

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

NINTH MEETING

To be held at the National Parks
Authority of Western Australia,
Matilda Bay, Crawley,

at

10 am on Thursday, 10 July 1980.

Phone (09) 386 8811.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

NINTH MEETING

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies.
2. Adoption of agenda.
3. Summary record of eighth meeting of Council.
4. Marine parks and reserves.
5. International matters.
6. State representation on Australian delegations.
7. World Wildlife Fund.
8. World Conservation Strategy.
9. Reports from Working Groups.
 - (a) Kangaroo Management.
United States ban on importation of kangaroo products.
 - (b) Youth for Conservation Program.
 - (c) Law Enforcement.
 - (d) Remote Sensing.
 - (e) Selection and Classification of Protected Areas.
 - (f) Sub-professional Training.
 - (g) Endangered Fauna. *Freckled Duck (SA)*
 - (h) Endangered Flora.
 - (i) Technical Conference Program.
10. Proposed working group on endangered vertebrates.
11. Interstate trade in fauna.
12. Protection of marine mammals.
13. Annual statement of research projects.
14. Export of family pets.
15. Cage standards for circus animals.
16. Endorsement of "Flora of Central Australia".
17. Senate Standing Committee inquiry into forestry.
18. Other business. *Aquarium Fish*
19. Next meeting of Council.
20. Press statement.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 1 : Welcome and apologies.

For the information of Ministers, a list of all members of both Council and Standing Committee is attached.

A list of Ministers and advisers actually in attendance will be distributed at the meeting of Council.

FOR INFORMATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

Commonwealth:

Hon. D.S. Thomson, M.P.,
Minister for Science and the Environment.

Australian Capital Territory:

Hon. R.J. Ellicott, M.P.,
Minister for Home Affairs and Minister
for the Capital Territory.

Northern Territory:

Hon. P.A. Everingham, M.L.A.,
Chief Minister and Attorney-General.

Queensland:

Hon. I.J. Gibbs, M.L.A.,
Minister for Culture, National Parks
and Recreation.

New South Wales:

Hon. E.L. Bedford, M.P.,
Minister for Planning and Environment.

Victoria:

Hon. W.V. Houghton, M.L.C.,
Minister for Conservation.

Tasmania:

Hon. A.B. Lohrey, M.H.A.,
Minister for National Parks and
Wildlife, Lands and the Environment.

South Australia:

Hon. D.C. Wotton, M.P.,
Minister of Environment and
Minister of Planning.

Western Australia:

Hon. G.E. Masters, M.L.C.,
Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife,
Conservation and the Environment.

New Zealand (observer):

Hon. V.S. Young, M.P.,
Minister for Lands, Forests and the
Environment.

Papua New Guinea (observer):

Hon. I. Kor, M.P.,
Minister for Environment and
Conservation.

Secretariat:

Mr. P. Reece,
Secretary to Council.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

STANDING COMMITTEE

Commonwealth:

Prof. J.D. Ovington,
Director,
Australian National Parks and
Wildlife Service.

Dr. R.J. Millington,
Chief,
CSIRO Division of Land Use Research.

Australian Capital Territory:

Dr. B.H. Pratt,
Director (Conservation and Agriculture),
Department of the Capital Territory.

Northern Territory:

Dr. G.A. Letts,
Director,
Conservation Commission of the
Northern Territory.

Queensland:

Dr. G.W. Saunders,
Director,
National Parks and Wildlife Service.

New South Wales:

Mr. D.A. Johnstone,
Director,
National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Victoria:

Mr J.C. Wharton,
Director,
Fisheries and Wildlife Division,
Ministry for Conservation.

Mr. D.S. Saunders,
Director,
National Parks Service,
Ministry for Conservation.

Tasmania:

Mr P. Murrell,
Director,
National Parks and Wildlife Service.

South Australia:

Dr. P.W. Ellyard,
Director-General,
Department for the Environment.

Western Australia:

Mr B.K. Bowen,
Director,
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Dr. F.G. Smith,
Director of National Parks,
National Parks Authority of
Western Australia.

New Zealand (observer):

Mr. N.S. Coad,
Director-General,
Department of Lands and Survey.

Papua New Guinea (observer):

Mr. S. Gorio,
Executive Director,
Papua New Guinea National Parks Board.

Secretariat:

Mr. D. McAllister,
Secretary to Standing Committee.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 2 : Adoption of agenda.

Standing Committee has reviewed the matters listed for discussion at the meeting of Council and adoption of the agenda is recommended,

Any additional matters may be dealt with under "other business" (agenda item 18).

FOR CONSIDERATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 3 : Summary record of eighth meeting of Council.

The draft summary record of the eighth meeting of Council, which was held in Sydney on 23 April 1979, is attached for the information of members, and its confirmation as an accurate account of the proceedings is recommended.

Copies of the full verbatim transcript of the eighth meeting are available from the Secretariat if required.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

EIGHTH MEETING

SYDNEY 23 APRIL 1979

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

EIGHTH MEETING

SYDNEY 23 APRIL 1979

MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS PRESENT

New South Wales:

Hon. D.P. Landa,
Minister for Planning
and Environment.
(Chairman).

Mr K.C. O'Connell.
(Alternate Chairman).

Mr D.A. Johnstone.
Mr W.S. Steel.
Mr G.W. Reid.
Mr A. Hallett.

Commonwealth:

Senator Hon. J.J. Webster,
Minister for Science and
the Environment.

Prof. J.D. Ovington.
Mr H.J. Higgs.
Dr R.W. Boden.

Australian Capital Territory:

Dr B.H. Pratt, representing
Hon. R.J. Ellicott,
Minister for the Capital
Territory.

Northern Territory:

Hon. P.A. Everingham,
Chief Minister and
Attorney-General.

Mr W.T. Hare.

Queensland:

Hon. T.G. Newbery,
Minister for Culture, National
Parks and Recreation.

Dr G.W. Saunders.
Dr H.J. Lavery.
Mr W.J. Chadwick.

Victoria:

Hon. W.A. Borthwick,
Minister for Conservation.

Mr J.D. Brookes.
Mr D.S. Saunders.

Tasmania:

Hon. A.B. Lohrey,
Minister for National Parks
and Wildlife.

Mr P. Murrell.

South Australia:

Dr J.R. Cornwall,
Minister designate for
Lands and the Environment.

Mr P.C. Cornish.
Mr N. Newland.
Ms S. Barker.

Western Australia:

Mr C.F. Jenkins, representing
Hon. R.J. O'Connor,
Minister for Fisheries and
Wildlife, Conservation and
the Environment.

Mr B.K. Bowen.

Papua New Guinea:

Hon. P. Kakarya,
Minister for Environment and
Conservation.

Mr S. Gorio.

New Zealand:

Mr N.S. Coad, representing
Hon. V.S. Young,
Minister for Lands, Forests and
the Environment.

Secretariat:

Mr R.E. Hogg,
Secretary to Council.

Mr D. McAllister.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies.
2. Adoption of agenda.
3. Summary record of seventh meeting of Council.
4. Role and operation of Council and Standing Committee.
5. Marine parks and reserves.
6. Role of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.
7. World Wildlife Fund.
8. International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.
 - (a) Assistance for Chairman of Commission on Ecology.
 - (b) Development of criteria for selection and classification of protected areas.
 - (c) Role of nature conservation agencies in environmental education.
 - (d) Red data book of endangered Australian fauna.
 - (e) Establishment of Australian committee of IUCN members.
9. International matters.
10. Reports from Working Groups.
 - (a) Youth for Conservation Program.
 - (b) Technical Conference Program.
 - (c) Sub-professional Training.
 - (d) Law Enforcement.
 - (e) Remote Sensing.
 - (f) Endangered Fauna.
 - (g) Endangered Flora.

11. Kangaroo management.
12. Attendance of observers at Council meetings.
13. Annual statement of research projects.
14. National wetlands survey.
15. Cage standards for travelling circuses.
16. Importation of aquarium fishes.
17. Representation on Australian Forestry Council working group.
18. Submission by Institute of Foresters to Senate Standing Committee inquiry into forestry.
19. Other business.
 - (a) Australian involvement in whaling.
 - (b) Declaration of national parks and nature reserves.
20. Next meeting of Council.
21. Press statement.

Agenda Item 1 - Welcome and apologies

The Chairman, Mr Landa, opened the meeting at 9.30 am and welcomed all Ministers and their advisers, in particular Mr Kakarya from Papua New Guinea and Mr Coad from New Zealand who were attending as observers.

Mr Landa explained that he would have to be absent for part of the meeting and during that time Mr O'Connell would act as alternate Chairman.

The meeting was informed that apologies had been received from:

- Hon. R.J. Ellicott, who was being represented by Dr Pratt.
- Hon. R.J. O'Connor, who was being represented by Mr Jenkins.
- Hon. V.S. Young, who was being represented by Mr Coad.

Council noted that Mr Hogg was acting as Secretary in place of Mr R.E. Jordan.

Agenda Item 2 - Adoption of agenda

Council adopted the provisional agenda for the meeting without alteration.

Agenda Item 3 - Summary record of seventh meeting of Council

Council confirmed the revised summary record of its seventh meeting, incorporating several minor additions proposed by members, as an accurate account of the proceedings.

Council noted that in compliance with the agreed procedure the summary record, having been cleared by all Ministers who attended the seventh meeting, would be tabled in Federal Parliament in due course.

Agenda Item 4 - Role and operation of Council and Standing Committee

Council reviewed the statement on the objectives and future organisation and operation of CONCOM which had been redrafted by Standing Committee in accordance with the views expressed by Ministers at the previous meeting, and resolved that subject to the inclusion of several further amendments the statement was acceptable for adoption.

(RESOLUTION 108)



CHIEF MINISTER

DARWIN

11 July 1979

The Secretary to Council of
Nature Conservation Ministers,
P.O. Box 1890,
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2601

Dear Sir,

Thank you for copy of the Draft Summary Record of the Eighth Meeting of Council of Nature Conservation Ministers. I believe some expansion of item 6 "Role of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service" is required, and attach hereto an amended version of the item.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Everingham', written over the typed name.

PAUL EVERINGHAM

Encl.

The Chief Minister for the Northern Territory stated that he considered the ANPWS had departed from its agreed role and from acceptance of the resolution at the seventh meeting of Concom in regard to -

- ... Drafting of management plans without adequate consultation with N.T.
- ... Unilateral consultation with Aboriginal land owners.
- ... Failure to amend the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act to ensure that the powers are in line with the roles defined for the service, in accordance with the undertaking given in the Prime Minister's letter of 11 August 1976.

Senator Webster responded by outlining the activities of the ANPWS and claimed that he had been advised that the ANPWS had adhered to its role. He suggested that any Minister who wished to propose amendments to the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act should correspond directly with him.

Council also reaffirmed the resolution from its January 1974 meeting that resolutions of Council and recommendations of Standing Committee would be reached by consensus.

(A copy of the agreed version of the statement on the role and operation of CONCOM is attached to this summary record).

Agenda Item 5 - Marine parks and reserves

Council reviewed in detail and amended where necessary the report on marine parks and reserves which had been prepared by Standing Committee in response to the decision by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General to refer the whole question of marine parks and reserves to CONCOM for consideration and advice.

Following tentative agreement being reached on the respective roles of the Commonwealth and the States regarding the establishment and management of marine parks and reserves (other than in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park region), Council resolved to submit the revised report to the next meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General for consideration of the relevant legal implications.

(RESOLUTION 109)

Council also endorsed the recommendation contained in the report that formal liaison be established between CONCOM and the Australian Fisheries Council in relation to marine parks and reserves, and resolved to request advice from Standing Committee as to how this liaison might be achieved.

(RESOLUTION 110)

Agenda Item 6 - Role of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service

Council sought advice from the Commonwealth Minister regarding the role of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service following the resolution from its previous meeting that:

- (i) The ANPWS be required to conform to the role defined and agreed to by Council at its November 1976 meeting.
- (ii) The necessary amendments to the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act be encouraged.
- (iii) The ANPWS withdraw from all land holding activities and all parks at present under its control be returned to the appropriate State or Territory government.
- (iv) The ANPWS refrain from negotiations with Aboriginal peoples without the full knowledge, consent and involvement of the relevant State or Territory government.

Senator Webster responded by outlining the activities of the ANPWS and suggesting that any Minister who wished to propose amendments to the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act should correspond directly with him.

Agenda Item 7 - World Wildlife Fund

Council discussed the proposed operation of the World Wildlife Fund in Australia, noting advice from Standing Committee that:

- (i) Informal discussions had been held with Dr D.F. McMichael (who was a WWF Trustee, a member of the Executive Council and Chairman of the Conservation Program Committee) to ascertain his views on a proposal for co-operation between CONCOM and WWF, and he had agreed in principle to the need for such co-operation in examining projects seeking assistance from WWF.
- (ii) Three persons closely associated with CONCOM (Dr G.W. Saunders, Professor J.D. Ovington and Mr W.S. Steel) had been appointed to the Conservation Program Committee, the body responsible for recommending projects to the Board of Trustees for funding.
- (iii) WWF had been asked to ensure that all projects which it proposed to support were referred for comment to the responsible government agency in the State or Territory where the work was to be carried out, and confirmation had been received that this would be done as a matter of course.

In view of these developments, Council resolved to endorse the recommendation by Standing Committee that the operation of WWF and its interaction with government nature conservation agencies be monitored for a period of twelve months, and the situation be then reviewed in the light of experience gained during that time.

(RESOLUTION 111)

The Secretariat distributed copies of the WWF Australia conservation program for 1979/80 for the information of Ministers.

Agenda Item 8 - International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

- (a) Assistance for Chairman of Commission on Ecology

Council noted that, in his capacity as current Chairman of the IUCN Commission on Ecology, Professor Ovington was expected to work on a voluntary basis and that he received no direct assistance from IUCN.

Council acknowledged that Australia had an obligation to support the work of the Commission, and accordingly resolved to endorse the recommendation by Standing Committee that the Commonwealth be requested to provide executive assistance for the Chairman and funds to cover the operating costs of his Australian office.

(RESOLUTION 112)

(b) Development of criteria for selection and classification of protected areas

Council noted difficulties which had arisen at both the national and international levels due to the range of nomenclature used by the States, the Territories and the Commonwealth to describe areas reserved for nature conservation purposes, and recognised that the introduction of uniform nomenclature for Australia as a whole would:

- (i) Facilitate the development of criteria for the selection and classification of protected areas.
- (ii) Facilitate the development of consistent management principles for protected areas.
- (iii) Assist government agencies to present a united and uniform approach regarding the objectives of nature conservation.
- (iv) Create better understanding between delegates attending interstate and international conferences and meetings.

Council therefore resolved to endorse the recommendation by Standing Committee that an ad hoc Working Group on Selection and Classification of Protected Areas be established, with terms of reference:

To report to Standing Committee by its first meeting in 1980 on:

- (i) Current nomenclature used for protected areas by member agencies in each State and Territory and the management principles applying to each category.
- (ii) Possible rationalisation of this nomenclature throughout Australia based on existing IUCN

terminology and the relevant criteria for the selection and classification of protected areas.

(RESOLUTION 113)

(c) Role of nature conservation agencies in environmental education

Council noted the proposal to establish a regional committee of the IUCN Commission on Education in Australia, and agreed upon the desirability of identifying the role of government nature conservation in relation to environmental education.

Council also noted that Standing Committee, having received a report from each member regarding the environmental education programs in which his agency was involved, was impressed with the range of activities related to environmental education currently being carried out in Australia.

Council therefore resolved to endorse the recommendation by Standing Committee that member agencies be encouraged by their governments to involve themselves in environmental education programs wherever possible.

(RESOLUTION 114)

(d) Red data book of endangered Australian fauna

Council noted that Standing Committee, following consideration of the report of the IUCN Survival Service Commission, had requested the ad hoc Working Group on Endangered Fauna to investigate the possibility of preparing a red data book of endangered Australian fauna in the format used by IUCN, similar to that covering rare and endangered species (both fauna and flora) in the USSR.

(e) Establishment of Australian committee of IUCN members

Council noted action being taken to establish a committee of all Australian Agency members of IUCN in order to promote a closer relationship between government and non-government nature conservation organisations.

Agenda Item 9 - International matters

Council noted the report summarising the current status of each existing or proposed international convention related to nature conservation.

Council also noted advice regarding the meeting to be held in Bonn in June to conclude the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals, and in particular that:

- (i) The Australian delegation to the meeting would put forward the view that a federal clause should be included in the Convention.
- (ii) The question of State representation on the Australian delegation would be considered when details of the meeting had been finalised.

Agenda Item 10 - Reports from Working Groups

(a) Youth for Conservation Program

Council considered in detail the draft program, prepared at its request by the ad hoc Working Group on the Youth for Conservation Program, whereby State and Territory parks services would help relieve youth unemployment by engaging young persons for work on specific projects to which the services were already committed, and on which job skills of value to future employers and an understanding of nature conservation could be developed.

Council subsequently resolved to:

- (i) Accept in principle the concept of a youth for conservation program and request the Working Group, subject to (ii) below, to further develop the program with a view to introducing it on a trial basis.
- (ii) Request the Commonwealth to allow the transfer of funds which would otherwise be used for unemployment relief to pay participants in any such program the equivalent of the unemployment benefit, in addition to the supplementary amount proposed for payment by the State or Territory involved.

(RESOLUTION 115)

(b) Technical Conference Program

Council endorsed the mode of operation to be followed by the ad hoc Working Group on the CONCOM Technical Conference Program in collating, examining and making recommendations to Standing Committee concerning proposals for technical conferences to be sponsored by Council.

(c) Sub-professional Training

Council noted that the initial meeting of training officers from each State and Territory nature conservation agency, as recommended to Standing Committee by the ad hoc Working Group on Sub-professional Training to assist in developing nationally co-ordinated guidelines for the education and training of staff, would be convened in mid-June.

(d) Law Enforcement

Council noted that the ad hoc Working Group on Law Enforcement had met recently and had made recommendations concerning the movement of fauna between States and Territories, the export of fauna from Australia and cage standards for travelling circuses, all of which would be considered by Standing Committee at its next meeting.

(e) Remote Sensing

Council noted that the ad hoc Working Group on Remote Sensing had submitted an interim report to Standing Committee on the potential of remote sensing in the field of nature conservation, and that preparation of the final report would be commenced following a conference on the technology and uses of remote sensing to be held at Macquarie University in late May.

(f) Endangered Fauna

Council noted that the ad hoc Working Group on Endangered Fauna, in conjunction with the task of preparing an official list of endangered fauna for Australia, had been requested by Standing Committee to investigate the possibility of producing a red data book of endangered Australian fauna in the format used by IUCN.

(g) Endangered Flora

Council noted that the ad hoc Working Group on Endangered Flora, at the request of Standing Committee, had identified a number of short-term projects considered to be of significance in promoting the conservation of Australian flora, some of which were being undertaken by individual agencies.

Agenda Item 11 - Kangaroo management

Council discussed problems which were being experienced by several States with the operation of the system of carcass tags for commercially harvested kangaroos, and resolved to establish an ad hoc Working Group on Kangaroo Management to review the tagging system and make recommendations to Standing Committee as to whether it should be continued, amended or abolished.

(RESOLUTION 116)

Agenda Item 12 - Attendance of observers at Council meetings

Council considered the suggestion by Senator Mulvihill to Senator Webster that members of the Senate Standing Committee on Science and the Environment be given observer status at Council meetings, and resolved to reiterate its earlier decision that Council meetings would remain closed to outside observers.

(RESOLUTION 117)

Agenda Item 13 - Annual statement of research projects

Council noted that Standing Committee would be producing annually for the information of Ministers a statement describing in a standardised format all relevant research projects being undertaken or sponsored by member agencies.

Agenda Item 14 - National wetlands survey

Council expressed concern that, in response to its request to the Commonwealth to examine ways of financing a national wetlands survey, both the Director of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Secretary of CSIRO had replied that additional funds would not be available from Commonwealth sources.

Council acknowledged the high priority of the national wetlands survey as a conservation objective, and accordingly resolved to urge the Commonwealth to undertake the survey over a number of years, using the resources of CSIRO, in conjunction with State agencies.

(RESOLUTION 118)

Agenda Item 15 - Cage standards for travelling circuses

Council noted that Standing Committee had considered the need for all States and Territories to adopt uniform standards for circus cages to ensure adequate accommodation for animals while enabling the circuses to travel within Australia without meeting conflicting regulations, and that it was obtaining advice from the ad hoc Working Group on Law Enforcement regarding the development of such standards.

Agenda Item 16 - Importation of aquarium fishes

Council noted advice from the Secretary of the Australian Fisheries Council, following the expression of CONCOM concern at the risk of introducing exotic plants and animals, diseases and parasites with imported aquarium fishes, regarding action being taken by that Council, in co-operation with the relevant Commonwealth authorities, to greatly reduce the number of live fishes imported into Australia.

Agenda Item 17 - Representation on Australian Forestry Council working group

Council noted advice from the Secretary of the Australian Forestry Council that, in response to the request for CONCOM representation on an appropriate working group in order to make that Council aware of the implications for wildlife of forestry operations in general and to initiate action to minimise habitat loss or degradation, the Council was prepared to:

- (i) Provide a schedule of agenda items proposed for discussion at its meetings.
- (ii) Provide only limited documentation in relation to these agenda items.
- (iii) Allow observer status on sub-committees or working parties only for discussion of specific matters of mutual interest.

Agenda Item 18 - Submission by Institute of Foresters to Senate Standing Committee inquiry into forestry

Council noted that the submission presented on behalf of the Australian Institute of Foresters to the inquiry being conducted by the Senate Standing Committee on Trade and Commerce into Australia's forestry and forest products industries contained several unsubstantiated criticisms of existing national parks policy and practice in Australia, and agreed that CONCOM should respond to the submission in order to balance the record of the inquiry.

Because of the time factor, Council resolved that the Chairman would write to the Senate Standing Committee as soon as possible, conveying the views of Council regarding the Institute of Foresters submission and offering to expand on these views at a later date if required.

(RESOLUTION 119)

Agenda Item 19 - Other business

(a) Australian involvement in whaling

Council noted advice from Senator Webster that, following consideration of the report of the Frost inquiry into whales and whaling, the Commonwealth had announced a policy of opposition to whaling and the intention of pursuing this policy both domestically and internationally.

(b) Declaration of national parks and nature reserves

Council noted advice of the declaration of Gudgenby Nature Reserve in the Australian Capital Territory and an additional thirteen national parks in Victoria to coincide with the centenary of Royal National Park in New South Wales.

Council also noted a statement tabled by Senator Webster in relation to the declaration of Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory.

Agenda Item 20 - Next meeting of Council

Council resolved to accept the invitation issued by Mr Jenkins on behalf of Mr O'Connor to hold its next meeting in Western Australia in July 1980.

Agenda Item 21 - Press statement

Council agreed upon the attached press statement covering the major decisions of the meeting.

Mr Newbery expressed the thanks of all members to the Chairman and his staff for their hospitality and efforts to ensure an effective meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4.15 pm and thanked all participants for their co-operation.

PRESS RELEASECOUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

The Council of Nature Conservation Ministers (CONCOM) which comprises Ministers responsible for nature conservation from the Commonwealth, the States, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory held its annual meeting in Sydney today. Papua New Guinea and New Zealand were represented by observers.

The Council is to investigate the establishment of a "Youth for Conservation Program" in Australia.

The Council of Nature Conservation Ministers has recommended to the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General co-operative arrangements between the Commonwealth and the States for the establishment and management of marine parks and reserves.

CONCOM reviewed the problems of marine parks and supported the need for a representative system of marine parks and reserves. It undertook to examine administrative and management arrangements when responsibilities over the territorial sea were settled following the next Premiers' Conference.

The Ministers emphasised the strong justification for the establishment of a system of marine parks and reserves.

Ministers were critical of a recent statement to the Senate Standing Committee on Trade and Commerce by the Australian Institute of Foresters strongly criticising the concept of national parks. It was agreed that the Chairman of Council would write to the Senate Standing Committee expressing the concern of the meeting.

The meeting of Ministers coincided with the celebration of the centenary of the creation of Australia's first national park, the Royal National Park.

The Council considered the proposed operation of the World Wildlife Fund in Australia and decided that the operation of the fund and its interaction with government nature conservation agencies would be watched with interest during the next year.

Further matters decided by the Council included the instituting of a review of the criteria for the selection and classification of protected areas and a recommendation that member agencies involve themselves in environmental education programs wherever possible.

The difficulties experienced in kangaroo management because of the United States' embargo on the importation of kangaroo products were discussed by the Ministers.

The Council strongly endorsed the need for a national wetlands survey conducted in co-operation between the States, the Territories and the Commonwealth and urged the Commonwealth Government to provide funds to initiate the survey.

23 April 1979

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

1. Introduction

Australian plants, animals and landforms are of considerable national and international importance because of their uniqueness. Most of the species of plants and animals do not occur elsewhere in the world.

They are valuable assets and important for tourism, education, scientific study and recreation. Although some natural systems need to be manipulated and changed for productive uses, representative areas of different kinds of land and their associated plant and animal communities must be protected and managed as part of Australia's national heritage.

Custody and care of these assets rests with the responsible Ministers in the States, the Territories and the Commonwealth, co-ordinated where necessary through Council.

2. Membership of CONCOM

(a) Council

Council consists of all Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers responsible for national parks and wildlife and the Commonwealth Minister responsible for the CSIRO.

(b) Standing Committee

Standing Committee consists of senior Commonwealth, State and Territory officers selected by the Ministers responsible for national parks and wildlife from appropriate agencies.

At the invitation of Council, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand send observers to meetings of both Council and Standing Committee.

(c) Secretariat

Council and Standing Committee are served by a Secretariat of officers provided by the Commonwealth Department of Science and the Environment. Its role is to service meetings, draft reports and undertake investigations as decided by Council or Standing Committee.

3. Objectives of CONCOM

Council advises governments on matters of national and international policy in relation to nature conservation, in particular concerning national parks and wildlife, as follows:

- (i) With respect to national policy, Council will consider those matters where it is necessary for common attitudes on the part of States, Territories and the Commonwealth to achieve an objective.

- (ii) With respect to international policy, Council will consider those matters where the exercise of both Commonwealth and State powers is needed to achieve an objective, where treaties, conventions or other international agreements are under negotiation or consideration, or where input or comment is required regarding matters under consideration by international organisations.

Within this framework, Council will provide a forum for Ministers to review current policy developments and innovations, both national and international, in the conservation and management of native fauna and flora and the establishment and management of areas for nature conservation, and examine matters of a legislative or administrative significance relevant to nature conservation in Australia. It is recognised that Council is a co-operative advisory body but does not have executive responsibility.

4. Role of Standing Committee

Standing Committee advises Council on policy matters and carries out research into and investigation of such matters as required by Council. For these purposes Standing Committee may establish ad hoc working groups.

Standing Committee also provides the opportunity for members to discuss and inform themselves on matters which may not at the time be of such importance as to warrant reference to Council.

5. Guidelines for operation of Council and Standing Committee

The following guidelines are proposed for the future operation of CONCOM:

- (i) Council to meet annually.
- (ii) Council meetings to include a field inspection.
- (iii) Chairmanship of Council and Standing Committee to rotate between the States, the Territories and the Commonwealth.
- (iv) Resolutions of Council and recommendations of Standing Committee to be by consensus.
- (v) Council to review the operation of Standing Committee from time to time.
- (vi) Standing Committee to meet approximately six weeks prior to Council meetings to review all material being submitted to Council and at other times as necessary.
- (vii) Standing Committee to propose a program of technical conferences to be considered by Council.

- (viii) Working groups to be established as required to investigate and report on matters as directed by Council, and each working group to be given a firm statement by Standing Committee detailing its terms of reference and timetable, both of which are to be strictly adhered to.
- (ix) Written material submitted to Council and Standing Committee to follow guidelines prepared and distributed by the Secretariat (based on the writing conventions adopted by the Australian Agricultural Council and the Australian Fisheries Council).
- (x) The Secretariat to monitor the findings and recommendations of parliamentary inquiries, seminars and the like in relation to nature conservation and bring to the attention of Standing Committee any matters requiring consideration.

6. A program for CONCOM

CONCOM provides an appropriate forum for the discussion of important matters in relation to nature conservation and the development of a broad understanding of Australia-wide conservation issues to assist Ministers in their decision making function.

Some matters for consideration concerning philosophies and principles applicable to the conservation of Australian fauna, flora and ecosystems (not in order of priority) are as follows:

- (i) Trafficking in fauna and flora, including:
 - Possession.
 - Obtaining and disposing.
 - Trade.
- (ii) Commercial exploitation of wildlife, including:
 - Management of populations.
 - Farming.
 - Reduction of pest species.
 - Displays.
- (iii) Hunting, including ground rules for framing laws and regulations.
- (iv) Wildlife management authority policies for non-commercial species with respect to culling populations, rescue operations, etc.

- (v) Diseases affecting or likely to affect natural communities, particularly with respect to:
- Those not already present in Australia.
 - Methods of control and eradication in Australia.
- (vi) Requirements of staff, facilities and equipment for the basic protection of areas set aside as national parks and nature reserves, including those at present little used by people, and the effect of increasing numbers of visitors on those requirements to ensure adequate park management and maintain nature conservation values. This is required as the basis for developing philosophies, principles and practices with respect to the rate of development of these areas for public use and enjoyment.
- (vii) Adequate and relevant education and training of all staff involved in nature conservation management.
- (viii) Public awareness and understanding of the objectives and practices of nature conservation.

Each of these topics or portions of them may be considered in turn. The preparation of a document for consideration by Standing Committee could be undertaken by a working group and draft recommendations presented to Council for consideration and adoption. Such recommendations would have benefit and value to individual Ministers and their governments and could well have a significant influence on the activities and decisions of other ministerial councils in matters of joint concern.

23 April 1979

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 4 : Marine parks and reserves.

At its last meeting (23 April 1979), Council reviewed in detail a report on marine parks and reserves which had been prepared by Standing Committee in response to the decision by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General to refer the whole question of marine parks and reserves to CONCOM for consideration and advice.

Following tentative agreement being reached on the respective roles of the Commonwealth and the States in the establishment and management of marine parks and reserves (outside the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park region), Council resolved to:

- (i) Submit the CONCOM report to the next meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General for consideration of the relevant legal implications.
- (ii) Endorse the recommendation contained in the report that formal liaison be set up between CONCOM and the Australian Fisheries Council in relation to marine parks and reserves.

The Standing Committee of Attorneys-General considered the CONCOM report at its meeting on 4 May 1979 and referred the administrative arrangements proposed therein to the Premiers' Conference on 29 June 1979. The Premiers' Conference accepted these arrangements as the basis for future action.

The agreement reached at the Premiers' Conference regarding marine parks and reserves (other than the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park), as set out in the offshore constitutional settlement between the Commonwealth and the States, is as follows:

"The general division of responsibility is that parks or reserves within the outer limit of the territorial sea would be established under State legislation and parks or reserves beyond would be established by Commonwealth legislation with management responsibilities determined after consultation between the State concerned and the Commonwealth.

Where an area proposed as a marine park or reserve lies across the boundary of the territorial sea, the State concerned would establish that portion within the outer limit of the territorial sea under State legislation and the Commonwealth would legislate for that portion seawards of the outer limit of the territorial sea. Such arrangements would be subject to agreement between the State concerned and the Commonwealth on policy, planning and management for the whole area.

The only departure envisaged from this general division of responsibilities is where the Commonwealth and the State concerned agree that a proposed park within the territorial sea has international significance but where the State does not wish to legislate itself. In that event, the Commonwealth would legislate.

The need for consultation between the States and the Commonwealth in the establishment of marine parks and reserves has been recognised."

In response to the resolution of Council that formal liaison be set up between CONCOM and the Australian Fisheries Council, Standing Committee requested Mr Bowen, as current Chairman of both the CONCOM and AFC Standing Committees, to convey to the AFC the CONCOM proposition that each proposal for the establishment of a marine park or reserve which would extend across the boundary of the territorial sea be submitted to both CONCOM and the AFC for information and comment.

The AFC considered the CONCOM proposition at its meeting on 2 November 1979 and agreed in principle to the suggested liaison. However, Standing Committee has noted that the relevant resolution of the AFC appears to anticipate a greater degree of involvement by the AFC than had been intended in the CONCOM proposition (specifically, that the AFC should "have the opportunity to advise on the establishment and management of marine parks and reserves", rather than merely "have each proposal for the establishment of a marine park or reserve which would extend across the boundary of the territorial sea submitted to it for information and comment").

The AFC Secretariat has been requested to clarify this point to enable the procedure for liaison between the two Councils to be finalised.

Subject to the agreement of the AFC, Standing Committee has resolved that each initial proposal to develop a marine park or reserve which meets the accepted criteria will be forwarded by the appropriate State and Commonwealth authorities to the Secretariat, who will in turn refer it to both the member agencies of CONCOM and the AFC Secretariat.

FOR INFORMATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 5 : International matters.

At its sixth meeting (July 1977), Council resolved that a standing item on international matters of relevance to CONCOM be included on the agenda for each future meeting.

Accordingly, a report on the current status of each of the following international conventions or agreements is attached:

- (i) The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat.
- (ii) The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.
- (iii) The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- (iv) The Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals.
- (v) The Agreement Between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Birds in Danger of Extinction and Their Environment.
- (vi) A Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific.
- (vii) The Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention.
- (viii) The Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals.
- (ix) The Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Flora and Fauna.

FOR INFORMATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

Australia is a contracting party to the following international conservation treaties:

(1) The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat concluded on 2 February 1971 at Ramsar, Iran. Australia signed the Convention on 8 May 1974, without reservation to ratification, and became the first country to fully adhere to the principles of the Convention. This Convention, which was signed at Ramsar, and is thus known also as the Ramsar Agreement, came into force on 21 December 1975. Australia was able to ratify immediately because it was possible for responsibilities under this Convention to be fulfilled through administrative action or under legislation already in force.

The Cobourg Peninsula Flora and Fauna Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, in the Northern Territory, and wetlands in Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory, have been nominated by Australia, under the terms of this Convention, as wetlands of international significance. Australian States have not nominated any wetlands under their control for listing on the Convention.

(2) The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was concluded on 16 November 1972 and was ratified by Australia on 22 August 1974. The Convention came into force on 19 December 1975, three months after the twentieth country ratified it. Australia has fulfilled the obligations under the Convention by the passage of the Australian Heritage Commission Act in 1975 and by the creation of the Australian Heritage Commission.

The World Heritage List has been set up under the terms of this Convention. The Prime Minister has announced that Kakadu National Park will be nominated for inclusion in the World Heritage List and that the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments will discuss a proposal to nominate the Great Barrier Reef.

(3) The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was concluded at Washington on 3 March 1973 and entered into force in Australia on 27 October 1976 and regulations pertaining to this Convention have been made under the Customs Act 1901 and the External Territories Acceptance Acts. The Customs (Endangered Species) Regulations were promulgated on 30 September 1976 and came into operation on 27 October 1976. Through membership of the CONCOM Ad Hoc Working Group on Endangered Fauna the States participate in periodic reviews of listings of Australian species on Appendices to this Convention.

Australia is a signatory to the following three treaties for which ratification awaits legislation:

(1) The Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals was drafted by twelve nations, including Australia, in February 1972 and came into force on 11 March 1978 following ratification by seven parties. The Convention applies to seas and ice-floes south of 60°S latitude. It aims to promote and achieve the protection and scientific study of Antarctic seals, while making provision for their rational use as resources, bearing in mind the need to maintain a satisfactory balance within the ecological system of the Antarctic. Australia signed the Convention on 5 October 1972, but ratification has not proceeded pending the enactment of appropriate legislation to ensure adherence to the provisions of the Convention. The Prime Minister has advised all State Premiers and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory that the Commonwealth proposes to take the necessary steps to ratify this Convention.

(2) The Agreement Between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Birds in Danger of Extinction and Their Environment was signed in Tokyo on 6 February 1974, but has not yet been ratified by Australia. Legislation is required to enable Australia to fulfil the obligations incurred. The Prime

Minister invited the States and the Northern Territory to legislate in the first instance, as appropriate, to implement the obligations imposed by the Agreement. With the co-operation of the States, the N.T. and the A.C.T., the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department examined existing State and Territory legislation to identify legislative and administrative actions required to enable Australia to ratify the Agreement. When these actions have been taken, and when the Commonwealth has taken similar actions in the External Territories and Commonwealth Places the Migratory Birds Agreement will be ratified by Australia.

(3) A Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific was adopted at Apia, Western Samoa, on 12 June 1976. A draft of the proposed Convention had previously been referred to the States at Prime Minister to Premier level in February and again in May 1976, and the Australian delegation to the Conference successfully negotiated a number of amendments to the draft Convention to meet views put by the States. Consultations have taken place between Commonwealth officers and officers from New South Wales and Tasmania to determine the extent to which legislation in those States is in conformity with the Convention. Consultations are to be initiated with other States, the N.T. and the A.C.T. to ascertain whether the laws and practices of these places are consistent with the Convention.

Australia participated in meetings that concluded two conventions but at this time there has been no decision by Australia on signing either convention. These conventions are:

(1) The Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention concluded at Canberra, 20 June 1980 establishes a conservation framework within which provision is made for harvest of living marine resources. It does not directly affect the interests of States or Internal Territories, except in the case of Tasmania, where Hobart is to be the site of the Antarctic Marine Living Resources Commission.

(2) The Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals was finalised on 23 June 1979 at Bonn, West Germany. The Convention was open for signature from 7 July 1979 and 15 nations were to become party to it before it could come into force. The requisite number of nations has now signed, but Australia is not among them, since it is held that adherence to this Convention would have weakened controls and measures implicit in agreements Australia has already negotiated or was then negotiating.

Australia is a signatory to the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Flora and Fauna which was concluded at the Third Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, held at Brussels on 2-13 June 1964. The Agreed Measures establishes a system for protection of wildlife and its habitats in Antarctic, and will come into effect when adopted by all consultative parties. To date, the Measures have been adopted by all consultative parties except Japan and Australia. The Antarctic Treaty (Environment Protection) Act, now awaiting Royal Assent, will enable Australia to adopt the Measures.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 6 : State representation on Australian delegations.

Following discussions at the October 1977 Premiers' Conference, the Commonwealth agreed that in appropriate cases State representatives could be included on Australian delegations to international conferences dealing with "State" matters, on the understanding that:

- (i) The State representatives would be present not to share in the making of policy decisions or to speak on behalf of Australia, but to ensure that the States were aware of the proceedings and were able to put their views to the Commonwealth.
- (ii) The initiative for the inclusion of State representatives should come from the States, and in view of their agreed role the cost of their attendance should be borne by the States.

Standing Committee has considered possible arrangements for the inclusion of State representatives on future Australian delegations negotiating international conventions and agreements of relevance to CONCOM, and recommends to Council that:

- (i) The current Chairman of Standing Committee or his nominee be the person proposed to the Commonwealth as the States' representative on any particular delegation.
- (ii) If the current Chairman is a Commonwealth officer, then the person proposed be the next Chairman from a State or the Northern Territory or his nominee.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

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- (i) The current Chairman of Standing Committee or his nominee be the person proposed to the Commonwealth as the States' representative on any particular delegation.
- (ii) If the current Chairman is a Commonwealth officer, then the person proposed be the next Chairman from a State or the Northern Territory or his nominee.

- (iii) The cost of sending a States' representative on each delegation be shared equally by the States and Territories.
- (iv) Under the cost sharing arrangements, CONCOM might also nominate a technical adviser for inclusion on a delegation.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 7 : World Wildlife Fund.

At its last meeting, Council discussed the proposed operation of the World Wildlife Fund in Australia, noting advice from Standing Committee that:

- (i) Informal discussions had been held with Dr D.F. McMichael (who was a WWF Trustee, a member of the Executive Council and Chairman of the Conservation Program Committee) to ascertain his views on a proposal for co-operation between CONCOM and WWF, and he had agreed in principle to the need for such co-operation in examining projects seeking assistance from WWF.
- (ii) Two members of Standing Committee had been appointed to the Conservation Program Committee, the body responsible for recommending projects to the Board of Trustees for funding.
- (iii) WWF had been asked to ensure that all projects which it intended to support were referred for comment to the responsible government agency in the State or Territory where the work was to be carried out, and confirmation had been received that this would be done as a matter of course.

In view of these developments, Council resolved to endorse the recommendation by Standing Committee that the operation of WWF and its interaction with government agencies be monitored for a period of twelve months, and the situation be then reviewed in the light of experience gained during that time.

Standing Committee wishes to report to Council that:

- (i) Over the past twelve months, relations between WWF and the agencies represented on CONCOM have been generally satisfactory.
- (ii) Although in several cases WWF has not observed its undertaking to refer all projects which it intends to support to the responsible government agencies for comment, following strong representations by the Secretariat these initial difficulties have been overcome.
- (iii) Monitoring of the operation of WWF will continue on an informal basis, with members of Standing Committee having an opportunity to report at meetings on any difficulties which arise due to the activities of WWF.

FOR INFORMATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 8 : World Conservation Strategy.

A majority of the government agencies represented on CONCOM were involved in the simultaneous launching of the IUCN World Conservation Strategy in Canberra and the State Capitals on 6 March 1980. The Australian launching ceremony, which coincided with similar functions in over thirty other countries, was performed by the Prime Minister.

In his capacity as President of the Australian Committee for IUCN, Mr Johnstone subsequently wrote to the Prime Minister suggesting that he request CONCOM to consider the applicability of the Strategy to Australia with a view to recommending to the Commonwealth how it might best be implemented in this country.

The Prime Minister pointed out in his reply to Mr Johnstone that the complex nature of the issues raised in the Strategy necessitated detailed study and wide consultation at the Commonwealth level, and therefore it would be premature to refer the document to CONCOM at the present time.

For the information of Council, copies of Mr Johnstone's letter and the Prime Minister's reply are attached.

FOR INFORMATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

AUSTRALIAN COMMITTEE FOR I.U.C.N.

International Union for
Conservation of Nature
and Natural Resources -
P.O. Box N189,
Grosvenor Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000.

31st March, 1980.

The Rt. Hon. J.M. Fraser, C.H., M.P.,
Prime Minister of Australia,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2601.

Dear Prime Minister,

Your acceptance of the invitation to launch the World Conservation Strategy of I.U.C.N. in Australia and your remarks on that occasion have given much encouragement to my Committee. It is apparent that the importance which I.U.C.N. and all its members throughout the world place on the messages contained in the Strategy are recognised and appreciated by you.

There is no doubt that in Australia there is widespread awareness throughout the community about the need for the wise use of Australia's natural resources. Nor is there any doubt that there have been many notable achievements in this country in nature conservation. Our record in the establishment of national parks, the introduction of measures to conserve our native fauna and flora, and our recognition of the need to measure the benefits of development projects against their environmental effects are evidence of these achievements.

The aims and objectives of the World Conservation Strategy, as you are aware, are not only directed at governments of developing third world countries. Governments of all countries, no matter how well advanced they may be in nature conservation, will find in the Strategy messages applicable to resource management in their countries.

My Committee wishes to help in having identified those messages of the Strategy applicable to Australia, and in having positive action taken by governments in Australia to develop appropriate action programmes to achieve the objectives of the Strategy. It is with the greatest respect, Prime Minister, that my Committee suggests that your government is in the best position to give a lead to the governments of the States and Territories of Australia in taking note of the Strategy and giving effect in Australia to its messages.

While there could well be a number of ways in which appropriate action could be initiated, one that appeals to my Committee is to use the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers of Australia (CONCOM) as a forum in which representatives of nature conservation organisations from both the government and non-government sectors throughout Australia could consider the need for and nature of appropriate action programmes in this country. CONCOM, representing as it does all the government nature conservation agencies of Australia at Federal, State and Territory Government levels, has available to it the combined resources of all these agencies.

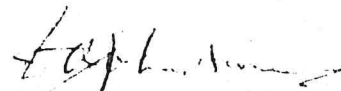
The next meeting of the Council is to be held in Perth in July, 1980. It is respectfully suggested that a message from you through your colleague, Hon. D.S. Thomson, Minister for Science and Environment to Ministers at the meeting commending the World Conservation Strategy to them and suggesting that they consider its applicability to Australia with a view to bringing forward recommendations to your government and their governments would be a most significant initiative to be taken by this country in response to the challenge of the Strategy.

In commending this action to you, my Committee recognises that other steps may be contemplated by your government in response to the World Conservation Strategy. Indeed it is known that the Australian Conservation Foundation has made an approach to you seeking your agreement to convene a meeting of representatives of government and non-government nature conservation bodies to have a wide ranging discussion on this matter. My Committee does not wish to prejudice this or any other initiatives which may be under consideration by your government.

Notwithstanding this position, my Committee is anxious that the momentum generated by the world launch of the Strategy and its attendant media coverage in Australia is not lost, and feels that the opportunity presented at the next meeting of CONCOM of having Ministers representing all governments in Australia consider this important matter is critical to maintaining this momentum.

I have sent a copy of this letter to your colleague, Hon. D.S. Thomson, Minister for Science and Environment for his information as a matter of courtesy.

Yours sincerely,



PRESIDENT,
AUSTRALIAN COMMITTEE
FOR I.U.C.N.

COPY

Prime Minister,
CANBERRA.

8 May 1980.

Dear Mr Johnstone,

Thank you for your letter of 31 March 1980 conveying the views of the Australian Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources concerning the furtherance in Australia of the principles imbued in the World Conservation Strategy.

I am grateful to you for letting me have the views of the Committee on possible further Government action concerning the application of the Strategy's principles in Australia.

I have carefully considered your proposal that the next meeting of the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers in Perth in July might be an appropriate occasion to convey a message through my colleague the Minister for Science and the Environment concerning the Commonwealth's reaction to the Strategy and its views on future developments. I am confident that you will understand that the Strategy is a complex concept, impinging on a wide range of interests of Commonwealth and State Governments and the community in general. The complete range of issues is being given careful consideration by the Government, entailing wide consultation and detailed study.

As the Strategy is under examination, I believe it would be premature for me to send a message at present. Commonwealth Ministers will shortly be considering the Strategy in detail. When this process is complete, I shall write to you again.

Yours sincerely,

(Malcolm Fraser)

Mr D.A. Johnstone,
President,
Australian Committee for IUCN,
P.O. Box N189,
Grosvenor Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 9(a) : Ad hoc Working Group on Kangaroo Management.

At its last meeting, Council discussed problems which were being experienced by several States with the operation of the system of carcass tags for commercially harvested kangaroos, and resolved to establish the ad hoc Working Group on Kangaroo Management to review the tagging system and make recommendations to Standing Committee as to whether it should be continued, amended or abolished.

Standing Committee subsequently determined that the terms of reference of the Working Group would be:

Based upon experience gained during the past five years:

- (i) Prepare a five-year summary of the commercial take of kangaroos by species.
- (ii) Describe the mechanism for allocating and distributing carcass tags to the kangaroo industry.
- (iii) Report on the costs involved in the use of tags in the kangaroo management program, including the staff costs of administration.
- (iv) Report on the importance of tags as:
 - A mechanism for control and inspection in the kangaroo management program.
 - A factor in ensuring the conservation of kangaroos.
- (v) Present recommendations to Standing Committee as to whether the tagging system for controlling the take of kangaroos in the States should be continued, amended or abolished.

The Working Group submitted its report to the October 1979 meeting of Standing Committee, and on the basis of the material provided Standing Committee recommends to Council that:

- (i) The present tagging system be retained as it forms an integral part of the kangaroo management programs of the States. ✓
- (ii) As special problems do occur in the management of kangaroo populations, the State quotas for harvesting commercial species be set within biologically meaningful ranges, rather than as specific figures. X
- (iii) These ranges be reviewed every three years and re-established for the next three-year period. X

For the information of Council, the full report of the Working Group is attached.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON KANGAROO MANAGEMENT

REPORT TO STANDING COMMITTEE

1. Introduction

At its meeting in April 1979, Council discussed problems which were being experienced by several States with the operation of the system of carcase tags for commercially harvested kangaroos, and resolved to establish an ad hoc Working Group on Kangaroo Management to review the tagging system and make recommendations to Standing Committee as to whether it should be continued, amended or abolished.

Standing Committee subsequently determined that the terms of reference of the Working Group would be:

Based upon experience gained during the past five years:

- (a) Prepare a five-year summary of the commercial take of kangaroos by species.
- (b) Describe the mechanism for allocating and distributing carcase tags to the kangaroo industry.
- (c) Report on the costs involved in the use of tags in the kangaroo management program, including the staff costs of administration.
- (d) Report on the importance of tags as:
 - (i) A mechanism for control and inspection in the kangaroo management program.
 - (ii) A factor in ensuring the conservation of kangaroos.
- (e) Present recommendations to Standing Committee as to whether the tagging system for controlling the take of kangaroos in the States should be continued, amended or abolished.

(An interim report of progress would be provided by 1 September 1979 with the final report by 1 April 1980).

The initial meeting of the Working Group was held at the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, 138 Albert Street, Brisbane, on Wednesday, 1 August 1979.

Representatives and observers present were:

Queensland:

Dr H.J. Lavery (Convenor).
Dr T.H. Kirkpatrick.
Mr H.S. Curtis.
Mr C. Roff.

New South Wales:

Mr J.R. Giles.

South Australia:

Mr L.B. Delroy.

Western Australia:

Mr D. Arnold.

Tasmania:

Mr R.J. Pearse.

Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service:

Mr N.C. Gare.

Mr R.C. Longmore.

Secretariat:

Mr D. McAllister.

An apology was received from Mr W.E. Letton of the Bureau of Customs.

The Working Group agreed to frame its report to Standing Committee in accordance with the above terms of reference.

2. Five-year summary of the commercial take of kangaroos

Agreeing that statistics of harvests of commercial species of kangaroos should be maintained at annual rests (calendar years), the figures representing numbers of individuals of species (or recognisable groups of species) taken or proposed to be taken regionally,

And noting that such figures are available in each "commercial-harvesting" State each year in half-decade rests,

Then a five-year summary of commercial kangaroo harvests in these States for the period 1972-78 is provided (Attachment A).

3. Mechanism for allocating and distributing carcass tags to the kangaroo industry

Agreeing that the actual method of distributing tags has been satisfactorily summarised (Attachment B), and that allocation must be, and is, a basic matter of State legislation and logistics,

And noting that these procedures can and should be improved substantially, especially in Queensland,

Then it is recommended that the present situation continue but be subject to review.

4. Costs involved in the use of tags in the kangaroo management program

Agreeing that an actual cost to each State exists in tag purchase and tag distribution as follows:

	<u>Purchase (\$)</u>	<u>Distribution (\$)</u>
Queensland:	36 000	34 000
New South Wales:	20 700	3 500
Tasmania:	N/A	1 000
South Australia:	4 700	10 300 6 000
Western Australia:	9 000	4 000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	70 400	52 800
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	123 200

And noting that opportunity costs are involved insofar as (i) funds and services could perhaps be used more advantageously elsewhere in nature conservation or (ii) without such a system no industry would be permitted to exist,

Then it is observed that this is an inevitable cost which is relatively insignificant.

(An estimate for each State of the income in 1979 from the sale of tags is as follows:

	\$
Queensland:	462 300
New South Wales:	166 300
Tasmania:	NIL
South Australia:	20 000
Western Australia:	38 000.)

5. Importance of tags

Given that as in the "Report of the Ministerial Working Party on Kangaroo Conservation" of 30 May 1973, "the majority of States favoured a system requiring all skins entering commercial trade to be marked as an aid to the identification of kangaroos taken legally",

And given that as in the "Report on export of kangaroo skins and products - Customs aspects" of 30 July 1979, "if the tagging requirement is abolished it is problematical, on the information now available, as to whether Customs could properly discharge the responsibility of identifying skins or products brought to a place of export. As the existence of a tag is a prerequisite to the acceptance of documentary evidence now used there is reason to doubt whether export permits could be issued",

And accepting that tags (or some equivalent mark best resolved at State level) have value in intra- and inter-State manipulation of harvesting, movement and dealing purposes, and auditing function,

But noting that Bureau of Customs notice No. 75/104 provides only that "intending exporters must produce evidence to the satisfaction of Collectors at the time of application for restricted goods export permits that the skins and/or products are derived from animals taken in accordance with State law. Permits issued by the respective State fauna authorities constitute acceptable evidence in some cases*, however Collectors may require additional documentary and physical checks to be made", that is, tags per se are not necessarily required,

Then it follows that tags (or some equivalent mark) are currently an integral part of the kangaroo management program and thus have a part in kangaroo conservation.

- * The Working Group considers that State fauna authorities have similar requirements to those of Customs in relation to checks which can be applied to requests for intra-State movement of kangaroo products.

6. Recommendations to Standing Committee

It is concluded that the present tagging system at a cost must be retained as part of the kangaroo management program, but that as special problems do occur in the management of kangaroo populations there is a need for recognition that the harvest quotas allocated by the States should have upper and lower limits rather than consist of specific figures, and that the range of the quotas should be reviewed on a three-yearly basis.

Convenor,
Ad hoc Working Group on
Kangaroo Management,
August 1979.

COMMERCIALY HARVESTED KANGAROOS

<u>Queensland:</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>
- grey kangaroo.	741 593	340 751	222 568	363 520	421 808
- red kangaroo.	240 684	83 067	58 959	95 225	106 971
- euro.	26 367	14 263	11 672	6 026	31 949
- whiptail wallaby, brush wallaby, swamp wallaby.	64 953	19 579	24 254	32 367	59 181

Note: Figures for years after 1976 not yet available.

<u>New South Wales:</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
- grey kangaroo, red kangaroo.	94 815	122 868	96 734	167 208	242 918

<u>Tasmania:</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
- Bennetts wallaby, rufous wallaby.	17 438	7 700	15 505	33 567	75 561

<u>South Australia:</u>	<u>1973/74</u>	<u>1974/75</u>	<u>1975/76</u>	<u>1976/77</u>	<u>1977/78</u>
- western grey kangaroo, red kangaroo, euro.	40 597	43 677	34 524	60 698	88 473

Note: Approximate proportions are western grey 30%, red 68%, euro 1-2%.

<u>Western Australia:</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
- western grey kangaroo.	11 000	8 000	9 000	14 000	11 000
- red kangaroo.	119 000	129 000	110 000	144 000	152 000
- euro.	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	4 000

Note: All figures rounded to thousands.

DISTRIBUTION OF CARCASE TAGS

Queensland:

When an application from a prospective kangaroo shooter is received by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, a permit and a quantity of tags are issued to the shooter providing he has enclosed thirty cents per tag with his application.

Each tag is numbered and a record is kept of the quantity and numbers of tags sent to each shooter.

To facilitate the handling of tags to shooters the Service changes the colour of the tags each year.

If any particular shooter requires further tags he may apply to the Service for an increase in his original quota. This increase is usually granted and the tags are supplied at thirty cents each.

Refunds were available on excess tags not used by the shooter, but this ceased as from 28 September 1979. The refund was usually only applicable for the return of twenty or more tags.

New South Wales:

Plastic royalty tags may only be utilised in the field by licenced kangaroo shooters who obtain them from (i) a licenced outlet of a licenced kangaroo wholesaler, who may purchase them from the head office of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, or (ii) the head office either in person or upon written application and the payment of fifteen cents per tag.

Cloth tags are issued from district offices of the Service in quantities equivalent to the number of kangaroos a property owner is licenced to cull from his property, and may either be used by the owner himself or supplied to a licenced kangaroo shooter who may use them in conjunction with royalty tags to legalise the commercial utilisation of the carcasses.

Tasmania:

Carcase tags are not used for wallaby in Tasmania. Wallaby are culled by farmers and their agents, as a pest control operation, under crop protection permits and by licenced hunters during an annual open season. However, meat and skins may be sold to licenced fauna dealers. Skins are presented to the National Parks and Wildlife Service by the dealers for royalty payment and are marked with a stamp.

Numbered self-locking plastic tags are used in the forester kangaroo management program, which currently involves the shooting of approximately 1 500 animals per year. The animals are shot to reduce density on grazing lands and to protect crops and pastures. If a property owner is issued with a permit to cull forester kangaroo he also receives plastic tags, one for each kangaroo which he is entitled to shoot. The tag must be placed on the carcass. Meat and skins may be sold to licenced fauna dealers, and the tag remains with the skin.

South Australia:

Commercial harvesting is permitted in only about one quarter of the State, south of the dog fence and north of the settled areas (i.e., the pastoral areas).

All tags are issued to processors. However, they must obtain the nomination of a private property owner to allocate tags to a destruction permit.

Destruction permits are issued to individual property owners and are based on aerial surveys carried out by Sydney University. These annual surveys estimate the numbers of kangaroos in seventeen regions of the commercial zone. Individual property destruction permit numbers are related by station area and relative known carrying capacity to the total number of kangaroos in each of the regions. It is assumed that 80% of the property owners in each region apply for a permit to destroy, and corrections are made where this does not occur.

Annual harvest summaries are based on numbered tags allocated to specific properties by the processors.

Western Australia:

Consecutively numbered self-locking plastic tags are issued to be placed on kangaroo skins and carcasses taken for commercial purposes.

Different coloured tags are issued for each species (e.g., western grey kangaroo - white, red kangaroo - yellow, euro - blue).

The tags are manufactured and numbered in the State and cost the purchaser twenty cents each. Under the wildlife conservation legislation a royalty is paid to the State when the tag is attached to a skin or carcass.

Where the species harvested is being managed throughout its range (e.g., red kangaroo), the tags are issued direct to licenced kangaroo shooters, who attach them to the kangaroos at the time of shooting the animals.

Where the species harvested is being managed on a specific rangeland management program or property damage basis (e.g., red kangaroo under the Gascoyne Rangeland Rehabilitation Program, euro causing pastoral station damage, western grey kangaroo within the more intensive farming areas), the tags are issued to property occupiers, who make them available to licenced kangaroo shooters, who attach them to the kangaroos at the time of shooting the animals.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 9(a) : United States ban on importation of kangaroo products.

Dr David Anderson of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service visited Australia from 4 to 14 March 1980 to gain a better understanding of kangaroo management policies. Dr Anderson's visit was the culmination of a concentrated effort by Australian Wildlife authorities, co-ordinated through the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, to have the United States Government reconsider its decision to place three common species of kangaroo (the Red, Eastern Grey and Western Grey) on the threatened list of the U.S. Endangered Species Act. This listing, which has been effective since January 1975, resulted in the prohibition of all commercial importation of skins and products from these species.

During his visit Dr Anderson made inspections in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. He had discussions with a wide range of Commonwealth and State wildlife officials at the Ministerial, administrative and biological levels, and also met representatives of protectionist organisations.

At a final meeting in Canberra after completion of his program, Dr Anderson said that without doubt there were very large numbers of Red, Eastern Grey and Western Grey Kangaroos in Australia, and that they had reached plague proportions in certain areas.

As a result of Dr Anderson's visit and his subsequent report to the U.S. Department of the Interior, the United States Government announced on 30 May 1980 that the five-year ban on commercial importation of kangaroo skins and products would be lifted for a two-year trial period under a proposed rulemaking, which was published in the Federal Register on 16 June.

Publication of the rulemaking is now being followed by a thirty-day comment period. Advice has been received that the interval between the end of this comment period and publication of the final rule will depend upon the type

and seriousness of any comments submitted, but that the Fish and Wildlife Service wishes to finalise the issue as quickly as possible. However, the Australian Embassy in Washington has advised that the action by the United States Government might be the subject of court challenges by the preservationist lobby in the United States, which could delay the whole process for over two months.

During the two-year trial period the Fish and Wildlife Service will monitor the situation, and following a review at the end of the period will decide whether to:

- (i) Lift the import ban permanently or for another trial period; or
- (ii) Reimpose the import ban; or
- (iii) Remove the three species from the threatened list.

The Fish and Wildlife Service could reimpose the import ban during the trial period should it decide that there have been significant adverse effects on the kangaroo population due either to trade with the United States or other causes. The two-year trial period was arrived at as a "cautious" compromise.

FOR INFORMATION

Director,
Australian National Parks and
Wildlife Service,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 9(b) : Ad hoc Working Group on the Youth
for Conservation Program.

At its last meeting, Council examined in detail a draft program, prepared at its request by the ad hoc Working Group on the Youth for Conservation Program, whereby State and Territory parks services would help relieve youth unemployment by engaging young persons for work on specific projects to which the services were already committed, and on which job skills of value to future employers and an understanding of nature conservation could be developed.

Council subsequently resolved to:

- (i) Endorse in principle the concept of a youth for conservation program and request the Working Group, subject to (ii) below, to further develop the program with a view to introducing it on a trial basis.
- (ii) Request the Commonwealth Department of Social Security to allow the transfer of funds which would otherwise be used for unemployment relief to pay participants in any such program the equivalent of the unemployment benefit, in addition to the supplementary amount proposed for payment by the State or Territory involved.

The Director-General of Social Security advised Standing Committee on 16 November 1979 that the funding arrangements requested by Council would not be possible, and that as the CONCOM proposal was essentially one which fell within the responsibility of the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs, he had referred it to that Department for consideration.

Standing Committee has since been informed that the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs is developing a similar scheme as part of a much wider program of pilot projects aimed at involving young unemployed people in voluntary community service. It is understood that this scheme incorporates the principal features of the CONCOM proposal and is currently being considered by the Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs.

As it appears unlikely that any details of these pilot projects will be released prior to the meeting of Council, Standing Committee recommends to Council that, if when it is announced the Commonwealth scheme requires the involvement of CONCOM, the Working Group be reconvened to advise Standing Committee regarding future action.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 9(c) : Ad hoc Working Group on Law Enforcement.

At its seventh meeting (August 1978), Council resolved that the former Standing Working Group on Law Enforcement be permitted to continue on an ad hoc basis in order to review the existing enforcement procedures throughout Australia, in particular those concerned with the interstate movement of indigenous fauna and flora.

Standing Committee has considered the advice of the Working Group regarding the operation of a system of export and import licences to control the movement of indigenous fauna between the States and Territories, and recommends to Council that:

- (i) No export or import licences be issued for the movement within Australia of the following species, except for:
 - (a) Bona fide scientific research at a recognised institution.
 - (b) Display purposes at an approved zoo.
 - Gang gang cockatoos.
 - Golden-shouldered parrots.
 - Hooded parrots.
 - Orange-bellied parrots.
 - Fig parrots.
 - Naretha blue-bonnet parrots.
 - Eclectus parrots.
 - Red-cheeked parrots.
- (ii) A technical group comprising members of the Working Group and the former Standing Working Group on Birds periodically review the list in (i) above and recommend alterations to it as appropriate.
- (iii) For the movement within Australia of all other indigenous species, a positive indication that an import licence has

been or will be issued by the receiving State or Territory be required before the exporting State or Territory will issue an export licence.

Standing Committee also wishes to inform Council that, as part of a strategy to enable the assessment on an Australia-wide basis of future applications for permits to collect protected fauna, the Working Group is developing a standardised collection permit application form for use by all State and Territory agencies.

The Working Group has also made recommendations to Standing Committee in relation to the export of family pets (agenda item 14 refers) and cage standards for circus animals (agenda item 15 refers).

FOR CONSIDERATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 9(d) : Ad hoc Working Group on Remote Sensing.

At its seventh meeting (August 1978), Council considered a proposal by the Australian Committee for Earth Resources Technology Satellites that, as member agencies were likely to become major users of satellite-derived data, a remote sensing committee be set up within the structure of CONCOM to improve communication between all users of such data. Council endorsed a recommendation by Standing Committee that the ad hoc Working Group on Remote Sensing be established to:

- (i) Investigate the potential of remote sensing in the field of conservation and management of wildlife and other relevant natural resources.
- (ii) Advise Council and through Council the Department of Science and the Environment on the use of remote sensing in this field, and on any special equipment or data processing which might be required to fully utilise the available data.

An interim report by the Convenor of the Working Group will be tabled at the meeting of Council.

FOR INFORMATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

AGENDA ITEM 9 (d) AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON REMOTE SENSING -
Interim Report

Two meetings of this Working Group have now been held - one in Canberra on 12th August, 1978 and one in Sydney on 26th May, 1979, following the LANDSAT 79 Conference in Sydney. Reports of these meetings have already been submitted.

At the second meeting of the Working Group the Convenor undertook to prepare a final report, including a comprehensive review of relevant literature.

Work on the final report has now commenced and it should be completed in the next three to four months. Although its completion has been delayed, it will not be redundant because of continued developments in the technology of the field and increased Australian experience in the use of the techniques involved for evaluation and surveillance of phenomena of importance to nature conservation and agriculture. In New South Wales for example, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Agriculture have both been involved in joint research projects with International Business Machines to evaluate IBM software and equipment for processing LANDSAT data.

Approval of Standing Committee has been obtained for one additional meeting of the Working Group. This meeting is proposed to take place at the Department of Science and the Environment data receiving centre at Alice Springs in the latter part of August 1980. This new facility is now operational and a visit to it will allow members of the Working Group to obtain a better first hand understanding of the nature, use and limitations of equipment and data processing in use. A report on these will be included in the final report of the Working Group.

Convenor,
Ad hoc Working Group on
Remote Sensing.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 9(e) : Ad hoc Working Group on Selection
and Classification of Protected Areas.

At its meeting in May 1980, Standing Committee examined in detail a report prepared by the ad hoc Working Group on Selection and Classification of Protected Areas regarding possible rationalisation of the classification and nomenclature of land reserved and managed for nature conservation or cultural heritage preservation purposes.

Standing Committee expressed its appreciation to the Working Group for the comprehensive nature of the report, and resolved to submit to Council for determination of future action a paper incorporating the essence of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group.

Accordingly, Mr. Johnstone has prepared the attached paper for consideration by Council.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.



NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

THE SELECTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PROTECTED AREAS

1. The need for the development of an acceptable world-wide system of classifying areas protected for nature conservation purposes has been under consideration for many years by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (I.U.C.N.).
2. In the absence of such a system, considerable variation has developed throughout the world both in the nomenclature used and in the application of the names selected for protected areas. This has resulted in confusion in the public mind about the value and purpose of nature conservation areas and a lack of uniformity in the policies for their management.
3. In Australia there are at least 40 different names in use at present for application to areas reserved for conservation of natural and cultural resources (Appendix 1). CONCOM addressed itself to this problem in 1974 but no positive action was taken to remedy this position.
4. In 1978 the Commission of National Parks and Protected Areas of I.U.C.N. (CNPPA) published a report entitled "Categories, Objectives and Criteria for Protected Areas".
5. In summary, this report proposes that all conservation areas be classified into one of the following eight categories :
 - (i) Scientific Reserves;
 - (ii) National Park;
 - (iii) National Landmark;
 - (iv) Managed Nature Reserve;
 - (v) Protected Landscape;
 - (vi) Resource Reserve;
 - (vii) Anthropological Area;
 - (viii) Multiple Use Management Region.
6. Following the approval of Council at its meeting held in Sydney in April, 1979, this report was examined by a Working Group appointed by Standing Committee. The Working Group considered that, with slight modification the classification system recommended by CNPPA can be adapted to meet Australian requirements. Attached (Appendix 2) is a copy of the index of the working group report to indicate its scope.

7. The major advantage of adoption of such a system would be the development of uniform standards of identification and management nationally and internationally leading to better public understanding and acceptance of the need for protection of such areas and to better management of them.
8. Standing Committee at its meeting of 14th/15th May, 1980 considered the report of the Working Group which recommended, inter alia :
 - that CONCOM re-affirm its 1974 acknowledgement of the need for the introduction of a consistent system of classification and nomenclature throughout Australia;
 - that the CNPPA proposals be accepted in principle as a basis for earlier introduction by management authorities in Australia; and
 - that the report be further reviewed with a view to acceptance by nature conservation bodies and land management authorities and ultimate incorporation in Commonwealth and State legislation.
9. Following consideration of these and other recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group, Standing Committee resolved to submit to Council a paper incorporating the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group for determination by the Council of a course of action. It is suggested that Council note the report and ask Ministers responsible for authorities having responsibility for protected nature conservation areas to have their authorities and Governments examine the report and convey the views of their Governments on the recommendations contained in the report to the next meeting of Council, the views to be incorporated into a consolidated report by Standing Committee.

D. A. Johnstone,
DIRECTOR.

SUMMARY OF NOMENCLATURE IN USE1. Predominantly for Nature Conservation

Name	State/Territory where used.
National Park	N.S.W., A.C.T., Tasmania, South Australia Northern Territory, Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria.
Nature Reserve	N.S.W., Tasmania, Western Australia.
Wildlife Refuge	N.S.W.
Game Reserve	N.S.W., Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, Victoria.
Wildlife Sanctuary	Tasmania, Northern Territory, Western Australia.
Plant or Animal Sanctuary	South Australia.
Fauna Reserve	Queensland.
Fauna Refuge	Queensland
Fauna Sanctuary	Queensland
State Faunal Reserve	Victoria
State Wildlife Reserve	Victoria
State Game Reserve	Victoria
Scientific Reserve	Queensland
Flora Reserve	Victoria
Flora & Fauna Reserve	Victoria
Forest Park	Queensland, Victoria.
State Reserve	Tasmania.
Conservation Area	Victoria
Conservation Park	South Australia
Nature Park	Northern Territory
Conservation Reserve	Northern Territory
Environmental Park	Queensland
State Park	Victoria.

2. Recreation/Conservation Management

Name	State/Territory where used
State Recreation Area	N.S.W.
Recreation Park	South Australia
Other Park	Victoria
Bushland Reserve	Victoria
Department and Official Purpose Reserve	Queensland
Scenic Reserve	Victoria
Special Purpose Reserve	Victoria
Crown Land Reserve	Victoria
Reference Area	Victoria

3. Historic (Archaeological or Cultural) Protection

Name	State/Territory where used
Historic Site	N.S.W., Tasmania, Western Australia
Historical Reserve	Northern Territory
Wreck Site	Western Australia
Aboriginal Area	N.S.W.
Aboriginal Place	N.S.W.
Protected Archaeological Site	N.S.W., Tasmania.
Aboriginal Site	Tasmania, Western Australia
Aboriginal Reserve	Western Australia

REPORT TO STANDING COMMITTEE OF CONCOM
BY WORKING GROUP ON THE SELECTION AND
CLASSIFICATION OF PROTECTED AREAS

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Appendices

1. Extract of Minutes of Meeting of Standing Committee to CONCOM of June, 1974.
2. CNPPA Report entitled "Categories, Objectives and Criteria for Protected Areas". (1978)
3. U.N. List of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves. (1980)
4. CONCOM consideration of CNPPA report and report and recommendations of the Standing Committee. (April, 1979).
5. Authority for Establishment of the Working Group.
6. Composition of the Working Group.
7. Summary of discussions on "Review of Categories and Nomenclature for Protection Areas in Australia Against CNPPA Guidelines" - October, 1979.
- 8/1-
8/8 Table of Present Classifications Managed Predominantly for Nature Conservation Purposes.
9. Summary of information contained in Appendix 8.
10. No. of National Parks x Area.
11. Areas of Importance to Nature Conservation Managed by Other Authorities.
12. Summary of Existing Areas and the Reclassifications likely to occur.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 9(f) : Ad hoc Working Group on Sub-professional Training.

At its last meeting, Council noted that Standing Committee had initiated action in relation to the recommendations of the ad hoc Working Group on Sub-professional training that:

- (i) Each State and Commonwealth nature conservation agency proceed with and refine integrated external and in-service training programs as a matter of high priority.
- (ii) Each agency appoint at least one officer to be responsible for staff training.
- (iii) Formal liaison be established between the training officers of each agency and these officers meet at least once a year.
- (iv) The training officers co-operate to develop nationally co-ordinated guidelines for the education and training of staff.
- (v) Standing Committee appoint a convenor to initiate the meetings of training officers.

Arising from recommendation (iii) above, the first meeting of training officers was held at Kuringai Chase, New South Wales, in October 1979.

At its meeting in May 1980, Standing Committee considered and endorsed a proposal put forward by the meeting of training officers and supported by the Working Group that the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service facilitate the production of an "Australian Ranger Bulletin" as a vehicle for developing professional attitudes and skills in park management personnel. It is envisaged that:

- (i) This publication be a forum for training, communication and idea sharing at the national level.
- (ii) An editorial committee including Commonwealth, State and Territory representatives be established to review all material before publication.
- (iii) All contributions from each State or Territory be submitted to the editorial committee through the relevant representative for approval.
- (iv) A statement be made that the contributing organisations may not necessarily support any of the views expressed.

Standing Committee therefore recommends that Council endorse in principle the proposal for an "Australian Ranger Bulletin", and subject to this endorsement request the Minister for Science and the Environment to authorise the ANPWS to proceed with the production of the Bulletin in consultation with the State and Territory agencies.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 9(g) : Ad hoc Working Group on Endangered Fauna.

The current tasks of the ad hoc Working Group on Endangered Fauna, as noted by Council at its last meeting, are to:

- (i) Review the conservation status of Australian fauna against the criteria for listing species on Appendix I or Appendix II of the "Endangered Species Convention" (CITES) and propose amendments to the Appendices where necessary.
- (ii) Prepare an official list of Australian endangered fauna and review the contents of the list periodically.
- (iii) Investigate the possibility of producing a red data book of Australian endangered fauna in a format similar to that adopted by IUCN.

During the past twelve months, the Working Group has carried out these tasks by correspondence and reported to the regular meetings of Standing Committee in October 1979 and May 1980. The action in respect of each task is outlined below, including three recommendations to Council.

1. Australian fauna on the Appendices of CITES

Standing Committee has endorsed the recommendation of the Working Group that Australia propose the transfer of the following species from Appendix II to Appendix I of CITES, and requests the approval of Council to proceed with this action:

- Green turtle, Chelonia mydas
(Australian population).
- Flatback turtle, Chelonia depressa.
- Coxens fig parrot, Cyclopsitta diophthalma coxeni.

(Recommendation 1)

The criteria for the inclusion of species on Appendices I and II and for the transfer of species from Appendix II to Appendix I are attached for the information of Council (Attachment A).

Standing Committee has noted the continuing difficulty of obtaining with a minimum of delay Council endorsement of the proposals by the Working Group (and those by the ad hoc Working Group on Endangered Flora) for amendments to the Appendices of CITES. Standing Committee therefore recommends that Council delegate to it the responsibility for endorsing these proposals in future for transmission to the CITES Secretariat.

(Recommendation 2)

2. Official list of Australian endangered fauna

Standing Committee has examined the draft official list of Australian endangered fauna prepared by the Working Group and agreed that:

- (i) The list will be held and kept up-to-date by the Secretariat, and will be available for reference at all times.
- (ii) Whenever any proposed amendments to the list are endorsed by Standing Committee, the whole list will be circulated to member agencies with the additions or deletions clearly indicated.

The draft list is attached for consideration by Council (Attachment B).

Standing Committee recommends that Council:

- (i) Endorse the attached list of species as the initial official list of Australian endangered fauna.
- (ii) Direct that the list be only for internal use by Australia and not be used for international purposes, with the exception of (iii) below.
- (iii) Propose that the birds component of the list be adopted for the purpose of discharging Australia's responsibilities under the bilateral Agreement Between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Birds in Danger of Extinction and Their Environment.

- (iv) Agree to the inclusion on the list of the freshwater fishes to be nominated by an expert sub-committee of the Australian Fisheries Council.

(Recommendation 3)

3. Red data book of Australian endangered fauna

Standing Committee has received advice from the Working Group that the production of a red data book of Australian endangered fauna in the large and detailed format used by some other countries would be beyond the present resources of CONCOM. As an alternative, the Working Group is now preparing an annotated list of endangered species with a brief accompanying text on each, based on the official list of Australian endangered fauna.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
of Wild Fauna and Flora

Criteria for the addition of species and other taxa to Appendix I and Appendix II and for the transfer of species and other taxa from Appendix II to Appendix I.

Appendix I

1. Biological status: To qualify for Appendix I, species must be currently threatened with extinction. Information of any of the following types should be required, in order of preference: (a) scientific reports on the population size or geographic range of the species over a number of years, (b) scientific reports on the population size or geographic range of the species based on single surveys, (c) reports by reliable observers other than scientists on the population size or geographic range of the species over a number of years, or (d) reports from various sources on habitat destruction, heavy trade or other potential causes of extinction. Genera should be listed if most of their species are threatened with extinction and if identification of individual species within the genus is difficult. The same should apply to the listing of any smaller taxa within larger ones. If most of the smaller taxa are not threatened, but identification of individual species is difficult, the entire larger taxon should be placed on Appendix II. Taxa listed on Appendix I, because of difficulty in separating them from endangered forms within the same taxa, should be annotated as such on the Appendix.
2. Trade status: Species meeting the biological criteria should be listed on Appendix I if they are or may be affected by international trade. This should include any species that might be expected to be traded for any purpose, scientific or otherwise. Particular attention should be given to any species for which such trade might, over a period of time, involve numbers of specimens constituting a significant portion of the total population size necessary for the continued survival of the species. The biological status and trade status of a species are obviously related. When biological data show a species to be declining seriously, there need be only a probability of trade. When trade is known to occur, information on the biological status need not be as complete. This principle especially applies to groups of related species, where trade can readily shift from one species that is well known to another for which there is little biological information.

Appendix II

1. Biological status: To qualify for Appendix II, species need not currently be threatened with extinction, but there should be some indication that they might become so. Such an indication might be a decreasing or very limited population size or geographic range of distribution. Information on biological status should be one of the types required for Appendix I species. Genera should be listed if some of their species are threatened and identification of individual species within the genus is difficult. The same should apply to listing any smaller taxa within larger ones.

2. Trade status: Species meeting the biological criteria should be listed if they presently are subject to trade or are likely to become subject to trade. The latter situation can arise where heavy trade in one species is extended to include similar species if the demand grows or if supplies of the one species are depleted. The amount of trade that a species can sustain without threat of extinction generally will be greater for species on Appendix II than for those in Appendix I, so there should be evidence of actual or expected trade in such a volume as to constitute a potential threat to survival of the species. Appendix II serves in part as a monitoring tool to gather such trade data.

OFFICIAL LIST OF AUSTRALIAN ENDANGERED VERTEBRATE FAUNA

(Dates shown in parentheses represent the date of the last authentic record for a taxon.)

	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
Mammalia		
Marsupialia		
Macropodidae	<u>Bettongia lesueur</u>	Lesueur's Rat-kangaroo
	<u>Bettongia penicillata</u>	Brush-tailed Rat-kangaroo
	<u>Bettongia tropica</u>	Northern Rat-kangaroo
	<u>Caloprymnus campestris</u> (1935)	Desert Rat-kangaroo
	<u>Lagorchestes asomatus</u> (1931)	
	<u>Lagorchestes hirsutus</u>	Western Hare-wallaby
	<u>Lagorchestes leporides</u> (1890)	Eastern Hare-wallaby
	<u>Lagostrophus fasciatus</u>	Banded Hare-wallaby
	<u>Macropus greyi</u> (1927)	Toolache
	<u>Onychogalea frenata</u>	Bridled Nail-tailed Wallaby
	<u>Onychogalea lunata</u> (1930)	Crescent Nail-tailed Wallaby
	<u>Petrogale</u> sp. nov	Proserpine Rock-walaby
	<u>Potorous platyops</u> (ca. 1875)	Broad-faced Potoroo
Petauridae	<u>Gymnobelideus leadbeateri</u>	Leadbeater's Possum
Vombatidae	<u>Lasiorhinus krefftii</u>	Queensland Hairy-nosed Wombat
Peramelidae	<u>Chaeropus ecaudatus</u> (1926)	Pig-footed Bandicoot
	<u>Macrotis lagotis</u>	Rabbit-eared Bandicoot
	<u>Macrotis leucura</u>	Lesser Rabbit-eared Bandicoot
	<u>Perameles bougainville</u>	Barred Bandicoot
	<u>Perameles eremiana</u> (1931)	Desert Bandicoot

Thylacinidae	<u>Thylacinus cynocephalus</u> (1933)	Thylacine
Myrmecobiidae	<u>Myrmecobius fasciatus</u>	Numbat
Dasyuridae	<u>Sminthopsis longicaudata</u>	Long-tailed Dunnart
	<u>Sminthopsis psammophila</u>	Sandhill Dunnart
Rodentia		
Muridae	<u>Conilurus albipes</u> (1875)	White-footed Tree Rat
	<u>Leporillus apicalis</u> (ca. 1840)	White-tipped Stick-nest Rat
	<u>Leporillus conditor</u>	Stick-nest Rat
	<u>Notomys amplus</u> (1896)	Short-tailed Hopping-mouse
	<u>Notomys aquilo</u>	Northern Hopping-mouse
	<u>Notomys fuscus</u>	Dusky Hopping-mouse
	<u>Notomys longicaudatus</u> (1906)	Long-tailed Hopping-mouse
	<u>Notomys megalotis</u> (ca 1840)	Big-eared Hopping-mouse
	<u>Notomys mordax</u> (1840)	Darling-downs Hopping-mouse
	<u>Pseudomys fieldi</u> (1896)	Alice Springs Mouse
	<u>Pseudomys praeconis</u>	Shark Bay Mouse
	<u>Xeromys myoides</u>	False Water Rat
	<u>Zyzomys pedunculatus</u>	MacDonnell Range Rock-rat
Cetacea		
Balaenopteridae	<u>Balaenoptera musculus</u>	Blue Whale
	<u>Megaptera novaeangliae</u>	Humpback Whale
Balaenidae	<u>Eubalaena glacialis</u>	Right Whale
Aves		
Procellariiformes		
Procellariidae	<u>Pterodroma leucoptera</u> <u>leucoptera</u>	Goulds Petrel
	<u>Pterodroma solandri</u>	Providence Petrel
	<u>Puffinus carneipes</u> <u>hullianus</u>	Lord Howe Island Fleshy-footed Shearwater

Pelecaniformes		
Sulidae	<u>Sula abbotti</u>	Abbott's Booby
Fregatidae	<u>Fregata andrewsi</u>	Christmas Island Frigatebird
Falconiformes		
Accipitridae	<u>Accipiter radiatus</u>	Red Goshawk
Gruiformes		
Pedionomidae	<u>Pedionomus torquatus</u>	Plains Wanderer
Rallidae	<u>Tricholimnas sylvestris</u>	Lord Howe Island Woodhen
Charadriiformes		
Laridae	<u>Anous tenuirostris</u>	Lesser Noddy
Psittaciformes		
Psittacidae	<u>Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae cookii</u>	Norfolk Island Parrot
	<u>Cyclopsitta diopthalma coxeni</u>	Coxens fig parrot
	<u>Geopsittacus occidentalis</u>	Night Parrot
	<u>Neophema chrysogaster</u>	Orange-bellied Parrot
	<u>Pezoporus wallicus</u>	Ground Parrot
	<u>Polytelis alexandrae</u>	Princess Parrot
	<u>Psephotus chrysopterygius</u>	Golden-shouldered Parrot
	<u>Psephotus dissimilis</u>	Hooded Parrot
	<u>Psephotus pulcherrimus</u> (1922)	Paradise Parrot
Strigiformes		
Strigidae	<u>Ninox novaeseelandiae royana</u>	Norfolk Island Boobook Owl
	<u>Ninox squamipila natalis</u>	Christmas Island Owl
Caprimulgiformes		
Caprimulgidae	<u>Podargus ocellatus plumiferus</u>	Plumed Frogmouth
Passeriformes		
Atrichornithidae	<u>Atrichornis clamosus</u>	Noisy Scrub Bird

Maluridae	<u>Malurus coronatus</u>	Purple-crowned Wren
	<u>Amytornis dorotheae</u>	Dorothys Grass-wren
	<u>Amytornis textilis textilis</u>	Thick-billed Grass-wren
Acanthizidae	<u>Dasyornis longirostris</u>	Western Bristlebird
	<u>Dasyornis brachypterus</u>	Eastern Bristlebird
	<u>Dasyornis broadbenti</u> <u>littoralis (1940)</u>	Rufous Bristlebird
Cracticidae	<u>Strepera graculina crissalis</u>	Lord Howe Island Currawong
Timaliidae	<u>Psophodes nigrogularis</u>	Western Whipbird
Pardalotidae	<u>Pardalotus quadragintus</u>	Forty-spotted Pardalote
Zosteropidae	<u>Zosterops albogularis</u>	Norfolk Island Silvereye
Meliphagidae	<u>Lichenostomus melanops</u> <u>cassidix</u>	Helmeted Honeyeater
	<u>Manorina flavigula melanotis</u>	Black-eared Miner
Turdidae	<u>Drymodes superciliaris</u> <u>colcloughi (1915)</u>	Northern Scrub Robin
Amphibia		
Anura		
Leptodactylidae	<u>Arenophryne rotunda</u>	
	<u>Philoria frosti</u>	Mt Baw Baw Frog
	<u>Rheobatrachus silus</u>	
Hylidae	<u>Cophixalus concinna</u>	
	<u>Cophixalus saxatilis</u>	
	<u>Litoria longirostris</u>	
Reptilia		
Chelonia		
Dermochelyidae	<u>Dermochelys coriacea</u>	Leathery Turtle
Chelidae	<u>Pseudemydura umbrina</u>	Western Swamp Tortoise
Squamata		

Scincidae	<u>Lerista lineata</u>	Lined Burrowing Skink
	<u>Ctenotus lancelini</u>	Lancelin Island Striped Skink
	<u>Pseudemoia palfreymani</u>	Pedra Branca Skink
Pygopodidae	<u>Ophidiocephalus taeniatus</u>	Bronzebacked legless lizard
	<u>Aprasia parapulchella</u>	
Elapidae	<u>Neelaps calonotus</u>	Black-striped Snake
	<u>Hoplocephalus bungaroides</u>	Broad-headed Snake

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 9(h) : Ad hoc Working Group on Endangered
Flora.

A report on the activities of the ad hoc Working
Group on Endangered Flora is attached for the information
of Council.

FOR INFORMATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

Ad hoc Working Group on Endangered Flora

At the request of the Second Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, Australia, through the Working Group on Endangered Flora, has annotated the list of Australian species of plants subject to CITES regulation to show clearly whether the species is listed because it is traded or because it is similar in appearance to threatened species that are traded. The annotations have been incorporated in Special Publication No.3 of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Leigh, J. and Boden, R. (1979) Australian Flora in the Endangered Species Convention - CITES. Reports on the distribution, conservation and trade status of Todea barbara (King Fern) and Australian species of Drosera (Sundews), also requested by the Conference of Parties, are nearing completion.

The Working Group's consideration of problems associated with implementation of recommendations of the Costa Rica Meeting of the Conference of Parties has resulted in the drafting of amendments to the Customs (Endangered Species) Regulations. The amendments will have the effect of facilitating trade in artificially propagated specimens and enabling regulation of trade in all readily recognisable parts and derivatives as well as whole plants. This action is of significance to Queensland and New South Wales where artificially propagated orchids form the bulk of material traded and to Western Australia where considerable quantities of stems, fruits and flowers of Appendix II plant species gathered from the wild are exported.

The list of rare, endangered and otherwise vulnerable Australian flora published by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service under the title Plants at Risk in Australia is being revised by its authors, Mr. W. Hartley and Dr. J. Leigh. To date responses from the scientific community and conservation organisations have resulted in additions, deletions or changes affecting about 700 species. These include expansion of the lists to cover 122 species endemic to Australia's external territories. The definitive publication resulting from this revision should be available within the 1980/81 financial year.

Progress on short-term projects identified at the request of Standing Committee has been over-shadowed by work related to CITES and Plants at Risk in Australia. However a report on Guidelines for the Preparation of Plant Protection Legislation and a proposal for a list of flora requiring protection Australia-wide will be submitted to Standing Committee after the Working Group's meeting in August 1980. The matters raised by the Society for Growing Australian Plants in its letter to CONCOM Ministers have been taken into consideration in the preparation of this report.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 9(i) : Ad hoc Working Group on the CONCOM Technical Conference Program.

At its seventh meeting (August 1978), Council endorsed a recommendation by Standing Committee that CONCOM sponsor a program of technical conferences on topics of common interest to member agencies. Accordingly, Council approved the establishment of the ad hoc Working Group on the CONCOM Technical Conference Program to:

- (i) Collate and critically examine proposals for technical conferences to be sponsored by CONCOM.
- (ii) Recommend to Standing Committee what technical conferences, if any, should be sponsored in 1979/80 and/or 1980/81.

Standing Committee subsequently agreed that all proposals for technical conferences would be sent to the Secretariat, and that the Working Group would meet immediately prior to Standing Committee to examine the proposals and prepare its recommendations. To assist members in submitting proposals, the Secretariat produced and distributed a CONCOM technical conference proposal statement based on the format used by the Australian Agricultural Council for its technical conference program.

At its meeting in May 1980, Standing Committee considered the recommendations of the Working Group in relation to the proposals which had been received up to that time, and wishes to:

- (i) Advise Council that it sees merit in having regular conferences on topics of common interest to member agencies, and that initially these should have a workshop format to derive the maximum benefit for all participants.

- (ii) Inform Council that in order of priority the topics which have the support of all members are:
 - (a) Fire management in semi-arid lands.
 - (b) Policies for marine reserve management.
 - (c) Wetland ecology.
 - (d) Culling of populations of native animals.
- (iii) Recommend to Council that a workshop on topic (a) be held in Victoria in May 1981, with the organisation shared between Victoria and the Secretariat.
- (iv) Request Council to encourage New South Wales to commence planning a workshop on topic (b) in co-operation with other agencies as appropriate.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 10 : Proposed working group on endangered vertebrates.

Standing Committee has considered and endorsed a proposal by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service for the creation of a working group to co-ordinate the protection and management of endangered vertebrates within Australia and recommend appropriate conservation projects for which individual agencies might seek financial assistance from outside sources.

Accordingly, Standing Committee seeks the approval of Council for the establishment of an ad hoc Working Group on Management of Endangered Vertebrates, with the attached terms of reference.

It is pointed out that this Working Group will be quite distinct from the existing ad hoc Working Group on Endangered Fauna, whose principal responsibilities involve the review of Australian species listed on the Appendices to the "Endangered Species Convention" (CITES) and the preparation and maintenance of an official list of Australian endangered fauna.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

Ad hoc Working Group on Management of Endangered
Vertebrates

1. Scope

The Working Group will consider those species recognised by Council as being included on the official list of Australian endangered fauna.

2. Rehabilitation projects

The Working Group will adopt a species-oriented approach to conservation and develop projects which aim to rehabilitate individual species. It will not consider the problems of ecosystem conservation which are being addressed by reserve acquisition and wilderness management programs.

3. Listing of species

The Working Group will list the species requiring rehabilitation projects (with the exception of those thought to be extinct) into the following categories:

- (a) Those which occur in more than one State or Territory.
- (b) Those which formerly occurred in more than one State or Territory, but now occur in only one.
- (c) Those which occur in only one State or Territory.

4. Priority for action

The Working Group will allocate each listed species an initial priority on the basis of information obtained from the ad hoc Working Group on Endangered Fauna, then following assessment of the feasibility of various management programs will determine a final order of priority for action.

5. Dossiers

The Working Group will compile a dossier on each high priority species with a view to providing wildlife authorities and granting bodies with guidelines for the relevant management and funding.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 11 : Interstate trade in fauna.

At its meeting immediately prior to the meeting of Council, Standing Committee will be examining the legal and constitutional implications of the High Court judgement in the Smith versus Capewell case (relating to the interstate movement of "commercial" species of indigenous fauna and flora) with a view to making specific recommendations for consideration by Council.

FOR INFORMATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 12 : Protection of marine mammals.

The Commonwealth Whale Protection Act received Royal Assent on 6 June 1980, and bilateral discussions are now being held between Commonwealth and State and Territory officials regarding complementary legislative arrangements and arrangements for administration of the legislation.

A report on the outcome of these discussions will be tabled at the meeting of Council.

FOR INFORMATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 12 : Report on discussions with the States and the Northern Territory concerning implementation of the Commonwealth Whale Protection Act.

The Prime Minister, in his letter of 5 February 1980 to the State Premiers and the Chief Minister, suggested that there may be merit in the development of a complementary legislative regime in the States and the Northern Territory for the protection of cetaceans.

Discussions have been held with all States and the Northern Territory. The need for complementary legislation was highlighted in the following terms:

- (i) International recognition of a comprehensive and firm Commonwealth policy on whale protection.
- (ii) Impracticability of different legislative requirements on either side of the three-mile boundary of the territorial sea.
- (iii) Confusion if prohibitions and penalties differ substantially between Commonwealth and State whale protection legislation.

The following options for achieving a practical legislative solution were canvassed:

- (i) Free standing State legislation for whale protection - this has a considerable presentational advantage.
- (ii) Provision for the Commonwealth legislation to apply at the request of the State or the Northern Territory.
- (iii) Amendment of existing State or Territory wildlife legislation to make it complementary with the Commonwealth legislation.

The discussions also covered administrative arrangements for the legislation, and the Minister for Science and the Environment will be writing to the appropriate State and Territory Ministers on this matter

in the near future. A date for proclamation of the legislation has yet to be finalised.

In future the Commonwealth will direct Commonwealth/State issues relating to whale protection through CONCOM.

FOR INFORMATION

Department of Science and
the Environment,
Canberra,
July 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 13 : Annual statement of research projects.

At its seventh meeting (August 1978), Council requested Standing Committee to produce annually for the information of Ministers a statement describing in a standardised format all relevant research projects being carried out or sponsored by member agencies.

Standing Committee subsequently agreed that these annual statements would:

- (i) Be finalised by mid-May each year to be available for consideration by Standing Committee at its meeting prior to the meeting of Council in July/August.
- (ii) Cover the period to 31 December of the previous year.
- (iii) Follow the general format used by CSIRO for describing research projects.

The statement for 1979 is enclosed with the agenda papers.

FOR INFORMATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 14 : Export of family pets.

At its meeting in May 1980, Standing Committee considered a number of recommendations by the ad hoc Working Group on Law Enforcement aimed at controlling the export of "family pets" by persons returning overseas after a comparatively short stay in Australia.

Standing Committee recognises that the existing criteria for allowing the export of indigenous pet species are in need of review, and therefore recommends to Council that:

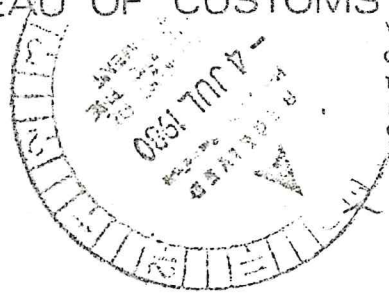
- (i) The qualifying period for which indigenous family pets must be held before permission for their export may be granted by the relevant State or Territory authority and the Bureau of Customs be extended from six months to two years.
- (ii) The relevant authorities have a discretionary power to vary this qualifying period in cases where special circumstances can be demonstrated.
- (iii) The Bureau of Customs be requested to adopt these amended provisions for family pets and revise its procedures accordingly.

The Secretariat has advised the Bureau of Customs of these recommendations, and the Bureau has indicated strong support for the amended provisions subject to their endorsement by Council. A submission to this effect is currently before the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS



CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600
TELEPHONE:
Reply to Controller
Quote C 77/3854

July, 1980.

Mr D. McAllister,
Secretary to Standing Committee,
Council of Nature Conservation Ministers,
P.O. Box 449,
WODEN. A.C.T. 2606.


Dear Mr McAllister,

I refer to your letter of 9 April, 1980, which advised this Department of recommendations made by your Committee to the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers (CONCOM), concerning tighter controls on the export of native fauna as household pets.

Thank you for your advice in the matter. This Department, coincidentally, has been working along similar lines to strengthen ownership provisions as well as establishing a minimum period for "resident" status regarding this concession.

The Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs has indicated his support for the recommendations made by your Committee and awaits the advice from CONCOM before introducing any changes to this control.

Yours sincerely,


(N.A. CUSTANCE),
Assistant Secretary,
Inspection and Controls.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 15 : Cage standards for circus animals.

At its meeting in May 1980, Standing Committee considered a recommendation by the ad hoc Working Group on Law Enforcement that all States and Territories adopt uniform minimum cage standards for animals kept in connection with travelling circuses and shows, both to provide adequate accommodation for animals and to enable circuses to travel throughout Australia without meeting conflicting regulations.

Standing Committee noted that regulations prescribing minimum cage sizes had been in force in Victoria since 1966, and agreed that these would serve as a useful model for any other State or Territory proposing similar legislation.

While recognising that most of the agencies represented on CONCOM do not have the administrative responsibility or the legislative power to control circuses or circus-type animals, Standing Committee resolved to request the Assistant Director-General of the Animal Quarantine Division of the Commonwealth Department of Health to ensure that all overseas circuses intending to tour Australia are advised of the regulations which they will encounter in Victoria (and any similar regulations which might be introduced by other States and Territories in the future) before entering the country.

The Assistant Director-General has agreed to inform visiting circuses of the existence of the Victorian Wildlife (General) Regulations, but has expressed the view that problems will continue to arise until uniform legislation of this nature is introduced Australia-wide.

FOR INFORMATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 16 : Endorsement of "Flora of Central Australia".

At its meetings in October 1979 and May 1980, Standing Committee received and noted reports on progress towards publication of the "Flora of Central Australia" in readiness for the International Botanical Congress to be held in Sydney in August 1981. This will be the first time that the Congress has been held in the Southern Hemisphere.

As a project, the "Flora of Central Australia" is significant because its production requires the collaboration of a large number of botanists throughout Australia, irrespective of their State affiliations, whereas the majority of regional floras produced to date have been based on a State or on sub-regions within a State. This type of co-operative effort will also be necessary for production of the "Flora of Australia" in due course.

The "Flora of Central Australia" is being published by A.W. and A.M. Reed, and the estimated cost to the public will be approximately \$44.00 per copy unless it is subsidised in some way. Reeds have informed the Editor-in-Chief, the Chief Botanist of the State Herbarium of South Australia (Dr J.P. Jessop), that any subsidy received will be used to reduce the unit purchase price of the work.

At its last meeting, Standing Committee agreed to recommend to Council that:

- (i) The "Flora of Central Australia" receive the endorsement of CONCOM.
- (ii) The Commonwealth Bureau of Flora and Fauna be requested to provide a subsidy of \$20,000 for its publication, which would reduce the purchase price to approximately \$35.00 per copy.

- (iii) In the event of Commonwealth funds not being available, the possibility of joint funding by the relevant Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies be considered.

Since that meeting, the Bureau of Flora and Fauna has advised that it will be unable to provide the funds required. Therefore, it would be appropriate for Council to now consider the possibility of joint funding. In this regard, the South Australian Minister of Environment has recently written to the Ministers representing the Commonwealth, the Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia seeking contributions towards the goal of \$20,000.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Director-General,
Department for the Environment,
South Australia,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 17 : Senate Standing Committee inquiry into forestry.

At its last meeting, Council noted that a submission presented on behalf of the Australian Institute of Foresters to the inquiry being conducted by the Senate Standing Committee on Trade and Commerce into Australia's forestry and forest products industries contained several unsubstantiated criticisms of existing national parks policy and practice in Australia, and agreed that CONCOM should respond to the submission in order to balance the record of the inquiry.

Because of the time factor, Council authorised the then current Chairman, Hon. D.P. Landa, to write direct to the Secretary of the Senate Standing Committee to convey the concern of Council regarding the Institute of Foresters submission.

A copy of Mr Landa's letter is attached for the information of Council.

The Secretary of the Senate Standing Committee has recently advised that the report of the inquiry is now being prepared and is expected to be tabled in Federal Parliament during the Budget Session in August.

FOR INFORMATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

21st May, 1979.

The Secretary,
Standing Committee of the
Australian Senate on
Trade and Commerce,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600.

Dear Sir,

Reference is made to the submission by the Institute of Foresters of Australia Inc., on 1st March, 1979 to a meeting of the Committee in relation to "Forestry and the Forest Products Industry". The basis for my comments hereunder is the official Hansard report of that meeting.

Some aspects of the submission were discussed at the eighth meeting of the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers (CONCOM) held in Sydney on 23rd April, 1979. As Chairman of the meeting I have been authorised to write to you to express the concern of CONCOM Ministers about the submission. CONCOM is composed of Ministers responsible for national parks and wildlife conservation in all States and Territories in Australia and at the Commonwealth Government level, and the Minister responsible for the C.S.I.R.O. Ministers noted a number of arguments advanced in the submission to your Committee by the Institute of Foresters which are of direct concern to them. As a general observation it is considered that the witness presented a totally biased view of the value of national parks in the Australian system of land use. Specifically, comment is made on a number of points in the submission as follows :

1. The submission states (P. 9 Hansard) "The experience of most Institute members is that the conservation objectives of national park management can be achieved more efficiently and effectively as part of a multiple objective commercial management of forests than under a specialised management regime such as is currently applied to most national parks."

Apart from the fact that a number of members of the Institute employed in national park management have indicated that no attempt was made to canvass the views and experience of members, and that this statement must therefore appear suspect, such an important policy matter should not be based on a majority member approach. There is a significant philosophical difference between production and conservation, and whilst forest services may subscribe to the concept of multiple use of native forests, the primary objective of management must control their management direction.

2. There is no evidence to support the statement (P. 10) that "specialised management such as for single purpose is generally expensive to the community". In fact, apart from exotic coniferous plantations, the evidence suggests that the native forest industry is also expensive to the community, even though forest services have a greater capacity to recover costs.
3. The submission suggests (Pps. 10-11) that "single purpose management may introduce increased risks of disease and fire to the community". This assertion is considered quite unjustified.

- . It is noted that on Pps. 27-28 there is discussion on forest diseases, particularly *Phytopthera cinnamomi*. It is stated that its occurrence in eastern States is widespread. While this is true, it is understood that it presents no problems to forest health in New South Wales and Queensland. It is also understood that the spread of this root fungus is frequently related to logging, soil disturbance, and transport of forest products, none of which occur on national parks. No direct control measures are believed to take place in New South Wales forests, although it is understood that logging practices are now being manipulated in Victoria and Western Australia to reduce the likelihood of spread. The statement (P. 27) that the I.F.A. doubts the ability of (park) management to prevent "catastrophic fungal invasions" appears unwarranted.

Similarly the assertion about the possibility of increase risks of fire to the community lacks justification. In fact the capacity of national park managers to control wildfire has increased markedly during recent years and closely follows practices developed in Forest Services in Australia.

In regard to management generally, it should be appreciated that a major proportion of national parks are created from relict lands not sought for forestry production or for agricultural or pastoral pursuits. As such, they have generally had a long history of poor or even non-management. Their reservation as national parks immediately results in improvement in protection management, whether it be fire, noxious plant or animal, insect or fungal control.

Further, the Institute statement overlooks the need for the establishment of separate national park authorities to manage lands which are not even remotely associated with forested areas. These range from arid and semi-arid environments to marine parks. Accepting the need for separate organisations, it is difficult to see any justification in the Institute's argument that existing forest services should manage "forested" national parks, no doubt under policies quite different from those which would be adopted on other areas if the former are to be managed "economically".

4. The Institute submission shows a very limited knowledge of the management philosophy and practices currently being applied to national parks in most parts of Australia.

On P. 9 reference is made to the "shutting away of very large areas of at least 50,000 acres with people going into them as infrequently as possible".

National park management aims at effecting a balance between conservation and use, to ensure retention of each park's natural values for posterity. Further, national parks are zoned to cater for development and access in New South Wales for example there are in excess of 1100 km. of roads accessible to the public on national parks. Fire trails and walking tracks add to this total and are available for pedestrian access. In 1978/79 an estimated six million people visited national parks in New South Wales, and the annual increase in visitation is averaging approximately 15%. This hardly suggests that areas are being "shut away".

It is requested that the Senate Standing Committee on Trade and Commerce in considering the submission and evidence presented on behalf of the Institute of Foresters of Australia Inc., relating to "Australia's Forestry and Forest Products Industries", takes note of the concern of the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers (CONCOM) as expressed at its meeting on 23rd April, 1979 and of the comments on certain aspects of the Institute's submission as outlined in this letter.

Yours faithfully,

(SGD) PAUL LANDA

PAUL LANDA
Chairman

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 18 : Other business.

No advice had been received at the time of circulation of the agenda papers of any other matters which members wish to raise.

FOR INFORMATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 19 : Next meeting of Council.

The previous meetings of Council were held as follows:

First meeting	-	21 January 1974	-	Melbourne
Second meeting	-	12 July 1974	-	Adelaide
Third meeting	-	1 August 1975	-	Canberra
Fourth meeting	-	13 August 1976	-	Hobart
Fifth meeting	-	12 November 1976	-	Canberra
Sixth meeting	-	29 July 1977	-	Cairns
Seventh meeting	-	10 August 1978	-	Darwin
Eighth meeting	-	23 April 1979	-	Sydney

Members are requested to determine a suitable date and venue for the next meeting of Council.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

AGENDA ITEM 20 : Press statement.

Council has previously issued an agreed press release at the conclusion of each meeting.

It is requested that the wording of an appropriate statement be decided under this item.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Secretariat,
Canberra,
June 1980.