

Protest over logging

About 20 people last night set up camp in the Upper Duck Creek catchment, north of Kyogle, in a bid to force the Forestry Commission to amend plans for logging the area.

Aidan Ricketts, spokesman for the Toonumbah Environment Centre, said the commission was not meeting harvesting guidelines recommended by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the NSW Soil Conservation Service.

The commission's harvesting plan for the 412ha section, about 40 km north-west of Kyogle, was not up-to-date with the soil erosion and threatened species requirements of the two departments, he said.

The TEC had not wanted to stop logging in the whole area and so had prepared an amended version of the harvesting plan for the commission, Mr Ricketts said.

Northern Star 3/8/93

Blockade Alert

Forest defenders needed now at Toonumbah

Toonumbah Environment Centre and the North East Forest Alliance will be setting up a blockade and forest watch camp in CPT 211 of the Richmond Range State Forest from Monday 30 August.

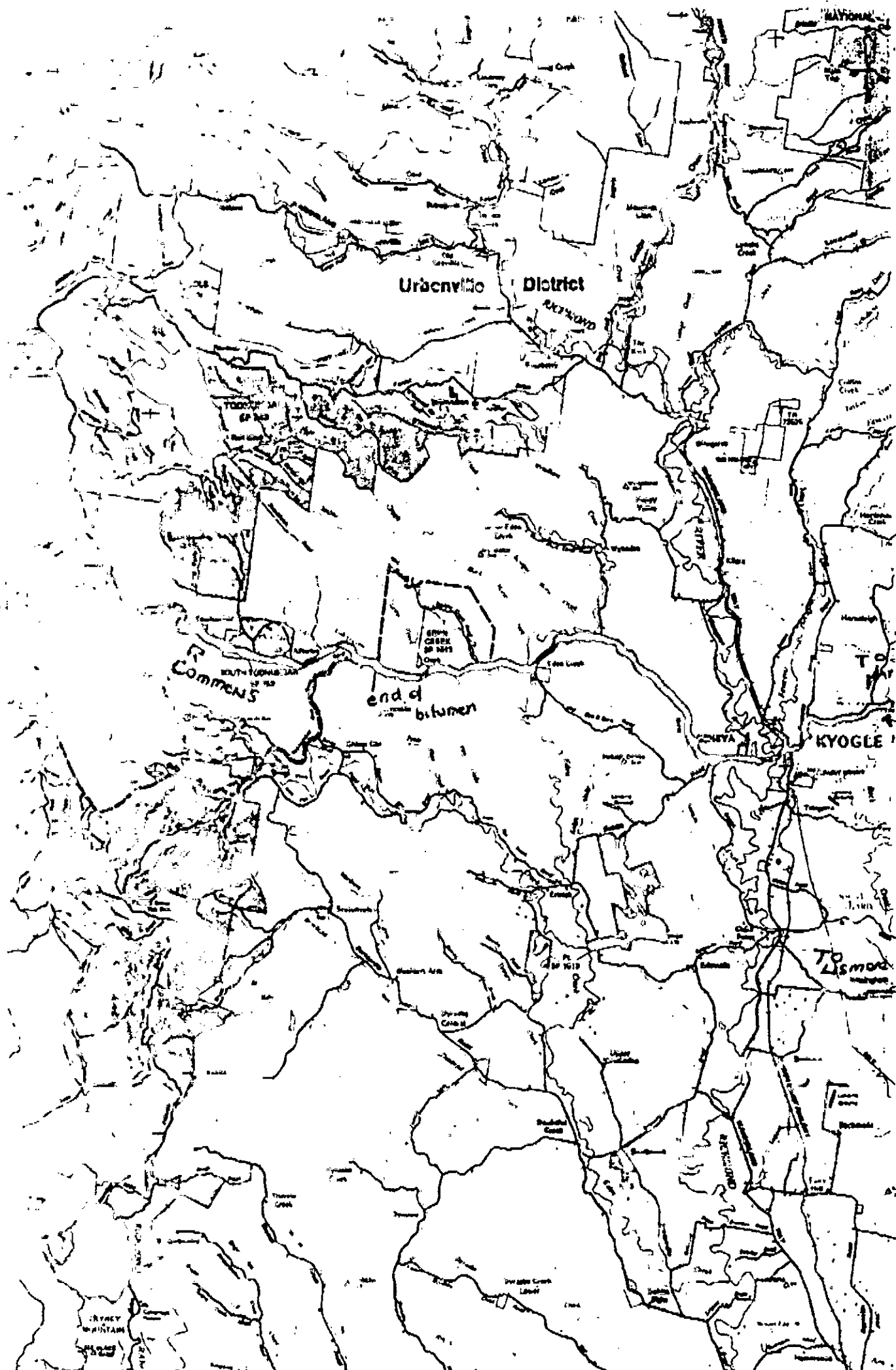
Negotiations to mitigate the effect of logging in Cpt 211 and to establish wildlife reserves in old growth sections of the compartment have broken down and logging will proceed in important remnant areas of Turpentine rainforest within the next few days unless work is stopped.

The compartment is on the Richmond Range close to the controversial Dome Mountain/Duck Ck area and is close to the Toonumbah locality which is sympathetic to Forest defenders.

What to bring... Camping gear, tools, cameras, food, cooking utensils, vehicles, friends etc etc

Directions. Travel to Kyogle, at the intersection at the bottom of town turn left (if coming from Lismore/Casino) right (if coming from Nimbin), then turn sharp left again immediately after the Esso Garage (a sign points to Toonumbah). Follow the road around to the right under the railway bridge and take the next turn right and continue on over the bridge. Continue on the main road past a sawmill on your left and just stay on the bitumen until you reach the Toonumbah. Afterlee, Bonalbo turnoff on your right shortly after the bitumen ends. Continue past the Afterlee school up the hill to a T intersection and keep going straight ahead (the sign points to Bonalbo).

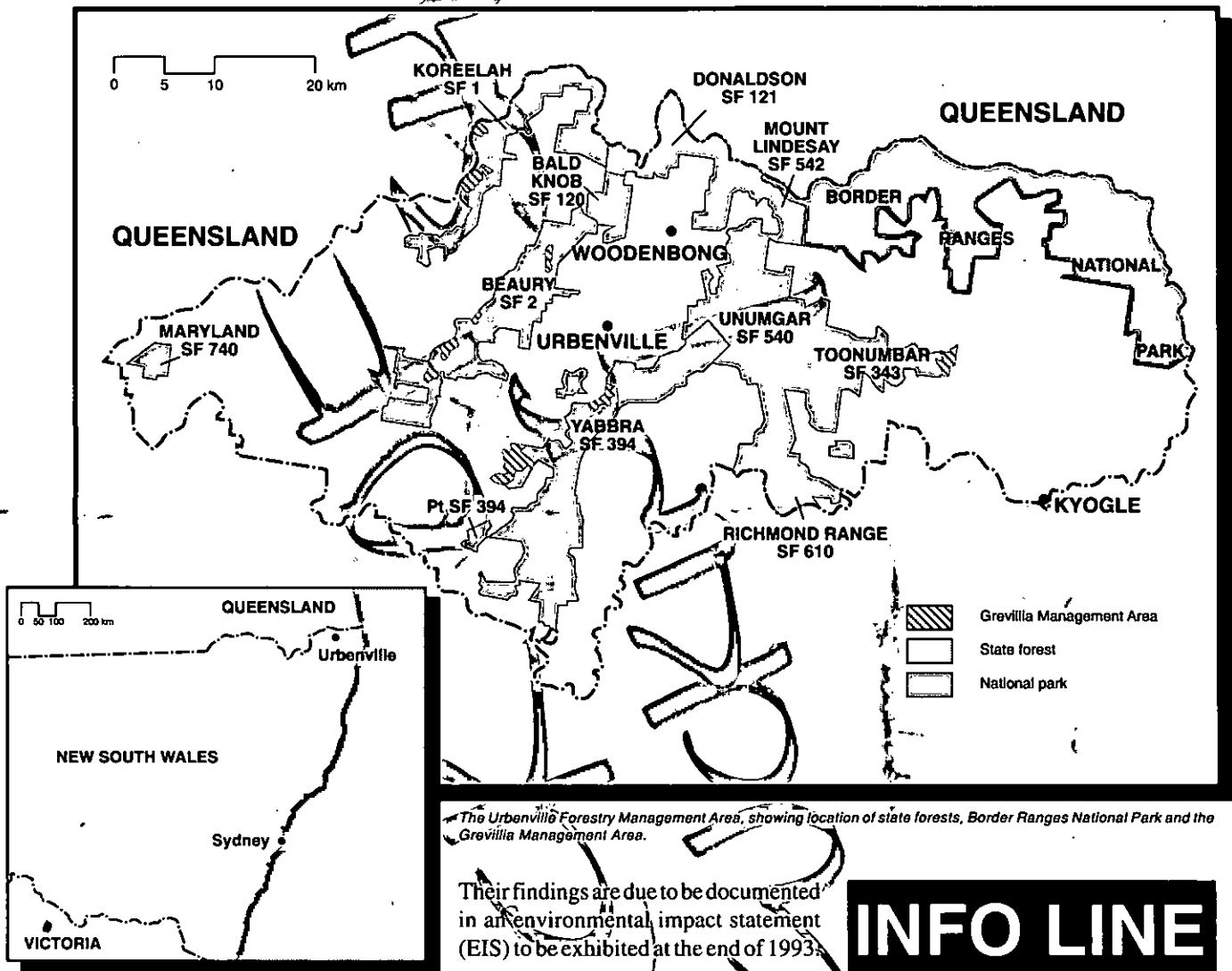
When you reach the bottom of the hill there will be a large cleared space with a broken down tennis court on it. This is the Toonumbah Commons and you are allowed to camp there. There will be a tin on the fence of the tennis court containing detailed maps of the compartment. You may wait at the Commons for 4wd trips into the logging area or use the maps to get there yourself. The locals are friendly and supportive (well most of them anyway, but don't hassle the residents that live close to the commons please.)





URBENVILLE FORESTRY

Environmental news



The Urbenville Forestry Management Area, showing location of state forests, Border Ranges National Park and the Grevillia Management Area.

Their findings are due to be documented in an environmental impact statement (EIS) to be exhibited at the end of 1993.

In the interim, much work needs to be done liaising with the local community and industry, and undertaking a range of specialist investigations.

This is a vital issue for our area. Some of you will support forestry activities in the area, others will not. Either way, we feel it essential to keep you posted. Over the coming months we'll be producing several newsletters to keep you informed of important issues. This is the first.

Why this newsletter?

The Forestry Commission recently engaged environmental specialists Manidis Roberts Consultants to investigate the environmental consequences of continuing forestry operations in the Urbenville Forestry Management Area, and to propose measures to mitigate adverse effects.

INFO LINE

Caroline Kirwood

Philip Manidis

(02) 281-5199

weekdays

9.30 am - 4.30 pm

\$1250.

Why prepare an EIS?

The 1991 State Government Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act declared that an EIS must be prepared for each forest management area in NSW with areas of 'old growth' forest. 'Old growth' forests are significant as they are more likely to contain the original forest structure and have high populations of native animals.

The Forestry Commission needs to prepare an EIS for the Urbenville Forestry Area as it includes the Dome Mountain/Duck Creek area of 'old growth' or unlogged forest. Dome Mountain/Duck Creek has 1000 hectares of 'old growth' forest. It has been suggested that this area is important as it may contain the largest unlogged stand of mixed wet sclerophyll and rainforest habitat remaining in the Border Ranges—Mount Warning area.

The EIS will evaluate feasible alternatives for forest management.

The activities in the Urbenville Forestry Area involve logging, building and maintaining roads, post-harvesting operations, forest protection, grazing, bee-keeping and recreation.

The EIS study team

The study team is headed by Manidis Roberts Consultants. Specialist subconsultants have also been engaged to undertake specific investigations. Key members of the Manidis Roberts study team, their respective areas of involvement and background are presented below.

Philip Manidis will be responsible for community participation, social impact assessment, and economic evaluation. Philip is an economist with over 20 years experience in environmental assessment. He is one of Australia's leading community consultation facilitators and has co-ordinated consultation for a number of complex and controversial EISs.

Julie Savet will be responsible for project management and visual assessment. Julie has skills in applied geography and significant experience in natural resource management.

Dr Bruce Wannan will overview the flora and fauna assessment. Bruce is a highly qualified and widely experienced botanist who specialises in assessing ecological significance.

Caroline Kirwood will be responsible for community participation and social impact assessment. Caroline is an environmental planner with substantial experience in community consultation.

The following recognised specialists have also been engaged to investigate key issues for the EIS:

Dick Curtin — Forestry operations

Jim Veness — Soil and erosion assessment

Tom Carmichael — Hydrology and water quality

Matthew Kelly — Heritage assessment

Andrew Smith — Fauna assessment

Doug Binns — Flora assessment

Claire Smith — Aboriginal archaeology

Why public consultation?

Consultation is integral to the conclusions of the EIS. As the study progresses, public participation enables information on the potential benefits and disadvantages of forest management practices to be relayed to the local community and discussed.

Through participation, community members can have greater input *before* a final decision is made. Public participation is also vital in identifying feasible alternatives and gathering data for assessing social impacts.

The consultation program features a Community Consultative Committee to

provide feedback to the study team. It attempts to represent the full range of community interests. The Committee which has 25 representatives, will meet three or four times during the study.

Social impact assessment

Central to the investigations for the EIS is the degree to which the local community's quality of life may be altered by any change in forestry operations. To assess social impacts effectively requires community input.

We'll be seeking your involvement to identify potential social impacts and low impact options for forest management. To do this, we'll be running small workshops in each community.

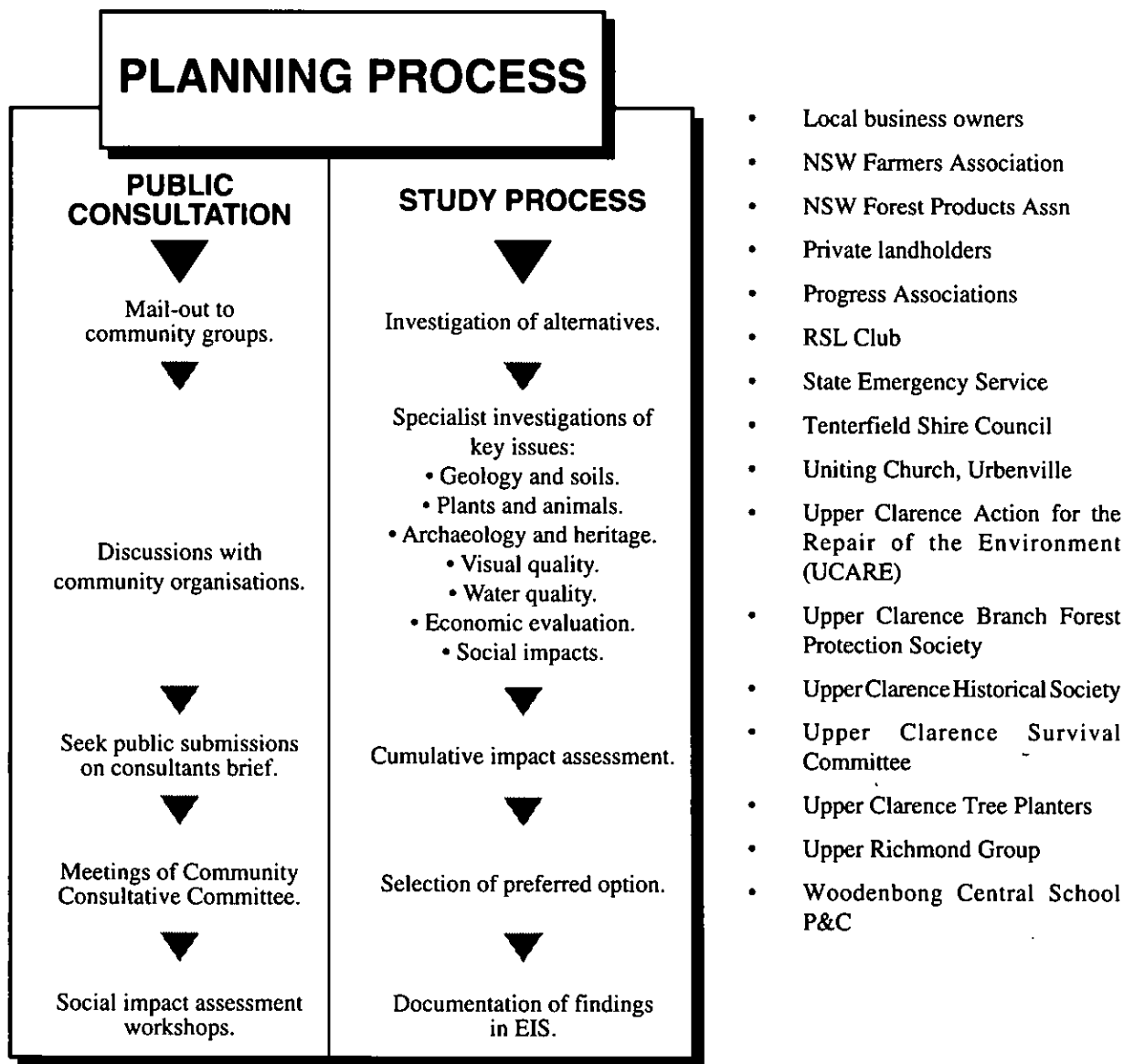
If you'd like to participate in one of these workshops, please contact Caroline Kirwood at Manidis Roberts Consultants on (02) 281-5199.

Jobs vs the environment

Most of us are aware of the heated debate which surrounds forestry operations, not just in NSW but, also, throughout the world where timber production is an important part of a localeconomy. The debate is commonly labelled as being 'jobs vs the environment'. It's a debate which is also relevant to forestry at Urbenville.

Urbenville and Woodenbong are reliant on timber processing. Together with farming, forestry activities have long been the mainstay of the small local economy, providing employment and income. Any decline in employment or population has serious impacts on the local community.

A key aim of the EIS is to strike a balance between the need for jobs and the need for a sustainable environment. The EIS will achieve that by identifying areas that can be logged over the next 10 years in a way that will have minimum impact on the environment.



The concern over social and economic impacts is clearly a major issue in the Urbenville Forestry Area.

The Community Consultative Committee

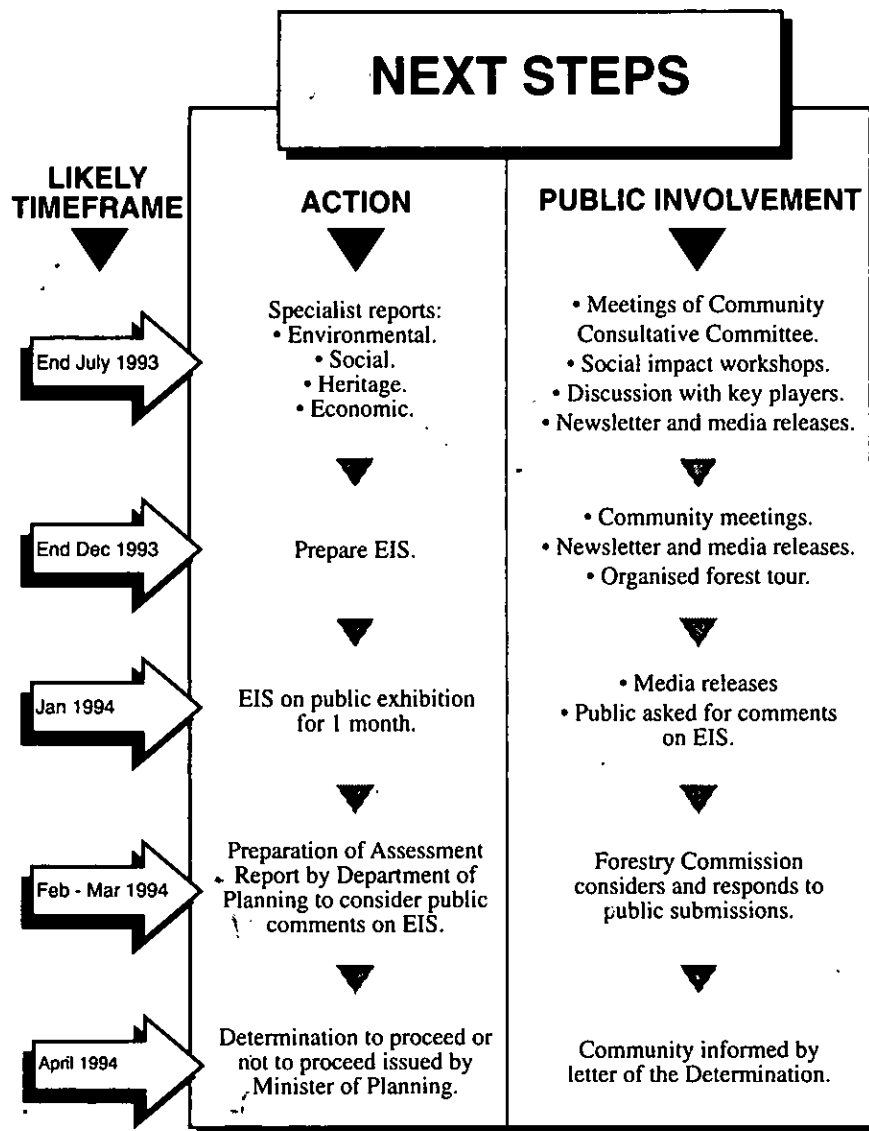
The Committee comprises representatives from a broad range of community groups and points of view. The purpose of the committee is to enable information exchange between the public and the study team preparing the EIS. While the committee will provide input into the EIS process, it does not have decision-making powers. The determination to proceed or not to

proceed is made by the Minister of Planning following consideration of the EIS and public submissions received on it. Groups and interests which make up the Committee are:

- Apiarists
- Big Scrub Environment Centre
- Ford Timbers
- Graziers
- Greensill Brothers Logging Contractors
- Kyogle Shire Council
- Land Warfare Centre, Canungra

KEY ISSUES

- Social impacts
- Plants and animals
- Old growth forests
- Archaeology and heritage
- Geology and soils
- Visual quality
- Water quality
- Economic evaluation



Prepared for
NSW Forestry Commission



by

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