



BRUSH BOX  
*Lophosemon confertus*

# N.E.F.A.

## NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

SYDNEY: NSW Environment Centre, 39 George St, The Rocks. 2000. Ph. 02 2474 206, Fx 02 2475 945  
LISMORE: The Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc, 88A Keen St, Lismore. 2480. Ph 066 213 278, Fx 066 219 420

MEDIA RELEASE                      16TH JANUARY 1991

### LOCAL SAWMILLER INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL LOGGING OPERATIONS

The North East Forest Alliance has uncovered two illegal logging operations at Dorrigo and Copmanhurst which involved a local sawmilling company. NEFA is calling for the prosecution of those responsible and the rehabilitation of the areas that have been destroyed.

"NEFA is outraged that a local logging company has apparently knowingly destroyed an area of Antarctic Beech forest on the Dorrigo plateau that was recently protected by the NSW Government," NEFA spokesperson Andrew Steed said today.

In March last year Seccombe's Timber and Transport Company Pty Ltd was subject to an Interim Protection Order (IPO) that was placed over 12 hectares of Antarctic Beech forest that they were logging for roof battens and pallet timber.

"NEFA is disgusted that Seccombe's have continued their environmental vandalism by felling at least two Antarctic Beech trees clearly marked to delineate the IPO boundary, and apparently have intentions of clearing the remainder once the IPO expires in March this year," Mr Steed said.

The IPO was enacted by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to protect the known territory of the rare and endangered Rufous Scrub-bird after two other known territories were destroyed in the same logging operations.

This was only the third IPO to be used in NSW since their introduction in 1987, and was the result of lobbying by NEFA with the support of the forest Products Association.

Mr Steed, said that it was regrettable that the Interim Protection Order failed to protect one of the last Dorrigo Plateau rainforest remnants as most of the Antarctic Beech in the area was left out and continued to be logged.

Further, it is unacceptable that two of the remaining eleven known territories of the rare Rufous Scrub-bird on the Plateau have now been severely degraded.

"Now that Seccombe's have knowingly breached the IPO, an offence with a \$10,000 and/or six month imprisonment penalty, it is up to the National Parks and Wildlife Service to instigate legal action," Mr Steed said.

In the second incident the same company, Seccombes, has been accused of illegal logging operations near Copmanhurst, north of Grafton by NEFA.

NEFA is alleging that illegal logging has occurred on some 1,000 ha of Crown land 11 kilometres north of Copmanhurst and has involved massive roadworks, creation of log dumps and the felling of hundreds of trees, with Seccombe's Timber and Transport Company Pty Ltd reputedly being responsible.

"It is unacceptable that private companies and individuals are able to illegally log our public lands without fear of prosecution and licence restriction. This is a clear case of a need to bring law breakers to justice," Mr Steed said.

"It is high time that these operators are brought before the courts and made an example of to other unscrupulous operators who breach NSW laws in their desire to maximize their person profit by destroying our public forests", Mr Steed said.

"These operations was reported to the Soil Conservation Service in the middle of last year, and after inspecting the area claimed it was not Crown land that was being logged," Mr Steed said.

"Following further investigations NEFA brought the matter to the attention of the Forestry Commission who eventually did investigate it and found it to be the most flagrant abuse of Crown Lands they have ever encountered," Mr Steed said.

NEFA is seeking the prosecution of the companies and individuals responsible for this blatant breach of NSW laws and is demanding that the Soil Conservation Service and the Forestry Commission use their full powers to bring the offenders before the Courts as soon as possible.

"If the Governemnt departments do not fully investigate this offence and commence legal proceedings, then they are effectively endorsing and approving an illegal activity and are as guilty of an offence as the illegal tree fellers," Mr Steed said.

"Justice must not only be done to warn other likely offenders from doing similar criminal acts," Mr Steed said.

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For further information: Andrew Steed (W) 066 213 278, Lismore

, or (until such an address has been notified in any manner in which the death or bankruptcy had not

meeting shall be given in any manner in which the death or bankruptcy had not

right to attend and vote thereat, (having no registered address not supplied to the Company and for the giving of notices to them;

a share in consequence of the death of a member who, but for his death or bankruptcy, would be entitled to receive notice of the

being of the Company.

and is entitled to receive notices of

The liquidator may, with the sanction of the Court, divide amongst the members of the Company (whether of the same kind or not) and may for that purpose sell any property to be divided and may determine how the division shall be made among the members or different classes of members. The liquidator may, with the sanction of the Court, vest the whole or any part of the assets of the Company in trustees upon such trusts for the benefit of the members as the liquidator with the like sanction may think fit, but no member shall be compelled to accept of any securities whereon there is any

The Director, Agent, Auditor, Secretary and other officers of the Company shall be liable to the Company against any liability incurred by proceedings, whether civil or criminal, given in his favour or in which he is a party, with any application under the Code of Procedure by the Court in respect of any breach of trust.

The powers conferred by Section 262 of the Companies Act shall be exercised to establish and cause to be kept and to be part of the Company's



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### DORRIGO RAINFORESTS UNDER THREAT

The Farmers Association intent of stopping the protection of environmentally sensitive lands on the Dorrigo Plateau was described by the North East Forest Alliance (N.E.F.A.) today as shortsighted and a retrograde action.

The Soil Conservation Service, in December, released a series of maps identifying environmentally sensitive lands on the Dorrigo Plateau requiring management to maintain their environmental values.

The maps identify habitat of the rare and endangered Rufous Scrub-bird, remnant rainforest and land vulnerable to mass movement, for which they are proposing management guidelines and calling for public comment.

Spokesperson for N.E.F.A., Mr Dailan Pugh, said that the plateau was once covered in rainforest, representing the core area of the primeval Antarctic Beech rainforests, but was mostly cleared and burnt early this century.

"Unfortunately this clearing has not stopped and the few plateau remnants, along with the Rufous Scrub-bird, are threatened with oblivion if something is not done soon."

"The gazettal of these remnants as Protected Lands will not ensure full protection but will at least ensure that irresponsible and short sighted actions to destroy them forever will be subject to some controls."

"Similarly it is hoped that it will help control land degradation, such as soil erosion, on the plateau." Mr. Pugh said.

"It is passed time that landowners should be allowed to destroy and degrade a property's irreplaceable natural values for what they perceive to be to their short-term benefit, while being to the detriment of all Australians for generations to come."

"It is apparent that unless those people who are concerned about the future of Australia take this opportunity to ensure improved environmental protection by giving their support to the proposals, then the Farmers Association will succeed in having them dropped." Mr. Pugh said.

# CLARENCE VALLEY CONSERVATION COALITION Inc.



POST OFFICE BOX 1015, GRAFTON N.S.W. 2460.

TO: THE DISTRICT FORESTER  
P.O. BOX 160  
DORRIGO N.S.W. 2453

PH 066 572083  
FAX 572543

FROM: CLARENCE VALLEY CONSERVATION COALITION INC  
POST OFFICE BOX 1015  
GRAFTON  
N.S.W. 2460

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION TO DISTRICT FORESTER DORRIGO  
WITH RESPECT TO PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT FOR DORRIGO MANAGEMENT  
AREA

5TH FEBRUARY 1991

To the District Forester Dorrigo,

The Clarence Valley Conservation Coalition Inc (C.V.C.C.) would like the following matters taken into consideration before the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Dorrigo Management Area.

Your attention is drawn to the "Report on the Forestry Commission" prepared by the Public Accounts Committee, (P.A.C.), Parliament of New South Wales Report Number 52 December 1990.

THE C.V.C.C. is concerned that recommendations made by the P.A.C. should be implemented by the Forestry Commission of N.S.W. before any new Environmental Impact Statements are commissioned.

The C.V.C.C. adopts the view that it is premature to commission an E.I.S. with emphasis on unlogged areas concentrated in Chaelundi State Forest until recommendations made by the P.A.C. are addressed by the Forestry Commission of N.S.W.

**The C.V.C.C.'s concerns are as follows:**

The C.V.C.C. has argued repeatedly for the preservation of all old growth forests and is opposed to any proposal to log old growth forest in the Chaelundi State Forest.

The C.V.C.C. proposes that all environmental values namely; clean air, clean water, soil retention and habitat protection for all flora and fauna be fully audited prior to utilizing old growth forests as a singular timber resource.

It is the C.V.C.C.'s opinion that these total environmental values are not fully audited in the present E.I.S. framework and adequate provision should be made for this to occur.

The C.V.C.C. is also concerned that the Forestry Commission is not exploring the feasibility of expanding hardwood plantations as an alternative timber resource.

In the 1988 - 89 Annual Report of the Forestry Commission of N.S.W. on page 21 it is stated that the Commission is committed to:-

"maximization of community benefit from the forest estate subject to the maintenance and protection of the forests in a healthy and vigorous condition at all times".

In its own words the Commission is committed to the "protection of the forests". In a wider context the C.V.C.C. believes that this protection should extend to include all flora and fauna particularly in undisturbed old growth forest. Logging old growth forest does little to protect the whole forest ecosystem.

In June 1990 the Premier Mr Greiner announced a strategy for increased public participation in forest management, particularly embracing the old growth

forests of the North Coast. The P.A.C.'s report on the Forestry Commission recommended:- (Recommendation 72 P151)

"that the Forestry Act be amended to include provisions for formal public participation in the management planning process".

Until this Act is amended and public participation ratified there is no way of ensuring that the public (whatever group is represented) will have a significant role in the management planning process.

The C.V.C.C. believes that until this occurs it is little use in calling for public submissions for inclusion into Environmental Impact Statements.

The P.A.C. has made several recommendations to the Forestry Commission with respect to hardwood plantations, namely:-

1. Recommendation 43 on page 101  
"It is recommended that the Forestry Commission make a decisive commitment to a research program aimed at boosting yields and preventing losses from hardwood plantations."
2. Recommendation 44 on page 103  
"It is recommended that the Forestry Commission formulate and circulate for public comment a 30 - year plan for the introduction of plantation eucalypt timber as a major alternative supply of pulpwood."
3. Recommendation 45 on page 103  
"It is recommended that the Forestry Commission give a strong commitment to the creation of an participation in an Australia-wide plantation program."

These recommendations put the onus on the Forestry Commission to examine the feasibility of hardwood plantations as a realistic timber resource for the future.

To contemplate logging of old growth forests without having realistic forward planning initiatives for the development of hardwood plantations would seem to be extremely bad foresight on the part of the Forestry Commission.

The lack of such planning initiatives necessitate the consideration of logging operations in old growth forests to keep a supply of logs for demands of the timber industry.

Even old growth forests cannot supply timber industry needs for more than a few years. When this resource is depleted the Forestry Commission will have no choice but to examine the feasibility of hardwood plantations.

Surely commonsense planning would indicate the urgent need for developing hardwood plantations as a timber resource for all users in the future.

In conclusion, the C.V.C.C. contends that it is premature to contemplate commissioning an environmental impact statement into logging any old growth forests until:-

- A) There is adequate provision for formal public participation in the management planning process.
- B) The Forestry Commission has developed future plans to develop hardwood plantations as an alternative timber resource.
- C) The ecological significance of old growth forests to all species of flora and fauna has been fully audited.

The C.V.C.C. trusts that these matters will be taken into consideration before the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement in the Dorrigo Management Area and awaits a reply on behalf of the Forestry Commission,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'B.E. Price', is written over a horizontal dashed line.

B.E. PRICE

On behalf  
Clarence Valley Conservation Coalition Inc.



20th March 1990

The Hon Nick Greiner  
Premier of NSW  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

BY FAX

Dear Mr Greiner

There is now compelling evidence that the Forestry Commission of New South Wales has breached specific provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 (NSW) in relation to logging, burning and roading activities in the north coast forests of New South Wales.

So much has been conceded by the Forestry Commission in recent legal proceedings in relation to the Mount Royal State Forest: there is an abundance of evidence of such breaches in relation to the Chaelundi State Forest, where the Land and Environment Court earlier in March granted an injunction to restrain the Commission's destructive activities. We are now aware of threatened breaches by the Forestry Commission in relation to parts of a further 9 State Forests. A list of these State Forests is attached.

In summary, the position is this: the logging of old growth forests has a significant impact on the environment.

The essence of our concern is that the Forestry Commission, despite the Land and Environment Court having ordered it time after time to do so, continues to refuse to abide by the Act's obligation to prepare environmental impact statements for its logging and roading operations.

The very heart of our planning law is that there be some independent scrutiny of activities by statutory authorities which may significantly affect the environment. This law does not prevent that activity taking place even if it will have a significant effect upon the environment. Its very limited requirement is only that that environment be studied and the impact understood and mitigated.

...2/.

These are not opinions expressed only by partisans in the environment debate. We are fortified in our belief by Counsel's advice on the Mount Royal case that "it would be difficult to find a more blatant case of a public authority acting in contumacious disregard of the law". The full advice can be made available to you if you wish.

We understand that the Solicitors for Mr Corkill have written to the Ministers for Local Government and Planning and the Environment, the Commissioner of the Forestry Commission and the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the attached terms.

The seriousness of the matter is such that Mr Corkill has been advised that not only the Forestry Commission but its servants as well may be in criminal breach of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

We strongly recommend your personal attention to these grave matters, by directing:

1. the Forestry Commission to cease roading, logging or burning in the 9 State Forests in the attached list of old growth forests, and where Schedule 12 NPW Act Endangered Species occur or are likely to occur;
2. the Forestry Commission to prepare Environmental Impact Statements into the nominated forests and other forests indentified as habitat for Endangered Species;
3. the Department of Planning to prepare, under Part V of the EPA Act, an independent assessment of the Commission's EIS's and public submissions.

We believe that it is fundamental to the environmental integrity of your government to adopt these proposals and take action, which is clearly within its powers, to protect these forests from the said activities of the Forestry Commission.

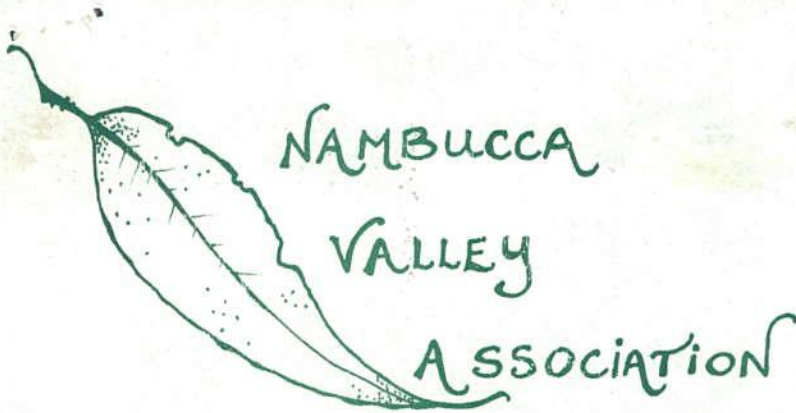
Yours sincerely

Peter Garrett  
President  
Australian Conservation Foundation

Alistair Grahame  
Director  
The Wilderness Society

Graham Wells  
Director  
National Parks Association

Dr Judy Messer  
Chairperson  
Nature Conservation Council of NS



Copy for info of  
NEFA

P.O. Box 123,  
Bowraville 2449

February 4, 1991

The District Forester,  
PO Box 160,  
Dorrigo. 2453.

Dear Sir,

re Dorrigo Management Area  
Environmental Impact Statement

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on your Background Information Sheet [the Sheet] regarding the Environmental Impact Statement [EIS] for the Dorrigo Management Area. We comments as follows:

#### 1. SCOPE OF EIS TOO WIDE

The proposed EIS will cover 82,000ha [page 1. of Sheet] of state forests for all forest operations to the end of the present cutting cycle in 2010 "and general management thereafter"(p.8). We question whether an EIS of this large scale and long duration could be adequate to fulfill the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, specifically section 111 which says a determining authority shall "examine and take into account to the fullest extent possible all matters affecting, or likely to affect, the environment by reason of that activity."

EIS's have generally been for smaller activities and over shorter time spans because of the necessity to specifically set down what the activity will be, where it will be, and when it will be. This detailing of what is actually being proposed is a first priority. Assessing the effects of the proposed activity can only follow on if the activity has been clearly described. To suggest the Forestry Commission [FC] could detail all forest operations over 82,000ha for the next 19 years, plus ad infinitum, if "and general management thereafter" means logging operations thereafter) is unrealistic, we feel.

We submit the FC should divide the area into smaller land parcels, say of 10,000ha each\*, and do separate EIS's over shorter periods of time, say 5 years, for each. This will enable the level of detail required by law to be achieved without an unwieldy document or one that will be tempted into generalities by the huge scope of the size and duration of the study area.

\* according to catchments of rivers + creeks

Let's care for the environment... life depends on it.

## 2. TERMINOLOGY IS TOO GENERAL

The Background Information Sheet is riddled with generalities. Perhaps this is the nature of a briefing paper, but we note much of its content is straight from the Management Plan which is also very general. Some examples of these kinds of statements which are meaningless without further definition are:

"large and diverse range of faunal species" [p.3]  
How large? What species?

"high proportion of mature and over mature habitat trees"  
[p.3]

How many per hectare? What type?  
Harbouring what species? How many?

"relatively quick recolonisation by small native mammals, birds and reptiles" [p.4]

Relative to what?  
What mammals? What birds? What reptiles?

"Significant numbers of old growth trees" [p.4]

How many per hectare? Where?  
What species of trees?

"adequate natural forest vegetation cover" [p.4]

Adequate for what? Retaining soil? moisture?  
Providing habitat? For what species?

"operations may occur throughout most parts of the area during the EIS time horizon" [p.9]

What operations? Which parts?  
Is this a plan if there is an open ended "may"  
included in it?

Any EIS would have to upgrade this type of terminology to specific statements that make it crystal clear to the reader the details of what the FC is actually proposing to do.

## 3. OLD GROWTH AREAS SHOULD NOT BE LOGGED

We submit that no old growth areas should be logged. The proposed operation to cut the old growth areas is NOT sustainable. It will cut out the old growth areas at 1200 - 1300ha per year [p.9]. The 25,000ha of old growth will have been logged at the end of 19 years! Will the FC then start logging the 19 year old regrowth in those areas?? Logging will be sustained for 19 years, but old growth or even mature forest stands will not be sustained nor will the timber production coming from those areas be sustained at that level after the 19 years.

The proposed operation is a mining plan of some of the last remnants of native, original Australian forest. Any EIS MUST put the values of an old growth forest in the context of the state and national resource of old growth forests remaining. With less than 5% of Australia's original old growth forests remaining

(Prof. H Recher) and on a continent originally having less than % tree cover) 25,000ha of old growth forest is a national and rare asset and must be preserved.

(Prof. H Recher) and on a continent originally having less than % tree cover) 25,000ha of old growth forest is a national and rare asset and must be preserved.

#### 4. COST AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY

The FC in the EIS must show the costs of the proposed logging operations including costs of building the 25km per year of access roads, the administration and other costs. They should also show the likely income from royalties. In other words a cost/benefit analysis in financial terms should be a part of the EIS. Some forestry areas have been shown to produce as little as 88cents worth of sawlogs per hectare per annum [History of Forestry on the Nambucca J. Monro 1991], a figure which casts doubts on economic viability and supports the argument for putting non-wood values of forests higher on the priority list.

#### 5. ISSUES THE EIS MUST ADDRESS

The EIS must assess the "before" situation in detail in order to assess the effects of the proposed activities including:

- A. Forest types and locations, species mix
- B. Type of understorey
- C. Type of groundcover
- D. Microclimate and microspecies
- E. Present fire regime
- F. Soil type and potential for erosion & slip
- G. Species of mammals present, in what quantities, habitat & food dependencies.
- H. Species of birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates & aquatic animals present, in what quantities, habitat and food dependencies.
- I. Interaction of all of above ie mutual dependencies.
- J. Hydrology of the area & water quality.
- K. Recreational use & values
- L. Aboriginal heritage values,
- M. Scenic values
- N. Catchment values must be quantified.
- O. Relationship to its region in ecological terms

The EIS must then assess the "after" situation in all these categories in a detailed form so as to be relevant. The reality of the "after" situation MUST leave non-wood forest values in a healthy state.

Thankyou for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

*Lyn Orrego*  
(President)

[1985]



*Government Gazette*

OF THE STATE OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES

Number 33 — Friday, 2 March, 1990

Published under authority by the Government Printing Service

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1974

INTERIM PROTECTION ORDER NO. 3

IN PURSUANCE of section 91B of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, I, TIMOTHY JOHN MOORE, the Minister for the Environment, having considered a recommendation by the Director of National Parks and Wildlife, DO HEREBY MAKE AN INTERIM PROTECTION ORDER in respect of the area of land described in Schedule "A" to prohibit the damaging or despoiling of the land or any part of the land which would constitute the carrying out of a development (within the meaning of Division 7 of Part 4 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974) in relation to the land, the damaging or destruction of any tree or other vegetation on the land, or the removal of any tree or other vegetation from the land, or the carrying on of any activity referred to in clause 10 (1) (a)-(r) or 11 (1) (a)-(w) of the National Parks and Wildlife (Land Management) Regulation 1987 that may affect the preservation, protection or maintenance of the land or the endangered and threatened Rufous Scrub-bird (Atrichornis rufescens) as well as the scientifically important stands of Antarctic Beech (Nothofagus moorei) within the land AND I DO FURTHER ORDER that the Interim Protection Order shall have effect for a period of 12 months.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Moore'.

TIM MOORE,  
Minister for Environment.

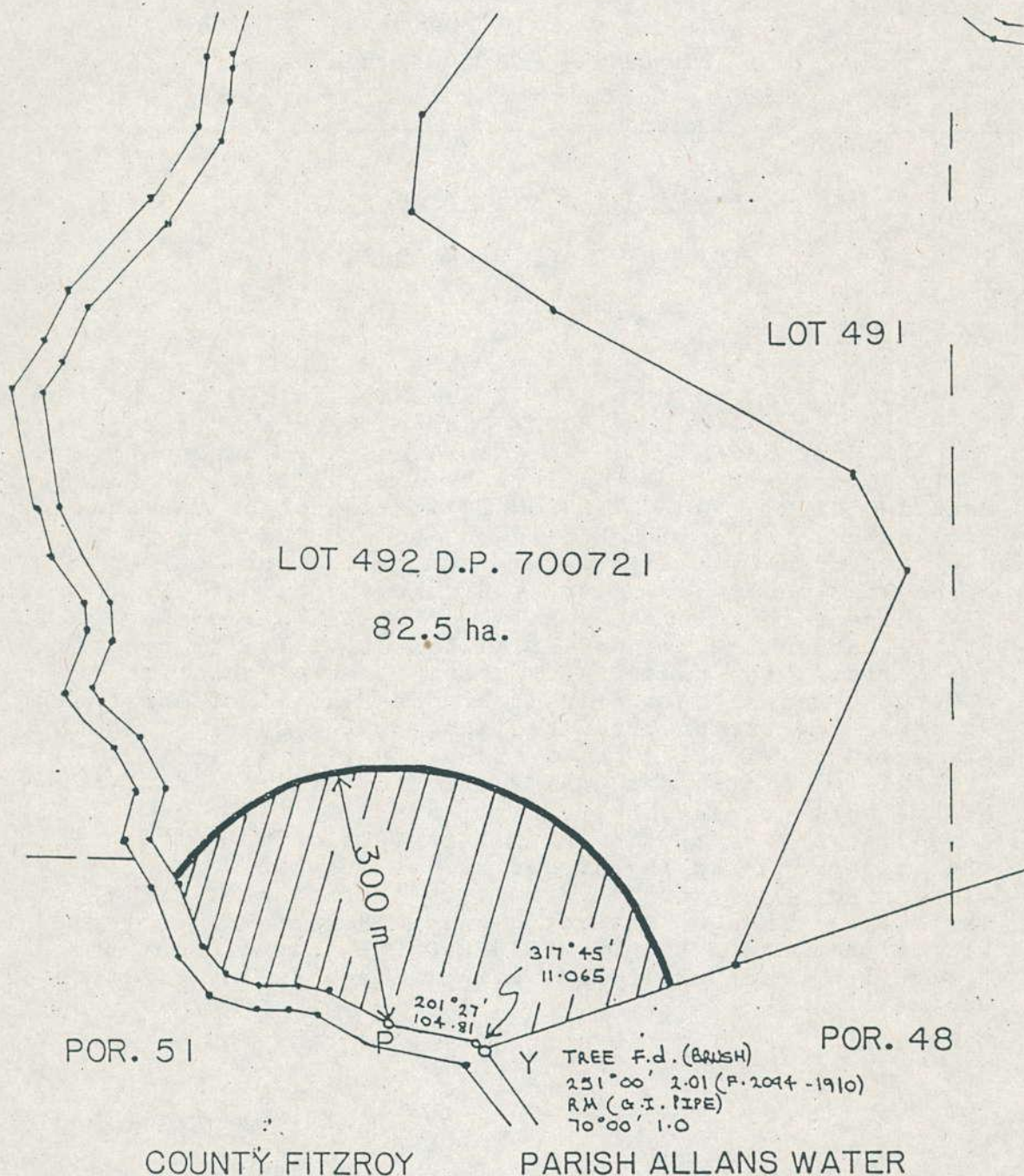
Sydney, 2nd March, 1990.

SCHEDULE "A"

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land comprising about 12.5 hectares situated in the County of Fitzroy and Parish of Allans Water being more particularly the land contained within a half circle of 300 metre radius having as its centre a point marked "P" on the attached diagram and being wholly within Lot 492 D.P. 700721.

INTERIM PROTECTION ORDER NO. 3

(Not to scale)



# NOTES ON ALLAN'S WATERS

## I.P.O.'s.

Lasts 12 months, only can be used once.

91g "An owner or occupier of an area of land subject to an interim protection order shall not fail to comply with the requirements of that order.

"Penalty: \$10,000 or 6 months imprisonment, or both"

Miscellaneous Acts (Wilderness) Amendment Bill 1987

- Only third I.P.O. in N.S.W. . Implemented 2 March 1990, 12.5 hectares, to protect known habitat of Rufous Scrub-Bird and Antarctic Beech

## Rufous Scrub-Bird (*Atrichornis rufescens*)

- Listed as Threatened on Schedule 12 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. Included in the Red Data Book list of endangered birds compiled by the International Council for Bird Preservation, and the 1981 CONCOM list of Australian Endangered Vertebrate Fauna.
- A small ~~abundant~~ shy bird, rarely flies, doesn't like open areas, primitive Australian genus, once widespread on north coast (i.e. used to be found in Big Scrub) but now restricted to elevations above 700 m. (reasons unknown) lives in understorey with dense groundcover (0.5-1m.) and deep leaf litter, Dorrigo isolated population - not able to cross cleared and unsuitable habitat to interbreed with other populations, estimated <sup>1984</sup> around 17 male Rufous Scrub. territories on the plateau edge of which about 13 occur on private property, Secombe's already destroyed two known territories on their property and Allan's Waters - I.P.O. placed over the 3rd known territory, Nat. Park mostly unsuitable habitat - too steep, <sup>wrong</sup> aspect?

## Antarctic Beech - Dorrigo Plateau

- Analogous to clearing of Big Scrub, Agricultural Gazette of N.S.W., April 3 1911 "Although the scrub is so heavily timbered, it is not so difficult to get rid of as the average outsider would imagine. The wood of most of the trees is soft and easily cut, and if the felling and firing are done at the

pp. 254-290  
Prospects  
of Dorrigo  
Settlers



# NOTES ON ALLANS WATERS

right time of the year, it speedily decays, and will burn out in a few years. ... where the hardwood timbers ... are growing, the labour of felling and burning is much more difficult, and there is nearly always trouble with the undergrowth sprouting again .... [R.f.] Felling is usually done from January to June. The undergrowth and young trees of 2 to 3 inches diameter are first cut down with a brushhook. This is very important. The "running" of the fire is materially influenced by the thoroughness with which this work is performed. Then comes the felling of the trees ....

"The dense growth of timber has to be got rid of, which is somewhat slow and laborious work. Sound judgement has to be exercised in felling and firing; grass seeds have to be bought and planted; weeds kept in check; logs heaped up and burnt, .... It takes ~~up to~~ at least two years from the time the scrub is felled till grass is sufficiently established to carry stock, and costs fully £5 an acre to convert the land into fair pasture."

- Antarctic Beech survivor of once extensive Gondwana rainforests, once widespread and now restricted to few isolated remnants from Barrington Tops north to just over the Queensland border. Most stands on the plateau have long since been cleared, only a few remnants, Allans Waters one of the most important: Used by early settlers for fenceposts.
- Conservation status of Cool Temperate Rainforest in northern N.S.W. (Floyd, A.G., 1987, Status of rainforest in northern NSW in The Rainforest Legacy V.1. Aust. Heritage Comm.)  
 Nat. P/Nat. R. - 45.1%, other reserves 3.8%, Flora Reserve and Forest Preserves (FCNSW) 4.5%, State F. and Crown timber lands 45.9%, Private lands 0.7%.



DEPARTMENT  
OF LANDS

(Division of DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT)

Dailan Pugh  
88A Keen Street  
LISMORE NSW 2480

YOUR REF: AE89 H 643  
OUR REF: Mr Wiseman  
CONTACT OFFICER: (067) 722308  
TELEPHONE NO:

- 8 OCT 1991


Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to your recent letter making comment on the Torrington Region Draft Land Assessment.

The draft assessment was placed on exhibition for the purpose of inviting public comment. The exhibition period closed on 20th September, 1991 and submissions received are now being reviewed and evaluated as part of the decision making process.

I wish to thank you for the interest you have shown in making a submission and assure you that the points raised have been noted and will be carefully considered prior to a final decision being made on the management strategies to be adopted for the area.

Yours sincerely

  
A E Wiseman  
for REGIONAL DIRECTOR





Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
New South Wales

A5427  
(27668)  
(28669)

26 APR 1991

Mr A Steed  
Coordinator  
North East Forest Alliance  
The Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc  
88A Keen Street  
LISMORE NSW 2480

Dear Mr Steed,

I refer to your letter on behalf of the North East Forest Alliance, concerning the exhibition of draft maps of protected land of the Dorrigo Plateau and your general support of the program.

As you are aware, I fully support the implementation of protected land as set out under section 21 of the Soil Conservation Act, 1938, and it is my intention to continue to implement the provisions of protected land as an important component of the Government's land management and conservation program. To this extent, the Soil Conservation Service is carrying out an extensive public consultation program including discussing all draft proposals with key community interest groups, including conservation and environmental groups, before final maps are released. In regard to the Dorrigo maps, it is proposed that they will be certified when this is completed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian Armstrong'.

IAN ARMSTRONG MP  
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL AFFAIRS

# MANIDIS ROBERTS CONSULTANTS

Manidis Roberts Pty Ltd  
A.C.N. 003 550 972

Level 5  
88-90 Foveaux Street  
Surry Hills NSW 2010

Our Reference: 910017

Phone (02) 281 5199  
Fax (02) 281 9406

14 August 1991

North East Forest Alliance  
88a Keen Street  
LISMORE NSW 2480

Dear Sir/Madam

## ***ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) FOR GLEN INNES MANAGEMENT AREA - FORESTRY COMMISSION***

The Forestry Commission has engaged Manidis Roberts Consultants to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for all State Forests together with those Crown-timber lands proposed for dedication as State Forest within the Glen Innes Forest Management Area. The EIS will address a wide range of environmental and economic issues concerning forestry activities in the management area.

During the preparation of the EIS, community consultation will be encouraged. Submissions have already been received in April from various groups, individuals and organisations regarding priority issues to be addressed in the EIS. The next step is the formation of a community consultative committee representing a cross-section of interested groups and opinions.

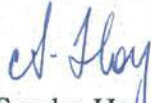
Letters are currently being sent to individuals and groups who made submissions in April, and advertisements have been placed in local newspapers inviting nominations for representation on the committee. The purpose of these meetings is to disseminate information to the wider community and provide a means through which the community can raise issues and provide input to the planning process.

Three meetings of the community consultation committee in Glen Innes are planned during the course of preparing the EIS. The first meeting is planned for September, during which important issues will be identified. At the second meeting in November, we will present information and receive comments. The third meeting scheduled for February coincides with the preparation of the draft final report.

For practical purposes, the committee will be limited to about 20 persons, so several groups may have to join together to nominate a representative. If you or your group would like to be involved, please complete the attached nomination form and fax or post to me by **Wednesday 4 September**.

I would also like to hear from individuals or groups who would like to meet with us in Glen Innes during the week of the 26th to 30th August. Please phone me on (02)281 5199 before Wednesday 21 August to arrange the possibility of meeting with you.

Yours faithfully  
**MANIDIS ROBERTS CONSULTANTS**

  
Sandra Hoy  
Environmental Planner

# GLEN INNES FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AREA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

## *Community Consultative Committee Nomination Form*

Name of group: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number:

Work: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Home: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Most convenient night(s) for attending meetings: \_\_\_\_\_

Role/activities of the group: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why your group should be represented on the community consultation committee:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return the completed nomination form by **4th September** to:

Sandra Hoy  
Manidis Roberts Consultants  
Level 5, 88-90 Foveaux Street  
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

Telephone: (02) 281 5199    Fax: (02) 281 9406

Please circulate and  
get as many people  
as possible to write a  
short note to save  
Binghi

-2-

2. In a preliminary wilderness study (we are still waiting for the National Parks and Wildlife study), the assessment found that a large section of the area could be termed wilderness in accordance with criteria outlined in Section 6 of the Wilderness Act 1987 (Sections 6.1, 6.3).
3. It makes key recommendations on the use of Crown Land, bringing about the protection of natural values by placing restrictions on clearing and grazing and by recognising the need for representative sampling (Section 6.3).
4. It states that the majority of Crown leases should remain in perpetuity with reserves from sale over them (Section 7).
5. It recognises that vacant Crown land along with permissive occupancies, is a particularly important resource for nature conservation (Section 7).

#### WHY YOU SHOULD COMMENT NOW!!!

The weighing up of the opposing submissions on the Torrington Region Draft Land Assessment will have a major influence on the outcome of this longstanding landuse conflict. At the present time certain mining and grazing interests are adding their weight to the case against the study. The last thing they want the Department of Lands to do is to stop the 'freeholding' of land - the key to clearing and development. Or in the case of mining, the last thing they want is nature conservation and wilderness values standing in the way of traditional rights of 'access and abuse'. The Draft Land Assessment (in spite of its short comings) goes a long way towards setting the balance in favour of nature conservation and protecting wilderness.

By all means let the Department of Lands know that it didn't go far enough with wilderness and national park dedication but please SUPPORT THE LAND ASSESSMENT ON THE FIVE POINTS LISTED ABOVE.

SEND YOUR LETTER TO -

Regional Director  
Armidale Lands Office  
PO Box 199A  
Armidale 2350

# Save Binghi

## Wilderness - Endangered Species - Forest

About 40km north of Glen Innes near the township of Torrington, is Binghi one of the largest remaining forested areas on the northwest slopes and northern tablelands - about 50,000 hectares in area with more than half in wilderness condition. Weathering and erosion of the strongly jointed granites has produced an extensive area of unusually rugged and diverse terrain, probably unique in N.S.W. It carries a major representation of the floristically rich plant communities of the New England region. Swamps, heaths, scrubs, woodlands and forests contain a rich assemblage of plant and animal species - more than 400 plant species have been recorded with some 36 regarded as rare or endangered.

It has been 22 years since the first call for a national park in the Binghi area. Despite continued efforts by conservationists (a proposal by the National Parks Association for the Beardy River National Park in 1976 and a Wilderness Nomination lodged by the Wilderness Society and the N.P.A. in 1988) successive Governments have failed to conserve this outstanding area.

Today the conflict between mining, grazing and nature conservation is still unresolved and the natural values of the Binghi continue to be threatened. However credit can now be given to the Department of Lands for recognising the need for a detailed land assessment in the Binghi area. The Torrington Region Draft Land Assessment was completed in early 1991. Copies are available for \$30. Submissions have been invited for the 90 days up to 31st August 1991.

In view of the closing date you may choose to make your input on the basis of this fact sheet. Its critical that you help by meeting the deadline.

#### REVIEW OF THE TORRINGTON REGION DRAFT LAND ASSESSMENT

Although it is disappointing that the Draft Land Assessment proposes that the area be managed on a multiple use basis, rather than specifically identifying areas for national park or wilderness, the report takes several giant steps forward for nature conservation in the Binghi area.

1. It recognises that the area is generally of State significance for nature conservation and that specific strategies are required to maintain the essential qualities of the area (Sections 6.2, 6.3).

To: Andrew Stead

6 pages to follow.

For your info, this has  
been sent.

received 2/9/91. 10.49 am

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House will support the retention of the Land Rights Act, 1983 (as amended) and the three tier Land Council structure.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signature

Address

John Van Kessel	9 Wiskeach St Belmain N.S.W.
James KTS	1 GEORGE ST BATHURST NSW
K. K. K.	P.O. Box 29 NIMBID 2480
O. Heathwood	Dunoon Rd, Dorronghly 2480 N.S.W
A. Kelly	265 Keen St, Lismore 2480.
Wesley Dano	Weis Lane, A'ville
Rick	13 Somerville Ave Lismore, 2480
P. Murray	29 James St Dunoon 2480
F. Antone	7/7 TASMAN PL NTH RIDE 2113
Angie Peck	Uluru NP Box 119 Yulara NT 0872
Int. Atshiji	Quilty Rd, Rock Valley Lismore.
I. Placing	Bulldog Rd TABULAM



CALM  
Armidale.

2-9-91

Dear Regional Director,

The North East Forest Alliance submission to the Torrington Draft Land Assessment follows. This submission was prepared for faxing on 31-8-91, the closing date, however, it was then noted that no fax number was given in the report.

As discussed by phone this morning, it was agreed that a faxed copy would be accepted now.

thank you.

*Duncan Rugh*

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House will support the retention of the Land Rights Act, 1983 (as amended) and the three tier Land Council structure.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signature

Address

*Maureen Pitt*

1, GEORGE ST. BATHURST NSW

*J. Williams*

8 Manser rd Myocum 2702

D. Brown

T.W.F. Paddy's Flat Rd Tabulam

*Janie Kell*

26 Cathcart St, Lismore 2480

Janine Ewice

5 FREDERICK ST. BRUNSWICK, VIC. 3056

Philip Murray

29 James St DUNBOON 2480

*Therese Howard*

126 CASINO ST LISMORE



BRUSH BOX  
Lismore 2047200

# N.E.F.A.

## NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

SYDNEY: NSW Environment Centre, 39 George St. The Rocks. 2000. Ph. 02 2474 206, Fx 02 2475 945  
LISMORE: The Big Scrub Environment Centre Inc. 88A Keen St. Lismore. 2480. Ph 066 213 278, Fx 066 219 420

Regional Director,  
Armidale Lands office,  
P.O. Box 199A,  
ARMIDALE NSW 2350.

### TORRINGTON REGION Draft Land Assessment

#### Summary

The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) does not support the Department of Land's (now Conservation and Land Management) conclusion that the Torrington Crown land be "*managed for multiple use within specific guidelines*" as the lands have high state nature conservation values which require the strongest possible protection and multiple use is therefore not appropriate. These values include :

- \* rare and endangered plants and animals,
- \* unrepresented plant communities and ecosystems,
- \* scenic and recreational amenity, and
- \* wilderness.

The Torrington lands are located in an area of biological significance. The few remaining forests such as those found at Torrington have special importance for many of the rare, threatened and endangered species that have suffered reductions in their distribution due mainly to land degradation, fragmentation and clearing.

The solution which "*best satisfies the aim of maximising the benefits to the community as a whole*" is :

1. National Park dedication over the lands identified as suitable under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974,
2. Wilderness declaration over the lands identified under the Wilderness Act, 1981 and

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House will support the retention of the Land Rights Act, 1983 (as amended) and the three tier Land Council structure.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signature	Address
<i>[Signature]</i>	38 Brunswick St Lismore
K. Shield	12 Horley St Lismore
<i>[Signature]</i>	Coopers Lane Mullumbumby
<i>[Signature]</i>	P.O. Box 702 WEST END 4101 QLD VIA ARTS FACTORY LODGE, SKINNERS SHOOT RD. BYRON BAY 2481
T. Dejanary	5 main ST ELTHAM 2480
<i>[Signature]</i>	41 Rosenthal st Campbell ACT.
B. Peeler.	Spring St Lismore 2480
T. Pope	LOT 11 QUILTY RD ROCK VALLEY 2480
Sally Roden	68 spring st Lismore 2480
A. Navar	Orion St Lismore 2480.
Fayyadhul	90 BEARDON ST WEST, LISMORE 2480
<i>[Signature]</i>	3 Sinfiele Ave Arden
C. Haining	Pender C.K. Rd. Kin kin
R. Gray	14 Tindarra Ave Ocean Shores
<i>[Signature]</i>	Wachray Rd Vau Pastmangan.
Jeanne Snodds	Lot 2 MOONEYS Lane Ellangowan.
G. Field	'MVBENDE' ROSE RD. THE CHAMMAN
H. James	Gwness Rd lillian Rock Nimbin.
Jan Ross	205 Marsh St Quindale
<i>[Signature]</i>	THE OLD CHURCH, TATHAM
<i>[Signature]</i>	Nigara WHAI WHAI Dunoon.
Philip Murray	21 James st Dunoon 2480
Issy Flairing	Bulldog Rd Euryma 2470
Tranna Doherty	1/10 Camps Ave Surfers Qu. 4217

3. Regional Environment Plan over the remaining lands.

National Park status is clearly justified for the area and is a longstanding proposal.

The Vacant Crown lands and Permissive Occupancies should be immediately dedicated as National Park. Reserves from Sale should be retained over the Crown leases until the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have sufficient funds to purchase the leases. The Special leases should not be reinstated and should be dedicated as National Park when they expire.

CALM should advise their Minister to support the wilderness declaration when the Minister for the Environment presents to Cabinet the National Parks and Wildlife Service's identified wilderness area.

This solution of National Park dedication and wilderness declaration is most suitable because :

*"Indeed it is now essential that ecological reserves be selected on the premise that, in the near future, say 50 - 100 years, they may constitute the only areas of natural habitats in Australia. This is one thing we must do well. If we are doubtful about minimum sizes for representative reserves we should err on the high side for we may not have a second chance."*

(J.Slayter 1975 Ecological Reserves: Size, structure and management. A National System of Ecological Reserves in Australia.)

*"Wilderness, paradoxically is vital to our civilisation. The ecologist calls for wilderness as an indicator of disturbance of the delicately balanced life support systems of the world."*

*But our last wilderness is rapidly disappearing under the assaults of increasing populations and aggressive technologies. Australia, unlike so many other countries, still has a chance to set aside a few major wilderness areas, but that chance will soon be lost."*

(The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia. 1974 National Estate Report to the Committee of Inquiry. Parliamentary Paper No. 195.)

NEFA supports a Regional Environmental Plan (REP) for the area, however, the National Park dedication and wilderness declaration should proceed. The REP should aim at

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of certain citizen of New South Wales respectfully showeth that the NSW Land Rights Act 1983 (as amended) has by its implementation been of great benefit to the Aboriginal people of NSW by providing land, commercial enterprises, rural properties and financial resources to the Koori people.

Because of the benefits arising from the provisions of the NSW Land Rights Act 1983 (as amended) the Aboriginal people have commenced to manage their own affairs and control their own destinies through the process of self-determination and self-management in place of the past failed policies of assimilation and paternalism.

The success of the Land Rights Legislation has brought many benefits not only to the Koori people but to the wider community as well particularly in the areas of small business, employment and social interaction within rural and urban communities.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House will support the retention of the Land Rights Act, 1983 (as amended) and the three tier Land Council structure.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signature	Address
<i>Siron A. Rosegate</i>	158 Gore St. Nth Fitz Vic 3068.
<i>G. Burt</i>	Bishops creek via Lismore 2480.
<i>St. Yang</i>	106 Heron St Northcote 3070
<i>Wendy Young</i>	62 BENBUNN AVE AVACON
<i>Alastair Blackwood</i>	126 CASINO ST LISMORE.
<i>W. Falmer</i>	14 Ewing Street, Lismore 2480.
<i>N. Mansie</i>	66 Newbridge St Nth Lismore
<i>P. Rubens</i>	23 High Street Lismore
<i>X-DENHURST</i>	THE EDGE HORSHOE CREEK Rd Horshoe creek X-DENHURST
<i>Jamie Jackson</i>	Nimbin NSW. <i>J Jackson</i>
<i>Jo Jackson</i>	Nimbin NSW. <i>J Jackson</i>
<i>G. Pezzutti</i>	Richmond Hill 2480
<i>hawthorne</i>	14 Hamilton St Ballina 2478
<i>D. Dours</i>	14 Hamilton St Ballina 2478

environmental protection for lands not set aside under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974 and the Wilderness Act, 1987.

A Regional Park or Regional Reserve established with a Board is not considered suitable for Torrington as it duplicates the role of the NPWS. The NPWS is the State's wildlife conservation authority and therefore is the most appropriate management authority for lands of State nature conservation significance as those at Torrington.

NEFA supports the need for further flora and fauna survey work, as well as research into the threats of fire, clearing and grazing. Emphasis should be given to restoration of the area, consistent with the Wilderness Act and the preparation and implementation of Recovery Plans as outlined by ANPWS Endangered Species Unit, for all rare and endangered plant and animal species.

Requests to clear Crown land within all land units identified by the NPWS as wilderness and within the National Park proposal should be refused until the NPWS acquires the Crown leases.

Grazing should be excluded from all Vacant Crown land and Permissive Occupancies within the National Park proposal, not just units 1 and 4b, as suggested.

The reserve over Special lease 83/2 was revoked according to Table 2, this is questioned especially since this land lies within the nominated wilderness area. The Reserve should be immediately re-instated and the Special lease should not be renewed when it expires on 5-10-93. This land should then be dedicated as National Park.

*"The study area is generally of limited forestry potential."* and Torrington State Forest comprises of land unit 2b of class 1 - State significance for nature conservation. The State Forest should be revoked and declared a National Park.

The lands comprising of Vacant Crown land, Permissive Occupancy and State Forest can be immediately declared National Park thereby establishing a significant part of the National Park.

#### Aims and Objectives

Aim No 1 states:

*"Confirm with the requirements of the Crown Lands Act, 1989."*

In doing so, it is required under the Crown Lands Regulation 1990 section 32 evaluation criteria to include :

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House will support the retention of the Land Rights Act, 1983 (as amended) and the three tier Land Council structure.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signature

Address

<i>Peter Claus</i>	(PETER CLAUSSEN) Lor' TANNYBLANE ANDERSONS HILL via MULLUMBUMBY 2482
<i>Capella</i>	372 ROSES RD TUNTABLE CR.
<i>Hoer</i>	lots 82, 9 Rosebank Rd Rosebank.
<i>P. Murray</i>	NO Fixed Address.
<i>Johnson</i>	6 Swallow Rock Drive, Gray's Pt, NSW 2232.
<i>Marabonders</i>	74 Marshall St. 2010
<i>Ime Rye</i>	Tuntable CRK.
<i>Frank</i>	Tuntable CRK
<i>R. Gannet</i>	Repentance Creek 2480
<i>I. McClucas</i>	Bulldog Rd via Taberlain
<i>Jessi Placing</i>	ck Taberlain
<i>William Deyre</i>	BYRNES LANE TUCKOMAIL. <i>W. Deyre</i>
<i>Babara Purse</i>	38 Hipwood St Mt Sycamore <i>Babara E. Purse</i>
<i>Dart</i>	NO FIXED ADDRESS
<i>John Smith</i>	24 Falson Lane Byron Bay
<i>Ryle OA</i>	Box 693 Cismore
<i>Chen</i>	28 The Right Dundee 3074
<i>Eric Warden</i>	10 Eagle Wts Rd Eagle Wts.
<i>B. Hatten</i>	24 Beach Rd Beach 2026.
<i>M. D. BRIAN</i>	63, HILL ST, EAST PERTH, W.A
<i>KATHIE DENHURST</i>	"THE EDGE" HORSHOE CREEK VIA KIAOALIF
<i>J. Chassens</i>	12 Ballmored Cismore
<i>Lyn Dennis</i>	CW, Maleny Qld <i>Lyn Dennis</i>
<i>micky barry</i>	Mulvrenas Rd Larnook 2480 <i>micky barry</i>
<i>Sylvia Hudson</i>	Mulvrena Rd Larnook <i>S. Hudson</i>



"The significance of:

- (i) inherent natural, cultural and heritage features, including scenic attributes and adjacent waterbodies; and
- (ii) communities of representative, rare or endangered species of flora or fauna present;"

CALM has a responsibility under the Act therefore to undertake comprehensive and detailed fauna surveys sampling all land units throughout the seasons. The area is known to support (Appendix 12) and has potential habitat for many species listed as Endangered Fauna under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. All habitat of these species should be protected. Any processes threatening their survival should be identified and Recovery Plans prepared.

Australia has a very poor record of species extinction and has a high number of rare and endangered species requiring special attention. CALM, as being a responsible land management authority should ensure that these species are protected and seek the Director of NPWS advice as a matter of priority.

Aim 2 should include as a prerequisite to the specific objectives:

*"Conduct adequate and full fauna surveys with particular emphasis on Endangered Fauna (Schedule 12), as well as, rare, restricted and sensitive species and areas of high species richness and high population densities. Undertake computer predictive modelling and verification of species distribution identifying potential habitat of the abovementioned fauna".*

The Land Management Policies (Appendix A) No. 25 - Native Conservation - retention and protection of regional representative native flora and fauna and NO. 26 Nature Conservation - wildlife corridor, have not been addressed as:

*"Fauna surveys and assessments have not been undertaken and the report gives no details on recorded or expected to occur fauna". Therefore, in this respect the draft land assessment process and the preferred land use option fails.*

#### Preferred land Management Options

NEFA strongly supports Option 3 -National Park and recommends;

1. nature conservation is the only option for areas of such

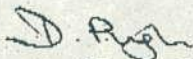
high value,

2. a REP for other lands thereby resolving the identified drawback of "The problem of managing a National Park in isolation ...."

3. a NPWS Plan of Management be prepared for the National Park, thereby resolving the identified drawback of "The problem of managing a National Park in isolation of the management of the Torrington township."

4. The NPWS be requested to develop and implement a Community Public Relations Plan to address "The problem of acceptance of a National Park by the local community."

NEFA appreciates the opportunity to comment on this significant area for endangered species, forests and wilderness and would requests further advice on the outcome of this land assessment.



Dailan Pugh

North East Forest Alliance  
Far North East Area Co-ordinator

88A Keen St  
Lismore NSW 2480

30 August 1991



85/275 NRB

**THE CABINET OFFICE**  
NEW SOUTH WALES

111 APR 1991

Dear Mr. Steed,

The Premier has asked me to let you know that he has received your recent letter on behalf of the North East Forest Alliance, regarding the Dorrigo Protected Lands maps.

Mr. Greiner has noted all that you have written and a copy of your letter has been brought to the attention of the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Mr. Armstrong.

You may be assured that the matter will receive the Minister's close consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. Sturgess".

Y Gary L. Sturgess,  
Director-General,  
The Cabinet Office.

Mr. A. Steed  
Co-ordinator  
North East Forest Alliance  
New South Wales Environment Centre  
39 George Street  
THE ROCKS 2000

PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED PAPER

In reply please quote:  
 NP 42206  
 File P 5189

Mr Andrew Steed  
 Co-ordinator  
 North East Forest Alliance  
 NSW Environment Centre  
 39 George Street  
 SYDNEY NSW 2000



26 MAR 1991

Dear Mr Steed,

Thank you for your letter of 20 February concerning the future of the remnant Rufous Scrub-bird habitat covered by the now expired Interim Protection Order.

I am aware of the urgency of erecting a continuing and permanent means of protecting this important area and have given the highest priority in the past weeks to exploring the available options. As a result I have now asked the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service to consider purchasing the land for addition to New England National Park, subject of course to survey and valuation. Local officers have already completed an inspection, and I am currently awaiting the Service's further advice on its budgetary commitments and availability of acquisition funds.

In conveying to the landowner my agreement to the Service's entering into negotiations, I have sought his assurance that the land will be maintained in its present condition. I made it clear that any action to compromise its natural heritage values would be viewed in a most serious light.

Much has been learned during the term of this IPO about the relative advantages and shortcomings of the various means of applying the legislation, and the Service is giving these mechanisms careful scrutiny. Your useful comments are appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

TIM MOORE MP  
 Minister for the Environment



THE NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT  
 Putting people first by managing better

Walls of China Luncheon  
 Mungo National Park  
 Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area



A5427-21

Mr D Pugh  
North East Forest Alliance  
88A Keen Street  
LISMORE NSW 2480

Dear Mr Pugh,

**Re: Draft Mapping of Protected Land  
- Dorrigo Plateau**

Thank you for taking the opportunity to make a submission on the draft maps of protected land of Dorrigo Plateau, which went on public exhibition on the 3rd December, 1990. You would also be aware that Mr. Ian Armstrong the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs, who administers the Soil Conservation Act, 1938, agreed to the exhibition period being extended by 1 month to 28th February, 1991.

Soil Conservation Service officers spent considerable time during this period consulting with individual landowners and addressing public meetings to answer queries on the draft maps and on the background of protected land.

All the points raised in your submission have been carefully noted and considered by the Service.

However, you will be aware that when a proposal under protected land is being inspected by an officer of the Soil Conservation Service a wide range of environmental values, including the possible occurrence of habitat of rare or endangered species, are assessed using a comprehensive set of guidelines.

We support your views that detailed surveys should be undertaken to accurately identify and locate all rare or endangered species. As this activity falls within the responsibility of the National Parks & Wildlife Service I would suggest your explore this issue with the Director.

Yours sincerely,

18/3/91

For R S JUNOR  
COMMISSIONER

# A Case for a Further Flora Reserve within Mullions Range State Forest

by Chris Pratten\*

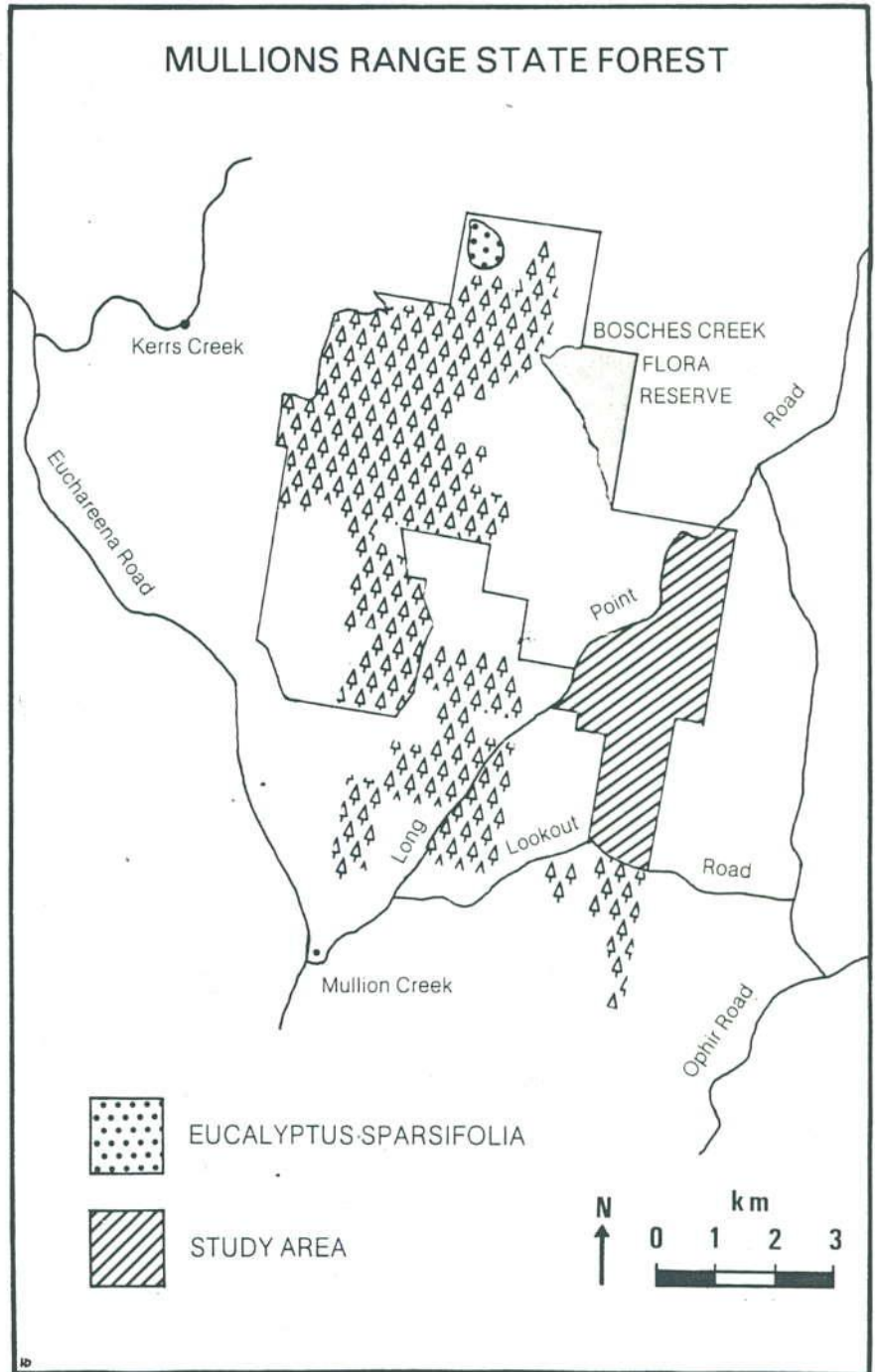
## Introduction

The Mullions Range is located about 25km north of Orange, at an altitude of ca. 800-1000m. The soils in the Ranges are relatively poor, being derived largely from Silurian Acid granites, with smaller areas of shale and quartz derived soils. The locality has a temperate summer climate and cold winter, with frequent frosts and occasional snow. The mean annual rainfall at the Mullions Range State Forest headquarters, located near the top of the range, is about 970mm<sup>1</sup>.

The Mullions Range originally possessed a rich and varied flora. Apart from official collections made for the National Herbarium, many local botanists, including George and Peter Althofer, Tom Smith (a former forest foreman), the late Bill Giles, and myself, have collected in the area. More recently, Colin Bower has been studying terrestrial orchids in the Ranges<sup>2</sup>, and members of the Orange Field Naturalist and Conservation Society have been checking, and adding to, older species lists.

A number of species reach extreme limits of their distribution in the Mullions Range (e.g., *Eucalyptus radiata* ssp. *robertsonii*, *E. sparsifolia*), one, at least, appears to be endemic (*Acacia* sp. aff. *A. boormanii*), and others, though previously recorded, may be locally extinct (e.g., *Cyathea australis*, *Banksia marginata*).

Much of the natural vegetation of the Mullions Range has been cleared for grazing, or for the establishment of both private and government plantations of *Pinus radiata*. The Mullions Range State Forest No. 176 covers an area of 4,130 hectares of which 1,906 hectares has been cleared for pine plantation establishment. The forest was the site of some of the early NSW plantings of



*Pinus radiata*, the first plantings taking place in 1923.

The Forestry Commission has advised that plantings ceased in 1982 and no further plantings are proposed<sup>3</sup>.

Whilst significant parts of the Mullions Range State Forest have been left uncleared, and 183.7 ha set aside as the Bosches Creek Flora Reserve No. 79979, it appears that no adequate surveys have ever been completed to determine what contribution, if any, the Flora Reserve, or the other areas left uncleared within the State Forest, make towards the conservation status of any rare or restricted species.

The 1982 Exotic Softwood Plantation Policy of the NSW Forestry Commission states that, in area under the control of the Commission, "there should be retention or creation of alternative cover types in selected strategic areas" which "should be designed to enhance the diversity of species which can maintain viable populations within the region" and "maintain representative samples of regional vegetation". "Surveys to identify unique or rare values peculiar to particular areas should be undertaken to provide a basis for adequate protection and maintenance of such values"<sup>4</sup>.

### The Bosches Creek Flora Reserve

The aims of management of the Reserve, set out in the Working Plan, are to:

- (a) Provide areas for future scientific study, so long as such work does not upset the essentially undisturbed state of the Reserve.
- (b) Assist in the understanding of the growth process in the natural forest.
- (c) Maintain a reference stand with which to compare the effects of subsequent land utilisation and exotic pine establishment in adjacent areas.
- (d) Retain a site that will assist in providing a greater degree of biological diversity in the area as a whole.<sup>1</sup>

The Working Plan states that the Flora Reserve supports a dry sclerophyll forest which is virtually undisturbed and claims that it is "representative of areas being cleared for pine plantation development in the region". However, the Working Plan also states that the

landscape is "broken and rugged" and that "the Reserve occupies part of a steep sided valley" whose sides "are dissected by numerous steep gullies" connecting with Bosches Creek.

It would appear that the Reserve was set aside, not because its flora was representative of areas being cleared, but because it was too "broken and rugged" to be suitable for plantation establishment.

The Working Plan (undated) gives the following description of the flora in the Reserve:

"The predominant species are Brittle Gum (*Eucalyptus mannifera*) and Scribbly Gum (*E. rossii*), with Red Stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*), Longleaved Box or Bundy (*E. goniocalyx*), Broadleaved Peppermint (*E. dives*), and occasionally Narrowleaved Peppermint (*E. robertsonii*), here at its northwestern limits. Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*), Red Box (*E. polyanthemos*) and Candlebark Gum (*E. rubida*) occur on the deeper soils, and Black Cypress Pine (*Callitris endlicheri*) is found on some of the northern slopes. A wide range of shrub species exist in the Reserve, including many wattles: Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) is the most common of these."

### Local Studies

In 1982 and 1983, some attempt was made to survey the distribution of three of the Ranges' more interesting species, *E. sparsifolia*, *E. radiata* ssp. *robertsonii*, and *Acacia* sp aff *A. boormanii*, especially within the Flora Reserve, and within an uncleared part of the State Forest between the Long Point and Ophir Roads (see Map 1).

#### Methodology

##### 1982

During October, members of the Orange Field Naturalist and Conservation Society experienced in plant identification carried out a search for the species within the Bosches Creek Flora Reserve. The Reserve was divided into three sections, and surveyed, on foot. Whilst no search of this kind could ever be described as conclusive, no record of any of the three species was found within the Flora Reserve. Indeed, the alleged occurrence of *E. mannifera* ssp. *maculosa* and *E. rubida* (Working Plan) could not be substantiated.

MICHAEL  
MOBBS

SOLICITOR

1st Floor  
32 Market Street  
Sydney, N.S.W. 2000  
DX 587 Sydney

Telephone:  
(02) 29 3626

### 1983

During the second half of 1983, twelve students studying land management at the Orange Agricultural College participated in further survey work.

A foot survey of the Flora Reserve again produced no specimens of *E. radiata*, *E. rubida*, *E. maculosa* or the *Acacia* sp. from within the reserve.

In the uncleared area of the State Forest (study area), a more detailed survey was carried out, again on foot.

The location and distribution of both *E. radiata* ssp. *robertsonii* and the *Acacia* sp. were mapped within the study area.

A small population of *E. sparsifolia* was located in the extreme north of the State Forest, but no attempt was made to define the extent or distribution of this species. (Map 1).

### Discussion

In the study area, the *Acacia* was generally confined to areas above 860m, and the peppermint eucalypt to areas above 870m.

A roadside survey indicated isolated remnant peppermint eucalypts at higher elevations to the south and west of the study area.

The acacia is known to occur in areas of the State Forest already cleared for pine plantations north-west of the

Armidale Branch NPA NSWInc  
P.O. Box 342  
ARMIDALE N.S.W. 2350  
10th August, 1989

The Editor, Armidale Express/New Englander,  
Dear Sir,

Press Release

Armidale Branch of the National Parks Association of N.S.W.Inc. has welcomed the Premier's announcement last Thursday of the addition of West Kunderang to Oxley Wild Rivers National Park.

At the same time the President, Peter Metcalfe, presented the Premier with a letter drawing attention once again to the serious implications for the natural environment of this State of new Crown Lands conversion policies and proposed cuts to funding of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The letter pointed out:

1. Proposed cuts to funding for the National Parks and Wildlife Service would, if implemented, severely limit the ability of NPWS to respond to off-park issues such as assessment for nature conservation values of Crown land which is subject to application for conversion from leasehold to freehold.

2. Proposed method of implementing the new Crown Lands Act, with abandonment of the former conservation policies of the Department of Lands will result in lifting of former reservation from sale provisions over much environmentally sensitive leasehold land. Severe restrictions on the time available for NPWS to assess and purchase any areas of notified interest will mean that land will be converted to freehold with **no effective assessment of its environmental value and no effective environmental safeguards on its future management.**

Armidale NPA called on the Premier to ensure that funding for NPWS is set at a level that will enable the Service to carry out its duty to assess and conserve representative samples of this State's many different ecosystems - a matter of urgency in view of Mr. Causley's decision to remove disincentives to freeholding of leasehold land.

The Branch further called on Mr. Greiner to direct Mr. Causley to modify proposed methods of implementing the new Crown Lands Act and to recognize that present policies and legislation **do not give adequate protection to the environment.** In particular, provisions of the Soil Conservation Act can be applied only in limited classified areas, while the Soil Conservation Service is under-funded and lacks resources for further assessment. The Soil Conservation Act has not proved effective in conserving habitat and other natural values in the past, being primarily concerned with physical erosion and siltation. Unless **all timbered leasehold land is classified as sensitive or protected land** there is a risk that unwise clearing will be carried out when the land becomes freehold.

New South Wales cannot afford to lose the remaining old-growth forests which occur primarily on leasehold land.



The old-growth forests and woodlands of NSW are a precious, limited but essential resource for the maintenance of our unique animals and plants. Up to half of the remaining limited stock of oldgrowth forests occurs on leasehold land which is very marginal and unsuitable for agricultural or pastoral develeopment. The old leasehold system has maintained it under tree-cover and with a diverse range of environmental values, at no cost to the State. The proposed methods of implementing the new Crown Lands Act pose a threat of uncontrolled clearing, leading to loss of habitat and degradation of environmentally sensitive land. This must not be allowed to happen. Mr. Causley must modify the proposed methods of implementing the new Crown Lands Act.

**NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS: LOCALITIES OF INTEREST FOR SPECIAL FLORA, environmental or scenic protection.**

**LIST OF PARISHES TO BE INCLUDED IN NPWS LIST OF PARISHES OF INTEREST** requiring Lands Department referencing to NPWS for any applications to convert, or for any applications to clear leasehold land. Urgent consultation needed between Lands Dept and NPWS, to revise list in view of new Lands Dept policies with respect to conversions. Summary of Counties and Parishes at end.

- Compiled by Beth Williams 17-8-1989.

**BACKWATER** north east of Guyra, NSW.  
County of Clarke Parish of Coventry (Guyra Shire)  
" Parish of Hall "  
County of Gresham Parish of Worra (Severn shire)  
County of Gough Parish of Mount Mitchell (Severn Shire)

**BALDERSLEIGH** Parlour Mountain and Baldersleigh Mountain (Guyra Shire) Also west Wandsworth Moredun Dams area. (see below)  
County Hardinge Parish of Sandy Creek

**BALD ROCK, BOONOO BOONOO, WELLINGTON ROCK.** Maps 1:25000  
Bookookoorara, Boonoo Boonoo: eastern catchment of river; Shire of Tenterfield.  
County Buller Parishes of Boonoo Boonoo, Coolangan  
County Clive Parishes of Graham, Barney Downs

**BINGHI** north-west of Torrington, NSW - area between Beardy and Dumaresq Rivers. Subject of wilderness /Park proposals.  
County of Gough Parish of Lands End  
" Parish of Muir  
" Parish of Flagstone  
" Parish of Paradise North  
" Parish of Highland Home, Parish Wellington North  
County of Clive Parishes of Rock Vale, Bates, Annandale  
" Parish of Silent Grove  
Parish of Binghi, Parish of Blain

**BLUFF ROCK AND WESTWARDS.** Map Mole River 1:50000 Shire of Tenterfield  
County Clive Parishes of Bolivia, Irby

**BOLIVIA RANGE** north of Deepwater, NSW. Also extending east to Mt. Jonblee and The Magistrate, and State Forests: Forestland, Spirabo and Little Spirabo. Tenterfield Shire.

Map Clive 1:100 000 sheet 9239 ; Emmaville 1:50000 -sh9239  
County Clive Parish of Angoperran  
" Parishes of Bolivia, Boorook,  
" Parishes of Sandy Flat, Forestland, Wunglebong

**CATARACT RIVER and PADDY'S FLAT** Maps Paddy's Flat 1:25000  
Pretty Gully 1:25000. Shires of Tenterfield, Kyogle  
County Buller Parishes of Strathspey, Cataract, Clarence, Ellerslie  
" Parishes of Pocupar, Claribell, Tooloom.  
Parishes of Boorook, Callanyn, Jenny Lind, Antimony.

**HOWELL** near Copeton Dam; maps 1:2500 Tingha, Kings Gap  
County of Hardinge Parish of Mayo (Guyra Shire)  
" Parish of Aston "  
Parishes of *Tienga, Chigwell*

**MANN RIVER,** Map Mount Wellington 1:25000 Shires of Severn and Nymboida; south-east corner of Gibraltar Range.  
County Drake Parishes Rogers, Cooraldooral, Puhoi, Cangai.  
County Gresham Parishes Barool, Wellington, Cowan.

**SARA RIVER , MT. SLOW, HENRY RIVER.** Maps 1:25000 Sara River, Mount Slow, Wards Mistake. Shires of Severn, Guyra. <sup>Neilson Boyd, Henry</sup>  
 County Gresham Parishes Sara, Glen Nevis, Yarrow <sup>(Severn Shire)</sup>  
 County Gough Parishes of Mitchell, Mount Ross, Worra, <sup>The Brothers</sup>  
 County Clarke Parishes Allingham, Rampsbeck, White, Dale.

**TIMBARRA RIVER** Maps Malara Creek and Bulldog Rock 1:25000 Tenterfield Shire, part Copmanhurst Shire. Area N and S of Timbarra R., Malara Creek. North of Washpool National Park, State Forest  
 County Drake Parishes of Sistova, Malara, Hongkong,  
 Parishes of Coanthum, Churchill  
 County Clive Parishes Graham, Barney Downs, Timbarra, Maclean

**WELLINGTON ROCK.** See Bald Rock/ Boonoo Boonoo Southeast end of Boonoo SF, S. of Boonoo Boonoo NP Map Boonoo Boonoo 1:25000 Shire of Tenterfield  
 County of Buller Parishes of Boonoo Boonoo, Coolangan  
 County of Clive Parishes of Graham, Barney Downs, Timbarra

**THE MAGISTRATE AND MOUNT JONBLEE** 30 km S of Tenterfield near Bolivia Range. Map Tenterfield Shire.  
 ?County of Clive Parishes of Forestland, Wunglebong

**WANDSWORTH, MOREDUN DAMS, The BASIN NATURE RESERVE** Maps Tenterden, New Valley 1:25000 Guyra Shire, County Hardinge  
 County Hardinge Parish of Buchanan  
 County " Parishes of Clerk, New Valley

**SEVERN RIVER** south east of Pindari Dam, east of Ashford, north of Inverell Map Ashford 1:100 000 sheet 9139  
 County Parishes

SUMMARY, COUNTIES AND PARISHES, NEW ENGLAND REGION <sup>(North of Armidale only)</sup>  
 requiring referencing by Lands Department to National Parks and Wildlife Service for any applications to convert or to clear leasehold land or for any change in tenure or management. NPWS Districts Armidale, Glen Innes.

COUNTY	PARISHES:
Buller	Boonoo Boonoo, Coolangan, Strathspey, Cataract, Clarence, Ellerslie; Pocupar, Claribell, Tooloom.
Clarke	Coventry, Hall, Allingham, Rampsbeck, White, Dale.
Clive	Angoperran, <del>Boonoo</del> Toek, Bolivia, Irby, Graham, Barney Downs Timbarra, Rockvale, Bates, Annandale, Binghi, Blain, Silent Grove.
Drake	Sistova, Malara, Hongkong, Rogers, Cooraldool, Cangai, Puhoi, Coranthum, Churchill.
Gough	Lands End, Muir, Flagstone, Paradise North, Highland Home, Mitchell, Mount Ross, Worra.
Gresham	Sara, Glen Nevis, Yarrow, Barool, Wellington, Cowan.
Hardinge	Mayo, Aston, Buchanan, Sandy Creek, <del>2 others,</del> Clerk, New Valley, Tienga, Chigwell

CHECKLIST OF NATIVE PLANTS FOUND IN THE TORRINGTON AREA OF THE BINGHI WILDERNESS PROPOSAL.

Based on preliminary checklist by J.B. Williams and H.J. Wissmann. 1974 University of New England. Updated by J.B. Williams July 1989, compiled by Beth Williams August 1989.

FIRST LIST: UNCOMMON TO RARE, OR LISTED IN ROTAP 2 SPECIAL PLANTS OF THE BINGHI AREA.

A number of species found among the coarse granite and associated rocks of the Torrington area which are uncommon to rare (shown\*); several of them probably restricted to the area, (shown \*\*) and some unnamed or of uncertain taxonomic status (shown #) (fide J.B. Williams). Additionally those listed in Rare or Threatened Plants by J.D. Briggs and Leigh, 1989 ( ROTAP 2) will be listed with their risk code: 2= species with very restricted distribution, less than 100km; 3= range over 100km but restricted to highly specific habitat; R = rare, not threatened; C = population reserved ; V = vulnerable, at risk through depletion of population.

There is an urgent need for some form of conservation for these special plants and the associated plant communities of the Binghi area. Flora Reserves as well as wilderness status should be investigated. Conversion of leasehold to freehold under new policies of the Lands Department pose severe and imminent threats to the whole area, especially its rare plants and communities.

**DILLENIACEAE**

# *Hibbertia* sp.nov. aff. *obtusifolia* DC

**RUTACEAE**

\* *Boronia whitei* Cheel

\* *Phebalium glandulosum* Hook. ssp *eglandulosum* (Blakely) Wilson

**PROTEACEAE**

\* *Grevillea beadleana* McGillivray Code 2RC (newly discovered 1989).

\* *Grevillea linearifolia* (Cav.) Druce

\* *Hakea* sp.nov. aff. *propinqua* A.Cunn. #

**SAPINDACEAE**

\* *Dodonaea hirsuta* Maiden and Betche Code 3RC

**MIMOSACEAE**

\* *Acacia latisepala* Pedley Code 2VC

\*\**Acacia mcnutiana* Maiden and Blakely

\*\**Acacia torringtonensis* Tindale # (= *A. ruppia* Maiden & Betche) Code 3VC

**FABACEAE**

# *Hovea* sp nov # (?= *Hovea acutifolia* A.Cunn ex G.Donn. )

\*\**Pultenaea cambagei* Maiden and Betche Code 3 RC

\* *Pultenaea stuartiana* H.B. Williamson Code 3VC

**MYRTACEAE**

\*\**Baekkea* sp nov (Dingo Creek) #

\* *Callistemon flavovirens* Cheel

\*\**Callistemon* sp aff *flavovirens* #

\* *Callistemon* sp aff *sieberi* (pink flowers and thick leaves) #

\* *Kunzea bracteolata* Maiden and Betche Code 3 RC

**EPACRIDACEAE**

\* *Brachyloma daphnoides* Benth. var. *latiuscolum* Blakely + McKie

\* *Leucopogon microphyllus* R.Br. (?var *pilibundus* (A.Cunn. ex DC) Benth.) #

\*\**Leucopogon confertus* Code 2V

**OLEACEAE**

\* *Notelaea linearis* Benth.

**LAMIACEAE**

\* *Westringia* sp. #

\*\**Prostanthera teretifolia* Maiden and Betche Code 2V (includes *P. staurophylla* F.Muell. #)

**LILIACEAE**

\* *Thelionema grande* (C.White) R. Henderson Code 3RC (= *Stypandra grandis* C.T. White - blue flowered form )

**RESTIONACEAE**

\* *Lepyrodia leptocaulis* Johnson and Evans (very rare on Tablelands)

End List of Plants of Special Interest from the proposed Binghi Wilderness area, updated according to J.B. Williams July 1989

C. H. E. C. Andrews; this is the report  
done by Alan Lloyd; Maggie

## SUBMISSION ON PROTECTED LAND ON THE DORRIGO PLATEAU

The Ulitarra Society, the main conservation group in Coffs Harbour, would like to strongly support the Service in its mapping of protected land on the Dorrigo Plateau and Clarence River Catchment as provided under the Soil Conservation Act (1938) and amendments (1978).

Once protected lands are mapped and the maps become readily available through the Service, there will be less misunderstanding and ignorance of the location of protected lands. In addition, respect for the Service is more likely to be enhanced when all interested parties have access to this information and understand the constraints placed on protected lands.

We would like to briefly comment on categories (a) and (b) and more extensively on category (c):

### **Category (a). Land in excess of 18° slope gradient.**

There are plenty of examples in the Dorrigo area where, in the past, slopes in excess of 18° have been cleared for agricultural purposes and this has in some cases, resulted in destabilising these slopes with subsequent soil erosion. We urge the Service to be more cautious about giving authority to clear slopes in excess of 18° gradient.

### **Category (b). Land within 20 metres of a prescribed waterway.**

We note that a number of landholders, including potato growers, tend to disregard this regulation. The Service should, where possible, prescribe all streams. In the Dorrigo Plateau this appears mainly to be the case.

### **Category (c). Habitat and Flora and Fauna Protection.**

Conservationists have a special concern about Category (c), especially Habitat Protection '1' and Flora and Fauna Protection 'f'

Habitat Protection '1'. The immediate need is for the protection of the endangered rufous scrub-bird. We understand that male territorial habitats for this bird may well be as low as nine, reduced recently because of the destruction of two territorial habitats through clear-felling by uncooperative landholders.

Protection of this essentially flightless bird is now desperate. With so few territorial habitats left the rufous scrub-bird is almost certainly going into extinction unless immediate priority is given for its protection. The few remaining territorial habitats are mostly cool temperate rain forest on basaltic soil, an added reason for protection of this bird and its remaining habitats.

Flora and fauna Protection 'f'. Most of these proposed protected lands are valuable remnants of a once rich native rainforest that extended far to the north. However, with over a 100 years of disturbance, the remnants are now mostly in inaccessible places.

These remnants of rainforest are important for a number of reasons: preservation of a number of known and probably unknown endangered plant and animal species; protection of native flora and fauna which at present are not endangered; a future biological resource for medicine and other purposes including species which may be desirable for future timber resource, and finally the need to preserve the remnants of biologically complex ecosystems with their diversity and richness.

As a single but important example, the Antarctic Beech rainforest on the Plateau is probably the best remaining example of this rainforest type in Australia; the majority of beech forests elsewhere have not survived intact.

Our group strongly supports the mapping of protected lands 'h' and 'f'. Our only reservation is that many of these protected areas are in isolation. If possible, adjacent protected areas should be joined by corridors for the movement of wildlife and these corridors fenced so that there is regeneration of forest.

Our Group would like to comment on a number of deficiencies in the Soil Conservation Act (1938):

1 Currently, seven trees per hectare of protected land can be cut down per year. In felling seven trees per hectare, many other trees will be damaged. This 'let-out' clause provides an opportunity for unscrupulous people to destroy protected forests by yearly removal of 7 trees/ha, multiplied by the number of hectares which comprise the protected area.

2 Felling and clearing of two hectares of protected land per year has a similar result as in (1). It seems to us that if land is worthy of protection then there should be no allowable destruction.

3 The Act has no provision for wildlife corridors between adjacent protected lands even when these isolated protected areas are in close proximity to each other. It does not make sense to designate areas for protection of habitat and native animals, especially endangered ones, and then not provide protected corridors so that these animals can move from one territorial habitat to another without exposure to dangers when traversing open country.

The Act needs strengthening to combat the insatiability of those who have no respect for the conservation of our natural heritage. We have suggested three main aspects of the Act which need redrafting.

Representatives of the Ulitarra Society would be willing to meet with Service representatives and other authorities to discuss the content of this submission if it was felt that such a meeting would be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Charles England. Secretary.

### Submissions

Written submissions should be sent direct to the Executive Officer (Catchment Protection) Soil Conservation Service, PO Box 198, Chatswood. 2057. Submissions must be received by 4pm on Friday 25th ~~January~~ <sup>February</sup>, 1991.

### Centres of Public Display

Soil Conservation Service Offices

Kempsey  
Cnr. Clyde & Forth Street  
Telephone: (065 631212)

Coffs Harbour (GIO Building)  
24 Moonie Street  
Telephone: (066) 527 644

Crafton (Government Offices)  
49-51 Victoria Street  
Telephone: (066) 42 0541

Armidale (Government Offices)  
85 Faulkner Street  
Telephone: (067) 73 7166

National Parks and Wildlife Service Office

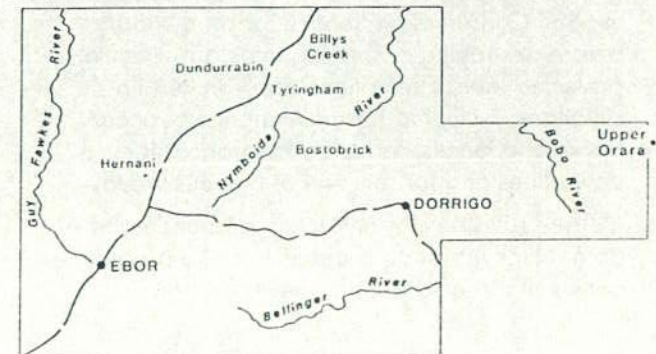
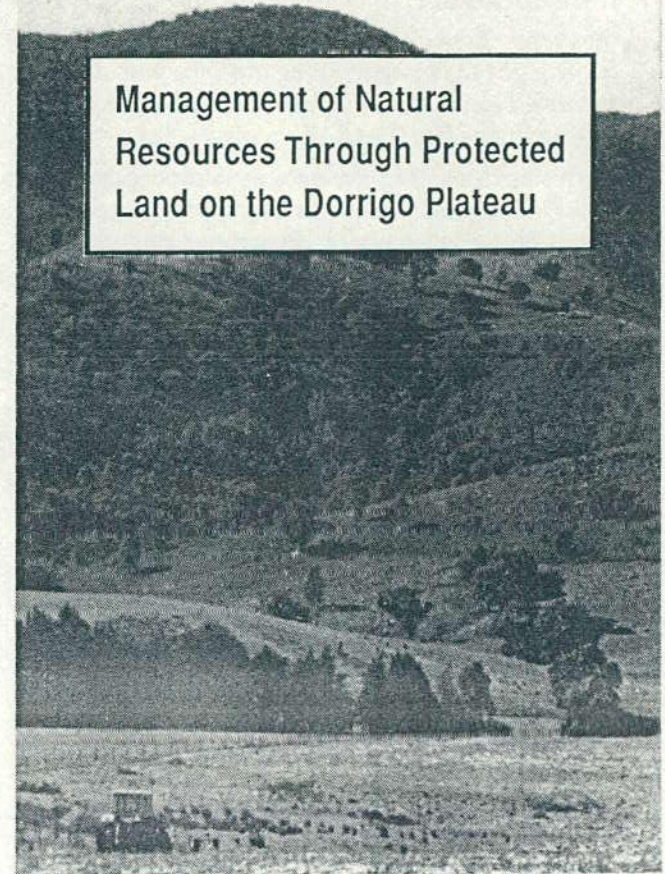
Dorrigo District Office  
Cnr Lyrebird Lane & Dome Road  
Dorrigo  
Telephone: (066) 57209

Bellingen Shire Council Chambers  
Bellingen



Printed by the Soil Conservation Service of NSW

## Management of Natural Resources Through Protected Land on the Dorrigo Plateau



Seeking a balance between  
conservation and development



Total Catchment Management  
Community And Government Working Together





## Introduction

Since the early 1970s the Soil Conservation Service of NSW has mapped various lands as protected land under the provisions of the Soil Conservation Act, 1938.

This particular legislation was introduced to assist in the maintenance of tree cover on steep slopes (those in excess of 18 degrees slope gradient) and along watercourses to maintain the use of the land within its capability and reduce the effects of erosion and sedimentation.

All lands in the Clarence River Catchment were mapped and the Soil Conservation Service has had the responsibility for the administration of protected land in this area since the late 1970s. The objective is to ensure that the harvesting, clearing or destruction of trees is undertaken in a manner that will have minimum adverse impact on the environment and downstream landholders.

In more recent time the scope of the protected land provisions was broadened beyond the original concept to include lands which are environmentally sensitive or subject to significant soil erosion, siltation or land degradation.

The Act requires owners, occupiers, holders or grantees of timber rights to make application to the Soil Conservation Service for an authority before destroying or injuring trees growing on protected land. Exemptions apply in certain situations, including for maintenance of access tracks and fences, for safety clearances for powerlines and for removal of noxious weeds.

The provisions for protected land under the Act do not lock up land. Its aim is to strike a balance between conservation and development.

## Management of Natural Resources Through Protected Land on the Dorrigo Plateau

### The Dorrigo Plateau

As part of the Government's statewide program, the Soil Conservation Service, with input from other Government agencies, has prepared draft maps of the protected land on the Dorrigo Plateau. The Dorrigo maps are the first of a series covering the entire Clarence River Catchment.

The maps contain information identifying areas where a special approach to tree management is required.

These include:

- land generally in excess of 18 degrees slope gradient
- land within 20 metres of the bed or bank of a defined watercourse
- land which shows recent signs of mass movement (e.g., landslip)
- important areas of remnant forest including rainforest
- areas of known rufous scrub-bird habitat.

### Public Display of Maps

It is proposed that the draft maps and supporting explanatory material, including proposed exemptions for the Dorrigo Plateau, will be on public display for all interested persons to inspect during December 1990 and January 1991.

During this period the Soil Conservation Service invites comments including written submissions on any aspect relating to the maps of protected land. The maps and various explanatory information will be available for inspection at the following locations:

- Soil Conservation Service offices at Kempsey, Coffs Harbour, Grafton and Armidale
- National Parks and Wildlife Service Office, Dorrigo
- Bellingen Shire Council Chambers, Bellingen.

From November 1990 through to the end of the display period Soil Conservation Service and National Parks & Wildlife Service officers will be consulting with landusers and land management authorities and other interested groups to discuss the draft maps and their implementation. Throughout this period and by arrangement these staff will be conducting meetings aimed at informing land owners and community groups about protected land and its value to managing natural resources of the district both to individuals and the community generally. Advice of these meetings will be available through the local media.

### Penalties

In managing the protected land provisions of the Soil Conservation Act, the Soil Conservation Service fosters a self-regulatory approach over the destruction of trees on protected land, in conjunction with advisory and education programs.

There are penalties contained in the Act for failure to comply with the requirements of the Act to a maximum of \$40,000.



# Forestry Commission of N.S.W.



Forestry Office

North East Forest Alliance,  
88a Keen Street,  
LISMORE. NSW. 2480.

P.O. Box 426,  
GLEN INNES. 2370.

Your reference:

Our reference : Mr S.J. Toms  
D.O. 333

Telephone: (067) 323277

Fax:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thankyou for your interest and response to the "Invitation to Participate" in the preparation of the EIS for the Glen Innes Forestry Management Area.

All responses have been collated and sent to the Department of Environment and Planning for their review in the matters to be addressed on the EIS. In addition the responses will be considered by the Forestry Commission and consultants which are soon to be appointed to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement.

The consultants preparing the EIS may wish to make further contact with you during the preparation stage.

The EIS is expected to be ready for public display early in 1992 at which time public responses to the EIS will be called.

Yours faithfully,

S.J TOMS,  
DISTRICT FORESTER.

11th July, 1991.