



6<sup>th</sup> February 2001

The Secretary  
House of Representatives Standing  
Committee on Primary Industries  
And Regional Services  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Secretary: Sarah Hueston

RECEIVED

- 9 FEB 2001

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND  
REGIONAL SERVICES

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: INQUIRY INTO THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF  
BIOPROSPECTING INDUSTRIES**

The Queensland Nursery Industry Association represents the interests of wholesale production and retail garden centres throughout Queensland, a role it has fulfilled since 1934.

In the past few years we have become increasingly concerned at the apparent locking away of areas to be maintained as pristine or with restricted access. These can include National parks, Conservation areas, World Heritage areas etc. In our view this fails to recognise that in the future there maybe some benefit from access to the flora and fauna in these areas. The following two examples highlight the differences in approach by two State Governments.

The Woolemi pine (*Wollemia nobilis*) is found in an isolated area of NSW. The New South Wales Government allows the careful removal of propagating material by the local Botanic Gardens. This material was grown on, and eventually tenders were called from interested parties to further grow on this species. The successful tenderers were Birkdale Nursery and the Queensland Forestry Service. The Plant will be released for sale in 2002. The proceeds of the right to propogate and sell the Wollemi pine will be returned to the NSW Government to be used for the conservation of this and other threatened species.

Foxtail palms (*Wodyetia bifurcata*) is discovered in 1983 in the Cape Melville National Park on Cape York in Queensland. Access to the seed is denied by successive Queensland Governments, and poachers raid the seed for nearly 10 years from 1983 – 1993. It is estimated that seed worth over \$30 million is removed from the area. Plantations of Foxtails are established in the United States, Thailand, Indonesia and the Northern Territory before being established in Queensland. Unauthorised access to seed in Queensland results in several prosecutions, allegations of corruption in Government and a judicial inquiry. The worst outcome is the actual loss of trade to overseas countries. In total Queensland has missed the opportunity for trade totalling over \$60 million.

We would ask that the Committee address the concerns of access to areas and the need to always leave provision for such access.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Donald Scotts'.

DONALD SCOTTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Unit 1 The Grove  
Cnr Orange Grove &  
Riawena Roads  
Salisbury Qld 4107

P.O. Box 345,  
Salisbury Qld 4107

Telephone: (07) 3277 7900  
Facsimile: (07) 3277 7109

Email: [info@qnia.asn.au](mailto:info@qnia.asn.au)  
Website: [www.qnia.asn.au](http://www.qnia.asn.au)