

A detailed black and white illustration of a rainforest scene. On the left, a large palm tree trunk and fronds are visible. On the right, there are large, detailed flowers. The background is filled with various rainforest plants and foliage. The text is overlaid on this illustration.

Rainforest Information Centre

P.O. BOX 368 LISMORE N.S.W. 2480 AUSTRALIA

VOTE FOR THE FORESTS!

(AND DON'T WAIT FOR POLLING DAY)

February 15th 1990

Friends,

We would like to see a big wave for the forests in the run-up to the forthcoming Federal elections.

It seems to us that the elections provide a clear opportunity to raise the issue of co-ordinated Commonwealth forest protection - and to achieve significant gains as a result of the election process.

Here in northern NSW, these Federal elections could be the last for oldgrowth forests. The same is true in many other parts of Australia - and in Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Tasmania, rainforests continue to fall.

Worldwide, the biological foundations of complex life are under severe attack. The problem is so grave that foremost Canadian ecologist David Suzuki believes that **LESS THAN TEN YEARS REMAIN** before damage to the life-support systems of the Earth reaches the point of no return.

This being so, it is imperative that we in Australia achieve high standards of forest management and secure **IMMEDIATE PROTECTION** for **ALL** our biologically precious native forests.

In late January a gathering of peak conservation groups (ACF, TWS, SEFA and various conservation councils) agreed to make protection of the forests their main election campaign. They also agreed to the following principles for the forest campaign strategy:

- 1/ Immediate and full protection of all National Estate forests.
- 2/ Identification and secure protection of other native forests of high conservation value.
- 3/ Suspension of all forestry activity in those areas while they are under investigation.
- 4/ Immediate restructuring of total forest industry, to maximise employment opportunities whilst moving to an ecologically sustainable, plantation-based industry.

The recent Saulwick Herald Poll indicated that 78% of Australians believe forests should be preserved wherever possible; 70% favour native forest preservation over protection of timber workers jobs. Even a majority of Liberal and National Party voters agreed.

- Sydney Morning Herald, 15.2.90

These new policies are clear, ambitious and most welcome. However we believe they could be clarified and extended by adding the following:

- 1/ Immediate and full protection for all Australian rainforests
- 2/ Immediate and full protection for all Australian Old-Growth (ancient) forests
- 3/ An end to export woodchipping. No large-scale kraft pulpmills.
- 4/ A ban on the import of rainforest timbers into this country.

A recent nationwide poll titled 'Study of Community Attitudes Towards the Environment and the Implications for Commerce and Industry' found that over 90% of Australians respond affirmatively to the proposition: "everything that can possibly be done to protect the environment should be done". This is an even higher figure than those obtained in similar surveys in the U.K. and U.S.A.

This popular surge of environmental concern for forest management has now been dramatically confirmed by the extraordinary results of the recent Saulwick Herald opinion poll on public attitudes to forest issues.

AUSTRALIANS WILL SUPPORT DECISIVE ACTION FOR THE FORESTS !

If the world is to wake up in time, Australia must show some initiative now. If not us, then who will find the necessary vision and determination to lead the way?

We need to push trivia off the agenda and make sure that people are focussing on **THESE** issues in the run-up to the elections. All parties and candidates should be forced to declare themselves on forest issues while conservationists create a winning environment for candidates with good forest policies.

We in Northern NSW are gearing up for forest actions in our area to raise awareness of old-growth, rainforest, woodchip and pulp issues as much as we can.

On March 23rd the next round of trials begin in Sarawak. We are organising an international Penan support action for this day. Because (at the time of writing) this could be close to the Federal election date, perhaps we should broaden the focus of this day of action in Australia to include all forest issues?

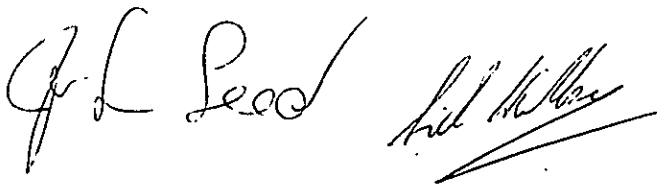
We are also preparing a series of 30 second radio cartes by nationally popular musicians with a "Vote for the Forests" theme.

Please:

- Let us know your perspectives on how to gain the most ground for the forests and for the planet through these elections.
- Keep in touch and tell us what you're planning. If possible, contact us by Pegasus (user id's: jseed and swalker). Let us know you email address and visit the conferences 'oz.forests' and 'vote.forests'. Otherwise, please write to us at the Rainforest Information Centre - or telephone 066/218505.
- Pass this on to others in your group or network who you think may be interested.

For the forests,

John Seed & Sid Walker



*'I understand why (some conservationists) don't compromise..... if you had been fighting in the environment movement..... and you'd lost battle after battle, you'd compromised away forests, beaches and rivers and National Parks for years.....
- when what you're trying to save is gone for ever if you lose'*

- Senator Graham Richardson 6.2.90

Notes on N.E.F.A. Meeting Woody Hd 3.2.90

Met Repl? Old Growth legal action forest protests

Guy Fawks ^{River} N.P. extension. re Steve North nomination under Wilderness Act.

Nymbodia NP - Mann River Wilderness nomination.

Wingham Forest Action → court action - integrated logging + wood chipping

Forest Action Group - Yawakappinni S.F.

Elise - Co-ordinator based in Armidale
Binghi Macleay Wilderness Mann R.

"The Rain Drain" Nam + Debyang Sun.
UNSW NCEC produced video.

CVCC submission on Pulp & Paper T.F. Report 43 pp
+ 7 pp Martin's own report

Anti Pulp Mill Rally later in March.

Spirabo, Chaelundi, Dalmorton, Boorook.

F.O.I. Request: names of persons: documents to see.

C/- Sydney Area Co-ordinator
3 Albert Street,
Forest Lodge. 2037.

14th February, 1990.

Mr Bruce Woolf,
Hillman and Woolf,
82 Elizabeth Street,
Sydney. 2000.

Dear Bruce,

Re: Request for advice as to the structure of the North East Forest Alliance.

I provide the following information about NEFA pursuant to your request.

The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) is a network of pre-existent groups and organisations concerned about forestry issues in the North East sector of NSW.

NEFA is not an incorporated body, nor is it a body of any kind. While there may appear to be some similarity with the South East Forest Alliance, the only actual similarity is the network's name.

NEFA, as a network of forest activists and forest issue groups, was formed in August, 1989 at a seminar held in Grafton.

Prior to that meeting draft objectives were prepared by volunteers working through The Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc which was subsequently circulated to a large number of interested individuals and groups.

Those draft objectives were accepted by the first meeting with the single amendment of changing a 'group' to a 'network'. Following discussion at that first meeting a circular formalising the role of NEFA Co-ordinators was prepared by Mr Dailan Pugh. That Co-ordinators role statement has subsequently been accepted at a second NEFA meeting held in November 1989.

These two documents (copies attached) provide the only formal agreement as to the focus and activity of NEFA. A further working document which aims at detailing matters of policy has also been prepared.

...2/.

To date there has been no bank account established and all individuals and groups within NEFA have agreed to raise and

expend the own monies on local forest issues rather than create a bureaucracy for administering funding. No assets are held and no membership fees have been sought.

A third meeting of NEFA was recently held on 3 & 4 February to focus on a federal election campaign. A further meeting is foreshadowed for March.

Further, may I advise you of the following phone nos.

Harry Hines 067 733 026 w, ~~067-725-829-h~~;

Roger Lembit 047 588 336 h.

727 628 h

Barry and Dailan phoned both of these to forewarn them about Davis Creek work and they are expecting a call from you.

Finally, I have made a submission to the Rainforest Foundation (Jonathon King is the Chairperson) and they will meet on Friday 23rd to consider how much they are prepared to contribute.

If there is additional information required I would be pleased to further advise you.

Yours sincerely,
For the Land...

John R. Corkill.
Sydney Co-ordinator

To date there has been no bank account established and all individuals and groups within NEFA have agreed to raise and expend the own monies on local forest issues rather than create a bureaucracy for administering funding.

No assets are held and no membership fees have been sought.

A third meeting of NEFA was recently held on 3 & 4 February to focus on a federal election campaign. A further meeting is foreshadowed for March.

Further, may I advise you of the following phone nos.

Harry Hines 067 733 026 w, 067 725 829 h;

Roger Lembit 047 588 336 h.

Barry and Dailan phoned both of these to forewarn them about Davis Creek work and they are expecting a call from you.

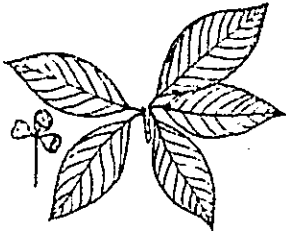
Finally, I have made a submission to the Rainforest Foundation (Jonathon King is the Chairperson) and they will meet on Friday 23rd to consider how much they are prepared to contribute.

If there is additional information required I would be pleased to further advise you.

Yours sincerely,
For the Land...



John R. Corkill.
Sydney Co-ordinator



NEFA NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

C/- The Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc. 88A Keon St. Lismore 2460. 066 213278.

C/- Sydney Area Co-ordinator
3 Albert Street,
Forest Lodge. 2037.

14th February, 1990.

Mr Bruce Woolf,
Hillman and Woolf,
82 Elizabeth Street,
Sydney. 2000.

Dear Bruce,

Re: Request for advice as to the structure of the North East Forest Alliance.

I provide the following information about NEFA pursuant to your request.

The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) is a network of pre-existent groups and organisations concerned about forestry issues in the North East sector of NSW.

NEFA is not an incorporated body, nor is it a body of any kind. While there may appear to be some similarity with the South East Forest Alliance, the only actual similarity is the network's name.

NEFA, as a network of forest activists and forest issue groups, was formed in August, 1989 at a seminar held in Grafton.

Prior to that meeting draft objectives were prepared by volunteers working through The Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc which was subsequently circulated to a large number of interested individuals and groups.

Those draft objectives were accepted by the first meeting with the single amendment of changing a 'group' to a 'network'. Following discussion at that first meeting a circular formalising the role of NEFA Co-ordinators was prepared by Mr Dailan Pugh. That Co-ordinators role statement has subsequently been accepted at a second NEFA meeting held in November 1989.

These two documents (copies attached) provide the only formal agreement as to the focus and activity of NEFA. A further working document which aims at detailing matters of policy has also been prepared.

OLD GROWTH FOREST OF THE NORTH EAST - AREAS OF CONCERN

The areas of concern are as follows in probable order of significance:

- 1.A Korreelah SF, Urbenville FMA,
Compartment Nos. 1 - 10,
Between White Swamp Rd and the Mt Lindseay Highway;
1. Chaelundi SF, Dorrigo FMA,
Compartment Nos. 180, 197 - 204, 209 - 219, 221 - 224,
302 - 306,
Adjacent Liberation Fire Trail off Chaelundi Forest Way;
2. Chichester SF, Dungog FMA, (Whispering Gully area)
Compartment Nos. 60 - 68
Adjacent Karuah River Rd off Berrico Rd off Buckett's
Way;
3. Spirabo SF, Tenterfield FMA,
Compartment Nos. 229 - 232, 234, 311 - 317, 319 - 330,
Adjacent Wattle Creek Rd off Farnell Rd off Spirabo
Forest Way;
4. Dalmorton SF, Grafton FMA,
Compartment Nos. 108 - 145, 152, 155 - 159,
Adjacent Old Barney Fire Trail off Blacksmith's Shop Rd
5. Boorook SF, Tenterfield FMA,
Compartment Nos. 80 - 84,
Adjacent Boonoo Boonoo Falls Rd off Mt Lindseay Highway,
6. Mount Marsh SF, Casino West FMA,
Compartment Nos. 428 - 434,
Adjacent Mt Neville Rd off Fullers Rd off Old Lawrence
Rd;

N.B. SF = State Forest, FMA = Forest Management Area.

John Cartill
5.2.90.

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

NEWS RELEASE -

Sunday 6th August, 1989

GREEN SUMMIT FOCUSES ON NORTH EAST FORESTS

The myth that the Rainforest decision of 1982 halted rainforest logging was exposed this weekend at a two-day meeting of 50 north coast environmentalists concerned about forestry issues. *held in Grafton.*

The meeting rejected the idea that there was a binding trade off of rainforest lands which prevented any further areas being protected in National Parks and called for an end of all rainforest logging, starting with the North end of Washpool.

"Any agreement which may have been reached six years ago is not relevant today, since there has been a huge growth in credible information and public understanding on the need for rainforest protection," said Dailan Pugh a spokesperson for the meeting.

"The conservation movement never agreed to a trade off, and Mr Causely's claim that the Greiner-Murray Government is bound by a decision of the Wran Government has no credibility. They have broken so many of their own promises, why are they bound by an unspecified and undocumented decision," he said.

Mr Pugh said that the meeting had organised an North East Forest Alliance, (N.E.F.A.) which would campaign across a broad range of forestry issues, and link with other NSW groups working on a statewide forest campaign.

The Alliance covers the large area north from Newcastle to the Qld border and includes the Northern Tablelands forests.

There was widespread concern about the massive destruction of forests in north east New South Wales. Old growth forests and wilderness areas are particularly under threat.

"Once we lose these few remaining undisturbed forests, they are lost forever along with the animals that depend on them for their survival," Mr Pugh said.

Issues discussed at the meeting included:

- * condemning Fruit Australia's large scale clearing as an ecological disaster;
- * National Estate protection and implementation of the NSW Wilderness Act;
- * National Estate nominations and protection;
- * compilation of an inventory and protection for Old Growth Forests;

- * preparation of new nominations under the Wilderness Act;
- * alienation of Crown Land with significant conservation attributes; and
- * indiscriminate and ad hoc use of chemicals in natural areas.

The meeting also agreed to campaign for greatly improved Forestry Commission Management and public participation in decisions affecting publically owned forest lands.

Specific campaigns are planned to:

- * oppose the pulp mill proposed for the North Coast;
- * end export woodchipping from the north coast through Newcastle and refocus on value added forest products;
- * improve National Parks and Wildlife Service forest management and dramatically increase the Service's levels of funding for research and nature conservation;
- * encourage plantations on private lands through tax and rate incentives and control widespread forest clearance;
- * protect wetlands and coastal forests and promote appropriate management, zonings and adjacent landuses.

Mr Pugh also said that there is an urgent need to assess the detrimental impacts of the Greenhouse effect and ozone depletion on the future of our forests.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION Please phone

Dailan Pugh 066 427 081 Sunday evening
 Celia Smith 066 427 081 Monday
 Martin Frohlich 066 477 262 Monday evening

DRAFT 2

*PREPARED FOR COMMENT BY JEFF ANGEL,
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
FOR THE FOREST SUMMIT*

NATIVE FOREST POLICY FOR NEW SOUTH WALES

DEFINITIONS

Native Forests: Natural ecosystems in which trees comprise a major proportion of the biomass, which have evolved from the pre-human biosphere without being subjected to clearance or other drastic human intervention. The term is used to include native forests and woodlands.

Old-growth native forests: Native forests which contain a substantial proportion of old, mature trees. Such forests are generally characterised by a high level of ecological complexity and biological diversity and have high habitat potential for wildlife.

Plantations: Large stands of trees planted by humans with timber production as the primary objective.

Agroforestry: A land management practice which combines cultivation and harvesting of trees with other agricultural pursuits, to diversify agricultural production and/or promote sustainable production.

AIMS

Conservation of Biological Diversity

To ensure that all indigenous species inhabiting native forests are able to survive and continue their evolutionary development in the wild.

Protection of Heritage

To protect all wilderness areas and sites of important natural and cultural significance.

Development of a Sustainable Economy

To foster a sustainable economy which caters for human needs, including wood and wood products, without degrading the environment and leading to the extinction of species and ecosystems.

1. FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

Throughout the world forest cover has shrunk dramatically over the last few thousand years as human populations have grown and become more environmentally destructive. Forest destruction has accelerated during this century and the consequent soil erosion, loss of biological diversity and changes to the planet's atmosphere and climate are major factors contributing to the growing global environmental crisis.

The original forest ecosystems of NSW have declined dramatically in the last 200 years. More than 15 million hectares - or 20% of the state - was forested prior to European settlement, yet since 1788 between 60% and 80% has been cleared or severely modified.

At present, only about half of the state's plant communities are adequately conserved in national parks and nature reserves, whilst much of the remainder is being cleared, intensively logged, burnt, grazed or invaded by weeds so that their inherent structure is radically changed.

Wilderness and undisturbed water catchments continue to recede and are polluted by toxic chemicals, urban run-off and sewage. Less than 5% of NSW is left in a wilderness state, and includes much of the remnant old growth forest.

As the community rapidly develops a greater awareness about the importance of retaining the natural environment and keeping it clean, the values of old growth native forests and intact forest ecosystems, as reflected in their contribution to stabilising the world's climate; holding a massive gene pool for utilisation by future generations; and sheer beauty will be greatly treasured.

New initiatives by government and the community are needed to ensure the survival of the native forests.

Policies:

- a) Old growth forests and inadequately conserved forest communities should be preserved and managed for protection of their high conservation and wilderness values, through a system of national parks and nature reserves.
- b) Design of reserves should take into account forested corridors in view of the urgent requirements for species survival threatened by the Greenhouse Effect.
- c) An urgent independent inventory of the remaining old growth forests should be carried out and the forests inscribed on the Register of the National Estate and where appropriate on the World Heritage List.
- c) Logging proposed for such forests in a) should be removed to less sensitive low conservation value areas (and their biodiversity retained) as a matter of high priority and industry assisted to use alternative timber resources in the longer term (see 2).
- d) All logging programs should be controlled by publicly available and enforceable management plans that protect all environmental values of native forest.
- e) The NSW Government ban the use of old growth and wilderness timbers in government projects and encourage the private sector to do the same.
- f) Recreational use of native forests should be managed to minimise environmental impact.

2. TIMBER RESOURCES

Timber extraction from native forests, where permitted, must be carried out on a truly sustainable basis, both in terms of wood production and non-wood values.

The bulk use of native forest in south east NSW is for woodchips and as such an intensive logging regime is used. In the north of NSW the forests are being managed to 'maximum utilisation' and transitional rainforest communities heavily logged. Further, woodchip extraction is growing.

It is essential that native forests are relieved of the pressure generated by intensive logging regimes.

The timber industry has been established and sustained through royalty subsidies which deflect market interest away from hardwood plantation timbers. For example hardwood royalties do not reflect the cost of actually establishing trees and the non-wood values of native forests. In general the amount of timber extracted from native forests since WWII has almost doubled while employment has dropped sharply.

At the same time supplies of hardwood sawlogs are decreasing and will do so into the next century. It is expected that much of the lower value end of the sawlog market (eg building timber) will be replaced by pine from the state (and New Zealand) plantations over the next 20 years. Realistic estimates of timber demand indicate that more than enough pine is already planted or planned to supply these needs at a national level in the future, although there may be a need for additional regional hardwood plantations for timber. Further, arguments about self sufficiency become corrupted at state level as the viability of interstate trade is not recognised. Thus each state strives for internal self sufficiency in timber, when the national supply should be the only criteria.

The timber industry is not presently on sustained yield in NSW and is struggling towards a sustained regime to produce wood products only, rather than to sustain all environmental values, including a full diversity of age classes.

Policies:

- a) Logging activities for woodchips should, in the short term, rely on lower conservation value forests at a reduced scale of logging intensity, thinnings of regrowth in previously clearfelled areas and sawmill waste, while eucalypt plantations are established.
- b) Plantations can also supply sawlogs in the longer term and lower conservation value native forests should be logged on a long rotation selective regime (100-150 years) to supply sawlogs.
- c) As a matter of principle all timber suitable for sawn timber should not be used for woodchips and government should ensure that the best available technology (eg scrimber, glue lamination, filch) is used in timber mills to access this timber and produce high value products.

- d) Government should recognise that restructuring of the hardwood timber industry is inevitable as pine comes onto the market and establish a planned program of value-added activities that will direct hardwood to its highest value use and protect employment.
- e) No additional areas of pine should be established on vegetated land and preference given to hardwoods.
- f) Hardwood plantation establishment should only occur on already cleared land, excluding environmentally valuable woodland. Schemes such as sharefarming and agro-forestry should be instituted.
- g) Hardwood forest on private land should be protected from total clearance and to achieve this, government regulation and economic initiatives introduced to ensure the retention of future sawlogs and environmental values.
- h) Royalties should reflect the true cost of native forest timbers and adjusted so that plantation timber is not deterred because of the subsidy to native timber extraction.
- i) The conservation movement recognises the benefits of workers to be unionised and receive the best possible working conditions.
- j) Estimates of timber resources should be independently audited and made publicly available.
- k) Whilst self sufficiency in timber products at a national level is laudable, it should be based on plantations.

3. FOREST MANAGEMENT.

The past decade has seen prolonged and polarised public debates about the future of native forests. A major reason for this has been the unwillingness of those who control state forests to share decision making or to make real attempts to ensure long term survival of all environmental values.

Proposals that suggest changed logging timetables, new national parks and environmental impact assessment have met stiff resistance due to an inflexibility on the part of the NSW Forestry Commission, trade unions and industry. At the same time the general community's demand for change in how native forests are managed has not abated, but rather increased. In the middle, timber workers and small towns have been torn by the political fight. However, once a decision has been made along the conservation movement's lines, it has been found that industry could use the alternatives suggested and no jobs were lost.

Whilst foresters claim they are professionally trained in forest protection, the political imperatives of defending bureaucratic territory and lack of experience in meaningful public involvement has meant professional values have often been cast aside.

Policies:

- a) The NSW Government recognise that wide ranging and meaningful public involvement in decisions about the future of native forests can prevent damaging and polarised public debate.
- b) All management plans for native forests should be publicly reviewed (using the same process as for national parks) over a five year period and preceded by an independent environmental and timber resources study.
- c) Environmental impact statements should be prepared for forestry activities likely to significantly affect the environment. As an aid to this the Government should prepare a schedule of controversial areas and publish for public comment all environmental reviews, including an independent pre-logging environmental survey prepared under S111 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.
- d) There should be a separation of the environmental regulation and timber extraction activities of forestry management, with the development of logging practices and environmental regulations; enforcement of the regulations and assessment of proposed logging activities given to a suitably qualified body separate from the Forestry Commission.
- e) An unambiguous and binding 'forest practices code' that is enforceable through third party rights in the Land and Environment Court is needed.
- f) The NSW Forestry Commission to be assisted by an Advisory Committee comprised of timber industry, union, scientist and conservationist representatives and chaired by an independent person.
- g) All timber licences and long term wood supply agreements to be available for public inspection free of charge.

- h) The National Parks and Wildlife Service should be afforded first choice of any crown lands proposed for conversion to state forest or leasehold.
- i) All developments (eg cropping, subdivision) that are likely to have a significant impact on tree cover should be first assessed by an independent and public environmental impact statement.
- j) Local and regional environmental plans should contain strict rules to avoid tree loss and encourage tree planting, in sympathy with the remnant ecosystems.
- k) Plans of management for parks and reserves should prevent tree loss and introduction of activities that would damage the natural environment in any way; and encourage regeneration.

4. PULP AND PAPER PRODUCTION.

In recent years the establishment of pulp mills has received attention from governments seeking to add value to timber resources and reduce the balance of payments deficit in regard to wood products. At the same time local communities have been concerned about water pollution, the turning over of native forest to intensive logging regimes and the loss of future sawlogs. A further factor only recently emerging is the push to increase the supply of recycled paper.

On broader level the clearfelling of forests to supply woodchips, accompanying burning regimes and the disposal of paper products liberates large amounts of carbon into the atmosphere. At a time when the globe is on an environmental precipice the introduction of such large quantities of carbon should be resisted and maximum recycling put in place.

Policies:

- a) Pulp and paper mills should only be based on plantations of fibre crops and recycled paper, thinnings from already established plantations and regrowth thinnings from previously clearfelled forest. Such sources must be specified in the enabling legislation and contract, in addition to financial contributions to plantation establishment by the companies involved.
- b) There should zero release of effluent that would harm the environment.

5. GLOBAL ISSUES.

On a worldwide level forests are disappearing at an alarming rate. Some developing nations will become net timber importers after the year 2000 and an enormous amount of plant and animal species will become extinct. Consumption by the developed countries and the international credit system encourages developing countries to eliminate their forests for foreign exchange. The loss of more forest has very serious implications for the world's climate and human civilisation.

Policies:

- a) The NSW Government ban the use of imported rainforest timbers in government construction projects and facilities and encourage the private sector to follow suit.
- b) Support be given to the swapping of loans for intact natural environments in developing countries along with aid for environmentally sustainable projects.
- c) The Australian woodchip industry be based on plantations and value-added exports so that overseas markets are supplied from plantations rather than pristine forest in developing countries.
- d) There be a general and massive increase in tree cover through government and privately funded projects.

Who has NEFA info on disk?

Steady (draft from notes)

John Harvey (final copy)

* Rieho in Grafton March 9th

* Services Club - ALP function for Candidate for Page - Harry Wood. (VS Martin Frolich)

! More clearing in Antarctic Beech forest: Where!

! NVA Workshop postponed - again!

◆ Coffs Water Supply will flood lowland Antarctic Beech Bobo River - west of Coffs Harbour

Rf { Chauliandra
Whispering Gully.
\$ + time.

She on holidays ^{til} 26th Feb '90.

will meet Peter Hitchcock when she (+he) returns from holidays on March 1st.

Nulla Five Day S.F. } Kempsey District F.M.A.
Camp: 106-122 } Warm temperate - wet
Styx River S.F. } with Rf areas
Camp: 12

Hold EIS demand letter - til Friday?
when Nulla 5 Day + Styx R. may be added
Drop Kareelah S.F. off list.

519 8994

Barrie Griffiths on Wednesday

10-30 \longleftrightarrow 12-30



MINUTES OF MEETING: NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE 3 NOVEMBER 1990
UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES RESEARCH STATION, SMITHS LAKE

ATTACHMENTS: - Attendance, List of Experts/Consultants, NEFA affiliated groups/Contacts list, Preston & Boer: new forestry Act, List of what should be in an EIS, ATWU policy on restructuring, EPA section 111 & clauses 56 & 57, FOI letter, telephone tree

AGENDA DISCUSSION:

Reports: Washpool, Chaelundi, Mount Royal, Wingham, Woodchipping, Way Way State Forest, Crown Lands

Discussions: Politics, Woodchipping, Dialogue, EIS process, Forest Policy (NEFA) Strategy, Federal Woodchipping, Networking

WASHPOOL REPORT

John Corkill spoke: Injunction by Justice Hemming. Cease work until full hearing in late Feb, early March. 3 important points:

- unlawful logging of rainforest
- no surety for damages required by Corkhill since it is in public interest
- consistent lack of observation of EPA by Forestry Commission - not any economic hardship.

Calling for Cabinet to reconsider North Washpool nomination in light of new information. John has had tremendous support - donations and legal aid; also, physical support/assistance.

ALP has called for enquiry - Carr's position has improved. Good media coverage both local and State/National. Commission is saying they will fight in the courts, however, they may relent and do the EIS. John Corkill spoke briefly on court proceedings arising from Belangry. Corkill was fined. He is appealing on point-of-law: "Can the Forestry Commission close the forest for a picnic?"

A good contact list of experts/consultants who will work on short notice for little money and who will give evidence in court. *SEE ATTACHMENTS. Work had not commenced in Washpool prior to injunction. Cabinet did not read the NPWS assessment of Washpool prior to decision to log.

CHAE LUNDI REPORT

Dailan Pugh spoke: EIS is inadequate - data is inadequate or misused; selectively used. Inconsistencies are blatant and throughout. The minister may find the EIS inadequate and therefore we will not need to go to court. Inadequacies eg.:

- very high density of arboreal mammals is not acknowledged and is understated;
- demand is for tallowood - tallowood will supply, say, six years, so not sustainable by any definition;
- tallowood is a very useful timber and yet is being used non-specifically and also it seems there is a common-pricing royalty policy which means the royalty on tallowood decreases;

Submissions on EIS were submitted by Wingham Forest Action, Big Scrub, Byron, Terania and NEFA. NEFA says protect the whole area, the EIS is inadequate, do another one. There is currently logging occurring in Chaelundi. It is important to discredit the EIS; the Forestry Commission tactic was to do an EIS to satisfy the law. It is important to show that this quick inadequate EIS fails to satisfy the law (EPA), eg., the fauna data is from the S.E. Forests.

MOUNT ROYAL REPORT

Barry Griffiths spoke: Mount Royal is small area, however Forestry have announced EIS September. Public input expired 26th October. Barry is seeking to have undertaken soil, fauna etc. studies. Four weeks is an inadequate time for EIS input by public (Corkill said this is not a statutory limit). ?? is available to do the fauna work; Barry is looking for people to do the expert work. If we can do a very definitive, high quality study of our own, then any court case is made substantially easier. It is difficult not knowing how long it will take the Forestry Commission to produce their EIS. Not long judging by the quick (one month) Chaelundi EIS. This issue of timetable of EIS preparation related across areas. Forestry say they will keep informed all who are interested as to the progress of the EIS progress in any given area. Forestry makes these undertakings to consult. Note about the EIS process (Dailan Pugh spoke): Justice Hemming said that an inadequate EIS can be supplemented at a later date. He takes the view that it is the EIS process that counts rather than the content of the EIS.

WINGHAM REPORT

Helmut Aimann spoke: Waiting to go to court - holdup is waiting for John McGaritty to put his submission together (affidavit). Forestry Commission have finished logging where WFAG had done research. Have Legal Aid (\$10,000) and hope for more when it runs out. Hoping to get at woodchipping through challenging the "integrated logging" approach. Dean Ledger - advice to get an EIS on woodchip mill. Specifications for woodchip logs is available (almost has). It cannot be shown that old growth forest is being woodchipped - however the specifications demonstrate that it is mill quota logs which are being used. Wingham court case is about the remaining four compartments of old growth forests. Holdup is affidavit from McGaritty.

WAY WAY STATE FOREST REPORT

Terry Parkhouse spoke: Yarrahappini State Forest is adjoining. EIS is demanded. Forestry have brought in machinery to do repair work on failed erosion mitigation works. Waiting on McGaritty - he has done a survey but not prepared an affidavit.

WOODCHIPPING REPORT

Greg Gill spoke: Commission of Inquiry was refused by the Minister. Griffiths told Woods (local member) that EIS's on export woodchipping will have to be undertaken, but no hurry. Borral has appealed against council decision to Land and Environment Court. Started to work out a case - site specific re mill at Tea Gardens. From Class 1 to Class 4. Legal Aid for a barrister's opinion against the Forestry Commission. This is a woodchipping (Forestry policy) approach and will need to be considered by/for the whole coast. The site specific woodchipping mill, Tea Gardens - we will take a watcher-in-brief role at the Booral appeal case. The Governor of NSW has lodged an objection to the mill (he lives opposite the mill in Tea Gardens). Perhaps the Governor could request a royal commission even though the minister has declined. Tim Robertson may give advice on this.

WOODCHIPPING (FAR NORTH COAST) REPORT

Dailan Pugh spoke: Woodchipping proposal through Grafton by V.L. Agencies. Proposal is for licence to export 400,000 tonnes p.a from private land and sawmill waste. The port is being upgraded. A new mill (200,000 tonnes/yr capacity) is built at Grafton and a Development Application has been lodged, and an EIS has been completed. Sent to Dept of planning as Copmanhurst council couldn't decide. What is apparent is that pressure is on from Japanese for securing high quality woodchip supplies now.

CROWN LANDS REPORT

Sue Walker spoke: Proposal to convert Crown Lands to leasehold. Moratorium is now in place - assessment of further transfers - improvement with crown leases, eg. if NPWS have an interest, then the conversion won't go ahead. So, leasehold comes up. If NPWS expresses interest then it is not converted. It becomes a battle between Forestry and NPWS. Best result is for Crown Land to be reserved from sale. Vacant Crown Land. Dedication of crown land. Government is offloading vacant Crown Land for two reasons:

1) revenue raising; and

2) prevent aboriginal land claims over vacant Crown Land.

Discussion of incentives for private landholders to maintain forested land.. Re leasehold conversion to freehold - Moratorium on leasehold conversions is an improvement - however the solution to assessment of conservation value of environmental land leases by NPWS and see what happens then. Re Vacant Crown Land - this is a problem because this land is being converted to freehold.

PINE PLANTATIONS REPORT

Walcha/Nundle - clearing native forest for pine plantations. In 1979 the Forestry Commission undertook to do EIS's here. 375 ha since been cleared with no EIS. Other places, Bathurst area, Tulaganda area near Canberra: all these areas are in knowing breach of the act since EIS's have been promised but not done. This should be taken to court. It is a clear breach of the EPA. It is a criminal offence to knowingly aid, abet, procure or counsel in contravention of EPA.

UPRIVER FORESTS NAMBUCCA REPORT

Tabled by John Munro:

DISCUSSION: WOODCHIPPING:

G. Gill, suggested an examination of integrated logging, in context of legal challenge. L. Gill, appealed to NEFA affiliates to provide examples up and down the coast of particular management areas: forests, "map addresses", coups (compartments); where everything is being taken ??; from quota logs; silvicultural waste (thinnings) and sawmill waste - then the challenge is based on the fact that the Commission has not taken into account the taking of the two lower uses, ie. silvicultural and sawmill matter. So search out "Schedule for logging" in annual report - see what volumes of what products are to be taken from this area - to see how it relates to above. Search out these areas, take photographs etc.. The basis of the legal case is that the integrated logging operations are causing significant environmental impact and that consequently the Forestry Commission should perform EIS's.

If these case is successful, then consideration of Federal action (even if the State Forestry Commission action is unsuccessful). Examples in the following areas will be prepared by the following people:

Newcastle/Buladelah	-	Gills
Port	-	Helmut - Kiwarra
Pine Creek	-	John Munro
Coffs	-	Andrew Steed
Glen Innes	-	Dailan Pugh

We are looking for particularly diverting examples. Make sure you note every possible impact:

- loss of habita - loss of nutrients - loss of future sawlogs
- loss of soil structure and soil erosion - increased fire risk
- increased soil compaction - weed and - feral animal invasion
- loss of science amenity - siltation, hydroloical effects
- impact on rare and endangered species - increase of dieback
- economics of resource (impact on) - loss of carbon storage
- road safety, road structure (impact on) - microclimate changes

Get hold of the "Environmental review" or "Impact assessment report" regarding the particular site you are exampling. Perhaps it is not fundamental that your example contains quota logs and silvicultural wastes and sawmill wastes.

DISCUSSION: POLITICS

John, arising from political discussion Sydney associated with Washpool: Labour Party changed ground on Washpool, Pam Allen calling for enquiry Forestry Commission misleading. We can now provide evidence of alternative sources etc.. Get Labour further advanced, pressure Carr about Hallam; new Forestry Act, overall decent policy transform Commission. Liberals: state of flux, Philip Smiles recommending sweeping changes, including non-economic. National Party: George Souris, PAC may be expected to recommend significant change. Transformation necessary not just "shake-up" (as West promising). Wendy Maclin - fairly optimistic PAC. Richard Young and Marie Bignold. Dailan, But what can we realistically expect? John, Start for first principles, draft new Act. John Munro (Nambucca), Structural prolems, separation environment and planning, integrate the Commission. Sue, Office Public Management (Premier's Department) looking at radical changes, establish Environment Management body, integrating. Doubts that Government can do it properly. Dailan, Victorian Land Conservation Council ?? achieved much better reserve system - evaluation of all public lands. John, Industry wants basis for clear decisions. Dalian, Barrie, that (above) in window-dressing (Carr etc.). John's point is that PAC soon to be making recommendations and we need to balance our obstructionist image with really positive proposals at this time. (timely). Dalian, proposals as to how to manage highly productive forests; alternative products and end-uses - talking to Simon Ferrier about what would be adequate reserve system for North East; more refined that South East, independent scientific assessment would be very useful. John, Politically important to put positive proposals like alternative supplies which are non-controversial. Dailan, agree that no necessity for reduction in supply.

- John, 1) positive proposals; and
2) specific targetting.

Dailan, Yes, we need to finalise our Forest Policy. John, we don't have to have all detail worked out - politics timing is crucial.

5
Target key people. Chris, WAG meeting with Wendy Maclin this week. Sue-Dailan, We do need finalise policy so our agreement clear.

John's definite proposals:

- 1) Want Hallam replaced. How? Both John in Sydney but also at Branch meetings.
- 2) Wendy Maclin re Hallam and also really court her. Chris says she's courting us.

John, She's very influential. Maybe then she can come to a future NEFA meeting. Ask her who else she things we should target, need convincing. John Munro (Nambucca), Proposals have to be sold to the industry, the workers, have to be fleshed out. Specifics from people, general from the top. Dailan, has come up from bottom, all have been asked whether agree. Peter Brown, Workers exploited, need a socialised industry getting, fair wage; sell this idea to Labour party and the workers. Dailan-Helmut, lot of opposition/uneasiness amongst timber industry workers about woodchipping. Linda, Buladelah also, realise taking their future resources. Chris, but differs providing employment for others elsewhere in the industry, also.

Meeting continued in general discussion - various issues with many absent.

DISCUSSION: EIS'S

Dailan Pugh introduced: Mount Royal, Ben Halls Gap, Dome Mountain (Duck Creek). These EIS's are due to come out or could come out at any time - possibly Christmas. Ability to respond immediately and numerically is very important. Must emphasise say, long term effects. Consider the longest living member of the particular environment. Detailed expert consideration. Must have as many objectors as possible - the number of objectors is important as is the number of objections. Barrie, He is collecting (re Mount Royal) as much information as possible relevant to commenting on the EIS so that when the EIS comes out (perhaps with short comment time) he can comment expertly, quickly. Barrie will provide information precis etc. re Mount Royal. Dailan will provide Dome Mountain (upper Clarence) information. One can go in before, or during the EIS preparation to tell the Commissioner what should be included. Dailan, will approach Mike Olson to prepare a list of what we should request to have put in EIS's. Also in this context consider the EPA list of what an EIS should contain. Sue Walker, For most EIS's, Department of Planning should have a list of requirements for EIS's. They do not have such a list for the Forestry Commission. This should be being prepared now. We should be making suggestions for addition to this list and requesting copy of list when available. John Corkill will follow up. Sue Walker, Ben Halls Gap: People are working on it. They should be brought into NEFA network. Sue Walker will make contact. John Corkill will follow up with NPA Sydney. John Corkill, There are many forestry operations operating without EIS's. We should write to say that Forestry are still operating outside the EPA. They should cease those operations. Where are the operations? (Some were produced). Chris, Why don't we include all these operations in the WFAG case. Chris will seek advice from Letcher as to whether the WFAG case could be expanded to challenge logging in all old growth forests without an EIS. Meanwhile John Corkill will write to Forestry as above. Dailan, will get lists of old growth operations for Casino, Dorrigo, Tenterfield, and as many other areas as possible. Send to Chris if necessary. De Grebner, Do we push this EIS thing to the end? Are we doing ourselves a disservice by appearing to be without compromise? Will pushing industry to the brink further our cause?

DISCUSSION: FOREST POLICY STRATEGY/DIALOGUE

Discussion broadly, on how to be most effective. Old growth forest shall not be logged. Attention to the positive is important for media, public relations. De Greebner, we should not be seen to be uncompromising. There should perhaps be an official NEFA leaflet or communique stating NEFA is not against the timber industry.

The restructuring of industry is what is wanted. Start by overhauling the Commission. Do we have a policy on restructuring the Commission - Prineaus ??? Preston a Boer - put this idea of a new forestry Act - we could use this. John Corkhill to supply. Policies should maximise use of resources. ATWU policy L. Gill to supply. John Corkill, concerned about NEFA language. Pay attention to language, eg. reform is too slow a process. We need to transform the Commission. Dailan Pugh, Payment of money to industry needs to be examined (vis. Ravenshoe). How do we ensure that the current large operators are just paid off? How do we develop worker owned mills, timberworkers co-operatives and the like? John Corkill, We should talk to ATWU about this issue. Linda G, undertook to contact Geoff Quatermann from TWU. She will say we would like a dialogue - when we have read the paper - aim for a non-media initial meeting in December.

DISCUSSION: DIALOGUE VIS. APPROACH FROM FPA

John Corkill: FPA - through Col Darber (Managing Director) wants to talk. Do we meet - who meets - what do we say? Also, so we meet etc. with senior people in Forestry Commission (Rod Squire).

Answer: Yes, we do want to meet with the FPA. Proposed venue: Taree. The meetings with FPA and ATWU will be on consecutive days or near. The ATWU meeting will be first. Agendas:

- do we want to set up an ongoing process - what do we agree on
- what do we disagree on. Rod Squire - responsible for North Coast Forestry operations, "Management Officer" in "Management Planning Division". To meet with Dailan and John Corkill at convenience, in Sydney.

DISCUSSION: FEDERAL WOODCHIPPING

Dailan Pugh introduced: Think we should take on Federal EIA requirements for export woodchipping. This would be more productive than State? Dailan, suggests the case against the Federal Government for woodchipping is stronger than the State case. Dailan, suggests that if necessary we should drop the State action. Linda should use the opinion re woodchipping legal aid to seek opinions on taking Federal Government on (is being sought). John Corkill, We should do a Federal case, but not at the expense of the State case. John Corkill, we should have a meeting if the opinion (Letcher) warrants such a meeting, ie. if the opinion is to the effect of "Both the State and the Federal case have merit".

DISCUSSION: NETWORKING

Is not working well at the moment. We must work with the people we have. New list to be prepared and mailed out. Those on this list - from board are the spokespeople for NEFA and those only.

Next meeting: January 19-20, 1991.

Hosted (convened) by Andrew Steed, Big Scrub.

Meeting Closed.

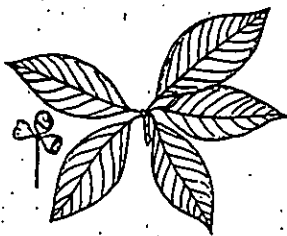
'Mubende', Rose Rd.
The Channon 2480

Dear John,

Here is the money as promised from the UNENR Environment Club. Sorry it did not reach you as soon as I had hoped but the member with the cheque book did not return from holidays till now. We would greatly appreciate any information you could relay to us on matters of concern, especially how you go in the impending court case concerning your arrest at Waughhope.

regards,

Greg Field



BRUSH BOX
Lophostemon confertus

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, 88A Keen St, Lismore. 2480. Ph 066 213 278, Fx 066 219 420

FORESTRY COMMISSION ONCE AGAIN ATTEMPT TO MISLEAD THE PUBLIC.

NEWS RELEASE 9-10-90

The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) has accused the Forestry Commission of yet again attempting to mislead the public. This follows the Forestry Commissions recent claims that the Hastings River Mouse may actually require logging, grazing and burning for its survival.

The Hastings River Mouse is listed as being in imminent danger of extinction, with only 84 individuals having been found since European settlement. It has been found from Barrington Tops to Warwick in southern Queensland.

Twenty two of these individuals were found along Boundary Creek in Forestland State Forest (south-east of Tenterfield) in 1984 and 1985. The area was subsequently subjected to logging and burning in 1986 and three follow up surveys in 1987, 1988 and 1990 by the Forestry Commission have failed to find any since.

Spokesperson for NEFA, Mr. Dailan Pugh, criticised the Forestry Commission for attempting to mislead the public with fanciful delusions and their convenient ignorance of the fact that the largest population of the Hastings River Mouse known was obviously eliminated by the Forestry Commission's practices.

"To determine the effects of logging and burning on such a species the Commission must conduct pre and post logging surveys, as was done at Boundary Creek. It is possible that the four (4) individuals recently found in 5,000 trap nights in Chaelundi State Forest are merely survivors of a once much larger population that has been decimated by such activities as logging and burning. Those remaining are apparently at very low densities and may be dependant upon the least disturbed remnants of their habitat left."

"It is reprehensible that a Government Department is allowed to continually produce propaganda on such topics as the Greenhouse Effect, old-growth forests and now endangered species to mislead the public at the public's expense," he said.

For additional information contact:-

FORESTRY COMMISSION ONCE AGAIN ATTEMPT
TO MISLEAD THE PUBLIC.

NEWS RELEASE 9-10-90

The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) has accused the Forestry Commission of yet again attempting to mislead the public. This follows the Forestry Commission's recent claims that the Hastings River Mouse may actually require logging, clearing and burning for its survival.

The Hastings River Mouse is listed as being in imminent danger of extinction, with only 84 individuals having been found since European settlement. It has been found from Barrington Tops to Warwick in southern Queensland.

Twenty two of these individuals were found along Boundary Creek in Forestland State Forest (south-east of Tamworth) in 1984 and 1985. The area was subsequently subjected to logging and burning in 1986 and three follow up surveys in 1987, 1988 and 1990 by the Forestry Commission have failed to find any since.

Spokesperson for NEFA, Mr. Dailan Pugh, criticised the Forestry Commission for attempting to mislead the public with fanciful delusions and their convenient ignorance of the fact that the largest population of the Hastings River Mouse known was obviously eliminated by the Forestry Commission's practices.

"To determine the effects of logging and burning on a species the Commission must conduct pre and post logging surveys, as was done at Boundary Creek. It is possible that the four (4) individuals recently found in 5,000 trap nights in Chaelundi State Forest are merely survivors of a once much larger population that has been decimated by such activities as logging and burning. Those remaining are apparently at very low densities and may be dependant upon the least disturbed remnants of their habitat left."

"It is reprehensible that a Government Department is allowed to continually produce propaganda on such topics as the Greenhouse Effect, old-growth forests and now endangered species to mislead the public at the public's expense," he said.

For additional information contact:-

Mr. D. Pugh (066) 425706.

NE.F.A.

Area

Co-ordinators

This diagram is to scale.
4.2.90

BRISBANE - Annelise Johnston

07 374 8742 h

TUS Brisbane

07 229 4633

378 8565

MURWILLUMBAH

BONALBO

Dailan Pugh
066 346 193 h

LISMORE

Michael Miranda / Catherine Potter
Big Scrub Env. Centre
066 21 3278 w

Rainforest Info Centre
066 21 8505 w

TENTERFIELD

GLEN INNES

GRAFTON

Celia Smith or Sue Walker
066 427 081 h 925706(h)

COFFS

Ian Storach Megan Edwards
066 558 514 h cf 066 523940

ARMIDALE

Arm. TWS 067 711155 w
Elise Newberry
067 752356 h
Beth Williams
067 724454 h

TAMWORTH

YARRAHAPINNIE

KEMPSEY

Ashley Wilcott
065 660 521
~~065 671 377 h~~

WAUCHOPE

De. Grebner
(w) 85-3778
(h) 87-1185
(065)

PORT

MACRIS

Isabell Lee ?
065 598 114 h

TAREE

Helmut Aumann / CHRIS SHEP
cf 065 504 572

TREE
PHONE

MUSWELLBROOK

DARRIE GRIFFITHS
Box 9 SINGLETON
065-773053
(NOT CONTACTED)
42T

Greg & Linda Gill
cf 049 477263

Brisbane

Lismore
Big Scrub
RIC

Upper Clarence
Bonalbo

Grafton

Armidale

Coffs
Harbour

Sydney

Newcastle

Taree

Hastings

Kempsey

Yarrahapinni

NEWCASTLE

Rodney Knight
049 294 395 h
(Not after 15th August)

SYDNEY

John Conkell
(02) 660 3496 w (02) 2474 206 w

AREA COORDINATOR ADDRESSES

BRISBANE

Annelise Johnston

~~135 Leybourne St~~

~~Chelmer~~ BRISBANE

(07) 378 8565

LISMORE

Michael Miranda

Big Scrub Env. Centre

88A Keen St

LISMORE 2480

UPPER CLARENCE

Dailan Pugh

PO BOX 7

BONALBO 2470

GRAFTON

Celia Smith

78 Margaret Cres

SOUTH GRAFTON 2461

ARMIDALE

Elise Newberry

The Wilderness Society

PO BOX 1155

ARMIDALE 2350

COFFS HARBOUR

Ian Slorach

Coffs Harbour Env. Centre

256 Vernon St

COFFS HARBOUR 2450

KEMPSEY

Ashley Wilmott

~~2155 Rd~~ 27 Earth First Rd.

WILLAWARRIN 2440

HASTINGS

Isobell Lee

7 David Campbell St
~~27 Bellangry Rd~~
North Haven 2443
~~BEECHWOOD 2446~~

Wauchope

De Grebner
9 Young St

TAREE

Wauchope 2446

Helmut Aimann

Colling Rd

ELANDS 2429

NEWCASTLE

Rodney Knight

TWS

90 Hunter St

NEWCASTLE 2300

SYDNEY

John Conkill

3 Albert St

FOREST LODGE 2037

GREAT LAKES ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

BORAL'S ILLEGAL WOODCHIP MILL - TEA GARDENS

THE STORY SO FAR

The question of woodchipping in North East N.S.W, may finally be looked into, thanks in part to Borals own ineptitude in preparing an E.I.S for its existing plant at Tea Gardens north of Port Stephens.

The woodchipping plant was originally set up by Aust Pines & Products in 1979 to deal with waste left after a major bushfire virtually destroyed the 7000 ha of slash pine plantation - a development consent was not obtained for the plant.

Allen Taylor & Co (Boral) purchased the plant in October 1985 and commenced chipping hardwood, producing approx 35,000 tonnes per annum for the Export market. The Export licence for 500,000 tonnes per annum, under which the woodchips are shipped to Japan through Newcastle, is held by Sawmillers Exports Pty, Ltd (30% Allen Taylor, 20% Japanese). This mill which is designed to use only roundwood (logs) continues to operate despite the following facts -

- No development consent has been granted by Council.
- No environmental assessment of the use of logging waste (heads butts and limbs of trees felled for sawlog production, also rejected sawlogs) and silviculture residues (regrowth thinnings and "Over-mature defective trees" i.e habitat of hollow dependent fauna), has been done in accordance with assessment procedures of Part V of the E.P & A Act.
- The above assessment were not done as required by Export licence conditions.

What this amounts to is an industry operating in breach of Local, State and Federal Acts & Policies .

After several requests from the Great Lakes Shire Council, the Company finally relented in February 1990 and submitted a development application and accompanying E.I.S.

A total of 20 objections were received by Council, comprehensive submissions were made by Great Lakes Environment Assoc Inc (G.L.E.A) Wingham Forest Action Group (W.F.A.G) and North East Forest Alliance (N.E.F.A).

While Council Depts. considered the merits of this proposal, members of G.L.E.A Inc, Newcastle T.W.S, Panning T.W.S Support Group and W.F.A.G., in a successful attempt to raise public awareness of the issue, resorted to direct action. On March 15th approximately 40 people entered the plant and presented management with a list of demands and to assess the quality of logs being chipped, of which approx. 20% were found to be sound oversize logs and therefore more suited for milling into sawn timber.

Following the direct action, members of G.L.E.A. turned their attention to lobbying of Council staff, Elected Councillors, the local State member of parliament and anybody else who would listen. As a result, the invaluable support of the Chief Town Planner and staff was gained.

The D.A was Scheduled to go before Council on three separate occasions, each time, because of reluctance on the part of either the applicants or for most part the Forestry Commission to supply additional information, it was deferred to the next meeting, finally being heard on July 10, 1990.

The inadequacies and mistruths of Borals E.I.S were promptly pointed out by objectors, particularly relating to :-

- sources, nature and quantities of raw material.
- off site environmental impacts.
- economic and social aspects
- available use of alternative resource.
- on site contamination of water.

The Chief Town Planners Report recommended - The matter be referred back to the Dept. of Planning, requesting the Minister to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to consider the Environmental aspects of the proposed development.

After lengthy debate between Council, Borals representatives, Forestry Commission and objectors from G.L.E.A and W.F.A.G, Council adopted the recommendations of the Chief Town Planner.

G.L.E.A. Inc has recently written to the Minister for Planning, Mr Hay supporting Councils recommendations and asking that the Terms of reference include such things as :-

- Environmental impacts of the use of logging waste and silviculture residues from Crown Lands.
- Use of agriculture residues and timber from private property.
- Social and economic implications of this industry.
- Assessment of impacts on public roads and bridges and related safety factors.
- Alternatives such as - plantation timber and the use of waste from small sawmills, presently being burnt.

In view of the ground gained on this so far, G.L.E.A. is asking any concerned persons or groups to write to the Minister for Planning Mr Hay c/o Parliament House Macquarie St Sydney, supporting the call for a Commission of Inquiry and requesting the broadening of the Terms of Reference.

For further information contact Greg or Linda Gill of G.L.E.A.
21 Possum Pie Rd
WOOTTON 2423
(049) 977253



Forest probe is told of many problems

Poor management, lack of research and the need for a fresh perspective on forests were issues raised in the opening session yesterday of the Forest and Timber Inquiry in Lismore.

The Resource Assessment Commission is conducting the two-day public hearing at the Master Builders' Information Centre, Gungahlin.

Submissions yesterday were received from the North East Parks and Reserves Advisory Association, the Terania Native Forest Action Group, the Clarence Valley Conservation Coalition, the Rainforest Information Centre and the Upper Clarence Action for the Repair of the Environment.

The NSW Forestry Commission and equivalent authorities in other States came in for a caning over their management records and philosophies.

Speaker after speaker also criticised the lack of research, the frustration of gaining

By RUSSELL ELDRIDGE

access to what information existed.

Other issues canvassed included woodchipping, pulp mills, recycling, non-commercial values of forests, and Australia's role in global forest problems.

The Commission is taking evidence on the environmental, economic, financial, cultural and social implications of the resource use.

In one heady post-lunch session, discussion even included Adolf Hitler, the anti-smoking lobby and homosexuality.

For those unfamiliar with the environmental debate in the past decade, the claims

and statistics were an alarming litany of ecological woes.

● Australia in 200 years has cleared more forest than any other country.

● Life forms are becoming extinct before they are even recorded.

● An area of rainforest the size of 43 football fields disappears worldwide every minute.

● Native animal sightings on the North Coast appeared to be diminishing in areas where their habitat was heavily logged.

A measure of the infancy of debate in Australia was the Commission's admission that it did not even have a clear definition of rainforest or old-growth forest, or what sustainable yield actually was.

Mr Ian Guillard, of the Terania group, said the timber industry should take greater responsibility for the resource it relied on.

As a start, he called for greater research into plantation timbers.

He said that private landholders also needed greater incentives to care for forest on their land and to reforest for commercial reasons.

Ms Jan Oliver, of the same group, said commun-

ity attitudes had to be changed so that large numbers of people would want to plant for commercial returns.

"We have to think about a new economic outlook to reward people," she said.

Commissioner Dr Graeme Caughley asked the group to substantiate claims that over-cutting was rife in forests under Forestry Commission control.

Ms Oliver replied: "One of the difficulties is that you can't get figures from the Forestry Commission.

"But the visual evidence is that things are disappearing." As a worker in the building industry, she said that the quality of construction timber was decreasing as smaller and inferior logs became more prevalent.

The chairman of the Lismore hearings, Dr David James, was seeking specific responses from those appearing.

He asked for facts and figures — even down to what species of tree might be suitable for a particular project.

On other occasions those appearing were asked to describe the non-human values of forests, and definitions of deep ecology.

The hearing concludes today.

Forestry Commission management slammed

Conservationists appearing before a timber industry inquiry yesterday were scathing in their criticism of the NSW Forestry Commission over its management of the State's timber resources.

By GARY BUCHANAN

the Forest Protection Society and another sawmilling company, Cassino Timbers.

'Inadequate'

Leading the 'green' charge, the North East Forest Alliance said the data base used by the Forestry Commission for managing NSW State forests was 'totally inadequate'.

A spokesman, Mr Dorian Pugh, said poor management and inadequate research by the Forestry Commission threatened a host of environmentally significant native forests.

He said the Commission's management was having an adverse impact on forests, threatening their natural biological composition.

"Their internal reserve system for meeting nature conservation requirements, and their (research efforts) are unscientific, inadequate and inadequately applied," he said.

"And their concept of sustainable yield also is questionable, and has not been generally applied to North Coast forests."

Mr Pugh described as 'reprehensible' the continued logging of NSW rain-

forests with Forestry Commission support.

His view was supported by a member of the North Coast Environment Council, Mr Jan Corkill, who warned that some forest flora and fauna species were on the edge of extinction because of Forestry Commission management policies.

"At present, those forests are being managed in ignorance and to achieve industrial and political ends," he said.

"They are not being managed for forest-based objectives or sustainable yields, nor for wildlife conservation and not for forest protection."

The Forest Protection Society, a grassroots group for people employed in the timber industry, called for a balance to be struck between the perceived needs of environmentalists and the real needs of those relying on forests for their employment.

The society's Cassino branch president, Mr M O'Neill, said his members already had given substantial ground to the environmental movement over the past 10 years.

"We now need a guarantee that the forest resource will be maintained at its current size, so forest industries on the North Coast

can prosper and diversify with the sure knowledge of a secure future," he said.

Mr O'Neill also was concerned by 'unreasonable' pressures being placed on the industry by the environmental movement.

"Apart from direct effects, such as the threat to close down the industry, many forest demonstration and the accompanying media coverage have a devastating effect on foreworkers and their families."

Viability 'assured'

He feared it was a matter of time before one was accidentally or seriously hurt in a forest action.

Mr O'Neill was satisfied that North Coast forest sources were being managed in the best interest of the industry and the community, and that long-term viability of the industry was assured under the current regime.

The Resource Assessment Commission is taking evidence on the environmental, economic, financial, cultural and social implications of resource use, has to report to Parliament by November 31 next year.

Group calls for rail upgrading

The NSW Transport Action Council has called for an urgent commitment by the Federal Government to modernise Australia's railways.

The council president, Dr Klaas Woldring, said the Federal Government must fund long overdue catch-up investment to modernise railways, comparable to the interest-free grants it gave to the national highway sys-

tem.

 'I hated

July 17, 1990
Box 9, Singleton
2330

Hello John,

Hope things go well enough for you.

Will you bring your Mt Royal files to the NEFA meeting at Armidale at the end of this month? Ours are tawdry & incomplete & we'll photocopy or whatever the missing stuff. (we'd particularly like the photostats of the photos put to the count so we at least know what's there)

Will you also bring your natal chart? I'd like to look at your current ~~to~~ story. Maybe it can help with planning even. Look after yourself.

Love,

Marg