

SAVE COLONG bulletin

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WILL CONSERVATIONISTS HAVE TO FIGHT THE WRAN GOVERNMENT?

Last June the National Parks Association of N.S.W. published a review¹ titled "The Environmental Promises of Labor". N.P.A. Executive Secretary, Peter Prineas, all but endorsed the Labor Platform:

'The striking feature of the platform,' he wrote, 'is the absence of platitudes, ambivalence and vague and meaningless rhetoric which so often characterises policy statements of this kind (cf the Liberal and National Country Parties' Environment and Conservation Policy, November 1975: "4 . . . we will — within our constitutional limits, reject projects that can be demonstrated to do substantial injury to the environment unless the national interest dictates otherwise"). A platform which includes requirements for specific action such as the immediate revocation of the Mineral Deposits Ltd. Mining Lease for the Smiths Lake High Dunes, obviously has something to recommend it."

Then followed four pages of detailed quotation from Labor's environmental programme — to the undoubted amazement of some of the more staid readers of the National Parks Journal. Many however were aware of the rapid growth of Labor's environmental policy. N.P.A. State Councillor and A.C.F. Vice President Milo Dunphy repeatedly hailed Labor's new environment policies in his lectures around the state as 'by far the best policies we have ever seen from any party in mainland Australia'.² But several of this enthusiast's more experienced friends on the Colong Committee have been heard to mutter; 'promises, promises . . .'

IS LABOR OPTING OUT OF THE ENVIRONMENT?

This is the question the conservation movement began to ask in the current issue of Ecology Action's newsletter.³ It's a special, devoted to the woodchip industry, headed:

"Premier Wran v the woodchip lobby.

"Premier Neville Wran has publicly committed himself to protect the forests of N.S.W. from the ravages of further woodchipping.

"Will he keep his promise or will the Japanese paper industry push him aside and start another environmentally disastrous woodchip scheme in his State?"

As you read this, other conservation groups around the State are beginning to tot up Wran's record. He started off badly by dividing the Planning and Environment portfolio in two. He won points however by a rapid revision of the situation, appointing the young and energetic Paul Landa as Minister for Planning and Environment. Landa is showing himself to be an intelligent advocate for the environment cause, but can he command sufficient votes in Cabinet's Development Co-ordinating Committee of which he is Chairman? Landa has wisely equipped himself with an adviser in the shape of John Whitehouse, secretary of Labor's Environment Policy Committee which conceived the policies. It might be asked whether Whitehouse will physically survive under the stresses of a demanding Minister, a reluctant bureaucracy, a number of active opponents on Cabinet, and the increasing number of conservation office bearers who find for the first time that they can discuss their environmental issues with a sympathetic ministerial adviser?

ACCESSIBILITY OF MINISTERS

Indeed, the greatest advantage the Wran Government has demonstrated to date is the much greater accessibility of some Ministers and their immediate staff. The Colong Committee never managed to interview Mr Lewis in his long years of office, despite many requests and despite the fact the Committee represented 180 societies on Colong and 100 on the Boyd. But today we can expect to see the Minister for Planning and Environment or his adviser within the week. Like Lewis, Mr Askin consistently refused to meet the Committee but no trouble has been found in meeting Mr Wran.

Landa made a substantial gesture towards public participation in planning discussions when he invited conservation representatives to the joint ministerial inspections of woodchip proposals at Coffs Harbour recently.

Wran himself has shown an outstanding personal sympathy for the concerns of conservation minded sections of the community. His symposium on the baiting of dingoes with 1080, and acceptance of the position of patron of a dingo breeding society show a real affinity with changing values in society (and a politician's flair for eroding the base of his opponents — in this case those strongholds of the Country Party, the Pasture Protection Boards).

Wran also quickly ended a long-standing dispute by dismissing the case for the Duffy's Forest airfield and ordering the area's addition to Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

The Premier's most substantial gesture to date has been his promise of the dedication of 400,000 acres including most of the Warragamba Catchment, as a Southern Blue Mountains National Park. This promise gained after deputations from a joint committee organised by the Colong Committee includes a firm indication of interest in the 1932 Greater Blue Mountains National Park scheme. Bringing the Premier's promise to fruition unfortunately means dragging a reluctant National Parks and Wildlife Service into action, annoyed that its internal system of priorities has been upset.

MINISTER FOR LANDS — CRABTREE

Which brings us to the Minister for Lands, the Hon. William Crabtree. The Colong Committee remembers Bill Crabtree's attempt to win Colong in Parliament with some amusement and considerable gratitude. But as Minister for Lands in charge of the N.S.W. Parks system he could only be described as a millstone around the government's neck. He finds himself in charge of National Parks about which he knows nothing. He commenced his Ministry by approving the alienation of public parkland at Epping for a bowling club. He angered the conservation movement by allowing stock agistment in Kosciusko National Park despite good rains in drought affected areas before the stock were moved. He made a pitiful attempt to justify his decision by reference to the Kosciusko Management Plan's provision for grazing as a management tool.

Early in his Ministry Crabtree introduced a policy summed up in the slogan "Parks for People". In practice this began to look dangerously like the pre-Lewis Parks Trust's policy of maximum roading of parks for motorised tourists. And he made a number of statements reversing the previous policy of moving coastal caravan parks back from the fragile shore lines.

A SELF DESTRUCTING MINISTER

The Minister for Lands seems hell bent on self destruction. He is pressing ahead with his Lord Howe Island Amendment Bill seemingly blind to strong moves from both sides of Parliament for substantial amendments. Lord Howe Island is the southernmost coral cay in the world with many unique species. It ought to be classified under the World Heritage Convention but Bill Crabtree does not intend it even to be a National Park. He is opposed by the entire conservation movement, most islanders and substantial numbers of his fellow parliamentarians.

Total Environment Centre has made representations seeking restoration of 85,000 acres removed from Kosciusko National Park under Lewis for Forestry. Crabtree's reply today parrots the Liberal's case, formerly in Parliament, when attacked by a succession of Labor spokesmen, for this, the biggest grab of parkland ever seen in N.S.W. Why should a Labor Minister support a Liberal Park grab, strongly opposed by his own party?

Akuna Bay Marina in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is a somewhat similar case. The National Parks Association and Friends of Ku-ring-gai Chase opposed the former Liberal Government's distortion of the Management Plan's provision for a marina at Akuna Bay. Crabtree inherited from the previous government a scheme which will be the biggest marina anywhere in N.S.W. let alone in the middle of a national park. With the marina will come a host of problems, including noise, water pollution, excessive motor traffic, vast parking areas etc.

Armed with the legal opinion of Murray Wilcox, Q.C., the two societies politely but firmly asked Crabtree whether he would review the matter. Crabtree's immediate reaction was that he would contest the matter strongly in the courts. This is not a 'parks for people' issue. The marina represents a substantial assault on a hard-pressed park by a wealthy minority — few of whom will ever vote Labor.

To the conservation movement the marina represents a test case to ensure that management plans retain their efficacy as park planning schemes, and are not subject to bureaucratic whim or political manipulation. If Crabtree forces the societies to Court it will be Labor that loses, irrespective of the Court's decision.

On major issues like the North Coast and Tablelands Woodchip proposal, Crabtree has been publicly silent. In Cabinet he is said to support the exploitation lobby despite the published opposition of his own National Parks and Wildlife Service.

As one Colong Committee Member remarked: "Tom Lewis is looking better every day."

Crabtree's one positive contribution to date has been a commitment to a target by this Government of dedicating 5% of the State as parkland. Only the Premier's move to dedicate the Southern Blue Mountains National Park has so far shown the public any real hope of moving towards a doubling of the present provision of national parkland in the State.

THE HON. DON DAY, MINISTER FOR DECENTRALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Don Day is a different kettle of fish entirely. He is the inheritor of the development tradition formerly espoused by Country Party Ministers Leon Punch, Sir John Fuller and George Freudenstein. Indeed he is sometimes accused by the Labor Left of being the Country Party's representative within the Labor Party. He holds the rural seat of Casino by the narrowest margin. His personal philosophy is strongly reinforced by that of the Department which he now heads — a department responsible for carving the Augourie Tourist Development site out of the proposed Augourie National Park.

More recently Decentralisation and Development set out to discredit the Report of the State Pollution Control Commission on North Coast woodchipping applications. The S.P.C.C. inquiry was partly held in public session. By Ministerial directive its report, generally favourable to the conservation case, was withheld for six months. D. and D. prepared its own report in secrecy and released it first, contradicting the environmental inquiry even though D. and D. can claim no expertise in environmental matters. D. and D. also made strong efforts to influence Coffs Harbour Council in favour of woodchip.

THE HON. P. D. HILLS, MINISTER FOR MINES, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Environmentalists with long memories will remember Pat Hills as a former Minister for Local Government with a reputation for forceful decision making. He made the land release decision which destroyed Sydney's green belt and with it the Cumberland County Council. When in despair at Sydney's sprawling growth the reader should remember Mr Hills with some anger.

It was Mr Hills as Labor Leader at a subsequent election who stated he would be making an election statement on conservation, which was to have included Labor's policy restricting beachmining. No such statements were in fact made and the questions "what happened to that policy" and "why" may never be publicly answered.

But prior to the last State election State Labor Council did resolve upon a policy which would reject beachmining from the coastal parks. Labor also said it would expel Mineral Deposits Ltd. from the High Dunes immediately north of the existing boundaries of Myall Lakes National Park as a matter of urgency. These promises have not been made good. Instead Mr Hills is proposing approval be given to operation of additional mining leases in the parks. The most notable of his approvals is a lease on the lower Myall River extending southwards from the beautiful Grasswater. Mining operations are also proposed in the only two North Coast parks which have not yet seen mining: Hat Head and Minnie Water.

Soon after commencing his Ministry Mr Hills was interviewed by Milo Dunphy and Dr Geoff Mosley (Vice President and Director respectively of the Australian Conservation Foundation). Subject matter was the fulfilment of Labor's policy platform to appoint an inquiry into the Bungonia/Marulan limestone mining operation. Mr Hills seemed disinclined to proceed with the promised inquiry and nothing has been heard of it since.

Yet Bungonia represents one of the most aggressively pro-developer decisions of the Liberal/Country Party Government. What conservationists won from the companies in two public Mining Wardens Courts was lost to the newly amalgamated Company in a secret inquiry. Now the Amalgamated Company has a lease of over 220 million tons of recoverable, mostly high grade limeone — over 100 years' supply at the increasing rate of demand. With the limestone go thousands of acres of public parkland along the scenic edges of Bungonia Gorge and Barber's Creek.

The strange part about Mr Hills' championship of the beachminer's case is that the conservation societies' claims and the Labor Party's policy threaten nobody's job. Each company has a variety of alternative leases on which it can operate. Many beachmining leases contain a clause allowing the Government to cancel them for a public purpose without compensation. The government might however be expected to pay compensation for the cost of reassembling the dredge on another site. But any question of the payment of \$50 million as recompense for profits foregone (which Mr Hills canvassed with Dunphy and Mosley) is absurd.

THE HON. LIN GORDON, MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION AND WATER RESOURCES

Little can be said about Mr Gordon other than that he seems content to faithfully put forward the Forestry Commission line. This policy brings him into direct conflict with the doubts expressed by the Premier at Coffs Harbour regarding the reliance which can be placed on the Commission to preserve our forests. The Commission is leading Mr Gordon to disregard the warnings of the State Pollution Control Commission inquiry regarding woodchipping.

Apart from the festering woodchip sore at Eden and its potential spread to all our Northern forests, Mr Gordon's most difficult issue is the logging of the Border Ranges rainforests. As each week goes by in Cabinet deadlock or deferral, the precious rainforest is being torn apart. Direct intervention by the Premier has saved 5000 acres for the time being on Lever's Plateau, but Lin Gordon may be incapable of understanding the tragic destruction his Department condones in Wiangarie rainforest.

A minister who continues to condone Forestry refusal to make copies of its management plans public is not a minister who will reinforce the Wran Government's endorsement by an increasingly conservation-minded electorate.

LABOR'S POLITICAL DILEMMA

Dr Martin Painter, a lecturer in Government at Sydney University, recently summed up Labor's dilemma.¹

"The traditional ascendancy of producer groups and the development ethos are under attack in state politics. The dominance of development oriented departments and policies has come under challenge, particularly from the environmental lobby, resident action groups and consumers. These changes have coincided in New South Wales with a change of government. The new Labor government is faced with a problem of updating the state's governmental machinery, and formulating policies more appropriate to the new array of demands. Their job is made difficult by the entrenchment of development interests in the Labor Party and in the machinery of government itself. The problem is not simply one of shaking off old assumptions and adopting new ideas and programmes; rather is it a political and administrative task of reconciling the new demands with the still very powerful and persuasive traditional pressures for economic development."

Labor's job will not be made easier by the abandonment of extensive sections of its published platform. And it will not help if the diehard developers on cabinet destroy the credibility of the best Premier we have seen for many years in this State.

¹ See National Parks Journal, June/July 1976.

² He states the United Tasmania Group (U.T.G.) policies are better, being a fundamental basis for the whole party platform.

³ Ecology Action, January 1977, Vol. 6.

⁴ Current Affairs Bulletin, January 1977.

TREES

Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky. We fell them down and turn them into paper that we may record our emptiness.

Kahlil Gibran

WILDERNESS IN AUSTRALIA

"Every Australian child should be allowed to go walkabout in a place of peace and serenity to dream and to find himself away from noise and smoke and a polluted sky.

"Our children are still the lucky ones.

"They still have the chance to find close at hand the beauty of bushland and the wonder of our wildlife unchanged and neither poisoned nor smeared by the graffiti of what their elders call progress."

Evonne Goolagong

"Our last wilderness is rapidly disappearing under the assaults of increasing population and an aggressive technology. Australia, unlike so many countries, still has a chance to set aside a few major wilderness areas. But that chance will soon be lost."

Report on the National Estate

The above quotations commence the first detailed study of wilderness in Australia.

The research for the study was carried out by Mr Peter Helman, under the direction of a project team from the Dept. of Geography, University of New England which included Alan D. Jones, John J. Pigram and Jeremy M. B. Smith. The head of the Department, Professor Ian Douglas, played a vital role in the early stages of the project.

The study was one of three undertaken under the National Estate Programme, with funds provided by the Australian Government, as a result of applications made to the Commission by the Colong Committee.

The study was one of a number financed by the Technical Assistance Grants under the Whitlam Government's National Estate Program. Another, the Conservation of Native Forests of N.S.W. Study by a group of academics under Dr Fred Bell for Total Environment Centre is also about to be published. This study defines the areas which should be permanently reserved as samples of forest communities in N.S.W.

Were it not for the total abandonment of this modest set of grants by the Fraser Government the Colong Committee would now be applying for funds for a third study; on the natural areas which should be preserved for recreational purposes in N.S.W.

The wilderness forest sampling and recreation studies would provide for the first time a comprehensive claim on the remaining natural lands of eastern N.S.W. for National Parks.

Several previous studies have been carried out for the N.S.W. National Parks and Wildlife Service. The N.S.W. Liberal Government repeatedly refused to make them available to the public. (Nevertheless copies may be viewed in Total Environment Centre's library.) The major study by the scientific Advisory Committee to the N.S.W. Minister for lands is helpful but insufficiently detailed.

Of course the two new studies shed light on only a fraction of the problem of wilderness conservation. The New England University Wilderness Study covers an area in the south west of Australia, almost entirely within the State of New South Wales. Though this is a most important area, because it is where so many people live, it covers only a small proportion of the Commonwealth. It must be inferred from the cessation of the research programme at this point that the Commonwealth Government doesn't want to know any more about the location, condition and adequacy of our wilderness remnants. This attitude is opposed to the wishes of the Australian people, as indicated by a sample survey conducted by K. McHenry in Victoria in 1975 (Study page 2).

The Colong Committee, in its application to the Heritage Commission, requested to be entrusted with the management of the study. This request was not granted, and, in retrospect, it may be to our advantage that it wasn't, because we cannot be accused of influencing the findings. We did act as consultants, in matters such as the definition of wilderness and the location of wilderness areas, but the conclusions are made quite independently.

The importance of the findings to the Committee is that they confirm to the hilt the case we have presented for wilderness preservation. We have said that wilderness is now a scarce resource, that it is rapidly being eroded, and that it provides a wide range of benefits to the community, by no means all measurable in terms of money.

The study consists of eight chapters, which cover concepts, definitions, value and management of wilderness, methodology and an inventory.

The definition of wilderness was discussed with the Colong Committee before the study commenced. The Committee said it was a large natural area undisturbed by man, but such areas no longer existed in the study area because of the extent of roading, timber getting, prospecting, grazing and burning. Some disturbance, in particular by unpaved roads, would have to be accepted. After an examination of wilderness concepts and definitions, the following definition was adopted:

"A large area of land perceived to be natural, where genetic diversity and natural cycles remain essentially unaltered. It should have:

- (i) a minimum core area of 25,000 hectares;
- (ii) a core area free of major indentations;
- (iii) a core area of at least 10 kilometres in width;
- (iv) a management (buffer zone) surrounding the core, of about 25,000 hectares or more.

These criteria were not rigidly applied to coastal areas.

The study states that "the greatest single benefit of retaining large natural areas is not the immediate value placed on these areas by contemporary society, but their worth to future generations . . . However it has not been given sufficient attention by decision makers involved in formulating objectives for resource management."

At the same time "direct economic values accrue to the community" and the study agrees with the Routleys that national parks compare favourably with other forms of land use on economic grounds alone. In evaluating wilderness, long term values are generally not considered, small economic benefits generated by individuals are ignored as are the worth of intangibles like the preservation of natural areas. Because nobody owns the environment traditional economic analysts consider it can be destroyed without cost. This is exactly the reasoning used by the Colong Committee in its fight for the Boyd. The Forestry Commission carefully evaluated the amount it would save by using this land, which it treated as being cost free. No value whatever was allowed for its use as a national park.

Surveys by McHenry and Greig indicate that about 70 per cent of Australians visit a national park in any one year and spend at least \$5 per car day, representing, conservatively, an annual expenditure on park visits in excess of \$30 million. About 20% of the population enjoyed wilderness recreation. If they spent \$10 per annum each, their annual expenditure on activities associated with wilderness would be \$20 million. In the U.S. Hartzog claims that national parks, which have large wilderness areas, contribute annually \$US.7.8 billion to the travel industry and generate \$US4.9 billion in wages and business. On the Australian scale this would be the equivalent of several hundred million dollars in income.

The study then describes the recreation, scientific and hydrological value of wilderness, which cannot be evaluated in economic terms.

On the question of management, the study rejects the view that recreational use of wilderness is incompatible with its research and educational uses. It defines the objectives of management as:

- (i) to maximise the value for wilderness recreation consistent with ecological and perceptual carrying capacities;
- (ii) to preserve natural systems for future generations;
- (iii) to provide for research, especially in those areas that provide "baseline" data and are non-manipulatory; and
- (iv) to allow for education through observation.

It is pointed out that most existing wilderness in Australia has no legal protection if it falls outside existing national parks or reserves. Most of these areas consist of crown land though there are often areas of freehold within them. "Such areas," the study states, "form an example of small private interests being developed at the expense of the larger public benefit. Small holdings, especially on remote river flats, often provide legal right of access and permit the introduction of grazing stock to adjacent Crown land." It is pointed out that State Lands Departments, which are still alienating lands, have not the capacity to manage wilderness areas. Many other authorities, under Acts such as Mining, Bush Fire, Local Governments, Soil Conservation, Forestry, Pastures Protection and Wild Dog Destruction, are empowered to make management decisions in natural areas. Authorities acting in these fields often destroy wilderness by allowing mining, road and power line construction, burning, spraying and baiting. State Forestry Departments have no management policies that include wilderness.

The remedy to this erosion of wilderness values is "legal zoning of wilderness areas". Zoning would allow compensation and rate rebates for affected landholders. Full legal protection, however, "can only be provided in present circumstances when wilderness is *zoned under a National Park Act*."

It is recommended that there should be two categories of zoning, one for the core area — the wilderness itself — and another for a buffer zone. The buffer zone could include areas well outside the wilderness, but connected to it ecologically by water movement, wind, currents, vegetation or animal migration. This buffer, or management zone, would perform two distinct roles: to protect the wilderness from disturbances, and to protect adjacent land uses from disturbance that may originate in the wilderness, e.g. fire.

Several management problems are covered. Control over entry would be necessary. Controls would apply both to the number of people and their form of entry, in particular to all mechanised forms of entry. The noise of vehicles can be eliminated by control of access to tracks, while the sound of aircraft can be eliminated by reserving air space, as in the U.S. Artefacts to aid comfort or survival are subject to abuse and are not favoured. Allowing fires originating in the wilderness to either burn themselves out or be controlled in management zones would allow for minimum interference with the wilderness area by management authorities.

The study resulted in the following inventory of wilderness areas:

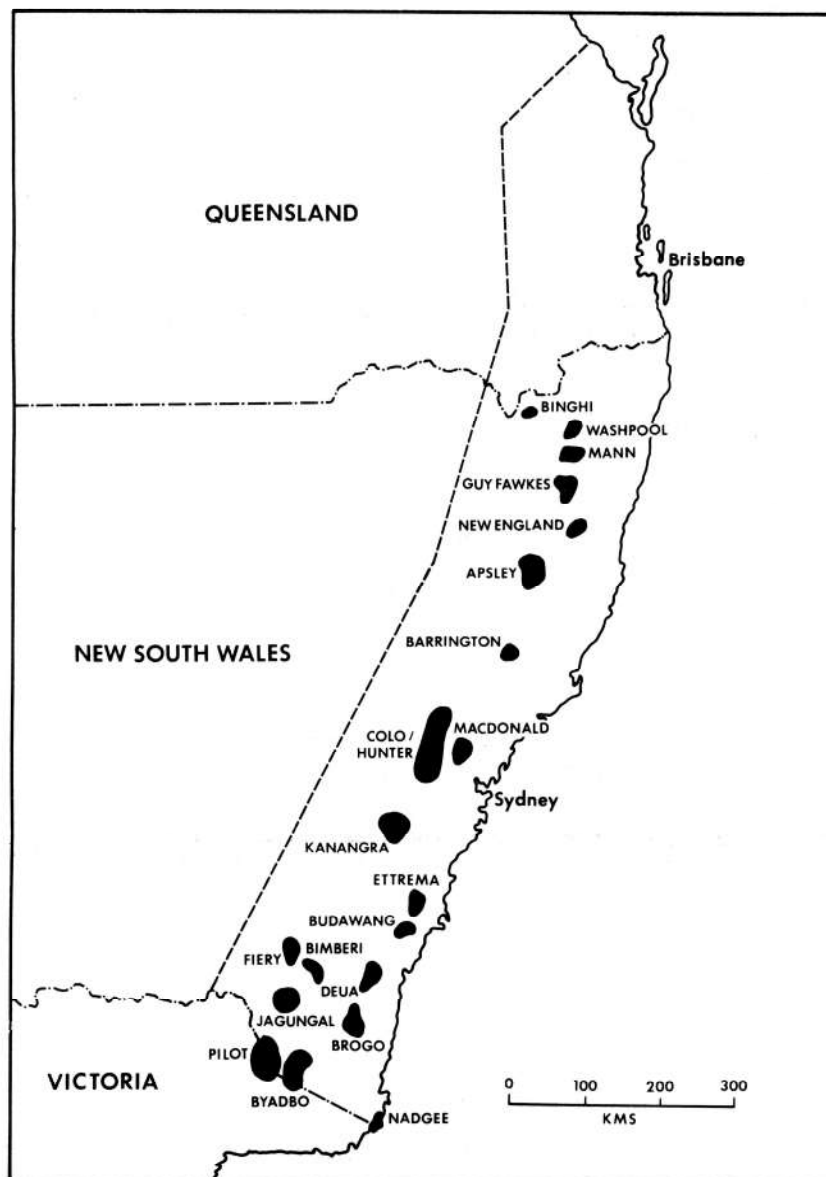
WILDERNESS AREAS

AREA	CORE SIZE (hectares)	MAP NUMBER
1. Colo/Hunter	235,000	2, 3, 4, 5
2. Kanangra	77,500	6, 7
3. Apsley	71,500	8, 9
4. Deua	60,100	10, 11
5. Pilot	59,000 (not including area in Victoria)	12, 13
6. Jagungal	58,700	14, 15
7. Byadbo	56,800 (not including area in Victoria)	16, 17
8. Guy Fawkes	53,800	18, 19
9. Brogo	40,700	20, 21
10. Bimberi	40,000	22, 23
11. Macdonald	38,400	24, 25
12. Ettrema	35,500	26, 27
13. Fiery Range	30,500	28, 29
14. New England	29,400	30, 31
15. Budawang	28,200	32, 33
16. Barrington	28,000	34, 35
17. Mann	26,700	36, 37
18. Washpool	26,600	36, 37
19. Binghi	25,700	38, 39
20. Nadgee	21,800 (including area in Victoria, length of coastline 45 km)	40, 41

The Colong Committee had first hand knowledge of most of these areas, though it could not have defined their limits nor land tenure. The measurement and description of the areas enables the Colong Committee to state the case for wilderness preservation, hitherto given, of necessity, in fairly general terms, with a great deal more authority and precision.

It will be noted that the study area extends inland for a little over 200 km. It therefore includes nearly all the areas protected by rough terrain and difficulty of access. Most of them are on or near the headwaters of the rivers flowing to the N.S.W. or Victorian coast. A little west of the marked trend line of these areas the western slopes soon give way to the Western plains. Here there are few natural barriers to exploitation and it is unlikely that wilderness, as defined by the study, exists. If this is so, then the twenty defined areas represent all the wilderness we have. Their aggregate area is 1,043,930 ha., equal to 1.3% of the area of the State. Five of the 20 areas are zoned as wilderness areas within the Kosciusko National Park. A further 11 are substantially within parks, proposed parks, or controlled catchments. Four areas are still mostly crown land, usually held under leases, and one area is almost entirely in State forests.

The wilderness areas outside the present park system are the prime source of land for extension of the National Park system. They remain wilderness because they contain little of economic value, in the sense of saleable resources. Even if they are all reserved they will fill only one quarter of the State Government's target of 40,000 square kilometres of parkland by 1983. The study states that most of the twenty wilderness areas are under threat of further disturbance. They should, therefore, be reserved with a minimum of delay.



STUDY AREA = Showing location of Wilderness Areas.

The results of the study clearly denote the necessity of including many non-wilderness — i.e. smaller, or partly developed areas, in the State's park system. It will be noted that the Border Ranges are not included. This was because of the shape of the area and the degree of development already reached, but if the people of Northern N.S.W. and S.E. Queensland are to have a wilderness area, this is the best that can be provided. Areas such as Myall Lakes, already partly developed, will have to be included. To provide adequate parklands, the process of development will have to be not only arrested, but reversed. It appears, from the Commonwealth Government's action on Fraser Island, and its provision of funds for land acquisition, and the State Government's land purchases and zoning provisions for Myall Lakes, that this necessity is winning some recognition.

The principal theme of the Study is adequately summarised in the following paragraph taken from its concluding chapter:

"Wilderness as a resource has been greatly undervalued in Australia and has not, until recently, been given even limited recognition as a land use. This situation has arisen out of an over-reliance on narrow economic analysis rather than broad overall assessments of a wider range of community values. The greatest single value of wilderness, that of preserving options for future generations, is not yet accepted by land managers but appears to be widely accepted within the community. This value is easily destroyed or reduced by new developments that are established on economic and engineering considerations alone. Of the current influences, modern forestry practices and fire trail construction are clearly the greatest immediate threats to wilderness quality in the remaining unprotected natural areas in eastern Australia."

The Study is described as "only a preliminary document". It calls for a survey of wilderness over the whole continent. "Without such a survey," it states, "the establishment of national goals to protect wilderness cannot be achieved."

(A copy of "Wilderness in Australia" is available in the T.E.C. Library.)

THE COLONG COMMITTEE AND THE GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Last year in August we set up an *Ad Hoc* committee to push for dedication of this vast wilderness. It consisted of representatives of the Colong and Colo committees, N.P.A., Bindook Committee and Bushwalkers' Federation. The committee has since contributed towards a special issue of the N.P.A. journal on the Blue Mountains, led a deputation to the Premier, is publishing a major presentation of the issue, and is arranging a tour of the Blue Mountains by the Premier, his ministers and senior public servants. The visit will include a flight from the Hunter to the Nattai Rivers, a launch trip on Lake Warragamba, an overnight camp and bushwalk. Having been encouraged by the December promise of dedication of the Southern Blue Mountains we hope that some encouraging statements on the Northern Blue Mountains may come out of the visit.

SIX MINISTERS VISIT COFFS HARBOUR WOODCHIP SITES

On Thursday and Friday, 13th and 14th January six State Ministers visited Coffs Harbour regarding the latest woodchip proposal for the forests of the North Coast and Northern tablelands of N.S.W.

Unsuccessful to date in individual attempts to gain Government approval, all the proponents are now grouped together in one consortium:

Alan Taylor & Co. Pty. Ltd.; Sawmillers Woodchips Pty. Ltd.; Standard Sawmilling Co. Pty. Ltd.; Toyomenka (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.; Toyomenka Kaisha; C. Itoh; Nippon Pulp.

The current cabinet discussion has been initiated by Mr Don Day MLA, Member for Casino /by a narrow margin) and Minister for Decentralisation, Development and Primary Industries. Mr Day has taken over the role of advocate for the woodchip scheme from several Country Party members in the former Coalition Government.

The consortium proposes a 350,000 green tonnes export licence at a price of \$25.00 per tonne. This price has only been achieved once before in Australia and is therefore likely to be re-negotiated downwards after permission is granted. The price includes only \$1.70 profit.

The six Ministers who visited Coffs Harbour are members of Cabinet's Development Co-ordinating Committee. Chairman is Mr Paul Landa MLC, Minister for Planning and Environment. Other members are Mr Day, Mr Jensen (Local Government), Mr Booth (Sport and Recreation), Mr Gordon (Conservation and Water Resources), Mr Haigh (Minister Assisting the Premier). The Minister for Lands, Mr Crabtree is a member of the Committee but was not present at Coffs Harbour.

The Ministers were accompanied by a number of senior public servants including Mr R. P. Murphy, Assistant Director SPCC; Mr M. L. Somers, Acting Chairman, NSW Development Co-ordinating Committee; Mr John Woodward, Adviser to the Premier; Mr Hugh Bell, Chief of Marketing and Planning Division, NSW Forestry Commission and Mr John Whitehouse, Adviser to the Minister for Planning and Environment.

CONSERVATION REPRESENTATIVES INVITED

Prior to the visit Mr Landa broke new ground for the conservation movement. He instructed that a representative of each of the three most active conservation organisations on the subject of chip-milling was to be invited to join in the Ministerial site inspections. Unfortunately no written or verbal invitation was received by two of the groups, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and Ecology Action. Total Environment Centre was represented by Milo Dunphy (Director) and writer Chris Townend (respectively Vice Chairman and Editor of The Colong Committee). Despite several objections to the inclusion of expert conservationists, the Minister reiterated his intention that there will be similar inclusions in site visits in the future — a positive step toward making the processes of government more accessible to the citizen.

WOODCHIP SECRECY CONTINUES

However Labor's deliberations on woodchip largely repeat the secrecy of the previous Government Parties Committee. All submissions to the Ministers at Coffs Harbour Council were heard in camera. Discussions with Coffs Harbour Council were closed to the public. No public inquiry is being held. The application by the consortium is not a public document. This is not open government. And it is no way to resolve the fate of the forests of Northern NSW — though the procedures may meet the Government's need to cloak the deep divisions within its own ranks on the woodchip issue. No doubt Labor hopes to conceal Mr Day's rabid development policies from scrutiny by metropolitan conservation groups. Alternatively he may need a smokescreen from behind which to issue explanations to supporters if he fails to win Cabinet for woodchip.

PROMOTERS DEMONSTRATIONS

The Ministers walked off the plane at Coffs Harbour airport and were welcomed by the egregious Mr Brownrigg and Mr John Larkin, both of Alan Taylor's local office. By a strange coincidence the media were lined up there too. Each day previously for two weeks, Alan Taylor had run a quarter page pro woodchip advertisement in the Coffs Harbour Advocate. The local RSL Management then whisked Messrs Landa and Booth off to view the site of its proposed commercial development in a residential suburb, rejected by the Planning and Environment Commission. At Coffs Harbour the ministerial party were greeted by two trucks loaded with timber placarded: 'This is sawmill waste' and 'These are good chips which we want to turn into woodchips'.

There were three site visits for the Ministerial Party at Coffs Harbour. On Thursday afternoon they viewed the route of the 'by pass road' and temporary link route to the Harbour, proposed for the woodchip trucks. On Friday morning they viewed the proposed site of the woodchip stockpile on Corambirra Point from a motor cruiser. In the afternoon they boarded Forestry Commission vehicles and visited a number of sites in the 290,000 hectares of State Forest administered from Coffs Harbour.

The site visits were designed and organised by the development oriented departments, Decentralisation and Development (Mr Day) and the Forestry Commission (Mr Gordon). The bus inspection of the so called 'by pass' road and temporary link was conducted by the local officer of D & D. The stockpile site is best viewed from the elevation of the adjacent Muttonbird Island rather than from a pitching deck at sea level. But Muttonbird Island is a Nature Reserve administered by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. It illustrates a peaceful and recreational use of the other headland. And the NP & WS opposes woodchip. So the party ignored Muttonbird Island.

FORESTRY'S HARD SELL

As usual the really hard sell came from the Forestry Commission. Each golden four wheel drive vehicle was driven by a qualified Forester. Each participant was equipped with a gleaming white hard hat as a sign that he was now dealing with high technology. The first stop was Bruxner Lookout among fine trees preserved for the tourists. There was a stop at a former rainforest pocket damaged by fire. It had been resown with blackbutt and flooded gum. Next stop was another Forestry regrowth area with a newly mown trail through it. 'I see the Ministerial lawnmower has been at work,' said one cynical public servant. 'You have to hand it to the Forestry Commission' another said. 'What other organisation could produce such a successful crop of wattle and lantana and put it forward as forest regrowth?' Indeed the understorey of all the forests viewed on this trip seemed to be continuous lantana.

The last stop was a logging site. Newly felled blackbutts lay on the ground but the machinery was gone. Milo Dunphy had just been categorically assured by the Minister for Conservation, Mr Gordon that there were no circumstances under which the Forestry Commission would allow a sawlog to be woodchipped. Fresh from inspections at Eden Dunphy pointed to the nearest sawlog, about 20' in diameter with a 9" pipe up the bole. 'At Eden there are logs, like that, of a different species, in the chipmill.' Forestry's Hugh Bell broke in: 'But you don't understand . . .' And he proceeded to agree that this was a good sawlog in Coffs Harbour and that there were many logs like it in Eden which are being chipped — because the Commission's royalty for them at Eden is higher as chiplogs than as sawlogs. Thus the criterion of a sawlog is not that it can be conveniently converted into sawn timber at a mill but that it will produce more revenue for the Forestry Commission than a chiplog under its complex pricing system. No longer can the Commission claim to be the protector of timber supplies for the NSW building industry.

CLEARFELLING

During the tour, Mr Landa became very interested to see whether Forestry would admit to clearfelling coups for regeneration of blackbutt and flooded gum. The District Forester simply would not agree that his operation included clearfelling. On the return trip his vehicle came over a saddle and there right across the view was a completely cleared steep ridge. 'What's that?' asked the Minister. 'Well, Minister, that's exactly the same as we walked through on the last stop — just a bit earlier in the process,' the District Forester replied. 'But isn't that clearfelling?' asked the Minister, slightly exasperated. But he couldn't get the Forester to admit it.

MANAGEMENT PLANS — PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

The longest sustained group debate took place at the former rainforest pocket. The Forestry address at this point included a complaint that public criticism directed at the Commission was often ill informed and emotional. Dunphy took up this point by asking whether copies of the Coffs Harbour District Forest Management plan could be made available to responsible organisations. Neither the Foresters present nor the Minister for Conservation would agree to this. The argument was then developed that Foresters cannot complain about ill informed criticism, if they won't make the basic factual document available. Indeed the Management plan for 290 000 hectares of publicly owned Forest is a major planning document which should automatically be public, as are the Management plans of National Parks and the Statutory Planning Schemes of local government. At Mr Landa's suggestion Dunphy agreed to write formally to Mr Gordon requesting a copy. If it is supplied then it may be possible for a public organisation to pin down exactly what difference chipmilling will make to the Forestry Commission management of the northern forests. With the Eden experience in front of us no one can leave forest management to foresters any more.

RAINFOREST

Included in the Coffs Harbour forests are 30,000 acres of rainforest. About half of this contains some subtropical rainforest. Forestry is retaining only about one third — a mixture of virgin and logged forests. Many independent scientists and conservationists believe there should be no further logging of rainforest whatsoever. The future of the Coffs Harbour rainforests is itself an important issue irrespective of woodchipping.

MINISTERS DIVIDED

The tour made apparent the considerable division of opinion on woodchip between the Ministers. It also made clear how close may be a decision on the woodchip industry and how easy it would be to compound the chaotic planning of Coffs Harbour with three more bad decisions.

BAD DECISIONS PAST AND FUTURE

Already the choked Pacific Highway bisects the town. A decrepit railway yard and level crossing impedes access to the port and beaches. *Ad hoc* decisions in the past regarding the location of industry have set a pattern of sprawl along the highway north and south of the town. The sewerage system and airport cut holes in the coastal dune and wetlands system. Beachmining has smeared some of the best coastline.

Now a 'bypass' road is proposed between the town and the beaches, further impeding access to the beaches and destroying more of the dune areas north and south of the town. A western or inland bypass is the only proper route. Proposal of a suburban road including three or four motels as a link to the bypass for woodchip trucks is about as desperate as planning proposals can be.

Just as the Eden chipmill has usurped the protected south east side of Twofold Bay, so the Japanese chipmillers propose to usurp the same favoured location at Coffs Harbour. At Eden a beautiful natural site has been turned into an industrial dump and access along the coastline is denied to the Australian people. At Coffs the original beauty of the headland has been largely destroyed by a Public Works Department quarry but the basic advantages of the site remain: shelter, outlook and focal placement. Landscape development could make this site the most desirable tourist recreation area at Coffs Harbour. It should not be usurped by an industrial stockpile and loader. When will the Australian public begin to deny their best coastal sites to the oil companies and woodchippers as they were once denied at Coalcliff to a coal exporter?

LABOR RESOLUTIONS PRIOR TO THE STATE ELECTION

The most adverse decision would be to grant a woodchip licence. In a remarkable address in Coffs Harbour on November 8th, 1975, Mr Wran said:

"The Labor Party has resolved that no new woodchip export projects should be commenced and existing ones should not be allowed to continue unless the following economic and environmental criteria are satisfied:

Firstly the costs of a complete independent biological investigation of the areas concerned should be met by the operators.

Secondly, infrastructure costs such as roads, wharfs, at present borne by the Forestry Commission, should be met by the operators.

Next, the cost of regeneration and re-establishment of the forests should be met by the operators.

As well we resolved that woodchip export projects must be conducted in such a manner that there is little or no ecological damage and little or no damage to the non-wood-production values of the native forests."

Mr Wran said: "The forests must be preserved. They must be saved for the future," and he concluded, "Before the Forestry Commission is allowed to become involved in the approval or management of any North Coast woodchip schemes there should be clear legislative control over all forestry practices on public or private lands, and the Forestry Commission must be able to demonstrate that it can adequately carry out its existing commitments."

Most of Labor's resolutions have not been fulfilled. In particular no independent public investigation is envisaged and no legislative control has been imposed on the 40% of northern N.S.W. forests which are privately owned. Will the developers on Wran's Cabinet allow him to make good his responsible attitude towards the forests of northern N.S.W.?

FACTORY FORESTS

The Forestry Commission maintains that a woodchip operation will make little difference to the forests around Coffs Harbour. It is clear to many however, that woodchip revenue will speed up "silvicultural treatment" of the forests i.e. clearfelling, windrowing, burning, planting to blackbutt and flooded gum, and removal of unwanted species. This intensive forestry operation, replacing diverse natural forests with simplified, even aged stands of factory forests is opposed by conservationists on the grounds of its adverse effect on wildlife, unsuitability for recreation and adverse effect on catchments and water quality. The resultant forests are less able to resist insect invasion and disease and increasingly require pesticides and fertiliser.

It is time too that Australians woke up to the tactics of the Japanese pulp companies. They are willing to sign any agreement to get a foot in the door of our cellulose storehouse. Then begins the real negotiation. Every Japanese chipmill project escalates, though a temporary recession in the pulp demand in Japan sees the refusal of supplies from Australian subcontractors heavily committed to repayments for mobile plant. One chip operation is played off against another. What one Government refuses another can be persuaded to grant. Profit and seats on boards of directors are dangled before governments of one political persuasion, employment before those of a different complexion. Both the profit and the employment are ephemeral. Chipmilling hastens the decline of our sawlogging industry which is labour-intensive while chipmilling is not. Sawlog firms are usually Australian owned. Chipmill firms tend to end up under Japanese ownership.

Three factors keep the iniquitous North Coast woodchip proposal alive: the diligence and persistence of the Japanese, Mr Day and Mr Somers, the terrible yearning after a fast buck which is the canker of Australian development, the secrecy, confusion and naivete of our fragmented governmental structures and procedures. How our honourable friends must smile in their boardrooms.

WIDESPREAD OPPOSITION TO WOODCHIP

It is amazing that the project is still under consideration. Coffs Harbour councillors oppose it 6 to 3. Coffs Harbour residents are solidly against it as the petition last year of 6000 of the 10,000 adult residents showed. Chipmilling proponents are unable to produce the public meeting of 400 vociferous resident opponents which so strongly affected the city council's stand last year. The Coffs Harbour tourist organisation is officially non-committal but the breakaway tourist association is strongly opposed, inserting an advertisement in the local newspaper featuring a wreath and deploring "the death of Coffs Harbour".

LABOR'S DECISION

The Labor Party is missing a solid chance to erode local support for the Country Party Member for Clarence, Matt Singleton. Mr Singleton has changed sides on the woodchip question in a particularly unsatisfactory way for the majority of his electors, who oppose woodchip. He is extremely vulnerable on the issue. If Labor were to proclaim the iniquities of the woodchip project with some emphasis on its long term effects on tourism, road conditions, sawmilling, and property values, the electorate might well turn from the weak and indecisive Mr Singleton in justifiable anger.

Chipmilling, the Border Ranges National Park, Botany Bay, removal of the beachminers from Myall Lakes National Park, restoration of the public reserves at Bungonia, restoration of the 85,000 acres taken out of Kosciuszko National Park for logging, these are the difficult conservation issues on which the hundreds of thousands of metropolitan conservation votes depend. Despite some remarkable worthwhile decisions, such as agreement to a Southern Blue Mountains National Park, the Wran Government has so far failed to act decisively in the difficult issues. North Coast chipmilling is the easiest of the difficult decisions simply because it has not yet begun. One sometimes wonders whether it matters, but most of the concerned public, particularly in areas like Coffs Harbour, strongly oppose the scheme. Were it not for Mr Day there would be no question of approving woodchip. Is he worth the trouble?

THE ETHIC IN MOTION

The concept of wilderness as a common good is difficult to grasp. I have a legal share — a proprietary right — in every tree and native mammal in N.S.W. and to a degree in the whole of Australia. I have a moral share in every living thing on earth, wild or tame. We are all caught up together. All pain is our own pain. When a tree is felled or an animal is crushed to death in its burrow, the forester may defend his legal right to inflict that harm, but he cannot defend his right to damage my moral interest. He may argue that ideals are a luxury which he, a poor forester, cannot afford — he makes his living by being practical. I reply that he will have to find some other occupation which will not hurt me through the pain and terror of wild-life.

For the new conservationists, the old theologies do not work and the rulebooks are seen to offer quaint advice. The slogans of earlier teachers with respect to wildlife — "conservation through use", "preservation of species through cropping" and "maximum sustainable yield of the wildlife resource" — are seen to be, not wrong, but incomplete. They lack humanity. They fail to include the effect of killing upon the feelings of people.

—Adapted from A Voice For Wildlife, by Victor Scheffer, American biologist and writer.

FOR SALE — ONE COPY OF THE BOYD DISPLAY VOLUME

This is a rare volume. There are only four copies in existence. It cost \$250 to produce, but the Henry Gold 10" x 8" original prints which it features would alone be worth several times this amount if produced commercially.

It is also a volume of great significance in the history of the conservation movement. A copy was submitted to the Minister for Lands and Forests a few days before he announced that there would be no pine plantation on the Boyd.

The vendor is the Colong Committee Ltd., 18 Argyle Street, Sydney, phone 27 4714. The volume may be inspected at the T.E.C. library, same address.

Price: \$500, or nearest offer.

Proceeds to go towards the production of three similar volumes on the Greater Blue Mountains, to cost \$400 each.

WHAT IS HOO HOO?

HOO HOO describes itself as the 'Public Relations Department of the timber industry'.

It can also be described as Forestry's Ku Klux Klan. Like the Klan it began in the deep south of the United States and calls itself a 'fraternal order'. Hoo Hoo members have rituals requiring them to wear toilet seats around their necks.

WHO IS HOO HOO?

Hoo Hoo membership is limited to male persons of the full age of 21 years, of good moral character and engaged in forestry . . . 'or connected industries'.

Office bearers are 'snarks' or 'vicegerent snarks'. Hoo Hoo clubs are 'jurisdictions'. Their emblem is a black cat with tail curved as in the figure 9. Hoo Hoo claims a membership in Australia around 500, including top public service foresters.

HYPOCRISY OF HOO HOO

The 'concatenated Order of Hoo Hoo' has a Code of Ethics beginning:

'To fill with credit the sphere in which we are placed without interfering with the rights of others.'
 The real aims, however, are somewhat different. Victorian Hoo Hoo states its objective as:
 'to maintain, and if needed, expand the forest resources available for extraction of forest products' (Mr Tom Brabin, ex Secretary Victorian Sawmillers Association and Hoo Hoo spokesman);
 'conservation . . . has become a fad and in some cases even a mania . . . in the hands of zealots, whose aim it is to slow down the economy and obstruct industry through limiting the harvest of timber! (From address by Mr Lowrey Wyatt at the recent Hoo Hoo 80th Annual Convention.)
 'Hoo Hoo International has taken up the challenge . . . for the battle against the pseudo-conservationist and the extreme preservationist.'

HOO HOO THREATENS OUR FORESTS

Hoo Hoo leads the move to commit Australia's remaining native forests to intensive forestry through its advocacy of:

- *Woodchipping in Tasmania, Manjimup (W.A.), Gippsland (Vic.), Eden and North Coast of N.S.W.
- *Proposed pulpmills at Tumut, Eden, Oberon and Coffs Harbour.
- *Clearfelling as common forest practice.
- *Destruction of rare forest types such as rainforests.
- *Clearing native forest for pines.
- *Use of insecticides, 10-80 baits and rifles to remove wildlife competing with intensive forestry.

Intensive forestry prevents true multi-use of forests. Its advocates see recreational use (growing at 8% per year), nature conservation, water quality, catchment preservation, wildlife and wilderness merely as residual values in forest management. For example:

'The productivity of existing forests must be increased and significant new resources must continue to be added in the form of softwood plantations' (Australian Forest Industries Journal).

A much more responsible view was taken by the National Estate Inquiry under Mr Justice Hope. In its 'Report of the National Estate', 1974, the Inquiry said (p.129):

'Forest authorities and managers of the forests should take responsible account of the needs of the public and should ensure that the forest environment and all its values are properly husbanded for future generations. Australians have so far entrusted the forestry profession with this task. They have not appointed them to decide the fate of the forests.'

Hoo Hoo represents the liquidation of our remaining forests. No public servant should associate with it.

- The media should expose it.
- The conservationist should oppose it.
- The public should reject it.

OPPOSE HOO HOO**SAVE OUR NATIVE FORESTS****FLORIDA GOVERNOR VOTES TO HALT BARGE CANAL PROJECT**

The Army Corps of Engineers began construction on the controversial Cross-Florida Barge Canal project in 1964. It was about one-third complete in 1971 when former President Nixon halted construction due to escalating costs, and Congress ordered the Corps to prepare an environmental impact statement. Conservationists were delighted that the vote came out as well as it did. Although the final decision remains with Congress, it is expected to withdraw authority for the project. If such action is taken, it would mark the first time in the history of the Corps that a public works project was killed after it was started.

—Sierra Club National News Report, December 1976

WILDERNESS FILM

The Ausventure Wilderness Society, address 860 Military Road, Mosman (P.O. Box 54) 2088, has launched an appeal for funds to finance the making of a 15-minute film on wilderness. The film will be shown to the general public, and in particular school age audiences and offered to TV media. The A.C.F. (206 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne Vic. 3002) has opened an Ausventure Wilderness Association Wilderness Film Fund.

WOODCHIPPING – TWO DIFFERENT TOURS – TWO DIFFERENT SITUATIONS

Under the heading 'Forest Tours Proving Popular' you recently noted that the writer attended one of the Forestry Commission's woodchip tours.

In fact I made two tours. On Tuesday, 4th January I followed a route recommended by the Forestry Project Officer of the Australian Conservation Foundation. Scobie is a former assistant ranger of Nadgee Nature Reserve and knows much of the adjoining area of the woodchip concession well. The next day I attended the Forestry tour.

The two tours make a striking contrast. One takes you through 5,500 hectares of continuous clearing, across clay and rubble gulches which once were streams and past large consolidated log dumps on hills scarified by eroding snig tracks. The other tour emphasises 50 or 100 hectare coupes between unlogged areas of natural forest with small log dumps on which the debris has been burned and the whole ripped and planted.

To undertake the two tours is to be impressed by the degree of change in Forestry's management of the woodchip concession. It seems to me that the conservation movement which has been the great critic of forestry standards at Eden can take some credit for the change.

Currently conservationists are pressing the Forestry Commission to give up the head catchments of Nadgee Nature Reserve's two main rivers, the Nadgee and the Merrica. Our claim is now endorsed by the Senate Standing Committee on Science and the Environment. Construction of forestry roads in the Merrica catchment has turned the Merrica River turbid for the first time in thirty years. The two areas together constitute a mere 1-1½% of the woodchip concession area. The Forestry Commission could easily relinquish the two areas in the interests of providing whole catchment boundaries to one of the major nature reserves in the state.

Lastly, the scale of Forestry's public relations effort also impressed me. Each of the five fully qualified foresters from the Eden office spent the whole of the morning guiding tourists. The tour was extensively publicised on the radio, in the press and in local shop windows. Multiple copies of glossy colour booklets and questionnaires with stamped return envelopes were distributed. One wonders whether a continuing public relations effort on such a scale should really be maintained with public funds, particularly when its prime beneficiary is a 100% Japanese owned company.

It seems that there is a need in Eden for an organisation to put the other side of the case before the public. Should not a land use decision which gave a thousand square miles of scarce forests to a woodchip company be reviewed? (The decision was made secretly between two Ministers, without Parliamentary debate or public discussion.) Should the woodchip operation be allowed to supplant the local sawlog industry? Should the chipmill continue to deprive the public of use of one of the most favoured foreshores in Twofold Bay? Should the woodchip operation be allowed to escalate continuously? Should the Forestry Commission continue to be the sole assessor of the commercial viability of its own operation at Eden? Would public expenditures on a comparable scale in the area of tourism, fishing and national parks bring greater prosperity to Eden? If there is to be a pulpmill at Eden, what will happen to the massive water and air pollution which come with such operations? These are important issues which would justify a full time environment centre in Eden and another set of tours to balance the euphoric picture presented by Forestry.

The writer would be happy to hear from those willing to help in such a programme either with funds, time or information. Naturally one expects support from the pro woodchip lobby who would undoubtedly list a local environment centre among the advances brought to Eden by woodchip.

Yours sincerely,
Milo Dunphy, Vice President, Australian Conservation Foundation.

—Published in the Eden Imlay Magnet, February, 1977.

ITEMS OF INTEREST IN 1976 ACCOUNTS

1. Total received through A.C.F. for the Border Ranges Appeal\$2,872.25
2. Donation from National Parks Association 500.00
3. Sales of Border Ranges Posters (cost \$371.55 plus postage) 461.22
4. Total money received in the year7,375.79
5. Money donated to the Committee, being sale price of Blue Circle shares 392.00

Donations have been received from the following people since publication of the preceding "Bulletin".

R. Atkins, J. Barrett, G. Baxter, J. Bradley, M. Cameron, E. Chapman, F. Dunford, A. Edmondson, C. Ferguson, A. Fisher, T. Goddard, H. Gold, N. Hayes, M. Holmes, P. Howard, D. Johnson, A. Keen, D. Kelly, P. Locksley, E. Mason, R. Mason, H. Outhred, J. Palmer, J. Rentoul, P. Seelnmeyer, D. Smith, J. Stevenson, F. Vanry, G. Warwick, M. Way, J. Wrigley, R. Younger.

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The Secretary
The Colong Committee Ltd.,
18 Argyle Street,
SYDNEY. 2000

Dear Sir,

I enclose \$4.00 being my subscription to the Save Colong Bulletin for 1977.

I enclose \$being a donation to the Colong Committee's Fighting Fund.

NAME: Mr. Mrs. Miss (Block letters)

ADDRESS: (Block letters)

Post Code:

SIGNED: Date: