

KAJORI

JULY 1973

Next Meeting:-

Springwood Civic Centre Friday 13th July.

Guest Speaker:

John Barker of Sydney University on

"FROGS"

MINUTES OF ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING - 8TH JUNE, 1973

We have decided to support the Mt. Tomah Society in their project to construct a memorial to explorers of the Blue Mountains.

It was resolved to write to the member for Hawkesbury, Mr Rozzoli requesting information on the Hawkesbury Valley Regional Study and asking if we could make a submission.

It was further decided to write to local member, Ron Mulock protesting over the non-availability of Environmental Impact Studies.

Moved Mick Smithson, seconded D. Pain that the Publicity Officer be reimbursed for the cost of producing "Kalori", \$9.00. It was decided that future accounts should be in writing.

THE EDEN FOREST INDUSTRIES

Notes from a Public Meeting called by Ecology Action
21st Feb. '73.

THE FORESTS.

The Eden project relies for its raw material on the extensive native forests that exist in this part of the far South Coast, and these forests in turn are part of the great forest belt that stretches throughout eastern Australia. The forests within the Eden area cover roughly half a million acres, extending west towards Bombala, north to beyond Merimbula, and south beyond the Victorian border.

There are now about 400,000 acres of State Forest in the Eden area and about 110,000 acres of land controlled by the National Parks & Wildlife Service.

THE CHIPWOOD AGREEMENT.

In 1968 the Government entered into an agreement with Harris-Daishowa (Aust.) Pty Ltd., a company that at that time was under 50% Australian, 50% Japanese ownership but is now wholly owned by the Japanese.

This agreement provided for the production of 450,000 tons of wood chips a year over a 20 year period and for the establishment of a chipping plant and wharf facilities on the shores of Twofold Bay.

LOGGING OPERATIONS.

The logging of the forests in the area is carried out as a joint operation providing both sawlogs for the local sawmills and pulpwood billets for conversion into woodchips. The logging is a clear-cutting operation, in which all merchantable trees in the logging coupe are felled and converted to sawlogs or pulpwood billets.

ECONOMICS.

The royalty paid by Harris-Daishawa is assessed on the basis of \$2.25 per ton (major areas) and \$1.50 per ton (minor areas) with an average royalty of \$2.19 per ton.

The average wage of the 300 employees at the mill and in the forest is about \$100 per week.

DISCUSSION.

Prof. W. D. Jackson (Botanist) of Tasmania spoke of methods being used in areas of Tasmania. The Impression I gained from him was that, even if burning was used to produce a silvicultural crop the crop would have a turnover period of 100 years. Burning the forest would cause most of the nutrients there at present to remain available for the following crop, whereas, at the moment, at Eden, most of the nutrients are being sent to Japan. This will mean that the expected crop turnover would be greater than 100 years.

Other evidence of the harmful ecological aspects of the industry was produced by Prof. Gene Likens from America. He gave the results of 10 years of research which showed that the use of clear felling caused great losses of salts and minerals from the soil. In the normal forested situation the degree of loss or gain of certain elements and salts remained very static. The input was measured by analysing the rain and snowfall while the output was measured by taking samples of water running off the area.

Normal levels in water (runoff)

Ca 2 mgms/litre
K 0.1 mgms/litre
No.3 1 mgm/litre

Net loss overall (Input:output).

Ca
Mg
Na
Al.
Silicon
Input: output equal
Cl, K.

Net gain
Ammonium
NO3
P
H

Slight Net Loss
Sulphate

After the area was clear felled the following results were achieved.

	(W2-) Experimental plot	(W6-) Control plot
1st year	Ca -15 mgms/litre	-8.3 mgms/litre
	K -22 " "	-1.1 " "
	NO3 -97 " "	+3.3 " "
2nd year	Ca -90.4" "	-9.2 " "
	K -35.8" "	-1.6 " "
	NO3 -142 " "	+2.4 " "

More nitrogen was lost in 3 years than could be replaced in 43 years.

I feel that the results of this experiment need no further comment other than to say that the neighbouring stream became badly polluted with algal bloom and the levels of salts and minerals exceeded the health ordnances for drinking water. - This, in a mountain stream with no possibility of industrial pollution!

The economics of the Eden contract can only be regarded in the light of statements by the Forestry Commission and by J.L. Henry, Commissioner of the Forestry Commission.

Mr. Henry stated that the royalty payable on the scheme averaged \$2.19 per ton. Let us take this figure and use some of the other figures given to us by other members of the panel to attempt to derive the value of the scheme to Australia.

Benefit to Australia.

450,000 tons @ \$2.19 /ton = \$985,400
 52 weeks x 300 employees @ \$100/week = \$1560,000
 \$2545,400

Benefit to Harris-Daishows.

Allowing for transport costs, wages and loss of product weight during conversion to paper
 300,000 tons paper @ \$150 /ton. = \$45,000,000

Even allowing for a 50% error that is a staggering loss to Australia and dont forget this is a twenty year contract. Must we allow the rape of our mother to carry favour with our next-door neighbour or are we going to stand against this and any similar contract. We must export finished products - this is where the profit lies. If we must have these polluting industries let's get the major part of the rip-off too.

-----Dave Cook