



# THE COLONG BULLETIN

Registered by Australia Post. Publication No. NBH 0318 Category B. Annual Subscription \$5.

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

Bulletin 122

September 1990

## CONTENTS

Trees Are Not Just Timber	2
Wilderness and Sustainable Population	4
A Deep Green CSIRO	5
Woodchipping Profits	5
More Trees For Japan	6
The Growth Syndrome	7
Letters	8

*Hostile commentators wish to place the onus for any pre-conservation decision on the conservation movement. In the 1990s the weight of proof should be on the other side.*

**Bob Carr, Leader of the Opposition, in a letter on "The imperative of environmentalism" 16/4/90**

*Healthy ecosystems provide us with services which are indispensable for our survival. The natural complement of species in functioning ecosystems provide the oxygen we breathe, generate topsoil and control soil erosion, recycle nutrients, pollinate our crops, cleanse our water supplies and ultimately, stabilise the climate. All these positive 'side-effects' are the life-support system of the planet.*

**CSIRO'S "Outlook" paper *Australia's Environment and Natural Resources***

## Sustain The Environment Or Perish

Homo sapiens is still the same animal as in paleolithic times. Most of his food still depends on plant growth in a thin layer of topsoil developed over many millennia by the breakdown of rock. Grasses still provide his staple foods, whether in the form of grain, such as wheat and rice, or pasture for domestic animals. He needs a wide variety of vegetables and fruit together with fresh air and clean water. Lack of natural foods, clean air and clean water leads to bad health

and disease. He also needs shelter and clothing, much of which is derived from the products of the land.

A sustained environment is not therefore just a "greenie fad". It is essential to maintain the necessities of life. Development has caused land degradation, forest depletion and atmospheric and aquatic pollution. "Sustainable development", if this means development without environmental damage, would be acceptable,

but much development involves the degradation or destruction of the natural or human environment. For this reason most major development projects arouse strong opposition, e.g. woodchipping, freeways, coastal and escarpment resorts, etc.

The Colong Foundation therefore believes a sustained environment, not development, should be the main aim of research and endeavour.

### THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS

18 Argyle St., Sydney. Phone 247 4714

PATRON: The Hon. Neville K. Wran, A.C., Q.C.

DIRECTORS: Peter Maslen, B.Sc.(Eng), B.Sc.(Botany) (Chairman); Pat Thompson, L.C.P. (Vice-Chairman); Jeff Rigby (Vice-Chairman); Alex Colley, O.A.M, B.Ec., H.D.A. (Hon. Secretary); Albert Renshaw (Hon. Treasurer); Milo Dunphy, A.M., A.S.T.C.; Rodney Falconer, B.Sc., Ed.; Dennis Gittos; Narelle Lovell, B.Sc.; Phil Mallard, M.B., F.R.C.S.; Keith Muir, B. Nat. Res. (Hons); Peter Prineas, B.A., LL.B.; John Sinclair; Jim Somerville, A.M., A.A.S.A.

HON. PHOTOGRAPHER: Henry Gold

# Trees Are Not Just Timber

---

*There can be no reasonable doubt that soil degradation, which threatens our food supply, and the carbon build-up which threatens our atmosphere, are the prime environmental problems. This is confirmed by the numerous quotations from CSIRO scientists on these subjects published in this and previous Colong Bulletins.*

---

FOR this reason we responded to Mr Justice Stewart's invitation to comment on his description of the use of forests capable of producing timber products as the central issue of the Resource Assessment Commission's Forest and Timber Resources Inquiry by drawing attention to the importance of forests in countering soil degradation and the greenhouse effect. We were pleased to read in RAC Newsletter No 2, published two months later, that "the ecological significance of the forest and forest ecosystems" was "one of the central questions identified." The background paper, published during the same month (March) stated that "all possible uses of forests will be considered including their commercial uses and conservation for their ecological and environmental values and their use for recreation and aesthetic enjoyment."

Our submission to the Inquiry commenced by pointing out that there are substitutes for most timber uses, but no substitutes for soil lost from cleared land or forests containing trees that have taken centuries to grow. In support we quoted the Institute of Foresters' submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee Inquiry into the Effectiveness of Land Degradation Policies, which stated that "Trees are the natural tool for slowing the erosional process. The potential erosive energy of rain and wind is physically absorbed by the protective crowns and the above ground mass of trees. The humus produced by the tree and its roots help to bind the soil even where rilling and gullyng have begun. In addition, trees can reduce wind speeds at the soil surface by 10 to 100 fold, thus reducing soil loss and the severity of bushfires. Thus trees have not only been nature's agent of soil formation but have also acted to minimise soil loss through erosional processes ... One

of the major mechanisms that has contributed to the degradation of Australian landscapes has been the clearing of native vegetation cover, particularly trees." Our submission then dealt with the role of trees in catchment protection, countering the greenhouse effect and aesthetic and recreational values. Public opinion polls were quoted which showed that some 80% of the public valued the latter above economic exploitation. On overcutting we expressed the view that it was taking place, though we were unable to give an overall assessment, which it was the function of the Inquiry to determine. We quoted the House of Representatives Standing Committee Inquiry, the late Dr Gentle, the Helsham Inquiry, Mr Keith Tarlo's report on the sustainability of woodchipping, and a report by Mr Hammond, ex-Forestry Commission Assistant Director of Marketing, in support of our view. These quotations have been covered in previous Bulletins.

We questioned the RAC'S's adoption of "sustainable development", which it defined as "conservation", because development, as accepted by the forestry industry and Commission, meant roading to develop old growth forests. We expressed the view that the immediate goal should be sustained forests, not sustained development, and that the longer term goal should be, not development, but the preservation of old growth forests and reforestation. It was pointed out that both the Forests Products Industry and the NSW Forestry Commission wanted to expand production at the expense of old growth forests. The Forests Products Industry has called for extension of production from natural forests, and the Forestry Commission for "logging to the limits of economic accessibility."

We referred to the Forestry Commission's sustained opposition to conservation, only too familiar to our readers, and outlined our attitude to commercial forestry as follows:

*The Colong Foundation is not opposed to commercial forestry, but it has, from its inception, opposed the destruction of native forests for pine plantations, the logging of forests in scenic areas of recreational appeal and clear felling for woodchipping or any other purpose. It has not opposed sustained yield logging of the greater part of the forest estate. Timber is, as forestry interests assert, a renewable resource. The trouble is that it is not being renewed as fast as it is being used.*

The aim, we said, should be to reduce demand to sustainable yield by measures such as higher royalties, increased sales tax, taxation of advertising material, or even a bounty on recycled paper. We expressed the opinion that tree destruction through woodchipping, clearing for rural purposes and dieback far exceeded regrowth. Proposals for poisoning 50 million hectares of poplar box in Queensland, new woodchip concessions and pulp mills, threatened further tree destruction on an enormous scale.

The NPWS submission to the RAC confirmed both the Australian Museum's view that forestry land use and land management has never been based on adequate information (see last Bulletin) and the Colong Foundation's frequently stated views. It strongly urged the substitution of plantation timber for the development of old growth forests. "It can be confidentially stated" the submission said, "that the remaining pristine and lightly disturbed forests represent some of the last remaining intact, natural

ecosystems in the State." The submission was summarised as follows:

*The National Parks and Wildlife Service considers that the future of the timber industry must lie in hardwood and softwood plantations established on currently cleared land. The use of plantation timber will reduce the pressure on native forests for sawlogs and pulpwood, permit longer rotations in managed native forests and enable unlogged forests to be retained.*

*Intensive logging operations in native forests, such as those typically associated with pulpwood supply, have significant adverse effects on the natural systems. In particular, arboreal animals and hollow nesting birds are seriously depleted by these activities. Native forests should not be used for the supply of timber for wood chips or new pulp mills. Supplies to existing industries should be phased out and converted to plantation timber where appropriate.*

*The remaining old growth and lightly logged forests of New South Wales are a tiny proportion of the original forests of the State. They represent the last chance to protect the forests, with all their natural and cultural values, from development and degradation. The present system of conservation needs to be expanded. In particular, old growth forests, forests on high nutrient soils and forests of the western slopes and plains need to be included.*

*Systematic surveys of the flora and fauna of the State's forests need to be undertaken. They are essential to our understanding of the status of the natural heritage of the forests. Such studies are necessary to enable decisions about forest management to be put into a State wide perspective.*

*Their submission described "a continuous net loss in mature tree cover in the State." Of the 13% of NSW forests contained within the reserve system only 12% (or 1.44% of the total forest area) was productivity class 1 eucalypt forest. So much for the Commission's complaints about losing forests to national parks. The impact of*

Europeans, with their introduced technologies, animals and plants, on the landscape of Australia was such that no continent on earth had experienced such rapid change. Pine plantations, woodchipping practice and short regeneration periods threatened many species. Lead-beaters possum could not survive the present timber harvesting regime in Victorian forests and woodchipping had the potential to push remnant koala populations to extinction. Bats, dependent on the blossoms of certain eucalypt species, could be forced to concentrate on fruit crops. Potoroo species could be threatened by further clearing. The knowledge necessary to make a sound prediction on the consequences of forest operations did not yet exist.

Tall open forests, dominated by eucalypts, were poorly represented in the conservation reserve system. This was not surprising when it was realised that agriculture and forestry had destroyed or highly modified approximately 90% of NSW's tall open forests, while competition for the remaining 10% was intense.

The Commission's Preferred Management Priority System, which made no provision for public consultation, was not an alternative for Environmental Impact Statements.

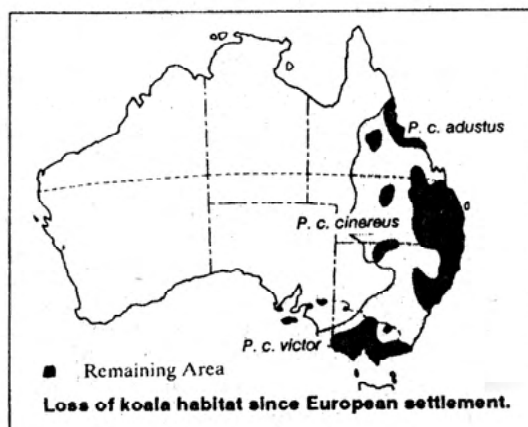
The submission concluded that:

*Wildlife and the quality of the forest environment in New South Wales would be severely depleted if indigenous forests were to form the basis of a greatly enlarged pulp and paper industry. There will be less wildlife, even the koala may become extinct in some regions, and many forested landscapes will be converted to a patchwork of cleared erosion-prone coupes. There will be less aesthetic appeal of the forests. They will be less attractive as there will be a dominance of even-aged stands of regrowth never allowed to attain maturity. The age of the older, majestic forests will be gone forever.*

The NPWS quotes a number

of scientists in its submission. The Colong Foundation too has quoted highly qualified scientific support, dating back to the Boyd and Border Ranges campaigns. In Bulletin 102, we quoted 8 letters written to the S.M.H. by scientists. Six were against woodchipping and two for it. The two in favour were employed by the Forestry Commission. The South-East Forest Alliance has issued a leaflet quoting 9 scientists opposed to woodchipping. Those scientists supporting the logging of rainforests, woodchipping and the development of old growth forests have consistently been those retained by forestry interests. The recently issued report of the Joint Scientific Committee "The Biological Conservation of the South-East Forests", severely criticised by Dr Possingham (A.N.U.) is no exception. Three of the six members of the Committee were employees of the NSW Forestry Commission, one was a past spokesman for the foresters and another an expert on introduced pine plantations.

In a letter which stated that the RAC was "particularly interested" in the Foundation's submission, we were invited to give evidence at the Sydney hearing. The Commissioners were thoroughly conversant with our written submission and very attentive to our oral evidence. Jim Somerville's submission on Daishowa's finances was also well received. We believe that our views will have full recognition in the Commission's report.



*Copies of the Foundation's seven page submission, plus supporting data, mainly from the Colong Bulletin, are available on application.*

*Price \$5.00*



# Wilderness and A Sustainable Population for Australia

• BY KEITH MUIR

---

*While the question of an ideal population level is difficult to answer, the degree of human impact is not. Impacts are easy to assess.*

---

A recent CSIRO report, *Australia's Environment and Its Natural Resources — An Outlook*, described these impacts. The report states that in 200 years of European settlement, Australia has lost 75 per cent of its rainforest and half its hardwood forests. Half of its pastoral and agricultural lands are degraded and in need of reclamation. Sixty per cent of the wetlands on the east coast are gone. About 100 flowering plants have been lost and 20 mammals are also extinct.

Of the original Australia, only about five per cent of wilderness remains. Those wilderness areas outside national parks are rapidly disappearing under logging, clearing, grazing and mining pressures.

The above losses stem from our level of resource use and abuse, from polluting technologies uses converting resources into commodities, which is augmented by population growth. Such progress results in too many cars, too many resources wasted, too many polluting industries, too much detergent and too much poorly treated sewage.

Australia's urban society makes environmental damage more severe by concentration in large cities along the east coast of Australia. Concentrated urban wealth has been established by and remains dependent on export of primary products. This dependency creates increasing political and economic pressure from the forestry, mining, farming and pastoral industries to clearfell, quarry,

overgraze and irrigate using all natural resources.

Population and affluence are not intrinsically the source of environmental damage. Excessive resource consumption, polluting technologies and the throw away society is.

Existing national parks and wilderness areas will be exploited unless Australia evolves into an environmentally sustainable society.

The issue is not whether development can be sustained. The issue is whether the environment and the quality of life dependent on it can be sustained.

Even capital cities must become sustainable urban environments where communities recycle containers, paper products, building materials, and sewer wastes.

Damming the wild rivers Colo, Kowmung and Shoalhaven will happen unless we recycle our waste waters. The great engineering achievements of the next decade should not be monuments in concrete flooding wilderness but sewerage treatment plants that yield drinking water and food and commodity containers that can be forever reused.

## What is a sustainable society?

Australian society today will consume according to the laws of 19th century mathematician, Robert Malthus, at geometric proportions until all natural resources are ruined and further exploitation uneconomic. At that point the economy and society collapse. Not a

depression for a number of years but permanent loss of culture and wealth.

According to Dr Ted Trainer of the University of New South Wales, if our economy grows at 3 per cent per annum, then by 2050 there will be eight times as much output per year as there is now. How much unprotected wilderness will be left then? None!

There is little point in working to save bits of the environment today, unless we redirect Australia's resource-based economy.

Saving this or that forest is meaningless, if the woodchippers will just move on to the next old growth forest. Sustainable forestry, on the other hand, would establish new plantations and reuse wood products to preserve old growth.

The minerals industry will press its claims inside national parks unless society reuses all metals and eliminates planned obsolescence in its commodities.

To save wilderness, society must:

- Boost recycling and minimise waste to stave off resource exhaustion and destruction in the natural environment;
- Maintain domestic products and replacing beliefs that newer is better than the old with a belief in quality products; and
- Wean the economy off its dependency on primary products for export.

# A Deep Green CSIRO

**I**N Bulletin 118 we quoted a CSIRO submission which stated that "The protection and restoration of the environment should be made a primary goal that underlies the conduct of Australian research." This objective is substantiated in the "Outlook" paper entitled *Australia's Environment and Its Natural Resources* published by the CSIRO Institute of Natural Resources and Environment. The paper adequately confirms the views constantly expressed by the Colong Foundation.

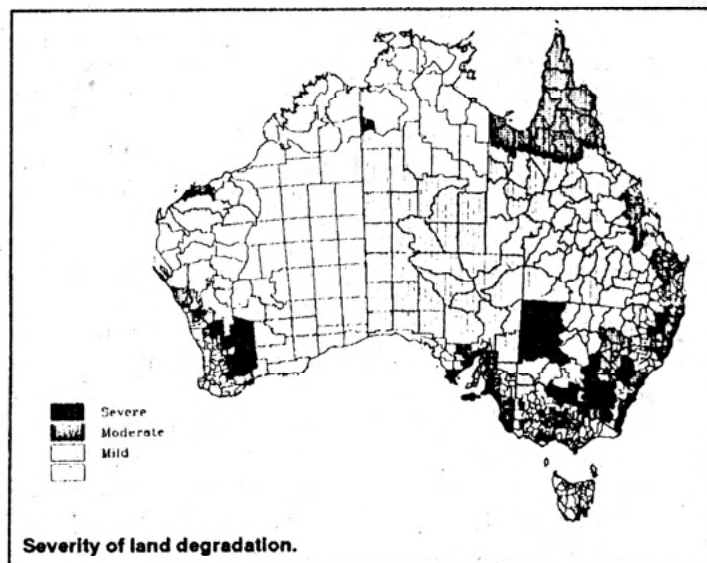
It is pointed out that Australia's increasing standard of living belies the way we have managed our resource base. Real economic growth occurs only if the economic value exceeds the environmental cost of resource utilisation. "It is possible for a country to sell all its mineral resources, cut down its forests, erode its soils, pollute its aquifers and destroy its wildlife while GDP continues to rise."

The first specific problem covered is that of conservation and managing of natural ecosystems. The causes of species extinction are described under the headings of Logging (including woodchipping), Changed Fire Regimes, Habitat Fragmentation and Inadequate Pest Control. The paper emphasises that "The problem of conserving Australia's native plants and animals is one of how to slow and eventually halt the rate at which their natural habitats are being lost." It is the view of the Colong Foundation that wilderness is the most complete natural habitat, though smaller natural areas may be the only habitat that can be reserved in the more fertile areas

that once supported many species of plants and animals.

Water quality, the paper states, is declining because of over-clearing, intensive irrigation, industrial waste, urban run-off and agricultural run-off (carrying fertilisers, weedcides, etc.). Nor is water quantity unlimited. There are now over 300 large dams and few dam sites are left.

*continued overleaf*



## Woodchipping Profits

**T**HE Colong Foundation presented evidence to the Resource Assessment Commission on 27th July which revealed the extraordinary level of profits made by Harris-Daishowa — the company woodchipping the south east forests.

By analysing the data filed with Corporate Affairs we were able to demonstrate to Commissioner Stewart that Harris-Daishowa (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. should be paying much higher royalties to the NSW Forestry Commission.

Dividends paid to the Japanese owners (Daishowa Paper Co. and C. Itoh) have been extraordinarily high — 100% in 1987 and 93% in both 1988 and 1989. The actual amount sent to Japan was \$7.5 million in 1987 and \$7.0 million in each of the last two years.

Profits have been so good in recent years that the company now has \$20 mil-

lion in bank fixed deposits, \$6.3 million in undistributed profits and has been able to write down land and buildings to \$1.6 million although the current market value is \$21 million.

The selling price of the 998,000 tonnes of woodchips to C. Itoh (Aust.) for resale to C. Itoh (Japan) for resale to Daishowa Paper Co. (Japan), was \$83 per green tonne, so the operating profit of \$17.4 million was an excellent 21% on sales.

The Forestry Commission receives an average royalty of only \$16 per tonne out of this \$83 and as a result their Eden Management Area is only marginally profitable. If they increased the royalty to \$26 per tonne, Forestry would earn an extra \$5 million per annum and Harris-Daishowa's dividend would be reduced to a more reasonable 50%.

When the four Forestry Commission officers appeared before Mr Justice

Stewart at the RAC a few days later, they explained that the current royalty was negotiable on the basis of a reasonable margin over the costs of supervising the woodchipping operations in the Eden Management Area and took credit for it being the highest of all the Australian States. However, they agreed to review the rate in the light of the additional information, but, regrettably, because of their current contract, this would not occur until 1994! Mr Justice Stewart did not appear to be overly impressed.

The forests Daishowa are exploiting to make these splendid profits belong to the people of New South Wales. What a pity the Forestry Commission insists that all its contract negotiations are "commercial" and therefore confidential. All the commercial advantages appear to accrue to Daishowa, not to the public!

From previous page

Closely linked to water quality is soil degradation. Sixteen types of soil degradation are listed. Vegetative cover is described as "the key to land protection." An effort of the order of Dr Eckersley's "visionary program involving the growing of billions of trees at a cost of several billion dollars over 10-20 years is required."

The environment is exploited primarily for the purpose of immediate economic gain and the paper fully recognises this, though some of its solutions need refinement.

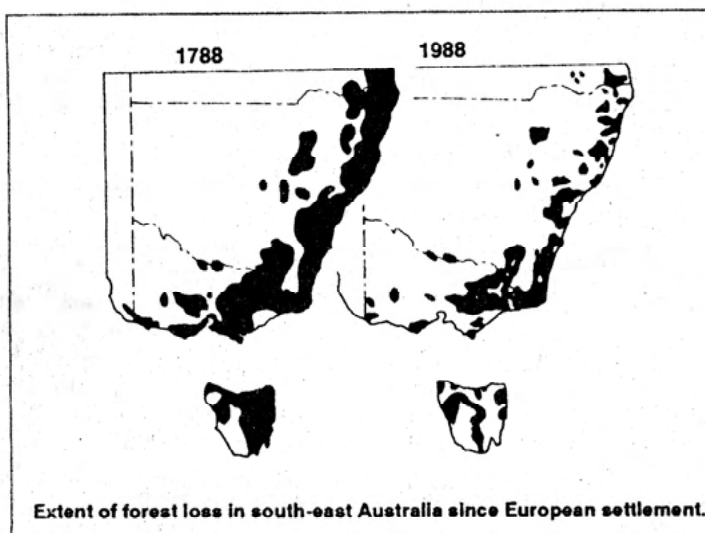
On the subject of logging, a national forest inventory is proposed. It is to be hoped that the Resource Assessment Commission will provide this. Concern is expressed for timber on private lands. Strict control over further vegetation clearing on private lands is described as the single most important factor in maintaining their habitat value. When the inventory is completed, "the industry needs and deserves firm guarantees for the availability of its feedstock. Perhaps such guarantees could be granted in return for increased royalties reducing the industry's major public subsidy, which is largely in the form of below-cost royalties for timber taken from native forests." The trade-off of higher royalties for guaranteed availability of timber could reduce logging to a sustained yield basis on public

forest lands. It would increase pressure on privately owned timber, and would no doubt be bitterly contested by forest industries.

The policy principle that the costs of maintaining natural resources should be borne "by society generally and enterprises individually" implies that the environmental costs of pollution and resource depletion can be paid for in money. They could be reduced by these means, but not eliminated.

The remedy for arresting soil degradation is to be left to farmers because, "increasingly, good farmers are recognising the benefits of investing in and protecting their land," and "establishing trees in formerly forested areas will slow degradation." Unfortunately many farmers, even with the best intentions, are subject to the pressures of droughts, floods, commodity price fluctuations, high interest rates etc., which force them to maximise present output rather than invest in the long term benefits of erosion control and reforestation.

The conclusion that "even under conventional accounting procedures the face of Australia would change dramatically if users were charged the full cost of electricity, irrigation, water, highway maintenance and timber resources" is environmentally desirable and economically sound, though probably politically impractical.



## MORE TREES FOR JAPAN

By one official estimate made in 1988, 6.2 million hectares of Malaysia's remaining 10.9 hectares of virgin forest are in Sarawak.

The rate at which Sarawak's forests are being felled increased sharply during the 1980s. In 1987, the most recent year for which estimates are available, 310,000 hectares were logged. "What remains behind is virtually wasteland," concludes a report published by Sahabat Alam Malaysia, the Malaysian offshoot of Friends of the Earth. Japan is the biggest buyer of the logs. It turns four-fifths of them into plywood, much of which is used only once, to make forms for pouring concrete.

The men who run Sarawak are unlikely to turn even a pale shade of green. They have too much to lose. Sarawak's chief minister hands out logging licences at his discretion. The real owners of the licences are usually concealed behind a veil of nominee companies. The veil was temporarily lifted during the vituperative campaigning for the most recent election, in 1987. The nephew of the chief minister at the time revealed that his uncle had granted concessions covering 1.25m hectares of forest to his eight daughters. The uncle in turn revealed that friends and relations of his nephew, who won the election and is chief minister today, have licences for 1.6m hectares.

Mr. James Wong, the state's tourism and environment minister, exercises no restraining influence himself. His best known remark on the risk that cutting down the forests might reduce rainfall in the state is, "We get too much rain in Sarawak — it stops me playing golf."

*The Economist's* special correspondent in Sarawak, 10th August, 1990.



# The Growth Syndrome

• by ALEX COLLEY

---

*An immigration debate, now desired by some members of all political parties, is to be welcomed on environmental grounds.*

---

GROWTH has for long been the icon of economists and business interests. It is stimulated by population increase, of which immigration is the main component. Evidence is increasing, however, that most are more concerned about the environment than about economic growth.

The unquestioned assumption on which the growth syndrome is based is that Australia is a vast undeveloped country. It is vast all right, but its natural resources, other than minerals, are already over-taxed, as evidenced by forest depletion, soil erosion, stream siltation etc. Its rural resources are completely circumscribed by rainfall and soil fertility. In normal seasons one can travel from Bourke to Geraldton, or from Port Augusta to Katherine without crossing a running dam, or from Cairns to Gippsland going through rich pockets of agricultural land separated by long stretches of scrub. Sheep numbers at their peak of 180 million in 1970 and cattle peaked at 33.4 million in 1976. They have been substantially below that since. Wheat acreage, despite expansion into marginal lands, remains around 12 million ha.

Based on the myth of vast open spaces waiting to be peopled - the "populate or perish" symptom - is the belief that we need population for defence. This is based on the unreal assumption that we can have enough infantry to match the hordes that a potential aggressor could mobilise. The invasion of Australia would be a vast undertaking, rendered very difficult by a modern air force and navy; virtually impossible if we have powerful friends. The one nation that tried it finds it much cheaper and easier to buy our commodities and real estate than to fight for them.

Business interests and economists have for long maintained that more

people mean bigger markets, bringing the benefits of mass production and cheaper goods. This would mean that the larger the home market the better off would people become. The people of countries with the biggest home markets would be better off than those living in small countries. There is no evidence to support this. Stephen Joske, economist of the Legislative Research Service of the Commonwealth Parliament, concludes in this paper *The Economics of Immigration: Who Benefits* that "immigration cannot be justified on economic grounds alone."

The United Nations National Development Programme has produced a "human development index" which rates 180 countries with populations of 1 million or more. The index is based on gross domestic product per head, life expectancy per head and adult literacy. Australia rates 17th with gross domestic product per head of \$11,782. Switzerland, population 6.6 million, did best with \$15,403 per head. Ten of the 16 countries above Australia have smaller populations. The significance of the "human development index" is of course subject to one's views on the significance of income, life expectancy and adult literacy, but it is an honest attempt to measure welfare, more than any of the growth advocates have attempted. Six nations rank above Australia in the completed index; four of them have small populations. Japan (population 122 million) comes first, though many would be prepared to trade money, literacy and longevity for living space.

So much for the alleged positive benefits of migration. On the negative effects we can be more specific. There can be no doubt that the inadequacy of our sewerage, transport, housing and hospital systems would be much less if it had not been necessary to provide for over

100,000 immigrants a year. The price of housing, stimulated by immigration, is probably the main reason for the fall in Australia's fertility rate to below replacement level. Stephen Joske estimates the costs imposed by immigration at \$9 billion a year. Nor can there be any doubt that continually increasing population will impose further pressure on the natural environment. Wild rivers, such as the Cox, Kowmung, the Tully, the Shoalhaven, and, if Mr Causley has his way, the NSW northern rivers, will be dammed and flooded. There will be more pressure for mining, grazing and logging of natural areas and more resistance to the creation of national parks. More of the very limited area of fertile, well watered, coastal land will be sacrificed to subdivision.

Growth does not enhance the quality of life. As Tony Groom said in his Romeo Lahey Memorial Lecture:

"The unlivable city may be closer than we think. The ravishing beauty of one of the world's most spectacular cities (Sydney) is rapidly becoming overshadowed by a grittiness, a harsh ugliness, that comes from too many people, from poverty, from the constant threat of drug induced violence and from inhuman design of buildings, transport and streetscapes. Perhaps that is why 40,000 people left Sydney last year."

Funds which should be devoted to conservation, if the deterioration in the environment is to be arrested, will be devoted to development. The \$9 billion per annum devoted to the needs of immigrants could be used for restoring the environment, but much more is required. One project alone, the planting of 150,000 ha of the Murray basin with trees, which the CSIRO estimates is necessary to arrest salinity, would cost

*continued overleaf*

*From previous page*

many billions.

Population increase is not the only cause of environmental degradation. Development will continue to rank ahead of conservation, harbour tunnels and motor bike courses before re-forestation, but a stable population would decrease the pressure on the environment and could release resources for restoration.

**Footnote:**

It is of interest to note that the June newsletter of AUSTRALIANS FOR AN ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABLE POPULATION contains an article on Freeways through Canberra bushland and one on the Tully-Millstream Hydro-electric Scheme, which will flood part of the northern rainforests World Heritage Area. The editor of the newsletter, Hugh Oldham, comments: "Some readers may wonder whether these matters are just Greenie stuff, better suited to other journals, but they are very relevant to AESP and its aims. They are the direct result of population growth, and are likely to damage not just an ordinary patch of our environment, but heritage areas, which would rank high in value in any rational measure of sustainability."

## Coastal Planning Policy

The release of a 76 page document entitled "The New South Wales Coast - Government Policy" is little more than an elaboration of the Government Guidelines issued early last year. It is mainly a reiteration of existing procedures. Although a planning strategy is to be prepared, no means of ensuring that the interests of the State will prevail over the development interests of local councils is provided. The primary requirement is a regional or state plan which will ensure that the natural features of the coast are protected. The most effective means of ensuring this is to extend the national parks system. There is no mention of any new parks.

Nor is there any mention of the work of the Standing Committee on State Development's Coastal Development Inquiry, to which the Colong Foundation made a submission.

## Letters

Ted Fensom, Vice President of the Wild Life Preservation Society of Queensland, writes:

*The M.F.P. proposal brought a spate of rezoning applications for golf courses, integrated resorts, quarries and acreage subdivision that could not be answered by the conservation movement in June 1990.*

*The A.C.F. (Gold Coast Branch) has initiated a "Save the Hinterland" campaign. This involves the coastal ranges north from Lamington National Park, many clothed in rain-forest and wet sclerophyll forest and some dry sclerophyll forests. These ranges form substantial fauna corridors and the Albert Shire motto "The green behind the gold" now translates to "The greed behind the gold."*

Dennis Gittoes writes from Illabo (near Wagga):

*During a fire de-briefing for the local farmers, the Department of Agriculture experts played a good part in a very practical way. I later spoke at length with them about "tree planting on the farm" and they have a mass of good advice and literature to give out. But generally farmers can't afford to implement it. A farmer yesterday told me he was getting only \$4 per head for his good lambs: hardly worth driving to market. They can't always afford conservation.*

## A.L.P. Park Program Welcome

*Mr. Bob Carr's announcement of a specific short term and long term policy of additions to the national parks system is very welcome to the Colong Foundation.*

The list of 20 parks which the A.L.P. pledges to create in its first year of office is headed by the south-east forests and second on the list is the Nattai Park, subject of our recent submission. Another of our submissions, the Gardens of Stone proposal, is also included. Coastal parks, old growth forests, and rain-forest remnants are well represented. The commitment to add two million hectares to the national park system within 10 years provides scope to create many of the other parks proposed by conservation or-

ganisations, and the ecological survey to be established would enable the inclusion of ecosystems not now in the parks system.

Although the Colong Foundation has expressed its appreciation of some welcome additions to the parks system by the Greiner-Murray Government, Mr. Carr is simply stating the facts when he says that "In two and a half years of government no new national parks have been announced and no new wilderness areas have been protected." Having reduced the staff of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Government has pleaded lack of ability to manage parks as its reason for not creating new ones. The Government-created staff deficiency will be remedied by the A.L.P.'s plan to create 75 new positions, principally for park rangers.

### Meeting Dates

**Meetings will be held  
on October 4th and  
18th and November  
1st, 15th and 29th.**



# SUPPORT THE COLONG FOUNDATION

## BULLETIN SUBSCRIPTION

*Membership of The Colong Foundation for Wilderness covers Bulletin subscription fee.*

Non-members of the Foundation may subscribe to the Bulletin for a fee of \$5 (covers all issues of the Bulletin to 31/12/90)

### A BEQUEST

Please remember us in your will. The Law Society of NSW recommends the following wording:

*'I bequeath the sum of \$.... to the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd. for its general purposes and declare that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd. shall be complete discharge to my executors in respect of any sum paid to the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd..*

## TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

*Donations over \$2 are tax deductible if you fill in the form. Make the cheque out to the Australian Conservation Foundation, fill in the form expressing a preference that the donation be used for the purposes of COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS LTD. and send the cheque and form to ACF.*

**Please note that ACF  
mail out receipts only  
once a month**

## MEMBERSHIP

*Membership fee of \$20 covers Bulletin subscription. If you are not personally known to the Foundation, the 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. Return to The Hon. Secretary, Colong Foundation for Wilderness, 18 Argyle St, Sydney 2000*

The Treasurer  
Colong Foundation For Wilderness Ltd.,  
18 Argyle Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

The enclosed remittance or advice covers the item(s) indicated by a tick.

- ☐ Membership application (use form below) (N.B. Membership fee covers Bulletin subscription)
- ☐ Life Membership (\$500)
- ☐ Membership renewal (\$20)
- ☐ Colong Bulletin Subscription to 31/12/90 (\$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 below). I would like this donation applied to:
  - ☐ The Fighting Fund
  - ☐ The Myles Dunphy Fund (investment only)
  - ☐ Either of the above funds at the foundations's discretion

NAME (MR, MS, MRS, MISS) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Director  
Australian Conservation Foundation  
340 Gore Street  
Fitzroy Vic 3065

I attach a donation to the Australian Conservation Foundation. I prefer that this donation should be spent for the purposes of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness. I understand that this donation is tax deductible and look forward to your receipt.

NAME (MR, MS, MRS, MISS) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

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

I hereby apply for membership of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd.

I am nominated by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

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

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# THE COLONG BULLETIN

Registered by Australia Post — Publication No. NBH0318

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUST.**

**SENDER THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS**  
3rd Floor, 18 Argyle Street,  
SYDNEY NSW 2000



## **Publications Available from The Colong Foundation**

**(At recommended retail prices — no charge for postage)**

### **Published by the Foundation:**

The Colong Bulletin, issued bi-monthly, \$5 per annum	
Blue Mountains for World Heritage	\$15.00
The Colong Story	\$5.00
How the Rainforest Was Saved	\$5.00
Park or Pines	\$8.00
Nattai National Park Proposal	\$20.00

### **Other conservation books of interest:**

The Green Cleaner	7.95
Green Consumer Guide	14.99
Blue Mountains Wilderness	45.00

Myles Dunphy	29.90
Never Truly Lost	19.95
Range Upon Range	49.95
Our Common Future	17.95
Understanding Greenhouse and Ozone	6.50
Blueprint for a Green Planet	24.95
Slater's Field Guide to Australian Birds	29.90
100 Walks in NSW	12.95
Bushwalking in the Budawang	12.95
Native Plants of the Sydney Region	19.95
<b>1991 Wilderness Calendar (RRP + postage)</b>	<b>12.00</b>