

*Association
for
Berowra Creek
Inc.*



Formerly Berowra Creek Interim Catchment Committee Inc.

Website: www.AssociationforBerowraCreek.org.au

16 July, 2014

Natural Resources Commission
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SUBMISSION ON NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION DRAFT REPORT

The Association for Berowra Creek is strongly opposed to interventions such as ecological thinning and targeted grazing in State Conservation Areas. We are also opposed to seeking cost recovery when implementing ecological thinning.

Amending legislation to allow active and adaptive management in State Conservation Areas is also opposed, along with reviewing governance arrangements in the State Conservation Areas.

The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 established State Conservation Areas to protect and conserve important environmental values in perpetuity. They represent only 2.5% of the land in the assessment area and should be conserved to protect the habitat for native flora and fauna. The Brigalow and Nandewar conservation areas protect essential remnant habitat for native wildlife in a highly cleared landscape.

Logging State Conservation Areas is environmentally irresponsible. Dense white cypress stands provide screening for fauna against predation and should be preserved. This review mentions that thinning white cypress pine forests may not necessarily encourage increased growth and regeneration of eucalypts. Ecological thinning cannot be justified due to the destructive effects on threatened ecological communities.

The destructive impacts of grazing in white cypress pine forests are unknown due to lack of comprehensive data. Targeted grazing in State Conservation Areas cannot be justified due to potential damage to watercourses and habitats supporting threatened species.

In conclusion, the Association for Berowra Creek opposes active and adaptive management in State Conservation Areas. The Association for Berowra Creek also opposes amending legislation that allows active and adaptive management in State Conservation Areas and opposes reviewing governance arrangements in State Conservation Areas. We have every confidence in the NPWS management procedures and we endorse their continued oversight of these areas. Their resources should be increased.

Yours faithfully,

Lee Kemp
Vice Chairperson