

Lower Mountains Eco-News



Newsletter of the
Lower Blue Mountains
Conservation Society

MARCH - MAY, 1988.

Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

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Meetings (members and visitors welcome):
Second Friday of each month except January – 8pm at Springwood Pre-school, Macquarie Road, Springwood.

Walks (all welcome):
Third weekend of each month, weather permitting. Routes, meeting places and times are announced in *Eco-News* – but always book in with the organiser.

All who walk with the Society do so at their own risk. Costs resulting from accident, injury or becoming overdue or lost must be borne by the walker!

Works meetings at which Society business is discussed (open to all members):
Usually the fourth Tuesday of the month, 8pm.

Membership:
Single \$7, family \$10, life member \$50.

Aims:
1. Education of the general public and public leaders on environmental issues.
2. Conservation of natural areas.
3. Research into the distribution and population of flora and fauna in the Blue Mountains.

Coming event

CAMP FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Ann Thomas is offering to lead a camp for women in the Blue Mountains. Ann will be talking about the role of women in Aboriginal (Koori) culture, past and present, including women's sites and native herbs.

Ann is of the Bilperi (White Shark) tribe from Taree and has lived within a Koori community at Wallaga Lake for more than twenty years. She has organised Koori women's and children's camps on the South Coast of NSW.

Recently Ann was associated with the NOW courses for women with TAFE. She has also been very active in bringing a Koori perspective into the school curriculum.

Last year, Ann was invited to Singapore as one of the two delegates representing Australia at an Asian Women's Theological Conference. This conference included two women from each Pacific Island.

PLACE:
MURPHY'S GLEN, WOODFORD
Please bring Camping gear and food.

TIME:
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS -
APRIL 8, 9 AND 10, 1988
Friday afternoon to Monday morning.

CONTRIBUTIONS:
\$15.00 IN ADVANCE TO:
Elizabeth Mitchell
34 Boland Avenue
Springwood NSW 2777
Children (accompanied by an adult) FREE.
Please register early.

For further information contact
ELIZABETH MITCHELL (047) 51 2405
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WHAT STATE IN 88

This is the Bi-Centennial year, if you hadn't already noticed. It seems everyone who has an item to flog is jumping on the Nationalistic, jingoist bandwagon. Yet it is really a time to look back at the past, judge the present and make preparation for the future. Looking back on the past two hundred years, there are a couple of areas that stand out, and in fact merge with the present.

Firstly, Australia is the result of, and still subject to, the "panic management" syndrome. That is, don't think of long term planning, but make decisions on the spur of the moment to solve short term problems with ad-hoc decisions. We started out as an easy solution to the overcrowding of the prison hulks moored in the Thames Eustary. A short term solution to a short term problem. No thought was given to the indigenous population. The arrogance of the coloniser was paramount.

In the sphere of Ecology and the Environment, similar attitudes held sway. Don't try and merge with the existing climate and topology of the area, but rather, let us recreate that which we have left, and hang the consequences. We have come as conquerors, not administrators. We require results which maximise the minimal investment we have made. Today, Government, whether local, State or Federal, seems to be bent on the same course. Australia the quarry seems to be the name of the game, with an occasional backhanded reference to the goose that lays the Golden (or woollen, or mineral sand etc.) egg.

One only has to travel to the Mallee country of Victoria, or the area near the Flinders Ranges to see the results of past agricultural follies - sand drifts, abandoned homesteads, skeletal remains of sheep and cattle. To see the modern equivalent, go to Tasmania and see the result of one Government Department's desire to change the course of nature at Lake Pedder or the Gordon River.

As conservationists, this is the future we have to guard against. The environment has proved in the past that it is capable of producing quick riches in the short term. But in the end, Nature will have her way. Mines will be worked out, the Dorrigo's will no longer produce Cedar, open cut mines will have to be filled, and Fraser Island will have to be rebuilt.

There is a ray of hope amongst all this gloom and doom. Some members of the Government do seem to have the role of the environment at heart, not just to be used as a cynical political tool to generate votes. We as conservationists and naturalists realise the affect and effect our decisions have on the ecology as a whole. We also realise, after the Franklin and Terrania episodes, that we have a voice that can and will be heard by both politicians and the "silent majority". This voice can be used to alter the attitude of legislators in favour of the environment and the future of this island Continent.

ELECTION FEVER

Yes folks, its here again. Letter boxes stuffed full of promises for the future, TV saturated with the glowing visages of the political protagonists. What's in it for the ardent conservationist, who also happens to be paying off a mortgage, keeping a car on the road and seeing the weekly food bill go through the roof, just like Mr. and Mrs (M/s) Average who don't think twice about the environment.

The ACF, unlike in the Federal Election last year, has not recommended any one party over the other. Instead, they have cast an abstention vote and said that there is no party that they feel is worthy of supporting on environment issues. Instead, they have indicated that a vote for an independant Candidate might go some way towards "keeping the (illegitimate children) honest."

In our own Society, George Threlfo is right behind the push by that veteran of conservation issues, Milo Dunphy. As mentioned in the last issue, Milo is standing on a purely Conservation/Environment ticket, and a vote for Milo in the Upper House will go towards providing some control on the "bull-pit" of Macquarie Street.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a pamphlet produced by the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, the Total Environment Centre and the Wilderness Society. This pamphlet outlines the major issues to be addressed by the Conservation voter, as well as the responses (where provided) by the political parties surveyed.

It makes interesting reading and is well worth spending some time over before dropping the paper in the box.

Still on the election, helpers are still needed to man pollingbooths on March 19. According to George, a coverage of approximately 80% of booths will be achieved, by some judicious shuffling of limited man/woman-power. However, anyone who feels they can spare an hour anywhere between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm on Election day should contact George on 395125, and he will be only too happy to slot you in at a place near you !!

BLUE MOUNTAINS ISSUES

George Threlfo

A number of issues have come to light or have continued festering since the last issue of ECO-News.

General planning matters at Local and State Government level have still got a long way to go. At present, there is still no definite plan implemented or being undertaken on the ultimate population limit for this area. Some scattered fragments of study on this issue have emerged as a result of related issues, eg the future Sewerage requirements of the Blue Mountains and the National Parks reports, but no Department of either State Government or BMCC have bitten the bullet and attacked the problem head on with a full scale enquiry or committee. It is about time such is tackled while there is still time.

Another long-standing problem is that of the Environment Plan. This seems to drag on forever and get nowhere, and when it is delivered, there seems to be a noticeable lack of teeth where it matters to ensure that the Plan is adhered to by both Public and Private sectors. These plans need to be drawn up and implemented as quickly as possible to avoid the "fait accompli" situations that develop as a result of the lack of guideline, eg the Leura Resort.

The Regional Environmental Plan on Tourism needs to be implemented. Emphasis should, of course, be placed on exclusions to development of environmentally sensitive lands with large commercial developments, for instance Echo Point and other areas of the Escarpment. Tourism should be modelled to complement and co-exist

with the existing natural values of the region, rather than degrading them.

Finally on planning, there should be a moratorium placed on ALL rezonings until the completion of all environment management plans currently being undertaken.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Guest speakers for the General Meetings for April, May and June should prove very interesting and informative. On **April 8, 1988**, **Steve Clarke** will give a guide to the Wilderness Areas of the Blue Mountains. For those of us who live here, as well as visitors to the region, should find this an exciting insight to hidden sections of the Mountains.

May 13, 1988, will have **Colin Purser and Beverley Fiedler** giving a tutorial on how to take pictures of Nature subjects. Both are members of the Springwood Camera Club, and judging by some of the work this Club exhibits, it should be worthwhile turning up just for the slides and photographs.

Ann Jelenik from the NPWS, will give a talk with the title "Fauna of NSW - the present state of the Park". Keep **June 10, 1988** free for this one.

LEMONTYME LIVES

Jot down Thursday March 10, 1988 as a day to be remembered in the Annals of Conservation in Australia. On this day, the High Court indicated to the rest of us that it was prepared to ratify the Federal Government's Lemontyme Legislation. This in effect agrees with the Government's (and conservationists) assessment that the Lemontyme is suitable for list on the World Heritage Register.

In a majority decision (5 - 2) the Judges of the High Court found that the legislation was a valid exercise of the Commonwealth's external affairs powers in Section 51 (29) of the Constitution.

This legislation can now be used to seek listing of the wet tropical rainforests in North-East Queensland.

YOUR VOTE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SURVEY OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES OF POLITICAL GROUPS FOR 1988 NSW STATE ELECTION

Authorised by the Australian Conservation Foundation, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Total Environment Centre and The Wilderness Society.

In order to assist environmental voters to decide for whom to vote in the 1988 State Election, we asked political parties and groups questions on several important issues. (It was impractical to ask all candidates questions on all the issues).

The respondents were asked first to answer yes or no and then to add up to fifty words further comment. The Liberal-National Parties declined to answer yes or no, while the Labor Party answered yes or no to some questions. The Environment Group, Munday group and Australian Democrats complied with the request.

Some answers were much more than fifty words long and some judicious pruning was necessary. However, no policy commitment relating to the question has been omitted or changed.

THE UPPER HOUSE - Political commentators expect that pro-environment candidates will hold the balance of power in the Upper House after the election. Please think carefully about how you will vote.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS

THE ENVIRONMENT GROUP (Dunphy, Townend, Oppen)

MUNDEY GROUP

LIBERAL-NATIONAL PARTY

Environmental Planning and Assessment

Will you guarantee that all developments likely to significantly affect the environment will be subject to environmental impact statements and public evaluation; and there will be no evasion of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act?

● YES The EPA Act introduced by the Government requires that development projects by private and public sectors, with significant impact on the environment, will be subjected to environmental evaluation and public participation processes. Amendments to the Act have improved its effectiveness. Any member of the community can challenge non-compliance.

● YES

● YES Will amend the legislation to close loopholes which allow councils to approve major developments without an EIS or which enable the Forestry Commission to refuse to produce an EIS. The Darling Harbour Authority will be brought under the Act. We will vote against legislation which attempts to evade the Act.

● YES

● Will ensure that all developments likely to significantly affect the environment will be subject to environmental impact statements and the consequent public participation and review process. Have voted against each of the pieces of "special legislation" introduced by the present Government to circumvent the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

● There will be no use of special legislation. Pending the restoration of democratically elected government to the Sydney Business District, powers of the Darling Harbour Authority will be altered so its decision-making process is subject to public participation under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

Would you support the appointment of an independent Commission to evaluate the adequacy of and submissions to environmental impact statements produced by private and public bodies?

● The Land and Environment Court and the Commissioners of Inquiry Office provide effective and independent forums for evaluating the adequacy of EISs and ensuring public participation. Flaws in EISs have been exposed in the Court and before Commissioners of Inquiry. The Inquiry system is and will remain an integral part of planning.

● YES

● YES The Commission should report to the public at the same time as it reports to the Government. Government Departments and Authorities and local government will not be allowed to rule on environmental impact statements for their own developments.

● Also a public trigger for a public inquiry into major projects, say a joint petition by three major environment groups.

● YES

● Will ensure State Government departments, statutory bodies or Ministers do not act as the determining authorities for their own Environmental Impact Statements. We will also discuss with local government, the question of them acting as their own consent authority for council developments. Will produce guidelines to make it clear for significant projects, EIS by departments or instrumentalities would done on "arm's length" basis to improve standards.

● Would continue use of Commissions of Inquiry for EIS examination with full rights of public participation and submission.

Reform of the Forestry Commission

Would you support a review of all existing native forest management plans, with public participation, to:

- establish the National Park and Nature Reserve potential of State Forests?
- protect all environmental values, while ensuring that timber production does not override environment protection?

● The proposal to restructure forestry activities in NSW will enhance the Government's policies on environmental protection and conservation of key sections of our forests, as well as creating more efficient and effective administrative arrangements to manage and harvest our forestry resources. Commercial aspects undertaken by a commercially orientated Corporation; non-commercial to be restructured.

● YES

● YES Will move a bill instituting an inquiry into which areas of State Forest should be revoked and transferred to National Parks. In addition a series of public inquiries will be held into forest management plans to ensure protection of environmental values.

● YES

● Support a review of all existing native forest management plans, with public participation, to ensure that proper environmental values are contained in them and to ensure that production of timber from State forests is not carried out in an environmentally-irresponsible fashion.

● Accept that voluntary conservation organisations are entitled to make proposals for the creation of new national parks and nature reserves or extensions to existing parks or reserves from areas of land that are within State forests. Whilst we do not expect that significant areas of such forests are likely to be dedicated by a Liberal and National Party Government for park or reserve purposes, each proposal will be examined on its merits and appropriately responded to.

Would you introduce a new Forestry Act providing for:

- public environmental impact statements of logging operations?
- public participation in the formulation of Management and Harvesting Plans?
- strict forest practices rules?
- third party rights to prosecute infringements of statutory and regulatory duties?

● In order to restructure the Forestry Commission the Act will be amended to provide, inter alia, a sharper focus on the State commitment to environmental protection of its forest resources. New Forestry Commission will be fully accountable for its decisions, investments and charges, including a strategic corporate plan and improved annual report.

● YES

● YES Would also review forestry logging rights received over leasehold and converted leasehold with a view to protection of environmental values.

● Would confine the Government's proposed Forestry Corporation to pine plantations. It would have to purchase additional land on the open market but existing Crown Forests would remain as Crown land subject to Government land use decisions.

● YES

● Do not accept that rights of private prosecution should be given to individuals without Ministerial consent to this occurring.

Wilderness and National Parks

Would you implement the Wilderness Act and interim protection orders to ensure that at least three areas are accepted for nomination each year, until all wilderness is protected?

● It will be implemented in NSW. In 1988 will proceed with wilderness declarations over Coolangubra, Tantawangalo, and the Colo Wilderness area in Wollemi and Blue Mountains National Parks. In 1987 the Mann and Ettrema Wilderness were added to National Parks. In 1988 will consider wilderness declarations in Yengo, Blue Mountains and Werrikimbe National Parks.

● YES With the legitimate concerns of the Aboriginal people of NSW being taken into consideration.

● YES However we advocate a three year programme to identify and protect all wilderness areas in NSW. Otherwise important areas and values are likely to be lost.

● YES

● Will not repeal or water down the legislation. Committed to regular annual reviews of additional wilderness areas outside national parks and consideration of wilderness area nominations by the public with a view to taking protective action. Whilst the Shadow Cabinet has not considered the particular point, we would see no objection to legislation requiring an EIS for developments likely to affect a wilderness area.

Would you legislate to ban mining in National Parks?

● YES The NSW Government has introduced into Parliament amendments to the National Parks and Wildlife Act to ban mining in national parks and nature reserves. This legislation will be enacted in the next Parliamentary session. In 1977 banned mineral sands mining from coastal national parks.

● YES

● YES Will also cancel the hundreds of beachmining leases which still exist over coastal national parks and which the conservation movement has repeatedly asked the Government to cancel.

● YES

● Will legislate to ban mining in national parks with legislation to ensure that no mining can take place in national parks unless a special Act of Parliament is introduced to permit it. At present time, can see no circumstances which would warrant legislation being introduced to over-ride such a legislative ban.

Woodchipping

Will you undertake to gazette the recently announced South East National Parks and Nature Reserves in the first parliamentary session after the election?

● YES Will revoke the relevant State Forests affected by its decisions to establish the Coolangubra and Tantawangalo national parks together with the extensions to the Wadbilliga National Park and Egan Peaks Nature Reserve during the next Parliamentary session. Thereafter the areas will be reserved as national park or nature reserve.

● YES

● YES In addition we will introduce a bill to include the whole of the other areas nominated by TEC and Canopy including Cathcart, Coolumbooka and the Upper Merri Catchment, as well as the whole of the Coolangubra, Tantawangalo, Wadbilliga and Egan Peaks areas.

● YES

● Will not proceed with the recently-announced national park proposals for the NSW South Coast. Believe that substantial provision for flora and fauna reserves and for protection of environmentally-sensitive catchment areas can be made under the Forestry Commission's Plans of Management - particularly when the standards of those Plans of Management are upgraded as outlined earlier with respect to Environmental Impact Statements. Would legislate to ensure that flora and fauna reserves under the Forestry Act, cannot be revoked except by the Parliament.

Would you support restriction of woodchipping operations to a plantation, sawmill waste and regrowth thinning resource?

● Material is derived from sawmill waste only for the Newcastle project. The decision on woodchipping in the South East forests provides for a reduced scale of operation and the addition of environmentally significant areas to the parks system.

● YES

● YES Will oppose renewal of the export licence by the Federal Government and will advocate funding of eucalypt plantations, a scrubber mill and re-equipping of mills to handle smallwood. In addition we will institute a parliamentary inquiry to investigate the Daishowa Company, its contract and political funding.

● YES

● Committed to increasing the rate of plantation cultivation of Australian native hardwood species by both the Forestry Commission and private forestry companies. This process can, over time, lessen the dependence of both the woodchip and the sawlog industries on our native forests.

Endangered Species

During 1988 would you introduce Endangered Species legislation that provides for :

- protection of the critical habitats of threatened species?
- tax relief for land designated for protection?
- special management plans for endangered species?
- severe penalties for those who take or kill endangered species?

● YES Legislation to protect endangered species will be introduced in 1988. Already legislation has been introduced to provide for interim protection orders and conservation agreements over private lands which assists in species conservation. Management plans will be completed in 1988 for the yellow-footed rock wallaby, regent parrot, superb parrot, plains wanderer, little tern.

● YES

● YES We will also move for funding of a continuing Government study to identify the habitats involved, including those of migratory species. There should be a management plan for each wildlife species.

● YES

● Will also move to ban kangaroo, duck and quail killing in NSW except where a landholder can establish in a public inquiry that his livelihood is endangered. In addition we will increase expenditures on feral animal control.

● Will introduce endangered species legislation. Terms of draft legislation will be fully discussed with interested groups including the voluntary conservation movement and the NSW Farmers' Association. The use of voluntary conservation agreements, as first advocated by the Coalition Parties and enacted, with our support in NSW in 1987, provides a desirable mechanism for protecting appropriate habitat whilst, at the same time, ensuring that any financial cost is not borne exclusively by the individual landholder.

● Will ensure that appropriate Plans of Management are evolved for the protection of endangered species as was the case with the Lord Howe Island woodhen.

● Would certainly provide severe penalties for those who take or kill endangered species.

Land Degradation

Will you ensure that the Catchment Areas Protection Board acts to effectively protect environmentally sensitive lands by implementing its powers under the Soil Conservation Act, 1987?

● YES The recent amendments to the Soil Conservation Act have provided a powerful base for environment protection which the Government is currently reviewing proposals to protect the river red gum forests along the Murray and its tributaries, lignum in the Lowbidgee; and has foreshadowed nomination of vegetation surrounding the Macquarie Marshes as environmentally sensitive land.

● YES

● YES The current destruction of redgum forests along inland rivers will be stopped and the Board will be required to play a stronger role. In addition the Board's restrictions will apply to Government authorities such as Forestry. Bank erosion by power boats on the Darling will be stopped.

● YES

● Believe that the failure to properly address soil conservation measures is one of our major environmental defects in NSW and reflected in the lack of a State Conservation Strategy. Believe that a return in emphasis to soil conservation as part of our general environmental protection and rehabilitation strategy is desirable. Would ensure the Catchment areas Protection Board acts effectively to protect environmentally-sensitive lands.

Would you support the cessation of clearing of native vegetation in the Western Division until:

- all the necessary National Parks and Nature Reserves are gazetted?
- a Regional Environmental Plan has been produced to prevent the loss of significant native vegetation and elimination of salinity risks?

● Significant areas in the Western Division have been protected in the parks system - Nombinne, linking Yathong and Round Hill Nature Reserve and acquisition of property to establish a nature reserve over the Narran Lake system. The NPWS is undertaking a detailed environmental study of the north eastern section in the Western Division to identify new nature reserve proposals.

● YES

● YES In addition we will introduce a bill creating a Redgums National Park in South West NSW and a Barrier Ranges National Park near Broken Hill.

● YES

● Concerned at the long-term effects of widespread clearing of native vegetation in the Western Division of NSW. The Shadow Ministers for Natural Resources, Environment, have had discussions with South Australian colleagues about the implementation and efficacy of their Native Vegetation Act. Also acutely aware of the problems of salinity in the Darling-Murray Basin. Would discuss with interested groups including the NSW Farmers' Association and the voluntary conservation movement, what appropriate controls might be needed on vegetation clearing in the Western Division to prevent continuing environmental degradation.

Urban Bushland

Do you undertake to:

- develop a State Environmental Planning Policy to ensure the conservation, rehabilitation and proper management of urban bushland under the control of public authorities?
- to promote the proper care of urban bushland on private lands?
- to develop legislation to enable the permanent protection of bushland in public open space?

● SEPP 19 was made to protect bushland in public open space and to assess the impacts of adjacent development. In light of this SEPP the Government assesses the use of land under its own control and takes urban bushland considerations into account. ● In the next term we will consult the conservation movement about an extension of SEPP 19 to cover urban bushland, irrespective of current zoning. The policy together with the provisions of the Environmental Planning legislation, promotes the proper care of urban bushland on private land.

● YES

● YES We will move for a State Environmental Planning Policy covering all open space requiring an EIS for any activity to be advertised.
● amendment of SEPP No 19 requiring a public authority to consider a flora and fauna study before undertaking an activity and bushfire hazard reduction to be in accordance with a public management plan.
● preparation by councils of inventories of private bushland with appropriate restrictions.
● management plans for all bushland

● YES

● Support SEPP 19 relating to urban bushland further evolution of this to ensure the conservation, rehabilitation and proper management of urban bushland areas under the control of public authorities. Reject the 'top dollar' attitude of both the NSW and Federal Labor Governments in proposing to sell, for development, remaining areas of urban bushland that have been declared 'surplus' to government needs.
● Committed to preserving a number of bushland sites throughout the Sydney metropolitan area which have been earmarked by the State Government for medium density housing development - totally out of context with the environmental values of the sites or the needs and amenity of surrounding residents.
● Will seek the co-operation of local government authorities, who monitor individual development applications on private land, to promote the proper care of urban bushland in private ownership and to minimise the impact of any development approvals on such bushland.
● Would be happy to develop, in consultation with the Local Government Association and the voluntary conservation movement, measures to provide permanent protection of urban bushland areas which are public open space.

Transport

Would you remove the freeway reservation over the Wolli Creek, Lane Cove Valley and Warringah/Castlecrag bushlands and gazette the areas as public open space?

● The Warringah Freeway reservation was removed by the Government in the late 70s and the non-urban parts of the corridor have been rezoned for open space. The Roads 2000 Plan foreshadowed the removal of the Lane Cove Valley reservation between Epping Road and Linley Point. The section between Figtree Bridge and Epping Road will be incorporated in Lane Cove SRA. The Government has indefinitely deferred the construction of the Freeway through Wolli Creek.

● YES

● YES This would be one of the first tasks of the Urban Parks Commission which we propose.

● YES

● Committed to the revocation of the freeway reservations over the Wolli Creek Valley and the Lane Cove Valley. Propose they remain in public ownership as open space. Would propose to assist in the rehabilitation of the native bushland of the Wolli Creek and the establishment of the significance of the Aboriginal relics contained in it. Portion of the Lane Cove Valley corridor should be appropriate for addition to the Lane Cove River State Recreation Area.

Roads 2000 had very limited public input.

Would you support a full public inquiry into Sydney's transport planning and the removal of the Department of Main Roads as the adjudicator of its own Environmental Impact Statements?

● The Government supports the efforts to more fully involve the public in Sydney's transport planning. A transport strategy will be an integral part of the new City Strategy which will have wide public input. The Government does not support removal of the DMR or any other public authority from its decision-making role (assessment responsibility) under the EPA Act.

● YES

● YES We advocate a strategy of reducing car numbers in Sydney by upgrading public transport. The excessive numbers of CBD car parking places recently approved will be phased out. There will be a separate strategy for the pedestrian, the handicapped and the cyclist.

● YES

● Propose a thorough review of these issues and proper provision will be made for widespread invitations of public participation and comment. No decision has been taken by us as to who should undertake this review. Would envisage, in general terms, that it would produce an options paper which would be available for further public comment.
● Will no longer permit government departments and statutory authorities to act as the consent authority or determinator of their own Environmental Impact Statements for development applications.

Toxic Chemicals

Would you support a thorough and independent review of all pesticide legislation and regulations, including consideration of:

- reform of the Pesticides Act, 1978, to ensure labels on pesticides conform to current restrictions on use?
- supervision of the urban pest control industry by agencies under the Ministries of Environment and Consumer Affairs rather than the Departments of Agriculture and Industrial Relations?
- increases in research and inspectorial staff?
- a ban on sale of Schedule 6 poisons at retail level?
- a requirement that protective clothing and other safety equipment be available wherever pesticides are sold?

● The Pesticides Act provides requirements that are the most stringent in Australia and possibly the world. Unlike others, the Act provides for specific controls for pesticides use. The July 1983 Task Force on Toxic Substances report did not recommend any changes to the Act and put forward recommendations which led to the Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act being passed in 1985. This Act provides valuable complementary legislation to the Pesticides and Poisons Act. A review of the pesticide legislation is unnecessary at this stage.
● Alternatively, the Government supports a review of the points raised in the Question and has referred them to the Hazardous Chemicals Advisory Committee for early advice.

● YES

● YES In addition we will act to speed up decisions on the long term storage or destruction of existing stockpiles of toxic wastes. Use of organochlorines for termite control should be phased out over one year. Use of aerosols to be phased out also. The buffer zone for aerial spraying should be increased to 500 metres and the production of chemical free agricultural products should receive government encouragement.

● YES

● Believe there is a need to review the Pesticides Act and other relevant legislation and regulations with respect to urban pesticide use whether by professional or household applications. Questions of supervision of these areas of activity including labelling and retailing, would be part of this process. Believe that, over recent years, standards associated with the handling and use of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals in rural NSW has increased significantly but that further major concerns exist in our urban environment which cannot be ignored.

Tourism

Do you agree that future tourism development based on natural attractions, should be located on areas of land which are already modified rather than in undeveloped natural environments?

● Generally the Government agrees that tourist development should be located in areas which are already modified. All tourist developments must be critically evaluated to assess any impact.

● YES

● YES We would move to cancel such developments as Bonville, The Islands at Kurradjong and the Back Lake development at Merimbula.
● We would move to freeze natural Crown lands on coastlines and escarpments and at the same time provide inventories of lands within existing settlements which are available for development.

● YES

● Reject environmentally-irresponsible tourist development such as that proposed by the State Labor Government at Broken Head on the north coast which would have destroyed one of the last remaining pockets of coastal rainforest. Also the concept, espoused by the State Labor Government, of special treatment in the planning process for tourist developments on government-owned land or projects which are financed or sponsored by the State Government.

Would you agree to prepare Regional Environmental Plans on tourism which provide for full public participation through exhibition and public comment including the provision of funding to relevant public interest groups to prepare detailed submissions?

● The Regional Environmental Plans for the North Coast and the South Coast deal with tourist issues. Such plans are exhibited and public comment is encouraged and considered. Funding has not been provided to public interest groups.

● YES

● YES Full public information and participation must be the basis of all future public planning. The adverse impacts of some major tourist impacts must be fully and publicly evaluated, in contrast to the secrecy, government loans, fast tracking and special legislation which has characterised such projects as the Fairmont Hotel (Leura) and Bonville.

● YES

● Production of Regional Environment Plans for tourism or other developmental purposes and the commissioning of other studies, with a full public participation process, is supported. We reject secrecy on controversial reports, eg on the future development on the environmentally-sensitive alpine resort areas in Kosciusko National Park. Also committed to Freedom of Information legislation to ensure that the public has access to a broad range of information it needs to make such participation meaningful.

MORE ON BURRENDONG

From the BURRENDONG ARBORETUM ASSOCIATION

Dear Member/Supporter,

You are aware that a number of problems associated with the management of the Arboretum developed over the past year. The election of a new Burrendong State Recreation Area Trust (BSRAT), unsympathetic to the aims of the Arboretum, and the retirement of Peter Althofer have been catalysts.

In 1987 the NPWS redefined (and greatly reduced) the authority of all Trusts under its control. In July 1987 a new Trust of five members was appointed. Except for Mrs Jarratt, the Association Representative, members were chosen for their interest and involvement in the recreational and sporting aspects of Burrendong. The NPWS District Superintendent, Mr Plummer, is *ex officio* member and is the dominant force on the Trust. He is also a relatively new appointee to the area and appears to have little sympathy with the original objectives defined for the Arboretum, and little interest in fostering community involvement.

The Trust now holds responsibility only for policy and promotion within the parameters of the NPWS policy. Finance and day to day management are under the control of the BSRA member, a NPWS employee, answerable to Mr Plummer.

The new Trust initially confirmed the position of the Honorary Director, but did not recognise the BAA Executive as a sub-committee of the Trust, contrary to the previous Trust. The new Trust made it clear that both the Director and the BAA Committee were purely advisory bodies. Since appointment, the new Trust has not accepted, nor even considered as far as we are aware, advice or recommendations from either. In fact, the BAA representative resigned following the Trust refusal to table or discuss BAA comments and recommendations on the guidelines produced by the NPWS for the Arboretum.

The present position is that following the retirement of Peter Althofer the Arboretum is being run by an inexperienced Curator with virtually no knowledge of Australian plants. Although a Trust employee, he is directed by

the BSRAT manager who himself has no botanical knowledge nor expertise in this area. The Trust members, including Mr Plummer, lack the specialised knowledge essential for the effective management of the Arboretum and for obvious reasons are more interested in the State Recreation Area proper.

The basic aims underlying the establishment of the Arboretum, are to grow the widest range possible of Australian trees and shrubs, especially rare and endangered species, in order to preserve genetic material and to make the collection available for scientific and educational purposes. The BAA strongly feels that these aims should be retained and that management guidelines should emphasise these aspects.

(Here followed a description of an unsuccessful meeting held with the Director of the NPWS, Mr Whitehouse.-Ed).

It would seem that in the short term the BAA must press for the establishment of the proposed management committee in order to ensure a professional management approach as well as technical support for the Curator.

Comments from both the Minister and the Director of the NPWS indicate that the Service is sensitive to pressure. If you agree with these opinions ... I would ask each of you to write to any or all of the following:-

Mr Whitehouse, Director NPWS
State Minister for Planning and the Environment
Dr Boden, Director of the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra

Without your help it is possible that the BAA may be divorced from the Arboretum, and the Arboretum itself, lacking any dedicated support and entirely in the hands of public servants, may disintegrate completely.

J. A. Harris (Chairman Burrendong Arboretum Association)

The Water Board held a conference at the Leura Resort last weekend. When a waitress asked if they wanted a jug of water to go with their meals, one was heard to say "No, there's too much bloody chlorine in that stuff. Bring us some beer."

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