



23 June 2014

Have your say on draft report - managing Brigalow Nandewar State Conservation Areas

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) invites community and stakeholder submissions on its draft report for actively managing white cypress pine in the State Conservation Areas in the Brigalow Nandewar Community Conservation Area.

“There is evidence that the State Conservation Areas contain some large areas of dense white cypress pine. This situation can impact the ecological health of these forests and other environmental values, and may get worse in the future. These forests are very different to the old growth forests found on the coast and ranges in NSW” said Dr Keniry.

“We continue to risk losing things we value, such as threatened species with the current business-as-usual approach. Reserve managers need to be pro-active, and improve and defend the health of these forests in a timely way. Ecological thinning is one approach the Commission has recommended to encourage the growth and regeneration of important trees and shrubs our native animals rely on.”

“The Commission’s recommendations place the ecological health of these forests first and foremost” said Dr Keniry. “However, taking a pro-active approach to improve the things we value comes at a cost. Residues from ecological thinning provide a practical means to recover the costs of environmental management, and also provide secondary benefits to local communities.”

The draft recommendations outline a number of proposed reforms to improve the management of State Conservation Areas in the Brigalow Nandewar region including implementing ecological thinning and targeted grazing with existing interventions such as controlled burning and pest management.

The NRC has also recommended that Office of Environment and Heritage prioritise the development of plans for management, consistent with best practice adaptive management for Pilliga, Pilliga West, Goonoo and Trinkey State Conservation Areas.

The draft recommendations have been informed by public submissions and consultation with relevant industry, Aboriginal, environment and community groups.

Submissions are invited for the next six weeks and should be received by 1 August 2014. The NRC will continue to consult with stakeholders over the submission period.

The NRC will consider all submissions when preparing its final report for the Government.

The draft report is available on the NRC’s website at <http://www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/Default.aspx>

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