

From:
To: [NRC](#)
Subject: Public submission on Brigalow and Nandewar SCAs
Date: Monday, 28 July 2014 12:10:24 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to the draft report "Active and adaptive management of cypress forests in the Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation Areas. It is my opinion that the plan for ecological thinning of white cypress pine stands is a mistake for the following reasons.

- There appears to be no scientific evidence that cypress pine stands are an ecological problem, other than unsupported statements such as those from Dr. Keniry and George and Patrick Paul that the problem exists, and those citing the highly subjective "A Million Wild Acres". In cases such as this it is imperative that no action be taken in the name of "ecological health" without an independent and thus unbiased scientific investigation to establish whether there is a need in the first place.
- Further, if it is established that a problem exists, it is unclear how logging is proposed to solve the issue. If these stands of cypress are different to the pre-European state of the Pilliga, and to forests on the coasts and ranges of NSW (though it is unclear why it is supposed that the entirety of the Pilliga would have the same ecological structure, and that this would be identical to forests in a completely different region), as a result of European stock grazing, clearing etc, why is it proposed that the solution to disturbance is to create further disturbance? Logically, this would only create a cycle of disturbance rather than allowing the long-term recovery towards equilibrium.
- **Finally, if the NRC is unable or unwilling to establish a true investigation, the justification of logging in state conservation areas should not be under the pretext of conservation.** Rather, in the interests of honesty, it should be made clear to the public that this proposal is made for economic benefit. The lack of true interest in conservation on the part of the timber mills involved is evident in the submission from Gunnedah Timbers Pty. Ltd., which uses the visceral language of "carving up" the Brigalow Belt when National Parks were established, and suggests that a problem exists in supervision as NPWS "might have an inbuilt bias against thinning and tree removal" (naturally, as one of the primary functions of NPWS is conservation).

In conclusion, while I strongly disbelieve that native cypress trees are a genuine problem, my main concern is disappointment in the government for attempting to frame this proposal as a conservation measure, rather than being honest with their constituents.

Thankyou for making it possible for the public to comment on this issue.

Kind regards,
Jessica Murphy