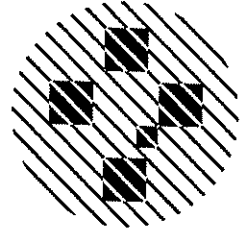
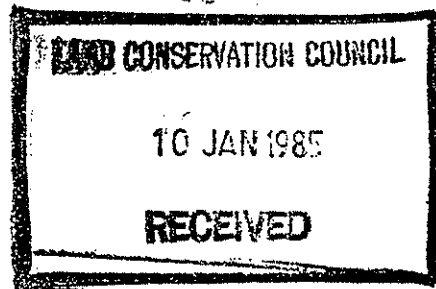


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→ 37
Minister for
Planning and
Environment
Victoria

500 Collins Street
Melbourne
Victoria 3000
PO Box 2240T
Melbourne 3001

Telephone (03) 617 0211



Reference

Recommended to His Excellency the Governor in Council
that the attached Notice of Recommendations in relation
to the Alpine Area - Special Investigation be approved.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Evan Walker".

Evan Walker
Minister for Planning and Environment



APPROVED
the Lieutenant-Governor as Deputy for
BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL

- 8 JAN 1985

L. G. Houston
CLERK OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Original on File 2/5/4.1 ...
folio 34

At the Executive Council Chamber Melbourne,
the *eightth* day of *January*, 1985

PRESENT

The Lieutenant-Governor as Deputy for
His Excellency the Governor of Victoria

Mr. Mathews Mr. Trezise

Alpine Area - Special Investigation

Notice of Recommendation

Whereas the Land Conservation Council has made recommendations to the Minister for Planning and Environment under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of Section 5 of the Land Conservation Act in respect of the public land in the Alpine Area - Special Investigation:

And whereas, pursuant to subsection (3) of Section 10 of the said Act, the Minister for Planning and Environment has given not less than fourteen days' notice to the Minister administering the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands of his intention to recommend that the Governor in Council give notice to the said Department of certain of these recommendations:

And whereas these recommendations have been published in the form of a book entitled "Final Recommendations - Alpine Area Special Investigation" dated November 1983 and copies have been distributed to the government departments and public authorities concerned:

Now therefore ^{the Lieutenant-Governor as Deputy for} His Excellency the Governor of the State of Victoria by and with the advice of the Executive Council of the said State, doth by this Order give notice to the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands of the following recommendations:

A6-A27; A6(a)-(d), (f)-(h); A7(a)(ii)*, (iii),
(iv) and (b); A8(a)(i), (ii), (iv)-(vi) and (b);
A9(b), (c)* and (d); A10(b), (c) and (d)*; A11(b),
(c) and (d); A12(b)-(e); A13(a)(ii)-(iv); A14(a)
(ii)-(v) and (b); A15(a), (c) and (d); A16(b)-(e);
A17(a) and (b), (d)-(h); A18(b)-(e), (g)-(h);
A19(b)-(e); A21(a)(ii)-(iv) and (b); A22(b)-(d);
A23(b)-(d); A24(b)-(d); A25(b)-(d); A26(b)-(d);
A27(b)-(e).

B2
C19
D31-D32 inclusive
F3
G6-G7 inclusive
H5-H6 inclusive
I1
M7
N1
O4, O11-O12 inclusive
Q20-Q25 inclusive
R1-R2 inclusive

* see Attachment 1

And the Honourable Evan Walker, Her Majesty's Minister for Planning and Environment for the State of Victoria, shall give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

L. G. Houston
Clerk of the Executive Council

ADDITIONS TO THE TEXT AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS ADVISED BY
THE LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL:

1. Recommendation A7 - Howqua River

Recommendation A7(ii) should be replaced by the
following:

'deer-hunting by stalking be permitted
seasonally, the timing and length of season
to be determined by the National Parks
Service in consultation with the Fisheries
and Wildlife Division, and hunting with
hounds not be permitted'

2. Recommendation A9 - Tali Karng-Trapyard Hill

Recommendation A9(c) should be replaced by the
the following:

'deer-hunting by stalking be permitted
seasonally, the timing and length of season
to be determined by the National Parks
Service in consultation with the Fisheries
and Wildlife Division, and hunting with
hounds not be permitted'

3. Recommendation A10 - Horseyard Flat

The following recommendation should be inserted:

A10(d) 'Deer-hunting by stalking be permitted
seasonally, the timing and length of season
to be determined by the National Parks Service
in consultation with the Fisheries and Wild-
life Division, and hunting with hounds not
be permitted.

4. Chapter M - Rivers and Streams

Natural Features Zones

The following statement follows on from the preamble in the text and clarifies the way in which the zones should be delineated.

In the lower reaches of some of the rivers where generally low stream-bed gradients have permitted the development of broad flood plains, the zones would be relatively wide. This is the case with most of the natural features zones recommended in the Gippsland Lakes Hinterland Area, and for streams with their lower reaches in the Alpine area. In the mountainous stream segments towards the upper levels of their catchments, as is common in the Alpine area, the width of the natural features zone would be limited by rapid transition through the environmental sequence, a less obvious visual corridor and impedance of visibility owing to dense vegetation. The narrower zones should extend to include areas of importance for the conservation of significant plant species and the animal habitats that are associated with the streams, strong elements of the visual corridor (such as the short, steep ends of spurs and rocky outcrops), alluvial plains, areas of historical importance, and sites either used for or with potential for recreational activities.

The topography through which a stream passes generally gives a good guide to the width of the natural features zone. Streams have been divided into five segments, based, in general, on the gradient of the stream bed. These are the steep headwaters, the mountainous, the steeply-dissected hills, the foothills and the lower valley segments. The zone indicated on the Wongungarra River for instance, incorporates all five segments.

The lowest stream segment found in the Alpine area has a broad alluvial plain with a winding stream course having a bed gradient less than 0.5%. Density of overstorey vegetation commonly restricts the view from the stream to less than the full width of the alluvial plain. The natural features zone here would have a width of 100 metres from each side of the stream.

The width of the zone would increase where necessary, up to 300 metres to incorporate the visual corridor and the environmental sequence. The visual corridor comprises the adjacent slopes - where these are short - up to the ridge line, and the steeper foot slopes up to the point of inflexion, for the longer side slopes. The zone is also wider where site-specific natural or historical features such as those mentioned above occur, and adjacent to road crossings where camping is a present or potential use. As an example, the Wongungarra River below the base of Wombat Spur is in this river segment.

The foothills stream segment has a continuous alluvial plain with broad sections, particularly at major tributaries. The stream gradient is gentle, ranging from 0.5% to 1%. The visual corridor is strongly expressed on the outside of river bends, as for the lower segment. The natural features zone includes these elements of the visual corridor and a strip on the alluvial plain, incorporating the environmental sequence. The zone has a minimum width of 80 metres and increases up to about 200 metres where necessary to include site-specific natural and historical features or recreation sites. The Dargo River from Eighteen Mile Creek to Mathesons Flat, for instance, represents this segment.

In the steeply-dissected hill segment, the valleys may comprise a number of small alluvial plains or a continuous plain, flanked by long side slopes or by the short, steep, foot slopes of spurs. The gradient of the stream bed is expected to be between 1% and 2%. To incorporate the environmental sequence extending from the riparian vegetation onto the floodplain, the zone has a minimum width of 60 m from each bank. This width would increase up to some 100 m to include obvious expressions of the visual corridor such as steep foot slopes, which would also incorporate the environmental sequence to the drier slopes, or rock faces adjacent to the stream banks. The zone would also include the other features mentioned above such as recreation areas. The east branch of the King River, for example, has a relatively continuous alluvial plain. In the upper reaches, this would have a minimum natural features zone

of 60 m from each bank which would extend to about 100 m where necessary to include adjacent steep slopes and to incorporate areas frequently used for camping.

In the mountainous segment, the alluvial plains are small and discrete, occurring in the wider bends or at major tributaries. The short, steep foot slopes of spurs flank much of this tract and where side slopes fall directly to the stream there is generally a narrow colluvial strip. The gradient of the stream bed is expected to be between 2% and 5%. The natural features zone in this segment generally extends 40 m from each bank to incorporate the environmental sequence on the floodplains or colluvial slopes. The zone would be broader where necessary to include steep, rocky slopes adjacent to the stream and other special features as mentioned above. Both branches of the Humffray River for instance, would have a zone extending 40 m from each bank, but this would be wider to include the flood plain at the confluence of the two branches where some recreational development is possible.

The streams in the headwaters segment usually have no alluvial plains and the beds are rocky and steep - the gradient being generally greater than 5%. Streamflow may be intermittent. Side slopes fall directly to the stream and vegetation may completely enclose the watercourse. The narrow environmental sequence here is incorporated in a zone about 20 m from each side of the watercourse. For the headwaters of the Wongungarra River, for example, this zone width extends down a tributary to its junction with the main stream.

It is not intended that the width of natural features zones delineated under these guidelines would be less than the buffer strips along streams required by forest management prescriptions or delineated by Land Use Determinations for a water supply catchment.

5. Chapter O - Recreation

In the section on 'Deer-hunting', page 77, the second paragraph now reads:

'For hardwood timber production areas and uncommitted land (now proposed to become State forest) and historic areas with the exception of Mt. Murphy, no restrictions on deer-hunting other than existing legal requirements are proposed by the Council. However, in many of the areas recommended for addition to the park system and in the Mount Murphy Historic Area, hunting by stalking has been proposed.

6. Chapter Q - Agriculture

The following statement is included at the end of the section on 'Grazing on public land' (page 83):

'The Council is aware that a number of studies have commenced which are examining various aspects of grazing in relation to the alpine environment. This use would be reviewed as and when new information becomes available.'

VARIATIONS TO FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAND CONSERVATION
COUNCIL FOR THE ALPINE AREA

1. Logging:

- (i) Recommendation A13(b) is varied to extend the time available to complete logging by two years, that is until 1993, and to allow logging in an additional area in the headwaters of the Humffray River (east branch). The recommendation now reads:

A13

- (b) That the areas totalling 5,730 ha shown separately on map 1 (attached) be used in accordance with the principles set down in the chapter on State forest, with logging operations, regeneration, and rehabilitation being controlled by the Forests Commission in consultation with the National Parks Service and the Soil Conservation Authority

and that logging be completed by no later than July 1993 - except for that area delineated in the Catherine River headwaters, where logging should be completed by no later than July 1988 - after which the areas are to be managed as part of the park.

2. Logging and Mining:

Recommendation A20(c) has been varied to extend the time available to complete logging by two years, that is until 1996. Another recommendation has been included to allow logging in an additional area incorporating portions of the Brown Creek and Sheehan Creek catchments. Parts (iii) and (iv) of the recommendation which refer to exploration and mining have been varied in accordance with Government policy. The recommendation now reads as follows:

A20 Dartmouth

- (a) That the areas totalling 27,300 ha shown on Map 2 (attached) be used in accordance with the general recommendations outlined on pages 11 and 12

and that

- (i) logging not be permitted
 - (ii) deer-hunting by stalking be permitted seasonally, the timing and length of season to be determined by the National Parks Service in consultation with the Fisheries and Wildlife Division, and hunting with hounds not be permitted
 - (iii) apiculture be permitted
- (b) that the areas totalling 33,800 ha and shown stippled on Map A be available for mineral exploration until 31 December 1989

and that

- (i) the companies be required to identify, by the end of 1989, those sites where mining is considered to be economically feasible and at which they wish to conduct mining operations, while the remaining areas be proclaimed as part of the park

- (ii) mining be permitted only at those sites delineated as being economically feasible and then only if approved by the government in accordance with its guidelines on mining
 - (iii) on completion of mining and full rehabilitation the mined areas be proclaimed as part of the park
- (c) that, within the area described in (b) above, 980 ha, incorporating portions of the Brown Creek and Sheehan Creek catchments shown by cross-hatching on the map, be used as indicated in (b) above and in accordance with the principles set down in the chapter of State forest, with logging operations, regeneration, and rehabilitation being controlled by the Forests Commission in consultation with the National Parks Service and the Soil Conservation Authority
- and that logging be permitted until 31 December 1989, after which, and subject to (b)(ii) and (b)(iii) above, the area be managed as part of the park
- (d) that, within the area described in (b) above, 1,910 ha, incorporating portions of the Stony Creek, Gardens Creek, Japan Creek, and Turnback Creek catchments shown by cross hatching on the map, be used as indicated in (b) above and in accordance with the principles set down in the chapter on State forest, with logging operations, regeneration, and rehabilitation being controlled by the Forests Commission in consultation with the National Parks Service and the Soil Conservation Authority
- and that logging be permitted until July 1996 after which, and subject to (b)(ii) and (b)(iii) above, the area be managed as part of the park
- (e) that the area of 6,500 ha to the east of Granite Peak shown separately on the map be used in accordance with the principles set down in the chapter on State forest, with logging operations, regeneration, and rehabilitation being controlled by the Forests Commission in consul-

tation with the National Parks Service and the Soil Conservation Authority

and that logging be permitted until July 1991, after which the area be managed as part of the park.

3. Exploration and Mining:

In recommendations R3 and R4 the phrase 'and other areas as determined by the government' is to be inserted after the words 'reference areas', in order to comply with the government's exploration and mining policy. These recommendations now read:

R3 That public land in the area (other than reference areas and other areas as determined by the government) continue to be available for exploration under licence and for extraction of 'gold', minerals, and petroleum, subject to recommendation R2 and the principles and guidelines set out above.

R4 That public land in the area (other than reference areas and other areas as determined by the government) continue to be available for exploration for 'stone' subject to the principles and guidelines set out above.

In recommendation A25, Note 2 is deleted in order to conform with the government's policy on exploration and mining.

4. Grazing:

The areas currently excluded from grazing will remain so and decisions of the previous government to phase out grazing from certain areas by 1991 will not be altered. One further area will be added to those from which grazing will be excluded by 1991, and grazing remaining

within the National Park will be reviewed

Future decisions about grazing will be made in the light of government policies, taking into account its economic significance for individual graziers, information arising from research, environmental and recreational factors, and the traditional associations of families with the high country.

5. Occupations:

A number of occupations in the Alpine park additions are referred to in the final recommendations. It is proposed that in order to clarify the intention of each of these recommendations, the following words be added to recommendations A8(vii); A8(viii); A16 (f); A18(f):

'subject to the existing occupation agreement'.