# 01 SLOW VIOLENCE

by

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*"We have received an account of a river, said to be newly discovered, called the Richmond. About one hundred miles from the mouth, a Mr. Stapleton has a station, at which the water is quite fresh, and eleven feet deep. The land on the banks is described as being very fine, and abounds with cedar and pine. We have to believe that this river has not been entered from the sea. If it be a new discovery, it is a very important one, as it will be another link to connect Sydney." The Sydney Herald , November 6 1842.*

*Slow Violence positions violence not simply as a singular, traumatic event, but as the gradual, often invisible destruction of environments and communities, whose consequences accumulate over time and extend far beyond the initial harm. These consequences can become normalised, obscured or inherited by future generations. The positions approaches violence not as a completed event, but as an ongoing condition. The destruction of the Big Scrub extends beyond the moment of felling, persisting in the absences, transformations and inherited consequences that shape the contemporary landscape. Damage becomes both material and temporal: something removed, something altered, and something that continues to unfold long after its source has disappeared. Through this lens, the work considers how histories of extraction remain embedded in place, and how the consequences of progress are carried forward by the environments and communities left behind.*

: A. J. Campbell, Glass Negative – Felling a Tree, Queensland, c. 1900. Public Record Office Victoria.