

From:
To: [NRC](#)
Subject: Objection to logging and grazing of parks in the Pilliga
Date: Tuesday, 29 July 2014 4:12:04 PM

Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Objection to active and adaptive Cypress Management in the Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation Areas

We object in principle to logging and grazing of state conservation areas, which are protected areas set aside for nature conservation. I consider these proposals repugnant as these protected areas will be converted into zones for commercial exploitation.

We strongly object to the description of White Cypress Pine trees as an invasive native species. This is a highly judgmental term used to justify logging trees in a conservation area. To portray logging and grazing as conservation management is also grossly misleading.

We strongly object to our taxes being used to subsidise logging of state conservation areas and that felled trees will be burnt to generate 'green' electricity. Justifying logging of these conservation areas through green energy subsidies is unethical.

Plans to graze domestic stock in state conservation areas are totally unacceptable, and claims that cattle grazing reduces weeds and fire risk have no scientific basis.

The proposals set a dangerous precedent for commercial exploitation of conservation areas.

Commercial logging should not be allowed in the national parks estate. This is a highly political recommendation that should not have been made by an independent organisation.

Commercial logging is likely to be illegal so the NRC is recommending changes to law to make it possible.
Profit must not drive change to conservation law.

The alleged benefits of ecological thinning are very questionable. The scientific "evidence" used to justify the practice is hotly disputed.

NSW taxpayers paid \$51 million in restructuring relief in 2005 for these areas to compensate for the loss of areas now protected from logging and grazing. In May 2005 conservation areas were created in the Brigalow-Nandewar region to protect the highest quality habitat for endangered species. This included 47 threatened fauna species, including the Turquoise Parrot, the Barking Owl, Mallee Fowls and the Swift Parrot. This conservation decision protected 60,000 hectares of rare, vulnerable and endangered ecosystems.

Associated with the 2005 conservation decision was a \$41 million timber industry restructure fund that enabled thinning of white cypress pine to improve the quality and growth rate of these trees for wood production in state forests. Now, the Natural Resource Commission claims this same treatment can enhance the ecological function of protected woodlands!

If White Cypress Pine is such an invasive native species that it can be logged without restriction on private and leasehold lands, why then is there

such a shortage of these trees? The truth is that White Cypress Pine has been over-cleared on private land and logged out of state forests. The same sawmills that over exploited these resources now want access to the last stands set aside in reserves.

Plans to obtain 1,000 to 14,000 cubic metres of sawlogs and 23,000 cubic metres of landscape products a year from 44,000 hectares of conservation areas are totally unacceptable. Just 2.5 per cent of the Brigalow-Nandewar region is protected in state conservation areas. These last protected remnants should not be given over to loggers and graziers.

The Natural Resources Commission's proposals will further modify the native Cypress woodland environment through logging and grazing. These are not ecological restoration processes, but the opposite. They will further transform woodlands into more heavily modified post-logging, post-grazing landscapes.

This proposal is about the commodification of protected nature, turning woodlands into wood products and beef cattle for sale.

We also reject Natural Resource Commission's proposals to:

- Stack park management committees with local graziers and loggers;
- Require NPWS regional managers to deliver commercial logging and grazing outcomes;
- Target logging in 57,000 hectares of the Goonoo, Pilliga, Pilliga West and Trinkey State Conservation Areas;
- Use trees felled in these parks to generate "green" electricity.

Yours sincerely,

JULIUS & FELICITY TIMMERMAN

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