties and seventies (pers. comm.) In addition, "Bowman West" is included in the Order of Working for 1993/94, presumably comprising at least compartments 26 & 29 to 31. The total gross area of Bowman S.F. is 2,987 ha, much of which appears to have been made available to the crown sawmiller, Allen Taylor & Co. (Boral Timber) for 1991 - 1994.

Consequently during the course of the EIS preparation both Upper Hunter Timbers (Stewarts Brook S.F.) and Allen Taylor & Co. (Barrington Tops S.F.) have been allocated areas with estimated volumes equivalent to 8 to 10 years' quota allocation, "to ensure supply until the EIS is completed in mid-1993" !

- ends

Environment Liaison Office

• Nature Conservation Council of NSW • The Wilderness Society •
Total Environment Centre • Australian Conservation Foundation •
National Parks Association of NSW

10 November '94

★ Media Release ★

Moore, Macdonald and Jones Join Environment Groups to Slam Government Forestry Bills

Independent MPs Clover Moore, Peter Macdonald and Democrat MLC Richard Jones combined with the NSW Peak Environment Groups to condemn two National Party inspired Forest Bills due for debate in the last sitting weeks of the NSW Parliament.

"The *Forestry (Environmental and Fauna Impact Assessment) Bill 1994* would gut the Endangered Fauna Act and drastically reduce the applicability of the EP&A Act when dealing with forestry operations. This is the National Party agenda, it's a recipe for sending forest management in NSW back to the dark ages and must be opposed outright," said Ms Clover Moore Independent MP for Bligh.

"The Bill also attempts to radically reduce the community's right to enforce the law by exempting State Forests from being subject to legal challenge. It is simply outrageous to create public duties and then deny the community the right to enforce them," said Dr Peter Macdonald Independent MP for Marly.

"I proposed resource security for plantations to the minister 12 months ago, but regret to say that the *Tree Plantations (Harvest Security) Bill* is badly flawed legislation. The definition of plantations is so broad that it could include large areas of High Conservation Value native forests which have been damaged by woodchipping. Whilst I wholeheartedly support new plantations, this Bill must be amended," said Richard Jones, Democrat MLC.

"We have prepared amendments to the Plantations Bill which prevent native vegetation clearance and actually improve the level of financial security for *bona fide* plantation growers. If the Government is serious about promoting new plantations then they should support our amendments and foster a bi-partisan position on this Bill," said Tom McLoughlin, NSW spokesperson, The Wilderness Society.

"Environmentalists deplore this desperate lunge for 'resource security'. Indeed the NSW Nature Conservation Council Annual Conference (a policy-making umbrella group for over 90 NSW environment groups) unanimously condemned the Bills just 2 weeks ago" said Sid Walker, Executive Officer of NCC.

"This Parliament, in its final sitting, must not allow the National Party to rush through its reactionary agenda. We urge the Government to drop the *Forestry Assessment Bill* - and to base any legislation for plantation security on the outcomes of broad community consultation. True security for any industry must be based on goodwill - not conflict," concluded Mr Walker.

Ms Clover Moore MP 2302076/ 3603053 • Dr Peter Macdonald MP 9762773

Mr Richard Jones MLC 230 2858

Ben Oquist (Peak Environment Groups) 247 4206/ 015 70 40 95

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

THE NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW
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THE ROCKS NSW 2000
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PROPOSAL FOR AN NCC SEMINAR ON THE COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL ASSESSMENT (CRA) PROCESS

A Proposal from the NCC to the Federal department of the Environment

Wed, 19 Oct 1994

BACKGROUND

Many conservationists believe the credibility of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) is in serious jeopardy because of governments' inadequate compliance with NFPS conservation commitments.

One key NFPS element is a commitment that governments undertake 'Comprehensive Regional Assessments' in each major forested region of Australia.

The NFPS specified that these assessments would be carried out co-operatively between relevant Commonwealth and State agencies, with provision for significant community input.

The NFPS target date for establishing a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative' forest reserve system on public lands is the end of 1995, with necessary additions from private forests to complete the reserve system within three more years. The CRA process is preparatory to the establishment of such a reserve system and would help determine its boundaries. More generally, CRA's would generate a wealth of information about social, economic and environmental values of each forested region of Australia.

Yet nearly two years after the NFPS was signed - with just one year left before the due date for establishing a 'comprehensive, adequate and

representative' forest reserve system on public lands - a CRA has yet to begin in NSW, and the Fahey Government appears unclear about how it will fulfil the CRA commitment in the NFPS.

THE NSW CONTEXT

NSW differs from most of the other forested States in that some key conservation groups active on the forest issue - including NCC - support the *principle* of comprehensive regional assessments. Others are more sceptical, and some groups operating in NSW have expressed opposition to the process.

The closed nature of Commonwealth-State processes for implementing the NFPS has not aided public understanding and trust. To date, discussion on CRA's has been confined almost entirely to bureaucratic circles and there is very little community awareness about the nature and potential of CRA's. Uncertainty about the role and function of the NSW Government's Natural Resources Audit Council has further complicated the debate.

An informed debate is needed about what CRA's could and should be. Commonwealth and NSW government agencies should provide easily digestible information to - and establish dialogue with - other stakeholders, to facilitate public understanding of the CRA process.

This may help allay suspicions currently held about the CRA; alternatively it may exacerbate those concerns. But although greater public understanding may lead to widespread rejection of the process, acceptance without understanding is also impossible. In the final analysis, CRA's will succeed only if the community is well informed and committed to the process.

SEMINAR PROPOSAL

NCC proposes to organise a one-day (possibly one and a half day) Seminar, ideally in late November / early December 1994 - but if that proves too soon early in February 1995.

Speakers from the following agencies would be invited to the Seminar: the Federal Department of the Environment, the Australian Nature Conservation Agency, the Australian Heritage Commission, the Federal Department of Primary Industry and the EPA, State Forests of NSW, the National Parks & Wildlife Service, the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the NSW EPA, .

Speakers would also be invited from conservation organisations with an interest in NSW forests, such as The Wilderness Society, Australian Conservation Foundation, North East Forest Alliance, National Parks Association of NSW, World Wide Fund for Nature and Nature Conservation Council. NCC would also seek speakers from industry and from the CFMEU and Trades and Labor Council. Contributors from the scientific community would be invited.

Each government agency would be asked to inform the Seminar about:

- goals and process needed to achieve a *comprehensive* regional assessment.
- relevant datasets currently held by the agency
- datasets which they believe must be acquired for a *comprehensive* regional assessment.
- proposed public participation process
- budgetary requirements and realistic timeframes

Conservation groups - and other key stakeholders - would be invited to express their views, concerns, hopes and expectations about CRA's.

A provisional title for the Seminar is: 'CRA's: what role in NSW forests future?' The Federal Environment Minister would be invited to open the Seminar. Invitations would be issued to key State and Federal politicians.

We anticipate considerable interest in the Seminar, and would book a venue accommodating up to 150 participants. An essential aspect of the proposal is the rapid publication of proceedings after the event, to serve a wider audience in NSW and interstate.

BUDGET

A total of \$12,000 is sought from the Federal Department of the Environment to make this Seminar possible. This would be expended as follows:

Venue Hire	\$1,000
NCC's Administrative Costs	\$2,500
Travel Fares*	\$3,500
Publicity	\$1,000
Organiser's Wages	\$2,500
Proceedings Editor's Fees	\$1,500
Conference Proceedings Publication Costs	\$2,000
TOTAL	\$14,000

**Based on the assumption that some speakers would require fares paid, and that coverage of travel costs may be necessary to ensure participation of key conservation groups from non-metropolitan NSW.*

Environment group's forests policy submission to Bob Carr MP
leader of the NSW Parliamentary Labor Party

This statement has been agreed to by NCC, TEC, ACF, SEFCC, NEFA.
The environment groups are seeking a comprehensive revision 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~~ illustrated on maps before the election and all the new areas to be dedicated within the first 12 months of a Carr Labor Government. All NPWS-identified wilderness areas should ^{including} be gazetted. ^{the left hand of Govt} The attached notes demonstrate that this is possible without major disruptions to the timber industry.

2. The ALP to publicly support the use of Commonwealth World Heritage powers to protect forests adjacent to and in the catchment of World Heritage areas where World Heritage values are threatened. X

3. The immediate establishment of a moratorium on logging in all of the high conservation value forest compartments identified by Commonwealth Environment Minister Faulkner. This moratorium is to remain in effect until superseded by the further forest assessment and protection measures set out in {4} below.

4. Immediate establishment of a moratorium on logging in {a} unprotected wilderness areas as identified by the Director-General of National Parks and Wildlife, {b} all remaining areas of unprotected old growth native forest, and {c} forests adjacent to and in the catchment of World Heritage areas whose values are threatened by logging. These moratoriums ^{are} to remain in effect until the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system protecting NSW native forest communities. ?

5. An immediate direction to the NPWS to conduct, in co-operation with ANCA, a rapid assessment of all NSW native forests within a period of six months to identify those additional forest areas likely to be required to secure a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system, and forest areas likely to be of World Heritage value. 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 assessment of NSW forests and a decision by the NSW Government

approx. one
million ha.
of public land

Should
lands and
forests
just subject
to moratorium

Moratorium
on clearing &
further conversion
of bushland
wilderness lands

establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative system.

6. Establishment within the first three months of a Carr Labor Government of a process for comprehensive assessment of native forests, with the assessment completed for the whole State by March 1997. 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. {Note: The structure, membership, control and related aspects of this comprehensive assessment process are covered in Schedule 1.)

7. 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 all forestry operations. The FPRB will regulate forestry activities until comprehensive regional assessments have been completed, comprehensive system of reserves established and a comprehensive code of logging practices developed. The FPRB will be responsible for assessing all public and private lands proposed for logging or clearing. The FPRB will determine whether the activity is appropriate and the conditions to be placed upon operations to adequately protect all forest values. [Refer to TI(IP) Act for public exhibition processes).

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.

8. Retention and full enforcement of all current environmental controls in forest areas where logging is to continue, including stop work orders made under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, environmental impact assessment, fauna impact assessment, soil conservation and pollution controls.

9. An immediate direction to CALM and the Soil Conservation Service to fully resource, implement and enforce all private land clearing and land protection controls. Immediately gazette all ungazetted proposed protected land maps. CaLM, with assistance of the NPWS, is to review all maps and as far as possible identify inadequately reserved plant communities and habitats of endangered plants and animals for inclusion on a revised set of protected land maps to be gazetted by

March 1996. As comprehensive regional assessments are completed for each region a final set of maps will be gazetted.

10. 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 where the existing timber industry may be 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:

- immediate negotiations with the Federal government for funding assistance for timber industry restructuring;
- 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, investigation of alternative fibre sources;
- co-ordination 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 milling and manufacturing based on small wood;
- government assistance for ecologically sustainable alternative industry and employment projects including those based on value adding, 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;
- accounting reforms which separate State Forests native forest and plantation operations, which require both recurrent and capital accounts, and which require any annual operating shortfall to be carried over to the following year.

11. In keeping with the principle of ecologically sustainable development, the precautionary principle and the commitment to conserve the State's biodiversity, a pledge to phase out export woodchipping based on NSW native forests within the first term of a Carr Labour Government.

Schedule 1

Guiding principles

- The assessment must be based on a comprehensive and adequate information base and adopt a precautionary approach to identifying conservation requirements.
- The community must be involved at all stages of the regional assessment i.e, in setting the terms of reference, overseeing information collection and reviewing the results.
- The process must be balanced, open and publicly accountable, with all submissions, data, analyses, reports and minutes of meetings publicly available.
- Environment NGOs must be represented on all committees and working groups involved in the regional assessment process.
- The participation of environment NGO's in these committees and working groups must be adequately resourced.
- Environment NGO's must be adequately resourced to carry out independent assessment and advocacy at the regional level.
- The National Parks and Wildlife Service must be the lead agency in identifying comprehensive adequate and representative reserve systems and other conservation measures for each region.

Regional Assessment Coordination Committee

Regionally based committees will be established for each regional assessment. Each Regional Assessment Coordination Committee (RACC) will oversee data collection and analyses and prepare land use plans for each region. RACC's will be comprised of a representative of:

Department Of Planning, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Nature Conservation Council, Ecological Society of Australia, Industry Group, Labor Council.

A land management expert from a NSW tertiary institution will be appointed as Chair.

The input of the following Government agencies to be coordinated by the Department of Planning: State Forests, Environmental Protection Authority, NSW Tourism, Department of Water Resources, Department of Mineral Resources, Soil Conservation Service, Commonwealth Dept. of Environment, Sport and Territories, National Parks Association, Local Government.

The work of the RACC will be divided into three principle stages:

Overseeing data collection, data entry into a computer Geographic Information System and data analyses.

Overseeing preparation of draft land use plans for public comment, detailing all data layers, identifying the conservation and cultural values of all lands, providing recommendations for an adequate reserve system, environmental constraints on other lands, areas requiring rehabilitation, areas suitable for plantations and other uses and management constraints required to maintain conservation values.

Preparation of final land use ^{plans} ~~options~~ and submission of ^{plans} ~~options~~ to the Minister for Planning and Environment for ratification.

PROPOSED RE-WORDING OF THE CONSERVATION SECTION OF THE NSW ALP's DRAFT FOREST POLICY

A Carr Labor Government will impose a moratorium on logging activity in high conservation value (HCV) forests, pending the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system, and a framework for ensuring sustainable off-reserve forest management.

The moratorium will prevent immediate damage to areas likely to be required for reservation in the long-term.

To achieve a long-term solution to the conflict over NSW's native forests, a Carr Government is also committed to establishing, as soon as possible and within its first term of office:

- a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) forest reserve system.
- a legislative framework which ensures sustainable off-reserve forest management for all land tenures.

These goals will be complemented by managing the shift from high conservation value forests to plantations, and to regrowth forests not required for a CAR forest reserve system.

A staged process will be used to achieve the Carr Government's forest conservation goals:

1/ From day one, State Forests will be instructed to reschedule its logging program, taking advice from the NPWS, other government agencies and stakeholders, to avoid logging activity in high conservation value (HCV)* forests.

** Note HCV values include old growth, wilderness, National Estate, World Heritage, endangered and vulnerable species, biodiversity, Aboriginal heritage and other significant cultural values.*

2/ As soon as Parliament resumes, Labor will amend the Timber Industry [Interim Protection] Amendment Act 1994, in order to expand the

membership and functions of the Regulatory and Public Information Committee (RAPIC), to ensure that RAPIC has:

- an independent Chairperson and a representative of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC);
- a brief to vet logging schedules and harvesting plans for all State Forest Management Areas;
- a brief to advise on the changes to State Forests' logging schedules, and to forestry practices on a compartment-specific basis, needed to avoid damage to HCV forests.

All the compartments in NSW which were recommended for interim protection in December 1994 by Federal Environment Minister Senator Faulkner will be deemed by RAPIC to have high conservation values, in the absence of information clearly demonstrating the contrary. RAPIC will seek to protect all the values for which these compartments were initially recommended for protection.

3/ Within the first Parliamentary session, a Carr Government will legislate to establish a Regional Assessment Co-ordination Committee (RACC). This will be comprised of a nominee from each of the Department of Planning, NPWS, NCC, Ecological Society of Australia, Australian Nature Conservation Agency, an appropriate industry and trade union representative, with a land management expert from a NSW tertiary institution appointed as independent chair.

The RACC will be established:

- to identify appropriate regions within which Comprehensive Regional Assessments (CRA's) will be undertaken.
- to establish Regional Assessment Committee (RAC's) in each identified region, which will be responsible for co-ordinating each specific CRA. Membership of each RAC shall reflect the balance of the RACC's membership.

Under the direction of the RAC's, and with overall co-ordination by the RACC, the Department of Planning and NPWS will be jointly responsible for undertaking the CRA's.

CRA's will entail assessment of all land tenures, be carried out in an open and accountable manner, and include meaningful and adequately resourced public participation.

CRA's will use a comprehensive and adequate information base, and adopt a precautionary approach to identifying conservation requirements. All submissions, data, analyses, reports and minutes of meetings of the RACC and RAC's will be publicly available.

RAC's will also undertake interim assessments, to identify likely high conservation value areas to be included in moratoria. This process should be complete within nine months of taking office, and will provide a more comprehensive approach to ensuring appropriate moratoria are in place.

The Premier will, within 100 days of taking office and thenceforth at an interval of 100 days, report to Parliament on the Government's progress in achieving:

- moratoria on logging activity in HCV forests;
- a CAR forest reserve system;
- sustainable off-reserve forest management.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE NSW ALP's DRAFT FOREST POLICY

1/ If an overt commitment to one million hectares of **wilderness** declarations is not to be included in the policy, alternative wording which describes the types of land to be declared wilderness is necessary. This was provided by Keith Muir on 20th February.

2/ The 'Principal Forests Regulator' is more appropriately titled an '**Independent Forest Regulator**' (IFR). The role of the IFR should be based in statute and include powers to obtain information from relevant government agencies, interview staff and visit sites.

3/ The **Forest Advisory Council** should be based in statute and have the power to call for any information it requires relevant to the administration and management of forests. It's membership must include at least one nominee of the Ecological Society of Australia, in addition to the membership outlined in the previous draft which includes the NCC.

4/ A **Code of Forestry Practices** should be established by statute and apply to all land tenures. The draft Code will be developed by a subcommittee of the the FAC, exhibited for public comment, gazetted by the Minister for the Environment, and subject to third party enforcement and regular reviews by the FAC.

5/ There should be a statutory public consultation process built into the preparation of **Forest Management Plans**.

6/ The proposal to fund **industry restructuring** from the Environmental Trusts should be adequately supervised. The FAC must be given an express role in advising the Minister on benefits for forest management of any payments from the fund, which must be linked to the cessation of specific harvesting operations (actual or proposed) and to the withdrawal from the order of works of specific compartments.

7/ **Land clearance controls** should be put in place as a matter of urgency. They are a crucial component of a strategy to halt land degradation and biodiversity loss, and to achieve greenhouse gas reduction targets.

8/ All existing **Wood Supply Agreements** must be reviewed, and if necessary amended, to ensure they do not frustrate the forest policy's conservation goals. No further wood supply agreements, or any other form of resource guarantees over non-plantation timber, should be issued, until CRA's have been completed and a CAR reserve system is in place, as well as a framework for sustainable off-reserve management.

CONSERVATION REPRESENTATIVES ON THE FOREST POLICY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ASK, AS A MATTER OF URGENCY:

- 1/ That the Premier, the Minister for Land & Water Conservation, the Commissioner for Forests and the NSW Government as a whole:
 - (a) abide by the conservation commitments of the National Forest Policy Statement.
 - (b) issue a public statement reaffirming their commitment to abiding by the the conservation commitments of the National Forest Policy Statement, with specific reference to ensuring (c) below.
 - (c) ensure that, within NSW, "forest management agencies avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth or wilderness forest that are likely to have high conservation value".
 - (d) in view of uncertainty caused by the events described in 2 (a) below, accept that forthwith the onus of proof as to which areas of old growth and wilderness forests are unlikely to have high conservation value lies with the proponents - not the opponents - of any proposed logging activity.
 - (e) make public the methodology used within NSW to ensure compliance with the relevant clause of the NFPS, and also make public and easily available a list of the specific areas of native forest in which imminent logging activity is planned.
- 2/ That the Premier and Minister for Land & Water Conservation:
 - (a) provide a valid explanation as to why logging of high conservation value old growth forest in compartment 579 of Wild Cattle Creek was permitted in breach of the NFPS commitment cited in 1 (c) above. (It is relevant here that Mr Kim Ritman, a member of staff within CALM, who had been appointed via a dispute mediation process, established that the logging area was old growth forest, and further that the NPWS had identified the area as of high conservation value. A list of documents and correspondence containing relevant background on this issue are available).
 - (b) ensure that this continuing breach be halted, by ordering an immediate cessation of logging in the remaining high

conservation value old growth areas of the Compartment 579.

- 3/ That the Premier and Minister for Land & Water Conservation prohibit logging operations approved by the Minister for Planning in identified high conservation value old growth and wilderness forests in the Kempsey, Wauchope, Glen Innes and Wingham Management Areas (following recent determination of EIS's for those areas).
- 4/ That with regard to implementation of the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act in the Eden Management Area:
 - (a) the Commission for Forests and the Managing Director of State Forests ensure that, consistent with their statements at the 1st August meeting of the Forestry Policy Advisory Committee, no further logging is permitted in moratorium areas at least until determination of the next EIS for the Eden Management Area, and that logging is confined to areas identified as 'lesser conservation value' in the inter-departmental process preceding enactment of TI(IP) Act amendment.
 - (b) the Minister for Land & Water Conservation issues a public pledge, in keeping with his second reading speech when the TI(IP) Act was extended to the Eden Management Area, affirming that logging activity in the EMA will be constrained in the manner described above.

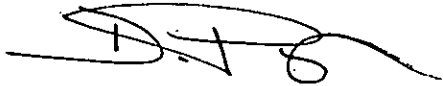
These concerns are expressed as requests, but the NSW Government should be aware that the community's faith in the integrity of the Government, and specifically in the Government's commitment to the National Forest Policy Statement - the only forest policy which it has - is seriously in jeopardy. As the NFPS was signed by the Premier, we believe that his personal credibility is at stake, although the integrity of the Minister for Land and Water Conservation, the Commissioner for Forests and the Managing Director of State Forests are also at issue.

In seeking the above, we ask no more than that the Government abides by its own policy, and that the Minister for Land and Water Conservation and senior government officials keep their word.

The eyes of the NSW conservation movement will be focused on the Government's response, sought by Monday November 7th at the latest, c/o The Nature Conservation Council, 39 George St., The Rocks 2000.

SIGNED, Mon, 17 Oct 1994

Dailan Pugh (North East Forest Alliance)



Lyn Orrego (North Coast Environment Council)



Steve Jago (South East Forests Conservation Council)

 per STEVE JAGO

Sid Walker (Nature Conservation Council of NSW)



SAVING ALL OF AUSTRALIA'S NATIVE FORESTS IS A SCIENTIFIC IMPERATIVE

Background paper for NSW Nature Conservation Council Executive meeting Friday 14th June 1996. By Tom McLoughlin BSC(zoo), natural environment campaigns FoE Sydney.

RECOMMENDATION: That NSW NCC review its forest conservation and wood products industry policy and to reject the vision of an ongoing native forest logging industry. That this matter be deferred to the July meeting of the NCC executive.

Recently Milo Dunphy was awarded an honorary doctorate in science. A few months before Milo died he said on ABC Radio 2BL:

"Oh I mean why have the forests disappeared from the agenda. We have to save all our natural forest, not just the old growth forests, not just the best of the old growth forests, but all our native forests that still remain have to be saved. Your not hearing that from either of the major parties and there's a need for a sweeping movement across Australia to throw out any politicians that won't save the remaining forests. We've destroyed half, sorry two thirds of our native forest including three quarters of our rainforest already." Feb 1996 Richard Glover Program.

Tilting at windmills? The following environment groups also support Milo's proposition (in bold above) - ACF, TWS, Environment Victoria, Rainforest Conservation Society, Friends of the Earth, Sydney, Jill Redwood (East Gippsland TWS) . In addition most forest campaign groups in Australia oppose current industrial scale native forest logging while in theory not opposing native forest logging *per se* (eg Native Forest Network (Tim Cadman), FoE Australia). Further, the comprehensive Resource Assessment Council *Forest & Timber Inquiry Report* 1992

stated the Council was unable to find even one ecologically sustainable example of native forest logging.

The following scientists have all gone on record stating positions either directly in support of halting all native forest logging or something very like it e.g.

Prof Michael Archer - our reserves are so small they pose a risk of becoming death traps for mammalian species.

Dr Aila Keto - anyone who supports the continuation of native forest logging doesn't understand the science

Prof Harry Recher - we should stop the clearing of all native vegetation.

We all know areas like the Coolangubra "Wilderness" needs restoration to be made intact again. To accept native forest logging in some form undermines the forest restoration campaigns to be waged over the next few decades for places like Coolangubra.

NCC's policy, which I understand is some 5 years old, is too weak on the point of native forest logging. Impacts of

- loss of food sources for endangered fauna
- loss of wildlife corridors or intactness
- loss of preferred reserve shape
- loss of insect habitat and potentially insect species
- damage to forest micro-climate
- damage to micro-fauna and flora (e.g. fungus)
- soil pulverisation, erosion and lower fertility
- other effects

are all implicated in native forest logging.

Currently there is a provisionally agreed vision for the timber industry in NSW including environmentalists, union, industry and government. That document states near the top support for an industry based on native

forest and also plantation in that order. Tucked away near the end is a statement that industry will be based primarily on plantation. This is unsatisfactory.

Leading resource economist Dr Judy Clark states that it is naive to think Australia's native forest industry can operate at a low volume because if and when domestic industry cracks the international value added market then consumption by the rest of the world (eg for furniture) will be endless. This threat is already materialising - see article attached from the Australian.

Also attached to this paper is a two page article by Tim Cadman on the risks involved in giving eco-labels to domestic native forest timber. He states in the last paragraph:

"In addition to the obvious need to reduce consumption of native forest timbers, other alternatives need to be seriously considered. These should include plantation timbers, bamboo, hemp, and the other suite of alternatives. The use of the [alternatives] will not impoverish native forests and clearly put the debate where it belongs: on the farm and out of the woods."

End.



FRIENDS OF THE EARTH - SYDNEY

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Phone: (02) 283 2004 ♦ Fax: (02) 283 2005

9/5/96

Attn Forest campaigners re threat of value added OS. market

Tom → TWS
Sydney
(Kevin, Felicity)

→ Judy Clark

→ NSW Groups

Looks like big trouble as the bottomless, endless value added international market starts to kick in.

Old Growth or shiny side board?

Have a nice day
☺

Sawmillers cut niche in Japan

By JOHN MACLEAY

A CONSORTIUM of small Victorian sawmilling companies has cracked the lucrative Japanese building products market, exporting \$15 million of high-grade sawn timber last year, in an attempt to overcome the highly cyclical Australian market.

The Australwood Group, a commercially non-binding group of seven Victorian sawmilling companies is riding out the slump in the domestic market through its landmark deal struck in 1994 with a subsidiary of the giant Sumitomo group.

The three-year \$45 million contract is mostly for high-grade timber used in the fitting out of residential homes.

The deal was timely as the Japanese Government is pressing its domestic building industry to cut the cost of home construction by a third during the next five years. This is expected to be achieved through a greater use of material from outside Japan, where the US and Canada have been big export players.

About 98 per cent of the timber so far exported by the Australwood group has been sourced by Neville Smith Timbers Pty Ltd. The family-run company has been sending mountain ash logged from native forests in the central

highlands of Victoria.

The move into Japan by Neville Smith was brokered by an industry development plan fostered by the federal Department of Primary Industries and Energy to develop export strategies for smaller timber millers.

Neville Smith has been exporting for 20 years to the European market.

An Austrade spokesman, Mr John Garran, said that the \$178 million export market for building products to Japan from Australia last calendar year almost rivalled the export market to Japan for Australian-made car components.

In sharp contrast to the success of the Australwood group, several family run sawmills in Victoria's timber heartland of East Gippsland, which supply exclusively to the domestic market, have closed recently because of the building downturn.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics says the future of the sawn timber industry will be significantly influenced by the uncertainty of quality hardwood sawlogs from native forests as well as increased availability of plantation softwoods and competition from imports, particularly New Zealand imports.

T. Aust p 31 24/4/96



Friends of the Earth
Les Amis de la Terre
Amigos de la Tierra

Timber Certification: Eco-Label or Eco-Libel?

Regardless of whether one supports the logging of native forests or not, there is a great deal to be concerned about within the growing debate on eco-labelling of wood products.

On first impression, it seems there is nothing to worry about; the establishment of the international Forest Stewardship Council in 1992 indicated that the conservation movement was coming to grips with this thorny issue. The FSC consists of a General Assembly of two chambers: the first with a 25% voting block and representing economic and timber interests; the second comprising social and environmental groups.

So, what's the problem if the Council is skewed in favour of the environment? A close examination of the FSC's Principles reveals that there are areas for concern. At the outset, plantations were not even considered; instead they were tacked on as a Draft Principle. Within an Australian context this is important, as most forest groups recognise the significance of plantations as an important interim step in reducing the impacts of industrial forestry on native forest ecosystems. By transferring industry into plantations, the debate becomes one of appropriate agricultural practice, not habitat, biodiversity, old growth, wilderness, and the rest. While many countries have very real fears of plantations - Greenpeace New Zealand's *The Plantation Effect* is an eloquent testimony - the FSC from the beginning entrenched itself in native forest logging. Plantations don't just have to be tree farms; they can be street trees, sewage farms, or land restorers.

This decision is reflected in the principles that FSC member groups have agreed to - many detailing "management" of native forests. One of the undoubtable strengths of the timber industry has been its successful capture of a broad range of terms, changing their meaning to subvert public opinion: *wise use of sustainable resources* is a good example of industry speak for *clearfell, burn, lay wildlife poison and spray herbicide*. The language of the

"On an ecological level, the scientific community is still 'out to lunch' as to whether any extraction of timber from native forests is sustainable."

FSC Principles are couched in such terms:

"The forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of social and environmental benefits."

This could easily be mistaken for the Mission Statement of Forestry Tasmania! This is of course to pick one principle in isolation, but from a Deep Ecology perspective, such language is repugnant; the forest is a living, breathing being, not a resource.

What message does this give to the global timber industry? It is an invitation for abuse. There is no doubt that the industry is deeply concerned

about its environmental image and is quite prepared to shamelessly exploit any break it gets. One only has to read Boral's May 1995 announcement that it will be seeking accreditation under Scientific Certification Systems (an FSC affiliated body). It doesn't stand a chance, but what the heck, there's no harm in putting it in a press release, and telling concerned shareholders. This shameless exploitation is apparent in the role Canada (and Australia)

has played in its attempts to promote existing forest practices as being worthy of receiving environmental certification under the International Organisation of Standardisation (ISO) 14001, "Labelling of Forest Products". Australian industry for one has sought

to make claims of purity by association:

"The connection between ISO 14001 and the FSC scheme is that the latter provides the operational targets for sustainable forest management while the environmental management system ensures that the targets are achieved."

So says *National Forests and Timber*, the industry journal of Van Dieman Consultants, one of North Forest Product's public relations associates. Phrases like this appear throughout a number of the Federal Government's National Forest Policy processes, particularly the so-called JANIS reports, generated by the Department of Primary Industry and Energy.

Fortunately, Australia and Canada's push for ratification of ISO 14001 as an "eco-label" (Canadian forest industries' own terminology) was defeated at a Commission for Sustainable Development meeting in Oslo in June 1995. There is a lesson to be learned from this use of language. The global timber industry is out to confuse and subvert, and the environmental movement should avoid confusing the public further as to who are the greens and who are the pigs, to paraphrase George Orwell.

On an ecological level, the scientific community is still "out to lunch" as to whether *any* extraction of timber from native forests is "sustainable". It certainly impacts on the forest ecosystem; US Forest Service research has shown that the removal of even a few trees from an area can lead to increased water run off and stream sedimentation, simply through lack of absorption.

"Eco-forestry" management techniques can also vary greatly, while still theoretically adhering to FSC principles. The Tasmanian company, Pro-Silva for instance, advocates the German technique of "single-stem

management" and recommends forest access through "laneways". Such activities can lead to increased introduction of weeds and may even be structurally damaging; wet eucalypt forest does not regenerate particularly well in the absence of fire, and removing individual trees may simply degrade the ecosystem. "Management" of native forests should be acknowledged for what it is: a profit-making, open-ended experiment.

There is a belief that if only forestry guidelines can be improved, timber can continue to be supplied from native forests indefinitely. Many eco-foresters would agree, however, that current levels cannot be maintained. Given that Australia is an industrial society, how then can it continue to consume industrial quantities of timber from native forests? If eco-forestry cannot provide the alternative, then its advocates should accept that they are seeking to satisfy a specialty market, and as such are simply another sector of the native forest logging industry, albeit preferable. How long will it be before eco-sawmillers will be demanding their own form of "Resource Security"?

What then is the solution to this issue? If eco-labelling is to receive environmental support, labelling bodies must be clearly separated from the rapacious and cynical grip of the native forest logging industry. Meetings in 1995 with members of the die-hard native forest industry groups, the Victorian Association of Forest Industries, and the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania left many conservation groups suspicious of the motives of the FSC in Australia.

International environment groups who have endorsed the FSC need to be aware that they cannot override the very sincere concerns of more specialised local groups. In addition to the obvious need to reduce consumption of native forest timbers, other alternatives need to be seriously considered. These should include plantation timbers, bamboo, hemp, and the other suite of alternatives. The use of the latter will not impoverish native forests and clearly put the debate where it belongs: on the farm and out of the woods.

Tim Cadman

NFN Southern Hemisphere

What Is The Native Forest Network?

PHILOSOPHY

The Native Forest Network is a Global Autonomous Collective of Forest Activists, Indigenous Peoples and Non-Government Organisations. It functions on a consensus basis, and is non-hierarchical, non-patriarchal and non-discriminatory on grounds of race, culture, gender, class or species.

MISSION

To Protect the Earth's remaining Native Forests, be they Temperate or otherwise, to ensure they can survive, flourish and maintain their evolutionary potential.

GOALS

- 1) To ensure the maintenance of biodiversity and ecological integrity;
- 2) To recognise the rights of indigenous people and forest dwellers and to ensure that cultural values of ecosystems are identified and protected
- 3) To ensure the maintenance of ecological productivity of natural and modified ecosystems for the benefit of all species

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



• FOREST POLICY - October 1991

This policy was agreed to at the Annual Conference of the NCC in October 1991. Some adjustments to wording have been referred to the Executive of the Council, but the substance of the policy has been approved.

1.0 DEFINITION

In this policy, the term forest is taken to encompass all the interdependent elements of the forest ecosystem, including dominant vegetation, understorey and ground cover strata, forest floor litter, soil microflora and vertebrate and invertebrate fauna.

Native forests include eucalypt forests, river red gum forests, rainforests, woodlands and mangroves and estuarine forests.

Plantations are a preferred source of timber and wood products.

2.0 PRINCIPLES

2.1 Native forests, regardless of whether they are on public or private land, must be retained as a living entities which have the following values, in that forests:

- * are important sources of biodiversity (ecosystems, genetic and species diversity);
- * are important ecological systems which carry out essential biological functions such as seed dispersal, pollination and recycling of nutrients;
- * provide a large biomass to act as a carbon store and as a major source of climatic regulation;
- * protect the soil and water systems from degradation;
- * have aesthetic appeal for inspiration, recreation and tourism;
- * have been the major source of timber and wood as well as paper products.

There is a high degree of inter-relatedness between the above factors.

2.2. The preferred form of protection for native forests is through the declaration of National Parks, Nature Reserves and Wilderness Areas. Viable samples of every type of forest should be represented in National Parks and Nature Reserves and park boundaries should be based on ecological, water catchment and landscape parameters.

2.3 The State Forests and Crown Land Forest Reserves are held in trust by the State Government for the people of NSW and not for the timber industry alone.

2.4 Timber extraction from native forests, where permitted, must be carried out on an ecologically sustainable basis.

2.5 In the short term, the quantitative demand for native forest based timber can be reduced by

- * reassessing the need for timber and paper products;
- * an increase in recycling of wood and paper products;
- * exploring alternative sources for pulpmill feedstock;
- * reducing the use of paper products.

2.6 In the long term, plantations should be the major source of new timber and wood products. As a matter of urgency, funding should be made available for plantations, and plantation management plans should be developed.

2.7 It is preferable to use timber, as a renewable resource, in the construction industry, as opposed to iron, concrete, plastic and other materials from non-renewable sources, provided that the timber is obtained from ecologically acceptable sources under acceptable conditions.

on an ecologically sustainable basis

* 2.8 While forests remain the major source of wood pulp for paper, the principles of minimisation of paper use (e.g. in packaging) and the maximisation of recycling of paper products must be viewed alongside any forest policy.

3.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES

3.1 To gain recognition of the values of the native forests.

3.2 To protect forest areas of high conservation, from being logged as timber or cleared for farmland, mining, roads or urbanisation.

3.3 To advocate *that all activities carried out in native forests, including logging, should be sustainable* for a timber industry which is ecologically sustainable i.e. where the rate at which timber is harvested equals the rate at which it is replaced, with minimal degradation of the environment and interference with biological diversity. *where biodiversity*

are considered in an ecologically sustainable manner such that there is no net loss of biodiversity or other environmental values.

- 3.4 To develop a set of guidelines for the management of State forests which will serve as a model for the control and management of private forestry, as well as other forests on public lands.
- 3.5 To retain all Crown Forests in public ownership.

4.0 CONSERVING NATIVE FORESTS

Between 60% and 80% of NSW native forests have been cleared or severely modified since white settlement of NSW. Less than 5% of NSW is left in a wilderness state.

The native forests in NSW are being degraded by environmentally unsustainable and intensive logging regimes. Biological data is incomplete and environmental impact assessments in many areas are inadequate.

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW calls for:

- 4.1 Logging and clearing of all forests of high conservation value to be phased out.
- 4.2 Forests in NSW should, as a matter of urgency, be assessed as to their relative conservation values so that all remaining forests of high conservation value can be declared National Park, Nature Reserve or Wilderness.

Specifically, to enable the conservation of representative areas of forests and woodlands, assessment on both private and public lands should include:

- 4.2.1 the remaining forests in the Western Slopes of NSW such as cypress and ironbark;
- 4.2.2 the forests and woodlands of the Western Division of NSW;
- 4.2.3 the river red gum forests of the Murray-Darling River System;
- 4.2.4 mangroves and other estuarine forests.

While the assessment as per 4.2 above, is being carried out there should be an immediate moratorium on logging, burning, clearing, roading and grazing in areas believed to be of high conservation value.

Specific types of forest which should be conserved by being transferred to the control of the National Parks & Wildlife Service of NSW include:

- 4.4.1 Representative samples of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (river red gums);
- 4.4.2 The remaining forests of high conservation value in the South east of NSW; in accordance with their full ecological, wilderness, cultural, Aboriginal heritage and recreation significance;

* Report submitted to
the NSW Government
by the Nature Conservation
Council of NSW
in 1983
* Request submitted to
the NSW Government
by the Nature Conservation
Council of NSW
in 1983
* Request submitted to
the NSW Government
by the Nature Conservation
Council of NSW
in 1983

- 4.4.3. All remaining extensive stands of significant rainforest in public ownership;
- 4.4.4 Mangrove and estuarine forests of high conservation value.
- 4.5 As a general principle, all old growth forests must be protected from logging. (Forests which have been logged should also be managed from a wildlife perspective.) Specific types of forest should be conserved and protected from logging:
 - 4.5.1 Marginal, understorey and riverine rainforest;
 - 4.5.2 Wet sclerophyll forests which have a predominantly rainforest over or under storey;
 - 4.5.3 All significant rainforest areas such as those listed by the Australian Heritage Commission on the Register or Interim Register of the National Estate;
 - 4.5.4 All forest areas listed by the Australian Heritage Commission on the Register or Interim Register of the National Estate, for their nature, soil or water conservation values.
- 4.6 Specific types of forest should be conserved and protected from clearing:
 - 4.6.1 Forest areas (other than those specified in 4.4 above) listed by the Australian Heritage Commission on the Register or Interim Register of the National Estate;
 - 4.6.2 Native vegetation bordering perennial and non-perennial watercourses.
- 4.7 Native forests should not be locked up by means of Resource Security Legislation.
- 4.8 Decisions that forests are of "low conservation value" must be made with effective public participation and in consultation with the conservation movement and with other relevant conservation-orientated government departments.

5.0 MANAGING NATIVE FORESTS

There is strong evidence that the native state forests of NSW are mismanaged as cited in the 1991 report into the NSW Forestry Commission by the NSW Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee.

The Forestry Act 1916 is seriously in need of amendment. The interpretation of the Act by the Forestry Commission of NSW has led to lack of adherence to the NSW Environment Protection and Offences Act and the NSW Freedom of Information Act.

- 5.1 Forests may be categorised on the criterion of usage, in several ways. Regardless of the primary use of a forest, conservation of native forests should be the primary objective.
- 5.2 The Forestry Act should be amended to ensure that the regulations apply to privately owned native forest. Management practices and proposed development should be authorised by the same body which manages the region's public native forest and that body should have adequate powers of inspection and enforcement (subject to an SEPP, see point 5.4.7 below).
- 5.3 There should be effective public participation in decision making for the management of native forests with input into the terms of reference of management plans and with regular opportunity for review and public comment.
- 5.4 Government should develop land management policies:
 - 5.4.1 to promote the survival of rainforests in NSW;
 - 5.4.2 to embark on an appropriate rainforest reforestation program, with due consideration to genetic integrity and ecological processes;
 - 5.4.3 to create significant buffer zones adjacent to National Parks and Nature Reserves to preserve the conservation qualities on the perimeters of the protected areas;
 - 5.4.4 to include provision for forest links (wild life corridors) connecting native forest reserved as National Parks and Native Reserves;
 - 5.4.5 to control and eradicate exotic species, with special reference to willows and pines escaping from plantations, and including feral animals;
 - 5.4.6 to implement a program of restoration of forests where the forest types exist in damaged or modified forms only;
 - 5.4.7 to protect forests and woodlands on private lands by the implementation of a State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP Forests and Woodlands).
- 5.5 The role of local government in the prevention of deforestation should be strengthened by means of local environmental plans.
- 5.6 Greater use should be made of Conservation Orders by the NSW Heritage Council and Preservation Orders by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- 5.7 All draft management plans should be public documents and no action should be taken to implement a management plan until all conflicts are resolved. All management plans should be monitored and subject to regular public review.

6.0 FOREST INDUSTRIES FROM NATIVE FORESTS

Intensive logging is currently taking place in such a way that once the old growth large trees have been removed, progressively younger and younger trees are being logged. The net result is that the forest is not given time to replace itself. Logs from native forests are being sold well below their market value, and with no regard for the true value of the trees.

- 6.1 Forest industries should be managed with regard to their ecological integrity.
- 6.2 Prices obtained for native forest timber must be reassessed in the light of the true costs of the timber. Sales of timber should be carried out by competitive bidding for wood lots with an appropriate floor price which would recover the economic and environmental costs of production. The profits of sales of native timber should be directed to the public purse. Where the market price is not high enough to cover the true costs of the timber the option of not selling the timber should be favoured.
- 6.3 With some exceptions, such as public purposes such as catchment rehabilitation, all subsidies to the Forestry Commission and subsidies and inducements to the industry should be phased out.
- 6.4 Low conservation value native forests should be logged on a long rotation selective regime (100 - 150 years) to supply specialty sawlogs. Selective logging should take into account the protection of wildlife, soil erosion and water catchment.
- 6.5 Low conservation native forests may also be harvested by the removal of silvicultural thinnings from regrowth forests.
- 6.6 Native timber which is harvested from low conservation areas, should still be considered as a high value resource, and, as such, should be used for high value products only and not for woodpulp or woodchip.
- 6.7 The sawmill industry should be restructured to enable the use of smaller logs thereby preserving older, larger trees in old growth forest.
- 6.8 Government funded research should be expanded
 - * to include the assessment of the economic potential for high value products from native trees;
 - * to facilitate a better understanding of ecologically sustainable management of Australian native forests;
 - * to cover investigative research into the promotion of alternate methods of sawmill production to increase yield; and
 - * to investigate and promote the use of saw logs on land being cleared for residential, agricultural or industrial development.

The findings of such research should be freely available to the public.

7.0 PLANTATIONS

Plantations, preferably of mixed species, indigenous trees, are seen as a preferred source of timber for wood and paper products. Plantations are a long term agricultural crop, therefore viewed as part of an agricultural, as well as a forestry policy. Prior to planting, research on the full environmental impacts of plantations of single species and/or of exotic species must be carried out, to ensure that limits can be set and placed on environmental degradation as a result of the development of plantations.

- 7.1 In order to reduce the demands on native forests, and to meet a reasonable demand for wood and paper products, plantations of indigenous and exotic species should be established, provided that neither existing native forests nor woodlands are cleared for this purpose.
- 7.2 More specifically, there should be native hardwood plantations on both public and private land.
- 7.3 Government funded research on plantations of local native species, and on mixed species plantations should be expanded.
- 7.4 Pricing of plantation timber should be sufficiently low to be an attractive economic alternative to native timber.
- 7.5 Long term planning is required so that the transition can occur from native to plantation sources.

8.0 AGROFORESTRY

Agroforestry is defined as being a land management practice which combines cultivation and harvesting of trees, together with other agricultural pursuits, to diversify agricultural production and/or promote sustainable production.

- 8.1 Funds should be made available for the research and implementation of agroforestry systems in overcoming the problem of land and ecosystem degradation.
- 8.2 More funds should be allocated by the Federal and State Governments for programs such as "Trees on Farms". An emphasis on planting should be replaced with an emphasis on regeneration and the use of locally indigenous species and locally collected seeds.

9.0 VALUE-ADDED INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES

The present mode of woodchip and pulp manufacturing causes land water and air degradation on a massive scale. The clearfelling of forests to supply woodchips and

the burning of commercially unwanted elements of the forest, are contributing to the net increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. In addition, clearfelling impacts on the wildlife, soil and water quality and on the aesthetic qualities of the landscape.

- 9.1 Export wood chipping should be phased out by 1996.
- 9.2 The development and operation of pulp and paper mills should be permitted, only if it can be proved that the operation of such mills has no significant cumulative impact on the environment.
- 9.3 Legislation should be introduced requiring that newspaper production uses a fixed percentage of recycled paper pulp, this percentage increasing by an agreed increment each year.
- 9.4 Until research and development provides viable alternative feedstocks, feedstock for woodchipping should be derived only from plantation timber and regrowth thinnings from previously clearfelled forests.
- 9.5 More financial resources should be allocated to research into alternative sources of pulp, such as cotton "linters", wheatstraw or bagasse. There should also be more research into other annual crops for use as pulpmill feedstock.

10. INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN FOREST PRODUCTS

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW takes the position that Australia, as well as looking after its own native forests, should not take part in any actions which collude with the destruction of high conservation value forests in other countries.

- 10.1 There should be a ban on the import of all rainforest timbers other than those derived on a proven sustainable ecological basis.
- 10.2 There should be no rainforest timbers in Government funded or commissioned buildings, unless the rainforest timbers are recycled, obtained from plantations or from forests managed on a proven sustainable ecological basis. The private sector should be strongly encouraged to follow suit.
- 10.3 No Australian overseas aid should be given for projects which contribute to the destruction of native forests other countries. All Australian aid projects that may impact on overseas native forest ecosystems should be subject to the environmental assessment process developed by AIDAB, with the process being open to comment by the Australian public.
- 10.4 Australia should give financial assistance to developing countries so that they can attain an ecologically sustainable forest industry.
- 10.5 Australia should ratify the International Tropical Timber Agreement and join the International Tropical Timber Organisation.

AT A GLANCE - THE DRAFT NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT

For the first time, Australia is to take a co-ordinated national approach to the sustainable management and use of Australia's forests. The Statement outlines a vision of Australia's forests and forest industries into the next century. The cornerstone of the vision is the principle of ecologically sustainable development.

The Statement has been prepared by Commonwealth, State and Territory officials under the auspices of the Australian Forestry Council and the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council, and has yet to be endorsed by Governments.

THE POLICIES AT A GLANCE**1. Forest Conservation**

Two principal objectives outlined in the Statement are the maintenance of a permanent forest estate in Australia and the protection of nature conservation values in forests.

1.1 Adequate nature conservation reserves

It is important that Australia protects and manages conservation values in forests. This will be achieved by:

- determination of agreed criteria for a comprehensive and representative reservation system;
- establishment of a comprehensive network of secure and representative reserves, supported by complementary management outside reserves;
- adequate resources for forest reserve management;
- further developing management plans for reserves to ensure protection of conservation and heritage values.

1.2 Protection of old-growth and wilderness values through a transition strategy

A transition strategy has been agreed which will conserve and manage forests with old-growth and wilderness values by:

- ensuring that a representative reserve system of forests with old-growth values and wilderness areas is in place by the end of 1995, complemented by sustainable management outside reserves.

1.3 Ecologically sustainable forest management

Ecologically sustainable management of native forests and plantations will be given effect through:

- further developing and applying codes of practice for all commercial and high impact uses;
- avoiding or limiting clearing of public native forests to cases where national and regional conservation objectives and catchment management objectives are not compromised;
- encouraging sustainable management of private native forests;
- managing unallocated and leased Crown land consistent with ecologically sustainable practices.

1.4 Adequate forest protection

Protection of the conservation and commercial values of forests will necessitate:

- addressing threats to forests from disease, pests, fire and pathogens;
- strict guidelines for use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals;
- adequate quarantine measures against introduction of plant diseases and pests;
- monitoring and control of feral animals and exotic plants.

2. Wood Production and Industry Development

Sustainable economic use of native forests and plantations is a major objective outlined in the Statement.

2.1 Promotion of efficient use and value adding industries

The benefit to the community from using multiple purpose forests for wood production can be increased through efficient use of wood by industry and value-adding forest products industries. This will be achieved by:

- cooperative arrangements between Governments aimed at providing certainty and security to industry so that it can make significant long term investments in value-adding projects;
- lifting export controls on private and public plantation woodchips, subject to satisfactory codes of practice;
- following comprehensive forest assessments, the Commonwealth will consider longer term export licence approvals;
- providing domestic processors with the first opportunity to use pulpwood from native forests to facilitate domestic value adding processing;
- adoption of the national environmental guidelines for new bleached eucalypt kraft pulpmills;
- reviewing existing taxation provisions for recycled paper.

2.2 Structural assistance and improving international competitiveness

The forest and forest products industries need to be internationally competitive and adjust constantly to changing consumer preferences, market conditions and the availability and quality of wood resource. This will be assisted by:

- promoting industry development initiatives of Governments, including participation in the Best Practices Program;
- structural adjustment assistance should resource be withdrawn by Governments.

2.3 Improving employment opportunities, labour productivity and safety

There are important regional and local employment effects of wood production and processing. Increased labour productivity is important for improving industry efficiency. This will be pursued by:

- continued skills up-grading, workplace reform and occupational health and safety programs.

2.4 Wood pricing and allocation

The pricing and allocation system for wood from public native forests has a major bearing on industry performance and community returns. Appropriate policies will be achieved by:

- further developing pricing and allocation systems which are market based and allow transferability of rights, a fair return to the community and promote the most efficient use of resources;
- revised accounting procedures to reflect costs associated with wood production and community services.

3. Integrated Decision Making and Management

It is important to ensure that Governments have access to the same information and consider issues concurrently rather than sequentially to avoid duplication and fragmentation in decision making. This will be achieved by:

- implementing land use decision-making processes agreed in the context of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment;
- integrated management of conservation and commercial uses of forests;
- development of regional management plans by forest management agencies, consulting with regional organisations and the community.

4. Private Native Forests

The management of forests in private ownership is integral to achieving the objectives for the management of the native forest estate. This will be achieved by:

- future land development being in line with soundly-based regional conservation and development strategies;
- encouraging the application of Codes of Practice covering wood production and other uses;
- the provision of incentives, information and technical advice to encourage conservation;
- promotion of sustainable forest management through Landcare groups;
- land clearing controls and/or other measures to encourage forest retention.

5. Plantations

Plantations can provide a wide range of commercial, environmental and aesthetic benefits to the community. Plantation development will be facilitated by:

- reviewing the taxation treatment of plantations;
- provision of extension services;
- development of demonstration plantations on farms;
- tree breeding and research program;
- simplifying approval processes;

6. Water Supply and Catchment Management

The value to the community of a reliable, high quality water supply is very great. Water quality will be maintained by:

- the promotion of integrated catchment management among public and private forest owners.

7. Public Awareness and Involvement

Forest management agencies manage public forests on behalf of the community. It is important that these agencies are accountable to the community for their stewardship of the community's assets. This will be achieved by:

- Improve community awareness of forest management and conservation through forest information facilities and school education initiatives;
- public involvement in land use decision making.
- producing "state of the forests" reviews every five years for public information on forest management;

8. Tourism Recreation

In an increasingly competitive tourist market, Australia's natural environment is a major attraction for domestic and overseas visitors. Tourism and recreation will be enhanced by:

- developing an ecotourism strategy for Australia covering tourist use of Australia's forests;
- international marketing of forest-based tourism;
- providing appropriate infrastructure and visitor facilities;
- increasing ecotourism related research and monitoring the impact of tourism and recreation.

9. Research and Development

An enhanced, better coordinated and focussed research and development effort is important to the future of Australia's forests and forest industries. This will be achieved by:

- establishment of a Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation, additional research into conservation and environmental aspects of forests, and plantations research;
- continued support for the national pulpmill research program.

10. International Responsibilities

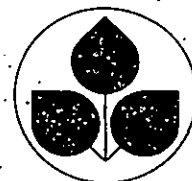
As a world leader in developing sustainable forest management, forest practices and community involvement in forestry, Australia will continue to be a model for the conservation and sustainable use of forests. This will require:

- promoting sustainable forest management internationally;
- continuing the development of an international agreement on forests.

Public comments on the draft National Forest Policy Statement are invited prior to the finalisation of the Statement for consideration by Governments. Details on where to send comments are included at the back of the Statement.

ACF

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22 MAY 1992

ATTENTION - SID

20 May 1992

To: ACF Offices
Relevant ACF Branches
State Conservation Councils
Forest conservation campaign organisations

Dear Forest Campaigners,

RE: RAC FORESTS REPORT & NATIONAL FORESTS POLICY

Please find enclosed for your information documents relating to the Resource Assessment Commission forests and timber inquiry report, and the National Forests Policy currently being prepared by the Commonwealth.

The Foundation is currently responding to the issues raised, especially in relation to proposed government administration of forests.

We would welcome any feedback on the material enclosed. Please contact myself or Margaret McDonald or Jamie Pittock at the above number.

Regards,

Michael Krockenberger
Biodiversity Program Co-ordinator

RAC Institutional Recommendations

National Forests Council

That is, a merging of the two present ministerial councils, AFC (forestry) and ANZECC (environment).. Environment Minister Kelly is opposed to the concept, primarily on the grounds that ANZECC deals with far more than forest issues.

Positives:

- * Integration of environmental and development aspects
- * Environment ministers become involved in development decisions from the onset
- * Token recommendation that interest group consultation occur
- * More thorough emphasis on forest issues
- * More aspects of forest issues would be on the agenda under the RAC proposal

Negatives:

- * Integration at the cost of development interests prevailing
- * Development ministers become involved in conservation decisions from the onset
- * Development ministers are generally more powerful hence the conservation agenda can be defeated from the onset
- * ANZECC deals with far more than forests, yet forest development ministers would become part of the whole council
- * Over-full agenda for meetings may compromise conservation goals

ACF is likely to reject this recommendation.

Australian Forests Research and Development Authority

Positives:

- * Possibly increased conservation emphasis in forestry research
- * Possible token funding to conservation groups
- * More industry funding for research
- * Reduction in duplication in funding and effort
- * Possible additional forest ecology research
- * May make plantations more viable

Negatives:

- * DPIE or NFC would control agenda
- * Emphasis on forest research rather than forest ecology
- * Structure and composition unclear - would probably be stacked against conservation
- * May make native forest logging more viable
- * Likely to result in research in regrowth silvicultural

treatment, eg Young Eucalypt program

ACF is likely to reject this recommendation, however further consideration would need to be given.

Australian Forest Product Development and Marketing Corporation

Positives:

- * May make plantations more viable
- * Industry would pay

Negatives:

- * May make native forest logging more viable
- * May open export markets for native forest products

ACF's position on this recommendation would have to await further details on how such a body would work.

Department of Renewable Resources

Positives:

- * Integration of environmental and development aspects
- * One minister must consider environmental aspects of development decisions from the onset
- * More information is available to the Minister from the onset

Negatives:

- * Integration at the cost of development interests prevailing
- * Conservation would become only one issue the department would consider
- * It is highly likely to become a stronger DPIE with DASET losing some of its functions
- * A possible contradiction: the same department advocating protection of the environment and exploitation of it (if exploitation is always ecologically sustainable this would not be a problem, however in practice things may well be different)
- * Critical issues would be dealt with at a lower level of decision-making, ie by bureaucrats rather than by Cabinet

ACF would reject this proposal. It would lead to a loss of power for conservation interests at a departmental level. Integration is far better achieved by an Office of ESD at departmental level within the bureaucracy (eg within the Department of PM and Cabinet).

Integrated Departments at State Level

That is, departments such as DCE in Victoria and CALM in WA where the forest development functions and conservation functions have been combined into one department.

Positives:

- * As per Department of Renewable Resources

Negatives:

- * As per Department of Renewable Resources
- * At a state level foresters often have seniority over conservation scientists hence when departments are integrated dominate the senior bureaucracy through power and numbers
- * Biologists have been censored and edited and stopped from speaking out about issues of concern
- * Critical issues would no longer be dealt with at a Cabinet level (hence often in the public arena) but more often by senior bureaucracy and the sole Minister

ACF has previously rejected integrated departments (mega-departments) for the above reasons. However empirical evidence suggests that forests are in fact not as badly managed in Victoria and WA than in NSW and Tasmania and that the departments are marginally more responsive to progressive ideas. Two questions flow from this:

1/ Is this because the departments are integrated or is this due to the influence of other factors, eg political, State Conservation Strategies?

2/ Have the conservation functions suffered in Vic and WA as a consequence?

Further investigation of integrated departments is required. ACF needs input from people with knowledge across several states. NB: The ACF Annual Plan has an aim that states: "oppose the CALM and DCE structure as an appropriate model".

A better solution than integration may be the corporatisation of the softwood sector, put the conservation sector in charge of all public lands, and put the forests sector, as a minor sub-agency, into some other department, agriculture.

Land Use Allocation Advisory Bodies at a State Level

That is, something similar to the Land Conservation Council in Victoria.

Positives:

- * A more systematic approach to land use planning
- * Community participation in land use planning
- * Information is made available to the public
- * Public land comes under scrutiny (though LCC does not cover land in cities or boroughs)
- * The level of knowledge about public lands is very high
- * LCC recommendations have established a fairly representative reserve system

- * Independent of all government departments
- * Land use planning is regularly reviewed

Negatives:

- * States would be free to establish whatever type of body they choose (RAC in fact recommends that it should be left to the States) - some States would establish bodies far inferior to the LCC
- * Like the LCC the body may lack ecological expertise
- * Like the LCC the body may be dominated by the heads of land management departments rather than by scientists and community representatives
- * Like the LCC the body may make recommendations it sees as the correct compromise rather than one based on scientific criteria (hence giving politicians easy options)
- * Like the LCC its bureaucrats may be more cautious in its recommendations than even the government (the Victorian government has in fact strengthened LCC recommendations because they were too weak on conservation measures)
- * Like the LCC it would probably only apply to public land possibly leaving private land in a more neglected situation
- * Bad recommendations are hard to overturn
- * Would probably be stacked by mega-departments

Although ACF is broadly in favour of LCC-type bodies it would make case-by-case assessments of the bodies proposed to ascertain whether they are likely to achieve land-use planning on an ecological basis.

RAC Recommendations on the National Forest Policy

RAC has recommended that a National Forest Policy entail the following:

- * modification and establishment of institutions at State and Commonwealth levels;
- * establishment of clear responsibilities for forest policy and planning, within and between agencies at State and Commonwealth levels;
- * establishment of mechanisms for coordination between agencies and governments where such coordination is necessary;
- * use of effective policy instruments to implement forest use policy and plans;
- * modification and development of mechanisms to facilitate community input to forest use decisions and to resolve disputes as they occur.

(Attached is a more comprehensive list of what RAC envisages for the NFP)

It is clear to ACF that the NFP as currently being developed (whichever version) is grossly deficient in addressing the issues RAC

envisaged.

The major failings of all versions we have seen are:

- * support for resource security in native forests
- * defacto endorsement of conversion of native forests to plantations via silvicultural treatment
- * downplaying of the role of plantations
- weak conservation provisions lacking timelines on actions
- * downplaying of the conservation recommendations of RAC
- * increased deregulation and reduction in government control of public forest resources.

ACF's proposed improvements to the draft National Forests Policy.

May 1992

The Foundation believes that the draft Strategy can be significantly improved to meet Australia's conservation, employment, timber and other requirements. Specifically:

- The four major improvements should be:
 1. Support for resource security for industry only through existing plantations or those established on cleared land;
 2. Prohibition of the conversion of native forests to plantations via use of tree breeding, thinning, fertilisers, biocides and short rotations;
 3. Recognition and encouragement of the current industry shift to plantations: 50% of our sawn timber already comes from pine plantations and plantation output will at least double by the year 2000;
 4. Stronger conservation provisions that are more clearly defined, eg. nationwide controls on clearing of native vegetation, a ban on the sale of forested crown land, better commitments to account for climate change impacts, and an extended reserve network.
- The policy formulation process can be improved by:
 - systematically adapting conservation provisions from various reports, like RAC's, in the context of a coherent framework, rather than just including those provisions favourable to industry;
 - seeking public consultation prior to cabinet endorsement.
- The tentative reforms in the draft that can be developed further are:
 - national forestry accounting conventions to ensure adequate public royalties;
 - 3rd party auditing of and compliance with environmental codes;
 - support for research into alternative pulping technologies and fibres;
 - encouragement for plantation development.
- Other areas that should be improved include:
 - protecting remaining old growth forests, rainforests and wilderness areas;
 - acknowledging of Aboriginal land and rights;
 - banning chlorine bleaching technologies;
 - controlling firewood production;
 - endorsing Commonwealth intervention where states fail to act appropriately;
 - redirecting resources from propaganda to conservation work;
 - placing environmental research under the control of independent bodies rather than forestry industry research organisations;
 - considering more thoroughly non-timber values of forests such as recreation.

MK/JP

(6) A contravention of this clause does not invalidate any decision of the committee.

(7) A reference in this clause to a meeting of the committee includes a reference to a meeting of a committee of the committee.

Effect of certain other Acts

8. (1) Part 2 of the Public Sector Management Act 1988 does not apply to or in respect of the appointment of a member of the committee.

(2) If by or under any other Act provision is made:

- (a) requiring a person who is the holder of a specified office to devote the whole of his or her time to the duties of that office; or
 - (b) prohibiting the person from engaging in employment outside the duties of that office,
- that provision does not operate to disqualify the person from holding that office and also the office of a member of the committee or from accepting and retaining any remuneration payable to the person under this Act as a member of the committee.

(3) The office of a member of the committee is not, for the purposes of any Act, an office or place of profit under the Crown.

First meeting of committee

9. The Minister may call the first meeting of the committee in such manner as the Director of Planning may direct.

General procedure

10. The procedure for the calling of meetings of the committee and for the conduct of business at those meetings is, subject to this Act and the regulations, to be as determined by the committee.

Quorum

11. The quorum for a meeting of the committee is 3 members.

Presiding member

12. (1) The Chairperson or, in the absence of the Chairperson, another member of the committee elected to chair the meeting by the members present, is to preside at a meeting of the committee.

(2) The person presiding at any meeting of the committee has a deliberative vote and, in the event of an equality of votes, has a second or casting vote.

Box 17.3 Requirements for improved decisions under a national forest strategy

- Set goals and objectives for development and management of the entire national forest estate.
- Devise cooperative strategies for meeting goals and objectives wherever possible.
- Establish national standards based on the best available data and analytical techniques.
- Develop mechanisms at the national level to formulate policies and at the regional level to implement those policies.
- Respect and maintain the autonomy of the states in forest planning and forest management; minimise Commonwealth involvement in state decision making.
- Devise mechanisms for the Commonwealth to satisfy its statutory obligations where they impinge on areas of state responsibility.
- Devise and adopt forward-planning mechanisms for determining forest uses; minimise reactive decision making.
- Develop and apply instruments for planning, assessment, decision making, management, regulation and monitoring.
- Integrate processes and procedures to minimise duplication in situations where more than one government has an interest.
- Develop management structures that are adaptable to change.
- Integrate all forest-related decision-making functions in one administrative body within each government.
- Base planning and management decisions on multidisciplinary research of the highest professional standard.
- Share planning, development and research costs where possible.
- Develop mechanisms to allow the public a voice in decisions about the use of a public resource.
- Wherever possible, maintain or modify existing structures rather than create new institutions.
- Recognise that there is no one-step solution to the interrelated problems of the forests.

Source: Resource Assessment Commission.

of the member or Chairperson.

Terms of office

3. Subject to this Schedule, a member of the committee holds office for such period (not exceeding 5 years) as may be specified in the member's instrument of appointment, but is eligible (if otherwise qualified) for re-appointment. A member of the committee may not hold office for more than 3 consecutive terms.

Remuneration

4. A member of the committee is entitled to be paid such remuneration (including travelling and subsistence allowances) as the Minister may from time to time determine in respect of the member.

Vacancy in office of member

5. (1) The office of a member of the committee becomes vacant if the member:

- (a) dies; or
- (b) completes a term of office and is not re-appointed; or
- (c) resigns the office by instrument in writing addressed to the Director of Planning; or
- (d) is removed from office by the Director of Planning under this clause or under Part 8 of the Public Sector Management Act 1988; or
- (e) is absent from 4 consecutive meetings of the committee of which reasonable notice has been given to the member personally or in the ordinary course of post, except on leave granted by the Director of Planning or unless, before the expiration of 4 weeks after the last of those meetings, the member is excused by the Director of Planning for being absent from those meetings; or
- (f) becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with his or her creditors or makes an assignment of his or her remuneration for their benefit; or
- (g) becomes a mentally incapacitated person; or
- (h) is convicted in New South Wales of an offence that is punishable by penal servitude or imprisonment for 12 months or more or is convicted outside New South Wales of an offence that, if committed in New South Wales, would be an offence so punishable.

(2) The Director of Planning may remove a member of the committee from office at any time.

(3) Without affecting the generality of subclause (2), the Director of Planning may remove from office a member of the committee who contravenes the provisions of clause 7.

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



10th August 1992

Karenne Jurd,
Director,
The Wilderness Society,
1A James St.,
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Karenne,

Thanks for coming to the NSW Forest Summit last Saturday, and for providing NCC with the opportunity of co-signing the letter to Keating.

The NCC won't be co-signing the letter, but I'm sending you this note to clarify our reasons, because they do not reflect major policy differences.

I've discussed the issue with a number of NCC Executive members, although unfortunately there isn't time to take the matter to an Executive meeting. Those of us who have discussed it formed the view that it's more appropriate to write to Keating and tell him how to fix up the NFS document, rather than to write and tell him to abandon it completely. It's a subtle difference - and may well amount to the same thing because he may be unable and/or unwilling to achieve the necessary changes. We'll make it clear that we regard the changes as vital - and that without them we won't be able to endorse the Strategy. But rightly or wrongly, we felt that is a rather more positive approach than saying drop the NFS in entirety. In any case we feel it's complementary to the approach you've chosen.

I'll send you a copy of our letter to Keating when it's done.
Good luck tomorrow!

Sid

11th August 1992

The Hon. Paul Keating MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Prime Minister

**RE: RESPONSE TO YOUR GOVERNMENT'S
DRAFT NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT**

This national forest policy draft, prepared by officials from wood harvesting government agencies, is no more than a prescription for continued and unnecessary native forest destruction. Australians want their forests and their wood and this can be achieved by the Commonwealth enforcing a national policy which is in the interests of the national economy.

The current draft does not achieve this end and hence, deserves to be abandoned immediately lest serious criticism gives it unwarranted credibility.

Far from entrenching non-commercial wood supply operations in public native forests, a progressive national policy should be aimed at securing commercially viable wood supply from efficiently managed plantations.

The outdated commitment by forest bureaucracies to accommodate industry preference for a cheap resource has already cost Australia an accumulated \$4.5 billion in public sector debt [see Resource Assessment Commission, *Forest and Timber Inquiry Draft Report*, pR3]. It is time that national policy was directed towards efficient meeting of market demand through micro-economic reform, subsidy removal and market education.

The key policy settings necessary for effective management of our forests are few and simple:

1. The ongoing subsidising of wood production from native forests should be abandoned in favour of ensuring the use of plantations for wood supply.

Plantations are much more productive in terms of mass of usable wood produced per hectare per year compared to native forest that it is unnecessary and costly to attempt to establish commercially viable management regimes for wood supply from native forests.

Figures released by the Victorian Department of Conservation and Environment (DCE) on the first report on native forest logging operations on the mainland, show that native forests are logged at a loss. Conversely the same figures show that DCE's softwood plantations run at a healthy profit. (*Commercial Accounts for the State Hardwood Forests and Softwood Plantations*, DCE, June 1992, Ferguson I.J. and Houghton K.A.)

2. Plantations, harvested at economically optimal ages of 12 to 22 years of age, are technically and economically more attractive to pulpmills as a source of both softwood and hardwood fibre. This is especially true for new mills using modern technology.

-2-

Judy Clark (*The Future for native Forest Logging in Australia*, 1992) predicts that Australia can be totally self sufficient in the production of paper fibre by 1995, using only softwood and hardwood plantation pulpwood, residues from plantation based sawmills and increased paper recycling.

The ability to exploit gains in both volume and quality yield through technological advances of plantation material is essential to maintain a productivity advantage and thus economic viability. Conversely native forest woodchip suppliers can only retain competition by relying more and more on public subsidies. This is contrary to Federal government policy in all other industry sectors.

3. Softwood timber, harvested from plantations aged 25 to 40 years, is capable of substituting for the vast majority of uses currently met from native forests logging.

In South Australia, for instance which has no native forest logging industry, 91% of all timber consumed in the building and construction industry is softwoods from plantations. In Tasmania and Western Australia, the figure is only about 37% and 20% respectively. (Clark, 1992)

Supply and quality considerations will ensure that softwoods enjoy a growing price advantage over hardwoods in the construction market, making it cheaper and easier to build a house out of softwood. This is the area where real social benefit can be delivered to ordinary Australians by a national forest policy.

The continued use of native forest for woodchip production oriented to the export pulp market is not economically feasible anywhere on the Australian mainland as the timber resource simply does not exist. (RAC, *Forest and Timber Inquiry Final Report*, 1992, p1ii)

4. Native forests should be managed to maintain their nature conservation value. Apart from the obvious environmental and social values of the maintenance of the native forest estate, they also represent a very important economic resource even when not destroyed for wood values.

Firstly, tourism is a most appropriate commercial use of 'multiple use' native forests when it is designed to be compatible with nature conservation. It is also the most effective employer of low and semi-skilled people in remote areas (where the need is greatest) and the most efficient earner of foreign exchange.

Secondly, in a recent study commissioned by the Victorian Minister for Water Resources, it was shown that the economic value of water production from native forests has been considerably impacted upon by logging, which reduced catchment stream flow by as much as 50%. It was found that a total cessation to logging in Melbourne Thomson Catchment will have significant benefits for Melbourne water supply relative to the status quo with a net present value of \$147 million over current arrangements. (*Evaluation of the Economic values of Wood and Water Outputs for the Thomson Catchment*, 1992, Read Sturges and Associates)

-3-

Thirdly, the role of forests and all forms of native vegetation in maintenance of soil and water values has always been well known. Unfortunately, the costs of native vegetation loss and degradation in terms of soil erosion, salinity, flooding and drought are only now being fully appreciated by national decision-makers. The National Plantation Advisory Committee confirmed that further clearing was unnecessary as there is abundant land available for plantations.

5. Native forests are a vital component of Australia's biodiversity and it is extremely important that they, and our other remaining natural vegetation types are managed to maintain their biodiversity.

Australia already has a poor record in protecting its plants and animals from extinction. The more fragile arid and semi-arid ecosystems have already suffered the worst but it is important to appreciate that, if present trends of forest destruction and degradation continue, native forests will also lose the capacity to sustain populations of animals and plants. This is already true of drier forests and woodlands which have borne the brunt of clearance for settlement. Large scale woodchipping operations have now extended that threat to all forest types.

It is vital that woodchipping be abandoned as an unsustainable use of native forests and a use which is inconsistent with management for nature conservation.

Similarly, strong wilderness legislation, threatened species legislation and a biodiversity strategy are needed as a matter of urgency to ensure that government resources can be effectively targeted to arresting Australia's shameful record on species extinction and recovery of threatened species.

The Draft Policy fundamentally fails to address biodiversity protection with conservation goals being qualified and voluntary, environmental protection measures given no workable frameworks or timelines and no commitment exists for the immediate protection of old growth, wilderness and high conservation value forests.

As RAC says "It is not feasible to log old growth forests.... and yet retain their full complement of old growth attributes and values.... Logging of old growth forests potentially violate the precautionary principle of sustainable development... the values associated with pristine attributes cannot be replaced." (RAC, Final Report (xxvii)).

6. The people of Australia want all their native forests protected, and they want wood and paper products as well. The draft National Forest Policy defeats both these purposes.

It is no longer necessary to log any native forests. Complete self sufficiency in both the sawn timber and pulp and paper sectors can be achieved, solely from plantation resource, by 1995 at the latest. (Clark 1992)

-4-

In summary, the move forward for a National Forest Policy must address the fundamental issues raised above.

It needs to be taken back to first principles which would be reflected by a two-pronged approach to a national forest strategy:

1. A Native Forest Protection policy which will protect all the biodiversity, wilderness and aesthetic qualities of Australia's remaining native forests. It would include the immediate cessation of logging in high conservation forests, the identification of areas requiring further study over which moratoria would apply and the timetable for the eventual transition of all logging to alternative plantation sources.

2. A Wood Production Strategy based on existing and additional plantations on already cleared land. This can also encompass programmes aimed at land regeneration eg one billion trees.

Such an approach would provide for job growth, meet Australia's timber needs and protect Australia's unique native forest heritage.

Without these substantial changes in the direction of government policy, we can have no confidence in the outcome.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Caswell
Executive Director
Australian Conservation Foundation

Karenne Jurd
Director
The Wilderness Society

Peg Putt
Director
Tasmanian Conservation Trust

FOR NEFA.

I would like to put out a press release as an ultimatum to Harry Woods and Neville Newell, as well as the FPS, calling for immediate establishment of a balanced regional Steering Committee and instigation of an integrated joint Commonwealth - State assessment of north east NSW's forests (on the grounds that the C/Wealth has legal responsibilities - Woodchipping EIS, National Estate, World Heritage, Nationally endangered species, Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment etc.).

The prime question is ~~that~~ ^{do} we support the National Forest Policy Statement subject to certain reservations.

Darlan

NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT

Preliminary comments, for restricted distribution - D. Pugh

The National Forest Policy Statement has been subverted by the timber industry into becoming a vehicle for "Resource Security", though there are still significant environmental advantages from the policy being implemented. These include integrated regional assessments, establishment of conservation reserve systems based to some extent on ecological criteria and including some/most? old-growth and wilderness on public lands by the end of 1995, establishment of regional corridor systems, supposedly improved codes of logging practices that incorporate environmental and cultural constraints, increased controls over private lands, and incentives for plantation establishment.

At this stage the policy includes significant and worthwhile objectives, such as management for the conservation of all species of Australia's indigenous forest fauna and flora throughout those species ranges and establishing a reserve system that encompasses representative examples of the full range of forest biotic communities adequate for the maintenance of the ecological viability and integrity of populations, species and communities.

The principle problems with the environmental aspects of the policy are lack of meaningful public participation (aside from tokenism), giving ANZECC and AFC the role of determining the criteria for reserve selection in secret (leaving it up to politicians, including those with Forestry portfolios), giving AHC the principle role in ensuring Commonwealth interests are fulfilled (despite the inadequate attempt they made in Western Australia), the extreme reluctance of the Commonwealth to get involved in State issues even when they have a responsibility to do so, and lack of any commitment to coordinated ecological research.

It is considered that these problems could to some extent be rectified by ensuring a more appropriate process for implementation of the policy. If the true aim of the policy is to ensure the establishment of an adequate reserve system (and not compromise it before it gets off the ground) then the determination of ecological criteria for such a system should be determined in an open manner, be based upon ecological criteria as determined by independent ecologists and not subject to political control and subversion. In implementing the policy the Commonwealth must give a commitment to become involved (not wait to be invited by the states) and there must be the establishment of balanced regional Steering Committees (with representatives of Commonwealth and State forest management agencies and principle interest groups) to oversee the collation of the required data and the implementation of the policy.

New South Wales and Tasmania have hardened their positions in relation to accepting the policy's conservation objectives and have threatened to 'walk away' on these grounds.

Any further weakening of the conservation aspects will turn the policy into a blueprint for Commonwealth sanctioned environmental vandalism (if this hasn't already been done by ensuring a process that is open to subversion by vested interests). For the process

to achieve its conservation objectives there is a need for ensuring the process is improved, properly implemented and done in an open manner with allowance for public participation throughout the process.

The crucial question for the environment movement is whether the implementation of an adequate (on best available information and adopting a precautionary principle) reserve system and the imposition of appropriate environmental constraints over other forested areas is an acceptable trade-off for allowing some form of resource security (and continued access to native forests) for the industry. In the present climate an all or nothing approach by either side of the debate is unlikely to be successful - and while this position is maintained the industry has its way with our virgin forests.

If people believe there is room for compromise then it is essential that pressure is applied to ensure that the process is improved and the establishment of an adequate reserve system is not compromised.

SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPLE ASPECTS OF THE POLICY

(this is not a comprehensive review and is intended to highlight certain aspects - no details on the resource security provisions are yet available. The wording is as used in the policy.)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Management for the conservation of all species of Australia's indigenous forest fauna and flora throughout those species ranges.

Establishment of comprehensive (full range of forest biotic communities), adequate (maintenance of the ecological viability and integrity of populations, species and communities) and representative (reasonably reflect the biotic diversity of those communities) network of dedicated and secure nature conservation reserves including: all major native forest ecosystems; wilderness; and old-growth forests. (as defined by politically agreed criteria). To be in place by the end of 1995 for public lands and 1998 for private lands.

State agencies, as a matter of high priority, to undertake assessments of forests for conservation values, including old-growth values and wilderness values. Until assessment is completed forest management agencies will avoid activities which may significantly affect such areas likely to have high conservation value.

Establishment of effective corridor systems to link reserves and refuges and to account for climate change.

For private lands; maintaining the native forest cover where a reduction in this cover would compromise regional conservation objectives, purchase of lands with high conservation values where not represented in the reserve system, approval of export of woodchips for extended periods if covered by regional assessments, making codes of practices for public lands applicable to private lands, and government to promote sustainable management.

PROCEDURES

A working group of technical experts will be established under a Steering Committee of the ministerial Australia and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) and the Australian Forestry Council (AFC) to establish criteria on which to base nature conservation values of forests.

When a regional land use issue is identified by either level of government it is up to both the State and Commonwealth to jointly determine whether the Commonwealth Government has an interest in the matter. If the Commonwealth accredits a State process it will give full faith and credit to that process. Where the Governments agree that the process of accreditation is unlikely to meet the Commonwealth's requirements then comprehensive regional assessments may be implemented; these will be undertaken by the relevant state agencies and the Australian Heritage Commission in consultation with industry and the community. Regional surveys will only be undertaken when it is agreed that existing information is inadequate.

Commonwealth will establish a balanced (industry, union and conservation representatives) policy advisory body to provide advice on issues. (There are no details of how this body will fit into the scheme of things, though it doesn't appear to have a role in the process and appears to be tokenism).

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Public native forests outside the reserve system to be managed to complement the objectives of nature conservation reserves. There are to be ongoing assessments and areas which contain important biological, cultural, archaeological, geological, recreational and landscape values will continue to be set aside or logged so as to safeguard those values.

Application of AFC's set of national principles of forest practices to all forested lands and development of legally enforceable State codes of practice with appropriate industry and community consultation. Codes of practices to also be developed for plantations.

State Governments will determine the amount of wood resource available from public forests for sale to industry, taking account of decisions on the conservation reserve system, ecological processes, codes of forest practice, and requirements for water catchment protection, flora and fauna conservation, recreation and tourism development.

Various measures for forest protection are stated: quarantine measures to minimise the risk of the introduction or movement of plant diseases and pests; development of federal guidelines for the use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals in native forests and plantations; and development of National Weeds Strategy and National Strategies for the Management of Vertebrate Pests. In addition forest management agencies and rural communities will develop and implement fire management plans aimed at reducing the risk of wildfires.

Development of a national ecotourism strategy, Governments to ensure the provision of appropriate infrastructure and visitor facilities, monitoring of use impacts.

Grazing; for public conservation reserves no new licences for grazing will be issued except where it is assessed that conservation values will not be compromised, for public native forests grazing will be controlled so as not to adversely affect conservation and catchment management objectives.

INDUSTRY PROTECTION

Australia to continue using old-growth timber from disturbed forests and old-growth forests not required for the reserve system.

Governments to keep regulations to a minimum, provide secure access to resources and consistent environmental guidelines, tradeable resource rights for industry, offer proponents of major projects streamlined and coordinated assessments with agreed periods for assessment to occur in.

Resource security (no details available yet), though will provide for non-legislative intergovernmental project agreements and project specific legislation if it is a pre-requisite for a project proceeding. It is claimed that there will be escape clauses for the Commonwealth should unforeseen circumstances warrant it.

Woodchipping: removal of controls over exporting unprocessed wood from plantations, long-term approvals for export of woodchips from public forests where there has been a comprehensive regional assessment and Commonwealth-State agreement.

Industries Commission to inquire into value adding opportunities and impediments on expansion of industry.

Pricing to be market based and at least cover management costs and provide an adequate return to the community.

Plantations: no clearing of public land for plantations, establish legal basis for separating the legal ownership of trees and the land on which they grow; implementation of taxation incentives, and zonings to make plantations an 'as of right' use.

Commonwealth Government in partnership with the forest industries will establish the Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation.

2 pages
+ 3 = 5

To: Jeff Angel CC Sid, Sue, Andrew Kordas,
From: Tom McLaughlin for TWS

Date: 13/10/93

Re: Censure motion rationale comments

Thanks for the draft copy of 11/10/93
We feel the majority of points are very well made. In addition:

- ① We disagree with the wording, in part, at point 4. We request the wording change "which implements" to "substantially implements".

Rationale → The Bill specifically contradicts the p 11 NFPS old growth commitment (to protect) to the tune of 20,000 ha.

- ② Point 7 is far too glowing. We request it read to the effect that:

"The NSW ^[and Federal?] Government must honour its conservation obligation to protect old growth and wilderness forests under the NFPS, and, given the 250,000 hectares of plantations in NSW (30,000 softwood in the SE), must undertake a transition to a sustainable plantation based timber industry."

And to delete the present point 7.

- ③ We also suggest the attached text go with the censure motion (perhaps at the end or separate page).

SUBMISSION TO THE NEW SOUTH WALES PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

ON THE

WASTE MANAGEMENT GREEN PAPER

BY

AUSTRALIAN PAPER MANUFACTURERS

A division of Amcor Limited

The South East region of NSW, like other Australian Native Forest areas, is undergoing significant structural change associated with the timber industry moving into the preferred plantation (woodcrop) resource.

It is expected that the output from native forest sawmilling industry in the South-east, which is largely competing against the growing softwood industry in Australia, will continue to decline as competition from the softwood sawmilling sector intensifies. The South-east NSW region is well placed to participate in the economic growth that will occur throughout Australia as its plantations come more fully on stream during the 1990's.

The South East region of NSW has approximately 30,000 ha of softwood plantations managed largely by NSW State Forestry. Major processing opportunities exist for this resource in the immediate and very near future.

1. Thinnings programs from these plantations are being examined by the industry and NSW State Forestry for chipping for export. The resource would be sufficient at least one world scale wood based panels plant which would be a preferred option from a jobs perspective than exporting in a less processed form as chips.

2. Softwood plantations currently supply one sawmill in the region and will support a significant expansion of sawmilling in the region in the next 3 years or so and are considered to be sufficient to easily support a world-scale softwood mill.

The jobs from these processing developments (mill construction, harvesting, cartage and wood processing) will be significant, contributing to substantial economic growth in the region and will come to dominate the timber industry in the region in the near future.

JUDY CLARIC, RESOURCE
ECONOMIST 13/10/93



ACN/11/93

2nd February, 1993

Dr. Elizabeth Kernohan MP,
Member for Camden,
Room 926,
Parliament House,
SYDNEY. NSW 2000

Dear Dr. Kernohan,

Attached is Australian Paper Manufacturers response to the Waste Management Green Paper.

We would be happy to provide any further information you need or to discuss the Green Paper or to elaborate on any of our comments in person.

Yours sincerely,

A.C. Nott
NATIONAL RECYCLING MANAGER

Attach.

cm3

MARK - SEFEC + JOHN CARRILL NEFA**FAX TO: ELO GROUPS RE CENSURE MOTION AND NATIONAL FOREST POLICY****FROM: JEFF ANGEL****MESSAGE: PLEASE REPLY RE LETTER TO ALP AND INDEPENDENTS
BELOW BY FRIDAY MORNING***Jeff*

13 October 1993

**Bob Carr MP
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
Sydney 2000****P.T.O.**

Dear Mr Carr,

Censure Motion on National Forest Policy

We understand that Clover Moore MP intends to introduce a censure motion of the Premier of NSW and Ministers for Environment and Land and Water Conservation for failing to adhere to and implement the conservation principles and mechanisms of the National Forest Policy Statement in the south east forests and elsewhere in NSW.

We urge that you support the motion.

For many months we have attempted to obtain implementation of the NFPS from the NSW Government.

The Policy seeks to achieve a system of comprehensive, representative and adequate nature conservation reserves over old growth and wilderness forests by the end of 1995. As part of the process a moratorium on logging should be placed on high conservation value forests.

Unless urgent action is taken to implement the conservation mechanisms of the NFPS, then by the time 1995 arrives, there will be little high conservation value forest left. Every day it is being targeted by State Forests for logging.

None of the excuses proffered by the State Government for its inaction are valid.

There is overwhelming evidence from the National Forest Policy [NFPS] itself, Commonwealth and State correspondence, NSW EIS determinations, and scientific criticism of the south east decision to support our view.

The Commonwealth has made several attempts to obtain co-operation over the last 10 months and has offered significant funds for regional assessments, but to no avail.

There is significant community and media interest in the NFPS and we will continue to highlight the Government's position.

5. EXTENSION OF C.R.R. SCHEME:

A.P.M. strongly suggest that before the C.R.R. scheme is extended to the Newcastle/Wollongong regions, the Government ensures that facilities are available to receive and process this additional material.

6. WASTE RECOVERY TARGETS:

We note that mention is made of the 48% recovery rate of newsprint within N.S.W. Whilst this level of recovery is commendable we must point out that the high newsprint component of the recyclable material is one of the major causes of the current surplus of recyclable wastepaper, (50% of all household type wastepaper is newsprint).

We repeat our earlier comments that a higher usage rate of recyclable newsprint must be achieved by the existing newsprint manufacturers. The responsibility for the re-use of this material must not be passed on to companies like A.P.M. who manufacture only cardboard and white paper products.

7. ACCESS FOR RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE:

A.P.M. commend efforts by the E.P.A. in assisting in the generation of new sources of "White Paper" recovery. Promotion of recycling procedures, suggested allocation of storage and pickup areas are of great assistance to companies such as A.P.M.

The high cost (large areas/small volumes etc) of the recovery of "White Papers" make it imperative that this support continues.

8. GOVERNMENT RECYCLING COMMITTEE:

A.P.M. supports the reconstitution of the Government Recycling Committee. We do hope that representation is sought from the paper manufacturing industry to ensure that the recycling committee can truly represent the recycling industry as a whole.

Hoping these comments and suggestions will assist in the Government's future recycling statements.

Yours faithfully,



JOHN DAVIS
N.S.W. RECYCLING MANAGER
AUSTRALIAN PAPER MANUFACTURERS
BOTANY MILL

see attached as per point 7

The NFPS contains all the proven elements of ~~conflict resolution~~ and is in fact the only barrier to renewed and extensive confrontation in the forests.

We are unable to stand idly by while the best opportunity to arrive at a long term economical and environmental solution is ignored.

Your support for the censure motion would, we believe, propel action on this vital issue.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Judy Messer, Chairperson, Nature Conservation Council.

Jeff Angel, CoDirector, Total Environment Centre.

Sue Salmon, National Campaigner, Australian Conservation Foundation.

Tom McLoughlin, NSW Campaign Officer, The Wilderness Society.

Anne Reaves, President, National Parks Association of NSW.

SEFA
NEFA

cm2

CONFIDENTIAL

WHY THE NSW ALP AND INDEPENDENTS SHOULD SUPPORT THE
CENSURE MOTION OF
THE PREMIER, MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND
MINISTER FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION
REGARDING THE NATIONAL FOREST POLICY
11 October 1993

(Draft)

This Parliament censures the Premier of NSW; Minister for Environment and Minister for Land and Water Conservation for:

- i) failing to adhere to and implement the conservation principles and mechanisms of the National Forest Policy Statement in the south east forests and elsewhere in NSW; and
- ii) failing to co-operate with the Commonwealth Government about proposed moratorium areas and regional assessments, despite repeated requests by the Commonwealth;
- iii) failing to obtain promised federal funds for regional assessment; and
- ii) their inaction which is leading to community conflict and unnecessary destruction of irreplaceable old growth and wilderness forest values.

1. The evidence supporting the above propositions is overwhelming, from the National Forest Policy [NFPs] itself, Commonwealth and State correspondence, NSW EIS determinations, and scientific criticism of the south east decision.

2. The NSW Government should be held accountable and the community made aware that the Government cannot hide its destructive forest policies behind the Premier's signature on the National Forest Policy.

3. The Commonwealth has made significant attempts to obtain co-operation over the last 10 months and censure of the Ministers by the NSW Parliament will strengthen the Commonwealth's resolve. Time is also running out to implement the NFPs before the cut-off date of end-1995 for new reservations.

4. The censure motion will reinforce the Lower House's vote for the South East Forests Protection Bill which implements the NFPs at a time when Fred Nile is thinking of blocking the Bill and will prevent Nile from obtaining any credibility for his own Bill.

5. The ALP and Independents should ensure the community know where they stand on the NFPs at a time when there is significant community and media interest.

6. There is no threat to jobs as the NFPs simply requires a moratorium on logging in the next two years (as was legislated by the TIIP Act for the north east and can be for the south east).

7. The NFPs contains all the proven elements of conflict resolution and is in fact the only barrier to renewed and extensive confrontation in the forests.

8. The required regional assessments are not being done in NSW - neither the north east EISs or the south east 1990 study are sufficient. The Commonwealth is offering funds for the process so limited funding is not an argument.

Jeff Angel

Not
thoroughly
- 20,000 ha
sacrificed
contrary to
NFPs
conserv.
commitment

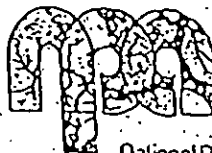
bit loose
- no ban
on woodchipping
etc etc
etc
wilderness
News

Australian Conservation Foundation



NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE



National Parks Association of NSW



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

GREENPEACE



N.E.F.A. SOUTH EAST
NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE FOREST ALLIANCE



THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LTD.

cm3/1/s
19 October 1993

Bob Carr MP
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
Sydney 2000

Letters to -
Comm. Allan Knowler,
Martin, Hutton,
MacDonald - version to
Jahey, Hatcher, Serris

Dear Mr Carr,

Censure Motion on National Forest Policy

We understand that Clover Moore MP intends to introduce a censure motion of the Premier of NSW and Ministers for Environment and Land and Water Conservation for failing to adhere to and implement the conservation principles and mechanisms of the National Forest Policy Statement [NFPS] in the old growth and wilderness forests of NSW.

We urge that you support the motion.

For many months we have attempted to obtain implementation of the conservation principles contained in NFPS from the NSW Government.

Specifically the Policy seeks to:

- * establish a "comprehensive, adequate and representative reservation system to protect old growth and wilderness values" by the end 1995, for public forests.
- * implement a logging moratorium in order to "avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value".

Unless urgent action is taken to implement the conservation mechanisms of the NFPS, then by the time 1995 arrives, there will be little high conservation value forest left. Every day it is being targeted by State Forests of NSW for logging.

None of the excuses proffered by the State Government for its inaction are valid or credible.

There is overwhelming evidence from the National Forest Policy itself, Commonwealth and State correspondence, NSW EIS determinations, and scientific criticism of the south east decision to support our view.

The Commonwealth has made several attempts to obtain co-operation over the last 10 months and has offered significant funds for regional assessments, but to no avail.

There is significant community and media interest in the NFPS and we will continue to highlight the Government's position.

The NFPS provides a basis for resolving conflict over native forests and, if implemented in good faith, should help prevent renewed and extensive conflict over native forests.

We are unable to stand idly by while an historic opportunity to arrive at a long term economically and environmentally equitable solution is ignored. As more and more evidence mounts of the destruction of old growth and wilderness values our campaigns will inevitably intensify.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Angel, CoDirector, Total Environment Centre.

Sue Salmon, Campaigner Convenor, Australian Conservation Foundation.

Dr Paul Brown, Campaign Co-ordinator, Greenpeace.

Sid Walker, Executive Officer, Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

Anne Reeves, President, National Parks Association of NSW.

Tom McLoughlin, Campaign Officer, The Wilderness Society.

John Corkill, Co-ordinator North East Forest Alliance.

Keith Muir, Director, Colong Foundation for Wilderness.

South East Forest Alliance.

Address for correspondence: Jeff Angel, TEC 1/88 Cumberland St
Sydney 2000.

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



The Hon John Fahey,
Premier of NSW,
Parliament House,
Macquarie St.,
Sydney NSW 2000

Wed, Oct 20, 1993

re: The Urgent Need to Commence N.F.P.S. Regional Assessments

Dear Premier,

The Nature Conservation Council calls on you to implement conservation requirements of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS), which you signed in person on behalf of the NSW Government late last year.

This letter is primarily concerned with the NFPS undertaking to carry out comprehensive regional assessments. However, Council reminds you that page 11 of the NFPS states that "until the assessments are completed, forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have conservation value". The Nature Conservation Council is appalled that the State Forests of NSW continues to violate this pledge.

Returning to principal theme of this letter, Council calls on the NSW Government to undertake, as a matter of urgency, ecologically-legitimate regional assessments of the heritage and environmental values of the State's native forests. NSW currently lags far behind Victoria and Queensland in meeting this crucial NFPS commitment. Delay in embarking on the regional assessment process suggests that the Government intends to resile on its pledge to establish, by 1995, a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system to conserve old growth and wilderness forests'. Council urges you to dispel that impression.

In this context, Council points out that in determining the Wingham and Glen Innes EIS's (the only two EIS's to have been determined so far under the Timber Industry [Interim Protection] Act), the Department of Planning called for a satisfactory regional assessment process. It placed a moratorium on 23 compartments in the Wingham Management Area 'until further assessments of conservation values, including old growth values... has been completed' for the region identified from Newcastle to the Queensland border and west to the New England Highway. The National Parks & Wildlife Service also made appeals for comprehensive regional assessments (with an emphasis on old growth values) in its submissions to TI (IP) Act EIS's. Hence it is no longer possible to maintain, from a 'whole of Government' perspective, the fiction that State Forests' current program of EIS's constitutes the regional assessment process specified under the terms of the NFPS.

To meet the NFPS commitment to establish a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative' reserve system by the end of 1995, it is imperative that a genuine regional assessment process commences as soon as possible. It is also imperative that the process carries the support of the community in general, and the environment movement in particular. Council wishes to remind you that it was the efforts of the environment movement which led, via a circuitous route, to the formulation and signing of the NFPS. If the environment movement believes that the process established to implement the NFPS lacks integrity, conflict over the forests will not be resolved.

The most urgent priority is to undertake regional identification of old growth forests based on the methodology developed in East Gippsland. In view of the fact that such a project has been estimated to take two years it must be commenced immediately if the 1995 deadline is to be met. The Federal Government offered funding to NSW to undertake old growth assessments early this year. At the recent National Forest Inventory old growth meeting in Dorrig, both State Forests of NSW and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service endorsed the East Gippsland methodology as being a suitable basis for old growth assessments in NSW. Therefore there is no excuse for failing to commence these assessments immediately.

A regional assessment process with credibility should, in Council's view, be carried out with scientific integrity by a team of scientists skilled in appropriate disciplines. An abundance of expertise in ecology and heritage-related is essential (there must be no repetition of the discredited Joint Scientific Committee on the South East Forests, in which a committee of six contained an overwhelming preponderance of foresters). Community representation - including environment movement representation - on the steering committee would ensure adequate public scrutiny of the process and

of the results flowing from it. This is also consistent with numerous commitments to community participation made in documents such as the NFPS, the IGAE and Agenda 21. Assessment methodologies employed must be 'best-practice' (in that context, we reaffirm that the methodology employed by the Victorian Government to assess old growth forest values in East Gippsland is suitable).

Council notes also that the Commonwealth Government has a vital interest in the regional assessment process and in the establishment of a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative' native forest reserve system. It is essential that the NSW assessment process meets Commonwealth standards and covers the full range of criteria required by the Commonwealth. If so, Federal funding for the process will be available, obviating the need for this State's taxpayers to be the sole source of funds to carry out the NSW Government's NFPS commitment.

The Nature Conservation Council urges you to take *rapid* action along the lines outlined above. The community expects - and has a right to expect - that the ecological values of public lands are conserved in full. Your Government pledged adherence to an agreed process which would, *inter alia*, fulfil that public expectation. It is time to redeem your pledge on the forests.

Yours sincerely,



Sid Walker
Executive Officer

cc Bob Carr MLA, Leader NSW Opposition
Clover Moore MLA
The Hon Chris Hartcher MLA, NSW Environment Minister
The Hon George Souris MLA, NSW Minister for CALM
The Hon Ros Kelly MHR, Federal Environment Minister

FAX: SID WALKER
FROM: JEFF ANGEL
DATE: 3/11/93
URGENT

Dear Sid,

Proposed [censure, MPI, urgency] motion. I would like to proceed next Tuesday, Clover permitting.

Jeff Angel

[draft 3/11/93] - Please check this with the Clerk

This House resolves to:

i) condemn the Ministers for Land and Water Conservation and Environment for:

- a) their failure to respond in a constructive manner to repeated requests by the Commonwealth Government to implement throughout NSW and especially in the south east forests, the conservation principles and mechanisms of the National Forest Policy Statement; and
- b) the continued community conflict over old growth and wilderness forests, and

ii) direct the Ministers for Land and Water Conservation and Environment to reach agreement with the Commonwealth Government as a matter of urgency and by no later than the end of February 1994 on implementation of the National Forest Policy in NSW particularly in reference to the south east forests, with regard to:

- a) the undertaking of joint Commonwealth/State regional assessments of forest values, including old growth and world heritage values;
- b) the establishment of a satisfactory moratorium on logging activities in the high conservation value forests comprising the entire Nalbaugh and Cathcart State Forests; Coolangubra State Forest east of Coolangubra Forest Way and Devils Hole Road; Bondi link between Nalbaugh and Nungatta National Parks; Tantawangalo and Devils Creeks and Merrica River catchments; and Nullica State Forest National Estate Area;
- c) supply of alternative timber areas and specific measures to protect employment, where necessary; and

iii) consider a censure motion in the event of the Ministers failing to implement ii).

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

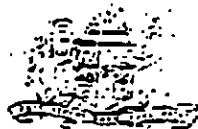


1993 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

AMENDED MOTION No.

Moved By:

Seconded by:



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MEMBER FOR SOUTH COAST

OFFICE: Suite 1, 1st Floor
50 Berry Street
NOWRA 2541

PHONE: (044) 21 0408
(044) 21 0222

FAX: (044) 22 1180

MAIL: P.O. Box 634
NOWRA 2541

11 November 1993

The Hon. George Souris
Minister for Land and Water Conservation
Parliament House
SYDNEY 2000

SAME TO HARTOGHER

Dear Mr Souris,

I am writing in regard to yesterday's urgency motion about the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

As I indicated to you in our conversation in the House, I believe the NFPS should be fully implemented. Although I could not support a motion to condemn both ministers this time, I certainly would next time. Under the NFPS the co-operation of the NSW is most important and I believe Parliament should be scrutinising its activities.

I note in your press release of 10 November that you claim the Joint Scientific Study of the south-east forests meets the regional survey and assessment obligations of the NFPS.

I am convinced by the attached evidence which shows in my view your press release to be wrong and I would expect the south-east forests to be subject to further studies and a moratorium in order to comply with the NFPS.

I would also expect that over the next three and a half months it should be possible for the Commonwealth and NSW Governments to reach agreement on a basic package of measures to implement the NFPS throughout NSW and in particular the south-east, and including:

1. Joint regional assessments of old growth, world heritage, biodiversity and other forest values.
2. A moratorium on logging activities in high conservation forests with delineation of areas and provision for special NSW legislation, (if required, as may be the case for the south-east).
3. Supply of federal funds for regional assessments.
4. Measures to ensure employment and alternative supplies of timber during the moratorium period.

OM INDEPENDENTS

11.11.1993 12:38

P. 5

I hope that a censure motion can be avoided with the exercise of good faith by all parties as the National Forest Policy Statement contains initiatives that can lead to a lasting solution to the continuing conflict over old growth and wilderness forests.

Yours sincerely,

John Hatton
John Hatton, MP

SOUTH EAST FORESTS

The NSW Government claim that the 1990 Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) is sufficient to meet the need for regional assessments. This is incorrect.

Terms of reference of the JSC

Ros Kelly (1990) stated that the JSC report was *'limited by its terms of reference'* (p.10) and did not contain *'all the data necessary to design reserves'* (p.9).

The JSC's terms of reference did not include *'wilderness'* or *'old growth'*. The JSC itself admitted that it *'had neither the time nor the resources to assess conservation value fully'*. (p.34)

Wilderness

While the JSC recognised that *'wilderness reservation requires large tracts of undisturbed land'* (p.37), *'wilderness was not addressed by the committee'* (p.38).

A number of authorities have recognised that this lack of consideration of wilderness was a major omission from the JSC's study and stressed the need for such assessment (ANPWS 1990: p.1; DASETT 1990: p.2; AHC 1990: p.1; p.8; Ros Kelly: 1990 p.6; p.9; p.10)

Old Growth

The JSC did not assess old growth attributes. It did not recognise the old growth status of the south east forests (p.x). This has been widely criticised:

DASETT (1990) expressed concern that the next 3 decades of alternate coupe logging would see the conversion of the south east forests to regrowth (p. 4)

The Australian Heritage Commission (1990) stated that the JSC *'failed to come to grips with...old growth forests'* (p.2); and it *'ignored the significance of old growth forests'* (p.2, p.6).

Biological data

The JSC did not incorporate biological data in its final analysis for a reserve system. This has been widely criticised eg. CSIRO 1990: p.3; p.9; Possingham 1990: p.2; ANPWS 1990: p.4; AHC 1990: p.1; CSIRO 1990b: p.1; NPWS 1991a: p.15

World Heritage

The JSC did not consider world heritage values, which have recently been addressed in an independent study:

'An assessment of the natural environments of the Far South East of New South Wales against world heritage criteria for natural properties shows that these merit inclusion in a world heritage nomination focused on the eucalypt dominated sclerophyll open forests of South Eastern Australia' (Mosley and Costin 1992, p. iv)

CHAIR

**Joint ANZECC - AFC National Forest Policy Statement
Implementation Sub-committee**

Dr Frank McKinnell
Phone (09) 386 8811 Fax (09) 386 1578

26 NOV 1993

Dr S Walker
Executive Officer
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
39 George Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Dr Walker

DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA FOR A FOREST RESERVE SYSTEM

Under the National Forest Policy, a working party has been set up to develop criteria to guide the establishment of a forest ecosystem reserve system, using the principles of Comprehensiveness, Adequacy and Representativeness (CAR). The working party is also required to consider how CAR principles relate to wilderness areas. You are invited to contribute any thoughts you or your organisation may have on these issues, to assist the work of the working party.

As it is hoped to have a draft report ready for the next meeting of the Council of Australian Governments in February 1994, it will be necessary for you to provide your input to the Secretariat, JANIS, GPO Box 858, Canberra ACT 2601 (fax 06 272 4875) by 31 December 1993.

Yours sincerely



Dr Frank McKinnell
CHAIRMAN

23 November 1993



SEFA -

TCO/05632

Premier of New South Wales
Australia

Mr Jeff Angel
CoDirector
Total Environment Centre
1/88 Cumberland St
SYDNEY 2000

10 NOV 1993

Dear Mr Angel,

I refer to your representations on behalf of the Total Environment Centre, Australian Conservation Foundation, Greenpeace, Nature Conservation Council, National Parks Association, The Wilderness Society, North East Forest Alliance, Coolong Foundation for Wilderness and South East Forest Alliance concerning the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

I wish to assure you that my Government remains committed to the orderly implementation of the NFPS in accordance with the agreed principles of the National Ecologically Sustainable Development Strategy, which require ensuring balance between conservation and development considerations.

Comments have been made to the effect that NSW is not complying with the NFPS, and specific reference has been made to logging operations in compartment 1402 of Nalbaugh State Forest.

In this regard, it needs to be remembered that the NFPS does not override the 1990 Commonwealth/State South East Forest Agreement. The Prime Minister recently advised that his Government remains committed to the 1990 Agreement and that the Agreement is not extinguished by the NFPS.

Logging operations in compartment 1402, and throughout the Eden Forest Management Area, comply with all relevant State legislation and are consistent with the precepts underlying the 1990 Agreement. Further, the 1990 Agreement itself complies with the principles of the National ESD Strategy. The Agreement balances both conservation and development objectives by protecting high conservation value forests through reservation in the national parks system, while also ensuring the continued viability of the region's timber industry through an industry restructuring package.

In fact, the Agreement meets many of the obligations imposed under the NFPS for the region. Significantly, the NFPS requires that regional forest assessments be undertaken as a basis for decision making on forest use.

The Joint Scientific Study of the south east forest, which was undertaken by the NSW Government and the Federal ALP Government in 1990, and which forms the basis of the 1990 Agreement, meets regional survey and assessment obligations under the NFPS. On the basis of the data provided by this regional assessment, the 1990 Agreement sets aside 55,000 hectares of State forest for reservation as national park, and establishes two Special Prescription Areas which are available for logging, but which may need to be managed differently from other areas to protect conservation values.

Compartment 1402 falls within one of these Areas. In accordance with the spirit of the 1990 Agreement, NPWS and State Forests have agreed on a set of harvesting prescriptions for the compartment designed to protect fauna and old growth values which include the retention of wildlife corridors, a prohibition on the felling of trees for woodchip and strict guidelines to mitigate against soil erosion and water pollution.

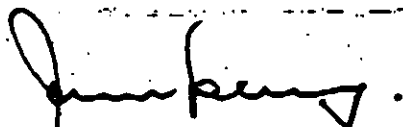
In addition to the allocative decisions provided for under the 1990 Agreement, there are a number of processes underway across the State which ensure obligations under the NFPS for the protection of old growth forests and forested wilderness are met.

Specifically, the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act 1991 places a moratorium on logging in old growth forests identified in the Government's 1990 Old Growth Forest Strategy pending the completion and determination by the Minister for Planning of environmental impact statements (EIS) under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. The Act also excludes logging from wilderness nominations which had not previously been the subject of an EIS.

Further the Wilderness Act 1987 provides for the nomination and assessment of areas for wilderness values, and the Government is currently involved in the consideration of a number of wilderness nominations.

The NFPS was never meant to impose a moratorium on logging in old growth forests, and indeed specifies that "Australia will continue to use old growth timber for many years". Rather, the NFPS represents an attempt to balance forest conservation and development considerations. My Government will continue to ensure that the conservation and economic utilisation of forests in this State is consistent with this objective.

Yours sincerely,



John Fahey,
Premier

Senator Cheryl Kernot
Leader of the Australian
Democrats



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, December 3, 1993

MR 93/516

FOREST POLICY: SHAM & SHAME

The Australian Democrats have called on the Keating government to take urgent action to save huge areas of old growth forest and wilderness being destroyed by forestry in five states.

Democrats' leader Cheryl Kernot says despite a moratorium negotiated by federal and state governments at a meeting in December last year, millions of tonnes of woodchip have been taken from high conservation value forests in 1993.

The National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS), which was agreed to by state and federal governments on December 7 last year, provides for long term security of supply for the industry as well as containing a strategy to protect Australia's rapidly diminishing areas of old growth forest and wilderness.

As part of that strategy the states agreed to undertake "high priority assessments" to determine which tracts of forest should be saved.

The governments agreed in the statement that until those assessments were completed: "Forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value".

Just days after that agreement federal cabinet approved woodchip export licences for 1993. In 1992/93 some 5.32 million tonnes of woodchip was taken, much of which came from those areas identified as likely to have high conservation value.

The moratorium is still in place but the new Minister for Resources, Michael Lee, is set to announce the next round of export licences for 1994 within weeks.

"Unless action is taken cabinet will once again clear the way for the destruction of vast tracts of irreplaceable forest, despite being a party to an agreement which specifically says such activity should be avoided until a national forest survey is concluded and a national system of reserves is put in place," Senator Kernot said.

Senator Kernot said she fully supported the efforts of Federal Environment Minister Ros Kelly, who has asked for the licence renewal issue to be listed urgently on the cabinet agenda.

.../2 (more over)

2.

"Ros Kelly knows irreplaceable forest is being destroyed because her ministerial colleague Mr Lee refuses to accept that the NFPS includes this moratorium clause," Senator Kernot said.

"That is despite it being in black and white. He argues forest management agencies should only avoid old growth and wilderness areas if, in his own words, prudent and feasible alternatives are not available.

"But this semantic device is not good enough. It is just dressed-up and convenient wording disguising a disgraceful sell-out of a precious natural resource by a government which pretends to be environmentally-aware.

"The fact is the woodchip export licence allocation set in train logging in areas which are listed on the Register of the National Estate, some of which has been identified as having World Heritage value."

Senator Kernot said the Democrats believed the new round of export licences should exclude woodchips derived from old growth forest and wilderness areas.

She said Mrs Kelly, who has ministerial responsibility for advising Mr Lee on the license issue, had prepared a list of exclusion areas and she called on Mr Lee to accept this list.

"In short, the forest protection strategy should be reflected in the conditions Mr Lee attaches to this round of licences."

Senator Kernot said her party senate colleagues, led by South Australia's John Coulter, had journeyed to forest areas around the nation this week to examine, first hand, the incidence of forest felling in contravention of the COAG (Council of Australian Governments) agreement.

The senators would bring information about activities on the ground to a special party room discussion of the issue when parliament resumes in Canberra next week on the eve of Mr Lee's licence decision.

Senator Kernot said the logging in question was under way in five states - NSW, Queensland, Victoria, West Australia and Tasmania.

In NSW an agreement, first negotiated between the Hawke and Greiner government in 1990 but which was left on hold for some years, is now being renegotiated to reserve only 55,000 hectares of forest.

"In our view the NFPS should supersede this agreement and open the way for more forest to be saved in the south east of NSW. If the Keating and Fahey governments can't agree to increase the area to be protected, then Canberra should take unilateral action on the woodchip licences."

In Queensland the state government has been reluctantly forced to concede that rainforest logging was under way. Areas threatened by logging this season include

.../3 (more over)

3.

forest on the Clarke Range, west of Mackay and the Connors range, south of Sarina. These comprise a mixture of rainforest and old growth eucalypt forest.

"Some 4,000 cubic metres of rainforest timber per year is taken from central Queensland to be used for structural purposes rather than for high grade use, such as furniture. This continued logging of timber from virgin rainforests is a national disgrace."

Senator Kernot said about a third of the area up for logging in 1993 in Victoria's East Gippsland involved old growth or wilderness forests and she called for a hold on logging until the results of Commonwealth surveys in the area were completed.

The West Australian government has just increased the area of clear felling from around 1,500 hectares of forest per year to 2,000 per year for the next decade.

"It is a tragedy that up to 85% of some species of trees being felled in the west is just exported as woodchips."

Tasmania was the only state not to agree to sign the NFPS but this is no reason to condone the further destruction of Tasmania's wilderness.

Senator Kernot said that forests now threatened by logging were the Picton, Weld and Huon Valleys in the south west of the state with others in the Great Western Tiers area and on the west coast.

She said it was one of the great myths that clear felling did not happen any more. "Nothing could be further from the truth. Large patches of forest listed on the National estate are currently being felled in Tasmania. Clear felling of old growth forest occurs in Tasmania, Western Australia, Victoria and in NSW."

TO ARRANGE INTERVIEW: Geoff Dodd (06) 277-3203

FOREST POLICY INQUIRIES: Imogen Zethoven (03) 650-2771

Sid

NFPS CANT SEE THE FORESTS FOR WOODLANDS

The National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) forest definition requires trees to be only 5 metres high. The 1974 Forestry and Wood Based Industries Development Conference (FORWOOD) required trees to be at least 20 metres high to make a forest. Forests criteria have shrunk by an amazing 400 per cent in the twenty years between FORWOOD and NFPS.

Our amazing shrinking perception comes as no surprise to the Colong Foundation. The FORWOOD study lead to Commonwealth funding for softwood plantations. The outcome of FORWOOD was to be that Australia had limited forest resources which must be augmented by softwood plantations. Large Commonwealth grants were then provided to the states for pine plantations to established (even in the Northern Territory where it is impossible to growth softwoods economically).

The Colong Foundation suggests that the outcome of the NFPS will be that Australia has extensive tracts of hardwood forests (which are actually woodlands) and only a fraction of these will harvested. The 5 metre forest tree criteria will permit the forest industry to dupe politicians that the woodlands in national parks are in fact forests. Accordingly the industry position will be that adequate areas of old growth forests are protected as the NFPS will demonstrate. The Colong Foundation rejects that forest definition used in the NFPS and concludes that the NFPS is a sham. So much for value free, objective resource assessment.

K. Mann 22/12/93

TOXIC CHEMICALS COMMITTEE

TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC.
Shop 1 Gloucester Walk
88 Cumberland Street Sydney 2000
Phone (02) 247 4714 Fax (02) 247 7118



16 December 1993

Dear

1994 - A YEAR OF ACTION

The Toxic Chemicals Committee will work on three main fronts next year:

- combating Sydney's worsening air pollution
- removal of phosphate pollution of the Hawkesbury-Nepean and inland rivers
- reducing the chemical load in schools

Elizabeth O'Brien will join our team as a campaigner. She has been a prime mover in the lead reduction campaign and achieved great results (see opposite).

However, our funds are very low and we need your donation so we can continue to employ Elizabeth and maintain our public information service, which is heavily used by the community.

Your support will ensure the success of our efforts.

Donations are tax deductible - please fill in the form overleaf.

Yours sincerely,

Herbert Beauchamp

Herbert Beauchamp
Chairperson, TCC

PS: Please find enclosed a complimentary copy of our information brochure - 'A Consumer's Guide To Cleaning and Greening'

PPS: Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



ELIZABETH O'BRIEN

Elizabeth is volunteer National Co-ordinator of the Lead Education and Abatement Group. Her campaign which is in its third year has brought medical and scientific experts, parents and environmentalists together.

As a result the level of concern for blood lead in children was slashed and State Governments have undertaken to reduce lead in petrol by 25-50% over the next year.

Elizabeth is trained in science and teaching and will join TCC to work with the Committee and other campaigners at Total Environment Centre.

Sid -
from Mary B.
- for AHC Mtg
at ACF 2.00pm
4.2.94



Keith Muir
Director
The Colong Foundation for Wilderness
Gloucester Walk
88 Cumberland Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Muir

Thank you for your letter of 10 November 1993 to the Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories, the Hon Ros Kelly, concerning public involvement in the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) implementation. Mrs Kelly has asked me to reply to your letter on her behalf.

Arrangements are currently being finalised to establish the forests policy advisory body outlined in the NFPS and it is anticipated that the body will have its initial meeting early in 1994.

This body is the appropriate avenue to enable those that may be directly affected by policy decisions to have an input into the policy development process.

The forests policy advisory body will provide the opportunity for non-government organisations to contribute to, among other things, the work of the NFPS technical working groups on reserve criteria and baseline environmental standards before they are finalised for the Council of Australian Governments in mid 1994.

Work undertaken by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) on national criteria for conservation reserve selection for forest ecosystems has already been referred to the relevant NFPS technical working group as input to the reserve criteria process.

You may be assured that Mrs Kelly shares your concern for community involvement in the implementation of the NFPS. In this way the best protection for Australia's native forests can be achieved as well as an appropriate balance struck between the environment and economic interests of Australia by encouraging the conservation and sustainable development of our natural resources.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Barry Reville'.

Barry Reville
Assistant Secretary
Sustainable Land and Water Use Branch
11 January 1994

SOUTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

SHOP 1, GLOUCESTER WALK, 88 CUMBERLAND STREET

SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000

Ph: (02) 247 1737

Fax: (02) 247 7118

TO Sid Walker

YOUR FAX NO. _____

DATE _____

NO. OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS ONE) 3FROM Diana McCrossinMESSAGE Hi Sid! I've been doing some feliny
and wondered whether NCC had received a
reply from Kelly to this letter? Could you
fax one if applicable.Fiona

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



Friday December 10 1993

The Hon Ros Kelly Minister for the Environment,
Sport and Territories
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Kelly,

Our organisations understand that Resources Minister Mr Lee will bring a submission to Cabinet on Monday December 13th on the South East Forests, which will necessarily involve the interpretation and the implementation of the National Forest Policy Strategy (NFPS).

Our organisations consider Monday's decision will be a critical test of the Federal Government's adherence to the NFPS.

It is our strong view that the moratorium clause, the regional assessment process and the establishment of a comprehensive, representative and adequate reserve system are fundamental to the implementation of the NFPS.

We refer to your correspondence of the 22nd of December 1992 to NSW Ministers Hartcher and West which identified old growth and wilderness forest areas in the South East. These areas should be covered in the moratorium and a comprehensive regional assessment process should urgently be undertaken.

We understand that in Mr Lee's submission there is a request for the release of Commonwealth funds, the bulk of which would be spent on the South East timber industry. We cannot accept that the Commonwealth should release funds to the timber industry which are not explicitly tied to fulfilling the conservation requirements of the NFPS.

We understand, and note with alarm, that no detailed information on the intended expenditure package has been provided for the consideration of Cabinet Ministers prior to the decision.

Any decision by the Commonwealth on the future of the timber industry in the south east must not pre-empt a full and honest implementation of the conservation provisions of the NFPS.

Yours sincerely,



for Sue Salmon, Campaign Convenor, Australian Conservation Foundation
Keith Muir, Director, Colong Foundation
Sid Walker, Executive Officer, Nature Conservation Council of NSW
Fiona McCrossin, Campaign Officer, South East Forest Alliance
Tom McLoughlin, NSW Campaign Co-ordinator, The Wilderness Society



COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND ENERGY

EDMUND BARTON BUILDING, BARTON ACT

Postal Address: GPO Box 300, Canberra ACT 2601 Tel: (06) 272 3933 Telex: 62186 Fax: (06) 272 5161

7 MAR 1994

Mr Franklin Scarr
Director, Earth Repair Foundation
PO Box 15
HAZELBROOK NSW 2779

Dear Mr Scarr

Thank you for your letter of 21 December 1993 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Paul Keating MP, concerning Australia's native forests. As forest issues fall within the responsibilities of the Minister for Resources, the Hon David Beddall MP, your letter has been referred to him and he has asked me to respond to the concerns you have raised.

In the National Forest Policy Statement, which was signed in December 1992 by the Prime Minister and all mainland Premiers and Chief Ministers, the Commonwealth and the mainland State and Territory Governments have agreed upon a national approach to the future sustainable management and use of Australia's public and private forests. The National Forest Policy Statement establishes a policy framework which provides an appropriate balance between protection of forest conservation values and the sustainable commercial and non-commercial use of our forests. It also acknowledges that forest management issues primarily remain a responsibility of the States and Territories.

The Statement sets out a strategy to protect conservation values of forests, including old-growth forests and wilderness areas. The Commonwealth believes that the co-operative approach with the States, as outlined in the National Forest Policy Statement, is the best way to protect forests which have high conservation values.

Under the National Forest Policy Statement, Governments have agreed to have a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system in place by 1995 for forests on public lands and by 1998 for forested private land. Progress in implementing this policy is well underway with considerable forest reserves already in place. The existing system of reserves is being further developed, and national criteria on which to base a comprehensive reserve system to protect forest conservation values are to be considered by Governments in the near future. The proposed Joint Commonwealth / State comprehensive regional assessments and agreements on forest regions will enable further refinement of the forest reserve system.

In the National Forest Policy Statement it was also agreed that until forest assessments are completed "forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forests or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value". This, however, does not preclude logging activities in all areas of old-growth forests and wilderness, but rather in those areas which are likely to have high conservation values, and as such may be required for the forest reservation system. The Commonwealth will consult with the States concerning those areas of old-growth forests and wilderness which are likely to have high conservation values, particularly prior to the commencement of comprehensive regional assessments or consideration of woodchip export licences.

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The National Forest Policy Statement acknowledges that logging operations in some old-growth forests will continue for some time to meet the demand for timber. At the same time, the Governments are actively promoting plantation development, particularly on cleared agricultural land, to help meet our future timber needs.

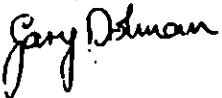
In December last year the former Minister for Resources, the Hon Michael Lee MP, announced his decision to approve export licences for major woodchip exporters. The decision followed a detailed assessment on the environmental impacts of woodchip operations in native forests.

In considering applications for woodchip export licences, the Minister for Resources took into account advice from the Australian Heritage Commission concerning national estate issues, and advice from the Australian Nature Conservation Agency concerning the protection of endangered species. The Minister also considered advice from the former Minister for the Environment, the Hon Ros Kelly MP.

In response to this advice, a number of areas proposed for logging by the States were excluded from the approved licences, and the licences included conditions to minimise impacts on the national estate, to ensure the protection of endangered species, and to avoid significant adverse environmental impacts. To reduce adverse environmental impacts, woodchip export licences require compliance with codes of practice and environmental prescriptions, and forestry operations need to be undertaken in accordance with other forest management agreements.

The 1994 export licences are also consistent with Environmental Impact Assessments under Commonwealth law which have been conducted for major woodchipping operations in native forests.

Yours sincerely



for WA Handke
Acting Assistant Secretary
Forests Branch
Land Resources Division

2 March 1994

You should appreciate that the objective to provide an adequate and representative system of old growth forest reserves already has a strong base to develop from. An extensive network of national parks and nature reserves will continue to provide a significant reserve for maintenance of flora and fauna diversity. On any reasonable definition of old growth forest the majority of forests in national parks are substantially unlogged and contain over two million hectares (nearly 60%) of the nearly four million hectares of old growth forest estimated to remain on publicly owned lands managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), State Forests and water supply authorities.

Logging is proposed on less than 10% of these publicly owned old growth forests, and within these areas proposed for logging, decisions on whether to manage areas for long term timber production or to add them to the reserve system will be made after full consideration of reservation needs and socio-economic consequences. This will be done via the EIS program set out in the *Timber Industry (Interim) Protection Act* and in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*. Each EIS will be determined independently by the Department of Planning after input by the NPWS on conservation requirements, fauna impact and compliance with the *Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act*.

These processes will ensure that the NFPS requirement to adequately survey old growth forests ahead of logging will be met. It is likely that conservation areas will be expanded as a result of the EIS process.

Regarding your concern about destruction of whole ecosystems, it is not correct to equate 'clearfelling' with 'selective' logging. Clearfelling is not carried out over broad areas in NSW. In selectively logged forests significant conservation values are maintained by retaining healthy, growing trees, wildlife habitat trees, areas of undisturbed forests, and streamside and wildlife corridors. The resulting variable age, mixed age and mature forests that develop over time on managed State forests supplement reserves in National Parks by extending ecological and habitat diversity.

Your proposals for employment programs are noted. It needs to be recognised that the timber industry in NSW (hardwood and softwood) directly employs about 10 000 people in *primary* processing alone. The sustained yield strategy for native forests will depend, for at least the next 20 years, on continuing access to "old growth" forests, until yields can be fully sustained from trees grown to maturity in previously logged areas. Operations in old growth forest currently provide about 50% of the sawlog yield from indigenous State forests. Immediate cessation of all old growth logging would have massive employment and social consequences for towns dependent on the hardwood timber industry.

Your letter refers to the potential role of plantations in meeting the State's timber needs. However, there should be no unrealistic expectations of what the present plantation resource can provide, or what can be practically achieved by expanding the plantation program. State Forests has played a major role in

NSW'S COMMITMENT TO THE NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT - A CASE STUDY

Dailan Pugh, North East Forest Alliance

Logging commenced in high conservation value oldgrowth forest in compartment 579 in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest (11 km north-east of the town of Dorrigo in north-east NSW) on the 20 September 1994. Logging has been approved to occur in the area without an Environmental Impact Statement (which was due to be completed two years ago) or a Fauna Impact Statement. NEFA began a blockade of the area on the 22 September.

In December 1992 Premier Fahey signed the National Forest Policy Statement. This committed him and his Government to abide by its requirements.

The NFPS (p11) states:

"forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value."

The crucial question is whether the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) applies to compartment 579. In order for the NFPS to apply the forest in question must be oldgrowth and must be likely to have high conservation value. Compartment 579 meets both these criteria.

(1) IS COMPARTMENT 579 OLDGROWTH FOREST

In April 1994 NEFA released its "A Study to Identify Old Growth Forest at Wild Cattle Creek". The study used the most advanced methodology, which had been developed by the Victorian Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for East Gippsland, to assess some 20,000 ha of public forests. The study identified 3,062 ha of oldgrowth remaining in the study area as at December 1993, of which 1,074 ha was high productivity oldgrowth on moderate and gentle slopes. Logging has since been concentrating on these stands and thus their area has been significantly reduced.

Compartment 579 was identified as the core of the largest remaining stand of high productivity oldgrowth forest remaining in the study area. Compartment 579 contains oldgrowth Brush Box and Tallowood-Blue Gum dominated forest. Brush Box may live for over 2000 years and Tallowood for over 1000 years, these are truly ancient forests.

State Forests have consistently been maintaining that the areas NEFA identified as oldgrowth are not oldgrowth. NEFA reached agreement with State Forests and the timber industry to engage an independent oldgrowth expert, Mr. Ritman from CALM's Land Information Centre, to inspect the area. Mr. Ritman inspected compartment 579 on the 7 September 1994 and subsequently reported:

"The non rainforest component of the majority of the compartment is characterised by significant proportions of senescing growth stages that show negligible disturbance, in both the overstorey and understorey. These areas qualify as Old Growth Forest under [the] NFPS definitions."

"Comparison between the API that I conducted, and the maps from the NEFA Wild Cattle Creek report, shows significant congruence. The growth staging in most cases over the two compartments was identical from both studies."

It is thus established beyond doubt that the area in contention in compartment 579 is in fact oldgrowth forest.

(2) IS COMPARTMENT 579 OF LIKELY HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE.

In its 1993 submission to the Dorrigo EIS the NPWS stated of the oldgrowth forest in compartment 579:

"Consistent with the National Forest Policy Statement forestry activities must be excluded from this area of oldgrowth forest as it has recognised high conservation values, including rainforest, and inadequately conserved plant communities and is likely to contain rare and endangered species."

All of the logging area in comp. 579 encompasses inadequately reserved plant communities. Brush Box has been identified as having between 1-10%, and Tallowood-Blue Gum between 1-5%, of their remaining extent in reserves in the region (Hagar and Benson 1994). The reservation status of both types thus falls well below the requirement for 10% reservation of original extent recommended by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The NPWS (1993) note that the inadequacy of Tallowood - Blue Gum oldgrowth forest in the reserve system in the Dorrigo area "is of serious concern". The NPWS recommends that all forestry activities be excluded from Tallowood-Blue Gum in unlogged and lightly logged forests due to their high conservation value. They also recommend that logging be excluded from unlogged and lightly logged Brush Box forests.

There are 15 nationally endangered or rare plant species which are known or expected to occur in the area. A number of these are essentially restricted to the Dorrigo area and reach their greatest abundance in rainforest understoreys and on oldgrowth trees (ie. orchids).

There are records of eleven endangered animals from the vicinity of Downfall Creek: Tiger Quoll, Koala, Long-nosed Potoroo, Parma Wallaby, Red-legged Pademelon, Greater Broad-nosed Bat, Great Pipistrelle, Sooty Owl, Rufous Scrub Bird, Giant Barred Frog and Sphagnum Frog. These species, along with at least 9 other endangered species, are known or expected to occur in compartment 579. State Forests list an additional 20 endangered species that they consider may occur in the compartment 579.

Independent fauna experts have attested that this area is of national significance for a number of species that are rapidly declining towards extinction. There is no doubt that Compartment 579 contains critical habitat for the survival of these species, both locally and nationally. The decision of the NPWS to licence State Forests to kill these species will not ensure their survival.

The oldgrowth forests in compartment 579 also have outstanding recreational/tourism potential and significant water catchment values.

There can be no doubt that compartment 579 is of high conservation value.

CONCLUSION

Compartment 579 is oldgrowth forest of high conservation value and thus under the requirements of the National Forest Policy Statement no logging activities should be allowed to occur in it. The logging that is currently occurring there is in direct contravention of the NFPS.

NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT

1. THE NATIONAL FOREST POLICY

The National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) was signed by Premier Fahey in December 1992. It committed his government to assessing forests for their conservation values, including oldgrowth and wilderness values, and establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative reservation system to protect oldgrowth forest and wilderness values of public land by the end of 1995. Until this assessment is complete it further requires that:

"forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value".

The NFPS is the only forest policy that NSW has. Despite the fact that Premier Fahey signed the NFPS he has failed to abide by its requirements to avoid activities in oldgrowth forest and wilderness likely to be of high conservation value and there is now no way the 1995 deadline can possibly be met.

2. AVOIDING ACTIVITIES IN OLDGROWTH FOREST AND WILDERNESS LIKELY TO BE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE

Oldgrowth forest is still being logged at a rate of some 20,000 ha per annum in NSW, that is some 60 ha a day. Much of this is oldgrowth forest of exceptionally high conservation value. Two examples are given below:

WAUCHOPE MANAGEMENT AREA

In its assessment of the Kempsey/Wauchope MAs EIS the Department of Planning undertook a preliminary assessment of the conservation value of oldgrowth forest. They identified two blocks of oldgrowth forest in the Wauchope MA to be of the highest conservation value. When the Minister for Planning, Mr. Webster, determined the EIS he deleted one of these blocks as it had already been logged (subsequent to being identified by the DoP) and allowed the other block to be placed first in the order works for imminent logging. Other oldgrowth forests of identified high conservation value were also put down for imminent logging.

WILD CATTLE CREEK

A currently contentious issue is the logging of oldgrowth forest in compartment 579 in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest. This forest is dominated by Tallowood, some of which are over 1000 years old, and Brush Box, some of which are over 2000 years old - it is truly oldgrowth forest.

To help resolve an ongoing dispute between conservationists, State Forests and the timber industry over the area it was mutually agreed that an independent oldgrowth expert, Mr. Ritman (from CALM's Land Information Centre), inspect the area to determine whether it was oldgrowth forest or not. Mr. Ritman subsequently reported:

"The non rainforest component of the majority of the compartment is characterised by significant proportions of senescing growth stages that show negligible disturbance, in both the overstorey

and understorey. These areas qualify as Old Growth Forest under [the] NFPS definitions."

In its 1993 submission to the Dorrigo EIS the National Parks and Wildlife Service stated of the oldgrowth forest in compartment 579:

"Consistent with the National Forest Policy Statement forestry activities must be excluded from this area of oldgrowth forest as it has recognised high conservation values, including rainforest, and inadequately conserved plant communities and is likely to contain rare and endangered species."

Compartment 579 provides habitat for 15 nationally endangered or rare plant species, a number of these are essentially restricted to the Dorrigo area and reach their greatest abundance in rainforest understoreys and on oldgrowth trees (ie. orchids).

There are records of twelve endangered animals from within or nearby compartment 579 and State Forests list an additional 28 endangered animal species that they consider may occur in the compartment.

It is beyond doubt that compartment 579 meets the criteria of high conservation value oldgrowth forest and thus in keeping with the requirements of the NFPS should not now be being logged. Despite being well aware of this evidence the Minister for Land and Water Conservation, Mr. Souris, has given his personal go-ahead for logging.

3. MORATORIUM AREAS

As a result of a succession of court cases by the North East Forest Alliance, which reinforced the necessity for Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) to be prepared before logging oldgrowth forests, Premier Greiner was forced to announce that 170,000 ha of predominately oldgrowth forest would be placed in moratoriums in north-east NSW pending the preparation of EISs. The Government now maintains that these moratorium areas meet their responsibilities under the NFPS. These moratorium areas:

- * only included some oldgrowth forest in 14 of the 28 Forestry Management Areas which State Forests had identified as having "loggable" oldgrowth forest,
- * incorporated less than one quartre of the "loggable" oldgrowth estimated to remain on State Forests at that time,
- * included cleared land, logged forest, severely burnt forest and large areas of steep unloggable forest,
- * included no assessment of the conservation values of oldgrowth forests to identify those areas of highest conservation value so that they could be protected,
- * left out some of the highest conservation value oldgrowth forest for logging while the EISs were prepared.

These moratorium areas were subsequently incorporated into the TI(IP) Act. Parliament added some additional wilderness areas to these moratorium areas, though significant wilderness areas were excluded. The TI(IP) Act was ammended this year to include additional areas in the Eden Management Area though a number of these have since been logged.

4. THE TIMBER INDUSTRY (INTERIM PROTECTION) ACT

In 1992 the NSW Parliament passed the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act (TI(IP) Act) which was designed to exempt State Forests from requirements to comply with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979) until EISs were prepared in accordance with a schedule incorporated into the Act. The schedule set timelines for the preparation of 15 EISs from the 30 September 1992 to 30 September 1994.

To date only three of these 15 EISs have been prepared, with 12 EISs overdue, one by over two years. State Forests are using a flaw in the TI(IP) Act which allows them to go on logging indefinitely until they prepare an EIS. As a result high conservation value oldgrowth forests are now being logged without assessments of the environmental impacts and appropriate constraints.

The TI(IP) Act was ammended in 1994 to include the Eden Management Area. Despite the ammended act clearly defining a large moratorium area State Forests have similarly been using a technicality to allow them to go on logging in the moratorium areas in breach of the intention of the TI(IP) Act.

The Hon. Paul Keating, MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra.

October, 1994

Dear Paul,

We are writing to draw your attention to the plight of Australia's forests and seek your support for the implementation of the moratorium clause of the National Forest Policy. The moratorium clause states *"until assessments are completed state agencies will avoid activities which may significantly effect areas of old growth and wilderness likely to have high conservation value."*

It is clearly ridiculous to be logging areas of high conservation value at the same time as they are supposed to be being assessed for their inclusion in nature conservation reserves. It is also ridiculous for areas whose conservation values are well established to be subject to logging as is currently occurring.

The National Forest Policy (NFPS) was intended to strike a balance between the wishes of industry and the need for further forest nature reserves. Almost two years after the NFPS was signed by all states, except Tasmania, not one area of forest has been protected, but many important areas of forests have been logged.

Major new forest nature reserves to protect forests are needed in Victoria, Western Australia, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania.

This failure to implement the forest conservation provisions of the NFPS has resulted in a belief by many in the Australian community that the NFPS is simply a mechanism to ensure the logging of the most important forest areas currently outside National Parks and World Heritage areas.

The export woodchip licence renewals last year failed to protect many areas which have well established conservation values.

The export woodchip licence renewals present the opportunity to protect some of the most important wilderness and oldgrowth areas in Australia.

- 2 -

Cabinet must attach stringent environmental conditions to any export woodchip licenses which are renewed. These conditions must be in line with conservation provisions of the NFPS as well as the rest of the Commonwealth's domestic and international conservation obligations including our obligations under the Biodiversity and World Heritage Treaties.

We believe that this year all areas of wilderness and oldgrowth forest likely to have high conservation value should be excluded from the export woodchip licences as a first step towards creating major new forest nature reserves around Australia. It should be remembered that the NFPS states that this process of protection should be completed by the end of 1995. If this is to occur the Government will have to move rapidly on this promise.

Although the implementation of the conservation provisions of the NFPS may cause some concern with State Governments we believe it is imperative that the Commonwealth Government uses all its powers to bring reluctant State Governments into line with their environmental obligations.

Clearly if these issues are going to be resolved this year it will require strong leadership. We seek a meeting of a representative group to discuss these issues with you and look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely,

18 November 1994

22 NOV 1994

Australian Conservation Foundation
Conservation Council of Western Australia
Environment Victoria
North East Forests Alliance
Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales
Tasmanian Conservation Trust
Wilderness Society

S-W

The Hon. Paul Keating
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

Our organisations are currently working to secure the protection of forests with high conservation value. In particular, it is our aim to ensure that conservation commitments made in the National Forests Policy Statement (NFPS) by the Commonwealth and all States (except Tasmania) are implemented to the full.

Decisions this year about the woodchip licences under consideration by Minister Beddall will be an important statement about the priorities and attitudes of your Government.

Large areas of forests which have high conservation value are due to be logged and woodchipped, despite the conservation undertakings made in the NFPS, including that the states will 'avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value'.

Clearly the States are not meeting their commitments and responsibilities under the NFPS. Australians now look to your Government to up-hold the conservation elements of the NFPS and to protect high conservation value native forests.

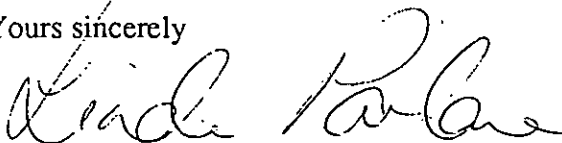
The protection of our native forests is a contentious issue within Government because of the perceived conflict between conservation obligations and industry development imperatives.

The native forests based industry provides little hope of stable employment as markets for sawntimber are lost to the more competitive plantation-grown softwoods; while international markets for woodchips are rapidly diversifying, based on the many millions of hectares of eucalypt plantations now maturing in other countries.

We are concerned that the focus of media attention is on the conflict between conservationists and the timber industry and workers. There are two negative consequences of this. First, Australia's native forests are being lost unnecessarily. Second, the real opportunities for growth in the wood products industry are being overlooked and may never be realised.

We are seeking an opportunity for a delegation to meet with you in the next two weeks to discuss these issues, to explore opportunities for the Commonwealth to resolve the conflict over logging and woodchipping in native forests, and to discuss the roles we might each play in achieving a good policy outcome for this Government, conservation and industry.

Yours sincerely



Linda Parlane
Environment Victoria
and on behalf of

Tricia Caswell, Executive Director, Australian Conservation Foundation
Kevin Parker, National Campaign Coordinator, Wilderness Society
Jeff Angel, South East Forests Alliance
John Corkill, North East Forests Alliance
Michael Lynch, Tasmanian Conservation Trust
Sid Walker, Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales
Peter Robertson, Vice President, Conservation Council of Western Australia

**Australian Conservation Foundation
Conservation Council of Western Australia
Environment Victoria
North East Forests Alliance
Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales
Tasmanian Conservation Trust
Wilderness Society**

16 November 1994

The Hon David Beddall
Minister for Resources
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Dear Mr Beddall

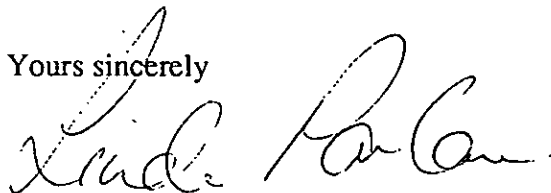
As you know our organisations are working to secure the protection of native forests with high conservation value. In particular, it is our aim to ensure that conservation commitments made in the National Forests Policy Statement (NFPS) by the Commonwealth and all States (except Tasmania) are implemented to the full.

Decisions that you make in the next month will determine the extent to which the Commonwealth Government affords protection to high conservation value forests around Australia.

These decisions are seen to be highly contentious because of the perceived conflict between conservation obligations and industry development imperatives.

We are seeking an opportunity for a delegation to meet with you in the next two weeks, and prior to your making any decision, to discuss these issues. Our agenda might include an exploration of opportunities for the Commonwealth to resolve the conflict over logging and woodchipping in native forests, and a discussion of the roles we might each play in achieving a good policy outcome for this Government, conservation and industry.

Yours sincerely



Linda Parlane
Environment Victoria

and on behalf of

Tricia Caswell, Executive Director, Australian Conservation Foundation
Kevin Parker, National Campaign Coordinator, Wilderness Society
Jeff Angel, South East Forests Alliance
John Corkill, North East Forests Alliance
Michael Lynch, Tasmanian Conservation Trust
Sid Walker, Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales
Peter Robertson, Vice President, Conservation Council of Western Australia

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL

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

Sid - you
File
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[Signature] *130*

re: Implementation of NSW Government's Forest Policy

Dear Premier,

I write on behalf of the undersigned groups to confirm an earlier request that you meet with a delegation from NSW environment groups concerned with forest issues to discuss the implementation of your Government's Forest Policy.

Attached are a number of critiques of the Government's June 13th announcement on forests prepared by various environment groups throughout the State (see full list below).

The environment movement is keen to acknowledge the progress which the Carr Labor Government has made in moving to resolve the crisis over NSW's forests, but these critiques also show that there are major concerns about the implementation of your Government's forest policy, by State Forests in particular.

EXPORT WOODCHIPPING

Two groups (the South East Forest Conservation Council and The Wilderness Society (ACT)) write of their concerns in relation to the south east. Of fundamental importance here are the Government's intentions with regard to the future of the export woodchip industry. It is clear that there will be unacceptable pressure on the region's native forests, and continuing degradation of conservation values, as long as a native forest-based woodchip industry exists in the south east.

Your letter to Mr Ian Cohen of The Greens NSW, dated March 16th 1995, made it clear that you intend to "end export woodchipping by the year 2000 or earlier if regional circumstances permit". This unqualified statement *followed* release of the Forestry Policy with its more equivocal wording.

We believe the conservation movement can assist your government in implementing a woodchip phase-out strategy for both NSW export woodchip operations. The South East Forests Conservation Council has prepared a detailed woodchip phase-out strategy which would ensure that a phase-out is achieved with no net loss of jobs in the region's timber industry. In the case of the Sawmillers Export P/L woodchipping operation, 'in principle' Commonwealth approval expires next year, and we seek your Government's endorsement of our view that the Commonwealth Government should grant no further 'in principle' approval for export of woodchips from north east NSW.

PROBLEMS WITH STATE FORESTS MAPPING

The preliminary assessment of State Forests Conservation Study maps by Dailan Pugh of the North East Forest Alliance, The Wilderness Society (ACT)'s critique, and the memos from Wingham Forest Action and NEFA (Gloucester Region), indicate of some of our concerns about inaccuracies and inconsistencies in these maps.

Unless these problems are rectified, we fear that the commitment made by the Minister for Land & Water Conservation on June 13th that "the Government will shift logging out of all old growth areas within the next three months to save our unlogged native forests" will not be honoured. We therefore seek clarification as to the process for re-evaluating State Forests maps. It is essential that these new maps accurately describe the extent and location of the State's remaining old growth forests so these areas can be placed under moratorium for the duration of the comprehensive regional assessment process.

CONSULTATION WITH THE ENVIRONMENT MOVEMENT

Since the election, there has been a general feeling within conservation groups active on forest issues that the Government has not involved the conservation movement in an adequate consultation process over implementation of the forest policy. There is a perception that yet again the conservation movement is 'on the outer', finds out about decisions *after* they have been taken, and is still in the position of seeking to remedy problems rather than working co-operatively with your Government to minimise the potential for such difficulties to arise.

We recognise that steps will be taken in the near future to establish the various committees outlined in your Forestry Policy which will ensure

adequate stakeholder involvement. We believe it is vital that these committees, such as the Forestry Advisory Council, are established without further delay, and that the conservation movement is free to nominate our chosen representatives to them.

It is also important that the proposed committees which will oversight both the interim assessment and comprehensive regional assessment processes are established without further delay, that there is involvement in these processes by stakeholders at a regional level, and that the full range of the State's forests are covered by the assessment processes, including forests to the west of the Great Divide.

In conclusion, we look forward to meeting with you as soon as possible, and to ongoing co-operation with your Government to ensure that the high expectations raised by your policy and public statements on forests are realised.

Success in resolving the conflict over forests would be a crowning achievement for your Government. We hope to assist you in overcoming remaining obstacles to that achievement.

Yours sincerely,



Sid Walker
NCC Executive Officer

for the:

Nature Conservation Council of NSW
North East Forest Alliance
South East Forest Conservation Council
Conservation Council of the South East Region & Canberra
National Parks Association of NSW
Australian Conservation Foundation
The Wilderness Society
Total Environment Centre

cc. Pam Allan - Minister for the Environment
Kim Yeadon - Minister for Land and Water Conservation
Craig Knowles - Minister for Urban Affairs & Planning

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

A/ Preliminary Assessment of State Forests 'Forest Conservation Strategy' (Northern & Central Regions) - *Dailan Pugh, North East Forest Alliance*

B/ Critique of Forest Conservation Strategy, Central Region - *Barry Griffiths & Marg MacLean, NEFA Gloucester District*

C/ Critique of Forest Conservation Strategy, Wingham Management Area - *Chris Sheed, Wingham Forest Action*

D/ A Critique of the NSW Government's Recent Announcement on Logging - *Simon Clark, South East Forests Conservation Council*

E/ Comments on Forest Conservation Strategy Study, Southern Region - *Mick Harewood, South East Forests Conservation Council*

F/ Critique of NSW Government's Forestry Initiatives as Relevant to Conservation - *James Warden, Wilderness Society (ACT)*

people of New South Wales that there will be a different approach to employment in this State, to the problems that this State has, and to the contribution this State makes to the rest of Australia, when there is a change of government and there are policies that address the real issues that are affecting Australia. The Government in Canberra is interested only in distractions, such as, "Will we replace the Queen with a president? What will we have on our flag?"

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Drumoyne to order. I call the Minister for Justice to order.

Mr FAHEY: That is all we get out of Canberra these days. The Government in Canberra continually throws up those sorts of distractions in an endeavour to take people's minds off the real issues.

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Those real issues are the one million people out of work, the debt that this country is running up month after month under an administration that has failed the people of Australia.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Swansen to order.

Mr FAHEY: The future is bright under John Hewson.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Hurstville to order.

Mr FAHEY: The future is very grim indeed if Paul Keating happens to be the Prime Minister past next week.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for St Marys to order.

NATIONAL FORESTS POLICY STATEMENT

Mr COCHRAN: My question without notice is addressed to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management. Was New South Wales a signatory to the national forests policy statement at the Council of Australian Governments meeting held in Perth last year? Is the Federal environment Minister now seeking to change that agreement to the detriment of employment in the State's timber industry?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Illawarra to order.

Mr WEST: I thank the honourable member for Monaro for his question. The answers are basically: yes, we were signatories to that forest policy statement, and yes, the Federal environment Minister, Ros Kelly, is trying to put her own interpretation on how the policy should be implemented. The implications of her proposal to the State of New South Wales are enormous. We can all only hope that in two weeks her views will be totally irrelevant. On 13th March the people of Australia will be moving to kick out a Federal government which has done so much to harm the economy of Australia generally and the timber industry specifically. Mrs Kelly wants a logging moratorium to lock up huge areas of forests which she describes as having high conservation values. She is talking about 1.4 million hectares. She is talking about cutting timber production in New South Wales by 52 per cent. That would cost the economy of New South Wales \$200 million a year. It would devastate towns on the North Coast, mid North Coast and

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the South Coast. Around Grafton it will mean the direct loss of 2,200 jobs with a flow on affecting 6,000 jobs. Another 3,000 jobs would be at risk around Taree, Kempsey, Port Macquarie, Dorrigo, Wauchope, Coffs Harbour, Gloucester, Kyogle, Lismore and Casino. In the Pilliga region 60 jobs would be lost with no possible chance of alternative employment.

What is this Federal election all about? It is about jobs. On the South Coast more than half of the resource would be hit by the Kelly moratorium. That would mean another 400 jobs lost in Bega, Nowra, Bateman's Bay, Moruya, Narooma, Cooma and Bombala. Ros Kelly is talking unmitigated rubbish. The national forests policy statement was meant to put some common sense back into the forestry debate. Mrs Kelly has failed to appreciate this. She has gone on her own merry way. She is now heading down a road to see logging being stopped in one forest which had previously been used for agricultural purposes, has an extensive road system, is a former homestead site and has been subject to numerous harvesting cycles. Mrs Kelly seems to be unable to distinguish between wilderness areas and regrowth forests. Her letter covers 27 entire State forests in New South Wales and parts of a further 10 forests. In the southeast alone that leaves only six forests available to the timber industry, all of which contain little resource of immediate relevance to the local industry. Needless to say, the local residents are horrified by the attempted misapplication of the national forests policy.

It seems that the Federal Minister with responsibility for the environment is at odds with her own colleague, the Federal resources Minister, on this issue. Resources Minister Griffiths only recently issued a woodchip export licence to Harris-Dalshowa. Much of the material licensed for export by that company is to be sourced from forest areas in the southeast which are specified by the Federal environment Minister for a moratorium on logging. How can one Minister expect that the licence is to be complied with, while the other Minister wants to take away the resource? They are obviously acting at cross purposes.

<3>

New South Wales has already taken action to avoid activities in areas that are likely to have high conservation value, pending the completion and determination of environmental impact statements. That process is formalised under the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act, specifically in schedules 1 and 2 to that Act which place a moratorium on activities within nominated areas pending the completion and determination of environmental impact statements. The environmental impact statement program is well under way in this State. It includes about 17 statements that will be completed by 1994 at a cost well in excess of \$13.5 million. It is our belief that the process we have put in place, as was confirmed in all of our discussions at a Commonwealth level, meets the requirements of the national forest policy statement. I have written to the Federal environment Minister and her colleague the Minister for Resources asking them to clarify their respective decisions. Of course, as honourable members might guess, to date neither of them has replied. In the absence of any reply I have given the industry my assurance that I will work to ensure that the national forest policy statement is implemented in this State as was originally intended, and not as the Federal environment Minister would seek to have it implemented through her actions.

PRISONER CORNWELL WORK RELEASE

Mr WHELAN: I address my question without notice to the Minister for Justice and Minister for Emergency Services. Is the Minister aware that the notorious convicted

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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



MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE Mar 11, 1993

CONSERVATIONISTS ALARMED BY COALITION'S APPROACH TO FOREST POLICY

"Voters in NSW concerned with the protection of native forests should carefully consider the forest policies on offer at this Federal election. The choice made by the community on March 13th is of great relevance to the the future of our forests" said Sid Walker, Executive Officer of the Nature Conservation Council, NSW's peak environment group.

Mr Walker said "the next three years are crucial for developing a comprehensive reserve system to protect Australia's forest-dependent biodiversity. Decisions taken during this period will, in many cases, be irreversible. For some forest communities, they will be life or death decisions."

He continued "neither of the major parties have shown willingness to face up to this issue with the urgency and commitment which the conservation movement believes is necessary. Greens, Democrats and many progressive Independents approach the electorate with far superior policies for protecting our forests."

Mr Walker explained "implementation of the National Forest Policy Statement (which has been signed by all mainland governments and also enjoys the notional support of the Federal Coalition) demands that a *'comprehensive, adequate and representative reservation system to protect old growth forests and wilderness will be in place by the end of 1995.'* To translate this commitment into action, there must be large additions to the current reserve system within the next three years.

Mr Walker said "unfortunately, the Federal Coalition's expressed support for the National Forest Policy Statement cannot be reconciled with its pledge to introduce Federal Resource Security Legislation (RSL) within months of gaining government."

(2)

He continued "The specific form of Resource Security Legislation proposed by the Coalition is modelled on a private members Bill first introduced into Parliament on 4th June 1992. It is extremely hostile to the cause of forest conservation. A Federal Department of the Environment analysis concluded that '*it would appear to guarantee resource security regardless of other decisions made and it has no conservation objectives or safeguards, in particular there is no requirement for an environmental assessment prior to resource security being granted.*'

Mr Walker said "The Nature Conservation Council recently contacted the office of Bruce Lloyd, Shadow Resources Minister, to express concern over the Bill. The Council was told that the Coalition planned to consult only with industry groups before finalising the legislation"

Mr Walker added. "The Nature Conservation Council calls on the Coalition to abandon its disastrous proposal for resource security. The Council urges both major parties to dramatically improve their forest policies."

He concluded "In NSW, Labor's refusal to ensure adequate protection of the South East forests remains a major obstacle to improving its credibility on environmental issues."

For more information contact:

Sid Walker 02 -247 4206 (w); 02-319 1484 (h) or
Dr Judy Messer 02-436 1170 (h)

IF YOU CARE FOR OLDGROWTH FORESTS
- HAVE YOUR SAY ON WEDNESDAY -
SEND A FAX TO PREMIER FAHEY

NSW ARE LOSING 60 HECTARES OF PUBLIC OLDGROWTH FOREST EVERY DAY
- OVER 20,000 HECTARES OF YOUR OLDGROWTH A YEAR -

THE FAHEY GOVERNMENT IS INTENSIFYING ITS ONSLAUGHT ON OUR BEST REMAINING
OLDGROWTH FORESTS - THE BATTLE LINES ARE CLEARLY DRAWN - ITS NOW OR NEVER
FOR THE OLDGROWTH

IF YOU CARE - PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

The current dispute over logging of oldgrowth forest in compartment 579 of Wild Cattle Creek State Forest (near Dorriggo) is the litmus test of Premier Fahey's commitment to the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) which he signed in December 1992. It committed his government to assessing forests for their conservation values, including oldgrowth and wilderness values, and establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative reservation system to protect oldgrowth forest and wilderness values of public land by the end of 1995. Until this assessment is complete it further requires that:

"forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value".

Remind Premier Fahey of his commitment and ask him (nicely) to intervene to ensure the protection of high conservation value oldgrowth forests (or all oldgrowth). Here are some specific issues you may wish to include:

- * oldgrowth forest provides critical habitat for many endangered plants and animals.

- * oldgrowth forest provides far more water to downstream users than regrowth forest, most importantly in dry periods.

- * oldgrowth forest is of outstanding aesthetic, recreational and scientific value, it is a legacy we should leave for future generations.

- * Compartment 579 in Wild Cattle Creek SF has been independently verified as oldgrowth by the Department of Conservation and Land Management and recommended for protection under the NFPS by the National Parks and Wildlife Service because of its high conservation values.

- * his Minister for Land and Water Conservation, Mr. Souris, is knowingly allowing high conservation value oldgrowth forest to be logged.

- * his Minister for Planning, Mr. Webster, has approved oldgrowth forest identified by the Department of Planning as of the highest conservation value for imminent logging in the Wauchope and Kempsey Management Areas.

SEND A FAX TO THE HON. PREMIER FAHEY, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 02 2522291

Or write to him at Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000

09 DEC 1994



6th December 1994

Mr Sid Walker
Executive Officer
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
39 George Street
THE ROCKS NSW 2000

23 - 33 Bridge Street
Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001
Phone (02) 228 6534
Fax (02) 221 1835

Dear Sid

Thank you for your further letter to the Director General concerning the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) and related issues.

I have noted your comments about the Government's adherence to aspects of the NFPS and to logging activity in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest. There is little further I can add to the remarks contained in the Director General's letter of 4th November 1994.

You will be aware that the Parliament has now concluded its last session for the year and that the two forestry bills to which you refer on page 4 of your letter have not advanced beyond the second reading stage.

I have noted the concerns that you have raised about the Forestry (Environment and Fauna Impact Assessment) Bill and your suggestions about additional amendments to the Tree Plantations (Harvest Security) Bill.

As you will be aware it is now difficult to predict the probability of the proposal legislation progressing any further. At the very least both bills are likely to be subjected to further review before being reintroduced into the Parliament, should the Government wish to pursue that course of action. The timeframe required for such an exercise should provide an opportunity for interested parties, including the Forestry Policy Advisory Committee to further study the proposals.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Halkett', written in a cursive style.

JOHN HALKETT
Director

Dailan Pugh
Repentance Creek Rd.
Rosebank, 2480
ph. 066 882268
fax 066 882248
19 May 1994

John Halkett
Forest Policy Unit
CaLM
Fax: 02 2211835

Dear John,

Thankyou for your response (18 May) to my query of the 16 May 1994 regarding clarification of the Government's interpretation of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

As well as my interest in having this matter resolved to assist in dispute mediation processes in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest it is also a central question I need resolved for the third paper I am preparing for the Forest Policy Advisory Committee. This paper, which is almost complete, deals with the NFPS as it relates to EISs and land allocation. A major section of this paper discusses oldgrowth forest.

Unfortunately your letter raises more questions than it answers. Could you please clarify a number of points and answer the following specific questions. I hope to have my paper completed by the end of next week and would appreciate a response before then so that I may incorporate it into my paper. Our field inspection of Wild Cattle Creek has been delayed until Tuesday next week and it would greatly assist the process if I could have a reply by Monday afternoon.

You mention the need to look at the NFPS as a whole, rather than at individual clauses in isolation. This suggests that there is some internal inconsistencies in the NFPS regarding oldgrowth forests which is not the case. You are correct in your interpretation that the NFPS does not preclude the logging of oldgrowth forest. This is apparent from the clause you cite on page 16 but is also equally evident from the clause on page 11. The NFPS (as a whole) is explicit in its process for delineating which areas of oldgrowth forest will be available for logging. Pages 11 and 12 sets out the process:

- .. assess forests for conservation values, including oldgrowth and wilderness values, using criteria established by a working group jointly established by ANZECC and AFC (now MCFFA),

- .. for public lands establish a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system to protect oldgrowth forest and wilderness values by the end of 1995 (1998 for private lands),

- .. oldgrowth forests not required for the reserve system may then be available for logging.

As you point out the NFPS does not state that all oldgrowth forest logging should cease while this assessment is being undertaken. Though it does require that forest management agencies "will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of oldgrowth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value" until the

PP 92-98

Urban Councils and Bushland Management

A Report by Total Environment Centre 1992

Introduction

I've been asked to speak to you about the findings of a survey into local government management practises carried out by Total Environment Centre in 1992.

Many of the other speakers have already spoken in a great deal of depth about the "horticultural" or ecological aspects of bushland management, such as weed control or catchment management, so I won't repeat those aspects of our findings, but will instead those issues that pertain to the local government context in which these techniques happen, the policies, protective measures and management issues.

Background

In 1992 Total Environment Centre received a grant under the Save the Bush Scheme to undertake a survey of local government management of urban bushland. One of the major aims of the project was to assess Council attitudes and practises regarding bushland management, and to make recommendations for conserving urban bushland by proposing structured and consistent methods for management and planning by local Government.

We felt that it was necessary to see where the Councils were at because of the primary role that they play in the management of bushland - both directly (over land owned or controlled by the Council) and indirectly (over land in private ownership or under the jurisdiction of other public authorities).

Our aim was to determine whether there were issues that those responsible for urban bushland management were having difficulty handling, perhaps through lack of information, or through difficulties within Council. With this information, Total Environment Centre, and the industry, can gain more of an awareness of common problems shared, and can then begin to deal with them.

A questionnaire was sent to all councils in the Sydney metropolitan area. The questionnaire addressed issues of current management strategies, protective mechanisms, publicity and education, information gathering and allocation of resources.

above process is complete. Whether you view this clause in isolation or take it in the context of the NFPS as a whole does not in any way alter its meaning or intent. You suggest that I am in error taking this clause at face value.

(Question 1) Where in the NFPS is there any other statement which contradicts or over-rides this clause?

(Question 2) Could you please confirm that the NSW Government on signing the NFPS agreed to abide by this clause?

(Question 3) Has there since been any change in Government policy which exempts State Forests from having to abide by this clause?

(Question 4) Are the State Forests committed to abiding by this clause, if not why not?

You note that the 1990 moratoriums imposed on areas of predominately oldgrowth forest were designed "to identify and place under moratorium areas of high conservation value old growth forest". In the Forestry Commission's "Meeting the Environmental Challenge, A Forestry Strategy, June 1990" these moratorium areas are referred to as "major old growth areas", there is no reference to them being "high conservation value" oldgrowth forests. I was involved in the delineation of these areas, with some 25% of the areas identified by NEFA (mostly by me). There was no apparent process used to assess the conservation values of all oldgrowth identified by the Forestry Commission (eg. G. King 1990) or to include those with highest conservation value in the moratorium areas.

(Question 5) What process did the then Forestry Commission use to identify which areas would be placed under moratorium?

(Question 6) Did the process used include the identification of the conservation values of all oldgrowth forests and their relative ranking, if so what were the criteria used?

If the NSW Government considers that the moratorium areas include those oldgrowth forests "of high conservation" value then surely under the requirements of the NFPS these areas can not be logged until such time as the assessment process required by the NFPS is complied with and a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system is established. The EISs for the moratorium areas in the Glen Innes, Wingham, Kempsey and Wauchope management areas have since been determined and logging has been allowed to occur within these "high conservation" value moratorium areas.

(Question 7) Does the Government consider that the EIS assessment process meets the requirements of the assessment process envisioned by the NFPS?

(Question 8) Does the reserve system established by the EISs, in conjunction with that already existing, meet the requirements for a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system as described in the NFPS?

(Question 9) If the assessment process conducted for EISs and the reserve systems established do not meet the requirements of the

UOKUENI



NATIONAL PARKS
ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

PO Box A96 Sydney South NSW 2000
Ph: (02) 264 7994 Fax: (02) 264 7160

DATE

11/5/94

TO:

SID

NCC

FROM

Penny

COVER SHEET +

2

PAGES

OF

Comment on draft

MESSAGE:

.....
.....
.....

NFPS why has logging been allowed to occur in the moratorium areas if they all represent "high conservation value oldgrowth forest"?

(Question 10) If the assessment process conducted for EISs and the reserve systems established do not meet the requirements of the NFPS and the moratorium areas are not all high conservation value oldgrowth forest why has logging been allowed to occur in parts of the moratorium areas identified as being of highest conservation value (e.g Kempsey and Wauchope EIS determination) and why does the assessment process (Halkett 1994) being applied in other EISs allow timber values to over-ride conservation values and thus for high conservation value areas to be identified for immediate logging?

There appears to be a number of inconsistencies and contradictions in the manner in which the NSW Government and State Forests have interpreted and implemented the NFPS. I have not found any such inconsistencies and contradictions in the NFPS as implied by you. Your urgent attention and reply to the matters I have raised is requested. This issue would appear to go to the core of the Forest Policy Unit's responsibilities and the deliberations of the Forest Policy Advisory Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Dailan Pugh

2/ The Bill over-rides the EP & A Act

The EP & A Act provides for comprehensive assessment of social, economic and environmental factors and for rational planning which is based on such assessment. The Bushfires (Further Amendment) Bill would exempt all fire management plans and fire approvals from the EP & A Act. If this occurs, it is likely that there will be a dramatic and excessive increase in burning - to the detriment of the State's natural environment and often leading to a paradoxical increase in fire hazard as fire-resistant flora are replaced with fire-tolerant vegetation.

3/ The case for hasty legislation is flawed

The Government has argued that unless this Bill is passed promptly, an appropriate level of hazard-reduction burning is unlikely to occur during the low fire hazard season this year. However, even if the Bill was enacted this week, the measures which it requires would be most unlikely to lead to the preparation and implementation of effective fire management plans this year. *There has been no opportunity to date for real & productive public & expert contributions to achieve fire management prevention with conservation concern*

We suggest that the haste with which the Government is seeking to push this legislation through Parliament has more to do with its desire to side-step full debate on this issue. But leaving aside environmental concerns, ill-considered legislation may be counter-productive in terms of its own stated objectives. No rational case has been made for exempting the Parliamentary and Coronial inquiries. *There has been no opportunity for any findings of the inquiry*

4/ The Bill provides for insufficient openness and accountability

The legislation makes no provision for the new Bushfire Management Committees to ~~to~~ exhibit ~~publicly~~ their fire management plans publicly. It concentrates undue power in the hands of the Bushfire Co-ordinating Committee (which is likely to operate in secrecy and be heavily biased against environmental interests).

We could ^{have} other concerns in this letter, but choose not to do so in the interests of brevity. ~~Our central point is that good environmental management is good fire management.~~ *Delete* This Bill is likely to erode sound environmental management, and may well be counter-productive in terms of fire management. It is based on false premises, is ill-considered and should not be enacted. We urge you to oppose it.

Yours sincerely



MINISTER FOR THE ARTS, SPORT, THE ENVIRONMENT
AND TERRITORIES

Hon. Ros Kelly M.P.

Phone: (06) 277 7640
Facsimile: (06) 273 4130

The Hon Chris Hartcher MP
Minister for the Environment
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Hartcher *Chris*

The National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) signed by all Governments except Tasmania has a number of important conservation initiatives requiring immediate action.

Most important is the development of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of reserves, including reserves to protect old-growth forest and wilderness. As part of the Strategy to protect the values found in old-growth forests and wilderness Governments have agreed to 'avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have a high conservation value'.

Accordingly I would expect that wood production would be excluded from areas that are likely to have a high conservation value pending an adequate reserve system being in place, and the complementary management proposed for areas outside the reserve system adequately protecting old-growth values.

I have written to your colleague Mr West with a list of specific areas of high conservation value old-growth forest and wilderness considered by my portfolio to require interim protection until the reserve system is established. A copy of the list is attached. I have also asked for specific information on proposed actions to ensure that areas of high conservation value are not lost before a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system is in place.

As you are probably aware my portfolio has received funding for assessments of old-growth forests and wilderness. I look forward to receiving advice from you on priorities for assessment in NSW.

Yours sincerely

ROS KELLY

Quality in Life

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

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930253



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
AND
MINISTER FOR ENERGY

The Hon. R. Kelly, MP
Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment
and Territories
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

08 FEB 1993

Dear Mrs Kelly,

I refer to your recent letter regarding proposed actions under the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

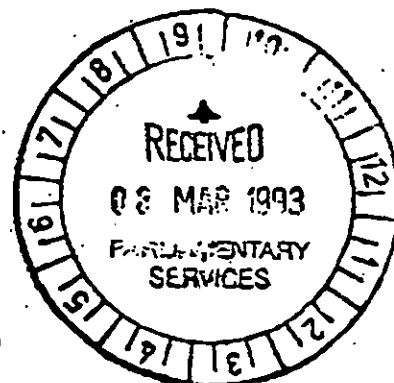
You should be aware that the New South Wales Government has already taken action to avoid, as far as possible, activities within these areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value, pending environmental assessments. This action is embodied in the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act, specifically Schedules 1 and 2 of the Act, which place a moratorium on activities within nominated areas pending completion and determination of environmental impact statements.

I do not propose to respond in detail to the list of areas which you have advanced but refer you to the two Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act Schedules, and the attached maps, illustrating those areas involved.

Beyond the areas contained within the Schedules you will be aware that a comprehensive joint regional assessment has been completed in the South East Forests, leading to an agreement between the Commonwealth and New South Wales on a reserve system and other measures to be put in place. This process fully meets the requirements of the NFPS.

Environmental impact statements have been prepared and exhibited for the Mt. Royal, Wingham, Dorrigo and Glen Innes management areas, as required under the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act, and when determined operations will proceed in accordance with those determinations. This process of assessment and determination meets the requirements of the NFPS.

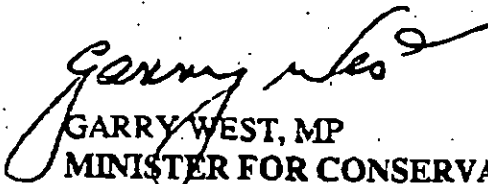
K ELP
NATIONAL
FOREST Policy
VIP



I should point out that the list you have provided contains large areas which, on any reasonable evaluation, do not constitute either old-growth forest or wilderness. One obvious example is Pilliga State Forest, an area of regrowth forest, previously settled and used for agricultural purposes, extensively roaded and subject to numerous cycles of harvesting.

On an initial assessment I estimate that your list contains about 1.4 million hectares of forest. The exclusion of timber harvesting, beyond that already in place, would result in the annual sustainable timber yield from New South Wales State forests being reduced by 52%. Your proposed actions are clearly unwarranted and merely serve to undermine the collaborative spirit between the Commonwealth and the States which is essential if the NFPS is going to be implemented effectively. You should be able to appreciate that the implications for rural economies, the timber industry and dependent employment that flow from your implied actions would be horrendous. Such action is neither contemplated nor required under the terms of the NFPS.

Yours sincerely



GARRY WEST, MP
MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT
AND MINISTER FOR ENERGY



MINISTER FOR THE ARTS, SPORT, THE ENVIRONMENT
AND TERRITORIES

Hon. Ros Kelly M.P.

Phone: (06) 277 7640
Facsimile: (06) 273 4130

The Hon Garry West MP
Minister for Forests
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr West

The National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) signed by all Governments except Tasmania has a number of important conservation initiatives requiring immediate action.

Most important is the development of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of reserves, including reserves to protect old-growth forest and wilderness. As part of the Strategy to protect the values found in old-growth forests and wilderness Governments have agreed to 'avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have a high conservation value'.

Accordingly I would expect that wood production would be excluded from areas that are likely to have a high conservation value pending an adequate reserve system being in place, and the complementary management proposed for areas outside the reserve system adequately protecting old-growth values.

Specific areas of high conservation value old-growth forest and wilderness considered by my portfolio to require interim protection until the reserve system is established are attached.

I would appreciate specific information on your proposed actions to ensure that areas of high conservation value are not lost before a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system is in place.

Could you please inform me of actions you intend to take to implement the National Forest Policy Statement commitments in this area, including specific actions on the areas on the attached list.

Yours sincerely

ROS KELLY

Quality in Life

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

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Nulla-Five Day State Forest

Styx River State Forest

Lower Creek State Forest

Crown lands in the Parishes of Dudley, Panton, Warbo and Willi
Willi, County of Dudley

London Bridge - Glen Innes

Warra State Forest

Oakwood State Forest

Glen Nevis State Forest

London Bridge State Forest

Curramore State Forest

Reserve from Sale for Timber No. 55288

Mount Marsh - Casino West

Mount Marsh State Forest

Tenterfield

Forest Land State Forest

Jenner State Forest

Boorook State Forest

Boonoo State Forest

Girard State Forest

Spirabo State Forest

Little Spirabo State Forest

Urunga

Oakes State Forest

Walcha-Nundle

Ben Halls Gap State Forest

Nowendoc State Forest

Tuggolo State Forest

Giro State Forest

Riamukka State Forest

Riamukka State Forest

Enfield State Forest

Wauchope

North-east

Barrington Tops - Gloucester

Stewart Brooks State Forest

Barrington Tops State Forest

Blackbutt Plateau - Murwillumbah

Nullum State Forest

Duck Creek - Urbenville

Richmond Range State Forest

Yabbra State Forest

Casino West

Washpool State Forest

Billimbra State Forest

Mount Marsh State Forest

Cunglebung - Grafton

Dalmorton State Forest

Chaelundi - Dorrigo

Chaelundi State Forest

Chichester

Mount Royal State Forest

Chichester State Forest

Davis Creek - Mount Royal

Mount Royal State Forest

Dorrigo

Wild Cattle Creek State Forest

Bielsdown State Forest

Chaelundi State Forest

Grafton

Dalmorton State Forest

Kempsley

Mistake State Forest

Carrai State Forest

Pee-Dee State Forest

New South Wales

South-east

Coolangubra Area

North Rockton State Forest

Coolangubra State Forest

Bondi State Forest

Nalbaugh State Forest

Genoa Area

part Bondi (see above)

part Yambulla State Forest

Nadgee Area

Merrica River catchment

catchment areas for Nadgee Nature Reserve

Brogo Area

Bemboka State Forest

and other State forests including

Cathcart State Forest

part Nullica State Forest

Tantawangalo State Forest

part Blenbog State Forest

Murrabrine State Forest

Yurramine State Forest

part Mumbulla State Forest

Tanja State Forest

part Timbillica State Forest

Mount Boss State Forest

Ballengara State Forest

Doyles River State Forest

Wingham

Enfield State Forest

Bulga State Forest

Doyle River State Forest

Dingo State Forest

Knorrit State Forest

11th August 1992

The Hon. Paul Keating MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Prime Minister

**RE: RESPONSE TO YOUR GOVERNMENT'S
DRAFT NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT**

This national forest policy draft, prepared by officials from wood extraction government agencies, is no more than a prescription for continued and unnecessary native forest destruction. Australians want their forests and their wood and this can be achieved by the Commonwealth enforcing a national policy which is in the interests of the national environment, society and economy.

The current draft does not achieve this end and hence, deserves to be abandoned immediately lest serious criticism gives it unwarranted credibility.

Far from entrenching non-viable commercial wood supply operations in public native forests, a progressive national policy should be aimed at securing commercially viable wood supply from efficiently managed plantations.

The outdated commitment by forest bureaucracies to accommodate industry preference for a cheap resource has already cost Australia an accumulated \$4.5 billion in public sector debt [see Resource Assessment Commission, *Forest and Timber Inquiry Draft Report*, pR3]. It is time that national policy was directed towards efficient meeting of market demand through micro-economic reform, subsidy removal and market education.

The key policy settings necessary for effective management of our forests are few and simple:

1. The ongoing subsidising of wood extraction from native forests should be abandoned in favour of ensuring the use of plantations for wood supply.

Plantations are much more productive in terms of mass of usable wood produced per hectare per year compared to native forest. Therefore, it is unnecessary and costly to attempt to establish commercially viable management regimes for wood supply from native forests.

Figures released by the Victorian Department of Conservation and Environment (DCE) on the first report on native forest logging operations on the mainland, show that native forests are logged at a loss. Conversely the same figures show that DCE's softwood plantations run at a healthy profit. (*Commercial Accounts for the State Hardwood Forests and Softwood Plantations*, DCE, June 1992, Ferguson I.J. and Houghton K.A.)

2. Plantations, harvested at economically optimal ages of 12 to 22 years of age, are technically and economically more attractive to pulpmills as a source of both softwood and hardwood fibre. This is especially true for new mills using modern technology.

Judy Clark (*The Future for Native Forest Logging in Australia*, 1992) predicts that Australia can be totally self sufficient in the production of paper fibre by 1995, using only softwood and hardwood plantation pulpwood, residues from plantation based sawmills and increased paper recycling.

The ability to exploit gains in both volume and quality yield through technological advances of plantation material is essential to maintain a productivity advantage and thus economic viability. Conversely native forest woodchip suppliers can only retain competition by relying more and more on public subsidies. This is contrary to Federal government policy in all other industry sectors.

3. Softwood timber, harvested from plantations aged 25 to 40 years, is capable of substituting for the vast majority of uses currently met from native forests logging.

In South Australia, for instance which has no native forest logging industry, 91% of all timber consumed in the building and construction industry is softwoods from plantations. In Tasmania and Western Australia, the figure is only about 37% and 20% respectively. (Clark, 1992)

Supply and quality considerations will ensure that softwoods enjoy a growing price advantage over hardwoods in the construction market, making it cheaper and easier to build a house out of softwood. This is the area where real social benefit can be delivered to ordinary Australians by a national forest policy.

The continued use of native forest for woodchip production oriented to the export pulp market is not economically feasible anywhere on the Australian mainland as the timber resource simply does not exist. (RAC, *Forest and Timber Inquiry Final Report*, 1992, plii)

4. Native forests should be managed to maintain their nature conservation value. Apart from the obvious environmental and social values of the maintenance of the native forest estate, they also represent a very important economic resource when not destroyed for wood values.

Firstly, tourism is a most appropriate commercial use of 'multiple use' native forests when it is designed to be compatible with nature conservation. It is also the most effective employer of lesser and semi-skilled people in remote areas (where the need is greatest) and the most efficient earner of foreign exchange.

Secondly, in a recent study commissioned by the Victorian Minister for Water Resources, it was shown that the economic value of water production from native forests has been considerably impacted upon by logging, which reduced catchment stream flow by as much as 50%. It was found that a total cessation to logging in Melbourne Thomson Catchment will have significant benefits for Melbourne water supply relative to the status quo with a net present value of \$147 million over current arrangements. (*Evaluation of the Economic values of Wood and Water Outputs for the Thomson Catchment*, 1992, Read Sturgess and Associates)

Thirdly, the role of forests and all forms of native vegetation in maintenance of soil and water values has always been well known. Unfortunately, the costs of native vegetation loss and degradation in terms of soil erosion, salinity, flooding and drought are only now being fully appreciated by national decision-makers. The National Plantation Advisory Committee confirmed that further clearing was unnecessary as there is abundant cleared land available for plantations.

5. Native forests are a vital component of Australia's biodiversity and it is extremely important that they, and our other remaining natural vegetation types are managed to maintain their biodiversity.

Australia has a poor record in protecting its plants and animals from extinction. The more fragile arid and semi-arid ecosystems have suffered the worst but it is important to appreciate that, if present trends of forest destruction and degradation continue, native forests will also lose the capacity to sustain populations of animals and plants. This is already true of drier forests and woodlands which have borne the brunt of clearance for settlement. Large scale woodchipping operations have now extended that threat to all forest types.

It is vital that woodchipping be abandoned as an unsustainable use of native forests and a use which is inconsistent with management for nature conservation.

Similarly, strong wilderness legislation, threatened species legislation and a biodiversity strategy are needed as a matter of urgency to ensure that government resources can be effectively targeted to; arrest Australia's shameful record on species extinction; and target the recovery of threatened species.

The Draft Policy fundamentally fails to address biodiversity protection with conservation goals being qualified and voluntary, environmental protection measures given no workable frameworks or timelines and no commitment exists for the immediate protection of old growth, wilderness and high conservation value forests.

As RAC says "It is not feasible to log old growth forests.... and yet retain their full complement of old growth attributes and values.... Logging of old growth forests potentially violates the precautionary principle of sustainable development.... the values associated with pristine attributes cannot be replaced." (RAC, Final Report (xxxvi)).

6. The people of Australia want all their native forests protected, and they want wood and paper products as well. The draft National Forest Policy defeats both these goals.

It is no longer necessary to log any native forests. Complete self sufficiency in both the sawn timber and pulp and paper sectors can be achieved, solely from plantation resource, by 1995 at the latest. (Clark 1992)

In summary, the move forward for a National Forest Policy must address the fundamental issues raised above.

It needs to be taken back to first principles which would be reflected by a two-pronged approach to a national forest strategy:

1. A Native Forest Protection policy which will protect all the biodiversity, wilderness and aesthetic qualities of Australia's remaining native forests. It would include the immediate cessation of logging in high conservation forests, the identification of areas requiring further study over which moratoria would apply and the timetable for the eventual transition of all logging to alternative plantation sources.

2. A Wood Production Strategy based on existing and additional plantations on already cleared land. This can also encompass programmes aimed at land regeneration eg one billion trees.

Such an approach would provide for job growth, meet Australia's timber needs and protect Australia's unique native forest heritage.

Without these substantial changes in the direction of government policy, we can have no confidence in the outcome.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Caswell
Executive Director
Australian Conservation Foundation

Karenne Jurd
Director
The Wilderness Society
17,000 members - 85,000 supporters

Yowaka/ Egan Peaks Association
40 members

Peg Putt
Director
Tasmanian Conservation Trust

Society for Growing Australian Plants
(NSW) Ltd. (SGAP)
2,500 members

Concord, Burwood and District
Peace and Environment Group
50 members

Central Coast Environment Council
60 members

Lower Blue Mountains
Conservation Council
52 members

Armidale Environment Centre
50 members

Kennigai Bushland
Ap 250 members

CALL FOR ACTION ON NATIONAL FOREST POLICY

Ms. Ros Kelly
Minister for the Environment

•We are dismayed at the continuing destruction of old growth and wilderness forests around Australia despite the National Forest Policy Statement jointly signed by the Commonwealth and the States (except Tasmania!) in 1992.

•Intensive logging, most often to feed a voracious woodchip industry, is occurring or planned for many high conservation value forests which should be protected by the commitments of the Federal and State Governments under the National Forest Policy. These forests include:

- Coolangubra Wilderness and other areas of the South East Forests of NSW
- Eucalypt and rainforest areas of northeast NSW including Wingham, Mistake, Richmond Range, Chaelundi, North Washpool, Barrington and Dorrigo
- The Southern Highlands and the Tarkine Wilderness of Tasmania
- The karri and jarrah forests of the South West in Western Australia
- The Errinundra Plateau and other areas of the East Gippsland forests of Victoria
- The rainforests of the Proserpine region of Queensland

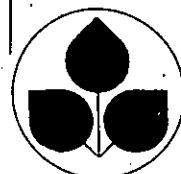
•We call on you and your Government to act urgently to protect our precious forests by utilising the Commonwealth's legal and constitutional powers, including:

- Refusal of export woodchip licences
- Powers to control corporations
- Protection of areas listed on the register of the National Estate
- Protection of areas identified for their World Heritage values

•Genuine and effective action by you and your Government to protect these and other old growth and wilderness forests is critical. A comprehensive plantation strategy rather than exploiting native forests is the way forward for a truly environmentally responsible timber industry. We look forward to you taking effective action.

NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS & POSTCODE

PLEASE RETURN THIS GROUP LETTER TO: AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
1ST Flr, 88 George St., The Rocks NSW 2000



Dailan Pugh
North East Forest Alliance
149 Keen St, Lismore, NSW 2480
Ph & fax 066 884307

Dear people,

Following is a draft of Proposed National Criteria for Conservation Reserve Selection of Forested Ecosystems which I have prepared from a literature review and consultation with some conservation biologists and conservation organisations. This is now being circulated for wider comment and as a submission to the Reserve Criteria Technical Working Group (RCTWG) set up pursuant to the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

The RCTWG has developed a preliminary draft it is proposing for the criteria to be adopted to fulfil the requirements for the establishment of comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve systems to protect oldgrowth forest and wilderness. These initial guidelines are effectively only a wishy-washy expansion upon the definitions of "comprehensive", "adequate" and "representative", and are so vague as to allow the states to reserve whatever they want - no matter how inadequate.

It was my horror at the possibility of the RCTWG's criteria being adopted that led me to developing these alternative criteria. These have been submitted to the RCTWG so that they could consider them at their next meeting (18.11.1993). The governments intend to have the criteria finalised by March (and it is essential that this deadline be met if the NFPS is ever going to meet its deadlines). I have been assured that there will be a public exhibition and submission stage before then, though past experience has proven that there is very little chance of achieving many (if any) positive changes by submissions on draft documents. It is essential to improve the criteria before then if possible.

I request that you consider these proposed alternative criteria and if you or your group consider that they are along the right lines to either offer your support or qualified support by URGENTLY faxing/writing to Roz Kelly and saying so. If they are not what you want then I urge you to develop your own and submit them to RCTWG as soon as possible. I would also appreciate any comments on these draft criteria to assist me in developing a final version as soon as possible.

The NFPS also required the establishment of a policy advisory committee through which it should have been possible for non-government conservation organisations to have had input into policy development processes, such as the development of criteria for reserve selection. Regretably the Commonwealth has failed to abide by the NFPS requirement to establish this committee and thus denied non-government sectors their right to participate in the development of reserve selection criteria at all stages. It is important to put pressure on Roz Kelly to establish this committee.

Yours sincerely,



Dailan Pugh.

ECO/07961



Premier of New South Wales
Australia

Mr S Walker
Executive Officer
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
39 George Street
THE ROCKS NSW 2000

12 JUL 1994

Dear Mr Walker

I have received your letter on behalf of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW concerning the Natural Resources Audit Council and the National Forest Policy Statement.

your Council's support for comprehensive regional assessments of forest ecosystems in New South Wales. However, I believe that you have confused such a process with the aims of the Natural Resources Audit Council. My Government did not establish NRAC as the "first step" of any particular assessment process, but to provide compilations of information on the values of the State's public lands and their natural resources, to assist it when it makes a range of decisions concerning the use of those lands and natural resources over which it has control. The information which NRAC will collate will assist the government in, for example, the development of Regional Environmental Plans, the preparation of recovery plans for endangered species, setting sustainable levels for commercial and recreational fishing, the allocation of vacant Crown land, and so on.

A major part of NRAC's functions is to enhance the comprehensiveness of its audits by commissioning work to accelerate the collection and coordination of relevant information. The majority of the funds allocated to NRAC (\$5 million in 1993/94) will be spent on such work.

Although, therefore, NRAC was not established specifically as the first step of any process of comprehensive regional assessments of forest ecosystems, I expect that some of the information collated by NRAC and some of the projects funded by NRAC would, no doubt, be useful inputs if any such assessments were to be undertaken in the future.

I would have thought that your Council would support initiatives such as NRAC which are in the improvement and greater integration of information about our State's public lands and their natural resources and the increased accessibility of such information.

Your comments concerning the 'limitation' of NRAC's task to public lands again reflect a misunderstanding of NRAC's role. It has been established to assist the State Government when dealing with those lands for which it is the primary decision-maker.

01 18 54 06:10 PM 100 217 010 01 2 241345

I dispute that NRAC's membership is "unduly weighted towards economic interests." The Council comprises the Chief Executive Officers of the major NSW Government agencies with responsibilities for public lands and their natural resources, an independent Chair and four non-Government members with expertise in land and natural resource matters. There are no representatives of any interest groups on the Council.

In regard to your comments on the public availability of information generated through the NRAC process, I have been advised that NRAC has issued a policy paper on the public availability of, inter alia, the information flowing from the projects which it funds. A copy of the paper is enclosed for your information. Further queries on this matter should be referred to NRAC itself.

You state that the NSW Government could conduct a regional assessment which the Commonwealth could accredit and to which the Commonwealth could contribute funds. I must reiterate that it is not NRAC's function to conduct assessment work. Nevertheless, I have requested the Commonwealth Government to accredit NRAC's first reference, the Regional Audit of the Upper North East of New South Wales, under the Inter Governmental Agreement on the Environment. I am informed that negotiations between the two Governments are progressing satisfactorily on this matter.

I turn now to the second matter raised in your letter, the implementation of various commitments under the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

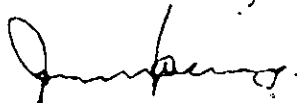
The NSW Government, along with the Commonwealth Government and other State Governments, is undertaking the processes specified in the NFPS for, first, the review of the appropriateness of the existing reserve system to complete its development and, secondly, the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reservation system to protect old growth forest and wilderness values on public and private lands.

The Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council and the Australian Forestry Council have established a working group of technical experts to develop broad criteria on which to base reserves systems to protect, first, the nature conservation values of forests and, secondly, old growth and wilderness values. When these criteria have been finalised and agreed upon by the NSW, Commonwealth and other State Governments, assessments will be able to proceed. Relevant information, such as that collated by NRAC in its Regional Audits, or from research undertaken by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and State Forests of NSW, will be fed into the assessment process.

I am advised that State Forests of NSW is implementing the commitment in the NFPS for forest management agencies to avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation values. Specifically, the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act 1991 places a moratorium on logging in old growth forests identified in the Government's 1990 Old Growth Forest Strategy pending the completion and determination by the Minister for Planning of environmental impact statements (EIS). The Act also excludes logging from wilderness nominations which had not previously been the subject of an EIS.

On the last matter raised in your letter, I note your support for the Commonwealth Government's pledge to secure a reserve system for all ecosystems across Australia at the time of its announcement. I can only reiterate the NSW Government's commitment to the establishment of a national system of protected areas, after full consideration has been given to nature conservation and socio-economic implications, in line with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Fahey', written in a cursive style.

John Fahey,
Premier.

For Srd:- In Confidence.

DRAFT ONLY

ATTACHMENT A

TITLE OF PROPOSAL: National Forest Policy Statement Implementation
(Includes CRA's/RFA's)

DETAILS OF COSTINGS:

	1994-95 \$m	1995-96 \$m	1996-97 \$m	1997-98 \$m	1998-99 \$m	1999-20 \$m	2000-01 \$m
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A: CURRENT PROGRAM ESTIMATES

Environment Program	190.716	168.607	120.857	112.421	95.351	95.351	95.351
- CRA/Res Security	5.220	6.190	4.802	4.742	.939	.939	.939
- Forests/Old Growth	2.663	2.122					

B: OUTLAYS - NEW POLICY

EST PORTFOLIO

1. DEST	10.014	10.776	7.650	5.388	4.324	4.504
2. ANCA	4.568	7.556	6.557	2.247	.622	.372
3. AHC	3.697	3.973	3.192	1.827	1.453	.966
Portfolio Sub Total	18.279	22.305	17.399	9.462	6.399	5.842

Included in Above:

Running costs (1)	5.003	6.728	6.143	4.815	3.743	3.255
Indicative ASL	66.7	89.7	81.9	64.2	49.9	43.4

(1) An extra \$100,000 per annum has been added above the standard running costs formula of \$62,000 per ASL for DEST to fund the greater travel and communication costs associated with interstate CRA activities.

PIE PORTFOLIO

1. BRS	7.008	6.476	4.750	3.777
2. ABARE	1.392	1.493	1.359	1.052
Running costs - Forests Branch	0.240	0.300	0.240	0.120
Portfolio Sub Total	8.640	8.271	6.349	4.949

Included in Above:

Indicative ASL	53.5	56	55	42.3
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Premier of New South Wales
Australia

The Hon PJ Keating, MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

10 DEC 1993

Dear Prime Minister, *Paul.*

I am writing to inform you of my Government's views on how best to progress the implementation of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

As you are aware, the NFPS acknowledges the importance of a comprehensive, adequate and representative network of dedicated and secure nature conservation reserves for forests and reserves for the protection of forested wilderness. The signatory Governments have agreed to review the appropriateness of the existing reserve system and determine whether any further action is required to complete its development.

As part of this commitment, the Governments have agreed to a strategy to ensure the existence of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system for areas of old growth forests and forested wilderness ("the CAR reserve system").

As the first step in this, data needs to be collected and assessments made on the old growth and wilderness values of forests. In accordance with the provisions of the NFPS, the assessments are to commence after Governments have reached agreement on reserve assessment criteria.

The NFPS also provides for a comprehensive regional assessment process for forested areas involving the collection and evaluation of information on environmental and heritage aspects of forests in a region ("the CRA process"). This process would provide the basis for a regional agreement relating to Commonwealth and State obligations for forests in that region.

The NFPS does not explicitly provide that the review of the CAR reserve system and the CRA process be jointly progressed. However, in order to reduce duplication and uncertainty, it would clearly be sensible for this to occur. This joint procedure should involve the following steps:

- to begin, data collection activities for the purposes of reviewing the CAR reserve system would proceed jointly with data collection for the CRA process;

The data collected by NRAC could form the basis of assessments of values of old growth forests and forested wilderness for the Upper North East region for the purposes of the CRA process. As outlined above, those assessments would be used for, amongst other things, decisions on the review of the CAR reserve system in the region.

This sequence of events - whereby NRAC collects data, which is then input into the old growth and wilderness assessments for the CRA process, which then result in decisions on the CAR reserve system - would occur first in the forests in the Upper North East region of New South Wales. This is appropriate, given that the greatest need for forest data exists in that region. This sequence of events would be repeated across the State as NRAC progressively conducts further Regional Audits.

Of course, the assessments and decisions for the purposes of the review of the CAR reserve system will not be able to be made until the reserve assessment criteria are agreed by Governments. Nevertheless, some data collection activities for the Upper North East region can proceed immediately, to feed into the NRAC Regional Audit and to advance the objectives of the NFPS.

I understand from your previous correspondence that the Commonwealth has offered funds to NSW to carry out data collection activities as required under the NFPS. I have directed the relevant State agencies to now apply for those funds, to be used initially in the Upper North East as part of NRAC's first Regional Audit.

I anticipate that some of the funds will be used to finance surveys of the old growth values of the North East forests. These surveys will further refine and verify the methodology developed by the Victorian Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to identify and delineate old growth forests.

Finally, I wish to draw your attention to provisions in the NFPS which require Governments to take interim measures to "avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value." These interim measures would remain in place until the completion of the assessment of forests for conservation values, which, as discussed earlier, should proceed in conjunction with the CRA process.

As you are aware, the NSW Government has already halted logging in specified areas of old growth forest under the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act 1991. This Act places an interim moratorium on logging in old growth forests identified in the Government's 1990 Old Growth Forest Strategy pending the completion and determination by the Minister for Planning of environmental impact statements (EIS) under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act also excludes logging from wilderness nominations which had not previously been the subject of an EIS. The Government is currently involved in the consideration of a number of wilderness nominations under the Wilderness Act 1987.

- next, this data would be evaluated for purpose of the CRA process - part of this evaluation would be the assessment of values of old growth forests and forested wilderness to review the CAR reserve system;
- the CRA process would then produce an intergovernmental regional agreement including, inter alia, decisions on the CAR reserve system.

I have already written to you on the need for socio-economic considerations to be taken into account in the review of the CAR reserve system. Under the National Ecologically Sustainable Development Strategy, our Governments agreed that all values, including environmental and socio-economic values, must be effectively integrated into decision-making on land and resource use.

I am, however, concerned that the CRA process as provided for under the NFPS appears to be limited to environmental and heritage values and does not incorporate socio-economic values. This would make it difficult for the ensuing agreement to accommodate all Government obligations, such as obligations relating to regional employment and investment. Accordingly, the CRA process in its totality, and not just that component relating to the review of the CAR reserve system, must explicitly incorporate socio-economic considerations.

As already mentioned, the first action in implementing the above is the collection of data on all values of forests on a regional basis.

You are aware that my Government has established the Natural Resources Audit Council (NRAC) to collect information on all of the values of public land and natural resources on a regional basis. This information will assist the Government in making land and resource use and allocation decisions, including decisions relating to forests.

NRAC is therefore well placed to be the State's data collection agency for the purposes of the CRA process, including coordinating data collection activities for old growth and forested wilderness for the review of the CAR reserve system.

In my letter of 16 September, I invited the Commonwealth to participate in the development of the regional data collection procedures to be followed by NRAC. It is hoped that this will facilitate the accommodation within those procedures of Commonwealth responsibilities, including obligations relating to forests, from the outset.

Indeed, in the interests of ensuring that Commonwealth responsibilities are met, my Government has requested the Commonwealth to accredit NRAC's processes under the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment.

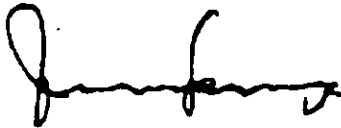
I have given NRAC, as its first reference for a Regional Audit, the Upper North East of New South Wales. As part of its Audit, NRAC will collect information on all of the values of forested public land. This will include the coordination by NRAC of data collection on the old growth and wilderness values of forests on public lands in the region.

It should be remembered that the NFPS provides that "Australia will continue to use old growth timber for many years". The Statement represents an attempt to balance forest conservation and development considerations in accordance with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development. Indeed, as your own Ministers Cook and Evans have now acknowledged, the NFPS was never meant to impose a moratorium on logging in all old growth forests and forested wilderness areas.

My Government will continue to avoid logging activities in certain old growth forests and forested wilderness areas which are likely to have high conservation value pending the completion of assessments of forests for conservation values.

I trust that the above clarifies the NSW Government's views regarding implementation of the NFPS.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Fahey', with a stylized, flowing script.

John Fahey
Premier

The Hon P J Keating, MP
Prime Minister of the
Commonwealth of Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

24 JAN 1995

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing concerning the need for progress on the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) and regarding your letter of 15 December 1994.

Your statement placed importance on the need to negotiate Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs). You will be aware that the preparation of RFAs is predicated on completion of comprehensive regional assessments (CRAs). There are, however, significant impediments attributable to the Commonwealth, preventing meaningful progress with undertaking CRAs. The most notable of these relates to the absence of an agreed methodology for the required CRA survey and analytical work, and doubt about the status and prospects of accreditation of existing State processes.

The CRA process has been the subject of considerable correspondence between the Commonwealth and NSW, including an exchange of letters between us. Before States can initiate work which would contribute towards the CRA process, an agreed methodology needs to be available, as does advice on the accreditation status of existing State environmental assessment processes and databases. This point was made clear as early as my letter of 16 September 1993.

On 8 June 1994, the Acting Premier also wrote to you in response to an invitation to comment on the Commonwealth's discussion paper on CRAs. He indicated that it was not acceptable for the Commonwealth to prescribe the terms of CRAs and not seriously address the issue of accreditation of State processes or respond to significant concerns raised about the methodology proposed for future surveys or analytical work. Advice received from NSW Government agencies indicates that the Commonwealth, through your Department, had planned to circulate a revised methodology paper for CRAs prior to Christmas. I am informed that this did not occur.

This lengthy time delay has frustrated the desire of NSW to progress this matter so that mutually acceptable CRAs can be completed and RFAs drafted. To a large degree, these delays are attributable to the tardy performance of those Commonwealth agencies involved in the CRA process. This State remains committed to implementing the

provisions of the National Forest Policy Statement, including the completion of CRAs and the preparation of RFAs.

Accordingly, in recognition of the need for substantial progress on these issues, I propose that a Joint Commonwealth-NSW CRA/RFA Officials Implementation Committee be established, as a matter of urgency, to formulate a timetable and priorities for progress on these issues. NSW is keen to resolve the process, accreditation and methodology issues associated with CRAs and RFAs as quickly as possible.

Within the context of RFAs, you will be aware that, in 1991, the then Prime Minister and Premier negotiated the draft South East Forests Agreement. The Agreement, which added substantial additional areas to the regional reserve system and prescribed levels of timber production, was signed by the Commonwealth and NSW Government in December 1993. There are significant implications for States arising from your policy statement on woodchip exports. In NSW, for example, the Government has a Long-Term Wood Supply Agreement with Harris-Diashowa Australia Pty Ltd for the annual supply of a prescribed volume of pulpwood. This agreement runs until the year 2007.

The NSW Government has been working to give effect to the various requirements of the South East Forests Agreement. Therefore, I ask that you confirm that the South East Forests Agreement constitutes a RFA within the context of your statement.

On the issue of reserve criteria, I believe that there is a strong need to address the key strategic issues, particularly the impacts which such a reserve system may have on matters such as the timber industry. Accordingly, there is a need to establish a clear understanding of the impacts of such a reserve system for all jurisdictions, prior to the proposed criteria being finalised. Such an assessment will need to be undertaken before Governments commit themselves to specific criteria.

In view of the need to progress these matters, I would appreciate a prompt response to the approach which I have suggested and the issue regarding the South East Forests Agreement.

Yours sincerely

John Fahey

John Fahey
Premier

The Hon P J Keating, MP
Prime Minister of the
Commonwealth of Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Premier of New South Wales
Australia

Mr S Walker
Executive Officer
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
39 George Street
THE ROCKS NSW 2000

12 JUL 1994

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You state that the NSW Government could conduct a regional assessment which the Commonwealth could accredit and to which the Commonwealth could contribute funds. I must reiterate that it is not NRAC's function to conduct assessment work. Nevertheless, I have requested the Commonwealth Government to accredit NRAC's first reference, the Regional Audit of the Upper North East of New South Wales, under the Inter Governmental Agreement on the Environment. I am informed that negotiations between the two Governments are progressing satisfactorily on this matter.

I turn now to the second matter raised in your letter, the implementation of various commitments under the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

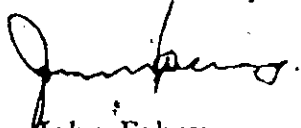
The NSW Government, along with the Commonwealth Government and other State Governments, is undertaking the processes specified in the NFPS for, first, the review of the appropriateness of the existing reserve system to complete its development and, secondly, the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reservation system to protect old growth forest and wilderness values on public and private lands.

The Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council and the Australian Forestry Council have established a working group of technical experts to develop broad criteria on which to base reserves systems to protect, first, the nature conservation values of forests and, secondly, old growth and wilderness values. When these criteria have been finalised and agreed upon by the NSW, Commonwealth and other State Governments, assessments will be able to proceed. Relevant information, such as that collated by NRAC in its Regional Audits, or from research undertaken by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and State Forests of NSW, will be fed into the assessment process.

I am advised that State Forests of NSW is implementing the commitment in the NFPS for forest management agencies to avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation values. Specifically, the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act 1991 places a moratorium on logging in old growth forests identified in the Government's 1990 Old Growth Forest Strategy pending the completion and determination by the Minister for Planning of environmental impact statements (EIS). The Act also excludes logging from wilderness nominations which had not previously been the subject of an EIS.

On the last matter raised in your letter, I note your support for the Commonwealth Government's pledge to secure a reserve system for all ecosystems across Australia at the time of its announcement. I can only reiterate the NSW Government's commitment to the establishment of a national system of protected areas, after full consideration has been given to nature conservation and socio-economic implications, in line with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development.

Yours sincerely .

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Fahey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Fahey,
Premier.

c/o Nature Conservation Council of NSW,
39 George St., The Rocks NSW 2000

Mr George Souris
Minister for Land and Water Conservation
Level 3, State Office Block
Macquarie St
SYDNEY 2000.

Re: Resignation from the NSW Forest Policy Advisory Committee (FPAC)

Dear Minister,

We the undersigned hereby tender our resignation from the Forest Policy Advisory Committee.

We do so with great regret after nearly a year of trying to make a success of the consultation process which you established, overtly to begin to resolve the contentious issues surrounding forest policy and management in this State.

We list below a number of grounds for our resignation. However the single most important of these is your government's determination to continue, and in some cases to accelerate, logging of old growth and wilderness, and other high conservation value forests. This flagrantly breaches the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) signed by your Premier only two years ago.

Since the beginning of this year your refusal to protect the conservation values of areas identified by the Federal Environment Minister as likely to have high conservation value has demonstrated your contempt, not only for the NFPS, but for the desire of the NSW community to have their public forests adequately conserved.

Outside the existing reserve system (which is universally acknowledged to be inadequate judged by the NFPS criteria of comprehensiveness, representativeness and adequacy) old growth and wilderness forests are being logged to extinction in NSW. In many regions, unless there is a major change in forest policy, all the old growth forest outside existing reserves will be logged in the next five years.

Under these circumstances we are no longer able to participate in what has effectively become a charade of community consultation, especially since the process could appear to lend credibility to your government's reprehensible mismanagement of our forest estate.

We wish to emphasise that we remain committed to effective community consultation and would be willing to rejoin the Committee if and when you give a firm commitment to abide by forest conservation commitments to which your Government has a written commitment, and institute genuine and worthwhile processes and procedures.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sid Walker', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

SID WALKER (Nature Conservation Council of NSW).

DAILAN PUGH (North East Forest Alliance).

LYN ORREGO (North Coast Environment Council)

STEPHEN JAGOE (South East Forests Conservation Council).

February 6 1995.

Encl.

PRINCIPLE REASONS FOR RESIGNATION FROM THE NSW FOREST POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Failure to implement the old growth forest moratorium requirements specified in the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).
2. Failure to take steps to establish a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative' reserve system for old growth and wilderness forests by the end of 1995 as required by the NFPS.
3. A policy of accelerating the logging of old growth forests in some areas, evidenced for example by the proposal contained in the 1994 Grafton Management Area EIS.
4. Failure to make available to FPAC members information essential to their capacity to advise the Government on its forest policy, such as NSW input into the inter governmental forest policy processes.
5. Failure to inform the FPAC of the development of Government forestry legislation such as the Forestry (Environmental and Fauna Assessment) Bill 1994 until insufficient time was left to enable the Committee to consider the legislation and provide advice.
6. Ignoring the Committee's recommendations without providing any explanation or justification for doing so. The most blatant example of this was in regard to the plantations issue. A position paper, unanimously agreed to by the FPAC and forwarded to you as Minister, was overridden by the Government's introduction of the Tree Plantations (Resource Security) Bill 1994. This Bill was significantly at variance with the recommendations of the Committee.
7. Constraining the range of the Committee's considerations to such an extent that its capacity to effect change in significant policy areas was reduced to zero. An example of this is the recent ruling by the FPAC Chairman that the policies concerning "the internal structure and operations of State Forests of NSW are not matters for the FPAC".
8. Failure to consult the Committee before major policy changes. This was recently demonstrated by the decision to gazette 30% of each management area in North East NSW for intensive timber production (allowing broadacre clearfelling without the application of wildlife prescriptions), and to allow patch clearfelling of up to 25 % of the rest of the loggable forest.

9. Failure of the Minister to take action to rectify concerns about the inefficient and ineffective processes occurring in the FPAC, despite being alerted on several occasions by conservation, industry and other representatives.
10. Sanctioning logging in moratorium areas in the Eden Management Area, in breach of both the spirit and letter of the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act, and despite undertakings given to the FPAC by the Chairman and Managing Director Of State Forests that logging in these areas would cease.
11. Refusal to protect seven compartments proposed for logging in 1995 which were recommended as Flora Reserves by botanists employed by State Forests.
12. Lack of an independent chairperson.

WINGHAM FOREST ACTION

Media release, Monday 29 November 1993

MORE IMMORAL OLD GROWTH LOGGING IN WINGHAM

Logging contractors arrived at compartment 209 Doyles River State Forest early this morning to recommence operations after a temporary cessation of logging following peaceful protests by concerned local residents last Wednesday.

Although a number of protesters were still in the forest this morning they did not offer any obstruction or hindrance and the felling and snigging of old growth trees, many several hundred years old, began immediately.

Claims made today by State Forests that machinery left at the protest site had been sabotaged by Wingham Forest Action (WFA) protesters are incorrect and misleading.

On Thursday morning when the contractors left the logging site members of WFA assured the owners of the bulldozer left at the camp site that no damage would be done by Wingham Forest Action protesters.

On Saturday afternoon a number of visitors came to the blockade site. WFA protesters who had been camping there for several days were going into the forest to undertake flora and fauna surveys and requested several visitors who were then present to keep an eye on things until they returned about two hours later.

When they returned they found that the visitors had left.

It was only later in the evening that it was discovered that there had been some tampering with the bulldozer. Several wires leading to the lights had been cut and earth had been placed in both the exhaust pipe and the air filter.

The protesters took immediate steps to rectify the damage. They removed the dirt and soldered the wires back together.

The matter was reported to Chief Superintendent Campbell when he visited the site on Sunday morning.

The bulldozer was operational within five minutes of the contractors arriving at the site this morning. It was functioning normally.

Claims by State Forests that a grader had been damaged by members of WFA are totally unfounded as no grader was left anywhere near the site.

WFA regrets the incident but does not accept responsibility. WFA actively discourages any action of this type and is committed to non-violent peaceful protest. It cannot be held accountable for the actions of hotheaded persons outside the group.

State Forests cannot fail to be aware that its mismanagement of native forests incites powerful passions in the community.

By failing to negotiate, State Forests make it more difficult for peaceful organisations like WFA to focus community frustration on the issues involved.

Further information contact WFA on (065) 50 4572, 50 4402, 50 4503

Wingham Crisis

WINGHAM FOREST ACTION

URGENT GREEN ALERT URGENT GREEN
ALERT URGENT GREEN ALERT URGENT
GREEN ALERT URGENT GREEN ALERT

November 24, 1993

DEAR FELLOW FOREST DEFENDERS,

Last Thursday 18th November State Forests of NSW started logging old growth compartment 209 in the Doyles River State Forest of the Wingham Management Area.

Wingham Forest Action (WFA) has serious concerns about the legality of the logging, particularly in relation to the "Temporary Licence" and the adequacy of the Harvesting Plan.

WFA wrote to the District Forester Jim Simmons last Friday requesting a one week halt to logging and calling for a round table conference to be held between the interested parties so that our concerns might be addressed. Our request was denied.

Cpt 209 is part of the moratorium area under the Timber Industry Interim Protection Act and should not be logged until the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Fauna Impact Statement (FIS) have been determined. Although the EIS was determined in March this year the NPWS have still not determined the FIS. The FIS determination has been promised since May but has again been deferred until we know not when.

Nevertheless the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have been pressured by the timber industry and the State Forests to extend a "temporary licence" granted before the new FIS law took effect. The extension of this

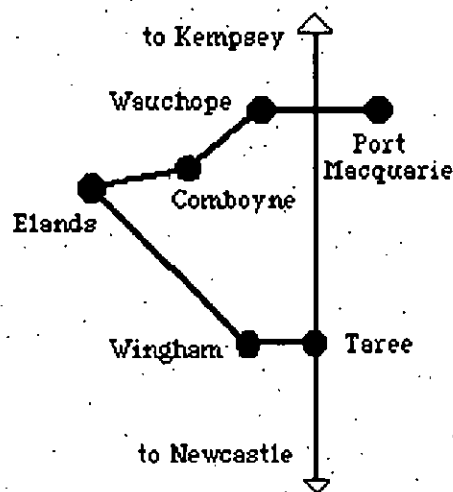
licence effectively circumvents the new law. Under the new FIS system a General Licence to take and kill endangered species does not come into operation for twenty eight days. During this period people who made submissions in the FIS can appeal the decision to issue the licence in the Land and Environment Court. No logging is permitted in the licensed compartments until the end of the 28 day period or until any appeals have been dealt with by the Court.

No such exhibition period or appeal process is provided for the grant or extension of a licence under the old system.

The District Forester says State Forests have a licence and are acting within the law.

We see a high conservation value piece of old growth going down the road on trucks. We see that we have no option but to initiate some kind of direct action to try and stop the logging until the FIS determination is made and then we have a legal right of appeal.

So, if you can come and provide some kind of person power, be it in the forest or logistical support we would greatly appreciate it. Come to Elands or ring 065 50 4572 or 065 50 4402 for directions.



OM. GAIA for the forests and the water

Chris, Jane, Helmut and Susie for
Wingham Forest Action

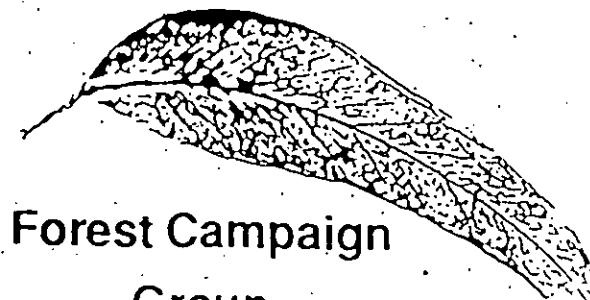
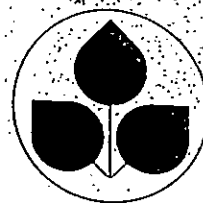
ACF

Australian Conservation Foundation

1st Floor, 88 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Phones: NSW Campaign Office: (02) 247 4285

Fax: (02) 247 1206



Forest Campaign
Group

Attention
Sid Walker

To:

Sid Walker NCC

Fax No:

2475945

From:

Geraldine Ryan

Date:

23.11.93

No of pages to follow:

3

Comments:

Hi! Sid here is the joint letter to
Keating and Taher - look forward
to your comments. We hope to
send the letter out today

Many Thanks, Geraldine

plus list
of
gals

j1/1/s.

24 November 1993

Paul Keating MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra. 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

We the undersigned represent a diverse range of large community based organisations from the church, ethnic and environment protection sectors in NSW. In total our membership comprises many hundreds of thousands of NSW citizens from a wide variety of backgrounds and interests.

We have united to urge government action to protect our old growth and wilderness forests through effective implementation of the conservation obligations found in the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) and signed by you in late 1992.

In particular we are vitally concerned about the future of the south east forests of NSW.

These forests should be subject to the regional assessment and moratorium provisions of the NFPS. We note that the scientifically discredited 1990 South East Agreement has been superseded by the NFPS and, if implemented would endanger irreplaceable old growth and wilderness forest and threatened species.

The NSW Ecumenical Council, with a membership of 13 churches, has considered this issue and believes at the present time it is essential that wilderness and old growth forest be protected and endangered species saved from extinction.

The Baptist Union of NSW, Social Issues Committee and the Catholic Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes of Australia, strongly believe that your government should no longer allow the logging (especially for woodchips) of old growth and wilderness forests.

They further believe that the 1990 South East Agreement is totally inadequate as only 55,000ha of such forests would be protected, while much more remains in danger including important vegetation communities.

Plantations including the existing large softwood sites, must provide for our wood needs and jobs for the industry, in association with structural and regional assistance packages.

The Uniting Church in Australia NSW Synod at its recent annual meeting passed a resolution which included urging the NSW Government to implement the NFPS. Further, that government place a moratorium on logging of all high conservation forests, especially old growth and wilderness until the requirements of the NFPS have been fulfilled.

11. It ⁵ They support such a moratorium in the south east forests of NSW, which is not only required by the NFPS but also by the precautionary principle which is fundamental to ecologically sustainable development.

The Synod has also noted that with regard to the south east forests, there are serious questions in the scientific community about the value and appropriateness of the 1990 Agreement. Further, the prima facie case is that the Agreement does not provide an adequate, comprehensive and representative system of reserves.

It is significant that the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW, (ECC), the only community based NSW organisation representing several hundred ethnic organisations and associate members has recently formed an environment sub-committee.

The ECC believes that all groups in society must take a stand to preserve the environment, so there is a world we can proudly pass onto our children.

Many members of ethnic communities come from areas of the world which face immense population pressures and environmental degradation - especially deforestation. ECC members appreciate this country and wish to protect its beauty for generations to come.

The ECC has called upon government to recognise its obligations under the NFPS and protect remaining areas of high conservation value forest such as in south east NSW.

The undersigned peak environment groups are emphatic that the old growth and wilderness forests of the south east be protected. Their world heritage and national estate values are well documented.

They too seek full implementation with integrity, of the conservation obligations of the NFPS by both state and Commonwealth governments. *and a rejection of the 1990 South East Agreement.*
We are aware that over the last decade, hundreds of thousands of Australian citizens and community groups have supported protection of the south east forests.

It is our recent experience that this concern is growing with more and more people wanting you to act, now.

Yours sincerely,

Uniting Church in
Australia NSW
Synod

Ethnic
Communities'
Council of NSW

NSW Ecumenical
Council

Baptist Union of
NSW, Social
Issues Committee

Catholic
Conference of
Leaders of
Religious
Institutes of
Australia

Australian
Conservation
Foundation

World Wide Fund
for Nature

Total Environment
Centre/SEFA

The Wilderness
Society

Nature
Conservation
Council of NSW

National Parks
Association - NSW

Friends of the
Earth

Greenpeace

An open letter to the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premier of NSW on the South East Forests of NSW.

NORTH-EAST FOREST ALLIANCE
Fal Brook Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 9 Singleton 2330 Australia

phone: (065) 77.3105

fax/data: (by prior notice)

E-mail: peg: ganref

November 8th 1993
Ms/ Clover Moore MLA

Dear Ms Moore,

I write concerning your intended censure motion against the Government over forest policy, apparently scheduled for late this week or early next week. I am a little unclear as to whether this refers to your protest about the disgraceful all-night sitting and the question of the decimation of south-east forests, or to the state-wide failure of the Government to implement the National Forest Policy and the consequent destruction of remaining old growth and wilderness areas before these have been assessed, and the patent bias and inadequacies of the current program of Forestry Commission EISs.

We have long been urging Labor and the Independents to censure the Government on NFP and these EISs, and we hope this may occur with Labor support. Please refer to material sent previously.

I enclose copy of a short report on the Gloucester/Chichester forest operations submitted last week to the new Commissioner for Forests, the Director of CaLM, Warwick Watkins. The report will serve as a case study illustrating concerns from the north-east.

Yours faithfully,

Barrie Griffiths

10 NOV 1993

**COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

COPY SID WALKER

NORTH-EAST FOREST ALLIANCE
Fal Brook Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 9 Singleton 2330 Australia

phone: (065) 77.3105 fax/data: (by prior notice) E-mail: peg: ganref

November 8th 1993

Ms Pam Allan MLA

Dear Ms Allan,

I have heard that a censure motion against the Government over forests policy and the failure to implement the National Forests Policy, the consequent destruction of high conservation value forests without assessment, the bias and inadequacies of the Forestry Commission EISs, is scheduled to occur at the end of this week or early next week.

You will be aware from earlier correspondence that we have long urged Parliament to bring the Government and the Forestry Commission to account.

I have also heard that Ms Moore intends a motion regarding the Government's disgraceful all-night sitting. I very much hope that censure of the Government will not be restricted only to the south-east but will embrace the state-wide failure to implement NFP and the matter of these so-called "EISs".

I enclose copy of a short report submitted to the new Commissioner for Forests, Mr Warwick Watkins, which serves as a regional case study illustrating urgent concerns regarding north-east forests, which NEFA raised in the course of a three-hour meeting with Watkins last Tuesday. We have asked for immediate action to address current abuses.

Please refer also to material sent previously concerning these matters.

The situation in both the north-east and the south-east is critical. In the north-east abuses and breaches continue whilst overdue EISs are deferred until next year, and others (Wingham, Kempsey-Wauchope) may soon be subject of yet more legal actions by NEFA; and now a patently inadequate EIS for Sawmiller's Exports P/L/ woodchip licence has just been released (see press release of yesterday). In the south-east, supply has virtually run out and the EIS has also been deferred until next year. In the south, Cabinet directly intervened to compel the NPWS to approve operations in Special Prescription Areas; in the north, political intervention compelled the Department of Planning to approve the Wingham EIS which otherwise would have been rejected on the same grounds as Mount Royal; and to approve logging of assessed wilderness areas in Glen Innes Management Area. State-wide, the NPWS and the EPA have been prevailed upon to routinely issue and extend fauna licences and Pollution Control Licences, contrary to law.

These and other matters have likewise been documented in material sent to you previously.

We hope that finally now at this eleventh hour appropriate action will be taken such that the Government and the Forestry Commission shall be accountable to Parliament, and steps taken to immediately implement the National Forest Policy in NSW. Much has been lost by the delay.

Yours faithfully
Barrie Griffiths

NORTH-EAST FOREST ALLIANCE
Fal Brook Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 9 Singleton 2330 Australia

phone: (065) 77.3105. fax/data: (by prior notice) E-mail: peg: ganref

November 3rd 1993
Warwick Watkins,
Director, Department of Conservation and Land Management

Dear Warwick,

We appreciated the time yesterday for what we feel was a positive meeting.

I include a brief report on the situation in Gloucester and Chichester Management Areas, which illustrates many of the matters of concern raised in our meeting. Time did not permit dealing with these specifics yesterday, but urgent action is required to redress breaches of prescriptions and most importantly, to constrain these very extensive operations which flagrantly breach the National Forest Policy.

Specifically:

- * Existing very extensive operations in Barrington Tops and Stewarts Brook State Forests should be confined to an area which in total size is appropriate to maintaining supply throughout the EIS process only.
- * Operations just commenced in compartment 44, Barrington Tops State Forest should not proceed. Compartments 43 to 48 are considered high conservation value and are included in the World Heritage Nomination.
- * Operations in compartments 1 to 9 of Stewarts Brook State Forest, within the area of the Tubrabucca Road extension, should only proceed on the basis of adequate assessment, with allocations only approved in compartments assessed of lesser value, for volumes sufficient to maintain supply for Upper Hunter Timbers, only until the EIS process has been completed - that is, no more than one years' allocation.
- * NEFA wishes to have some input into this assessment.
- * Forestry Commission staff should be instructed that the Standard Erosion Mitigation Guidelines (1993) are to be implemented for all operations; and that habitat tree retention prescriptions shall be in accordance with the Minister for Planning's Wingham determination.
- * Sawmiller's Exports P/L temporary licence to export silvicultural residues expired on November 1st, pending determination of the Woodchip EIS just released (details noted yesterday by Derek). Allen Taylor & Co. are harvesting old growth logs for chipping for Sawmiller's Exports. This is illegal, and immediate action should be taken to advise the operators in all Management Areas within the supply zone of Sawmiller's Exports P/L/ that such operations are illegal and should cease immediately.

Yours faithfully

Barrie Griffiths

NORTH-EAST FOREST ALLIANCE
Fal Brook Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 9 Singleton 2330 Australia

phone: (065) 77.3105 fax/data: (by prior notice) E-mail: peg: ganref

November 2nd 1993
Warwick Watkins,
Director, Department of Conservation and Land Management

Dear Mr Watkins,

I have been researching Forestry Commission records for Gloucester and Chichester Management areas for some time, and I have been participating in the current EIS process through the Community Consultative Committee and communication with the consultants, Manidis Roberts. I have long been extremely concerned about gross mismanagement of these forests, and I write now to briefly summarise concerns which have been heightened by recent field trips to Chichester and Gloucester.

Action is urgently required to restrain current operations which extend right across Barrington Tops from the Tubrabucca area of Stewarts Brook S.F. in the west, through the northernmost plateau and steep escarpment areas of Barrington Tops S.F. including the headwaters of the Manning River, to the extreme north-eastern section of Barrington Tops S.F. and further eastwards embracing all of Bowman S.F. These extensive roading, logging and burning operations are taking place in areas which include beautiful and distinctive forests subject to nil or minimal past disturbance, omitted from the moratorium, which have not been assessed for conservation values or sensitivity to impacts. There are areas within this extensive sweep of operations which should be protected. There are also operations just commencing within areas included in NEFA's World Heritage Nomination.

These operations pre-empt the EIS assessment process and the regional assessment process. Our knowledge of these forests is abysmal, Forestry Commission records are a disgrace. The NPWS has issued General Fauna Licences on the basis of mere cursory checklists, and has illegally routinely extended these so-called "temporary licences". The Environment Protection Authority has issued a Pollution Control Licence without even the pretence of assessing impacts on vital catchments or considering appropriate ameliorative measures or prescribing appropriate monitoring. The Standard Erosion Mitigation Guidelines (1993) are not yet being implemented in these management areas, the Standard Erosion Mitigation Conditions are manifestly inadequate and now generally accepted as such, yet even these are being breached. Forestry Commission staff and resources in Gloucester and Taree have been stretched way beyond their capacity in the attempt to patch together an EIS with inadequate records in the context of a history of gross mismanagement, deliberate unsustainable yield volumes over many decades, and losses averaging almost half a million dollars per annum during 1981 to 1991.

EIS demands on Commission staff have meant that supervision of operations has evidently been even more inadequate than usual. Management Plan provisions, Harvesting Plan and erosion mitigation prescriptions are not being met as a consequence.

The methodology adopted by the EIS surveys (following York, Binns & Shields, "Flora & Fauna Assessment in NSW Forests: Survey Guidelines", 1992) has already been pronounced flawed and inadequate by the Museum, the NPWS, the Department of CaLM, the EPA, independent experts and even the Department of Planning, and has already failed to survive Land and Environment Court challenge. In addition, the EIS fauna surveys comprise a smattering of plots and transects

across management areas encompassing almost 200,000 ha of forest; consequently vast areas have not been subject to even the token "survey" of a plot or transect in the vicinity, and no compartment whatsoever can be said to have been surveyed in a site-specific manner appropriate to adequately assess values, predict impacts and make recommendations.

Proposed PMP Reserves in the draft EIS are pitifully few, and none are proposed for Flora Reserve Status. Doug Binns' proposed Eucalyptus Nobilis Reserve is very small and, of course, located in very steep inaccessible country, ignoring the very high site quality forests nearby.

The Commission have sought to cover-up aspects of mismanagement by withholding information and documents, providing false, simplistic or misleading information to NEFA (and to the consultants), and even by attempting to lock NEFA and the public out of areas of forest.

The EIS was due to be published by September 30th 1993, but has now been deferred until next year. Meanwhile, extensive roading, logging and burning operations are proceeding across the full breadth of the Barrington Tops without proper assessment, under cover of the TI(IP) Act, which is being breached by extension of the EIS timetable and also by continued gross breaches of provisions for sustained yield and ecological sustainability and protection of biodiversity. Unless action is taken, this effectively means the Commission will not be made accountable for gross abuses until perhaps mid-1994.

Moreover, every possible attempt has been made by the Commission at District (Mike Pryjma) regional (John Murray, John Bruce) and Head Office levels, to deny and delay access to documents and information, including recent Annual Reports, current harvesting plans, environmental assessments and order of working details, harvesting history and EIS survey reports and maps. Attempts have even been made to deny access to areas of forest, and to refuse permission to even photograph areas of forest without prior written permission ! Information has been withheld from members of the Community Consultative Committee, and information provided to the consultants Manidis Roberts has been too late to enable the EIS to be produced on time, and moreover is quite evidently simplistic, misleading, confusing, contradictory and erroneous.

FORESTRY COMMISSION RECORDS

Harvesting history records are extremely poor and maps prepared for the EIS have been hastily done on a mainly "desk-top" basis, and cannot be trusted. The crude category "logged pre-1970" provides no basis for distinguishing compartments intensively logged in the sixties from compartments logged very selectively in the forties and fifties or earlier, many of which retain the integrity of structure and characteristics of old growth. Moreover, a large number of compartments mapped as pre-1970 have completely blank history cards, and in the frantic rush to patch together logging history maps there appears to have been a desk-top decision to classify these as "pre-1970", since time and resources have not permitted extensive field assessment.

NEFA's site inspections to date have necessarily focussed on compartments in the 1992-94 orders of working, and on areas in Gloucester M.A. nominated for Wilderness and World Heritage - the upper catchments of the Cobark, Dilgry and Manning Rivers. Further site investigations including compartments in this "pre-1970" category are planned during November. However, in view of the absence of records a proper assessment should be undertaken within the context of the regional assessments. Meanwhile, operations in certain compartments in the 1993-94 order of working likely to be of high conservation value should not proceed without proper assessment. These include compartments in the

Tucker's Creek area, the harvesting plan for which has not been made available, and compartments in the Tubrabucca area.

STEWARTS BROOK STATE FOREST: TUBRABUCCA ROAD EXTENSION.

Compartments 5 to 9 inclusive in the Tubrabucca area of Stewarts Brook S.F. (unlogged except for a small area near Barrington Trail in cmpt 6 and a small area of cmpt 9 in 1991/92) are covered by one harvesting plan, no. 93/G1, comprising over 1,000 ha with an estimated volume of 45,370 m3 quota sawlog volume. In addition, roading work has been done and logging operations are about to commence in compartments 1 to 4, unlogged except for a small area in compartment 2, logged 1980/81, and comprising an additional 644.5 ha. There is a bulldozer currently in compartment 2, which has just been very severely burnt (see photo 1.) NEFA has not been able to obtain copy of a harvesting plan for these four compartments. In addition, Harvesting Plan no. 92/141 dated December 1992 covers compartments 10, 20 and 22 of Stewarts Brook S.F., comprising 602 ha just north of Poleblue Swamp, with an estimated volume of 9,900 m3. The Wildlife Prescription is only two trees per hectare. A request to add compartments 10 & 20 to the Gloucester M.A. General S.120 licence is dated 5th March 1993. Both these Harvesting Plans refer to the Tubrabucca Environmental Impact Assessment, which has not been made available. Reference is also made to Paddy's Ridge Environmental Review, which has not been made available either. There is only a brief checklist attached to these harvesting plans, which state that "the area is covered by the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act until the Gloucester-Chichester Environmental Impact Statement is completed around mid 1993"; and conclude that "the environmental effect of this proposal is not significant and therefore an environmental impact statement will not be prepared".

BARRINGTON TOPS STATE FOREST.

One Harvesting Plan, no. 93/G2, covers compartments 55 and 60 to 65 of Barrington Tops S.F., comprising 2,257 ha in the Kangaroo Creek area, with an estimated volume of 71,851 m3 ! In addition, operations have been ongoing in compartments 22, 23, 20 & 21 of Bowman S.F. under General Licence no. TS0021 & TS0045. Harvesting Plans have not been made available for these Bowman compartments, which total 950 ha. Compartment history cards do not record logging history prior to operations in compartment 22 in 1990/92 (2,081 m3 nett quota sawlogs plus 5,251 tonnes of pulp), except for 43 m3 in 1975/76 from compartment 22. Forester Craig Hawkins suggested Bowman S.F. was selectively logged in the sixties and seventies (pers. comm.) In addition, "Bowman West" is included in the Order of Working for 1993/94, presumably comprising at least compartments 26 & 29 to 31. The total gross area of Bowman S.F. is 2,987 ha, much of which appears to have been made available to the crown sawmiller, Allen Taylor & Co. (Boral Timber) for 1991 - 1994.

Consequently during the course of the EIS preparation both Upper Hunter Timbers (Stewarts Brook S.F.) and Allen Taylor & Co. (Barrington Tops S.F.) have been allocated areas with estimated volumes equivalent to 8 to 10 years' quota allocation, "to ensure supply until the EIS is completed in mid-1993" !

These estimates do not include volumes from leasehold land in current orders of working, nor volumes of ex-quota and pulpwood.

These estimates also do not include allocations in the proposed order of working for 1993/94 given in the 1991/92 Annual Report, which include the Kholwa and Mt Carson areas, currently under moratorium and also within the Barrington Wilderness as assessed by the NPWS. The Commission continue to adopt the policy of logging all remaining old growth "as rapidly as possible" and assume that virtually all remaining old growth areas will be available.

Not content even with this, the policy in these management areas is to extend roading, "roadside salvage" and burning operations way beyond projected quota commitments, in what appear to be "claim staking" exercises with extremely destructive environmental impacts.

KANGAROO CREEK

Compartments 58, 60 & 62 are the catchment of Kangaroo Creek, major headwaters of the Manning. Compartment 62 was logged for pulp in 1989/90 (664 tonnes) and in 1990/91 (4,182 tonnes) and 1991/92 (2,321 tonnes). In addition, 7,556 m³ sawlogs were harvested in 1990/91 and 2,884 m³ in 1991/92. This is predominantly high altitude messmate/brown barrel on good soil and moderate topography, all merchantable Quota Quality stems have been taken. Habitat tree retention seems very uneven, and mostly negligible; the current harvesting plan prescription (compartments 55 & 60 - 65) dated 4th June 1993 is 4 per ha, evenly spaced. The Plan states that "large sections of some of these compartments have already been logged" - clearly without habitat retention prescription. Hardly any trees have been marked for retention in the area shown in the photos attached.

TUCKERS CREEK AREA (Manning River catchment)

Operations are in preparation in cmpts 43 & 45 and have just begun in cmpt 44. On each of two visits to the Gloucester Office to inspect documents, the harvesting plan(s) for these operations were not available. Operations begun in compartment 44 are notable for negligible habitat tree retention.

In addition there is an "open slather" operation on CNL land (Moore) adjacent to compartment 45, for which NEFA have the H.P., which is disgusting, very small timber, absolutely nil habitat trees (see photos). This area forms part of an important link corridor across to cmpt 31 of Bowman S.F. (along Mount Mooney Trail), and thence through leased land to Woko N.P., in the World Heritage nomination.

Compartments 43 to 45 are included in the World Heritage nomination; no survey plots were located in this area for the EIS - road transect 10 along Mount Mooney Trail recorded 11 Greater Gliders, one Mountain Brushtail Possum and two Koalas. Compartments 29 to 31 of Bowman S.F. include significant areas of rainforest, are substantially unlogged (compartment cards show only 220 m³ gross from compartment 30 in 1968/69, though the Harvesting History Map prepared for the EIS includes all as "logged pre-1970"), and form part of what should be an important linking corridor through leasehold land to Woko National Park.

In addition, there are considerable operations in beautiful high altitude (1,600 m) forest with Snow Gum predominating on good soil and flat topography but poor & low-yielding for timber because of species type and exposure to cold. Much of this forest is infested with Scotch Broom, and the pattern of infestation follows logging trails (see photo); the rush to extend operations across as wide an area as possible to combat threats from the moratorium/NEFA litigation, Wilderness Assessment and World Heritage Nomination, would thus seem to be greatly exacerbating the Scotch Broom problem.

The impacts of fire are a major concern also. Dilgry River (compartments 80 to 84) has just been subjected to a very severe burn, which has crowned towards the bottom over a considerable area close to rainforest. Other examples of fire impacts from recent spring burns are shown in photos attached.

SUSTAINED YIELD

The Gloucester M.A. Annual Report for 1990/91 states that

"Despite virtual halving of quota allocations over the last few years, current allocations will continue to exceed the theoretical long term sustained yield level for the management area. However, better growth and assessment data are required before accurate long term yield prediction (and further subsequent allocation adjustments) can be made. These adjustments may, in fact, not take place until the start of the second cutting cycle in about 2020."

"The greater percentage of assessed volume cut relative to area in the final columns (of Appendix 3B, Progress of Cutting Cycle) reflects the fact that future logging areas will have a higher proportion of non-productive area due to steep topography and lower yielding forest types."

The Chichester Management Plan's sustained yield strategy was based on a number of assumptions. It assumed "a satisfactory age/size class distribution" and stated that "the critical consideration is that sufficient area of regrowth stands will not have attained maturity by the time the present cutting cycle is completed about 2023/24." The Plan also assumed a rotation of 100 years and that "sufficient of the 40% of area logged over should be able to sustain a quota operation in 60 years time" (p.24); that 4,000 ha of Eucalypt plantations would be established, which with a mean annual increment of 14 m³/ha at age 20, at least 50% of this volume would be available as thinnings. The Plan admitted these calculations were "a rough guide only" (p.25) yet proceeded to arrive at an extremely optimistic figure for sustained yield of 15,800, and then approve allocations of 21,500 ! In fact, in six years following the Plan, annual average was 25,000.

It was soon evident that almost all the assumptions underlying the sustained yield figure of 15,800 were incorrect, and significantly so. With the move to integrated operations and the illegal sale of pulpwood, the consequences for the forests have been disastrous.

The 1962 assessment estimated available hardwood sawlog volume at 710,382 m³ gross. However the 1975/76 assessment doubled the estimated resource to 1,377,000 m³ gross (1,032,750 net), giving a cutting cycle to 2023. (Plan page 23). The 1982 Assessment estimated the remaining available sawlog volume at 1,028,629 m³ net, giving a mill life to 2026 (Annual Report 82/83). The estimated loss of 210,000 m³ from the rainforest decision of January 1984 reduced this to 2016. The 1982 assessment would appear to have significantly increased the estimated available old growth: the 1975 assessment estimated a resource of 110,000 m³ gross from previously logged areas; by June 1983 it was estimated 20,540 m³ remained of this resource (see Annual Report 82/83).

These estimates are based on revised yield statistics assuming 25% defect and "a 10% reduction factor for inaccessibility, steepness, filter strips, reserve areas etc" (ibid). Successive Reports suggested both assumptions were significantly wrong: "The combination of these two factors is particularly devastating. Some roading economics of recent times have been adjusted in anticipation of yields well below that assessed ... Limited possibilities exist within Chichester M.A. to contribute to additional resource for the remainder of the first cutting cycle" (Annual Report 1985/86). By 86/87 the Forester was lamenting "the future holds no ray of hope" (Annual Report 86/87), and the following year the yield monitor showed a balance of 290,707 m³ net: "If the balance is to last until 31.12.2039, quota would be 5,818 m³/annum from 1.1.1990; i.e. 27.1% of current quota" (Annual Report 1987/88). Despite this, yields from 87/88 were 22,000, 18,585 & 17,249.

With the collapse of the market for mining timber and Forestry Commission

financial losses going through the roof (about \$2.5 million Chichester, \$1.5 million Gloucester, 1981-1991, not including huge public subsidies and not including asset write-off from Rainforest decision), plantation establishment abandoned and thinning work neglected, hopes focussed on the pulpwood market to boost yield and revenue and "soak up the excess thinnings available" (Annual report 82/83). It had originally been intended that with the introduction of pulpwood sales all pulpwood areas would be planted, "so that review by other bodies, if undertaken, would reveal positive efforts to regenerate sites" (Annual Report 83/84); however, plantations were abandoned and with the introduction of pulpwood sales thinning and culling was so reduced as to cause "problems of excess manpower within the District" ! (Annual Report 82/83). In the event thinnings for pulpwood were not sufficiently lucrative, royalty rates insisted upon by Boral were ridiculously low (about \$4 a tonne), their operations too selective, "taking only the best of the 'optional' wood" (Annual Report 86/87), and their pulpwood log specification was too high:

"During 1988 Allen Taylor & Co. introduced a specification for pulpwood which virtually excludes old growth logs which do not qualify as quota sawlogs - copy given in Appendix 6. The only optional logs now taken by Taylors seem to be generally sound smalls with perhas too many limbs to count as quota. Taylors took 740 m3 gross minimum rate logs in 87/88 out of 5,414 m3 net compulsory volume. The other quota operations yielded 20,605 tonnes gross optional logs against 10,854 m3 net compulsory volume. A silvicultural result is not being obtained for Allen Taylors. The other two quota operations take a much lower grade of log for salvage sawlog to AS Nicholas and (in JSC areas) do provide a silvicultural result." (Annual Report 87/88)

The Forester questioned that Taylors should be allowed to take only the best non-compulsory logs at the same price as the others (ibid).

"The increased Minimum Rate proportion (up from 0.73% 86/87 to 3.35% in 87/88) is due to Allen Taylors taking the best of the ex-quota non-compulsory component as salvage sawlog. These logs were tallied under the defect system as many were virtually quota sawlogs and did not warrant segregation." (Annual Report 87/88 Appendix 1).

A similar situation existed in Gloucester Management Area where the Forester reports that "the specifications placed by Boral on the quality of their intake seem unrealistically high. They state they would rather buy clean regrowth thinnings from Port Macquarie Region than defective oldgrowth from Gloucester.. Given the high standard of pulpwood now demanded by Sawmiller Exports via the Tea Gardens outlet it would be appropriate that the Commission receive a higher royalty than the \$4.90 a tonne now received." (Annual Report 87/88).

Currently large areas of regrowth and Euc. Laevopinea plantations have not been thinned, as admitted by the District Forester (pers.comm).

It is imperative that operations in Barrington Tops S.F. and Stewarts Brook S.F. be immediately confined to compartments considered on the best available evidence to be of lesser sensitivity to impacts, sufficient to yield no more than one years' allocation, pending completion of the assessment process.

Recent field trips revealed many breaches of prescriptions in both Management Areas, only a few of which are shown in photographs attached. Action should be taken to ensure that prescriptions including the Standard Erosion Mitigation Guidelines (1993) and appropriate habitat tree retention are implemented.

Yours faithfully
Barrie Griffiths

Enclosed: recent photographs

By using the GPT a Carr Labor Government will remove the existing conflict of interest that exists as a result of State Forests determining its own pricing regime.

Environmental control of resource

A Carr Labor Government will review the existing framework of environmental regulations to establish clear, consistent and strong environmental regulations for the production and harvesting of timber.

They will recognise the existing provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, and the principles inherent in the Endangered Fauna Interim Protection Act.

In addition, a Carr Labor Government will apply Total Catchment Management principles to soil conservation and water quality management in state forests.

A Carr Labor Government will appoint a Principal Forest Regulator to monitor the performance of State Forests, licencees and contractors in the implementation and operation of Forest Management Plans.

The Principal Forest Regulator will have regard to Government policy, the determinations of the Minister and the Forestry Advisory Council and all environmental prescriptions contained in any relevant environmental assessments and regulations and will have the power to enforce Forest Management Plans.

The Principal Forest Regulator will report annually to Parliament through the Minister for the Environment.

Appeal rights, including third party rights, will be available in respect of the implementation and operation of Forest Management Plans.

CONSERVATION

The National Forests Policy Statement contains agreement with the Federal Government that until the assessment of the full range of environmental and other values are completed and a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system for our forests is established, activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forests or wilderness that are likely to contain high conservation values should be avoided.

This is commonly known as the moratorium clause of the NFPS.

Within the context of the NFPS Agreement, a Carr Labor Government will systematically manage the shift from high conservation old growth and wilderness logging to plantation and regrowth areas in the following manner:

- full evaluation of existing regrowth forests to determine their suitability as replacement stock for old growth forests;

- undertake a full, comprehensive regional assessment using the terms and definitions contained within the National Forest Policy Statement, ie old growth, wilderness, national estate, world heritage, aboriginal heritage, endangered and vulnerable species, biological diversity, and other cultural values;

This will ~~use~~^{include} using the geographic information system, completed environmental impact statements and state agency databases, to identify environmental domains. Such domains will then allow predictive analysis for all regional assessments on both public and private land. Any process of assessment completed at the Federal level, and its outcomes, will be given appropriate recognition.

- as a first step, a Carr Labor Government will initiate an interim assessment process which will involve all stakeholders at the regional level to examine environmental information bases to determine areas to be placed under logging moratoria. This process should be complete within six to eight months;

State Forests' logging program will be rescheduled, after taking advice from the NPWS and other agencies, to prevent logging in high conservation old growth forests and identified wilderness areas pending the completion of the interim assessment process.

- identified moratorium areas will then be comprehensively assessed for their conservation values and be either placed within the reserve system or released for logging activity;

Assessment will be carried out by Regional Assessment Coordination Committees which will be established by a Labor Government, with priority given to those areas of greatest importance for maintaining timber supply.

- a Carr Labor Government will issue an immediate direction to CALM and the Soil Conservation Service to fully implement and enforce all private land clearing and land protection controls, including the gazettal of maps for all protected lands.

PLANTATIONS

It has been estimated that the gross annual hardwood timber yield from all existing old growth forests could be replaced by harvesting fully productive hardwood plantations totalling 36,000 hectares (26,300 ha of public and 10,000 ha of private plantation hardwood) together with the existing regrowth forests which have a total area of approximately 800,000 hectares.

(NB: This replacement capacity is due to the opportunity to re-schedule logging operations and increase cutting and thinning cycles in properly managed plantations and regrowth areas).

Mr Warwick Watkins,
Commissioner for Forests,
GPO Box 39,
Sydney NSW 2000

Mon, 17 Oct 1994

Dear Warwick,

Please find attached a list of urgent requests presented at today's Forest Policy Advisory Committee meeting regarding the National Forest Policy Statement from the four conservation representatives on the FPAC.

We ask that you deal with these requests as a matter of urgency, by making the Premier and the Minister for Land and Water Conservation aware of them and of our request for assurances, statements and answers regarding these points by Monday November 7th 1994.

The NFPS plots a clear direction out of the traditional conflicts between conservation and timber extraction interests over native forest management. We believe that our commitment to a way out of these disputes by participating in the FPAC (which has such a charter) must be matched by a clear commitment on the part of the NSW Government to abiding by the conservation commitments of the NFPS.

We await your early reply,

Yours sincerely,

Sid Walker
Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Lyn Orrego
North Coast Environment Council

Dailan Pugh
North East Forest Alliance

Steve Jago
S.E. Forests Conservation Council

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Mr Warwick Watkins,
Director-General,
Department of Conservation & Land Management,
23 - 33 Bridge St., Sydney NSW 2000
Fax: (02) 228 6140

For the URGENT Attention of Mr Warwick Watkins in his capacity as
Chairman of the Forestry Policy Advisory Committee

Dear Warwick,

Thank you for your recent reply to the letter of 17th October co-signed by the four conservation representatives on the Forestry Policy Advisory Committee. Your letter was tabled at the 11th November meeting of the Nature Conservation Council's Executive.

The NCC notes your assurance of the Government's "commitment to implementing the principles and actions contained in the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS)", but cannot agree that "management of publicly-owned native forests reflects this commitment".

Council believes that the NSW Government is in breach of the clause of the NFPS which pledges that "governments will avoid activities that *may* significantly affect those areas of old growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value" (emphasis added).

This is not the only **key NFPS conservation pledge** which Australian governments, and the NSW Government in particular, have failed to keep. As you know, this pledge is given as the third dot point on page 11 of the NFPS, which contains five dot points in all. The first pledges that "agreed criteria for old growth and wilderness will be determined through the working group process already described [in the NFPS], while the second promises that "using those criteria, the relevant State agencies will, *as a matter of high priority*, undertake assessments of forests for conservation values, including old-growth values, and of

forested land for wilderness values" (emphasis added).

It is now two years since the NFPS was first signed, yet criteria for old growth and wilderness are still not agreed, nor has the NSW Government adopted a working definition and commenced a state-wide rapid assessment "of forests for conservation values, including old-growth values, and of forested land for wilderness values".

Based on NSW Government figures, it has been calculated that on average more than 50 hectares per day of old growth forest is logged in NSW. Much of this has never been assessed for old growth and wilderness values - indeed many NSW State forests has never been subjected to any kind of formal environmental assessment. Scrutiny of private land logging operations is even more lax.

The NCC believes that in order to "avoid activities that *may* significantly affect those areas of old growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value", the NSW Government must adopt the precautionary approach and stop all logging activities within them - at the very least until rapid assessments promises in dot point two have been carried out.

Instead, the NSW Government appears content with - and has contributed to - chronic delay in fulfilling pledges one and two, while the logging of effectively unassessed old growth, wilderness and other high conservation value forests continues apace.

Dot point four on page 11 of the NFPS pledges the establishment of a "comprehensive, adequate and representative reservation system to protect old growth and wilderness values". This is due to be in place, in the context of public lands, by the end of 1995.

In view of the appalling time slippage in meeting commitments made in dot points one and two, non-compliance with point three, and complete failure to commence a comprehensive regional assessment process (see NFPS pp 24 & 25) in any part of NSW, it is impossible to imagine how this crucial conservation commitment to establish a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative reservation system' can be fulfilled on time. Meanwhile, as old growth, wilderness and other high conservation value forests are mined for wood at a rapid rate, the building blocks of a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative reservation system' continues to be destroyed.

The NCC views the logging of old growth forest in Compartment 579 of **Wild Cattle Creek** as a particularly significant breach of the NFPS pledge in dot point 3 page 11. This was a rare case in which a thorough and independently adjudicated assessment of old growth forest values had been carried out, as well as an assessment of fauna values which indicated the likely presence of numerous endangered species.

Yet, despite appeals from numerous conservation groups, including the NCC - and in spite of the fact that the high conservation value of the old growth area was verified by a member of your own Department - this area was still logged. Trees which may have been over 1,000 years old were destroyed in a few minutes. It is scarcely surprising that under these circumstances, conservationists doubt the credibility of the Government's commitment to the NFPS.

The NCC is also increasingly sceptical of the Government's bona fides in relation to the **Forestry Policy Advisory Committee**.

Despite the misgivings of a number of the Council's key member groups, NCC decided to respond positively to Minister Souris' invitation late last year to nominate for the FPAC. The Council has taken the FPAC seriously and sought to participate in its processes in a spirit of compromise and co-operation.

Council is concerned that this good faith has not been reciprocated. Despite unanimous agreement in the FPAC to set up a consultancy to consider improvements to the EIS process - based on a remarkable apparent convergence of views among the stakeholders as to an improved EIS process - Council now finds that the Government has introduced a Bill which ignores this consensus. Instead, the clearly aims to insulate the Forestry Commission from effective legal challenge, and to cut the community out of effective participation in and scrutiny of native forest logging operations.

In a similar fashion, despite the fact that the FPAC produced a unanimously-agreed position paper on 'Forest Plantation Establishment' - the only agreed statement to emerge from nearly a year of meetings - Council finds that the Government has ignored key recommendations of this paper and instead has drafted legislation which is at variance with them. In particular, despite unanimous FPAC agreement that the Government should "implement legislative or contractual measures that provide appropriate compensatable security to the harvesting of plantations" the Government's Bill does not provide for compensation, but instead seeks to over-ride fauna

protection laws. The four conservation representatives made it very clear when the matter was discussed in the FPAC that we could not accept this approach. We also made it plain that our support for new plantation establishment was contingent on these being located on *previously cleared land* - yet according to legal advice received by the NCC, the Bill as currently by no means limits plantation establishment to such land, and is consequently likely to encourage further clearance of native vegetation.

The NCC Executive therefore resolved at its meeting to write immediately seeking the Government's agreement to drop in entirety the *Forestry (Environment & Fauna Impact Assessment) Bill 1994* from its legislative agenda. In the case of the *'Tree Plantations (Harvest Security) Bill 1994'*, the NCC seeks an undertaking from the Government that it will either abandon the Bill or accept amendments consistent with the FPAC's unanimous recommendations.

In the event that this does not occur, the NCC will no longer support my participation in the FPAC, and I will tender my resignation.

The NCC is represented on more than 100 Government Committees. The Council believes that helping to provide an interface between government and the community is one of its most important roles, and does not withdraw from government committees lightly.

However, if a Committee's work is marginalised, its processes abused and its recommendations ignored - and when continued Committee membership achieves very little but could be regarded as condoning blatant environmental abuse - Council is forced to consider its position.

I apologise for my absence from FPAC this morning - the first occasion I have been unable to attend a meeting since the Committee began meeting.

Please make copies of this letter available to FPAC members today, and bring its contents to the Minister's attention as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

Sid Walker

Executive Officer



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Mrs Ros Kelly,
Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600

Wed, Jul 28, 1993

Posted 30/7

re: National Forest Policy Statement

Dear Minister,

Thank you for meeting with Dr Judy Messer and myself in Canberra during the June Peak Councils meeting.

As we indicated on that occasion, the Council is keen to see progress on the appointment of community representatives within the committees and working groups entrusted with implementation of the National Forest Policy Statement. We believe this will help ensure that the conservation perspective is articulated clearly at that level.

We refer you to page 20 of the NFPS, in which the Commonwealth pledges to "establish a policy advisory body... to advise on specific forest product industry and conservation issues".

Within the NSW conservation movement, there is a wealth of experience which could contribute to the work of such a committee, and the Nature Conservation Council would welcome an invitation to nominate a member to it.

Yours sincerely,

Sid Walker
Executive Officer

*c/e Faxed to: ACT (NSW), TWS (Sydney), TEC, WWF
J. Corkill, D. Pugh, + All Con
Councils.*

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The Hon Ros Kelly,
Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600

Tue, 9 Nov, 1993

Re: Implementation of the conservation commitments of the
National Forest Policy Statement and other forest-related matters

Dear Minister,

We refer to previous letters from the Nature Conservation Council of NSW dated July 28th 1993 (copies attached), to which no reply has so far been received.

The Council is deeply concerned at the inordinate delay in setting up the NFPS Policy Advisory Committee. Other committees which were established to implement the NFPS, such as the two technical working groups established under the auspices of AFC & ANZEEC, were set up a considerable time ago. Crucial processes which are integral to the NFPS, such as generating agreed criteria for reserve design, are now well-advanced.

However, there has been no effective progress in setting up the policy advisory committee, despite the fact that it is the *only* committee agreed to in the NFPS with *community* representation.

If there is further delay on this, crucial decisions will be made at inter-governmental level without any opportunity for community input. That would represent a serious breach of the spirit of the NFPS, and further undermine public confidence in the willingness of governments to implement it.

The Nature Conservation Council therefore urges you to move rapidly to set up the NFPS policy advisory committee.

In terms of the membership of the Policy Advisory Committee, the Council

understands that there are likely to be two representatives of the conservation movement appointed.

The Council wishes to recommend Mr Dailan Pugh for one of these positions. Mr Pugh has had long-standing involvement in, and is well-connected throughout the native forest protection movement. He is familiar with both the science and the politics of forest conservation. To date, he has maintained an active interest in the NFPS process, but has lacked adequate access and resources to make more systematic input. Further details of his background and qualifications can be provided on request.

The development of **National Criteria for Conservation Reserve Selection of Forest Ecosystems**, mentioned previously in this letter, is also a source of major concern to this Council. We understand that a draft is now at an advanced stage, yet there has been no public access to its contents.

If rumours of its content are accurate, it appears the draft criteria are extremely weak, and would allow accreditation under the NFPS of almost any 'reserve system' - even travesties such as the discredited 'Hawke-Greiner spaghetti parks' in the South East Forests of NSW.

Even though there may be a round for public comment at a later stage, the poor standard of the current draft represents yet another missed opportunity by the Federal Government to advance the conservation goals of the NFPS. The importance of this issue cannot be exaggerated: sound ecologically-based criteria are essential if the outcome of the NFPS process is to be more than a tragic farce for conservation.

In conclusion, the Council also seeks clarification of your progress in deciding whether to fund the **National Plantations: Development and Employment proposal**, which was jointly submitted to you by several Conservation Councils - including the Nature Conservation Council of NSW - at the last Peak Councils meeting in June. The Council reaffirms its support for this proposal, reiterates its request that the Commonwealth provides funding to make it possible, and wishes to know why there is such a delay in the Commonwealth's decision?

The Council looks forward to a prompt response,

Yours sincerely,

Sid Walker
Executive Officer



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URGENT MEMO TO CONSERVATION GROUPS RE: THE N.F.P.S.

Dear Colleagues,

This short note concerns the process currently underway to implement the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS). It is also an invitation to intervene in a couple of potentially crucial ways. But if you wish you wish to respond to that invitation, you must do so URGENTLY.

I attach a letter sent to Ros Kelly from the Nature Conservation Council dated 9.11.93. It is the most recent in a series of correspondence from the Nature Conservation Council to Mrs Kelly regarding the NFPS. To date, replies from the Minister to our letters have been less than satisfactory.

It is clear that the NFPS process is badly off the rails. Nevertheless, the Nature Conservation Council believes that it would not be appropriate, at this stage, to despair of the process and simply accept that the signatory governments will continue to evade its conservation commitments.

We seek your support on two matters, both of which are raised in the attached letter to Ros Kelly.

Firstly, we urge you to support our demand that the **Policy Advisory Committee**, referred to on page 20 of the NFPS, is established without further delay. If you feel able to, we also urge you to support the nomination of Dailan Pugh to that committee. Further information about his credentials can be provided on request - or you can contact Dailan directly on 066/884307 (phone and fax).

Secondly, we urge you to make effective input to the **National Criteria for Conservation Reserve Selection of Forest Ecosystems**. The Technical Working Group on Reserve Selection Criteria (a joint working group set up by the Australian Forestry Council and the Australia and New Zealand Environment Council) has come up with a working draft of national criteria for reserve selection. This draft is, apparently, so vaguely worded and narrow in focus that

it is virtually meaningless and of no practical benefit to conservation interests. The working draft is due to be finalised at the next meeting of the Technical Working Group on 18th November 1993, and the intention is for the final criteria to be adopted at the next meetings of the AFC and ANZEC. If we are to have any influence on the process it is essential that we begin now.

To help rectify this, Dailan Pugh has drafted alternative draft criteria (attached). We urge you to consider proposals, and to respond to him urgently if you wish to suggest amendments. As far as I know, this is the only alternative proposal on this critical topic which is being generated by the conservation movement at this time. If you feel able to lend general support to what is proposed, a joint letter of support would help confer greater authority to his proposal.

I look forward to your reply,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sid Walker', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Sid Walker
Executive Officer

Tue, Nov 9, 1993

7WS Newcastle FWG
September 1992

The Hon. Paul Keating MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Prime Minister

**RESPONSE TO YOUR GOVERNMENT'S
DRAFT NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT**

This Draft National Forest Policy, prepared by officials from wood extraction government agencies, is no more than a prescription for continued and unnecessary native forest destruction. Australians want their forests and their wood and this can be achieved by the Commonwealth enforcing a national policy which is in the interests of the national environment, society and economy.

The current draft does not achieve this end and hence, deserves to be abandoned immediately lest serious criticism gives it unwarranted credibility.

Far from entrenching non-viable commercial wood supply operations in public native forests, a progressive national policy should be aimed at securing commercially viable wood supply from efficiently managed plantations.

The outdated commitment by forest bureaucracies to accommodate industry preference for a cheap resource has already cost Australia an accumulated \$4.5 billion in public sector debt (see Resource Assessment Commission, *Forest and Timber Inquiry Draft Report*, pR3). It is time that national policy was directed towards efficient meeting of market demand through micro-economic reform, subsidy removal and market education.

The key policy settings necessary for effective management of our forests are few and simple:

1. The ongoing subsidising of wood extraction from native forests should be abandoned in favour of ensuring the use of plantations for wood supply.

Plantations are much more productive in terms of mass of usable wood produced per hectare per year compared to native forest. Therefore, it is unnecessary and costly to attempt to establish commercially viable management regimes for wood supply from native forests.

Figures released by the Victorian Department of Conservation and Environment (DCE) on the first report on native forest logging operations on the mainland, show that native forests are logged at a loss. Conversely the same figures show that DCE's softwood plantations run at a healthy profit. (*Commercial Accounts for the State Hardwood Forests and Softwood Plantations*, DCE, June 1992, Ferguson I.J. and Houghton K.A.)

2. Plantations, harvested at economically optimal ages of 12 to 22 years of age, are technically and economically more attractive to pulpmills as a source of both softwood and hardwood fibre. This is especially true for new mills using modern technology.

Judy Clark (*The Future for Native Forest Logging in Australia*, 1992) predicts that Australia can be totally self sufficient in the production of paper fibre by 1995, using only softwood and hardwood plantation pulpwood, residues from plantation based sawmills and increased paper recycling.

The ability to exploit gains in both volume and quality yield through technological advances of plantation material is essential to maintain a productivity advantage and thus economic viability. Conversely native forest woodchip suppliers can only retain competition by relying more and more on public subsidies. This is contrary to Federal government policy in all other industry sectors.

3. Softwood timber, harvested from plantations aged 25 to 40 years, is capable of substituting for the vast majority of uses currently met from native forests logging.

In South Australia, for instance which has no native forest logging industry, 91% of all timber consumed in the building and construction industry is softwoods from plantations. In Tasmania and Western Australia, the figure is only about 37% and 20% respectively. (Clark, 1992)

Supply and quality considerations will ensure that softwoods enjoy a growing price advantage over hardwoods in the construction market, making it cheaper and easier to build a house out of softwood. This is the area where real social benefit can be delivered to ordinary Australians by a national forest policy.

The continued use of native forest for woodchip production oriented to the export pulp market is not economically feasible anywhere on the Australian mainland as the timber resource simply does not exist. (RAC, *Forest and Timber Inquiry Final Report*, 1992, plii)

4. Native forests should be managed to maintain their nature conservation value. Apart from the obvious environmental and social values of the maintenance of the native forest estate, they also represent a very important economic resource when not destroyed for wood values.

Firstly, tourism is a most appropriate commercial use of 'multiple use' native forests when it is designed to be compatible with nature conservation. It is also the most effective employer of lesser and semi-skilled people in remote areas (where the need is greatest) and the most efficient earner of foreign exchange.

Secondly, in a recent study commissioned by the Victorian Minister for Water Resources, it was shown that the economic value of water production from native forests has been considerably impacted upon by logging, which reduced catchment stream flow by as much as 50%. It was found that a total cessation to logging in Melbourne Thomson Catchment will have significant benefits for Melbourne water supply relative to the status quo with a net present value of \$147 million over current arrangements. (*Evaluation of the Economic values of Wood and Water Outputs for the Thomson Catchment*, 1992, Read Sturgess and Associates)

Thirdly, the role of forests and all forms of native vegetation in maintenance of soil and water values has always been well known. Unfortunately, the costs of native vegetation loss and degradation in terms of soil erosion, salinity, flooding and drought are only now being fully appreciated by national decision-makers. The National Plantation Advisory Committee confirmed that further clearing was unnecessary as there is abundant cleared land available for plantations.

5. Native forests are a vital component of Australia's biodiversity and it is extremely important that they, and our other remaining natural vegetation types are managed to maintain their biodiversity.

Australia has a poor record in protecting its plants and animals from extinction. The more fragile arid and semi-arid ecosystems have suffered the worst but it is important to appreciate that, if present trends of forest destruction and degradation continue, native forests will also lose the capacity to sustain populations of animals and plants. This is already true of drier forests and woodlands which have borne the brunt of clearance for settlement. Large scale woodchipping operations have now extended that threat to all forest types.

It is vital that woodchipping be abandoned as an unsustainable use of native forests and a use which is inconsistent with management for nature conservation.

Similarly, strong wilderness legislation, threatened species legislation and a biodiversity strategy are needed as a matter of urgency to ensure that government resources can be effectively targeted to; arrest Australia's shameful record on species extinction; and lead the recovery of threatened species.

The Draft Policy fundamentally fails to address biodiversity protection with conservation goals being qualified and voluntary, environmental protection measures given no workable frameworks or timelines and no commitment exists for the immediate protection of old growth, wilderness and high conservation value forests.

As RAC says "It is not feasible to log old growth forests.... and yet retain their full complement of old growth attributes and values.... Logging of old growth forests potentially violates the precautionary principle of sustainable development.... the values associated with pristine attributes cannot be replaced." (RAC, Final Report (xxxvi)).

6. The people of Australia want all their native forests protected, and they want wood and paper products as well. The Draft National Forest Policy defeats both these goals.

It is no longer necessary to log any native forests. Complete self sufficiency in both the sawn timber and pulp and paper sectors can be achieved, solely from plantation resource, by 1995 at the latest. (Clark 1992)

In summary, the move forward for a national forest policy must be to address the fundamental issues raised above.

It needs to be taken back to first principles which would be reflected by a two-pronged approach to a national forest strategy:

1. A Native Forest Protection Policy which will protect all the biodiversity, wilderness and aesthetic qualities of Australia's remaining native forests. It would include the immediate cessation of logging in high conservation value forests, the identification of areas requiring further study over which moratoria would apply and the timetable for the eventual transition of all logging to alternative plantation sources.

2. A Wood Production Strategy based on existing and additional plantations on already cleared land. This can also encompass programmes aimed at land regeneration eg one billion trees.

Such an approach would provide for job growth, meet Australia's timber needs and protect Australia's unique native forest heritage.

Without these substantial changes in the direction of government policy, we can have no confidence in the outcome.

Yours sincerely

National

Patricia Caswell
Executive Director
Australian Conservation Foundation
20,000 members + 80,000 supporters

Anne Forsythe
National Officer
Australian National Parks Council
15,000 members

Karenne Jurd
Director
The Wilderness Society
17,000 members + 85,000 supporters

Australian Capital Territory

Jacqueline Rees
President
Conservation Council of the S.E. Region and
Canberra
9000 members representing 42 Groups:

ACT Herpetological Association
Albury Wodonga Environment Centre
Alpine Conservation Network
Animal Liberation (ACT)
Aust. Assoc. for Environmental Education, ACT
Australian Conservation Foundation, Canberra
Australian's for a Ecologically Sustainable
Population

Bermagui Environment Group
Braidwood Environment Group
Canberra and Region VFT Action Group
Canberra Archeological Society
Canberra Bushwalking Club
Canberra Organic Growers
Canberra Ornithologists Group
Canberra and South East Region Environment
Centre
Coastwatchers Association
Energy Alliance
Environment Network Centre
Field Naturalists Association of Canberra

Friends of Durras
Friends of Ingalba
Goulburn Field Naturalists Society
Gulaga Mt. Dromedary Protection Group
Jervis Bay Protection Committee
Kiley's Run Preservation Society
Kosciusko Huts Association
Monaro Conservation Society
Movement Against Uranium Mining
Mt. Jerrabomberra Preservation society
National Parks Association ACT
National Trust of Australia (ACT)

New South Wales

Armidale Environment Centre
50 members

Alex Colley
The Secretary
The Colong Foundation for Wilderness NSW
130 members

Franklin Scarf
Convenor
The Earth Repair Foundation
500 members

The Forest Federation
Wauchope NSW

Ku-ring-gai Bushland and Environment
Society
200 members

Eddie Eulvids
President
Nimbin Environment Centre Inc.
98 members

Society for Growing Australian Plants
(NSW) Ltd. (SGAP)
2,500 members, 24 branches

National Trust of Australia (NSW), Yass
branch
Nutrition Society - Food Co-operative
Pedal Power
Society for Growing Australian Plants, ACT
South East Forest Conservation Council
Tantawangalo Catchment Protection Association
West Belconnen Residents Action Group
Westbourne Woods Action Association
Wilderness Society ACT Branch
Women and Environment Network
Yowaka Egan Peaks Association

Central Coast Environment Council
60 members

Concord, Burwood and District Peace and
Environment Groups
50 members

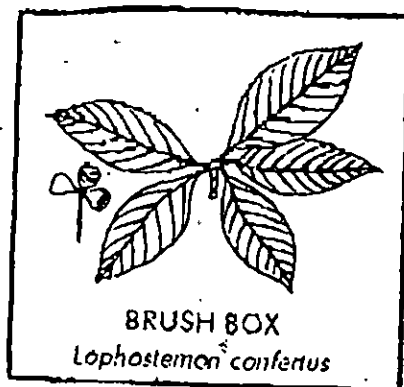
Bruce Dover
Convenor
Forest Campaign Group
450 members

Great Lakes Environment Assoc. Inc. (NSW)
50 members

Lower Blue Mountains
Conservation Council
52 members

Christopher Sheed
Oxygen Farm Assoc. Inc.
35 members

Helmut Airmann
Wingham Forest Action
65 members



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- 'The Big Scrub' Environment Centre Inc.
149 Keen Street, Lismore, 2480.
Phone 066 213 278 Fax 066 222 676

MEDIA RELEASE - SEPTEMBER 29, 1994

WILD CATTLE CREEK LOGGING PROTESTS TO ESCALATE AS RICHARD JONES MLC VISITS AREA FRIDAY

"Many North East Forest Alliance supporters will gather tomorrow at Wild Cattle Creek for noontime ceremonies and speakers in protest against the continued destruction of this precious old growth forest. Some may choose to place themselves in an arrestable position by setting out into this "closed" public forest in an attempt to see these ancient trees, some of which were seedlings at the time of Christ, before they are destroyed," according to NEFA spokesperson Lyn Orrego.

"Mr Richard Jones MLC will attend and speak to the gathering. Anyone concerned about the logging of our old growth forests is welcome. Families and children are expected. There will also be eulogies for the forest and a flag ceremony designed to remind people of the respect for the land which our original inhabitants had.

"NEFA has vowed to continue its campaign to stop the Fahey government from destroying the public's high conservation value old growth forests. State Forests own figures show they are logging NSW's old growth forests at a rate of 60 hectares a day. This shows wanton disregard for the majority of the public who wish old growth forests to be protected.

"Cpt 579 in Wild Cattle Creek has been documented by expert government department reports as being both old growth and of high conservation value. Despite these reports being before the Minister for Forests, Mr Souris, he still endorsed the logging and even contradicted the expert reports in his statements to the public.

"This is a willful breach of the National Forest Policy Statement. NEFA, earlier this week, called for Mr Souris to resign. We are now calling on Mr Fahey to censure him, stop the logging of old growth at Wild Cattle Creek and reaffirm his commitment to the National Forest Policy. It was Mr Fahey who signed the policy in December 1992. How much is Mr Faheys word worth, we ask.

"Old growth forests have a far greater value than for a one off timber cut. After four years of drought we might better understand the need to keep old growth which is responsible for yielding larger amounts of water to streams than regrowth forests. Our growing coastal communities need this water. The governments actions in targetting high conservation value water-producing forests is crazy, even in economic terms." she said.

For further info: Lyn Orrego (065) 647478 or 647808
Dailan Pugh (066) 882268



September 30, 1994
NEWS RELEASE

CARR SUPPORTS LABOR POLICY INSTEAD OF PROTECTION FOR NATIONAL PARKS

Carr's vote reveals support for mining in national parks

NSW Environment Minister Chris Hartcher today called on Bob Carr to stop supporting Labor policy which will see mining in national parks and start supporting the proper conservation of national parks.

Mr Hartcher said Carr's actions at the ALP conference show he is supporting the possible mining of national parks.

"Bob Carr's vote at the Labor conference swung the decision to open up our national parks to mining activity," Mr Hartcher said.

"The vote was 51 to 50, if Carr's vote had opposed mining in national parks the motion would have been defeated 50 to 51 and it would not be ALP policy to allow mineral exploration in national parks.

"Exploration is the foot in the door for mining in national parks.

"If Bob Carr has his way there may be oil rigs in Royal National Park and an open cut mine in Ku-ring-gal."

Mr Hartcher condemned the ALP conference for supporting the motion to allow mining activity in national parks.

He said the NSW Liberal-National Government's stance on the issue was clear - the Government passed the National Parks and Wildlife (Mining Prohibition) Amendment Act 1990 to specifically outlaw exploration or mining in national parks.

"Bob Carr has to take a stand. Carr tells the party one thing and the public something else but he should state once and for all what he really puts first - our national parks or Labor policy.

"Even Carr's own colleagues have condemned his actions and the ALP policy.

"Opposition environment spokeswoman Pam Allan said even conservative Governments would not expose protected areas to mining exploration, and she's right - we wouldn't but obviously Carr and Labor would.

"National parks are above party politics, Carr should tell the people of NSW if he supports the conservation of national parks or he supports Labor policy."

Media contact:

Nicholas Harford

(02) 233 4044 or 018 245 318



Bob Carr M.P.
Leader of the Opposition

30 September, 1994.

NO MINING OR EXPLORATION IN NATIONAL PARKS

A Carr Labor Government will enforce a total ban on mining and minerals exploration in national parks, Opposition Leader, Mr Bob Carr, said today.

Mr Carr said it was longstanding State ALP policy to protect national parks from mining.

He said State Labor had a proud record of increasing the national park estate by 100 percent and was not prepared to sacrifice these gains.

"Mining or mining exploration in national parks will never be permitted under a Carr Labor Government.

"This is consistent with our approach in Government when State Cabinet under Neville Wran banned mining in national parks and stopped sandmining in parks on the North Coast.

"Any policy changes made Federally will have absolutely no bearing on State Labor's environment policy.

"In fact we remain committed to our plan to establish 20 new national parks in our first year of office.

"The State Opposition was successful in torpedoing the Coalitions Natural Resources Management Package which was aimed at reopen mining in national parks.

"National parks are established to protect sensitive areas for the enjoyment of the community and to protect bio-diversity.

"There are plenty of mining opportunities outside the national park estate without the need to compromise protected areas", Mr Carr said.

ANN:
SID WALKER
247 15945

Dailan Pugh
Repentance Creek Road
Rosebank, NSW, 2480
Phone 066 882268, fax 882248
30 September 1994

The Hon. George Souris
Minister for Land and Water Conservation
Fax 02 2283801

Dear George,

I find my position on the Forest Policy Advisory Committee severely compromised by your stance on compartment 579 Wild Cattle Creek State Forest. You refuse to admit that this compartment contains oldgrowth forest despite an independent report by Mr. Kim Ritman (CaLM) and advice from Mr. Halkett (OoF) that there is no doubt it is oldgrowth forest.

This question was the subject of dispute mediation talks between NEFA, State Forests and the timber industry. To resolve the debate on this point all parties agreed to obtaining an independent expert in oldgrowth forest identification. Mr. Kim Ritman was agreed to be mutually acceptable.

Mr. Warwick Watkins (CaLM) and Mr. John Halkett (OoF) agreed to the services of Mr. Ritman (CaLM, LIC) being provided. After some delay on behalf of State Forests the site inspection by Mr. Ritman finally took place. He used his ground inspections plus aerial photographs to clearly identify the Brush Box and Tallowood-Blue Gum forest in the compartment as oldgrowth forest (except where the road had been pushed through and where recent logging had occurred).

The Forest Policy Advisory Committee has considered this issue on a number of occasions and accepted that the definition and delineation of oldgrowth forest is a key issue for our consideration.

It is apparent from your stance that it is pointless for groups like NEFA to waste time on dispute mediation processes with State Forests because neither State Forests nor you will accept the umpires decision. It is equally evident that there is no point in trying to progress issues such as oldgrowth forest identification through the FPAC because no matter what we resolve you will ignore it.

The National Forest Policy Statement is the only forest policy that NSW has. I can see no value in wasting my time and money on the FPAC if the only policy that exists is flouted and if you refuse to accept an independent person's advice. Apparently there is no point in trying to reach consensus on issues, resolve disputes and provide advice to you because you will just ignore it and revert to the original biased position.

If you are not prepared to admit that compartment 579 contains oldgrowth forest and that the NPWS has identified it as high conservation value what is the point in dispute mediation and the FPAC? Unless I receive some truthful admissions from you, with acknowledgement that compartment 579 contains oldgrowth forest (as independently verified) which the NPWS has identified as of high

conservation value then you will prove that dispute mediation with your agencies is a waste of time and that the FPAC and OoF are farcical.

You have also stated that an EIS has been prepared for the area, yet the EIS required under the TI(IP) Act by the 31 October 1992 still has not been prepared. How can you maintain that an EIS has been prepared or the EPA Act complied with?

I expect that given the considerable time and money I have personally put into trying to make your initiative, FPAC, work and be a worthwhile process you will do me the courtesy of urgently and fully responding to my concerns. Please fax your response to me a.s.a.p.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Pugh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dailan Pugh



NEW SOUTH WALES

MINISTER FOR
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION

30 SEP 1994

Mr Dailan Pugh
Repentance Creek Road
ROSEBANK NSW 2480

Dear Dailan

Thank you for your letter of 30 September regarding harvesting in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest.

I agree that the definition and delineation of old growth forests remains a difficult issue.

This area must be viewed in context - substantial areas of State Forest within the Dorrigo Management Area are currently under TIIP Act moratorium pending the EIS determination and that there are extensive areas of forest permanently reserved in the National Park system.

You should be aware that the National Forest Policy Statement states at page 16:

"Australia will continue to use old-growth timber for many years. It will come from disturbed forests containing some old growth trees..".

Given that Compartment 579 has a history of logging dating from 1925 it appears to fully meet this criteria. It is also covered by relevant harvesting approvals.

In all fairness then I could not endorse your view that the current harvesting operation in Compartment 579 is in breach of the NFPS.

You also refer to a statement from me to the effect that an EIS has been prepared for the area, as you would be well aware the modified EIS process is still under way.

I thank you for drawing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'George Souris'.

George Souris MP



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

SYDNEY: NSW Environment Centre, 39 George St, The Rocks, 2000. Ph. 02 2474 206, Fx 02 2475 945
LISMORE: The Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc, 149 Kean St, Lismore, 2480. Ph 066 213 278, Fx 066 222 676

Media Release Monday 26 September 1994

Suspend Contracts and apologise to Dorrigo, NEFA tells Souris

The people of Dorrigo deserve an apology from the Minister for Land and Water Conservation, George Souris, for the situation at Wild Cattle Ck according to NEFA spokesperson, Mr Aidan Ricketts.

"The timber being removed at Wild Cattle Ck is being taken off the plateau to Boral's Mill at South Grafton. Dorrigo gains no benefit from the logging operation because State Forests are already overcommitted to Boral under "Long Term Wood Supply Contracts", Mr Ricketts said

Under the Long Term Wood Supply Contracts, State Forests has promised Boral access to far greater amounts of timber than either the industry or the forests can sustain. If for any reason the timber is unavailable, Boral can sue State Forests.

"The promised timber simply doesn't exist and the contracts will only lead to the closure of many family owned mills and to costly compensation pay outs to Boral," Mr Ricketts said.

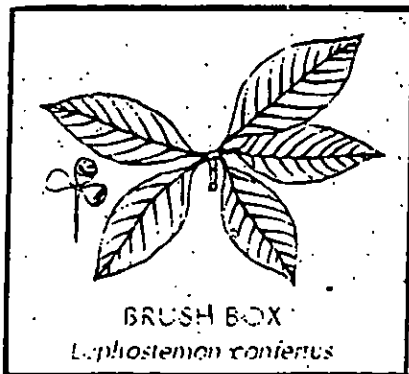
"The Long Term Wood Supply Contracts have pre-empted all of the EISs, and are in breach of NSW obligations under the National Forest Policy", Mr Ricketts said

NEFA again calls upon Mr Souris to suspend these contracts. There is no doubt he has the power to do so. NEFA has obtained legal advice that whilst these contracts may bind State Forests, they do not bind the Government.

"Every day that Mr Souris leaves these contracts in place is another day he abandons the old growth forests, the people of Dorrigo and the general public in favour of corporate monopoly. Mr Souris is bungling the issue if he does not suspend the contracts," Mr Ricketts said.

The Wild Cattle Ck blockade is set to intensify on Monday morning following swelling of numbers to over the weekend. There will be about 70 people inside the compartment on Monday morning aiming to prevent the recommencement of logging.

For more information or blockade updates
contact Aidan Ricketts ph 066 333 292.



N.E.F.A.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

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Phone 066 213 278 Fax 066 222 676

NEWS RELEASE - 30 September 1994

ARRESTS STOPS LOGGING TODAY in WILD CATTLE CK SF

30 people including Australian Democrat MLC, Mr Richard Jones, were today arrested in Compartment 579 of Wild Cattle Ck State Forest, 25 kms north of Dorrigo, in NEFA's ongoing protests of logging of high conservation 'old growth' forest in breach of the National Forest Policy Statement, said NEFA spokesperson Mr Dailan Pugh.

Mr Pugh said that 100 people had assembled peacefully at the boundary of the 'closed' forest and requested permission to enter the forest to inspect the forest and the logging works underway. He said that when permission to enter was refused by State Forests, 30 people entered the forest in protest and were arrested. He said that he understood that a Channel 10 camera operator was among those arrested.

"No work occurred today, following the occupation of a tripod by a young woman protestor. When police told this protestor that there would be no work that day she abandoned the tripod, having achieved her goal," Mr Pugh said.

"Given that there was no logging occurring in the compartment, why was permission to enter the 'closed' forest denied by State Forests? What have they to hide except the shocking truth of the destruction of this grand and ancient forest?" he said.

Mr Pugh said that a number of those arrested, including Mr Richard Jones, would immediately commence hunger strikes, joining a national network of people 'fasting for the forest' in solidarity with Mr Brooke Watson 45, who is in day 17 of a hunger strike in front of NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney.

He said that other arrestees would refuse bail conditions which prohibited them returning to the protest site, escalating the dispute.

"We are going to protest, obstruct and be arrested until this mad, immoral logging ends. We intend to carry our protest into the Local courts and courts of appeal since the Timber Industry Interim Protection Act has robbed us of the ability to challenge this destruction in the Land & Environment Court," he said.

...ends.

For more information please phone Mr Dailan Pugh 066 88 2268 h; or NEFA's mobile phone at the protest 018 672 044; or Cr Lyn Orrego 065 647 478 h.

*4-3 kms
all night*

The Hon Richard Jones MLC

Australian Democrat Member of the NSW Legislative Council

AUSTRALIAN
DEMOCRATS

Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney 2000. Ph: 230 2858 Fx: 230 2871

30 September 1994

Parliamentarian Arrested

At 1.15pm, at Wild Cattle Creek near North Dorrigo, Democrat Richard Jones MLC was arrested and is expected to be charged with "entering a closed forest", said Democrat Richard Jones' researcher Jeffrey Meikle.

37 other adults were also arrested, with the protest set to continue over the long weekend. The protesters case will be heard in the Bellingen Court at a later date.

Democrat Richard Jones MLC today visited the proposed Wild Cattle Creek Flora Reserve, which incorporates all of Compartments 579 and parts of 575, 576 and 578 within Wild Cattle Creek State Forest, to see for himself the conservation value of this area.

"The Precautionary Principle needs to be applied to the current logging operations in this area," said Democrat Richard Jones, MLC.

"NSW Land and Water Conservation Minister, George Souris stated in a press release, 22nd September 1994;

"...there is absolutely no basis to any claims that this area should be reserved."

and yet his own Department of Conservation and Land Management stated in its "Report on the Assessment of Old Growth Forest Attributes in Dorrigo District Compartments 562 and 579 (Wednesday 7th September) that;

"The majority of the compartment [579] is characterised by significant proportions of senescing growth stages that show negligible disturbance in both the overstorey and understorey. These areas qualify as Old Growth Forest under both the CNR and NFPS definitions."

"The National Parks & Wildlife Service also stated;

"This area provides an ideal opportunity for a large unlogged forest reserve in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest. Consistent with the National Forest Policy Statement, forest activities must be excluded from this area of old growth forest as it has recognised high conservation values, including rainforest, and inadequately conserved plant communities and is likely to contain rare and endangered species."

"Obviously someone has got it wrong. One needs only look to the recent censure motion to figure out who that is," concluded Richard Jones.

For further information please contact Richard Jones on (02) 230 2858.

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



**COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

MEMORANDUM



To: Members, Forestry Policy Advisory Committee

From: Director, Office of Forestry

Date: 28th October 1994

Subject: REPORT ON NSW POSITION: CONSERVATION ACTION:
NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT

The National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) was signed on 7th December 1992 by the Prime Minister and all mainland State Premiers and Territory Chief Ministers.

The NFPS was a response to the recommendations of a number of enquiries which have been undertaken in recent years. These include the Ecologically Sustainable Development Working Group on Forest Use, the Resource Assessment Commission and the National Plantations Advisory Committee.

The NFPS establishes a policy framework which attempts to balance the competing demands placed on our forests - the demand for their protection and conservation and the demand for their sustainable utilisation.

Two Ministerial Councils are responsible for the policy and its implementation. The Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) and the Ministerial Council on Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture (MCFFA, formerly the Australian Forestry Council).

A joint sub-committee has been established to report to governments on the progress made in implementing the NFPS. This sub-committee called the Joint ANZECC/MCFFA NFPS Implementation Sub-committee, or JANIS, and is made up of representatives of the two Ministerial Councils. Tasmania participates as an observer.

The NFPS has eleven major goals covering forest use and protection. These are related to:

- Conservation
- Wood production and industry development
- Integrated and co-ordinated decision-making and management
- Private native forests
- Plantations

- Water supply and catchment
- Tourism and other economic and social opportunities
- Employment, workforce education and training
- Public Awareness, Education and Involvement
- Research and development
- International responsibilities

At the July meeting of the Forestry Policy Advisory Committee (FPAC), it was agreed that there would be merit in preparing a report on NSW's progress in implementing the NFPS prescriptions.

This matter was again discussed at the September meeting at which time it was agreed that the report being prepared should be limited to the actions identified under the conservation goals set out in the NFPS.

Accordingly, the Office of Forestry has prepared the attached report, extracting the action items from the section of the NFPS "4.1 Conservation" and endeavouring to report the State's position against these items.

The report has been prepared in tabular form to enable the "Current Situation" to be contrasted with the "Prescribed Action" set out in the NFPS.

The report was prepared on the basis of available information and has not been circulated to responsible agencies for input or confirmation although some discussion with agencies has taken place.

Although the report has been prepared for the information of FPAC members and is not marked confidential. It should be noted, however, that the report is qualified by the fact that it represents the Office of Forestry's view on the implementation of the conservation prescriptions of the NFPS and as such does not purport to reflect a whole-of-Government position.

for sacken

JOHN HALKETT
Director

REPORT ON NSW PROGRESS WITH "CONSERVATION" ACTION ITEMS
ARISING FROM THE NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT

**Report prepared by Office of Forestry for the information of
Members of the Forestry Policy Advisory Committee**

27th October 1994

Nature conservation and wilderness reserve system	
Prescribed Action	Current Situation
<p>It is important that Australia has a comprehensive, adequate and representative network of dedicated and secure nature conservation reserves for forests and reserves for protecting wilderness. Some State Governments have already made significant progress towards this goal. The Governments agree to review the appropriateness of the existing reserve system to determine any further action that may be required to complete its development. They agree that the system of reserves should be reviewed and its development completed as a matter of priority. (Section 4.1, page 9)</p>	<p><i>Environmental impact statement/fauna impact statement program being carried out under the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act is, inter alia, considering the adequacy of the existing reserve system.</i></p> <p><i>NSW National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) biodiversity study in the State's north east.</i></p> <p><i>Consideration by the Government of additional areas for declaration as wilderness under the NSW Wilderness Act.</i></p> <p><i>NPWS input to the National Wilderness Inventory.</i></p>
<p>... the Governments will establish a working group of technical experts under a Steering Committee of the Australia and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) and the Ministerial Council for Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture (MCFFA), in consultation as appropriate with other ministerial councils, to make recommendations to the Governments on broad criteria on which the base reserve systems to protect the nature conservation values of forests. (Section 4.1, page 10)</p>	<p><i>NPWS and State Forests of NSW (SFNSW) participation on Reserve Criteria Technical Working Group. Report of working group is imminent.</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progressively developing the nature conservation reserve system and reserves to protect wilderness areas, the Governments will give priority to reserving those forested areas that best meet the criteria adopted jointly by the ministerial councils and endorsed by the Governments. (Section 4.1, page 10) The Governments will provide adequate resources for managing their respective nature conservation reserve systems. (Section 4.1, page 10) The Governments will continue to develop management plans to guide management of reserves to achieve adequate protection of nature conservation and heritage values. The development of the management plans will incorporate community consultation. (Section 4.1, page 11) The Governments will ensure that unique features and heritage values of conservation significance are protected as part of the overall reservation systems. (Section 4.1, page 11) 	<p>Formal identification and reservation of national parks and wilderness areas under the Wilderness Act and National Parks and Wildlife Act.</p> <p>A State forests Revocation and National Parks Reservation Bill will be drafted to create new reserves as proposed under the South East Forests Agreement.</p> <hr/> <p>NPWS budget - \$63 million from consolidated fund in 1994-95, with a further \$27 million for capital works and land acquisitions. Additional revenue available through park-use fees, rents and other charges.</p> <hr/> <p>Ongoing development of management plans for the national park estate and other conservation reserves.</p> <hr/> <p>NPWS research into reserve selection methods.</p> <p>NPWS land acquisition program.</p> <p>Development by NPWS of a comprehensive Natural Heritage Conservation Strategy.</p>
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Strategy to protect old-growth forests and wilderness	
Prescribed Action	Current Situation
<p>The Government's agreed approach to conserving and managing old-growth forests and forested wilderness has five basic elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed criteria for old-growth forests and wilderness will be determined through the working group process already described. (Section 4.1, page 11) • Using those criteria, the relevant State agencies will as a matter of high priority undertake assessments of forests for conservation values, including old-growth values, and of forested land for wilderness values. (Section 4.1, page 11) • Until the assessments are completed, forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value. (Section 4.1, page 11) 	<p>NSW participation on the working group.</p> <p>Joint SFNSW/NPWS proposal to inventory old growth in NE NSW under the aegis of the Natural Resources Audit Council (NRAC) has commenced.</p> <p>Program of EIS/FIS established under the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act.</p> <p>The Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act places a moratorium on logging in old growth forests identified in the Government's 1990 Old Growth Forest Strategy pending the completion and determination by the Minister for Planning of the EIS. This Act also excludes logging from wilderness nominations which had not previously been the subject of an EIS.</p> <p>The Premier recently announced new areas in NSW totalling 113,000 hectares to be gazetted as wilderness.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forested wilderness areas will be protected by means of reserves developed in the broader context of protecting the wilderness values of all lands. For old-growth forest, the nature conservation reserve systems will be the primary means of protection, supported by complementary management outside reserves. The Governments agree that, conditional on satisfactory agreement on criteria by the Commonwealth and the States, the comprehensive, adequate and representative reservation system to protect old-growth forest and wilderness values will be in place by the end of 1995. (Section 4.1, page 11) The Governments have agreed that their objective is to complete, to the extent feasible, the inclusion of any private forested land in the reservation network by 1998. (Section 4.1, page 12) The relevant management agencies will develop management plans to appropriately protect old-growth forest and wilderness values. (Section 4.1, page 12) 	<p>Assessment of forests for the reserve system conditional upon Governments agreeing to the yet to be finalised reserve assessment criteria.</p> <hr/> <p>Subject to land being offered for sale and funding being available. Recent funding enhancement to NPWS should assist in this area.</p> <hr/> <p>Statutory management plans for NPWS reserves are to incorporate measures to protect these values.</p> <p>SFNSW is reviewing management plans for State Forests as a result of the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act EIS/FIS process.</p>
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Ecologically sustainable forest management and codes of practice	
Prescribed Action	Current Situation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... The State Governments will undertake continuing research and long-term monitoring so that adverse impacts that may arise can be detected and redressed through revised codes of practice and management plans. (Section 4.1, page 12) 	<p><i>Feedback through joint arrangements between SFSW and other relevant government agencies.</i></p>
<p>The Governments agree that the MCFFA's set of national principles of forest practices related to wood production in native forests should be applied to all public and private native forests in Australia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Governments will ensure that, for public native forests, existing or new codes of practice are developed so as to conform with the MCFFA's national principles. The codes are to apply to all commercial and high-impact non-commercial uses of public forests. They will be supported by effective prescriptions for non-commercial uses in these forests. They will also apply to conservation reserves in forests and unallocated or leased Crown lands that are forested, with the aim of ensuring that activities in these areas do not adversely affect the forests' ecological basis. (Section 4.1, page 13) ... The State Governments will regularly review and revise the codes of practice in light of improved knowledge of ecologically sustainable management and with appropriate Industry and community consultation. (Section 4.1, page 13) 	<p><i>Development and review of codes of practice required under SFSW 1992-95 Corporate Plan. A code of logging practice for native forests has been developed by SFSW as part of a comprehensive code of forest practice.</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCFFA and ANZECC will establish a joint subcommittee on forest use and management to develop consistent nationwide baseline environmental standards. These will be put to Governments for endorsement, and met through the codes of practice. (Section 4.1, page 13) • The State Governments will ensure that there is effective auditing of and compliance with codes of practice. (Section 4.1, page 13) 	<p><i>SFNSW and NPWS represented on the technical working group on forest use and management which is now about to report on its work to date.</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Audit Branch of SFNSW was reorganised in October 1992 to include auditing of compliance with codes of practice and operational procedures.</i></p>
<p>The Governments agree that it is desirable to maintain and protect the extent and ecological integrity of native forests on public land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accordingly, the Governments will adopt the policy that further clearing of public native forests for non-forest use or plantation establishment will be avoided or limited, consistent with ecologically sustainable management, to those instances in which regional conservation and catchment management objectives are not compromised. (Section 4.1, page 13) • State Governments will seek to ensure that local governments and other authorities with designated responsibility for management of public lands adopt policies consistent with this approach to land clearing and codes of practice. Section 4.1, page 13) 	<hr/> <p><i>Current SFNSW plantation activity both in state forests and on privately-owned land (joint venture arrangements) is carried out in accordance with this prescription.</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CaLM) administers the Crown land assessment process established under the Crown Lands Act which ensures both environmental and economic considerations are taken into account when determining Crown land use.</i></p> <p><i>Designation of protected lands under the Soil Conservation Act imposes controls on clearing of environmentally sensitive land administered by the Protected Lands Unit of CaLM.</i></p>

	<p>The Department of Planning (DoP) is responsible for advising its Minister on the endorsement of local council prepared Local Environment Plans. In so doing, the DoP is required to consider both economic and environmental factors.</p>
<p>The Governments recognise that sustainable management of private native forests will be facilitated if landowners view these forests as long-term assets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable management of private native forests will be encouraged through a combination of measures that may include dissemination of information about and technical support for forest management, education programs, conservation incentives, land-clearing controls, harvesting controls, and codes of forest practice. (Section 4.1, page 13) 	<p>This is part of an ongoing program by SFNSW. Other relevant initiatives include CaLM's programs under Landcare, TCM, Trees on Farms and the Tree Forum.</p>
<p>About 11.2 million hectares of publicly owned native forest estate are either unallocated or occupied under lease and may contain such forest types as dry sclerophyll, cypress pine and paperbark, which may be under-represented in the reserve systems or inadequately protected under existing management regimes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Governments will assess the conservation and economic values of these lands and ensure that their management is consistent with ecologically sustainable practices, including codes of harvesting practice and land-clearing constraints. (Section 4.1, page 14) 	<p>Crown land assessments under the Crown Lands Act.</p> <p>EIS/FIS program under the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act.</p> <p>Collection of information on the conservation and economic attributes of all public land by NRAC to assist the Government in forest assessment processes and in decision making on public land use - NRAC has commenced a regional audit of the upper north east of the State.</p> <p>Codes of forest practice, controls on clearing of Crown land.</p>

<p>The Governments acknowledge the inconsistency that can arise in the management of private lands if codes of practice are applied to private forests but are not stipulated for other uses of private lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Governments will seek to encourage complementary management approaches for other uses of private lands. (Section 4.1, page 14) 	<hr/> <p><i>Conservation agreements provided for under the National Parks and Wildlife Act allow for voluntary arrangements between NPWS and private landholders for the protection of environmental values.</i></p> <p><i>Planning controls provide a framework within which private land use is able to be regulated. This framework is designed to account for both environmental and economic factors.</i></p>
<p>In this case of plantations, the Governments have agreed that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the MCFFA, through its Standing Committee on Forestry and in consultation with the Industry and the public, will develop a set of national principles of forest practice for plantations. On the basis of these principles, codes of practice for public and private plantations will be developed and adopted through legislative or non-legislative means. (Section 4.1, page 14) 	<hr/> <p><i>SFNSW has prepared a draft Code of Logging Practice for State forest plantations. This is presently available for public comment prior to finalisation.</i></p>

Improved data collection and analysis	
Prescribed Action	Current Situation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Governments will cooperate to improve the scope and extent of forest databases so that decision making and management are based on the best available information. (Section 4.1, page 14) The National Forest Inventory will continue to be developed. It will be directed by a steering committee representing the Governments. This committee will jointly define information requirements and develop data exchange principles between the Governments and with other databases. Such principles will cover, among other things, custodianship, maintenance and cost recovery. (Section 4.1, page 14) 	<p><i>NSW provides input to the National Wilderness Inventory and National Forest Inventory.</i></p> <p><i>NRAC will collect data on the attributes of public land on a regular basis, including forested public land.</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Using NFI funds, NPWS is cooperatively digitising forest type, logging history and fire history maps for the north east of the State.</i></p> <p><i>NSW is involved in discussions, through the NFI, on continental and regional scale forest data and survey techniques for old growth and wilderness.</i></p>

- Forest management plans will identify priorities and cover the range of actions to deal with threats to forests. (Section 4.1, page 14)
- The Governments will continue to work together to ensure that quarantine measures minimise the risk of the introduction or movement of plant diseases and pests. (Section 4.1, page 14)
- Through the MCFFA and ANZECC and in conjunction with the Australian Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Council, the Governments will develop strict guidelines for the use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals in native forests and plantations. These guidelines will be reflected in codes of forest and plantation practice. (Section 4.1, page 15)
- Forest management agencies will monitor and appropriately control the threat to publicly owned native forest ecosystems posed by feral animals, exotic plants, pests and diseases.
- ...MCFFA and ANZECC will continue to work with other ministerial council and other relevant bodies in developing the National Weeds Strategy and the National Strategies for the Management of vertebrate Pests.
- ...Forest management agencies will adopt the principles and implement the relevant policies of these agreed strategies. (Section 4.1, page 15)

All State Forests, most national parks and nature reserves are covered by management plans that address plans of action to counter pest, disease and bushfire threats to NSW forests.

NSW supports and is committed to carrying out quarantine operations for and on behalf of the Commonwealth. NSW is also committed to inter-State and intra-State quarantine where appropriate.

Complied with.

Consistent with the National Strategy on the Management of Vertebrate Pests, regional strategic plans for vertebrate pest control are being developed by Rural Lands Protection Boards, in consultation with land holders and State and local Government officials. Whilst the final draft of the National Weeds Strategy has yet to be endorsed, NSW has revised its Noxious Weeds Act (July 1993) and is undertaking training to ensure familiarisation with the operation of the new Act.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest management agencies will cooperate with private landowners in developing and implementing measures to protect adjacent public and private forested lands from harmful diseases, weeds and feral animals. (Section 4.1, page 15) 	<p>Forested lands are protected from diseases, weeds and feral animals by various NSW status i.e. Rural Lands Protection Act, Noxious Weeds Act, Pesticides Act. In November 1992, NSW convened a Feral Animal Summit to address issues on the control and eradication and feral animals.</p>
<p>Regardless of whether a forested area is in a conservation reserve or is being managed for wood production and other commercial uses, management of fire will be necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest management agencies and rural communities will develop and implement fire management plans aimed at reducing the risk of wildfires. (Section 4.1, page 15) 	<hr/> <p>NSW agencies fully participate in the development of fire management strategies.</p>



MINISTER FOR THE ARTS, SPORT, THE ENVIRONMENT
AND TERRITORIES

Hon. Ros Kelly M.P.

Phone: (06) 277 7640
Facsimile: (06) 273 4130

The Hon Garry West MP
Minister for Forests
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr West *Garry*

The National Forest Policy Statement (NPPS) signed by all Governments except Tasmania has a number of important conservation initiatives requiring immediate action.

Most important is the development of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of reserves, including reserves to protect old-growth forest and wilderness. As part of the Strategy to protect the values found in old-growth forests and wilderness Governments have agreed to 'avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have a high conservation value'.

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Specific areas of high conservation value old-growth forest and wilderness considered by my portfolio to require interim protection until the reserve system is established are attached.

I would appreciate specific information on your proposed actions to ensure that areas of high conservation value are not lost before a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system is in place.

Could you please inform me of actions you intend to take to implement the National Forest Policy Statement commitments in this area, including specific actions on the areas on the attached list.

Yours sincerely

ROS KELLY

Quality in Life



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PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

New South Wales

South-east

Coolangubra Area

North Rockton State Forest

Coolangubra State Forest

Bondi State Forest

Nalbaugh State Forest

Genoa Area

part Bondi (see above)

part Yambulla State Forest

Nadgee Area

Merrica River catchment

catchment areas for Nadgee Nature Reserve

Brogo Area

Bemboka State Forest

and other State forests including

Cathcart State Forest

part Nullica State Forest

Tantawangalo State Forest

part Blenbog State Forest

Murrabrine State Forest

Yuramine State Forest

part Mumbulla State Forest

Tanja State Forest

part Timbillica State Forest

North-east

Barrington Tops - Gloucester

Stewart Brooks State Forest

Barrington Tops State Forest

Blackbutt Plateau - Murwillumbah

Nullum State Forest

Duck Creek - Urbenville

Richmond Range State Forest

Yabbra State Forest

Casino West

Washpool State Forest

Billimbra State Forest

Mount Marsh State Forest

Cungiebung - Grafton

Dalmorton State Forest

Chaelundi - Dorrig

Chaelundi State Forest

Chichester

Mount Royal State Forest

Chichester State Forest

Davis Creek - Mount Royal

Mount Royal State Forest

Dorrig

Wild Cattle Creek State Forest

Bielsdown State Forest

Chaelundi State Forest

Grafton

Dalmorton State Forest

Kempsey

Mistake State Forest

Carrai State Forest

Pee-Dee State Forest

Nulla-Five Day State Forest

Styx River State Forest

Lower Creek State Forest

Crwn lands in the Parishes of Dudley, Panton, Warbo and Willi
Willi, County of Dudley

London Bridge - Glen Innes

Warra State Forest

Oakwood State Forest

Glen Nevis State Forest

London Bridge State Forest

Curramore State Forest

Reserve from Sale for Timber No. 55288

Mount Marsh - Casino West

Mount Marsh State Forest

Tenterfield

Forest Land State Forest

Jenner State Forest

Boorook State Forest

Boonoo State Forest

Girard State Forest

Spirabo State Forest

Little Spirabo State Forest

Urunga

Oakes State Forest

Walcha-Nundle

Ben Halls Gap State Forest

Nowendoc State Forest

Tuggolo State Forest

Giro State Forest

Riamukka State Forest

Riamukka State Forest

Enfield State Forest

Wauchope

Mount Boss State Forest

Ballengara State Forest

Doyles River State Forest

Wingham

Enfield State Forest

Bulga State Forest

Doyle River State Forest

Dingo State Forest

Knorrit State Forest

John



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Wingham

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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



Mrs Ros Kelly,
Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House,
Canberra 2600.

Fri, 18 Dec, 1992

Re: Forest Protection and Forest Policy

Dear Minister,

Thankyou for the opportunity to meet with you in Canberra last week.

The Nature Conservation Council appreciates the effort you put into arguing the case for improved native forest protection during the development of the National Forest Policy Statement. Nevertheless, the Council continues to have major concerns about the document, many of which were conveyed to you at the recent 'peak councils' meeting.

In general, the Council is disappointed that, in signing the NFPS, the Commonwealth Government has missed the opportunity to exercise strong leadership to protect Australia's unique forest ecosystems from misuse at the hands of State agencies and irresponsible corporations. In our view, the Commonwealth has set its environmental goals too low - but we are also fearful that even those goals will not be achieved through the 'co-operative' approach adopted by the Commonwealth in in this and other IGAE documents (such as the National Greenhouse and ESD Strategies also signed in Perth, and the National Waste Minimisation and Recycling Strategy).

The Council is not, of course, opposed to co-operation between the Commonwealth and States per se. Nevertheless, it has long been apparent that ecological issues recognise no borders - and that there is an urgent need for cohesive policies at local, regional, national and global levels to deal with these problems.

The Council does not believe that ecological standards necessary for the maintenance of biodiversity or the life support systems of our planetary society should be subject to veto by parochial interests. In the context of contemporary Australia, we do not believe that any State should be permitted to lower conservation standards below those which the Commonwealth wishes to adopt.

While the Australian Constitution vests primary responsibility for land management with the States, the Council believes that a Commonwealth Government with the requisite political will could enforce high levels of environmental protection throughout Australia. We therefore remain disappointed that the Keating Government continues to edge away from exercising strong leadership on environmental issues of pressing concern, and in this case has signed up to a National Forest Policy which fails to acknowledge explicitly that the Commonwealth has the power, the right and the duty to intervene in order to prevent serious mismanagement of native forests and woodlands.

This is not, of course, a theoretical issue. In NSW at present, high conservation value forests, including areas with exceptional wildlife and wilderness values, are being destroyed at an alarming rate. Recent 'reform' of the State Forestry Commission has been largely cosmetic; it remains, in effect, a captive of and publicist for corporate interests which are largely hostile to native forest conservation. Controls to prevent mismanagement of private forests are ineffective at best.

At the peak councils meeting, you justified signing the signing of the NFPS by pointing to some of its provisions which appear to offer conservationists a basis for hope. In particular, you referred to the section entitled 'Strategy to Protect Old Growth Forests and Wilderness', and to the clause which reads:

"...until the (regional assessments to determine a comprehensive, adequate and representative network of dedicated and secure conservation reserves for forests and reserves for protecting wilderness) are completed, forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value."

The Council notes and appreciates your commitment to write to all State forestry ministers requesting that they respect this pledge, and to provide them with a provisional list of areas which should consequently be subject to a moratorium on logging activities. As you know, despite the very limited amount of time provided for the purpose, a few key NSW conservation groups with a major focus on native forest protection have assisted your Department by supplying information to

provide a starting point for that list in this State. We would greatly appreciate a copy of the letter you send to Mr Gary West, once it has been dispatched.

Nevertheless, the Nature Conservation Council still retains the skepticism which was expressed by conservationists at the peak councils meeting. We wish to know what action the Commonwealth Government will take, in the event that State Governments do not respect your request for a moratorium on new incursions into wilderness or old growth forest pending completion of 'regional assessments'. Will you exercise your full range of powers to over-ride the States - or would you acquiesce to the continued destruction of old growth forests and wilderness?

The Council also seeks your reassurance that the regional assessment process will be governed by ecological principles - and not distorted by a desire to seek the concurrence of State Forest Agencies and the wood and wood products industry. Specifically, we ask for your confirmation of the statement you made at the peak councils meeting that ANZEC will have the dominant role in determining the principles of reserve design, and that the AFC will play a secondary role.

The Council notes that a number of significant last-minute changes were made to the text of the NFPS at the Perth meeting. As Council's representative at the peak councils meeting mentioned, these changes are a major source of concern. For instance, the Foreword now concludes with the words: "We acknowledge that implementation of policies requiring funding will be subject to budgetary priorities and constraints in individual jurisdictions". What confidence can we have that States will not interpret this as an all-encompassing escape clause? If they do, what response will the Commonwealth make?

Other changes which are of major concern occur on page 11 of the document. These appear to legitimize possible future attempts by the States to evade the establishment of a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative reservation system to protect old growth forest and wilderness areas' on public lands by 1995, and to include private lands by 1998. The former is now qualified by the words "conditional on satisfactory agreement on criteria by the Commonwealth and States". The inclusion of private lands in the reserve system is now qualified by the words "preferably with the agreement of landowners" and "to the extent feasible". What confidence can we have that the States will not use these clauses to subvert the process of establishing a comprehensive reserve network - and that the Commonwealth will not allow this to happen?

On the other hand, the NFPS makes provision for native forest 'resource security' for the wood and wood products industry, following the establishment of an agreed reserve system. The Council has long held the view that public forests should not be guaranteed to industry for long periods.

Firstly, management of the public native forest estate should be guided by community values, which continue to evolve rapidly and which increasingly favour conservation over exploitation. Australians in coming years will not thank previous governments for locking in long-term resource contracts (accompanied by compensation clauses) which will limit their ability to adjust forest management practices in the light of new information or further changes in community values.

Secondly, scientific understanding of the consequences of intensive logging activity in native forests is still in its infancy. It is widely recognized that we are not yet in a position to predict with accuracy the impact of current forest management practices on biodiversity and other natural values. Therefore these practices cannot be regarded as long-term - and neither can levels of wood extraction which are based upon them.

Thirdly, there is a clear and quite rapid market trend towards the replacement of wood resource from native forests with plantation-grown resource. 'Resource security' for high-volume wood extraction from native forests impedes a transition to plantation forestry which is ecologically and economically rational.

For all these reasons, the Council believes that long-term guarantees that industry can extract large volumes of wood from native forests are unwise and against the national interest.

Native forest 'resource security' was first promised by former Prime Minister Hawke in the February 1991 Industry Statement (in contravention of a pledge made shortly before to senior representatives of the Australian Conservation Foundation). However, that same statement also contained a 'sweetener' for the conservation movement: a statement that export woodchipping would be phased out by the year 2000 or thereabouts. The Council is most concerned that 'resource security' remains on the Commonwealth Government's policy agenda and is included in the NFPS, while the pledge to phase out export woodchipping is absent from the document.

This is a most serious matter for two reasons. Firstly, we believe that export woodchipping is increasingly driving extractive forestry operations in native forests, as the hardwood sawlog industry continues to lose competitiveness to the plantation-based sector of the industry. Secondly, what confidence can conservationists have in 'sweeteners' contained in the NFPS, when as recent an initiative as the 1991 Industry Statement has been incorporated into current government policy in such a selective, pro-industry manner?

We therefore seek a categorical assurance that the Federal ALP Government remains committed to a phase out of export woodchipping and an indication of the timing of that phase-out.

Such an assurance would lack credibility unless confirmed by concrete action. The forthcoming export woodchip licence renewal season will provide a clear signal of the Keating Government's bona fides on the forest issue, and Council expects to see substantial quota reductions and/or cancellations of existing export woodchip licenses - especially in those cases where, to its shame, the Commonwealth Government has still not conducted environmental assessment of these increasingly significant operations. (In that context, the Council looks forward to correspondence from you in the near future - as you promised at the peak councils meeting - in response to the questions on notice provided to you prior to the meeting on five export woodchip operations which have been inadequately assessed or not assessed at all)

A final query on the south east of NSW. It is apparent to the Nature Conservation Council that on any reasonable interpretation of the text of the NFPS, it is incompatible with the October 1990 'Agreement' on the South East Forests co-signed by ex-Premier Greiner and ex-Prime Minister Hawke.

The Council seeks your assurance that the October '90 Agreement is indeed superceded, and that the Commonwealth will now exercise its powers to ensure the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative network of dedicated and secure conservation reserves for forests and reserves for protecting wilderness in the south east. We also reiterate our request that the Keating Government funds a restructuring, retraining and compensation program to facilitate passage of the South East Forest Protection Bill by the NSW Parliament (for your information, we attach a recent letter from John Hatton on the subject).

We look forward to your response on these topics,

Yours sincerely,



for Dr Judy Messer &
Chairperson

Sid Walker
Executive Officer



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MEMBER FOR SOUTH COAST

OFFICE: Suite 1, 1st Floor
50 Berry Street
NOWRA 2541

PHONE: (044) 21 0408
(044) 21 0222

FAX: (044) 22-1180

MAIL: P.O. Box 634
NOWRA 2541

8 December 1992

Ms. E. Fitzpatrick,
224 Forest Road,
ARNCLIFFE. 2205

Dear Ms. Fitzpatrick,

Thank you for your letter.

I have had considerable discussions with Clover Moore about her South-East Forest Protection Bill, and I intend to support it.

However, there is the matter of the adequacy of compensation for a "jobs package" which is being negotiated with the Federal Government. I hope that this can be satisfactorily resolved, for I agree with you that preservation of the old growth forests is extremely important.

Yours sincerely,

John Hatton, M.P.,
Member for South Coast.

11th August 1992

The Hon. Paul Keating MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2601

Write an letter

— the 'trig'

Dear Prime Minister

**RE: RESPONSE TO YOUR GOVERNMENT'S
DRAFT NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT**

This national forest policy draft, prepared by officials from wood harvesting government agencies, is no more than a prescription for continued and unnecessary native forest destruction. Australians want their forests and their wood and this can be achieved by the Commonwealth enforcing a national policy which is in the interests of the national economy.

The current draft does not achieve this end and hence, deserves to be abandoned immediately lest serious criticism gives it unwarranted credibility.

Far from entrenching non-commercial wood supply operations in public native forests, a progressive national policy should be aimed at securing commercially viable wood supply from efficiently managed plantations.

The outdated commitment by forest bureaucracies to accommodate industry preference for a cheap resource has already cost Australia an accumulated \$4.5 billion in public sector debt [see Resource Assessment Commission, *Forest and Timber Inquiry Draft Report*, pR3]. It is time that national policy was directed towards efficient meeting of market demand through micro-economic reform, subsidy removal and market education.

The key policy settings necessary for effective management of our forests are few and simple:

1. The ongoing subsidising of wood production from native forests should be abandoned in favour of ensuring the use of plantations for wood supply.

Plantations are much more productive in terms of mass of usable wood produced per hectare per year compared to native forest that it is unnecessary and costly to attempt to establish commercially viable management regimes for wood supply from native forests.

Figures released by the Victorian Department of Conservation and Environment (DCE) on the first report on native forest logging operations on the mainland, show that native forests are logged at a loss. Conversely the same figures show that DCE's softwood plantations run at a healthy profit. (*Commercial Accounts for the State Hardwood Forests and Softwood Plantations*, DCE, June 1992, Ferguson I.J. and Houghton K.A.)

2. Plantations, harvested at economically optimal ages of 12 to 22 years of age, are technically and economically more attractive to pulpmills as a source of both softwood and hardwood fibre. This is especially true for new mills using modern technology.

-2-

Judy Clark (*The Future for native Forest Logging in Australia*, 1992) predicts that Australia can be totally self sufficient in the production of paper fibre by 1995, using only softwood and hardwood plantation pulpwood, residues from plantation based sawmills and increased paper recycling.

The ability to exploit gains in both volume and quality yield through technological advances of plantation material is essential to maintain a productivity advantage and thus economic viability. Conversely native forest woodchip suppliers can only retain competition by relying more and more on public subsidies. This is contrary to Federal government policy in all other industry sectors.

3. Softwood timber, harvested from plantations aged 25 to 40 years, is capable of substituting for the vast majority of uses currently met from native forests logging.

In South Australia, for instance which has no native forest logging industry, 91% of all timber consumed in the building and construction industry is softwoods from plantations. In Tasmania and Western Australia, the figure is only about 37% and 20% respectively. (Clark, 1992)

Supply and quality considerations will ensure that softwoods enjoy a growing price advantage over hardwoods in the construction market, making it cheaper and easier to build a house out of softwood. This is the area where real social benefit can be delivered to ordinary Australians by a national forest policy.

The continued use of native forest for woodchip production oriented to the export pulp market is not economically feasible anywhere on the Australian mainland as the timber resource simply does not exist. (RAC, *Forest and Timber Inquiry Final Report*, 1992, p1ii)

4. Native forests should be managed to maintain their nature conservation value. Apart from the obvious environmental and social values of the maintenance of the native forest estate, they also represent a very important economic resource even when not destroyed for wood values.

Firstly, tourism is a most appropriate commercial use of 'multiple use' native forests when it is designed to be compatible with nature conservation. It is also the most effective employer of low and semi-skilled people in remote areas (where the need is greatest) and the most efficient earner of foreign exchange.

Secondly, in a recent study commissioned by the Victorian Minister for Water Resources, it was shown that the economic value of water production from native forests has been considerably impacted upon by logging, which reduced catchment stream flow by as much as 50%. It was found that a total cessation to logging in Melbourne Thomson Catchment will have significant benefits for Melbourne water supply relative to the status quo with a net present value of \$147 million over current arrangements. (*Evaluation of the Economic values of Wood and Water Outputs for the Thomson Catchment*, 1992, Read Sturges and Associates)

-3-

Thirdly, the role of forests and all forms of native vegetation in maintenance of soil and water values has always been well known. Unfortunately, the costs of native vegetation loss and degradation in terms of soil erosion, salinity, flooding and drought are only now being fully appreciated by national decision-makers. The National Plantation Advisory Committee confirmed that further clearing was unnecessary as there is abundant land available for plantations.

5. Native forests are a vital component of Australia's biodiversity and it is extremely important that they, and our other remaining natural vegetation types are managed to maintain their biodiversity.

Australia already has a poor record in protecting its plants and animals from extinction. The more fragile arid and semi-arid ecosystems have already suffered the worst but it is important to appreciate that, if present trends of forest destruction and degradation continue, native forests will also lose the capacity to sustain populations of animals and plants. This is already true of drier forests and woodlands which have borne the brunt of clearance for settlement. Large scale woodchipping operations have now extended that threat to all forest types.

It is vital that woodchipping be abandoned as an unsustainable use of native forests and a use which is inconsistent with management for nature conservation.

Similarly, strong wilderness legislation, threatened species legislation and a biodiversity strategy are needed as a matter of urgency to ensure that government resources can be effectively targeted to arresting Australia's shameful record on species extinction and recovery of threatened species.

The Draft Policy fundamentally fails to address biodiversity protection with conservation goals being qualified and voluntary, environmental protection measures given no workable frameworks or timelines and no commitment exists for the immediate protection of old growth, wilderness and high conservation value forests.

As RAC says "It is not feasible to log old growth forests.... and yet retain their full complement of old growth attributes and values.... Logging of old growth forests potentially violate the precautionary principle of sustainable development.... the values associated with pristine attributes cannot be replaced." (RAC, Final Report (xxxvi)).

6. The people of Australia want all their native forests protected, and they want wood and paper products as well. The draft National Forest Policy defeats both these purposes.

It is no longer necessary to log any native forests. Complete self sufficiency in both the sawn timber and pulp and paper sectors can be achieved, solely from plantation resource, by 1995 at the latest. (Clark 1992)

-4-

In summary, the move forward for a National Forest Policy must address the fundamental issues raised above.

It needs to be taken back to first principles which would be reflected by a two-pronged approach to a national forest strategy:

1. A Native Forest Protection policy which will protect all the biodiversity, wilderness and aesthetic qualities of Australia's remaining native forests. It would include the immediate cessation of logging in high conservation forests, the identification of areas requiring further study over which moratoria would apply and the timetable for the eventual transition of all logging to alternative plantation sources.

2. A Wood Production Strategy based on existing and additional plantations on already cleared land. This can also encompass programmes aimed at land regeneration eg one billion trees.

Such an approach would provide for job growth, meet Australia's timber needs and protect Australia's unique native forest heritage.

Without these substantial changes in the direction of government policy, we can have no confidence in the outcome.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Caswell
Executive Director
Australian Conservation Foundation

Karenne Jurd
Director
The Wilderness Society

Peg Putt
Director
Tasmanian Conservation Trust

29th Jan. 1992

The Hon. Chris Hartcher, M.P.,
Minister for Conservation,
Parliament House,
SYDNEY.

Dear Mr. Hartcher,

The Colong Foundation is pleased that NSW is a signatory to the National Forest Policy, to which you no doubt contributed. The agreement to a strategy designed to conserve old-growth forests and wilderness as part of the reserve system, to undertake, as a matter of high priority, assessment of forests for conservation values and to avoid activities that may significantly affect areas of old-growth forest and wilderness until assessments are completed, is in accord with the policy of the Colong Foundation.

We are concerned, however, about a rumour that the Department of Planning has been instructed not to recommend national park reservation of areas it considers should be protected. In addition, the Forestry Commission is ignoring wilderness protection. None of the four environmental assessments it has completed have considered wilderness. Wilderness in Deua and Binghi and old-growth forests such as Mistake, Wild Cattle and Jenner are presently being logged.

A further obstacle to the implementation of the National Forest Policy will be the Government's policy of preferring the logging of old-growth forests as a means of providing employment, rather than as a significant part of the reserve system. For this reason we have written to Mr. Keating suggesting that funds be made available for the provision of alternative employment, should such provision be necessary, when old-growth forests preservation may lead to loss of jobs..

The above matters are of great concern to the conservation movement, and we suggest that a statement affirming the Government's support of the National Forest Policy would be welcomed.

Yours sincerely,

(A. G. Colley OAM)

Hon. Secretary

January 29th, 1993

Ms. Gabrielle Kibble
Director
Department of Planning
Box 3927 G.P.O.
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms. Kibble,

Re: Forestry E.I.S. Assessments & Timber Industry
(Interim Protection) Act

The Colong Foundation for Wilderness calls to your attention the Section 8(5) of the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act which only applies to Schedule 4 lands.

The wilderness and old growth forests in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 of the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act need not be determined within three months period for these lands to remain under the provisions of this legislation. These lands could remain indefinitely subject to the moratorium provisions of the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act.

Should your legal advice prove our reading and our barrister's reading of the legislation to be correct, the Foundation requests you advise your Minister to defer determination of these critical areas till a later date.

Under the National Forest Policy, the State Government should retain the moratorium of old growth forest and wilderness lands until they are assessed by a method agreed by the Federal Department of Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories and the relevant State Government authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Muir
Director
Colong Foundation for Wilderness

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LTD.

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday Jan. 28th, 1993

WILDERNESS GROUP CHALLENGES PLANNING MINISTER WEBSTER

The Colong Foundation for Wilderness today challenged the Hon. Robert Webster to either confirm or deny rumours that he instructed the N.S.W. Department of Planning to ignore the National Forest Policy when reviewing the Forestry Commission logging proposals in N.S.W. The Policy, signed by Premier John Fahey in December 1992, appears to be under pressure from National Party members who are pushing for it to be dumped.

"We have received advice that the Department of Planning was instructed by Webster not to recommend national park reservation of areas they consider should be protected. This would be a clear breach of the National Forest Policy and unreasonably narrow the Department's options when considering these proposals. The Policy requires secure reserves and it is impossible to have these under the control of the Forestry Commission", Mr. Keith Muir, Director of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness said today.

"None of the Forestry Commission's four environmental assessments completed have considered wilderness protection a viability, even though Binghi, Washpool, Bindery, Guy Fawkes and Barrington wilderness areas are affected by these proposals, Mr Muir said.

Wilderness, including parts of Deua and Binghi, and old growth forest such as Mistake, Wild Cattle and Jenner State Forests are being logged right now. The National Forest Policy requires that a comprehensive and adequate reserve system be established as a matter of priority. There is little point to assessing these forests for protection if they have been logged in the meantime, Mr Muir said.

For more info. contact: Mr. Keith Muir, (02) 247 4714 or 241 2523 (wk)

(02) 550 3615 (ah).

Kelly stokes forestry fires in bid to stop logs rolling

By LENORE TAYLOR

THE Minister for the Environment, Mrs Kelly, has enraged the forestry industry and ALP candidates in timber seats by writing to State governments proposing that logging temporarily stop in a long list of forests.

Her letter has prompted the National Association of Forest Industries to write to the Prime Minister, Mr Keating, demanding an explanation, and has become an election issue in several marginal seats.

Mrs Kelly tells the States she expects wood production to cease in areas of high conservation value while the details of the recent national forest policy strategy, agreed by the Commonwealth and all States except Tasmania, are being finalised.

"Specific areas of high conservation value old-growth forest and wilderness considered by my portfolio to require interim protection until the reserve system is established is attached," the letter says.

In his January 25 letter to Mr Keating, the executive di-

rector of the NAFI, Dr Robert Bain, complains that the lists attached by Mrs Kelly are "so wide-ranging (they) would lead to the closure of the industry in large parts of Australia".

"For example, it would reduce the sustained wood yield in NSW by about 50 per cent and have even more severe impact in some regions of the State," he says.

"She has made a huge ambit claim, obviously designed to

Candidates worried

close the maximum amount of forests and cause as much disruption to industry as possible."

A spokesman for Mrs Kelly said yesterday the lists had "only been intended as the start of discussions".

Several MPs and candidates seeking election in marginal timber seats, including Mr Harry Woods in Page, Mr Jim Snow in Eden Monaro and Mr Barry Cunningham in McMillan, are understood to have

been extremely worried about the letters and have sought explanations from Mrs Kelly.

Mrs Kelly has written back to the candidates, saying it was "unfortunate that misrepresentation of the Commonwealth's position on this matter, has resulted in local community concern".

"Let me assure you that the Federal Government has neither the desire nor the capability to place interim conservation orders on those forests listed," she says.

"Consistent with the (strategy) I have also sought information on how areas likely to be of high conservation value are not lost before a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system is in place."

The Opposition spokesman on resources, Mr Bruce Lloyd, has likened the issue to Mrs Kelly's gaffe last year when she signed a letter endorsing the cover, but not the contents, of an environmental kit for school children, which was later withdrawn because it was believed to be biased.

BRUCE LLOYD**MEDIA**

Deputy Leader, National Party of Australia
Shadow Minister for Primary Industry

Ph: 06/2774193

Fax: 06/2772053

KELLY'S INCOMPETENCE IS HIGHLIGHTED YET AGAIN

- MORE SIGNING WITHOUT CHECKING THE CONTENTS

Environment Minister Ros Kelly has again put a signature to something without making sure it is correct, according to National Party Deputy Leader and Shadow Minister for Primary Industry, Bruce Lloyd.

Mr Lloyd said Mrs Kelly had sent letters to State Ministers responsible for forestry seeking to have almost all Australia's working forests closed, even some on private land, claiming that this followed the signing of the National Forest Policy Statement.

"However this letter so embarrassed the Government that she has been forced to send a follow-up letter to ALP Members and candidates in timber electorates to back off from her first letter.

In her original letter Mrs Kelly said she expected that wood production would be excluded from areas that are likely to have a high conservation value.

She expected this shut-down to continue until an adequate reserve system as well as complementary management areas outside the reserve system, were in place to adequately protect old growth values.

She then attached a list *"...of specific areas of high conservation value old-growth forest and wilderness considered by my portfolio to require interim protection until the reserve system is established"*.

Mr Lloyd said Mrs Kelly's list for NSW covered 1.6 million hectares. This is 52 per cent of the total NSW available yield for logging and for the North coast about 71 per cent.

"The list also included the Pilliga State forest which is completely regrowth forest. This whole area has been previously settled and used for agricultural purposes. It is extensively roaded, there are many former homestead sites, and it has been subject to numerous harvesting cycles."

"However in her second letter to ALP Members such as Harry Woods, the Member for Page and Jim Snow, Member for Eden Monaro, she claimed the Commonwealth's position had been misrepresented and this has resulted in local community concern."

In that second letter to ALP MPs Mrs Kelly admitted that *"...the Federal Government has neither the desire nor the capability to place interim conservation orders on those forests listed in correspondence with the State Government"*.

2.

In that second letter Mrs Kelly admitted that "...the Federal Government has neither the desire nor the capability to place interim conservation orders on those forests listed in correspondence with the State Government".

Mr Lloyd said the States which recently signed the National Forests Policy Statement did so in the belief that it would end the domination of Canberra over their forests.

He said that following the comprehensive joint regional assessment in the South-East forests and the two years it took for Federal/State agreement, NSW believed this fully met the requirements of the National Forests Policy Statement, but it appears that Mrs Kelly wants to start it all over again.

"Every time Mrs Kelly opens her mouth on forests she shows her incompetence. Recently she said that Labor would cease the export of wood chips by the year 2000 and Resources Minister Alan Griffiths was forced to tell the media that he ran the forest policy and this would not happen.

"State Ministers have written to both Minister Crean and Griffiths calling for the Kelly letter to be withdrawn. It is time for Mr Griffiths, as the appropriate Minister, to enter the debate and state what is the Federal Government Policy."

Mr Lloyd said that last year Mrs Kelly had signed a letter endorsing "the cover not the contents" of an environmental kit for school children. She was forced to have this kit withdrawn when she finally acknowledged that the material was biased.

"There are 12,500 people employed in the NSW forestry industry and about 80,000 around Australia. Mrs Kelly should resign from her job before they all lose theirs," Mr Lloyd said.

end

27/1/93

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LTD.

15th Jan. 1993

The Rt. Hon. Paul Keating, M.P.,
Prime Minister of Australia,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA.

Dear Mr. Keating,

The Colong Foundation was pleased to receive a copy of the National Forest Policy Statement. We are completely in accord with its objective of conserving and managing areas of old growth forest and wilderness as part of the reserve system. The necessity of avoiding activities that may significantly affect areas of old growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value until assessments are made is essential to the implementation of the policy, as is the requirement for State agencies to undertake assessments as a matter of high priority.

Implementation of the policy requires logging of areas of old growth forest to cease pending assessment. In this State it has not ceased. Logging continues in a number of old growth forest and wilderness areas. Justification for its continuance is expressed in terms of employment maintenance. State Governments take credit for reducing employment if it saves money, but not if it saves the environment.

Because land use planning is a State responsibility, the power of the Commonwealth to ensure carrying out of the policy is very limited. It could, however, provide finance for the establishment of plantations, which could provide employment for those displaced as a result of the Forest Policy. This would be a sound investment in forestry. There is a precedent for such finance in the Softwoods Forestry Agreements Act. If projects such as the North Coast jobs and environment project announced by Mrs. Kelly on Jan 12th were planned to absorb workers displaced by the National Forest Policy, the State Government's policy of logging old growth forests for the purpose of providing employment might be offset. I am sure such action would win the enthusiastic support of the environment movement.

Yours sincerely,

(A. G. Colley OAM)

Hon. Secretary

15th Jan., 1993

Mr. Bob Carr, M.P.,
Leader of the Opposition,
Parliament House,
SYDNEY.

Dear Mr. Carr,,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Keating on the subject of the National Forest Policy. It will be the policy of the Colong Foundation to publicise infringements of the policy, which has been affirmed by all State Governments except Tasmania.

I am sure you will agree with the policy. If you agree with the proposal for Federal finance, perhaps you could write to Mr. Keating telling him so. Adoption of the proposal would strongly confirm the environmental credentials of the A.L.P.

Yours sincerely,

(A. M. Colley OAM)

Nat. Secretary

FOR E21K

Thursday January 7th, 1993

Dr. Neil Sheppard
Director
Environment Protection Authority
Locked Bag 1502
BANKSTOWN NSW 2200

Dear Dr. Sheppard,

Re: National Forest Policy & the State of the Environment Report

National Forest Policy was signed by the Premier of N.S.W., the Hon. John Fahey, in December 1992. Under this policy, the N.S.W. and Federal Governments have agreed to a strategy designed to conserve and manage old-growth forests and wilderness as part of the comprehensive and adequate reserve system. Such a reserve system should be managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and should be in place by the end of 1995.

Application of the strategy requires the Forestry Commission of N.S.W. to avoid activities that may significantly effect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness likely to have high conservation value until assessments of conservation values, including old-growth and wilderness values are completed (see the attached extract of the Policy).

The Colong Foundation for Wilderness understands that the State of the Environment Report prepared by your Authority will consider an inventory of the extent and condition of various natural resources. The Foundation requests that the Authority's inventory should embrace the information produced on old growth forests and wilderness as a result of the National Forest Policy within your State of the Environment Report.

You would no doubt also be aware of the development applications and associated environmental impact statements being prepared for fifteen Forest Management Areas by the N.S.W. Forestry Commission. These development applications will be reviewed by the Department of Planning and determined by the Minister of Planning under the provisions of the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act, 1992.

In the light of the National Forest Policy, the environmental assessment process for the activities proposed by the Forestry Commission of N.S.W. should not be considered just a matter of determining logging proposals but also a land use planning exercise where appropriate areas of wilderness and old growth forest are

protected by means of proposed national parks. The Department of Planning has the key role in preparing advice on these logging and reserve proposals.

The Foundation cannot understand why areas of State Forest and other Crown lands which adjoin national parks and which have been identified by the N.S.W. National Parks and Wildlife Service as wilderness cannot be reserved as wilderness in a national park when those areas are not proposed to be logged. For example, the Glen Innes Forest Management Area environmental impact statement recommends that several large areas adjoining national parks will not be logged (refer to figures 14 and 11 of the Glen Innes E.I.S). The Forestry Commission, of course, will not recommend these areas become wilderness national park additions.

The Colong Foundation requests that where the abovementioned opportunities for park extensions arise, that the N.S.W. Environment Protection Authority recommend accordingly in their submissions on the environmental impact statements. Furthermore, the Foundation requests that you ensure that the Authority takes all possible steps to encourage the Department of Planning consider national park extensions to protect old growth forest and wilderness as consent conditions for these logging proposals. Without such encouragement, the Department of Planning is unlikely to recommend adequate reserves for old growth forest and wilderness protection due to the other political pressures which distort decision making.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Muir
Director
Colong Foundation for Wilderness

Wednesday January 6th, 1993

Mr. Bill Gillooly
Director
N.S.W. National Parks and Wildlife Service
P O Box 1967
HURSTVILLE N.S.W. 2777

Dear Mr. Gillooly,

Re: Forestry E.I.S. Assessments & National Forest Policy

The Colong Foundation understands that the National Forest Policy requires the assessment of wilderness and old growth forests. Following these assessments the State Government must develop a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of reserve protection.

The Foundation submits that the National Forest Policy should be implemented during the current round of wilderness and forestry proposals. In particular, the environmental impact statements being prepared under the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act, 1992 should consider protection of old growth and wilderness values. So far, these reports have not recommended any old growth and wilderness areas for protection as national park additions. This would appear to contradict the National Forest Policy which requires secure reserves for old growth forests and wilderness.

The Department of Planning appears to be interpreting its role in recommending consent conditions for the forestry development applications so as to exclude conditions for national park additions. This also may contradict the National Forest Policy.

The Foundation requests advice on the steps the Service intends to make to ensure that environmental assessment process for the logging proposals consider the adequate protection of old growth forests and wilderness areas.

I also enclose for your information our correspondence with other Government authorities which may assist you in considering the Service position on the National Forest Policy.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Muir
Director
Colong Foundation for Wilderness

Wednesday January 6th, 1992

Mr. Tony Bigwood
Department of Arts, Sport,
the Environment and Territories
G.P.O. Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr. Bigwood,

Re: N.S.W. Forestry E.I.S. Assessments & National Forest Policy

The Colong Foundation for Wilderness brings to your attention the logging activities of the N.S.W. Forestry Commission regarding old growth forest and wilderness areas. An example of the former is the Badja State Forest which is being logged although the environment assessment for the area is not due till September 30, 1992. An example of the latter is the headwaters of the Deua wilderness which is recommended for protection by the National Parks and Wildlife Service but is being logged. No decision has been made by the N.S.W. Government to log or protect the Deua wilderness. For these areas a moratorium on logging under the National Forest Policy should be established.

Of more critical importance is the role which the N.S.W. Department of Planning plays in making recommendations to the Minister for Planning on the Forestry Commission's development applications and accompanying environmental impact statements. The Department of Planning has apparently taken the view that it is not open to them to recommend to the Minister for Planning consent conditions which require national park reservations to protect wilderness and old growth forests. Such a position is contrary to the National Forest Policy.

The Department of Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories can assist the N.S.W. Department of Planning to broaden the terms of reference of its determining report by advising the Department of its obligations under the National Forest Policy to consider reservation of wilderness and old growth forest. Providing urgent advice would assist the Department of Planning when briefing its Minister on the implications of the Policy with regard to the determination of the logging proposals.

Please advise the Colong Foundation what action your Department will make in regard to the reasonable application of the National Forest

Policy to the environmental assessment process now underway for all forest management areas in New South Wales under the provisions of the Timber Industry (interim Protection) Act, 1992. The considerations of the National Forest Policy should be brought into the current round of assessments otherwise adequate protection of old growth and wilderness area will be pre-empted.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Muir
Director
Colong Foundation for Wilderness

Wednesday January 6th, 1992

Mr. Rex Bowen
Head
Natural Resources Division
Department of Planning
Box 3927 G.P.O.
SYDNEY N.S.W. 2001

Dear Mr. Bowen,

Re: Forestry E.I.S. Assessments & National Forest Policy

I refer to our conversation of yesterday Tuesday January 5th, regarding the National Forest Policy, and the determination report and proposed consent conditions for the various N.S.W. Forestry Commission logging proposals.

The Colong Foundation for Wilderness understands, from our conversation, that the Department of Planning is not able to recommend to the Minister for Planning development consent conditions which require the dedication of national parks within the areas subject to these forestry development applications.

If our understanding of the Departmental position is correct, the Foundation submits that it may unreasonably constrain the land management options which are being considered by the N.S.W. Government. The Department of Planning, as an independent arbiter of these logging proposals, should not simply ~~to~~ launder the position of the N.S.W. Forestry Commission without due regard for the National Forest Policy or the wilderness proposals that partly cover the area which are the subject to these development applications. Such national park conditions need not alter the development application so greatly as to defeat the intended purposes of the application, although in some cases such conditions may be justified.

The Foundation seeks your urgent advice regarding whether your Department will actively consider and propose consent conditions for the logging proposals which embrace national park reservation so as to protect wilderness and old growth forest values.

The Foundation has been advised that in the Department of Environment and Planning did recommend national park dedications in response to the N.S.W. Forestry Commission's environmental impact statements for the Washpool and Wandella-Dampier State Forests completed in the early 1980's. Accordingly, recommending consent conditions to protect wilderness and old growth forests by national park reservation is consistent with the Department's past practice, as well as being a step toward implementing the National Forest Policy.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Muir
Director
Colong Foundation for Wilderness

cc. Ms. G. Kibble, Director, Department of Planning

Tuesday January 5th, 1992

Ms. Gabrielle Kibble
Director of Planning
Department of Planning
Box 3927 G.P.O.
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms. Kibble,

Re: Forestry E.I.S. Assessments & National Forest Policy

The National Forest Policy was signed by the Premier of N.S.W., the Hon. John Fahey in December 1992. Under this policy, the N.S.W. and Federal Governments have agreed to a strategy designed to conserve and manage old-growth forests and wilderness as part of the reserve system. Such a reserve system should be managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Application of the strategy requires the Forestry Commission of N.S.W. to avoid activities that may significantly effect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness likely to have high conservation value until assessments of conservation values, including old-growth and wilderness values are completed (see the attached extract of the Policy). Accordingly, the assessment requirements of the National Forest Policy extends beyond the provisions of the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act, 1992 (eg. the old growth forest values of the upper Deua River catchment have not been assessed although an environmental impact statement was undertaken for the area 10 years ago. These forests should not be further logged until their old growth forest values are assessed).

Contrary to the National Forest Policy, not all old growth forest and wilderness in N.S.W. is protected from logging activities until Forestry Commission's environmental impact statements are determined (eg. the old growth in Badja State Forest adjoining the Wadbilliga National Park is being logged, although the E.I.S. for this forest area is not expected until 30 Sept. 1994). A moratorium on logging these forests should be imposed until its wilderness and old growth values are concurrently assessed and determined along with the Commission's environmental assessments.

The Foundation requests that the Department of Planning takes the steps necessary to ensure that the National Forest Policy is effected. In particular, that the Forestry Commission's environmental

impact statements should not be determined prior to assessment of old growth forest and wilderness values in the manner specified by the National Forest Policy. In the case of the Mount Royal Forest Management Area, for example, you should not make a determining report until advice is received from the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service on the Barrington Tops Wilderness which is not due till the 30th of September, 1993. In the meantime, the moratorium on logging activities should continue. Preparation of a determination report for the logging proposals prior to the appropriate assessment of old growth and wilderness values would be contrary to the National Forest Policy.

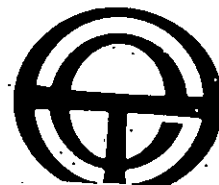
In the light of the National Forest Policy, the environmental assessment process for the activities proposed by the Forestry Commission of N.S.W. should not be considered just a matter of determining logging proposals but also a land use planning exercise where appropriate areas of wilderness and old growth forest are protected by means of proposed reserves. The Department of Planning has the key role in preparing advice on these logging and reserve proposals.

Lastly, we understand that the Federal Government has a significant role to play in the satisfactory assessment of old growth and wilderness values. Accordingly it may be appropriate for your Department to consult with the Department of Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories on the above matters.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Muir
Director
Colong Foundation for Wilderness

TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC.
SHOP 1, GLOUCESTER WALK, 88 CUMBERLAND STREET, SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000
Phones (02) 247 4714 - (02) 247 8476 Fax (02) 247 7118



nfpeis/2/j

5 January 1993

Ms Gabrielle Kibble
Director
Department of Planning
Box 3927 GPO
Sydney 2001.

URGENT

Dear Ms Kibble,

TIIP Act EIS and National Forest Policy

The NSW Government committed itself to implementing the National Forest Policy Statement for the benefit of both present and future generations of Australians (Foreword) when it signed the Statement in November 1992.

The Statement directly affects the activities of those agencies involved in the assessment, reservation and management of native forests. In particular it calls (as a matter of priority) for:

- * a comprehensive, adequate and representative network of dedicated and secure nature conservation reserves for forests and reserves for protecting wilderness;
- * For old-growth forest, the nature conservation reserve systems will be the primary means of protection....;
- * All Governments agree that the comprehensive, adequate and representative reservation system to protect both these values (old growth and wilderness) will be in place by the end of 1995;
- * The Governments will use agreed criteria to assess conservation values and until assessments are completed will avoid activities which may significantly affect those areas of old growth or wilderness which are likely to have high conservation value (see pp7-8).

The definition of nature conservation reserves in the Statement excludes wood production. Further we submit that secure can only mean national parks or nature reserves as they are gazetted and managed under legislation devoted solely to nature conservation.

You will be aware that the EISs being completed by the Forestry Commission and assessed by the DOP under the TIIP Act affect very important high conservation value forests.

Given that the NSW Government is committed to implementing the Statement it is incumbent on the DOP to also implement

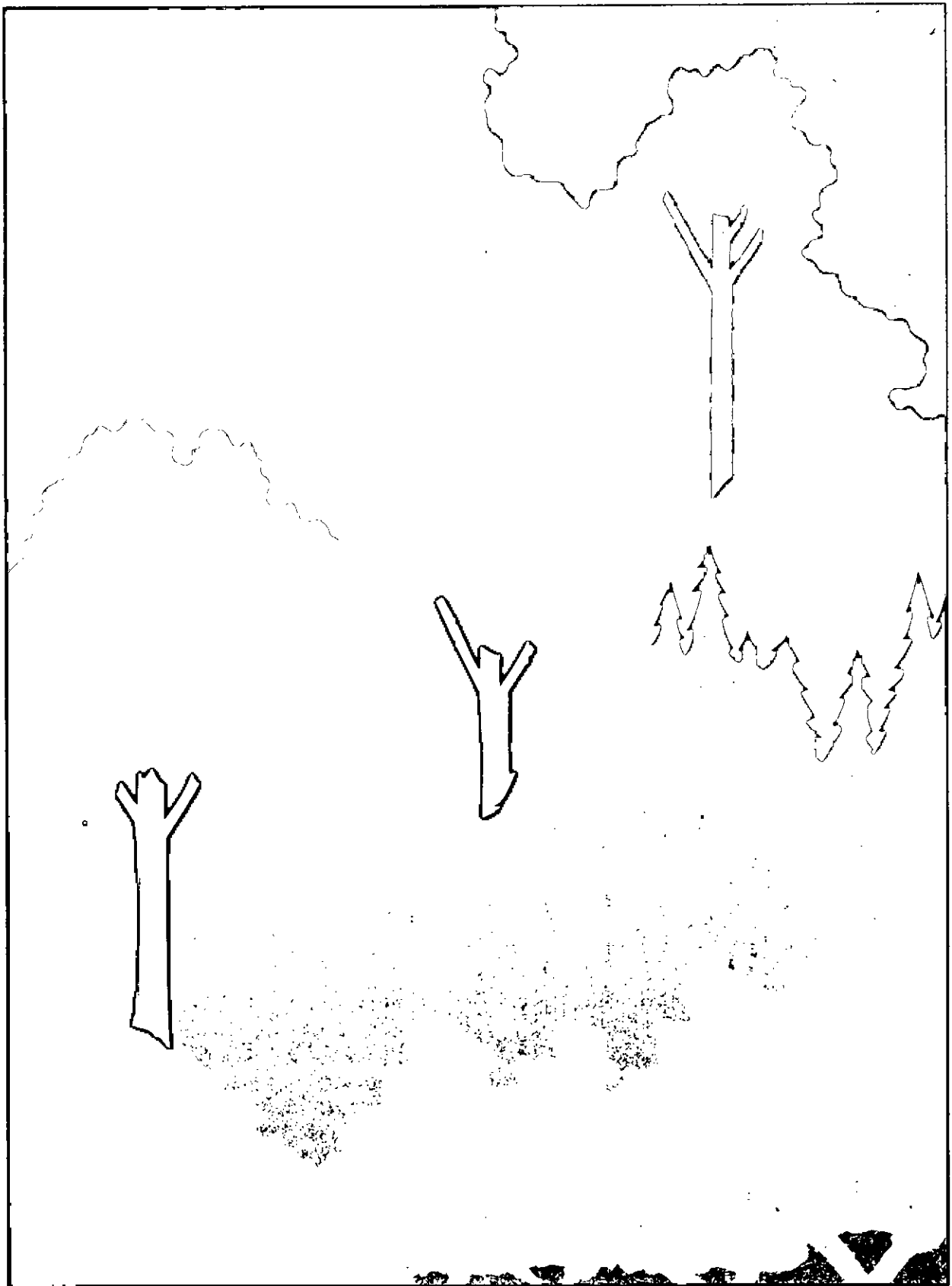
it via their assessment reports into the EIS. Of necessity is the need to ensure wilderness values are properly assessed and considered and independently verifiable old growth assessments are made. Further that where necessary, the moratoria on wood production are extended until the reservation system is in place.

Certainly in the past the DOP (or DEP) have examined national park options.

Your urgent advice on these matters would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Angel
CoDirector



SUMMARY SHEET OF NFPS POLICIES

The Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments, with the exception of Tasmania, have agreed upon a national approach to the sustainable management and use of Australia's forests. Tasmania has affirmed its commitment to the management of its forest resources as set out in the Tasmanian Forests and Forest Industry Strategy.

The National Forest Policy Statement sets out their vision for Australia's forests and forest industries into the next century and the agreed policy framework to achieve that vision, based on the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

1. Forest Conservation

Two principal objectives outlined in the Statement are the maintenance of an extensive and permanent forest estate in Australia and the protection of nature conservation values in forests.

1.1 Nature conservation reserves

The Governments have agreed that Australia will protect and manage conservation values in forests by:

- determining agreed criteria for comprehensive, adequate and representative reservation systems;
- establishment of a network of dedicated and secure reserves based on these principles, supported by complementary management outside reserves conditional on satisfactory agreement on criteria;
- providing adequate resources for forest reserve management subject to budget priorities and constraints in individual jurisdictions;
- further developing management plans for reserves to ensure protection of conservation and heritage values;
- protecting unique features and heritage values of conservation significance as part of the overall reservation system.

1.2 Strategy to protect old-growth forests and wilderness values

The Statement sets out a transition strategy which will conserve and manage old-growth forests and wilderness areas by ensuring that:

- a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system of old-growth forests and wilderness areas is in place by the end of 1995 for public lands, conditional on satisfactory agreement on criteria by governments, with 1998 as the target for private lands. Inclusion in the reserve system of any necessary forest from private land will be preferably by agreement with the landowner.

1.3 Ecologically sustainable forest management

Ecologically sustainable management of native forests and plantations will be given effect through:

- further developing and applying codes of practice for all commercial and high impact uses;
- avoiding or limiting clearing of public native forests to cases where regional conservation objectives and catchment management objectives are not compromised;
- encouraging sustainable management of private native forests;
- managing unallocated and leased Crown land consistent with ecologically sustainable practices.

1.4 Adequate forest protection

Protection of the conservation and commercial values of forests will necessitate:

- addressing threats to forests from disease, pests, fire and pathogens;
- strict guidelines for use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals;
- adequate quarantine measures against introduction of plant diseases and pests;
- monitoring and control of feral animals and exotic plants.

2. *Wood Production and Industry Development*

Sustainable economic use of native forests and plantations is a major objective of the Statement.

2.1 *Promotion of efficient use and value adding industries*

The benefit to the community from using native forests and plantations for wood production can be increased through efficient production and use of wood by industry and value-adding wood products industries. This will be achieved by:

- providing certainty and security to industry of access to resources following protection of conservation values, so that industry can make significant long term investments in value-adding projects;
- removing export controls on plantation-sourced woodchips, subject to satisfactory codes of practice;
- providing domestic processors with the first opportunity to use pulpwood from native forests to facilitate domestic value-adding processing;
- a range of previously announced industry development initiatives, including accelerated depreciation of plant and equipment, development allowances for major infrastructure projects;
- following comprehensive forest assessments, the Commonwealth considering export licence approvals for terms longer than the current annual renewal periods;
- adoption of the national environmental guidelines for new bleached eucalypt kraft pulpmills;
- cooperating to offer to proponents of major projects a streamlined and coordinated Commonwealth-State project-assessment process in instances where the Commonwealth has a statutory obligation in relation to that project.

2.2 *Structural adjustment and improving international competitiveness*

The forest and wood products industries need to be internationally competitive, and adjust constantly to changing market preferences and conditions and available wood resource. This will be assisted by:

- promoting industry development initiatives of Governments, including participation in the Best Practices Program;
- structural adjustment assistance should resource be withdrawn.

2.3 *Wood pricing and allocation*

The pricing and allocation system for wood from public native forests has a major bearing on industry performance and community returns. Appropriate policies will be achieved by:

- further developing pricing and allocation systems which are market based and allow transferability of rights, a fair return to the community and promote the most efficient use of resources;
- revised accounting procedures to reflect costs associated with wood production and community services.

3. *Integrated Decision Making and Management*

It is important to ensure that Governments have access to the same information and consider issues concurrently rather than sequentially to avoid duplication and fragmentation in decision making. This will be achieved by:

- implementing land use decision-making processes agreed in the context of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment;
- through accredited or joint comprehensive regional assessments of forests and Commonwealth-State regional agreements;
- integrated management of conservation and commercial uses of forests;
- development of regional management plans by forest management agencies, consulting with regional organisations and the community.

4. *Private Native Forests*

The management of forests in private ownership is integral to achieving the objectives for ecologically sustainable management of the native forest estate. This will be achieved by:

- encouraging the application of Codes of Practice covering wood production and other uses;
- the provision of incentives, information and technical advice to encourage conservation;
- promotion of sustainable forest management through Landcare groups;
- land clearing controls and/or other measures to encourage forest retention;
- providing a comprehensive public ruling to clarify the taxation treatment of native forests managed for wood production with further action to be considered after the ruling;
- future land development being based on sound regional conservation and development strategies.

5. *Plantations*

Plantations can provide a wide range of commercial, environmental and aesthetic benefits to the community. Plantation development will be facilitated by:

- removing export controls on private and public plantation woodchips, subject to codes of practice;
- providing a comprehensive public ruling to clarify the taxation treatment of plantations with further action to be considered after the ruling;
- development of demonstration plantations on farms and the provision of extension services;
- research for plantations and agroforestry through the R&D Corporations;
- simplifying approval processes.

6. *Water Supply and Catchment Management*

The importance to the community of a reliable, high quality water supply is very high and will be assisted by:

- the promotion of integrated catchment management among public and private forest owners.

7. *Tourism and Other Economic and Social Opportunities*

Australia's forests provide a wide range of other commercial and non-commercial opportunities. They are major attractions for domestic and overseas visitors. Tourism and recreation will be enhanced by:

- a pilot program for ecologically sustainable forest tourism as part of development of an ecotourism strategy for Australia;
- international marketing of forest-based tourism;
- providing appropriate infrastructure and visitor facilities;
- increasing ecotourism related research and monitoring the impact of tourism and recreation.

8. *Employment, Workforce Education and Training*

There are important regional and local employment effects of commercial and non-commercial use of forests. Increased labour productivity is important for improving industry efficiency. This will be pursued by:

- continued skills up-grading, workplace reform and occupational health and safety programs.

9. *Public Awareness, Education and Involvement*

It is important that forest management agencies are accountable to the community for their stewardship of the community's assets, and that the community is able to contribute to the forest use decision making process. This will be achieved by:

- improve community awareness of forest management and conservation;
- opportunities for public involvement in land use decision making;
- producing "state of the forests" reviews every five years for public information.

10. *Research and Development*

An enhanced, better coordinated and focussed research and development effort is important to the future of Australia's forests and forest industries. This will be achieved by:

- establishment of a Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation, additional research into conservation and environmental aspects of forests, and plantations research;
- continued support for the national pulpmill research program.

11. *International Responsibilities*

As a leading nation in developing sustainable forest management, forest practices and community involvement in forest use decision making, Australia will continue to be a model for the conservation and sustainable use of forests. This will require:

- promoting sustainable forest management internationally;
- continuing the development of an international agreement on forests.

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



FILE COPY

Mrs Ros Kelly,
Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600

Wed, Jul 28, 1993

Posted 30/7

re: National Forest Policy Statement

Dear Minister,

Thank you for meeting with Dr Judy Messer and myself in Canberra during the June Peak Councils meeting.

As we indicated on that occasion, the Council is keen to see progress on the appointment of community representatives within the committees and working groups entrusted with implementation of the National Forest Policy Statement. We believe this will help ensure that the conservation perspective is articulated clearly at that level.

We refer you to page 20 of the NFPS, in which the Commonwealth pledges to "establish a policy advisory body... to advise on specific forest product industry and conservation issues".

Within the NSW conservation movement, there is a wealth of experience which could contribute to the work of such a committee, and the Nature Conservation Council would welcome an invitation to nominate a member to it.

Yours sincerely,

Sid Walker
Executive Officer

c/c's:

*Faxed to ACF (NSW), TWS (Sydney),
TEC, WWF, J. Corkill, D. Pugh
+ All Con. Councils.*

**Joint ANZECC/MCFFA National Forest Policy Statement
Implementation Sub-committee**

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON FOREST USE AND MANAGEMENT

Secretary: Greg Dodd
Ph (06) 272 4163 Fax (06) 272 4875

15 August 1995

21 AUG 1995

**Draft report on "The Development of Consistent Nationwide
Baseline Environmental Standards for Native Forests"**

Recently you were sent a copy of the above report for comment.

I wish to advise that the comment period for this report has been extended until **Friday, 29 September 1995**. As outlined in the covering letter to the report, comments should be directed to Greg Dodd, JANIS Secretariat, c/- Forests Branch, Department of Primary Industries and Energy, GPO Box 858, Canberra ACT 2601 (or fax 06 272 4875).



Greg Dodd
Secretary
Technical Working Group on
Forest Use and Management

WHY IS THERE A SHORTAGE OF TIMBER FROM NATIVE FORESTS ??

The usual answer is of course to blame the "greenies" and the "locking up" of forest areas in National Parks. But these answers do not really meet the facts as conveyed by the State Forest administration documents and statements.

The Forest Policy

The National Forest Policy Statement which has been accepted by both State and Federal Governments provides clear guidelines for identifying timber resources available for industry. The process involves establishing a comprehensive and adequate and representative reserve system and adopting ecologically sustainable logging practices (by way of appropriate forest management plans, environmental prescriptions and codes of logging practices). It is only when this process is completed that the areas available for timber production, under specific constraints, can be identified and an accurate assessment of available resources undertaken. The Resources and Conservation Assessment Council has now completed the Interim process and is presenting to the community and the Government a number of options. Does the Government cut the allocation by 30% or 50% or 70%.

In 1979 the Forest Commission gave evidence to the Senate Standing Committee on Trade and Commerce. On 22 June the Commission told the Committee that

" The indigenous hardwood forests of NSW have been harvested for sawlogs since World War II at a rate generally higher than that which can be sustained indefinitely. This has been possible without prejudicing the long term continuity of the forest estate, because of the high proportion of mature and over mature trees which had been previously inaccessible to harvesting. This overcutting situation was recognised by the Forest Commission at least twenty five years ago (ie about 1954) and was a fundamental reason behind the policy of establishing a larger resource of exotic softwood plantations "

The evidence continues that it is the policy of the Commission to

"phase down the rate of sawlog cut from native forest to a level which could be sustained indefinitely....the object is to attain a sustained yield by the time over mature saw logs have been harvested . From this time saw log yields in native forests will be equated to the rate at which trees are reaching maturity in the re-growth forests"

The Commission continued with its evidence

" Part of this policy is to continue to harvest the mature and over mature sawlog trees from remaining old growth stands where access can be provided economically. These stands are mostly located in the mountains and foothills land on the eastern fall of the Great Dividing Range and are the major source of hardwood logs for the next 15-20 years. " (ie 1994-1999)

The Commission failed to understand that the forests had other values which would increase as these values became scarce so that as the old growth was reduced in area that it was better economics to retain the old growth for their intrinsic value , and their value in water catchment , soil conservation , wild life habitat and wilderness than as sawlogs.

Yet the Commission was aware that this might occur when in giving evidence it said

" To deny this harvesting (of the remaining old growth) in the more mountainous forests would precipitate a sudden rapid halt to hardwood sawmilling industries, rather than a planned gradual phasing down of hardwood sawlog supply levels as supplies from softwood plantations increase."

To date there has been little evidence that State Forests are arranging for the mills and the workers to move to the new soft wood plantations though reports by forest economists such as Judy Clark indicate that there is a vast supply of plantation now available for harvesting and requiring thinning. We are now two years into the period when the Forest authorities said there would not be many sawlogs left in the old growth forests and the change would be to plantation timber. But there seems to be few moves on the part of State Forest to help mills and their workers to change over to using this large softwood plantation source.

Instead we see last ditch stands by State Forests, some politicians, and parts of the timber industry to deny that there is a crisis in the hardwood sawlog supply.

If State Forests calculations given in 1979 are correct there will be no hardwood saw logs left by 1997 what ever the Government does in relation to its pre-election promise of protecting all remaining old growth and identified wilderness areas.

The Resource and How It Was Calculated

State Forest are required to manage forests in an ecologically sustainable basis by their own corporate plan and by the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development, yet there has continued a practice of cutting in excess of "sustained yield" as noted by the NSW Public Accounts Committee in 1990.

Evidence used in the RACAC negotiations was a wood resource study prepared by the State Forests. This has been called into question as it has not been independently checked and in previous estimates of timber resources there have been serious errors. For example quota sawlogs have been found to have been over estimated by as much as 45% eg Carrara State Forest and for small sawlogs from regrowth forests by as much as 60-70% eg Wild Cattle Creek State Forest.

In the 1960s State Forests decided that management of hardwood forest in the Walcha-Nundle Management Areas on a sustained yield basis would not be economically practicable. Subsequently the cutting rate was dramatically increased with the prediction in the 1987 management plan that " harvest of the current identified sawlog resource could continue at present rates for some ten years ie 1997 with little chance of a viable saw log production for a number of years after the current cutting cycle. To bridge the estimated minimum forty year gap from the present until growing stock builds up sufficiently to sustain viable quota yields would require a reduction in quota yields from the present 52,000 m3 gross to 12,300 m3 gross per annum" In a note to the then Minister (29 July 1991) the Commissioner wrote " A similar situation exists in the Walcha-Nundle Management Area, where the level of sawlog cut is considerably above sustainable yield. Yield monitoring has

P. 84
shown that a reduction of 66% is needed to give a resultant sustainable annual quota of around 18,000m3 in total for the Management Area .."

State Forest gave an estimate that an annual quota of 33,780 m3 gross reducing to 24,500 m3 in June 1996, of quota saw logs is available on a sustainable basis from the Kempsey Management Area. This estimate is based upon desk-top extrapolation from a 1976 yield assessment much of which had been found to be overly optimistic with the 1988/89 Annual Report for the Wauchope MA reporting "On a completed compartment basis the actual gross yield is only 86% of assessed yieldtherefore at this stage of the cutting cycle a deficient of 88,250 m3 is indicated or approximately 4 years of quota operations"

In a submission on the Kempsey/Wauchope EIS, Beechwood Timbers (1993) noted that "Beechwood Timbers has on record, and we assume that the Commission has too, numerous instances where the assessed volumes of individual blocks varied as much or more as 100% either side of the actual values available. These records immediately invalidate the figures as presented in the EIS (as to the timber resource). In short, the 1976 assessment was a guesstimate upon which successive estimates have been made, this has merely compounded the original shortcomings of the assessment to the point where, quite bluntly, nobody has a blind clue as to what is left out there "

Using the Resource

Wood Supply Agreements taken up on the North Coast by one Company eg. Boral, has not lead to greater investment by that company as far as the evidence shows. In fact it is the small mills which show the best use of timber and the value adding which is the "in word" now. On average the small mill cuts up to 60% from a log against the larger mills which use only about 35% of the log for sawn timber; the remainder of the log ends up as wood chips. One of the larger mills Kempsey Timbers, has made large investments and worked towards better utilisation of the timber and it does so with basically salvage logs and only 20% quota logs.

Conclusion

It is obvious from this information that the State Forest administration knew that about this time there would be very little saw log resource available and that mainly from the last of the old growth forests. But the authorities said way back in 1979 that there would be plenty of soft wood logs available and these would tide the industry over until regrowth forests were producing saw logs.

So the timber shortage at the end of this century was anticipated by the Forestry authorities and that was without taking into account any new reserve systems. So why is the public not being properly informed about the wood supply situation? Why do some of the politicians keep talking about the huge potential of the native hardwood forests? Or are they talking of fifty years hence? Why does the industry demand resource security over an almost non-existent resource?

The protection of the remaining old growth, which the Labor Government has promised to be 100% ; the dedication of identified wilderness areas ; and the setting aside of some new forest reserves should not have a devastating effect upon industry . It was already very close to the end of its resource according to the State Forests and the way out was to go for the softwood plantations.

The RACAC Report ,now open for public comment, puts three options to Government and the community. A cut of 30% in sawlog allocation ,or a cut of 50% or one of 70%. The cut of 30% is basically doing nothing as there has to be a cut of 30% which the Government has already announced. The cut of 30% is the one being pressed by Unions and Industry while the conservation movement wants to see a cut of 70% with some additional important compartments protected. In light of the 1979 estimates of timber supplies by the Forest authorities the 70% figure appears to be much closer to what might be available to Industry than 30%. In fact the 70% reduction leaves rather more sawlogs available to Industry than Forest authorities predicted back in 1979. And of course there is that huge softwood resource available which the Forest authorities said would be ready now to fill the short fall.

The next few months will see if Government is prepared to call State Forest and Industrys bluff and point out to them that the present situation has been known for years and they should have made their adjustments before now..

James L.O.Tedder
12 June 1996

SW
25 JUL 1994

Premier of New South Wales
Australia

Mr S Walker
Executive Officer
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
39 George Street
THE ROCKS NSW 2000

12 JUL 1994

Dear Mr Walker

I have received your letter on behalf of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW concerning the Natural Resources Audit Council and the National Forest Policy Statement.

I note your Council's support for comprehensive regional assessments of forest ecosystems in New South Wales. However, I believe that you have confused such a process with the aims of the Natural Resources Audit Council. My Government did not establish NRAC as the "first step" of any particular assessment process, but to provide compilations of information on the values of the State's public lands and their natural resources, to assist it when it comes to make a range of decisions concerning the use of those lands and natural resources over which it has control. The information which NRAC will collate will assist the Government in, for example, the development of Regional Environmental Plans, the preparation of recovery plans for endangered species, setting sustainable levels for commercial and recreational fishing, the allocation of vacant Crown land, and so on.

A major part of NRAC's functions is to enhance the comprehensiveness of its audits by commissioning work to accelerate the collection and coordination of relevant information. The majority of the funds allocated to NRAC (\$5 million in 1993/94) will be spent on such work.

Although, therefore, NRAC was not established specifically as the first step of any process of comprehensive regional assessments of forest ecosystems, I expect that some of the information collated by NRAC and some of the projects funded by NRAC would, no doubt, be useful inputs if any such assessments were to be undertaken in the future.

I would have thought that your Council would support initiatives such as NRAC which result in the improvement and greater integration of information about our State's public lands and their natural resources and the increased accessibility of such information.

Your comments concerning the 'limitation' of NRAC's task to public lands again reflect a misunderstanding of NRAC's role. It has been established to assist the State Government when dealing with those lands for which it is the primary decision-maker.

I dispute that NRAC's membership is "unduly weighted towards economic interests." The Council comprises the Chief Executive Officers of the major NSW Government agencies with responsibilities for public lands and their natural resources, an independent Chair and four non-Government members with expertise in land and natural resource matters. There are no representatives of any interest groups on the Council.

In regard to your comments on the public availability of information generated through the NRAC process, I have been advised that NRAC has issued a policy paper on the public availability of, inter alia, the information flowing from the projects which it funds. A copy of the paper is enclosed for your information. Further queries on this matter should be referred to NRAC itself.

You state that the NSW Government could conduct a regional assessment which the Commonwealth could accredit and to which the Commonwealth could contribute funds. I must reiterate that it is not NRAC's function to conduct assessment work. Nevertheless, I have requested the Commonwealth Government to accredit NRAC's first reference, the Regional Audit of the Upper North East of New South Wales, under the Inter Governmental Agreement on the Environment. I am informed that negotiations between the two Governments are progressing satisfactorily on this matter.

I turn now to the second matter raised in your letter, the implementation of various commitments under the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

The NSW Government, along with the Commonwealth Government and other State Governments, is undertaking the processes specified in the NFPS for, first, the review of the appropriateness of the existing reserve system to complete its development and, secondly, the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reservation system to protect old growth forest and wilderness values on public and private lands.

The Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council and the Australian Forestry Council have established a working group of technical experts to develop broad criteria on which to base reserves systems to protect, first, the nature conservation values of forests and, secondly, old growth and wilderness values. When these criteria have been finalised and agreed upon by the NSW, Commonwealth and other State Governments, assessments will be able to proceed. Relevant information, such as that collated by NRAC in its Regional Audits, or from research undertaken by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and State Forests of NSW, will be fed into the assessment process.

I am advised that State Forests of NSW is implementing the commitment in the NFPS for forest management agencies to avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation values. Specifically, the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act 1991 places a moratorium on logging in old growth forests identified in the Government's 1990 Old Growth Forest Strategy pending the completion and determination by the Minister for Planning of environmental impact statements (EIS). The Act also excludes logging from wilderness nominations which had not previously been the subject of an EIS.

On the last matter raised in your letter, I note your support for the Commonwealth Government's pledge to secure a reserve system for all ecosystems across Australia at the time of its announcement. I can only reiterate the NSW Government's commitment to the establishment of a national system of protected areas, after full consideration has been given to nature conservation and socio-economic implications, in line with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Fahey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Fahey,
Premier.

TCO/05632



Premier of New South Wales
Australia

18 NOV 1993

Sid Walker
Executive Officer
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
39 George Street
The Rocks NSW 2000

16 NOV 1993

Dear Mr Walker,

I am writing with reference to your letter concerning regional assessments under the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

I recently responded to a coalition of peak environment groups, including the NCC, on the operation of the NFPS in NSW. A copy of this letter is attached.

On the specific matter of regional assessments under the NFPS, inquiries are being made and a more detailed response will be provided as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,


John Fahey,
Premier



TCO/05632

Premier of New South Wales
Australia

Mr Jeff Angel
CoDirector
Total Environment Centre
1/88 Cumberland St
SYDNEY 2000

10 NOV 1993

Dear Mr Angel,

I refer to your representations on behalf of the Total Environment Centre, Australian Conservation Foundation, Greenpeace, Nature Conservation Council, National Parks Association, The Wilderness Society, North East Forest Alliance, Coolong Foundation for Wilderness and South East Forest Alliance concerning the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

I wish to assure you that my Government remains committed to the orderly implementation of the NFPS in accordance with the agreed principles of the National Ecologically Sustainable Development Strategy, which require ensuring balance between conservation and development considerations.

Comments have been made to the effect that NSW is not complying with the NFPS, and specific reference has been made to logging operations in compartment 1402 of Nalbaugh State Forest.

In this regard, it needs to be remembered that the NFPS does not override the 1990 Commonwealth/State South East Forest Agreement. The Prime Minister recently advised that his Government remains committed to the 1990 Agreement and that the Agreement is not extinguished by the NFPS.

Logging operations in compartment 1402, and throughout the Eden Forest Management Area, comply with all relevant State legislation and are consistent with the precepts underlying the 1990 Agreement. Further, the 1990 Agreement itself complies with the principles of the National ESD Strategy. The Agreement balances both conservation and development objectives by protecting high conservation value forests through reservation in the national parks system, while also ensuring the continued viability of the region's timber industry through an industry restructuring package.

In fact, the Agreement meets many of the obligations imposed under the NFPS for the region. Significantly, the NFPS requires that regional forest assessments be undertaken as a basis for decision making on forest use.

The Joint Scientific Study of the south east forest, which was undertaken by the NSW Government and the Federal ALP Government in 1990, and which forms the basis of the 1990 Agreement, meets regional survey and assessment obligations under the NFPS. On the basis of the data provided by this regional assessment, the 1990 Agreement sets aside 55,000 hectares of State forest for reservation as national park, and establishes two Special Prescription Areas which are available for logging, but which may need to be managed differently from other areas to protect conservation values.

Compartment 1402 falls within one of these Areas. In accordance with the spirit of the 1990 Agreement, NPWS and State Forests have agreed on a set of harvesting prescriptions for the compartment designed to protect fauna and old growth values which include the retention of wildlife corridors, a prohibition on the felling of trees for woodchip and strict guidelines to mitigate against soil erosion and water pollution.

In addition to the allocative decisions provided for under the 1990 Agreement, there are a number of processes underway across the State which ensure obligations under the NFPS for the protection of old growth forests and forested wilderness are met.

Specifically, the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act 1991 places a moratorium on logging in old growth forests identified in the Government's 1990 Old Growth Forest Strategy pending the completion and determination by the Minister for Planning of environmental impact statements (EIS) under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. The Act also excludes logging from wilderness nominations which had not previously been the subject of an EIS.

Further the Wilderness Act 1987 provides for the nomination and assessment of areas for wilderness values, and the Government is currently involved in the consideration of a number of wilderness nominations.

The NFPS was never meant to impose a moratorium on logging in old growth forests, and indeed specifies that "Australia will continue to use old growth timber for many years". Rather, the NFPS represents an attempt to balance forest conservation and development considerations. My Government will continue to ensure that the conservation and economic utilisation of forests in this State is consistent with this objective.

Yours sincerely,

John Fahey

John Fahey,
Premier

MINUTE

Portfolio Minister

Originating
Office:

Ref:

NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT - CABINET CONSIDERATION

Purpose

To brief you on the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) Cabinet Submission to be considered by Cabinet on 12 November 1992, prior to consideration of the NFPS by First Ministers at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting in early December.

Background

2. The NFPS has been negotiated with the States and Territories under the auspices of the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) and the Australian Forestry Council (AFC) in consultation with industry, unions and conservation groups. Following a two month public consultation period the Statement has been revised in consultation with the States.
3. The Statement represents the joint response of Governments to the recommendations of the Ecologically Sustainable Development Forest Use Working Group; the Resource Assessment Commission's Forest and Timber Inquiry and the National Plantation Advisory Committee. The NFPS adopts either fully, or in part, over 90% of the recommendations of those Reports.
4. The Statement sets out a national approach to the ecologically sustainable management and use of Australia's forest estate, including measures to address:
 - * the maintenance of an extensive permanent native forest estate to protect conservation values;
 - * optimising the benefits to the community for the full range of commercial and non-commercial uses of forests; and
 - * facilitating the development of internationally competitive and ecologically sustainable forest product and tourism industries.
5. A copy of the Cabinet Submission relating to consideration of the Statement is provided at Attachment E.
6. The latest draft text of the full Statement is provided at Attachment F.

Issues

7. There are a number of significant issues relating to both the Cabinet Submission and the NPPS which warrant your attention. For ease of reference, each of these matters has been dealt with in separate Attachment form. The Attachments are:

Attachment A Conservation Initiatives of the NPPS

Attachment B Industry Initiatives of the NPPS

Attachment C Comprehensive Assessments

Attachment D Security of Resource

8. We would not anticipate any policy related difficulties arising from coordination comments on the Cabinet Submission, although it could be expected that both the Treasury and Finance will express resistance over expected expenditure requirements.

9. PM&C may raise the issue of State endorsement in that some States would prefer forest matters to be handled by way of bilateral agreements such as the NSW, SE Forest Agreement. Given that the Statement reflects State/Commonwealth positions negotiated over the past few months this matter should not prove insurmountable.

10. However, it is true that some States, most noticeably NSW and Tasmania, have hardened their positions in relation to accepting the Statement's conservation objectives and may threaten to 'walk away' on these grounds. We do not accept that this threat should be reason to further weaken the Commonwealth's environmental objectives.

11. If necessary, the Commonwealth will need to have agreed 'bottom lines' on environmental matters to put forward for consideration by State Cabinets prior to the December COAG meeting, for example, on the 1995 timetable for the reserve system. You may wish to indicate that you will re-consider your support for the Statement if the States prove intractable in wanting to weaken the conservation objectives in the Statement.

12. Conservation groups will criticise the NPPS for a number of reasons. They will argue that the conservation initiatives of the Statement do not go as far or as quickly as they would wish. They will also respond negatively to the issue of security of resource. Provided that the conservation advantages of the Statement are not eroded we consider that the gains to be made, particularly in regard to old growth and wilderness, represent a significant advance in forest conservation.

Recommendations

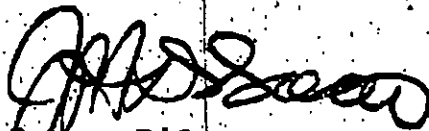
13. It is recommended that you:

i) agree, pending our advice to you on coordination comments, to co-sponsor the Cabinet Submission relating to the NFPS with the Minister for Resources;

ii) approve in principle the current draft of the NFPS as attached, noting that discussions which are still being held with the States should not lead to any weakening of conservation objectives;

iii) note that wording of the final text is subject to agreement between yourself and the Minister for Resources; and

iv) draw on the above information in your discussions in Cabinet.



Joanne DiSano
First Assistant Secretary
Environment and Conservation Policy Division
12 November 1992

Prepared by: Jennie Ludlow
274 1319

Agreed/Not Agreed

MINISTER

Conservation Initiatives of the NFPS

The NFPS provides for a number of conservation initiatives, specifically:

1. maintenance of an extensive and permanent native forest estate with no reduction of cover or integrity of native forests where this would compromise National, State and regional conservation objectives;
2. forests being managed for the conservation of all species of Australia's flora and fauna, throughout those species' ranges;
3. comprehensive, adequate and representative areas of all native forest ecosystems agreed on a nationally recognised scientific basis and protection of endangered and vulnerable forest species in a dedicated and secure nature conservation reserve system. Other areas of forest are to be protected in order to safeguard special areas and to provide links where possible between reserves and other protected areas;
4. ensurance that unique features and heritage values of conservation significance are protected as part of the overall reservation systems;
5. provision of complementary management outside reserves, in public native forests that are available for wood production and other commercial uses, and in forests on unallocated or leased crown land;
6. promotion of management practices on private lands that are sympathetic to conservation objectives; and
7. protection of old growth and wilderness (comprehensive, adequate and representative) in dedicated and secure reserve systems.

There has been considerable pressure from the States to water down the conservation initiatives in the Statement. While the Statement as it stands represents a compromise on many issues, we consider it reflects substantial progress towards achieving national forest conservation objectives and provided there is no further weakening of the existing text of the Statement, represents a successful outcome.

Industry Initiatives of the NFPS

The NFPS provides for a number of industry initiatives, specifically:

1. security of resource (see Attachment D);
2. removal of controls on the export of unprocessed public and private plantation wood;
3. consideration of longer term approvals for woodchip exports;
4. clarification of the taxation treatment of native forests and plantations used for commercial wood production and consideration of further Commonwealth action following a comprehensive tax ruling; and
5. changes to taxation provisions to assist plantation development, firstly through increasing the Income Equalisation Deposit (IED) ceiling, and secondly, through promoting the establishment of pooled development funds (PDF) for plantations.

Comprehensive Assessments

The NPFS (page 17) provides for joint Commonwealth/State up-front comprehensive regional assessments of forests. This builds on the Commonwealth's One Nation initiative, by accelerating and expanding the program of joint assessment of National Estate values of forests and agreeing on management approaches for those regions. It is intended that once completed, a comprehensive regional assessment would form the basis for a subsequent single regional agreement with the relevant State on forest management for conservation and resource use.

The regional agreement would also accredit the comprehensive assessment for the purpose of evaluating forest resource use impacts of proposed development projects, provided those developments did not seek to substantially alter the agreed forest management guidelines for the region.

The comprehensive assessment process would be as follows:

- * States would request the Commonwealth to undertake a joint regional assessment

- * the assessment would address the complete suite of Commonwealth environmental and cultural responsibilities, ie, National Estate; World Heritage, Endangered Species, Biodiversity, Cultural Heritage, environmental impacts etc. This would be done through the collection and collation of necessary data and information and subsequent analyses of that material by the relevant Commonwealth agencies. (It is anticipated that the ABC would act as the Commonwealth's agent in the data collection and collation stage).

- * the Commonwealth will ensure its evaluation of information is undertaken in an efficient and timely manner. Wherever possible, it will progress its analyses concurrently, taking into account the analyses of other Commonwealth agencies.

- * following from the assessment the Commonwealth and State would jointly agree guidelines for the ecologically sustainable management of the region, for example sustainable yield levels; application of Codes of Practice; protection plans for rare and endangered species and measures to protect National Estate and World Heritage values.

ATTACHMENT D

Security of Resources

The Statement provides for certainty and security of access to resource for industry to facilitate significant long-term investments in value adding projects in the forests products industry. To this end it is proposed that, subject to statutory requirements, the Commonwealth will provide either specific legislation or an intergovernmental project agreement where this is necessary for such a project to proceed.

Before any commitment is entered into it will be necessary for the following processes to have taken place:

1. completion of joint integrated regional assessments;
2. Commonwealth/State agreements relating to forest management and the agreed reserve system are in place.

Exceptional and unforeseen circumstances clauses will apply.

The Commonwealth is not committed to liability for compensation payments if wood resource is withdrawn, however its approach of providing structural adjustment assistance is noted and will be continued.

11th August 1992

The Hon. Paul Keating MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Prime Minister

**RE: RESPONSE TO YOUR GOVERNMENT'S
DRAFT NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT**

This national forest policy draft, prepared by officials from wood harvesting government agencies, is no more than a prescription for continued and unnecessary native forest destruction. Australians want their forests and their wood and this can be achieved by the Commonwealth enforcing a national policy which is in the interests of the national economy.

The current draft does not achieve this end and hence, deserves to be abandoned immediately lest serious criticism gives it unwarranted credibility.

Far from entrenching non-commercial wood supply operations in public native forests, a progressive national policy should be aimed at securing commercially viable wood supply from efficiently managed plantations.

The outdated commitment by forest bureaucracies to accommodate industry preference for a cheap resource has already cost Australia an accumulated \$4.5 billion in public sector debt [see Resource Assessment Commission, *Forest and Timber Inquiry Draft Report*, pR3]. It is time that national policy was directed towards efficient meeting of market demand through micro-economic reform, subsidy removal and market education.

The key policy settings necessary for effective management of our forests are few and simple:

1. The ongoing subsidising of wood production from native forests should be abandoned in favour of ensuring the use of plantations for wood supply.

Plantations are much more productive in terms of mass of usable wood produced per hectare per year compared to native forest that it is unnecessary and costly to attempt to establish commercially viable management regimes for wood supply from native forests.

Figures released by the Victorian Department of Conservation and Environment (DCE) on the first report on native forest logging operations on the mainland, show that native forests are logged at a loss. Conversely the same figures show that DCE's softwood plantations run at a healthy profit. (*Commercial Accounts for the State Hardwood Forests and Softwood Plantations*, DCE, June 1992, Ferguson I.J. and Houghton K.A.)

2. Plantations, harvested at economically optimal ages of 12 to 22 years of age, are technically and economically more attractive to pulpmills as a source of both softwood and hardwood fibre. This is especially true for new mills using modern technology.

-2-

Judy Clark (*The Future for native Forest Logging in Australia*, 1992) predicts that Australia can be totally self sufficient in the production of paper fibre by 1995, using only softwood and hardwood plantation pulpwood, residues from plantation based sawmills and increased paper recycling.

The ability to exploit gains in both volume and quality yield through technological advances of plantation material is essential to maintain a productivity advantage and thus economic viability. Conversely native forest woodchip suppliers can only retain competition by relying more and more on public subsidies. This is contrary to Federal government policy in all other industry sectors.

3. Softwood timber, harvested from plantations aged 25 to 40 years, is capable of substituting for the vast majority of uses currently met from native forests logging.

In South Australia, for instance which has no native forest logging industry, 91% of all timber consumed in the building and construction industry is softwoods from plantations. In Tasmania and Western Australia, the figure is only about 37% and 20% respectively. (Clark, 1992)

Supply and quality considerations will ensure that softwoods enjoy a growing price advantage over hardwoods in the construction market, making it cheaper and easier to build a house out of softwood. This is the area where real social benefit can be delivered to ordinary Australians by a national forest policy.

The continued use of native forest for woodchip production oriented to the export pulp market is not economically feasible anywhere on the Australian mainland as the timber resource simply does not exist. (RAC, *Forest and Timber Inquiry Final Report*, 1992, p1ii)

4. Native forests should be managed to maintain their nature conservation value. Apart from the obvious environmental and social values of the maintenance of the native forest estate, they also represent a very important economic resource even when not destroyed for wood values.

Firstly, tourism is a most appropriate commercial use of 'multiple use' native forests when it is designed to be compatible with nature conservation. It is also the most effective employer of low and semi-skilled people in remote areas (where the need is greatest) and the most efficient earner of foreign exchange.

Secondly, in a recent study commissioned by the Victorian Minister for Water Resources, it was shown that the economic value of water production from native forests has been considerably impacted upon by logging, which reduced catchment stream flow by as much as 50%. It was found that a total cessation to logging in Melbourne Thomson Catchment will have significant benefits for Melbourne water supply relative to the status quo with a net present value of \$147 million over current arrangements. (*Evaluation of the Economic values of Wood and Water Outputs for the Thomson Catchment*, 1992, Read Sturgess and Associates)

-3-

Thirdly, the role of forests and all forms of native vegetation in maintenance of soil and water values has always been well known. Unfortunately, the costs of native vegetation loss and degradation in terms of soil erosion, salinity, flooding and drought are only now being fully appreciated by national decision-makers. The National Plantation Advisory Committee confirmed that further clearing was unnecessary as there is abundant land available for plantations.

5. Native forests are a vital component of Australia's biodiversity and it is extremely important that they, and our other remaining natural vegetation types are managed to maintain their biodiversity.

Australia already has a poor record in protecting its plants and animals from extinction. The more fragile arid and semi-arid ecosystems have already suffered the worst but it is important to appreciate that, if present trends of forest destruction and degradation continue, native forests will also lose the capacity to sustain populations of animals and plants. This is already true of drier forests and woodlands which have borne the brunt of clearance for settlement. Large scale woodchipping operations have now extended that threat to all forest types.

It is vital that woodchipping be abandoned as an unsustainable use of native forests and a use which is inconsistent with management for nature conservation.

Similarly, strong wilderness legislation, threatened species legislation and a biodiversity strategy are needed as a matter of urgency to ensure that government resources can be effectively targeted to arresting Australia's shameful record on species extinction and recovery of threatened species.

The Draft Policy fundamentally fails to address biodiversity protection with conservation goals being qualified and voluntary, environmental protection measures given no workable frameworks or timelines and no commitment exists for the immediate protection of old growth, wilderness and high conservation value forests.

As RAC says "It is not feasible to log old growth forests.... and yet retain their full complement of old growth attributes and values.... Logging of old growth forests potentially violate the precautionary principle of sustainable development.... the values associated with pristine attributes cannot be replaced." (RAC, Final Report (xxvii)).

6. The people of Australia want all their native forests protected, and they want wood and paper products as well. The draft National Forest Policy defeats both these purposes.

It is no longer necessary to log any native forests. Complete self sufficiency in both the sawn timber and pulp and paper sectors can be achieved, solely from plantation resource, by 1995 at the latest. (Clark 1992)

-4-

In summary, the move forward for a National Forest Policy must address the fundamental issues raised above.

It needs to be taken back to first principles which would be reflected by a two-pronged approach to a national forest strategy:

1. A Native Forest Protection policy which will protect all the biodiversity, wilderness and aesthetic qualities of Australia's remaining native forests. It would include the immediate cessation of logging in high conservation forests, the identification of areas requiring further study over which moratoria would apply and the timetable for the eventual transition of all logging to alternative plantation sources.

2. A Wood Production Strategy based on existing and additional plantations on already cleared land. This can also encompass programmes aimed at land regeneration eg one billion trees.

Such an approach would provide for job growth, meet Australia's timber needs and protect Australia's unique native forest heritage.

Without these substantial changes in the direction of government policy, we can have no confidence in the outcome.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Caswell
Executive Director
Australian Conservation Foundation

Karenne Jurd
Director
The Wilderness Society

Peg Putt
Director
Tasmanian Conservation Trust



NEW SOUTH WALES

MINISTER FOR
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION

2023

Mr F M C. Scarf
Convenor/Director
Earth Repair Foundation
PO Box 15
HAZELBROOK NSW 2779

Dear Mr Scarf

I refer to your letter of 22 October to the Premier which has been forwarded to me for my consideration.

Your concerns about protecting old growth forests are noted. The Government shares your concern, but also recognises that much has been done, and is being done, to ensure that significant areas are protected in reserves and other undisturbed areas.

Regarding the extent of forest remaining in NSW, I am advised that forests cover about 15 million hectares, or nearly 20% of NSW. It is therefore not feasible that only 4% of the original forest cover remains. Furthermore, as described below, a significant part of the remaining forest is already protected.

As you correctly point out, the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) has been endorsed by the NSW Government and provides a national approach to the management of Australia's forests. The NFPS does not call for an immediate halt to all logging of old growth forests. However, it does set out an agreed policy framework to both conserve the biodiversity of native forests and to provide for wood production and industry development based on the ecologically sustainable use of native forests, and the development of plantations.

The Government is well aware of its obligations under the NFPS to provide a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system, and to manage production forests outside the reserve system in an ecologically sustainable manner to meet timber supply objectives. The Government's forest policy must accommodate both objectives, and these are being considered and met through its rigorous program of environmental impact statements (EISs).

we are not talking about reserves

You should appreciate that the objective to provide an adequate and representative system of old growth forest reserves already has a strong base to develop from. An extensive network of national parks and nature reserves will continue to provide a significant reserve for maintenance of flora and fauna diversity. On any reasonable definition of old growth forest the majority of forests in national parks are substantially unlogged and contain over two million hectares (nearly 60%) of the nearly four million hectares of old growth forest estimated to remain on publicly owned lands managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), State Forests and water supply authorities.

Logging is proposed on less than 10% of these publicly owned old growth forests, and within these areas proposed for logging, decisions on whether to manage areas for long term timber production or to add them to the reserve system will be made after full consideration of reservation needs and socio-economic consequences. This will be done via the EIS program set out in the *Timber Industry (Interim) Protection Act* and in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*. Each EIS will be determined independently by the Department of Planning after input by the NPWS on conservation requirements, fauna impact and compliance with the *Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act*.

These processes will ensure that the NFPS requirement to adequately survey old growth forests ahead of logging will be met. It is likely that conservation areas will be expanded as a result of the EIS process.

Regarding your concern about destruction of whole ecosystems, it is not correct to equate 'clearfelling' with 'selective' logging. Clearfelling is not carried out over broad areas in NSW. In selectively logged forests significant conservation values are maintained by retaining healthy, growing trees, wildlife habitat trees, areas of undisturbed forests, and streamside and wildlife corridors. The resulting variable age, mixed age and mature forests that develop over time on managed State forests supplement reserves in National Parks by extending ecological and habitat diversity.

Your proposals for employment programs are noted. It needs to be recognised that the timber industry in NSW (hardwood and softwood) directly employs about 10 000 people in *primary* processing alone. The sustained yield strategy for native forests will depend, for at least the next 20 years, on continuing access to "old growth" forests, until yields can be fully sustained from trees grown to maturity in previously logged areas. Operations in old growth forest currently provide about 50% of the sawlog yield from indigenous State forests. Immediate cessation of all old growth logging would have massive employment and social consequences for towns dependent on the hardwood timber industry.

Your letter refers to the potential role of plantations in meeting the State's timber needs. However, there should be no unrealistic expectations of what the present plantation resource can provide, or what can be practically achieved by expanding the plantation program. State Forests has played a major role in

plantation development for at least 40 years and has established larger areas of conifer and eucalypt plantations than any other State in Australia. State Forests is therefore well qualified to evaluate the potential role of plantations in meeting the State's timber needs. Neither existing nor proposed plantations are capable of replacing the shortfall that would result from immediate cessation of all old growth logging.

The purpose of establishing plantations in NSW has not been to replace timber harvesting in native forests, but rather to replace softwood imports which were, and still are, supplying over 40% of sawn timber used in NSW. A secondary purpose was to supplement declining yields from private native forests and from public native forests when planned reductions to sustainable levels are being implemented.

The Government supports your promotion of tree planting, and recognises the many benefits of re-establishing tree cover on cleared agricultural lands. The ultimate viability of plantations grown for wood production will depend on markets and financial returns. Nevertheless, the Government is spending \$2 million this financial year on eucalypt plantation establishment, including joint venture agreements between State Forests and landholders to encourage afforestation of private lands.

This Government is vitally concerned about establishing the balance between preservation and development, and your concerns on these matters are appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Wendy Seckold
SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR (FORESTRY)
for George Souris MP

15/12/93



NEW SOUTH WALES

**MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
AND
MINISTER FOR ENERGY**

08 FEB 1993

The Hon. R. Kelly, MP
Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment
and Territories
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mrs Kelly,

I refer to your recent letter regarding proposed actions under the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

You should be aware that the New South Wales Government has already taken action to avoid, as far as possible, activities within these areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value, pending environmental assessments. This action is embodied in the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act, specifically Schedules 1 and 2 of the Act, which place a moratorium on activities within nominated areas pending completion and determination of environmental impact statements.

I do not propose to respond in detail to the list of areas which you have advanced but refer you to the two Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act Schedules, and the attached maps, illustrating those areas involved.

Beyond the areas contained within the Schedules you will be aware that a comprehensive joint regional assessment has been completed in the South East Forests, leading to an agreement between the Commonwealth and New South Wales on a reserve system and other measures to be put in place. This process fully meets the requirements of the NFPS.

Environmental impact statements have been prepared and exhibited for the Mt. Royal, Wingham, Dorrigo and Glen Innes management areas, as required under the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act, and when determined operations will proceed in accordance with those determinations. This process of assessment and determination meets the requirements of the NFPS.

I should point out that the list you have provided contains large areas which, on any reasonable evaluation, do not constitute either old-growth forest or wilderness. One obvious example is Pilliga State Forest, an area of regrowth forest, previously settled and used for agricultural purposes, extensively roaded and subject to numerous cycles of harvesting.

On an initial assessment I estimate that your list contains about 1.4 million hectares of forest. The exclusion of timber harvesting, beyond that already in place, would result in the annual sustainable timber yield from New South Wales State forests being reduced by 52%. Your proposed actions are clearly unwarranted and merely serve to undermine the collaborative spirit between the Commonwealth and the States which is essential if the NFPS is going to be implemented effectively. You should be able to appreciate that the implications for rural economies, the timber industry and dependent employment that flow from your implied actions would be horrendous. Such action is neither contemplated nor required under the terms of the NFPS.

Yours sincerely

GARRY WEST

**GARRY WEST, MP
MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT
AND MINISTER FOR ENERGY**



Premier of New South Wales
Australia

30 MAR 1993

The Hon. Paul Keating, M.P.
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

I refer to your recent letter concerning the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS). You have asked whether the New South Wales Government will fully back the establishment of the policy advisory body, as agreed in the NFPS, and whether it will continue to support the NFPS generally. You have also noted that funds have been made available to the Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories to assist the States in the assessment of forests for conservation values, including old growth and wilderness, under the NFPS.

My Government endorsed the NFPS on the basis that it would provide a framework for consultation between the States and the Commonwealth on issues affecting the ecologically sustainable use and management of forest resources. My Government will continue to support the NFPS on the condition that it fulfils this function. Accordingly, on this condition, the New South Wales Government supports the establishment of the policy advisory body as agreed under the NFPS. This advisory body should provide a means for stakeholders to convey their views on forestry and conservation issues to governments within that consultative framework.

However, as you have noted, there are some concerns regarding the Commonwealth's intentions with respect to the NFPS. I share these concerns and suggest they may threaten the continued support of my Government for the NFPS if not resolved. In particular, I am concerned at the prescriptive and unilateral manner in which the NFPS has been invoked by your colleague, the Minister for Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories in her undated letters to my Ministerial colleagues. I am advised by my colleague the Minister for Conservation and Land Management, the Hon. G.B. West, M.P., that your Minister's request for a moratorium on wood production activities in areas she contends have a high conservation value would affect some 1.4 million hectares of forest in New South Wales, resulting in a 52% reduction in the annual sustainable timber yield from State forests. This would have unacceptable consequences for the timber industry and rural economies.

Further, I am advised by my colleague the Minister for the Environment, the Hon. C.P. Hartcher, M.P., that the list of areas of forests likely to have high conservation value old growth or wilderness is misleading and overstates reserve requirements. For example, I am advised that several of the areas included have already been examined by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service for wilderness values and have been found to be unsuitable for declaration as wilderness.

Accordingly, my Government seeks clarification from the Commonwealth on its intentions with respect to the NFPs objectives dealing with the protection of old growth and wilderness forests.

You will be aware that NSW already has in place measures to ensure the protection of the conservation values of forests, including old growth and wilderness values. In particular, the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act 1991 places a moratorium on logging in old growth forests identified in the New South Wales Government's 1990 Old Growth Forest Strategy pending the completion and determination of environmental impact statements (EIS) under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

This Act also excludes logging from wilderness nomination areas which had not previously been the subject of an EIS. Further, the Wilderness Act 1987 provides for the nomination and assessment of areas for wilderness values and NSW is currently involved in the assessment of a number of wilderness nomination areas.

You will also be aware that the NFPs contemplates the accreditation of State processes under the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE) and that the Commonwealth is to give full faith and credit to the results of accredited State processes when exercising its own responsibilities under the NFPs.

Accordingly, as a matter of urgency, my Government seeks accreditation by the Commonwealth under the IGAE of the State environmental assessment processes provided for under the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act 1991 and the Wilderness Act 1987 for the purposes of the NFPs.

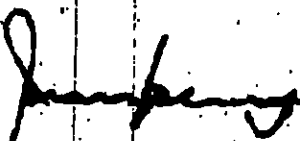
On the matter of Commonwealth funding to assist the States in the assessment of forests for conservation values, my Government is prepared to negotiate with the Commonwealth on funding arrangements for forest assessments. However, such arrangements should not pre-empt the orderly implementation of the NFPs. Specifically, funding arrangements should be made in the light of your Government's consideration of the accreditation of the above mentioned State processes. Further, as agreed by governments under the NFPs, the commencement of any new assessment processes for the purposes of the NFPs is contingent upon the satisfactory agreement by the Commonwealth and the States on criteria for the assessment of the conservation values of forests.

Finally, I would like to raise with you the status of the 1990 Commonwealth/State Agreement on the South East Forests in the context of the NFPS. As you will be aware, this Agreement provides for the dedication by my Government of some 55,000 hectares of conservation reserves over State forests and other Crown land on the basis of the results of a joint Commonwealth/State scientific report on the region. In return, your Government is to provide resource security arrangements and industry restructuring assistance.

I understand the Agreement has been the subject of officer level negotiations between the Commonwealth and NSW and my Government is now ready to proceed to finalise the Agreement at Ministerial level. However, I was concerned to note that areas listed for exclusion from logging by your Minister included areas which had been determined as available for wood production under the Agreement. This threatens the very basis of the Agreement and risks undermining the cooperative and consultative spirit adopted by both our Governments in negotiating the Agreement.

Consequently, my Government also seeks confirmation from the Commonwealth that the assessment procedures and proposed dedication of conservation reserves under the South East Forests Agreement satisfies the requirements of the NFPS for that region in terms of the establishment of a "comprehensive, adequate and representative reservation system" for publicly owned old growth forests and forested wilderness.

Yours sincerely,



John Fahey,
Premier.



TUR

MINISTER FOR ~~XXXXXX~~ SPORT, THE ENVIRONMENT
AND TERRITORIES

20/5 (C)

Hon. Ros Kelly M.P.

Phone: (06) 277 7640
Facsimile: (06) 277 4130

The Hon G Souris MP
Minister for Land and Water Conservation
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

31 MAY 1993

Dear Minister

I refer to the letter of 8 February 1993 from your predecessor, the Hon Garry West MP, on the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

The survey and protection of old-growth forests and wilderness is a high priority under the NFPS. The survey of these forests is a first and important step in the process of establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative forest reserve system for these values by 1995 and 1998, as agreed under the NFPS. The time required to survey forests for their old-growth values will be considerable, and I am concerned that the surveys commence as soon as possible.

I expect the joint ANZECC/AFC working group on reserve criteria to shortly commence work on criteria for selecting old-growth reserves. However, given the need for public input into the process, it may not be possible for this work to be completed before the end of this year. Although I hope the criteria will be endorsed by Governments as soon as possible thereafter, it is possible that this will not occur before the middle of 1994. If this is the case, and survey work is delayed until the reserve criteria are finalised, it will leave Governments only 18 months to undertake surveys, apply the criteria and select and gazette reserves, in order to meet the 1995 deadline.

The undertaking of the surveys, and the knowledge gained, will also be essential for the development of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of nature conservation reserves in forests, and for the development of codes of practice and environmental prescriptions to meet the baseline environmental standards to be developed by the joint ANZECC/AFC sub-committee and working groups.

The Victorian Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has recently pioneered techniques to discriminate between areas of differing conservation value, by surveying forests for their age structure and level and type of disturbance, as well as for floristic communities. This methodology, particularly when combined with research on the habitat requirements of arboreal mammals and other major forest dwelling animals, provides a good information base on which to select reserves and manage forests and is endorsed by my portfolio. Commonwealth funding has been provided to Victoria to undertake survey work into the Central Highlands region and proposals for further surveys throughout the eastern forested region of Victoria, immediately across the border from the NSW South-east forests are being considered. I am advised that the Queensland Department of Primary Industry, Forest Service, and the Department of Environment and Heritage are also bringing forward proposals to jointly undertake surveys in the Queensland south-east region and the State's coastal and ranges forests based on this methodology.

I understand that the Victorian methodology is also endorsed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, and the NSW Department of Planning, and that the NSW Department of Conservation and Land Management is currently being supported by

[Handwritten signature]

Department to survey vegetation in the Murray-Darling Basin, using a very similar methodology. On this basis I hope you would consider giving your support to the undertaking of old-growth studies in the north-east and southern forests of NSW as a matter of some priority. Adoption of similar methodology for surveys across States should ensure that survey data is complementary, and the results comparable, when management decisions on forests are made.

As you may be aware, the decision of the NSW Minister for Planning to reject the Mt Royal EIS, and to modify the Wingham EIS, was based in part on the need for a survey of old-growth forest. The determination of the Wingham EIS included the requirement that a survey of the conservation value of old-growth forest be undertaken. I am advised that a survey, using methodology developed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service as part of the cooperative National Forest Inventory program, would adequately meet this requirement. I would emphasise that the surveys will be gathering basic information on forests and will not duplicate or overtake the work of the joint ANZECC/AFC working group on reserve criteria.

With regard to the other points raised in Mr West's letter of 8 February 1993, I would emphasise that the list of areas accompanying my letter of 21 December 1992, was an interim list for comment, and not intended to be final or prescriptive. Your substantive comments on the areas listed, and advice on measures being taken to ensure the protection of those areas of high conservation value would therefore be appreciated. In this regard, I note that the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act (the TI(IP) Act) which applies only to State forests, is currently being applied only to NE, NSW where State forests represent only 17% of the total forest estate. While the schedules may give adequate interim protection to forest under State Forest tenure, it is important that surveys of the conservation value of forests cover a broader perspective, for example, areas under National Park, other crown tenures and private land.

Finally, I would draw your attention to the requirements, agreed under the NFPS, for a study to be considered 'comprehensive, and to the definition of 'comprehensive, adequate and representative' in relation to the nature conservation reserve system. The IGAE requires consultation with the Commonwealth, and possible modification of processes, prior to studies being undertaken, if a State Government wishes a process to be accredited. The TI(IP) Act process was not referred to the Commonwealth for accreditation, prior to its application, and therefore no opportunity was granted the Commonwealth to examine the process to ensure it meets Commonwealth obligations and legislation.

I look forward to working cooperatively with you on this important matter.

I have copied this letter to the Hon Paul Keating, Prime Minister of Australia and the Hon Michael Lee, Minister for Resources, and to your colleagues, the Hon Chris Hartcher, Minister for the Environment, and the Hon Robert Webster, Minister for Planning.

Yours sincerely

SIGNED

ROS KELLY



Hon Ros Kelly MP

6 SEP 1993

Mr James Tedder
Hon Secretary
North Coast Environment Council Inc
Pavans Rd Grassy Head
via STUARTS POINT NSW 2441

Dear Mr Tedder

Thank you for your letter of 28 July 1993 on the implementation of the commitments made in the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

As you are aware, the NFPS, signed by all Governments, except Tasmania, commits State and Territory Governments and their forest management agencies to the assessment of forests for conservation values, including old-growth and wilderness values. Most importantly, while assessments are being undertaken, forest management agencies are to avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness likely to have high conservation value. The Governments agreed that, conditional on satisfactory agreement on criteria for old-growth and wilderness by the Commonwealth and the States, a comprehensive, adequate and representative system to protect old-growth forest and wilderness values will be in place by the end of 1995.

Following the signing of the NFPS, I wrote to the relevant State Ministers, emphasising the importance of developing a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of reserves, including reserves to protect old-growth forest and wilderness and stressed the need to exclude wood production from areas likely to have such value pending the reserve system being put in place.

On 31 May 1993 I reiterated my concerns to the Hon George Souris MP, emphasising the importance of undertaking assessments for old-growth forests and wilderness. I have not received a reply to this letter to date.

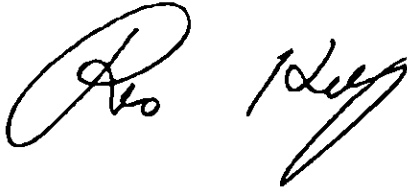
I am keen to ensure that as far as possible the commitments of the NFPS are implemented. The Commonwealth will be working cooperatively with the States to achieve this.

The Joint Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council/Australian Forestry Council NFPS Implementation Sub-committee established to oversee the implementation of the NFPS met initially on 9 June 1993 and established the Technical Working Groups to determine criteria for a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of reserves in forests, and baseline environmental standards for forest use and management.

The Technical Working Group established to develop criteria for the forest reserve system has met twice to date and I understand the group is making substantial progress. I am informed that the draft criteria should be finalised by the end of 1993, for the consideration of Governments.

At the recent meeting of the NFPS Implementation Sub-committee it was agreed that the criteria developed by the Technical Working Group on reserve criteria should be refereed initially by a group of internationally renowned scientists. Following this process the Sub-committee will consider whether the criteria should then be made available for public comment. I would support public review of the criteria to ensure that they adequately meet public expectations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ros Kelly', with a large, stylized 'R' and a long, sweeping underline.

ROS KELLY



**RETURN
COPY**

- 9 SEP 1993

**The Hon Chris Hatcher MP
Minister for the Environment
Level 20 Westfield Tower
100 William Street
EAST SYDNEY NSW 2011**

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 18 May 1993 concerning the implementation of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) and for the copy of the NSW Premier's letter to the Prime Minister concerning the same issue.

The Premier in his letter to the Prime Minister, sought further clarification of the Commonwealth's intentions regarding old growth and wilderness forests. The Prime Minister's response indicated that it was the Commonwealth's intention to pursue the survey and protection of these high conservation value forests in a co-operative manner and through the agreed consultative processes. I concur with this approach. To this end I expect the Joint ANZECC/AFC NFPS Implementation Sub-Committee to facilitate an appropriate consultative framework.

The Commonwealth Government has set aside significant funds to assist States and Territories in the implementation of NFPS Initiatives. To date, and as noted in your letter, NSW has not responded to this offer. I appreciate that consultation with your colleagues on these matters is necessary, however, I am concerned to ensure that the timelines agreed to in the NFPS are met. Given that the NFPS identifies a 1995 deadline for the implementation of old growth and wilderness policy initiatives, I would welcome substantive assessment proposals from NSW.

The indicative list accompanying my letter of December 1992 was intended to be a first step in an ongoing consultative process to assist in the identification of areas which Governments could agree should be surveyed and assessed. Your advice on whether the list appropriately reflects areas of high conservation values would therefore be valuable. I remain hopeful that we can jointly progress what is an agreed policy priority under the NFPS.

I have recently received considerable correspondence about forestry operations in Nalbaugh State Forest and the Deva wilderness, expressing concern over what is perceived to be lack of action at both the Commonwealth and State level in implementing the conservation initiatives of the NFPS. In order to assist me to respond accurately to these concerns, your advice on measures being taken by the NSW Government would be appreciated. I would be particularly grateful for

information on current management practices applying to the Nalbaugh and Deua areas, and how these serve to protect the high conservation values that have been identified in the region.

I have copied this letter to your colleagues the Hon Robert Webster and the Hon George Souris for their information.

Yours sincerely

SIGNED

ROS KELLY

Clearing Officer
Contact Officer
Telephone

Allison McCusker
Jennie Ludlow
274 1319

Allison McCusker 6/9/93

CURRENT SENATE HANSARD

28 September 1993

Page: 1266

[P R O O F]

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

National Forest Policy

Senator COULTER—My question is directed to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories. By way of preamble, I point out that the national forest policy agreed to by the Commonwealth and all the states, with the exception of Tasmania, undertakes to 'avoid activities which may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value'. Minister Kelly has sent an indicative list of areas which required interim protection until the reserve system was established to each state. The list included the Nalbaugh State Forest in New South Wales. Given that the minister considers the Nalbaugh State Forest to be of high conservation value, what is she doing to prevent its destruction by the New South Wales Forestry Commission, in complete defiance of the agreed national forest policy? Secondly, does the government put cooperation with recalcitrant state governments ahead of implementation of its own policy?

Senator SCHACHT—On 22 December 1992 Minister Kelly wrote to the relevant New South Wales ministers, outlining action necessary to meet the conservation initiatives of the national forest policy statement. She specifically noted the commitment to avoid activities in areas likely to have a high conservation value, pending assessment of these areas for determination against agreed reserve selection criteria and advised that funding assistance for assessments of old-growth forests and wilderness was available from the Commonwealth. Attached to her letter was a list of areas, including the Nalbaugh State Forest, that warranted consideration by the New South Wales government in light of the NFPs conservation policies.

On 31 May 1993 Mrs Kelly wrote to the New South Wales Minister for Land and Water Conservation seeking support for old-growth studies in New South Wales as a matter of priority. To date, no reply has been received. She shares the community's concern that the NFPs commitments are honoured by signatory governments. However, we must emphasise that the national forest policy is a

joint Commonwealth-state policy statement and its implementation depends on the willingness of state governments who have signed the policy to give effect of its intentions. To this end, Mrs Kelly has requested information from the New South Wales Minister for the Environment on how current forest management practices applying to the Nalbaugh and Dewar areas serve to protect the high conservation values that have been identified in the region. She has also written to the Commonwealth Minister for Resources, given his responsibilities for export approvals, regarding the Nalbaugh special prescription area and the conservation initiatives of the NFPs.

1

THE FOLLOWING FILE(S) ERASED

FILE	FILE TYPE	OPTION	TEL NO.	PAGE	RESULT
078	MEMORY TX	PERSONAL CODE 1111	7:30 REPORT	01/01	OK
			4 CORNERS	01/01	OK
			A CURRENT AFFAIR	01/01	OK
			GREEN & PRACTICAL	01/01	OK
			3331414	01/01	OK
			3332985	01/01	OK
			ANDREW OLLIE	01/01	OK
			2812075	01/01	OK
			2215923	01/01	OK
			GREEN LEFT	01/01	OK
			GREENWEEK	01/01	OK
			ENV MATTERS	01/01	OK
			049296407	01/01	OK
			042263616	01/01	OK

ERRORS

1) HANG UP OR LINE FAIL 2) BUSY 3) NO ANSWER 4) NO FACSIMILE CONNECTION

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

Waste Crisis Network

A COALITION OF NSW COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT GROUPS
39 GEORGE STREET SYDNEY NSW 2000 Ph (02)247 4206 Fax (02)247 5945



WARNING Media Release **WARNING**

Sunday 19 September 1993

A Dozen Waste Burners for Sydney by 2000

Conservationists have issued a warning today that Sydney may be cob-webbed by a network of a dozen or more waste incinerators by the turn-of-the-century if the State Government continues with its current waste strategy.

The warning comes in response to the tabling in Parliament of the report of the Joint Select Committee upon Waste Management.

"The Government-chaired-and-dominated-committee has essentially 'rubber-stamped' the Government's preferred policies" said Peter Hopper, spokesperson for the Nature Conservation Council's Waste Crisis Network.

cm3

2 PAGES

ONLY

FAX TO: Sue Salmon, National Campaigner,
Australian Conservation Foundation.
Paul Browne, Greenpeace.

Dr Judy Messer, Chairperson, Nature Conservation Council.

Tom McLoughlin, NSW Campaign Officer,
The Wilderness Society.

Anne Reeves, President,

National Parks Association of NSW.

John Corkill, Co-ordinator North East Forest Alliance.

Sid Walker, South East Forest Alliance.

URGENT

FROM: JEFF ANGEL

MESSAGE: PLEASE REPLY IF OK RE SIGNING LETTER BELOW
TO ALP AND INDEPENDENTS BELOW BY MONDAY MORNING

[Similar letter to NSW Government]

18 October 1993

Bob Carr MP
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
Sydney 2000

Dear Mr Carr,

Censure Motion on National Forest Policy

We understand that Clover Moore MP intends to introduce a censure motion of the Premier of NSW and Ministers for Environment and Land and Water Conservation for failing to adhere to and implement the conservation principles and mechanisms of the National Forest Policy Statement [NFPS] in the old growth and wilderness forests of NSW.

We urge that you support the motion.

For many months we have attempted to obtain implementation of the NFPS from the NSW Government.

The Policy seeks to achieve a system of comprehensive, representative and adequate nature conservation reserves over old growth and wilderness forests by the end of 1995. As part of the process a moratorium on logging should be placed on high conservation value forests.

Unless urgent action is taken to implement the conservation mechanisms of the NFPS, then by the time 1995 arrives, there will be little high conservation value forest left. Every day it is being targeted by State Forests for logging.

None of the excuses proffered by the State Government for its inaction are valid or credible.

There is overwhelming evidence from the National Forest Policy itself, Commonwealth and State correspondence, NSW EIS determinations, and scientific criticism of the south east decision to support our view.

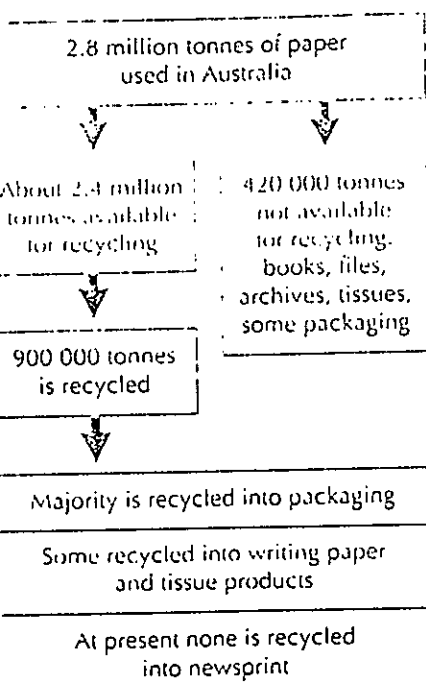
The policy seeks to establish a comprehensive, representative and adequate nature conservation system to protect old growth + wilderness values by the end of 1995. It also commits governments in order to "avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value".

*Jeff Angel
from Sid*

en pumped onto a conveyer belt mesh. Most of the water drains through the mesh, and the pulp goes through a series of presses and dryers to remove the rest.

There's no facility for recycling newspaper back into newspapers yet in Australia, though Australian Newsprint Mills began constructing a de-inking plant in Albury earlier this year. It's scheduled to open in December and is expected to handle 65 000 tonnes of waste paper in its first year and 130 000 by 1996. It will use newspapers and magazines and produce newsprint.

About a third of the 2.8 million tonnes of paper used each year in Australia is recycled.



Glass



Most of the old glass you set aside for recycling will end up as new glass containers. ACI, Australia's main glass container manufacturer, says on average glass sold in Australia contains 35% 'cullet' — the term used for crushed recycled glass.

It says every glass bottle contains some recycled glass. In NSW, on average a bottle contains 35% glass from old bottles, plus 20% in-house recycled glass. In 10 years time recycled content

could be as high as 90%. It's more energy-efficient to use old glass to make new — with potential savings of 20% to 35% when comparing manufacture using 100% cullet to 100% virgin raw materials.

To prepare it for use in glass making, cullet must be meticulously clean, so it goes through a lengthy decontaminating process. Magnets remove ferrous material, obvious waste is manually removed, suction removes lightweight waste, metal detectors remove metal, and the resulting mass is crushed.

Recycled glass may also end up as a portion of fibreglass and some flat glass.

Plastics



The very small proportion of household waste plastic that is recycled ends up in a variety of items including drainage pipes, garbage and compost bins, fibre for carpet and plant pots. The recovery rate for total household plastics — the majority of plastic waste — is 2.3% according to the Plastics Industry Association (PIA); at 50%, industry and commercial waste recovery is much more significant.

The PIA publishes a plastics recycling register which, as well as listing recyclers around Australia, also has an extensive directory of companies selling recycled products — from briefcases to soft ties for plants. You can contact the PIA on (03) 634 2199.

Recovering and recycling what's called 'post-consumer' plastic waste is fraught with difficulty. Although there are some uses for mixed plastics, most recycling uses demand careful sorting and cleaning. Sorting is labour intensive and therefore expensive. The economics of collecting are hampered by the relative bulk compared to weight, which affects the price obtainable — in other words, it's frustrating for a collector to spend time and money carting round a truckload of plastic when at the end of the journey, perhaps a processing plant, it will not be paid much for the goods. Most post-consumer plastics recycling in Australia centres on PET and HDPE.

PET

Many plastic soft drink bottles are PET (polyethylene terephthalate) — look out for the dimpled base in particular. Most PET bottles that do find their way to a

recycling plant are reincarnated as PET bottles again, but not for food — their use is restricted to containing household cleaners and the like. This is because of fears of contamination.

After bottles have been collected they are crushed and baled and transported to the recycling facility. There they are debaled, hand-sorted and granulated (chopped up). Paper and dust are removed, the PET is washed, rinsed, dried and transformed into pellets which are used to make PET items such as bottles or exported for other uses such as carpet fibre.

ACI, a PET bottle manufacturer, says 22% of PET bottles are now recycled. Its recycling operation has been going for 20 months.

HDPE

Milk bottles and juice bottles made of HDPE are recycled into products such as agricultural drainage pipes and garbage and compost bins. (You can identify HDPE by a '2' on the container's base.)

HDPE bottles which contain detergent, bleach and disinfectant, on the other hand, are less desirable because often they have lids made of a different type of plastic.

One HDPE recycler we spoke to said it was stockpiling 40% of its recycled granules because it couldn't get a worthwhile price just now.

Aluminium cans



According to Comalco, one of the leading aluminium sheet producers, there's a strong chance portions of the original aluminium cans which were introduced in 1969 are still in circulation. This is because there's no limit to the number of times aluminium can be recycled.

Comalco is the only company in Australia to melt down old cans to make new ones. When the cans are melted, the lacquer and paint combine with other trace substances to form what's called slag on top of the pure aluminium, which can then be removed. Comalco sells its coiled sheets to can manufacturers. Other companies recycle cans into garden furniture, lawnmower parts and so on.

About 60% of aluminium beverage cans are recycled, so although it probably doesn't indicate on the package, the cans for sale in retail outlets would contain a fair proportion of recycled aluminium.

The Commonwealth has made several attempts to obtain co-operation over the last 10 months and has offered significant funds for regional assessments, but to no avail.

There is significant community and media interest in the NFPS and we will continue to highlight the Government's position.

provides a basis for resolving conflict over native forests
 The NFPS contains all the proven elements of conflict resolution and *if implemented* is in fact the only barrier to renewed and extensive confrontation in the forests. *will prevent further*

as historic
 We are unable to stand idly by while ~~the best~~ opportunity to arrive at a long term economic and environmental solution is ignored. As more and more evidence mounts of the destruction of old growth and wilderness values our campaigns ~~must~~ intensify. *will*

Your support for the censure motion would, we believe, propel action on this vital issue.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Angel, CoDirector, Total Environment Centre.

Sue Salmon, National Campaigner, Australian Conservation Foundation.

Paul Browne, Greenpeace.

Dr Judy Messer, Chairperson, Nature Conservation Council.

Tom McLoughlin, NSW Campaign Officer, The Wilderness Society.

Anne Reeves, President, National Parks Association of NSW.

John Corkill, Co-ordinator North East Forest Alliance.

Sid Walker, South East Forest Alliance.

Address for correspondence: Jeff Angel, TEC 1/88 Cumberland St Sydney 2000.

*prefer NCC
 but wish we
 as SEFA is*

*The NFPS provides a basis for resolving
 conflict over native forests and, if implemented
 in good faith, should help prevent renewed
 & extensive confrontation over native forests.*

Participate but don't contaminate

You're not helping anyone if you put items out for collection which aren't handled by your local council. But where there is the facility, don't let recyclables slip into the waste stream. And if you're prepared to make a few phone calls you could well find some other organisation in your area which is taking a material you'd like to recycle.

You could even follow PM of Mad-dington, WA's example. Over the last two years she has compiled a list of who'll take what in her area and she's happy to distribute the information to others. The list comprises 30 tips from where to take egg cartons, postage stamps or used motor oil to how to get started in recycling and who'll take plastic strawberry punnets.

It's also important not to 'contaminate' recyclables. Quite what a contaminant depends on the material. Traces of food can be a hazard in paper recycling, for example, but not in glass manufacture as the heat burns it off. Glass contaminants include ceramics and white Malibu bottles, on the other hand.

Minimise your waste!

Recycling is only one of a number of approaches with the common end of minimising waste. It's necessary to save energy, avoid depleting our natural resources, and solve the problem of shrinking landfill availability. The principle of the three Rs is well worn but worth repeating: reduce the amount of garbage generated; reuse items where possible, and lastly, recycle.

A number of studies have delved into Mr and Mrs Average's garbage bin and come up with a breakdown of the contents. Figures vary slightly but those shown in Figure 1 are pretty typical.

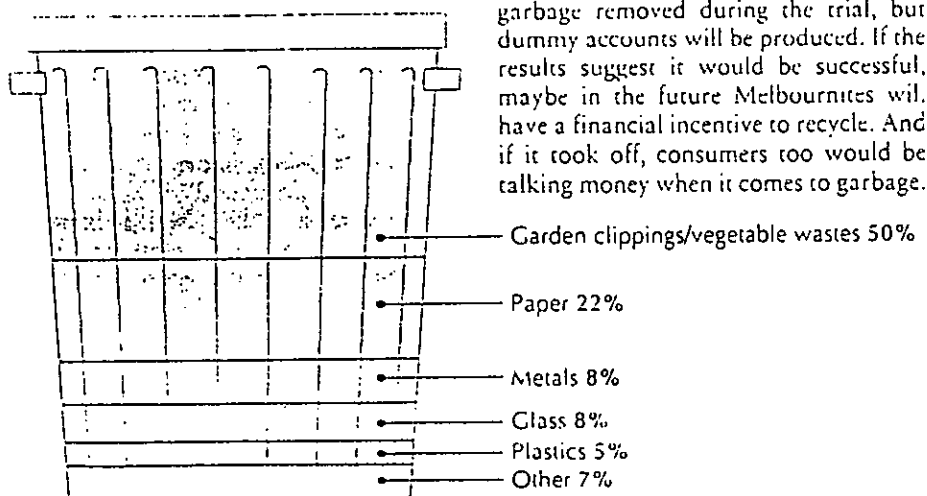


Figure 1. A breakdown of the contents of the average garbage bin.

Looking at these figures, it soon becomes apparent that composting, mulching and other ways of using garden and kitchen waste are vital if waste is to be reduced. To many people this is nothing new — especially in the country. But organised community composting is a relatively new phenomenon.

For instance, Thiess Contractors has run a compost scheme for the councils of Manly, Warringah and Mosman at their Kimbriki landfill site in northern Sydney since mid 1992 and has just got one going in Brisbane. Residents bring 'green waste' — tree cuttings and other garden waste — to the tip. This is shredded, composted and sold for landscaping and other horticultural uses. Although small-scale composting can incorporate kitchen scraps, commercial operations in Australia are not yet viable. But Thiess's manager of resource recovery, Tim Kempton, believes this will change. "We will soon be able to use all green waste and eventually we'll be composting nearly all kitchen scraps," he says. Such schemes are expected to reduce the volume going to landfill by 35-50%.

The future

The rate of recycling is increasing, especially in some of the newer areas such as plastics. And more and more councils, having done the number crunching, are looking at ways to provide incentives for residents to reduce garbage. For instance, Fremantle is considering cutting garbage collections to fortnightly only, and Melbourne City Council has been involved with Monash University in devising a scheme it hopes will help it reach the Victorian Government's target of 50% waste reduction by the year 2000.

It's running a pilot 'pay by weight' garbage collection with 1000 households. No-one will have to pay to have garbage removed during the trial, but dummy accounts will be produced. If the results suggest it would be successful, maybe in the future Melbournites will have a financial incentive to recycle. And if it took off, consumers too would be talking money when it comes to garbage.



YOU'VE washed your bottles and cleaned out your baked beans tin, bundled your week's newspapers and put everything outside for the council collection. It's all been sorted into different types of material. What happens next?

The paperchase



Most of the paper that leaves your home will end up as cardboard you see every day in the supermarket. A small proportion finds its way into writing pads, envelopes and tissue products. Waste paper, particularly newsprint, is also exported to South-East Asia.

In the recycler's eye, paper comes in a number of grades which determine its usability — and the price they are prepared to pay for it. For instance, Visy, a major paper recycler which makes cardboard boxes, views paper products in the following light:

- The pulp it makes boxes from must be 70% cardboard. Cardboard is much sought after so don't ignore it when sorting your household waste — it's just what a number of recyclers want.
- The remaining 30% can be made up from a mix of waste paper including newspaper.
- It will pay more for office white — that is, good-quality paper with little ink. It uses this for white liner board. Some companies use office white to produce recycled paper suitable for stationery.

The grading is all about fibre lengths. Paper is made from fibres: the shorter the fibre the weaker but probably finer the paper product. Cardboard — which is strong — is made up of long fibres.

Visy's process involves pulping the waste in a machine a bit like a giant kitchen blender — mixing dry material with water. The slushy pulp is screened for impurities such as plastic and metal,

**MINISTER FOR THE ARTS, SPORT, THE ENVIRONMENT
AND TERRITORIES****Hon. Ros Kelly M.P.**Phone (06) 277 7640
Facsimile (06) 273 4170**The Hon Garry West MP
Minister for Forests
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000**Dear Mr West *Garry*

The National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) signed by all Governments except Tasmania has a number of important conservation initiatives requiring immediate action.

Most important is the development of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of reserves, including reserves to protect old-growth forest and wilderness. As part of the Strategy to protect the values found in old-growth forests and wilderness Governments have agreed to 'avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have a high conservation value'.

Accordingly I would expect that wood production would be excluded from areas that are likely to have a high conservation value pending an adequate reserve system being in place, and the complementary management proposed for areas outside the reserve system adequately protecting old-growth values.

Specific areas of high conservation value old-growth forest and wilderness considered by my portfolio to require interim protection until the reserve system is established are attached.

I would appreciate specific information on your proposed actions to ensure that areas of high conservation value are not lost before a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system is in place.

Could you please inform me of actions you intend to take to implement the National Forest Policy Statement commitments in this area, including specific actions on the areas on the attached list.

Yours sincerely

Copy of letter dated 22 Dec 1993

ROS KELLY

Urgency motion on the environment

10 November 1993

That this House:

1. condemns the Minister for Land and Water Conservation and Minister for the Environment for their failure to implement, especially in the south east forests, the conservation principles and mechanisms of the National Forest Policy Statement; and
2. calls upon the Minister for Land and Water Conservation and Minister for the Environment to reach agreement with the Commonwealth Government by no later than the end of February 1994 on implementation of the National Forest Policy in NSW particularly the undertaking of regional assessments and the establishment of satisfactory moratorium on logging activities in areas regarded as having high conservation value in accordance with the principles contained in the National Forest Policy Statement.

Urgency motion on the environment
10 November 1993

There is enormous community anger at the logging of old growth and wilderness forests in NSW.

The Government's action on this issue has served only to increase the conflict.

The decision to bring on the South East Forest Protection Bill in the Upper House without notice at 12.45 am on Friday 29th October was cowardly and irresponsible.

The logging of compartment 1402 was an aggressive act of mindless destruction.

The Editorial of the Sydney Morning Herald of November 1st described the conflict generated by the south east forests issue:

"Between 1989 and 1991, 1 000 people were arrested trying to stop the chainsaws in the south-east forests. During that period, the dispute between conservationists and loggers came dangerously close to getting out of control. Lives and livelihoods were placed at risk. The debate over trees versus jobs degenerated into a rather silly test of faith that made rational decision-making almost impossible. Is it really necessary to revisit those days?"

The answer is no, it is not necessary to repeat the confrontation and anger of the south east forest dispute, but the behaviour of the Government is unquestionably aimed at provoking this conflict.

My South East Forest Protection Bill provided for a moratorium over 90 000 hectares of the highest conservation value areas of the south east. The area available to loggers provided sufficient saw logs for 13 year and sufficient pulp logs for 14 years.

It was a responsible bill which reflected the interests of environmentalists and the interests of the timber industry.

It was also consistent with the National Forest Policy Statement, signed by the Premier and the Prime Minister in December of last year.

Why vote the bill down?

My motion today calls upon the Minister for Land and Water Conservation and

the Minister for the Environment to reach agreement with the Federal Government on implementation of the National Forest Policy Statement.

I put the Government on notice that if the Ministers do not act as this motion requires them, then I believe that this House must consider a censure motion.

Background to the NFPS

When NSW signed the National Forest Policy Statement, there was widespread perception that NSW was at last on the right track.

Many people believed that the Government had acknowledged the importance of the ground breaking public inquiries into Australia's forest and timber industry which had taken place over the previous two years: the Environmentally Sustainable Development Working Group on Forest Use, the National Plantations Advisory Committee and the Resource Assessment Commission's Forest and Timber Inquiry.

The NFPS states:

"With so much of our original old growth and wilderness forests destroyed and intensive logging taking place now in remnant areas, it is urgent that we act."

NFPS requirements

The NFPS sets a national goal for the end of 1995 for "comprehensive, adequate and representative reservation system to protect old growth and wilderness values..." for public land and the inclusion of private land, to the extent feasible, by 1998.

In the interim, two key measures are to be adopted:

1 Regional assessments of the conservation values of forests, including old growth and wilderness values, will be undertaken as a matter of priority. Joint Commonwealth-State assessments are desirable to avoid duplication of work.

2. Until assessments are completed forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value.

NSW disinterest

Despite repeated requests from the Commonwealth Government, the Ministers for Land and Water Conservation and Environment have failed to constructively address these obligations, particularly in the south east forests.

Their excuses are pathetic, their inaction a disgrace.

Moratorium

First, the moratorium requirement.

The Federal Minister for the Environment in a letter to the Minister for Land and Water Conservation dated 31 May 1993 offered to negotiate a moratorium based on an initial list of high conservation value forests.

NSW has done nothing in the south east. These Ministers depend on the lame arguments about endangered species licenses and specific species study areas.

These arguments are wrong.

Firstly, endangered fauna is only one of many environmental values - no consideration is given to endangered flora, water catchments, world heritage, or aboriginal heritage, amongst other issues.

Secondly, many licenses have been granted under the auspices of temporary general licenses which were granted outside the Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act and without fauna impact statements or public review. Thus major information and accountability processes have been ignored.

Nor can the proposed 1990 reserves and token logging prescriptions be considered adequate substitutes. A whole range of scientists have criticised them and their views can be found in the Report of the Legislation Committee into the South East Forest Protection Bill.

The 1990 decision made those forests unwanted by the Forestry Commission into reserves. It avoided the core conflict - the important old growth forests found on the fertile, gentler slopes.

High conservation areas in the south east which are under threat and which need to be protected by a moratorium on logging activities include the Nalbaugh and Cathcart State Forests, Coolangubra State Forest east of Coolangubra Forest Way and Devils Hole Road, Bondi link/Mount Poole between Nalbaugh and Nungatta National Parks, Tantawangalo and Devils Creeks and Merrica River catchments, and Nullica State Forest National Estate Area.

I call upon the Ministers for Land and Water Conservation and the Minister for the Environment to protect these areas until an assessment is complete.

Vast areas of alternative timber are available to protect employment in the

interim.

Regional assessments

Next I would like to address regional assessments.

Queensland and Victoria are both receiving federal funds to undertake such assessments. NSW is thumbing its nose at this financial assistance.

Both Queensland and Victoria are revisiting forest areas that had previously been subject to Commonwealth-State decision processes.

There are more lame excuses from the NSW Government.

They cite the Joint Scientific Study carried out in 1990 and the north east environmental impact statements and claim that these are sufficient under the NFPS.

Numerous scientific authorities have rejected the Joint Scientific Study as a credible basis for decisions, including the Australian Museum, Australian Heritage Commission, CSIRO and the Australian National Parks Service.

The JSC did not have terms of reference which addressed wilderness or old growth.

It did not consider world heritage values which are specifically mentioned in the NFPS, and it did not incorporate biological data such as endangered species into a recommended reserve system.

The NSW Parks Service has not undertaken an old growth survey.

The north east EISs are a joke. Already two have been rejected by the Department of Planning and the National Parks and Wildlife Service and legal challenges are mooted for other. If they cannot meet NSW law, how could they satisfy the NFPS, which has wider terms of reference?

Concluding comments

This Government and the two Minister responsible for the NFPS have failed this community. They have sparked renewed community conflict and placed our irreplaceable old growth and wilderness forests under threat of destruction.

We must acknowledge that much has occurred since the 1990 Hawke/Greiner south east decision and use that information and the National Forest Policy Statement as a basis for moving forward.

This House must take a stand not only for present generations but also for future generations.

If the Ministers do not act as this motion requires them, then I believe this House must move to the next step, a censure motion, because if they do not act then by the time we meet next year we will have seen the stage set for an ever growing spiral of environmental destruction and community conflict.

I strongly urge all members to support this motion.

DAILAN - Here's a draft.

Comments ASAP please.

The Hon John Fahey,
Premier of NSW,
Parliament House,
Macquarie St.,
Sydney NSW 2000

Tue, 19 Oct, 1993

Dear Premier,

The Nature Conservation Council calls on you to implement conservation requirements of the National Forest Policy Statement, which you signed in person on behalf of the NSW Government late last year.

In particular, Council calls on the NSW Government to undertake, as a matter of urgency, an ecologically-legitimate regional assessments of the heritage and environmental values of the State's native forests. NSW currently lags far behind Victoria and Queensland in meeting this crucial NFPS commitment. Delay in embarking on the regional assessment process creates the impression that the Government intends to resile on its pledge to put in place, by 1995, a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system to conserve old growth and wilderness forests'. We urge you to dispell the impression that, on this issue of crucial importance to the environment movement, the Government has broken faith with the people of NSW.

In this context, we point out that in determining the Wingam and Glen Innes EIS's (the only two EIS's to have been determined so far under the Timber Industry [Interim Protection] Act), the Department of Planning called for a satisfactory regional assessment process (**DAILAN - HAVE YOU GOT A QUOTE TO SUPPLY HERE?**) to assess old growth and other values. The National Parks & Wildlife Service made similar appeals in its submissions to TI (IP) Act EIS's (**DAILAN - HAVE YOU GOT A QUOTE TO**

SUPPLY HERE?). It is therefore no longer possible to maintain, from a 'whole of Government' perspective, the fiction that the current program of Forestry Commission (State Forests of NSW) EIS's constitutes the regional assessment process specified under the terms of the NFPS.

To meet the NFPS commitment to establish a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative' reserve system by the end of 1995, it is imperative that a faithful regional assessment process commences as soon as possible. It is also imperative that the process carries the support of the community in general and the environment movement in particular. (We remind you that it was the efforts of the environment movement which led, via a circuitous route, to the formulation and signing of the NFPS. If the environment movement believes that the process established to implement the NFPS lacks integrity, conflict over the forests will not be resolved).

A regional assessment process with credibility would, in our view, be carried out with scientific integrity by a team of scientists skilled in appropriate disciplines. An abundance of expertise in ecology and heritage-related is essential (there must be no repetition of the discredited Joint Scientific Committee into the South East Forests, in which a committee of six contained an overwhelming preponderance of foresters). Community representation, including environment movement representation, on the steering committee would ensure adequate public scrutiny of the process and of the results flowing from it. Assessment methodologies employed must be 'best-practice' (in that context, we commend to you the methodology currently employed by the Victorian Government to assess old growth forest values).

— is an
obj. under
10A, NSD,
NFPS.

We note also that the Commonwealth Government has a vital interest in the regional assessment process and in the establishment of a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative' native forest reserve system. It is essential that the assessment process meets Commonwealth standards and covers the full range of criteria required by the Commonwealth. If so, Federal funding for the process will be available, obviating the need for NSW taxpayers to be the sole source of funds to carry out the NSW Government's NFPS commitment.

The Nature Conservation Council urges you to take *rapid* action along the lines outlined above. The community expects - and has a right to expect - that the ecological values of public lands are conserved in full. Your Government pledged adherence to an agreed process which would, *inter alia*, fulfill that public expectation. It is time to redeem your pledge on the forests.

Yours sincerely,

(2)

NEFA will also request the participation of scientists of international standing in relevant fields, in a technical review and in monitoring and reporting Australia's implementation of the World Heritage Convention and other international agreements.

The involvement of Aboriginal people in refining and reviewing the technical merits of this proposal, or indeed any proposal needs careful attention. Statements of aboriginal cultural heritage value have been included by NEFA in this proposed nomination where they have been known, out of respect for these areas and their significance. However, no claim is made as to the completeness of statements of koori cultural heritage values. NEFA recommends a sensitive and appropriate process of consultation with aboriginal groups in order to ascertain the suitability of sites etc inclusion in the justification for listing, or the willingness of Aboriginal people to participate in the formulation of a nomination which accurately reflects the Great Escarpment's significance for koori culture and its interaction with the natural environment.

Extracts on 'Public Participation' from intergovernmental agreements

One of the National Forest Policy Statement's (p6) broad national goals includes:

" Public awareness, education and involvement. The goals are to foster community understanding of and support for ecologically sustainable forest management in Australia and to provide opportunities for effective public participation in decision making."

The Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment ... states on p. 36"

"...The States agree to consult the relevant local government bodies and interested parties (including conservation and industry groups) on properties for inclusion on the indicative list prior to submission to the Commonwealth. Should conservation or any other groups or individuals make suggestions on an indicative list direct to the Commonwealth these will be referred to the relevant State for comment..." and on (p19) states:

"The parties agree that policy, legislative and administrative frameworks to determine the permissibility of land use, resource use or development proposals should provide for -

(iv) consultation with affected individuals, groups and organisations;

(vi) mechanisms to resolve conflict and disputes over issues which arise during the process;"

(The NFPS on p23 reiterates these requirements) and on p21 states:

"The parties agree that all levels of Government will ensure that their environmental impact assessment processes are based on the following:

(iii) assessing authorities will provide all participants in the process with guidance on the criteria for environmental acceptability of potential impacts ...

(xi) mechanisms will be developed to seek to resolve conflicts and disputes over issues which arise for consideration during the course of the assessment process."

The National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development's Guiding Principles (p8) include:

"decisions and actions should provide for broad community involvement on issues which affect them."

"Governments will: ... encourage enhanced public involvement and awareness in the planning, management, monitoring and review of Australia's conservation values and protected areas." (p.55)

"Governments will:... ensure ELA processes in each jurisdiction are based on: ... public disclosure of information relating to a proposal, where this is not provided on a commercial-in-confidence basis; opportunities for appropriate and adequate public consultation; and development of conflict resolution mechanisms." (p.64) and

"Governments will:... develop mechanisms to resolve conflicts and disputes over issues which arise during resource allocation and land use decision making (p104): (and) investigate the potential for inclusion of non-legal conflict resolution mechanisms such as voluntary mediation".

Agenda 21 states:

"8.3. The overall objective is to improve or restructure the decision-making process so that consideration of socio-economic and environmental issues is fully integrated and a broader range of public participation assured. ... the following objectives are proposed:...

(c) To develop or improve mechanisms to facilitate the involvement of concerned individuals, groups and organisations in decision-making at all levels;"

"8.21. Each country should develop integrated strategies to maximize compliance with its laws and regulations relating to sustainable development ... The strategies should include:

(a) Enforceable, effective laws, regulations and standards ... incorporating sanctions designed to punish violations, obtain redress and deter future violations;

(d) Mechanisms for appropriate involvement of individuals and groups in the development and enforcement of laws and regulations on environment and development."

"15.6. Governments at the appropriate level, ... should, as appropriate:

(f) Collect, assess and make available relevant and reliable information in a timely manner and in a form suitable for decision making at all levels, with the full support and participation of local and indigenous people and their communities."

"27.5 Society, Governments and international bodies should develop mechanisms to allow non-government organizations to play their partnership role responsibly and effectively in the process of environmentally sound and sustainable development."



14 DEC 1993

Handwritten: Sid Copy gr.
C/- J. TEDDER
PAVANS RD., GRASSY HEAD,
via STUARTS POINT. 2441

(065) 69 0802

16 Nov 93

Dear Member,

(of N.C. Env Council)
Old Growth Forest and Wilderness

The NSW Government signed the National Forest Policy Statement in endorsing the

Statement on Forest Policy the Heads of Government said

"we commit our respective Governments to implement, as a matter of priority, the policies in it for the benefit of present and future generations of Australians. We acknowledge that implementation of policies requiring funding will be subject to budgetary priorities and constraints in individual jurisdictions." This is a strong statement and most worthy.

"The Governments have agreed to a strategy to conserve and manage areas of old growth forests and wilderness areas as part of the reserve system." The approach used will be :-

- agree a criteria for old growth forests and wilderness through the working group
- using these criteria the relevant State agencies, "will as a matter of high priority" undertake assessments of forests for conservation values and of forested land for wilderness values."
- "until these assessments are completed, forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value."
- forested wilderness areas will be protected by means of reserves developed in the broader context of protecting wilderness values of all lands. For old growth forest, the nature conservation reserve systems will be the primary means

of protection.

Unfortunately the NSW Government is avoiding the promises it made when signing the NFPS. Though a technical committee has almost completed drawing up the criteria for assessing old growth we understand it is very vague. At one stage the Government wished to use the EISS for the various management areas as the tool to assess OG and wilderness areas. Anyone who has examined the recent EISS will agree that they fail on both counts. The Kempsey Wauchope EIS used a most unscientific means to list OG and then targetted all areas for logging.

We need to make a very loud noise not only to the Premier of NSW but also to Minister R. Kelly of the Commonwealth to insist that the NFPS is carried out in full.

There needs to be set up the Policy Advisory Committee which is promised on page 20 of the NFPS and on which the community conservation movement will be represented.

The technical committee working on the criteria should place its report before the public and seek comment before the ANZECC Ministerial Council approves it.


The NSW Government must ensure the high conservation and possible wilderness areas are given protection until they can be properly assessed using the approved criteria and not the current EISS.

Will your group contact as many individuals as possible and have them write letters to
Hon. R. Kelly Minister for Environment, Sport, and Territories
Parliament House Canberra
Hon. J. Fahey Premier State Office Block Macquarie St Sydney
Hon. G. Souris Minister for Conservation and Land Management
(as for Premier)

asking why they are failing to carry out the NFPS.

This matter is URGENT.

Yours sincerely


James L.O. Tedder
Hon. Sec.



3rd copy
C/- J. TEDDER
PAVANS RD., GRASSY HEAD,
via STUARTS POINT. 2441
(065) 69 0802

5 Dec 93

Hon. P. Keating MP
Prime Minister
Canberra

Dear Prime Minister, Australia's Forests

Your Government was instrumental in drawing up the National Forest Policy Statement to which all States, except Tasmania were signatories. This policy statement is a worthy document and you are to be congratulated on achieving this statement.

The problem is that this Statement is not being implemented. On the North Coast of NSW the State Forests aided and abetted by the Government are still cutting old growth forest before a criteria to assess their values has been agreed. There has been no moratorium placed upon logging in old growth forest areas until a proper assessment has been made beyond that moratorium on certain areas until an EIS has been prepared.

Where an EIS has been prepared and determined such as for Wingham, several old growth areas (acknowledged as such by Forest authorities) but not properly assessed under any criteria approved under the auspices of the NFPS, have been targetted for logging. This has resulted in new blockade actions by conservation groups. There would be very little confrontation if the NFPS was implemented and proper consultation took place with all interested parties..

In the Kempsey-Wauchope Management areas EIS, the old growth forest has not been properly or scientifically identified. Some areas have been labelled as old growth but in any case all have been scheduled for eventual logging except where the country is too steep. No wilderness reserves have been recommended even though parts have been identified under the NSW Wilderness Act and now await a decision from Cabinet.

The Dorrigo Management area EIS has been withdrawn after Court action was threatened by conservation organisations as the document was so flawed. The Chaelundi section of the Dorrigo area which was the scene of a long and heated confrontation two years ago and several successful court actions by conservation minded individuals, is scheduled for logging under the draft EIS.

It is obvious that the EIS process is not leading to the identification, assessment and protection of the more important old growth forests and wilderness areas. But the NSW Government is attempting to have the EIS process accepted as the method to carry out their assessment of old growth forest and wilderness values as required by the NFPS. Though we understand some progress has been made towards setting up an agreed criteria as required under the NFPS for assessing old growth forest values and drawing up a more comprehensive reserve system the criteria has not yet been completed or exposed to public comment.

The story with protection of the few remaining wilderness areas is a similar sorry tale with the EIS process recommending that logging occupy all such identified areas

These identified wilderness areas have yet to go before the NSW Cabinet for a decision as to whether they should be proclaimed as wilderness areas under the NSW Act. We believe that the chances of the government proclaiming such wilderness areas under the Act are slim. Unless your Government can bring pressure upon the NSW Government to do so then the NFPS as regards protecting wilderness will be in tatters.

We are concerned too that the decision by the Commonwealth to establish a policy advisory body, under the NFPS, with balanced representation has not yet been implemented and we have addressed your Minister Hon.R.Kelly separately on this matter. It is essential that the public be closely involved in forest policy from an early stage and the proposed Advisory body would be one such tool.

Once again your Government has illegally issued a renewal of the woodchip export licence to Sawmillers Export for material obtained from clearing of private forests and silviculture activities on the North Coast; before the EIS has been determined. In fact there have been exemptions granted by your Minister Hon.M.Lee to several shipments which were not covered by the expiring licence.

The need for a viable timber industry in this State is supported by this Council but it must be based on ecologically sustainable principles and that means providing for more representative reserves for the protection of endangered species and the establishment of wilderness reserves in the few remaining such areas that can qualify. Industry has to play a greater role in providing their own resources by plantation establishment and begin to rely less on the public forests which have a multiplicity of roles not least being that of catchment management.

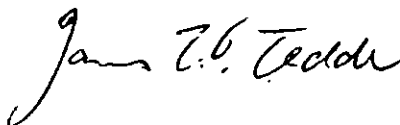
Overall our Council is concerned that the timber supply from the native forests on the North Coast is not as large as forest authorities would have us believe even before any new reserves are taken out. There are numerous examples where estimates of yield as set out in management/harvest plans have been shown in forest annual reports to have been overestimated by as much as 45%. This is no basis on which to plan for resource security for the industry and is another very strong argument for industry to establish their own source of supply by plantations. Your Government can aid significantly in this aspect by providing the necessary financial incentives.

We ask if you will support your Minister the Hon.R.Kelly in Cabinet deliberations to decide on the methods that need to be taken in ensuring that the National Forest Policy Statement is implemented by both your Government and the NSW Government and that woodchip production and exports are more tightly controlled until the promised phase out occurs.

A copy of this letter is being sent to Hon.R.Kelly

Yours sincerely

James L.O.Tedder Hon.Sec.



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



Mrs Ros Kelly,
Minister for the Environment,
Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600

Wed, 17 Nov, 1993

**re: Implementation of conservation provisions of the NFPS, and the
Commonwealth's legal responsibility to protect endangered species**

Dear Minister,

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW writes once again on this topic to express grave concern about the inadequacy of the process currently underway to implement the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS).

Today, the Reserve Criteria Technical Working Group meets. This is one of two inter-governmental working groups established to advise the signatory governments on crucial policy issues relevant to NFPS implementation. It is likely to make crucial decisions which will have a significant effect on the future direction of the NFPS process.

It is now nearly one year after the signing of the NFPS, and only two years before the comprehensive, representative and adequate reserve system to protect old growth and wilderness, promised under the NFPS, is due to be in place.

The Council seeks answers to the following questions:

1/ Why is community access to the NFPS process so restricted? In this context, we remind you once again that the Policy Advisory Group promised on page 20 of the NFPS has yet to be established, one year into the process. When will it be set up?

2/ From now on, what opportunity will the community be given to make effective input into processes for determining reserve design criteria, off-

reserve management principles (which we understand to be the task of the other NFPS Technical Working Group), and other matters crucial to the implementation of the NFPS?

3/ Do you acknowledge that NFPS implementation is seriously behind schedule, and that NSW and other States have repeatedly breached the letter and the spirit of the NFPS?

4/ Do you accept that this situation necessitates the direct application of Commonwealth powers to ensure that Australia's forest estate is not irreparably degraded?

This Council believes that the Commonwealth's integrity over the NFPS process (the linchpin of the Commonwealth Government's forest policy) is at stake.

The Government must demonstrate- by actions not words - its commitment to implementation of the NFPS. This entails forcing recalcitrant States to abide by the conservation provisions of the NFPS, opening up the entire process to satisfactory public involvement, setting explicit standards of best practice for the States to follow, and providing sufficient resources so that all necessary tasks are carried out to meet the timetables specified in the NFPS.

Alternatively, the Commonwealth could acknowledge that the NFPS process has been a failure, and apply its full range of powers to protect Australia's forest estate from further desecration.

.....

On a related matter, the Council understands that a renewed woodchip licence was granted for the NSW north coast Sawmillers Export operation early this week, despite the incomplete EIS process for that operation. We note that, in recognition of the Commonwealth's new responsibilities under the Federal Endangered Species Act and related amendments to the Environmental Protection (Impact of Proposals Act), the new licence agreement assigns an explicit role to the Australian National Conservation Agency (ANCA) to act as an approval authority for woodchipping operations on private and public land.

More than forty Federally-listed threatened species are potentially at risk in the north east of NSW as a result of woodchipping operations. Most of these are plants, which have no legislative protection in NSW. Under the circumstances, we will expect ANCA to exercise the precautionary principle and to resist pressure to permit logging operations before thorough surveys

and assessments have been completed.

Similar considerations apply to the south east forests of NSW. Once again, a significant number of endangered species are involved. The generic 20-year EIS conducted by Harris-Daishowa under the EP (IP) Act in the late 1980's was a quite inadequate basis for determining whether more recently legislated Commonwealth responsibilities to protect endangered species have been met.

The next site-specific EIS for the Eden Region is still at early draft stage. There are indications that it is a grossly inadequate document, similar in standard to recent notorious north coast EIS's rejected by the NSW Department of Planning.

Meanwhile, wood supplies available under the 1991 EIS are running out fast, and early in the new year there is likely to be a shortfall in timber legally available for extraction. This may tempt the NSW Government to permit logging in some areas without prior environmental impact assessment, and to further weaken the ability of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to protect endangered fauna. Clearly, it would be the height of irresponsibility for the Commonwealth to grant an export woodchip licence in respect of wood which has yet to be legally approved for extraction under State law. To do so would amount to Commonwealth connivance in a push by the NSW Government to disregard current State environmental protection legislation.

This Council believes that the Eden export woodchip licence should be terminated forthwith. If, however, the Commonwealth ignores this view and renews the licence, **it is imperative that it sets licence conditions which give ANCA an explicit role to protect endangered species in the south east. ANCA must be given the role of approval authority, with unfettered power to deny approval in cases where there are grounds for believing that threatened species may be in jeopardy .**

.....

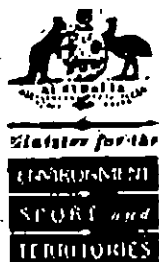
The Council looks forward to decisive action from you and your colleagues to restore community confidence in the Keating Government's commitment to forest conservation. We request a prompt reply to this letter, and will raise these matters with you at the Peak Councils meeting in mid-December

Yours sincerely,

Sid Walker
Executive Officer



cc. Prime Minister, Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet



Hon Ros Kelly MP

The Hon Paul Keating MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

17 NOV 1989

My dear Prime Minister

I am writing about the implementation of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS), with particular reference to the south east forest region of NSW.

As you would be aware, the NSW Government is pressing for finalisation of the 1990 SE NSW forest agreement. While prepared to support ratification of that agreement, I am concerned that appropriate recognition must also be given to the policy initiatives of the subsequent NFPS and the enactment of Commonwealth endangered species legislation. The formalisation of assurances given in 1990, without a mechanism to implement the latter obligations, will severely limit their effective implementation in the region, in addition to continuing the degradation of the values associated with a number of other Commonwealth environmental obligations.

I suggest there needs to be a transparent and sequential process concerning implementation of the NFPS associated with commitment to the 1990 agreement reached with NSW. This proposition is consistent with the preferred approach (Option 1) outlined in your Department's brief to The Hon Michael Lee MP, Minister for Resources, myself and your office on this matter.

Mr Lee does not currently share my view regarding a future strategy for Commonwealth involvement in the region. The Minister has indicated that re-opening the fundamentals of resource allocation and reserve boundaries would cause industry uncertainty and that he wishes to finalise the 1990 agreement as soon as possible. While I agree that we must give due weight to industry concerns, I consider that a properly structured approach to NFPS implementation, involving industry, and with a commitment to consider alternative resource and industry restructuring assurances, is now needed. It is worthwhile noting that the native hardwood timber industry is in decline in the region due to increased regulation of the industry by NSW and that restructuring will need to occur. I believe this combination of circumstances offer an opportunity to ensure the implementation of the NFPS in the region.

Under the NFPS governments committed themselves to specific actions to ensure the protection of forests within a comprehensive adequate and representative reserve

KEEP THIS CONFIDENTIAL
AT THIS STAGE - IT IS ONLY A DRAFT

Environmental Conditions to be attached to the export of unprocessed wood

Addition of Standard Condition regarding NFPS old growth forests and wilderness moratorium pending assessment:

— ions of NFPS (adequacy)
"Until assessments of forests for conservation values, including old growth and wilderness values are completed, the exporter shall avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest and wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value". — under the NFPS

Replacement of Standard Condition regarding endangered species:

for the purpose of woodchips
"The exporter shall ensure that any of its logging operations under this licence do not threaten with extinction, or significantly impede the recovery of, a species or ecological community listed under Schedule 1 and 2 of the Commonwealth Endangered Species Protection Act 1992. The exporter shall ensure that logging operations for the purpose of export woodchips of silvicultural thinnings must only occur in accordance with advice from the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA) concerning endangered species listed on the Schedules of the Endangered Species Protection Act 1992. The exporter shall ensure that logging operations on private property for the purpose of export woodchips must not occur until a survey of species has been completed to the satisfaction of the Australian Nature Conservation Agency. Where it is possible that operations will threaten with extinction or significantly impede the recovery of listed species or ecological communities the exporter shall, in conjunction with ANCA and the relevant State agencies, prepare a recovery plan in accordance with the Endangered Species Protection Act 1992 for the species or ecological community concerned".

Addition to second Standard Condition regarding National Estate:

adequately take into account
"The exporter shall adequately take into account advice from the Australian Heritage Commission regarding the protection of National Estate values in areas where logging is approved".

Addition of Standard Condition regarding environment protection

"The exporter shall ensure that all forest management practices are consistent with the draft nationwide baseline environmental standards (NBES) developed by ANZECC/AFC and that these practices are reviewed and updated when the NBES are finalised".

Addition of standard conditions regarding steep country harvesting

"The exporter will ensure that woodchips shall not be sourced from

forests on land greater than 20% (11 degrees) slope on highly erodable soils
forests on land greater than 35% (19 degrees) slope on moderately erodable soils
forests on land greater than 50% (26 degrees) slope on low erodable soils.

The exporter shall ensure that no operation occur in moderate, or high to extreme landslide risk areas or areas subject to flash flooding."

DON'T LET KELLY KNOW YOU'VE GOT THIS BY
REFERRING TO THE PRESS. DON'T RELEASE
IT TO THE PRESS.

sufficiently?
what are these
sides.

Source?

[P R O O F]

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Logging of Forests

Senator COULTER-My question is directed to the Minister representing the Minister for Resources. I ask whether the minister could explain the meaning of the words in the national forest policy statement, agreed by the Commonwealth and all states with the exception of Tasmania, that:

Forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value.

How does the minister reconcile this statement with the clear-felling of areas that have been identified as having World Heritage values and National Estate areas? If clear-felling does not significantly affect old growth forests, what does?

Senator COOK-Under the national forest policy statement, the Commonwealth and all the state and territory governments--that is, except Tasmania--have agreed on a cooperative approach to ensure the protection of old growth forests and wilderness with a view to having a representative reserve system in place by 1995 for forests on public lands and by 1998 for private forested land. Progress in implementing this policy is well under way.

A joint subcommittee of the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council and the Australian Forestry Council is developing criteria for a representative forest reserve system which is expected to be finalised around the end of this year. Once the criteria have been agreed, the Commonwealth and the states will act to ensure that a representative reserve system is in place.

As Senator Coulter has just pointed out, as part of this approach it was agreed that, until forest assessments are completed, forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation values. The Commonwealth is very keen to cooperate with the states to ensure that this does happen. However, this does not mean that all logging in old growth forests should stop; it recognises that some logging in old growth forests and

wilderness areas is necessary to meet industry requirements during the transition to regrowth and plantations. Some environmentalists have claimed this to be a moratorium on old growth logging, but that is not the case.

The national forest policy statement was developed as a partnership between the Commonwealth, states and territories for the future management of Australia's public and private forests on a sustainable basis. Now, all of the areas on the World Heritage List, such as the southern forests of Tasmania, are protected from logging operations. Similarly, areas which have been formally nominated for World Heritage status, such as Fraser Island, are excluded from logging operations. In this regard, it should be noted that under the inter-governmental agreement on environment the Commonwealth will consult with the relevant state for any future areas nominated for World Heritage listing. This is consistent with the cooperative approach set out in the national forests statement.

In regard to National Estate areas, there are clear legislative requirements applying to consideration of proposed woodchip export approvals, which are designed to minimise environmental impacts. These arrangements include requirements to consider feasible and prudent alternatives to the proposed operations, to seek the advice of the Australian Heritage Commission, and to take steps to minimise any adverse impact on the National Estate as a result of the operations. These obligations are strictly adhered to for all woodchip export proposals.



CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

79 Stirling Street, Perth 6000
Phone (09) 220 0652 Fax (09) 220 0653

Monday 6th December 1993

The Hon. Paul Keating MP
Prime Minister
House of Representatives
Canberra ACT 2600

By fax: (06) 273 4100

Dear Prime Minister,

The Conservation Council of Western Australia is the peak body for non-government environment organisations throughout WA, with almost 70 affiliated organisations.

Along with many other Western Australians, we have been attempting for many years to achieve ecological sustainability in the management of WA's unique and disappearing native forests.

A major aspect of our work over the past 18 years has been our opposition to export woodchipping. Ever since its introduction into WA under the guise of 'waste utilisation', woodchipping has been the driving force behind the destruction of our ancient and irreplaceable karri, marri and jarrah forests.

Currently, over 80% of all the wood produced from our karri and marri forests is exported as woodchips to produce paper that ends up on the world's garbage dumps.

At the same time, WA's conservation reserve system for forests is far from adequate. This fact has been acknowledged by, among others, the Resource Assessment Commission which stated that "With the possible exception of the Australian Capital Territory, there is a need for further reservation of [forested] areas in all states and territories to achieve a fully representative reserve system." (Final Report, Vol. 1, p. xxxviii).

The Council believes that the National Forest Policy signed by the federal government and the government of WA in December 1992 provided a useful basis for improving the level of protection of forest ecosystems, and enhancing the many social and alternative economic values they contain.

In the months since that document was signed, and with a change of government in WA, the provisions of the NFP relating to improved conservation measures have been completely ignored by the WA government and industry.

Now we stand on the brink of yet another round of renewals for woodchip export licences which, under the new forest management plans recently approved by the state government, will mean a very large increase in the volume of woodchips and the area of forest to be logged primarily for woodchips in WA.

The targeted forests are almost entirely old growth, many of which are now listed, or nominated for interim listing, on the Register of the National Estate. Several endangered species included in the schedule of endangered species to the Commonwealth Endangered Species Protection Act depend on these forests for their survival.

Increasingly, local communities throughout the south-west of WA, for whom tourism based on the scenic beauty of the forests is the only growth industry, are demanding that old growth forests be protected.

We are now aware that the Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Ros Kelly, is currently seeking to ensure compliance with the National Forest Policy, especially as it relates to the moratorium on the logging of high conservation value old growth and wilderness forests.

It is our belief that the federal government must act according to the letter and spirit of the NFP, and enforce state compliance with the NFP. To refuse to do so would be to make a mockery of this and any other inter-governmental agreement. Indeed, we believe that the federal government has a legal responsibility as a result of the NFP and other commitments to protect WA's high conservation value old growth and wilderness forests.

We therefore call on you to support the withholding of any woodchip export licence renewals until the full range of values of our native forests has been assessed and protected. In particular, and in relation to WA, no renewals of woodchip licences should be approved before the Department of Conservation and Land Management's (CALM's) new forest management plans, currently open for a further period of public review until 31st December, 1993, have been subjected to a full environmental impact assessment under the Commonwealth Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act.

Yours sincerely,

Beth Schultz

(Dr) Beth Schultz
President

Copy to: Hon. Ros Kelly, Minister for the Environment



CONSERVATION COUNCIL
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

79 Stirling Street, Perth 6000
Phone (09) 220 0652 Fax (09) 220 0653

FACSIMILE MESSAGE

SEND TO

SID WALKER

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

FACSIMILE NUMBER:

(02) 247 5945

NUMBER OF PAGES:

2 to follow

DATE:

7 12 93

FROM:

Beth Schultz

MESSAGE

Sid - Here is what we sent
Keating (copy to Kelly).

We are asking all WAFWA
member groups to send
a similar letter.

Christabel Chanarette met with
Kelly on Monday. On this
issue, Kelly was very positive.
She also made some useful
suggestions re NEPS implementation.
Beth.



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Yours sincerely,

Beth Schultz

(Dr) Beth Schultz
President

Copy to: Hon. Ros Kelly, Minister for the Environment

MEMBER GROUPS

- Augusta-Margaret River Friends of the Forest • Australian Conservation Foundation
- Balingup Friends of the Forest • Blackwood Environment Society • Busselton Peace & Environment Group
- Bridgetown-Greenbushes Friends of the Forest • Campaign to Save Native Forests • Crowes Committee
- Coalition for Denmark's Environment • Conservation Council of WA • D'Entrecasteaux Defence Group
- Dwellingup Greenbelt Committee • Friends of the Blackwood Valley • Great Walk Networking
- Leeuwin Conservation Group • South-West Environment Centre • South-West Forests Defence Foundation
- Sustainable Agriculture Research Institute • The Wilderness Society • Warren Environmental Group



MEDIA RELEASE

6th December 1993

Call for Court, Keating to Act on WA Forests

The Federal Government should intervene to ban logging in Western Australia's native forests of high conservation value, environmentalist Dr Bob Brown said today in Perth.

"The karri trees in the Hawke block near Pemberton, for example, are amongst the largest living things on Earth. Their impending destruction would create national outrage and warrants the Federal Government using its constitutional powers," Dr Brown said. "It should not come to that. In fact, the Western Australian Government and the Department of Conservation and Land Management would win national acclaim if they made the forest a National Park instead of a clearfell logging zone. But, if not, Canberra should act before the chainsaws move in on one of the world's most inspiring forest realms."

Dr Brown visited the karri, jarrah, manri and blackbutt of the South-West over the last three days as a guest of the Western Australian Forest Alliance (WAFA) and met local groups in a number of centres.

"The community-based campaign to end logging of the remnant natural forests is growing rapidly: the level of concern has never been higher. I think the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the Western Australian Government and the Federal Government have all underestimated the growing public rejection of logging in native forests, especially the export woodchipping of forests of national significance.

"The Federal Government has recently used its corporations powers against the State governments on such issues as cigarette advertising and giving banks the right to charge interest on credit cards, so using similar powers to enforce the National Forest Policy, which W.A. signed but is breaching, is entirely appropriate," Dr Brown said.

"I found the forests stunning. They are part of Western Australia's fame and reputation. Their destruction, mostly for woodchips, defies commonsense. To destroy these forests would violate the principle that we should ensure this world is passed on to the next generation the richer, not the poorer, for our having been here," he said.

Contact: Bob Brown (09) 220 0652 (W); (09) 384 6010 (H)



Hon Ros Kelly MP

The Hon Paul Keating MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

17 NOV 1999

My dear Prime Minister

I am writing about the implementation of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS), with particular reference to the south east forest region of NSW.

As you would be aware, the NSW Government is pressing for finalisation of the 1990 SE NSW forest agreement. While prepared to support ratification of that agreement, I am concerned that appropriate recognition must also be given to the policy initiatives of the subsequent NFPS and the enactment of Commonwealth endangered species legislation. The formalisation of assurances given in 1990, without a mechanism to implement the latter obligations, will severely limit their effective implementation in the region, in addition to continuing the degradation of the values associated with a number of other Commonwealth environmental obligations.

I suggest there needs to be a transparent and sequential process concerning implementation of the NFPS associated with commitment to the 1990 agreement reached with NSW. This proposition is consistent with the preferred approach (Option 1) outlined in your Department's brief to The Hon Michael Lee MP, Minister for Resources, myself and your office on this matter.

Mr Lee does not currently share my view regarding a future strategy for Commonwealth involvement in the region. The Minister has indicated that re-opening the fundamentals of resource allocation and reserve boundaries would cause industry uncertainty and that he wishes to finalise the 1990 agreement as soon as possible. While I agree that we must give due weight to industry concerns, I consider that a properly structured approach to NFPS implementation, involving industry, and with a commitment to consider alternative resource and industry restructuring assurances, is now needed. It is worthwhile noting that the native hardwood timber industry is in decline in the region due to increased regulation of the industry by NSW and that restructuring will need to occur. I believe this combination of circumstances offer an opportunity to ensure the implementation of the NFPS in the region.

Under the NFPS governments committed themselves to specific actions to ensure the protection of forests within a comprehensive adequate and representative reserve

system. To date NSW has not responded to this initiative, particularly the commitment to survey forests for their old growth and wilderness values. Consequently, there continues to be considerable community concern that governments are failing to "avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have a high conservation value" (NFPS moratorium clause). Unless proper assessment of forests for these values are undertaken, these concerns will continue.

It is critical that there is an agreed Commonwealth interpretation of the moratorium clause which provides interim protection for old growth forests and wilderness pending appropriate assessment. I note that your Department supports my interpretation of the moratorium clause (Option 1 of their brief).

The 1990 decision did not take into account many of the environment and conservation obligations of the Commonwealth. For example, it did not address national estate, old growth and wilderness, world heritage or endangered species. There has been no survey of old growth forests in the region. Since the decision the NFPS, the Endangered Species Protection Act (ESP Act) and the Biodiversity Convention have been agreed, all placing obligations on the Commonwealth. Studies on the nationally endangered long-footed potoroo, the koala, the smokey mouse and the powerful and sooty owl have confirmed that those species are at risk in the region under current logging practices. Ten plant species and five species of vertebrates listed under the ESP Act are known to occur in the region and their protection has not been addressed. Further, it may be necessary for there to be additional assessment under the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974.

Signing the 1990 agreement with NSW without an accompanying commitment to NFPS measures would establish a most undesirable precedent for other States and Territories concerning the level of implementation expected of them. For example, Victoria also had a 1990 agreement but it is continuing to undertake assessments in line with NFPS commitments. There are strong indications that Queensland intends following a similar approach. Sensible treatment of these approaches requires at the very least a consistent Commonwealth position regarding expectations under the NFPS.

We ought also to recognise the real possibility of legal action by groups committed to securing implementation of the NFPS. I have been advised that if the 1990 agreement is signed the conservation movement is proposing to take the Minister for Resources to court on the basis that he has not met his section 30 obligations under the AHC Act. I understand that their argument will be that the agreement does not take National Estate and endangered species obligations into account and can be seen not to have done so. The Attorney-General's Department have recently advised my portfolio that the Minister for Resources, when granting an export licence, is required to take into account operations conducted in areas outside places listed on the Register of the National Estate that may adversely affect those places' values. The Department of Primary Industries and Energy will not be able to provide this additional information for this year's export licences, so leaving Mr Lee potentially vulnerable to litigation. Systematic

old growth and wilderness surveys are required if the Australian Heritage Commission is to be able to provide adequate advice within a regional context to enable the Minister for Resources to adequately fulfil his obligations under the AHC Act. It is also possible that, should Harris-Daishowa's licence be renewed without additional conditions that address identified National Estate values, the AHC will be obliged to consider delisting of Coolungubra and Yowaka national estate areas (two of the three listed places in the region) as the National Estate values of those places will have been so degraded that they do not meet the requirements of the Act.

It is my view that the imposition of additional conditions on all export licences would provide an appropriate mechanism for implementing the NFPS and other Commonwealth environment and conservation obligations. This would involve incorporating the NFPS old-growth 'moratorium' clause, national estate and endangered species requirements in all licence renewals.

I hope that you will be able to give your support to the approaches outlined above. Specifically, I would propose that a meeting be arranged between yourself, Mr Lee and myself in order to resolve this issue and that a joint Cabinet Submission, between myself and the Minister for Resources be developed to confirm the Commonwealth's commitment to the implementation of the NFPS and determine the basis upon which the Commonwealth might proceed with ratification of the 1990 Agreement.

I have copied this letter to our colleague, the Minister for Resources, Mr Lee.

Yours sincerely

SIGNED

ROS KELLY

16 December 1993

Kelly must advise Lee on conservation values of forests

The attached pages describe to the best of Conservation Groups knowledge all areas which should be protected by the Moratorium clause of the National Forest Policy. Following the Cabinet decision on Monday, Ros Kelly was given a mandate to give advice to the Resource Minister, Michael Lee on what areas are in need of protection. This attached list is the absolute minimum amount of forested areas that Ros Kelly should be identifying as being in need of protection. This information has been in Ros Kelly's office for over a year.

It is important to note that these lists are not exhaustive. Conservation groups do not have the resources of Federal Government Departments and comprehensive surveys identifying wilderness, Old Growth and High Conservation Value Forests have yet to be completed.

The Conservation movement and the community will be watching Ros Kelly's performance very closely. Ros Kelly has the support of Cabinet and the Community to protect these forests. The Conservation movement has identified over 500 areas that need to be excluded from the export woodchipping licences. These areas require Federal Government intervention to ensure they are protected. If Ros Kelly or Micheal Lee don't ensure these forests are safe then Paul Keating must display leadership and intervene.

For further information contact Alec Marr 018 500 289

VICTORIA

1993/94 Wood Utilisation Plan ORBOST REGION

Coupes located in forest areas of high conservation value

BLOCK	COUPE NO.	HIGH CONSERVATION AREA
Brodribb	501/13	National Estate Area
	501/14	National Estate Area
	502/14	National Estate Area
		Nominated Wilderness Area
	508/01	National Estate Area, Nominated Wilderness Area Regional Rainforest Site Significance
	508/03	National Estate Area Nominated Wilderness Area Regional Rainforest Site Significance
Delegate	507/02	National Estate Area
Ellery	507/05	National Estate Area Nominated Wilderness Area
	508/19	National Estate Area; Nominated Wilderness Area
	508/20	Nominated Wilderness Area
Goongerah	514/05	National Estate Area
Kuark	502/05	Regional Rainforest Site of Significance
Martins Creek	511/11	National Estate Area Nominated Wilderness Area
	513/17	Nominated Wilderness Area
Sardine	511/02	National Estate Area; Nominated Wilderness Area
West Errinundra	505/03	State Rainforest Site of Significance
	511/14	State Rainforest Site of Significance

Yalmy	505/04	National Estate Area
	505/05	National Estate Area
	508/01	National Estate Area Nominated Wilderness Area
Coast Range	504/10	National Estate Area
	505/08	National Estate Area
Cobon	503/12	State Rainforest Site of Significance
	503/13	State Rainforest Site of Significance
	512/04	State Rainforest Site of Significance
	514/05	State Rainforest Site of Significance
	514/08	State Rainforest Site of Significance
Cobon	512/06	State Rainforest Site of Significance
	513/07	State Rainforest Site of Significance
Cooagalah	506/03	National Estate Area Nominated Wilderness Area
	506/05	National Estate Area Nominated Wilderness Area
	506/07	National Estate Area Nominated Wilderness Area
	509/01	National Estate Area Nominated Wilderness Area
	509/04	National Estate Area Nominated Wilderness Area
	509/05	National Estate Area Nominated Wilderness Area

	503/06	National Estate Area Nominated wilderness area
	508/01	National Estate Area Nominated Wilderness area
Dinah	507/03	State Rainforest Site of Significance
	507/06	State Rainforest Site of Significance
Little River	508/03	State Rainforest Site of Significance
	509/13	State Rainforest Site of Significance
Lockup	511/08	State Rainforest Site of Significance
	521/05	State Rainforest Site of Significance
Nixon	503/05	Regional Rainforest Site of Significance
Quadra	504/11	State Rainforest Site of Significance
	507/06	State Rainforest Site of Significance
	507/10	State Rainforest Site of Significance
	508/20	State Rainforest Site of Significance
Stony Peak	502/02	National Estate Area Nominated Wilderness Area
	508/07	National Estate Area Nominated Wilderness Area
Tennyson	501/02	Nominated Wilderness Area
	503/18	Nominated Wilderness Area
	503/20	Nominated Wilderness Area
	504/01	Nominated Wilderness Area
Tonghi	505/01	State Rainforest Site of Significance

505/02

State Rainforest Site of Significance.

Wallagaraugh

502/02

The pre-logging Flora and Fauna report is yet to be finalised. Some of these coupes could be in biological sites of significance.

504/09

504/12

504/13

Dawson

503/K

Old Growth Forest

503/D

Old Growth Forest

504/K

Old Growth Forest

**Draft Wood Utilisation Plan 1993/94
CENTRAL GIPPSLAND REGION**

BLOCK	COUPE NO	CONSERVATION VALUES	VNPA'S PROPOSED NP VALUES NP Block names • values recorded
NEERIM OPERATIONS AREA			
Thomson	05/506/01 (N1)	Within VNPA's national park proposal Water production area	Block 28 • Water production catchment • Botanical site of state significance
	05/507/01 (N2)	Within VNPA's national park proposal Water production area	
Bennies	10/502/01 (N22)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	Block 23 • High proportion of Leadbeater's Possum habitat • Patches of old-growth forest
	10/502/03 (N23)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"
	10/502/05 (N24)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"
	10/503/04 (N25)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"
	10/503/06 (N26)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"
	10/503/07 (N27)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"

Tarago	11/501/12 (N28)	Part of coupe within a rainforest site of state significance	Block 24
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water production • Leadbeater's Possum habitat • Old-growth forest • Rainforest sites of significance
	11/501/14 (N29)	Part of coupe within a rainforest site of state significance	"
	11/506/10 (N31)	Part of coupe within a rainforest site of state significance	"
Lavery	16/507/02 (N32)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"

CONTINGENCIES

Thomson	05/508/01 (N33)	Water production area	Block 28
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water production area • Botanical site of state significance
Tanjil	06/504/17 (N37)	Rainforest site of regional significance	
Toorong	08/503/08 (N43)	Rainforest site of regional significance	
	08/503/09 (N44)	Rainforest site of regional significance	
	08/504/03 (N45)	Rainforest site of regional significance	
	08/505/09 (N47)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	
Loch	09/506/05 (N49)	Part of coupe within a rainforest site of regional significance	

Bennies	10/501/04 (N55)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	Block 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High proportion of Leadbeater's Possum habitat • Patches of old-growth forest • Rainforest site of significance
	10/502/06 (N56)	"	"	
	10/502/07 (N57)	"	"	
	10/502/08 (N58)	"	"	
	10/505/02 (N59)	Part of coupe within a rainforest site of state significance	"	
	10/505/03 (N60)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"	
	10/505/07 (N61)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"	
	10/505/10 (N62)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"	
Tarago	11/506/04 (N63)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	Block 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water production • Old-growth forest • Rainforest sites of national and state significance
	11/506/13 (N64)	Part of coupe within a rainforest site of state significance	"	

Tarago	11/506/15 (N65)	Part of coupe within a rainforest site of state significance	"
	11/506/16 (N66)	Part of coupe within a rainforest site of state significance	"
	11/507/08 (N67)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"
Lavery	16/502/04 (N69)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"
	16/502/06 (N70)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"

ERICA OPERATIONS AREA

Bells	05/503/10 (E46)	Water production area Within VNPA's national park proposal	Block 28 • Water production • Botanical site of state significance
	05/505/12 (E47)	"	"
	05/505/13 (E48)	"	"
	05/509/04 (E64)	"	"
	05/509/08 (E65)	"	"
	05/509/10 (E66)	"	"
Cascade	06/501/08 (E84)	"	"
	06/501/09 (E85)	"	"

Cascade	06/506/02 (106)	Within a biological site of significance	"
	06/506/03 (E107)	Within a site of biological significance	"
	06/507/08 (E108)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"
	06/507/10 (E110)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"
Eastern Tyers	07/501/13 (E117)	Within rainforest site of regional significance	Block 31 • Old-growth forest • Rainforest sites • Unreserved montane wet forest • Botanical site of significance
	07/501/20 (E126)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"
Western Tyers	08/501/19 (E132)	Within a biological site of significance	"
	08/501/22 (E135)	Probably within a biological site of significance- map not clear	"
	08/501/24 (E137)	Probably within a biological site of significance- map not clear	"
	08/504/20 (E149) road	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"
	08/505/10 (E150)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"
	08/505/20 (E154) road	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"

Western Tyers 08/506/11 (E155) Within rainforest site of regional significance

08/506/15 (E156) Within rainforest site of regional significance

08/506/18 (E157) Within VNPA's national park proposal

08/506/19 (E158) Within rainforest site of regional significance

08/506/20 (E159) Within rainforest site of regional significance (road)

08/506/30 (E164) Within rainforest site of regional significance

CONTINGENCIES

Bells 05/504/07 (E34) Water production area

Block 28

- Water production area
- Botanical site of state significance

05/504/15 (E39) "

05/505/06 (E44) "

05/506/07 (E50) "

05/506/09 (E52) "

Bells	05/509/16 (E70)	"	"
	05/512/14 (E79)	"	"
Cascade	06/501/04 (E81)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"
	06/501/11 (E86)	Rainforest site of regional significance Biological site of significance	"
	06/502/02 (E90)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"
	06/503/05 (E93)	Biological site of significance	"
	06/505/20 (E104)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"
Eastern Tyers	07/501/05 (E114)	Rainforest site of regional significance	Block 31 • Old-growth forest • Rainforest sites of significance • Botanical site of significance • Unreserved montane wet forests
	07/501/15 (E121)	Rainforest site of regional significance	"
	07/501/17 (E123)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	"
	07/501/16 (E122)	Within rainforest site of regional significance	"

Western Tyers 08/502/10 (E140) Within biological site of significance

08/506/31 (E165) Within rainforest site of regional significance

Erica 12/501/10 (E172) Within rainforest site of regional significance

HEYFIELD OPERATIONS AREA

Map 4 152/19/03/01 Within National Estate area

Block 29

- Listed on the National Estate register
- Zoological site of state significance
- Rainforest site of state significance

Map 5 152/20/09/04 Within National Estate area
Rainforest site of state significance

Map 14 152/19/03/02 Within National Estate area

Map 33 152/19/05/01 Within National Estate area

Map 34 152/19/05/02 Within National Estate area

MAFFRA OPERATIONS AREA

M26 154/07/511/02 Within National Estate Area

**1993/94 Draft Wood Utilisation Plan
DANDENONG REGION**

BLOCK	COUPE NO.	CONSERVATION VALUES	VNPA's PROPOSED NP VALUES NP Block names • values recorded
Brimbonga	509/03 (509/01 on map)	Rainforest site of regional significance Water production area	Block 22 • Botanical site of state significance • Leadbeater's Possum habitat • Rainforest site of significance
	504/02	Rainforest site of regional significance Water production area	Block 22 • Botanical site of state significance • Leadbeater's Possum habitat • Rainforest site of regional significance
Tarango	505/01	Rainforest site of regional significance	
Little Yarra	505/02	Wattle and overmature trees are an integral part of the forest ecosystem and thus should not be removed to regenerate	
Ada	510/01	Leadbeater's Possum habitat Close to Ada River Track scenic walk	Block 23 • Highest proportion of Zone 1 Leadbeater's Possum habitat in the Dandenong Region • Rainforest site of state significance • Large patches of old-growth forest • High recreation and tourism value

524/01 Leadbeater's Possum habitat
Close to Ada River Track Scenic
walk

Close to Ada River Track scenic walk

517/01 Leadbeater's Possum habitat
On the Ada River Road which is
promoted as a scenic drive by tourism
authorities

519/01 On the Ada River Road which is
promoted as a scenic drive by tourism
authorities
Leadbeater's Possum habitat

519/02 On the Ada River Road which is
promoted as a scenic drive by tourism
authorities
Leadbeater's Possum habitat

519/03 Leadbeater's Possum habitat

504/01 Zone 1 Leadbeater's Possum
habitat
Rainforest site of state significance

504/02 Zone 1 Leadbeater's Possum
habitat
Rainforest site of state significance

Pioneer

502/04 Rainforest site of state

Block 24

		significance Near Pioneer Creek - site of Tall Astelia colonies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tall Astelia localities • Leadbeater's Possum habitat • Patches of old-growth forest
	516/01	Within VNPA's national park proposal	
	516/02	Large Mountain Ash on site Within VNPA's national park proposal	
	514/01	Within VNPA's national park proposal	
	502/02	Within VNPA's national park proposal	
	514/02	Zone 1 Leadbeater's Possum habitat	
	08/512/03	Two coupes marked as such	
	08/508/03	Marked on the map but not included in the schedule Has rainforest in the coupe	
Bunyip	500/02	Rainforest site of national significance	Block 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melbourne Water water supply catchment • Old-growth forest • Rainforest site of national significance • Whole Bunyip River catchment is largely undisturbed

- 501/02 Rainforest site of national
significance - probable, map not detailed enough
- 508/01 Rainforest site of national
significance - probable, map not clear enough
- 508/02 Rainforest site of national
significance
- 510/01 Rainforest site of national
significance

**1993/94 Draft Wood Utilisation Plan
ALEXANDRA REGION**

BLOCK	COUPE NO	CONSERVATION VALUES	VNPA'S PROPOSED NP VALUES Proposed NP block number • values recorded
Kalatha	863/10	Rainforest site of regional significance	Block 5 • Rainforest sites of significance • Highly used recreation area
Acheron	010/01 (AM21)	Rainforest site of national significance Site of botanical significance	Block 8 • Rainforest site of national significance • Botanical site of national significance • Listed on the register of the National Estate
	011/03 (AM 22)	Rainforest site of national significance	
Stevenson	509/01	Within Marysville water supply catchment	Block 12 • Patches of old-growth forest • Leadbeater's Possum habitat
	510/01	Within VNPA's national park proposal	
Upper Taggerty	507/01 (AM27)	Rainforest site of state significance	Block 15 • Old-growth forest • Leadbeater's Possum habitat • Rainforest site of state significance
	523/01 (AM28)	Within the VNPA's national park proposal	
			Block 11 • Old-growth forest • Leadbeater's Possum habitat

Torbreck River	010/01 (AM30)	Within VNPA's national park proposal	Blocks 13
	009/06 (AM32)	within VNPA's national park proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadbeater's Possum habitat • Rainforest site of state significance • Site of national botanical significance (Cumberland Scenic Reserve)
Rubicon		Would question whether the past, current and proposed future high level of harvesting in this area is ecologically sustainable.	
Snobs	020/93 (AM10)	On the slopes of Mt Bullfight which is remote and largely undeveloped. Rainforest site of regional significance	Block 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remote and undeveloped • Leadbeater's Possum habitat

1993/94 Draft Wood Utilization Plan Colac Region

Coupes located in forests of high conservation value.

Block	Coupe No.	High Conservation Area
Wait-a-While	10/502/01	National Rainforest site of significance
Clearwater	07/505/01	State Rainforest site of significance
East Barham	04/506/02	Regional Rainforest site of significance
Wild dog	21/501/01	Regional Rainforest site of significance

QLD

Message:

Rainforests in the Mackay-Prosperpine area of high conservation value with current or proposed logging:

as opposed to coupes

State Forest 652 Cauley	Management Unit 26	Current sale
State Forest 679 Mia Mia	Management Unit 09	Current sale
State Forest 679 Mia Mia	Management Unit 28	Current sale
State Forest 679 Mia Mia	Management Unit 27	Future sales
State Forest 062 Gamma	Management Unit 12	Future sales
State Forest 062 Gamma	Management Unit 21	Future sales
State Forest 062 Eungella	Management Unit 13	Future sales
State Forest 299 Conway	Management Unit 11	Current moratorium
State Forest 299 Conway	Management Units 7-10	Future sales
Mt Crompton Pastoral Holding	Management Unit 16	Current sale
Mt Crompton Pastoral Holding	Management Unit 19	Future sales
Timber Reserve 122 Glencoe	Management Unit 29	Future sales (Connors Ra)
Timber Reserve 179 Kelvin	Management Units 24-27	Future sales (Connors Ra)

Total number of pages, including this sheet: 1

If all pages not received, please contact AK

on (07) 368 1318.

Not assessed by the AHC

WA

Forest blocks containing unlogged and other high conservation value forest that is, or is likely, to be logged to produce woodchips during 1994

Central Forest Region

Barrabup - very rich in fauna

Beaton

Blackpoint

Forest blocks in the Blackwood river valley

Bramley

Cambray - very rich in fauna

Forest Grove

Gayndah

[Hester - not 1994]

Hovea - 1994

[Kerr - not 1994]

Nunn's Block (owned by Bunnings Forest Products) - 1994

Preston

Rosa

Schroeder (Big Corner area)

Telerah

Towers - 1994

Wilga - 1994

Woopwoop - 1994

If the Manjimup to Beenup Power Line goes ahead

Chester - 1994

Hilliger - 1994

Storry - 1994

Swan (Northern) Forest Region

→ All remaining areas of unlogged forest should be included as 'off limits'

Also applies to Central Forest Region

15-DEC-93 WED 15:29 CONSERVATION COUNCIL WA 89 2200833 P.03

Forest blocks containing unlogged and other high conservation value forest that is nominated for listing on the Register of the National Estate and is, or is likely, to be logged to produce woodchips during 1994

Southern Forest Region

Boyndaminup*
Burnett
Burnside
Challis
Challar*
Channybearup
Chitelup - 1994
Collins
Collis#
Corbal - 1994
Court
Crowea@ 3, 7, 9, 14 - 1994
Dawson
Diamond - 1994
Dombakup@
Dwalgan - 1994
Gardner
Hawke - 1994 roading
Jane
Keystone
Kingston - 1994
Lindsay
Lochart@
Long*
Merton
Mindanup*
Nairn
Nelson
Netic
Ordnanace
Rocky*
Sharpe 1 - 1994
Spring*
Solai
Sutton@
Trent#
Yeticup - 1994 (removed from list of nominations)
Warrup - 1994

*Roading and/or logging has occurred in forest nominated for listing since the nomination took place

#Forest not nominated for listing

@Already heavily logged

NSW A1

HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS AT RISK IN 1993

per NEFA 17.12.1992

N.B. This list is NOT exhaustive
and should be read in addition to specific nominated forest areas.

All state forests^o the subject of
an E.I.S. REQUIRED UNDER THE TIMBER INDUSTRY INTERIM
PROTECTION ACT 1992 ARE HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS. THOSE AT
RISK IN THE NEXT 6-12 MONTHS, ARE THE FORESTS FOR WHICH AN E.I.S.
IS REQUIRED TO BE PRODUCED WITHIN THAT PERIOD. (See Schedule 4 as
to timetable for EIS preparation) ^o includes Crown lands.

THESE FORESTS AREA IDENTIFIED ON A MANAGEMENT AREA, STATE FOREST
AND COMPARTMENT BASIS IN A LIST APPENDED TO THE TI(IP) ACT 1992 AS
'Schedule 1 - Substantial areas of old growth forest on which no
logging operations may be carried out until an EIS is obtained'.

None of these areas will have been subject to regional assessments
for high conservation values, old growth forest values, aboriginal
cultural heritage significance, nor will they have been considered
for possible inclusion in a comprehensive, representative nature
conservation reserve system.

The FCNSW have stated that the E.I.S.'s under preparation or
currently on exhibition DO NOT INVOLVE assessment of old growth
forests as recommended by RAC. These E.I.S.'s CANNOT be considered
as meeting the requirements of professional forest assessment and
evaluations of 'high conservation values'. Thus the list of areas
for which E.I.S.'s are required, identifies HCV forests which will
be at risk when their E.I.S.'s are completed and determined by the
NSW Minister for Planning, National Party MLC Robert Webster.

Four E.I.S.'s have been prepared to date - Mt Royal, Wingham, Glen
Innes and Dorrigo Management Areas. The limited impact assessment
undertaken by FCNSW in relation to both the Wingham and Mount Royal
MA's are utterly inadequate, biased and misleading. These EIS's
should not be relied on by the Commonwealth and are likely to be
challenged in NSW courts. Comprehensive submissions on the Wingham
and Mount Royal MA EIS's failures are available. The Glen Innes and
Dorrigo MA EIS are still on exhibition and are currently being
evaluated by NEFA for the preparation of formal submissions.

NO WORK SHOULD BE PERMITTED IN THESE AREAS PENDING THE COMPLETION
OF COMPETENT SCIENTIFICALLY VALID ASSESSMENTS OF HIGH CONSERVATION
VALUE, OLD GROWTH FOREST VALUE, ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE
SIGNIFICANCE AND THE SELECTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE, REPRESENTATIVE
NATURE CONSERVATION RESERVE SYSTEM.

A₂

Areas @ risk
in 1993 marked
with (*)

9

Timber Industry (Interim Protection) 1992

**SCHEDULE 1—SUBSTANTIAL AREAS OF OLD GROWTH
FORESTS ON WHICH NO LOGGING OPERATIONS MAY BE
CARRIED OUT UNTIL AN EIS IS OBTAINED**

(Secs. 3, 5, 6, 9)

DUCK CREEK—URBENVILLE MANAGEMENT AREA

The part of Richmond Range State Forest No. 610, dedicated 22 March 1918, and the part of Yabba State Forest No. 394, dedicated 13 April 1917, within compartments 135, 136 and 201 to 208, inclusive, of the Urbenville Management Area, having an area of about 2,900 hectares, and being the land shown by hatching on the diagram catalogued Misc. F. 1201 in the office of the Forestry Commission.

**BLACKBUTT PLATEAU—MURWILLUMBAH
MANAGEMENT AREA**

The part of Nullum State Forest No. 356, dedicated 9 March 1917, and the part of No. 3 Extension thereto, dedicated 12 May 1967, having an area of about 200 hectares, being the land shown by hatching on the diagram catalogued Misc. F. 1202 in the office of the Forestry Commission.

TENTERFIELD MANAGEMENT AREA

The part of Boonook State Forest No. 841, dedicated 18 November 1932, and the whole of No. 2 Extension thereto, dedicated 10 May 1985, within compartments 81 to 84, inclusive, 135 and part 85 of the Tenterfield Management Area, having an area of about 1,050 hectares.

The whole of Boonoo State Forest No. 119, dedicated 24 June 1914, the parts of Nos. 1 and 2 Extensions thereto, dedicated 28 February 1930 and 12 January 1973, respectively, and the whole of Nos. 3, 5 and 6 Extensions thereto, dedicated 11 August 1978, 21 August 1987 and 6 November 1987, respectively, within compartments 96, 102 to 107, inclusive, 109, 112 to 117, inclusive, 120, 125 and 126 of the Tenterfield Management Area, having an area of about 3,506 hectares.

The part of Girard State Forest No. 303, No. 9 Extension, dedicated 15 February 1980, within compartments 78, 79 and 80, of the Tenterfield Management Area, having an area of about 714 hectares.

The part of Spirabo State Forest No. 321, dedicated 6 December 1918, the part of Nos. 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 Extensions thereto, dedicated 1 February 1924, 20 June 1924, 22 August 1930, 11 June 1971, 12 April 1985 and 13 December 1985, respectively, the part of Little Spirabo State Forest No. 695, dedicated 6 December 1918, the part Nos. 1, 2 and 3

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Timber Industry (Interim Protection) 1992

SCHEDULE 1—SUBSTANTIAL AREAS OF OLD GROWTH FORESTS ON WHICH NO LOGGING OPERATIONS MAY BE CARRIED OUT UNTIL AN EIS IS OBTAINED—continued

Extensions thereto, dedicated 18 January 1924, 19 December 1952 and 18 May 1973, respectively, the part of Forest Land State Forest No. 529, dedicated 27 July 1917, and the whole of No. 4 Extension thereto, dedicated 23 January 1987, within compartments 153 and 154, 229 to 232, inclusive, 236, 238 to 240, 247, 263 to 266, inclusive, 287, 289, 291 to 318, inclusive, and 320 to 330, inclusive, of the Tenterfield Management Area, having an area of about 10,027 hectares.

These lands are shown by hatching on the diagram catalogued Misc. F. 1203 in the office of the Forestry Commission.

LONDON BRIDGE—GLEN INNES MANAGEMENT AREA

The whole of Warra State Forest No. 335, dedicated 2 February 1917, and the whole of Nos. 1 and 2 Extensions thereto, dedicated 6 February 1920 and 21 December 1973, respectively, having an area of about 1,900 hectares.

The part of Oakwood State Forest No. 555, dedicated 12 October 1917, and the parts of Nos. 1, 4, 5 and 6 Extensions thereto, dedicated 30 April 1920, 12 August 1983, 16 January 1987 and 20 October 1989, respectively, and the whole of No. 3 Extension thereto, dedicated 22 November 1974, within compartments 116 to 118, inclusive, 138 and 144, and the parts of compartments 99, 100, 102, 115, 136, 137 and 139 of the Glen Innes Management Area, having an area of about 3,517 hectares.

The whole of Glen Nevis State Forest No. 656, dedicated 31 May 1918, and the whole of Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Extensions thereto, dedicated 9 December 1921, 2 January 1953 and 11 April 1986, respectively, having an area of about 6,208 hectares.

The part of London Bridge State Forest No. 309, dedicated 5 January 1917, the part of Nos. 1 and 2 Extensions thereto, dedicated 13 November 1925 and 19 November 1976, respectively, and the whole of

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Timber Industry (Interim Protection) 1992

SCHEDULE 1—SUBSTANTIAL AREAS OF OLD GROWTH FORESTS ON WHICH NO LOGGING OPERATIONS MAY BE CARRIED OUT UNTIL AN EIS IS OBTAINED—continued

and 19 December 1986, respectively, having an area of about 9,526 hectares.

The whole of Reserve from Sale for Timber No. 55288, notified 10 November 1922, having an area of about 87 hectares.

These lands are shown by hatching on the diagram catalogued Misc. F. 1204 in the office of the Forestry Commission.

MOUNT MARSH—CASINO WEST MANAGEMENT AREA *

The parts of Mount Marsh State Forest No. 770, Nos. 2 and 4 Extensions, dedicated 30 March 1973 and 5 September 1975, respectively, within compartments 428, 429, 432, 433 and 434 and part of compartments 430 and 431 of the Casino West Management Area, having an area of about 3,300 hectares, and being the land shown by hatching on the diagram catalogued Misc. F. 1205 in the office of the Forestry Commission.

CUNGLEBUNG—GRAFTON MANAGEMENT AREA *

The whole of Dalmorton State Forest No. 814, No. 2 Extension, dedicated 12 July 1974 and the part of Dalmorton State Forest No. 814, No. 4 Extension, dedicated 11 March 1977, within compartments 508 to 545, inclusive, 552, 555 to 559, inclusive, and compartment 588 of the Grafton Management Area, having an area of about 8,500 hectares, and being the land shown by hatching on the diagram catalogued Misc. F. 1206 in the office of the Forestry Commission.

CHAEIUNDI—DORRIGO MANAGEMENT AREA *

The part of Chaeiundi State Forest No. 996, dedicated 14 September 1973, the part of Nos. 3 and 5 Extensions thereto, dedicated 5 June 1981 and 19 March 1982, respectively, and the whole of Chaeiundi State Forest No. 996, No. 2 Extension, dedicated 18 April 1975, within compartments 155 to 165, inclusive, 193, 199, 201 to 204, inclusive, 207, 209 to 219, inclusive, 221 to 227, inclusive, 238 to 256, inclusive, 273 to 284, inclusive, and 302 to 306, inclusive, of the Dorrigo Management Area, having an area of about 14,200 hectares, being the land shown by hatching on the diagram catalogued Misc. F. 1207 in the office of the Forestry Commission.

*Timber Industry (Interim Protection) 1992***SCHEDULE 1—SUBSTANTIAL AREAS OF OLD GROWTH FORESTS ON WHICH NO LOGGING OPERATIONS MAY BE CARRIED OUT UNTIL AN EIS IS OBTAINED—continued****WALCHA-NUNDLE MANAGEMENT AREA**

The whole of Ben Hall's Gap State Forest No. 950, dedicated 7 September 1956 and the whole of Nos. 1 and 2 Extensions thereto, dedicated 9 November 1962 and 31 August 1984, respectively, having an area of about 2,850 hectares.

The part of Nowendoc State Forest No. 310, dedicated 29 December 1916, the parts of Nos. 7 and 8 Extensions thereto, dedicated 11 March 1983 and 16 September 1983, respectively, and the whole of No. 9 Extension, dedicated 18 May 1984, within compartments 206 to 210, inclusive, 219 and part of compartments 205, 211, 217 and 218 of the Walcha-Nundle Management Area, having an area of about 1,970 hectares.

The parts of Tuggolo State Forest No. 312, Nos. 1 and 2 Extensions, dedicated 17 February 1950 and 11 May 1956, respectively, and the whole of No. 13 Extension, dedicated 18 May 1984, within compartments 260 to 266, inclusive, 268, 269, 273 and 318 to 325, inclusive, of the Walcha-Nundle Management Area, having an area of about 4,440 hectares.

The part of Giro State Forest No. 286, No. 2 Extension, dedicated 12 November 1954, and the whole of Giro State Forest No. 286, Nos. 7 and 14 Extensions, dedicated 18 July 1975 and 13 February 1987, respectively, having an area of about 3,370 hectares.

The part of Riamukka State Forest No. 992, No. 3 Extension, dedicated 25 January 1974, within compartments 68, 69, 72, 73, 74, 75 and part of compartment 84 of the Walcha-Nundle Management Area, having an area of about 1,430 hectares.

These lands are shown by hatching on the diagram catalogued Misc. F. 1208 in the office of the Forestry Commission.

KEMPSEY MANAGEMENT AREA

The whole of Pee Dee State Forest No. 600, dedicated 9 November 1917, the whole of Nos. 1 and 2 Extensions thereto, dedicated 20 January 1928 and 6 July 1979, respectively, the parts of Nulla-Five Day State Forest No. 601, Nos. 7 and 8 Extensions, dedicated 10 July 1964 and 8 October 1971, respectively, and the whole of Nulla-Five Day State Forest No. 601, No. 17 Extension, dedicated 28 August 1981, within compartments 88, 89, 91 to 94, inclusive, and part of compartments 90

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Timber Industry (Interim Protection) 1992**SCHEDULE 1—SUBSTANTIAL AREAS OF OLD GROWTH FORESTS ON WHICH NO LOGGING OPERATIONS MAY BE CARRIED OUT UNTIL AN EIS IS OBTAINED—continued**

and 95, of the Kempsey Management Area, having an area of about 2,300 hectares.

The part of Nulla-Five Day State Forest No. 601, No. 8 Extension, dedicated 8 October 1971, within compartments 101, 124, 125, 143 and 145 and part of compartments 102, 123 and 144 of the Kempsey Management Area, having an area of about 2,000 hectares.

The part of Nulla-Five Day State Forest No. 601, No. 8 Extension, dedicated 8 October 1971 and the whole of Nulla-Five Day State Forest No. 601, Nos. 10 and 18 Extensions, dedicated 2 August 1974 and 31 March 1988, respectively, the parts of Styx River State Forest No. 339, No. 3 Extension, dedicated 22 January 1971, the whole of Styx River State Forest No. 339, No. 6 Extension, dedicated 30 April 1982, the part of Lower Creek State Forest No. 161, dedicated 24 June 1914, the parts of Nos. 1 and 5 Extensions thereto, dedicated 17 October 1924 and 3 June 1983, respectively, and the whole of Lower Creek State Forest No. 161, Nos. 3, 4, 6 and 7 Extensions, dedicated 1 December 1978, 10 September 1982, 21 September 1984 and 27 June 1986, respectively, within compartments 1, 6, 7, 12, 14 to 23, inclusive, 27, 105 to 122, inclusive, and part of compartment 104, of the Kempsey Management Area, having an area of about 11,500 hectares.

The Crown lands in the Parishes of Dudley, Pantou, Warbro and Willi Willi, County of Dudley, having an area of about 12,000 hectares.

These lands are shown by hatching on the diagram catalogued Misc. F. 1209 in the office of the Forestry Commission.

WAUCHOPE MANAGEMENT AREA

The part of Mount Boss State Forest No. 910, dedicated 11 November 1949, part of No. 14 Extension thereto, dedicated 11 June 1982, the whole of Mount Boss State Forest No. 910, No. 17 Extension, dedicated 9 September 1988, and the parts of Yessabah State Forests No. 602, Nos. 7 and 8 Extensions, dedicated 1 October 1982 and 30 December 1983, respectively, within compartments 76, 77, 82, 84, 159, 160, 299, 306 to 312, inclusive, 314 to 322, inclusive, and 325 to 332, inclusive, of the Wauchope Management Area, having an area of about 5,500 hectares.

The part of Mount Boss State Forest No. 910, dedicated 11 November 1949 within compartments 94 to 98, inclusive, 116 and 117 of the Wauchope Management Area, having an area of about 1,100 hectares.

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N.B.

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Timber Industry (Interim Protection) 1992

SCHEDULE 1—SUBSTANTIAL AREAS OF OLD GROWTH FORESTS ON WHICH NO LOGGING OPERATIONS MAY BE CARRIED OUT UNTIL AN EIS IS OBTAINED—continued

The part of Mount Boss State Forest No. 910, dedicated 11 November 1949, the whole of No. 7 Extension thereto, dedicated 9 February 1968, and the part of No. 13 Extension thereto, dedicated 5 January 1979, within compartments 123, 125 to 132, inclusive, and 334 of the Wauchope Management Area, having an area of about 1,500 hectares.

The part of Mount Boss State Forest No. 910, dedicated 11 November 1949, and the whole of No. 6 Extension thereto, dedicated 22 December 1967, within compartments 264 to 272, inclusive, and 304 of the Wauchope Management Area, together with the Crown land within portion 12 Parish of Moorabark, County of Macquarie, having an area of about 2,400 hectares.

The parts of Ballengarra State Forest No. 474, Nos. 2, 3 and 8 Extensions, dedicated 1 August 1924, 4 September 1925 and 5 January 1962, respectively, and the whole of Ballengarra State Forest No. 474, Nos. 10 and 13 Extensions, dedicated 21 February 1964 and 11 April 1969, respectively, within compartments 39, 40 and 43 to 53, inclusive, of the Wauchope Management Area, having an area of about 3,000 hectares.

The part of Doyles River State Forest No. 911, dedicated 11 November 1949, part of No. 1 Extension thereto, dedicated 25 June 1971, and whole of Mount Seaview State Forest No. 877, dedicated 20 November 1942, within compartments 155, 156 to 158, inclusive, 159, 168 to 195, inclusive, 201 to 203, inclusive, 205 and 206 and part of compartment 154 of the Wauchope Management Area, having an area of about 4,200 hectares.

These lands are shown by hatching on the diagram catalogued Misc. F. 1210 in the office of the Forestry Commission.

WINGHAM MANAGEMENT AREA

The parts of Doyles River State Forest No. 911, dedicated 11 November 1949, the whole of Enfield State Forest No. 337, No. 6 Extension, dedicated 23 November 1956 and the parts of Enfield State Forest No. 337, Nos. 5, 7, and 12 Extensions, dedicated 21 March 1952, 22 January 1971 and 29 September 1984, respectively, within compartments 278 to 283 and 285 to 287, inclusive, 289, 290, 293 to 296 and 302 to 309, inclusive, of the Wingham Management Area, having an area of about 3,500 hectares.

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Timber Industry (Interim Protection) 1992

**SCHEDULE 1—SUBSTANTIAL AREAS OF OLD GROWTH
FORESTS ON WHICH NO LOGGING OPERATIONS MAY BE
CARRIED OUT UNTIL AN EIS IS OBTAINED—*continued***

The parts of Bulga State Forest No. 285, Nos. 9, 13, 17 and 19 Extensions, dedicated 4 February 1966, 20 February 1970, 28 December 1973 and 7 February 1975 and the parts of Doyles River State Forest No. 911 and No. 1 Extension thereto, dedicated 11 November 1949 and 25 June 1971, respectively, within compartments 174, 186, 204, 207, 223 to 233, inclusive, 236, 239 to 248, 251 to 255 and 258 to 260, inclusive, 262, 264 to 275, inclusive, and parts of compartments 176, 208 and 235, of the Wingham Management Area, having an area of about 8,100 hectares.

The parts of Doyles River State Forest No. 911, dedicated 11 November 1949, within compartments 212, 213, 216 and part 209 of the Wingham Management Area, having an area of about 600 hectares.

The whole of Bulga State Forest No. 285, No. 18 Extension, dedicated 17 July 1974 and the parts of Bulga State Forest No. 285, Nos. 9 and 11 Extensions, dedicated 4 February 1966 and 11 April 1969, within compartments 117, 118, 157, 183, 184 and 185, inclusive, of the Wingham Management Area, having an area of about 1,500 hectares.

The parts of Dingo State Forest No. 779, Nos. 1 and 3 Extensions, dedicated 20 April 1923 and 28 March 1952, respectively, within compartments 142 to 147, inclusive, of the Wingham Management Area, having an area of about 1,200 hectares.

The parts of Knorr's State Forest No. 767, dedicated 15 July 1921, the parts of Dingo State Forest No. 779 and Nos. 3 and 5 Extensions thereto, dedicated 26 May 1922, 28 March 1952 and 9 July 1965, respectively, the whole of Bulga State Forest No. 285 No. 16 Extension, dedicated 10 May 1974 and the parts of Bulga State Forest No. 285 and Nos. 1, 4, 7 and 9 Extensions thereto, dedicated 8 December 1916, 9 January 1920, 24 June 1949, 13 January 1961 and 4 February 1966, respectively, within parts of compartments 10, 11, 12, 14, 20, 28, 29, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40, 41, 43, 46, 49, 50, 54, 55, 56, 63, 65, 72, 74, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 84, 148, 149, 151, 163, 180, 181 and 182 of the Wingham Management Area, having an area of about 5,000 hectares.

These lands are shown by hatching on plans catalogued Misc. F. 1211 (in 10 sheets) in the office of the Forestry Commission.

*Timber Industry (Interim Protection) 1992***SCHEDULE 1—SUBSTANTIAL AREAS OF OLD GROWTH
FORESTS ON WHICH NO LOGGING OPERATIONS MAY BE
CARRIED OUT UNTIL AN EIS IS OBTAINED—continued****BARRINGTON TOPS—GLOUCESTER MANAGEMENT
AREA**

The parts of Stewarts Brook State Forest No. 276, Nos. 3, 4 and 8 Extensions, dedicated 19 June 1953, 28 June 1963 and 11 October 1991, respectively, and the parts of Barrington Tops State Forest No. 977 and Nos. 1 and 4 Extensions thereto, and the whole of No. 5 Extension thereto, dedicated 21 October 1960, 20 October 1961, 18 January 1974 and 24 May 1974, respectively, within compartments 44 to 68, inclusive, 107, 111 to 113, inclusive, 116, 117 and 123, 126 to 155, and 168 to 171, inclusive, of the Gloucester Management Area, having an area of about 15,900 hectares and being the land shown on diagram catalogued Misc. F. No. 1212 in the office of the Forestry Commission.

**CHICHESTER MANAGEMENT AREA (INCLUDING
WHISPERING GULLY)**

The whole of Mount Royal State Forest No. 297, No. 1 Extension, dedicated 22 March 1951, and part of Chichester State Forest No. 292 and No. 4 Extension thereto, dedicated 19 January 1917 and 21 October 1960, respectively, within compartments 60 to 68, inclusive, 99, 141 to 143, inclusive, 145 and 167 to 171, inclusive, of the Chichester Management Area, having an area of about 5,500 hectares, and being the land shown by hatching on the diagram catalogued Misc. F. No. 1213 in the office of the Forestry Commission.

DAVIS CREEK—MOUNT ROYAL MANAGEMENT AREA

The parts of Mount Royal State Forest No. 297, dedicated 19 January 1917, within compartments 175 to 178 and 200 to 204, inclusive, of the Mount Royal Management Area, having an area of about 1,900 hectares, and being the land shown by hatching on the diagram catalogued Misc. F. 1214 in the office of the Forestry Commission.

p. 17 not included
not relevant

Timber Industry (Interim Protection) 1992

SCHEDULE 4—OTHER FOREST AREAS IN WHICH LOGGING OPERATIONS MAY BE CARRIED OUT PENDING OBTAINING OF EIS

(Secs. 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15)

The following areas, excluding from them the areas specified in Schedule 1 specified in Schedule 1 or 2:

Area	Date for completion of environmental impact statement
1. ML Royal Management Area	30 September 1992
2. Wingham Management Area	30 September 1992
3. Dorrigo Management Area	31 October 1992
4. Glen Innes Management Area	31 October 1992
5. Kempsey Management Area	31 May 1993
6. Wauchope Management Area	
7. Grafton Management Area	31 July 1993
8. Casino Management Area	31 July 1993
9. Casino West Management Area	
10. Murwillumbah Management Area	
11. Gloucester Management Area	30 September 1993
12. Chichester Management Area	
13. Tenetfield Management Area	31 October 1993
14. Urbenville Management Area	31 December 1993
15. Urunga Management Area	28 February 1994
16. Walcha Nindie Management Area	30 April 1994
17. Styrz River Management Area	
18. Warumbi Management Area	30 June 1994
19. Queanbeyan Management Area	30 September 1994
20. Badji Management Area	
21. Wyong Management Area	30 September 1994

The boundaries of each of these Management Areas are shown on the map catalogued Misc. F. 1215 in the office of the Forestry Commission.

HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS AT RISK IN 1993

per NEFA 17.12.1992

N.B. This list is NOT exhaustive
and should be read in addition to NSW TI(IP) Act 1992 Schedule 1.

MANAGEMENT AREA	I.D. as WILDERNESS Locality name by NPWS	STATE FOREST(S)	COMPARTMENT NOS. or CATCHMENTS Cpt no.s are inclusive
<u>CASINO WEST</u>	WASHPOOL	WASHPOOL) BILLILIMBRA)	686-694, 697-699 679, 695, 696, 700-713
North Washpool		MOUNT MARSH	whole of cpts. 430 and 431
<u>DORRIGO</u>		WILD CATTLE CK BIELSDOWN	525, 524, 580, 581, 583,
Wild Cattle Ck	GUY FAWKES R.	CHAE LUNDI	in addition to TI(IP) Act area, cpts 180, 198, 200
<u>GRAFTON</u>	MANN/BINDERY	DALMORTON	in addition to TI(IP) Act area, unknown cpts the proposed site of Mosquito Creek Road
<u>KEMPSEY</u>		MISTAKE +	331-334, 336-339, 361, 362, 363, unknown cpts @ head of Mc Hugh's Ck
	WERRIKIMBE	CARRAI	34, 35
<u>TENTERFIELD</u>		FOREST LAND	in addition to TI(IP) Act area, unknown cpts south west of Mt Spirabo Road
		JENNER	whole SF
<u>URUNGA</u>	NEW ENGLAND	OAKES	168, 169, 170, 172, 173
<u>WALCHA-NUNDLE</u>		RIAMUKKA) ENFIELD)	129-142
Mummel Gulf		ENFIELD	291 and 298, 300, 301 (Rowleys Ck)
<u>WINGHAM</u>		BULGA	22 (Bobin Ck)

end.

mor/1/s

URGENT FAX: ROS KELLY AND PHILLIP HOYSTED
FROM: JEFF ANGEL
RE: COMPARTMENTS IN THE SOUTH EAST THAT SHOULD RECEIVE
MORATORIUM AND OTHER LICENCE CONDITIONS
DATE: 14 December 1993

I understand that you will be writing to the Minister for Resources about licence conditions for export woodchips in the south east of NSW.

Please find following a set of compartments of high conservation value, with reasons and suggested licence conditions.

1. GENERAL CONDITIONS:

1.1 No compartment should be made available for logging without a programmatic environmental impact statement having been exhibited under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

This is the current legal position but due to the delay in production of the 1993 EIS there is pressure to allow logging of high conservation value forest without EIS.

1.2 No compartment should be made available for logging without having first been assessed under the Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act.

This will require exhibition of a fauna impact statement. In some cases high conservation value forest is being logged without FIS, including national estate forest. This means that the requisite information for an informed decision by the NPWS and public comment are not being met.

1.3 ANCA should have direct involvement in accrediting endangered, vulnerable and rare fauna and flora surveys and prescriptions imposed by the NSW NPWS and State Forests of NSW.

2. COMPARTMENTS FOR A MORATORIUM

2.1 Long-footed Potoroo Interim Management Area (1992 EIS)

376, 391, 401, 402, 403, 405, 406, 444, 446, 450, 454, 456, 457, 458, 459, 471, 474, 1736, 1737, 1741, 1742, 1743, 1751, 1752, 1753, 1754, 1755, 1760.

2.2 Sooty and Powerful Owls (deferred under FIS determination)

1483, 703, 711, 717, 563, 566 - unlogged.

2.3 Koala

MEDIA ALERT

16.12.93

FORESTS MEDIA CONFERENCE

A MEDIA CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT ROOM 2S2 AT 1.30 PM TO RELEASE DETAILS OF OVER 500 AREAS THREATENED BY LOGGING WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE EXCLUDING FROM WOODCHIP LICENCES.

MONDAY NIGHTS CABINET DECISION REQUIRED MRS KELLY TO PROVIDE ADVICE TO MINISTER FOR RESOURCES MR LEE. DETAILS WILL BE OUTLINED OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS IMMINENT EXPORT LICENCES DECISION.

THE PRESENTATION WILL BE ON BEHALF OF THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY, EAST GIPPSLAND FOREST ALLIANCE, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH AND OTHER CONSERVATION GROUPS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL ALEC MARR 018 550 289

2432, 2434, 2450, 2451, 2452 - unlogged.

925, 953, 954, 1381 - unlogged.

933, 944, 945, 950, 951 - part logged.

2.4 Australian Grayling

Headwaters of the Yowaka River as contained in Nullica State Forest west of Back Creek Road.

2.5 Special Prescription Areas - Nalbaugh and Cathcart

The SPA's have not as yet come under an acceptable set of prescriptions, particularly in Cathcart. ANCA could become involved to protect old growth and wildlife values.

2.5.1 All remaining areas of Cathcart and Nalbaugh State Forests - old growth values.

2.6 Coolangubra State Forest National Estate Area

All compartments outside the proposed 1990 park to protect old growth and wilderness values.

2.7 Bondi Link

All compartments in Bondi State Forest between Nalbaugh and Nungatta National Parks and not in the proposed 1990 park area to protect old growth and wildlife corridor values.

2.8 Murrabrine State Forest

Wilderness area.

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



TO: FOREST CAMPAIGNERS / CEO's VARIOUS PEAK ENVIRONMENT GROUPS

re: Various Forest Issues

Dear Friend,

I attach a letter from Dailan Pugh, along with a copy of his Proposed National Criteria for Conservation Reserve Selection of Forest Ecosystems.

The context in which this document was produced, and its potential relevance to the implementation of the National Forest Policy Statement, is explained in Dailan's letter.

I encourage you to read the documentation. If you feel able, please write to Ros Kelly:

- supporting Dailan's draft reserve criteria (or submitting your own ideas on the topic)
- demanding that the Policy Advisory Group (mentioned on page 20 of the NFPS) is set up forthwith.

NCC has decided to propose Dailan Pugh for membership of the Policy Advisory Group to represent conservation interests. Perhaps you could also support this proposal, or suggest alternative/additional members (there will probably be two places for conservationists on the Group if it is ever actually set up).

Also attached is a letter sent to Keating this week concerning the ongoing tragic saga of the south east forests of NSW. The letter is enclosed for your information, but if you feel able to write to Keating in support of our position, it would be very helpful.

Regards,

Sid Walker

Wed, Nov 24, 1993

JOINT STATEMENT

John Anderson - Shadow Minister for Primary Industry
Ian McLachlan - Shadow Minister for the Environment and Heritage

PMS QUICK-FIX FOREST DEAL WILL NOT WORK

- National Forestry Policy Statement must start immediately

The Prime Minister's latest forestry quick fix issued today has made an absolute mockery of the scientific process. Millions of dollars have been spent by State departments and industry evaluating the situation in accordance with the National Forest Policy Statement, signed two years ago. NE

Now we have the ridiculous process of Cabinet going through the coupes - coupe by coupe, led by a Prime Minister who said on radio this week that he thought a coupe measured 150 metres by 150 metres (about two hectares) - a little smaller than his new home in Sydney.

The Prime Minister's statement said that 'priority will be given to resolving the status of coupes ... not registered as part of the National Estate' when, in fact the majority of the duds on the list are in the National Estate.

There is uncertainty over which important environmental areas should be protected forever and over the future job security for timber workers and their families.

Job security has not increased one whit.

The Prime Minister, by bringing in Senator Collins to try and fix the woodchip industry chaos, has demonstrated that he has no confidence in two of his Ministers.

He has in effect removed the incompetent Minister for Environment, Senator Faulkner, and the bungling Minister for Resources, Mr Beddall.

It is clear to everyone this Prime Minister and this fading Labor Government will do everything and say anything to cling to office. On this issue that practice of deceit has left Mr Keating stranded on a barbed wire fence.

The whole process has now become ridiculous.

What the Government should have done from Day one two years ago is fully implement the National Forest Policy Statement and provide certainty for Australia's forest industry and conservation areas.

The viability of a major industry and the protection of Australia's high conservation value areas is too important to become pawns in Paul Keating's perverse game of self-serving chess. NI

CONTACTS

John Anderson 06 277 4074

Ian McLachlan 08 237 7140

Elaine Stangl 06 290 1007 AH

Peter Miller 08 388 7785

3.2.95

The Wilderness Society, Total Environment Centre, Australian Conservation Foundation, National Parks Assoc, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, South East Forest Alliance

Attn: Chiefs of Staff / Environment & Political Reporters

MEDIA RELEASE - EMBARGO TILL 12.00 NOON TUESDAY APRIL 19, 1994

COMMUNITY OUTRAGE AT FAHEY'S SE FORESTS VANDALISM

MP's Clover Moore MP (Ind), Richard Jones (Dem) and Peter Macdonald (Ind), the NSW Greens and 6 National & State conservation groups staged a peaceful demonstration today in Macquarie Street against the Fahey Government's forest destruction package for South East NSW: *The Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Amendment Bill*.

The *Bill* to be debated this week, permits logging over 3 years in 60,000 hectares of native forests (10,000 ha in National Estate) and the fast tracking of inadequate environmental assessments. The *Bill* also creates a temporary logging 'ban' on '200,000 ha of forest' of which 120,000 ha is already logged or cleared with another 80,000 ha unlogged.

Karenne Jurd, National Spokesperson for The Wilderness Society said today "Make no mistake - Mr Fahey's *Bill* is nothing more than gratuitous vandalism. Daishowa's operation in the SE chips 9 out of 10 logs cut and with these go water quality values, bio diversity, eco-tourism business and the future economic security of the region. The irony is that *there is no timber supply crisis to justify this vandalism* - there are 270,000 hectares of plantation resource existing in NSW *right now*, including 30,000 ha of softwoods ready to cut at Bombala [in SE NSW]."

Sid Walker, Executive Officer of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW said "This *Bill* is an ecological and economic embarrassment. NSW doesn't need 'resource guarantees' that scrap environmental assessment laws. In fact we need quota reductions, economic restructuring and real forest protection in the South East. Instead we have a dying woodchip operation, minimal sawlog production and no future for the workers."

Jeff Angel spokesperson for Total Environment Centre and SEFA said today "The NSW Forestry Commission might have changed its name to State Forests but it still expects the same special subsidies to destroy priceless forest in Coolangubra Wilderness and Yowaka National Estate. The community is right to be outraged."

Anne Reeves President of the National Parks Association of NSW said today: "Mr Fahey's package completely fails to acknowledge the results of a recent Saulwick Poll showing that on average 57% of voters across the spectrum put environmental protection ahead of economic concerns. The economic benefit of woodchipping the South East Forests is extremely dubious."

Further information: Karenne Jurd tel. 018 449 080 or 02/267 7929
Jeff Angel tel. 02/247 4714
Anne Reeves tel. 02/264 7994