



Australian Government

Australia's National Programme of
Action for the Protection of the Marine
Environment from Land-Based Activities

October 2006



case study 14: the wilderness society

The Wilderness Society (TWS) was founded in Tasmania but now has a number of offices around Australia. While TWS has only limited involvement in Australian NGO advocacy for controlling marine pollution, it is involved with many projects concerned with land management that have the potential to lessen land-based pollution loads.

For example, TWS is currently examining the New South Wales *Native Vegetation Act* to ensure that no loopholes remain for land clearing and is advocating a new *Biodiversity Conservation Act* for Western Australia. The Society is seeking World Heritage protection for a large area on Cape York, declaration of thirteen river systems on Cape York under the Queensland Wild Rivers legislation, and a ban on land clearing in Queensland. They are campaigning for an end to logging in South-east New South Wales, parts of Tasmania, and in the ancient forests in the South-west of Western Australia. The Society is also advocating "land stewardship" payments for landowners to manage land and rivers better in western New South Wales.

TWS is supporting declaration of a Marine Protected Area along the New South Wales coast from Newcastle to Wollongong.

The Sydney office runs a community education program in the Sydney metropolitan area that is focussed on the impacts of land clearing in NSW and consequent land degradation and erosion, including the impacts of sediment runoff into wetlands. While TWS has no specific budget for controlling marine pollution from land-based sources, most of TWS staff seem to be focussed on controlling land degradation, which is a substantial component of this issue.