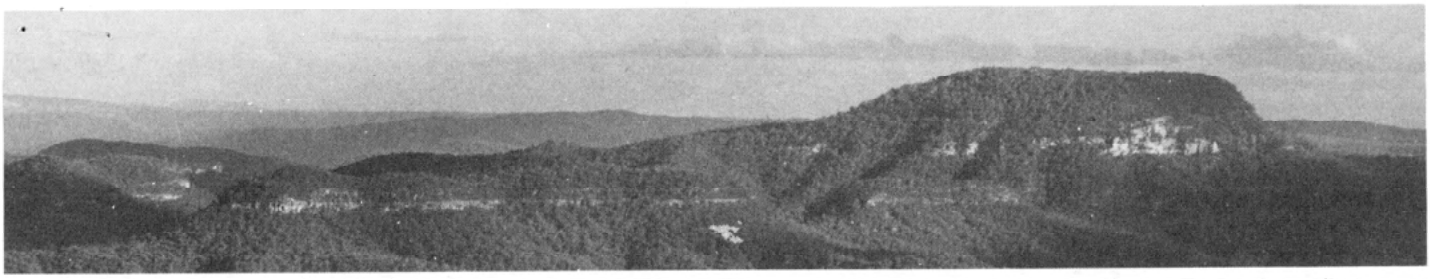

THE COLONG BULLETIN

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NO. 113 *March 1989*

Australia's native forests and grasses, the whole gamut of insects and micro-organisms, are an invaluable resource, and it is to our shame that they continue to be decimated by further clearing for suburbs, for tourist resources, for woodchipping, under the economic pressure generated by a rising population.

Dr Chris Watson, CSIRO soil scientist,
"The Bulletin", January 31, 1989

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More Wilderness and Parklands

Congratulations to the Greiner Government, and particularly to the Hon. Tim Moore, on the declaration of the Mann Etrema and Genoa Wildernesses and the acquisition of the 30,000ha. Kunderang Station, on the upper Macleay River—a magnificent addition to the Apsley Wild Rivers National Park. It is also very gratifying to know that the Government intends to continue the expansion of the park system—to the extent of 100,000 ha. a year. This is exactly the area of our Nattai and Gardens of Stone submissions combined, perhaps a coincidence, but we hope it may not be.

Rising population and development pressures constantly threaten the remnants of the natural environment. Protection is very much a matter of now or never. That is why we believe the declaration of wilderness areas and the extension of the national park system is a matter of paramount importance, even through resources are not yet available for adequate management.

THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS

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HON. PHOTOGRAPHER: Henry Gold

HON. AUDITOR: Arthur Andersen & Co.

Having reversed its policy of making no large additions to the national park system, it is to be hoped that the Government will take the further step of allowing State Forest lands to be added to national parks, thereby opening the way to adequate representation of forest ecosystems.

On Kunderang Station

The Management of Kanangra Boyd

On February 7 we were advised by Mr A. J. Williams, Superintendent of the Blue Mountains District of the NP&WS, that a draft plan of management for Kanangra Boyd National Park is being prepared and we were invited to make a submission. By reason of our past efforts to preserve the Kanangra Boyd Wilderness and representations to the NP&WS, our views on management have already been made clear, and our submission will be simply a repetition of these views.

The main threats to the park have been the proposed quarry at Mount Armour, the proposed pine plantation on the Boyd, the Mount Piper—Marulan power line and vehicular intrusion. Because of our successful resistance to the first three of these, we believe our views should be afforded top priority in management decisions. Our submission will be mainly concerned with the fourth threat—vehicular and equestrian intrusion.

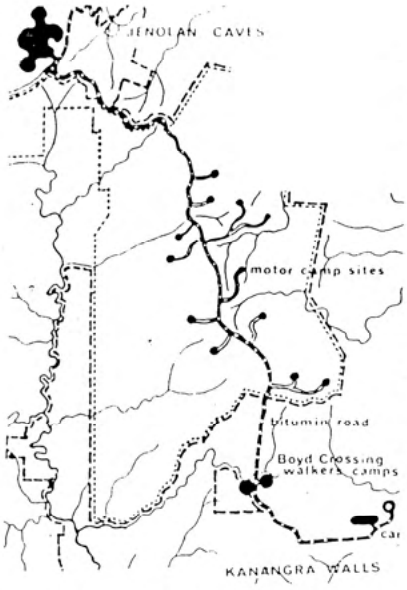
Vehicles have no place in wilderness. Wilderness is essentially a natural area where people can get away from the artificial environment. Vehicles are a means o taking much of it with them, in the form of visual, auditory and atmospheric pollution. Vehicles convey arsonists and vandals, shooters and rubbish dumpers and enable thieves to remove timber and bush rock and litterbugs to leave their rubbish. Soil erosion and weed infestation is inevitable since there is no means of restricting off-road vehicles to park roads. Horse riding, particularly by large commercial organised parties, brings erosion, manure and weeds. Another recent intrusion is helicopters.

Realising that, without proper management, the wilderness quality of the park would be badly eroded, we have already made three submissions on management. Our first submission was presented to a meeting of the Blue Mountains National Park Advisory Committee on March 10, 1979. Despite the Colong Committee's opposition to roads in wilderness, it seemed impractical to expect the abandonment of the Kanangra road. However, the central feature of the submission was that the road be closed to private vehicles and access to the Walls be provided by a park bus service. Some of the other recommendations were:

That the park centre be located just outside the northern end of the park;

- That private vehicles should be parked there under supervision;
- That the bus schedule should be considered in co-operation with the NSW Federation of Bushwalking Clubs;
- That all other roads on the plateau be closed and revegetated;
- That a walkers' track from park headquarters to Kanangra Walls was required; and
- That fire control and prevention should be planned on adjoining lands rather than within the park. (For further details see Bulletin No.54.)

In August 1987, our submission was re-submitted, this time to Bob Denham, Senior Ranger, Oberon, of the NP&WS, by Milo Dunphy on behalf of the Total Environment Centre and the Colong Foundation. Then under consideration was an inferior alternative to the buses only plan. This was to locate new car camping areas on short access roads adjacent to the Kanangra road (see diagram overleaf), an alternative which would have involved considerable destruction of bushland and difficulty in supervision. Milo Dunphy wrote:



"I'm afraid all the effects we were trying to avoid in 1974 are starting to come true:

—Over-use of Boyd Crossing is turning it into a disaster area. I'll bet the stream is polluted by the toilets and by too many people camping, cooking, playing, urinating, washing around it. The grasses and coral heath are just about rubbed out. The mosses and lichens have been rubbed off the rocks. There is little regeneration of trees and the thin stand remaining is a shadow of what used to be there. The Service can't even maintain a few absolutely essential bollards in place.

The difference in preservation of natural conditions between the Boyd Crossing site and the informal bushwalkers' camping area behind the Clay House site is mostly due to the fact that car parking is limited to the road in the latter case.

—The Kanangra Road is being widened inexorably. The Park is still being used for gravel-taking for the road.

—The proliferation of 4WD tracks at the Hollanders River near Tuglow was a shock to me. I began to wonder whether it was any use fighting bodies like the Forestry Commission or Timber Industries Ltd for areas to be added to the park system when the Service allows them to fall apart like this.

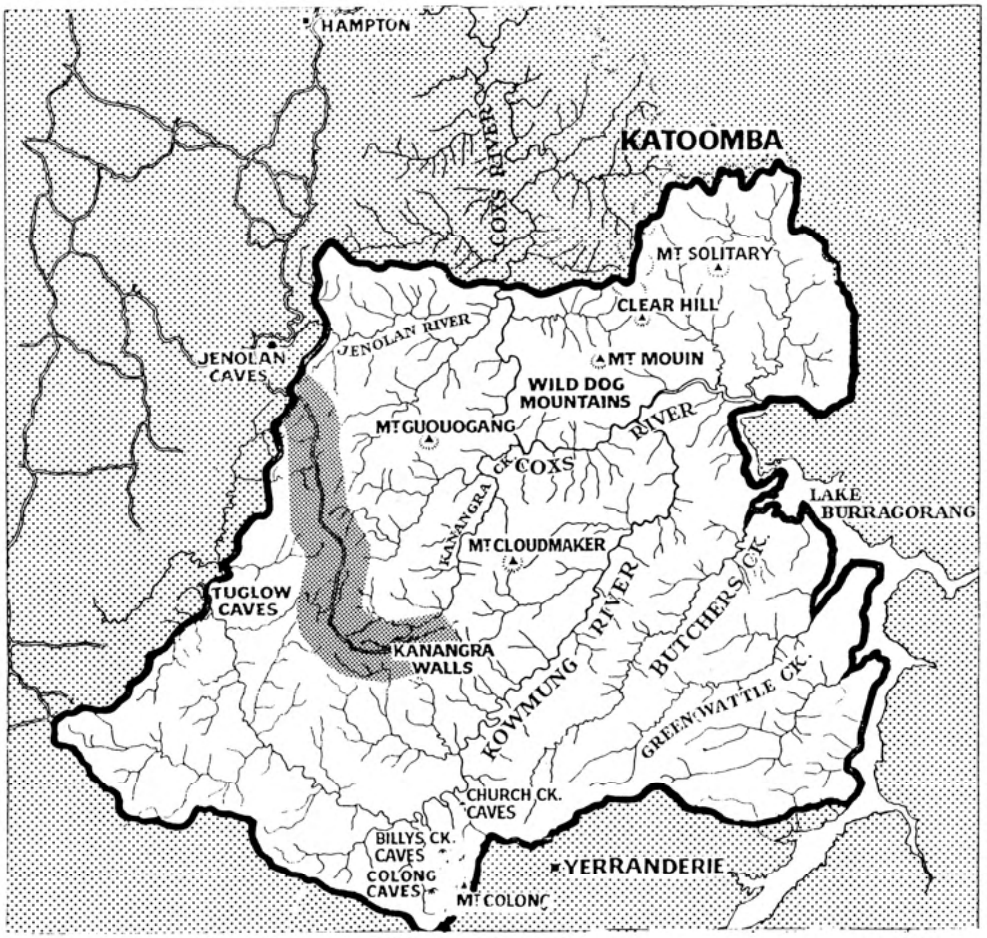
—The broad scale use of the plateau by vehicles along the old logging tracks will visit the same proliferation of tracks on other areas of the plateau. Those logging tracks or fire trails or whatever they are called no longer have any planning validity. Their purpose was to get timber out and that purpose has ended. They represent a continual threat to natural conditions and wildlife on the plateau.

The side roads also mean that vehicle noise is harder to escape on the plateau. The TEC/Colong Committee view is that all side roads should be blocked off, ploughed up and revegetated. And the sooner the better."

Our third submission was in the form of a nomination under section 7 of the Wilderness Act prepared by Keith Muir in September last year. The proposed wilderness area was extensive and compact, except for the intrusion of the Kanangra road, a narrow finger of development penetrating the heart of the wilderness, and a constant threat to its integrity. It was therefore decided to face reality and recommend that the road be returned to its natural condition. In support of this recommendation, our submission stated:

"The Kanangra-Boyd wilderness is the second largest and most scenic wilderness in the State. It is readily accessible, the high features being visible from the Cumberland Plain, and

PROPOSED KANANGRA–BOYD WILDERNESS



Wilderness affected by Kanangra Road

near the State's population centre. Though these are strong reasons for its preservation, they also make it very vulnerable to exploitation.

Its historic value is also considerable. Its preservation was first proposed by Myles J. Dunphy, O.B.E. (our late patron) in 1931. It was the cradle of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness, Australia's first National Wilderness Society, which was formed, as the Colong Committee, to preserve it.

For the past 30 years or more it has been almost continually threatened by development proposals, ranging from quarrying, logging and pine culture to vehicle damage through the operation of off-road vehicles and parking. It is regrettable that the Kanangra Road gave access to such damage. It is at present threatened by a power line and, judging by developments on the southern escarpment of the Central Blue Mountains, may soon be threatened by resort developers."

We have no doubt our submission will be strongly opposed by development interests and the off-road vehicle lobby. Kanangra Boyd is the best wilderness area in the State. If we can't preserve it it will make a mockery of the Wilderness Act.

The Assault on Our Forests

The difficulty of winning wars has led to an outbrake of peace in many of the world's trouble spots, while the certainty of MAD (Mutual Assured Destruction) has prevented a nuclear holocaust and may well continue to do so. World attention has now turned to the threat posed by environmental destruction. If this continues, MAD is not a threat but a certainty.

There are just two main ways of successfully countering the environmental crisis caused by soil degradation and atmospheric pollution. One is to stop burning fossil fuels, and the other is to increase vegetative cover of the land surface. There is still some uncertainty as to the effect of global warming, but there is no doubt that if we lose our soil and fresh water we cannot subsist.

Although these facts are acknowledged by environmentalists, they are generally denied by primary producers. A clear example of this is afforded by the January issue of "The Bulletin" (not the "Colong Bulletin") by Dr Chris Watson, a CSIRO soil scientist. In an article entitled "A Countryside Reeling", he writes, "The soil has taken a terrific beating as the native vegetation has been replaced by annual crops and by pastures for grazing. Most soils were already of low inherent fertility. Cultivating them for crops exposed them to heavy and erosive rains, and to recurring dry periods and drought. Farming often was pushed far beyond the frontier of the limited areas favourable to growing plants." Soil fertility is described as being drained by export of primary products, loss through the sewers of major cities and the impact of wind and water erosion. "Under existing practices each tonne of wheat means a loss on average of more than 10 tonnes of soil." He concludes that "If our civilisation is to persist ... radical changes must be instituted to stabilise population levels, encourage decentralisation, foster self-reliance, increase recycling, and promote the stewardship of land."

Dr Watson's article is followed by Nigel Austin's article entitled "Agriculture's Brave New World". He forecasts a doubling of the value of rural exports by 1999, a big increase in livestock numbers and a record wheat harvest of 25 million tonnes. His forecast is backed by quotations from rural industry leaders. Only one, Sir William Vines, thinks there will be more concern about soil erosion and conservation. Dr Watson's article is illustrated by a photograph of sand covered fences in a landscape devoid of vegetation, entitled "Our children will inherit a despoiled and depleted Australia". Nigel Austin's article is illustrated by a photograph of miles of flat cultivated sandy landscape, also devoid of vegetation, entitled "Corporate agriculture at work".

The attitude of rural industry is paralleled by that of the timber industry. Forests afford the most effective protection for the soil. Although some 70% of our forests have already been cleared, the Forestry Industry is determined to clearfell the major forest remnants for woodchips or pulp. In addition to the clearfelling on the Eden woodchip concession and in Tasmania, there is a $100m tissue making plant under construction in South Australia and a $104m tissue making plant in Victoria. A $280m mill for lightweight paper at Boyer near Hobart is under consideration and so is a $250m addition to the newsprint making facility at Albury. Then there is the $1.2 billion pulp mill at Wesley Vale in Tasmania and a reported Daishowa proposal for a $1.5 billion chemical pulp mill for northern NSW.

Native forest depletion has to some extent been offset by pine plantations, though much of the plantation has simply replaced native forests. Pines were planted because they were softwoods that grew fast and matured early—an expedient policy. There is some question, however, as to whether they were the right trees to plant. This question is posed by Mr Eric Roughana, General Manager of CSR Softwoods, SA in the January/February issue of "The Australian Forest Industries Journal". In an article on the export potential of softwoods he writes:

"The biggest problem for Australian producers is the world acceptance of radiata pine as a packaging timber. It virtually has no credence as a structural or decorative timber at this time. There has been quite limited success in achieving markets for furniture components. The quality of the Australian radiata pine, the cost of raw material and the other production costs are such that the emphasis on export marketing should be in the higher valued products.

"At the recent NZTIF Annual Conference a director of a reputable and long established United Kingdom timber importing business stated that it will take many years—at least five years to convince the United Kingdom manufacturing and using industries that radiata pine is anything but a packaging timber."

In another article in the AFIJ there is a photograph of a stand of Eucalyptus grandis in Brazil 42 months old, over 50 feet high and yielding 70 cubic metres of annual growth per year. Flooded Gum is also noted for its fast growth.

The Forestry Commission maintains an ambivalent attitude to the maintenance of forest cover. In the Commission's issue of "Forests and Timber", Vol. 24, 1988, Robert West, Editor, writes:

"I believe that, as a nation, we need to begin to re-forest Australia, for three major reasons. First, young and growing trees use carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, so that every tree planted helps to reduce the greenhouse effect. Second, if major climatic changes do occur we may see huge areas of

forests die, while other areas become more suitable for forestry. And third, I believe we need to begin to repair the damage done to vast areas of Australia by agriculture and consequent soil erosion."

How does he reconcile this with the wholesale destruction of clearfelling for woodchips? Whether trees are burned down for agriculture or cut down for woodchips, they are destroyed.

The effects of forest destruction, agriculture, salinity and grazing in arid regions like Australia are clearly demonstrated by the artifacts and ruins of cities in the deserts stretching from Morocco to Mongolia and the southward advance of the Sahara Desert. The maintenance of forest cover is not only a recreational and tourist asset, but a vital necessity for the preservation of our soils and catchment areas. The Colong Foundation has always known this (see our evidence presented to the House of Representatives Soil Degradation Inquiry), but both State and Federal Governments continue to encourage clearfelling for woodchips and pulp. Large contingents of police arrest protesters and exclude them from the publicly owned State forests. But it is the protesters who are responsible in their opposition to woodchipping and the Government which promotes it irresponsible.

Protesters amidst the devastation

Timber Workers, Taxpayers and Forests Exploited

On his return from a fact finding tour of the Eden woodchip concession by four State Parliamentarians, the Hon. Richard Jones (Australian Democrats) stated:

"The timber workers of Bombala and Eden are being unmercifully exploited by the wholly-owned Japanese Harris-Daishowa.

"The amount paid to the workers for delivering the logs to the chipper is barely that normally paid for transportation costs alone.

"The loggers are cutting, de-branching, de-barking and loading the logs at no cost to the company.

"They are providing what amounts to slave labour, just as Australians did in building the Burma railway.

"Any person who supports this kind of exploitation is nothing more than a quisling.

"In addition, the royalty of $14 a tonne does not cover the costs of new roads, infrastructure and the overheads of the Forestry Commission.

"New South Wales is literally giving away its forests and the Minister, Ian Causley, is conniving with this foreign-owned company in its ruthless exploitation of the timber workers of the south-east.

"Harris-Daishowa is contributing as little as possible to the local economy.

"From our observation the company is deliberately logging some of the most sensitive areas to ensure that these will no longer have value as nature reserves."

Bega News, 17 February 1989

The State of the Western Division

A series of articles in the "Sydney Morning Herald" recently nominated land degradation as the number one environmental issue in Australia. Both the Australian Conservation Foundation and the National Farmers' Federation have joined forces and called upon the Federal Government to spend $340 million over the next decade on soil conservation. The Nature Conservation Council of NSW and other groups maintain that land degradation is a social, economic and environmental disaster and argue that the general community have rights at least equal to those of the private landowners when it comes to the problems of land abuse.

The Herald articles made a number of key points:

—Our soil is a finite non-renewable resource.

—Land degradation results not only from erosion caused by water and wind but also dryland and irrigation salinity.

—Major habitat changes penalise many native plants and animals.

—Corrective measures are available, given the political will and hence sufficient resources.

The Western Division of NSW, which encompasses 41% of the State, is a vast area of low rainfall country vegetated with spinifex, saltbush, mitchell grass, acacia and eucalypt woodlands. Conservationsts have long been concerned at the rate of clearing for cropping or improvement of native pastures. The Western Lands Commission conducted two very successful tours last year in order to educate urban environmentalists on the conditions of the Division, and one of our members participated.

Cropping is allowed under a permit system three times in each nine years and even then to a maximum which varies with soil type. The Soil Conservation Commission imposes conditions which effectively preclude any cultivation on slopes of over 2%. No cultivation is permitted until the area and pattern has been inspected. Stubble must be retained, disc plowing is discouraged and a two, rather than three, year rotation is being encouraged.

Loss of native vegetation in the Western Division has been a matter of considerable concern to environmentalists for at least a decade because of the loss of habitat of rare or endangered species or plant alliances and land systems not adequately reserved. The unilateral decision of the Western Lands Commission in May 1988 to refuse any further clearing licences in the Murray-Darling Geological Basin has stopped clearing south of the Broken Hill Railway—but only until research is completed. Our concern must continue in regard to the rest of the Western Division. It is ironic that the decision does not apply to the Forestry Commission which owns all the commercial timber in the Western Division. Immediate action should be taken to stop the logging of River Redgums on lessees' properties, thereby pointing out the obvious anomaly whereby clearing is still permitted and indeed, often encouraged, on privately owned land in the Central Division, which is also in the Murray-Darling Geological Basin. Amendments to the Soil Conservation Act two years ago gave the Catchment Areas Protection Board the power to control clearing of timber on "environmentally sensitive lands" but to date no meaningful action has been taken.

All the well-run properties inspected, where the rainfall is 200-250mm, are striving to improve vegetative cover by water spreading and ponding, pasture furrowing and ripping of rabbit warrens. The lessees work with the Soil Conservation Commission, or individually, to maximise the retention of run-off water, exhibiting considerable initiative in revegetating long standing scalds and clay pans. The over-riding aim of these operations is not to increase carrying capacity per se, but to lengthen the period they can continue to carry stock into the inevitable drought before incurring the costs of buying fodder or sending some of the flock onto adjistment elsewhere.

Resource Plans are prepared for each lessee and these show a recommended sheep carrying capacity, but both parties regard the figure as indicative only. Lessees at their discretion stock above or below according to the season and the availability of feed and water. Rentals payable to the WLC are based on a stocking figure which is usually 10% to 15% below that in the Resource Plan. Neither figure is used for regulatory purposes.

The major problem area over part of the Western Division is the spread of inedible native shrubs known locally as "woody weeds" Encroaching hopbush, turpentine, budda, punty bush and several others, form dense stands which kill off all ground cover and ruin semi-arid grazing lands. It is occurring in the other states and overseas because the environment has changed. Each lessee has his own theory as to the reason for their rapid development and how they should be controlled, thus proving the complexity of the issue. The cost of eradication, whether by mechanical or chemical means, is beyond the means of those lessees with heavy infestations. The State Government or CSIRO should be doing more to assist in solving the problem.

The Western Lands Commission has a policy of education and persuasion in dealing with its 1700 lessees. It was readily conceded that a very small percentage failed to manage their properties in a satisfactory manner. The ultimate sanction of forfeiture of the lease has never been used and destocking orders are rare, and are only issued if the lessee refused to co-operate by changing a damaging practice.

As a result of the Western Lands Select Committee investigation and the interest of urban conservationists, the WLC has been restructured and has tightened controls over the issue of clearing licences and cropping permits. An EIS is now required if the Commission feels that the proposed action will have a significant impact on the environment. This belated response to the recognition that the WLC is a determining authority under the Environment Planning and Assessment Act does not go far enough in that it fails to recognise the **cumulative** environmental effect. Should the issue of clearing licences continue in the northern section of the Western Division, or resume in the southern section, then it would be open to concerned conservationists to mount an action in the Land & Environment Court on the grounds that the failure to prepare an EIS constitutes a breach of Section 56(N) of the Regulations which refers to "any cumulative environmental effect with other existing or likely future activities".

Land degradation on a vast scale occurred in this century prior to the 1950's but since then more sophisticated management practices and the use of polythene pipes has resulted in a proliferation of watering points thus reducing erosion. It has also benefited the native fauna—particularly the kangaroo. The dedication of the staff of the Governmental agencies concerned is beyond question. However, they could liaise more closely in order to push the introduction of conservation stocking which, it has been demonstrated, leads to increased

productivity and profitability and results in improved pastures with the ability to sustain the sheep longer into drought periods.

In order to reduce the possibility of land degradation in a long drought, conservationists would do well to support the philosophy of "minimum risk stocking" which conserves native plant species and minimises erosion. Conservative lessees will only be persuaded to stock below the maximum carrying capacity if leaders in their community can demonstrate that it is best in the long term. Whilst it is a truism that all regulatory agencies are ultimately captured by the clients, the WLC is somewhat different in that its policy of minimum use of the big stick and maximum use of education and persuasion is accompanied by widely publicised controls, any breaches of which are very visible.

The worst environmental problem in the west of the state is salinity. The disposal of saline groundwater is causing degradation of large areas adjacent to the Murray. It is clear that irrigation practices should change in order to make more efficient use of water and treatment of irrigation waste-water.

On balance, the Western Lands Commission is taking a responsible attitude to the problem of land degradation in the Western Division but is hampered by the lack of sufficient resources.

Yengo Logging

The Hon. Tim Moore, Minister for the Environment, writes:

"The Editor,

The Colong Bulletin.

Sir,

I refer to your recent article "Government Park and Wilderness Policy Clouded" and draw your attention to several serious errors contained therein.

Your statement, "An authority has also been issued by the Greiner Government enabling the Mackintosh Group of Colo Heights to log about 2,000 hectares of Parr State Recreation Area near Webbs Creek", is quite incorrect. The Mackintosh Group held rights under annual Timber Licences to log area of Crown Land which in March 1988 became Yengo National Park and Parr State Recreation Area. These licences were issued by the previous Labour Government late in 1987. Under the National Parks and Wildlife Act the rights they bestowed did not fully expire until the end of 1988.

The Mackintosh Group voluntarily relinquished any claim within the National Park and sought to exercise its rights to log in respect of an area within Parr State Recreation Area, which had been designated by the Forestry Commission and negotiated for by the Group in 1987. Well before the end of 1988 the Mackintosh group moved its whole operation out of the area, to Putty State Forest. The phasing out operation conducted by the Mackintosh Group after March 1988, directly affected, by logging, an estimated 30 hectares in a designated area of 890 hectares.

Your figure of 2,000 hectares is, therefore, grossly misleading. You state, "the government would probably argue that logging Parr State Recreation Area does not contradict the policy on protecting National Parks". Your postulation is entirely wrong—as a matter of policy logging will not be permitted in national parks, nor will it be permitted in State Recreation Areas.

You state, "the logging of Yengo was licenced by the previous Government 8 days before the area was declared a national park. The licence was renewed by the present government, but has not been discontinued following (your) press releases". Again, this is totally wrong.

As I indicated to the Vice President of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness on 17 January 1989, detailed information concerning logging in Yengo and Parr can be obtained from the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The Service will be pleased to arrange a site inspection of any areas of the Foundation may wish to examine.

I regret that the Foundation has chosen to ignore my earlier assurances concerning the phasing out of logging operations in these areas and I hope you will avail yourself of this offer to set the record straight in your own mind. I further hope that you will see fit to include this letter in your next edition of the Colong Bulletin, I suggest, under the title "Colong Foundation Clouded".

After talks with senior Parks Service officials, the Foundation is now aware that there were a number of ambigious elements in the hand over of forest management from the Forestry Commission to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Confusion arose from the following factors:

—Timber licence holders had an existing use rights and so Minister Moore was not extending old licences by issuing authorities to log but rather transferring control from the Commission to the Service;

—No time limits were established for logging in these parks under Mr Moore's authorities because apparently these operations on the pre-existing licence areas were to be conducted until expiry of the original licence in 1988;

—Timber licences offered no guarentee that a sawlog resource was present and operators obtained these licences before they fully assessed timber resources;

—Licences for various forest products could and did overlap;

—Prior to dedication of these parks, timber licences were amended and extended, and a series of amendments could make one timber authority;

—Harvesting areas had little relationship to the consent area of any licence;

—Estimates of timber quantity within a timber licence varied wildly between Forestry Commission, operator and contractor estimates.

In addition to the above, it is now clear that the logging we inspected in November on the Howes Range was unauthorised. Neither the Forestry Commission or the Parks Service was aware of any logging in this area since March 1988.

Our concern regarding this logging operation and other information which suggested that timber authorities had no time limits prompted us to act.

Had we not spoken out, new timber authorities may well have been issued over Parr State Recreation Area extending logging.

Despite the above confusion over logging we are very pleased that Mr Moore has upheld the Greiner Government's promise and has given his assurance that no state recreation area or national park will be logged.

Our Unselfish Loggers

In a speech addressed to the Timber Industry Development Association on 8 February, The Hon. I.R. Causley, Minister for Natural Resources, described those who seek to protect our

native forests as destroyers of the timber industry, selfish interest groups locking away resources and formidable enemies. The Sydney Morning Herald reported that he also described them as "greedy".

In a letter to Mr Greiner we said that these remarks plainly reveal that the Minister for Natural Resources does not regard the natural environment as a resource. We pointed out that his attitude is much at variance with that of Senator Puplick (Shadow Minister for the Environment), who recognises that Australians are increasingly concerned about the loss of our forests, and contrasts with The Hon. Tim Moore's close attention to the views of environmentalists. We pointed out that the Colong Foundation derives no personal gain from its efforts and concluded that:

"As Minister for Natural Resources, Mr Causley should be doing his best to preserve the natural environment, a much depleted and irreplaceable resource greatly valued by the people, rather than abusing those who defend it. For this reason we believe he is unfit to hold the Natural Resources portfolio."

The motives of the Timber Industry we are expected to believe, are of course entirely altruistic. It seeks only to provide employment and materials for building houses, not to make profits.

Since our letter to Mr Greiner further evidence of Mr Causley's opposition to the protection of the natural environment has been afforded by:

A letter to The Hon. Tim Moore in which criticises the NPWS for "continuing to promote a much greater level of land reservation and vastly improved system of very large reserves".

Another letter to Mr Moore objecting to the NPWS submission on the Forestry Commission's Environmental Impact Statement on the south-east forests (apparently it is right for the FC to express its views, wrong for the NPWS to disagree.)

Objection to a proposed amendment to the National Parks and Wildlife Act which would enable the Environment Minister to intervene in the management of land adjoining or in the vicinity of National Parks and Nature Reserves.

Environmental Reform in the USSR

The New York Times reports that, during a visit to Chernobyl, Mr Gorbachev called for a sweeping new program to protect the environment, including a referendum on any disputed public project. He spoke emotionally on the degradation of Soviet air, soil, and water, hailed the birth of an unofficial environment movement, and promised a comprehensive program of environmental protection would soon be unveiled.

Abuse Oscar 1989

The Colong Foundation will nominate Mr Ross McGowan of Eden for the 1989 Abuse Oscar. He might well qualify as an adviser to Mr Causley. In the 'Magnet' of 23 February, he writes:

"Reading this issue of the 'Magnet', I find that at least some part of those who support an end to chipping south east hardwoods, are: selfish affluent corrupters, extremist subjugators of spurious misinformation, yuppies, unthinking idealistic zealots, opponents to human survival, ecological misfits defying natures' orderly plans, condoners of violence, sabateurs, arsonists, terrorists, and all this for their own carrion purposes."

Coastal Development at Any Cost

It always appears developers are the VIPs in Queensland and are given the "red carpet" treatment. In coastal developments we have seen hundreds of acres of mangroves destroyed in Southeast Queensland. Wetlands have been reclaimed, and land cut up to the high water mark with no public access provided. Dredging, land fill, beach erosion, are all adding to the gradual loss of out natural coastline ... and multi-million dollar 5-star tourist resorts are the "in" thing. We are now being told by travel agents handling international travel that we are losing what the overseas tourist wants to see ... natural coastal areas, rainforests and the Great Barrier Reef. Also, many of our beautiful areas, once developed, are unaffordable to the ordinary Australian.

It is reported there are at least $8 billion worth of developments planned up the entire Queensland coast. Rather frightening isn't it? Developers have 100 Queensland sites for about 150 proposed tourism projects.
"Wambaliman", Oct/Nov/Dec 1988

Greedy Greenies and Heroic Entrepreneurs

The above is the title given to a letter from C. Mackenzie published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 25 January. Mr Mackenzie wrote:

"Sir: I am surprised that the *Herald's* resident lexicologist, Alan Peterson, hasn't commented on the changing meaning of the word "greedy".

Nowadays it seems to be applied to just about anyone who comes into conflict with powerful interests, though these are themselves mysteriously free of its stigma.

Greenies are discovered to be greedy, self-interested types along with the residents of coastal areas unwilling to share with mega-buck tourist resorts. Woodchippers, however, seem to act from only the purest of motives (usually operating rural unemployment-relief schemes) and property developers sincerely believe that high-rise enhances the beachfront."

Meeting Dates
Colong Foundation Meetings will be held on April 13th and 27th, and May 11th and 25th.

FORM FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

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

Dear Sir,
The enclosed remittance or advice covers the item(s) indicated by a tick in the box beside it.

[ ] Membership application (see form below), (Note: The membership fee covers Bulletin subscription fee)

[ ] Life Membership ($500)

[ ] Membership renewal ($20)

[ ] Subscription for all issues of Colong Bulletin to 31/12/89 ($5) (Non-Members only)

[ ] Donation of $ .....

[ ] 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 Ltd (see form letter below). I would like this donation applied to:

[ ] The Fighting Fund

[ ] The Myles Dunphy Fund (investment only)

[ ] The Blue Mountains World Heritage Book Fund

[ ] Any of the above funds at the Foundation's discretion

NAME: (MR/MRS/MISS).....
ADDRESS: .....
.....POST CODE .....
SIGNED: .....DATE .....

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 .....
sert name of your organization)
I understand that this donation is tax deductible and therefore look forward to your receipt.

NAME: (Block Letters) .....$ .....
ADDRESS: .....
.....POSTCODE .....
SIGNED: .....DATE: .....

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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 to 31/12/89. (Please note: membership fee covers Bulletin subscription).

Signed. ..... DATE .....
FULL NAME: (MR/MRS/MISS) .....
ADDRESS .....
.....POST CODE .....