

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

TERMS OF REFERENCE

That a Standing Committee be appointed to inquire into and report on:

- (a) environmental aspects of legislative and administrative measures which ought to be taken in order to ensure the wise and effective management of the Australian environment and of Australia's natural resources, and
- (b) such other matters relating to the environment and conservation and the management of Australia's resources as are referred to it by:
 - (i) the Minister responsible for those matters, or
 - (ii) resolution of the House.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Mr J.C. Hodges, MP
Deputy-Chairman	Dr H.A. Jenkins, MP
Members	Mr M. Baillieu, MP Mr B. Cohen, MP Mr J.F. Cotter, MP Mr P.S. Fisher, MP Mr B.L. Howe, MP Mr B.D. Simon, MP
Clerk to the Committee	Mr J.R. Cummins

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RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends that:

1 The Commonwealth Government review its priorities and examine the possibility of increasing the funding to voluntary conservation organisations to a level sufficient to ensure their continued effectiveness;

(paragraph 36)

2 (a) Commonwealth funds be provided to voluntary conservation organisations (other than Environment Centres) with a \$2: \$1 matching requirement up to the amount allocated to each group; and

(b) Commonwealth funds be provided to the Environment Centre in each State capital and in large regional centres with no requirement to match the allocated amount;

(paragraph 41)

3 the eligibility criteria for funding under the program of grants to voluntary conservation organisations be amended to delete 'nature conservation' and replace it with 'protection and enhancement of the environment' (as defined in the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974;

(paragraph 43)

4 the Minister for Science and the Environment allocate grants to voluntary conservation organisations on the basis of advice received from the Australian Heritage Commission, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the principal conservation organisation in each State, as well as from organisations under his administrative control;

(paragraph 44)

5 a fund be established, with monies not necessarily allocated each year, to assist voluntary conservation organisations with specific one-off projects;

(paragraph 45)

6 a Technical Assistance Program be introduced to provide assistance to voluntary organisations, and that allocations be determined on a case by case basis;

(paragraph 46)

7 the Commonwealth Government establish a research fund from which monies can be allocated by the Minister for Science and the Environment to sponsor research projects by professional consultants and researchers on the basis of advice received from voluntary conservation organisations;

(paragraph 49).

1 INTRODUCTION

1. On 23 October 1979 the then Minister for Science and the Environment, Senator Webster, wrote to the Chairman of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation, requesting the Committee's comments on the scheme of grants to voluntary conservation organisations. The Minister stated that the scheme was currently under review by his Department and that he was seeking the views of a range of public and private organisations and individuals.

2. The Committee replied to the Minister's letter in November 1979, stating that although it had not had time to examine the program in detail and therefore could not provide comprehensive comments at that stage, it hoped to be in a position to do so at some later time. On 21 February 1980 it was resolved:

that the Committee inquire into and report on grants to voluntary conservation organisations.

3. The Committee wrote to those organisations which received funds under the program during 1979/80, seeking their comments on the adequacy, the scope and the administration of the scheme, as well as information about their own income and expenditure, and priorities. The Committee wrote to a number of industry organisations, to individuals, and to several conservation groups which do not receive funds from the Commonwealth. A list of those persons and organisations that made submissions but did not appear before the Committee is at Appendix 3.

4. The Committee has completed its deliberations in the shortest feasible time to ensure that its comments can be considered by the Minister for Science and the Environment and by

his Department which is conducting the review, before the review is finalised. The Committee held one public hearing and evidence was taken from the Department of Science and the Environment as administrator of the scheme, the Australian Conservation Foundation as the national conservation body, Friends of the Earth which received funds under the scheme for two years and was then excluded, and the Town and Country Planning Association, a voluntary group which has never been funded. The Committee believed that the views of most other groups were outlined adequately in their submissions. A list of witnesses is at Appendix 2.

2 GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS

The Role of Conservation Organisations

5. Concern about environmental issues in this country is traceable to the earliest European settlement - for example, in 1802 Governor King issued an order prohibiting the cutting of red cedar without his permission. Until the second half of the nineteenth century, however, conservation measures were isolated rather than part of a conscious, detailed program.

6. Voluntary conservation organisations are citizen groups which have been formed in an attempt to achieve better protection of the environment. Some operate only at the local level, in that their concern may be with a suburban area or parkland, others operate at regional, State or national levels. Some concentrate on only one or a few issues which may be short-lived, others cover a wide range of longer term, substantial environmental concerns. The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) estimates that there are probably well over 1000 of these groups in Australia with, understandably, widely differing aims and objectives.

7. Most early conservation effort concentrated on the conservation of fauna with little of the present day understanding of the supporting ecosystems. This approach developed to a stage where most of the conservation groups established before 1970 had as their primary concern 'nature conservation' which encompasses conservation of fragile ecosystems, rare fauna habitats, geological or geomorphological sites, natural or near-natural landscapes, wildernesses and recreational areas.

8. Recently there has been an obvious trend towards a broadening of environmental interest to include aspects of the social environment.¹ The ACF listed the topics now receiving attention by conservation groups as including air and water quality, soil, size and distribution of population, availability and quality of facilities for education, health and recreation, the quantitative and qualitative aspects of employment, energy policy, the impact of technological change on the social and physical environments and the environmental effects of overseas trade.

9. Voluntary conservation groups are basically representatives of community interest in the environment and as such are being increasingly recognised and depended upon by all levels of government and by the community. The ACF summed up the main functions of the conservation movement as conservation advocacy and community education and described its effect as being:

that for every issue and for every debate about the use of a resource or a part of the environment, there is generally available to the community an argument, viewpoint or proposal which can be clearly recognised as the conservation alternative.

The Committee believes that it is very important that the Australian public has access to organisations operating in the community ready to take up and provide information on environmental issues.

1 According to the definition in the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974 "environment" includes all aspects of the surroundings of man, whether affecting him as an individual or in his social groupings, and "environmental" has a corresponding meaning.

2. Transcript of evidence, p. 54.

Grants-in-Aid Schemes

10. The history of grants-in-aid to environmental groups dates back to 1964, when the Australian Conservation Foundation received \$2 000 from the Commonwealth Government. The Keep Australia Beautiful Council began receiving grants from the Commonwealth in 1972.

11. In 1973 the Committee of Inquiry into the National Estate was established under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Hope (Hope Committee), with specific mention being made in its terms of reference of 'conservation groups' and the support required from public funds to enable an increase in the effectiveness of their work.³

12. The Hope Committee defined the National Estate as including the natural environment, the man-made or cultural environment, archeological or scientific areas, and cultural property. The Hope Committee recognised the valuable role of community organisations in the conservation of the National Estate and identified as their most immediate and pressing need, paid administrative assistance. It mentioned that finance for assistance in specific projects is very important.

13. Following the Inquiry into the National Estate, the then Prime Minister announced in April 1974 the Government's acceptance in principle of its major recommendations. Four financial assistance programs relating to the National Estate were established:

- grants to voluntary conservation organisations
- grants to National Trusts

3. Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the National Estate - AGPS 1974 p. 316.

- the National Estate program, and
- the technical assistance program.

14. The grants to voluntary conservation organisations is the program which is under review. Under the program, funds are provided to voluntary conservation organisations specifically to assist with administrative costs. The first program of grants was in 1973/74, when \$323 000 was granted to 17 organisations. In 1976/77 a requirement was introduced for conservation bodies to match the grants on a \$2: \$1 basis (ie. \$2 Commonwealth for \$1 from conservation groups). In 1979/80 this matching requirement became \$1: \$1 up to the full amount of money allocated. Details of grants-in-aid to voluntary conservation organisations are at Appendix 5.

15. Grants to National Trusts are provided to the State and Territory National Trusts and to the Australian Council of National Trusts for assistance with administrative costs. The objectives of the Trusts are to acquire, protect and preserve for the benefit of the public, lands and buildings of beauty or of national, historic, scientific, architectural or cultural interest; to safeguard natural features and scenic landscapes and conserve wildlife; and to encourage and promote public appreciation, knowledge and enjoyment of the national heritage. Grants are not subject to a matching condition.

16. The National Estate program provides project oriented assistance to State and local government, National Trusts and other non-profit organisations for the acquisition, restoration, maintenance or study of natural and man-made areas and structures of special quality deemed worthy of protection or restoration. This program is administered by the Department of Home Affairs and no matching contribution is required from beneficiaries. The Australian Conservation Foundation informed the Committee that in the last financial year it received two grants under this scheme: \$3000 for a Forest Plan and \$1000 for the Wilderness Conference.

17. The technical assistance program only operated in 1973/74 and 1974/75 and was designed to make small amounts of money available to community organisations for the purpose of enlisting professional assistance in arguing an environmental case. Evidence received by the Committee indicates that this was a very successful scheme which provided a total of \$173 150 over the two years of its operation. According to the ACF the scheme was axed as part of a general reduction in public spending without any proper review of its usefulness.

18. The Commonwealth provides grants-in-aid in various other fields to a wide range of non-profit institutions. Those grants which are for groups comparable in nature to the voluntary conservation organisations are in general made to assist with administrative expenses and are subject to acquittance by audited financial statements, but appear to have no matching requirement. A list of examples of recipient bodies and the administrative Departments, provided to the Committee by the Department of Science and the Environment, is at Appendix 6.

19. The recommendations of the Hope Committee led to the establishment of the program of grants to voluntary conservation organisations. That Committee considered that to be eligible to receive grants, organisations must be representative of a significant section of the conservation movement, be properly constituted, have audited accounts and must report on how funds are spent.

20. The organisations which have been assisted through the program have primary objectives which relate to environmental protection, particularly nature conservation. According to the Department of Science and the Environment these organisations are national or State-wide bodies, or cover very large regional areas where population centres are dispersed. They are stable organisations of some years' standing.

21. A particular type of organisation which has been funded in the past is the Environment Centre in each State. These centres provide a physical resource to the conservation movement as a whole by providing library and research facilities, meeting rooms, printing and secretarial services and by disseminating information. The Tasmanian Environment Centre described the service it provides as innovative, unique, responsive, non-institutional and neutral and considers that environment centres are the most cost-effective and least controversial organisations funded by governments. The Department of Science and the Environment stated that as organisational entities environment centres generally do not espouse particular environmental policy issues.

22. Grants to voluntary conservation organisations are made by the responsible Minister on the basis of advice provided to him. Because of the historical relationship between the grants and the Committee on the National Estate, it was natural that disbursement of the funds appropriated for administrative support grants to voluntary conservation groups in 1974/75 should have been made on the basis of advice from the Interim Committee on the National Estate, which was established to carry on the work of the National Estate Committee until the establishment of the Australian Heritage Commission (AHC).

23. From 1975/76 until December 1978 the Minister responsible for environmental matters had administrative responsibility for the Australian Heritage Commission. The allocation of the grants during that time was determined within the Budget allocation by the Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development and was based on advice from the AHC and from his Department. The eligibility criteria developed during this period are at Appendix 4.

24. Following a change in administrative responsibilities in December 1978 responsibility for the Australian Heritage Commission passed to the Minister for Home Affairs and control of the grants to conservation organisations passed to the Department of Science and the Environment. For the first time since 1973/74 responsibility for the program of grants lay with a Minister other than that responsible for the AHC. In 1979/80 the AHC was not consulted when the grants were decided, but recipients were identical to those in the previous year. The Minister for Home Affairs has indicated that the AHC is available to provide advice should it be required.

25. Evidence has been received from various conservation groups which do not consider the Heritage Commission to be an appropriate organisation to provide advice to the Minister on disbursement of grants to what are essentially environmental bodies. There is an argument that many environment and conservation groups have interests which are not to any significant extent directed at elements of the National Estate and would therefore not be of any interest to the AHC. The Department of Home Affairs believes however that there are some conservation groups whose primary interest is in the natural area components of the National Estate, and includes in particular the several National Parks Associations, which work closely with the AHC. The Department of Home Affairs further states that the majority of conservation organisations do concern themselves with a range of matters including places forming part of the National Estate and that it would be virtually impossible to attempt to distinguish between those groups with and those without an interest in the National Estate.

Comments on the Scheme

26. The Committee has received evidence from many conservation groups, from individuals and from some industry organisations, suggesting alternatives or improvements to the scheme of funding as it now exists.

31. The Australian Conservation Foundation stated that while it may not have approached the ACIC specifically, it frequently utilises the resources of industry, usually specific companies, when seeking information on particular issues.

32. The conservation movement does not see itself as automatically opposed to development, but rather is concerned that when decisions are made all alternatives, including the alternative of not proceeding with a specific project are considered. The ACF stated that it did not consider that the role of the conservation movement necessarily includes the presentation of both sides of any argument. Conservationists rely on a developer to put his case and aim then to provide a conservation alternative. It is up to the processes of government to achieve a balance, and to make a decision.

27. It is apparent to the Committee that in providing the range of services that they do, voluntary conservation organisations face financial difficulties. The major contributing factors to these difficulties include the increasing demand for the involvement of these groups resulting from the increasing recognition afforded them by governments and the community, the increasing complexity of environmental issues, and the increasing costs of overheads, informative material and printing.

28. The major criticisms by conservation groups of grants to date are concerned with the difficulties of making the grants meet these increasing costs. The Committee has received many submissions to the effect that the grants are inadequate, that they should be indexed, that grants should be provided on a rolling basis and that the matching requirement should be dropped.

29. Certain individuals and/or organisations hold the view that governments should not fund organisations that often criticise or oppose government and private development proposals. The Livestock and Grain Producers' Association of New South Wales considers that tax-payers' money should not be provided to groups which often only represent small sectors of the community and often espouse viewpoints from which the majority of the community would differ, a view that was supported by other submissions.

30. The Australian Chemical Industry Council (ACIC) holds the opinion that few of the statements made by voluntary conservation organisations could be supported factually and claimed that its considerable resources in terms of environmental data have never been tapped by any conservation organisation. The ACIC concluded that it can only assume that conservation organisations prefer not to present a balanced viewpoint on environmental issues. Other submissions accused the conservation movement of bias and of being against economic growth.

3 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

33. The Committee, having examined the evidence before it, supports in principle Commonwealth Government grants to voluntary conservation organisations. These organisations contribute to reasoned public debate, to public education and an increasing public awareness of environmental issues, and play an important role through their input to government inquiries. Evidence received from the Department of Science and the Environment indicated that the contribution made by voluntary conservation groups during consideration of environmental impact statements is of benefit to the Department and aids the Government in incorporating community attitudes into the decision-making process.

34. While noting the comments of those opposed to the scheme the Committee accepts the arguments that conservation organisations provide an alternative to points of view expressed by the proponents of particular development projects. It is acknowledged that the arguments of the conservation movement will often appear biased and partisan but it is for the decision-makers (often the Government) to weigh the various arguments.

35. The Committee notes the comments on the amount of money allocated to this program. Grants totalling \$323 000 were made in 1973/74 to 17 organisations, on the basis of recommendations of the Hope Committee. In 1979/80, \$350 000 was allocated to 26 organisations. In real terms the amount of support provided by the Government has dropped considerably, although support from other sources has increased.

36. Consideration was given to the suggestion made in many submissions that the grants should be indexed and provided on a rolling 3 or 5 year basis. The Committee concludes that the level of funding should be decided each year in the context of

other Government priorities. It is not appropriate for the Government to be tied to pre-determined levels of funding and therefore not able to take into account changing circumstances. The Government has acknowledged and expressed appreciation of the work of voluntary conservation organisations on many occasions. The Committee considers that the level of funding should be examined by the Government.

Accordingly, the Committee recommends that:

the Commonwealth Government review its priorities and examine the feasibility of increasing the funding to voluntary conservation organisations to a level sufficient to ensure their continued effectiveness.

The Committee is hopeful that the Government's appreciation of their efforts will ensure that the level of funding to conservation groups is maintained at a viable level, to guarantee their continuing effectiveness.

37. The requirement for conservation bodies to match the Commonwealth grants has undoubtedly made their task more difficult. In 1976/77 the requirement was that for each \$2 of Commonwealth money provided up to a specified amount, the conservation group must provide \$1. In 1979/80 this requirement was changed to a \$1: \$1 matching basis.

38. Conservation organisations argue that they are mostly long standing associations with long records of community service, and that there are other methods of proving community support such as membership numbers and volunteer hours worked, among others. The ACF stated that, in its own case and in many others, more time was necessarily being spent on fund raising and less on conservation issues.

39. The Committee has given serious consideration to this question on the grounds just outlined and considering that, in general, direct matching of funds is not required in most grants-in-aid. The Committee believes however, that one of the most important aims of the voluntary conservation movement should be the involvement of as many people as possible. Furthermore unless there is some financial stake in recruitment drives, community fund-raising functions and the active education of the public in the aims and objectives of conservation groups, there is a danger of these groups becoming esoteric and exclusive and of running the risk of facing the resentment of a majority of the community.

40. The scheme should be administered in a way that would facilitate the consideration of grants to new groups. The criteria of financial viability may be crude, but it is an indication of the level of community support and it is administratively convenient. As the Department of Science and the Environment pointed out the smaller the cost of administering the scheme, the more money will be available for direct funding.

41. Environment Centres, however, are in the Committee's opinion in a different position. These centres provide a valuable information facility to a wide variety of users which, if provided by government, would be infinitely more expensive to the tax-payer. The centres by their very nature are not in a position to seek to maximise their membership and their funds are largely derived on an at-cost fee for service. The Committee believes that the Environment Centres in each State capital and in large regional centres should continue to receive Commonwealth funds without the requirement to match those funds.

The Committee recommends that:

- (a) Commonwealth funds be provided to voluntary conservation organisations (other than Environment Centres) with a \$2: \$1 matching requirement up to the amount allocated to each group; and
- (b) Commonwealth funds be provided to the Environment Centre in each State capital and in large regional centres with no requirement to match the allocated amount.

42. The guidelines which have been utilised in developing recommendations and providing advice to the Minister on grants appear at Appendix 3. The Australian Conservation Foundation and other conservation organisations which provided submissions to the Inquiry stated that the first criterion, that an eligible group must have 'nature conservation' as its primary objective or one of its primary objectives, is unnecessarily restrictive.

43. As discussed in Chapter 2 the Committee is of the opinion that the role of voluntary conservation organisations is now much wider than just nature conservation.

The Committee recommends that:

the eligibility criteria for funding under the program of grants to voluntary conservation organisations be amended to delete 'nature conservation' and replace it with 'protection and enhancement of the environment' (as defined in the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974).

44. The question of inclusion in or exclusion from the scheme was raised during the Inquiry by many organisations. Obviously it is not feasible that the Government provide funds to every conservation body which considers itself deserving. As stated earlier in the Report the Minister, in the past, has relied on advice from the Australian Heritage Commission. While supporting the continued involvement of the AHC in the selection

process, the wider criteria for eligibility as recommended in paragraph 42 will require advice from a greater range of organisations. Advice should be sought from other government authorities, from the ACF and from the principal conservation organisation in each State. The Committee stresses however that the decision as to which groups receive funds should be made by the Minister responsible for administering the scheme. The Committee therefore recommends that:

the Minister for Science and the Environment allocate grants to voluntary conservation organisations on the basis of advice received from the Australian Heritage Commission, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the principal conservation organisation in each State, as well as from organisations under his administrative control.

The Committee believes that groups whose sphere of interest is purely local should not be considered for grants from the Commonwealth Government, but rather should look to the community, local government or the State Government for support.

45. The Hope Committee identified as a need of the conservation movement, finance to assist in specific projects. The Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation has received evidence to support this and considers that this idea has considerable merit but would stress that, given the Government's financial restraints, if Commonwealth funds are to be provided for specific projects this should be considered case by case, and allocations made only if the project is one of national interest or significance. The Committee recommends that:

a fund be established, with monies not necessarily allocated each year, to assist voluntary conservation organisations with specific one-off projects.

46. The Technical Assistance program, as discussed in Chapter 2, was instituted at the same time as the grants to voluntary conservation organisations. The Committee believes that this program was a useful and necessary initiative which should be re-introduced, on a limited basis. The Committee envisages that this program would provide funds to smaller voluntary organisations, not only conservation organisations, to assist with legal expenses, auditing or other professional services. The Committee recommends that:

a Technical Assistance Program be introduced to provide assistance to voluntary organisations, and that allocations be determined on a case by case basis.

47. Submissions have suggested that Commonwealth funds should be provided to allow voluntary conservation organisations to either prepare or to commission detailed research projects. The arguments put forward included the fact that environmental issues are becoming increasingly complex, and that voluntary organisations are often confronting on issues, proponents with virtually unlimited resources.

48. However, the Committee received arguments against conservation groups receiving funds for research. The Livestock and Grain Producers' Association of New South Wales stated its concern for the responsibility and credibility of many voluntary conservation organisations having regard to the accuracy of publications sponsored by some organisations.

49. The Committee is convinced that in most cases material presented by conservation groups, given their limited staff and financial resources, is well presented and well researched. There are, however, dangers of duplication of effort, incompatibility of data and limited national usefulness of Commonwealth funded research projects being undertaken by State, regional or local groups. The Committee was told that often, with all good intentions, voluntary conservation organisations

are forced by their very limited funds to employ junior and inexperienced staff to undertake research projects and the results of this research are questionable. Involvement in detailed research with limited staff resources often means that the organisation is unable to undertake the wider range of activities relating to environmental protection. The Committee believes that the Commonwealth has a role in sponsoring research but considers that the role of the conservation groups is to identify an area where the lack of information is hindering their work, rather than to attempt to remedy that lack. The Committee believes that, on the basis of recommendations from voluntary conservation organisations, the Commonwealth should select and fund professional consultants and researchers. The Committee recommends that:

the Commonwealth Government establish a research fund from which monies can be allocated by the Minister for Science and the Environment to sponsor research projects by professional consultants and researchers on the basis of advice received from voluntary conservation organisations.

J.C. HODGES
Chairman

May 1980

APPENDIX 1

DISSENT OF MR J.F. COTTER, MP

1. Pursuant to Clause 17 of the Committee's Resolution of Appointment I add this dissent to the Committee's Report.

2. It is my view that the Committee dismissed too lightly the comments of those individuals and organisations who were opposed to government funding of voluntary conservation groups in general or opposed to the funding of some of the present recipients. Of the submissions the Committee received, nearly 25% fall into these categories. This figure is significant as almost all of these submissions supporting the scheme were conservation groups or environment centres which obviously have a vested interest in its continuation. The Committee received little evidence to show that those outside the conservation movement endorsed the scheme.

3. I accept that it is present government policy to fund a wide range of community groups including voluntary conservation organisations. I believe, however, that the level of funding for conservation organisations should not be increased beyond their present levels. While it is the undeniable right of individuals and community groups to oppose or comment on particular developments, the bulk of financial support for these activities should come from those holding similar views. Should the issue be a popular one with general community acceptance, conservation organisations should have little difficulty in obtaining donations. Financial problems experienced by some organisations reflect the general lack of support for the activities of those organisations.

4. I support the Committee's conclusions in paragraph 39 of the Report that unless conservation organisations are required to raise funds in addition to Government funds there is a danger of these groups becoming esoteric and exclusive and not representative of community views. I oppose any relaxation of the dollar for dollar matching requirement.

5. Accordingly for the reasons outlined in the previous paragraph I dissent from the Committee's recommendations contained in paragraphs 36 and 41.

6. I have serious reservations concerning the establishment of the separate funds as outlined in paragraphs 45, 46 and 49 of the Report. The problems associated with the separate funds are that there could be a tendency to spend the money allocated each year irrespective of the value of the project to which it is allocated. Should the recommendations contained in paragraph 45 relating to one-off projects and paragraph 46 relating to the technical assistance program be accepted, I believe a matching requirement should be imposed and funds provided from the existing conservation vote with no increase in government funds to meet these new activities. Without the matching requirement there is every possibility of a proliferation of one-off projects, some of which could be of doubtful value.

7. I am opposed to the establishment of a research fund as outlined in paragraph 49 of the Report. It is my view that should it become apparent that research is required in a particular area the Minister should approach Cabinet for a special allocation of funds to finance that research.

8. Finally, for administrative efficiency, all government funding should be through a central organisation such as the Australian Conservation Foundation. It would be the role of the Foundation to re-distribute the funds to worthwhile organisations. It should be the responsibility of the Foundation to

assess, each year, which group should receive funds. Issues change, as does the general acceptability of particular organisations. The fact that a group received a grant one year is not sufficient reason for it to continue to receive funds.

J.F. COTTER

May 1980

APPENDIX 2

LIST OF WITNESSES AND EXHIBITS

WITNESSES

GORRIE, Mr G.C.	Director, Land Programs Section, Environment Division, Department of Science and the Environment
HERINGTON, Mr A.D.	Air Pollution Coordinator Friends of the Earth, MELBOURNE
HILL, Mr D.G.	Deputy Director, Australian Conservation Foundation Inc.
MOSLEY, Dr J.G.	Director, Australian Conservation Foundation Inc.
NICHOLLS, Mrs M.Z.	President, Town and Country Planning Association, MELBOURNE
THOMPSON, Mr K.E.	First Assistant Secretary, Environment Division, Department of Science and the Environment
WILKS, Ms J.L.	Energy Coordinator, Friends of the Earth, MELBOURNE
WILKINSON, Mr W.N.	Member of Council, Town and Country Planning Association, MELBOURNE

EXHIBITS

1. AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

- (i) Submission from the Australian Conservation Foundation to the review of the program of grants to voluntary conservation organisations conducted by the Department of Science and the Environment, dated 12 November 1979.
- (ii) Minutes of 34th Meeting of Council, 15 and 16 March 1980.
- (iii) Director's Report, 34th Council Meeting.
- (iv) Annual Report 1978-79.

2. FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

- (i) Financial statement 1 July 1979 to 1 January 1980.
- (ii) Catalogue of Environment Resources 1979/80.
- (iii) Chain Reaction Vol. 5 No. 1 1979.
- (iv) Chain Reaction Vol. 5 No. 2 1979/80.
- (v) Antarctica: World Law and the Last Wilderness,
Dr K.D. Suter.
- (vi) "Don't Lead It! Why Australia needs lead free
petrol" Occasional Paper No. 3.
- (vii) "The Earth Needs You for a Friend".
- (viii) Newsletter March/April Edition.
- (ix) An Alternative Energy Fair Sun-Day-Program of
Events.

3. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

- (i) Letter from Interplan Pty Ltd to the House of
Representatives Standing Committee on Environment
and Conservation dated 3 April 1980.
- (ii) Letter from National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
to the President, Town and Country Planning
Association dated 3 April 1980.
- (iii) Letter from the Australian Conservation Foundation
to the President, Town and Country Planning
Association dated 27 March 1980.
- (iv) Memorandum of Association of the Town and Country
Planning Association.
- (v) Press Clipping from the Financial Review of 28
March 1980, entitled "MMBW report under fire for
'lack of background material'".
- (vi) "Space" Newsletter.
- (viii) "Space" Newsletter May/August 1979.
- (ix) "Space" Supplement April/September 1977.
- (x) R.A. Gardner Oration "Australian Cities: Public
or Private?"

APPENDIX 3

LIST OF SUBMISSIONS

The following individuals and organisations assisted the Committee by providing written submissions but were not required to appear at a public hearing.

Archer, Mr P.

Association for the Protection of Rural Australia
Australian Chemical Industry Council
Australian Mining Industry Council

Blue Mountains Neighbours of National Parks Association
Broome, Mr A.P.W.

Canberra and South-East Region Environment Centre Inc.
Capricorn Conservation Council
Confederation of Australian Industry
Conservation Council of South Australia Inc.
Conservation Council of Victoria Inc.
Conservation Society of New South Wales

Department of Home Affairs

Environment Centre of Western Australia Inc.

Launceston Environment Centre Inc.
Livestock and Grain Producers' Association of New South Wales

Murray Valley League for Development and Conservation

National Parks Association of New South Wales
National Parks Association of Queensland
Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales
Nature Conservation Society of South Australia Inc., The

Queensland Conservation Council, Inc.

Rylstone Shire Council

Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc.

Tasmanian Environment Centre

Temple, Mr C.

Tenterfield District Land Protection Association

Townsville Regional Conservation Council

Waterman, Mr P.

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, The
World Wildlife Fund Australia

Youth Hostels Association of New South Wales

Zimmerman, Dr D.O.

APPENDIX 4

EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE GRANTS FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION BODIES

To be eligible for financial assistance through the grants to voluntary conservation bodies program an organisation must:

- (i) have nature conservation as its primary objective or one of its primary objectives and its actions must be consistent with those objectives;
- (ii) be a non-profit organisation;
- (iii) be properly constituted;
- (iv) have a membership open to any interested person;
- (v) have audited accounts;
- (vi) have a demonstrated administrative competence;
- (vii) cover a significantly large geographical area;
 - Statewide bodies must complement similar bodies in other States and represent a national conservation function, e.g. State Conservation Councils.
 - Intra-state bodies must cover a regional area, represent a number of organisations and conservation activities, and complement similar bodies within the State.
- (viii) if not eligible under (vii) above, have other nationally significant merit, e.g. a highly regarded research capacity;

- (ix) submit an annual report;
- (x) prepare a brief report on the use of any previous grants up to the 30 June of the current year.

Grants are not provided under this program for project oriented activities such as technical studies, publications and organising seminars.

Applications for grants should contain the following information.

- Full name and address of applicant organisation.
- A copy of the organisation's constitution.
- An audited statement of the present financial status of the organisation.
- A statement of present membership numbers and fees.
- Detailed description of the past activities of the organisation and its aims and planned activities for the future, including a detailed budget.
- Details of other applications made for these or similar purposes under any other Commonwealth Assistance Program.

COMMONWEALTH GRANTS-IN-AID TO VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS (\$)

APPENDIX 5

ORGANISATION	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	1978/79	1979/80
NATIONAL								
Australian Conservation Foundation (1)	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	100,000	100,000
Friends of the Earth				10,000	10,000			
Keep Australia Beautiful Council	20,000	20,000	20,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Australian National Parks Council					1,500	1,500	950	950
Conference on Conservation Councils				2,650				
NATIONAL TOTAL	170,000	170,000	172,650	175,000	176,500	166,500	115,950	115,950
NEW SOUTH WALES								
NSW Nature Conservation Council	15,000	23,600	4,000	6,000	6,000 }			
NSW Environment Centre			28,250	28,250	31,500	35,200	35,200	
National Parks Association	7,000	8,900	9,000	9,000	9,000	8,550	8,550	
North Coast Environment Centre			3,000	3,000	3,000	2,380	2,380	
Colong Committee	5,000					5,000	5,000	5,000
Murray Valley Development League								
NEW SOUTH WALES TOTAL	27,000	32,500	44,250	46,250	54,500	51,130	51,130	
VICTORIA								
Conservation Council of Victoria	15,000	16,650	15,000	16,300	19,550	18,330	18,330	
Victorian Environment Centre	6,950	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	8,550	8,550	
National Parks Association	7,000	6,250	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,150	6,150	
Town and Country Planning Association	5,000							
VICTORIA TOTAL	27,000	29,850	28,500	29,800	33,050	33,030	33,030	
QUEENSLAND								
Queensland Conservation Council	17,000	22,700	26,250	28,350	31,600	34,300	34,300	
Wide-Bay Burnett Conservation Council			5,000	5,000	5,000	2,850	2,850	
Capricorn Conservation Council	5,000	4,450	6,000	6,000	6,000	2,850	2,850	
Townsville Regional Conservation Council			7,150	6,000	6,000	5,700	5,700	
Cape York Conservation Council	7,000	6,250		3,000	3,000	2,850	2,850	
National Parks Association								
Wildlife Preservation Society	5,000							
QUEENSLAND TOTAL	34,000	40,550	46,250	48,350	51,600	48,550	48,550	
SOUTH AUSTRALIA								
Conservation Council of S.A.	20,000	19,150	16,000 }					
South Australia Environment Centre			5,000 }	17,000	20,250	19,050	19,050	
Nature Conservation Society of S.A.				5,000	5,000	5,700	5,700	
SOUTH AUSTRALIA TOTAL	20,000	19,150	21,000	22,000	26,250	24,750	24,750	
WESTERN AUSTRALIA								
W.A. Conservation Council	15,000			4,800	5,550	7,650	7,650	
W.A. Environment Centre		14,700	16,000	12,000	12,000	13,300	13,300	
Environment 2000	5,000							
WESTERN AUSTRALIA TOTAL	20,000	14,700	16,000	16,800	17,550	20,950	20,950	
TASMANIA								
Tasmanian Conservation Trust	20,000	18,000	14,000	15,300	18,550	13,310	13,310	
Tasmanian Environment Centre	5,600	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	13,310	13,310	
Launceston Environment Centre		3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,320	3,320	
TASMANIA TOTAL	20,000	23,600	27,000	28,300	31,550	29,940	29,940	
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY								
Canberra and South East Region Environment Centre			16,000	16,000	10,000	11,450	11,450	
National Parks Association	5,000							
ACT TOTAL	5,000		16,000	16,000	10,000	11,450	11,450	
NORTHERN TERRITORY								
N.T. Environment Council								
N.T. Environment Centre	20,000	16,000	16,000	16,000 }		14,250	14,250	
NORTHERN TERRITORY TOTAL	20,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	10,000	14,250	14,250	
NATIONAL TOTAL	170,000	323,000	353,000	390,000	400,000	400,000	350,000	350,000

SOURCE: Department of Science and the Environment Submission

(1) Also received grants of \$20,000 from 1966/67 to 1968/69 and \$50,000 from 1970/71 to 1971/72

APPENDIX 6

EXAMPLES OF COMMONWEALTH GRANTS-IN-AID SCHEMES

Department of Home Affairs

- Country Women's Association) - for administrative purposes no matching condition.
- Working Women's Centre)
- National Council of Women)
- Commonwealth Government Sports Development Program - provides assistance to national sporting bodies for administrative purposes and project assistance, no matching condition.

Department of Social Security

- Grants-in-Aid to National Welfare Co-ordinating Bodies - grants are a contribution to general activities, organisations are required to raise a pre-determined amount approximating a quarter of their grant.

Department of Administrative Services

- Royal Humane Society of Australasia - grant for capital and administrative purposes, no matching condition.

- Royal Institute of Political Sciences - as above
- Royal Institute of Public Administration - as above