

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO EARTHWORKER

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING 9 August 1999

RECOMMENDATION RE EARTHWORKER

1. The Conservation and Environment Policy Committee recognises the benefits of the ALP promoting sustainable industries, in a manner which brings the environment movement and industrial organisations together in the pursuit of an agreed agenda.
2. The Policy Committee supports the policy model developed by **Earthworker** (an affiliation currently of 14 unions and 3 green organisations) in reconciling job growth with sustainable resource use and proper environmental management and protection.
3. In developing ALP environment policy initiatives the Policy Committee would like to replicate the model adopted by Earthworker.
4. The Policy Committee recognises the potential value of members, working parties and sub-committees of the Policy Committee liaising with Earthworker as a reference point on specific projects to be agreed between the Policy Committee and Earthworker.
5. The secretary of the Policy Committee is authorised to write to Earthworker seeking a meeting between the executive of the Policy Committee and representatives of Earthworker in order to establish the process for such developing relationship.

Moved:

Seconded:

COPY OF EMAIL – 15/4/2000 from Earthworker to Premier Bracks

Dear Mr Bracks,

Earthworker is saddened to see yet more allegations of violence against forest activists in Victoria's forests. That the weekend confrontation occurred so soon after the signing of the Regional Forest Agreement is evidence of the failure of the RFA process to address the widening divisions in our rural communities.

The criticisms made by environmental organisations of the Department are well known and do not need re-stating here. Given that logging contractors involved in the latest incident claim to have received no help from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment to retrieve their equipment, leading them to take matters into their own hands, it is clear that the Department is not playing a constructive role for any of the parties.

The essence of the matter is that the Department is mis-managing Victoria's forests and thus creating frustrations and tensions between loggers and forest activists. The continuing confrontations between loggers and activists are a direct result of this mis-management.

The government must take responsibility for the actions of its departments. It appears that the Minister in this case is unprepared or unable to ensure that her department engages in the process of establishing an environmentally-sustainable (and thus economically-sustainable) timber industry. She also appears to have been reluctant to try to break the cycle of confrontation that is relegating any constructive debate on forest policy to secondary status. The issue of forest management is one that will continue to provide the government with bad publicity, especially so long as violent incidents continue to occur.

It is imperative now that the government intervenes to prevent the further escalation of violence. You must establish a consultation process involving all parties with an interest in Victoria's forests. This does not mean a few representatives of the big timber companies plus a union leader or two and the spokesperson of an environmental organisation. Every effort must be made to involve those people who are at the front line of confrontation: forest activists, local residents and timber workers themselves. An independent inquiry into the violence, with a brief to suggest ways of avoiding it in future, is also a necessity.

For too long the process of forest management has been a matter of secretive negotiations between departmental bureaucrats and the representatives of foreign woodchip companies. It is time now to involve the people for whom the forests mean much more than just shareholder dividends.

Yours sincerely,
Earthworker, the All Union/Greens Caucus

Trevor Poulton

2/33 Pine Avenue
ELWOOD VIC 3184

A/H Ph 9531 5483

20 July 2000

Colin McNaughton
Earthworker

Dear Colin

ALP Policy - Green Sustainable Jobs

I refer to our telephone conversation today and your request for Labor's policy on green sustainable jobs.

Enclosed is the policy recommendation that was adopted at the 3-4 June 2000 ALP State Conference as you requested.

The recommendation as adopted by State Conference will now be included in the ALP's comprehensive Conservation & Environment Policy document (35 pages) under the section titled Green Sustainable Jobs in the appropriate format. The final document is being put together for public availability by ALP head office in the near future and I will advise you when it is ready.

We envisage that a lot more work can be done in further developing policy in this area for adoption by the Party and will be consulting with you on this down the track.

If you have any further queries contact our Secretary, Lindsay Hesketh on 0418 655 551 or myself.

Yours faithfully

Trevor Poulton
Conservation & Environment Policy Committee

Meeting April 2000

MOTION TO AUTUMN 2000 STATE CONFERENCE

Sustainable Green Jobs

Consultation: Persons/Bodies consulted with include:

ALP Members -

Sherryl Garbutt, Shadow Minister for Environment

Tony Robinson MP , Finance and State & Regional Development (John Brumby's adviser)

Candy Broad, Minister for Resources

Union -

Dave Kerin, CFMEU and ETU

Colin McNaughton - CFMEU

Yorick Piper, CFMEU Forestry Division, Organiser (and member of Policy Committee)

Community & Environment Groups -

Cam Walker - Friends of the Earth

Environment Victoria - Esther Abram

Earthworker (an affiliation of 14 unions and of environmental groups) - General Meeting attended by Fiona Richardson, Lindsay Hesketh, Trevor Poulton and Greg Craven during which support for such models was endorsed.

The following motions were passed by the full Policy Committee:

Meeting 9 August 1999. Moved: Trevor Poulton, Seconded: Lindsay Hesketh

- 1. The Conservation and Environment Policy Committee recognises the benefits of the ALP promoting sustainable industries, in a manner which brings the environment movement and industrial organisations together in the pursuit of an agreed agenda.*
- 2. The Policy Committee supports the policy model developed by **Earthworker** (an affiliation currently of 14 unions and 3 green organisations) in reconciling job growth with sustainable resource use and proper environmental management and protection.*
- 3. In developing ALP environment policy initiatives the Policy Committee would like to replicate the model adopted by Earthworker.*
- 4. The Policy Committee recognises the potential value of members, working parties and sub-committees of the Policy Committee liaising with Earthworker as a reference point on specific projects to be agreed between the Policy Committee and Earthworker.*

5. *The secretary of the Policy Committee is authorised to write to Earthworker seeking a meeting between the executive of the Policy Committee and representatives of Earthworker in order to establish the process for such developing relationship.*

13 December 2000. Moved: Yorrick Piper Seconded: David Henshaw

“That the secretary establish a structure with the Earthworker Coalition where our members attend their meetings and their ALP members attend ours.”

Report:

As a result of these motions members from our Policy Committee have attended Earthworker meetings and John Ravesi from Earthworker (also ALP member) was delegated to attend our policy committee meetings.

The following motion has been arrived at through the above consultation, motions and actions of the policy committee in supporting models such as Earthworker and is an updating of the noted 1998 policy statement re Sustainable Green Jobs.

The statement addresses the policy position of Sustainable Green Jobs in the policy.

STATE CONFERENCE

RECOMMENDATION THAT MOTION TO STATE CONFERENCE READ AS FOLLOWS:

Note: presentation as recommended in *Policy Committee Framework March-October 2000* re new policy initiatives (Agenda Committee).

MOTION

“The Conservation & Environment Policy Committee recommends that the following statement be adopted by State Conference for inclusion as Conservation & Environment Policy:

Key Recommended Policy Objective	Related Policy Strategies
<p><i><u>A greater emphasis on the protection of the environment does not have to mean that jobs come under threat. Indeed, there is a significant opportunity to generate employment in environmentally sustainable industries which not only cater for the Victorian market but also for markets interstate and overseas. The establishment of wind turbine generating industry in the Latrobe Valley is but one example of this.</u></i></p>	<p><u>Labour is therefore committed to encouraging the development of industry and new technologies through the implementation of its environment and natural resource policies.</u></p> <p>Labor recognises the benefits of promoting sustainable industries, in a manner which brings the environment movement and industrial organisations together in the pursuit of agreed agendas.</p> <p>Labor supports policy models such as that developed by <i>Earthworker</i>, an affiliation of unions and environmental organisations, that seek to reconcile job growth with sustainable resource use and proper environmental management and protection.”</p>