



# THE COLONG BULLETIN

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THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LTD. 18 ARGYLE ST, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA 2000 TELEPHONE: (02) 27 4714

*The world's eyes are on Australia as the only developed nation with rainforests within its borders.*

*Here we are not driven by the imperatives of land, hunger and poverty to exploit the forest for short-term survival, ignorant of the implications of the future.*

*Australia has lost about three-quarters of its rainforest since European settlement. It must set an example in the conservation and preservation of this precious resource.*

*I deplore the way in which part of the Daintree rainforest has been destroyed and I fervently hope that the rainforests of Tasmania are preserved for this and succeeding generations.*

The Hon. Neville Wran, Q.C., S.M.H., 14/2/87

*Tasmania is an island which has been ravaged for the last 200 years. It cannot continue.*

*The Government should be enhancing its forests in those areas and promoting the World Heritage as a tourist attraction, not allowing them to be ravaged and lost.*

International environment expert, Dr. Jim Thorsell of IUCN. Financial Review 2/2/87

## BULLETIN NO 101 March 1987

CONTENTS	PAGE
Defence of the Natural Environment	
An FCNSW Miracle	
Timber Industries Campaign Debunked	
The Wilderness Act	
Decline in National Park Reservations	
Total Catchment Protection	
Draft Forest Policy of the Australian Democrats	
One Tree per 300 Cigarettes	
Great Daintree Action Group Battles on	
Expensive Charades	
Clean Water After All	
Blue Mountains Environment Management Plan	
Meeting Dates	

## DEFENCE OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

*Where is the greenie movement? Answer: on the defensive....The surge of anti-conservation propaganda suggests the greenies have gone too far.*

The Hon. Bob Carr, Colong Bulletin No 100

Of course we are on the defensive. We always have been. This is because the natural environment is under constant attack. What is left of it is scattered over the length and breadth of Australia and we cannot man every

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HON. PHOTOGRAPHER: Henry Gold

HON. AUDITOR: Arthur Andersen & Co.

threatened area.

The attackers fall into two groups, which frequently combine against us. The first group comprises those who seek profit or pay from selling the comparatively cheap resources available. How much cheaper to exploit the nearest limestone, even if it is in a reserve for the preservation of caves, or to cut down trees growing on public lands, the product of one or more centuries of growth, than to grow trees at a cost of several thousand dollars per hectare. The second group is the public authorities, who usually back the development interests and pay nothing for the use of public lands. It is much cheaper to push a road, a pipeline, or a power line through a park, or build a dam in it, than to resume land. And only the greenies will object.

It is all a matter of money, and our opponents have it. Business interests collect it from their customers, unions from their members and public authorities from the taxpayer. These contributors have to pay up, whether they agree with the anti-conservation line or not. Opinion polls indicate that 80% of them do not. Thus the timber industry is able to spend \$4 million on a campaign to con the people into believing that conservationists are trying to persuade the Government to stop "harvesting" timber in all Australian forests.

The mining industry is conducting a similar campaign to cost some \$1½ million with considerably less justification than the timber industry. Timber is found only in the uncleared, well watered lands, mainly along the east coast. Minerals can occur anywhere, and there are few restrictions on exploration. But the industry claims it must mine in national parks. Typical of this is B.H.P.'s claim to mine Coronation Hill in Kakadu, Stage 3. The company controls 20 exploration sites in Australia, 10 of which are in a state of advanced exploration. It is the wealthiest company in Australia and could well forego Coronation Hill, though it would be equitable for it to receive compensation for exploration expenses incurred.

In contrast, the conservation movement receives some government grants which amount to only a small fraction of the cost of assistance to development interests by government departments (eg. The Forestry Commission and the Tasmanian Hydro-Electric authority).

#### FORESTERS' PRIDE

Photograph printed in "Australia forests and forest industries", published by the Forestry and Timber Bureau, Canberra.



The butt log of one of the biggest trees felled in Australia—a massive mountain ash in the Styx Valley, Tasmania

(Acknowledgement 'The Mercury', Hobart, Tasmania)

Full page advertisements and the employment of advertising agencies and full-time public relations officers are not possible for the conservation movement. Most of its funding and work is voluntary. The fact that most of its supporters have to earn a living means that much of the work is done by retired persons, housewives and part-time workers. This makes it difficult to participate in inquiries, deputations etc.

The strength of the movement derives largely from the fact that, however much developers may deny it, the environmental damage they inflict is there for all to see, and the media deserves credit for its coverage. Expert opinion, apart from that in the pay of development interests, is usually on our side. Successful defences have been mounted - Colong, The Boyd, the Franklin, NSW rainforests, Kakadu Stage II and the promise of protection for Tasmania's National Estate Forest. Nor has action been restricted to defence. Most national park proposals have been presented by the conservation movement.

Now, for the first time, we are mounting a major offensive - for a wilderness act to preserve all our wilderness remnants. Let us hope it is not defeated by the financial resources of our opponents. It may well be the business interests, not the greenies, who "have gone too far".

#### AN FCNSW MIRACLE

*And behold, the bush burned with fire and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.*

Exodus ii.3

*Harvesting does not destroy forests.... There has been no evidence presented... which would indicate that these forests will be in any way poorer for the changes made.*

FEIS for the Eden export woodchip operation.

The age of miracles is not past, not any rate while the Forestry Commission of NSW (FCNSW) is around to effect them. And we have a Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS), a Final Environmental Impact Study (FEIS), both prepared by consultants Margules & Partners Ltd, and an Supplementary Draft (SDDEIS) prepared by the Forestry Commission, to prove that forests can be "harvested" (they are no long cut down) without being destroyed. Divine intervention will not be necessary. The FCNSW's Preferred Management Priority Classification (PMPC) together with its Visual Management System (VMS) and its Special Emphasis Visual Resource Classification (SEVRC) will ensure that no harm comes to the forests.

The almost complete destruction of flora which woodchipping entails means the removal of the food supply and breeding places of the fauna which lives upon it. There is no mention of this in the short section of the final E.I.S. devoted to flora and fauna, which is solely concerned with criticism of NPWS and other surveys of species distribution. Assurances that clear felling will cause no environmental damage are spread through the document. Water quality is "assured", nutrient depletion if it occurs at all "will take hundreds of years before causing detectable changes" (how do they know this?), "no decreases in water quality or quantity are expected", there will be "no impact on diversity and vegetation patterns". The nearest approach to any admission

that clear felling, followed by burning, means complete devastation, is the statement that "integrated logging is accompanied by a short term, site specific, controlled disturbance to the environment." How the "disturbance" is controlled is not specified.

Despite these confident assertions, admissions of uncertainty are frequent. Trials are in train aimed at "obtaining part of the knowledge" to manage forests to "maximise wildlife values." The answer to this is, of course, simple - leave the forest as it is. Data is stated to be lacking on nutrient depletion (despite the confident assertion, quoted above, that it will not be evident for hundreds of years) but research is in progress. Nowhere is this uncertainty more evident than in the management of re-growth forests.

Re-growth will start off as a mass of seedlings, suckers and weeds, though this is not admitted. Fire control within such an area is impossible, but the Forestry Commission submits that "it is possible to carry out fuel reduction burning on areas adjacent to regenerated areas for the first eight years." From 8 to 16 years the area is "in a fuel hazardous condition." We don't know what will happen after that because "At this stage it has not been demonstrated that regrowth stands can withstand a light burn at age 15 without sustaining unacceptable damage to crop trees. To date few suitable areas regenerated after post burning are available. However a research effort to develop prescribed burning guides for young re-growth could provide the necessary fire behaviour models and burning expertise to enable burning to be carried out at the earliest possible stage."

The forecast of sustainability of woodchipping is based on the exhaustion of the old growth resource by 2013, by which time regrowth will have nearly replaced the original old growth resource. Perhaps.

On the first page of the E.I.S. is a photograph of "a thinned regrowth forest." The costs of thinning and the means of removal of thinnings are not given. While thinnings remain on the ground in the forest they are a serious fire hazard.

The Australian Heritage Commission's submission that logging is incompatible with the preservation of the national estate is described as "simplistic".

According to the E.I.S. the preservation of "values not unique" to an area is "incompatible with any form of production forestry" - i.e. just one sample of each "value" is all that need be preserved within the national estate.

There is no discussion of the possibility of establishing alternative industries, except the obviously inadequate option of retirement migration. This is because the aim of the study is not to prevent damage to the natural environment, but to justify its destruction. It is probable that any new industry, or extension of existing industry to absorb workers displaced by the winding down of the woodchip industry, would need government assistance, or at least encouragement. This is something that the Minister for State Development, Mr Unsworth, should afford top priority. The obvious candidate for assistance is the processing of the woodchips, which would enable processing employment to absorb displaced woodchip workers, and enable woodchipping, after perhaps a short introductory period, to be confined to forest wastes and thinnings. If processing can be done in Japan, why can't it be done here? The tourist industry, the first to be targeted by the Premier, is another obvious candidate for employment to replace woodchipping.

At best the E.I.S. is a naive acceptance of the FCNSW's claim that its PMPC, VMS, SEVRC and the rest can produce enough regrowth timber by 2013 to sustain the woodchip industry. It is more probably that it is a charade to enable the destruction of the forests to continue. The Commission's magic wand is the "Preferred Management Priority Classification" referred to as the PMPC so that the lack of meaning will not sink in. It is not a management plan, just a classification. As in any classification only one class can achieve top priority. Why call it "preferred" unless they intend to use a "priority" that is not preferred? No doubt the use of this obscure terminology is, as in previous challenges to the Commission's land use claims (e.g. the Boyd and rainforests) to convince the reader that it knows best. Another example is the criticism of Keith Tarlo (whose report is described in Bulletin no 99) for using an "average model" of regrowth "which did not account for the range of site conditions present." Of course it didn't. It was an average. Should he have used only the site conditions that proved his case?

At worst the inadequacy of the regrowth forests to provide enough timber for the chip mill when old growth forests are exhausted will support a demand for further extension of clearfelling into areas outside the Eden Native Forest Management Area. If then, as now, the destruction of the natural environment is accepted as a desirable form of employment, the entire south eastern forest, the largest remnant within the 25% of our original forests still in existence, will be fed to the mincer.

#### TIMBER INDUSTRIES CAMPAIGN DEBUNKED

On February 2nd the Sydney Morning Herald published a letter from David Wood, a sawmiller of , Bellingen. The letter strongly expressed views held by the Colong Foundation. The "Herald" abridged the letter, but we publish it in full below, with thanks to David Wood.

Being a sawmiller I am moved by the excessive irresponsibility of the Forest Industries Campaign Association one-page ads in your paper to pen a reply.

These ads are financed by the National Association of Forest Industries, a collection of the larger timber companies whose annual profits exceed \$50 million. None of these profits go to replanting. We simply cannot afford an industry which removes such high amounts of money from our diminishing forests and then suggests that we use more timber.

Half of all our forest products go overseas in woodchips. The only benefits to Australia are the 2000-off jobs and approximately \$180 million in export earnings. Meanwhile we spend over \$1,500 million importing forest products. Is Forest Industry's "growth and regrowth" for Australia or other countries?

There is not even the remotest possibility that the conservation movement would stop all timeber harvesting as over 40% of our timber comes from pine plantations.

There is one whole political party calling for the logging of national parks. When there is a majority of members of parliament doing the same then an Act of Parliament is passed. It is no big deal; it happens nearly every day.

Any sawmiller will tell you that the average size of hardwood logs has been



decreasing ever since he can remember. This means that we are cutting this resource faster than it can grow.

Conservationists want to prohibit logging in virgin forests and to include them in national parks. Virgin forests now make up approx 4% of all hardwood forests.

We cannot supply our current hardwood demand from 96% of our forests and it is not reasonable to expect to supply a larger future demand from a tiny bit more. Simple mathematics show us that cutting out the last virgin forests is a waste of resources; both the timber industry and timber consumers need to be learning to manage regrowth forests in perpetuity. The fight by Forest Industries for the last unsecured remnants of Australia's wilderness is a last-ditch attempt to forestall an inevitable transformation in our relationship to our forest resource.

Unless forest industries start focussing on replanting hardwoods rather than pocketing all the profits we will be importing more and more at an increasing cost.

But if consumers cannot afford to pay a price for timber and paper which is sufficiently high to make forest planting economically viable, and thus perpetual harvesting a reality, then we simply cannot afford to use timber products.

#### THE WILDERNESS ACT

by Patrick Thompson

It was the Colong Committee which first proposed a Wilderness Act to Bob Carr at a meeting with him in March 1985, shortly after he became the new Minister for Planning and Environment. Subsequently a Co-ordinating Committee, consisting of representatives of the Wilderness Society, NPA, TEC, ACF and the Colong Committee continued representations to the Minister. A strong Wilderness Society campaign has been mounted to bring the need for wilderness legislation to the top of the political agenda. Mr Carr has promised to take to Cabinet shortly such a proposal. Before discussing the elements a Wilderness Act should contain, it is appropriate to discuss why such an act has become a necessity.

Between 1978 and 1983, substantial new wilderness areas were added to the national park system. These areas included: Deua, Budawang, Wadbilliga,

Wollemi, Washpool and the Border Ranges, as well as substantial additions to Morton and the Blue Mountains. Many conservationists believed it was only a matter of time before the last remaining large natural areas in the eastern part of the State would be added to the park system, and the time had arrived to turn our attention to the management of the national park system. Three points were recognized if this was to be achieved. The first was that wilderness areas needed to be declared, as such, under the existing provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act. The second was that appropriate management policies needed to be determined, and lastly, it was recognized that the NP & WS needed increases in staff commensurate with its increased responsibilities as a land management authority.

By March 1985, at the time of the Colong Foundation's meeting with the new Minister, Bob Carr, it had become clear that progress on wilderness matters was proceeding too slowly. Ironically, at that meeting members of our deputation were handed a new draft policy on wilderness management and a proposal for an accelerated rate of wilderness declarations with a minimum three areas each year. It was heartening to have this material presented to us, and the new Minister's encouraging response to our Wilderness Act proposal. In May, the Minister announced the establishment of a working party to advise him on a Wilderness Act. The result of this initiative was that the working party submitted their report to the Minister twelve months later. In the interim, the NP & WS shelved their wilderness dedication program, and have not dedicated any new wilderness areas since May 1985.

From the accompanying table (page 6) it can be seen that 321,800 hectares has been declared as wilderness in NSW, and that over one million hectares is undeclared wilderness in national parks. Considering that in 1974 almost as much wilderness had been declared in the park system as is at present, one begins to understand the frustration of working under the present arrangements. A Wilderness Act must address this most serious situation now. It needs to insure that all major wilderness areas presently in national parks are declared without further delay.

The Working Party Report has identified 36 wilderness areas throughout the

State. Thirteen of these areas are to the west of the Great Dividing Range. Whether these western areas should be managed as wilderness areas or as nature reserves is open to some debate. What is clear is that the State is seriously under-represented in terms of national parks and nature reserves in the western region. Practically, all the areas in the west are currently leasehold, and as such, need to be purchased from existing land holders. The wilderness areas in the east are little affected by private ownership. With the exception of the Oxley Wild Rivers the 23 wilderness areas of the east are able to be declared under the Wilderness Act with little or no expenditure on the part of the Government. The declaration of these areas under the Act has been considered by the Directors of the Colong Foundation, who consider it a practical and acceptable means of immediate preservation of our eastern wilderness remnants.

There are six wilderness areas in the east that need to be added to the national parks system and declared under the Wilderness Act. They are:

Coolangubra; Deua; Guy Fawkes; Mann; Macdonald; Ettrema.

These six wilderness areas contain 72,000 ha of State Forest, 110,000ha of vacant crown land and 166,000 ha of existing national park. In terms of area, the 72,000ha of State Forest is a very small measure of the 3½ million hectares currently administered by the Forestry Commission. Their timber values are low, being for the most part either inaccessible or low grade timber stands. As wilderness, they represent a relatively scarce resource which once reserved will add considerably to the integrity of the national park system.

There is a great danger that the Wilderness Act could turn out to be a Clayton's affair. An Act which merely

Table of WILDERNESS AREAS IN EASTERN N.S.W.

(Estimates based on the areas in the Wilderness Working Party Report)

WILDERNESS	CORE AREA ESTIMATE (HA)	DECLARED WILDERNESS	NATIONAL PARK	STATE FOREST	FREEHOLD	VACANT CROWN
WASHPOOL	35,700	27,400	30,000	3,300	2,400	
MANN	38,500	6,400	11,300	19,800	minor	7,300
GUY FAWKES	115,200	nil	35,400	19,700	50,800	9,300
NEW ENGLAND	38,400	nil	27,800	9,300	1,300	100
OXLEY WILD R	166,900	nil	20,000	6,500	127,000	13,300
WERRIKIMBE	30,700	nil	25,800	4,400	500	
BARRINGTON	42,500	nil	28,800	13,200		500
WOLLEMI	452,000	nil	410,900	35,200	5,900	
MACDONALD	89,600				5,700	83,900
KANANGRA	103,600	nil	98,300	1,700		3,600*
ETTREMA	62,700	nil	48,400		4,300	10,000
BUDAWANG	68,600	nil	62,500	4,600	1,400	
BOGONG	32,900	25,600	32,900			
BIMBERI	69,900	nil	69,900			
GOOBARRAGANDRA	46,800	nil	43,400	3,400		
JAGUNGAL	81,500	66,300	75,900		5,600	
PILOT	92,500	92,400	92,400		100	
BYADBO	74,800	69,700	70,900		1,800	2,100
GENOA	5,500	nil	4,800	700		
NADGEE	20,700	nil	16,800	3,800		
COOLANGUBRA	25,400	nil	4,100	20,600	600	40
BROGO	52,600	34,000	50,100	1,100	700	600
DEUA	83,900	nil	67,700	12,300	3,600	300
	1,830,900	321,800	1,328,100	159,600	211,700	131,040

\*MWS&DB reserve

establishes a mechanism where by the wilderness areas identified in the Working Party Report are further investigated will be no advance on the present. The Colong Foundation believes that the Government must bite the bullet on wilderness, as it did so successfully with the Rainforest decision. The declaration of the twenty three wilderness areas in the eastern part of the State needs to be the cornerstone upon which a Wilderness Act is built.

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Year	National Park increase (HA)
1969/70	136,565
1970/71	60,777
1971/72	115,436
1972/73	230,000
1973/74	10,122
1974/75	39,136
1975/76	132,639
1976/77	60,330
1977/78	138,483
1978/79	196,029
1979/80	491,192
1980/81	68,390
1981/82	60,452
1982/83	184,365
1983/84	98,192
1984/85	11,896
1985/86	26,866

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#### TOTAL CATCHMENT PROTECTION

by J.G. Somerville, A.M.

A new land use concept is being developed in NSW - that of Total Catchment Protection (T.C.M.). Sure, catchment protection has been part of the philosophy of the Soil Conservation Service since it was established in 1938, but with weak statutory provisions, a soft approach to private landholders and a minor commitment from most government authorities, little impact was made in almost 50 years.

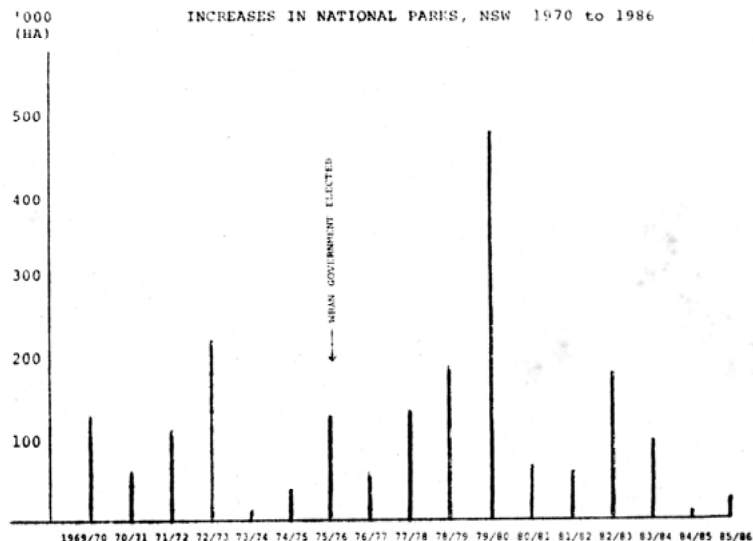
Although the concept of T.C.M. was adopted by the NSW Government in 1984 it was not until recently that implementation began; initially by an Interdepartmental Committee, drawn from the government authorities concerned, developing strategies for each of the 42 major catchments in the State. Local Government statutory authorities

#### DECLINE IN NATIONAL PARK RESERVATIONS

by Pat Thompson

Increases in area declared as national park has fallen in N.S.W., as is illustrated in the accompanying graph. The Wran Government has a very credible record of national park creation until 1984. Since then the rate of reservation has plummeted. This we hope is because it is intended to make extensive wilderness reservations via the Wilderness Act, and include the declared wilderness areas in the national park system. Only Queensland and the Northern Territory have smaller percentage areas of national park and similar reserves, but if the recommendations of the Colong Foundation are incorporated in the Act N.S.W. will regain its leadership in nature conservation.

INCREASES IN NATIONAL PARKS, NSW 1970 to 1986



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bodies will ultimately be involved.

A Special edition (November 1986) of the Soil Conservation Journal of NSW devoted to Total Catchment Management provides the following information:

*"It is an unfortunate reality that despite the existence of laws to minimise the environmental impact of human activities, many individual land users tend to pursue their own aims in isolation with little concern for their effects on others."*

Certainly, most individuals, companies or government organisations operate within the State's overall planning framework but they often fail to recognise how their activities affect or impinge on the activities and responsibilities of others. Clearly, there is room for improvement.

To survive as a nation we must use our land for sustenance, shelter, transport, communications, industry, energy production and recreation. More importantly we must ensure that this use is sustainable. To achieve this land users need not only to heed legislative and regulatory requirements but to realise that there is a co-operative and co-ordinative aspect and responsibility in land management which is necessary to minimise environmental impacts caused by the activities of today's complex society.

Total Catchment Management involves the co-ordinated use and management of land, water, vegetation and other physical resources and activities within a catchment, to ensure minimal degradation and erosion of soils and minimal impact on water yield and quality and on other features of the environment.

Specifically, Total Catchment Management aims to:

- \* encourage effective co-ordination of policies and activities of relevant departments, authorities, companies and individuals which impinge on the conservation, sustainable use and management of the State's catchments, including soil, water and vegetation.
- \* ensure the continuing stability and productivity of the soils, a satisfactory yield of water of high quality and the maintenance of an appropriate protective and productive vegetative cover; and
- \* ensure that land within the State's catchments is used within its capability in a manner which retains as far as possible, options for future use.

In Total Catchment Management we are looking to manage the soils, the water resources and the vegetation of our catchment landscape for sustainable use and production - for posterity.

The Total Catchment Management philosophy involves co-ordinated activity by all land users whether it be managers of pristine landscapes or those involved in intensive rural or industrial pursuits to ensure minimal catchment degradation."

The Soil Conservation Act (1938) was amended by the NSW Parliament in December 1986, in order to give additional power to the Catchment Areas Protection Board (CAPB). The reform was relatively minor but could be put

to good use if the CAPB is so minded as it now has the power to protect land which is "environmentally sensitive". Such land may consist of wetland, land which is semi-arid or saline or contains rare flora or fauna or bird breeding grounds or areas of archaeological, historic or scenic beauty.

Regrettably the Crown is still not bound, so that the Forestry Commission is free to ignore the CAPB although it is expected to observe the Act. A private landholder against whom a notice is served not to fell trees in a particular area is liable to a \$10,000 penalty if he does so. Equally however, the landholder has a right of appeal to the Land and Environment Court against a notice from the CAPB.

The Hon. J.R. Hallam, Minister for Agriculture, said in a letter to the NCC on 13 February, 1987:

"So far as concerns the protection strip along watercourses I am now able to say that far from being restricted to an arbitrary width of 20 metres (or for that matter 40 metres or 300 metres) the new amendments to the Soil Conservation Act, 1938, will allow the Catchment Areas Protection Board to protect any environmentally sensitive land irrespective of its width or area, whether it be along a watercourse or anywhere else, and regardless of whether such sensitive land is in the Western Division or not. It is anticipated that it will only be a few months now before the necessary forms and regulations are finalised so as to enable a date to be proclaimed for commencement of the new legislation."

#### DRAFT FOREST AND MANAGEMENT POLICY OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS

A copy of the above has been supplied by the Hon. Elisabeth Kirkby. It endorses nearly all the aims of the Colong Foundation. Its principal provisions are:

Reform of State Forestry Commissions to ensure conservation. New Commissions to include scientists, foresters and members of the conservation movement.

Maintenance of and expansion of product level of forests through re-forestation and natural regeneration.

Cessation of funding for further pine plantations on forested or partly cleared lands. A hardwood re-forestation programme on cleared lands.



Forest clearing of steep lands to be scaled down. (The Colong Foundation would stop it).

No new woodchip licenses and cancellation of existing licenses.

An immediate halt to rainforest logging. Acquisition of privately owned rainforests.

Prohibition of broad-area fire-hazard-reduction burning except after a public inquiry and an E.I.S. by the proponent. (The Colong Foundation Policy is that fire-hazard-reduction burning should take place on the fringe of developed areas).

Fire control methods other than burning. (The Colong Foundation specifies planning controls and mechanical reduction of fuel).

Royalties should cover all cutting and regenerative costs accounted at realistic interest rates. (This would mean a substantial rise in the price of timber, leading to the use of substitute materials and the cessation of overcutting).

The draft policy also covers the coastal zone, the arid zone and soil conservation. Mrs Kirkby would be glad to supply a copy to those interested.

#### ONE TREE PER 300 CIGARETTES

An acre of forest must be burned to cure an acre of tobacco. "Most frightening is the fact that where wood fuel is utilised to cure tobacco, one tree is used to cure tobacco for only 300 cigarettes," reports a correspondent to the Journal of the American Medical Association (1986,255,3244). America has recently revised the information to be printed on cigarette packs. The correspondent wants another one to be added saying: "Smoking is directly responsible for extensive deforestation and adversely affects the world ecology."

From "Medical Practice", Nov. 1986

#### GREATER DAINTREE ACTION CENTRE BATTLES ON

Far from the corridors of power, the Greater Daintree Action centre fights on against development interests, which include not only the Shire Council, but resort builders and subdividers. The Shire Council have billed them \$642 for the cost of demolition of their old information centre. Mails disappear and police are extra diligent searching

for marihuana plantations, which they fail to find.

Thousands of Australian and overseas tourists visit the Action Centre. Perhaps a few take a continuing interest, but the battle is mainly local and receives little publicity south of Cairns. The Centre is in much the same position as the Border Ranges Preservation Society in 1973, when the effect of local action was exhausted. What may be needed is a Daintree Committee operating in Brisbane. From the experience of the Colong Foundation, a determined single issue body, co-ordinating the campaign from a city base, can wear down an anti-conservation government in time.

Below is reproduced a press statement issued by the Action Centre (address Cape Tribulation - via Mossman 4873).

The Greater Daintree Action Centre wishes to draw attention to the need for a strong conservation presence in North Queensland during 1987. The Greater Daintree Wilderness is besieged by bulldozers.

Virgin rainforests logging is proceeding apace on the Windsor Tableland and in the catchment of the Bloomfield River.

The Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield Road is being turned into a massive highway.

The Daintree Coastal Wilderness is suffering the desecrations of gravel quarries, hill blastings and works depots to provide a motor highway for 4W-Drives, and a short cut to real estate.

The World Heritage coral reefs are being killed by thousands of cubic metres of soil run-off.

These acts of despoilation are the result of the irrational and unreasoned policies of the Douglas Shire Council and their paternalistic supporters - the Queensland Government, as well as the negligence of the Federal Government. If the Federal Minister for the Environment, Mr Barry Cohen, does not act, then he will go down in history as the man who single-handed gave the assurance to the forces of destruction to wreck the Daintree Wilderness.

The Greater Daintree Action Centre at the Original Blockade Site, Cape Tribulation, provides the facilities for forest activists wishing to protect the forces of destruction presently at work in the region.

Direct action will be called for to heighten the plight of this, the only coastal rainforest wilderness in Australia to the people of Australia and the world.

DEMAND WORLD HERITAGE FOR DAINTREE

SUPPORT GREATER DAINTREE ACTION CENTRE FOR 1987

#### EXPENSIVE CHARADES

During the life of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 76 inquiries have been held, of which only seven have recommended that an application for development be refused. These recommendations were also in line with the Department of Environment and Planning submissions. The decision against the siting of a chemical plant at Kurnell was a win for local objectors, but it is the exception which proves the rule.

Michael Mobbs, lawyer and an independent alderman on the Sydney City Council. S.M.H. 3/2/87.

#### CLEAN WATER AFTER ALL

The Clean Water Act - twice passed by Congress, twice vetoed by President Reagan - was approved last week by staggering margins in both the House and the Senate, 401-26 and 86-14 respectively. Its enactment marks only the seventh time since the president took office that a veto has been overridden.

Sierra Club National News Report  
17/2/87

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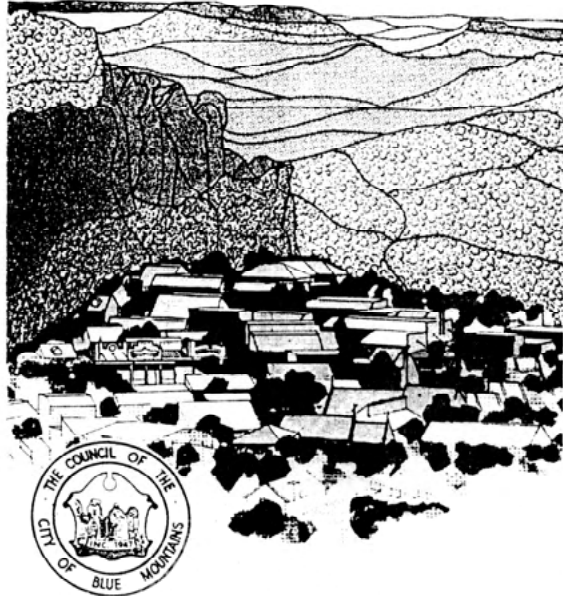
#### MEETING DATES

Colong Foundation meetings will be held on April 9th and 23rd (A.G.M.) and May 7th and 21st.

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46 The Blue Mountains Gazette, Wednesday, April 30, 1986

## BLUE MOUNTAINS ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN



A PROJECT BY BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL  
WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE D.E.P.

The Blue Mountains City Council states that the purpose of its Environmental Management Plan now being prepared is to "provide positive guidelines for future development to protect the natural character of the Blue Mountains." The above drawing depicts development right to the edge of the escarpment. A fine view for the owners, a view spoilt for everyone else! This is precisely the kind of planning the campaigns against the Leura resort and the Echo Point development opposed.

\*\*\*\*\*

To: The Treasurer  
Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd  
18 Argyle Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

I enclose \$20.00 being my membership fee for the calendar year 1987 (Note: The membership fee covers Bulletin Subscription Fees received subsequent to 30/6/86 will cover membership to 31/12/87).

I enclose \$ ..... being a donation to the Colong Foundation's Fighting Fund.  
I enclose \$ ..... being an interest free loan repayable at 4 week's notice.  
I have donated \$ ..... to the Australian Conservation Foundation,  
expressing a wish that my donation be spent for the purposes of the Colong  
Foundation for Wilderness. I would like the grant which this has enabled, to be  
allocated to the Colong Foundation's Fighting Fund/Investment Fund. (Please use  
form letter below).

To: The Director  
Australian Conservation Foundation  
672B Glenferrie Road  
HAWTHORN VIC 3122

I attach a donation to the Australian Conservation Foundation. I prefer that this donation should be spent for the purposes of .....  
.....(insert name of your organization). I understand that this donation is tax deductible and therefore look forward to your receipt.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

To: The Hon. Secretary  
Colong Foundation for Wilderness  
18 Argyle Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Date .....

I hereby apply for membership of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd. I am nominated by .....and seconded by .....  
.....

(Note: If you are not personally known to the Foundation, the Hon. Secretary will nominate you and ask one of the directors to second your nomination. The signing of this application will be accepted as evidence of your support of the aims of the Foundation).

I subscribe to the Foundation's aim of preserving Australia's Wilderness remnants.

I accept the liability provided in the Colong Foundation's Articles of Association to guarantee \$20 should it be needed in the event of the winding up of the Foundation.

Enclosed please find .....for \$20, being my membership subscription for the calendar year 1987 (Please note: membership fee covers Bulletin subscription).

Signed .....

FULL NAME: (MR, MRS, MISS) .....  
 ADDRESS .....  
 ..... POSTCODE .....

THE SONG COMPANY CONCERT

at Pitt Street Uniting Church, 264 Pitt Street, Sydney

8 pm on Friday 15 May 1987

Music for the Environment - proceeds from the concert to support work of Total Environment Centre.

TEC wishes to thank The Song Company for making this concert possible.

*THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR OUTSTANDING MUSICIANS IN A BEAUTIFUL SETTING.*

PROGRAMME: A bracket of Schubert songs with piano accompaniment;  
French Renaissance chansons by Jannequin and Lasso;  
Folk songs and barbershop quartets;  
Light arrangements.



*THE SONG COMPANY consists of eight of Australia's most thrilling young voices. Established in 1984, the ensemble has already earned itself an outstanding reputation as Australia's leading vocal group. The Song Company performs regularly for such major entrepreneurs as Musica Viva Australia, the ABC and state Arts Councils.*

*CHARLES COLMAN, the Musical Director, is well known in Australia as the founder and conductor of the Leonine Consort, prominent vocal group in the period from 1964 to 1981. He trained as a conductor in Europe where he studied with Sir Eugene Goossens.*

*For a year he worked as a volunteer with the Total Environment Centre, on its major campaign to prevent the destruction of the remnants of rainforests in New South Wales.*

*TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE is an action and information centre. Launched in March 1972, the first full-time environment centre pioneered an idea now adopted in every State. It initiates long term campaigns and research; assists local groups and individuals. TEC has a small staff of consultants and executives but its work is largely supported by volunteers and donors.*

Tickets can be obtained by sending in the order form below, or directly from Total Environment Centre between 10am and 5pm weekdays. Some tickets will be available at the door.

Please address mail orders to Betty Mason,  
Total Environment Centre,  
18 Argyle Street,  
Sydney 2000.

Cheques should be made payable to Total Environment Centre; and included with a stamped self-addressed envelope in the order.

PRICES INCLUDE SUPPER AND PROGRAMME: \$18 full price  
\$12 concession (pensioners,  
students, unemployed)

For further information please telephone TEC 27 4714 or 27 2523;  
or 660 3468 or 357 1500 after hours.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF TICKETS at \$18 ☐ and/or at \$12 ☐

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_