

**WARBY RANGE
PROTECTION SOCIETY
1976A**



PROTECT RANGES

Sir.—Mr E. J. Archer, in his letter of January 12, echoes public opinion on the problems associated with the continuing subdivision of the Warby Range.

Towards the end of last year, two meetings of special significance to this area were convened; the first by the Shire of Wangaratta to explain its Amendment No. 8, which concerns planning on the range; the second by the Shire of Benalla, at which submissions were taken towards the possible revision of the planning ordinances of that shire.

At both meetings, persons holding property on the range expressed violent opposition to any alteration to the existing regulations, the objections generally taking the form of attacks on conservationists in general, and on the Warby Range Protection Society in particular.

The State Government authorities which work in the range have long been aware of the consequences of indiscriminate subdivision in the area.

The damaging effects of this activity have now become so apparent that they can no longer be ignored.

As four-fifths of the area is privately owned, the logical solution would be the re-purchase of the land by the State.

As this at present appears just not on, it is the task of the municipalities involved, and theirs alone, to ensure that irreversible damage to this sensitive area is kept to a minimum.

Few of the landholders live in the area, and fewer get their living there.

The latter have been assured that their genuine activities will not be prejudiced by the Wangaratta Shire's amendment, so it becomes obvious that the objection is against the loss of subdivisional potential, and the "improvements" (clearing) that goes with it.

Such objection is understandable until we consider:

- Firstly: The danger of creating a rural slum in an area where water storage is a perpetual problem, and the fire risk horrendous.

- Secondly: The damage to long-established properties adjacent to the Range, already in evidence.

- Lastly: The danger of complete denudation of a geographical feature which is so important to the ecology of a large area east of the Range.

I would urge active support to the Amendments of the Shire of Wangaratta. Over 30 ratepayers of the

Killawarra Riding, and residing adjacent to the Range, have already expressed their approval in a petition to the Shire.

No action, of course, will be effective until the Shire of Benalla sees fit to take parallel action.

If that body chooses to ignore the representations of both public opinion and the State departments, we can only expect acceleration of the destruction now in evidence.

The whole community will suffer the effects of this action long after the speculators and the surveying firms have moved on to greener pastures.

ALLAN EMSLIE,
Wangaratta South

The DUNSON FILE

30-1-76

The conservation groups, and others interested in the preservation of the Warby Ranges, must be tearing their hair in frustration following the State Government's decision to grant ICI permission to explore for minerals in the ranges.

The decision certainly appears to be a victory for commercial exploitation over quality of life considerations.

While so far there has been only permission for exploration it is a sure bet that permission to mine will follow if ICI decides it wants to go ahead.

The government may well say such an assumption is wrong, but I would like to be as sure of winning Tattsлото as I am that mining will be permitted if the company wants it.

What happens if mining does go ahead?

From the outset ICI has indicated it would do all in its power to prevent unnecessary damage to the environment.

I have no reason to doubt that they will do what they say.

But it must be acknowledged that any mining operation carries with it a great deal of excavation work, clearing and roadworks.

Even if any mining was carried out underground there would have to be a considerable area cleared around the mine head, and a new heavy road would have to be constructed.

Another problem is the



Taken lead

The Warby Rang Protection Society has taken the lead in this fight, and has opposed any development in the area.

Wangaratta City Council, and the Wangaratta Shire have also taken a stand against any mining, or exploration in the ranges.

Unfortunately the Shire in whose area much of the Warbys fall, does not share the concern of the people of Wangaratta and district.

Of course they don't have to look at the ranges so if there is any mining it probably won't affect them.

It is certainly regrettable that they have adopted this attitude, which is opposed to the view of the people who would be most affected.

And I must say the silence from our elected representatives on this matter has been deafening.

This too is most disappointing.

An interesting aspect of the matter came to light

Vigilance is needed

Sir — There has been little heard of late about the threat to the Warby Range by ICI (Australia) mining interests.

We must not be deluded about this for the exploration goes on with the blessing of the Minister of Lands, the Hon. J. Balfour, and some landowners.

This is in spite of the energetic and stringent protests of the Wangaratta City Council, the Shire of Wangaratta, the Warby Range Preservation Society and the support of the Chronicle, and an enlightening article in the "Dyason File."

We are assured by the Minister of Mines that he has granted to ICI a limited Licence to explore for minerals over some 100 square miles for a period of two years.

We may not be very bright at Wangaratta but one would have to be rather naive to believe that, if sought, ICI will not be granted a licence to mine more or less automatically, otherwise why go through the charade of granting an exploration licence.

It is clear then that the people of Wangaratta, and others, who value this unique area, with its potential for the future pleasure, satisfaction, interest and education of people old and young, present and future, need to be vigilant and active against anything which tends to destroy it.

The industrial venture of this powerful overseas based company is inimical to the whole concept of the conservation of the range. If the mining stage is permitted to be reached we will have been guilty of appalling short sightedness.

The Warby Range Protection Society propose to ask every candidate standing for election in our constituency of Murray Valley what their attitude is to the proposal to permit mining by ICI in the Warby Range.

As Wangaratta is easily the biggest centre in the electorate, we think that we are entitled to a lot of consideration, and that

March 19, 197

Most oppose mining

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Four candidates for the seat of Murray Valley, and three seeking the North Eastern Province seat, have been asked their views by the Warby Range Protection Society.

Society president, Mr C. F. English said four replies had been received to questionnaires sent out to local candidates.

The four to reply had indicated they opposed moves by ICI Ltd. to mine in the ranges.

Two candidates had not replied, and a third had indicated he did not have enough knowledge to give a reply.

Those to indicate opposition were Mrs A. Donlon (ALP), Mr P. Payne (DLP) in Murray Valley, and Mr D. Evans (NP), and Mr G. Iking (Lib), candidates for North Eastern Province.

The society had not received replies from Mr K. Jasper (NP), Mr L. Gee (ALP) and Mr B. Lumsden (Lib).

Mr Lumsden had indicated yesterday afternoon that he did not have enough information on the issue to make a decision.

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Unfortunately there seems to be some conflict of interests between Departments. The Minister for Conservation, Hon. W. A. Borthwick has had private land purchased and added to the Crown Lands of the area. No mining can now take place on Crown Lands which are now reserved under the Land Act (August 1975) and placed under the control of the National Park Advisory Committee.

We think that this is a splendid piece of forward thinking.

All we want now is a representative who will strongly present our interests and convince the Minister for Mines that the opening up of the Warby Range for mining purpose is a mistake. This, if it happens, could be the thin edge of the wedge for other forms of "Development."

We will publish the result of our question to candidates in the Chronicle on March 19.

Yours, etc.,

C. F. English,

President Warby Range Preservation Society.

Tomorrow's oppose mining Warby Range

Four candidates seat of Murray Valley three seeking the Eastern Province have been asked their views on the Warby Range Protection Society.

Society president F. English said four had been received questionnaires sent out to candidates.

The four to reply indicated they opposed mining by ICI Ltd. to the Warby Range.

Two candidates replied, and a third indicated he did not have enough knowledge to reply.

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Liberal candidate Murray Valley, Mr Lumsden, was asked for his attitude by Mr. English on a visit to the Chronicle yesterday afternoon.

Mr Lumsden said he did not know enough about the matter to make a decision.

NP candidate for Murray Valley, Mr Ken Jasper, morning told the Chronicle he was apposed to mining in the Warbys.

"I believe the Warby Range should be preserved in its natural state", Mr Jasper said.

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Plan for Warb report

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This was indicated
Wangaratta city councilors
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Mr. Mike Fayers.

Mr. Fayers who is involved in the Council's investigation into the use of public land in the Eastern Study Area the Warbys would probably be included in an area called Murray.

Mr. Fayers had asked about the report by councillors who were concerned that no recommendation had

made about the area.

He said the study was being done in stages and when the area including the Warbys was looked at council members would receive copies of the report and recommendations.

Council would be given the opportunity to make submissions.

Councillors also expressed interest in the recommendations in the Eastern report on roads and streams.

The mayor, Cr. D. Evans said the study covered the area drained into the Warby and King Rivers through Wangaratta.

Councillors did not make any recommendations on the study that should make the report.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1961

At the Executive Council Chamber, Melbourne,
the ^{30th} day of ^{February} 1976.

PRESENT

His Excellency the Governor of Victoria

MR. DICKIE MR. DUNSTAN

Shire of Wangaratta Planning Scheme
Interim Development Order
Amendment No. 6

WHEREAS it is provided by Section 26 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1961 that the Governor in Council, upon application of the Town and Country Planning Board or the Responsible Authority or of any other person or body of persons may revoke, amend or vary any Interim Development Order in whole or in part;

AND WHEREAS an application has been made by the Council of the Shire of Wangaratta and the Minister has considered a report by the Town and Country Planning Board;

NOW THEREFORE His Excellency the Governor of the State of Victoria by and with the advice of the Executive Council doth hereby amend the Interim Development Order which was made by the Wangaratta Shire Council on the 19th July, 1972 and approved by the Governor in Council on 17th October, 1972 in the manner and to the extent shown as follows and the said Interim Development Order and the variations herein shall be read and construed as one, that is to say:-

After Clause 6 add the following new Clause:-

" 6A. Tree Felling Control

- (1) All that land in the Parish of Taminick delineated by the outer edge of a blue line on the map attached hereto is hereby specified as being an area of natural beauty, interest and importance for the purposes of Clause 8A of the Third Schedule of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1961.
- (2) Within the area as defined in Clause 6A(1) the removal, ringbarking, cutting down, topping, lopping, injuring or wilful destruction of any tree which:-
 - (a) is greater than 4.0m in height;
 - (b) has a girth greater than 0.5m at a height of 1.0m from the ground; or
 - (c) has a branch spread of greater than 3.0m

is prohibited except with the consent of the Responsible Authority.

- (3) In determining such consent the Responsible Authority shall have regard to:-
- a) the necessity or otherwise of retaining a buffer strip of vegetation within specified distances of water courses, road, and property boundaries; and
 - b) the need for preserving the natural environment and preventing erosion;

and together with other conditions may include conditions requiring planting and other treatment of any part of the land.

- (4) The provisions of sub-clause (2&3) shall not apply to:-
- a) the removal of any fruit trees;
 - b) the pruning of any tree for the purpose of its regeneration or ornamental shaping;
 - c) any tree which is dying or dead or had become dangerous;
 - d) the destruction of trees in accordance with an order given under the Forests Act 1958, the Country Fire Act 1958, the Soil Conservation and Land Utilisation Act 1970, or the Local Government Act 1958."

AND the Honorable Alan John Hunt, Her Majesty's Minister for Planning for the State of Victoria, shall give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

L. G. Houston
A/ CLERK OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

SHIRE OF WANGARATTA
PLANNING SCHEME
INTERIM DEVELOPMENT ORDER
AMENDMENT N° 6



APPROVED
BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL
- 3 FEB 1976

L. G. Houston
CLERK OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

BOUNDARY OF AREA OF NATURAL BEAUTY
INTEREST AND IMPORTANCE

Vigilance is needed

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Mr. Fayers who was
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Mr. Fayers had
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He said the study
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The Council would
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Councillors also
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The mayor, Cr.
Evans said the
study covered the area
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Councillors did
not make any recom-
mendations on the sub-
ject that should make
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Telephone
419 3388
Ext. 229 (SAUNDERS)
Ref. No. 7/39/14



240 Victoria Parade
East Melbourne
Vic. 3002

MINISTRY FOR CONSERVATION
NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

30th March 1976

Mr. C. F. W. English
President
Warby Range Preservation Society
9 Meadowra Avenue
WANGARATTA Vic. 3677

Dear Mr. English

WARBY RANGES
Exploration Licence No. 553 - I.C.I. Australia Ltd.

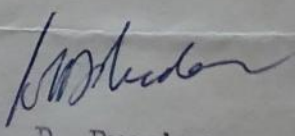
Thank you for your letter of 10th March addressed to the National Parks Advisory Council regarding the above matter.

The National Parks Service and the National Parks Advisory Council are both concerned about the possible impact of future mining in the Warby Ranges. As you are probably aware, the current status of the area in which the Service is involved is that of a reservation under the Land Act with the National Parks Advisory Committee as a Committee of Management. The area is not subject to the National Parks Act or Regulations, although the Lands Department did consult the Service to obtain our views on the application for an exploration licence.

The Service believes that there is little justification for preventing some exploration provided that the particular project is necessary for the determination of overall geological patterns and provided that it does not cause damage to the environment. For this reason phases 1 and 2 of the exploration will probably proceed. These phases will involve photogeology, broad-scale mapping, ground traversing and prospecting. However, the Service has reserved its decision on phase 3 which involves bulk sampling, drilling and costeaning - we would need to have a lot more information before considering this proposal. It should not be inferred that the National Parks Advisory Council or the National Parks Service would necessarily approve of phase 3, nor should it be anticipated that approval to mine would follow.

We look forward to your continuing support towards the conservation of the Warby Ranges.

Yours faithfully


J. D. Brookes
Director of National Parks

March 1976

"SAFEGUARD" FOR WARBY'S

The Warby Range Protection Society will seek assistance from the National Parks Advisory Committee in its bid to preserve the ranges in their natural state.

The Society is fighting a running battle to prevent ICI Australia Ltd. from carrying out mining exploration work in the Ranges.

President of the Society, Mr. C. F. English, said today that he had hoped the National Parks Advisory Committee would act to prevent any mining work in the crown land areas of the ranges.

"I base this hope on a letter received from the Secretary for Lands, Mr. C. E. Middleton, by the Wangaratta City Council.

"The council had written of Mr. Middleton registering its protest about the ICI plan, and urging the Department to refuse permission to allow the mining work.

"In reply, Mr. Middleton said that this type of licence is a matter for the Mines Department.

"However," Mr. Middleton said, "I understand from enquiries of that department that although in this case the licence ex-

tends over 100 square miles, no exploration can take place within the area of the Crown lands in the parishes of Glenrowan and Taminick in the Warby Ranges that were reserved under the Land Act in August last year as sites for public purposes (National Park) and placed under the control of the National Parks Advisory Committee, without the consent of that body.

"Further, these areas in addition to being so reserved, excepted from occupation for mining purposes under any Miners Right.

"In the circumstances, it is considered that the reserved Crown Land in the Warby Ranges are sufficiently protected from unauthorised mining operations," Mr. Middleton said. Mr. English said that the

letter was very heartening, as it appears to provide a safeguard for the areas of Crown Land in the ranges.

"We now propose to make further contact with the National Parks Advisory Committee to outline the situation.

"We hope that with their co-operation we will be able to protect the Crown Land areas," Mr. English said.

He said that this would not apply to land owned privately in the Ranges.

"In these cases, we can only hope that the land owners will support our stand by refusing to allow ICI to carry out any mining exploration at all," he said.

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"In these cases, we can only hope that the land owners will support our stand by refusing to allow ICI to carry out any mining exploration at all," he said.

Protection Society has made ground

The Warby Range Protection Society believes it has made some ground in its fight to prevent mining in the Ranges.

Publicity officer for the society, Mr. Adrian Twitt, said yesterday that some people felt the efforts of the society had been fruitless.

"However, this is far from being the case.

"A letter received from the National Parks Service indicates that they are keeping a watchful eye on mining proposals.

"The letter, which was in response to earlier representations by our body, indicates that they are Parks Service is fully aware of the threat to the environment that mining represents", Mr. Twitt said.

In the letter, Mr. J. D. Brookes, the director of National Parks, said that the National Parks Service believed that there was little justification for preventing some exploration, provided that the particular project is necessary for the determination of the overall geological patterns, and provided that it does not cause

damage to the environment.

"For this reason, phases one and two of the exploration will probably proceed", he said.

"These phases will involve photogeology broad scale mapping, ground traversing and prospecting.

"However, the service has reserved its decision on phase three, which involves bulk sampling, drilling and costeaning.

"We would need to have a lot more information before considering this proposal.

"It should not be inferred that the National Parks Advisory Council or the National Parks Service would necessarily approve of phase three, nor should it be anticipated that approval to mine would follow", Mr. Brookes said.

He said that the service looks forward to the continuing support of the society towards the preservation of the Warby Ranges.

Mr. Twitt said that the letter indicated that the service was keeping a very keen eye on the mining proposals.

"The Warby Range Protection Society has only

been operating for twelve months, and in that time has proved to be a forceful watchdog on issues affecting the future of the Warby Ranges.

"The society has generated increased interest among the community in the ranges", he said.

The annual meeting of the society will be held at The Centre on Monday evening. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

30-4-76

10-7-76

ICI to wait on assay results

The mining company ICI (Aust.) Ltd, is waiting for the results of assays of samples taken from its exploration area in the Warby Ranges before deciding on future action in the area.

A company spokesman said this morning that geological mapping over the exploration licence area in the ranges had been completed.

The spokesman said geo-chemical samples had been completed and were now being assayed.

The geo-chemical samples have been obtained from ground level. Each sample contains about 1 kg of rock.

When the results of the assays are available, a geological report will be prepared.

This will be the basis for the next stage of the company's exploration.

"The next stage would involve drilling for detailed sampling but the site location cannot be decided until the geological reports are available," the spokesman said.

And before any drilling for samples can commence the company must obtain the consent of the Minister for Mines.

The spokesman said that any application to drill for samples would depend on the geological reports.

"If they are favorable we will seek the minister's approval to drill, if not, no further action may be taken.

The site of drill holes will be subject to approval from the minister and relative authorities controlling the area.

5-5-76

SOCIETY WANTS CLOSER LIAISON BETWEEN SHIRES

The Warby Range Protection Society would like to see closer liaison between Wangaratta and Benalla Shires on development in the ranges.

This has been indicated by the president, Mr C. F. English, in his report to the society's first annual meeting.

Mr English said the society's main activity during the year had been to try and defeat the aims of the London-based multinational company, ICI.

He said the company had been given a permit to explore for minerals in the ranges, but the battle for full mining rights had yet to be decided.

Mr English indicated that a close watch was being kept on developments, and the society was prepared to do all in its power through publicity and protest to maintain the Warbys as they are.

He also told the meeting

that another matter of concern was the danger to the range of housing development and subdivision.

"We would like to think there could be closer liaison between the Shires of Benalla and Wangaratta in these matters", he said.

Mr English expressed satisfaction in the purchase of land by the government to add to the Crown Land area, and protect beauty spots.

He also noted that two recently-elected members of parliament had indicated support for the society's aims.

He said the support given by the City of Wangaratta and Wangaratta Shire, and the Chronicle, had been particularly appreciated.

Officers elected at the meeting were: President, Mr C. F. English; vice-president, Mr A. Emslie; secretary, Mr G. Hodge; treasurer, Mr G. Iking; auditor, Mr F. Francis; committee, Mr P. Larkins, Mr J. Humphrey, Mrs T. Kentmann.

The society is seeking more members and anyone interested can obtain information from any committee member.

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WARBY RANGE ORDER SIGNED BY MINISTER

An amendment to the Shire of Wangaratta's Interim Development Order, restricting development in the Warby Ranges, has been approved by the Minister of Planning, Mr. Geoff Hayes.

The amendment covers land in an area of the Warbys from Salisbury Falls in the south, to north of the Jubilee Golf Club.

Wangaratta Shire Secretary, Mr. Bernie Hallinan, said this morning the amendment had now been gazetted.

The amendment effectively prevents any subdivision in the escarpment zone, while it restricts subdivision in the conservation zone to areas of 50 ha.

The escarpment zone covers the general area at the top of the range, and the conservation zone land on the western side of the range.

The adoption of the two zones follows a lengthy, and at times stormy battle.

While the amendment was under consideration, Wangaratta Shire received numerous objections to the plans from people who own land in the area.

A public meeting held to explain the amendment produced strong objection to the plans, and at a council meeting to consider objections councillors spent several hours hearing from ratepayers involved.

Mr. Hallinan said this morning that the objections had been considered, and replies sent to the objectors.

The objections and council replies had been forwarded to the Town and Country Planning Board.

The main alterations to the original proposal was to exclude a small area of land, section 90a of the Parish of Taminick from the scheme, and to include the Jubilee Golf Club's land.

Strict control

Strict controls on subdivision will be imposed in the area involved.

In the escarpment zone all subdivision of land is prohibited other than for the purpose of:

- The resubdivision of land provided that the resubdivision so effected will not create a greater number of allotments than originally existed.

- Increasing the area of an existing allotment provided that the excised portion is consolidated with the title of an abutting allotment which area is to be increased.

- The acquisition of land for road works or any other public purpose.

In the conservation zone, all subdivision is to be with the approval of the council, provided that no allotment created shall be less than 50 ha.

The amendment does allow for cluster development provided that the number of house allotments created shall not exceed one lot for every 50 ha of land in the cluster subdivision.

This section also provides that land can be used for road works and other public purposes.

The amendment says that land within the two zones is specified as an area of natural beauty and special significance.

Prohibits work

The amendment prohibits any work being undertaken within 100 m of any natural watercourse or gully.

It says that if it is necessary for a natural gully or watercourse to be identified, council will make such identification, and notify the landowner in writing, within two months of receiving the application.

Speaking in Wangaratta yesterday, the Minister of Planning, Mr. G. Hayes, said the amendment had been the subject of controversy for some time.

He was pleased to announce the amendment had

been signed, and felt it would offer adequate protection to the Warby Ranges.

The Mayor of Wangaratta, Cr. Kevin Howard, who was present at the announcement of the signing of the amendment, welcomed the news.

Cr. Howard said he personally was very pleased to hear the amendment was now in force, and said the proposals were in line with city council policy.

Commenting on the approval this morning, shire secretary, Mr. Bernie Hallinan, said the amendment would not alter existing land use.

"It will not prevent people who have been farming land in the area carrying on just as they have in the past", he stated.

WEATHER DETAILS

TEMPERATURES: Yesterday's max. 12, overnight min. 2, at 9 a.m. today. 6.

RAINFALL: In the 24 hours to 9 a.m. today, 2 millimetres. Total for the week 25.2 millimetres.

BAROMETER: The barometric reading at 9.30 a.m. today was 1020 millibars and rising.

RIVER LEVEL: The Ovens River level at Wangaratta at 9 a.m. today was 2.870 m.

BUREAU SAYS: Fine and mild tomorrow with light winds, after a cold night. Little change on Sunday and Monday.

LIGHTS ON: Tonight at 5.30 p.m., tomorrow at 5.31 p.m.

LIGHTS OFF: Tomorrow at 7.25 a.m.

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Govt. buy land

The State Government has bought 198.4 hectares to be added to the Warby Ranges State Park, the Minister for Conservation Mr. Bill Borthwick announced today.

The price was \$69 500.

The property is located in the Warby Ranges on the eastern face of the escarpment above the golf course and the Jubilee Falls Reserve. It is about 11 km west of the Wangaratta Post Office.

Mr Borthwick made the announcement after Cabinet met in Wangaratta today.

"The allotment is fairly well timbered with light eucalypt forest and communities of grass trees", he said.

From the edge of the escarpment quite spectacular panoramic views of the country to the south-east and north can be enjoyed", he said.

"The area supports a diverse flora and fauna of regional significance for nature conservation".

"The purchase of this allotment will help to consolidate existing areas of Crown land into a viable park. This latest purchase brings the total area of the park to 2973.4 hectares".

Mr Borthwick said: "This is the second major land purchase in the Warby Ranges. In July 1977 the Government purchased Crown Allotment 89 containing 129 hectares for a price of \$46 000".

ENROLMENT FORM

People in Wangaratta and district may enrol for particular days and sessions under the following conditions.

- Enrolments may be made for all of Sunday, plus lunch \$4 if desired.
- Enrolments for all Saturday which includes barbeque lunch, \$7.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms.
 Christian Name.
 Phone (day) (evening)

Age Group 16-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, over 50.

Cost (enclosed - preferably by "Not Negotiable" cheque written out to "The Centre").

Saturday	\$7	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday Dinner	\$5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday	\$5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday Lunch	\$4	<input type="checkbox"/>

Enrolments to:

Executive Officer,
 The Centre,
 Chisholm Street,
 WANGARATTA 3677, Phone (057) 21 4191

ENROLMENTS CLOSE — Friday, September 10

ADVICE

Departure :

From 114 Flinders Street (outside Red Cross Blood Bank) between Russell and Exhibition Streets at 6.00 p.m. Friday, September 17. Passengers must be seated and luggage loaded for bus to leave on time.

Travel :

By modern air-conditioned bus in full comfort. The bus will provide all transport for the week-end.

Accommodation :

High class motels in Wangaratta. Every effort will be made to meet requests, but single accommodation is limited.

Meals :

All meals will be provided - buffet and sit-down dinners, barbeques, suppers in pleasant surroundings.

Venues :

Continuing Education Centre, Wangaratta, and the Warby Ranges.

Fees :

\$70 all inclusive from Melbourne to Melbourne
 \$30 if own travel and accommodation requirements are to be met.

Enrolments :

On enclosed form in strict order of receipt.

Closing Dates :

Monday, September 6, 1976. Applications should be made as soon as possible to ensure places.

The Warby Ranges

A CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM



An in-depth look at the
 Warby Ranges over the
 weekend September 17-19

with

Council of Adult Education
 Wangaratta Continuing
 Education Centre

The Warby Ranges

A CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM

The Warby Range extends in a due North-South line from Glenrowan in the South to Killawarra Forest in the North, a distance of approximately 25 kilometres. At its closest point the Warby's are approximately eleven kilometres from Wangaratta, thus providing a scenic backdrop for the City.

The wide variety of flora existing in the ranges provides support for the beautiful and interesting wildlife, which can be observed by nature lovers in the ranges. Kangaroos, possums and wallabies are the most common creatures, but sugar gliders and a number of rare bird species can also be seen. The abundance of flora includes the unique Grass Tree or 'Black Boy', thirteen different species of wattle, and thirty varieties of Orchids.

However, the Warby Range is at present under threat in a number of ways. Farming in the Warby Ranges and surrounding areas poses problems, as does housing development as the area becomes increasingly popular with people wishing to live out-of-town. Mining recently has become a considerable threat with I.C.I. being granted permission to undertake mineral exploration in the range. Uncontrolled recreational use, especially with the advent of mini-bikes is another area of concern.

For now, the Warby Ranges are comparatively unspoilt. This symposium aims to increase public awareness of this unique bushland area, as well as providing an interesting and entertaining weekend in the North East.



Wangaratta Continuing Education Centre

A pioneer in country continuing education offering a wide range of classes, seminars, lectures and exhibitions of community interest.

PROGRAM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- 6.00 p.m. Depart by bus Melbourne
- 9.30 p.m. Arrive Wangaratta Centre
Registration
Supper
Welcome
Bus to Motels.

On Display

1. Paintings and sketches by local artists of Warby Ranges.
2. Commonwealth Secondary Schools Science Project on Warby Ranges prepared by Wangaratta Technical College students, 1975.
3. Forest Commission and Soil Conservation displays.
4. Camera Club display.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- Warby Range Familiarisation —
- 9.00 a.m. — Selection of local speakers.
Mr. Russ Ritchie, (Divisional Forester, — Flora Forest Commission)
Mr. Pat Sheridan, (Fisheries & Wildlife — Fauna Inspector.)
Mr. Stuart Elkington — Geology
Mr. Paul Larkings — Current developments on the Range, utilization and problems

Also, half-hour documentary film on Warby Range.

- 12.00 noon Bus to Warby Ranges
Barbeque Lunch
Native Walk
Visit to Bailey's vineyard
(at foot of range).

Note: Some of the speakers listed will talk during the afternoon field trip.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 (continued)

- 4.30 p.m. Return to Wangaratta
Free Time
- 6.30 p.m. Commercial Lounge - pre-dinner drinks and savouries.
- 7.00 p.m. Dinner

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- 9.30 a.m. "Mining and Development of guided real estate."
(Speaker to be announced.)
- 10.45 a.m. "Planning proposals in other similar areas e.g. Dandenongs, Macedon."
Mr. Tony Lamb, (Former Federal Labor M.P., Chairman of Standing Committee into Land Use Pressures on Areas of Scenic Amenity.)
- 12.00 noon Smorgasbord Lunch - Commercial Lounge
- 1.30 p.m. "Options for the Future"
Professor George Seddon, (Director, Centre for Environmental Studies, Melbourne University.)
- 2.30 p.m. Close of Seminar
Mr. C. F. English, (President, Warby Range Protection Society.)
- 3.00 p.m. Buses depart for Melbourne.

COUNCIL OF ADULT EDUCATION

The Council attempts to create a more positive and active interest in a broad concept of education, through its well known Adult Education classes and by seminars, conferences and residential schools in a wide variety of subjects of community interest.



834 4708



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
WEST TOWER, PRINCES GATE
171 FLINDERS STREET
MELBOURNE, VIC. 3000

12th January, 1976.

Mr. J.W. Elward,
Town Clerk,
City of Wangaratta,
P.O. Box 238,
WANGARATTA. VIC. 3677.

RECEIVED
T.C.
C.E. 76/1
665/2

Dear Sir,

I acknowledge receipt and have noted the contents of your letter (C63/2) dated the 18th December, 1975, concerning the recent grant to I.C.I. Australia Limited of Exploration Licence No. 553.

In reply, I wish to advise that before a decision was reached in this matter, full consideration was given to the objections expressed by your Council and by other interested organizations and individuals.

As you are aware, the licence granted only authorizes exploration as distinct from actual mining of minerals. It will be my Department's responsibility to see to it that the exploration programme will be carried out expeditiously and with the least possible disturbance to the land, with reclamation being progressively effected.

As requested, I will be pleased to advise your Council of any further applications for mining titles lodged with the Department and involving land in the Warby Ranges.

Yours faithfully,

J.C.M. Balfour
J.C.M. Balfour,
Minister of Mines.

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

18 Chisholm Street,
WANGARATTA. Vic. 3677

24th February, 1976

The Director,
Environment Protection Authority,
240 Victoria Parade,
EAST MELBOURNE.

Dear Sir,

I have been directed to seek your assistance in films or slides on environmental damage caused by mining operations to be shown on the occasion of our first annual meeting tentatively set down for Monday March 22nd next.

Our major activities during the past year have been resistance to projected subdivisions on the Warby Range and an opposition to the granting of exploratory mining licences in the area to I.C.I. Aust Ltd. There is strong local feeling against the granting of the licences, the City and Shire Councils are opposed and the press have supported the opposition. At this stage our Society believes that its most useful action is to closely supervise I.C.I Aust. activities to ensure that they abide by the strict conditions of the licence and to continue to educate the local community on the deleterious impact of mining on the frail soil cover of the Warby Range. Hence this request for material that can be directed to this end.

If one of your officers would attend and supply an informed resume to the film/slides we would be grateful. At this stage it is possible to vary the date of the meeting up to two weeks in order to accommodate your convenience.

Hoping that you can assist us in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

G.C. Hodge
Hon. Secretary



ENGLISH + ENGLISH
ART PROJECT BOOK.

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MOTIVATION FOR GENERAL STUDIES

PUBLISHERS
LAND. SEA. SKY SERIES

WARBY RANGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

C.F.W. English
President
9 Meadowra Ave. Wangaratta
3677 T. 214160

G.C.HODGE
Hon. Secretary
18 Chisholm St.
Wangaratta 3677
T. 21.2840

Director

National Parks Service Advisory Committee
Melbourne

Dear Sir, I am writing in connection with I.C.I. Australia Ltd, their Exploration Licence 553, County of Moira, and their wish gain approval to carry out exploration work within the area of Crown Lands in the Parishes of Glenrowan and Taminick in the Warby Range which was reserved the Land Act of August 1975. We understand that these areas are sited for Public Purposes which are under the control of your Committee and also areas these are not only reserved but are not available for mining purposes under miner's right.

We however are perturbed to learn that, according to the Press reports, I.C.I. now intends to pursue its aim of obtaining exploration licences to cover these areas of Crown Land as an extension of its ^{right} to explore freehold property in the area. We see that the danger of the granting of exploratory rights is that, if asked for, the permission to mine will follow, otherwise why allow the first permit.

I.C.I. is only interested in mining and there is nothing altruistic about its exploration activities.

We are completely opposed to the whole concept and would like to know that we have your continued support in our efforts to maintain the Warby Ranges in their present condition. Over a period we hope to cooperate with your Service in not only maintaining but improving the area in question for public purposes.

I would remind you that there are files of correspondence with the Lands Department and also with the Mines department indicating the strong opposition of the Wangaratta City and Shire Councils, the Press and organizations such as ours to any mining activities being permitted in the Warby Ranges.

As an indication of our serious intent we are endeavouring to get our message over to the public through the media, T.V., Radio and the Press. In addition we are quizzing aspiring political candidates of all parties as to their attitudes to this matter of mining the Warbys. A few days before the elections we will publish the result of our questionnaire so that the electors can be fully informed on this matter.

We do not imagine that your Committee and Service with its splendid record of development and care of National Parks will agree to any I.C.I. proposal. In this attitude you have our full support. We would like your advice and opinion on this matter and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

C. F. English

President
Wangaratta Warby Range Protection Society

Wednesday March 10th 1976

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

18 Chisholm Street,
WANGARATTA, Vic. 3677

18th May, 1976.

Mr. B. O'Callaghan,
Yarrowonga Road,
WANGARATTA, Vic. 3677

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your letter of the 7th of May and of course we would be delighted to have you as a member because the authority with which we speak is relative to the support that we have in the community.

The subscription is \$2-00 for a single member or \$3-00 for a family member. Mr. George Iking, 2 Steane Street, Wangaratta, is the Treasurer.

Yours faithfully,

G.C. Hodge,
SECRETARY.

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

18 Chisholm Street,
WANGARATTA, Vic. 3677

2nd June, 1976.

Alan E. Monger,
The Secretary,
Field Naturalists Club,
42 Boger Street,
BENALLA, Vic. 3672

Dear Secretary,

The purpose of this letter is two fold; firstly in obedience to opinion expressed at our Annual Meeting that this Society should seek a body in Benalla who should have some interest in the preservation of the Warby Range, and secondly to publicize a seminar to be conducted by the Centre, concerning the Range, on September 17th, 18th and 19th, which we would expect to be of interest to your members.

In connection with the former item, we realize that although the Warby Range is more in Benalla Shire than in Wangaratta Shire, it doesn't figure as largely in the consciousness of the Benalla City dweller as it does in the Wangaratta-ite. However to bodies such as yours the prospect of commercial mining and subdivision would not strike a sympathetic note, and we feel that we may have the closest to an ally in Benalla in the members of your Club.

I was asked to suggest that our Society would supply a speaker, or a panel if you were interested at any time in some dialogue on the matter of the preservation of the Warby Range.

The Centre Committee will publicize the projected seminar and we are hoping for informed and interesting speakers from Melbourne and other parts of Victoria on such subjects as the geology, geography, flora, fauna, history etc. of the Warby Range. We hope your members may be interested.

With greetings and best wishes from our Society.

Yours Cordially,

G.C. Hodge.
SECRETARY.

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

18 Chisholm Street,
WANGARATTA, Vic. 3677

2nd June, 1976

The Headmaster,
Wangaratta Technical College,
Docker St. or Greta Road,
WANGARATTA, Vic. 3677

Dear Mr. George,

Last year a survey regarding attitudes to the Warby Range was conducted by the members of your staff and students.

Our Society is most interested in learning of the findings of the survey and we have set aside time at our quarterly meeting of members to be conducted at the Centre on Monday 26th July, at 8.00 p.m., in anticipation that a representative might be persuaded to address the meeting on the subject.

Would you advise whether somebody would undertake to talk to our meeting on that date.

Yours sincerely

G.C. Hodge.
SECRETARY.

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

18 Chisholm Street,
WANGARATTA, Vic. 3677

8th June, 1976.

The Administrator,
Colonel S.R. Birch,
National Trust of Australia (Vic.)
Box 238,
SOUTH YARRA, Vic. 3141

Dear Sir,

Our Society was delighted to hear on the news recently of your classification of Mount Buffalo, and it seemed a good opportunity to acquaint you of our existence, our support in your concern for the preservation of our National Estate, and to enquire the present situation regarding yourselves and the Warby Range.

According to members of the Committee, the National Trust has some sort of classification of the Warby Range and we would naturally be interested in ascertaining details of your attitudes and ambitions for the Range.

We have recently campaigned against the issue of exploratory mining licences to I.C.I. Australia Ltd., which the Mines Department appear to regard as fairly innocuous, and which the applicants are conducting on a low key, but which we fear as the thin edge of the wedge. We have also argued against subdivision of the escarpment for much the same reasons as your concern for Mount Buffalo.

We believe we have mutual interests, hence we would be glad of any communication which might allow us to support your Trust and hopefully for you to support us.

Yours sincerely,

G.C. Hodge.
SECRETARY

Warby Range Protection Society,
General Meeting held
26th June, 1976.

Treasurer's Report.

39 Financial Members

{ 13 Single Members 13 }
{ 13 Family Members 26 }
39

Financial Statement

Cash at Bank 1/1/76 15.10
Plus Income Received to date
Subscriptions 13 Single 26.00
13 Family 39.00 65.00
Donations 3.00
Cash at Bank 26/6/76 \$ 83.10

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.

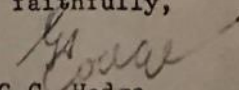
We refer to a "Report of the sub-committee appointed by members of the Upper Goulburn, and Upper Murray Regional Committees on the future of the Warby Range" published in 1968, in which preservation has been supported by City and Shire Councils, numerous clubs and organizations as well as Government 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