

# GREENSPEAK

I S S U E S E V E N



Kimberly-Clark is a keen supporter of sustainable forestry. Three quarters of our wood supply is from pine plantation "thinnings". The rest is from residual logs and sawmill offcuts from sustainably-managed hardwood forests. Our primary feedstock comes from forests, so we are keenly aware of the need to properly manage our forest resources.

Sustainable management of forests includes reforesting as much, or even more, of the forest areas that are harvested. Conflicts can occur when excessive claims are made to lock up all forested areas and prevent any logging. Kimberly-Clark considers that National Parks and other conservation areas play a major role in protecting biodiversity, and also believes that other hardwood forest areas can be responsibly harvested on a sustainable basis while still assisting conservation.

But government policies in Australia that endeavour to balance the needs of development and protection, and encourage sustainability, are frequently under threat from misinformed conservation groups.

The prominent Canadian environmentalist, Dr Patrick Moore, has warned us that we should not let these pressure groups fool us about our forests ---- adding that their claims of disappearing local forests and endangered wildlife species are quite false.

He should know. A founding member of Greenpeace in 1971, Dr Moore has become a powerful voice in Canada for sustainable forest development. His GreenSpirit Centre in Vancouver, an ethically-based environmental consultancy, focuses on public involvement in the resource and energy sectors.

Last year he visited Australia, as guest of the National Association of Forest Industries, and became actively involved in the wide-ranging debate about forest use. We believe that his thoughts on our admirable record of forest protection, sustainable development, and the environmental movement itself deserve a wider audience. So in this issue of GreenSpeak we've outlined Dr. Moore's comments.

And on our back cover we publish the management objectives for the Victorian state forests in the Otways, which reinforce his points on responsible forestry.

Hu Davids  
General Manager  
Away From Home Division  
Kimberly-Clark Australia

## Patrick Moore - Environmentalist

### profile

Dr. Patrick Moore, Ph.D. has been a leader and policy maker on areas of international environmental concern for over 25 years. He was a founding member of Greenpeace (1971), serving eight years as their Canadian director and seven years as Director of Greenpeace International. He was a driving force over Greenpeace's formative years and saw it grow into one of the world's largest and respected environmental organisations.

Recently Dr Moore has been focussing his attentions on British Columbia and the promotion of sustainability, consensus building and collaborative efforts among competing concerns. As Chair of the Forest Practices Committee of the Forest Alliance

of British Columbia, he has lead the process of developing the "Principles of Sustainable Forestry".

Amongst his many other appointments and achievements are:

- Ford Foundation Fellowship 1969-1972
- Ph.D. in Ecology, Uni. of British Columbia, 1972
- Founder and Chair of British Columbia Carbon Project, multi stakeholder group, 1990.
- Founder Greenspirit environmental consultancy, 1991.
- Member of British Columbia Round Table on the Environment and Economy, 1990-94.

**INSIDE: Dr Moore's address in praise of Australian forestry practice...**



# Australia - Forest

*from an address by Dr Patrick Moore to the National Press Club, 20.7.95*

When I visited Australia last year I became actively engaged in your ongoing debate about forest use. Which forests should be protected and which used for timber? In forests that are managed for timber, how should we both protect bio-diversity and provide a reliable wood supply? Are species being driven to extinction by clearfelling? And indeed, are Australia's forests disappearing?

My appreciation of forests and forestry stems from a rather unique perspective. Raised in a timber family of Vancouver Island, I became a founding member of Greenpeace and spent 15 years on its top committee, helping to develop and lead many of its most effective environmental campaigns.

Now I help to promote the principles of sustainable forestry in British Columbia. These principles aim to protect forest bio-diversity while harvesting timber in an economically-viable and socially-responsible manner.

But public policies that aim to achieve a balance between development and protection are in grave danger of being undermined in Australia. Many prominent conservation groups are calling for a total ban on forestry in all public forests on the grounds that insufficient areas have been protected.

They have misinformed the largely urban public into believing that the timber industry, in particular woodchipping, is destroying the last remaining wilderness in the country. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I have been astonished to find ads placed by the Wilderness Society in high circulation magazines claiming that the platypus and koala were threatened by extinction due to logging and clearfelling. The same ads warned that over 500 other species of wildlife were in danger of extinction from logging and that Australia's native forests are "disappearing" at the rate of 300 football fields a day! If I believed these allegations, then I too would call for an end to the timber industry.

To dramatise the totally false nature of the Wilderness Society's claims I issued them a challenge shortly after arriving in Australia: "Name a single species that has gone extinct due to forestry in Australia, and show me the places where forests have disappeared due to logging". They failed to do so.

*... "to the best of our scientific knowledge, no species has ever been made extinct due to forestry."*

This is because, to the best of our scientific knowledge, no species has ever been made extinct due to forestry. Species extinction is caused by clearing forests for farms and cities, by over-hunting and eradication efforts, and particularly in Australia, by predators and diseases introduced since European settlement.

As for "disappearing forests", the Australian Bureau of Agricultural Resources and Economics says that Australia's forested area is not decreasing. Indeed, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations has measured a slight increase in temperate forest cover ( 0.2 per cent annually ) due to the reforestation of previously-cleared farming lands - a pattern common in many temperate forests around the world. It's only in the tropics that deforestation continues apace, caused primarily by clearing land for growing food. People who cut down trees for wood usually put another crop back.

I estimate that no other country in the world has dedicated so much of its native forest to conservation as Australia has. Of a total 32 million hectares of public native forest only seven million - less than one quarter - are dedicated to timber harvesting. Fully 11 million hectares are formally protected and most of the rest is simply not suitable for commercial forestry.

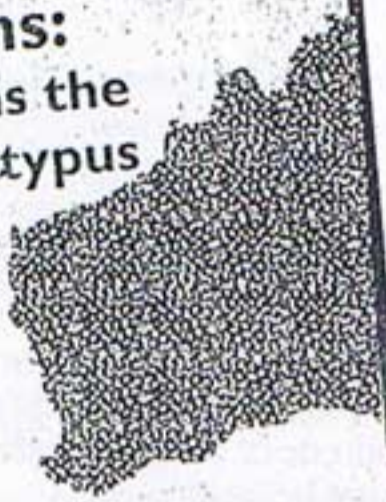
More significantly, the seven million hectares that are used for logging are all fully reforested, usually with the same species as in the original forest. Ironically, this has resulted in forests that have been logged continuously for over 100 years being targeted now as "biodiversity hot-spots" that must be protected because they are so rich

# Protection Leader

## CONTINENTAL

### Extremist Claims:

1. "Logging threatens the extinction of the platypus and koala."
2. "Our forests are disappearing at a rate of 300 football fields a day!"
3. "Australia has a poor conservation record!"



## DIVIDE

### Actual Facts:

1. No species has ever been made extinct by forestry.
2. There has been a 0.2% increase in temperate forest coverage.
3. No country in the world has dedicated so much of its native forest to conservation.



in species.

*... "no other country in the world has dedicated so much of its native forest to conservation as Australia has."*

You need look no farther than Fraser Island, Whian Whian State Forest in NSW, or the state forests of Western Australia to confirm this pattern. If timber harvesting is so devastating, why are so many regrowth forests seen as worthy of preservation?

The Commonwealth government is negotiating with the States to place 15 per cent of the original forest area of each forest type into reserves. Admirable in theory, it's not easy to base today's policies on the situation 200 years ago. In parts of the country past clearing for farms and towns has eliminated most of the original forest. Perhaps it would make more sense to set targets for reforestation, rather than just shutting down the forest industries in the name of preservation.

The need to balance protection and development is nowhere clearer than in Tasmania. For good reason, fully 27 per cent of Tasmania, mostly wilderness, is totally protected.

Despite this, Bob Brown of the Australian Greens insists that "the marauding woodchip industry is destroying the last vestiges of wilderness". This is the rhetoric of an idealist who cannot

make the shift from a 100 per cent preservation agenda to one of balanced sustainability.

You can't keep making new parks forever. In Tasmania, and the whole country, the challenge now is to achieve sustainable agriculture, sustainable forestry, and sustainable towns.

Wood is the most sustainable of all the material resources that we use in our culture. The Greens should be calling for more forests to be grown, more trees to be planted and more trees to be cut. This is the fundamental flaw in their position.

Sustainable forestry is about the future. It's about whether or not the land that this wood was grown on is now a shopping mall, or a sheep paddock, or is it a forest?

That's what really matters. While natural forests of native species are probably preferable than exotic plantations from a biological diversity viewpoint, exotic plantations are better than no forests at all.

Sadly, much of the environmental movement in Australia has been hijacked by extremists. These are people who abandoned science and reason, and are using the movement to further political aims that have nothing to do with ecology nor sustainability.

It is high time that Australians who base their views on scientific fact and logic took the environmental movement back from the extremist element.

# Otway Forest

## Management Objectives

The eucalypt forests in the Otway Ranges in south-western Victoria provide Kimberly-Clark with some of its eucalypt wood needs (supplied from residual logs and sawmill offcuts). Forested land in the Otways covers over 200,000 hectares, of which 7 per cent is private softwood plantation, 16 per cent private native forest, and 77 per cent public forest land (National Parks, State forest reserves, and public softwood plantations).

The State forests in the Otways operate under a government controlled forest management plan that mirrors many of Dr Moore's ideas on sustainable forestry. It's worth listing here the management objectives of this state forest plan:

- Provide for the sustainable use of renewable resources, and the controlled use of non-renewable resources to satisfy community needs.
- Conserve and protect the natural environment.
- Protect water supply catchments and control land degradation. Provide for a wide and suitable range of recreation opportunities, and encourage tourism.
- Protect landscape values.
- Raise the public awareness and understanding of the values, uses, and management of forests.
- Protect sites of cultural, educational and scientific interest.
- Protect forest values from wildfire, and
- Encourage scientific research, particularly to assist management.



Forests are in a constant state of change... plants germinate, grow and eventually die, (a cycle which can take hundreds of years for certain trees)... animals too, are born, grow and die, although their life cycle tends to be much shorter. Rainfall into forest varies not just with the seasons (where Otway has a distinct winter maximum), but from year to year too.

On top of the this constant flow of life, there are other natural events and human activities which have had - and will continue to have - a significant impact on the Otways.

### Natural Causes of Change:

- **FIRE** can be a natural agent of change (through lightning strike) or an introduced danger (either deliberately or accidentally lit by human activity in the forest). It does not necessitate complete destruction with many trees being able to resist fire and germinate freely in the ash bed. It does favour the proliferation of eucalypts at the expense of rainforest.
- **DISEASES** like beech dieback is widespread amongst the Myrtle Beech species in the Otways and is caused by a fungus which invades damaged trees.

### Human Causes of Change:

- **AGRICULTURE** did not meet with any great success in the Otway region. Although started in 1839, the high rainfall and vigorous regrowth caused it to be abandoned in 1899 in favour of water supply and timber resources. Of the 156 540 ha of public forest remaining in the Otways almost all merchantable stands have been previously logged or cleared over the past 140 years.
- **INTRODUCED SPECIES** such as Blackberry and Ragwort out-compete native plant species at some sites and tend to discourage native fauna. Pest animals like rabbits, foxes, hares, pigs and feral dogs and cats compete with native animals for food and shelter. Foxes and cats also feed on native animals and can have a significant effect on native populations.



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