

*The Bio-Fuel  
Plantation  
Horror Show*

**Exploiting People and Places**

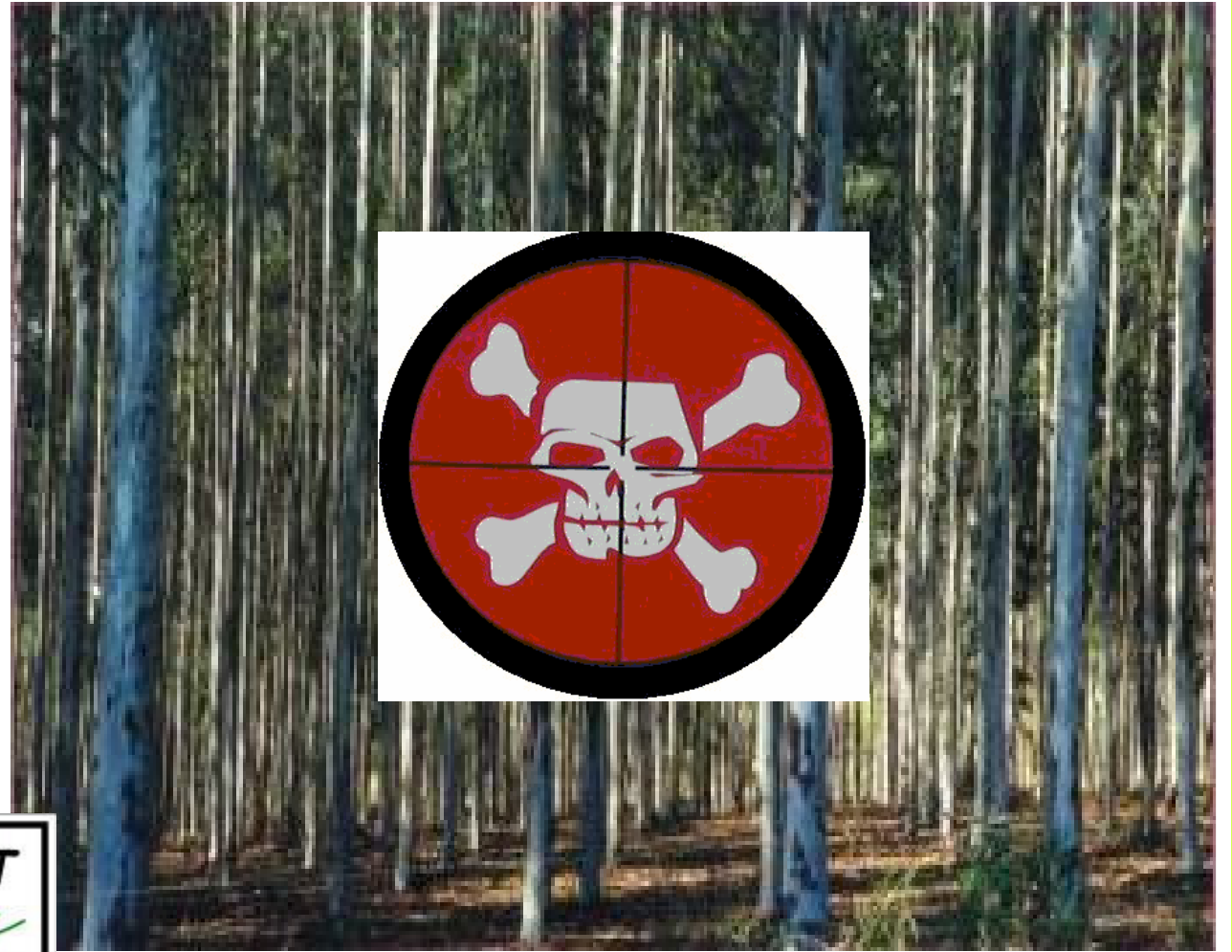
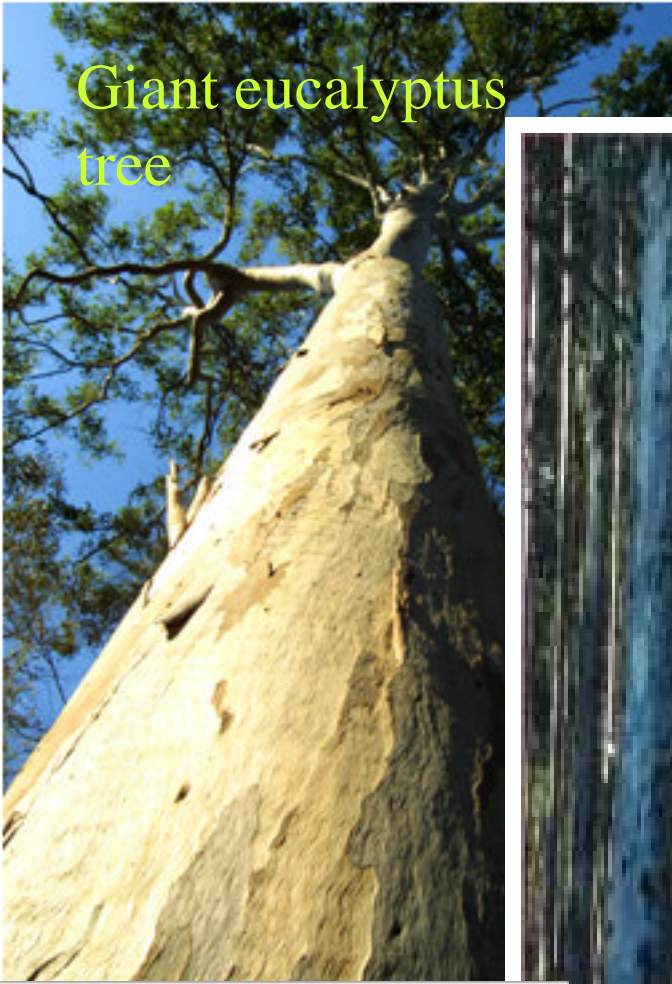
**Wally Menne**

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## Plantation impacts spread far beyond their physical footprint

Giant eucalyptus tree



negatively affecting water resources, biodiversity, community health and security, and local economies.

# **Water Impacts**

- **Lowered regional water table**
- **Loss of pans, wetlands and streams**
- **Reduced river flow in dry months**
- **Increased severity of flooding**
- **Increased silt load and erosion**
- **Pollution by fertiliser and pesticides**
- **Accelerated desertification**
- **Reduced downstream availability**
- **Loss of aquatic biodiversity**

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here retrenched plantation workers live

# **Plantation impacts on water**

- **negatively affect agricultural activities**
- **threaten community food security**
- **undermine community health**
- **destroy rural economies**
- **displace people from rural areas**
- **increase need for dams and pipelines**

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# A certified “forest”



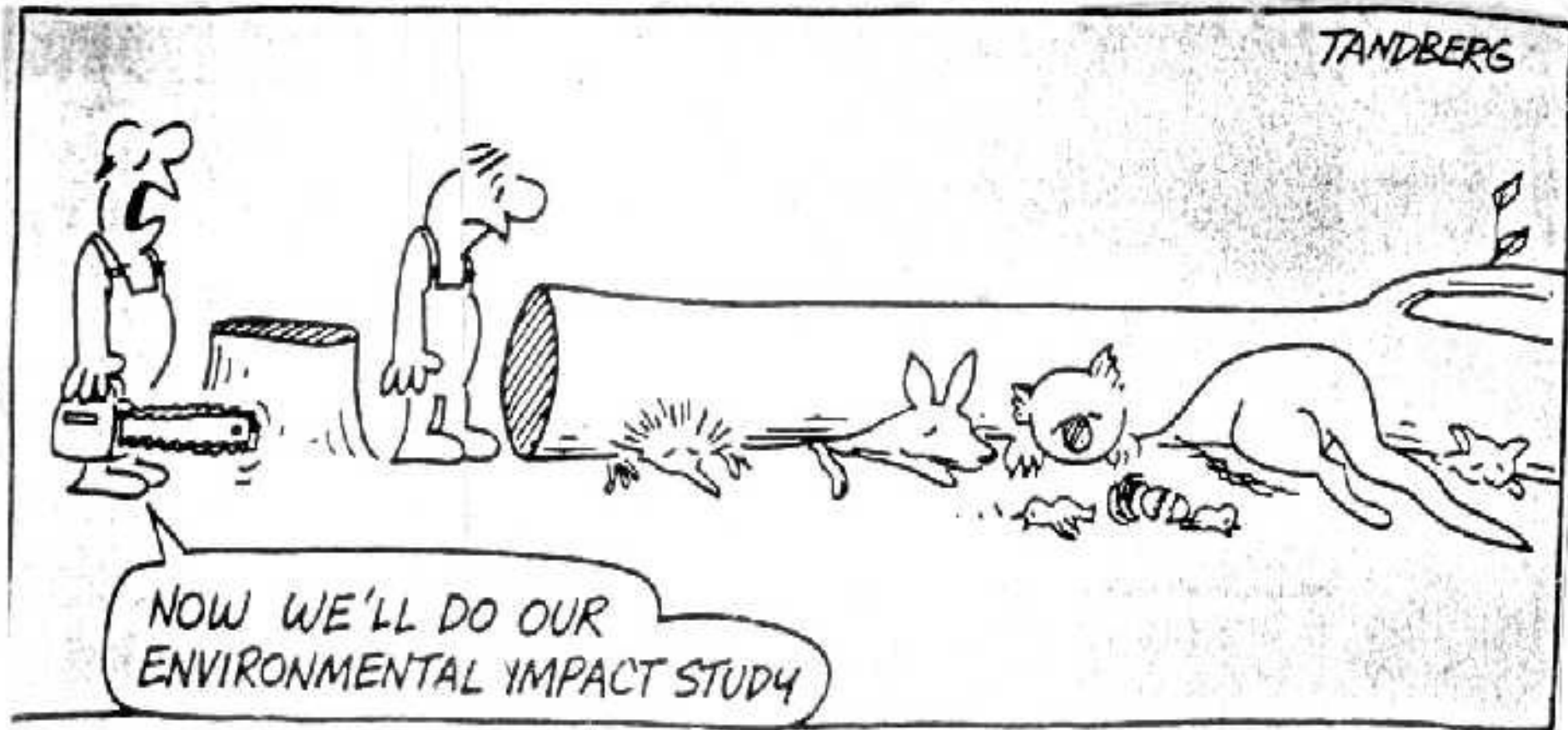
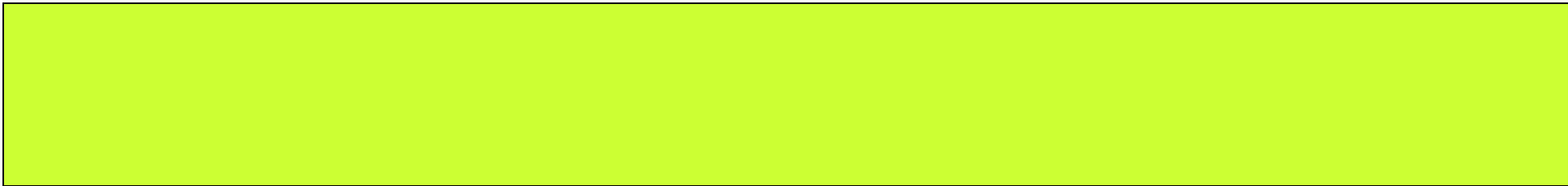
# Deserts in the making

Image © 2006 DigitalGlobe  
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Pointer 26°24'04.64" S 31°11'37.54" E elev 2330 ft Streaming ||||| 100%

Eye alt 4210 ft



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# Plantations bring alien weeds





**The green blanket of death**

# **Biodiversity impacts**

- **Original natural vegetation is destroyed**
- **Wild animals and birds are displaced**
- **Soil organisms are negatively affected**
- **Alien invasive weeds spread into wetlands**
- **Alien invasive weeds spread into forests**
- **Agricultural chemicals poison wildlife**
- **Plantations impact on adjacent vegetation**

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# **Plantation impacts on biodiversity**

- **threaten the survival of rare species**
- **cause isolation of breeding populations**
- **undermine traditional access to food**
- **jeopardise access to medicinal plants**
- **increase poverty in rural communities**
- **cost the State for alien plant control**

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**Grassland  
flora is  
eradicated**

