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I have recently had occasion to more closely examine the current *SEPP-15 Guide* published by DUAP in connection with the release of SEPP-15 in 1998.

A Draft of this *Guide* was presented to us at the meetings held Bellingen and in Byron Bay in 1997.

At the Byron Bay meeting reference was made by DUAP to the *Multiple Occupancy of Rural Lands: Users Manual* as prepared by TAG in 1989.

You will no doubt recall that the First Draft of this Manual occurred in June 1986 (with a pink cover) and a second version in August 1986 (with a yellow cover).

The revised and expanded manuscript submitted by TAG in 1989 was typed up by the Department but no action was taken to publish same due to a change of the Government. (SEPP-15 was repealed in 1994).

You will no doubt recall my subsequent discussions with you in regard to my trying to locate and obtain a hard copy (or disc) of the Manual as typed by the Department.

I discovered that this material was held on disc in the Grafton office of the Department but they would not release same to me without the approval of Kibble which was not forthcoming.

So it was with some delight to me that when the Department made reference to this Draft at our meeting with them in 1997 in Byron Bay and I asked for a copy, they agreed to supply same!

In due course I received this copy which is dated 1989. I attach a copy of the *Preface* to this Draft which as you will see acknowledges the contribution made by TAG.

I now discover that the present 1998 *SEPP-15 Guide* is an emasculated version of the 1989 version with slabs of the 1989 material used verbatim!

I am very disappointed that the Department have not had the courtesy to acknowledge the years of formative work by the TAG group.

What they have done amounts in my view, to plagiarism!

I propose seeking comment from Pan Com members with a view to our writing to Sue Holliday on this matter with a request for an apology and an undertaking that in the event of the Department needing to reprint this *Guide* that they amend same by including an acknowledgment to TAG.

An alternative to this is to have the *Erratum* attachment to the present handout, expanded to give an appropriate acknowledgment to TAG.

Your comment on this or an alternative course of action would be appreciated.

Peter 16.5.99