

CAMPBELLTOWN ASSOCIATION
TO SAVE THE WEDDERBURN KOALA COLONY.



COMMITTEE FORMED BY THE RESIDENTS OF THE CAMPBELLTOWN COMMUNITY

P.O. Box 1162, CAMPBELLTOWN 2560

CHAIRPERSON: SUE DOBSON PHONE: (046) 25-0289

21st March 1989

The Hon. N.F. Greiner,
Premier,
Ministerial Office, Premiers Department,
8th Floor, State Office Block,
Phillip Street,
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr. Greiner,

We believe that the Yeomans Property at Wedderburn be acquired in order to protect its cultural heritage and natural resources, which includes Koala habitat.

That this property then be incorporated into our proposed O'Hares Creek Nature Reserve joining Darkes Forest (Army H Range Crown Land and Yeomans Property).

Yeomans Property of approximately 270 hectares is sandwiched between two parcels of Crown Land - H Range managed by the Dept. of Defence and O'Hares Creek managed by the Water Board.

Yeomans property is the vital missing link in the O'Hares Creek Nature Reserve. Its development would bisect the park by sub-dividing the property into 26 blocks.

Part of the property overlooks the spectacular O'Hares Creek, or offers extensive views of the Southern Highlands, Blue Mountains and the Cumberland Plains, nine Aboriginal Art Shelter Sites, Koala Habitat which is part of the range of breeding Koala Colonies.

O'Hares Creek catchment is in excellent condition and produces water of the highest quality - the catchment is listed on the National Estate (Commonwealth Government Gazette 21/10/89) and contains many Aboriginal sites, eleven rare plants four of these (Eucalyptus Apiculata, Pultenaea Aristata, Gonoavpus Salsoloides, Blechnum Ambiguum) are not in any Reserve managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and the rare fresh water fish Macquarie Perch swim in O'Hares Creek on the properties Eastern boundary.

The endangered Eastern Pygmy Possum, Feathertail Glider, Spotted Tail Quail are found in the forests of the area.

Our Minister for the Environment the Hon. Tim Moore, placed an Interim Preservation Order over the above property on July 12, 1988, this order was soon lifted, while a voluntary Conservation Agreement developer and the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Interim Preservation Order was removed. This Agreement is administratively not at all practical. For example, the requirements for putting dogs on leashes would be ignored. Similar provisions to protect the Koala Colony (this date they are being destroyed). At Avalon will not guarantee the long term survival of this colony according to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Agreement will not stop illegal rubbish dumping and weed invasion once the public road is built, or pollution from sewerage and urban runoff, or domestic cats and dogs killing Feathertail Gliders and Pygmy Possums nor will the Open Space Zone established over the valley below the proposed development be sufficient to protect the important natural and cultural heritage of this area.

To halt this insensitive development a Green Ban has been imposed at Wedderburn, by the F.E.D. & F.A. and the Trades Labour Council of NSW.

The earth sustains and nourishes all life and the rape of native forests must stop, Wedderburn belongs to all Australians it is our country's heritage and must be kept for all generations of Australians, if we don't start farming gum trees, and leaving our Native Forest alone we will continue to destroy our free living wild life.

We ask you as the leader of our great State to preserve and protect Wedderburn and its Wild Life.

The Aboriginal Tribes that lived at Wedderburn were murdered, slaughtered just after the turn of the eighteenth century. At Wedderburn there are sites and art work which litter the O'Hares Creek area to date this along with the Platypus and Koala belong to the heritage of this lost people. The land they lost should be saved it's part of their history and so are the animals that live in the area.

No cost is too much to save this area.

It is a sad day for anyone to write a letter asking for the saving this unique area, Sydney's South Western Region which is only 20 minutes drive from our South Coast Bulli Pass.

Yours faithfully,

SUE DOBSON

On behalf of our Campbelltown Association to Save the Wedderburn Koala Colony.

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW supports the full saving of Wedderburn.