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Protecting jobs in forested regions

The Nature Cosnervation/Land-Use Planning Package establishes that mechanisation has been destroying jobs in the timber industry for 40 years. It also establishes that timber from native forests face increaseing competition from plantation softwood.

Clearly, the forestry industry needs to be reformed. The Nature Conservation/Lend-Use Planning Package has an integrated strategy which addresses employment, economic efficiency and ecological sustainability:

- true pricing of the forest resource to reflect the full social, environmental and economic costs,
- detailed investigation of non-timber values of forests,
- employment in plantation management, and in industries based on non-timber forest values, such as tourism.
- restructuring the Forestry Commission into an open and accountable State Forest Agency controlled by a Forests Board.

The Board should ensure that: -forest use is ecologically sustainable;

- the forest indutries are economically efficient;
- a transitional plantation strategy is put in place; and
- timber is only used in an

Resolving land-use conflicts

The Nature

Conservation/Land-Use Planning Package recommends a program of regional environmental plans for the whole state. Land-use conflicts are resolved through the public participation processes of the EP&A Act. The Office of the Commissioners of Inquiry is the appropriate body to provide balanced and independent edvice on disputes over particular sites.

Information should be coordinated through the Environment and Planning Advisory Coordinating Committee, already established under the EP&A Act.

Protecting threatened species and communities

The Government has powers under the EP&A Act and the National Parks and Wildlife Act to identify and protect all areas of high conservation value. This should be done immediately, in cooperation with the new State Forest Agency.



Natural Resources Package

The NSW Government wants to change the way we make decisions about the use of land, including high conservation value forests, the coast, crown lands and waterways. It has proposed five new laws which will override existing legislation which currently protects the environment and allows for public participation. The new laws will create confrontation - worsening divisions over the future of the natural environment.

This collection of legislation is the most comprehensive attack on NSW environment protection laws ever.

It is being opposed by all NSW environment groups and the NSW Aboriginal Lands Council.

The larger state based groups have prepared an alternative "Nature Conservation and Landuse Planning Package" which proposes positive measures which will achieve long term protection for important natural areas and their dependent species.

The government's Natural Resources Package and the green groups' Nature Conservation and Landuse Planning Package have been referred to a Committee of the NSW Parliament for consideration. This Committee will report to the NSW Lower House (Legislative Assembly) on 17th November when its understood the Bills will to be formally considered by the Parliament.

Early November will be crucial for putting pressure on the Labor Party and Independent MP's, to reject the Governments' Bills and to edopt the alternative positive package being offerred by the green groups.



it's a classic example of nature refusing to adapt to a changed environmenti

Natural Resource Management Council Bill

This Bill proposes to set up **another** level of bureacracy to make decisions on land use and allocation. All of the functions which this Council would perform can occur under the **axisting** Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act). The EP&A Act also provides greater public participation and accountability.

The Council:

- has no duty of care for the environment;
- can alter National Park boundaries allowing logging and mining in areas reserved for their high conservation value;
- will usurp the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

The Council is not obliged to:

- consider information from non-Government sources;
- carry out research when information is not available.

The membership of this Council is:

- * chairman chosen by the Premier;
- 7 public servants representing Government Departments:
 5 of these Departments have a primary objective of development, while only 2 are responsible for protecting the environment:

* 4 non-Government members selected by the Premier.

The Premier will have the power to:

- determine areas considered by Council;
- limit the Council's attention to specific lands in a region;
- selectively disregerd any of the Council's recommendations without appeal or public notification.

Environmental Planning and Assessment (Amendment) Bill

This Bill proposes to make the Minister for Planning the approval authority for all EISs (Environmental Impact Statements) prepared by any government agency.

While this is a worthy objective, the Bill hands to the Minister enormous discretionary powers to amend and approve developments.



We propose a **Threatened** Species Conservation Bill, which strengthens the National

Parks and Wildlife Service's powers, enabling protection all threatened species and communities identified by an independent Scientific Advisory Committee.

Species are protected through habitat protection. Critical liabitat and threateneing processes are identified and publiscised widely, ensuring that these concerns are considered in the earliest stages of project planning.

The licensing powers of the Endangered Fauna (Interim Prot.) Act 1991 are preserved and expanded.

Improving environmental impact assessment

The Environmental Planning and Assessment (Part 5 Reform) Bill aims to prevent Government agencies from considering their own EISs. The Bill improves on the Coalition's Environmental Flanning and Assessment (Amendment) Bill by:

- removing Ministerial discretion to modify development conditions,
- preventing 'fest-tracking',
- ensuring that the Minister is the only authority determining all Government EISs, including local council EISs.

- requiring that activities re monitored once they have been approved,
- ensuring that the Minister for Planning considers independent advice.

Industry and environmental security

Industries which behave in a responsible way will continue unhindered if the community is confident that environmental values are secure in the long term.

But environmental and industrial security will only erise when:

- there is a sound information base;
- there are integrated plans to ensure that all land-use is ecologically sustainable;
- the public are informed participants in the preparation of these plans;
- the plans are sufficiently flexible
- to accommodate any new information which may arise.

This is especially relevant in the cas of publicly-owned natural resources such as State Forests, coal, minerals petroleum, water and fisheries.



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NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

SYDNEY: NSW Environment Centre, 39 George SI, The Rocks, 2000, Ph. 02 2474 206, Fx 02 2475 945 LISMORE. The Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc. 149 Keen SI, Lismore, 2480, Ph 065 213 278, Fx 085 22.2 67

MEDIARELEASE

23rd March 1993

NEFA CALLS ON MINISTER WEST TO RESIGN

The North Hast Forest Alliance is calling for the resignation of Garry West, Minister for Conservation and Land Management, in light of two recent government reports seriously criticising the Forestry Commission.

NEFA says, Mr West should resign following the highly critical Conservation and Land Management report on soil crosion in the Oakes State Forest and the Department of Planning's refusal to approve the Forestry Commissions Mt Royal Environmental Impact Statement.

Mr West personally backed the Forestry Commission over both the Oakes State Forest and the current set of Environmental Impact Statements.

"The Minister has shown he has been completely wrong in his support for the Forestry Commission, and as the Minister responsible he should take the blame for 2 more damning reports against the Commission," NEFA spokesperson Andrew Steed said today.

"He should admit he has utterly failed to fulfil his responsibility to ensure the Forestry Commission meets the requirements of the law and resign. If West doesn't resign, Premier John Fahey must sack him. A new minister, who can bring the Forestry Commission under control, must be appointed. There have been far too many reports and court cases damning the Commission since Garry West took up the portfolio for him to continue to claim credibility," Mr Steed said.

The CALM soil entries report, initiated in May 1992 when NEFA blockaded Oakes Forest and stopped logging operations, fully vindicates NEFA's position. It is also the basis of the forthcoming Environmental Protection Authority's court case against the Commission.

At the time Garry West blasted NEFA, saying we had no reason to blockade, and later used it as part of the reason to refuse to deal with NEFA. The CALM soil erosion report clearly endorses NEFA's stand, and shows that Gary West was totally wrong in his support of the

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- bringing the community together creake jobs of pursue KSD. It the What while the plane of pursuing and the plane plane
- job creation, in the context of pursuing ecologically sustainable development;

establishing a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system for Australia's public native forests' within its current term. 1c.W. cen led ir, with

"Resolution of the south east forests dispute, by providing the necessary level of funds for initiatives contained in the South East Forest Protection Bill, is a crucial test of the new Keating Government on all these fronts."

For more information contact Sid Walker on 02/247 4206 (w) 02/391 1484 (h)

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and shows that Carly West was totally wrong in his support of the Commission

The Department of Flanning has thrown the expensive Mt Royal EIS out the door, calling it "inadequate" and containing "inconsistencies and confused analysis." The EIS was ordered in a 1990 court action by NEFA, and when the Commissions EISs were released last year Gary West called them "state of the art" and "the most comprehensive studies ever undertaken in NSW forest."

NEFA has consistently rejected the Mt Royal EIS and this view was supported by other authorities and experts, and now the Government's own Department of Planning.

Wr West must take full responsibility for the million of dollars wasted on unneccessary court cases, incompetent EISs and forest conflicts. His childish directive to refuse to deal with NEFA must be lifted and genuine consultation initiated with all interested And involved parties to resolve the conflict over forest issues.

For further information contact: Andrew Steed 066 213 278 or Dailan Pugh 066 884 307 of Fred Nile, there is a potential majority for the Bill in both houses of the State Parliament."

Mr Walker added "The re-elected Keating Government is pledged to:

- bring the community together;
- create sustainable new jobs;
- pursue the course of ecologically sustainable development;
- establish a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system for Australia's public native forests' by the end of 1995 (that is, within its current term of office).

"Resolution of the south east forests dispute, by providing the necessary level of funds for initiatives contained in the South East Forest Protection Bill, is a crucial test of the new Keating Government on all these fronts" Mr Walker said.

"He concluded "This issue is also a key test of the environmental credibility of Bob Carr and the State ALP. Will they have the courage to save the best of the south east forests from continuing pillage when the opportunity arises in Parliament in the next few weeks? "

For more information contact Sid Walker on 02/247 4206 (w) 02/391 1484 (h)



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, 149 Keen St, Lismore. 2480. Ph 066 213 278, Fx 066 224063

<u>NEWS RELEASE - 9 March 1993</u>

RESOURCE SECURITY CAUSES MILL CLOSURES

More North Coast mill closures are inevitable due to a combination of 'resource security' and the Forestry Commission getting its resource assessments terribly wrong, according to North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) spokesperson Dailan Pugh.

Mr. Pugh said existing 'resource security' agreements between the Forestry Commission and Boral have already led to two Wauchope mills being told their State Forest quotas will be eliminated due to the Commission over committing timber volumes to Boral.

"Now that the Forestry Commission has admitted that it overestimated the resource in Wauchope it is millers other than Boral that have to suffer because Boral has legally binding timber supply agreements which mean that their quotas can not be cut".

"The Commission has over estimated and over committed resources in many other North Coast Management Areas including Grafton, Dorrigo and Kempsey".

"It is not the Forestry Commission or the multinational Boral that will suffer because of this but rather locally owned mills. many of which will have to close when they surrender their quotas to Boral" Mr. Pugh said.

Mr. Pugh said that the Coalition's guarantee to fast track resource security legislation if they win the election will mean that companies such as Boral will be given exclusive use of public forests for free.

"Most deplorable is the intention to ensure that if the resource is later found to not be there then the public will have to pay the companies compensation", Mr. Pugh said.

Mr. Pugh said that genuine resource security should only be based upon comprehensive environmental and resource assessments which ensure adequate environmental protection and that use of resources is in the best interests of local communities.

"Fast tracking will not allow for any semblance of an adequate assessment and will only compound the problems already evident, ensuring the closure of yet more local sawmills", Mr. Pugh said.

For further information contact Dailan Pugh 066 439074

P.002

Grahame King Northern Regional Manager Forestry Commission of NSW

Dear sir,

The North Coast Environment Council sees it as essential to adopt processes in northern NSW that can begin to resolve the conflicts that have characterised forest issues in recent years.

To this end NCEC requests that a consultative committee be established for the Forestry Commission's Northern Region. It is considered essential that this committee have a balanced representation of the principle interest groups and strive to reach consensus where possible to ensure no group feels that they are over-ridden by the process.

It is considered necessary to start with a simple structure for the committee to give the process a sound footing from which a broader consultation process can evolve.

It is thus suggested that the initial composition of the proposed consultative committee be 2-3 representatives from each of the Forestry Commission, National Parks and Wildlife Service, North Coast Environment Council, timber industry (including the Forest Products Association to represent quota sawmillers and a representative of non-quota sawmillers) and an independent facilitator acceptable to all parties.

The purpose of the proposed committee would be to commence dialogue between the principle interest groups and discuss a variety of issues as necessary to see if consensus can be reached on action to be taken in respect to specific issues. For the process to work it is essential that all pertinent information be made freely available to the committee.

Agendas for the committee should be up to the committee to decide, though issues we would like to see addressed include; meaningful public involvement, oldgrowth forest, rainforest, logging prescriptions, ecologically sustainable forestry, timber allocation and future options.

We hope that you may be interested in this proposal to establish some meaningful dialogue and develop means of resolving some of the many contentious issues associated with north-east forests.

Yours sincerely,

URE CONSERVATION COUN **[[5]]** CIL OF

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

TO: NORTHERN NSW MEDIA FROM: N_C. (Dr. Judy Messer)

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE DAGES INCLUDING THIS ONE PLEASE PHONE (02) 247 4206.

COMMENTS:

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

Sydney Office: C/- NSW Environment Centre, 39 George St, The Rocks. 2000. Ph 02 2474206, Fx 02 2475945

24.1.1993

NOTICE OF MEETING - BUNDAGEN 21-22 FEB

Dear Forest Defenders (& Interim Board Members of the People's Commission for Forests!),

After some discussion with other area co-ordinators its been agreed that a NEFA meeting will be held @ 10am on SUN 21 -> MON 22 FEB to discuss our lengthy campaign to protect 'old growth' forests.

The North Coast Environment Council Inc. is holding a general meeting of its members at the Bundagen community, south of Coffs Harbour on Saturday 20th Feburary 1993. Since many forest activists are also involved in the Council, and to save extra travel time and expense, its been agreed that NEFA should hold its first meeting for 1993 at the same location. The other co-ordinators I've spoken to agree that its important that we have a well attended and focussed meeting so that NEFA can campaign strongly and effectively in 93. Attached is a map of how to find Bundagen,

It's suggested that we hold a combined social event at the Bundagen community house on Saturday night, so bring your musical instruments etc. The NEFA meeting will begin @ 10am on SUNDAY 21 FEB and will probably need to continue over into MONDAY 22nd.

Bundagen community will organise a low cost, pay-as-you-go food service in the house's kitchen for the weekend. There is lots of space for tents or cars for camping and there's also lots of verandah and under cover area in case of rain. Access to the beach is available. Please pass this message along to other NEFA activists or display a copy of this letter on your noticeboard.

We'll hold a full agenda meeting as the first step as usual, and the meeting will be organised into three parts: 'reports', 'discussion' items and 'decisions needing to be made'. This is the format NEFA has found most effective. In the meantime I'd like to foreshadow a number of items for report and discussion.

UNE Conference 'Sustainable Forestry in Aust': Armidale 7-10.2.93; NSW Forest Summit Meeting: Sydney 13.2.93; Dr Peter Macdonald MP's Forestry (Amendment) Bill and Committee; Freedom of Information Requests; The Way Forward; EIS's & responses Wild Cattle Ck SF old growth forest assessment surveys; People Commission for Forests: legal advice, Drielsma's directive;

state/federal gov't 'National Forest Policy Statement'; progress on liaison and co-operation with koori nations; Police liaison and customer council;

Please bring your info, reports and extra discussion topics. See ya there!!

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1 5 FEB 1993

Building 2 423 Pennant Hills Road Pennant Hills, N.S.W. 2120

2nd February, 1993

Mr. S. Walker Executive Officer Nature Conservation Council of NSW 39 George Street The Rocks, NSW 2000

Dear Mr Walker,

Thank you for your letter of 21 December 1992. I believe our meeting was useful and it will be beneficial to continue them. I therefore look forward to hearing from you in that regard.

It was most unfortunate that one of your group chose to turn his back on the dialogue established that day, with direct action. You will understand that I will want to discuss with you the composition of any further meetings.

I can confirm the list of wood supply agreements sent to Milo Dunphy. There have been some additions since that date and they are itemised in the attachment.

I am not in the position to supply copies of the wood supply agreements as they constitute confidential commercial documents. I have, however, enclosed for your information a standard form of wood supply agreement that currently forms the basis of individual agreements. You will be able to judge for yourself the nature of supply security which such agreements entail. It would not be appropriate for me to interpret the documents further, other than to suggest that both parties would have full recourse to the law in enforcing compliance with. the terms therein.

It is incorrect to assume that the Commission has sought legislative action in regard to wood supply arrangements. I believe the wood supply agreements are adequate for the commercial purpose they serve. Nevertheless I do believe there is a sound case for providing a legislatively secure basis on which the Forestry Commission can make decisions about future investment, wood allocations etc. with some degree of certainty and without exposing itself, the State, or the industry to unacceptable risks - both commercial and environmental.



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Your question regarding ecological expertise is unnecessarily narrow and fails to recognise the wealth of ecological expertise available to, and used by the Commission, outside its own staff eg. NPW5, CSIRO, universities, private consultants and contractors. Almost all forest management staff have, to a greater or lesser extent, some expertise in forest ecology and we also maintain a forest ecology research group with specific qualifications. To provide you with a listing of the type you suggest would be a large task. I have not therefore sought to have this information assembled.

Finally, in regard to the National Forest Policy Statement, you should be aware that the particular section you quote was in fact 'modelled' on the current situation in New South Wales where, under the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act, large areas of old growth forest and wilderness areas, representing those judged likely to have high conservation values, have been placed in a moratorium schedule pending comprehensive assessment. Clearly, New South Wales already complies with this commitment.

I look forward to hearing from you in regard to a future meeting.

Yours faithfully

H. DRIELSMA **Commissioner for Forests**

Encl:

/LEE RHIANMON IUG OILOUND ST, BALMAIN 2041, (554074) / PATRICK ANDERSON 2.37 NICHOLSON ST, BALMAIN 2041, (5554074) STEVENS S GREENPEACE Phone イートレインショ VINNE PC Box A4-14 Sizehing South on PC Box A4-14 Sizehing South 212 1132(2) SPAG Alexandric Kyan 6 AVEX-SRAG (1988 5/34 Mornick St Strathfield NSW2135 7454260 Jon than DOIG FOE-UK; CIS(?_) NORMKICHANdson H22 Willianging Kel Caning bah2224 Citemperie member Mary Stringer 61 Caroline ST CHIPPENDALE 319 1667 + Rober jubrishane st Bondi Junction Everlyn Rast SAUL CHATTORTON 2/145 BOUNDARY ST CLOVERLY NSW 2031 3.89.0957 6659713 AFAG Susan Braun 73 canden 87 Newtown 2042 Robert Hood 553A KING ST NEWTOWN 2042 553.4 KING ST NEWTOWN 2042 5194585. c/- NITTORE GNERRINANEN GINCUL CENTRY, 39 GARRER S., NCC DID NARKER 5/173 Wellingtonst The Rock's Zoeo. Bondi, 2026 365-7560. Barbara Hatten t. David Vincent Kylie Hulchman 3 Louder dale Ave, Fairlight 2094 94537290 BRADGILLINH. Kenneth Jult c/- Sydney GPC. Sydney Martin Place, Sydney Rainforest Ohimnia Forrest 41 Detroit Ave. Lonteuille 2066 4275282. Action Group. Nary Laganott DO Michmond Ave ST. IVES 4491586 Independent Was involved in Anazon Action group '90-'41. Extensive work on Brosil. Documentaly maker An involved in a new Environmental group with wow Scout Association - will distribute all inf presently doing documentary on Tarkine wilderness in TAS, want to talk ... Chary Caganoff 30 Richmond Ave ST. IVES 4491586 38.75306 Missian Doleman 27 Junction St Woollahra A/1 Croydon St, Ketersham Nicole Mok 5641206 NOSCA P.O. BOX 131. Kensington 2033 G/27 MOUNT ST, COUGEE 2034 NOSCA Wee Aik Pong 5641206 MURRAY MATSON O 665 0085 SRAG North East Forest Alliance; 39 George St The Rocks JOHN CORKILL NEFA / POFF -62 2474206 W 4. Uniting Church Box E266 St Jones: Robert Stronge 287 0900 Danny Hirshfield 24 Beach Rd Bondi 2026 02-3653834 JOHN DOBBIN 201/293 Alfred St. North Sydney 2060 02-42=629626969



NATIONAL DAYS OF RAGE AGAINST

WOODCHIPPING!

When: Sunday 28th of February and Monday 1st of March.

Where: At chipmills and export woodchip facilities around Australia. We aim to target Newcastle, Tea Gardens, Eden (NSW), Geelong (Vic), Triabunna and others (Tasmania), and Bunbury (WA). Brisbane and Adelaide branches have indicated they will probably have support actions on those days, such as protest marches, demos at Parliament Houses, banner drops etc. Members of smaller branches who aren't travelling to chipmills are strongly urged to join in showing their Rage Against Woodchipping by engaging in flamboyant, poetical and eye-catching non-violent actions. One particular idea is for all branches to hang a banner from the tower of their local GPO.

> Our primary aim is to support Koori Land Rights, in this Year of Indigenous Peoples. The date for the action was therefore symbolically chosen as the weekend closest to a month after Invasion Day. Our twin themes are "STOLEN LAND, STOLEN TIMBER!" and "STOP THE DESECRATION OF ABORIGINALAND!". We are consulting widely with Koori communities, seeking permission to hold actions on their land. The response so far has been favourable, although as learned in Tasmania it is essential to allow lots of time for this process. In addition are all the usual reasons for protesting about woodchipping,environmental vandalism, waste of irreplaceable resource, impact on biodiversity, economic insanity, minimal jobs for huge public financial outlay etc.

> The Wilderness Society, Australia. Numerous other green groups have expressed interest, including the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Native Forest Network, Friends of the Earth, the North East Forest Alliance and Paddlers for Peace: Peter Garrett will do an action in the U.S. All groups or individuals are invited to join in the actions; we trust that they have adequate understanding and accord with (or desire to learn) the Non-Violent Action philosophies and consensus politics of TWS. This is à chance for the Green movement to unite behind our Koori cousins against the destruction of this sacred land!

What:

Why:

Whatever! Sit-ins, leafletting, candle-lit vigils, letter-writing stalls. Anything from weaving wool onto the fences of chipmills to water-based blockades. It is up to each branch, stem or twig to decide upon the most appropriate action, appendent on numbers, experienced campaigners, resources etc. nemenoer; our two major weapons are music, humour and an almost fanatical devotion to the cause!

Further info: TWS and Environment Centre, Armidale 067-711155, TWS Sydney 02-267 7929 or any TWS branch.

The green movement has growled for long enough; now it's time to R A W!

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Location: Ref:

SIRO-MED AND LUPIS: SOME BACKGROUND NOTES

(May 1991)

1. SIRO-MED: SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM CSIRO

Doug Cocks

CSIRO has traditionally been regarded as a source of sound technical advice for those interested in the conservation and/or utilisation of Australia's native forests. It has not been seen as interested in the 'people' side of forest management but this is about to change.

Five years ago the CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology discovered how to identify areas rich in native fauna within the forests and how to model the whereabouts of a region's main tree communities. The CSIRO Division of Forestry has played a leading role in developing technologies for establishing high-yielding eucalypt plantations and for intensively managing forests to increase their timber yields many times over. It is their awareness of the potential of these technologies that led CSIRO recently to brief Primary Industries Minister John Kerin on how Australia's hardwood timber needs could be met over coming decades by cropping and planting less than 20 000 square km of land for timber production - equal to less than five per cent of the land we use for traditional crops such as wheat.

Drastically reducing the amount of land required for forestry activities is an interesting longer-term strategy for reducing the conflicts between conservationists and the timber industry which, in recent years, have become commonplace accompaniments to decisions to log large areas of public land. The economic, social and environmental implications of the CSIRO proposal deserve to be looked at closely.

Australian Science, Australia's Future

Alice Springs Centre for Arid Zone Research PO Box 2111, Alice Springs NT 5750 Tel: (089) 52 4255 Fax: (089) 52 9587 Atherton Tropical Forest Research Centre PO Box 780, Atherton Q10 4883 Tel: (070) 91 1755 Fax: (070) 91 3245 Canberra Divisional Headquarters PO Box 84, Lyneham ACT 2602 Tel: (06) 242 1600 Telex: AA 62284 Fax: (06) 241 3343

Darwin Tropical Ecosystems Research Centre Private Bag No. 44 Winneltie NT 5789 Tel:(089) 22 1711 Fax: (089) 47 0052 Perth Western Australia Laboratory Locked Bag No. 4, PO Midtand WA 6056 Tel: (09) 252 0111 Fax: (09) 252 0134 Now, CSIRO has branched out from just developing material technologies for managing the forests into developing a social technology for the same purpose. Social technologies are those social inventions which make interactions between people easier and more successful. Examples range from the limited liability joint stock company and the credit card to the legal system.

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A support system for mediation and negotiation

The CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology and CSIRO Division of Forestry have collaborated to mount a demonstration of SIRO-MED, a mediation/negotiation support system intended to assist contending stakeholders reach agreement as to how large areas of temperate hardwood forest should be allocated between competing productive and protective uses. It is an approach which has been commended by the Resource Assessment Commission and which has relevance to two other current problems - identifying wood production and conservation zones under resource security legislation and making optimal use of the funds being devoted to the National Forest Inventory.

The two CSIRO Divisions, drawing on their forestry and ecological expertise, spent three months synthesising and assembling a data base of carefully selected material for 3 500 sq km of the Batemans Bay forestry region. That allowed them to pinpoint areas of high, medium and low value for conservation and the same for forestry activities surely the rational basis for delineating both national parks and resource security areas.

Testing the system

More importantly, it created a system which allows conservation and forestry representatives to do these things for themselves. In November last, some 50 representatives of conservation organisations, the timber industry and government resource agencies were invited to a workshop where they were shown how large volumes of scientific and technical information about the forests could be condensed down to a few key maps summarising the major concerns of each stakeholder group. Participants experimented with LUPIS, a friendly computer system which allowed even the incomputerate to translate their fuzzy values into information-rich maps of their goals. At the workshop, these maps became the basis for a mock negotiating session between forestry and conservation 'teams'.

Negotiators found it reasonably easy to identify large areas where both sides could agree on a 'best' use. The prod for taking a positive approach to negotiation was the decree that if parties could not agree, 'government' would impose its concept of a 'balanced' plan. Whenever the proposed use on an area changed, both sides could see just how their goals were being affected. Participants gave several reasons why they thought the SIRO-MED process might be successful on the north coast of New South Wales or Tasmania or for any of the dozen or so areas where hard decisions about the extent of logging of native forests have to be taken in the next few years:

SIRO-MED proceeds in a way which allows stakeholders to feel that they are full participants in the decision-making process at all stages. The exception to this is that data collection would normally be left to technically qualified staff.

SIRO-MED is a very practical response to those politicians and bureaucrats who ask 'But how do we use all the data which scientists and others produce?' Recently, there was great confusion in government with the arrival of the report of the Joint Scientific Committee on Biological Conservation of the South-east Forests. The SIRO-MED demonstration showed how the Joint Scientific Committee's type of work could be incorporated into a more comprehensive land allocation process.

While its developers are keen to see SIRO-MED applied in a fully realistic situation it must be remembered that there are no free lunches. Any serious attempt at information-based mediation of an extensive forest conflict is likely to take at least a year to complete and cost lots. Certainly the cost of a SIRO-MED exercise is likely to be high compared to a 'quick and dirty' political decision.

Conversely, it will probably be low compared with the dollar and non-dollar value of the resources in contention. Also, the dollar cost is likely to be low compared with the savings from avoiding social conflict and industry disruption. The gains from getting good solutions to forest utilisation problems 'first time round' rather than by attrition are obvious.

The central message is twofold: First, it is possible to set up an issue-sensitive data base which allows any proposed forest plan to be evaluated in terms of how well it satisfies, in a measurable way, all the major concerns of the various groups with a stake in forest allocation decisions. Such a useful capability has not been available for the many forest allocation decisions which have been taken in recent years. A corollary is that an ongoing program of ecological and environmental research will allow the quality of such data bases to gradually improve.

Second, an appropriate mediation support system, drawing on such a data base, can allow any suggested plan to be modified systematically and rapidly to give greater or lesser emphasis to particular values. Almost any suggested plan can be improved in ways which please all stakeholders provided they are prepared to articulate their priorities. This does not mean that all (or any) stakeholders will be totally pleased with the final overall plan. You cannot get a quart out of a pint pot.

The point is that Australian society badly needs new social technologies for addressing conflict in the forests and the CSIRO initiative offers a possibility which asks to be given serious consideration.

Doug Cocks, CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology, Canberra, is the leader of the SIRO-MED team.

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2. LUPIS: A PRACTICAL LAND ALLOCATION PACKAGE

John Ive

Purpose

LUPIS has been designed as a spatial decision support system to assist with a wide range of land use planning and resource management tasks which involve the spatial allocation of resources.

It can accommodate the broad spectrum of computer literacy exhibited by would-be users. It provides a flexible environment within which the user can define as many or as few land uses, allocation guidelines, mapping units and data items as is required to represent the planning problem.

Acceptance

The LUPIS package has been used widely for a range of spatial allocation tasks both locally and overseas. Over 100 copies have been sold to agencies, consultants etc. It is a focus of environmental study units at many tertiary institutions.

Because LUPIS demands explicitness in the statement of the policies or guidelines which drive the planning procedure and because its allocation procedure is transparent, the method upon which LUPIS is based has been criticised by agencies not seeking openness and public participation in decision making. Conversely, this transparency has been cited as a virtue for use in today's more typical situations involving mediation and negotiation.

Some technical considerations

In keeping with the principle that the technology should not exclude or limit access of community and other interest groups to the planning process, LUPIS draws on the lower end of the technology spectrum. This ensures that the package, and therefore the systematic planning process it implements, can be taken to interest groups, the area being planned etc.

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LUPIS is developed for IBM-XT/ATs or clones hosting MS-DOS (3.2) with a minimum of 640k memory and is programmed in QuickBASIC (4.0). A colour monitor (EGA or VGA) is only needed if coloured maps are required, such maps being produced by a fully interfaced mapping package (QUICKMAP). Alternatively LUPIS offers simple mapping capabilities requiring no graphics capabilities. Similarly, a fully interfaced worksheet (TRAMP) allows for an array of data manipulation and analysis capabilities. Particular attention has been given to providing information support (e.g. full description of all data categories) to the user by way of a query procedure linked to an electronic notebook. Recognising that different agencies use different terms for similar concepts (e.g. policies v guidelines) LUPIS allows terminlogy to be customised to that recognised by the user. The selected terminology then appears in all subsequent screen displays and output. Progress through the package is under user control from an upper-order menu supported by question-answer routines; back tracking permits non-fatal exit in the event of choosing an incorrect path. Help screens assist the new user.

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In developing LUPIS it has been a goal to avoid duplicating capabilities of other reputable packages while making such capabilities accesible. In particular, the TRAMP worksheet mentioned above has a universal import-export capability which allows digital data to be readily transferred to and from other packages and systems (e.g. SPANS and ERMS) and databases e.g. ABS, AUSLIG. Thus LUPIS should be seen as a complement to commercial geographic information systems, not a competitor.

A number of additional utilities have been developed and reported in scientific publications (e.g. PARTISAN, SCHEDULE, Conditional and Selective re-allocation). Unfortunately these have only been developed as one-off utilities as resources are not available to bring them to commercial standard. In addition, it is proposed to interface LUPIS to standard procedures such as goal programming and looser procedures such as cost-benfit analysis. Simpler economic tools such as gross margins analysis can be routinely used in a LUPIS exercise.

Price

Price is determined by proposed use and ranges from \$US500 for educational institutions to \$US1500 for commercial consultants.

Prospects

The LUPIS package is continually evolving. The current commercial version is 9.5 and development version 10.1 is being laboratory tested and includes a number of, but not all, developments arising from a technically demanding exercise in November 1990 in the Batemans Bay forestry region. Recent transfer from a 286 to 386 environment (including associated technology) has seen an increase in speed by a factor of over 10. If a further speed increase looks worthwhile, implementation on a Sun workstation or micro-Vax is an option.

LUPIS will continue to be sold to a broad spectrum of customers, although the resources to service a major marketing campaign are not available. A good sign is that sales include a number of repeat and multiple licence customers.

A public domain version, complete with a small demonstration exercise, has been produced to increase awareness of LUPIS capabilities and allow would-be users first hand experience before purchasing an unabridged version.

John Ive, CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology, is the original developer and principal designer of the LUPIS package

3. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON THE EASTERN TEMPERATE FORESTS

Mike Austin

SIRO-MED can use whatever natural resource data are available. However, to realise its full potential, SIRO-MED needs information of the best possible quality, expressed in terms relevant to the problem at hand. The CSIRO Divisions of Wildlife and Ecology and of Forestry have an active program of research to improve the quality of information about our forest resource.

The Eastern Temperate Forests Project focusses on three topics needed to deliver high quality information, and incorporates a fourth on how best to utilise that information. These topics are resource inventory, resource evaluation, geographic information systems and decision support systems. The Batemans Bay exercise, which has been used to demonstrate SIRO-MED, is part of this research program. The aim was to demonstrate how integration of research results and decision support systems can be achieved and to determine those critical components most in need of improvement and further research.

Resource Inventory

In the Eden woodchip concession area, research has shown that 60% of the arboreal marsupials (gliders and possums) occur in 9% of the forest. Fauna densities forty times the levels found in the Eden area have been found in restricted areas of the NSW North Coast forests. Identification of these key areas requires using knowledge of rock type, vegetation and terrain in predictive models. Cost-effective inventory methods are required to determine these "hotspots" of potential high conservation value and high potential conflict. Equivalent information of similar precision is needed about timber values if informed tradeoffs between forestry and conservation are to be undertaken.

Resource Evaluation

Longterm planning and land allocation require more than estimates of the natural resources of an area. Evaluation of the suitability of land for different uses is essential. Accurate estimates of both conservation value and potential timber production require an understanding of forest ecology, the development of timber growth models, explicit methods for identifying areas of high biodiversity and for predicting timber yields under a variety of silvicultural treatments.

Geographic Information Systems

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Geographic information systems (GIS) are the tools which allow inventory and evaluation data for specific sites to be predicted, stored, displayed and manipulated. They allow rapid responses to questions about where particular resource combinations can be found. For example, are there any areas of high conservation value with high potential for timber production to be found on freehold land or in National Parks or State Forests. Spatial data in the form of a GIS provide the essential data base for use by Decision Support Systems for natural resources issues.

Decision Support System (DSS)

The SIRO-MED process and the software package LUPIS provide an example of a functional system for integrating the spatial resource information derived from ecological research, cost effective surveys, and conservation and forestry evaluation. This provides the essential capability for converting research results on forest ecosystems and their biological value and timber potential into political and managerial options.

Mike Austin, CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology, Canberra, is leader of the Eastern Temperate Forests Research Project.

Further Information

Recent publications which include research by the two Divisions in this area are:

Nature Conservation: Cost Effective Biological Surveys and Data Analysis. eds. C. R. Margules and M. P. Austin. CSIRO. Melbourne 1991.

Biological Conservation. Volume 50. Special Issue: Australian Developments in Conservation Evaluation. Guest Editor C. R. Margules. Elsevier Applied Science.

The Young Eucalypt Report. eds. C. M. Kerruish and W. H. M. Rawlins. CSIRO, Melbourne 272 pp. in press. Available within next month from CSIRO Bookshop, Melbourne.

Prescribed burning and forest nutrition. Ecos 42, 9-12. (1984/5).

Raison, R. J., Keith, H. and P. K. Khanna (1990). Effects of fire on the nutrient supplying capacity of forest soils. Forest Research Institute (N.Z.) Bulletin 159, 39-54.

Ive, J. R. and K. D. Cocks (1988). LUPIS: A Decision-Support System for land planners and managers. In 'Desktop Planning. Microcomputer Applications for Infrastructure and Services Planning and Management.' eds. Newton, P. W., Taylor, M.A.P. and Sharpe, R. Hargreen Publishers, Melbourne.

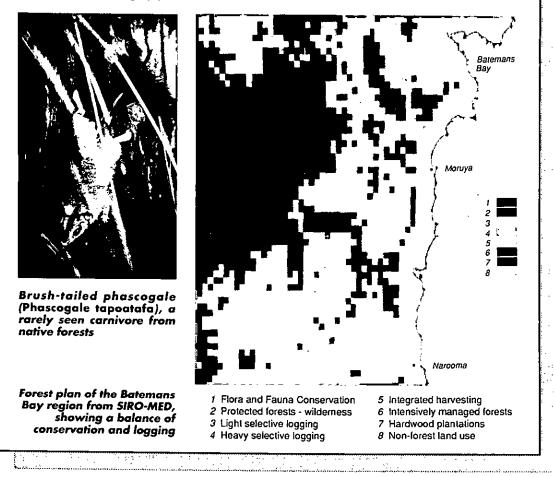
Mediating forest conflicts

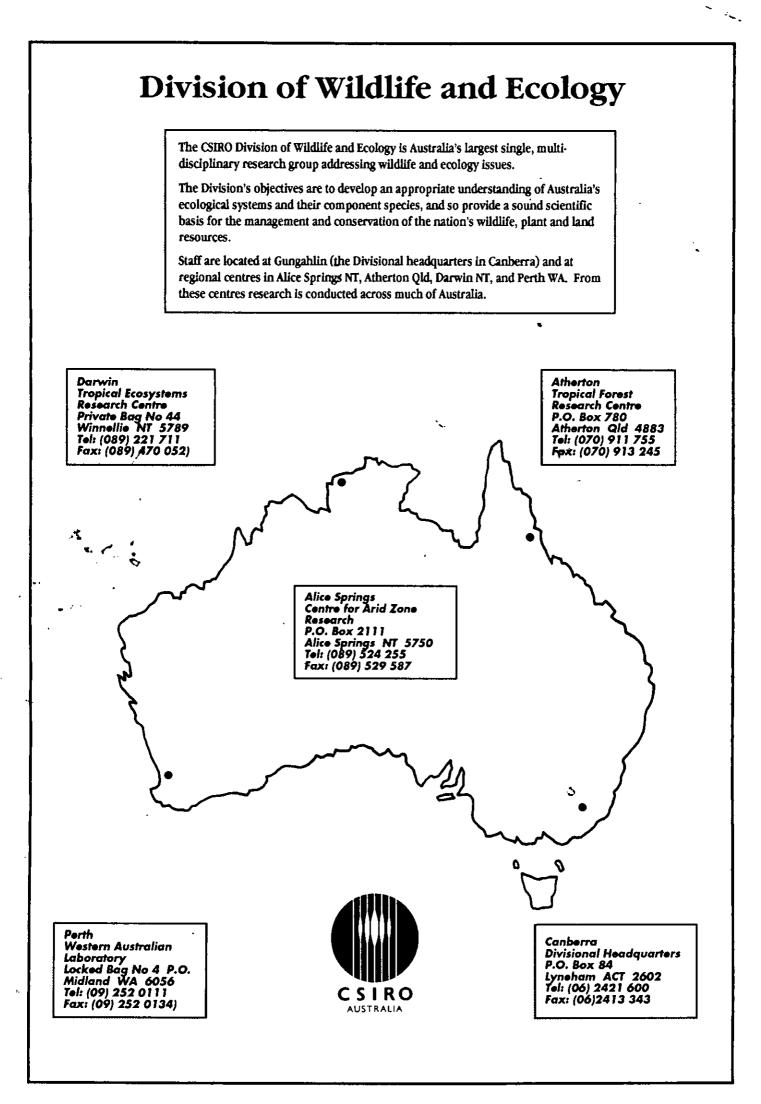
IN November, 1990, the CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology and Division of Forestry demonstrated the SIRO-MED procedure for mediating conflicts between competing interests in forest land use. LUPIS, a computer package for producing land use plans assisted implementation of the procedure. 7.

About 50 interest group representatives attended the workshop at the Division of Wildlife and Ecology. Prior to the workshop, three months were spent assembling data for 3500 sq km of the Batemans Bay forestry region. This was to assist representatives of conservation, timber industry and other groups to identify areas of high and low value for conservation and forestry. Opposing teams conducted mock 'negotiating sessions' in which uncontested areas were quickly claimed. Contentious areas were eventually allocated with LUPIS helping to identify acceptable compromises.

The workshop exercise demonstrated how to gather an issue-sensitive data set for generating and evaluating forest use plans. And also how such plans can be modified systematically and rapidly to give greater or lesser emphasis to particular values. The goal is to produce a 'balanced' plan which satisfies competing interests reasonably well.

The SIRO-MED approach has since been shown to government ministers and agencies to publicise its benefits widely and promote its use by agencies confronted with conflicts in other forest areas. The approach would be particularly suitable for the North Coast of NSW where timber values and conservation values, except for wilderness, are even higher than in the highly publicised South-East Forests.





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NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE (N.E.F.A.)

held at BUNDAGEN COMMUNITY 21-22 February, 1993

THANKS EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED - GREAT ROLL UP! [The following are notes, not minutes, of the recent NEFA meeting. Please note: * = ACTION is required for a number of these items. Please assist by taking such agreed action a.s.a.p.]

Rainforest definition

FCNSW are still using the old discredited definition of rainforest in then current EIS's. This outdated definition is related to the presence of commercial timber species. Where there is 20% of canopy cover provided by eucalypt species, the area is defined as nonrainforest irrespective of what other species may be present in the remaining 80%. Thus Brush Box and other communities are not properly identified and are scheduled for logging.

* Agreed that NEFA should pursue FCNSW adopting an ecological definition of rainforest by including criticisms of the 'forest-typing' in our EIS submissions. EIS submissions should also recommend appropriate 'buffer zones' around identified areas of Rainforest; recommend no road construction into or through rainforest; and should recommend no felling of trees into rainforest areas.

Commonly mis-identified forest types are:

'53' Brushbox; '47a' Tallowwood BlueGum; '48' Flooded Gum Commonly used, inaccurate and general, Rainforest types are: '3' Crabapple, sassafras, corkwood, silver sycamore; '23' Myrtle; '26' Viney scrub

*)Agreed that NEFA and NCEC Inc prepare a National Estate Grant application to hold a seminar and do field work on 'Rainforest definition for NSW'. Rainforest Information Centre to be invited to join in application. Dailan to write 'rationale = need for definition review', Jim Tedder and John Corkill to prepare grant application form and gather supporting letters.

Crown lands

Garry West has lifted moratorium imposed on the disposal of Crown lands with the result that leasehold land is being converted to freehold title before or without adequate conservation value assessment of the land involved. This is of concern since some of this land has important forest on it. More information needed about situation.

* Beth Williams Armidale NPA to be consulted on latest.

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Water Study

Bob MacDonald, JJJ and ABC Radio journalist is touring through the north east region very soon with a 'water study roadshow'?. He plans to attend local towns, hold public meetings and speak on the water value of Old Growth Forests. More information will come direct to local groups as Bob roadshow approaches.

s.69 NPWA - Conservation Agreements with private landholders

Agreed that NEFA should encourage private landholders to register a s.69 Conservation Agreement over the title of their land, to protect the land in perpetuity. NPWS now has some money to begin to assist landholders to prepare and implement Conservation Agreement's Plans of Management. To qualify the land should be of a reasonable size and should include something significant about the land and its dependent plants and animals. NPWS sponsored Wildlife Refuges remain available and are unaffected by progress on implementing s.69 Agreements.

Northern Region forestry consultative committee

Graham King, Northern Regional Manager is open to suggestions for a regional consultative committee. Because of ongoing NEFA 'greenie banning' it may be best to proceed through the North Coast Environment Council Inc. Dailan summarised a proposal which he has prepared: simple process not complex, balanced membership from environmental and industry, both FCNSW and NPWS to attend, full disclosure of relevant information.

* Dailan to write up proposal for Jim Tedder to forward to Graham King.

Lupis

CSIRO has developed a 'decision support' system for land use allocation based on computer operated Geographic Information System (GIS) which can model various options fro land use. CSIRO people at UNE Sus Forestry Conference expressed interest in participating in dispute resolution procedures and offered LUPIS as a suggested component.

No action: to note. More info available from Dailan if required.

National Forest Policy Statement

This statement has been co-signed by the Commonwealth and all state governments except Tasmania. The NFPS is a further development of the ESD and Intergovernmental Agreement of the Environment (IGAE) processes. There is considerable doubt whether the NFPS is an enforceable document, since, under the IGAE, it was agreed that there would be a 'co-operative' approach to environmental protection rather than an interventionist approach.

Section 4.1 of the NFPS requires that a moratorium be imposed by state governments over logging of OGF and wilderness areas with 'high conservation value'.

The NFPS also agrees to the creation of a comprehensive reserve system. Mrs Kelly (Federal Minister) wrote before Christmas 1992 to Ministers West and Hartcher in NSW asking them to avoid activities in the nominated list of areas of high conservation value. She also wrote to Federal Minister for Resources Alan Griffith asking him to agree that no activities especially woodchip recovery be obtained from high conservation areas. No information on the replies to these letters has been received. List of HCV forests which was attached to letter to West and Hartcher was very broad and inaccurate e.g. included whole of Chaelundi SF = 35,000h@ when NEFA/Corkill injunction only covers approx. 7,000h@

* Follow up with DASET on replies from NSW Ministers and Griffith and Commonwealth action to enforce agreement.

DASET has commissioned consultancy to define 'reserve selection' criteria and process for selection. Very good scientists are involved. When this is drafted there will be an opportunity for public input via a seminar later this year.

* What is National Liberal Coalition position on National Forest Policy Statement? If they form government will they honour the requirements within it?

* NEFA to seek participation / representation on DASET 'reference group' to "National Forests Strategy".

Environmental Impact Statements Mount Royal & Wingham

Both of these are still awaiting determination by the Department of Planning and Minister for Planing Robert Webster (NP). These EIS's may need further research in order to be made adequate, or they will be challenged in the Land and Environment Court. Barry Griffith has been working on preparations for legal actions, though it is possible that the logging proposals sought by FCNSW may be rejected or severely modified by the DoP.

NSW government agencies have written critical submissions on the EIS's, which is good for our position. Barry obtained all the submissions made to the EIS under FOI application to Dop. He has attempted to interest '4 Corners'- ABCTV' and Sydney Morning Herald in the stories - so far unsuccessfully. Wingham Forest Action may take legal action against either, or both, the Environmental Impact Statement and the Fauna Impact Statement.

WFA has a 'blockade' strategy ready in case FCNSW attempts to commence work quickly. WFA has been and still is on 'orange alert' since the agreement to give 2 weeks notice has been discharged by FCNSW giving 2 weeks notice. FCNSW will not necessarily begin 2 weeks after notice was given - could be any time...

Kempsey/Wauchope & Grafton

These EIS's are due soon. The same consultants are being used in Kempsey/Wauchope as were used in Wingham. Forest Protection Society has a rally in Wauchope recently where 800 people attended and were told to make submissions on the EIS's and to write to NPWS opposing the Werrikimbe Wilderness assessment report.

Possible people to contribute to a NEFA Kempsey / Wauchope EIS submission: Brian England? Jim Tedder, Andrew Steed.

Forest Federation (Trevor Corliss and Patrick McEntee) will work on northern end of K/W EIS = Hastings area.

* Patrick agreed to co-ordinate the preparation of a K/W EIS submissions.

* Barry agreed to sent out to these people information gained from previous EIS's.

FCNSW recently lost court action begun by Boral in Kempsey area, when Boral went to Supreme Court to enforce access to specified volumes in their 20 Wood Supply Agreement (WSA) with FCNSW. This action was allegedly due to a 20,000 tonne shortfall in forecast available timber. As a result of Court finding FCNSW has terminated quotas to Beechwood Timbers (Jim Slater) and Brown Bros Mill.

* JQ to ask EDO to find Boral vs FCNSW court action report.

Glen Innes

Megan Edwards reported on EIS submission she prepared for NEFA. Advised that she'd had problems obtaining all the relevant information for the EIS. Major points in the submission were a lack of FCNSW ability to predict sustained yield - no overall yield survey has been carried out in the GI MA. The fauna work in the GI MA EIS is superior to that done in other EIS's since it was done by Dr peter Smith from UNE as consultant to FCNSW.

Urbenville

This is now underway. Fauna work said to have been done. Other consultants are about to be appointed.

<u>Grafton & Casino / Murwillumbah</u>

Both these are due out soon. There is no information at this time as to the 'preferred option' under investigation in the EIS.

FCNSW has had prepared economic, flora, fauna and public attitude surveys which cover the broad far north coast region from Grafton, Casino and Murwillumbah. When released these EIS's will apply to North Washpool area, Bindery Mann wilderness, and Blackbutt Plateau.

* Dailan to co-ordinate Grafton NEFA submission. Who else can help? * Ned, Steedy, Dailan to contribute to Casino/Murwillumbah EIS. Who else can help?

<u>Dorrigo</u>

This EIS is eminently challengeable in the Land and Environment Court. Corkill plans to use 1990 court proceedings and undertaking given to the Court by FCNSW that they would prepare and EIS in accordance with Part V of EPA Act to challenge the adequacy of the EIS. major point made in EIS is that western block of Chaelundi SF OGF = 7,000h@ is essential to Dorrigo's future. If this area is not available it is likely that Dorrigo mills will have to retool for smaller logs or will close completely.

Mistake SF

Very lengthy discussion on Mistake SF and options for action.

Some 2,100h@ of 'loggable' hardwood OGF is proposed in EIS. This will finish all OGF in the Nambucca Valley. Forest typing for area proposed for logging is quite inaccurate. Rainforest is not being correctly identified with the result that it is being logged, felled into, and/or roaded. Fauna Impact Statement closed 2 weeks ago (9.2.1993) and is awaiting approval of Director NPWS. Logging has continued in 2 compartments under a temporary licence pending NPWS decision on FIS.

The land is very steep.Soil Conservation Service/CaLM said in their EIS submissions that logging? roading? should not be permitted over 27 degrees slope, or only up to 35 degrees slope under special circumstances. FCNSW is and intends to log up to 35 degrees slope generally.... This is the problem with non-specific recommendations made by SCS/CaLM. FCNSW determined this EIS themselves. Work is being undertaken on 2 compartments now, though bulldozer was bogged on very steep muddy slope with gearbox out of dozer for repair! Support 4WD vehicle also bogged!

When work complete on these 2 compartments (approx 2 weeks time??) FCNSW will have to refer to NPWS re FIS and 'licence to take or kill'. Nambucca Valley Conservation Association and other local groups have agreement from local Forester that further work will be proceeded by detailed Harvesting Plans, prescriptions etc. and due notice to local green groups. 8 compartment Order of Working has been foreshadowed which would see approx. 1,100h@ of OGF logged in Mistake.

Only 3 man operation underway though logs would go to both Mitchells Mill in ? and to Boral Kempsey?

Local community based groups including adjacent landholders very worried about logging underway and proposed. Ram and other locals approached new Urunga District Forester Steve Raison about breaches of harvesting prescriptions and Standard Erosion Mitigation Conditions (SEMC's). Raison said to Ram words to effect of

"I'd been very keen to know if there are any breaches. I don't mind if you go up there and be the 'Green Police'. If you discover any problems I'll act on them immediately..."

Local Bowraville Aboriginal Lands Council also concerned at proposed activities in the Mistake SF. EIS said that BEFORE work would commence there would be consultation with local aboriginal people. NO consultation has taken place only token 'spoken to by FCNSW'. Local koori people not satisfied that this is adequate consultation. Bowraville kooris will go to forest with local resident action groups to inspect forest and work done to date. Bowraville LAC will write to FCNSW advising that conditions of EIS, for proper consultation, NOT completed.

* Agreed that no blockade take place in Mistake SF at this time. * Agreed that action in forest would be by local community based groups, not NEFA at this time. Focus of action would be "Green Police" to check out compliance with relevant conditions and codes. Evidence of breaches to go to Urunga District Forester. Megan and Ram to look at site this week with other locals.

* Agreed NEFA could run training camp in Mistake SF to develop training skills and experience in detecting breaches of conditions if local groups would like NEFA's help and could help support logistically. Further action on NEFA's involvement at Mistake will await developments and advice from local community based groups.

* Agreed that there is a need for good, clear lines of communication into and out of forest area so that there is no isolation and misunderstandings.

Contact Nos. Trevor Bailey 065 647 633 OR Ram H. Ayana 065 644 108

Wild Cattle Creek SF - Old Growth Forest assessment

This OGF assessment follows NEFA/NCEC 'peace plan' to FCNSW to cooperatively carry out ground truthing for Air Photo Interpretation (API) work. FCNSW refused and NEFA / NCEC commenced work without FCNSW in attempt to refine the methodology for API ground truthing.

NEFA has already paid \$1,000.00 to API expert for his work with air photos. Some 130 different forest structures have been identified from API, which in turn can be aggregated into a number of general types etc. This API means that ground truthing can continue at any time now. NEFA has asked both Department of Planning and NPWS to co-operate with NEFA / NCEC Inc to complete the field work and write up results. These requests are still under consideration in these departments.

20 sites within WCCSF have been surveyed using NEFA's OGF 'pro forma' sheets. Initial work indicates that there is a great deal more work required to be done to complete the SF's OGF assessment.

*)Agreed that co-operative field work with Dop/NPWS for OGF API -work could be the subject of a National Estate Grants application - due 12.3.1993. JC and Jim Tedder to prepare application in consultation with Megan and Dailan.

Dorrigo future

Megan is interested in ideas for a positive vision for Dorrigo's future. Plan is to develop a proposal for longer term job creation and industry orientation for Dorrigo which means that there will not have to be job losses without prospects for alternative employment.

* Anyone with ideas please contact Megan via Armidale Wilderness and Environment Centre 067 711155w.

Mummel Gulf

Graham King, FCNSW Northern Regional General Manager, told Dailan that FCNSW will attempt to avoid having to go into Mummel Gulf area this winter. They both hope that there will not be area problems in the area until winter 1994. This area is definitely one which is outside current EIS moratorium area and of high conservation value as OGF. As such Mummel is one area where FCNSW should avoid activities etc in line with National Forest Policy Statement.

* Helmut volunteered to contact Phillip Sparks in Walcha Nundle area to ask him to keep an eye on situation @ Mummel.

<u>Carrai SF court appearances for arrestees</u>

People arrested in Carrai SF action to defend Werrikimbe wilderness are due before Kempsey Local Court on 29.3.1993 ->1.4.1993. A local solicitor Mr Alexander Aitch will do court work for NEFA arrestees under legal aid but he needs 'instructions' from those who want him to appear.

* Carrai arrestees should contact Alexander Aitch in Kempsey and provide statements as to what happened and in reference to the charges they face. Does anyone want to go to Kempsey to be support group for those arrested and before the Court?

s.45D Trade Practices Act

This section of TPA refers to the establishment of 'secondary boycotts' which affect the operation of a company said to be carrying out lawful activity. It was intended for use against trade unionists and others setting up picket lines. Rumour has it that timber industry companies nay seek to use this provision to prevent blockades and other protest actions.

Legal advice from Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) is that companies could try to use s.45 but would more than likely drop any action if their statements of account and annual financial returns were subpoenaed as evidence in their claim that they had been negatively affected financially. No action - lets wait & see!

EPA 'pollution control licences' = 'licences to pollute'

NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) issued 9 general region wide 'pollution control licences' to FCNSW in May 1992. No reference to other agencies as to efficacy of conditions imposed.

These 'licences to pollute' were so broad they allowed FCNSW to pollute with any substance, to any level, in any watercourse at any time during logging operations. The licences applied to FCNSW only and private contractors were and still are required to apply for their own licences.

Standard Erosion Mitigation Conditions (S.E.M.C.)

These licences are due to be renewed in May 1993. Major conditions are the effective application of the Standard Erosion Mitigation Conditions (SEMC). The SEMC 1990 version were very vague and unenforceable. FCNSW took the SEMC's to mean the maximum required standards while Soil Con Service is of the view that SEMC's are minimum standards which require additional site specific soil erosion and sediment control prescriptions. The 1990 SEMC's have been recently reviewed and a new 1992/93 version has been adopted by SCS & FCNSW.

* Agreed that local groups write to Soil Con Service asking for copies of the '1992/93 Standard Erosion Mitigation Conditions for Logging' and that groups check differences/ improvements from earlier versions. Also local groups to check with District FCNSW Offices re whether the 1992/93 SEMC are in force yet.

*)Agreed that local groups write to Dr Neil Shepherd, Director General of EPA (100 William St, East Sydney) asking that 'pollution control licences' for FCNSW:

- a) NOT be issued in areas of undisturbed water catchments and/or catchments of high conservation value e.g. Oakes SF in upper Bellinger River;
- b) contain provisions and conditions which will actually prevent and mitigate pollution of streams;
- c) be referred to other public authorities such as NSW Fisheries, Water Resources Commission etc for their comments and advice;
- d) be publicly exhibited and subject to public comment.

Fire and grazing

These activities need more focus from NEFA and local groups since it is now agreed by scientists that grazing and burning have serious impacts on forest eco-systems. While there is information available in the scientific literature as to these effects FCNSW is ignoring these impacts in their Mt Royal, Wingham and Dorrigo MA EIS's. Only Glen Innes MA EIS addresses these impacts.

Barry Griffiths has prepared a paper on the impacts of fire and grazing as part of his EIS submissions for Mt Royal and Wingham. Barry offers his paper to anyone who would like to include comments on fire and grazing in future EIS's.

Woodchip action

The Wilderness Society is calling for support for a National Day of Rage against Woodchipping on Sunday 28 Feb. - Monday 1 March. NCEC has agreed to participate. NEFA also agreed to join in. Discussion agreed that action should focus on proposal for Grafton. export pulp mill, using local woodchips, and the possibility of this being given fast-track approval.

Three relevant federal election issues to be emphasised: export woodchipping without EIS as promised by Richardson in 1990; proposal for a Grafton 'pulp mill' a stalled project listed on p.55 of federal coalition's "FightBackII' document; procedures to fasttrack approval proposed by both Labor and Coalition.

Rally and public meeting to be held at Market Square, Grafton 12noon - 2pm Monday 1st March. Bring banners, placards and curly questions!

Federal woodchip Environmental Impact Statement

This EIS promised by Richardson in 1990 is due out almost any time now. Agreed that NEFA and local groups should put together strong critical submissions rejecting further export woodchipping.

* Linda Gill agreed to go through FOI documents already obtained and extract relevant quotes, for circulation to other groups. Also agreed that Pegasus conference 'oz.forestcamp' - a private conference, should be revived and information, drafts etc posted to this for ease of access and copying. [More on this in computer link up item]

World Heritage Rainforest Nomination NSW/Qld.

Andrew Kilvert tabled a copy of the nomination. He, Dailan, Ned and JC reported what they had learnt of the processes used by the NSW Qld and Commonwealth Governments for the selection of areas for (re-)nomination for inclusion on World Heritage List as the 'Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia'.

It was agreed that many important and qualifying sub-tropical and warm temperate rainforests in the north east region had been omitted from consideration for inclusion at the time the (re-)nomination was being prepared because of political and financial constraints imposed by the then NSW Government.

NPWS was given no additional funding to prepare the (re-)nomination; FCNSW objections to a full scrutiny of SF for WH Rf were backed by Cabinet Office who imposed a condition that apart from recent additions to the NPWS estate, the only other tenures to be considered were existing Forestry Commission Flora Reserves where they were contiguous with the World Heritage National Parks; No private land rainforest was considered; No public participation procedures required under the IGAE on indicative listings for consideration were carried out.

Numerous important areas, some adjacent to Queensland rainforest, have not been considered. For some of these areas the scientific evidence of their worthiness for world heritage listing was available then and is still available now.

Thus the renomination boundaries were agreed to have no ecological integrity being based less on science and more on \$\$ and deals.

* It was agreed to consult with other Australian groups regarding a request for boundary review by the investigating IUCN referee. QCC, RIC, ACIUCN, WWF, ACF, UNAA, RCSA, to be contacted. * ACTION JC Ned Dailan

Freedom of Information (FOI)

BigScrub EC's request no. xx41 under FOI of April 1991 is nearly 2 years old and needs to be finalised as soon as possible. This broad request across the region applies to a wide range of documents in FCNSW Management Areas and Regions in the north east. BigScrub's nominees for access to this information were NEFA's then co-ordinators (some have since changed).

Lyn described the NVCA local experience of attempting access to documents listed by them. FCNSW timed and charged for every minute in the office @ \$30.00 p/hr when 50% reduction applied and charge \$15.00 should have been p/hr; there were differences in interpretation of documents said to be available; copying charges were 25cp/page; FCNSW District Forester had to be present whole time (this a NEFA directive impact?); whole thing had cost hundreds of dollars with still some documents not being provided; had made internal review request; written to Ombudsman about delays, access.

Megan, Helmut, Barry and Dailan all had horror stories of attempted FOI access to little or no avail. Barry reported that he has pursued the Management Account reports and figures for Mt Royal MA.

* Bellingen [Cath, Trevor], Steedy, Corkill and others BigSCrub nominees who haven't yet, to prepared a list of FOI docs sought, NEED TO DO SO NOW and attempt formal access to documents.

* After access for FOI has been attempted write to Ombudsman Office, 3rd Floor, 580 George Street, Sydney. 2000. Ph 02 286 1000, Fx 02 283 2911. Refer to any problems with access, any overcharging etc. Q: Is NEFA the only body being charged for List A access over the counter type documents? Can others get them free?

* Please send copies of lists of documents sought and any correspondence to or from Ombudsman's Office to Ned (aka Aidan Ricketts) @ BigScrub EC, 149 Keen St, Lismore. 2480. Remember BigScrub EC needs to know what's happening with its FOI application no. xx41 of 21.4.1991!

Other FOI requests are being made by NEFA people on other areas.

These requests not proceeding very smoothly either, several complaints are at the level of the Ombudsman or the District Court. FCNSW may be making progress on adopting and implementing FOI requirements of 1989, though its happening slowly. NEFA's claim of FCNSW denying information relevant to exhibited EIS now coming true - GI Dorrigo, MT Royal...

NSW Parliament Report

Possible By-elections

Phil Smiles MP for North Sydney awaiting Court judgement on tax matter. If convicted will create critical by-election in seat previously held by Independent Anne Read.

Tony 'Up the Windsor Rd' Packard MP for Pennant Hills (FCNSW HO local MP!) also may lose seat through court action re his car dealership? This seat said to be a safe Liberal electorate. mmmm...

Legislation

Copies of the 1992 report on the activities of the environment groups' liaison officer to NSW Parliament were tabled by JC. It is available from the author Mr John Connor, Env Liaison Officer, Nature Conservation Council, 39 George St. The Rocks. 2000. Ph 02 247 2228 Fx 02 247 5945. Its quite read and covers all the relevant antics of NSW MP's. Several Bills were discussed in some detail.

Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act

Act was extended for another 10 months to 1 October 1993. This means that state agencies e.g. FCNSW and local government bodies will have to request, prepare and submit Fauna Impact Statement to the Director NPWS as was required originally. Thus the extension was FCNSW lost hope of avoiding FIS's. FCNSW has prepared a list of FIS's to be prepared, BUT its only doing FIS's in MA's where EIS's are to be done. FCNSW appears not to want to do FIS's for other areas e.g. western NSW.

Mistake SF, MT Royal, Wingham, Dorrigo and Glen Innes FIS's are all due very soon. If NPWS accepts FIS and issues licences strong possibility of court action. Seems more likely that NPWS will require more work be done, more info supplied.

Forestry (Amendment) Bill

This Bill introduced by Dr Peter Macdonald Independent MP for Manly and sent to a legislation review committee. Committee has received submissions, held public hearings etc and will likely report in mid-March back to the Parliament. Report may recommend further amendments to the present draft of the Bill, further consultation.

Many different views in environment movement about what changes to make to FCNSW: no agreed position on splitting it up? to where? etc. NSW environment groups recommended key principles which are said to be embodied in the Bill e.g. ecological sustainability; High conservation value forests to be protected; public forests not

to be alienated; full social and environmental costs included in timber pricing; need for control of logging on private lands; and public participation and public accountability.

Through public hearings its apparent that everybody, including the industry, supports the idea of a Forestry Board. Seems only FCNSW objects! Industry wants representation on board too. More info when Report of Committee comes out.

National Parks (New Areas) Bill

This is a National Parks Association of NSW developed Bill also introduced by Peter Macdonald. Proposes to legislate new national parks. Applies to some forested areas but includes other land and veg types too. Bill is said to have detailed 'meets and bounds' definitions of boundaries. This Bill is competing for priority with Threatened Species (conservation) Bill.

Threatened Species (Conservation) Bill

This is the Bill planned to replace the Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act 1992 with more comprehensive legislation applying also to flora. Its been in drafting for some time and could be introduced by Dr Macdonald MP soon. Need final review of Bill then push for its intro into Parliament.

* Agreed this Bill should have priority over 'NP New Areas Bill. * Copies of Bills esp. Threatened Species Bill to come in mailout. * Sory copes we get available. Bills to go in seperate weak out to Env.C.

National Parks (Aboriginal Ownership) Bill JC read brief commentary on Bill form ELO report. This Bill first introduced by Tim Moore (who?) and seeks to give title to kooris in western NSW with lease back to NPWS for \$1.00. Bill was sent to Legislation Committee who recommended several major amendments. Bill now stalled do environment groups support this ??

* Copies of Bill to be circulated. In separate woil and to Ew. ('s

Natural Resources Package of Bills

Legislation Committee on this Package announces withdrawal of Package for further consideration by Government on afternoon of major Sydney 'No Natural Resources Package' Rally. Premier's Department have indicated to ACf that Package is being reviewed for further consideration and a possible NEW PACKAGE OF BILLS!.

No official word is available yet on what Bills or provisions may be included: seems resource security legislation will be revived. Timing of any new Package not clear now but election of federal Coalition Government could accelerate action on Resource Security Bill. gggrrrr.

Pulp Mill

Daishowa Pulp Mill Grafton is one of 4 stalled projects listed on p.55 of the Coalition's 'Fight Back II' package. It is this list which is being used to justify the need for an automatic approval for major? projects after 12 months. (The other 3 projects said to be stalled are also wrong!!)

Thus the federal election has raised the prospect of a fast-track approved pulp mill in Grafton!

Major Rally in seat of Page being organised by Clarence Environment Centre and North Coast Environment Council Inc to focus on export woodchipping, no EIS, pulp mill [again!], and fast-tracking!! 12noon - 2pm Market Sq, Grafton. Candidates have been invited to attend and speak. Contact CEC for more details 066 431 863

<u>Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act complaint</u>

Big Scrub made a complaint to the Office Of the Ombudsman re: FCNSW telling lies in the TIIP Bill debate about job losses, causes for job losses, problems with Endangered Fauna Act etc. Ombudsman has not looked into complaint indepth, and accepts FCNSW explanations. No further action on this one!

NSW Police Service liaison

Reports were given on 2 different police liaison meetings =

- a) follow on meetings from Port Macquarie meeting; and
 - b) new North Region Country Customer Liaison Council.

Follow on meetings from Port Macquarie meeting

This meeting 'to resolve logging disputes' was convened by police and attended by NEFA, FCNSW, various loggers, FPA etc. Sketchy police minutes of meeting are available. Police have written recommendations for further action or meetings to senior police and are waiting for an official response before proceeding with any further meetings. Recommendations included the lifting of the NEFA ban by FCNSW. Lismore was suggested as the next possible meeting.

- <u>new North Region Country Customer Liaison Council</u>

JC has been appointed to this council, which will meet e@ 3 months. First meeting in Newcastle last week. JC asked for any suggestions for Agenda Items for Police Liaison committee to be sent to him c/-BigScrub EC, 149 Keen St. Lismore. 2480.

Ferals / NEFA

Lengthy discussion of communication issues and opportunities. NEFA non-existent bureaucracy was explained. Everyone's opportunity to use NEFA non-violently to protect forests was affirmed. If you can = NEFA can.

* Agreed emphasis on self-organization, self-responsibility.

* Affirm ongoing co-operation etc, communication.

Workshops for skills sharing and training

Requests and offers for skill sharing and training were made by various people in several agenda items. Progress on compiling an 'inspection kit' was reported. Linda Gill agreed to look at possible TAFE training programs available to incorporate into forest scout training etc.

Suggestion of forest camp and training for scouting for breaches of SEMC's, licence conditions, prescriptions etc. Further suggestion of convening pilot training design camp at Mistake SF in area now under harvesting. Need for lead time to prepare for field camp and training, including any possible 'guest lecturers' ahem. Also need to get feedback from community involved in Mistake SF area if training camp wanted or welcome or if help available for logistics.??

* Afternoon workshop on forest scout training program, materials etc at Clarence EC in Grafton after Woodchip Pulp Mill Fast-Track Rally, Monday 1st March 1993.

non-violent action

* Agreed to emphasise NEFA's commitment to non-violent action. NO SABOTAGE @ any NEFA action, since there are serious consequences to OGF campaign, NEFA, fundraising etc.

NEFA will condemn any 'monkey wrenching' - reported damage @ Carrai as damage control. Improved communication on what is being done elsewhere should reduce anxiety and frustration which leads to 'monkeywrenching'. Suggestion of increased leaflet/ news/ article production to keep e@ other informed and updated. Also can use Big Scrub Newsletter and NVCA's 'Environs' for publication.

Blockades

Only blockade possibility at present is Wingham OGF depending on EIS determination and FCNSW's actions. Wingham Forest Action is on 'orange alert' ph Chris Sheed 065 504 572.

No blockade planned for Mistake Sf. No other blockade in pipeline at this time. Instead various alternative actions e.g. 'Green Police' to be considered higher priority.

POSSIBLE 'FLASHPOINTS' IN 1993	MINDER	Ph No.
Mistake SF Wingham	Ram Chris Sheed	065 644 108
Mummel Gulf Dorrigo / Chaelundi	Phil Sparkes Dailan	
Bindery Mann wilderness Glen Innes - London Bridge	Clarence EC Megan Edwards	
Kempsey/ Nulla /Petroi Casino West	Megan Steedy	ù ù
Urbenville Dome Mtn	Toonumbah EC	066 333 292

FUNDRAISING!!! IS ANYONE INTERESTED IN DONATING
\$10 (eg.) a month to NEFA?? This could be organised to be very convenient using bank account. All our \$10s added together will¹⁵ be very Useful. Contact Carrie.
<u>Fundraising</u> 40 Suite 3/73 Magellan st Lismore. ph/fax (066)224063 MORE NEEDED! Ideas for fundraising: Each Environment Centre to have one function for NEFA el year; Portfolio for donations for wealthy people:
* Karen Rook agreed to prepare this T-Shirts and merchandising
* Carrie agreed to do this, others willing to help contact her on 066 333 292 possible NEFA promotional video, photo album... contact eco-tourism operators in region: solicit donations; stock leaflets, videos, donation forms etc

Video production - Feral Productions

Steve Happ from Feral Productions gave a report. He has produced 2 videos from NEFA actions 'Visions of Killiekrankie and Mummel 92' and 'NEFA goes to Sydney'. These are available for \$30.00 e@. Please order from Feral Productions, 3/73 Majellan Street, Lismore. 2480 Fx 066 224 063. It is important that people don't pirate copy these videos since they lose quality in taping and this denies Steve a hard earned buck.

Steve says he's very busy and needs a hand all the time now if he's not to fall behind in planned work. Needs help in production of videos and in video distribution and sales. Who can help Steve ? Drop in at 3/73 Majellan and offer to help Steve out - even for a few hours can be of assistance.

Old Growth Forests Trusts

Damon was said to be pursuing this idea with lawyers in Sydney, to set up some legal framework. No objection to Damon going on with this. Can we have more information please?

Macquarie University

Students Council has offered help and cheap printing. Great! Offers stall to NEFA in 'Green Week' beginning March 26 for 3 days Mon 26 - Wed 28. Contact: Alison Gibbins, Josh Heuchan 02 805 7629w * Who will staff stall and provide info etc?

* Carrie agreed to help prepare display material and info packs

Students, Science and Sustainability conference

Planned for Tasmania this year after very successful 1st? conference in Brisbane in 92.

* Carrie to contact S,S,S conference organisers re this year.

<u>Sydney Gig - NEFA Benefit</u>

Proposal for major Sydney fundraising Gig April 18 @ Bondii Pavilion.

+ Who can recommend bands? speakers?

* VC to follow up with Sydney organisers

Wilderness assessments

New England Wilderness Assessment Report and Werrikimbe WA Report are both OUT NOW for public display and comment.

* Submissions on Wilderness asseesments are needed NOW! Subs close 19.4.1993 so there is time to organise to collect many.

Please ask friends, neighbours, customers et al to write even brief submissions in support of wilderness protection. Oppose 4wd access through wilderness areas, and request end to grazing and burning activities within wilderness areas. FPA and NSW Farmers are stirring up submissions opposing wilderness protection so we must make many submissions in favour.

Computer link-ups

Disk swapping now underway provides no-paper copies of NEFA submissions on EIS's and some correspondence. After BigScrub computer training now have solved MAC to IBM problems. New software has and will assist.

Comment that NEFA not using Pegasus at all at present. Issue as to confidentiality of Pegasus conference. Suggestion that NEFA revive the closed 'private' conference 'oz.forestcamp' and ask Pegasus to renew list of accessing members.

A Sid Walker to talk to Pegasus as last moderator.

* Barry, Steedy JC to upload relevant info onto closed conference for drafts, etc

* use of Pegasus conference for preparing NEFA's submission to Commonwealth Woodchip EIS suggested as major vehicle

Suggestion that other NEFA people share Barry Griffith's 'Green Alliance' login = 'ganref'. People wanting to share login contact Barry for password on 065 773 105h.

* Request to Ian Smith Lismore, that he moderate (or help moderate) oz.forestcamp' conference.

'People Commission for Forests' action update

Raw unedited video of the inside story of this action was shown on Saturday evening. Commercial videos available soon...!

Local Court action - 30 people - 70 charges !

Those people who appeared @ Hornsby or gave instructions to the Legal Aid lawyer in their absence, have been bailed to appear in Dowding Local Courts Centre on October 11-15!

4 lawyers have agreed to help prepare our legal defences and will soon be asked to confer together in Sydney with those arrested. Before we can have this meeting its necessary to prepare our written statements of what happened and a written response to any specific charges.

The court actions have been a good vehicle and venue to spread the word about unlawful forest destruction.

 * All PCFF Arrestees to prepare signed and witnessed written statements on the circumstances of their arrest. More info soon!
 * October Court action to be a major public information activity.

Political reaction

Minister for Confrontation and Land Mismanagement (CaLM) Garry West had a Dorothy Dix Question asked of him that afternoon by Coffs Harbour MP Andrew Fraser, which quite incorrectly referred to a 'break-in' at Forestry Commission Headquarters'. West said he'd lent over backwards to listen to NEFA but now they'd done it etc.." Peter Cochrane MP for Eden Monaro and ex-ASIO man then went on about eco-terrorism etc. Followed by Tony Packard MP for Pennant Hills carrying on about local DJ talk back freak out!

Independent MP for Manly Dr Peter Macdonald and Clover Moore MP for Bligh made carefully worded statements which turned the attack against Forestry Commission, while condemning any lawless action. The ALP sotto voce said 'top action' and officially "Such actions make it impossible to run the business of the House" and "You'll have to change your tactics if you want any support".

Democrat Richard Jones thought NEFA and Corkill had gone too far, were too radical. He had been attacked in the lower house for providing 'day pass' admissions passes to NEFA people. Don't know what Fred said. Hatton wasn't impressed but agreed that there was real pressure for change.

West says he's not talking to NEFA; and neither will FCNSW: NEFA says 'Big Deal' dialogue useless without commitment to action. With the passage of the last few months no lasting ill feelings are held about this action have been detected from our political allies. Instead West and Cochrane have built on the NEFA mythology etc.

Response to the 'Ban NEFA' Directive The ban isn't working uniformly and has been abandoned else where. Some FCNSW staff are using the ban to distance themselves from NEFA and others are finding it a troublesome impediment.

Legal advice is that the Directive from West to Drielsma and from Drielsma to all FCNSW is unlawful: it is made without power to make such a Directive being made available under the relevant legislation - hence it is 'ultra vires'; it denies the 'presumption of innocence' in that FCNSW has decided NEFA is guilty even though the cases are yet to be heard or judged by the appropriate Local Court; the ban is a punishment which will be in addition to any penalty which may be judged appropriate by the Court and is a 'double jeopardy'; the ban was made without those named or any person associated with NEFA being heard or consulted -thus we suffering a 'denial of natural justice'.

 \star)A letter to this effect to be sent to Garry West from JC

NSW Police have requested the bans lifting so that further discussions can proceed on solving logging disputes.

Advice from Jim Tedder is that the Minister Office requests that NEFA personally apologise to the staff who were upset at the peaceful occupation of the FCNSW HQ.

* JC to write carefully worded letter of apology to staff for any Tupset which may have been caused etc. No apology to FCNSW !

<u>Possible 'defamation' court action - Supreme Court</u> Legal advice is that front page story in Daily Telegraph Mirror "Hostage Drama" is defamatory in that it names JC and NEFA. Advice is that JC defamed 3 times by FCNSW / Mannix and 3 times by TeleMirror. Solicitors letters were written to FCNSW & TeleMirror. Both have refused to apologise and will defend any action. TeleMiror has reported the story since, reasonably accurately, and is likely to cover story when it goes to trial.

Formal commencement of proceedings against FCNSW and TeleMiror await preparation of accurate statements and the findings of the Local Court on the charges. The whole question of changes to Defo laws has been affected by the ET \$362,000 pay out! Who knows...

<u>Media coverage</u> (see also defo above)

Media coverage was very wide, though not always very favourable. Positive reactions from Adelaide, Perth, Cairns and Tasmania! WHoa! Australian Environmental Management Review ran a good analysis story on page 1 "The passive protest that became the media sensation". This action soon to be the subject of a 'hard hitting doco drama' from Feral Productions= 'Forestry Seige'!

thanx for being there. lov ror, ar ex-acting people's commissioner for forests jrc

Boral and Wood Supply Agreements (WSA's)

Copy of List of Wood Supply Agreements (WSA) made by FCNSW and various companies was tabled with correspondence from Dr Drielsma.

* Copies of WSA List/Correspondence and NEFA Summary to be included in mailout;

* Agreed that relevant WSA should be FOI'd;

* Barry to FOI BORAL WSA Gloucester

* JC has BORAL WSA Kempsey under FOI already

* Bellingen EC to FOI BORAL WSA Dorrigo, Grafton, Urunga: Adrian??

* Clarence EC to FOI BIG RIVER TIMBERS WSA Urunga, Casino, Glen Innes, Grafton;

* JC to chase EDO on information BORAL vs FCNSW over Kempsey WSA.

Agreed that relevant Environmental Impact Statements should not proceed without the relevant economic information being made available.

Note: "Commercial confidentiality" cl.7 of FOI ACT Schedule needs review by the Ombudsman. We want public accountability of economic information derived from public assets under management by public authority.

Suggestions for BORAL Bumper sticker 'Boral: buggering our bush...' 'Boral sux'

* Who will design, pay for and distribute/ sell stickers??

Strategies for 1993

Lengthy raves about strategies. Boiled down as follows:

- Keeping up the pressure on FCNSW; through EIS's, FIS's, court actions, FOI, EPA 'licences to pollute', Green Police etc...
- targeting vulnerable commercial companies e.g. Boral, though need to not drop pressure on FCNSW;
- training and skillshare within NEFA; FOI, computers, OGF assessment methodology, Green Police, forest camps.
- * koori liaison and building alliances;
 - public education/ NEFA communication; leaflets, news articles, videos, displays, stalls, etc
 - internal computer network; disk exchange; data down the line; Pegasus -open and closed conferences

Request for 'lock on' designs

Adam Namarra Tya requests any body with lockon designs that the want proto-type building, please contact him @ Upper Main Arm. 2482.

Next NEFA gathering

Suggestion of traditional Easter Surprise for FCNSW. Venue t.b.a.

GREAT THANKS TO BUNDAGEN COMMUNITY FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

ANALYSIS OF F.C.N.S.W. WOOD SUPPLY AGREEMENTS

This document analyses the 3 page List of 24 Wood Supply Agreements (WSA's) entered into by PCNSW as @ 2.2.1993, as supplied by Dr Drielsma attached to letter of 2.2.1993. Please refer to this 3 page List.

Sub-totals and summaries hereunder are annual figures based on only those annual volumes provided by FCNSW. Capital letters e.g. [B,] refer to the relevant lettered contract on FCNSW's list of WSA's. FCNSW terms 'Broadleaf' & 'Pulpwood' are used, though they should probably be read as 'native eucalypt forests' and 'woodchips'.

The WSA List is incredibly dis-organised, making the dimensions of the committed resource very difficult to understand without considerable addition. If this List is the only tabulated form recording NSW's <u>total annual WSA commitment</u>, it would seem FCNSW has no idea of the overall situation.

WSA's per FCNSW forest resource category 8 'Broadleaf', [A,B,C,D,E,F,U,V,] 1 'Broad leaf and Softwood Plantations', [X] 2 'Cypress Pine' [S,T] 13 'Softwood Plantations' [G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,Q,R,W] WSA's per company (Total of 24 WSA's to 17 different corporations) 15 Individual companies [E,I,J,K,L,M,P,Q,R,S,T,U,V,W,X] CSR [F,G,H] 3 10,000 tonnes 'Broadleaf' 'Pulpwood' 285,000 tonnes 'Softwood Plantation' 'Pulpwood' F G/H 295,000 tonnes 'Pulpwood' 6 BORAL [A, B, C, D, N, O,]139,624 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' ABCD 295,000 m3 'Softwood Plantation' 'Sawlogs' NO N 22,000 m3 extra 'Sftwd Plantation' 'Sawlogs' >1994 456,624 m3 'Sawlogs' WSA's per FCNSW forest product categories 7 pulpwood, [E,F,G,H,I,J,K,] 589,000 tonnes Broadleaf, [E,F] 990,000 tonnes Softwoods Plantations, [G,H,I,J,K] 150,000 tonnes extra SftWd Pltn p.a. > 1994 [] ,729,000 tonnes 14 Sawlogs (incl. 2 Sawlogs/Veneer) [A,B,C,D,L,M,N,O,P,Q,S,T,U,V] 174,964 m3 'Broadleaf' [A,B,C,D,U,V] 708,000 m3 'Softwood Plantations'[L,M;N,O,P,Q] 33,000 m3 'Cypress Pine'[S,T] 29,000 m3 extra SftWd Pltn p.a. > 1994 [M,N] 944,964 m3 1 Veneer only [X] 9,500 m3 'Hardwood' + 4,000 m3 'Softwood Plantations' <u>13,500</u> m3 2 Timber for Preservation [R,W] e@ 10,000 m3 'Softwood Plantations' 'Timber for Preservation' 20,000 m3

Wood Supply Agreements (WSA's) per period Commenced... (This shows real order of WSA commencement.) 1 in 1970's 1979 = [J] 17 in <u>1980's</u> [A,B,C,D,F,G,H,I,K,L,M,N,O,P,O,R,S,] 1980= 1[I], 1981= 1[K], 1984 1984= 2[L,N], 1985= 1[S], 1986 = 4[D, F, G, O],1987 = 1[H],1988= 5[A,B,C,P,R], 1989= 2[M,Q] in <u>1990's</u> [E,T,U,V,W,X] 1990= 3[E,T,X], 1992= 3[U,V,W] 6 Expire.. 2 in <u>1990's</u> [F,T] 1995 = 1[F]1999 = 1[T]19 " 2000's 2003= 2[L,N], 2001= 1[W] . 2005= 3[D,G,O], 2006 = 4[H,S,U,V],2007= 6[A,B,C,P,R,X2], 2008= 2[M,Q], 2009= 1[E], 4 in <u>2010's</u> 2010= 3[I,K,X1] 2011 = 1[J]NB: [1] Big River Timbers has different 'Broadleaf' and 'Softwood' completion dates Length of WSA... 10 years 3 [F,T,W] 15 years 2 [U,V] 17 years 1 [X2] 20 years 16 [A,B,C,D,E,G,H,L,M,N,O,P,Q,R,S,X1] 30 years 3 [I,J,K] WSA annual resource per FCNSW Forestry Regions 14 in SOFTWOOD PLANTATIONS [G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,Q,R,W,X2] <u>3 in Bathurst Oberon</u> 355,000 tonnes 'Pulpwood' G,J ff -J 150,000 extra in 1994 220,000 m3 'Sawlogs' 0 <u>7 in Tumut Tumbarumba</u> 655,000 tonnes 'Pulpwood' HIK 320,000 m3 'Sawlogs & Veneer' L M,N 98,000 m3 'Sawlogs & Veneer' 'M, N 29,000 m3 ព 11 11 extra in 1994 10,000 m3 'Timber for Preservation' R 2 in Bombala P 40,000 m3 'Sawlogs' 10,000 m3 'Timber for Preservation' 1 in Casino Urbenville 30,000 m3 'Sawlogs & Veneers' 1 in Glen Innes Grafton 4,000 m3 'Veneer Logs' X2 ANNUAL SubTotals SOFTWOOD PLANTATION GJHIK 1,010,000 tonnes 'Pulpwood' п 1,160,000 tonnes in 1994 260,000 m3 'Sawlogs' OP LMNQ 477,000 m3 'Sawlogs & Veneer' 4,000 m3 'Veneer Logs' X2 RW 20,000 m3 'Timber for Preservation' 761,000 m3 · 2 in WESTERN [S,T] S 23,000 m3 'Cypress Pine' Sawlogs T 10,000 m3 <u>33,000</u> m3

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5 in SOUTHERN [E, P, U, V, W] 579,000 tonnes of 'Broadleaf' 'Pulpwood' E P 40,000 m3 'Softwood Plantation' 'Sawlogs' 35,340 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' U/V ผ 10,000 'Timber for Preservation' 2 in CENTRAL [C,F] 21,660 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' С 10,000 tonnes 'Broadleaf' 'Pulpwood' F 2 in CENTRAL/NORTHERN [B,D] 51,390 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' B 26,044 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' D <u>77,434</u> m3 3 in NORTHERN [A,Q,X] A 40,530 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' Q 30,000 m3 'Softwood Plantation' 'Sawlogs' 'Broadleaf' 'Veneer Peeling Logs' X1 9,500 m3 'Softwood' 'Veneer Logs' X2 4,000°m3 AX1 <u>50,030</u> m3 'Broadleaf' logs OX2 'Softwood' logs ' <u>34,000</u> m3 84,030 m3 Logs 7 in NORTH EAST FORESTS (Central, C/N, Northern) [A,B,C,D,F,Q,X] 21,660 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' С 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' BD 77,434 m3 50,030 m3 'Broadleaf' logs AX1 QX2 34,000 m3 'Softwood' logs 183,124 m3 Logs + F 10,000 tonnes 'Broadleaf' 'Pulpwood' ANNUAL Totals : All Regions NSW Forestry Commission 1,160,000 tonnes 'Softwood' 'Pulpwood' in 1994 GJHIK 579,000 tonnes 'Broadleaf' 'Pulpwood' Ε F 10,000 tonnes 'Broadleaf' 'Pulpwood' 1,749,000 tonnes 'Pulpwood' UV 35,340 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' 21,660 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' С 77,434 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' BD 50,030 m3 'Broadleaf' saw & veneer logs AX1 184,464 m3 'Broadleaf' saw & veneer logs OP 260,000 m3 'Softwood Pltn' 'Sawlogs' LMNQ 477,000 m3 'Softwood Pltn' 'Sawlogs & Veneer' 34,000 m3 'Softwood' logs 'Veneer Logs' QX2 33,000 m3 'Cypress Pine' 'Sawlogs ST 988,464 m3 'Sawlogs & Veneer' (Bdlf, Sftwd, CP) RW 20,000 m3 'Softwood Pltn''Timber for Pres! 'PULPWOOD' 'SAWLOGS & VENEER' SOFTWOOD PLANTATION 1,160,000 tonnes 771,000 m3 BROADLEAF 589,000 tonnes 184,464 m3 CYPRESS 33,000 M3

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

Dr Hans Drielsma, Commissioner, Forestry Commission of NSW, Locked Bag 23, Pennant Hills NSW 2120

21st Dec, 1992

Dear Dr Drielsma,

I am writing subsequent to our meeting in late October.

On behalf of the Nature Conservation Council, I would like to thank you and your colleague John Halkett, for for making time available to us at that meeting. Your suggestion of further meetings on a periodic basis was noted, and I will get back to you in the new year once the Council's Executive has had a further opportunity to discuss the matter.

I indicated at the recent meeting that there were a couple of issues on which I would seek clarification in correspondence.

Wood Supply Agreements

I attach the list of wood supply agreements which I believe you sent previously to Milo Dunphy at the Total Environment Centre. Could you confirm that the list is current? Are there any additions? If so please itemize them.

The Council is deeply concerned about the wood supply agreements which the Commission has signed with regard to non-plantation forests. At the meeting you suggested that these agreements constitute de facto resource security? Could you clarify what you meant by that? In the event that the State of NSW becomes unable or unwilling to provide the quantities of wood (sawlogs and/or pulpwood) specified in these agreements, what (if any) legal redress could the affected companies seek? In other words, to what extent has the NSW Forestry. Commission bound future Governments with compensation clauses if they seek to discontinue current wood supply commitments?

Please explain why, if these wood supply agreements do constitute effective resource security, the Commission seeks further legislative action on this front. In other words, why is it necessary to legislate for resource security? What escape clauses' (if any) has the Commission whitten into these wood supply agreements to protect the State's coffers and provide flexibility for Governments in the future?

Finally, the Council requests that could supply us with copies of each of these wood supply agreements. The Council does not believe that secrecy is permissible on matters of such importance to the community in NSW.

The Commission's Ecological Expertise

The Council would be grateful if you could outline the ecological expertise currently employed by the Forestry Commission in detail, describing the number of staff with specific qualifications in conservation biology and forest ecology and the qualifications which they hold. Do you believe the Commission has sufficient expertise in these areas, and does the Commission have plans to increase it in the future? If so, please provide details.

Finally, on another matter, the Nature Conservation Council notes that the NSW Government recently signed the 'National Forest Policy Statement'. You will be aware that the document includes the following text:

"_until the (regional assessments to determine a comprehensive, adequate and representative network of dedicated and secure conservation reserves for lorests and reserves for protecting wilderness) are completed, iorest 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 urgently seeks information from you on now the Commission intends to comply with this commitment?

page 2

We look forward to your resonse to these queries,

Sid Walker Executive Officer

Yours sincerely,

page 1

Commission criticised over logging

By DANIELLE COOK Environment Writer

The NSW Forestry Commission has moved to stem criticism of its management of the State's logging sites, following the release of a highly critical report by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

The commission released the 50-page report yesterday - four months after its completion - and announced what it called a "series of tough new measures", including spot checks on logging sizes.

The report identifies many breaches of logging conditions which have caused severe soil erosion in the Oakes State Forest. south-west of Coffs Harbour. The report carries 25 pages of photo-1 graphs detailing the extent of damage in an area which has been considered for inclusion in the New England National Park.

· It states that the logging operator had no understanding of some! of the logging standards and that the forestry supervisor either had no understanding or did not check the operation. If the supervisor did understand the conditions he was unprepared to enforce them, the report states.

As a result of the poor logging

practices and management, the report estimates that almost 90,000 tonnes of soil has been lost through erosion.

To move this volume of soil. 8.814 trucks would have been required - or one truck working 40 hours a week for seven months.

The Commissioner for Forests. Dr Hans Drielsma, said yesterday the report confirmed "the need for more stringent policing of logging regulations State-wide".

He said a new team would be established to audit logging operations throughout NSW, that compliance with the best road construction standards would be checked and that foresters, foremen and logging contractors would be offered workshops and field days to train them in crosion mitigation techniques.

But the reaction to these and other measures was sceptical. with both the logging industry and conservationists saying they contained nothing new.

A spokesman for the North East Forest Alliance, Mr Dailan Pugh, said the commission had spent the past decade assuring conservationists that logging was being properly managed in NSW.

"It's all been claimed to have been done before: foresters have

been telling us for the past decade that it's being done." Mr Pugh said. "Yet we've found them breaking every rule in the book, but we still can't get any action."

The executive director of the NSW Forest Products Association. Mr Col Dorber, said the only new measure aunounced vesterday was a proposed standard to mitigate against erosion. However, the standard was still to be approved by the Environment Protection Authority.

"I'm just wondering what adverse news is about to come out that they're [the commission] trying to head off," he said.

The report was requested by the commission after conservationists successfully blockaded the area early last year in an attempt to highlight the massive soil crosion and resulting contaminstion of the Bellinger River.

. The North East Forest Alliance had requested the report under Freedom of Information provisions but had been denied access to its findings. Mr Pugh said.

"We've also been trying to have that area rehabilitated," he said. "A year later, the commission still hasn't got round to it. The situation is reprehensible."

Oakes + Killikrankie still not made available under FOI! Soil Can Report 24.2.93

frcp/1/j

A REVIEW OF THE 1992-1995 CORPORATE PLAN OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION OF NSW IN RELATION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVES

Jeff Angel CoDirector, Total Environment Centre Shop 1, 88 Cumberland St, Sydney 2000. January 1993

Summary

The Forestry Commission has issued a new Corporate Plan in response to significant criticism of its operations, in particular the protection of the environment and public good concerns. But is it a step forward or more of ths same?

However, it still suffers from a narrow policy making philisophy with the Corporate Plan ignoring the pressure for a new balance and subjugating environment protection to commercial objectives.

Despite the Commission's stated 'support' of external regulation of its environmental activities it also actively supports blanket removal of such regulation.

The Commission has continued to maintain the cosy relationship with the timber industry, as evidenced in its narrow consultation process on reform of pricing and licence policies.

As currently structured, with its 'new mission', the Commission will be unable to assist implementation of the National Forest Policy Statement, and in fact will be a prime cause of continued conflict.

1 The Corporate Plan

1.1 Background

In the last few years the Forestry Commission has come under increasing attack for environmental and economic irresponsibility in its management of native and plantation forests. While there had been various ad hoc critiques by conservation groups and some academics, the most significant assessment of the Commission was the report of the NSW Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC 1990).

More recently the reports of the Resource Assessment Commission (1991); renewed attacks on the illegal operations of the Commission for contravention of environmental impact statement and endangered fauna laws; and the National Forest Policy Statement have contributed to the pressure towards reform of the Commission.

In an address to the ATF Conference (1992) the current Chief Executive, Hans Drielsma highlighted several new initiatives in the areas of:

* commercialisation;

* a level environmental playing field;

* organisational reform;

* breaking through the image barrier.

He commented:

'We are resolved to crash through the image barrier. We will show that the tags given us by pressure groups and the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee are totally irrelevant to what we are now'. (p14)

2

and in relation to commercialisation:

'Although the government has been reviewing the feasibility of corporatising the Forestry Commission, the public policy and property rights issues arising from the environmental sensitivity of the Commission's primary assets - the forests - has led to a deferral of formal corporatisation, and the adoption of the commercialisation model'. (p7)

The key questions addressed in this review are:

- Does the Commission's corporate plan achieve the protection of the public interest, in particular the environment; and
- Is the Commission really different to their previous image, under the commercialisation process?

1.2 Corporate management and objectives

The NSW Government has adopted five criteria for corporate management of the public sector:

1. Clarity of objectives, with clear separation of commercial, non-commercial, policy and regulatory functions.

2. Managerial authority.

3. Performance monitoring.

4. Rewards and sanctions tied to performance.

5. Competitive neutrality.

(Corporate Plan 1992)

Objective 1 is a crucial issue and the Public Accounts Committee stressed the confusion of objectives that infected the Forestry Commission:

'From a management point of view, the Committee believes that the Commission's principle problem is a lack of focus. This lack of focus is ingrained in the corporate culture and justified under the title "multiple use forest management"...

'The lack of focus is built into the Commission's organisational structure with commercial and non-commercial work, plantation and native forestry occurring within individual units, and often within the daily routine of individual employees. Under these circumstances, the Committee wonders how the Commission can possibly achieve a level of excellence which is necessary to compete internationally against highly focussed professional organisations...'

'By dividing the Commission into units which have single objectives (eg profit maximisation for each product line, conservation of non-wood values for the non-commercial sector), the Committee believes the present inefficiencies and conflicts of interest which hinder the Commission in its performance, and require high levels of administrative staff, and which have caused much public disaffection with the Commission would be significantly reduced'. (ppxii-xiii)

2 The Mission

Implicit in the thrust of the PAC's recommendation is that the subjugation of environmental objectives to commercial objectives will cease and that a viable balance will be achieved.

The PAC observed the 'conflict of interest' in regulating the supply of timber from native forests and deriving commercial benefit from that supply (p127), noting that there was closed decision making with a close relationship with the paying customer - the timber industry. It proposed that the single multi-purpose Commission be split into a number of single-purpose divisions.

While the generic regional structure devised by the Commission partly responds to the PAC's suggestion of division of units (see 'Restructuring and Commercialising the NSW Forestry Commission - April 1992), neither the mission, nor the problems have changed.

•

The Corporate Plan states:

'The core business of the Commission is the management of the forests of New South Wales. Integral to the core business is ecologically sustainable management of forests, while maximising the value of the forest assets and return to Government through the supply of timber and other forest related goods and services to the community'.

A few paragraphs below, this is put even more simply:

'Community expectations are currently dominated by a demand for protection of our native forest heritage. Within this context the Commission will emphasise environmental responsibility while maintaining commercial viability'. (p1)

Thus environmental matters whether long term or short term that do not fit into the Commission's concept of commercial viability will be discarded.

The key problem remains - the control of policy making by the Commission is based on a narrow band of commercially orientated professionals. The commercial perspective cannot satisfactorily account for the public environmental interest in the forests. Nor have the Commission's 'improved' methods of public consultation made any significant difference to their mission (see also 5 below).

It is important to note that while the Commission acknowledges the public policy issues involved in corporatisation, it is in reality acting as if it had been corporatised, rather than merely commercialised. It has very strong tenure over the public resource - state forests. In this context a broad view of the asset is essential.

Thus the demand for greater external influence on policy, by for example a Board of external community and expert people imposed on the Commission; changes to the statutory objectives of the Commission; a system of tripartite agreements . between industry conservation groups and the Commission (as suggested by the PAC); and increased external regulation of the Commission's environmental impacts - are crucial arrangements that have yet to be satisfactorily addressed.

3 External regulation.

On the surface the Commission accepts external regulation of its activities:

'The Commission will encourage sound formal regulation by external bodies for the whole forest industry to improve financial, environmental and operating activities. External audits will be an important tool in independent performance assessment of our forest management'. (Corp Plan p1)

Further, during the ongoing debate about the new Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act the Chief Executive accepted that the regulatory environment was 'substantially in place', in particular, water pollution licences issued by the Environment Protection Authority; eis determination by the Department and Planning and Minister for Planning; and endangered fauna control by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (ATC Conference May 1992): The Commission has still to comply with the responsibilities of the Heritage Act in regard to cultural and aboriginal resources.

However, from the Commission's view, such regulation must be on the Commission's terms and where possible removed.

This is the true position of the Commission as exposed in their support of the Natural Resources Package during 1992. Their Corporate Plan sets a target for parliamentary passage of the Package (described as 'achieve revision by Government, of environmental approval process) by December 1992.

In fact the Package removed the endangered fauna approval process supposedly endorsed by the Chief Executive in May 1992. It also relieved the need for further eis into timber production forests and supplanted external regulation with self regulation under the control of the Commission. Of note is that this part of the Corporate Plan while in the main section 'Ecologically Sustainable Management', was specifically in the part that dealt with resource security.

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There is also deep concern in some political and community circles that the Commission is all-to-prone to use economic threats to gain its way on environmental regulation matters.

In sum the Commission still intends to exert political and internal government pressure to subjugate environment protection to commercial interest.

4 Economic returns

In the past the subsidy via low royalties and management work to timber production has been identified as an impediment to removal of logging from environmentally sensitive areas. Often these were steep lands and the lack of economic charges for roads, soil erosion and loss of habitat amounted to significant factors.

It was argued that if real costs were passed on then the logging would not occur. (Nevertheless some logging would still take place as the market could absorb higher prices for value-added products).

The Corporate Plan calls for the Commission to, 'maximise the value of the forest asset and the financial return to government' (p13). A primary compensation for having to pay higher prices will be longer term agreements, which are in fact a form of resource security carrying with them a diminution of environmental control. In the context of the commercialisation mentality in the Commission, it is inevitable that environmental objectives will be relegated a lower priority.

It is also important to realise that the establishment of the commercial performance objectives and specifically timber pricing and tendering policies were undertaken after consultation only with the timber industry. No other community interest, in particular environmental groups were consulted. The Commission's discussion paper 'Hardwood Log Allocation and Pricing' (June 1992), outlined the process:

The Commission consulted 'a representative group' of hardwood log customers in November 1991. Submissions and a 15 page document from the Forest Products Association (FPA) resulted. The proposals were reviewed by the Commission who provided an update to the FPA quarterly executive meeting on 20 February 1992. In May 1992 the Red Gum sawmillers and VAFI were consulted.

As a result of this exclusive process the speed of change appears to have been modified and greater stress placed on long term agreements.

The Public Accounts Committee commented on this aspect:

"...on the vital aspect of pricing, the Committee believes that there is very strong evidence that the Commission pays great attention to the requirements of industry, and that industry's input into the decision making process is very significant. Additionally, whenever the issue arises of making more forest available for logging, the Commission appears to come down strongly on the side of industry to expand the harvestable forest area'. (p163)

Given the importance of this issue (highlighted in the environmental critiques of the Commission rather than by timber industry interests) and the predominant influence of the commercial culture in the Commission, this policy development process is a matter of serious concern. It also contradicts the objective of the Commission to be 'more externally focussed and forward thinking' 'encouraging community participation in decision making'. (p1)

5 National Forest Policy Statement

Late in 1992 the NSW, Commonwealth and other state Governments signed the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS). In regards to implementation, the NFPS states:

'All the Governments take seriously their responsibilities for implementing these policies, and they are committed to ensuring that policy implementation occurs as a matter of priority'. (p42)

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The Policy calls for, 'dedicated nature conservation reserve systems to protect native forest communities, based on the principles of comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness' (p8-9). Such reserves are of course under the control of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. High priority is given to old growth forest and wilderness with a reserve system to be in place by 1995.

Transition of the timber industry out of old growth forests is highlighted in the Policy with the Governments agreeing to facilitate the change from old growth to regrowth and plantations. Further the Policy acknowledges the role of structural adjustment assistance to minimise adverse social and economic impacts caused by change in the availability and quality of wood resources.

The Forestry Commission as currently structured and under its new Corporate Plan cannot implement the NFPS and in fact will be the prime cause of continued conflict, despite the objectives of the NFPS, because it does not (and cannot) agree with the Policy.

Further evidence of the survival of its 'old mission' is found in the first round of environmental impact statements mandated by the TIIP Act (Mt Royal, Dorrigo, Glenn Innes, Wingham). Essentially there is no change from the position it took during the rainforest dispute of the early 1980's, despite scoping of the eis in the community.

It still offers the minimal conservation option (about 10% of forest available for timber production given to new conservation areas under Commission control, with non-productive forest zoned insecurely as of limited or nil availability); does not suggest new national parks; ignores facilitating the transition to regrowth or plantations (including pine); and makes no mention of the possibility of structural adjustment and retraining of workers.

The Commission has fundamental deficiencies in its mission and structure that makes it blind to conflict resolution and the required urgent implementation of the NFPS.

References

Drielsma H (1992), Establishing the Policy Framework paper delivered to ATF Conference 28 May 1992

(1992), Commissioner's Statement to all Staff, Restructuring and Commercialising the NSW Forestry Commission - an outline

Forestry Commission of NSW, 1992-1995 Corporate Plan

(1992) Hardwood Log Allocation and Pricing Discussion Paper

National Forest Policy Statement 1992

Public Accounts Committee (1990), Report on the Forestry Commission Parliament of NSW

NOTES ON MEETING OF

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE (N.E.F.A.)

held at BUNDAGEN COMMUNITY 21-22 February, 1993

THANKS EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED - GREAT ROLL UP! [The following are notes, not minutes, of the recent NEFA meeting. Please note: • = ACTION is required for a number of these items. Please assist by taking such agreed action a.s.a.p.]

Rainforest definition

FCNSW are still using the old discredited definition of rainforest in then current EIS's. This outdated definition is related to the presence of commercial timber species. Where there is 20% of canopy cover provided by eucalypt species, the area is defined as nonrainforest irrespective of what other species may be present in the remaining 80%. Thus Brush Box and other communities are not properly identified and are scheduled for logging.

* Agreed that NEFA should pursue FCNSW adopting an ecological definition of rainforest by including criticisms of the 'forest-typing' in our EIS submissions. EIS submissions should also recommend appropriate 'buffer zones' around identified areas of Rainforest; recommend no road construction into or through rainforest; and should recommend no felling of trees into rainforest.

Commonly mis-identified forest types are: '53' Brushbox; '47a' Tallowwood BlueGum; '48' Flooded Gum Commonly used, inaccurate and general, Rainforest types are: '3' Crabapple, sassafras, corkwood, silver sycamore; '23' Myrtle; '26' Viney scrub

* Agreed that NEFA and NCEC Inc prepare a National Estate Grant application to hold a seminar and do field work on 'Rainforest definition for NSW'. Rainforest Information Centre to be invited to join in application. Dailan to write 'rationale = need for definition review', Jim Tedder and John Corkill to prepare grant application form and gather supporting letters.

Crown lands

Garry West has lifted moratorium imposed on the disposal of Crown lands with the result that leasehold land is being converted to freehold title before or without adequate conservation value assessment of the land involved. This is of concern since some of this land has important forest on it. More information needed about situation.

* Beth Williams Armidale NPA to be consulted on latest.

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Water Study

Bob MacDonald, JJJ and ABC Radio journalist is touring through the north east region very soon with a 'water study roadshow'?. He plans to attend local towns, hold public meetings and speak on the water value of Old Growth Forests. More information will come direct to local groups as Bob roadshow approaches.

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9.69 NPWA - Conservation Agreements with private landholders

Agreed that NEFA should encourage private landholders to register a s.69 Conservation Agreement over the title of their land, to protect the land in perpetuity. NPWS now has some money to begin to assist landholders to prepare and implement Conservation Agreement's Plans of Management. To qualify the land should be of a reasonable size and should include something significant about the land and its dependent plants and animals. NPWS sponsored Wildlife Refuges remain available and are unaffected by progress on implementing s.69 Agreements.

Northern Region forestry consultative committee

Graham King, Northern Regional Manager is open to suggestions for a regional consultative committee. Because of ongoing NEFA 'greenie banning' it may be best to proceed through the North Coast Environment Council Inc. Dailan summarised a proposal which he has prepared: simple process not complex, balanced membership from environmental and industry, both FCNSW and NPWS to attend, full disclosure of relevant information.

 Dailan to write up proposal for Jim Tedder to forward to Graham King.

Lupis

CSIRO has developed a 'decision support' system for land use allocation based on computer operated Geographic Information System (GIS) which can model various options fro land use. CSIRO people at UNE Sus Forestry Conference expressed interest in participating in dispute resolution procedures and offered LUPIS as a suggested component.

No action: to note. More info available from Dailan if required.

National Forest Policy Statement

This statement has been co-signed by the Commonwealth and all state governments except Tasmania. The NFPS is a further development of the ESD and Intergovernmental Agreement of the Environment (IGAE) processes. There is considerable doubt whether the NFPS is an enforceable document, since, under the IGAE, it was agreed that there would be a 'co-operative' approach to environmental protection rather than an interventionist approach.

Section 4.1 of the NFPS requires that a moratorium be imposed by state governments over logging of OGF and wilderness areas with 'high conservation value'.

The NFPS also agrees to the creation of a comprehensive reserve system. Mrs Kelly (Federal Minister) wrote before Christmas 1992 to Ministers West and Hartcher in NSW asking them to avoid activities in the nominated list of areas of high conservation value. She also wrote to Federal Minister for Resources Alan Griffith asking him to agree that no activities especially woodchip recovery be obtained from high conservation areas. No information on the replies to these letters has been received. List of HCV forests which was attached to letter to West and Hartcher was very broad and inaccurate e.g. included whole of Chaelundi SF = 35,000h@ when NEFA/Corkill injunction only covers approx. 7,000h@

* Follow up with DASET on replies from NSW Ministers and Griffith and Commonwealth action to enforce agreement.

DASET has commissioned consultancy to define 'reserve selection' criteria and process for selection. Very good scientists are involved. When this is drafted there will be an opportunity for public input via a seminar later this year.

* What is National Liberal Coalition position on National Forest Policy Statement? If they form government will they honour the requirements within it?

* NEFA to seek participation / representation on DASET 'reference group' to "National Forests Strategy".

Environmental Impact Statements

Nount Royal & Wingham

Both of these are still awaiting determination by the Department of Planning and Minister for Planing Robert Webster (NP). These EIS's may need further research in order to be made adequate, or they will be challenged in the Land and Environment Court. Barry Griffith has been working on preparations for legal actions, though it is possible that the logging proposals sought by FCNSW may be rejected or severely modified by the DoP.

NSW government agencies have written critical submissions on the EIS's, which is good for our position. Barry obtained all the submissions made to the EIS under FOI application to Dop. He has attempted to interest '4 Corners'- ABCTV' and Sydney Morning Herald in the stories - so far unsuccessfully. Wingham Forest Action may take legal action against either, or both, the Environmental Impact Statement and the Fauna Impact Statement.

WFA has a 'blockade' strategy ready in case FCNSW attempts to commence work quickly. WFA has been and still is on 'orange alert' since the agreement to give 2 weeks notice has been discharged by FCNSW giving 2 weeks notice. FCNSW will not necessarily begin 2 weeks after notice was given - could be any time...

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Kempsey/Wauchope & Grafton

These EIS's are due soon. The same consultants are being used in Kempsey/Wauchope as were used in Wingham. Forest Protection Society has a rally in Wauchope recently where 800 people attended and were told to make submissions on the EIS's and to write to NPWS opposing the Werrikimbe Wilderness assessment report.

Possible people to contribute to a NEFA Kempsey / Wauchope EiS submission: Brian England? Jim Tedder, Andrew Steed.

Forest Federation (Trevor Corliss and Patrick McEntee) will work on northern end of K/W EIS = Hastings area.

* Patrick agreed to co-ordinate the preparation of a K/W EIS submissions.

* Barry agreed to sent out to these people information gained from previous EIS's.

FCNSW recently lost court action begun by Boral in Kempsey area, when Boral went to Supreme Court to enforce access to specified volumes in their 20 Wood Supply Agreement (WSA) with FCNSW. This action was allegedly due to a 20,000 tonne shortfall in forecast available timber. As a result of Court finding FCNSW has terminated quotas to Beechwood Timbers (Jim Slater) and Brown Bros Mill.

* JC to ask EDO to find Boral vs FCNSW court action report.

Glen Innes

Megan Edwards reported on EIS submission she prepared for NEFA. Advised that she'd had problems obtaining all the relevant information for the EIS. Major points in the submission were a lack of FCNSW ability to predict sustained yield - no overall yield survey has been carried out in the GI MA. The fauna work in the GI MA EIS is superior to that done in other EIS's since it was done by Dr peter Smith from UNE as consultant to FCNSW.

Urbenville

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This is now underway. Fauna work said to have been done. Other consultants are about to be appointed.

Grafton & Casino / Murwillumbah

Both these are due out soon. There is no information at this time as to the 'preferred option' under investigation in the EIS.

FCNSW has had prepared economic, flora, fauna and public attitude surveys which cover the broad far north coast region from Grafton, Casino and Murwillumbah. When released these EIS's will apply to North Washpool area, Bindery Mann wilderness, and Blackbutt Plateau.

* Dailan to co-ordinate Grafton NEFA submission. Who else can help? * Ned, Steedy, Dailan to contribute to Casino/Murwillumbah EIS. Who else can help?

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Dorrigo

This EIS is eminently challengeable in the Land and Environment Court. Corkill plans to use 1990 court proceedings and undertaking given to the Court by FCNSW that they would prepare and EIS in accordance with Part V of EPA Act to challenge the adequacy of the EIS. major point made in EIS is that western block of Chaelundi SF OGF = 7,000h@ is essential to Dorrigo's future. If this area is not available it is likely that Dorrigo mills will have to retool for smaller logs or will close completely.

Mistake SF

Very lengthy discussion on Mistake SF and options for action.

Some 2,100h@ of 'loggable' hardwood OGF is proposed in EIS. This will finish all OGF in the Nambucca Valley. Forest typing for area proposed for logging is quite inaccurate. Rainforest is not being correctly identified with the result that it is being logged, felled into, and/or roaded. Fauna Impact Statement closed 2 weeks ago (9.2.1993) and is awaiting approval of Director NPWS. Logging has continued in 2 compartments under a temporary licence pending NPWS decision on FIS.

The land is very steep.Soil Conservation Service/CaLM said in their EIS submissions that logging? roading? should not be permitted over 27 degrees slope, or only up to 35 degrees slope under special circumstances. FCNSW is and intends to log up to 35 degrees slope generally.... This is the problem with non-specific recommendations made by SCS/CaLM. FCNSW determined this EIS themselves. Work is being undertaken on 2 compartments now, though bulldozer was bogged on very steep muddy slope with gearbox out of dozer for repair! Support 4WD vehicle also bogged!

When work complete on these 2 compartments (approx 2 weeks time??) FCNSW will have to refer to NPWS re FIS and 'licence to take or kill'. Nambucca Valley Conservation Association and other local groups have agreement from local Forester that further work will be proceeded by detailed Harvesting Plans, prescriptions etc. and due notice to local green groups. 8 compartment Order of Working has been foreshadowed which would see approx. 1,100h@ of OGF logged in Mistake.

Only 3 man operation underway though logs would go to both Mitchells Mill in ? and to Boral Kempsey?

Local community based groups including adjacent landholders very worried about logging underway and proposed. Ram and other locals approached new Urunga District Forester Steve Raison about breaches of harvesting prescriptions and Standard Erosion Mitigation Conditions (SEMC's). Raison said to Ram words to effect of

"I'd been very keen to know if there are any breaches. I don't mind if you go up there and be the 'Green Police'. If you discover any problems I'll act on them immediately..."

. .

Local Bowraville Aboriginal Lands Council also concerned at proposed activities in the Mistake SF. EIS said that BEFORE work would commence there would be consultation with local aboriginal people. NO consultation has taken place only token 'spoken to by FCNSW'. Local koori people not satisfied that this is adequate consultation. Bowraville kooris will go to forest with local resident action groups to inspect forest and work done to date. Bowraville LAC will write to FCNSW advising that conditions of EIS, for proper consultation, NOT completed.

* Agreed that no blockade take place in Mistake SF at this time. * Agreed that action in forest would be by local community based groups, not NEFA at this time. Focus of action would be "Green Police" to check out compliance with relevant conditions and codes. Evidence of breaches to go to Urunga District Forester. Megan and Ram to look at site this week with other locals.

* Agreed NEFA could run training camp in Mistake SF to develop training skills and experience in detecting breaches of conditions if local groups would like NEFA's help and could help support logistically. Further action on NEFA's involvement at Mistake will await developments and advice from local community based groups.

* Agreed that there is a need for good, clear lines of communication into and out of forest area so that there is no isolation and misunderstandings.

Contact Nos. Trevor Bailey 065 647 633 OR Ram H. Ayana 065 644 108

Wild Cattle Creek SF - Old Growth Forest assessment

This OGF assessment follows NEFA/NCEC 'peace plan' to FCNSW to cooperatively carry out ground truthing for Air Photo Interpretation (API) work. FCNSW refused and NEFA / NCEC commenced work without FCNSW in attempt to refine the methodology for API ground truthing.

NEFA has already paid \$1,000.00 to API expert for his work with air photos. Some 130 different forest structures have been identified from API, which in turn can be aggregated into a number of general types etc. This API means that ground truthing can continue at any time now. NEFA has asked both Department of Planning and NPWS to co-operate with NEFA / NCEC Inc to complete the field work and write up results. These requests are still under consideration in these departments.

20 sites within WCCSF have been surveyed using NEFA's OGF 'pro forma' sheets. Initial work indicates that there is a great deal more work required to be done to complete the SF's OGF assessment.

* Agreed that co-operative field work with Dop/NPWS for OGF API work could be the subject of a National Estate Grants application - due 12.3.1993. JC and Jim Tedder to prepare application in consultation with Megan and Dailan.

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Dorrigo future

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Megan is interested in ideas for a positive vision for Dorrigo's future. Plan is to develop a proposal for longer term job creation and industry orientation for Dorrigo which means that there will not have to be job losses without prospects for alternative employment.

* Anyone with ideas please contact Megan via Armidale Wilderness and Environment Centre 067 711155w.

<u>Mummel Gulf</u>

Graham King, FCNSW Northern Regional General Manager, told Dailan that FCNSW will attempt to avoid having to go into Mummel Gulf area this winter. They both hope that there will not be area problems in the area until winter 1994. This area is definitely one which is outside current EIS moratorium area and of high conservation value as OGF. As such Mummel is one area where FCNSW should avoid activities etc in line with National Forest Policy Statement.

* Helmut volunteered to contact Phillip Sparks in Walcha Nundle area to ask him to keep an eye on situation @ Mummel.

Carrai SF court appearances for arrestees

People arrested in Carrai SF action to defend Werrikimbe wilderness are due before Kempsey Local Court on 29.3.1993 \rightarrow 1.4.1993. A local solicitor Mr Alexander Aitch will do court work for NEFA arrestees under legal aid but he needs 'instructions' from those who want him to appear.

* Carrai arrestees should contact Alexander Aitch in Kempsey and provide statements as to what happened and in reference to the charges they face. Does anyone want to go to Kempsey to be support group for those arrested and before the Court?

6,45D Trade Practices Act

This section of TPA refers to the establishment of 'secondary boycotts' which affect the operation of a company said to be carrying out lawful activity. It was intended for use against trade unionists and others setting up picket lines. Rumour has it that timber industry companies nay seek to use this provision to prevent blockades and other protest actions.

Legal advice from Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) is that companies could try to use s.45 but would more than likely drop any action if their statements of account and annual financial returns were subpoenaed as evidence in their claim that they had been negatively affected financially. No action - lets wait & see!

EPA 'pollution control licences' = 'licences to pollute'

NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) issued 9 general region wide 'pollution control licences' to FCNSW in May 1992. No reference to other agencies as to efficacy of conditions imposed.

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These 'licences to pollute' were so broad they allowed FCNSW to pollute with any substance, to any level, in any watercourse at any time during logging operations. The licences applied to FCNSW only and private contractors were and still are required to apply for their own licences.

Standard Erosion Mitigation Conditions (S.E.M.C.)

These licences are due to be renewed in May 1993. Major conditions are the effective application of the Standard Erosion Mitigation Conditions (SEMC). The SEMC 1990 version were very vague and unenforceable. FCNSW took the SEMC's to mean the maximum required standards while Soil Con Service is of the view that SEMC's are minimum standards which require additional site specific soil erosion and sediment control prescriptions. The 1990 SEMC's have been recently reviewed and a new 1992/93 version has been adopted by SCS & FCNSW.

* Agreed that local groups write to Soil Con Service asking for copies of the '1992/93 Standard Erosion Mitigation Conditions for Logging' and that groups check differences/ improvements from earlier versions. Also local groups to check with District FCNSW Offices re whether the 1992/93 SEMC are in force yet.

* Agreed that local groups write to Dr Neil Shepherd, Director General of EPA (100 William St, East Sydney) asking that 'pollution control licences' for FCNSW:

- a) NOT be issued in areas of undisturbed water catchments and/or catchments of high conservation value e.g. Oakes SF in upper Bellinger River;
- b) contain provisions and conditions which will actually prevent and mitigate pollution of streams;
- c) be referred to other public authorities such as NSW Fisheries, Water Resources Commission etc for their comments and advice;
- d) be publicly exhibited and subject to public comment.

Fire and grazing

These activities need more focus from NEFA and local groups since it is now agreed by scientists that grazing and burning have serious impacts on forest eco-systems. While there is information available in the scientific literature as to these effects FCNSW is ignoring these impacts in their Mt Royal, Wingham and Dorrigo MA ELS's. Only Glen Innes MA ELS addresses these impacts.

Barry Griffiths has prepared a paper on the impacts of fire and grazing as part of his EIS submissions for Mt Royal and Wingham. Barry offers his paper to anyone who would like to include comments on fire and grazing in future EIS's.

Woodchip action

The Wilderness Society is calling for support for a National Day of Rage against Woodchipping on Sunday 28 Feb. - Monday 1 March. NCEC has agreed to participate. NEFA also agreed to join in. Discussion agreed that action should focus on proposal for Grafton export pulp mill, using local woodchips, and the possibility of this being given fast-track approval.

Three relevant federal election issues to be emphasised: export woodchipping without EIS as promised by Richardson in 1990; proposal for a Grafton 'pulp mill' a stalled project listed on p.55 of federal coalition's "FightBackII' document; procedures to fasttrack approval proposed by both Labor and Coalition.

Rally and public meeting to be held at Market Square, Grafton 12noon - 2pm Monday 1st March. Bring banners, placards and curly questions!

Federal woodchip_Environmental Impact Statement

This EIS promised by Richardson in 1990 is due out almost any time now. Agreed that NEFA and local groups should put together strong critical submissions rejecting further export woodchipping.

• Linda Gill agreed to go through FOI documents already obtained and extract relevant quotes, for circulation to other groups. Also agreed that Pegasus conference 'oz.forestcamp' - a private conference, should be revived and information, drafts etc posted to this for ease of access and copying. [More on this in computer link up item]

World Heritage Rainforest Nomination NSW/Qld.

Andrew Kilvert tabled a copy of the nomination. He, Dailan, Ned and JC reported what they had learnt of the processes used by the NSW Qld and Commonwealth Governments for the selection of areas for (re-)nomination for inclusion on World Heritage List as the 'Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia'.

It was agreed that many important and qualifying sub-tropical and warm temperate rainforests in the north east region had been omitted from consideration for inclusion at the time the (re-)nomination was being prepared because of political and financial constraints imposed by the then NSW Government.

NPWS was given no additional funding to prepare the (re-)nomination; FCNSW objections to a full scrutiny of SF for WH Rf were backed by Cabinet Office who imposed a condition that apart from recent additions to the NPWS estate, the only other tenures to be considered were existing Forestry Commission Flora Reserves where they were contiguous with the World Heritage National Parks; No private land rainforest was considered; No public participation procedures required under the IGAE on indicative listings for consideration were carried out.

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Numerous important areas, some adjacent to Queensland rainforest, have not been considered. For some of these areas the scientific evidence of their worthiness for world heritage listing was available then and is still available now.

Thus the renomination boundaries were agreed to have no ecological integrity being based less on science and more on \$\$ and deals.

 It was agreed to consult with other Australian groups regarding a request for boundary review by the investigating IUCN referee.
 QCC, RIC, ACIUCN, WWF, ACF, UNAA, RCSA, to be contacted.
 * ACTION JC Ned Dailan

Freedom of Information (FOI)

BigScrub EC's request no. xx41 under FOI of April 1991 is nearly 2 years old and needs to be finalised as soon as possible. This broad request across the region applies to a wide range of documents in FCNSW Management Areas and Regions in the north east. BigScrub's nominees for access to this information were NEFA's then co-ordinators (some have since changed).

Lyn described the NVCA local experience of attempting access to documents listed by them. FCNSW timed and charged for every minute in the office @ \$30.00 p/hr when 50% reduction applied and charge should have been \$15.00 p/hr; there were differences in interpretation of documents said to be available; copying charges were 25cp/page; FCNSW District Forester had to be present whole time (this a NEFA directive impact?); whole thing had cost hundreds of dollars with still some documents not being provided; had made internal review request; written to Ombudsman about delays, access.

Megan, Helmut, Barry and Dailan all had horror stories of attempted FOI access to little or no avail. Barry reported that he has pursued the Management Account reports and figures for Mt Royal MA.

* Bellingen [Cath, Trevor], Steedy, Corkill and others BigSCrub nominees who haven't yet, to prepared a list of FOI docs sought, NEED TO DO SO NOW and attempt formal access to documents.

* After access for FOI has been attempted write to Ombudsman Office, 3rd Floor, 580 George Street, Sydney. 2000. Ph 02 286 1000, Fx 02 283 2911. Refer to any problems with access, any overcharging etc. Q: Is NEFA the only body being charged for List A access over the counter type documents? Can others get them free?

* Please send copies of lists of documents sought and any correspondence to or from Ombudsman's Office to Ned (aka Aidan Ricketts) @ BigScrub EC, 149 Keen St, Lismore. 2480. Remember BigScrub EC needs to know what's happening with its FOI application no. xx41 of 21.4.1991!

Other FOI requests are being made by NEFA people on other areas.

These requests not proceeding very smoothly either, several complaints are at the level of the Ombudsman or the District Court. FCNSW may be making progress on adopting and implementing FOI requirements of 1989, though its happening slowly. NEFA's claim of FCNSW denying information relevant to exhibited EIS now coming true - GI Dorrigo, MT Royal...

NSW Parliament Report

Possible By-elections

Phil Smiles MP for North Sydney awaiting Court judgement on tax matter. If convicted will create critical by-election in seat previously held by Independent Anne Read.

Tony 'Up the Windsor Rd' Packard MP for Pennant Hills (FCNSW HO local MP!) also may lose seat through court action re his car dealership? This seat said to be a safe Liberal electorate. mmm...

Legislation

Copies of the 1992 report on the activities of the environment groups' liaison officer to NSW Parliament were tabled by JC. It is available from the author Mr John Connor, Env Liaison Officer, Nature Conservation Council, 39 George St. The Rocks. 2000. Ph 02 247 2228 Fx 02 247 5945. Its quite read and covers all the relevant antics of NSW MP's. Several Bills were discussed in some detail.

Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act

Act was extended for another 10 months to 1 October 1993. This means that state agencies e.g. FCNSW and local government bodies will have to request, prepare and submit Fauna Impact Statement to the Director NPWS as was required originally. Thus the extension was FCNSW lost hope of avoiding FIS's. FCNSW has prepared a list of FIS's to be prepared, BUT its only doing FIS's in MA's where EIS's are to be done. FCNSW appears not to want to do FIS's for other areas e.g. western NSW.

Mistake SF, MT Royal, Wingham, Dorrigo and Glen Innes FIS's are all due very soon. If NPWS accepts FIS and issues licences strong possibility of court action. Seems more likely that NPWS will require more work be done, more info supplied.

Forestry (Amendment) Bill

This Bill introduced by Dr Peter Macdonald Independent MP for Manly and sent to a legislation review committee. Committee has received submissions, held public hearings etc and will likely report in mid-March back to the Parliament. Report may recommend further amendments to the present draft of the Bill, further consultation.

Many different views in environment movement about what changes to make to FCNSW: no agreed position on splitting it up? to where? étc. NSW environment groups recommended key principles which are said to be embodied in the Bill e.g. ecological sustainability; High conservation value forests to be protected; public forests not

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to be alienated; full social and environmental costs included in timber pricing; need for control of logging on private lands; and public participation and public accountability.

Through public hearings its apparent that everybody, including the industry, supports the idea of a Forestry Board. Seems only FCNSW objects! Industry wants representation on board too. More info when Report of Committee comes out.

National Parks (New Areas) Bill

This is a National Parks Association of NSW developed Bill also introduced by Peter Macdonald. Proposes to legislate new national parks. Applies to some forested areas but includes other land and veg types too. Bill is said to have detailed 'meets and bounds' definitions of boundaries. This Bill is competing for priority with Threatened Species (conservation) Bill.

Threatened Species (Conservation) Bill

This is the Bill planned to replace the Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act 1992 with more comprehensive legislation applying also to flora. Its been in drafting for some time and could be introduced by Dr Macdonald MP soon. Need final review of Bill then push for its intro into Parliament.

* Agreed this Bill should have priority over 'NP New Areas Bill.

* Copies of Bills, esp. Threatened Species Bill to come in mailout, & Sorry copies we yet available. Bills to go is seprete well and to Env. C!

National Parks (Aboriginal Ownership) Bill

JC read brief commentary on Bill form ELO report. This Bill first introduced by Tim Moore (who?) and seeks to give title to kooris in western NSW with lease back to NPWS for \$1.00. Bill was sent to Legislation Committee who recommended several major amendments. Bill now stalled do environment groups support this ??

* Copies of Bill to be circulated. In separate mail and to Ew. (s

Natural Resources Package of Bills

Legislation Committee on this Package announces withdrawal of Package for further consideration by Government on afternoon of major Sydney 'No Natural Resources Package' Rally. Premier's Department have indicated to ACf that Package is being reviewed for further consideration and a possible NEW PACKAGE OF BILLSI.

No official word is available yet on what Bills or provisions may be included: seems resource security legislation will be revived. Timing of any new Package not clear now but election of federal Coalition Government could accelerate action on Resource Security Bill. gggrrrr.

Pulp Mill

Daishowa Pulp Mill Grafton is one of 4 stalled projects listed on p.55 of the Coalition's 'Fight Back II' package. It is this list which is being used to justify the need for an automatic approval for major? projects after 12 months. (The other 3 projects said to be stalled are also wrong!!)

Thus the federal election has raised the prospect of a fast-track approved pulp mill in Grafton!

Major Rally in seat of Page being organised by Clarence Environment Centre and North Coast Environment Council Inc to focus on export woodchipping, no EIS, pulp mill [again!], and fast-tracking!! 12noon - 2pm Market Sq, Grafton. Candidates have been invited to attend and speak. Contact CEC for more details 066 431 863

Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act complaint

Big Scrub made a complaint to the Office Of the Ombudsman re: FCNSW telling lies in the TIIP Bill debate about job losses, causes for job losses, problems with Endangered Fauna Act etc. Ombudsman has not looked into complaint indepth, and accepts FCNSW explanations. No further action on this one!

NSW Police Service liaison

Reports were given on 2 different police liaison meetings =

- a) follow on meetings from Port Macquarie meeting; and
- b) new North Region Country Customer Liaison Council.

Follow on meetings from Port Macquarie meeting

This meeting 'to resolve logging disputes' was convened by police and attended by NEFA, FCNSW, various loggers, FPA etc. Sketchy police minutes of meeting are available. Police have written recommendations for further action or meetings to senior police and are waiting for an official response before proceeding with any further meetings. Recommendations included the lifting of the NEFA ban by FCNSW. Lismore was suggested as the next possible meeting.

new North Region Country Customer Liaison Council

JC has been appointed to this council, which will meet e@ 3 months. First meeting in Newcastle last week. JC asked for any suggestions for Agenda Items for Police Liaison committee to be sent to him c/-BigScrub EC, 149 Keen St. Lismore. 2480.

Ferals / NEFA

Lengthy discussion of communication issues and opportunities. NEFA non-existent bureaucracy was explained. Everyone's opportunity to use NEFA non-violently to protect forests was affirmed. If you can = NEFA can.

* Agreed emphasis on self-organization, self-responsibility.

* Affirm ongoing co-operation etc, communication.

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Workshops for skills sharing and training

Requests and offers for skill sharing and training were made by various people in several agenda items. Progress on compiling an 'inspection kit' was reported. Linda Gill agreed to look at possible TAFE training programs available to incorporate into forest scout training etc.

Suggestion of forest camp and training for scouting for breaches of SEMC's, licence conditions, prescriptions etc. Further suggestion of convening pilot training design camp at Mistake SF in area now under harvesting. Need for lead time to prepare for field camp and training, including any possible 'guest lecturers' ahem. Also need to get feedback from community involved in Mistake SF area if training camp wanted or welcome or if help available for logistics.??

* Afternoon workshop on forest scout training program, materials etc at Clarence EC in Grafton after Woodchip Pulp Mill Fast-Track Rally, Monday 1st March 1993.

non-violent action

* Agreed to emphasise NEFA's commitment to non-violent action. NO SABOTAGE @ any NEFA action, since there are serious consequences to OGF campaign, NEFA, fundraising etc.

NEFA will condemn any 'monkey wrenching' - reported damage @ Carrai as damage control. Improved communication on what is being done elsewhere should reduce anxiety and frustration which leads to 'monkeywrenching'. Suggestion of increased leaflet/ news/ article production to keep e@ other informed and updated. Also can use Big Scrub Newsletter and NVCA's 'Environs' for publication.

<u>Blockades</u>

Only blockade possibility at present is Wingham OGF depending on EIS determination and FCNSW's actions. Wingham Forest Action is on 'orange alert' ph Chris Sheed 065 504 572.

No blockade planned for Mistake Sf. No other blockade in pipeline at this time. Instead various alternative actions e.g. 'Green Police' to be considered higher priority.

POSSIBLE 'FLASHPOINTS' IN 1993	MINDER	Ph No.
Mistake SF	.Ram	065 644 108
Wingham	Chris Sheed	065 504 572
Mummel Gulf	Phil Sparkes	
Dorrigo / Chaelundi	Dailan	
Bindery Mann wilderness	Clarence EC	066 431 863
Glen Innes - London Bridge	Megan Edwards	067 7111 55
Kempsey/ Nulla /Petroi	Megan	
Casino West	Steedy	
Urbenville Dome Mtn	Toonumbah EC	066 333 292

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FUNDRAISING!!! IS ANYONE INTERESTED IN DONATING \$10 (eg.) a month to NEFA?? This could be organised to be very convenient using bank accounts. All our \$10s added together with be very Useful. Contact Carrie. <u>Fundraising</u> (10 Suite 3/73 Magellon st Lismore. ph/fox (066)224063 MORE NEEDED! Ideas for fundraising: Each Environment Centre to have one function for NEFA equear; Portfolio for donations for wealthy people:

* Karen Rook agreed to prepare this T-Shirts and merchandising

* Carrie agreed to do this, others willing to help contact her on 066 333 292

possible NEFA promotional video, photo album...

contact eco-tourism operators in region: solicit donations; stock leaflets, videos, donation forms etc

Video production - Peral Productions

Steve Happ from Feral Productions gave a report. He has produced 2 videos from NEFA actions 'Visions of Killiekrankie and Mummel 92' and 'NEFA goes to Sydney'. These are available for \$30.00 e@. Please order from Feral Productions, 3/73 Majellan Street, Lismore. 2480 Fx 066 224 063. It is important that people don't pirate copy these videos since they lose quality in taping and this denies Steve a hard earned buck.

Steve says he's very busy and needs a hand all the time now if he's not to fall behind in planned work. Needs help in production of videos and in video distribution and sales. Who can help Steve ? Drop in at 3/73 Majellan and offer to help Steve out - even for a few hours can be of assistance.

Old Growth Forests Trusts

Damon was said to be pursuing this idea with lawyers in Sydney, to set up some legal framework. No objection to Damon going on with this. Can we have more information please?

Macquarie University

Students Council has offered help and cheap printing. Great! Offers stall to NEFA in 'Green Week' beginning March 26 for 3 days Mon 26 - Wed 28. Contact: Alison Gibbins, Josh Heuchan 02 805 7629w * Who will staff stall and provide info etc?

* Carrie agreed to help prepare display material and info packs

Students, Science and Sustainability conference

Planned for Tasmania this year after very successful 1st? conference in Brisbane in 92.

* Carrie to contact S,S,S conference organisers re this year.

Sydney Gig - NEFA Benefit

Proposal for major Sydney fundraising Gig April 18 @ Bondii Pavilion.

Who can recommend bands? speakers?

* JC to follow up with Sydney organisers

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Wilderness assessments

New England Wilderness Assessment Report and Werrikimbe WA Report are both OUT NOW for public display and comment.

* Submissions on Wilderness asseesments are needed NOW! Subs close 19.4.1993 so there is time to organise to collect many.

Please ask friends, neighbours, customers et al to write even brief submissions in support of wilderness protection. Oppose 4wd access through wilderness areas, and request end to grazing and burning activities within wilderness areas. FPA and NSW Farmers are stirring up submissions opposing wilderness protection so we must make many submissions in favour.

Computer link-ups

Disk swapping now underway provides no-paper copies of NEFA submissions on EIS's and some correspondence. After BigScrub computer training now have solved MAC to IBM problems. New software has and will assist.

Comment that NEFA not using Pegasus at all at present. Issue as to confidentiality of Pegasus conference. Suggestion that NEFA revive the closed 'private' conference 'oz.forestcamp' and ask Pegasus to renew list of accessing members.

* Sid Walker to talk to Pegasus as last moderator.

* Barry, Steedy JC to upload relevant info onto closed conference for drafts, etc

* use of Pegasus conference for preparing NEFA's submission to Commonwealth Woodchip EIS suggested as major vehicle

Suggestion that other NEFA people share Barry Griffith's 'Green Alliance' login = 'ganref'. People wanting to share login contact Barry for password on 065 773 105h.

* Request to Ian Smith Lismore, that he moderate (or help moderate) oz.forestcamp' conference.

'People Commission for Forests' action update

Raw unedited video of the inside story of this action was shown on Saturday evening. Commercial videos available soon...!

Local Court action - 30 people - 70 charges !

Those people who appeared @ Hornsby or gave instructions to the Legal Aid lawyer in their absence, have been bailed to appear in Dowding Local Courts Centre on October 11-151

4 lawyers have agreed to help prepare our legal defences and will soon be asked to confer together in Sydney with those arrested. Before we can have this meeting its necessary to prepare our written statements of what happened and a written response to any specific charges.

The court actions have been a good vehicle and venue to spread the word about unlawful forest destruction.

 All PCFF Arrestees to prepare signed and witnessed written statements on the circumstances of their arrest. More info soon!
 October Court action to be a major public information activity.

Political reaction

Minister for Confrontation and Land Mismanagement (CaLM) Garry West had a Dorothy Dix Question asked of him that afternoon by Coffs. Harbour MP Andrew Fraser, which quite incorrectly referred to a 'break-in' at Forestry Commission Headquarters'. West said he'd lent over backwards to listen to NEFA but now they'd done it etc.." Peter Cochrane MP for Eden Monaro and ex-ASIO man then went on about eco-terrorism etc. Followed by Tony Packard MP for Pennant Hills carrying on about local DJ talk back freak out!

Independent MP for Manly Dr Peter Macdonald and Clover Moore MP for Bligh made carefully worded statements which turned the attack against Forestry Commission, while condemning any lawless action. The ALP sotto voce said 'top action' and officially "Such actions make it impossible to run the business of the House" and "You'll have to change your tactics if you want any support".

Democrat Richard Jones thought NEFA and Corkill had gone too far, were too radical. He had been attacked in the lower house for providing 'day pass' admissions passes to NEFA people. Don't know what Fred said. Hatton wasn't impressed but agreed that there was real pressure for change.

West says he's not talking to NEFA; and neither will FCNSW: NEFA says 'Big Deal' dialogue useless without commitment to action. With the passage of the last few months no lasting ill feelings are held about this action have been detected from our political allies. Instead West and Cochrane have built on the NEFA mythology etc.

Response to the 'Ban NEFA' Directive

The ban isn't working uniformly and has been abandoned else where. Some FCNSW staff are using the ban to distance themselves from NEFA and others are finding it a troublesome impediment.

Legal advice is that the Directive from West to Drielsma and from Drielsma to all FCNSW is unlawful: it is made without power to make such a Directive being made available under the relevant legislation - hence it is 'ultra vires'; it denies the 'presumption of innocence' in that FCNSW has decided NEFA is guilty even though the cases are yet to be heard or judged by the appropriate Local Court; the ban is a punishment which will be in addition to any penalty which may be judged appropriate by the Court and is a 'double jeopardy'; the ban was made without those named or any person associated with NEFA being heard or consulted -thus we suffering a 'denial of natural justice'.

NEFA meeting Feb 1993 - Bundagen.

* A letter to this effect to be sent to Garry West from JC

NSW Police have requested the bans lifting so that further discussions can proceed on solving logging disputes.

Advice from Jim Tedder is that the Minister Office requests that NEFA personally apologise to the staff who were upset at the peaceful occupation of the FCNSW HQ.

* JC to write carefully worded letter of apology to staff for any upset which may have been caused etc. No apology to FCNSW !

Possible 'defamation' court action - Supreme Court

Legal advice is that front page story in Daily Telegraph Mirror "Hostage Drama" is defamatory in that it names JC and NEFA. Advice is that JC defamed 3 times by FCNSW / Mannix and 3 times by TeleMirror. Solicitors letters were written to FCNSW & TeleMirror. Both have refused to apologise and will defend any action. TeleMiror has reported the story since, reasonably accurately, and is likely to cover story when it goes to trial.

Formal commencement of proceedings against FCNSW and TeleMiror await preparation of accurate statements and the findings of the Local Court on the charges. The whole question of changes to Defo laws has been affected by the ET \$362,000 pay out! Who knows...

Media coverage (see also defo above)

Media coverage was very wide, though not always very favourable. Positive reactions from Adelaide, Perth, Cairns and Tasmania! WHoa! Australian Environmental Management Review ran a good analysis story on page 1 "The passive protest that became the media sensation". This action soon to be the subject of a 'hard hitting doco drama' from Feral Productions= 'Forestry Seige'! thanx for being there. La not, ar en-acting people's combinations for forests jrc

Boral and Wood Supply Agreements (WSA's)

Copy of List of Wood Supply Agreements (WSA) made by FCNSW and various companies was tabled with correspondence from Dr Drielsma.

* Copies of WSA List/Correspondence and NEFA Summary to be included in mailout;

- * Agreed that relevant WSA should be FOI'd;
 - * Barry to FOI BORAL WSA Gloucester
 - * JC has BORAL WSA Kempsey under FOI already

* Bellingen EC to FOI BORAL WSA Dorrigo, Grafton, Urunga: Adrian??

* Clarence EC to FOI BIG RIVER TIMBERS WSA Urunga, Casino, Glen Innes, Grafton;

* JC to chase EDO on information BORAL vs FCNSW over Kempsey WSA.

Agreed that relevant Environmental Impact Statements should not proceed without the relevant economic information being made available.

Note: "Commercial confidentiality" cl.7 of FOI ACT Schedule needs review by the Ombudsman. We want public accountability of economic information derived from public assets under management by public authority.

Suggestions for BORAL Bumper sticker 'Boral: buggering our bush...' 'Boral sux'

* Who will design, pay for and distribute/ sell stickers??

Strategies for 1993

Lengthy raves about strategies. Boiled down as follows:

- Keeping up the pressure on FCNSW; through EIS's, FIS's, + court actions, FOI, EPA 'licences to pollute', Green Police etc...
- targeting vulnerable commercial companies e.g. Boral, though need to not drop pressure on FCNSW;
- training and skillshare within NEFA; FOI, computers, OGF assessment methodology, Green Police, forest camps.
- koori liaison and building alliances; .
- public education/ NEFA communication; leaflets, news articles, videos, displays, stalls, etc.
- internal computer network; disk exchange; data down the line; Pegasus -open and closed conferences

Request for 'lock on' designs

Adam Namarra Tya requests any body with lockon designs that the want proto-type building, please contact him @ Upper Main Arm. 2482.

Next NEFA gathering

Suggestion of traditional Easter Surprise for FCNSW. Venue t.b.a.

GREAT THANKS TO BUNDAGEN COMMUNITY FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

ANALYSIS OF F.C.N.S.W. WOOD SUPPLY AGREEMENTS

This document analyses the 3 page List of 24 Wood Supply Agreements (WSA's) entered into by FCMSW as @ 2.2.1993. as supplied by Dr Drielsma attached to letter of 2.2.1993. Please refer to this 3 page List. Sub-totals and summaries hereunder are annual figures based on only those annual volumes provided by FCNSW. Capital letters e.g. [B,] refer to the relevant lettered contract on FCNSW's list of WSA's. FCNSW terms 'Broadleaf' & 'Pulpwood' are used, though they should probably be read as 'native eucalypt forests' and 'woodchips'.

The WSA List is incredibly dis-organised, making the dimensions of the committed resource very difficult to understand without considerable addition. If this List is the only tabulated form recording NSW's total annual WSA commitment, it would seem FCNSW has no idea of the overall situation.

WSA's per FCNSW forest resource category

8 'Broadleaf', [A,B,C,D,E,F,U,V,]

- 1 'Broad leaf and Softwood Plantations', [X]
- 2 'Cypress Pine' [S.T]
- 13 'Softwood Plantations' [G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,O,R,W]

WSA's per company (Total of 24 WSA's to 17 different corporations) 15 Individual companies [E,I,J,K,L,M,P,Q,R,S,T,U,V,W,X]

- 3 CSR [F,G,H]
 - 10,000 tonnes 'Broadleaf' 'Pulpwood' F
 - G/H 285,000 tonnes 'Softwood Plantation' 'Pulpwood'
 - 295,000 tonnes 'Pulpwood'
- 6 BORAL [A, B, C, D, N, O,]
 - 139,624 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' ABCD
 - NO 295,000 m3 'Softwood Plantation' 'Sawlogs'
 - 22,000 m3 extra 'Sftwd Plantation' 'Sawlogs' >1994 N 456,624 m3 'Sawlogs'

WSA's per FCNSW forest product categories 7 pulpwood, [E,F,G,H,I,J,K,] 589,000 tonnes Broadleaf, [E,F] 990,000 tonnes Softwoods Plantations, [G,H,I,J,K] 150,000 tonnes extra SftWd Pltn p.a. > 1994 [] 1,729,000 tonnes 14 Sawlogs (incl. 2 Sawlogs/Veneer) [A,B,C,D,L,M,N,O,P,Q,S,T,U,V] 174,964 m3 'Broadleaf' [A,B,C,D,U,V] 708,000 m3 'Softwood Plantations'[L,M,N,O,P,Q] 33,000 m3 'Cypress Pine'[S,T] 29,000 m3 extra SftWd Pltn p.a. > 1994 [M,N] 944,964 m3 1 Veneer only [X] 9,500 m3 'Hardwood' + 4,000 m3 'Softwood Plantations' 13,500 m3 2 Timber for Preservation [R,W] eR 10,000 m3 'Softwood Plantations' 'Timber for Preservation' 20,000 m3

NEFA meeting Feb 1993 - Bundagen.

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Wood Supply Agreements (WSA's) per period Commenced... (this shows real order of WSA commancement.) 1 in 1970's 1979 = [J] 17 in 1980's [A.B.C.D.F.G.H.I.K.L.M.N.O.P.Q.R.S.] 1980 = 1[I]1981 = 1[K]1984 = 2[L,N],1985= 1[S]. 1986= 4[D,F,G,O], 1987= 1[H], 1988= 5[A,B,C,P,R], 1989= 2[M,Q] 6 in 1990's [E,T,U,V,W,X] 1990= 3[E,T,X], 1992= 3[U,V,W] Expire... 2 in 1990's [F,T] 1995 = 1[F]1999 = 1[T]19 * 2000'8 2001= 1[W] 2003= 2(L,N], 2005= 3[D,G,O], 2006= 4[H,S,U,V], 2007= 6[A,B,C,P,R,X2], 2008= 2[M,Q], 2009 = 1[E],4 in 2010's 2010= 3[I,K,X1] 2011 = 1[J]NB: (1) Big River Timbers has different 'Broadleaf' and 'Softwood' completion dates Length of WSA 10 years 3 [F,T,W] 17 years 1 [X2] 15 years 2 [U,V] 20 years 16 [A,B,C,D,E,G,H,L,M,N,O,P,Q,R,S,X1 30 years 3 [I,J,K] WSA annual resource per FCNSW Forestry Regions 14 IN SOFTWOOD PLANTATIONS [G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,Q,R,W,X2] 3 in Bathurst Oberon G,J 355,000 tonnes 'Pulpwood' . 150,000 * J extra in 1994 0 220,000 m3 'Sawlogs' 7 in Tumut Tumbarumba HIK 655,000 tonnes 'Pulpwood' 320,000 m3 'Sawlogs & Veneer' L M,N 98,000 m3 'Sawlogs & Veneer' M.N 29,000 m3 " " extra in 1994 10,000 m3 'Timber for Preservation' R 2 in Bombala 40,000 m3 'Sawlogs' P ы 10,000 m3 'Timber for Preservation' 1 in Casino Urbenville 30,000 m3 'Sawlogs & Veneers' 1 in Glen Innes Grafton 4,000 m3 'Veneer Logs' X2 ANNUAL SubTotals SOFTWOOD PLANTATION GJHIK 1,010,000 tonnes 'Pulpwood' 1,160,000 tonnes " in 1994 OP 260,000 m3 'Sawlogs' LMNQ 477,000 m3 'Sawlogs & Veneer' X2 4,000 m3 'Veneer Logs' 20,000 m3 'Timber for Preservation' RW 761,000 m3 2 in WESTERN [S,T] S 23,000 m3 'Cypress Pine' Sawlogs Т 10.000 m3 33.000 m3

22 5 in SOUTHERN [E, P, U, V, W] 579,000 tonnes of 'Broadleaf' 'Pulpwood' Ε 40,000 m3 'Softwood Plantation' 'Sawlogs' P 0/V 35,340 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' 10.000 · 'Timber for Preservation' w 2 in CENTRAL [C.F] С 21,660 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' 10,000 tonnes 'Broadleaf' 'Pulpwood' F 2 in CENTRAL/NORTHERN [B,D] 51,390 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' В D 26,044 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' 77,434 m3 3 in NORTHERN (A.O.X) A 40,530 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' 30,000 m3 'Softwood Plantation' 'Sawlogs' 0 9,500 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Veneer Peeling Logs' X1 4,000 m3 'Softwood' 'Veneer Logs' X 2 AX1 50,030 m3 'Broadleaf' logs 34,000 m3 'Softwood' logs OX2 84,030 m3 Logs 7 in NORTH EAST FORESTS (Central, C/N, Northern) [A,B,C,D,F,Q,X] С 21,660 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' 77,434 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' BD 50,030 m3 'Broadleaf' logs AX 1 QX2 34,000 m3 'Softwood' logs 183,124 m3 Logs + F 10,000 tonnes 'Broadleaf' 'Pulpwood' ANNUAL Totals : All Regions NSW Forestry Commission GJHIK 1,160,000 tonnes 'Softwood' 'Pulpwood' in 1994 579,000 tonnes 'Broadleaf' 'Pulpwood' Е F 10,000 tonnes 'Broadleaf' 'Pulpwood' 1,749,000 tonnes 'Pulpwood' UV 35,340 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' С 21,660 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' BD 77,434 m3 'Broadleaf' 'Sawlogs' 50,030 m3 'Broadleaf' saw & veneer logs AX1 184,464 m3 'Broadleaf' saw & veneer logs 260,000 m3 'Softwood Pltn' 'Sawlogs' OP LMNO 477,000 m3 'Softwood Pitn' 'Sawlogs & Veneer' QX2 34,000 m3 'Softwood' logs 'Veneer Logs' ST 33,000 m3 'Cypress Pine' 'Sawlogs 988,464 m3 'Sawlogs & Veneer' (Bdlf, Sftwd, CP) RW 20,000 m3 'Softwood Pltn''Timber for Pres' 'PULPWOOD' 'SAWLOGS & VENEER' SOFTWOOD PLANTATION 1,160,000 tonnes 771,000 m3 589,000 tonnes 184.464 m3 BROADLEAF

33,000 M3

NEFA meeting Feb 1993 - Bundagen.

CYPRESS

Sydney Morning Herald pt 24.2'93 Over logging **Commission** criticised

By DANIELLE COOK Environment Writer

The NSW Forestry Commission has moved to stem criticism of its management of the State's logging sites, following the release of a highly critical report by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

The commission released the 50-page report yesterday - four months after its completion - and announced what it called a "series of tough new measures", including spot checks on logging sites.

The report identifies many breaches of logging conditions

which have caused severe soil erosion in the Oakes State Forest. south-west of Coffs Harbour. The report carries 25 pages of photo-i graphs detailing the extent of damage in an area which has been: considered for inclusion in the New England National Park.

It states that the logging operator had no understanding of some! of the logging standards and that the forestry supervisor either had no understanding or did not check the operation. If the supervisor did understand the conditions he was unprepared to enforce them, the report states.

As a result of the poor logging

practices and management, the report estimates that almost 90,000 tonnes of soil has been lost through erosion.

To move this volume of soil, 8.814 trucks would have been required - or one truck working 40 hours a week for seven months. The Commissioner for Forests.

Dr Hans Drielsma, said yesterday the report confirmed "the need for more stringent policing of logging regulations State-wide".

He said a new team would be established to audit logging operations throughout NSW, that compliance with the best road construction standards would be

checked and that foresters, foremen and logging contractors would be offered workshops and field days to train them in erosion mitigation techniques.

But the reaction to these and other measures was sceptical. with both the logging industry and conservationists saying they contained nothing new.

A spokesman for the North East Forest Alliance, Mr Dailan Pugh, said the commission had spent the past decade assuring conservationists that logging was being properly managed in NSW.

"It's all been claimed to have been done before: foresters have

been telling us for the past decade that it's being done," Mr Pugh said. "Yet we've found them breaking every rule in the book, but we still can't get any action."

The executive director of the NSW Forest Products Association, Mr Col Dorber, said the only new measure announced vesterday was a proposed standard to mitigate against erosion. However, the standard was still to be approved by the Environment Protection Authority.

"I'm just wondering what adverse news is about to come out that they're [the commission] trying to head off," he said.

The report was requested by the commission after conservationists successfully blockaded the area early last year in an attempt to highlight the massive soil crosion and resulting contaminstion of the Bellinger River.

The North East Forest Alliance had requested the report under Freedom of Information provisions but had been denied access to its findings, Mr Pugh said.

"We've also been trying to have that area rehabilitated." he said. "A year later, the commission still hasn't got round to it. The situation is reprehensible."

Oakes + Killikrankie ress: still not made available under FOI! 24.2.93 This Soil Can Report

▲ Forestry Commission Media Release

PO Box J19, Coffs Harbour Jetty, 2450. Tel 058-52 8172; Fax 056-51 2909 -

23 February 1993

FORESTRY CRACKS DOWN ON LOGGING PRACTICES

Spot checks on logging sites is one of a series of tough new measures announced by the Commissioner for Forests, Dr Hans Drielsma, today to police logging practices in State Forests.

"We recently commissioned an independent report from the Department of Conservation and Land Management in a particular area which confirms the need for more stringent policing of logging regulations statewide," he said

"The report is highly critical of a number of soil erosion aspects of an operation in Oakes State Forest near Urunga. The Commission accepts these criticisms and is committed to rehabilitating the site as a matter of urgency."

Releasing details of the report and the new measures. Dr Drielsma said the Forestry Commission was committed to ensuring the highest level of environmental compliance in Australis.

The new measures include:

- Audits on logging operations around the State by a new audit team managed by a very experienced forester, Mr Ross Smith
- Random inspections to check rehabilitation and regeneration of previous logging sites
- Checking compliance with the best road construction standards
- Ensuring wildlife protection measures such as retained habitat trees and wildlife corridors reserves are consistent with the high standards of fauna protection specified in harvesting plans
- Policing the integrity of streamside reserves required by Standard Erosion Mitigation Conditions

- A series of workshops/field days for foresters, foremen and logging contractors in association with C&LM to provide consistent training in erosion mitigation techniques
- Development of a soil erosion mitigation accreditation scheme for forest, workers in association with C&LM
- Liaising with C&LM to develop the most suitable method for measuring soil movement in the forest
- Development of a single standard Code of Logging Practice

"We are also actively developing methods of having our operations audited by independent experts," Dr Drielsma.

"If serious problems are uncovered, appropriate action will be taken against whoever is responsible, whether it is a logging contractor or one of our own staff," Dr Drielsma said.

Some of the measures, such as the internal audit team, have already been implemented as part of a recent Commission reform and restructure, before the C&LM report.

"The Forestry Commission is totally committed to becoming a more effective, more efficient and more responsive forest manager," Dr Drielsma said.

"We must acknowledge that standards and practices that may have been acceptable 30 years ago are no longer appropriate. There is now a heightened environmental awareness combined with an increased sense of community ownership of the forests we are entrusted to manage."

For further information contact:

Ms Teresa Mannix, Director Corporate Affairs:(02)980 4568Mr Graeme King, General Manager, Northern Region:(066)52 8172Mr John Bruce, General Manager, Centrel Region:(065)52 8172Mr Col Nicholson, General Manager, Southern Region:(064)96 1547Mr Peter Crowe, General Manager, Softwoods Region:(060)23 9911Mr Peter Harper, General Manager, Western Region:(068)84 5288

MATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF MSW

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

Dr Hans Drielsma, Commissioner, Forestry Commission of NSW, Locked Bag 23, Pennant Hills NSW 2120

21st Dec, 1992

Dear Dr Drielsma,

I am writing subsequent to our meeting in late October.

On behalf of the Nature Conservation Council, I would like to thank you and your colleague John Halkett, for for making time available to us at that meeting. Your suggestion of further meetings on a periodic basis was noted, and I will get back to you in the new year once the Council's Executive has had a further opportunity to discuss the matter.

I indicated at the recent meeting that there were a couple of issues on which I would seek clarification in correspondence.

Wood Supply Agreements

* attach the list of wood supply agreements which I believe you sent previously to Milo Dunphy at the Total Environment Centre. Could you confirm that the list is current? Are there any additions? If so-please itemize them.

The Council is deeply concerned about the wood supply agreements which the Commission has signed with regard to non-plantation forests. At the meeting, you suggested that these agreements constitute de facto resource security? Could you clarify what you meant by that? In the event that the State of NSW becomes unable or unwilling to provide the quantities of wood (sawlogs and/or pulpwood) specified in these agreements, what (if any) legal redress could the affected companies seek? In other words, to what extent has the NSW Forestry Commission bound future Governments with compensation clauses if they seek to discontinue current wooc supply commitments?

Please explain why, if these wood supply agreements do constitute effective 'resource security', the Commission seeks further legislative action on this front. In other words, why is it necessary to legislate for 'resource security? What 'escape clauses' (if any) has the Commission withitten into these wood supply agreements to protect the State's coffers and provide flexibility for Governments in the future?

Finally, the Council requests that could supply us with copies of each of these wood supply agreements. The Council does not believe that secrecy is permissible on matters of such importance to the community in NSW.

The Commission's Ecological Expertise

The Council would be grateful if you could outline the ecological expertise currently employed by the Forestry Commission in detail, describing the number of staff with specific qualifications in conservation biology and forest ecology and the qualifications which they hold. Do you believe the Commission has sufficient expertise in these areas, and does the Commission have plans to increase it in the future? If so, please provide details.

Finally, on another matter, the Nature Conservation Council notes that the NSW Government recently signed the 'National Forest Policy Statement'. You will be aware that the document includes the following text:

"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 urgently seeks information from you on how the Commission intends to comply with this commitment?

page 2

We look forward to your resonse to these queries,

Yours sincerely,

Sid Walker Executive Officer

CURRENT WOOD SUPPLY AGREEMENTS WITH FORESTRY COMMISSION OF NSW

as at 2 February 1993

[NAME OF COMPANY	PERIOD OF AGREEMENT	FOREST TYPE	PRODUCT ANNUAL SUPPLY	REGION OF SUPPLY	DISTRICT
A	Allen Taylor & Co Ltd (Boral Timber Division	1.1.88 to 31.12.2007	Broadleaf	Sawlogs 40,530m ³	Northem Forestry Region	Dorrigo Grafton Urunga
B	Allen Taylor & Co Ltd (Boral Timber Division)	1.1.88 to 31.12.2007	Broadleaf	Sawiogs 51,390m ³	Central/Northern Forestry Region	Kempsey Wauchope Urunga
С	Allen Taylor & Co Ltd (Boral Timber Division)	1.1.88 to 31.12.2007	Broadleaf	Sawlogs 21,660m ³	Central Forestry Region	Gloucester
D	Duncans Holdings Ltd (Boral Timber Division)	1.1.86 to	Broadleaf	Sawlogs 26,044m ³	Central/Northern Forestry Region	Taree Urunga
E	Harris Daishowa (Aust) Pty Ltd	1.1.90 to 31.12.2009	Broadleaf	Pulpwood Eden 504,000 tonnes B/Bay 75,000 tonnes	Southern Forestry Region	All except Moss Vale
P	CSR Ltd	1.1.86 to 31.12.95	Broadleaf	Pulpwood Approx. 10,000 tonnes	Central Forestry Region	Morisset Bulandelah
G	CSR Ltd	1.1.86 to 31.12.2005	Softwood Plantations	Pulpwood * 125,000 tonnes	Softwoods Forestry Region	Bathurst Oberon
H	CSR Ltd	1.1.87 to 31.12.2006	Softwood Plantations	Pulpwood * 160,000 tonnes	Softwoods Forestry Region	Tumut Tumbarumba

* Volumes refer to roundwood and sawmill residue

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(NAME OF COMPANY	PERIOD OF AGREEMENT	FOREST TYPE	PRODUCT ANNUAL SUPPLY	REGION OF SUPPLY	DISTRICT
I	Aust Newsprint Mills	17.7.80 to 30.6.2010	Softwood Plantations	Pulpwood 323,000 tonnes (Being amended)	Softwoods Forestry Region	Tumut Tumbarumba
J	Woodland, Ltd	31.8.79 to 31.8.2011	Softwood Plantations	Pulpwood * 230,000 tonnes by 1994 380,000 tonnes (also sawmill option)	Softwoods Forestry Region	Bathurst Oberon
K	Laminex (Australia) Pty	9.1.81 to 8.1.2010	Softwood Plantations	Pulpwood * 172,000 tonnes	Softwoods Forestry Region	Tumut Tumbarumba
i	Softwood Holdings Ltd	1.1.84 to 31.12.2003	Softwood Plantations	Sawlogs & Veneer 320,000m ³	Softwoods Forestry Region	Tumut Tumbarumba
M	Albury Sawmilling Co Pty Ltd	1.1.89 to 31.12.2008	Softwood Plantations	Sawlogs 23,000m ³ by 1994 30,000m ³	Softwoods Forestry Region	Tumut Tumbarumba
N	Hardys Pty Ltd (Boral Timber Division)	1.1.84 to 31.12.2003	Softwood Plantations	Sawlogs 75,000m ³ by 1994 97,000m ³	Softwoods Forestry Region	Tumut Tumbarumba
Q	Timber Industries Ltd (Boral Timber Division)	1.1.86 to 31.12.2005	Softwood Plantations	Sawlogs 220,000m ³	Softwoods Forestry Region	Bathurst Oberon
P	Softwood Holdings Ltd	1.1.88 to 31.12.2007	Softwood Plantations	Sawlogs 40,000m ³	Southern Forestry Region	Bombala .
Q	North Coast Plywood Products Pty Ltd	1.1.89 to 31.12.2008	Softwood Plantations	Sawlogs & Veneers 30,000m ³	Northern Forestry Region	Casino Urbenville

- 2 -

* Volumes refer to roundwood and sawmill residue

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	NAME OF COMPANY	PERIOD OF AGREEMENT	FOREST TYPE	PRODUCT ANNUAL SUPPLY	REGION OF SUPPLY	DISTRICT
R	Australian Pine industries Pty Ltd	1.1.88 to 31.12.2007	Softwood Plantations	Timber for Preservation 10,000m ³	Softwoods Forestry Region	Tumbarumba
9	Pilliga Cypress Pty Ltd	1.1.85 to 31.12.2006	Cypress Pine	Sawlogs Maximum 23,000m ³ (Under review)	Western Forestry Region	Baradine
Ţ	Gulargambone Cypress Pty Ltd	1.1.90 to 31.12.1999	Cypress Pine	Sawiogs 10,000m³	Western Forestry Region	Baradine Dubbo
U	Tablelands Sawmills Pty Ltd	1.1.92 to 31.12.2006	Broadleat	Sawlogs 33,505m ³	Southern Forestry Region	Bombala Eden
	Coastline Timbers Pty Ltd	1.1.92 to 31.12.2006	Broadleaf	Sawlogs 1,835m³	Southern Forestry Region	Bombala Eden .
W	Monaro Treated Timbers Pty Ltd	1.1.92 to 31.12.2001	Softwood Plantations	Timber for Preservation 10,000m ³	Southern Forestry Region	Bombala
\times	Big River Timbers Pty Ltd \times 1 \times 2	1.1.91 to 31.12.2010 Softwood to 31.12.2007	Broadleaf and Softwood Plantations	Veneer logs Hardt 2000 9,500m ³ Softwor 1 4,070m ³	Northern Forestry Region	Urunga Casino Glen Innes Grafton

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PO Box J19, Coffs Harbour Jetty, 2450. Tel 068-52 8172; Fex 066-51 2909

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Some of the measures, such as the internal audit team, have already been implemented as part of a recent Commission reform and restructure, before the C&LM report.

"The Forestry Commission is totally committed to becoming a more effective, more efficient and more responsive forest manager," Dr Drielsma said.

"We must acknowledge that standards and practices that may have been acceptable 30 years ago are no longer appropriate. There is now a heightened environmental awareness combined with an increased sense of community ownership of the forests we are entrusted to manage."

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A REVIEW OF THE 1992-1995 CORPORATE PLAN OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION OF NSW IN RELATION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVES

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Summary

The Forestry Commission has issued a new Corporate Plan in response to significant criticism of its operations, in particular the protection of the environment and public good concerns. But is it a step forward or more of ths same?

However, it still suffers from a narrow policy making philisophy with the Corporate Plan ignoring the pressure for a new balance and subjugating environment protection to commercial objectives.

Despite the Commission's stated 'support' of external regulation of its environmental activities it also actively supports blanket removal of such regulation.

The Commission has continued to maintain the cosy relationship with the timber industry, as evidenced in its narrow consultation process on reform of pricing and licence policies.

As currently structured, with its 'new mission', the Commission will be unable to assist implementation of the National Forest Policy Statement, and in fact will be a prime cause of continued conflict.

1 The Corporate Plan

1.1 Background

In the last few years the Forestry Commission has come under increasing attack for environmental and economic irresponsibility in its management of native and plantation forests. While there had been various ad hoc critiques by conservation groups and some academics, the most significant assessment of the Commission was the report of the NSW Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC 1990).

More recently the reports of the Resource Assessment Commission (1991); renewed attacks on the illegal operations of the Commission for contravention of environmental impact statement and endangered fauna laws; and the National Forest Policy Statement have contributed to the pressure towards reform of the Commission.

In an address to the ATF Conference (1992) the current Chief Executive, Hans Drielsma highlighted several new initiatives in the areas of:

* commercialisation;

* a level environmental playing field;

* organisational reform;

* breaking through the image barrier.

He commented:

'We are resolved to crash through the image barrier. We will show that the tags given us by pressure groups and the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee are totally irrelevant to what we are now'. (p14)

and in relation to commercialisation:

'Although the government has been reviewing the feasibility of corporatising the Forestry Commission, the public policy and property rights issues arising from the environmental sensitivity of the Commission's primary assets - the forests - has led to a deferral of formal corporatisation, and the adoption of the commercialisation model'. (p7)

The key questions addressed in this review are:

- Does the Commission's corporate plan achieve the protection of the public interest, in particular the environment; and
- Is the Commission really different to their previous image, under the commercialisation process?

1.2 Corporate management and objectives

The NSW Government has adopted five criteria for corporate management of the public sector:

1. Clarity of objectives, with clear separation of commercial, non-commercial, policy and regulatory functions.

2. Managerial authority.

3. Performance monitoring.

4. Rewards and sanctions tied to performance.

5. Competitive neutrality.

(Corporate Plan 1992)

Objective 1 is a crucial issue and the Public Accounts Committee stressed the confusion of objectives that infected the Forestry Commission:

'From a management point of view, the Committee believes that the Commission's principle problem is a lack of focus. This lack of focus is ingrained in the corporate culture and justified under the title "multiple use forest management"...

'The lack of focus is built into the Commission's organisational structure with commercial and non-commercial work, plantation and native forestry occurring within individual units, and often within the daily routine of individual employees. Under these circumstances, the Committee wonders how the Commission can possibly achieve a level of excellence which is necessary to compete internationally against highly focussed professional organisations...'

'By dividing the Commission into units which have single objectives (eg profit maximisation for each product line, conservation of non-wood values for the non-commercial sector), the Committee believes the present inefficiencies and conflicts of interest which hinder the Commission in its performance, and require high levels of administrative staff, and which have caused much public disaffection with the Commission would be significantly reduced'. (ppxii-xiii)

2 The Mission

Implicit in the thrust of the PAC's recommendation is that the subjugation of environmental objectives to commercial objectives will cease and that a viable balance will be achieved.

The PAC observed the 'conflict of interest' in regulating the supply of timber from native forests and deriving commercial benefit from that supply (p127), noting that there was closed decision making with a close relationship with the paying customer - the timber industry. It proposed that the single multi-purpose Commission be split into a number of single-purpose divisions.

While the generic regional structure devised by the Commission partly responds to the PAC's suggestion of division of units (see 'Restructuring and Commercialising the NSW Forestry Commission - April 1992), neither the mission, nor the problems have changed.

3

The Corporate Plan states:

'The core business of the Commission is the management of the forests of New South Wales. Integral to the core business is ecologically sustainable management of forests, while maximising the value of the forest assets and return to Government through the supply of timber and other forest related goods and services to the community'.

A few paragraphs below, this is put even more simply:

'Community expectations are currently dominated by a demand for protection of our native forest heritage. Within this context the Commission will emphasise environmental responsibility while maintaining commercial viability'. (p1)

Thus environmental matters whether long term or short term that do not fit into the Commission's concept of commercial viability will be discarded.

The key problem remains - the control of policy making by the Commission is based on a narrow band of commercially orientated professionals. The commercial perspective cannot satisfactorily account for the public environmental interest in the forests. Nor have the Commission's 'improved' methods of public consultation made any significant difference to their mission (see also 5 below).

It is important to note that while the Commission acknowledges the public policy issues involved in corporatisation, it is in reality acting as if it had been corporatised, rather than merely commercialised. It has very strong tenure over the public resource - state forests. In this context a broad view of the asset is essential.

Thus the demand for greater external influence on policy, by for example a Board of external community and expert people imposed on the Commission; changes to the statutory objectives of the Commission; a system of tripartite agreements between industry conservation groups and the Commission (as suggested by the PAC); and increased external regulation of the Commission's environmental impacts - are crucial arrangements that have yet to be satisfactorily addressed.

3 External regulation.

On the surface the Commission accepts external regulation of its activities:

'The Commission will encourage sound formal regulation by external bodies for the whole forest industry to improve financial, environmental and operating activities. External audits will be an important tool in independent performance assessment of our forest management'. (Corp Plan p1)

Further, during the ongoing debate about the new Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act the Chief Executive accepted that the regulatory environment was 'substantially in place', in particular, water pollution licences issued by the Environment Protection Authority; eis determination by the Department and Planning and Minister for Planning; and endangered fauna control by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (ATC Conference May 1992). The Commission has still to comply with the responsibilities of the Heritage Act in regard to cultural and aboriginal resources.

However, from the Commission's view, such regulation must be on the Commission's terms and where possible removed.

This is the true position of the Commission as exposed in their support of the Natural Resources Package during 1992. Their Corporate Plan sets a target for parliamentary passage of the Package (described as 'achieve revision by Government, of environmental approval process) by December 1992.

In fact the Package removed the endangered fauna approval process supposedly endorsed by the Chief Executive in May 1992. It also relieved the need for further eis into timber production forests and supplanted external regulation with self regulation under the control of the Commission. Of note is that this part of the Corporate Plan while in the main section 'Ecologically Sustainable Management', was specifically in the part that dealt with resource security. There is also deep concern in some political and community circles that the Commission is all-to-prone to use economic threats to gain its way on environmental regulation matters.

In sum the Commission still intends to exert political and internal government pressure to subjugate environment protection to commercial interest.

4 Economic returns

In the past the subsidy via low royalties and management work to timber production has been identified as an impediment to removal of logging from environmentally sensitive areas. Often these were steep lands and the lack of economic charges for roads, soil erosion and loss of habitat amounted to significant factors.

It was argued that if real costs were passed on then the logging would not occur. (Nevertheless some logging would still take place as the market could absorb higher prices for value-added products).

The Corporate Plan calls for the Commission to, 'maximise the value of the forest asset and the financial return to government' (p13). A primary compensation for having to pay higher prices will be longer term agreements, which are in fact a form of resource security carrying with them a diminution of environmental control. In the context of the commercialisation mentality in the Commission, it is inevitable that environmental objectives will be relegated a lower priority.

It is also important to realise that the establishment of the commercial performance objectives and specifically timber pricing and tendering policies were undertaken after consultation only with the timber industry. No other community interest, in particular environmental groups were consulted. The Commission's discussion paper 'Hardwood Log Allocation and Pricing' (June 1992), outlined the process:

The Commission consulted 'a representative group' of hardwood log customers in November 1991. Submissions and a 15 page document from the Forest Products Association (FPA) resulted. The proposals were reviewed by the Commission who provided an update to the FPA quarterly executive meeting on 20 February 1992. In May 1992 the Red Gum sawmillers and VAFI were consulted.

As a result of this exclusive process the speed of change appears to have been modified and greater stress placed on long term agreements.

The Public Accounts Committee commented on this aspect:

'...on the vital aspect of pricing, the Committee believes that there is very strong evidence that the Commission pays great attention to the requirements of industry, and that industry's input into the decision making process is very significant. Additionally, whenever the issue arises of making more forest available for logging, the Commission appears to come down strongly on the side of industry to expand the harvestable forest area' (p163)

Given the importance of this issue (highlighted in the environmental critiques of the Commission rather than by timber industry interests) and the predominant influence of the commercial culture in the Commission, this policy development process is a matter of serious concern. It also contradicts the objective of the Commission to be 'more externally focussed and forward thinking' 'encouraging community participation in decision making'. (p1)

5 National Forest Policy Statement

Late in 1992 the NSW, Commonwealth and other state Governments signed the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS). In regards to implementation, the NFPS states:

'All the Governments take seriously their responsibilities for implementing these policies, and they are committed to ensuring that policy implementation occurs as a matter of priority'. (p42)

4

The Policy calls for, 'dedicated nature conservation reserve systems to protect native forest communities, based on the principles of comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness' (p8-9). Such reserves are of course under the control of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. High priority is given to old growth forest and wilderness with a reserve system to be in place by 1995.

Transition of the timber industry out of old growth forests is highlighted in the Policy with the Governments agreeing to facilitate the change from old growth to regrowth and plantations. Further the Policy acknowledges the role of structural adjustment assistance to minimise adverse social and economic impacts caused by change in the availability and quality of wood resources.

The Forestry Commission as currently structured and under its new Corporate Plan cannot implement the NFPS and in fact will be the prime cause of continued conflict, despite the objectives of the NFPS, because it does not (and cannot) agree with the Policy.

Further evidence of the survival of its 'old mission' is found in the first round of environmental impact statements mandated by the TIIP Act (Mt Royal, Dorrigo, Glenn Innes, Wingham). Essentially there is no change from the position it took during the rainforest dispute of the early 1980's, despite scoping of the eis in the community.

It still offers the minimal conservation option (about 10% of forest available for timber production given to new conservation areas under Commission control, with non-productive forest zoned insecurely as of limited or nil availability); does not suggest new national parks; ignores facilitating the transition to regrowth or plantations (including pine); and makes no mention of the possibility of structural adjustment and retraining of workers.

The Commission has fundamental deficiencies in its mission and structure that makes it blind to conflict resolution and the required urgent implementation of the NFPS.

References

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PAK-POY & KNEEBONE PTY LTD

Finally I would like to record our enthusiasm at the prospect of undertaking this project for your Council and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

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