

In Reply Please
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28 July 1999

Mr Ian Dundas
Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Environment and Heritage
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Dundas

**SUBMISSION TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE - CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT**

At its meeting held on 20 July 1999, Eurobodalla Shire Council's Planning, Development and Environment Committee endorsed the following submission to the Inquiry:

1. The relationship of CMC's and LG's should be refined to ensure the integration of landuse and environmental planning and activities through:
 - LG delegated responsibility of catchment management, on the basis of LG boundaries adjusted to reflect catchments or sub-catchments;
 - LG hosting catchment and landcare coordinators, funded by DLWC;
 - Catchment and Landcare committees operating as committees of LG, with similar levels of community and specialist appointments;
 - Catchment and landcare committees charged with responsibilities of administering and integrating:
 - landcare, creekcure, bushcare, dunecare groups;
 - Estuary management committees;
 - Flood management committees;
 - Tree management committees; and
 - Coastal, wetland and riparian management committees.
 - Attraction and administration of grants;
 - Preparation of State of Environment Reports;
 - LG and state/federal agencies providing the specialist and technical resources to the Committees to enable community and scientific based research that frame the range of strategies and plans prepared by the committees.
2. Delegate responsibility of water and vegetation reform planning to sub-committees of catchment committees.

3. Integration of the activities of, and strategies and plans developed through CMC into:
 - LG Management Plans, community land plans of management, landuse planning instruments and environmental plans, State of Environment Reports, Financial reports and Annual Reports;
 - Strategies and plans to mirror condition, pressure and response issues and indicators (ANZLIC and ANZECC) identified in State of Environment Reports.
4. Reorganisation of LG boundaries to:
 - reflect catchments or sub-catchments, or be
 - aggregated into bio-regions to reflect NHT or Rural Land Board boundaries;
 - consider social and economic impacts on the community.
5. Refocus of LG landuse planning instruments to reflect catchments and sub-catchments, applying spatial and demographic tools such as:
 - Satellite and aerial imagery;
 - CDATA analysis; and
 - Land, water and air capability maps.
6. Catchment management, inclusive of water and vegetation management, should be funded through Federal and State Governments, administered through the auspices of LG, to ensure:
 - Consistency and integration in strategic planning, assessment and monitoring;
 - Accountability to the local community through a community based committee with LG; and
 - Another tier of government is not inadvertently installed with regional water and vegetation committees, exclusive of LG.

Your favorable consideration of Council's proposal will be appreciated.

Should you require any further information please contact Peter Tegart on (02) 44741308.

Yours faithfully

J F LEVY
GENERAL MANAGER
Att,