

## **SUBMISSION** Concerning NSW's **National Park** System

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NSW's Coastal National Parks , especially those in sub-/semitropical areas and regions are 'under threat' from both invasive weeds that the 'Parks Service cannot control - in the nominated 'Buffer Zones' surrounding the national parks, & Nature Reserves, as well as from a 'Service that has 'no idea' of LongTerm Budgetting for the control of weeds in the same 'Buffer Zones' - strips of some 20 ms width, which have some basis in legislation.(NSW NP & WS Act & Amendments).

This is especially clear in northeastern NSW, where weeds abound, in terms of both new-introductions brought in illegally by travellers(unquarantined/inadvertently) returning to this region from all sorts of 'other tropical and subtropical regions of the planet' , as well as the long periods(months) of humid weather, in a semi-tropical climate , in a region with rich soils and high organic matter contents - to assist with the germination of seeds brought in to this region.

The problem is particularly ACUTE in relation to Toxic Woody Weeds (TWW), which include, principally Camphor laurel, Broad Leaved Privet (the 2 most toxic species), , Fine-leaved Privet, and the Thorny-Coral Tree - which also contains known, proven piscicides in its roots. The former 2 species are known from examinations of (Royal) Botanic Gardens 'entry books' for the period 1825 - 1940 to be the 2 most widely circulated & distributed weed species, spread by a Government(of NSW) that failed to heed the warnings of its own 'Poisonous Plants Committee' - which in 1948 published that Camphor laurel was toxic enough to be capable of "killing livestock" - which it did do, killing dozens of horses in the Lismore district in the drought of the 1940s; confirmed 'hors killer' tree (DPIQ,2000,Queensland Plant toxicologist/s).

Much of the reason that Camphor laurel/s can be readily considered the 'worst' of all the abovementioned TWW's is the fact that they not only cover(by areal spread, and canopy cover, being higher than privets) a large proportion of buffer-zones to parks and reserves in many Shires of the NSW northern Rivers region, (e.g. in Byron Shire alone, the coverage of the entire Shire is 48-52%, accurate coverage & monitoring having been hindered by satellite mapping not being v.accurate in hilly land/s. At the same time, Camphor laurels' CHEMISTRY is equally important, as there exist 18 biocidal compounds in the tree, esp. in the bark and leaves, and esp. in the bark of the roots, and all-parts of which are capable in hot weather of discharging/exuding 'unseen' vapours, principally of CAMPHOR (a known narcotic compound) into the atmosphere, into the soils, and slowly, by slow-solubilisation in warm weather, into streams, and waterways, where these trees do considerable unseen damage/impacts at a great distance from the trees.

It is estimated in the case of Byron Shire, that almost 50% of all National Parks & Nature Reserves have a 'surrounding wall' or buffer zone of approx. 50% Camphor laurel, with Broad leaved Privet being the secondmost common tree; the invasions by these species a reparticularly serious near, and adjacent to waterways of all descriptions, inc. down-to average highwater tidemark.

Short-termist science, due to the American immigrant H.Recher erroneously concluded that because native birds 'were seen' to be feeding on Camphor laurel fruit, that it must be OK ('She'll be right mate' approach) for them, since no shortterm toxic-effects were ever noted (in a mere 2 yr study), no birds were seen paralysed, and no birds were ever sighted vomiting the fruit from their mouths after/shortly after takeoff; BUT a wide range of interviewed oldtimers have seen this,

and witnessed a range of birds 'turned sterile' after consumption or overconsumption (unmeasured 'critical limits' to consumption) of Camphor laurel fruits and seeds - the known, proven Sterilising compounds' are contained in-the-seeds.

It is indeed unfortunate that Dr H.Recher (ret.professor) undertook NO LONG Term Studies, or 'longtermist Research' into the known side-effects /cumulative longterm poisoning of native Australian fauna due to narcotic compound ingestion - there being NO LESS than 4 Narcotic compounds (inc. Camphor) contained in all-types of Camphor laurels (36 Types now found, by detailed Floristic Examination). Dr Recher failed in NOT UNDERTAKING a rigorous pre-computer/electronic database Literature Review, not checking the Library of the NSW Botanic Gardens for historic documents relating to the 1955 First Native Bird Mass Death Event, (known by leading regional Botanists to have occurred @ Bangalow, in this region); as well, to have failed to supervise the Nimbin-based student (awarded a PhD in shorttermist science!), through his supervision at-a-significant long-distance, based in Armidale (UNE) at the time.

FOR ALL THESE SORTS OF REASONS, and the fact the NSW Weed Authorities cannot properly get the Camphor laurel or Privet (1 Toxin in fruit) problems under control - let alone monitor the spread of these species, to assess whether the weed is still spreading faster than 'landcare' is controlling them, the massive problem of Toxic Woody Weeds taking-over Park & Reserve boundaries, so creating huge 'ecological pressures' for further annual/bi-annual spread of these species into Parks damaged by higher winds, and more intense storm events (due to global warming etc) NEEDS to be assessed by an outside, neutral Authority - such as federal government specialists, coming from a 'neutral' Camphor-free Zone (Prof. Henry Nix, personal communications, 2003-2005) ; with a view to there being PROPER Budgetting, and Funding of the Problem.

SOME HISTORY: It is furthermore understood, from interviewing previous Directors of NP & WS, who became disenchanted with 'the NSW NP & WS-Service by circa.1985, and 'got jobs' with the newly created 'Wet Tropics Authority' based in Cairns, F.N.-Qld, that although such persons 'knew' back in 1974-1985 that Park & Reserve Buffer Zones needed proper longterm Budgetting for weed control, and IT WAS originally intended to happen, that the 'entry'/arrival of short-termist Accountants to the Service prior to 1985, who took-over the funding system of the 'Service at that time, led to there ultimately being/becoming (by 1990) NO LOG-Term \$-Funding for longterm maintenance of Parks, and the originally-intended Proper Management of Park & Reserve Buffer Zones.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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[www.camphorlaurel.com](http://www.camphorlaurel.com) - for more detail of all-of (NSW) Government intransigence (still continuing) in the matter of the invasive spread of Camphor laurel - now spreading into 5 states, AND 2 territories (NT & N-I).

**\*\*MOST TOXIC PLANT SPECIES in AUSTRALIAN HISTORY\*\***