

Chain Reaction

Magazine of Friends of the Earth Australia

Number 69 \$4.00



- Lucas Heights reactions
- Nurrungar revisited
- Roxby, water & land claims
- forest reports suppressed
- thought control and flying pigs

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Richard Hindmarsh suggests that the CSIRO's travelling exhibition on genetic engineering was an exercise in thought control.



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Backstage

WELCOME TO another issue of *Chain Reaction*.

We hope you enjoy reading it, or at least find it stimulating.

Once again this edition is slightly overdue, but you'd better take a breath quickly, because there will be further issues soon, but more on that later.

We apologise for the delay with this issue, however the last year has seen major changes. We are now located in Canberra and both editors, Clare and Larry, are working full-time, and adjustments have had to be made, because as well as getting used to new workplaces and Darcy having a new school, we also had to move house a number of times.

Behind the scenes work has continued. Publicity, in particular, especially through distribution of a small flier - used as an insert into other magazines and newsletters - has progressed well, thanks to Maggie Hine, and we have managed to bring most routine administration almost up to date.

Chain Reaction is essentially run on a volunteer basis, and with a limited production budget. We also try to maintain and improve the quality of the magazine, both in content and the way it looks. Together these things do not always help produce speedy *Chain Reactions*, but hopefully they are worth reading and keeping.

This edition covers a range of issues. The science theme of CR 68



continues with the Beth Schultz article *The storm before CALM* and Richard Hindmarsh's *Flying pigs and thought control*. You may detect a hint of Local Government flavour with Petria Wallace's article on the campaign by the Sutherland Shire community and its council against the proposed new reactor for Lucas Heights. There's also a story on Roxby Downs by Maggie Hine and an article by James Prest on how forestry authorities are trying to catch activists. Sue Arnold has brought together some information on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and we have a poetic contribution from George Venturini.

The next issues are well on the way - the big easy bits anyway - with a special Friends of the Earth issue describing some of the various FOE groups and their activities and a theme issue on the International

Year for the World's Indigenous People. We have also started collecting items for a humorous issue (see back cover). All these editions will be out in the next few months, finances permitting, and trusting that the wheels don't fall off the production process as they are wont to do.

We are looking at ways of expanding the way in which others can be involved in *Chain Reaction* such as:

- administrative support;
- guest editors for a particular issue;
- editorial help such as writing articles or Earth News stories, editing, proofreading;
- contribution of graphics.

We also have some short-term projects that could be usefully done almost anywhere in the country:

- preparation of an index;
- development of an activist contact list
- publicity and advertising.

If you wish to be involved in any way, please contact us:

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We also have a fax machine which is supposed to be able to take faxes on the same line as our telephone:

(06) 289 0289.

Until the next issue,

Clare Henderson
Larry O'Loughlin

Spoilers

I really want to congratulate all those involved in *Chain Reaction* Number 68, 'Science and the environmental movement'. I especially enjoyed the interview with Vananda Shiva 'Putting science in its place' and Patsy Hallan's article 'Careful of science - a feminist critique'. In that article, Patsy Hallan looks at the language of science (amongst other things) and its implicit assumptions.

So I was surprised to read the review of *Spoils and Spoilers* by Geoffrey Bolton, reviewed by Kathie Fletcher. It was a reasonable review but, for heaven's sake, we have to get away from describing Australia as having been 'opened up' and 'settled'. It wasn't. It was invaded by Europeans.

Australia was 'closed down' as far as the indigenous people were (and are) concerned. I have been in Australia for ten years and am still surprised at how this loaded vocabulary of colonialism stuffs up the thinking of many of us trying to reach an understanding of our past and present.

Stephen Langford
Paddington, NSW

Cars can pool together

A common feature of modern living is the use of the car, despite its damaging impact on the environment, not to mention humans. One way to reduce the number of cars on our roads would obviously be to share it with others and use it only if absolutely necessary.

Carpools are widely used in Europe and especially in Germany where pressing environmental problems such as the dying of forests and the regular occurrence of smog have led to growing awareness of the implications of car use.

So how does a carpool work? Basically it is offering a lift in exchange for a contribution towards the fuel costs. For example, if you intend going to Brisbane by car you would register with our service, we then forward your phone number to the prospective passenger. Of course it is up to you and your passenger to make your own arrangements such as pick up point and costs. The advantages of such a carpool are obvious:

- It is cheaper for all parties;
- The car is fully utilised, that means a car built to carry five people actual-

Letters

ly carries five people. Just have a look at the traffic jams each morning. If you are going to work by car sharing it with other commuters would definitely lead to a decrease in the number of cars on the road, therefore a decrease in exhaust emissions;

- It is a great way to meet people. Having company on long distance trips helps prevent fatigue and makes the trip generally safer.

If you are interested in participating in such a car pool/service why not give us a ring on (02) 344 9380 between 2 pm and 5 pm Monday to Friday.

Barbara and Andy Kosasih
Maroubra NSW

Return of the milk bottle

I enjoyed reading *Chain Reaction*, in particular David Vincent's article on the packaging industry (Number 67).

A recent copy of the MOP newsletter has some interesting promotional material which would appear to promote waxed beverage cartons. Who funds MOP?

The Kingfisher Centre sees an Australia wide

return to refillable bottles as the way ahead. When this occurs thousands of people with physical and intellectual disabilities could be involved in the labour-intensive operations of sorting and preparing containers for refilling.

The Kingfisher Centre has produced an information sheet on recycling, which is the culmination of ten years of recycling activities at Aspley Special School. Kingfisher Centre is the most comprehensive school recycling initiative in Australia.

A small point about *Chain Reaction*, the magazine seems to come from, and be aimed at, an educated intellectual base and yet I am sure there is a need for a magazine that gives information to those members of the public who have not had the benefits of tertiary education.

Is there any conservation magazine that is targeted at the average citizen or youngster?

Thank you for your efforts to enable us to live more lightly on the Earth.

Harry Johnson
Recycling Co-ordinator
Kingfisher Centre
Aspley Special School
Aspley, QLD

Letters

Unemployment, environment and industries

In Australia a high level of capital has been invested in resource intensive industries. This form of investment contributes to two of Australia's major problems: unemployment and environmental decline.

During the last twenty years there has been a general policy of winding down our manufacturing industries and concentrating investment in the resource industries, mining, agriculture and forestry. This policy has been followed by both Labor and National/Liberal Governments.

Economists pointed out that Australia was more cost effective in mining and in the global economy Australian mining had a competitive edge in world trade.

Simply, the theory was to import cheap manufactured goods and pay for them with mineral or farm exports. In 1992 Friends of the Earth received a letter from Robert Webster MLC, NSW Minister for Planning and Energy, which stated for new developments:

'NSW has a competitive edge in intensive agriculture, agricultural and food processing projects,

minerals, extractive materials and metal processing and pulp and paper manufacture.'

Mr Webster firmly believes that our future lies in the resource industries with maybe a little manufacturing by value added processing of primary goods. Mr Webster is not alone. Many Australian politicians and other influential people have similar views on the theory that Australia has a competitive edge in resource industries. The industries listed by Mr Webster have two major drawbacks:

- Many resource industries, especially mining and forestry, can be major environmental disasters.
- Mining developments generally require high capital investment for every job created.

There is a very significant difference in the number of jobs created for every dollar invested in a development. Two very extreme examples of capital cost per job are: about \$2 million in an aluminium refinery; and \$20,000 in a recycling collection service.

Often mining industries are capital intensive while many small scale factories are labour intensive. The footwear and clothing industries are under attack for being inefficient, but generally their capital costs per job is relatively low. Some manufacturers can have high capital intensities, especially large factories with expensive machinery like the pulp and paper industries.

In the 1960s unemployment in Australia was very low, about 3 per cent. Cur-



rently we are in a recession and unemployment is about 11 per cent. Even when the recession is over it is expected that unemployment will not drop back to 3 per cent, but will probably drop no lower than 6-7 per cent. This increased structural unemployment would be partially due to the closing down of manufacturing industries with low capital costs per job and a shift of capital to capital intensive industries.

Capital available for investment is limited. Capital invested in capital intensive industries will decrease the amount of capital available for low capital, job creating industries. Australia's largest environmental organisations have warned of the dangers of excessive development of resource industries.

In a submission to the Australian Government on Ecologically Sustainable Development, the Australian Conservation Foundation, Greenpeace, The Wilderness Society and World Wildlife Fund strongly argued that the Australian economy should

not be dominated by resource intensive industries. These industries will deplete our natural capital and prevent ecologically sustainable development.

The submission stated that a move away from resource driven economy is imperative if Australia is to avoid economic and ecological decline in the long term.

Opinion surveys show that the current main concerns of Australians are unemployment and the environment. Many large scale resource industries have a high capital cost per job and by diverting investment to these industries unemployment is created in Australia as a whole. Also these resource industries are not ecologically sustainable.

Australian Governments should be encouraging the development of industries which have a low capital cost per job and are environmentally friendly.

Ted Floyd,
Sydney, NSW

Behind closed doors

Does it concern you that, daily, decisions are being made behind closed doors, decisions that will affect us now and in the future and over which we have no control? Be they those of money market manipulators, governments making deals, multi nationals playing global chess with labour forces or, of recent years, genetic engineers vying with each other to change the course of nature?

We can hope to survive the effects of the first three of these, if only because should we become too

poor, too disillusioned or too equal their actions will cease or become uneconomical. We have no safety net however for the final classification - those servants of our presently much lauded bio-technology industry, whose activities are presently shaping the living world.

Though change occurs naturally, it took millions of years for this planet to arrive at its present state of biological balance and interdependence. We must, therefore, question the right of everyone to hasten the breakdown of that finely tuned regime by foisting entirely new species, en-

vironmentally unchallenged, upon us.

Australians know all too well what happens when new plants and animals, with superb references but no natural enemies, are introduced from foreign lands. Do we give free reign to those who would create new species (no references, ultimate effect on us or the environment unknown) and release them here or anywhere on Earth?

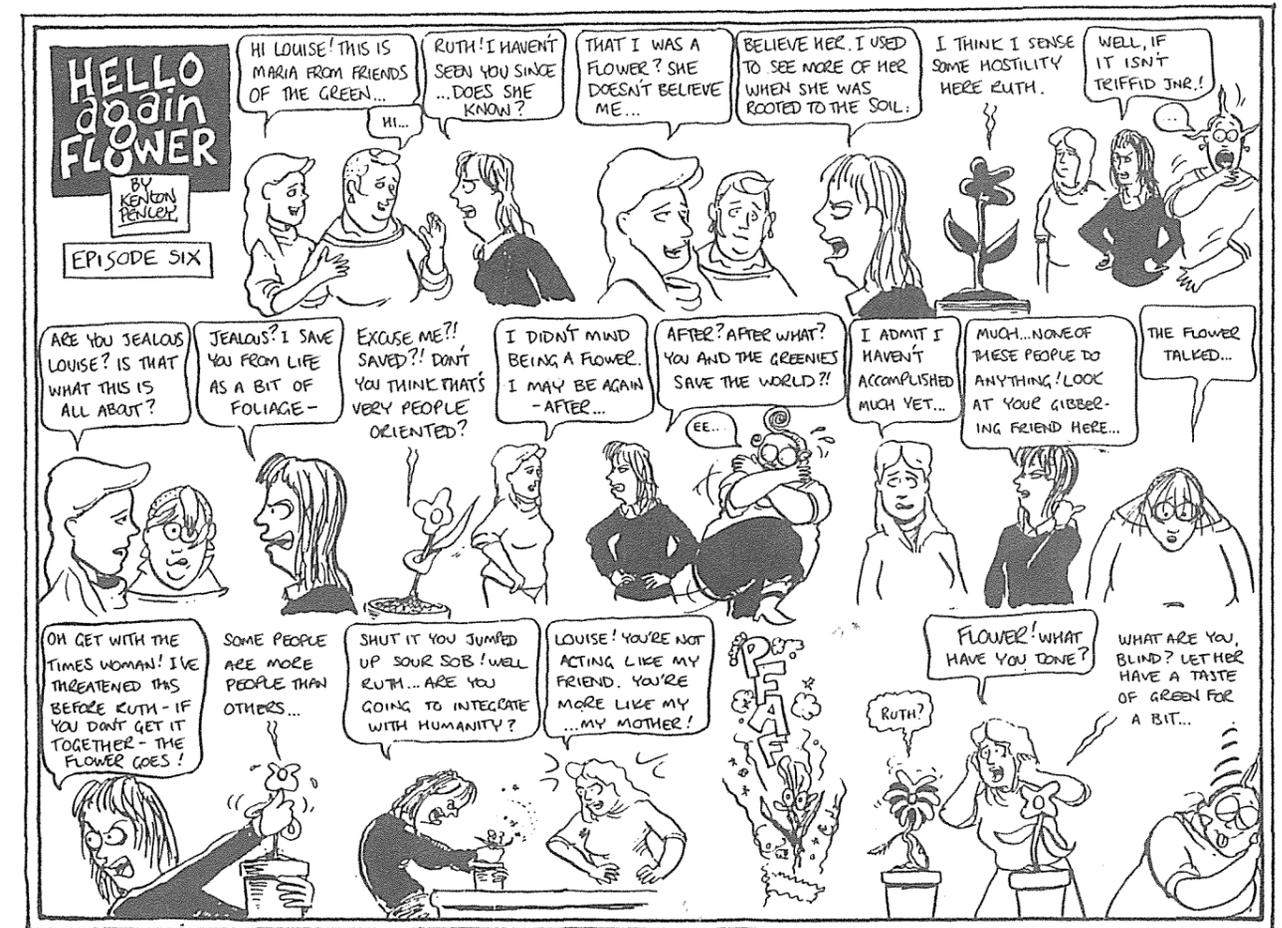
Until now we could search in the country of origin for an agent to control the new arrival. But where will we go to find controls for those man-made species now being

thought up and fashioned without our knowledge or approval in laboratories world wide?

Isn't it time we put a stop to this madness? Isn't it time those closed doors were opened or better still, demolished? But who will wield the axe? The biotech people certainly won't want to. In fact they are doing their best to encourage the industry, and many scientists wear blinkers and do not see there is a problem.

I guess it is up to you and me!

Ken Cheatle
Balmain NSW



Letters

Voice of Authority

While the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority naturally shares Dr Russell's (*Chain Reaction* Number 67) concern about the future of the Great Barrier Reef, the number of factual errors and misinterpretations in the article demonstrate a misunderstanding of marine management.

For example, Cod Hole is a Marine National Park Zone, not a Preservation Zone; trolling does not catch Potato Cod; and, the concept of interconnectedness in the sea is well recognised. More importantly to suggest (through a selective quote) that the personal views of one person in 1977 reflect the current philosophy of the Marine

Park Authority is to ignore the development of an internationally acclaimed management philosophy which has evolved through the interceding years. (For the record, the quote in the article Kelleher and Kenington (*Ambio* 1982, Vol II No 5) reads in full: 'An understanding of the Reef and the processes that maintain it is necessary before sensible decisions can be made about competing uses. The aim is to ensure a level of usage which is consistent with the maintenance of the ecological system and which will be accepted as reasonable by society.'

Management of marine areas is relatively new. There are some similarities with the management of land but a fundamental difference is the lack of boundaries resulting in the free movement of water, plankton, animals, boats and pollutants.

Marine Parks or Reserves are of two basic types. Small highly protected areas and large multi-use areas providing various levels of usage and protection. In small areas

managers can maximise restrictions of activities inside the boundaries but have limited influence outside. In large areas there is greater control over the areas surrounding the sites of greatest protection. It recognises the free movement of water and allows a holistic approach to managing marine areas. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, at 84,500,00 hectares, is an example of the latter.

Many techniques are used to manage the Marine Park including zoning, regulations, activity permits and public education. None of these techniques would work on their own, but together, they combine to create an effective management system. To focus on one, such as zoning, is misleading.

Within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, zoning allows conflicting uses to be separated, and strict protection to be applied where required. Zoning plans are developed only after extensive community consultation. The most protected areas are Preservation Zones; no access is permitted, except for some research. Areas such as Cod Hole are Marine National Park Zones. These are look-but-don't-touch zones offering strong protection and opportunities for people to see marine life such as the large Potato Cod. Surrounding the Cod Hole is a Buffer Zone where fishing is prohibited except for trolling because it does not catch Potato Cod.

Most of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is zoned for General Use.

Many commercial and recreational activities are allowed within limitations but some things are totally banned, such as mining, littering and spearfishing on scuba. Evidence of the precautionary approach is well demonstrated by oil drilling. Despite arguments of minimal impact the risks were considered too great and it was banned at the inception of the Marine Park.

Some impact of human use is inevitable. Except for relatively small sites, the basic philosophy of reef management is conservation, not preservation. Conservation aims at ecologically sustainable use, allowing activities that will not compromise the long term viability of the reef, preservation means no visits and attempting to control all outside effects. Managing large areas for conservation is now becoming the way to go for land and urban areas and is arguably the most effective way of ensuring the preservation of specific sites within them.

Management of natural areas is a long term responsibility of the management body charged to do it, of all the people using the area, and of the community in general. All affect its future and all will be affected by it. To help achieve this broad outlook a strategic plan for the next twenty five years is being developed for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area: all the community, conservation, commercial and government groups involved with the Great Barrier Reef are contributing to this plan.

One of the most critical

long term issues facing the Great Barrier Reef is decreased water quality due to run-off from agricultural land and urban development. Many of these problems originate hundreds of kilometres inland, so it is not realistic to contemplate including these areas in a park, so other techniques are needed. This serious situation has been well recognised for some time, and using its basic co-operative and consultative management philosophy, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is continuing to work with both private and government catchment area management groups. In addition, the effects of increased nutrient levels on coral reef is one of the major research efforts of the Marine Park Authority.

Another research priority of recent years has been the effects of fishing. Large scale studies are presently under way into the effects of commercial trawling on the soft bottom communities between reefs. The impact of reef fishing on reef communities by professionals has been under study for some time, and remains a high priority for research. Fishing has a long term future only if we understand and conserve the fundamental ecology on which the fish depend.

Another threat to the reef is oil spills. International law requires free passage of ships through the Great Barrier Reef, but because the area is a marine park some action is possible. Compulsory pilotage has been introduced and 'Reefplan' has been set up to provide oil spill respon-

ses. Because we recognise that the technology used to contain a large oil spill does not exist anywhere in the world, most effort is being directed at minimising the risk of an accident: the Authority is continually lobbying for better standards for ships, and strongly advocates double hulling for all tankers.

Management of such a large and complex geographical area with many different uses will always be a difficult task. The future of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park relies on the efforts of all of us. For example provoking tug of wars with Potato Cod is unacceptable behaviour, but because Marine Park rangers can not be everywhere at once, self-policing is necessary. Self-policing will only result from a sound understanding and appreciation of the marine environment and the impacts of humans on it. This is why education is another major technique of management.

This education must be spread to the general Australian community, and not just reef users. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is well aware that it is acting for all Australians, who hold this unique and wonderful environment in its trust for present and future generations. Towards this end, well researched, constructive and informed debate will always be welcomed by this agency.

Malcolm Turner
Education Officer
Great Barrier Reef Marine
Park Authority

Chain Reaction

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Issue 67

The packaging industry; new nuclear developments; ecofeminism; managing the Great Barrier Reef; community right to know; whaling.

Issue 66

Ecocities special: Crisis in Bangkok; cities and cars; greenhouse gas emissions; chairs cities and chaos; building the green city.

Issue 65

Multifunction Polis (MFP); the Federal EPA; Children and TV; AIDEX; the gulf peace camp; extra large reviews section

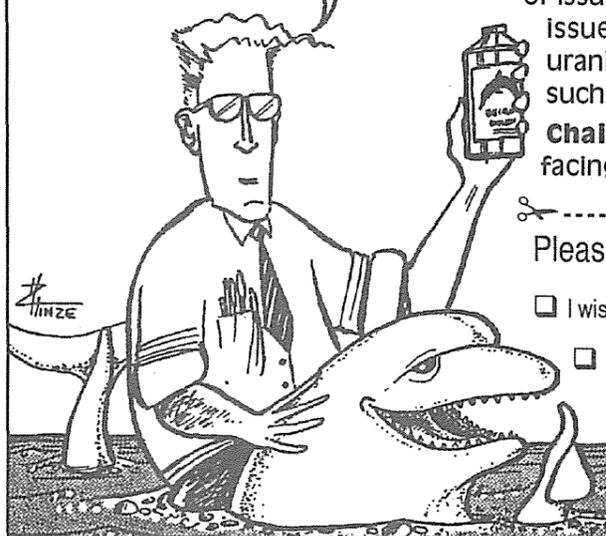
Issue 63/64

Corruption in the environment movement?; debt for nature swaps; Resource security legislation; light radiation — compact fluorescent; Green, gay ... and Christian?; Central America; the uranium debate; environmental effects of tobacco.



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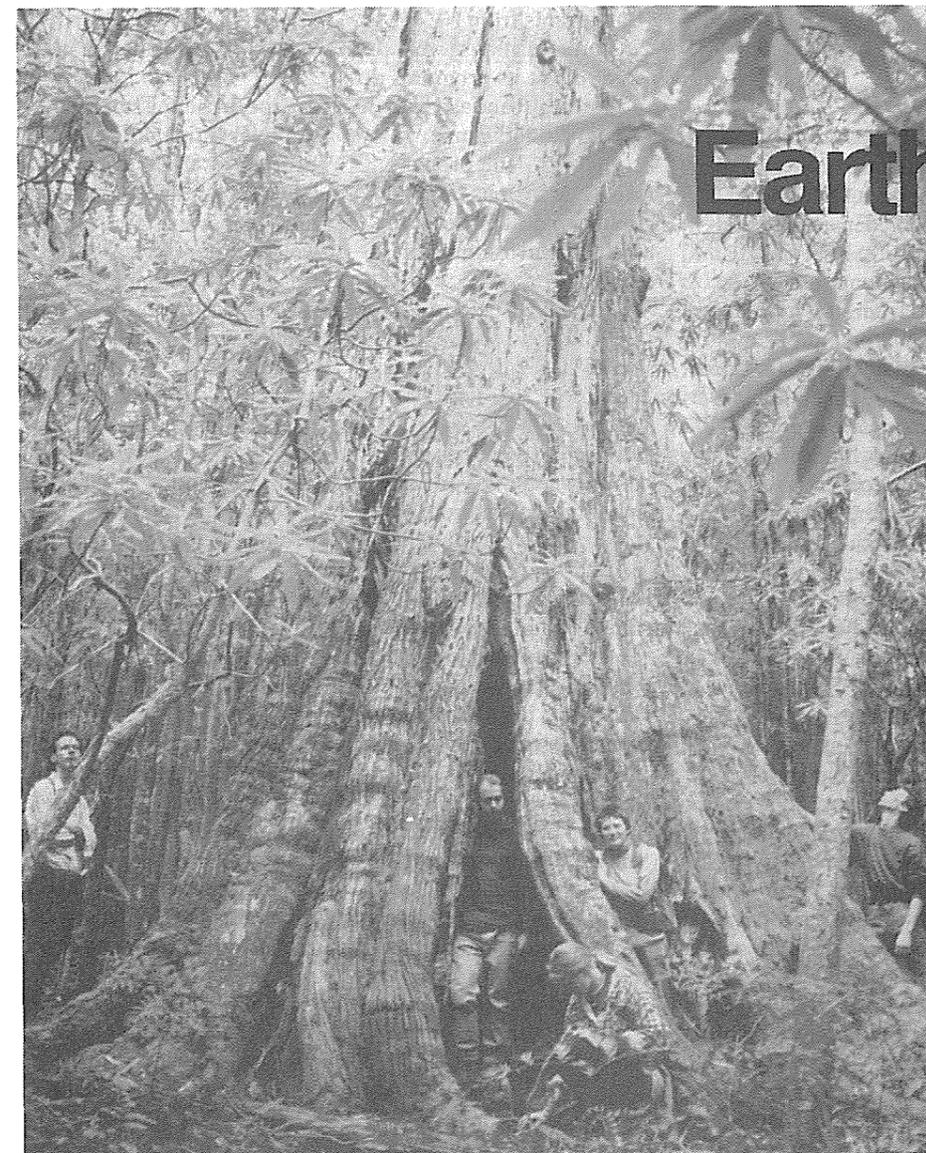
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Earth News

contain some of the largest trees in NSW — 400 year old Brown Barrels (*Eucalyptus fastigata*), and these areas have not been fully assessed for their ecological values.

In addition, the Forestry Commission has been granted a license to 'take or kill endangered fauna' so that its logging activities do not breach the laws which exist to protect endangered species. The granting of such licenses undermines the intent of the legislation which is designed to protect endangered wildlife species.

It also seems that there is no protection for protesters, legal or not. At about 6.30 am on 28 September 1993 NSW State Forestry loggers attacked peaceful protesters in the Coolangubra Wilderness 30 km north east of Bombala. The loggers threw one woman to the ground and punched and verbally abused several other protesters.

Local police and ambulance officers said that there were no protesters in sight when they arrived at the scene at about 7.30 am and, therefore, that no charges were laid against the loggers. Protesters were later treated for bruising and shock.

Source: *The Wilderness Society, AAP.*

Deua forest and endangered wildlife under threat

Wilderness, trees, endangered animals and protesters have all been under attack in the Deua wilderness area of south-eastern New South Wales.

The Wilderness Society describes these forests as holding a great diversity of wildlife and such special and unique ecosystems that their conservation value is immeasurable. The area

also contains rare and endangered species of plants and animals. Yet the area is also being logged for wood-chips by the NSW Forestry Commission which disregarded the National Forest Policy Statement, obtained exemption from the National Parks and Wildlife Act to kill endangered fauna, and stood by as its loggers assaulted protesters.

The National Forest Policy Statement was signed by the Prime Mini-

ster and the Premiers of each State, except Tasmania, at the Council of Australian Governments meeting in Perth 1992. The Policy, in part, says that until assessments of forests have been undertaken: 'forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old growth forest wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value'.

Areas being logged in the south-eastern forests

Earth News

Australian built dam in Laos

The 600MW, US\$700 million Nam Theun hydro-power station and dam will be built in Laos by an Australian Consortium. Construction is scheduled to begin in 1995.

The consortium, known as Transmec, is made up of Transfield Holding Pty Ltd and Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation.

Source: *World Rivers Review*, Vol.8, No 2, 1993.

Number of nuclear reactors in 1993

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency the total number of operating reactor world-wide in 1993 is 496, and 72 are presently under construction.

Greenpeace research, however, shows that only 53 reactors are under construction. Greenpeace campaigner Jean McSorley, has noted that of these 53 reactors, 26 are being built in the south-east Asian region. Indonesia plans to build between seven and twelve nuclear plants to come on line between 2003 and 2015.

Source: *WISE News Communiqué*, 25 June 1993; *Search*, July 1993.

World Bank puts squeeze on environment

Only 19 countries met the World Bank's 30 June 1993 deadline for producing a National Environmental Protection Plan (NEAP). The demand for NEAPs came from pressure on the US government by non-government organisations critical of the bank's environmental record. Countries borrowing money from International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank are now expected to produce a NEAP.

According to the Bank, NEAPs should identify 'key environmental problems, set priorities dealing with them and lead to comprehensive national environmental policy'.

Bank guidelines stress that NEAPs must be 'an integral part of the country's policy and investment strategy in a manner satisfactory to the Bank'. NEAPs are now being fitted into the Bank's vision of development which includes the primacy of market and privatisation.

There is growing concern that all the World

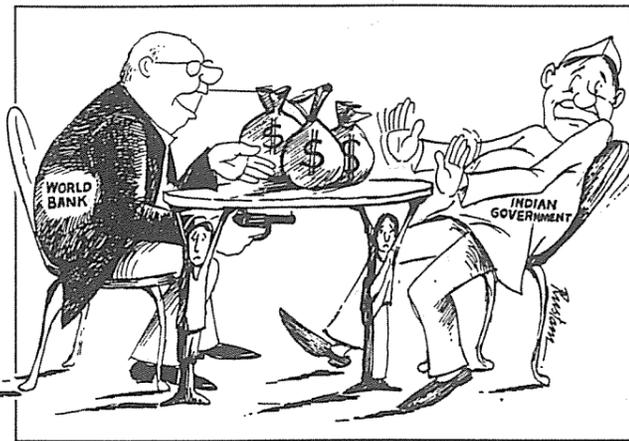
Bank wants from NEAPs is an early warning system to ensure that its programs do not create scandals over environmental damage.

World Bank projects have a notorious rate of failure, causing social unrest and environmental devastation.

Interest-free IDA loans are allocated to countries which have adopted a strictly enforced Structural Adjustment Program (SAP). SAPs are economic policies imposed on heavily indebted countries in order to stimulate growth and reduce poverty.

SAPs have consistently failed to stabilise the economy of developing nations. By demanding increased production, typically in timber or agricultural export products, SAPs deplete the natural resource base in an unsustainable manner that leaves the country with short term profits and long term devastation. Once the environment has been depleted to make payments on loans, the economic base disappears.

Source: *Panascope*, July 1993; *Rainforest Action Network*, June 1993.



Chernobyl remains dangerous

A report commissioned by the International Fire Protection Organisation (IFPO) says the Chernobyl nuclear power station, as well as other nuclear stations in the Ukraine, are inadequately protected against fire.

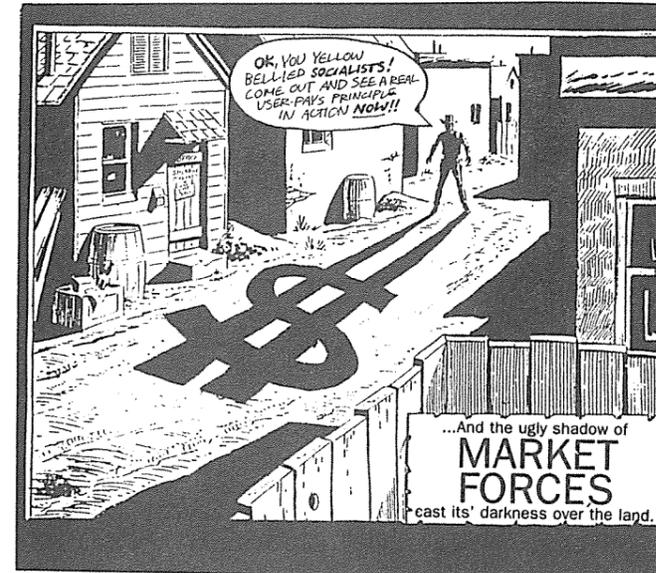
In June 1993 the organisation inspected the concrete sarcophagus built over the Chernobyl reactor after it exploded in 1986. It reported the sarcophagus had begun to crack, confirming earlier reports that it was breaking down.

The IFPO found that staff were not sufficiently trained in fire safety measures and there was not enough equipment to put a fire out. The same situation was found to exist at stations in Lithuania and Bulgaria.

The IFPO has recommended that the Ukraine receive grants to stop the reactors but it is thought this is unlikely as Ukraine exports electricity to Austria for badly needed hard currency. Authorities are reluctant to even stop the reactor for repairs as it would mean a loss of income. A Chernobyl official said: 'How can we kill a goose when it has just laid a golden egg!'

Fire services in Ukraine and Russia have requested government support to help them protect the workers at nuclear stations and the populations in the areas surrounding them.

Source: *World Information Service on Energy (WISE)*, *News Communiqué*, 25 June 1993.



TOES - the other economic summit

For the last ten years, The Other Economic Summit (TOES), as a citizens' forum around economic alternatives, has shadowed the annual G7 Summit. (G7 is a group of seven leading industrial nations.)

The Other Economic Summit held in Japan in late 1992 worked to the theme of 'Peoples' Models for a Changing World', gathering evidence that, beyond the communiqués and cameras that characterise the G7 summit, there is a wealth of initiatives at a community level offering guidance and inspiration for a socially just and ecologically sustainable paths of development. In all, four hundred delegates came from 17 countries.

TOES is a focus for a network of organisations working on ways of making communities, urban and rural, more self-reliant, experimenting with different forms of ownership capable

of serving varying economic and social purposes, exploring communities' capacities for self-development and for forming new trading relationships, generating income and accumulating capital.

TOES, which first met alongside the G7 in 1984, sets out to draw attention to the manifold failures of conventional economic policy to promote economic security and human welfare.

An Australian TOES conference will be held, 26-28 November 1993, at the University of Technology Sydney.

The Summit will include topics such as: financing sustainable development; reworking Australia; ecological ownership; devolving control to local communities; and transforming social values. Many other issues will also be discussed.

For further information contact: Frances or Bruce Milne on (02) 810 7812 or Sally Wellington on (044) 217 137.

Keeping abreast of chlorine

A Greenpeace study, *Breast Cancer and the Environment: The Chlorine Connection*, released November 1992, suggests that chlorine based chemicals pollutants are a major cause of rapidly rising breast cancer rates worldwide. It is the first study to review the existing scientific literature on breast cancer and the environment. Key findings include:

- Women with breast cancer tend to have higher levels of organochlorine pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in their tissue than women without breast cancer.
- Women working in industries with elevated levels of chemical exposure - including exposure to dioxin - have very high rates of breast cancer.

Incidence of breast cancer is growing rapidly worldwide and is one of the primary causes of premature death among women in the developed world. Joe Thornton, author of the study said: 'Ample evidence points to chlorine based chemicals as significant contributors to this epidemic.'

Thornton identifies the chlorine based compounds known as organochlorines eg DDT, PCBs, dioxin, and many more chemical products and by-products of industrial processes that produce, use, or burn chlorinated substances, as being the most suspect contributors to the increase in breast cancer.

Studies have shown that

these chemicals interfere with the body functions which regulate estrogen. Organochlorines' role in disrupting estrogen systems is particularly important because estrogen hormonal factors play a role in the onset of breast cancer.

The study provides yet another strong case for the phase out of processes that use or produce chlorine.

To draw further attention to this issue, in May 1993 activists from Greenpeace and FOE Netherlands chained themselves to railway tracks to prevent a train carrying chlorine from leaving Akso, the Netherlands based chemical multinational.

FOE Netherlands and Greenpeace are demanding that Akso stop production and processing of chlorine as alternatives to chlorine are available.

They are lobbying the Dutch Government to comply with the Treaty of Paris, which it signed last year. In this treaty 15 European countries committed themselves to ending chlorine production by the year 2000.

Sources: *Earth Island Journal*, Spring 1993; *FOE LINK*, Issue 55, 1993. Contact Greenpeace on (02) 211 4066 for more information.



Earth News

Hollywood's chain saw massacre

As Hollywood studios produce films about the rainforest and rainforest cultures such as *Medicine Man*, *The Emerald Forest*, *At Play in the Fields of the Lord* and *Fern Gully*, they contribute to the destruction of the rainforest ecosystem that they advocate defending.

The majority of Hollywood studios use a tropical hardwood called lauan, which is native to Indonesian and Malaysian rainforests, in their set construction.

Lauan is used because of its light weight, smooth finish and flexibility and it is used almost exclusively by the entertainment industry. This wood, taken from shrinking rainforests, is used only once and thrown away when Hollywood moves to a new project.

Despite a two year lobbying campaign by the Rainforest Action Network, and the availability of alternatives, only a few studios have stopped using lauan.

The Rainforest Action Network is asking that all studios go rainforest wood free by the end of 1993.

Source: *Rainforest Action Network, Alert #87, August 1993*

Sperm count down

Semen quality has generally declined over the past 50 years according to a paper in the *British Medical Journal*. The Danish authors analysed 60 papers containing data on 14,947 men with no history of infertility. The mean sperm count declined from 113×10^6 /ml in 1940 to 66×10^6 in 1990.

The authors suggest that 'the decline in semen quality was possibly due to environmental rather than genetic factors'.

Source: *Toxic - Chemical, Radiation and Environmental Safety, July 1993.*

Norway defies whaling ban

Since its decision to resume commercial whaling in June 1993, Norway has been hit by a boycott of its products by German companies which has cost US\$30 million in export contracts - five times the expected income from this year's whaling.

US and British firms are also cancelling contracts, and the US has lodged a formal precursor to sanctions, stating that Norway is 'diminishing the effectiveness' of the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) moratorium on commercial whaling.

The IWC, at its annual meeting in May 1993, reaffirmed a seven year old ban on commercial whaling, despite opposition from Norway and Japan.

Source: *FOE Link, Number 56, September 1993; Animal Activist Alert, Issue 3, 1993.*

Coode Island company rewarded after blowing up

The Hazardous Materials Action Group (HAZMAG) on 20 June 1993 reported a number of findings relating to the Coode Island chemical fires in August 1991, based on previously secret Government documents,

Terminals Ltd, the company responsible for the storage area at Coode Island which exploded and now facing charges related to the incident in the Melbourne Magistrates Court, financially benefited from a cash gift given to it by the previous Government which will eventually amount to several million dollars when finally paid out (up to \$300,000 a year for 12 years commencing in 1992-93).

Public money has assisted Terminals Ltd to buy and upgrade the previously owned Powell Duffryn site (now Terminals C) at Coode Island, thus giving it an effective monopoly over the supply of chemical feedstocks in Victoria from which huge profits will eventually be made.

The former Labor Government also paid for upgrade work which should have been the responsibility of the company.

The present Liberal Government will give Terminals Ltd a further cash payment of \$150,000 per quarter for each unexpired quarter of its lease until 31 January, 2004 after the site has been vacated in preparation for Terminals' relocation to Point Wilson.

This Government and

the previous Government have covered up their financial dealings with Terminals, and have effectively lied to the public.

The Liberal Government continues to honour this corrupt financial arrangement, despite its enthusiasm to raise the cost of Government charges and cut social services.

This is a 'black hole' in the previous Government's budget on which the Liberal Government has curiously forgotten to publicise.

The documents which the Materials Action Group released include:

- A Memorandum to then Minister for Manufacturing and Industry Development, David White, dated 4 June 1992, outlining the Financial Assistance Package to Terminals Ltd;
- A seven page legal agreement between David White, Minister for Manufacturing and Industry Development and Terminals Pty Ltd setting out the terms and conditions of the financial package;
- A schedule showing the MFB, Occupational Health and Safety, and EPA upgrade requirements at Terminals C which will be partly paid for by public money; and
- A file note showing how the assistance payments to Terminals Ltd have been calculated.

For further information contact HAZMAG members: Colleen Hartland on (03) 689 9754 Paul Adams (03) 687 7027 Peter Whelan (03) 687 5071

Food irradiation - seeping in?

Efforts to introduce food irradiation into Australia and New Zealand are increasing.

In December 1992 the three year moratorium on food irradiation in Australia ended. The moratorium was imposed as a result of overwhelming public opposition to food irradiation because of proven health and safety problems.

The National Food Authority (NFA) is responsible for recommending national food standards and has now proposed the setting of a standard for irradiated food. A move made in anticipation of the legalisation of food irradiation in Australia.

According to the NFA it initiated the proposal to develop national standards.

There is, however, speculation that proponents of food irradiation approached the NFA to commence the standard setting process. If this were true the NFA would be bound to produce a final recommended standard within twelve months of the application. But, as the NFA says the proposal was generated internally there is no time limit for finalising the standard.

The NFA anticipates that the standard, if developed, would be in place in State and Territory regulations by mid 1994.

The moratorium on food irradiation has been extended while the NFA's current proposal is being processed.

In December 1992 the NFA published a public notice declaring its inten-

tion to develop national food irradiation standards and calling for public submissions. This public comment period finished on 1 June 1993.

The next stage of the process is an assessment by the NFA of the submissions and any other factors that may influence the development of standards, such as contemporary research and literature. After this assessment the findings and recommended draft standards are released for public comment.

Comments made at this stage then become the subject of an inquiry by the NFA which can, if the issues raised are contentious enough, take the form of public hearings.

If following the inquiry NFA chooses to continue with the standards, they are recommended to the National Food Standards Council, made up of Commonwealth, State and

Territory Health Ministers, which votes on the proposal. If approved by a majority basis it goes, by reference, straight into State and Territory food regulations.

The whole process is presently being delayed as the NFA awaits a report, *Safety and Nutritional Adequacy of Irradiated Food*, from the World Health Organisation. This report was commissioned by the Australian Government as a consequence of the initial moratorium.

Source: *National Food Authority. Ph: (06) 271 2222 For further information: FOE Fitzroy Anti Uranium Collective on (03) 419 8700.*

Situation mirrored in NZ

In the late 1980s FOE (NZ) spearheaded a major national campaign to stop the introduction of food irradiation into New Zealand.

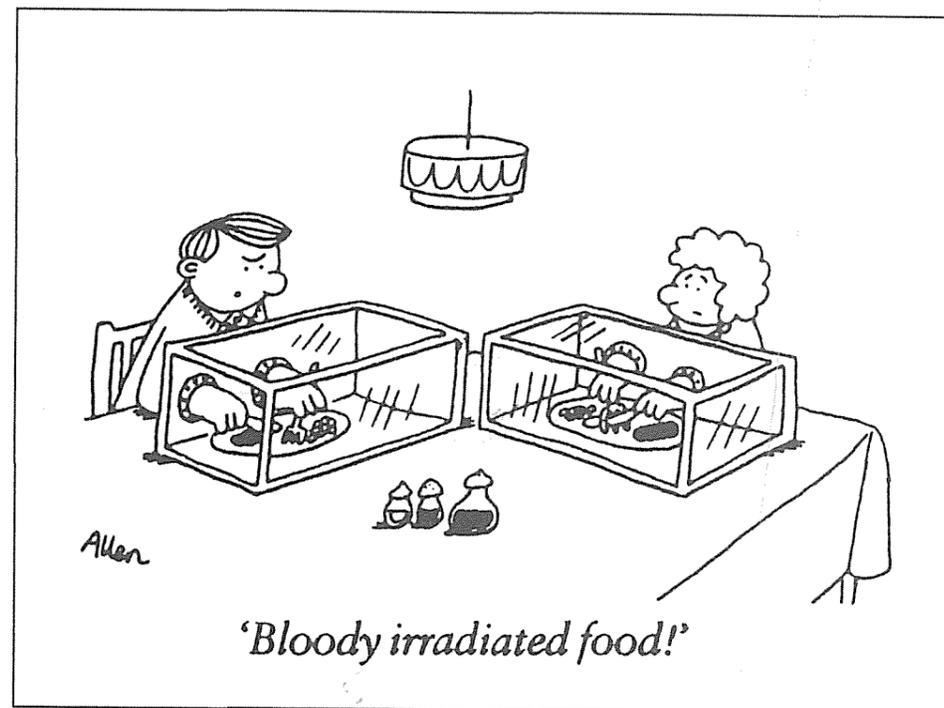
This led to NZ being the first country to ban the irradiation of food.

Following this FOE (NZ) went on to have considerable input into the Australian Federal Government Committee inquiry into food irradiation.

In 1992 FOE (NZ) received information that the NZ Minister of Health was being advised by her Department to lift the NZ ban. However, the Minister has recently indicated that she awaits the results of the Australian review of its food irradiation policy as the food regulations of both countries are being harmonised.

If Australia and NZ are to maintain their opposition to food irradiation some cross-Tasman campaigning is called for, and now.

Source: *Earth, FOE NZ Bulletin, No 52, April '93.*



Earth News

Tiger traffic alarming

August 1993 saw India's biggest ever tiger bone seizure following an undercover operation by WWF's wildlife trade monitoring programme – Trade Records Analysis on Flora and Fauna in Commerce (TRAFFIC).

Some 283 kilos of tiger bone, destined for the Chinese medicine trade, were confiscated in New Delhi together with eight tiger skins, 60 leopard skins and 160 assorted animal skins.

The smuggling operation was uncovered by TRAFFIC India who tipped off police after setting up a bogus deal with a Tibetan trader who claimed he could produce 1,000 kilos of tiger bone within a month (representing the skeletons of up to 100 tigers).

The tiger bone was destined to go to China, via Tibet, and the skins were earmarked for Western markets (probably Eastern Europe and Russia) via Kashmiri traders in Delhi and Katmandu.

'We now know how the tiger bone trade operates in India and the trade routes have been discovered for the first time', said Ashok

Kumar of TRAFFIC India.

The \$625,000 seizure underlines the crisis facing the world's dwindling tiger population estimated at between 4,400 and 7,000 animals. Last month 100 kilos of tiger bone was seized in a separate raid in Ladakh, near India's Tibetan border.

'The sheer scale of these hauls is staggering when there may be as few as 4,400 tigers left in the wild', said Dr. Peter Kramer, WWF's Director of Regional Programmes. 'The future looks very bleak unless demand for tiger bone can be stemmed and greater protection provided now.'

Source: *en.wildlife via Pegasus Networks; World Wide Fund for Nature.*

Renewable energy industry association established

June 1993 saw the launch of the Sustainable Energy Industries Council of Australia (SEICA), the first peak organisation to represent the Australian renewable energy and energy efficiency industry.

Representing wholesalers, manufacturers, retailers, consultants, and researchers in the renewable energy sector, SEICA is committed to furthering the growth and profitability of the industry in ways that are consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

Source: *Arena Magazine, August/September 1993. SEICA can be contacted on (06) 247 2472.*

Solar hot water boosted

The 1993-94 Federal budget allocated \$6 million over the next three years to increase the uptake of domestic solar water heaters.

Domestic solar water heaters offer the single largest short-term technical opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector. The high initial cost of solar water heating is regarded as the major barrier to its more widespread adoption.

The funding, provided through the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries and Energy, will be used to establish and demonstrate innovative financing mechanisms through energy utilities, which will enable purchasers to repay the initial costs through energy bills.

The City of Brunswick in Victoria, is already lead-

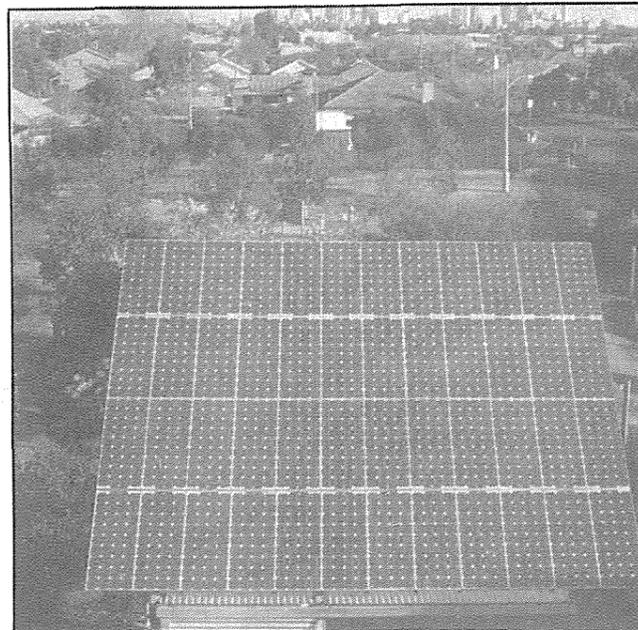
ing the field in this regard. In June 1993 its local energy utility, Brunswick Electricity Supply, commissioned its combined wind and solar energy system.

The system supplies a local community centre with its energy needs and any excess energy is channelled into the grid system.

Project Aurora, as it is known, is all Australian designed and Australian equipment, with the exception of a battery bank.

In addition, local residents are being encouraged to purchase a solar panel to add to the system. The amount of electricity generated from the panel provides the 'owner' with 'solar energy credits' – the amount being credited to their electricity bills.

Sources: *Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, Simon Crean, Press Release, 17 August 1993; Solar Progress, Spring 1993.*



These photovoltaic panels are part of the Brunswick Electricity Supply's Project Aurora.

Friends of the Earth news

Resistance to national electricity grid proposal

The activities of the National Grid Management Council (NGMC), have been criticised by Friends of the Earth (Sydney), particularly following the revelation that no account has been taken of the Government's 20 per cent carbon dioxide reduction strategy in developing Australian electricity demand scenarios over the next twelve years. In the NGMC's publication 'Statement of Opportunities 1993-2005' three possible energy demand scenarios were outlined. The lowest energy demand scenario has been calculated to produce 66 per cent more carbon dioxide than expected under a 20 per cent reduction strategy.

Such inaction defies the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment which proposes that: 'the parties agree that environmental considerations will be integrated into Government decision-making processes at all levels by, among other things: i) ensuring that environmental issues associated with a proposed project, program or policy will be taken into consideration in the decision making process' (section 3.4).

The Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment was signed by the Prime Minister, State Premiers and the President of the Australian Local Government Association in May 1992. They reaffirmed their commitment to a 20 per cent carbon dioxide emission reduction strategy in agreeing to the interim planning target for greenhouse gas emissions at the Perth Council of Australian Governments in December 1992.

Friends of the Earth (Sydney) has

called upon the Prime Minister, Paul Keating, the Minister for Resources, Michael Lee and the State Premiers to instruct the National Grid Management Council to revise its 'Statement of Opportunities 1993-2005' to incorporate measures such as Demand Side Management and encouragement of Renewable Energy Technologies so that it abides by the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment and to the first of the objectives listed for the National Grid Protocol: 'to encourage the most efficient, economical and environmentally sound development of the electricity industry, consistent with key national and state policies and objectives.'

Dietrich Willing, FOE Global Warming Spokesperson, contact (02) 281 4070.

FOE Fitzroy makes a move

Australia's largest Friends of the Earth group, FOE Fitzroy, has moved. After six years in Brunswick Street, and after a substantial increase in rent, it was time to move to 312 Smith Street, Collingwood.

The telephone number is retained and the building has good space and access for the businesses – bookshop and food cooperative – and a floor upstairs for the other campaigns – anti-uranium, water catchment, anti-genetic engineering, transport.

The move has taken a lot of work and resources and more help and donations are welcome. The building is also beautiful and worth many a visit.

Friends of the Earth Fitzroy (still?), 312 Smith St, Collingwood, Victoria, 3066. Tel: (03) 419 8700.

Environment groups meet

Over recent years it has been a practice of the Federal Minister for the Environment to have meetings with a gathering of the major Australian environmental groups. These peak conservation organisation meetings, as they are known, have undergone a number of changes as the different Ministers (Cohen, Richardson and Kelly) have sought to meet their own objectives for the process. *Chain Reaction* has published on these events through reports from the FOE representative attending the meeting.

The groups invited to attend these meetings was originally much the same as the list of groups which received grants under the National Voluntary Conservation organisations scheme. This includes the Australian Conservation Foundation, The Wilderness Society, World Wide Fund for Nature, Friends of the Earth, the state conservation councils, the Keep Australia Beautiful Campaign and others. A representative from each group was funded to get to Canberra and meet with the Minister and Departmental officials. Over the last year Greenpeace has also been included at the meetings.

Ros Kelly proposed a new format before the most recent meeting held in Sydney in August 1993. She suggested that she did not need to meet with all the groups in one meeting, but would instead meet individually with the groups which did not have national representation such as state conservation councils. She would still meet with the national groups if they requested meetings, but it was suggested that these groups could meet with the Minister at other times, as they mostly had repre-

sentation in Canberra. The Minister has also allowed for meetings with more than one group on specific issues. The national groups, including Friends of the Earth, will be still funded to attend the meetings, allowing continued liaison with the other environment groups.

The first two days of the meeting held in Sydney discussed the structure as proposed by the Minister. In the end it was agreed that the groups would support this format.

There was considerable discussion of the role of national groups. ACF, The Wilderness Society and Greenpeace all have some sort of representation in Canberra. The smaller national groups do not. FOE's contribution to peak meetings was acknowledged, and it appears that FOE will receive priority for meetings when they are requested.

Further discussion at the meeting centred around the broader role of the peak meetings. They were seen as an invaluable opportunity for groups to get together, and a number of decisions were made about meeting structure. These include:

- Increased emphasis on inter-group communication and strategising around broad campaign areas, and a more supportive and coordinated structure for meetings with Ministers and politicians;
- A broader focus for the peak meetings, with ancillary meetings occurring routinely;
- An extension of the meetings to five days; and
- Agreement on a basic protocol for behaviour of peak groups.

In addition, a proposal to establish a secretariat was put forward with, basically, the role of organising and coordinating the peak organisation meetings. The larger groups – ACF, TWS and Greenpeace – are being asked to put aside \$500 and the smaller groups \$200 for this purpose.

The third day of the meeting was taken up with a discussion with a representative of the Commonwealth Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) who gave a run down of the restructure of the Department for the Environment, Sports and Territories

(DEST). The message given was that the Department was keen to strengthen links with the environment movement.

One interesting development is the 'secondment' of a representative from the green movement to CEPA as an adviser with the objective of improving communication between green groups and CEPA and DEST. At present she represents ACF, TWS and Greenpeace.

One agreement at the meeting was the circulation of a 'who's who' in each organisation with the aim of improving person-to-person communication amongst activists in the Australian environment movement. A FOE list has been updated and circulated.

It was decided that there would be discussions about forest campaigns at the next peak conservation organisation meeting so as to share ideas about differing approaches to forest issues – some groups say no native logging, some say no export woodchips, etc. The intention is that there will be some kind of national gathering to come up with common guidelines (if not positions) in regards to forest issues.

The FOE contact for peak conservation group meetings is Cam Walker (03) 419 8700 or Stuart White (066) 215 235.

Maitland FOE keeps watch on local Council

Friends of the Earth Maitland has a recycling group which in August had two main items on its agenda – compiling a list of recommendations on recycling for the Council, and updating the list of recycling services available in the Maitland area. There is currently no kerbside recycling scheme in Maitland.

FOE Maitland will also be writing to the Council regarding some concern over the aluminium recycling plant proposed to be built at Rutherford.

Members of FOE also attended a Council meeting in April to show opposition to a development proposal under discussion which threatens a creek and significant stands of scribbly gums.

Contact FOE Maitland through the Secretary on (049) 33 4844.

Illegally polluted drinking water

Responding to the July 1993 report of the UK Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) on drinking water quality, Friends of the Earth (UK) highlighted the widespread pollution of drinking water by pesticides and nitrate, and the Government's failure to enforce compliance with legal standards which came into force eight years ago.

Friends of the Earth has estimated that water with illegal levels of pesticides and nitrate was supplied respectively to 14.5 million and 3.3 million customers in England and Wales in 1992, even though the standards, laid down in the European Commission Drinking Water Directive, were agreed by the Government in 1980 and came into force in 1985. The Government is breaking European Community law and Friends of the Earth is taking it to the High Court in October.

Andrew Lees, Campaigns Director for Friends of the Earth (UK), said:

Millions of customers are being offered a raw deal – pay higher bills or get more pollution. The Government should obey the law and make the polluters, not the polluted, pay for the pesticide removal. Effective action to prevent pesticide pollution at source is long overdue.

Lees continued:

Unlike Ian Byatt, the Director General of Water Services, most people would not argue that increased pollution is justified on welfare grounds. Society should provide direct financial support for people on low incomes, not turn them into 'pollution hostages'.

Treatment to remove pesticides will cost an estimated one billion pounds in capital expenditure alone.

The DWI Report for 1993 reveals that no water companies have been prosecuted for supplying water 'unfit for human consumption'.

While the decision to prosecute rests with the relevant Minister or the Director of Public Prosecutions, the

National Liaison Officers

222 Brunswick St
Fitzroy, Vic, 3065
Tel: (03) 419 8700 Fax: (03) 416 2081

FOE Adelaide University

c/- Clubs Association
GPO Box 498, Adelaide, SA, 5000

FOE Fitzroy

222 Brunswick St
Fitzroy, Vic, 3065
Tel: (03) 419 8700 Fax: (03) 416 2081

FOE Sydney

PO Box A474, Sydney, NSW, 2001
Tel: (02) 281 4070 Fax: (02) 281 5216

FOE Snowy Mountains

PO Box 31, Cooma, NSW, 2630

FOE Nouveau

PO Box 3231
Grenfell St, Adelaide, 5000

Chain Reaction

PO Box 45
O'Connor, ACT, 2601
Tel. & fax: (06) 248 0289

Friends of the Earth groups

FOE Maitland

57A Burg St
East Maitland, NSW, 2322
Tel: (049) 331 307 or (049) 337 412

FOE Willunga

PO Box 438, Willunga, SA, 5172
Tel: (085) 56 2252

FOE Maryborough

5 Clayton St, Maryborough, 4650
Tel: (071) 23 1895

FOE International Secretariat

PO Box 19199, 1000 GD
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Tel: 31 20 622 1369

FOE Perth

PO Box 7375, Cloisters Square
Perth, WA, 6850
Tel: (09) 321 5942 Fax: (09) 322 3045

DWI's ability to collect and analyse the required evidence has been undermined by lack of resources.

Incidents have included a serious outbreak of cryptosporidiosis ('crypto', caused by an intestinal parasite, and potentially fatal to some people) in North Humberside, problems with water companies' disinfection processes leading to microbiological contamination, and the introduction of water treatment chemicals into supply due to operational difficulties.

Friends of the Earth also noted that the UK:

- has been found guilty by the European Court of Justice over nitrate in supply (November, 1992);
- is threatened with further action by the European Commission over pesticides in drinking water; and
- is being taken to the High Court in the UK by Friends of the Earth over its decision to permit water companies to supply water with pesticides over the EC limit.

Bringing Back Returnables

Friends of the Earth (Sydney) has available copies of the report *Bringing Back Returnables* which presents a case for container deposit legislation for NSW.

FOE Sydney is looking for assistance in distributing the report and for ideas on gaining wider interest in the report and its recommendations.

The report, written by Peter Hopper of the FOE Sydney Waste Minimisation Campaign, is available for sale for \$12.50 or \$10 each for two or more copies.

Contact Warwick Moss or Peter Hopper, FOE Sydney on (02) 281 4070.

New campaign

FOE Fitzroy has established a Water Catchment Collective concerned with water-related issues for the Australian continent and globally, however, with primary concern for two catchments,

Port Phillip and Westernport Bays.

The Collective supports the Bioregional philosophy: that we must be committed to the place we live, and aim to live within the ecological limits of the region.

Bioregions are defined by a variety of elements both ecological and cultural. The Yarra Yarra bioregion is defined by the Great Dividing Range, water sheds, geology and ecology, and Western and Koori cultures. The Yarra Yarra bioregion coincides with the Melbourne water board's boundaries.

The Collective has received funding from Melbourne Water to work on its Sewerage Strategy and, with groups such as ACF, the Conservation Council of Victoria, and the River Basins Management Society has been tackling issues such as community consultation, re-use, trade waste, marine health, composting toilets and other concerns.

Contact Karri at FOE Fitzroy on (03) 419 8700.

Sutherland Shire reacts against nuclear proposal

The proposal to build a new nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights involved the Sutherland Shire Council and its community in a broad alliance with the environment movement to oppose the development. Petria Wallace looks at the issue from a council-community perspective.

THE AUSTRALIAN Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO, formerly the Australian Atomic Energy Commission) has been pushing for a new and more powerful nuclear reactor to be built in Australia for over a decade. Its most recent unsuccessful attempt to gain a new research reactor placed the Sutherland Shire community and its Council at the centre of a national policy debate.

Back in 1955, Lucas Heights was part of a sparsely populated area on the outskirts of Sydney. It had been chosen as the site for a nuclear research reactor because of its proximity to major facilities and distance from dense residential populations.

At that time Professor Phillip Baxter, a highly qualified scientist and Deputy Chairman of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission (AAEC), offered an absolute assurance on public health and safety issues to the Council:

The people can be assured that the reactor to be erected at Menai is a small type which will be understood very thoroughly. In normal operations, there is no escape of radioactive material of any kind whatsoever. The reactor itself is enclosed within a steel tank. There is no gas, no liquid as the whole system is completely enclosed. (Minutes of meeting between AAEC and Council, 14 February 1955)

In 1975 members of the Sutherland community became aware that radioactive emissions were being routinely discharged into the environment from the Lucas Heights Reactor and at about the same time Baxter's false promise became public knowledge. These revelations were the catalyst for a vigorous community campaign of opposition to the reactor.

Today Sutherland Shire has a population of 200,000 and is one of the three largest Local Government areas in Australia. It is a region of great natural beauty, made distinct by its borders of water to the north and east and bushland south and west. It is, of course, still home to the Lucas Heights

nuclear reactor. The community also plays host to Australia's largest radioactive waste dump, a major toxic waste dump and Australia's largest capacity waste tip – quite a combination for a community and its Council to deal with.

Over the years since 1975, a succession of residents and individual Councillors have raised concerns about the impact of the reactor on public health and safety, and the environment. Until relatively recently, public scrutiny of the Lucas Heights facility was made extremely difficult by the legislation that gave the science facility the protection of a defence establishment.

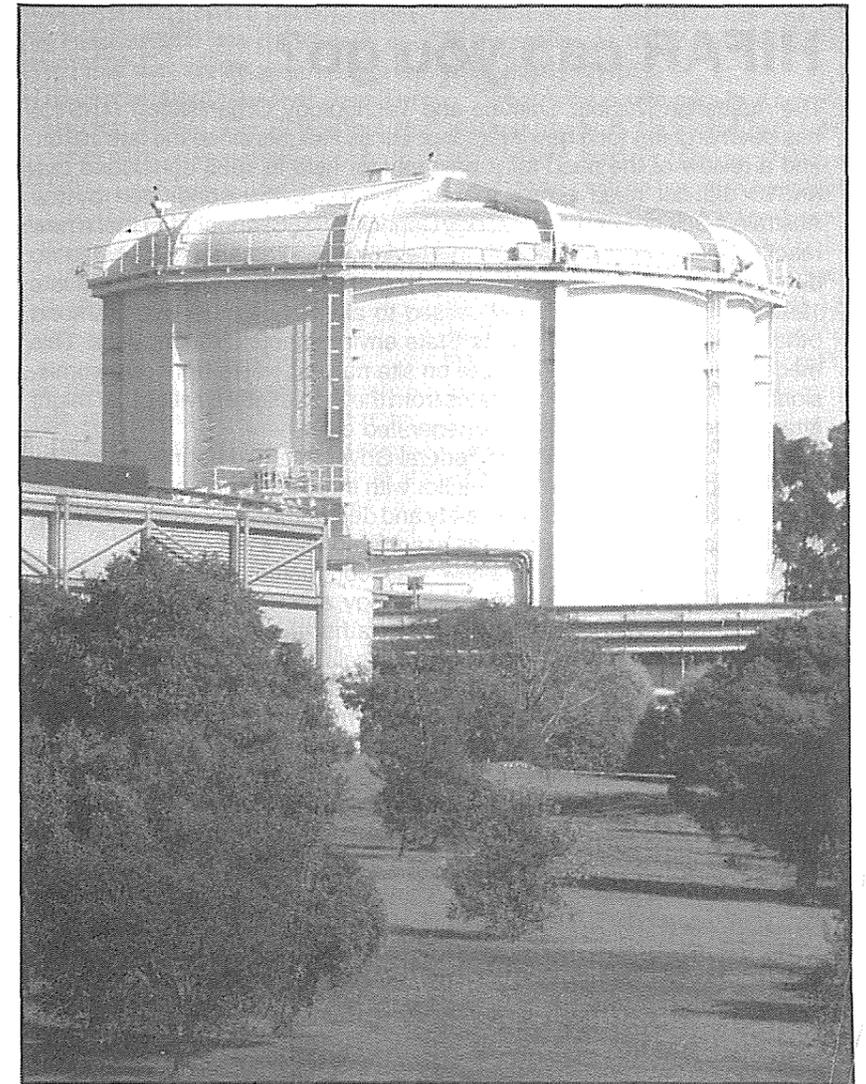
This history of strong community opposition, bureaucratic secrecy surrounding the facility, and a Council that had been burnt once by accepting 'expert' assurances without question; played a major role in shaping the recent debate over whether Australia should have another nuclear reactor.

The changing face of Local Government

The way Sutherland Shire chose to tackle the new reactor proposal clearly illustrates the rapidly changing face of Local Government and the role it can play at the cutting edge of environmental politics.

The most creative and arguably the most essential plank at the local level has been the collaborative model of a joint community/council campaign. This model had been used in a successful battle against the NSW State Government over waste management prior to the latest stage in the reactor campaign.

A joint community/council approach opens the door to community involvement and consultation in local decision making. The obvious advantages for councils – keeping in close touch with community concerns and attitudes, offering an option to work directly and actively with Council, and the focus on community education – have seen the use of this process mushroom quickly in the Sutherland Shire. At the moment, there are at least three community/council groups working on environmental campaigns.



In joining this collaborative campaign, the community gains a level of support in terms of resources that are often lacking in community campaigns. Depending on the issue, they may draw on the council for technical research and advice, financial support, administrative support and help with publicity.

Clearly the position a council is prepared to take on an issue will depend on its political complexion at the time. Nevertheless, there is mounting pressure for Local Government to grasp the challenge of environmental problems and to consult with the community as they work for solutions. More than ever before, your local council may be the sphere of government that would

actively support a community campaign.

Stereotypes of local councils as outdated, bureaucratic, unimaginative and parochial remain prevalent. In some cases, this may well be deserved. On the whole, however, it is the public and the media who are lagging behind in their understanding of the rapid changes occurring in Local Government.

The prejudice of the media is particularly difficult to shift. It was distressing to be aware of the key role a local council was playing in a national policy issue but to have the media audibly yawn in your ear as you mentioned the word 'council'.

The contradictory response from some major media commentators was

HIFAR can you go?

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) has been arguing for a new reactor at Lucas Heights since the late 1970s, and a review of the need for a new reactor held in 1985 concluded that ANSTO did not need a new reactor. A later review conducted by the Australian Science and Technology Council (ASTEC) concluded that a new reactor was a priority, although this review was sketchy and included no detailed costings. ANSTO's lobbying for a new reactor continued until late 1992 just after legislation was passed to alter its charter which, among other things, made it immune to State environmental requirements. This made it easier for ANSTO to store on site nuclear waste from decommissioning of the HIFAR reactor, wastes from the increased activities that might attend a new reactor and waste generated elsewhere.

On 30 September 1992, the Federal Government announced a review of the need for a new research reactor with three parts: the need for a new reactor; issues associated with safety and decommissioning of the existing (HIFAR) reactor, and; siting issues associated with a new reactor.

The Research Reactor Review was conducted under the wing of DITARD (Department of Industry, Technology, and Regional Development) the Department responsible for ANSTO, rather than the Commonwealth 'Environment Protection - Impact of Proposals' legislation which was used for the Ranger inquiry in 1977. This aspect was criticised by the environment movement because, along with the terms of reference, it implied that there was an assumption that a new reactor was needed.

ANSTO argued in its submissions to the Review that a new reactor was needed in order to conduct research on neutron-scattering to produce medical radioisotopes, and to maintain Australia's position as a board member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

However Friends of the Earth argued that the medical and industrial radioisotopes could in fact be produced using cheaper technology such as cyclotrons. It was also argued that the radioisotopes could be imported and that the 'cutting edge' of nuclear research these days doesn't happen on reactors at all, but on various exotic accelerator facilities - which ANSTO has, and would still have if HIFAR were closed down tomorrow and not replaced - and which include facilities like the Photon Factory in Japan, in which Australia has a share, and CERN in Geneva.

FOE also questioned the expenditure of real costs of a new reactor at between \$300-\$400 million - much larger than any single item on Australia's limited R & D budget - for a research area - neutron scattering - in which Australia is not leading the field and which isn't in demand by Australian industry.

The Friends of the Earth submission also questioned whether ANSTO has used its position on the IAEA Board to push that organisation in the direction of more rigorous enforcement of either safeguards or reactor safety internationally.

Source: John Hallum, Friends of the Earth Sydney

to simultaneously criticise the council for 'dictating national policy' and to accuse it of being motivated by a solely 'NIMBY' or 'backyard' agenda. The 'damned if you do and damned if you don't' syndrome.

It is encouraging that some jour-

nalists took a more open minded approach to the Sutherland Council and its community. Even so, it is fair to say that the extent to which the media coverage reflected an accurate local perspective was the result of an inordinate amount of work. It took a lot of

energy to convince journalists that the Council should have a view on any other than the NIMBY aspects of the issue.

Research Reactor Review: a battle of the experts

Government inquiries are inherently biased towards institutions who can throw unlimited resources into arguing their case. Groups with limited resources are torn between staying out of the process and taking a chance on investing their meagre financial and human resources in an exhausting process in which the odds are tipped against them.

The Research Reactor Review was set up at a cost of \$1.2 million by then Federal Minister for Science, Ross Free. Sutherland Council's request for funds to place the review on a more equitable footing was refused, despite the free rein given to ANSTO to promote its case (including pumping a torrent of public relations material into the community).

The terms of reference for the review very neatly separated consideration of the case for a new reactor from the issue of siting, which was to be considered in a further stage of the Review.

The Review, then, proposed to examine the proposal for a new reactor without acknowledging that ANSTO was the proponent of the proposal, and without acknowledging that the site of the existing reactor was the preferred site for a future reactor.

To the key groups who opposed the reactor - Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Sutherland Shire community group and the Council - the Review's unqualified endorsement of ANSTO's push for a new reactor seemed almost inevitable.

What turned this seemingly inevitable process around? I believe ANSTO and their supporters in the Federal Government were surprised by the unrelenting pressure exerted by a broad alliance of groups opposing the new reactor.

Contrary to some of the coverage in the media, neither the Sutherland community and Council nor any similarly threatened community adopted a narrow, NIMBY position. The groups were

united in the case they put - on the basis of research into all elements of ANSTO's proposal, they believed there was no case for a new reactor to be built anywhere in Australia.

Of all the quality submissions put forward by this alliance, ANSTO was least prepared for the breadth and the quality of the case mounted by the Sutherland Shire Council and its community. The quality of the Council's case rested on a decision to throw resources behind the submission and embrace the 'battle of the experts'.

ANSTO was also unprepared for the energy with which a joint community/Council campaign fought the issue at a local level, worked at raising the debate in the major Sydney media and lobbied federal politicians.

Fallout from the Reactor Review report

The Review recommended that a decision on a new reactor be postponed for five years, and that a decision, in favour of a reactor, be dependent on a series of 'onerous' conditions being met during that period.

The extent to which ANSTO's case was systematically dismantled by submissions from opponents to a new reactor is not clear from the ambiguous and very political nature of the Review's Executive Summary. Going 'behind' the summary to the fine print of the 300 or so page report reveals damning criticisms of key elements of ANSTO's proposal.

The most severe blow delivered by the Review is undoubtedly its critique of the quality of ANSTO's science effort on the reactor, which had been put forward as the major justification for funding the new facility.

Nobody advanced the view that Australian scientists working at HIFAR are at the cutting edge of science ... The Review was not even convinced that (reactor-based) science has been a major focus of ANSTO activity. (Research Reactor Review Report p. 66)

Another blow was struck by the

Review's finding on the status of spent fuel rods. ANSTO has consistently asserted that they are an asset waiting to be reprocessed and cannot be classified as high level waste. The Review put an opposing view in very strong terms:

The pretence that spent fuel rods constitute an asset must stop...The spent fuel rods at Lucas Heights can only sensibly be treated as high level waste. (Research Reactor Review Report xxiii)

The disposal of high level radioactive waste is an issue that the nuclear industry have found impossible to dodge. Along with fear of a nuclear accident, it is the one issue which concerns the public across the board, regardless of their general opinion of nuclear technology.

The problem of a growing stockpile of nuclear waste in Australia is now very publicly on the political agenda. The Review highlighted it as an issue that must be addressed before a decision in favour of a new reactor could ever be sanctioned.

Depending on your level of pessimism, this may or may not become a

permanent red light for a new reactor in Australia. At the least, it is a very substantial barrier.

What local community in Australia will want to host a national high level radioactive waste repository? What communities will be happy to have high level radioactive waste being transported through their streets? If the difficulties that the UK and the US have experienced in trying to find a site for such a waste repository are any guide, the process will be expensive, lengthy and ultimately fruitless in the face of community opposition.

The Review accepted the view that ANSTO was inadequately regulated (an interdepartmental committee is currently reviewing nuclear regulation in Australia), that the cost of a new reactor far exceeded ANSTO's estimate and that a reactor could never be commercially viable. The Review has confirmed that Synroc, touted by ANSTO as a nuclear R&D success story, has little or no chance of commercial success.

The production of radioisotopes is a strong and emotive card which ANSTO have always been willing to play to shore up public support for the con-

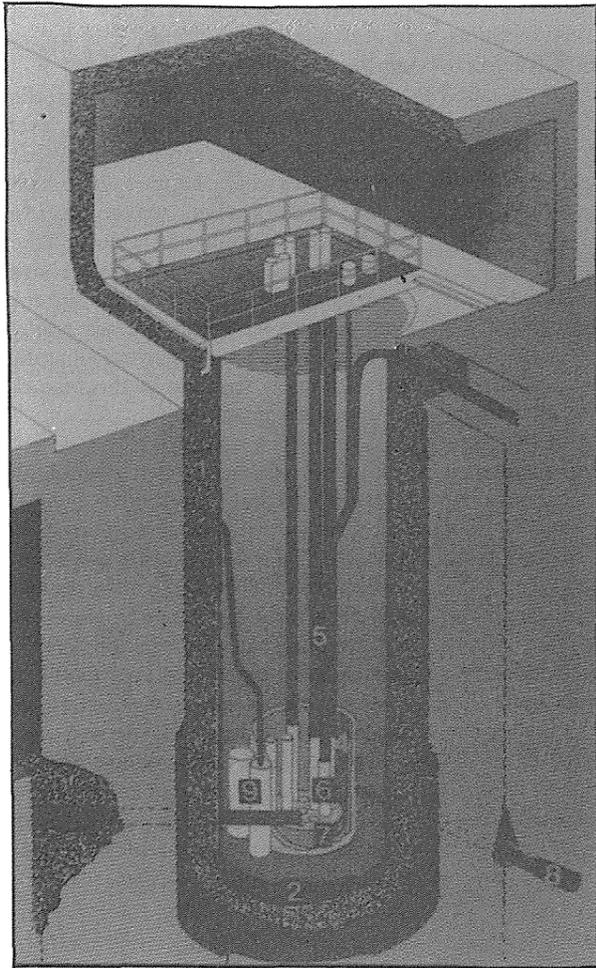
Reactor Review findings

On 5 August 1993 the Review released its findings. In a no-winners scenario - it announced that it recommended that HIFAR remain operational for at least the next 5 years, while unresolved issues are clarified such as: a site for high-level nuclear waste disposal ('It would be utterly wrong to decide on a new reactor before progress is made on identification of a high level waste repository site.');

whether the medical isotope Technetium-99m can be made on a cyclotron, and if spallation technology can provide as good a neutron source as a reactor.

In doing so the review accepted the current operations of HIFAR as safe. Friends of the Earth however argues that HIFAR is not safe, with the control systems, in particular, potentially problematic. Also, HIFAR has absolutely no emergency backup shutdown system. Similar reactors in the UK were shut down after being belatedly fitted with such systems. ANSTO itself argued vehemently against refurbishment in its submission, pointing out that it will cost as much as \$152 million simply to keep HIFAR going at an acceptable standard of safety, while major improvements to HIFAR's experimental capabilities will cost at least another \$43 million. Greenpeace also argued that the door was being left open for a nuclear reactor to be built on the grounds of 'national interest' which really meant involvement in the international nuclear industry and particularly Asia's developing nuclear industry.

Sources: John Hallum, Friends of the Earth Sydney; Greenpeace Australia Media Release 5 August 1993



This is **not** a swimming pool. It is ANSTO's impression of its proposed new reactor. It would be similar in physical size to the existing HIFAR reactor and encased in a 1-2 metre thick dense concrete and lead shot biological shield (1) with a stainless steel or aluminium reactor containment tank (2) filled with ordinary water (3). The core of the reactor (4) would sit in ordinary or heavy water depending on design. The chain reaction would be controlled by safety rods and other mechanisms (5). Some fuel rods would be used for making radioisotopes (6) and holes (7 and 8) and instruments (9) are for experiments and monitoring. Some detail is omitted.

tinued operation of a reactor in Australia. Opponents of a reactor do not dispute the current importance of radioisotopes as a diagnostic tool in medicine, but they have questioned the extravagant claims and the simplistic statements ANSTO have made on this issue.

The Review accepted that trends in the global market for radioisotopes do not favour the type of profitable export market that ANSTO so confidently predicted from the new reactor. It also acknowledges – contrary to early claims from ANSTO that the import of key reactor-derived isotopes is impossible – that the UK and the US import radioisotopes and also have nuclear medicine of world class quality.

Most importantly, the Review acknowledges that current research which aims to produce the most commonly reactor-derived radioisotope

(Technetium) from a cyclotron, is developing rapidly.

Reactor debate not over

The broad alliance of opposition to the reactor will be keeping a close eye on how the government receives the Review's recommendations, especially those which relate to the 'national interest' argument.

The argument that a reactor is essential for Australia's 'national interest' (i.e. for strategic and regional trade reasons) has always been the most unpredictable and least accessible facet of the proposal for a new reactor. The Review has left a loophole for the Government by noting that the Government might, if it so chose, go ahead with the proposal for reasons of 'national interest'.

Sutherland Shire Council and com-

munity will continue to lobby the government on public health and safety issues, despite the Review's finding that it considered the reactor safe within design limits and that its operations present no health hazard to the surrounding population.

On safety, the findings of the Review simply do not equate with advice the Council received from well regarded experts in the US – that the reactor does not adhere to modern safety standards.

On health, the Review's sweeping conclusions do not reflect what is written in the fine print of the commissioned studies. The authors qualify their findings, principally admitting inadequate data. The NSW Cancer Council suggests a long-term study of 10 years is required.

Along with Greenpeace and FOE, the Council and community groups will watch with keen interest the rapid development of cyclotron technology – a cleaner and safer technology that could conceivably replace reactors in the production of radioisotopes.

At the local level, Sutherland Shire Council has begun direct talks with the Lucas Heights workers on the future of the site. The campaign will focus on promoting the transition to cleaner and safer technology at Lucas Heights by developing a plan that would see research activities which are not dependent on the reactor (currently more than 80 per cent) expanded, and the phase out of reactor dependent activities.

If you would like to support the campaign, help in some way, or want further information, contact:

Theresa Singam – Sutherland Council
Ph: (02) 710 0391 Fax: (02) 710 0265

John Hallum – Friends of the Earth
Ph: (02) 281 4070 Fax: (02) 281 5216

Jean McSorley – Greenpeace
Ph: (02) 555 7044 Fax: (02) 555 7154

Petria Wallace worked for Sutherland Shire Council coordinating the community campaign in opposition to the proposed new nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights.

THE ARABANNA People's Committee from Marree has lodged South Australia's first Mabo-style land claim, seeking native title to a large part of the State's north west outback region. The claim covers fourteen pastoral properties, all of Lake Eyre and its shores, and all rights to rivers, mound springs and the Great Artesian Basin within the claim area.

Central to the claim is the Arabanna's attempt to ratify their traditional association to the Finnis Springs station. This property is the centre of a dispute between the Arabanna people, and a group with Aboriginal members known as the Dieri Association, who also claim responsibility for the land.

While the dispute over custodianship of this land is wrought with many problems a major aggravating factor is the fact that Finnis Springs station also holds great interest for Western Mining Corporation (WMC), owner of the uranium-copper-gold mine 100km south at Olympic Dam/Roxby Downs.

The native title claim does not cover the mine site or the township of Roxby Downs but it does cover Borefield A, from which Roxby extracts its water supply. More importantly, the claim covers part of the area where Roxby hopes to build a second borefield – Borefield B – and a major part of the route of a proposed pipeline, both of which fall within the boundaries of Finnis Springs Station. Consequently it would be to WMC's advantage to have uncontested access to the land and its water resources. This issue is at the core of the dispute over ownership of Finnis Springs station and has fuelled the native title claim.

When it was announced that the claim was to be lodged the *Adelaide Advertiser* reported that the:

Arabanna people claim the Olympic Dam operator and resource giant Western Mining Corporation is backing the Dieri in its bid for freehold title to the station, allegedly to allow WMC easy access to more underground water ... Mr Dodd claimed the Arabanna claim would 'mark the end of back door deals done by WMC'.¹

Native title claim puts Roxby in fluid situation

Aboriginal land rights and water supply have long been issues raised in relation to the Roxby Downs mine in South Australia. Now, a native title claim has revealed the vulnerability of the water supply. Maggie Hine reports that the mine's owner, Western Mining Corporation, has to confront issues it has inflamed by favouring one sympathetic group claiming to represent Aboriginal interests.

The suggestion of back door deals appears to be substantiated as members of the Dieri Association and WMC have signed a co-operation Agreement. The Dieri Association is not to be confused with the Dieri Land Council based at Birdsville. The Dieri Association met with Hugh Morgan, Managing Director of WMC, at Finnis Station on 22 May 1993: 'The purpose of the meeting was for two senior figures between WMC and the Dieri Association Incorporated which commits the parties to a formal consultation process when the company intends to work in areas for which

the Dieri accept and recognise traditional responsibility.' The meeting took place at Finnis Station which 'has traditional and historical associations for the Dieri aboriginal people.'²

The important point of this agreement is that it is committed to consultation when the company 'intends to work in areas for which the Dieri [Dieri Association] accept and recognise traditional responsibility' namely Finnis Springs station.

So why is Finnis Springs so important to WMC and Roxby's future? There's liquid gold in that piece of

desert, namely the artesian waters. Roxby's water supply is presently met by a water extraction program that involves pulling water from artesian wells in Borefield A. This arrangement barely meets the water demands of the mine and township. Any expansion of the operation requires more water. And herein lies the problem. WMC now wants to expand Roxby's operations and security of water supply is vitally important. This is borne out by the South Australian Government's announcement that it would do everything in its power to protect Roxby from any Mabo-style land claim.

The South Australian Government promised yesterday to take whatever action was necessary to protect Western Mining's giant Olympic Dam copper, gold and



uranium project from a new Mabo style land claim (Arabanna native title claim). The Premier of South Australia Mr Arnold, said yesterday his government would ensure all titles granted to implement the Olympic Dam Project were fully protected ... Olympic Dam is in an expansion mode with at least \$1.1 billion earmarked to double production to 150,000 tonnes of copper and 4,000 tonnes of uranium. The claim put the expansion at risk as it covers the special water licence and the pipeline route which supplies all water requirements for both the project and the town of Roxby.³

In 1984 the SA Government awarded the operators of Roxby a Special Water Licence that allowed the mine to extract up to 33 million litres of water daily from the Great Artesian Basin. The licence proclaimed a designated region including Finnis Springs Station. The licence allows the Olympic Dam Project to be Australia's largest single industrial user of underground water. The Project is not charged for its water use as, at the time of the ratification of the Roxby Downs Indenture Bill in 1982, no users were charged for their use of underground water. In a place where water resources are at a premium this privilege of free water consumption is unacceptable. This situation is even more unacceptable in the semi-arid region around Roxby where the artesian waters and associated mound springs are an important source of water for local communities and pastoralists as well as having important heritage values for the Aboriginal people.

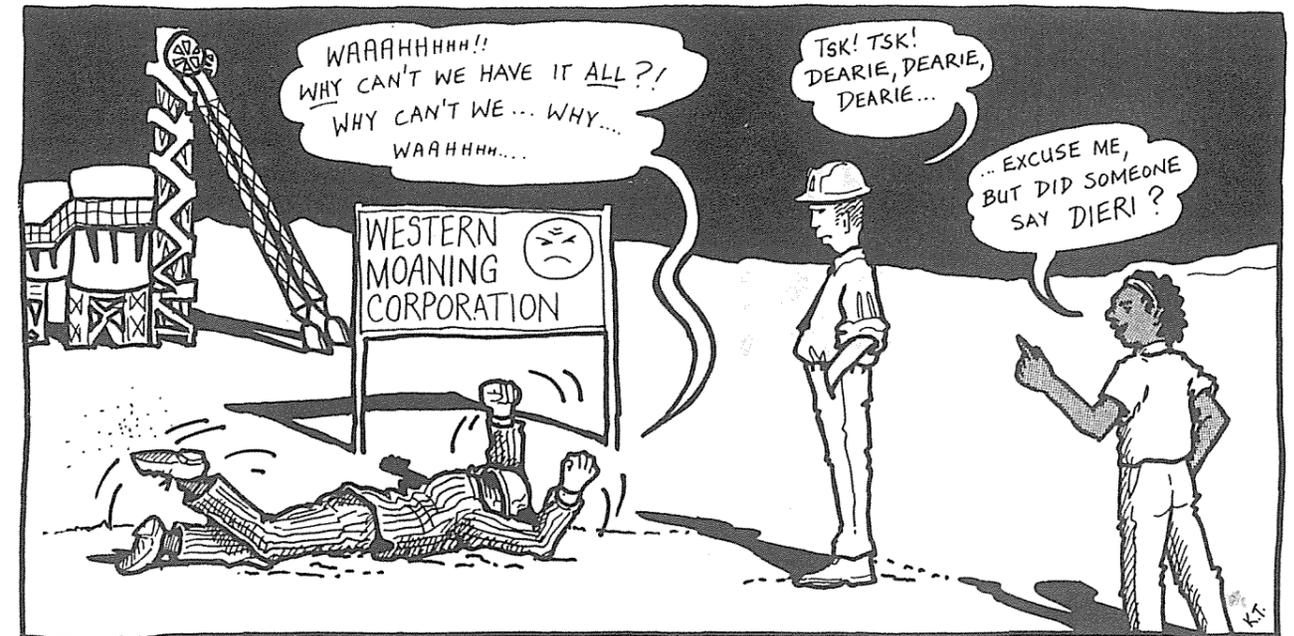
In the Olympic Dam Project Environmental Impact Statement the operators of the mine proposed two borefields to extract up to 33 million litres of water daily. Though the borefield was given conceptual approval in the Department of Environment's Assessment Report of the EIS only one borefield - Borefield A - was given approval. Borefield B was not given approval, for the following reasons: 'While the concept of obtaining water from the GAB [Great

Artesian Basin] is considered to be acceptable, the borefield development as proposed has not been demonstrated to be acceptable at this stage, because of possible adverse impacts on the mound springs... Recognising that Mound Springs have considerable cultural, scientific and heritage value and that there is insufficient information to determine the potential detrimental impact from the borefield development one carefully placed borefield may have less impact on the hydrology of the mound springs.⁴

At present mine production rates the project is drawing 12 to 15 million litres of water daily from Borefield A. This water usage is causing irreversible degradation of the surrounding mound springs and a reduction in the water pressure of the Great Artesian Basin. The Priscilla and Venable Springs have both totally dried and Beatrice Springs, from where Borefield A is just visible, is almost dry.

Yet Borefield B remains a crucial development for the future of one of the world's largest uranium mines and this is evidenced in a leaked document from the project's internal quarterly environmental monitoring reports.

The Borefield supply scheme was designed for production of 9 MI/day and is currently operating at an average daily rate of about 10.5 MI/day. This has resulted in a lack of backup capacity in the borefield and has necessitated the operation of a temporary booster pump on the 104km delivery pipeline ... Reassessment of the potential of the Borefield A indicates that the 15 MI/day capacity required for a mine production rate of 2.2 Mt/yr can be developed. To achieve this, it would be necessary to provide three new production wells constructed at a distance 10 to 15 km to the north west of the existing wells rather than at the lesser distance for the 12 MI/day requirement... development along these lines avoids the necessity and lengthy time restraints of extending the supply scheme to the Borefield B area for



this stage of mine production. It also reduces the ultimate requirement for Borefield B should further expansion take place in the future.⁵

The three new wells in Borefield A were sunk and Roxby's present water demands are being satisfied. However, since that time there have been further plans to expand the mine and, given the agreement between the Dieri and WMC, there are also plans for the development of Borefield B. The pipeline corridor to Borefield B has already been developed and anthropological and archaeological studies have been undertaken for the site.

The decision to expand the mine's production has been pushed along by WMC's recent purchase of BP's 49 per cent stake in the mine. WMC now wholly own Roxby's operations and 'Olympic Dam represents the platform from which WMC hopes to achieve its goal of making copper production core business'.⁶

So, what on the surface is an apparent dispute between two Aboriginal groups is a situation being fuelled by a much larger and powerful player, WMC. When the agreement between WMC and the Dieri Association was signed, WMC's Managing Director, Hugh Morgan said: 'The Dieri people

have shown that they are perfectly capable of managing their own interests in an efficient and reasonable way. Any law that stops Aboriginal people taking direct responsibilities for their own affairs quite improperly demeans those people and is a form of paternalism which has no place in an Australian society which is striving to help return a sense of dignity and self worth to Aboriginal Australians.'⁷

Such sentiments seem to fly in the face of the rationale that has underpinned Morgan's criticism of the Mabo judgement and Aboriginal culture in general. His recent public comments about the subject have been widely criticised by politicians, the Aboriginal community and even the mining industry for their extreme, bigoted and inflammatory nature.

If there are grounds for agreement between the Dieri and Arabanna they are clouded by WMC's agenda. These 'divide and conquer' tactics have long been employed by the mining industry to 'persuade' indigenous people to support mining developments for the benefit of profit.

But who profits in the end? As Mr Bob Ware, the head of the Aboriginal Heritage Branch in SA, said to the SA Parliament:

Unfortunately mining has occurred around Olympic Dam, and this is where the conflict arises. It would be good if non-Aboriginal people could keep out of the conflict that is occurring, so that Aborigines could address the issues and come to a proper answer in relation to Aboriginal tradition. Unfortunately this will not happen, because the dollar always weighs over everything else.⁸

References

1. *Adelaide Advertiser* 'Huge SA Land Claim' 9 July 1993.
2. *Australian Journal of Mining* July 1993.
3. *Australian* 'Arnold pledges to protect Olympic Dam' 31 July 1993.
4. Department of Environment and Planning, 'The Olympic Dam Project: Assessment of the Environmental Impact', p 89, 1983.
5. Leaked Olympic Dam Operations environmental monitoring report - water supplies.
6. *Australian* 'Arnold pledges to protect Olympic Dam' 31 July 1993.
7. *Australian Mining Journal*, July 1993
8. Hansard, 9 December 1990.

Maggie Hine is an Adelaide activist who has campaigned for many years on issues related to Roxby Downs.

The storm before CALM

In February 1993, the Conservation Council of Western Australia published evidence that senior managers of the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) systematically censor and suppress scientific reports written by CALM scientists. Beth Schultz looks at how this affects the Western Australian forests.

RUMOURS OF censorship and suppression in CALM have been circulating for many years. There is now proof beyond doubt that these practices are routine for research findings critical of CALM's forest management, following the leaking of three reports to the Conservation Council in late 1992 and early 1993.

CALM was formed in 1985 through amalgamation of the Forests Department, the National Parks Authority and the Wildlife Section of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. It is thus an 'integrated' department, and manages most vested crown land in Western Australia, including national parks, nature reserves and State forest. It is also responsible for the protection of native flora and fauna in Western Australia. For Western Australia's public native forests, CALM proposes the land-use and resource allocation; it manages the forests allocated for wood extraction and the forest operations of the wood

extraction industries, to which it sells the wood; and it also monitors the activities of all other forest users. There is clearly a conflict of interest between its various functions.

The Forests Department was by far the largest of the three agencies amalgamated to form the new department, and the forestry profession became dominant within CALM, with foresters holding most of the senior positions and the Forests Department ethos has carried over into CALM. The former department existed to provide logs to industry, and CALM continues to see native forests primarily as a source of logs.

After a century of extensive clearing, over exploitation and too frequent burning, compounded by epidemics of insect pests and diseases, in particular *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, Western Australia's native forests are seriously depleted and degraded. Yet in 1992 CALM proposed to double the rate of

log extraction from State forests and claimed it could maintain the new level of production in perpetuity. We now know that senior management made these proposals in full knowledge of the research findings of its own scientists, which indicate that even the current rate of extraction is unsustainable.

Current practices

Western Australia has some 2.5 million hectares of native forest amounting to only one per cent of the state. About 2 million hectares are managed by CALM, as State forest (1.5 million hectares) or conservation reserve (0.5 million hectares). The main tree species are jarrah, karri and marri. Currently, karri/marri forest (and jarrah/marri forest with four or more karri trees per hectare) is clearfelled to produce sawlogs and chiplogs, then the logged area is burnt. Regrowth comes from seed from retained karri seed-trees, or from hand-planted karri seedlings. Jarrah forest is intensively logged or clearfelled, then burnt. In addition, CALM routinely poisons tens of thousands of jarrah, marri and other trees, claiming this 'treatment' will improve the growth rate of the remaining 'crop' trees. 'Treated' jarrah forest is then left to regrow, the objective being further wood production.

CALM burns karri forest every seven to nine years and jarrah forest every five to seven years to reduce the fuel loads, on the basis that prescribed burning decreases the likelihood of uncontrollable wildfires. Between 10 and 15 per cent of State forest is burnt every year despite the wealth of scientific and empirical evidence that shows such burning is having serious adverse impacts on forest ecosystems.

CALM is committed to maintaining or increasing the supply of logs to industry. In the face of mounting public disquiet and criticism, it can continue to meet this commitment only if it is able to claim that forest ecosystems and ecological processes are being sustained. CALM has therefore created the myth that logging and prescribed burning cause 'no real or lasting' damage to the forest ecology. CALM is bound to

defend this myth, or its whole house of cards would collapse.

Consequently it is not surprising that research findings which challenge the myth are denied, denigrated and dismissed, or, if they emanate from within the Department, censored and/or suppressed.

Evidence of censorship

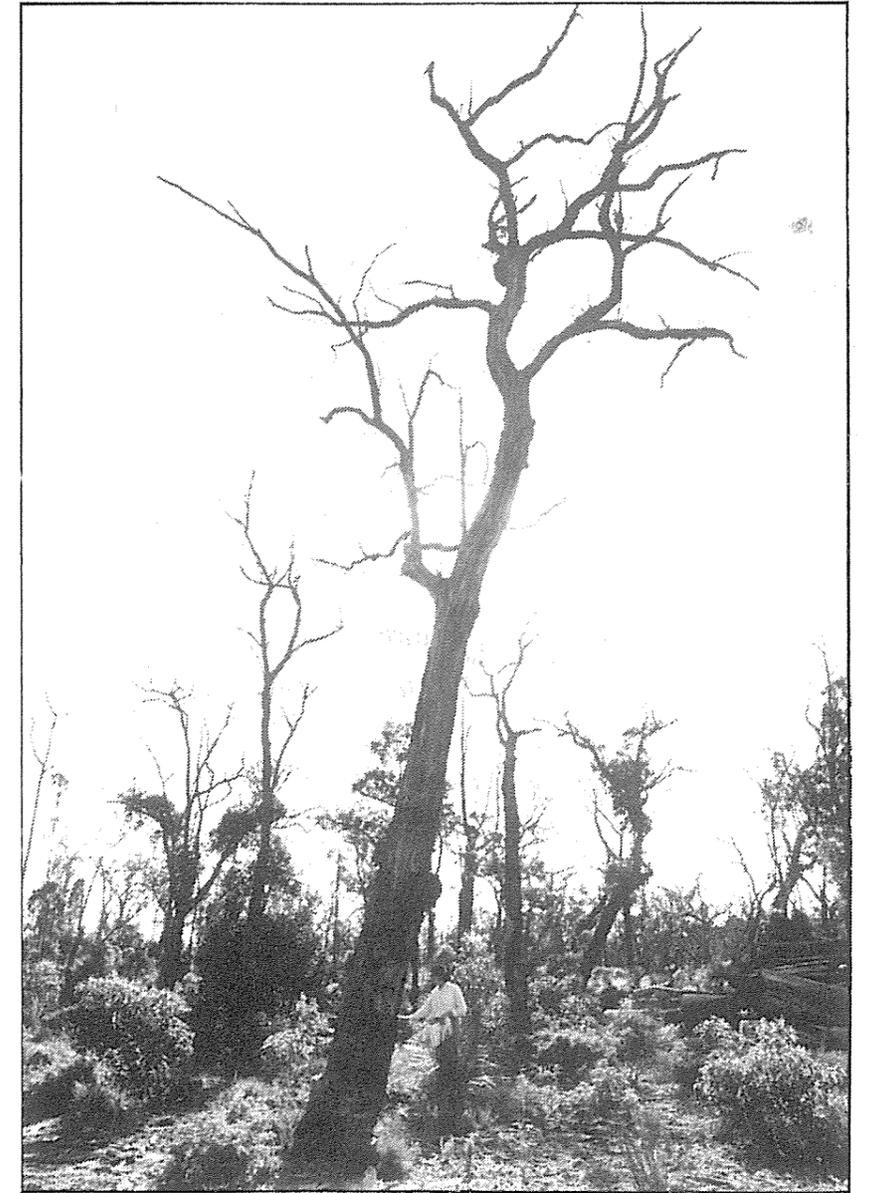
The three reports leaked to the Conservation Council were all written by CALM scientists. The first is a draft chapter of a CALM occasional paper (Wardell-Johnson and Christensen 1992). A comparison of the draft and published versions reveals that criticism of forest management and statements admitting a lack of knowledge or expressing the need for more research have been systematically toned down or omitted. For example:

- in the draft version, one of the reasons for the decline and disappearance of Gilbert's Potoroo is said to be 'poor management in the presence of dieback'. In the published version, this has been changed to read 'vegetation changes associated with the presence of dieback';
- 'regeneration problems' becomes 'regeneration';
- the draft says: 'Current management operations and coupe design in State Forest are primarily directed towards efficiency in the management of the timber resource. There is limited data to support management efforts to include an increased ecological emphasis at coupe level.' In the published version, this has been deleted;
- the published version omits statements saying that of 165 species of forest birds in Western Australia, 20 per cent use hollows, and that there has been no study of the use by birds of hollows or of the age to formation and cause of hollows in trees in the karri forest region;
- where the draft version says, 'species regenerating by other means ... have not been studied', the published version reads, '... not all species regenerating by other means ... have been studied';
- the published version omits the

statement, 'There is an urgent need for further studies to identify factors limiting the distribution and abundance of [species considered to be vulnerable to disturbance]';

- the conclusion of the draft report that 'despite considerable research on the effects of disturbance on wildlife of the karri forest, significant gaps remain' has been changed in the published version to read: 'There has been considerable

research on the effects of disturbance on wildlife of the karri forest.' The second report leaked to the Conservation Council, entitled 'The Greenhouse Effect and Western Australian Forests' (Blyth *et al.* 1991), has been suppressed. The Council's copy is dated April 1991, also the date of a publication by the Western Australian Greenhouse Co-ordination Council, which contains the following statement:



Poisoned jarrah forest. CALM routinely poisons tens of thousands of unwanted jarrah, marri and other trees, claiming this 'treatment' will improve the growth rate of the remaining 'crop' trees.

A detailed review titled 'The Greenhouse Effect and Western Australian Forests' has been written by CALM staff members and is in press. This paper summarises the present state of knowledge regarding potential climate changes, and the various scenarios for southern Western Australia.

There is a further reference to the suppressed Greenhouse report in the draft version of Wardell-Johnson and Christensen (1992) which says: 'Likely effects of climatic change on the distribution of species are discussed elsewhere (Blyth *et al.*, this volume).' In the published version this has been changed to read, 'Likely effects of climatic change on the distribution of species have not been studied'.

Blyth *et al.* (1991) is a summary of research findings on climate changes predicted for the south-west of WA: an increase in mean temperatures of 1.2 to 1.5 C in summer and of 1.8 to 2.1 C in winter within the next 50 years; a 20 per cent decrease in winter rainfall and a 40 per cent increase in summer rainfall; and an increasing incidence of extremes such as floods, droughts, maximum wind gusts, severe storms and extreme rainfall events.

The report states that implications for WA's native forests include:

- a contraction of the jarrah and karri forests commensurate with any decline in rainfall;
- an increase in the period of activity of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and possibly also its geographic range of virulence as a result of warmer winters and increased summer rainfall;
- other species of *Phytophthora* becoming more active and thus impacting on forest communities;
- insect species not currently considered pests becoming so;
- increases in the length of the fire season and in the intensity of individual fires;
- a decline in productivity and an increase in mortality;
- sites already difficult to regenerate because of moisture limitations would be most affected;
- possible adverse effects of in-

creased ultra violet radiation on the health and growth of plants.

The third paper obtained by the Conservation Council (Bunny and Crombie 1992) has also been suppressed. The Conservation Council's copy is dated June 1992. In July 1992 the Environmental Protection Authority appointed a Technical Advisory Panel of independent experts to advise it on CALM's forest management proposals. The Panel formally asked CALM for a copy of this report, which is very relevant to its deliberations. CALM did not provide it.

Bunny and Crombie found that thinning increased tree water potentials, which, in turn, enhanced fungal growth rates and increased the susceptibility of jarrah phloem to invasion by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. This effect was particularly pronounced in the intermediate and low rainfall zones. The authors concluded that their observations had important implications for dieback control measures on disease-prone sites.

The significance of these findings becomes clear when it is realised that over the next 10 years CALM intends to thin or clearfell large areas of jarrah forest in the intermediate and low rainfall zones.

Independent corroboration

Mr Tos Barnett is the former Papua New Guinea Supreme Court judge who in 1987-89 conducted a Royal Commission into the PNG timber industry. In late 1992, he carried out a five-week review of CALM's management proposals, the EPA's report on the CALM proposals and submissions on these documents. He took evidence from numerous witnesses, some in confidence because of their fear of retribution. These included CALM scientists. Mr Barnett has said publicly that CALM scientists are gagged and that a climate of fear exists within CALM (*The West Australian*, 31 December 1992; *New Scientist*, 6 March 1993).

CALM spokespersons claim that normal peer review has been confused with censorship. However, the changes made to Wardell-Johnson and Christensen (1992) and the content of the two

suppressed reports speak for themselves. If the public became aware of the serious concern expressed by CALM scientists about the impacts on State forest of logging and burning and of the possible impacts of the Greenhouse effect on native forests, there is no way CALM would be allowed to continue logging at the current rate, let alone at the proposed greatly increased rate.

As regards the Greenhouse report (Blyth *et al.* 1991), CALM spokespersons claim it was outdated and therefore unsuitable for publication. This is not true. The report was reviewed in 1991 by two referees independent of CALM and they found it was acceptable for publication at that time. One of the referees has re-read the report in 1993 and says it was still acceptable.

As for the dieback report (Bunny and Crombie 1992), CALM spokespersons say it is still under active peer review within CALM, and no decision has been made as to the suitability of the manuscript for publication. That does not explain why it was not made available to the EPA's Technical Advisory Panel, especially as the research was paid for by ALCOA. We await publication of this important report.

United Scientists for Environmental Responsibility (USERP), a national organisation of scientists, accepted the Conservation Council's evidence as proof of CALM censorship and suppression and spoke out in support of the Council. USERP member Professor Ian Lowe, Director of the Science Policy Research Centre at Griffith University, stated publicly that by suppressing results that threaten commercial interests, the senior managers in CALM have perverted the scientific process (*Search*, May 1993). 'The incident inevitably casts serious doubt over the scientific basis of claims by that Department', Professor Lowe said.

Official cover-up

On 19 March 1993, the Minister for the Environment in the recently elected WA Coalition government, Mr Kevin Minson, announced that he had dismissed the Conservation Council's allegations as unfounded. He said he

had interviewed all the scientists involved and they denied there had been any improper or unnecessary censorship of the three scientific papers. According to Mr Minson, most of them said the Council's allegations were mischievous. He urged Western Australians to retain their confidence in CALM's ability to manage the forests. Despite declining an invitation by the Conservation Council to go through the three censored reports, and additional evidence of CALM's censorship.

Implications

The implications of the censorship practised by CALM are serious and far-reaching. This is a clear case of an important government department defying fundamental principles of scientific and intellectual freedom and freedom of information.

There is now doubt cast over every CALM publication, whether popular or scientific. There is no way of knowing whether or not a CALM publication has been edited to tone down or remove criticism of CALM's policies and practices. Reports that should have been written may have been self-censored because scientists realise their findings would never receive the departmental imprimatur. The very research carried out within CALM could be influenced by the existence of censorship, with preference given to projects unlikely to challenge – or likely to reinforce – CALM's forestry myth.

In 1992, there were two public reviews and one expert review of CALM's proposed forest management strategies, which include a doubling of the annual volume of logs to be extracted from State forests. Although they were highly relevant to the issues being decided, the three reports discussed above were not made available to any of those conducting the reviews.

All CALM's projections for the availability of the wood resource are now worthless because they are based on a far larger area of forest than is likely to exist in fifty years and on growth rates that CALM knows are virtually impossible. All assurances that current and proposed logging practices are sustainable are



therefore false. The myth that logging and prescribed burning will do no real or lasting damage to the forest ecology has been exploded.

These findings strengthen the case for the reform of CALM. The Conservation Council recommends that the Department be restructured into two separate agencies, one involved in resource exploitation based on tree crops on already cleared land, the other in nature conservation. There must also be separate bodies for forest land-use planning and for monitoring the operations of the wood extraction industries and the implementation of management plans.

The Royal Commission into commercial activities of the Western Australian Government said that legal protection for 'whistle-blowers' must be provided and Western Australia's official secrecy laws must be repealed, in particular the provisions of the Public Service Act that prevent public servants from speaking out.

Until these changes occur, we can expect censorship and a climate of fear to continue within CALM, to the detriment of Western Australian forests.

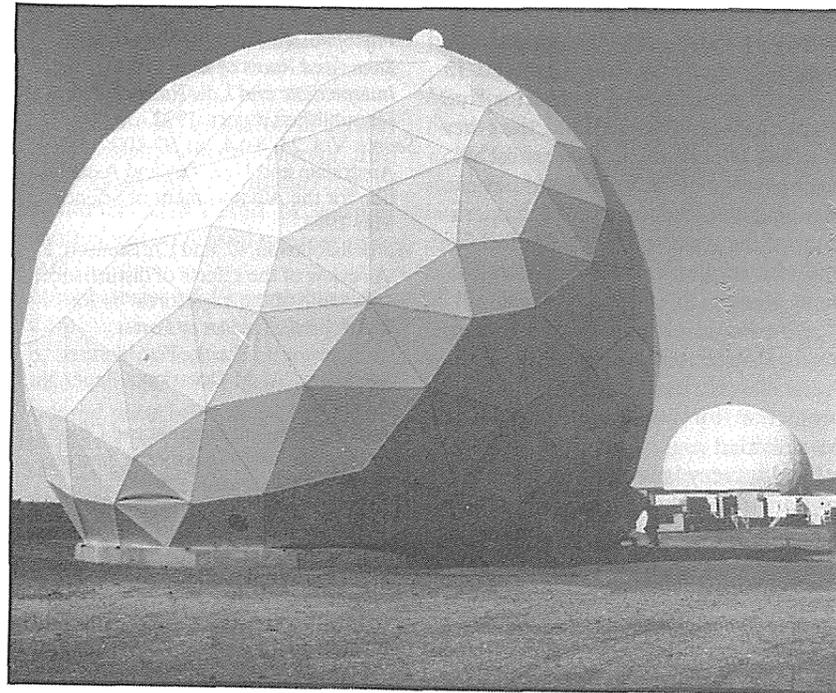
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Beth Schultz is President of the Conservation Council of WA. This is an amended version of an article published in the ANZAAS publication Search, May 1993.

Peace action at Nurrungar

The Joint Defence Communications station at Nurrungar, 500 km north of Adelaide, near Woomera in South Australia, began operations in 1971 to act as part of the worldwide US military command and control system. Activists have opposed the base for many years and Chris Hannaford puts his perspective on the anti-base action held Easter 1993.



OVER SEVEN hundred people attended the peace demonstration at Nurrungar, Easter 1993. It was a clear sign that the peace movement is alive and has shaken off the 'violent' image that the media painted of the peace movement after the 1991 AIDEX demonstration.

Two hundred and seventy seven people were arrested for trespass on Commonwealth land.

Since the demonstration I have realised just how politically vulnerable the Australian-United States alliance is, due to the changing economic priorities of both countries.

I will briefly recap on the principles of open decision making and direct action at the Nurrungar protest and look at the US alliance in the context of Australia's growing links with Asia.

Despite attempts by the media and the military to portray the protest as violent and link it to AIDEX, there were no incidents which the media or the police could use where protesters were violent. After dogs savaged protesters the Army Public Relations Chief, Brigadier D'Hage quickly changed focus of his comments from 'protestor violence' to the cost of policing the protest.

During the 1993 Nurrungar protest the peace movement was largely able to set the agenda. Each day of the demonstration was allocated a theme: Aboriginal sovereignty, the Environment, Militarism, Disarmament, and Independence.

Our actions reflected these themes and the media reports sometimes dramatised the issues. The combination of desert landscape, land rights, Aboriginal people and hundreds of peace protesters ready to dismantle a US Star Wars base makes for a true media event.

The most important ingredient of success was the thought that went into the organisation of the previous twelve months. The thorough level of organisation helped minimise media attempts to trivialise the protest while still getting the issues across.

A key focus throughout was Aboriginal sovereignty and the rights of the Kokatha People. Once the Peace

Action Collective in South Australia decided to take on the issue it asked the Kokatha People's Committee for permission to protest on Kokatha land. Protest organisers later asked the Kokatha People's Committee for their participation in the protest. The Kokatha issued visas for \$5 giving permission to be on their land but also setting conditions of entry. Some people felt that visa conditions such as 'no damage to township property' might restrict Non Violent Direct Action (NVDA). However, it was regarded as essential that we abide by the Kokatha conditions as they would 'wear' the fallout from the protest.

Nurrungar and Woomera are on the traditional land of the Kokatha Aboriginal people. The establishment of the Woomera Prohibited Area in 1947 was a key factor in the dispossession of their land. A major slogan of the campaign, therefore, was 'Hand back the Woomera Prohibited Area to the Kokatha People'. Currently most of this huge area is Crown land under pastoral lease. The logic of the Mabo decision means that native title was never extinguished. Mabo could enable a successful land claim by the Kokatha.

Harry Dare, a representative for the Kokatha, said 'we appreciate the help that all Australians, if they have a mind to, can give us and all Aboriginal people to gain back land that was forcibly taken away from us'.

Protest decision making

The structure of the camp was based on affinity groups. The key aim was to break down the decision making structure to a small democratic unit so that the camp would not be dictated to by a few 'loud mouths' at a general meeting.

An affinity group is made up of eight to fifteen individuals who have something in common e.g. members of the same peace group, trade union or religious group. They have two main roles:

- decision making for the group and for the protest;
- care of cooking and general needs of the group.

Through quick information meetings

and good facilitation of meetings of spokespersons from affinity groups most issues were relatively easily decided leaving very little for the Coordinating Collective to do other than nominate the facilitators for the next day's meetings.

Non Violent Direct Action

Non Violent Direct Action (NVDA) workshops were run before Nurrungar and during the camp. The principles of NVDA were explained to police during the protest and at an informal discussion under the auspices of the Quaker Peace Committee two months before the protest.

The Nurrungar handbook explained: 'We support non-violent direct action as a process for social change and conflict resolution which minimises the overall risk of violence.' NVDA is characterised by:

- personal action;
- respect for others and natural environment, it does not degrade, threaten, endanger or harm others;
- willingness to take responsibility for ones' actions, which may include acts of confrontation, resistance, coercion or persuasion;
- commitment to agreements reached amongst participants.

All major anti-base actions since the Pine Gap Women's camp in 1983 have used NVDA. The previous 1989 demonstration and the Gulf War had succeeded in getting Nurrungar on the



VISA

The KPC permits the undersigned to enter the traditional lands of the Kokatha people:

PeACe Action Collective

Valid for the period: *Easter 1993*

Purpose of visit: *Close Nurrungar*

ABORIGINAL SOVEREIGNTY
Aboriginal people demand their legal status be recognised in international law as the first people, the indigenous people of this continent, named 'Australia' by the colonisers. Australia is known to the Aboriginal people as many different territories. There were 600 nations of Aboriginal people in Australia at 1788.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.
2. HELP ACHIEVE LAND RIGHTS.
3. BE RESPECTFUL OF ALL ABORIGINAL PEOPLE
4. BE SENSITIVE TO THE SPIRIT OF THE LAND.
5. HELP PRESERVE THE CULTURAL INTEGRITY OF THE KOKATHA PEOPLE.
6. DO NOT DAMAGE TOWNSHIP, PASTORAL, POLICE OR PEACE PROTESTERS' PROPERTY.
7. DO NOT USE VIOLENCE AGAINST PEOPLE.

Most protesters got a visa, joining them with the Kokatha as the only people legitimately at Nurrungar.

STOP PRESS - Nurrungar obsolete!

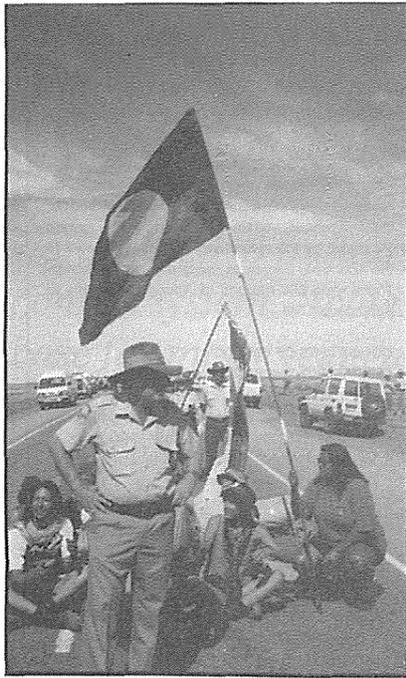
A recently de-classified Pentagon document has revealed that the United States is planning a new 'Follow on Early Warning System' (FEWS) that would render Nurrungar obsolete.

In a press release of 15 July 1993 the South Australian Peace Action Collective described the news as a 'mixed blessing'. On the one hand, the closure of the Nurrungar base would be a first step towards the Kokatha people having their land returned to them, but the proposed new system is simply a better war fighting technology.

FEWS will be able to monitor more missiles than the current system, of which Nurrungar is a part, which means that it is an expansion of US war fighting capability. The Peace Action Collective called for the closure of Nurrungar 'to be a step towards disarmament and peace, not a technological fix for better US war fighting power'.

map. The 1993 demonstration partly succeeded in getting the issues discussed particularly on TV news reports. The use of Non Violent Direct Action has been an essential factor in focusing media attention on the bases.

Non Violent Direct Action was used throughout the demonstration with the focus moving from the Woomera Airfield through occupation of administration buildings, road blockades and repeated entry of the Prohibited Area and culminating in a mass arrest/entry of the Prohibited Area on Easter Sunday.



Non Violent Actions including women's singing workshops, and Ecumenical services were practiced by affinity groups throughout the protest. The spanner action group used street theatre to highlight the need to convert the Base for peaceful purposes and then jumped the fence with one metre cardboard spanners to dismantle the Base.

The 'Nurrungar Declaration of Australian Independence', which was read out on the last day drew together the common thread of the protest. It also tapped popular sentiment for an independent republic free of Britain's constitutional ties, US military ties and called for 'constitutional recognition of the inalienable rights of Aboriginal people to their lands'.

Name change

Since the end of the Cold War, Australia and the US have been making subtle changes to the military Alliance of which the bases are the most concrete expression.

The Clinton US Administration has de-emphasised Star Wars by changing its name from the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) to Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) program. This simply represents a more realistic definition of what the current 'Star Wars' technology can achieve in limited interception of ballistic missiles. After all, the need to provide a shield against an all-out Soviet attack has evaporated.

Nurrungar is a key ground station for the Defence Support Program (DSP) satellite which plays a vital role is what was Star Wars. Despite the demise of the global version Star Wars the principles of missile tracking and subsequent interception are a key to the BMD program. Nurrungar missile tracking capabilities means that the US will want to keep it. The Gulf War also known as the first Space War was largely determined by the advanced technology and spy satellites. Nurrungar and Pine Gap will become new linchpins of US defence strategy.

However, there are still many in the US who want Star Wars cut further. Senator Inouye of Hawaii commented one week before the Star Wars name change that the \$US3.8 billion budget request for SDI 'it's almost tailored for automatic reduction' (*SDI Monitor* 7 May 1993). The week before the same industry magazine reported that the US Congress 'has banned new construction at all foreign bases'.

Economic bargaining

This all points to US funding for Nurrungar could be 'lineball'. While the Government, with the backing of Professor Des Ball, has argued the bases are essential for arms control monitoring, the US has the capability to monitor arms control agreements through a constellation of other satellites, inspection of missiles on site and of course simple diplomacy.

Professor Ball in *Bases for Debate* (page 88) admitted in 1988 'the maintenance of the Nurrungar facility simply cannot be justified on the basis of its contribution to arms control'.

Therefore while the Pentagon equivocates on foreign policy and bases, Australia is in a better position than ever to change the nature of the US Alliance. The US Alliance has become as anachronistic to the needs of Australia as the British monarchy - particularly as our security and trade needs focus on Asia.

Our growing national identity and the break down of rigid alliances enables the Government to change fundamentals of the US alliance more than

at any time since the second World War.

Dr Graham Cheeseman in his 1993 book *The Search for Self-Reliance: Australia's Defence Since Vietnam* argues:

The Dibb strategy of building up a strong self-defence force with strategic strike elements and close links with the United States runs contrary to our push to become closer to Asia," he says. It is a strategy which says we fear Asia and we want to defend ourselves against it - it runs contrary to what Keating is telling us that their is no need to fear our neighbours.

Australia is moving away from the US alliance primarily for economic reasons. Paul Keating's push towards Asia has been focused on the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC). While it does include the US, its focus is on Asia and particularly on strengthening Australia's ties with Japan. After all, Australia has a \$6 billion dollar trade surplus with Japan.

Our trade with the US is marked by a \$6 billion dollar deficit and numerous disagreements over US agricultural subsidies, particularly its Export Enhancement Program which has targeted Australia's wheat and barley markets.

More recently the dispute between Qantas and the US Northwest Airlines over access and landing rights in Japan has lead to a general souring of the relationship. The US control of Japanese landing rights has lead both the Japanese and Australian Government to question treaties governing landing rights and air routes written immediately after World War II. The head of Qantas has been so infuriated by the US monopoly that he wanted to put 'Nurrungar on the bargaining table'.

It is this economic awakening combined with our thrust for trade and defence bilateral relations with Asia that will see a weakening of the once close US Australian alliance.

Australia's future has more in common with Asia than the US. Our cultural ties are becoming weaker as more Australians realise that we do not want

to import a violent consumer based culture from the US.

Nurrungar costs the Australian Government approximately A\$25 million every year in wages for people to guard and work at the base and to maintain the township of Woomera.

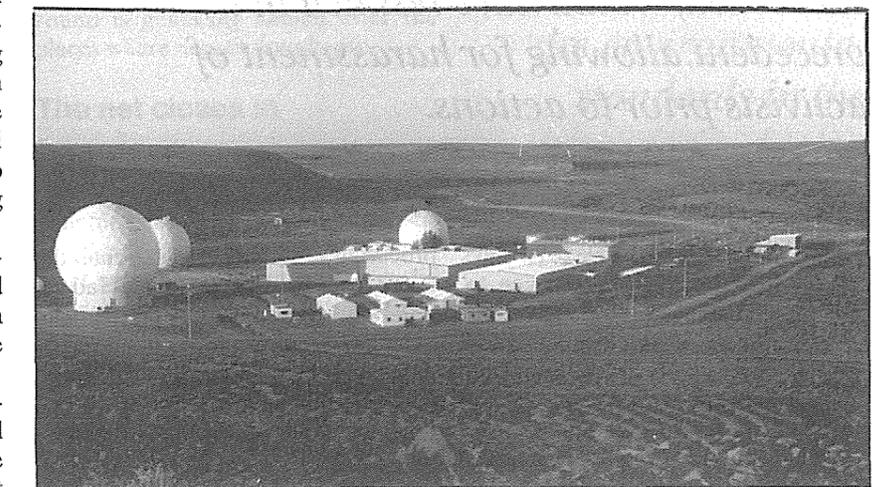
The majority of the cost of Nurrungar is paid for by the USA, particularly the software and hardware. The cost of maintaining Woomera is shared. The latest *Defence Report* (1991-92) puts the expenditure of the Woomera Trust Account (WTA) at nearly \$20 million. If it was assumed that both governments split the cost of the roads, rubbish removal and administration of Woomera, I estimate the cost to Australia of Nurrungar to be \$25.3 million (see table this page).

A similar figure could be expected for Pine Gap, bringing Australian expenditure on US Bases to over \$50 million.

The issue of who pays for the Bases is a weakness which the Government does not want exposed. A Senate Select Committee on the Bases is essential to either explain why we are spending at least \$50 million for the defence of the US or to help us rid the country of these unnecessary US military spy bases.

Cut the lease on Nurrungar & Pine Gap

In 1995 the leases for Nurrungar and Pine Gap come up for renegotiation and could be removed by 1998. This



The cost of Nurrungar

Woomera Trust Account	\$10 million
221 Australians at Nurrungar	\$12 million
40 Australian Protective Service (APS) Officers	\$2.2 million
International Policy Division	\$1 million
8 X 4 wheel drive cars for the APS @ \$15,000 p.a.	\$120,000
Approximate total cost to Australia	\$25.3 million

would be a fitting start for a new Independent Australian Republic.

Increasing bilateral treaties with our neighbours and the push towards Asia via EPAC ensure that Australia will refocus its political and economic strategy over the next five years.

The fall out of the Northwest/Qantas dispute could be a downgrading of Australian/US defence ties focusing on the Bases.

The momentum of the republican debate and a growing mood of national self confidence to take on the US in trade could see a happy end to ten years of Anti Bases actions.

But just in case I think we should start preparing our arguments and our actions for Pine Gap in 1995.

Chris Hannaford has been active with the South Australian Peace Action Collective (PEACE) for many years.



Right to protest under threat

Forestry authorities and police are revealing their frustrations as they try new mechanisms to catch activists. James Prest looks at some legal activities of the NSW Forestry Commission which, if they had succeeded, would have resulted in a precedent allowing for harassment of activists prior to actions.

A BLATANT ATTEMPT by the NSW Forestry Commission to use unprecedented legal tactics to stop debate about logging failed spectacularly in the NSW Supreme Court in June 1993.

The Forestry Commission applied for court orders prohibiting activists from 'aiding, abetting, counselling or

procuring any other person' to enter the Bulga State Forest near Taree. Had the orders been granted, any activist who breached them would be open to the possibility of imprisonment for acting in contempt of court.

On 3 June, the Commission summoned Chris Sheed (spokesperson for the Wingham Forest Action Group)

and 'unnamed persons' to the Supreme Court on 7 June, and sought orders preventing him from inciting others to assist in a protest campaign to stop logging in the Wingham Forest Management Area. Armed with a transcript of an interview with Sheed conducted by Melbourne public radio station 3CR, the Commission's lawyers sought five separate court orders against the forest defenders. These included a demand that the activists pay the legal costs of the Commission - estimated at \$25,000 - and an order preventing him and others from 'engaging directly or indirectly' in trespassing on or restricting access (including installing obstructions) to logging sites in the Wingham area. One order sought was to prevent Sheed 'conspiring' with others to prevent the Forestry Commission 'performing its statutory duties'.

Sheed told *Chain Reaction* that this included an attempt to seek a prohibition on publication of 'anything that says come and help, even if it doesn't imply breaking the law'. Legal advice from the Environmental Defender's Office in Sydney suggested that a possibility existed of the orders being granted, so in a tactical manoeuvre, Sheed agreed not to enter the Management area or incite others to do so. Perhaps in response to this compromise, Justice Windeyer rejected the Commission's claims against 'unnamed persons'.

The Commission appealed against this decision, and represented by David Cowdroy QC (on an estimated daily retainer of \$3,000) presented arguments unopposed in the Court of Appeal. One reason for the lack of opposition was the NSW Cabinet's decision to stop legal aid for all civil (as opposed to criminal) matters in NSW. This is in addition to the ban (for all intents and purposes) on legal aid for public interest environmental cases.

In rejecting the appeal, Justice Meagher said: 'To say that the entire police force of NSW cannot cope with 60 protesters to me seems incredible.' Justice Handley concurred, challenging Cowdroy: 'There is no named defendant, there is not even an identified defendant. Nobody has been

served [with a summons]. What you are really trying to do is to get this court to make a regulation ... under which these people can be put in jail [for contempt of court] and I think you should go to the Executive [the Premier and Cabinet].'

Undeterred, the Commission repeated the exercise seven days later, summoning 32 people to the Supreme Court, seeking orders similar to those sought against Sheed. However, confusion reigned. Included in the list were people - a professional photographer and others - whose only connection was to be the owners of vehicles borrowed by activists. According to Sheed, the Commission had created part of its list by noting the registration numbers of cars in the forest area.

Aidan Ricketts of the North East Forests Campaign branded the attempt 'a campaign of intimidation' and said that complaints against this 'abuse of process' and 'surveillance' had been lodged with the Ombudsman and the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

Court documents show that the Commission sought a Court order permitting it to fax a summons to a defendant or to read the summons out in the Wingham forest area if it was unable to serve the summons in person.

The defendants were represented by Ken Horler QC of the NSW Civil Liberties Council, and based their case on the protection of the right to free speech implied into the Commonwealth Constitution by High Court Justices Brennan, Deane and Toohey in the Nationwide News and Australian Capital TV cases of 1992. Justice Windeyer dismissed the applications against all ten, with an order that the Commission pay the defendant's costs.

Asked if the three court cases had 'chilled' the desire of activists to speak out, Sheed of the Wingham Forest Action Group told *Chain Reaction*, 'We've been encouraged by it', saying that the Supreme Court had upheld the right to protest.

James Prest is studying law at the Australian National University and has been an activist for some years.

YOU MIGHT THINK trade agreements have nothing to do with the environment. But the reality is that the successful completion of the Uruguay Round of GATT will irrevocably effect the global environment. These agreements are so serious in their ramifications that the mainstream US environment, conservation, public interest, consumer protection, animal protection, trade union, farmer groups and social justice organisations have been forced to take on these international trade agreements as their major over-riding issue.

These groups are campaigning to stop the US Government from agreeing to the Uruguay Round as it stands.

GATT is the acronym for General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, a global trade agreement begun in 1947 which currently has a membership of 108 nations, including Australia. GATT is an international agreement - not a treaty. It covers trade in goods with several major exceptions including agriculture. GATT has been expanded and renegotiated via seven rounds of negotiations, the current negotiation being the Uruguay Round.

The Uruguay Round

GATT renegotiation now underway dramatically expands GATT coverage into new areas such as food safety, intellectual property, services and investments. Begun in 1986, it has been stalled during the past year due to disputes over agricultural subsidies. The round is generally named after the places where negotiations began.

The net closes in

In 1972 the US passed the *Marine Mammal Protection Act* (MMPA), which bans the sale of tuna caught by domestic or international fishing with encirclement seine nets that unnecessarily kill hundreds of thousands of dolphins each year. Under this law, the US placed an embargo on Mexican tuna which was caught with dolphin unsafe methods. In response to the embargo, the Mexican Government challenged the MMPA as an unfair barrier to trade. The chal-

GATT brings global threat

The long-running international negotiations on tariffs and trade are moving to a conclusion which threatens to reduce the environmental standards in the name of reducing barriers to trade. Sue Arnold describes how this might occur and how and why we must act before it is too late.

lenge was heard by a GATT dispute resolution panel which, in August 1991, declared the MMPA an illegal barrier to trade.

The ban was declared to be a 'non tariff trade barrier' which is a national, state or local measure considered to be a trade restriction that does not involve tariffs.

The GATT panel decreed that this Act, which protects dolphins from deadly tuna fishing techniques, violated GATT and had to be eliminated. Under the precedent set by the GATT panel (and this will be set in concrete in the Uruguay Round) any member nation can challenge as a trade barrier a nation's laws which protect consumers and the environment. For example, the *US Endangered Species Act*, which attempts to conserve a resource outside its borders and uses trade sanctions as a method of enforcement, could be challenged. Laws such as the *Clean Air Act*, forest conservation legislation and the *African Elephant Conservation Act* would also be at risk.

Risks and limits

All Federal, State and Local Government laws which set standards to safeguard consumers, workers and the environment will be at risk. Not only can they be challenged by other nations as trade barriers, but there is the potential

Australia's refusal to import irradiated foods and to restrict the importation of Malaysian tropical timbers could be illegal under GATT rules ...which means lowering standards below those current in Australia.

to limit the capacity of Parliaments to set future standards. In other words, the hard work and years of effort involved in bringing public health, consumer protection legislation, environment protection and trade union laws up to scratch will be undermined.

Australian food safety laws are potential victims of GATT and the race to set the lowest possible consumer and environmental standards. Australian laws limiting pesticide

residues on food could be undermined by the rules of an organisation known as Codex Alimentarius, a Rome based subsidiary body of the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation. Codex is an industry influenced commission with standards that are often weaker than those US consumers demand and the US Congress has mandated. Codex allows higher residues of pesticides such as alar, dieldrin on fruits vegetables, grains and other food products. Codex allows higher DDT residues, banned in the US on grains, dairy products and beef.

Under GATT, standards which exceed Codex's could be challenged as illegal barriers to trade by other countries. If a dispute found in favour of the challenge, the challenged country would have to eliminate or change its standard—or face stiff fines. Almost any technical 'standard', including auto and other product safety rules and recycling requirements are exposed to such a challenge.

Challenges and disputes

Trade disputes and challenges will be resolved under GATT by panels of unelected, unaccountable international trade bureaucrats who meet in secret and decide whether or not a challenged law meets the criteria set out in the trade agreement. The challenged country bears the burden of proof. Unelected international bodies will be empowered to review member country's laws. The Uruguay Round will threaten Australia and other member nation's sovereignty.

Putting the changes in place

The Uruguay Round will establish a major new global commerce agency known as the Multilateral Trading Organization (MTO). The MTO would require member nations to give up substantial sovereignty. It is anti democratic, secretive and offers no safeguards to protect national legislation. Power over a nation's economic, environmental and food police will pass to an international trade bureaucracy based in Geneva. The MTO would be

Australian standards will be gatted

The completion of the Uruguay round of GATT would have a number of effects on Australian laws and regulations and the full extent of the implications is probably impossible to predict. It is possible to see how GATT could be used to reduce environmental standards, based on events that have already happened, and on the drafts of the agreement that have been seen by environment groups.

The finalisation of the Uruguay Round depends on the signing of an agreement known as the Dunkel Final Act, named after the General Director of GATT, Arthur Dunkel, a Swiss citizen. The signing of this agreement is due to happen by the end of December 1993. The Dunkel Draft Final Act greatly broadens the scope of GATT, introducing manufactured goods and intellectual property rights (i.e. patenting) into GATT's domain. It also calls for the formation of a Multilateral Trading Organisation (MTO) to police compliance with GATT.

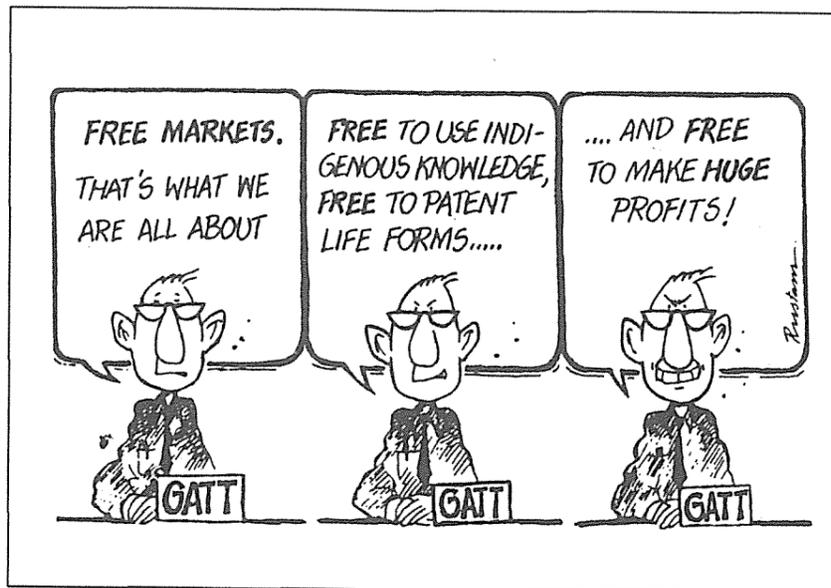
The Australian Government appears ready to sign the Draft Dunkel Final Act, despite there having been no community consultation on the matter. Indeed, the non-democratic nature of GATT is a major concern. The formation of the MTO, for example, was never addressed by the terms of reference of the Uruguay Round, it was merely added to the package by Arthur Dunkel. It seems that the Multilateral Trading Organisation will intrude on the sovereign right of national parliaments to enact trading regulations based in part on environmental issues. The example of the bans on the importing of

'dolphin-unfriendly' tuna being declared illegal points to the MTO's role. This would affect Australia in its decision to cut back on importation of Malaysian tropical timbers.

The GATT talks about the 'harmonisation' of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (basically food and chemical) standards. This, in effect, means lowering standards below those current in Australia. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CODEX) allows the use of chemicals such as DDT, and it also allows the irradiation of food. Australia's refusal to import irradiated foods could be illegal under GATT rules and it would not be long before food was being irradiated in Australia to be in line with these standards.

It is feared that transnational corporations would have sway with the MTO, thereby weakening the already minimal strictures placed on such companies. The Uruguay Round's reference to Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMs) could reduce the power of the Australian Government to limit the amount of foreign ownership. The successful completion of the Uruguay Round would encourage the formation of free trade zones, where goods can be manufactured under virtual slave labour conditions with no regard to the social and environmental effects of a more, faster, cheaper mentality.

Adapted from *Coalition Bulletin, Victorian Anti-Bases Coalition, September 1993.*



created with no citizen input or public discussion and would operate under tight secrecy under the present proposals.

Summary

President Bush promised a New World Order. It is now imminent, control over the global economy will almost certainly pass to transnational corporations which will overwhelm nations' consumer, labour and environmental protection legislation. This is the most serious issue facing Australians today. We need to start a network which will allow information to be circulated throughout the country.

Confront your local Federal MP and

ask him or her to explain why Australia is taking part in the Uruguay Round. Ask your MP to register your organisation's strong protest to Prime Minister Keating. It's not too late to bring about changes.

Get your group educated on GATT, the Uruguay Round and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) which some believe is being negotiated as a fall back position for GATT countries if the current Uruguay Round fails. Circulate this article to any group, individual or organisation likely to be affected by these trade negotiations.

This analysis has been kept relatively simple, but should you require in-depth information, briefing docu-

ments can be obtained from Australians for Animals a group which networks extensively with Ralph Nader's Washington (DC) - based organisation Public Citizen. A comprehensive primer which also details the issues raised by NAFTA is available for \$10.00 including postage, handling and photocopying.

If you would like to be included in updates on this issue contact: Australians for Animals, PO Box 673, Byron Bay, NSW, 2481 Tel: 066 85 3633 Fax: 066 85 3732.

Sue Arnold is a journalist, activist and is coordinator of Australians for Animals.

Pemulwuy – an Eora indigenous people resister

You will have
the tribute
you so rightly deserve from us
oh Pemulwuy.

But when, how and what with
that tribute will be
won't be decided by the descendants
of the adventurers who first violated
this fragment of mother-continent Gondwana,
nor by the invading gaolers
– harbingers of civilisation,
British Imperialist Christian Protestant –
who starved, killed and drove your people
off your land.

This they accomplished
in the name and with the hand
of the thieving crown.

Nor will our tribute be left to the heirs
of those who infected your people with foreign diseases,
who herded the survivors into mission stations
at the very time they invented the myth of mateship.

No. And it won't be from those
who for almost a century have extolled
the advantages of a reluctant, equivocal, flawed market
they called federation
they left your people out
as they were infecting an indifferent nation
with the myth of egalitarianism.

The words for your monument won't come
from the bewigged, ermined, fancy-dressed
protectors of privilege, power, property
and little else which matters
– pre-Cambrian defenders
of an unprincipled society.

Your remembrance will be more secure
than an invented 'title',
– a sham, really, defeasible at the whim
of foreign money and local fief-holders.

Your tribute will come
from the children of Democritus
– who first thought of the atom,
and held unashamedly
that a life without festivity
is a long road without an inn,
and of Hypatia
– who, when women had few options
but were treated as property,
was working as a polymath
in the Alexandrian Library.

So hated was she
for her fearless intellect

by the Christian Church
that a fanatical mob of good Christians,
spurred on by Archbishop Cyril,
killed, flayed her flesh from the bones
and burned her remains.
Soon after her Library was torched
and destroyed stone by stone.
Hypatia's name was forgotten,
her persecutor Cyril was made a saint.

For over one thousand years
the flame of civilisation flickered
in a few souls
at short times in a few places in a few societies
based on respect for the individual
and everyone's equality before equal and humane laws.

For the highest of achievements,
by no means lawless:
Periclean Athens, Rome as Republic,
India of King Harsha, Florence of Lorenzo
– even England of the First Elizabeth,
humanity has been shedding rivers of tears.
Think of Bruno – and Galileo.
The sophists of course would say:
but there was Huygens – and Newton and Einstein.

The unprincipled society probably remembers Einstein
– for wrong reasons and evil ends
and the crude conquest of nature:
the ultimate discovery led to Hiroshima and Chernobyl
to Nagasaki and Three Mile Island.

Moneyed and well-positioned people
are inclined to respect
the likes of Hitler
– for the ultimate scourge, too,
enforced law and order,
protected privilege, power and property.

Waspish pragmatists did not so mind
'cousin Adolph'
– he had 'the solution'
which evaded your persecutors.
'Reffo Albert' had doubts
which come from moral purpose
– unheard to mobsters
who 'come the raw prawn'.

What does it matter
that 'pacification' exact
Lidice and Warsaw, Marzabotto and Oradour,
My Lai and thousand more,
so long as the 'sacred places' are preserved:
the counting houses?

Higher over the moral ruin
of those temples
we will write your name

oh Pemulwuy
– to join Spartacus, Toussant L'Ouverture,
Bonhoeffer and thousands more resisters.

Let practitioners of post-ideological politics,
mountebanks and quick-fixers,
carpetbaggers of ever,
professional reconciliators
– at no cost but for the new forms of beads,
shellbrighteners, muddlingthroughers
and the occasional fishwife of multiculturalism
mouth the praise of reconciliation.

Reconciliation is only possible
among free people – for us alone.

And if I were the last in line to speak,
this is what I would say:
You will have the monument
you so rightly deserve for your people
oh Pemulwuy.

My inspiration would come from afar
from the struggle of my comrades,
my liberators,
who resisted and won
– that I may be free.

If I could carve that monument
I would listen to the voices of my young comrades
who stood against the invading beasts
in the sacred snows which defied them for years
in the mountains which saw them routed.

I would draw my words from those valleys
where my comrades rest in peace
and from the voice of my mentor.

To you I would lay a stone,
harder than any stone seen before,
the rock of a pact
sworn among free people,
who voluntarily gathered
for dignity not for hatred
determined to redeem the world
from shame and terror.

Their victory was for all of us,
for me, for you
oh Pemulwuy.

Only when this country is freed from the thieving crown
will we meet again to celebrate your sacrifice
– the dead and the living with the same pledge,
people united around a monument
which is to you
oh Pemulwuy,
and which is called
now and forever
resistance.

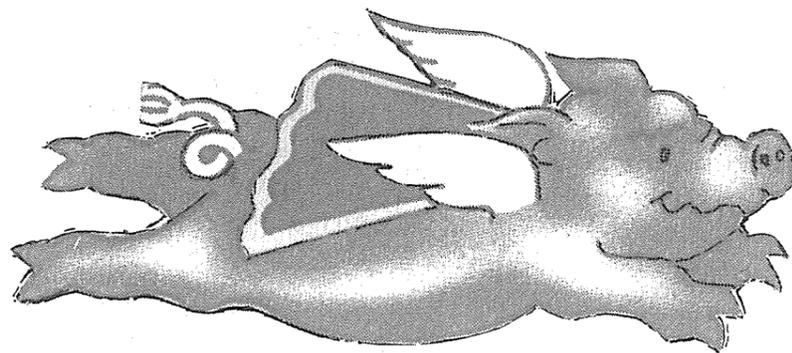
Pemulwuy and his son
Tedbury, were Aborigines
of the Bidjgal Botany
Bay) tribe who strongly
resisted European
settlement at Sydney and
Parramatta between 1790
and 1810.

Governor King outlawed
Pemulwuy on 22
November 1801 and in
1802 he was killed by two
settlers, who probably
claimed the offered
reward of a 12 months'
supply of convict labour.
King preserved
Pemulwuy's head in
spirits, and sent it to Sir
Joseph Banks on the
ship *Speedy* in June 1802.
Banks placed the head in
a public museum formerly
owned by a Mr Hunter.
King commented in a
covering letter that, 'Altho'
a terrible pest to the
colony, he was a brave
and independent
character.'

From Peter Mitchell,
'Pemulwuy' *The Australian
Encyclopaedia*.

Thought control and flying pigs

The CSIRO travelling exhibition on genetic engineering had 'that faint air of snake-oil salesmanship about it' according to Rosaleen Love in Chain Reaction 68. Richard Hindmarsh also comments on the exhibition and says that the CSIRO has constructed an 'information text' that amounts to propaganda.



THE CONTROL OF thought has long underpinned suppression in democratic societies, as Noam Chomsky has vividly expounded. Thought control, or hegemony, shapes the way we see the world. Since the Industrial Revolution, capital interests have used it to align and reproduce cultural values to the alpha technology 'text'. The alpha text enframes industrial technoscience with values of domination, unequal exchange, hierarchy, patriarchy, anthropocentrism, dependency, fragmentation, profit, or exploitation. In this sense, thought control is part of the invisible underlying 'grammar' of the technology text, that is, what is used to directly indoctrinate us. Propaganda is a technique of that grammar.

Harold Lasswell wrote that propaganda is the making of deliberately one-sided statements to a mass audience. In doing this, propaganda blocks out alternatives and other worldviews. For instance, the validity of alternative perspectives, which challenge capitalist perspectives, are marginalised by the capitalist thought control machine. A widespread acceptance of the legitimacy of the capitalist worldview is effected. Other purposes in the creation of 'necessary' illusions and the manufacturing of consent is to marginalise the public in policy making, or to create apathy to the alpha technology text.

Thought control is being used intensively to legitimise the development of genetic engineering in Australia. It played a central role in the CSIRO's travelling exhibition, 'Genetic Engineering: Will Pigs Fly?' The CSIRO promoted the exhibition as a public awareness project on the pros and cons of genetic engineering but instead it reads as a propaganda text designed to serve four main purposes:

- gain or induce public acceptance of genetic engineering;
- counter increasing public concerns about genetic engineering;
- support a reductionist industrial-scientific worldview of the world, centred around the domination of nature, in order to stave off an emerging paradigmatic challenge

from the holistic ecoscientific movement; and

- gain scarce 'legitimation' and development resources (e.g. authority, money and personnel) from government and industry.
- 'Genetic Engineering: Will Pigs Fly' toured Westfield Shopping Centres throughout 1992 and Science Museums to June 1993. The multi-media interactive video exhibition cost \$250,000. The sponsors included:
- CSIRO – 66 per cent of the cost;
 - Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce (DITAC) – 12 per cent;
 - Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (CSL Ltd) – 16 per cent; and
 - the cotton industry – 6 per cent.

A quick calculation indicates that at least \$190,000 of the cost was paid by public monies.

So how was the public set up to be indoctrinated by its own subsidised state institutions?

Content and design

Several powerful psychological techniques were selected. The first technique employed was to target young people as the principle audience. Organised propaganda targets this social group the most so that a uniform outlook can be effected as permanently as possible.

Humanisation techniques projected warm, agreeable, honest, reliable and 'careful' images of genetic engineers. The gene scientists are thus personally warm as well as wise which aims to make them well-liked. This counters public images of scientists of short-sighted, unconcerned, commercialised and out of touch with the public, and hence increases their authority to legitimise genetic engineering.

Conversion techniques were employed to neutralise negative opinion and reverse hostile attitudes. Genetic engineering symbolism – pleasant, friendly and protective – was constructed throughout the exhibition to create a warm inner glow in the audience. One video segment downplayed risk to the environment and induced the audience to look

Public attitudes to genetic engineering

In March 1991 the Commission of the European Communities undertook a 'Eurobarometer' survey of public awareness and attitudes on biotechnology.

The survey involved interviews with 12,800 people across the European community and sought information in four areas:

- awareness and understanding of biotechnology;
- attitudes towards it, opinions – including whether these depend on the terms used (particularly 'genetic engineering' or 'biotechnology');
- where people obtain information about the technology; and
- whom they trust to provide this.

The survey indicated that 50 per cent of the respondents think that biotechnology will 'improve their lives'. This figure, however, is low compared to acceptance of other new technologies, and also a significant number (28.4 per cent) expressed ignorance about the impact of biotechnology and 11 per cent strongly believed that it would make things worse.

The use of the word 'genetic engineering', as opposed to 'biotechnology' significantly affected the results, with a significant decline in its benefits rating and a doubling in its harm rating when 'genetic engineering' was used.

The results for the survey question 'Who do you trust for biotechnology information?' indicated that environment groups were the most trusted source of information and industry ranked a low six per cent.

Source of information	Trusted by public (%)
Environment organisations	52.6
Consumer organisations	52.4
School or university	37.2
Animal Welfare groups	29.1
Public Authorities	20.4
Religious organisations	9.7
Industry	6.0
Trade unions	5.3
Political organisations	4.9

Source: EBIS - European Biotechnology Information Service
Biotechnology in Europe July 1991, Issue Four.

favourably upon genetic engineering while less favourably upon environmentalists. Overseas studies have shown that the public trusts green groups to tell the truth most about genetic engineering. Hard-line proponents of genetic engineering clearly are attempting to counter that trend here.

Genetic engineering was promoted primarily as solving environmental and human health problems in order to gain the respect and goodwill of the audience. Other primary reasons for genetic engineering – profits and commercial opportunity for industrial research empires – were hidden. There was a conspicuous absence of any reference to commercial values which

helped to project an untarnished aura of scientific sanctity about genetic engineering. These benefits create the conclusion that the welfare, security and happiness of society depends on techno-scientific fixes like genetic engineering.

Blocking of the concerns was used to facilitate further goodwill from the audience. Negative references to genetic engineering were avoided, omitted or most importantly, trivialised. These included the intense international debate about the radical nature and use of genetic engineering, the regulation of the industry by itself, the non-consultation and participation of the public, the risks of plant and

animal bioengineering, the high concern over herbicide-tolerant crops, the non-labelling of recombinant processed food and food products, the potential impacts on biodiversity, the private ownership of life, the high levels of funding by chemical and pharmaceutical corporations, the social and ethical implications of the human genome project and reproductive biotechnology, various 'eco-incidents' such as the unauthorised and 'secret' release of transgenic pigs to consumers in South Australia in 1988 (see *Chain Reaction* 62, pp 24-29), and the more natural alternatives to genetic engineering like organic cotton, and so forth.

In the one (video) attempt to address these issues the sponsors, in order to maintain control of scientific authority, excluded critical 'hard' scientific commentary but included two high profile proponent scientists. Overall, information on the debate was made largely inaccessible through oversimplification of the issues and the design

of video screening which only permitted limited viewing. The highly selected (and projected) benefits of genetic engineering, on the other hand, were highly profiled by the surrounding module displays and three other interactive video stations.

Outcomes and action

A CSIRO post-exhibition survey claimed that 'Will Pigs Fly' made the public more aware of the benefits of genetic engineering for the environment. This outcome smacks of 'doublespeak'. Why? Because no critical 'hard' scientific perspectives were offered about the ecological and social problems of genetic engineering. Because the debate about genetic engineering was biased and trivialised. Because no alternatives to realise a long-term ecologically sustainable society were projected. Because the question 'Should we have genetic engineering at all' was not raised. And finally, because the audience viewing the exhibition had extremely limited un-

derstanding about genetic engineering and, I would argue, about the exercise of thought control.

Interestingly, while the sponsors' names were (just) visible on the display, there was no description of the sponsors' interests in genetic engineering. For instance, CSIRO has now half its divisions embedded in genetic manipulation and engineering while DITAC (now the Department of Industry, Technology and Regional Development DITARD) is a hardline promoter and funder of genetic engineering. The cotton industry is responsible for some of the most ecologically-destructive farming practices in Australia, and now has joint programmes with the CSIRO in creating 2,4-D tolerant cotton.

The general public was thus an easy target for an indoctrination programme involving 'restricted' information that promotes genetic engineering as 'good, necessary and inevitable' – the staple grammar of the corporate-state technology text.

Ideally, the 70 per cent publicly-funded CSIRO should be informing the public in a responsible and unbiased manner about the benefits and costs of genetic engineering. It should also be playing a central role in developing holistic alternatives that realistically attempt to address the ecological crisis we are facing today. However, this is an ecotopian scenario given the existing power structures in science and society, and the private funding of the CSIRO. As such, there are two immediate tasks to address. The first is to raise public awareness about both genetic engineering and the processes of thought control. The second is to challenge the technocratic rationality of technoscience institutions like the CSIRO and DITAC/DITARD, and reveal their attempts to manufacture consent and maintain illusions of validity about the 'divinely ordained and beneficial' nature of reductionist technoscience.

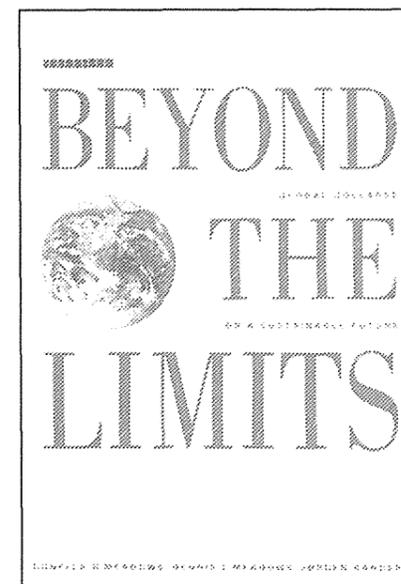
Richard Hindmarsh is an ecoscientist at the Science Policy Research Centre, Griffith University, Brisbane. This is an amended version of an article first published in Search 23(7), 1992.

Campaign information:

Louise McDonald – Friends of the Earth Anti-genetic Engineering Collective
Ph: (03) 419 8700 Fax: (03) 416 2081
Bob Phelps – Gen-ethics Network, Australian Conservation Foundation
Ph: (03) 416 2222 Fax: (03) 416 0767



"IF YOU ASK ME, I THINK THIS GENETIC ENGINEERING HAS GONE A BIT TOO FAR!"



Beyond the Limits

By Donella Meadows, Dennis Meadows and Jorgen Randers, Earthscan Publications, 1992, 300 pp, \$19.95

Reviewed by Hal Kane.

Twenty years ago, a book called *The Limits to Growth* produced shock waves among economic and business leaders by claiming, contrary to long-held assumptions, that industry could not go on growing forever. Written by three scientists and commissioned by the respected Club of Rome, the book argued that continued growth of population and consumption might outstrip the Earth's natural capacities, and that the resulting environmental decline posed a looming threat to the

quality of life – and possibly even to life itself.

To avert this threat, said the authors, societies had no choice but to slow their growth, consume less, have fewer children, and conserve the natural environment.

Since publication of that book, public awareness of the issues it raised has exploded. People throughout the industrialised world have mobilised to recycle, conserve energy, reduce pollution, and take other actions to protect the health of the environment.

Yet, many measures of environmental health have not improved; industries continue to shirk environmental protections, more people measure self-worth by how much they own.

Other problems persist. The advocates of unrestrained growth have never moderated their opposition to messages of the sort found in the *Limits to Growth*. And, largely impervious to the debate about environmental constraints, governments have retained economic growth as the goal that eclipses all others.

It is against this backdrop that the authors who created such a stir two decades ago have issued an arresting sequel, *Beyond the Limits*. The new volume reinvigorates the argument, and in some respects raises the stakes. It does not make any major changes in the original thesis, but restates the original case persuasively – and with updated figures and information. What may be most significant is that 20 years of debate about nature's limits on economic growth, and 20 years more experience and data, have only strengthened the author's convictions.

Their critics – especially economists

Reviews

accuse *Beyond the Limits* of failing to acknowledge potential improvements in technology, which they believe will come to humankind's rescue.

Beyond the Limits is not a forecast of global disaster, as some have claimed, but rather a call to action to prevent disaster.

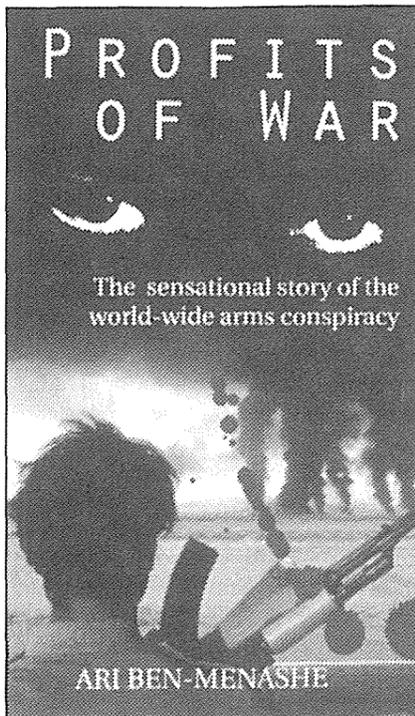
Beyond the Limits is not hostile to technological solutions. But it does argue that technology will not replace the capacities of nature – what the authors call 'environmental services' – whether of soil to produce food, or of the atmosphere to block harmful radiation and stabilise the climate. Instead, technology will succeed by complementing environmental services.

Where economic activity undermines those environmental services, the benefits will be diminished. A paradigm for success in averting this kind of battering is the Montreal Protocols, the international agreements to reduce the depletion of the ozone layer by phasing out chlorofluorocarbons. The authors describe the agreement's success as a case of coming back from beyond the limits.

The Montreal Protocols do not have to be an isolated case. From agreements to stop overfishing to treaties on greenhouse gas emissions, environmental problems can be solved. The Earth Summit in Rio last year was one step toward taking such actions. Continued cuts in military spending in the United States and the former Soviet republics likewise make a difference. These and other steps may bring us back from beyond the limits.

This review was originally published in Worldwatch, Volume 6, Number 1, February 1993.

Reviews



Profits of War

by Ari Ben-Menashe, Allen & Unwin, St Leonards NSW, 1992, 394pp, \$24.95.

Reviewed by Mark Delmege.

In gratitude for the use of Australian soil for the transfer of arms to Iran, Richard Babayan, a contract operative of the CIA, received a check for \$6 million US from Earl Brian, who was acting on behalf of Hadron, a CIA 'cut-out'. Babayan travelled to Perth

and stayed at the home of Yosef Goldberg, an Australian businessman of Israeli origin who was well connected to Israeli intelligence and to the local Labor Party headed by Brian Burke, then premier of West Australia. Babayan handed the check to Goldberg, who in turn gave it to Alan Bond in his role as the guardian of the John Curtin Foundation funds.

As I read these words, a radio news bulletin announced that Alan Bond had been cleared by a jury. He had successfully appealed a finding of corruption for his role in the Rothwells Bank rescue that had earlier sent him to jail.

In 1991, Ari Ben-Menashe fought for his freedom in a US court after being held for a year on what he says was a trumped up charge. He, like Bond, was later released.

Ben-Menashe began his exposé, after his release, when he assisted Seymour Hersh with his book *The Samson Option*, and Gary Sick with *October Surprise*. *Profits of War* is his story. He lays before us his life, his loves and most importantly his career as an Israeli agent during the 1980s.

His early life as an Iraqi Jew, in Iran, equipped him well for service with Israeli intelligence. In the 1970s he had success as a code breaker of Iranian communications and by 1980 he had a role with the Israeli team at the 'October Surprise' negotiations with Iran and the American Republicans.

The Iranians needed military supplies to cope with the Iraqi invasion. Reagan's election team wanted the American embassy hostages held until after the election to deny then President Carter any electoral gains. And the Israelis, who feared Iraq's nuclear ambitions, had no wish to see Hussein enhance his power with a military victory over Iran and happily played middleman, assisting both with the arrangements.

The deals of 1980 set the scene for the events that followed. Israel and the CIA created a 'dollar machine' by selling massive amounts of military equipment to Iran, estimated by Ben-Menashe at \$82 billion. Weapons were

sucked up from all corners of the globe, shunted through various front companies and sold to the Iranians at inflated prices.

This continued until 1987 when the Israelis made the Iran-Contra operation public. Ben-Menashe was sacked, but he anticipated events and spirited away some of the profits first. He was soon recalled for higher duties by PM Shamir.

Israel and South Africa had long co-operated developing their nuclear arsenals. But in 1988 the relationship soured when South Africa continued to sell weapons to Iraq, after the end of the Iran-Iraq war. As Israel loosened the ties it looked elsewhere for suppliers of essential chemical and nuclear materials.

Ben-Menashe's first mission as 'special consultant on intelligence' with the Israeli Prime Minister's Office was to negotiate for the necessary items with Abimael Guzman, leader of the Shining Path guerrillas in Peru.

Meanwhile the CIA was also arming Iraq with conventional and chemical weapons, the latter through South America. Another mission by Ben-Menashe to that part of the world saw a US backed coup in Paraguay, and his role as bully boy attempting to put a stop to the chemical weapon sales.

Mark Thatcher and Carlos Cardoen appear as rivals and bring Alan Bond once more into the picture. Following an Israeli intelligence officer's visit to the head of ASIO in Canberra, Alan Bond withdrew from his business interests with Cardoen, and his telephone interests in Chile.

By this time covert US/Israeli arms deals had created a billion dollar slush fund and Ben-Menashe and two other Israelis had become the signatories for all the monies.

Publishing tycoon Robert Maxwell took advantage of this situation by expanding his business empire with the use of loan guarantees. These were provided by Shamir, with the blessing of the CIA, and backed by the arms profits.

But in 1989, an operation is compromised when it is leaked that Israel is negotiating with the PLO for the release of Israeli soldiers in Lebanon. Once

again Ben-Menashe sees himself being made a scapegoat and begins moving around the slush money. This has the effect of undermining Maxwell's loan guarantees and Shamir is furious.

Soon afterwards Ben-Menashe loses his protection. He finds himself in jail, set up by the CIA, disowned by his employer and abandoned by his wife. His days as procurer and bully boy for the Prime Minister were over.

When it was time to divvy up the slush fund money, Maxwell reneged on a deal and cut the Americans out of their (by then \$780m) share. In 1991, \$80 million of Israel's half was transferred from Australian banks to Eastern Europe. Another \$100 million was diverted to an Israeli political party. And the remaining Israeli share of \$600 million ... we are left to assume, Ben-Menashe has a hand in that too!

The story seems fantastic but it is rare for an insider of Ben-Menashe's stature to spill the beans like this. It is a strong, well written book that can't but help widen one's understanding of the forces that shape world affairs. He says he is not proud of his role in these events and has written the book to atone, and as both 'memoir and exposé'.

Ben-Menashe's credibility however is not enhanced by his claim that weapons, bound for Iran, were stored on Stirling Island, near Fremantle. For this aspect of his story to be consistent he must be referring to the Stirling Naval base on Garden Island. A small slip but one that his Australian publishers should have picked up.

Staff from the WA Royal Commission took an interest in Ben-Menashe's claims and met with him in 1992. They didn't comment in their public report and the Western Australian press remains sceptical of his various claims of arms shipments through WA.

Government inquiries overseas have followed Ben-Menashe's allegations. If evidence can be found for his claims of an Australian connection, an inquiry in Australia will also be in order.

Mark Delmege is currently working on a history of the CIA in Australia.

Crosbie Morrison – Voice of Nature

by Graham Pizzey, Victoria Press, Melbourne, 1992, 304pp, \$26.95

Reviewed by James Seal

Graham Pizzey has produced a tribute – in the form of an excellent biography – to an early and true 'friend of the earth' – Philip Crosbie Morrison. There will be many members of our younger generations who may never have heard of Morrison. That's a great pity. Pizzey's book will be a boon to them as it will be to everyone who is interested in the well-being of our earth.

There will be few Victorians who have passed their fiftieth birthday who won't recall Morrison and they will do so with both awe and affection. As youngsters they read what he wrote in the newspapers, they heard what he said on the radio and his presence was with them at school where he was a patron saint of the 'nature study' which they all compulsorily learned. Morrison, at one time, directed the Melbourne Museum and was an ever present spirit in youthful adventures to the Healesville Sanctuary. The Botanic Gardens – still Melbourne's great pride and an ever popular picnic spot – also knew his benevolent surveillance.

Looking back it seems that what Morrison meant was totally important even though he was, in many ways the voice of wilderness in wilderness. To the few who really understood or wanted to understand he warned against soil erosion and salination, he encouraged a generation to know and appreciate native plants, he warned of feral pests – particularly 'domestic cats gone wild'. He did this, incidentally, in a time when it was still possible to see wagtails, robins and blue wrens in suburban gardens.

All of this is detailed and underlined by Pizzey – a naturalist and author who has, in many ways, taken on the mantle of his book's subject. Pizzey with this – his sixth book – proves himself a careful and sympathetic researcher and reminds us, too, that he is an excellent writer with an eye for critical detail and

an empathy with the great cause of advancing environmental awareness.

It's not that Pizzey sets out to be a polemicist, either, but in detailing Morrison's exceptional life Pizzey makes an unanswerable case for conservation and for the 'green' cause. And with his careful references both to the life and writings of Morrison he certainly makes the case for strengthening the study of nature and natural history at all levels of our education system and our society.

Morrison, as Pizzey clearly establishes, was a man ahead of his time and one with incredible foresight and energy.

As a naturalist Morrison advanced the study of our animals, our plants and our birds. He did this, by the way, not only in studies in Victoria but in excursions to places as far away and diverse as the Great Barrier Reef, New Zealand and Japan.

As a propagandist Morrison worked to establish Victoria's national parks and to consolidate the study of nature. He was also one of the first to take advantage of the camera and the moving picture projector to spread his message. (At his lectures throughout Victoria hundreds were typically turned away through lack of space.)

In 1950 Morrison spoke on 'Education for Conservation' and what he described as 'Australia's morbid drift'. The key to how he thought is enshrined in his words:

Formal education in schools will bring its best results in the course of the next generation. Education through publicity can bring its results in a week or two ...

Pizzey has done a fine job with this pithy biography and examination of issues that can never be overlooked. The book will be read with delight by those who are members of Morrison's direct audience and it deserves a place in every school and public library. The book should also be compulsory reading for everyone concerned in any way with the management of our environment.

James Seal is a former high school principal who teaches writing part-time at Swinburne University in Victoria.

Resources

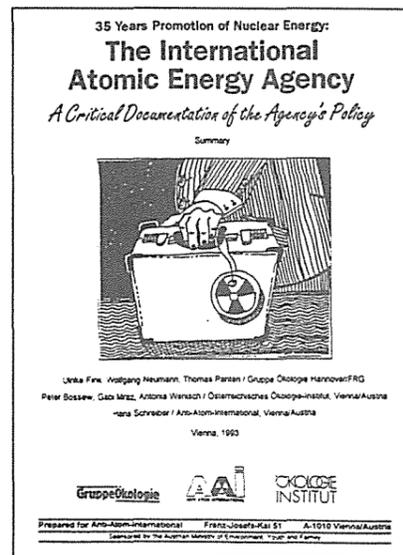
The International Atomic Energy Agency

Anti Atom International, Vienna 1993

Anti Atom International has produced a critique of the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency. It illustrates the role of this United Nations organisation in the proliferation of the risks connected with the use of atomic energy, such as the promotion of uranium mining and 'so-called' peaceful nuclear explosions.

It argues strongly for a reform of the IAEA and hopes to provide the basis for an international campaign to this end.

Available from: *Anti Atom International, A-1010 Vienna, Austria, Franz-Josefs-Kai-51*
Ph: 43-1-534 75-209
Fax: 43-1-534 75-279



Interactions and Actions: 1992 Ecopolitics VI Proceedings

Department of Planning, Policy and Landscape, RMIT, 1993, 600 pages \$40.00

This 600 plus page volume contains the papers and overview of the discussion from the Ecopolitics VI Conference held at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in September, 1992.

Contents include contributions from people representing community groups, industry, government departments, politicians and academics. Their contributions cover a broad range of environmental issues.

Available from: *Secretary, Department of Planning, Policy and Landscape, RMIT, GPO Box 2476V, Melbourne 3001. Ph: (03) 660 3441*

Aidwatch and the World Bank

Carol Sherman, Aid/Watch, May 1993, Pamphlet, 11 pages.

This short pamphlet comprehensively outlines why aid funding to the World Bank should be reduced and instead channelled into mechanisms which reduce poverty, are environmentally sound and do not contribute to further debt.

Available from: *Aid/Watch, PO Box 652, Woollahra, 2025, NSW Ph: (02) 349 6593 Fax: (02) 344 0078*

State of the World 1993

Lester R. Brown et al, World Watch Institute, 1993, 268 pages, US\$10.95

Now into its tenth year the annual *State of the World* report provides accessible information on global environmental trends and conditions.

State of the World 1993 answers the question of the 1990s – how can

we create a vibrant world economy that does not destroy the ecosystem on which it is based? Vital reading!

Available from: *Worldwatch Institute, 1776 Massachusetts Ave, NW Washington, DC 20036-1904, USA Ph: 1-202-452 1999 Fax: 1-202-296 7365*



Standing up for your Local Environment

Jenny Barnett, Victorian National Parks Association, 1993, 128 pages, \$15.00

This action guide provides an overview of the Victorian planning and environmental legislation and advises community members on how to influence the outcomes of environmental decision making.

Standing up tells you how to use the planning system, gives a guide to issues and legislation, and offers general advice. For example – how to influence your local council, using Freedom of Information, and where to get legal assistance. Although Victorian based it provides an excellent overview.

Available from: *Victorian National Parks Association, 10 Parliament Place, East Melbourne 3002 Ph: (03) 650 8296 Fax: (03) 654 6843*

A Resource and Action Guide for International Year for Indigenous People

Cam Walker, Headwaters Press, June 1993, 32 pages, \$7.00

This booklet is intended as a general resource guide for those people, especially teachers, who are wanting to know more about Indigenous people. The guide provides a cross-section of current issues and backgrounds on some of the 5,000 Indigenous Nations around the world.

Contact organisations, resources and further references are also provided, making it more useful, especially for teaching.

All proceeds beyond the printing costs go to the Northlands College, a community run high school for Koori and non-Koori kids, in Melbourne.

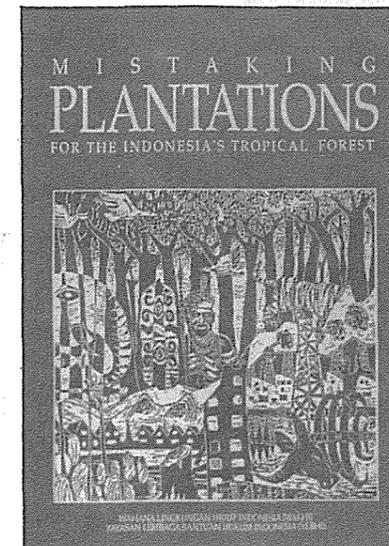
Available from: *Friends of the Earth Bookshop, 312 Smith Street, Collingwood 3066, Victoria Ph: (03) 419 8700*

Finland and Forests – A Success Story?

Bulletin by Finnish Non-government Organisations for the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe Helsinki 16-17 June 1993, 20 pages.

Finland is often promoted as a model for sustainable forestry. This 20 page report by a group of Finnish environmental organisations highlights that while Finland provides a model of sustainable timber production it is nonetheless not ecologically sustainable. The forest environment is becoming more and more uniform and studies indicate that forest wildlife is under threat.

Available from: *Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, Peramiehenkatu 11A, 00150 Helsinki, Finland. Ph: 358-0-228081 Fax: 358-0-22808 200*



Mistaking Plantations for the Indonesian Tropical Forest

WALHI, Indonesia, 1992, 69 pages

Mistaking Plantations for the Indonesian Tropical Forest published by Friends of the Earth Indonesia (WALHI) provides an overview of the ecological, economic, social and legal implications of Indonesia's recently introduced timber estate plantation, and pulp and paper industry development policies.

The book comprises critical reviews of the pulp and paper development scheme's purported and actual goals, an analysis of the forestry sector's contributions to the national economy, and a case study of grassroots resistance to Indonesia's first pulp mill.

North-South relations serve as the framework of the book, particularly the responsibility of Northern consumers, investors and aid agencies, and North-dominated multilateral banks and markets. It will be of particular interest to rain-forest activists.

Available from: *WALHI, Jl Penjernihan 1/15, Komp. Keuangan, Jakarta 10210, Indonesia. Ph: 62-21-583 975 Fax: 62-21-588 416*

Looking Forward: the Next Step

Municipal Conservation Association, November 1992, 56 pages, \$10.00

Looking Forward: The Next Step - A Guide to Preparing a Local Conservation Strategy is a guide to formulating environmental policies and strategies at the local level. It also contains case study examples from the actual Local Conservation Strategies developed by Local Governments in Victoria.

While having a definite Local Government focus, it is a useful guide for any organisation interested in environmental management strategies or in the role of Local Government in environmental management.

Available from: *Municipal Conservation Association, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000. Ph: (03) 654 1322 Fax: (03) 650 3689*

Social Responsibility of Science

Proceedings of the 1993 United Scientists for Environmental Responsibility and Protection conference.

Proceedings of the conference *Social Responsibility of Science* are now available.

Topics discussed at the conference include: the relationship between government regulation and self-regulation; feminist perspectives of scientific responsibility; intellectual suppression and the politics of science; the construction of knowledge about AIDS; and science policy – for the people by the people?

Available from: *Isla McGregor, United Scientists for Environmental Responsibility and Protection Ph: (002) 44 6892*



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The WISE *News Communique* is an invaluable source of news on energy developments, particularly relating to nuclear activities, and can be used for newsletters and research as well as being of interest to the general reader.

The *Communique* is published in English 20 times per year by WISE-Amsterdam using articles from relays in 11 countries and a world-wide network of contacts. Selected articles are translated into Spanish, Japanese and Finnish.

WISE was established in 1978 by safe energy activists as an international switchboard focussing on nuclear issues.

For subscription information:
World Information Service on Energy
PO Box 87, Glen Aplin, Queensland, 4381

WANTED

Research on the Arms Trade & Australian Militarism

CAMPAIGN AGAINST MILITARISM (CAM) is an anti-war activist group based in Melbourne which is doing research on companies and institutions involved in the arms trade and war. CAM is now in the process of updating and expanding on other such research to create a resource for those working for a nonviolent, just and sustainable society.

The aim is to:

- create a database of companies involved in war production and link this to similar work done on environmental and other issues;
- produce a book/directory of Australian arms trading and militarism;
- provide information on specific companies for non-buyers guides, careers information days, CAM's Military Mystery Tours etc.;
- educate those interested in peace issues about the nature and extent of multinational investment and profiteering from war.

CAM would like to hear from groups/researchers who may already be doing this kind of work.

You can help by:

- mailing CAM articles, documents, company listings etc. on specific companies and their involvement in production, purchasing, maintenance, exporting of military equipment/services;
- sending information on contracts for military research/services undertaken by educational and corporate institutions;
- suggesting organisations/sources CAM might approach for this type of information or passing on this request;
- sending a donation to assist in CAM's educational work in opposing Australian militarism.

Contact:

CAMPAIGN AGAINST MILITARISM
PO BOX 1351, COLLINGWOOD, VICTORIA 3066
Tel: 03 419 5937 Fax: 03 416 2746
Pegasus conference: oz.military
or via email: laic@peg.apc.org

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