

**WARBY RANGE**  
**PROTECTION SOCIETY**  
**1975A**

## HISTORY OF THE WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

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|-------------|------|---|
| 22nd April  | 1975 | Inaugural meeting of the Society  |
| 24th April  | 1975 | I.C.I. Application for mining licence.  |
| August      | 1975 | Wangaratta Technical College received a grant undertake an in-depth study of the Warby Range.   |
| September   | 1975 | 63 acres of land was purchased at the base of the Range by the Victorian Government (part of Cox Estate). This will be added to the Salisbury Falls Reserve \$45,000.   |
| October     | 1975 | Appointment recommended for National Parks Service to manage crown lands in the Warby Range (land between the Wangandary-Thoona Rd. south to Glenrowen.   |
| 17-19 Sept  | 1976 | Warby Symposium.  |
| 7-8 Oct.    | 1977 | Warby Walkabout.  |
| 25 Jan      | 1978 | I.C.I. relinquished the exploration licences in the Range. The assays had shown the levels of all minerals (including fluorospar in which I.C.I. was primarily interested) were below that required for mining to be able to proceed. |
| July        | 1978 | Victorian Government bought 198.4 ha. of the Range near Jubilee Falls area for inclusion in the Warby State Park \$69,500.  |
| 6th March   | 1978 | Benalla Shire now in line with Wangaratta Shire Councils regulations on land development in the Warbys. Benalla 40 ha. Subdivision Wangaratta Shire 50 ha. Subdivision.   |
| 28-29 Sept. | 1978 | Warby Walkabout.  |
|             | 1979 | Warby Range State Park declared.  |
| 6th Oct     | 1979 | Warby Walkabout.  |
| 2nd Sept.   | 1980 | Inaugural meeting of the Walking Group.   |
| 26-27 Sept. | 1980 | Warby Walkabout.  |
| 11th Sept   | 1981 | Protest meeting re clearing of native forests for pine plantations.   |
| 26th Sept.  | 1981 | Springtime Walk in the Warbys.  |
| 25th Sept   | 1982 | Warby Walkabout.  |
| 25th Sept   | 1983 | Warby Walkabout.  |
|             | 1984 | L.C.C. Murrey Valley Report recommended Warby State Forest be included in the State Park.   |
| Oct.        | 1984 | Nason family donated 250 ha.s. of bushland to the Victorian Conservation Trust to be added to the Warby State Park. The land is located South of the Taminick Gap Road.   |
| 2nd Sept.   | 1989 | Inaugural meeting of the Friends of the Warbys. chaired by Paul Larkings.   |

## Highlights in the History of the Warby Range Protection Society

- 22 April 1975 Inaugural meeting of the Society
- 24 April 1975 I.C.I. application for mining licence
- August 1975 Wang. Tech. College received a grant to undertake an in-depth study of the Warby Range
- Sept. 1975 63 acres of land was purchased at the base of the Range by the Vic. Govt. (part of Cox Estate). this will be added to the Salisbury Falls Reserve. \$45,000.
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Warby Walkabout

11 Sept. 1981

Protest meeting re clearing of native forests  
for pine plantations.

26 Sept. 1981

Springtime Walk in the Warbys.

25 Sept. 1982

Warby Walkabout

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Warby Walkabout

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to the Victorian Conservation Trust to be  
added to the Warby State Park.  
The land is located south of the Tamwilek  
Gap Road.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sept., 1989

Inaugural meeting of Friends of Warbys  
instigated by the Society and the V.M.P.A.

The Secretary of Lands  
Mines Department  
Melbourne

171 Flinders Street  
3000

*Prime  
conclusion's  
depos  
referred public  
matters  
loss of habitat*

*Suggested draft*

*No National Park*

From C.F. English. President of " The Warby Range Protection  
Society ". April 29th 1975

Dear Sir,

my Society wishes to bring to your attention  
an advertisement in the Wangaratta Chronicle of 24-4-75 ,  
being a Notice of Application for a Mining Lease, made by  
I.C.I. Australia of 1 Nicholson Street Melbourne.  
The area concerned is approx. 448 acres in the Parish  
of Taminick, County of Moira. This area includes Crown  
land and some freehold land owned by Messrs Booth bros.  
and L.J. Wenham. The nature of the operation will involve  
open pitting, sinking and driving .

My Society wishes to lodge an emphatic protest  
against the granting of this application. Our aim is to  
protect the range against this sort of activity amongst  
others. We claim strong support for our stand.

There is a long history in this area for maintenance  
of our point of view. There has been much discussion,  
investigation and recommendations supporting the non  
alienation of Crown Lands and in fact the matter of  
having the whole area a National Park is still very much  
alive. You will not at this time want me to elaborate  
with reasons for our protest , all I need do, I think, is to  
bring to your notice the " Report of the Sub Committee  
appointed by members of the Upper Goulburn Regional Committee  
and the Upper Murray Regional Committee on the

Future of the Warby Ranges. "

You will note that the preservation has been supported by  
City and Shire Councils as well as numerous clubs and organ-  
izations, as well as Government instrumentalities. The  
consensus of opinion is overwhelmingly in favour of preserv-  
ing this area in its natural state .

The Sub Committee's final conclusions and recommendations  
are significant, all being in favour of the maintenance of  
the area of Crown Land and even the purchase of areas of  
freehold land to create linkages. The final Subcommittee  
recommendation is that the area of Crown Land in question  
should become part of a National Park,

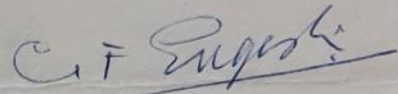
We seek your sympathetic support in this matter as my  
Society views the threat to our aims and objects most  
seriously. For your information I would say that we intend  
bringing the matter before the notice of the civic authorities  
the general public and all interested clubs and associations.

Page two.

The matter is in the hands of our executive committee and  
and will be dealt with again at our general meeting.

Yours sincerely

C.F. English



President "Wangaratta Warby Range Protection Society".

Correspondence please

to Mr G . Hodge

Chartered Accountant

Secretary Warby Range Protection Society.

18 Chisholm Street

Wangaratta 3677

P. 21-2840

CONSTITUTION. (6)

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY (15)

NAME

~~Warby Ra~~

1. the organization shall be known as the WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

OBJECTS

2. (a) To ~~protect~~ make every effort to ensure that the Warby Range is used with wisdom and foresight and that competing demands upon the Range are resolved in the best long term interests of the district
- (b) To foster the conservation of the distinctive vegetation and fauna and important natural features of the Range
- (c) To oppose any activity or development within the area contiguous to the Range detrimental to the aesthetic impact of the landscape
- (d) To promote a ~~knowledge~~ understanding and awareness of the value of the natural environment of the Warby Range
- (e) To cooperate with, or promote cooperation by any means among persons, trusts, corporations, firms, associations, institutions, governments, instrumentalities of government, municipal authorities, and other bodies concerned with or interested in conservation
- (f) Generally to take such action as it considers necessary or appropriate in the interests of promoting conservation

MEMBERSHIP.

3. Membership shall ~~to all persons~~ be open to all persons interested in the preservation of the natural features of the Warby Range and sympathetic to the objects of the Society as outlined
- 4.1 for the formation of members will be ~~required to pay an~~ <sup>required to pay an</sup> annual subscription <sup>and thereafter</sup> as fixed by the Executive Committee from time to time and ratified ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup> members at the Annual Meeting of the Society.
- Membership of any person may be suspended if such person is guilty of any action which in the opinion of the Executive Committee is inimical to the objects of the Society as outlined

## MANAGEMENT

### 4 ~~MANAGEMENT~~ OFFICE BEARERS

The management of the Society shall be vested in an Executive Committee consisting of

- (a) President
- (b) Vice President
- (c) Honorary Secretary
- (d) Honorary Treasurer
- (e) Public Relations Officer
- (f) ~~3~~ ordinary members of the ~~society~~ <sup>members</sup> and such other ~~persons~~ <sup>as the</sup> Executive Committee co-opt <sup>in writing</sup> from time to time for specified periods

### MANAGEMENT

5 The office bearers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Society in each year, shall hold office for one year and shall retire at the next Annual Meeting of the Society, but shall be eligible for re-election

6 (a) In the event of a vacancy occurring <sup>whether under clause 7 or for any other reason</sup> during the year the Executive Committee shall have power to appoint a new <sup>member</sup> ~~office bearer~~ from the members of the society

(b) Any <sup>person</sup> ~~office bearer~~ so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Society. ~~but shall be eligible for re-election.~~

7 Any member of the Executive Committee being absent for three consecutive meetings without acceptable reason or leave of absence shall forfeit his/her seat on the Committee

8 The Executive Committee shall meet at least ~~quarterly~~ ~~once in each month if practicable~~ but in any case not less than once in every ~~three months~~

9



## SUB COMMITTEES.

9 The Executive Committee may appoint such Subcommittees consisting of members of the Society as they think fit

10 The President and Secretary shall be ex officio members of all sub-committees

11 The Executive Committee may delegate any of its powers to a Sub committee save this power of delegation

## 60 Annual GENERAL MEETINGS

12 The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held during the month of February in each year for the following purposes <sup>of which at least seven (7) days notice shall be given</sup>

(a) To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting and special meetings, if any, no discussion being permitted thereon except as to their accuracy;

(b) To receive the report of the Executive Committee and audited statement of accounts for the financial year;

(c) To elect members of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year ~~and place of those retiring~~;

(d) To elect any Auditor/s for the ensuing year;

(e) To transact any business of which at least seven (7) days' notice has been given

13 The Society at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting shall have power to adopt such rules as are necessary for the running of the Society

## EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS

14

An extra-ordinary general meeting of the Society may be called by the President or by ~~the request~~ <sup>written request</sup> of at least ten (10) members, provided that at least (7) seven days notice shall be given to members of such meeting.

## QUORUM

15

A quorum for annual and extra-ordinary general meetings shall be ten (10) members. A quorum for executive committee meetings shall be three (3) members.

## CHAIRMAN

16

At every Annual or Extra-ordinary or Executive Committee meeting the President, or in his absence, the Vice President, shall preside; but if ~~a~~ neither of these office bearers is present the members shall choose one of their number to be chairman at that meeting.

## VOTING

17

Voting at all meetings shall be by show of hands; except that if requested by three (3) members present at the meeting at which the question arises, voting shall be by a division or by ballot.

In the event of equality of voting, the chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

## SECRETARY

18

The Secretary shall keep a correct record

of all minutes, deal with correspondence and motions as directed and notify all members of meetings at least 7 clear days before hand.

#### FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

19 The funds of the Society shall be lodged in a bank approved by the Executive Committee

20 The Treasurer shall receive all monies and issue receipts for same; pay all accounts which have been passed for payment by the Executive Committee, and shall keep a proper record of all such receipts and payments and shall submit a financial statement at each meeting of the Executive Committee

21 All accounts over \$20 must be paid by cheque and all cheques signed by two office Bearers chosen by the Executive Committee

22 At least once a year the books must be examined and audited by the Auditor(s) elected at the Annual meeting of the Society

23 The financial year shall run from the first day of January to the thirty first day of December next following

#### AUDITOR.

24 The auditor appointed shall be a member of some recognized Institute of Accountants or a person sufficiently versed in business practice to capably carry out the duties of auditor

## NOTICE TO RESCIND.

25

no resolution shall be rescinded unless fourteen days clear notice be given to members

## ALTERATIONS TO CONSTITUTION

26

(a) A resolution for the alteration of the constitution must be received in writing by the Secretary at least twenty one (21) clear days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward

(b) Seven (7) clear days notice of such a meeting shall be given by the Secretary to each member and shall include notice of the alterations proposed.

(c) alterations to the constitution must receive the assent of not less than two thirds of those members of the Society present and voting. ~~and shall~~

## WINDING UP.

27

(a) The Society shall not be dissolved or wound up except by the consent of three fourths of those present at an Extraordinary General Meeting of members specially called for the purpose.

(b) In the event of the Society being wound up any surplus assets shall be distributed within one month to ~~district organizations having aims and objects in sympathy with the aims and objects of this Society.~~ ~~approved by a resolution directing that~~ ~~and deposited with~~

Phone  
419 3388



MINISTRY FOR CONSERVATION

240 Victoria Parade  
East Melbourne  
Vic. 3002

6th February, 1975.

Mr. Garth C. Hodge,  
Chartered Accountant (Aust.),  
18 Chisholm Street,  
WANGARATTA, 3677.

Dear Mr. Hodge,

Thank you for your letter of 9th December, 1974 concerning your Committee's proposal to form a Conservation organization in the Wangaratta district and for your invitation to address a proposed public meeting at Wangaratta on the conservation policies of the Ministry.

I understand that Mr. M. Gange, the Ministry's Chief Extension Officer, discussed your request with you personally when he was in Wangaratta on 14th January and that the main concern of your Committee at this stage, is with conservation issues related to the Warby Range area.

I understand also that you are aware that the National Parks Service of the Ministry is investigating the possibility of a National Park being created in the area. In view of this it would be premature for me to address a public meeting at which the future of the Warby Ranges could be a main item of interest, until the National Parks Service have completed their investigations.

In the first instance I suggest you contact the National Parks Service and seek information from them relating to your Committee's interests.

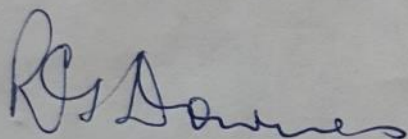
If at a later date you would like a Ministry representative to address a meeting the matter could then be reconsidered.

.../2

Furthermore, I wish to point out that the Ministry is very pleased to see public interest and concern on environmental issues and considers that a representative, well informed groups of private persons could provide a very useful service to a district such as yours.

If a conservation organization is formed in the future you are invited to keep in contact with the Ministry and its representatives in your area.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. G. Downes', written in a cursive style.

R. G. Downes,  
DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CONSERVATION GROUP  
held at residence of A. Twitt Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 1975  
at 8 PM

PRESENT P. Herkings chair  
Messrs Stodge, Skinner Twitt.

APOLOGIES Mrs Kundmann

PUBLIC MEETING PRELIMINARIES.

The following matters were discussed and a  
measure of agreement reached.

NAME. Recommended to be Warley Range Protection  
Society

SPEAKER. Secretary to contact Miss Nason for  
recommendation of an<sup>a</sup> ~~and~~ non local  
speaker of some authority knowledgeable  
about the Warley Range. Failing any  
suggestion the Secretary to contact  
Mr James Willis former director of the  
National Herbarium

contacted 26 March  
with furnished list

VOTE OF THANKS to be proposed by A. Twitt

ADVERTISING. Chronicle Tuesdays 12-19 April  
1/2" liberally spaced.

Interested in Preserving  
the Warley Range?

formation meeting of Warley  
Range Protection Society  
at the Centre Tuesday  
22<sup>nd</sup> April 8 PM.

Proposed 26 March  
Gullery

A press release will be drafted by A. Twitt  
for insertion preferably Wednesday 17 April

CHAIRMAN. W. English to be invited to chair the  
meeting. Suggested that P. Herkings  
be proposed as chairman for the conduct  
of elections

SUBSCRIPTIONS. To be suggested as £1. per member

Completion of preliminaries.

~~CON~~  
CONSTITUTION.

Secretary advised that the Australian Conservation Foundation were forwarding a copy of their constitution as being suitable even for a small group. George & Hankings to confer as to its suitability before the next meeting.



# Society to protect the Warby Ranges

A Warby Range Preservation Society will be formed at a public meeting in Wangaratta next week.

The meeting has been called to discuss the protectional preservation of the Warby Ranges.

Organisers of the meet-

ing to be held at The Centre at 8 pm. Tuesday, have indicated that this move is in response to continuing threats to the range and its surrounding area by rural subdivision, clearing mining activities and other developments.

A meeting convened by the Wangaratta Sub-Regional Planning Committee in September 1973, to discuss the future of the Warby Ranges was attended by 120 people.

The people at the meeting indicated consid-

erable interest in the range.

The overall opinion expressed at that meeting showed a desire by the community to protect the area from development.

It was also suggested that a public committee known as the Warby Ecology and Environment Protection Society be formed to retain the Warby Ranges in their present state.

Organisers of next week's meeting feel that some follow up to this suggestion is overdue.

# A SOCIETY FOR RANGES IS FORMED

The Warby Range Protection Society was formed at a well-attended meeting last night.

The Society has already accepted a draft constitution, and this will be formally adopted at a general meeting to be called soon.

Over 60 people attended the meeting, which was held at The Centre.

Mr C. F. English was elected as president of the Society, with Mr Alan Emslie as vice-president and Mr Garth Hodge as secretary.

Mr George Ikinger was elected treasurer, and Mr Adrian Twitt public Relations officer.

Other members of the Society executive are Cr. Paul Larkins, Mr Jim Humphrey, and Mrs Trudi Kentmann.

Guest speaker at the meeting was Fisheries and Wildlife officer at Wangaratta, Mr Pat Sheridan.

He outlined the wildlife and fauna that exists in the Warby Ranges, and stressed the need for their protection.

The draft constitution outlines the six aims of the newly formed society.

These are—

- To make every effort to ensure that the Range is used with wisdom and foresight, and that the competing demands upon the Range are resolved in the best long-term interests of the district.

- To foster conservation of the distinctive vegetation

and fauna and the important natural features of the Range.

- To oppose any action or development within the area contiguous to the Ranges which may be detrimental to the aesthetic impact of the landscape.

- To promote the knowledge, understanding and awareness of the value of the natural environment of the Range.

- To co-operate with organisations concerned with conservation.

- To generally take such action as is considered necessary or appropriate in the interests of promoting conservation.

Membership of the Society is open to any person at a cost of \$1.

Mr Adrian Twitt this morning stressed that the Society was in no way an authority.

"We are just a group of people interested in protecting the Warby Range. We hope we will have enough support to exert some influence towards this end", he said.

He said that the Society was not aiming at completely blanketing development of any type in the Range.

"We would be looking at each proposal on its merits", he said.

9 Harana Crd,  
Benalla 3672.  
27th April 1975

Secretary,  
Harby Range Protection Soc.,  
18 Edishalm St,  
Wangaratta 3677.

Dear Mr Hodge,

I noted with interest the formation of your Society as reported in the Chronicle Dispatch of 23rd April. I feel it is important if the Range is to be protected that all proposals are considered by one Authority for future development. I have enclosed a letter I received following an inquiry to the Shire of Benalla. From the contents I gained the impression that the Shire had no knowledge of this work, although much of the Range is under their control! I feel it is only the Crown Land that is left that shows us the condition of the natural forest in this area. I hope your Society will be actively opposing the application by I.C.S. to commence mining.

I have enclosed my joining fee and would be happy to assist as far as I am able,  
Yours sincerely  
G. Leers.

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1975

TREASURER'S REPORT.

29 Financial members.

Financial Statement.

Cash in Hand \$29.00

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

18 Chisholm Street,  
WANGARATTA. 3677

5th May, 1975

The Secretary,  
Australian Conservation Foundation,  
National Science Centre,  
191 Royal Parade,  
PARKVILLE. Vic. 3052

Dear Secretary,

The purpose of this letter is twofold; firstly to acquaint you of the formation of the Warby Range Protection Society with 30 financial members and to enclose a copy of the constitution, and secondly to seek your advice and assistance regarding I.C.I Australia Ltd's application for a mining lease in the area.

I enclose herewith newspaper cuttings relative to the application. The action taken so far by the Executive committee of the society is to make contact with landholders known to be opposed, and to arrange for a member to ascertain the correct procedures involved in a protest to the Mines Department from the local Mines Department office.

However we appreciate that a concern of the size of I.C.I will need very hefty opposition to be prevented from carrying out their intentions on land which in 1968 was recommended for consideration as a National Park and therefore we are seeking your advice as to the most effective means.

Yours faithfully,

G.C. Hodge  
Hon. Secretary

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

18 Chisholm Street,  
WANGARATTA. 3677

5th May, 1975

Mr G. Seers,  
9 Warana Court,  
BENALLA. 3672

Dear Mr Seers,

Thank you for your letter of April 27th and your comment re one authority for the Range has been noted.

Although as you can imagine we hardly have had time to sort ourselves out and decide our priorities the action by I.C.I has in fact given us our first course of action.

We have brought the matter to the notice of the Australian Conservation Foundation and are seeking their assistance as to the most effective method of protest.

I enclose a receipt of your joining fee.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely,

G.C. Hodge  
Hon. Secretary

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

18 Chisholm Street,  
Wangaratta. 3677

23rd June, 1975

The Secretary for Mines,  
Mines Department,  
171 Flinders Street,  
MELBOURNE. 3000

Dear Sir,

My Society wishes to draw to your attention Notices of Application for mining leases inserted in the Wangaratta Chronicle by I.C.I. Australia Ltd., 1 Nicholson Street Melbourne on April 24th 1975, in respect of lands owned by Booth Bros., A.W. Griffiths, L.J. Wenham, and the Crown totalling 1927 acres in the Parish of Taminick, County of Moira. The nature of the operation will involve open pitting, sinking and driving.

My Society wishes to lodge an emphatic protest against the granting of this application.

The objects for which the Society was formed includes opposition to any action or development within the area contiguous to the Ranges which may be detrimental to the aesthetic impact of the landscape and promotion of conservation. These objects are at variance with the activity proposed by I.C.I. Australia Limited.

There is strong local support for our stand. Indeed the formation of the Society was consequent to a public meeting which expressed very strong opposition to the subdivision and commercialization of the Warby Range.

We refer to a "Report of the sub-committee appointed by members of the Upper Goulburn, and Upper Murray Regional Committees on the future of the Warby Range" published in 1968, in which preservation has been supported by City and Shire Councils, numerous clubs and organizations as well as Government instrumentalities. The consensus of opinion is overwhelmingly in favour of preserving this area in its natural state.

The subcommittee's final conclusions and recommendations are significant all being in favour of the maintenance of the area of Crown land and even the purchase of areas of freehold land to create linkages.

You will not at this time want me to elaborate on the aspects objectionable to the conservation interest such as loss of habitat of native fauna, as they are no doubt familiar. It is more important to underline that this issue is a very live one as far as the public of our district is concerned.

We seek to notify you of our opposition to the granting of the licences applied for, and to seek your support for the object of our Society to maintain unspoilt this priceless natural resource for the benefit of our and future generations.

Yours faithfully,

G.C. Hodge  
Secretary

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

18 Chisholm Street,  
WANGARATTA. 3677

24th June, 1975

The Hon. W.A. Borthwick,  
Minister for Conservation,  
Parliament House,  
Spring Street,  
MELBOURNE. 3000

My Dear Minister,

My Society wishes to draw to your attention notices inserted by I.C.I. Australia Ltd., in the Wangaratta "Chronicle" of April 24th last advising the Company's intention to apply for mining licences in respect of 1927 acres in the Parish of Taminick, County of Moira adjacent to the City of Wangaratta.

The Society has lodged a strong protest with the Mines Department against the granting of such licences. A copy of the letter is enclosed.

The report of the sub-committees of the Upper Goulburn and Upper Murray Regional committees recommended that the Crown lands in the area should form part of a National Park. Activity of the kind proposed in the advertisement inserted by I.C.I cannot be reconciled with the report and the strong local support for preserving the environment of the Warby Range as outlined in my letter to the Mines Department.

We would hope that your Department would wield its utmost influence in support of conservation of the Range and to dissuade the Mines Department from granting the licences applied for.

Yours faithfully,

G.C. Hodge  
Secretary



WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

18 Chisholm Street,  
Wangaratta. 3677

24th June, 1975

The Town Clerk,  
City of Wangaratta,  
City Offices,  
Ford Street,  
WANGARATTA. 3677

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My Society wishes to draw to your attention notices inserted by I.C.I Australia Ltd., in the Wangaratta "Chronicle" of April 24th last advising the Company's intention to apply for mining licences in respect of 1927 acres in the Parish of Taminick, County of Moira adjacent to the City of Wangaratta.

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We would hope that any influence the Council may possess would be wielded in support of the Conservation of the Range, and to dissuade the Mines Department from granting the licences applied for.

Yours faithfully,

G.C. Hodge  
Secretary

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

18 Chisholm Street,  
WANGARATTA. 3677

24th June, 1975

The Shire Secretary,  
Shire of Wangaratta,  
Ford Street,  
WANGARATTA. 3677

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My Society wishes to draw to your attention notices inserted by I.C.I Australia Ltd., in the Wangaratta "Chronicle" of April 24th last advising the Company's intention to apply for mining licences in respect of 1927 acres in the Parish of Taminick, County of Moira adjacent to the City of Wangaratta.

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WANGARATTA. 3677

24th June, 1975

The Honorable J.F. Cairns M.P.  
The Minister of Environment and Conservation,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

My Dear Minister,

Recently extensive publicity was given to your Government's announced intention to thoroughly investigate the environmental implications of mining projects in the aftermath of the controversial Fraser Island decision.

For this reason my Society wishes to draw to your attention notices inserted by I.C.I. Australia Ltd., in the Wangaratta "Chronicle" of April 24th last advising the Company's intention to apply for mining licences in respect of 1927 acres in the Parish of Taminick, County of Moira adjacent to the City of Wangaratta.

The Society has lodged a strong protest with the State Mines Department against the granting of such licences. A copy of the letter is enclosed.

The report of the sub-committees of the Upper Goulburn and Upper Murray Regional committees recommended that the Crown Lands in the area should form part of a National Park. Activity of the kind proposed in the advertisement inserted by I.C.I cannot be reconciled with the report and the strong local support for preserving the environment of the Warby Range as outlined in my letter to the Mines Department.

We would hope that your Department would wield its utmost influence in support of conservation of the Range and to dissuade the Mines Department from granting the licences applied for.

Yours faithfully,

G.C. Hodge  
Secretary

Australian Conservation Foundation

Hon. Secretary,  
Warby Range Protection Society,  
18 Chisholm Street,  
Wangaratta,  
Vic. 3677



206 Clarendon Street  
East Melbourne Victoria  
Australia 3002  
Telephone 419 3366

**ACF**

30th June 1975

Dear Mr Hodge,

I recieved your letters 5th May and 3rd June and do apologise for the delay in answering. Unfortunately our resources are very stretched at present and we are behind with correspondence.

I'm afraid that the A.C.F. is able to offer you little assistance except our support that a full environmental investigation should take place before the mining leases are granted. From your letter in June, this investigation now seems to be on the way. Can I refer you onto the Conservation Council of Victoria - P.O. Box 104, Springvale Vic. 3171. They may be able to offer you some assistance.

I enclose the newspaper cuttings,

Yours sincerely,

*J. Stanley*  
Ms J. Stanley

ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO  
SECRETARY FOR MINES  
TELEPHONE 654 4388



MINES DEPARTMENT  
WEST TOWER, PRINCES GATE  
171 FLINDERS STREET  
MELBOURNE, VIC. 3000

PS:AF

1st July, 1975.

Mr. G.C. Hodge,  
Secretary,  
Warby Range Protection Society,  
18 Chisholm Street,  
WANGARATTA. Vic. 3677.

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter advising of your Society's objection to the granting of mining leases to I.C.I. Australia Ltd. over lands (freehold) in the vicinity of the Warby Ranges.

Your concern in this matter is appreciated and will receive full consideration at the appropriate time.

By way of explanation I point out that I.C.I. Australia has no mining plans at this stage, has applied for an Exploration Licence and has simultaneously secured areas of initial interest under lease application for protection from Miners Right claims.

As you will now appreciate this is a purely exploratory exercise; in this connection I draw your attention to some notes which I have attached for the purpose of giving you a better understanding of the nature and purpose of such a licence.

Yours faithfully,

*E. Condon*  
(E. Condon)  
Secretary for Mines.

Phone  
419 3388



**MINISTRY FOR CONSERVATION**

240 Victoria Parade  
East Melbourne  
Vic. 3002

Ref: 24/2/49

2nd July, 1975.

Mr. G.C. Hodge,  
Secretary,  
Warby Ranges Protection Society,  
18 Chisholm Street,  
WANGARATTA. 3677

Dear Mr. Hodge,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 24th June, 1975, concerning applications made by I.C.I. Australia Limited for mining leases in the Warby Ranges.

This matter is currently being examined with a view to ensuring the conservation of the Range.

Yours sincerely,

W.A. BORTHWICK  
MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION

Phone  
419 3388



MINISTRY FOR CONSERVATION

240 Victoria Parade  
East Melbourne  
Vic. 3002

Ref: 24/2/49

2nd July, 1975.

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Secretary,  
Warby Ranges Protection Society,  
18 Chisholm Street,  
WANGARATTA. 3677

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This matter is currently being examined with a view to ensuring the conservation of the Range.

Yours sincerely,

W.A. BORTHWICK  
MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

18 Chisholm Street,  
WANGARATTA. 3677

4th July, 1975

The Secretary for Mines,  
Mines Department,  
West Tower, Princes Gate,  
171 Flinders Street,  
MELBOURNE. VIC. 3000

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter and enclosures of July 1st.

Naturally if the Society is going to object to the granting of any mining lease it would be pointless not to raise objection to the granting of an Exploration Licence. If in fact the Company finds sufficient evidence of deposits in their exploratory work they will be the more anxious to pursue mining operations. The Society would be pleased therefore if you would construe its objection as an objection to the granting of a Exploration Licence to I.C.I Ltd., as well as an objection to the granting of mining leases.

Yours faithfully,

G.C. Hodge  
Secretary





**MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
AND CONSERVATION**

PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

Mr. G.C. Hodge,  
Secretary,  
Warby Range Protection Society,  
18 Chisolm Street,  
WANGARATTA VIC. 3677

F8 JUL 1975

Dear Mr. Hodge,

I am writing to acknowledge your letter of 24 June concerning an application for 4 mining leases near Taminick by I.C.I. Australia Ltd.

I will bring your letter to the Minister's attention as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

(Rollo Browne)  
Acting Correspondence Secretary.

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

14th August, 1975

The Secretary,  
North Eastern Regional Council,  
for Social Development,

Dear Sir,

Following discussions with the Community Development officer for the North Eastern Regional Council for Social Development Mr Don Simmonds my Society wishes formally to apply for a grant to produce a Conservation motivated education brochure outlining the unique features of the Warby Range.

Most Governments are sensitive to conservation provided the public express concern about the areas which are worthy of conservation. For this reason a great deal of organization is invested in protest, especially by the dedicated few. By and large the public appear apathetic but the silent majority are generally sensitive to the erosion of their natural heritage by so called development.

Our own problem is the steadily increasing commercial development of the Warby Range from two directions - the application by I.C.I Aust. Ltd., for exploratory mining licences and the desire of some few people with the financial resources to purchase 40 acres of the Range for their own personal edification.

These people exert tremendous pressure on authorities - their short term arguments are usually sophisticated and cunningly directed to persuade local opinion that their moves are progressive and developmental, increasing employment, and so on, implying that their motives are purely for public benefit and that opposition will be parochial, short sighted and reactionary and therefore not generally held throughout the community. In the absence of widespread protest public opinion is thus manipulated and authorities find difficulty in opposing their claims. The only defence available in our case is to ensure that the public do spontaneously indicate a strong and vigorous feeling against the alienation of the aesthetic and recreation

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

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potential of the Warby Range.

This is the motivation for the brochure.

The Society believes that it must educate the local community to understand and appreciate the unique advantages of the Range and become vocal and vigorous against its commercialization.

Yours faithfully,

G.C. Hodge  
Hon Secretary