

Terms of Reference

Adaptive and Active Management of Cypress Forests in Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation Areas

The Premier requests the Commission to:

1. consistent with the objects of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and specifically the principles of ecological sustainable development, assess the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts and benefits of undertaking adaptive and active management processes in Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation Areas. State Conservation Areas (Zone 3) are areas where the management objectives are conservation, recreation and mineral extraction
2. identify approaches, methods and suggested next steps as options to develop an adaptive and active management program for cypress forests to maintain and enhance environmental values in Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation Areas.

The Commission should consider, in the context of ecological sustainable development the:

- current ecological value of the forest and future values under different adaptive and active management options and processes
- current social and economic impacts and benefits of the forest and future social and economic values under different adaptive and active management options and processes
- commercial opportunities derived from adaptively managing these forests, including costs and benefits of silvicultural or thinning programs
- appropriate mechanisms that could ensure accountability, track performance and facilitate adaptive management
- relevant legislation, agreements and management plans such as the *NSW Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005*, *Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *Brigalow and Nandewar Integrated Forests Operations Agreement*.

The Commission should also provide advice on any changes to regulation and financial support, if any, necessary to support any options.

The Commission should work closely with key agencies and undertake targeted consultation as required with relevant industry, community and environmental groups.

The Commission is to provide the Minister with a report, including draft recommendations and options within 3 months of receiving the terms of reference, with final report to follow.