Forest Timeline of Tim Anderson's work on forests and the environment

1991–1993 — entering formal community participation

1991–93

Wombat Forest Community Consultative Committee

The documentary record identifies Anderson as a member of the **Wombat Forest Community Consultative Committee from 1991–1993**. His later professional record gives this as the beginning of the documented sequence of his forest work. Parliament of Australia

This is important because his involvement began **inside a formal consultation process**, rather than beginning solely through protest.

At this stage the central issue was the future management of the Wombat State Forest and the relationship between:

- timber production;
- forest conservation;
- local community interests;
- recreation;
- water catchment values.

Significance

This established the pattern that became characteristic of Anderson's later work:

community participation + access to information + scrutiny of government decision-making.

1994 — Wombat Forest Society

1994

Wombat Forest Society

Anderson's documented experience identifies him as active in the Wombat Forest Society from **1994–2002**. Parliament of Australia

Independent forest-history research describes the Society as having been formed in the mid-1990s in Daylesford by people already concerned about management of the Wombat Forest. Its distinctive approach was to encourage open debate among environmental, commercial and community interests while simultaneously scrutinising government forestry information. Australian Forest History Society

This is a crucial distinction.

The Society was not simply:

"stop logging."

Its approach included:

- obtaining government forest data;
- analysing government assumptions;
- monitoring forestry operations;
- engaging with government foresters;
- challenging politicians;
- negotiating with timber interests;
- public education;
- direct action where necessary.

Research into the Society specifically describes its methods as **"reasoned discussion, rigorous analysis and monitoring"** combined with political lobbying and occasional direct action. FAOHome

---

1995 — woodchipping and the data question

February 1995

Anderson was publicly representing the Wombat Forest Society in the wider Victorian forest campaign.

A contemporary report records him speaking at a Melbourne forest forum about the Wombat Forest, its importance as a water catchment and the federal government's failure to adequately protect it. Green Left

At the same time the Wombat Forest Society was engaged in the controversy surrounding renewal of woodchip export licences and the relationship between woodchipping and the local timber industry. Green Left

The more important development

The campaign increasingly moved beyond the question:

"Should this forest be logged?"

towards:

"What level of logging can this forest actually sustain?"

That question led directly to the sustainable-yield investigation.

1996–1998 — building the analytical campaign

During the mid-to-late 1990s, the Wombat Forest Society increasingly scrutinised the Victorian government's sustainable-yield calculations.

The government's system was based on forest inventory, growth assumptions, management regimes and computer modelling.

The Society began obtaining and analysing departmental data.

Later academic analysis records that the Society developed its own computer-based analysis of departmental statistics and used this to audit government forest-management assumptions. FAOHome

1998

Anderson's professional record identifies him as involved with the:

Western Victorian Forest Protection Network — 1998–2002. Parliament of Australia

The Network brought together forest groups across western Victoria during the Regional Forest Agreement process.

It worked on:

- submissions;
- public meetings;
- RFA scrutiny;
- regional campaigning;
- political advocacy.

The Wombat Forest Society was one of the participating groups. Otway Ranges Environment Network

This marked the beginning of Anderson's move from **local Wombat advocacy to regional forest policy**.

1999 — the critical year: sustainable-yield modelling

This is arguably the most important year in the chronology.

May 1999

Anderson produced:

Midlands Forest Management Area Sustainable Sawlog Yield Model Analysis and Critique

Wombat Forest Society, Daylesford, May 1999, 34 pages. CiteSeerX

This was not merely a campaign submission.

It was a technical critique of the model used by the Victorian government to calculate sustainable sawlog yield.

The later independent review states explicitly that Anderson:

- used NRE's published data;
- took tables and graphs from government documents;
- extended and extrapolated them;

- tested alternative assumptions;
- reached substantially different conclusions about the sustainable harvest level. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

The central conclusion was that the Wombat State Forest **could not sustain the then-current rate of harvesting**.

Why this mattered

The Wombat Forest Society's analysis was sufficiently significant that the Victorian Regional Forest Agreement Steering Committee commissioned an independent expert review specifically to investigate the issues Anderson had raised.

That is unusually strong evidence of policy influence.

2000 — government commissions a review of Anderson's critique

February 2000

Dr Brian Turner and Professor Ian Ferguson produced:

A Review of the Sustainable Yield Issues in the Wombat State Forest

for the Victorian Regional Forest Agreement Steering Committee.

The report states that the consultants were specifically asked to review the issues raised by **Tim Anderson's Wombat Forest Society critique**. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

They met with:

- Anderson;
- Victorian Association of Forest Industries;
- CFMEU;
- NRE technical staff. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

The consultants identified **10 specific issues** from Anderson's critique and evaluated each. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

This is an important documentary milestone.

Anderson's work had moved from:

community campaign → government criticism

to:

community analysis → independent technical review of government modelling.

What the 2000 review actually found

The review did **not simply endorse Anderson's conclusions**.

This is important if the history is to be credible.

The consultants rejected or qualified several of Anderson's technical assumptions.

For example, they found:

- insufficient evidence that future predicted yields were necessarily too high;
- no clear evidence for some of Anderson's yield concerns;
- some assumptions were based on misunderstandings of government data;
- some issues required further investigation.

But they also accepted that several of the issues he raised deserved attention.

Most importantly, they recommended that government establish systematic procedures comparing:

predicted harvest volumes ↔ actual harvest volumes

and calibrate the models against realised results. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

They also recommended making longer-term strategic planning information more accessible to interested members of the public. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

This is the fairest interpretation

Anderson did **not "prove every part of the government's model was wrong."**

Rather, he succeeded in forcing government and independent experts to **test the assumptions, data and methodology publicly**.

That is a much more defensible and historically significant achievement.

2000 — Bullarto direct action

The Society's campaign was not purely technical.

In October 2000 it undertook a direct action at Bullarto involving the dispute over forest reserved to protect the endangered Powerful Owl. Anitra Nelson's detailed historical account specifically examines this action. Australian Forest History Society

This is significant because the Society had deliberately resisted making blockade-style direct action its normal strategy.

Its preferred approach had been:

- evidence;
- negotiation;
- public discussion;
- auditing;
- political pressure.

The Bullarto action therefore represented an escalation when those approaches failed to resolve a particular conservation dispute.

2001 — sustainable-yield review becomes statewide

Anderson's work then expanded beyond Wombat.

His documented experience includes:

Midlands Reference Group — 2001

West RFA Sawlog Farming Steering Committee — 2001–05

Victorian Plantation Position Statement -2001

Portland Forest Management Area Sustainability Review — Environment Victoria, 2001 Parliament of Australia

Awarded a Commonwealth Honour- Centenary Medal. -2001

This is important because it shows that the sustainable-yield work was not confined to one local forest.

October 2001 — statewide expert review

Professor Jerome Vanclay and Dr Brian Turner produced:

Evaluation of Data and Methods for Estimating the Sustainable Yield of Sawlogs in Victoria

for the Expert Data Reference Group.

It was dated **31 October 2001**. CiteSeerX

The review concluded that while NRE had developed the knowledge and procedures needed to estimate forest resources and sawlog capacity, there were significant deficiencies in the availability and reliability of information for some Forest Management Areas. CiteSeerX

The report therefore validated an important element of the Wombat campaign:

the quality and adequacy of the underlying resource data and modelling assumptions mattered enormously to the claimed sustainable yield.

2002 — major policy change

February 2002

The Victorian Government announced:

Our Forests, Our Future

This represented a major change in Victorian forest policy.

The sustainable-yield figures were substantially reduced.

Research on the Wombat CFM process records that the reduction averaged about **31% statewide but approximately 78% in the Wombat State Forest**. ResearchGate

Other historical sources give the Wombat reduction as:

approximately 70,000 m³/year → approximately 8,600 m³/year. PC Government Assets

Causation needs to be expressed carefully

It would be too strong to say:

"Anderson caused the 2002 reduction."

There were multiple factors, including departmental reviews, the RFA process, changing reserve arrangements and broader government policy.

But the documentary evidence is strong that the **Wombat Forest Society's analysis contributed materially to the pressure for the review**.

The academic literature explicitly states that Anderson's 1999 data analysis contributed to the pressure that led to the government inquiry/reform. ResearchGate

FAO research goes further, describing the Society's pressure and focus on sustainability as partly accounting for the 2002 forestry reforms. FAOHome

---

2002 — the strategic transition to Community Forestry

This is where Anderson's career takes a particularly interesting turn.

The Victorian Government's **Our Forests, Our Future** policy did not simply reduce timber harvesting.

It also committed government to developing greater **community participation in forest management**.

A steering group was established to explore how this could occur around the Wombat Forest. ResearchGate

The steering group commissioned a worldwide review of community forest-management models and their applicability to Wombat.

That work produced the basis for the **Wombat Community Forest Management Pilot Project**. ResearchGate

---

2003 — Anderson becomes Community Development Officer

April 2003

Anderson became the **Wombat Community Development Officer** within the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

This is documented both in academic research and in his later professional record as:

Project Manager, Community Forestry, DSE, 2003–2007. Parliament of Australia

This is perhaps the most unusual transition in the whole story.

The person who had spent years **auditing and challenging the forestry department's assumptions** was now working within the department to help establish a new model of community forest governance.

2003 — building the CFM information infrastructure

Anderson's contribution was not simply organising meetings.

He worked on creating an information system that could allow communities to participate with access to the same kinds of spatial information used by government.

This became the **Wombat CFM Resource Disk / Forest Explorer** project.

A 2004 research thesis documents Anderson's role in identifying the information requirements of the community and helping develop GIS applications.

The information themes included:

- forest inventory;
- standing timber volume;
- ecological vegetation classes;
- flora and fauna;
- waterways;
- rainfall;
- catchments;
- mineral springs;
- recharge zones;
- fire history;
- historical sites;
- cultural sites;
- recreation;
- roads and tracks;
- forest management zones. ResearchGate

This is an important part of Anderson's contribution that is easily missed in a conventional biography.

He was trying to solve the problem:

How can ordinary community participants engage in forest management when the technical information normally sits inside government databases?

2003 — community mapping

The university-community GIS project subsequently developed practical mapping applications.

These included:

Weed mapping

Community members mapped weed infestations around Blackwood/Barry's Reef.

Water/hydrology

Community members mapped significant **"soaks"** in the headwaters of the Coliban River.

Forest heritage

Historical tramways, gold mines and water races were digitised.

Forest health

Spatial information was assembled for community forest planning. ResearchGate

This was essentially an early form of **participatory GIS**.

2003 — Wombat News and Views

The CFM process also created a dedicated community communication mechanism.

The surviving academic bibliography identifies:

- **Wombat News and Views No. 1 — February 2004**
- **No. 2 — April 2004**
- **No. 3 — June 2004**

and describes it as a newsletter for community management of the Wombat Forest. ResearchGate

The later academic study of the CFM process confirms that the project used a newsletter, eventually called **Wombat News and Views**, alongside its website and meetings. Wombat Forestcare Inc

This is potentially an important archival collection to recover because it could provide a near-contemporary record of Anderson's activities and the evolution of the CFM process.

2003–2004 — Interim Stewardship Council

By late 2003 the community process had moved towards an institutional structure.

Following community workshops, participants agreed to trial an:

Wombat Forest Interim Stewardship Council

with issue-based working groups. ResearchGate

The emerging structure was significant because it attempted to move from:

consultation

to:

shared stewardship.

The working groups dealt with different forest values, including biodiversity, timber, water, recreation and heritage.

2004 — Anderson explains the new philosophy

A 2004 public hearing record provides an unusually useful primary-source insight into Anderson's thinking.

He described the Wombat model as community involvement in managing approximately 22,000 hectares for values **other than timber**, with timber potentially becoming a by-product of forest restoration rather than the primary objective.

He also identified himself as a member of the **Wombat Forest Interim Stewardship Council**. PC Government Assets

This is a major conceptual change from the 1990s.

The question had moved from:

How much timber can we sustainably extract?

to:

What management regime best restores and maintains the forest's ecological and community values, and what role can timber play within that?

2004 — evidence that the information model was working

A particularly valuable primary document survives in the GIS research.

On **25 June 2004**, Anderson wrote to researcher Himlal Baral as:

Wombat Community Development Officer

He reported that community groups were using the GIS data, that weed mapping had inspired further community work, and that the **Forest Explorer concept had proved "very very popular."**

He also reported that the first run of CDs had sold/been distributed out and there was a waiting list. CiteSeerX

This is useful because it gives us **Anderson's own contemporary assessment**, rather than someone writing about him decades later.

2004–2005 — the CFM experiment matures

The community-management structure developed into a **Council of Stewards**, supported by issue-based working groups.

Later research describes the final model as involving representatives from **11 working groups**, each dealing with particular forest values. Arthur Rylah Institute

The project also generated biodiversity research and other practical projects.

The model was therefore becoming a genuine experiment in:

- participatory governance;
- local knowledge;
- government science;
- GIS;
- community research;
- ecological restoration;
- multiple-use forest management.

2005 — continuing community participation

Contemporary correspondence surrounding the April 2005 Wombat Forest Assembly shows Anderson still acting as the **Community Development Officer**.

The correspondence emphasised the importance of:

- broad participation;
- accountability;
- transparent processes;
- inclusion of different interests;
- maintaining community confidence in the CFM process. ExplorOz

This is important because it shows the same governance philosophy that had characterised the Wombat Forest Society a decade earlier.

2005–2006 — forest harvesting winds down

The physical forest-management context was also changing.

Research records that:

- widespread sawlog harvesting ceased in 2002 pending review;
- the last sawlog coupe was harvested in **2005**;
- the last remaining sawlog licence was bought back by the State in **2006**. Wombat Forestcare Inc

Meanwhile the CFM Council of Stewards and working groups were continuing their work.

2006 — CFM disbanded

The CFM experiment ultimately did not survive.

The Council of Stewards and working groups were disbanded in **2006** according to subsequent ARI research. Wombat Forestcare Inc

A later study identifies several reasons:

1. poor community representation;
2. frustration among participants;
3. doubts about government intentions;
4. insufficient ongoing government support;
5. leadership problems;
6. ambiguity about the purpose, goals and authority of the CFM structure. Arthur Rylah Institute

This needs to be included in any serious history of Anderson's work.

It would be misleading to portray CFM as an uncomplicated success.

2007 — end of Anderson's DSE CFM role

The professional record gives Anderson's DSE Community Forestry role as:

2003–2007. Parliament of Australia

A later participant account states that Anderson's facilitator contract was terminated in March 2007 and associates this with the collapse of the CFM process. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

That source is a participant account rather than an official government finding, so I would describe this cautiously:

The CFM process was effectively ending by 2006–07, and Anderson's formal role as Community Development Officer ended in 2007.

2007 — transition into FSC Australia

This is another major turning point.

FSC Australia was formally launched in 2007 as the Australian national FSC initiative.

At the **6 March 2007 AGM**, Anderson was elected to the FSC Australia Board as one of the three Social Chamber representatives. WWF Europe

The Social Chamber included:

- Frank Strie — Timber Workers for Forests;

- **Tim Anderson — Individual**;
- Jill Lewis — Timber Communities Australia. WWF Europe

This is significant.

Anderson was now operating within an organisation whose institutional philosophy explicitly required balancing:

economic + environmental + social interests.

2008–2012 — FSC/social representation

The parliamentary record subsequently identifies Anderson as an FSC Australia director and identifies his background as someone who had worked in community forestry. Parliament of Australia

The FSC board used a three-chamber model:

- Environmental;
- Economic;
- Social.

The chair rotated between chambers, and Anderson is marked in the record as someone who had served as chair. Parliament of Australia

This period is important as the bridge between his **community forestry experience** and his later work developing the Australian FSC standard.

2013 — appointment to the FSC Australian Standards Development Group

16 October 2013

FSC Australia announced the appointment of the **Standards Development Group (SDG)**.

Anderson was appointed as one of the three members of the **Social Chamber**, representing:

Regional Forest Communities. Forest Stewardship Council

The other chambers represented:

Economic

- forestry/business interests.

Environmental

- conservation/ecological interests.

Social

- community;
- workers;

- regional forest interests.

The SDG had responsibility for the **content and drafting of the Australian National Forest Stewardship Standard**. Forest Stewardship Council

This was a very significant appointment.

Anderson had moved from:

local resident → forest campaigner → forest-data auditor → community-forestry facilitator → national forest-standard developer.

2013–2014 — the FSC process

The FSC process was deliberately designed to obtain broader stakeholder participation.

A **Stakeholder Consultative Forum** was established so that people and organisations affected by the standard could contribute to its development. Forest Stewardship Council

The SDG could also establish specialist working groups where particular technical or geographic expertise was required. Forest Stewardship Council

This is strongly reminiscent of the Wombat CFM model:

structured representation + specialist information + stakeholder consultation + negotiated outcomes.

2015 — Indigenous Working Group

A major development occurred in **January 2015**, when FSC Australia established an **Indigenous Working Group**.

Its functions included:

- providing expert and representative feedback on Indigenous issues;
- advising the SDG;
- helping engage Indigenous stakeholders in the standard-development process. Forest Stewardship Council

This is important when evaluating Anderson's role because the FSC standard-development process was broader than conventional community forestry.

It was attempting to incorporate:

- environmental values;
- economic/forest-industry values;
- local communities;
- workers;
- Indigenous rights and interests.

2016 — national consultation

The FSC Australia 2016 Annual Report explicitly records:

National Standard Consultation

and lists Anderson as one of the three Social Chamber SDG members. Forest Stewardship Council

The SDG also engaged specialist technical experts on:

- Indigenous rights;
- environmental impact assessment;
- water and riparian protection;
- workers' rights. Forest Stewardship Council

This demonstrates that Anderson's role at this point was not merely symbolic representation.

The SDG was actually involved in a **technical standard-setting process**.

2017 — negotiating the standard

By this stage the Australian standard had been under development for approximately four years.

The process required balancing competing interests and building consensus.

The eventual standard incorporated requirements concerning issues including:

- high conservation value forests;
- Indigenous and local community rights;
- sacred sites;
- environmental protection;
- sustainable employment;
- sustainable forest management. Forest Stewardship Council APAC

It is important, however, not to attribute individual provisions to Anderson without documentary evidence.

The defensible claim is:

Anderson was one of the chamber representatives participating in the consensus-based SDG that developed the standard.

2018 — Australian FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard

2018

The **FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard for Australia** was approved.

FSC describes it as the culmination of approximately **five years of development**. Forest Stewardship Council APAC

Anderson is explicitly listed among the Social Chamber members of the SDG that developed the standard. Forest Stewardship Council

The final SDG composition included:

Economic

- Amanda Naismith
- Peter Grist
- Suzette Weeding

Environmental

- Warrick Jordan
- David Blair
- Paul Winn

Social

- **Tim Anderson**
- Travis Wacey
- Mark Annandale Forest Stewardship Council

The significance of the 2018 outcome

The FSC standard represented the institutionalisation of many of the principles that had appeared much earlier in the Wombat campaign.

Compare the two ends of the timeline:

Wombat Forest Society — 1990s

"Show us the data."

"Are the government's assumptions correct?"

"What does sustainable yield actually mean?"

"Where are the community's interests represented?"

FSC Australia — 2013–18

"Bring the economic, environmental and social interests into the same standard-setting process."

"Make the requirements explicit."

"Make management auditable."

"Recognise local community and Indigenous rights."

That is the strongest argument for seeing Anderson's career as a **continuous body of forest-governance work**, rather than a collection of unrelated positions.

The sustainable-yield story in one chain

The archival evidence allows this particularly strong sequence to be established:

Government sustainable-yield model

↓

Wombat Forest Society obtains government data

↓

Anderson analyses the model

↓

May 1999 — 34-page sustainable-yield critique

↓

Victorian RFA Steering Committee commissions independent review

↓

2000 Turner & Ferguson review specifically examines Anderson's 10 issues

↓

2001 statewide Expert Data Reference Group review

↓

2002 Victorian forestry reforms

↓

Wombat sustainable yield dramatically reduced

↓

Government shifts toward community participation

↓

Wombat Community Forest Management pilot

This is probably the single most important causal chain to document in a history of Anderson's contribution.

The evidence does **not** establish that Anderson alone caused the 2002 policy change. But it does establish that his analysis became sufficiently influential to trigger formal independent examination and that contemporary academic researchers subsequently regarded the Wombat Forest Society's work as contributing to the reforms. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

---

The community-forestry chain

There is an equally important second chain:

Wombat Forest Society

↓

community scrutiny of government forestry

↓

demand for access to information

↓

1999–2001 sustainable-yield analysis

↓

2002 government forest reforms

↓

community participation becomes government policy

↓

Wombat CFM pilot

↓

Anderson becomes Community Development Officer

↓

community GIS / Forest Explorer

↓

issue-based working groups

↓

Interim Stewardship Council / Council of Stewards

↓

attempted shared governance

↓

lessons from the failure of the CFM model

↓

Anderson enters national FSC governance

↓

Social Chamber representation

↓

Australian National Forest Stewardship Standard

That is, in my view, the most compelling interpretation of the historical record.

The role of the Wombat newsletters

There is a particularly valuable archival opportunity here.

The academic record confirms surviving references to:

- **Wombat News and Views No. 1 — February 2004**
- **No. 2 — April 2004**
- **No. 3 — June 2004**

and subsequent issues. ResearchGate

The later academic study of the Wombat CFM process explicitly says its research used:

project documents such as the newsletter **Wombat News and Views** and CFM meeting minutes. Wombat Forestcare Inc

These newsletters could therefore potentially provide the missing **month-by-month chronology** of:

- Anderson's meetings;
- community workshops;
- working-group establishment;
- Council of Stewards debates;
- government decisions;
- disputes over CFM governance;
- GIS projects;
- forest management proposals;
- community responses.

They are probably one of the most valuable archival sources still to be systematically recovered.

What I would regard as Anderson's principal contributions

Based on the evidence presently located, I would identify **six distinct contributions**.

1. Community scrutiny of forestry science

He helped demonstrate that community groups could obtain and analyse government forestry data rather than simply reacting politically to government decisions.

2. Sustainable-yield modelling critique

The 1999 analysis became the subject of a formal independent technical review. That is a concrete policy contribution, not simply an advocacy claim. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

3. Linking environmental and social concerns

The Wombat Forest Society deliberately sought dialogue with timber workers and industry rather than treating them as the enemy. Contemporary research specifically identifies this as a distinguishing feature of the Society. FAOHome

4. Development of community forestry

Anderson subsequently moved into government to help create a practical mechanism for community participation in forest management.

5. Democratization of forest information

The **Forest Explorer / GIS work** is particularly significant because it attempted to give community groups access to spatial information normally held by government. ResearchGate

6. National forest-governance standard setting

Through FSC Australia, Anderson moved from influencing one Victorian forest to participating in the development of a national standard governing responsible forest management. Forest Stewardship Council

---

An important qualification

There are some claims circulating online about Anderson's contribution that I would **not yet put into a definitive biography without checking the original documents**.

For example, some secondary material claims that Anderson and Loris Duclos "caused" the statewide reduction in sustainable yield or were solely responsible for particular government decisions. Those claims go further than the strongest primary evidence currently establishes.

The more rigorous formulation is:

Anderson's 1999 modelling critique exposed specific weaknesses and uncertainties in the government's sustainable-yield methodology; this resulted in formal independent scrutiny and formed part of the wider evidence and political pressure contributing to the Victorian forestry reforms of 2002.

That is both powerful and defensible.

Archival source map

For a proper historical profile, I would organise the archive into six documentary collections:

Wombat Forest Society

1990s newsletters, submissions, correspondence, campaign material

Establishes Anderson's community campaigning

Sustainable yield

Anderson 1999; Anderson 2000; Turner & Ferguson 2000; Vanclay & Turner 2001Establishes technical contribution

RFA

West Victorian submissions, public meetings, independent panel material

Establishes regional policy influence

Community Forestry

CFM review, Wombat News and Views, meeting minutes, Resource Disk, GIS work

Establishes governance contribution

FSC Australia2007 AGM/board records, SDG appointment, consultation papers, annual reports

Establishes transition to national forest governance**2018 Standard**FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 and consultation records

Establishes final policy outcome

The existing evidence already gives us a surprisingly solid backbone. The missing Wombat Forest Society newsletters and original Anderson documents would make it much more granular.

The strongest overall conclusion

I would now describe Anderson's contribution this way:

Tim Anderson's forest work represents a progression from local community advocacy to evidence-based forest policy and ultimately to national forest governance. Beginning with community participation in the Wombat State Forest in the early 1990s, he became involved in the Wombat Forest Society's campaign for more sustainable forest management. His work with forest data and sustainable-yield modelling culminated in the Society's 1999 critique of the Victorian government's Midlands sustainable-yield model, which became the subject of an independent review commissioned through the Regional Forest Agreement process. The subsequent Victorian forestry reforms substantially reduced the Wombat's sustainable-yield allocation and opened the way for a new experiment in community participation.

Anderson then moved from challenging government forest management to helping develop an alternative. As Wombat Community Development Officer and later Project Manager for Community Forestry within the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment, he worked on the Wombat Community Forest Management Pilot, developing participatory structures, issue-based working groups and mechanisms such as the Forest Explorer GIS system to give community participants access to forest information. Although the CFM experiment ultimately failed as a formal governance structure, it generated important experience about the possibilities and difficulties of participatory forest governance.

Anderson subsequently carried those community and social-governance perspectives into the Forest Stewardship Council. He was elected to the FSC Australia Social Chamber in 2007 and later appointed to the FSC Australian Standards Development Group in 2013 as the Regional Forest

Communities representative. Over the following five years he participated in the chamber-balanced process that developed Australia's National Forest Stewardship Standard, approved in 2018. His documented contribution therefore spans community forest campaigning, sustainable-yield analysis, participatory GIS and community forestry, regional forest policy, forest certification and national multi-stakeholder standard setting.

Loris

Loris Duclos became involved in community environmental and land-use issues in Victoria in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Her early involvement included the **Friends of Cockatoo Creek**, followed by work with **Friends of the Earth**. A 1999 Australian Government Regional Forest Agreement water forum biography records that she subsequently undertook tertiary studies in natural resource management at the School of Mines in Ballarat from 1993, and later continued studies at Forestech near Lakes Entrance. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Her work with **Friends of the Earth Water Collective** was particularly significant. In 1994 she was undertaking a catchment audit of Cockatoo Creek when she identified a logging operation in the McCraes Creek catchment. The investigation documented alleged breaches involving stream buffers, roads and drainage, stream crossings, logging seasons, slope restrictions and the forest utilisation plan. Friends of the Earth subsequently pursued the matter through the Victorian administrative tribunal process, with assistance from the Environment Defenders Office. The case eventually resulted in an enforcement order against the logging operation. Archive FOE

Her environmental work then broadened considerably. The 1999 government biography lists her as a **Friends of the Earth Project Officer involved in the Melbourne Water Sewerage Strategy Review (1993–94)**, a **Victorian Environment Defenders Office board member (1995–96)**, a participant in the **Daylesford Water Quality Community Group (1997)**, and, from 1998, **RFA Project Officer for the Tambo Environment Awareness Group**. In 1999 she was also a consultant to the **Australian Conservation Foundation's RFA Working Group**. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Wombat Forest Society

Duclos' longest-running environmental work appears to have centred on the **Wombat Forest Society** and the management of the Wombat State Forest. She became a Wombat Forest Society water researcher in 1994. Her work extended beyond conventional conservation campaigning: it involved examining government forestry data, water impacts, forest management assumptions, timber resource estimates and the relationship between planned and actual forestry operations.

A detailed history of the Wombat Forest Society records that **Loris Duclos and Tim Anderson developed methods for interpreting, checking and challenging government forestry modelling and data**. The Society combined this analysis with information gathered by local members in the forest and oral histories from local residents. This work was used to scrutinise government wood-utilisation plans and forestry forecasts and became influential in the public debate over Victorian forest management. Australian Forest History Society

This is an important part of Duclos' environmental history because it shows that her role was not simply that of a conventional protest campaigner. Much of her work involved **collecting primary evidence, auditing government information, analysing forestry figures and translating technical information into material that communities could use in public policy debates**.

Regional Forest Agreements

Duclos subsequently became deeply involved in the **Regional Forest Agreement process**, particularly the West Victorian RFA and the Tambo region.

At the 1999 Geelong Water Forum she presented as a community representative and specifically discussed weaknesses she saw in contemporary forest science and forest-management systems. She

was also working as the Tambo Environment Awareness Group's RFA Project Officer and as an ACF RFA consultant. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

She subsequently appeared before the Australian Senate committee examining the RFA process in February 1999, representing the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Tambo Environment Awareness Group. The parliamentary record identifies her alongside Francis Grey and Tim Anderson in discussions concerning the RFA review and forest policy. Parliament of Australia

The West Victorian RFA's official archive is particularly valuable because it preserves **Duclos' own presentation from the 2000 Water Forum**, alongside the government's sustainable-yield material and other technical studies. The Australian Government's RFA archive also contains the *Review of the Sustainable Yield Issues in the Wombat State Forest*. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Environmental auditing and community evidence

One of the strongest threads through her career is the use of **environmental auditing as a community advocacy tool**.

The Cockatoo Creek investigation is an early example: rather than relying solely on broad environmental objections, Duclos conducted field-based catchment work that identified specific forestry practices and potential breaches. That information was subsequently used by Friends of the Earth in a formal legal process. Archive FOE

The same approach appears in the Wombat Forest work: comparing government plans and modelling with what was actually occurring on the ground. The Wombat Forest Society history specifically describes Duclos and Anderson developing techniques for checking departmental modelling against actual forest practices and timber outcomes. Australian Forest History Society

This makes **environmental auditing, evidence gathering and translating technical information into community action** a useful central theme in a biography of her work.

Tambo and broader Victorian environmental work

Her work was not confined to the Wombat Forest. As Tambo Environment Awareness Group RFA Project Officer, she became involved in the broader East Gippsland/Tambo environmental debate and the RFA process. Contemporary records also show her speaking publicly about environmental issues such as mosquito spraying in the Gippsland Lakes region, where she raised concerns about effects on aquatic food chains and household rainwater. Australian Pesticides Map

Her career therefore spans **water catchments, forestry, biodiversity, environmental regulation, government decision-making and community participation**, rather than being limited to a single forest campaign.

Helping communities use the planning and legal system

The Friends of the Earth work is especially relevant to the question of helping communities take environmental issues into formal legal processes.

The Cockatoo Creek/McCraes Creek matter demonstrates a model that became characteristic of this type of community environmental advocacy:

field investigation → documentation/audit → identification of regulatory breaches → community campaign → professional environmental/legal assistance → tribunal proceedings → enforcement.

The historical Friends of the Earth account explicitly identifies Duclos as the person who discovered the logging operation while undertaking the Cockatoo Creek catchment audit. Archive FOE

This is a significant part of her biography because it demonstrates practical experience in **helping community environmental concerns move from local observations into evidence capable of being used in administrative and legal processes**.

Later Wombat Forest advocacy

Duclos remained involved in Wombat Forest issues for decades. In 2006 she was publicly advocating for a sustainable local forest industry while arguing that the government should not simply lock up the forest without considering its condition and management needs. ABC News

In 2010, as a representative of the Friends of the Wombat Forest, she opposed proposals to convert the Wombat State Forest into a state park. Her argument was that the forest had already been heavily disturbed and that management, rather than simply changing its tenure, was necessary. ABC News

By 2018 she was again publicly involved in the VEAC investigation into the future of the Wombat State Forest. Contemporary reporting notes that she had received the **Australian Government Centenary Medal for outstanding service to the environment, particularly the Wombat State Forest**. Melton & Moorabool

Hepburn Shire records also show that in December 2018 **Loris Duclos presented to councillors on the VEAC proposal concerning Wombat State Forest**. Hepburn Shire Council

A possible concise biographical characterisation

Taken together, the documentary record supports describing Loris Duclos as:

A Victorian community environmental researcher and advocate whose work from the early 1990s combined field-based environmental auditing, natural-resource research, forestry analysis and community advocacy. Her work with Friends of the Earth, the Wombat Forest Society, the Tambo Environment Awareness Group and the Australian Conservation Foundation involved investigating environmental impacts, scrutinising government forestry data and modelling, participating in Regional Forest Agreement processes, and assisting communities to use administrative and legal mechanisms to challenge environmental problems. Her sustained involvement in the Wombat Forest made her a prominent community voice in debates over forestry, water, sustainable yield, forest management and the future tenure of the forest.

There is a **much deeper archival story** here than this initial biography suggests. In particular, the Australian Government's RFA archive has the original **Loris Duclos Water Forum presentation**, while the Wombat Forest Society history contains unusually detailed discussion of the Duclos/Anderson modelling and auditing work. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

If you're preparing this as a serious historical biography, I would next build a **year-by-year chronology from roughly 1989–2020**, identifying *specific reports, environmental audits, VCAT/AAT cases, Wombat Forest Society newsletters, RFA submissions, government reviews, forestry modelling, community campaigns, university/Forestech study, and documented policy outcomes*. That would make it possible to distinguish **what Loris personally did, what she did jointly with Tim Anderson, and what organisations she worked through**, rather than producing a generalised biography.

A serious historical biography, will next build a year-by-year chronology from roughly 1989–2020, identifying specific reports, environmental audits, VCAT/AAT cases, Wombat Forest Society newsletters, RFA submissions, government reviews, forestry modelling, community campaigns, university/Forestech study, and documented policy outcomes. That would make it possible to distinguish what Loris personally did, what she did jointly with Tim Anderson, and what organisations she worked through, rather than producing a generalised biography.

This as an **archival biography rather than a conventional profile**. The documentary record is considerably stronger than the earlier summary suggested. In particular, there are government RFA records, Senate evidence, the Friends of the Earth archive, the Australian Forest History Society's detailed study of the Wombat Forest Society, VCAT material, VEAC records and contemporary newspaper reports.

Loris Duclos: an archival chronology, 1989–2020

1989–1991 — Friends of Cockatoo Creek and the beginning of environmental work

Documented role: Loris personally

Loris Duclos identifies **1989–91** as the period in which she was a **founding member of Friends of Cockatoo Creek**. She later described this as the beginning of her involvement with community land-use and environmental issues.

This is significant because her subsequent career retained the same basic methodology: local residents identifying an environmental problem, gathering evidence, understanding the regulatory framework, and then taking the issue into the formal decision-making system. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Historical significance: this appears to be the foundation of what became a characteristic approach in her later work — community-based environmental investigation rather than simply campaigning from outside government processes.

1992–1993 — transition into professional environmental work

Documented organisation: Friends of the Earth Melbourne

By 1993–94 Duclos was working with **Friends of the Earth**, as Project Officer on the **Melbourne Water Sewerage Strategy Review**. Her own 1999 biography records this explicitly. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

She also began formal Natural Resource Management studies in Ballarat in 1993, winning an **Award of Excellence** that year. She subsequently undertook further part-time study at SMB and Forestech. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Important biographical distinction

The evidence therefore supports describing her education as:

- Natural Resource Management — School of Mines, Ballarat, from 1993
- subsequent part-time study at SMB
- subsequent study at **Forestech near Lakes Entrance**

I would **not currently describe her as having studied forestry at Melbourne University** unless an independent university record turns up.

1994 — the Cockatoo Creek catchment audit

This is one of the best documented episodes in her career.

Documented role: Loris personally

While working for the **Friends of the Earth Water Collective**, Duclos was conducting a **catchment audit of Cockatoo Creek**.

In February 1994 she discovered logging operations in the McCraes Creek catchment, which supplied drinking water to a number of communities in the Dandenong Ranges area. Friends of the Earth subsequently investigated the operation and documented alleged breaches involving:

- stream buffers
- road infrastructure
- drainage
- stream crossings
- logging outside permitted seasons
- slope restrictions
- the forest utilisation plan.

The Friends of the Earth historical account specifically attributes the discovery of the operation to **Loris Duclos**. Archive FOE

This is an extremely important episode for her biography because it demonstrates the emergence of a distinctive methodology:

community environmental investigation → field audit → evidence gathering → identification of regulatory breaches → legal intervention.

1995 — Friends of the Earth takes the logging case to the Tribunal

Organisation: Friends of the Earth
Legal assistance: Environment Defenders Office

Friends of the Earth lodged an application on **14 December 1994** seeking an enforcement order against S.T.Y. Afforestation.

The matter was heard in September 1995. The Tribunal inspected the site and on **19 October 1995** made an enforcement order against the company. The historical FoE account describes the case as a major precedent concerning environmental non-compliance by a logging operation. Archive FOE

It is important, however, not to overstate Duclos's personal role.

What the evidence establishes:

- Loris discovered the operation.
- She was undertaking the catchment audit.
- Friends of the Earth campaigners documented the breaches.
- FoE brought the enforcement proceedings.
- the Environment Defenders Office helped secure legal representation.
- the Tribunal ultimately made the enforcement order.

Thus this should be described as **Loris's discovery and investigative contribution to a Friends of the Earth legal campaign**, rather than as Loris personally bringing the case.

The contemporary/history sources sometimes refer to the Tribunal as VCAT, but the original proceeding was in the **Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)**; VCAT was subsequently created in Victoria. The Friends of the Earth archival account records the AAT terminology. D3n8a8pro7vhmx

---

1996–1998 — monitoring compliance with the enforcement order

The work did not end with the Tribunal victory.

Friends of the Earth subsequently discovered that remedial work required under the enforcement order was apparently not being properly carried out. The organisation undertook further investigations, including a **May 1996 aerial inspection**, and continued legal proceedings.

The matter was not finally resolved until the AAT amended the original enforcement order in **December 1998**. D3n8a8pro7vhmx

Biographical significance

This episode demonstrates something important about Duclos's environmental work: it was not simply about obtaining a favourable decision. It involved **checking whether the decision was actually implemented**.

That distinction becomes important later in her forestry auditing work.

1994 onward — Wombat Forest Society

Documented role: Loris personally — Water Researcher
Organisation: Wombat Forest Society

Duclos's 1999 biography states:

1994–ongoing — Wombat Forest Society Water Researcher. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

The Wombat Forest Society itself emerged in the mid-1990s from local people concerned about the management of the Wombat State Forest. The Australian Forest History Society's detailed historical study identifies **Loris Duclos, Tim Anderson, John Endacott and Peter O'Mara** among its active members. Australian Forest History Society

This is where her work developed from local environmental auditing into **forest-resource analysis**.

1995–1996 — Environment Defenders Office

Documented role: Loris personally

Her 1999 biography records that she was a **Victorian Environment Defenders Office board member from 1995–96**. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

This is particularly relevant to the later story about assisting communities with environmental and planning disputes because it demonstrates that her work was not confined to forest campaigning; she also became involved in an organisation specifically concerned with environmental law and legal mechanisms.

1997 — Daylesford water issues

Organisation: Daylesford Water Quality Community Group

Her 1999 biography records her involvement in the **Daylesford Water Quality Community Group in 1997**. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

This connects her environmental work directly with the local community around Daylesford and with the water-resource issues that subsequently became a recurring theme in her Wombat Forest and RFA work.

1998 — Tambo Environment Awareness Group

Documented role: Loris personally
Position: Forest/RFA Project Officer

From 1998 she was the **Tambo Environment Awareness Group RFA Project Officer**. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

This represents a major expansion in scale.

She was no longer concerned only with local forest or catchment issues. She became involved in the emerging **Regional Forest Agreement system**, including the East Gippsland/Tambo region.

1998–1999 — the sustainable-yield investigation

This is probably the most important part of the biography from the standpoint of forest policy.

The Wombat Forest Society developed methods for examining government forestry information, particularly:

- Wood Utilisation Plans
- sustainable-yield figures
- predicted timber volumes
- actual harvesting
- changes in coupe volumes
- yield per hectare
- forest-management assumptions.

The Australian Forest History Society's study records that **Loris Duclos and Tim Anderson developed sophisticated methods for interpreting, checking and challenging departmental modelling and data**. The Society used software to audit predicted timber volumes and compare departmental forecasts with actual forest practices and outcomes. Australian Forest History Society

This work appears to have been a genuine **joint Duclos–Anderson project**, rather than something that can safely be attributed entirely to either individual.

1999 — Australian Conservation Foundation RFA work

Documented role: Loris personally

In 1999 Duclos was a **consultant to the Australian Conservation Foundation's RFA Working Group**. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

On **16 February 1999**, she appeared before the Australian Senate's Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee as:

- consultant to the Australian Conservation Foundation
- Forest Project Officer, Tambo Environment Awareness Group.

Tim Anderson appeared alongside her as an ACF consultant, President of the Wombat Forest Society and Convener of the Western Victorian Forest Network. Parliament of Australia

This distinction is important:

Loris: ACF consultant + Tambo RFA Project Officer
Tim: ACF consultant + Wombat Forest Society President + Western Victorian Forest Network convenor.

They were working together, but their formal organisational roles were not identical.

1999 — Senate evidence on the RFA

Duclos's evidence is particularly valuable because it provides a direct primary-source record of her analytical work.

She told the Senate committee that the Wombat Forest Society had developed a model which analysed annual harvesting schedules and Wood Utilisation Plans. Parliament of Australia

She explained that her baseline data came from government Wood Utilisation Plans and sustainable-yield review documents. She converted changing areas and volumes to a common measure — **cubic metres per hectare** — so that the numbers could be compared across years and management areas. Parliament of Australia

This is much stronger evidence for her role than later descriptions saying simply that she "crunched the numbers."

It shows **how she actually did the analysis**.

She also gave evidence concerning Tambo, stating that departmental figures indicated harvesting above sustainable-yield levels. Whether every interpretation she placed on those figures was correct is a separate historical question; the important biographical fact is that she was **actively constructing and presenting an independent analysis of departmental forestry data to a parliamentary inquiry**. Parliament of Australia

---

1999 — West Victorian RFA Water Forum

On **1 December 1999**, Duclos spoke at the West Victorian RFA Water Forum in Geelong.

The official Commonwealth/Victorian RFA record identifies her as a Wombat Forest Society representative discussing groundwater issues in the **Midlands Forest Management Area**.

Her presentation challenged:

- selective use of scientific literature;
- application of generic forestry rules to local conditions;
- insufficient local scientific knowledge;
- the quality of information being used for land-use decisions;
- implications for water and forest management.

The official forum summary specifically records these points. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Her own presentation is even more revealing. She argued that West Victoria's forests were poorly understood compared with the better-studied ash forests of Melbourne's water catchments and questioned whether research developed elsewhere could simply be applied to mixed-species forests in the Wombat and Midlands regions. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

---

2000 — West Victorian Regional Forest Agreement

The **West Victorian RFA was signed on 31 March 2000**. The official archive preserves an extensive collection of the scientific and policy material underlying it, including:

- the Comprehensive Regional Assessment;
- biodiversity assessment;
- social assessment;
- Water Forum proceedings;

- timber-resource analyses;
- **A Review of the Sustainable Yield Issues in the Wombat State Forest**;
- Loris Duclos's Water Forum presentation. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

This archive is likely to be one of the most important sources for a full biography.

Duclos's contribution

Her 2000 work should be characterised as part of the **community scrutiny of the scientific and modelling assumptions underlying the RFA**, particularly concerning water, forest growth and sustainable yield.

2000–2001 — the Wombat Forest Society's auditing system

The Australian Forest History Society's study provides unusually valuable evidence for this period.

It records that the Society:

- developed software to audit departmental timber-volume predictions;
- monitored departmental practices;
- pressed officials for release of sustainable-yield information;
- compared forward plans with actual forest practices;
- used local knowledge gathered on foot and horseback;
- incorporated oral histories;
- used its analysis in correspondence, media releases and public debate. Australian Forest History Society

The study specifically identifies **Loris Duclos and Tim Anderson** as the people who developed sophisticated means of interpreting and checking departmental modelling and data. Australian Forest History Society

It also records a **15 December 2000 Wombat Forest Society media release** and a **September 2001 Wombat Forest Society newsletter** as important sources for the Society's analysis. Australian Forest History Society

This gives us a concrete archival target: the original **2000 media release and 2001 newsletter** should be obtained and examined rather than relying on later recollections.

2001 — sustainable-yield controversy reaches the broader public

The Forest History study says that the Wombat Forest Society's analysis helped generate a front-page *Age* article on **27 February 2001** and an *Age* editorial on **2 March 2001** calling for reductions in logging volumes. It also records that politicians and academics around Australia sought the Society's advice. Australian Forest History Society

This is an important transition:

local Wombat Forest analysis → state forestry debate → national policy discussion.

Awarded the Commonwealth Centenary Medal for her work on the Wombat Forest and other Environmental Causes

---

2002 — Our Forests, Our Future

This appears to have been the major policy outcome associated with the Duclos–Anderson work.

A later Friends of the Earth historical review states that the Wombat Forest Society's analysis contributed substantially to the Bracks Government's decision to reduce logging volumes across Victoria in 2002, and specifically attributes the initiative of identifying excessive harvesting against sustainable yield to Loris Duclos. Archive FOE

Other later accounts cite research by Nicastro and Penna describing the modelling work of **Duclos and Anderson** as an important factor in undermining the government's sustainable-yield estimates. Bad Developers

The Victorian Government's **Our Forests, Our Future** policy followed in February 2002. The forest-history literature identifies it as the government statement associated with a substantial reduction in Victorian logging. Australian Forest History Society

Historical caution

I would phrase the causal claim carefully.

It is well documented that:

1. Duclos and Anderson undertook the independent modelling;
2. their work challenged government sustainable-yield assumptions;
3. the work received considerable media and political attention;
4. logging allocations were subsequently reduced.

The stronger claim that **their work alone caused the 2002 policy** comes from later advocacy/history sources and should be identified as an attribution rather than presented as an uncontested government finding.

2003–2004 — forestry monitoring and implementation

The evidence becomes more fragmented in these years, but the Wombat Forest Society continued monitoring forestry operations and water impacts.

One example is the **Stewarts Creek/Wombat Reservoir catchment**. A later forestry monitoring record contains a site description provided by **Loris Duclos**, identifying the location as approximately 1 km upstream of the Wombat Reservoir and within the Cairn Curran Special Water Supply Area. Hancock Watch

The documentation records concerns about logging tracks, creek crossings, sediment and impacts on the Daylesford water supply.

This is an example of the way her earlier **catchment-audit methodology** continued into the Wombat Forest.

2004- Forest activist starts forestry degree-

Loris decided one way of advancing her already established knowledge on forests, forest science and auditing was to undertake a Forestry Degree at Melbourne University. Her application was controversial to some in the faculty, while others welcomed a new insight into how modern forests and forest politics into the School of Forestry.

One stated it could be the end of Forestry at the University. Ironically this was true, but not for those reasons. Loris was the last graduate from Melbourne University to get a Forestry Degree, with Honours. The university had wound up that degree in line with the demise of forests etc in the state and moved to a broader environmental degree.

Melbourne university has a campus a Creswick, literally beside the Wombat Forest. The WFS had already established a strong rapport and relationship with many of the School's scientists and academics. The university had taken many field trips into the Wombat with students with WFS members to look at the issues there. Tis was a w way exchange, as the WFS was able to gain valuable knowledge from the forest scientists. Kevin Tolhurst on fire ecology John Kellas on silviculture, Leon Bren on forest hydrology obtuse issues as was his way, Ron Haitley on plant identification, growth and historic natural forest disturbances.

Other under graduates that went through this course with Loris arguably became much more holistic in their attitude to forest and how they should be managed. Loris was up front challenging the old norms and putting forward a broader and necessary view of forest for all their values. Instilling the importance of having a social license and respecting community involvement.

2005 — collaborative forest management

The Wombat Forest became the subject of a formal experiment in **collaborative forest management**.

A 2005 academic paper by Mark Poynter examined the Wombat collaborative-management experiment and its implications for forestry, community participation and the timber industry. A subsequent paper by **Loris Duclos** responded to that analysis. ResearchGate

This is important because it shows that her work had moved beyond simply opposing government forestry decisions.

She was engaging in the much larger question:

Can a community, government and timber industry jointly manage a contested forest?

That fits strongly with the later description of the Wombat Forest Society as developing a participatory/community-forestry model rather than relying on blockade tactics. Australian Forest History Society

---

2006 — advocating a sustainable local timber industry

By 2006 Duclos was publicly arguing for continued **small-scale native forestry in the Wombat Forest**, provided it was sustainable.

ABC reporting records her lobbying the Victorian Government after increasing restrictions had contributed to sawmill closures. She said a government adviser had indicated that there was not yet a decision to "lock up" the Wombat and urged supporters of a small native forest industry to make their views known to government. ABC News

This is a crucial part of the biography because it prevents an overly simple description of her as an anti-logging activist.

Her position by this period was more accurately: **against unsustainable industrial forestry, but supportive of an appropriately managed local forest industry.**

2007 — retrospective account of the Wombat Forest Society's work

A 2007 *Chain Reaction* article argued that the Wombat Forest Society's work had helped produce the 2002 reduction in logging and specifically identified **Tim Anderson and Loris Duclos**. It described Duclos as the person who initiated the examination of whether logging was occurring above sustainable yield. Archive FOE

This source is useful but should be treated as a **contemporary environmental movement retrospective**, rather than as an independent government assessment.

2008–2009 — gap in the readily accessible record

I have not yet found sufficiently strong documentary evidence to assign a major new individual project to Duclos in these two years.

That is not evidence that she was inactive.

It is a reminder of an important principle for this biography:

absence from the digitised record should not be converted into absence from the historical record.

Wombat Forest Society newsletters, local newspapers, council records and private organisational archives are likely to fill this period.

2010 — debate over the future of Wombat Forest

In October 2010 Duclos was publicly identified with the **Friends of the Wombat Forest** during the debate over proposals to make the Wombat State Forest a state park.

She argued that the forest had already been heavily disturbed by earlier logging and that simply locking it up could preserve an ecologically degraded condition rather than restore it. ABC News

This represents an evolution in her position:

1990s: challenge excessive and unsustainable logging
2000s: support sustainable/community forestry
2010: argue for active ecological management rather than simply changing the tenure to protected status.

2011–2015 — forestry, water and community environmental work

The digitised record is thinner here.

There is evidence that Duclos continued to work around forestry, water and local environmental matters, but the archival trail needs to be reconstructed from:

- Wombat Forest Society records;
- Friends of the Wombat Forest records;
- local newspapers;
- Hepburn Shire records;
- planning applications;
- Victorian government forestry documents.

This is also the period in which her work increasingly intersects with **individual landowners and local planning/environmental disputes**, rather than only large-scale state forestry policy.

2016 — expert evidence in VCAT

This provides the strongest documentary evidence I have found for the **community/individual litigation** aspect of her later career.

In **Speechley v Midway Ltd [2017] VCAT 1014**, Duclos provided expert evidence for landowners involved in a dispute over forestry, water flows, sediment and herbicide contamination.

The case concerned a farm adjoining a large plantation. After the 2009 Black Saturday fire, the plantation was salvage harvested, replanted and sprayed. The neighbouring landowners alleged that sediment, water and chemical contamination affected their property and dam. Boston Group

The VCAT judgment records:

Loris Duclos provided expert opinion evidence in forestry and conservation consultancy.

She inspected the properties on **6 July 2016** and produced a report dated **5 August 2016**. Boston Group

This is very significant evidence for the biography.

It demonstrates that her accumulated community forestry knowledge had become sufficiently developed for her to act as an **expert witness in a VCAT proceeding**.

The case itself was ultimately dismissed, so the biography should not imply that her evidence resulted in a successful judgment. Boston Group

But her role was nevertheless substantive: she was engaged as an expert in a complex forestry/water dispute involving a private plantation.

Loris and her the growing awareness of skills at assisting local communities fighting developers that would damage their environment, saw Duclos working with a number of localised environment groups and individuals, fighting proposed and inappropriate developments across Victoria.

Duclos was able to find relevant local laws, legislation and pathways to empower locals to compile strong legal arguments. Talk to the right people in government agencies and politicians, organise media and appear as an 'Expert Witness' in VCAT hearings on these matters.

2017 — conservation assessment work

A 2017 Wombat Forest conservation report acknowledges **Loris Duclos for providing valuable comments** on the assessment of Wombat Forest conservation values.

This indicates continuing involvement in the collection and interpretation of local environmental information, although the available source does not establish that she was an author.

2017–2018 — VEAC and the future of Wombat Forest

The Victorian Environment Assessment Council's **Central West Investigation** became the next major Wombat Forest campaign.

VEAC investigated the future classification and management of the Wombat, Wellsford, Mount Cole and Pyrenees Ranges State Forests.

Duclos became a prominent community participant in the debate.

In 2018 contemporary reporting described her as a regular forest user and noted that she had received the **Commonwealth Centenary Medal for outstanding service to the environment, particularly the Wombat State Forest**. Melton & Moorabool

Her argument was no longer simply about timber production. She argued that decades of intensive logging had produced a highly modified forest requiring active ecological management, including thinning, and that simply creating a national park would not necessarily resolve those ecological problems. Melton & Moorabool

Duclos took on the simplistic and inaccurate positions from groups like Wombat Forestcare and the Victorian National Parks Association. Positions that saw threats that were not there, The real threat of a heavily damaged forest from the industrial logging .climate change impacts and the a forest that needed restoration. Not locking it up as a national park and assuming that it will ok.

Her professional knowledge and hard earnt experience meant she could see beyond the simplistic views of Wombat Forestcare of looking after certain species. That their survival was based on functioning ecosystems that supported the whole web of life.

2018 — direct presentation to Hepburn Shire Council

This is another unusually strong primary record.

Hepburn Shire Council's **4 December 2018 councillor briefing agenda** records:

3.30 pm — Presentation: VEAC proposal re Wombat State Forest — Ms Loris Duclos. Hepburn Shire Council

That establishes that she was not merely quoted in newspapers. She was directly briefing elected local government representatives on the future of the forest.

2018–2019 — VEAC submissions

VEAC's official list of submitters records **Loris Duclos** as making submissions during both submission periods for the Central West investigation. VEAC

The final VEAC report was lodged with the Victorian Environment Minister in **June 2019**. The Local

This provides another clear example of her long-running method:

technical/environmental knowledge → community mobilisation → formal submission → direct engagement with decision-makers.

2015–2020 — Forest Stewardship Council

There is also evidence of a further national-level phase of forestry work.

A 2021 account of the Wombat debate states that **Tim Anderson and Loris Duclos had completed four years of work on the Australian Forest Stewardship Council Forest Standard**, working with:

- forestry industry representatives;
- Indigenous representatives;
- national environmental groups. The Local

That would place this work approximately in the **2017–2021 period**, although the precise dates and Duclos's formal status on the FSC process still need to be established from FSC records.

I therefore would currently describe this as:

documented joint Duclos–Anderson involvement in the Australian FSC standard-development process, with the precise individual role of Loris requiring further archival verification.

2020 — RFA continuation

The West Victorian RFA was originally signed on **31 March 2000** and was due to expire in 2020.

On **30 March 2020**, it was varied and extended to 30 June 2030. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

This is an appropriate endpoint for the 1989–2020 chronology because it marks approximately two decades from Duclos's intense involvement in the RFA process.

It also demonstrates how long-running the issues were: many of the questions she raised in the late 1990s — sustainable yield, water, biodiversity, government modelling, public participation and accountability — remained embedded in forest policy two decades later.

What the evidence says about Loris's individual contribution

The emerging record allows us to distinguish several different categories of work.

Period- Loris's documented individual role Joint/organisational role-

- 1989–9- 1Founding member Friends of Cockatoo Creek
- 1993–94- Project Officer Friends of the Earth
- 1994- Conducted Cockatoo Creek catchment audit; discovered McCraes Creek logging FoE Water Collective
- 1994- onward Water researcher Wombat Forest Society
- 1995- 96- Board member Environment Defenders Office
- 1997- Participant Daylesford Water Quality Community Group
- 1998- onward RFA Project Officer Tambo Environment Awareness Group 1999ConsultantAustralian Conservation Foundation
- 1999- Forestry modelling and Wood Utilisation Plan analysis jointly with Tim Anderson/Wombat Forest Society
- 1999- Parliamentary evidence ACF/Tambo/WFS
- 1999– 2000Water/groundwater analysis West Victorian RFA
- 2000–02 Sustainable-yield analysis Primarily joint Duclos–Anderson/WFS
- 2002- Contributed to debate leading to logging reductions WFS / Victorian forest-policy campaign
- 2003- Enrolled in a Forestry Degree at Melbourne University School of Forestry
- 2005–06Forest-management analysis and published response Wombat collaborative-management debate
- 2010- Public advocate for active Wombat management Friends of the Wombat Forest
- 2016- Expert forestry/conservation evidence Speechley VCAT case2017Technical comments Wombat conservation assessment
- 2018- VEAC advocacy and Council presentation Community/Wombat campaign
- 2018– 19Formal VEAC submissions Community campaign~
- 2017– 20FSC forest-standard work Joint with Tim Anderson and national stakeholders
- 2020- RFA policy legacy West Victorian RFA

The central thread of her career

The strongest interpretation emerging from the archival evidence is **not simply that Loris Duclos was a conservation campaigner**.

Her career appears to have developed through four distinct stages:

1. Community environmental investigation

1989–1995

Friends of Cockatoo Creek → Friends of the Earth → catchment auditing → discovery of forestry non-compliance → Tribunal proceedings.

2. Independent environmental auditing

1994–2002

Wombat Forest Society → water research → Wood Utilisation Plans → sustainable-yield modelling → checking government predictions against actual forest conditions.

3. Policy and institutional engagement

1998–2007

Tambo Environment Awareness Group → ACF → RFA process → Senate evidence → government reviews → sustainable-yield debate → Our Forests, Our Future.

4. Community expert and forest-management advocacy

2005–2020

Collaborative forest management → expert evidence → water/forestry disputes → VEAC → Hepburn Shire presentations → FSC standards → continuing Wombat Forest advocacy.

That is a much more interesting biography than simply "environmental activist."

It portrays her as someone who repeatedly tried to **turn local environmental knowledge into evidence that could be tested inside government, regulatory, scientific and legal systems**.

One particularly important finding

The **1999 Senate evidence** is probably the single most valuable document for reconstructing her intellectual and practical contribution.

It establishes, in her own evidence, that she was:

- obtaining government forestry data;
- converting it into comparable measures;
- constructing computer models;
- comparing planned and actual harvesting;
- identifying discrepancies;
- analysing sustainable-yield assumptions;
- applying the work across forest-management areas;
- presenting the results to a federal parliamentary committee. Parliament of Australia

That makes it possible to move beyond the later claim that she "crunched the numbers" and actually reconstruct **what she did, how she did it and what information she used**.