



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

7 JUNE 1985

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

AND THE PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES

NEW SOUTH WALES RAINFORESTS NOMINATED TO

WORLD HERITAGE LIST

The Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, and the Premier of New South Wales, Mr Wran, announced today that the New South Wales rainforests would be nominated to the World Heritage List.

The nomination will be lodged with the Secretariat of the World Heritage Committee in Paris and will be considered by this UNESCO Committee during 1986.

The World Heritage List, established under the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention), identifies areas of "outstanding universal value", the disappearance or destruction of which would constitute a "harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all nations of the world".

Eighty three countries have signed the World Heritage Convention and to date there are some 188 properties on the World Heritage List. These properties range from the Grand Canyon in the USA, the Pyramid Fields of Egypt, Chartres Cathedral, France, and the Taj Mahal in India, to the Sagarmatha National Park (containing Mt Everest) in Nepal.

Five Australian properties are already on this list - the Great Barrier Reef, Kakadu National Park, the Willandra Lakes Region, the Lord Howe Island Group and the Western Tasmania Wilderness National Parks.

The rainforests now nominated comprise seven areas of New South Wales totalling 205,000 hectares. They contain nine National Parks, five Nature Reserves and three Flora

Reserves. A schedule of the nominated properties is attached.

The Prime Minister and the Premier said the New South Wales rainforests represented both cool temperate and sub-tropical forests and were the descendants of vegetation types which occurred in Australia over many millions of years. As a reflection of the continuity of habitat the rainforests contained many "primitive" organisms, both plant and animal, of great value to science.

The nominated sites also included significant samples of wet and dry sclerophyll forest and striking examples of landscape diversity. The rainforests are survivors of the ancient Gondwanan super-continent, the progenitor of all present southern continents. Their value is therefore not limited to Australia.

An agreement was reached during 1984 with all Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers responsible for wildlife conservation and national parks for dealing with the nomination of places in Australia for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

Mr Hawke said the Commonwealth's announced policy in relation to world heritage nominations was not to take unilateral action and the Commonwealth Government was delighted to receive the New South Wales nomination.

The Prime Minister paid tribute to the foresight of the New South Wales Government in protecting the State's rainforests.

"Because of the legal protection and the active conservation measures taken by Mr Wran and his Ministers, the rainforests of New South Wales will be preserved for future generations of Australians", Mr Hawke said.

SCHEDULE OF AREAS OF NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Group	Park/Reserve	Area
Tweed Volcano Group	Border Ranges National Park	31,228 ha.
	Limpinwood Nature Reserve	2,442 ha.
	Numinbah Nature Reserve	800 ha.
	Mount Nothofagus Flora Reserve	650 ha.
	Mount Warning National Park	2,210 ha.
	Nightcap National Park	4,945 ha.
	Total	42,275 ha.
Washpool/ Gibraltar Range Group	Washpool National Park	27,715 ha.
	Gibraltar Range National Park	17,273 ha.
	Total	44,988 ha.
Coastal Group	Iluka Nature Reserve	136 ha.
New England Group	New England National Park	29,823 ha.
	Dorrigo National Park	7,819 ha.
	Mount Hyland Nature Reserve	1,634 ha.
	Total	39,276 ha.
Hastings Group	Werrikimbe National Park	34,753 ha.
	Mount Seaview Nature Reserve	1,623 ha.
	Banda Banda Flora Reserve	1,400 ha.
	Total	37,776 ha.
Barrington Group	Barrington Tops National Park	39,113 ha.
Southern Group	Mount Dromedary Flora Reserve	1,255 ha.
Total Area of all Groups		204,819 ha.