WOMBAT FOREST SOCIETY

COUPE ASSESSMENT KIT

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9. LIST OF MEMBERS TO CONTACT WITH SPECIFIC PROBLEMS

ASSESSING A LOGGING COUPE IN THE WOMBAT FOREST.

1..... Thank you for showing an interest in this project your input is greatly appreciated. The information you gather will assist the Society to build up an informative data base on logging activities in the Wombat Forest and to prepare a package of evidence that will be used to validate our claims.

2..... Decide upon a coupe which you have a particular interest in. Firstly discuss your choice with the forest research group they will provide you with assistance and information you will require to carry out your assessments.

3..... Collect together all the equipment you will need (see list in coupe assessment kit) Carefully read all the information you have been provided with.

4..... Complete the coupe inspection form. Fill out as much information as you can if you have any difficulties the research subgroup can provide assistance. Discuss your results with members of the society.

5..... Read through the "Protocol for Collecting Evidence of Breaches of The Code Of Forest Practices" (see coupe assessment kit). It is important that you understand this protocol if you have any concerns discuss them with the legal and political sub-group.

6..... Collect evidence of breaches, you will need to have at least one assistant when carrying out this task. Be very thorough with your documentation, number each breach and piece of supporting evidence collected at the site.

ie; Breach 1. Failure to maintain streamside buffer area
Evidence A. Photograph of disturbed area looking south
Evidence B. Photograph of disturbed area looking north
Evidence C. Coupe map showing exact location of breach.

7..... You should then present your findings and supporting evidence at a Wombat Forest Society meeting for open discussion.

8..... If the committee feels that your coupe requires further consideration they will arrange a suitable time for you to revisit the site with one of the committee members and collect the relevant infprmation.

9..... You will then be requested to complete a statutory declaration outlining your concerns and supporting evidence. The legal and political subgroup will provide you with assistance to do this or if you so desire, we will provide you with professional legal advice.

THANK YOU FOR YOR TIME AND ENERGY

THE WOMBAT FOREST SOCIETY GAINS STRENGTH FROM THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF IT'S MEMBERS. YOUR INPUT IS MOST VALUED.

What to take when documenting Breach:

1. Code of Forest Practice.
2. Map of forest (1: 25 000 scale is good)
3. Coupe Plan (if available).
4. Pen and Paper. (To record evidence).
5. Camera and Film. (To provide visual evidence).
6. Watch. (When documenting evidence, exact time and place are essential).
7. Compass. (For site specific information. Direction photo is taken, what direction a slope faces. etc.).
8. Measuring Tape. (20 to 30 Meters tape ideal).
9. Painted Stakes for idea of scale in Photographs (Florescent colors are good).
10. Jars with good lids for Water Samples.
11. Labels for Jars

On first entering the site you should clearly state:

1. Name and Address of Coupe.
2. Date and Time.
3. Location of Coupe (mark on Map).
4. Purpose of visit (i.e. to inspect alleged breaches of the Code of Forestry Practice).

Walk to one of the breaches you have identified.
Number the Brach and clearly identify it. With reference to Code.

Evidence:

It is important to be very thorough with your documentation when carrying out this work. Note Time/ Date. Number each breach and piece of supporting evidence collected at each site. Try to be complete in recording all evidence. e.g.

Breach: 1. Failure to maintain stream-side buffer area.
Evidence A. Photograph of disturbed area looking south.
Evidence B. Photograph of disturbed area looking north.

It is up to you to choose hoe many Breaches you document. Those with the best supportable evidence will be the highest priority.

MAIN PRINCIPLES TO ASSESS

1. Stream-side reserve protection - trees felled within reserve.
2. Stream-side reserve protection - trees felled into reserve.
3. Stream-side reserve protection - machine entering reserve.
4. Filter strip protection - machine entering reserve.
5. Rehabilitation of landings.
6. Rehabilitation of temporary roads.
7. Rehabilitation of snig tracks.
8. Wet weather restrictions - snigging.
9. Litter/fuel drum removal.
10. Rehabilitation of coupe boundary tracks.
11. Distribution of removed bark.
12. Protection of area exclusions (eg. wildlife corridors, rain forest buffers, significant tree buffers, other areas).
13. Protection of retained trees.
14. Construction and maintenance of temporary roads.
15. Construction and maintenance of permanent roads.
16. Location and use of snig/forwarder tracks.
17. Management of log dumps.
18. Management of quarries and gravel pits.
19. Management of camp sites.
20. Wet weather restrictions - harvesting.
21. Eroded gully protection.
22. Retention of retained habitat trees.

It is up to you to choose how many Breaches you document. Those with the best supportable evidence should be the highest priority.

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EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR CARRYING OUT COUPE INSPECTION AND COLLECTING EVIDENCE RELATING TO BREACHES.

WOMBAT FOREST SOCIETY COUPE INSPECTION KIT This includes the following information which you will require to carry out your inspection and provide legally submissable evidence of breaches of the Code Of Forest Practices.
- -Wombat Forest Map
- -Coupe plan
- -Copy of the Code of Forest Practices
- -Coupe Identification form
- -List of equipment required to carry out task
- -Protocol for documenting evidence of breaches

PEN & PAPER Everything you do whilst carrying out your inspection must be documented step by step.

CAMERA/FILM/FLASH To provide visual evidence of breaches. Make a note of each photograph you take what you are looking at and why you are taking the picture.

WATCH When documenting breaches you should note exactly where you are at what time.

TAPE RECORDER This can be used to record extra information that supports documented evidence.

COMPASS Helps to orientate you as well as providing site specific information ie; what direction a slope faces.

MEASURING TAPE 20-30m especially useful for measuring where buffer zones should be.

POLES OR STAKES These should be marked with brightly coloured paints so they are easy to see from a distance. Used to mark out sample plots.

GLASS JARS WITH LID For collecting water samples, these must be clean,

LABELS for ware sample jars

ENVELOPES used to put samples of unknown vegetation in. Use a seperate envelope for each sample include good quality leaf, seed and flower samples as well as a brief description of growth type ie; tall tree approx 20m, spreading shrub to 3m.

SENSIBLE CLOTHING AND A DRINK BOTTLE.

PROTOCOL FOR DOCUMENTING EVIDENCE OF BREACHES

* On first entering the site you should clearly state

Name & Address .....

Date and Time .....

Location of coupe.....

Purpose of visit.....

* Walk to one of the breaches you have identified, number the breach and clearly identify

BREACH No

Time .....

Location on coupe map.....

Name of breach .....

Description of breach.....

.....

.....

.....

EVIDENCE.

A. .....

.....

B. .....

.....

C. .....

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* Now move to the next site and follow exactly the same procedure as above, it is up to you how many breaches you choose to document. Those whith the best supporting evidence will be chosen for the Wombat Forest Society Package of Evidence.

SUMMARY (discuss findings of coupe inspection) .....

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OBVIOUS BREACHES OF THE CODE OF FOREST PRACTICES .....

No	Breach	Location
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.....	.....	.....
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Once you have completed the coupe inspection sheet it is now time to document the breaches you have identified. As this information may be used as evidence it must be documented in a clearly defined manner. To assist you with this the Legal and Political subgroup have prepared an information sheet titled "Protocol for Collecting Evidence of Breaches of Code of Forest Practices".

PLOT 5.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION.....

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RESULTS .....

NUMBER OF TREES IN DIFFERENT SIZE CATAGORIES

under 100ml	100–200ml	200–300ml	300–400ml	400–500ml	500–600ml

COMMENTS.....

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DISCUSSION OF RESULTS (include your opinion of sampling method and what they results indicate to you.).....

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PLOT 1.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION.....

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RESULTS

NUMBER OF TREES IN DIFFERENT SIZE CATAGORIES

under 100ml	100–200ml	200–300ml	300–400ml	400–500ml	500–600ml

COMMENTS.....

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PLOT 2.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION.....

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RESULTS

NUMBER OF TREES IN DIFFERENT SIZE CATAGORIES

under 100ml	100–200ml	200–300ml	300–400ml	400–500ml	500–600ml

COMMENTS.....

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COUPE IDENTIFICATION SHEET

LOCATION.....

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COUPE NAME & NUMBER.....

CLASS OF LOGS HARVESTED (as per coupe plan)

A.....B.....C.....D.....E.....

RESIDUAL.....

HARVESTING DETAILS (Who carried out the operation and where did the timber go) .....

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (topography, soil type, condition of surrounding forest ect) .....

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