ELECTORATE OFFICE
47 LITTLE BRIDGE STREET
BALLARAT VIC. 3350
~~PHONE: (053) 31 7722~~
~~FAX: (053) 32 8487~~
PHONE: (03) 5331 7722
FAX: (03) 5332 8487



BARRY TRAYNOR, M.P.
MEMBER FOR BALLARAT EAST

October 20, 1997

Mr. Tim Anderson
Wombat Forest Society
RMB 3473
DAYELSFORD 3461

Dear Tim,

I refer to previous contact with my office regarding your representations on behalf of the Wombat Forest Society.

Please find attached a copy of a letter I have received from the Hon. Marie Tehan, MLA, Minister for Conservation and Land Management in response to representations made on your behalf.

Yours sincerely,

BARRY TRAYNOR, M.L.A.
MEMBER FOR BALLARAT EAST

20 OCTOBER

Minister for Conservation and Land Management

The Hon. Marie Tehan, MP

06 OCT 1997

Our Ref: MC07545

Mr Barry Traynor MP
Member for Ballarat
47 Little Bridge Street
BALLARAT VIC 3350

RECEIVED
13 OCT 1997
ANS / /

Dear Mr Traynor, Barry,

Thank you for your letter of 2 September, 1997, regarding representations by Mr Tim Anderson, President of the Wombat Forest Society.

While Mr. Anderson continues to raise concerns about the Department's management of the Wombat Forest, the Department's view is that the management arrangements which are in place provide for effective timber production and conservation outcomes. The key features that ensure management in the Wombat Forest is sustainable are:

1. Timber production is limited to about 40% of public land in the Midlands Forest Management Area (FMA) as a consequence of the LCC and Forest Management planning processes. The remaining 60% is protected from timber harvesting operations in parks and reserves, and in special protection zones in State Forest.

2. The sustainable yield for sawlogs in the Midlands FMA (which includes the Wombat State Forest) has recently been reduced from 70,000 cubic metres per annum to 58,000 cubic metres per annum to reflect new information on forest growth and the impact of satisfying conservation commitments.

3. All timber production in the Midlands forests is subject to the Code of Forest Practices for Timber Production which establishes baseline environmental protection standards for timber harvesting operations. These standards are further strengthened through application of the Midlands Forest Management Plan and local prescriptions.

4. The predominant method of harvesting in the Wombat State Forest is the "shelterwood" system which scientific studies have found to be an effective silvicultural regime in these forests. This system comprises a two stage harvest, with each harvesting operation separated by about 10 to 15 years. Both harvesting stages are subject to the Code of Forest Practices and additional local prescriptions.

Mr. Anderson has had a long involvement with forest management issues, and he and the Wombat Forest Society have been given the opportunity to provide input to the Midlands Forest Management Plan and the annual Wood Utilisation Plans. Additionally, Departmental representatives have offered to continue to meet with Mr. Anderson and representatives of his group as local issues arise.

I do not consider that it is necessary for me to meet with Mr. Anderson at this time. He should continue to work with local Departmental officers in order to address his specific concerns.

Yours sincerely

Marie T. Tehan

Marie Tehan, MP
Minister for Conservation and Land Management

Natural Resources and Environment

AGRICULTURE
RESOURCES
CONSERVATION
LAND MANAGEMENT

8 Nicholson Street
PO Box 500
East Melbourne,
Victoria 3002
Telephone: (03) 9637 8989
Facsimile: (03) 9637 8999

Victoria ON THE MOVE