

NPA

4 June, 1988.

PRESS RELEASE

The Macarthur Branch of the National Parks Association welcomes the Minister's announcement to acquire the northern section of the Yeoman sub-division to protect koala habitat.

"This acquisition removes the final impediment towards the dedication of the Dharawal Nature Reserve, which will provide the means of adequately managing and protecting the habitat of this significant population of koalas so close to Sydney.", Grahame Douglas, President of the Macarthur Branch of the National Parks Association said today.

The dedication of the Dharawal Nature Reserve cannot be underestimated in the proper management of this unique resource.

"The Association is concerned that the Government does not have available sufficient funding to complete the acquisition of the remaining three blocks on the escarpment which are also considered vital to the koalas' long-term viability in this area." he went on to say.

As such, the Macarthur Branch of the NPA of NSW is seeking public donations for the purchase of these remaining three blocks to complement the Government's initiative. Donations can be made to the Treasurer of the National Parks Association of NSW, Macarthur Branch, P.O. Box 792, Campbelltown, NSW, 2560.

Further information can be gained from Grahame Douglas on 046 - 66 7794.



PRESS RELEASE / LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,

I have read with great concern your report on the danger to a koala colony by the proposed development of land known as "the Yeomans Estate" at Wedderburn, and would like an opportunity to correct your report, and present the true facts.

I totally agree that we must protect and preserve the areas of the food trees and habitat of our Wedderburn Koalas, and ensure their survival.

The koala colony is established over an area of 5,200 ha, mainly in land owned by the Army, known as H range, and having restricted access to the public. Koalas have been sighted in a gully within the Yeomans Estate and along the edge of O'Hares Creek gorge, also within the Yeomans Estate. Both of these areas, comprising 90ha are to be transferred to Council as Public Reserve, as part of the conditions of Campbelltown City Council's Development Approval. A further 90 ha which is not considered to be part of the Koala colony area, is also being transferred to Council as Public Reserve.

The balance of the Yeomans Estate is not being developed into a "housing Estate", but is being subdivided into 26 rural lots, having a minimum area of 4 ha. Most of the area being developed is land that was cleared by the former owner some 20 years ago, and used as grazing land for cattle. There are 8 lots bordering the Koala habitat, 6 of which are covered by low scrub with very little tree cover. Each lot has a building area which is restricted to that part which is already cleared. A tree preservation order by the Campbelltown City Council is over all the lots.

Roads to be constructed are along the mainly cleared ridge tops and are not within or adjoining the Koala habitat. The roads will be sensitively constructed to ensure minimum disturbance.

As a resident of Wedderburn, and an avid bush walker, I appreciate the unique bushland in our area, and I am particularly thrilled by the presence of the Koalas. My personal effort will be given to preserving this bushland, and I appreciate and applaud the efforts of the National Parks Association in their push to establish the O'Hares Creek nature reserve, which will include the Koala's habitat.

Yours faithfully

P.W. LEAN  
PROJECT MANAGER for the  
YEXMANS ESTATE.





National Parks Association of NSW

Macarthur Branch  
P.O. Box 792,  
Campbelltown, 2560

ANews 1

May 29, 1988.

PRESS RELEASE

IMMINENT THREAT TO KOALAS

A significant koala population on the edge of Sydney, at Wedderburn near Campbelltown, is facing the threat of habitat destruction from rural residential sub-division. This highly significant colony, including numerous breeding animals and apparently disease-free, was only discovered 2 years ago. Despite requests to the NPWS and local Council for action to acquire part of the subdivision and rezone it to preserve habitat, there has been no action to date.

Now the blocks are being sold and bulldozers are set to push through access roads this week. What is required is an emergency heritage conservation order to be placed over the area by the Minister for Planning, Mr. Hay, to provide a "stay of execution" so that the Government can look to acquisition of the most vulnerable areas to protect the koalas. This would mainly consist of blocks on the east of the main access road and on the edge of the spectacular O'Hares Ck gorge.

The National Parks Association of NSW, Macarthur Branch, is spearheading the campaign to protect these koalas. They have proposed that the entire koala habitat be proclaimed a Nature Reserve, administered by NPWS.

Mr Hay's colleague, the Minister for Environment, Tim Moore, will be addressing a National Parks Association State Council meeting in Wedderburn on Sat. June 4. Local NPA members hope to apprise him of the urgency of the situation first-hand on that occasion.

Government response to this issue will be a test of their stated commitment to urban bushland conservation and to preservation of one of NSW's endangered species.

Local contacts: Grahame Douglas (Pres.) (046) 667794  
Julie Sheppard (Sec.) 046 271738

(046) 701492  
(leave message)

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1974

NOTICE OF REVOCATION OF  
INTERIM PROTECTION ORDER NO. 1.

IN PURSUANCE of Section 91E of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, I, TIMOTHY JOHN MOORE, the Minister for Environment, DO HEREBY REVOKE Interim Protection Order No. 1 which was published in the Government Gazette on 3rd June, 1988.



TIM MOORE,  
Minister for Environment

Sydney, 12<sup>th</sup> July, 1988.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE WEDDERBURN KOALAS

1. CONTACT YOUR STATE M.P. AND URGE HIM OR HER TO INSIST ON THE STATE GOVERNMENT APPROVING CAMPBELLTOWN COUNCIL'S APPLICATION TO REZONE THE AREA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE.
2. WRITE TO PREMIER GREINER POINTING OUT THAT KOALAS SHOULD NOT BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT. AS THEY ARE OF REGIONAL/STATE SIGNIFICANCE THEIR HABITAT SHOULD BE ZONED ACCORDINGLY.
3. AT THE SAME TIME CALL ON THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO PROCLAIM THE DHARAWAL NATURE RESERVE INCLUDING ACQUISITION OF THE CONTROVERSIAL LAND WHICH IS THE LINK BETWEEN STATE OWNED LAND TO THE SOUTH AND FEDERAL OWNED LAND TO THE NORTH.
4. SEND MONETARY DONATIONS TO THE CAMPBELLTOWN KOALA ASSOCIATION IN THE ATTACHED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.
5. WRITE LETTERS OF CONCERN TO ALL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS AND RING TALK BACK RADIO PROGRAMMES TO VOICE YOUR CONCERN.
6. CONTACT THE CAMPBELLTOWN KOALA ASSOCIATION FOR MORE INFORMATION ON 046 250289 OR P.O. BOX 1162, CAMPBELLTOWN, 2560.

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NP14079  
W5578

Mr Michael Knight MP.  
Member for Campbelltown.  
4th floor, Civic Centre  
Cnr Hurley and Broughton Streets  
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560



14 JUNE 1989

Dear Mr Knight,


I refer to your letter of 26 April 1989 with respect to Ms Dobson's letter of 14 April 1989, regarding the Wedderburn koala colony.

With regard to paragraph 12 of her letter, I wish to advise you that National Parks and Wildlife Service officers carried out site inspections on several occasions, but that a formal report is not available. However, at no time to my knowledge has any officer of the Service or CSIRO stated that they "can guarantee no damage to Wedderburn or the koala colony". I agree, however, that the Voluntary Conservation Agreement was drawn up to minimise any possible damage caused by the development.

Under the terms of the Voluntary Conservation Agreement, it is the responsibility of the National Parks and Wildlife Service to ensure that the buffer area to the main colony is protected and I believe that this agreement is a workable one, given an opportunity.

As I have previously advised Ms Dobson, in my view all steps that I could responsibly take under the National Parks and Wildlife Act have been taken and my obligations discharged by the Conservation Agreement executed with the developer.

Yours sincerely

  
Tim Moore  
Minister for the  
Environment

Voluntary Conservation Agreements are totally worthless because the National Parks & Wild Life Service has no powers to prosecute on Private Land. Statement 15/9/89 Campbelltown Koala Association. On advice from N.P.W.S.

Anews, Jane Hammond.

Wedderburn: The Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Union have placed a Green Ban on a site proposed for development in a bid to save a colony of koalas in Sydney's south-west.

The ban was put into effect on Monday August 8.

It is the first time in NSW that a Green Ban has been used to protect wildlife.

The development proposal by property investors Yap Yan Pin Pty Limited is for the sub-division of 26 rural-residential blocks.

The blocks range in price from \$109,000 to \$135,000 and deposits have been taken on all but one.

The Green Ban followed an about face on the issue by NSW Environment Minister Tim Moore.

Moore placed an interim protection order on the site on June 4 this year stating at the time that "Australians could kiss their koalas good bye unless immediate action could be taken to protect remaining colonies."

On July 12 the order was lifted and replaced by a "voluntary conservation agreement" with the developer.

The agreement contained provision for the realignment of some roads in the sub-division and limits to the movement of dogs off the leash.

Residents in near-by Campbelltown took immediate action calling a protest meeting at the development site and stating they would be prepared to stand in front of any bulldozers that attempted to start work at the site.

The koala colony has never been assessed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service but local bushwalkers have noted sightings of at least 70 of the animals and claim the colony is disease free and currently breeding.

The sub-division is sandwiched between an area of crown land called H range managed by the Department of Defence and O'Hares Creek catchment managed by the Water Board.

Both parcels of land have been put forward by the Macarthur branch of the National Parks Association as a proposed nature reserve known as the Dharawal Nature Reserve which will be bisected by the sub-division.

Local conservationists called for the acquisition of the land by the Government but when such calls went unheeded launched their own fund in an effort to buy the land in the sub-division to ensure its protection.

Moore is on record as saying the removal of the koalas from Wedderburn is to be considered.

Donations to the Koala Fund of over \$2 are tax deductible and can be sent c/- The National Parks Association, PO Box A96 Sydney South 2000.



FAIRFAX COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS. Page 1  
Listing of: B:PARK

Anews feature, jane

Wedderburn: A relatively undisturbed area within minutes of the centre of Campbelltown contains a wealth of unique wildlife including koalas, wedgetailed eagles and platypus.

But pressure from urbanisation, developers and control burning by the Department of Defence threatens the future of this remanant pocket of rare and endanged animals and plants.

The opening of a rural residential sub-division sale in Wedderburn has forced local conservationists into the position of having to widely publicise the existance of a colony of koalas in the area after carefully guarding the secret for two years.

Secretary of the Macarthur branch of the National Parks Association, Julie Sheppard said she feared for the safety of the colony now that its location has become public knowledge.

She said the NPA had been lobbying behind closed doors in an attempt to have the habitat of the koalas preserved since their discovery in June 1986 but during that time had failed to stop the carving up of the Yeomans property and plans for its sale.

The sale of 26 blocks at the site off Victoria Road -10 of which are regarded as environmentally sensitive by local conservationists - officially opened last week.

A spokesman for the developers said deposits had already been taken on eight of the blocks, two of which were defined by the conservationists as being in the area they hope will be bought by the government and changed to a nature reserve.

The sub-division is sandwiched between an area of Crown land called H Range managed by the Department of Defence and O'Hares Creek catchment managed by the Water Board.

Both parcels of land have been put forward by the NPA as a proposed nature reserve known as the Dharawal Nature Reserve which will be bi-sected by the sub-division.

The Total Environment Centre in Sydney is calling for the aquisition of all the undeveloped sections of the Yeoman's property thought to be worth around \$1.05 million.

A spokesman for the centre, Keith Muir said if the land was aquired by the government for the purpose of a nature reserve it could provide an uninterrupted wildlife corridor between O'Hares Creek catchment and the upper Georges River Open Space, completing the Dharawal Nature Reserve.

Mr Muir said H Range was in excellent condition as the use of live ammunition had not been allowed in the area.

He said O'Hares Creek was one of the few remaining creeks in close proximity to Sydney with water quality high, enough to be drunk straight from the source.

The NPA believes the koala colony may have settled in the Yeomans property area while seeking refuge from the activities of the army on the adjoining reserve and are being squeezed into a small pocket of undisturbed bushland.

It is this pocket the conservationists see as threatened by the impending rural residential development, settlement and road building.