

NSW Government
Natural Resources Commission
Email: nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au
GPO Box 4206
Sydney, NSW, Australia, 2001

Luke Andrews

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: ACTIVE AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OF CYPRESS FORESTS IN THE
BRIGALOW AND NANDEWAR STATE CONSERVATION AREAS**

Further to our previous submissions (copies attached) and conversations I make the further suggestion:

- * To enable any beneficial changes to be made to the Pilliga Forest I believe the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOA) needs to be amended to allow removal of crooked stands of Ironbark as well as increase the DBH of trees to up to 65cm over the bar. This could be used as a commercial way of thinning.

Please refer to all other notes from my previous submissions.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Kind regards
Luke Andrews

From my years of experience in the local forest area it appears as though, from what seems to be a mismanagement, there is an over abundant of “woody weed undergrowth” such as Bull Oak, Box and wattle. I believe this has come about from removing the better timbers such as Pine and Ironbark and not removing any of the aforementioned undergrowth.

I believe to enable the forest to produce the Pine and Ironbark it once did, the undergrowth needs to be managed i.e. mulching / chipping undergrowth, removal of crooked stands of ironbark and leaving greater spacing between the Pine and Ironbark of 5 meters.

Mulching / chipping

Commercial and environmental benefits of chipping and mulching would be:

1. More room and moisture for better growth of the Pine and Ironbark.
2. Mulching can be used in various ways:
 - a. Left on the forest floor it goes back into the soil as carbon producing healthier soils.
 - b. Utilised for commercial purposes such as garden mulch, fire bricketts
 - c. Native grasses would grow which would benefit wildlife.

The rules and regulations in which our company are obligated to operate under are the same rules and regulations in other forests around the state. This seems absurd as all forests are different and need to be treated and managed differently from one another. I believe that our forest needs to be managed by local people for local people.

Further to our meeting in Narrabri last week.

MULCHING

- Price per hour for Bob-Cat with mulcher \$200/acre plus GST variable on density.
- Benefits of mulching
 - topsoil is left virtually undisturbed.
 - mulch layer retards future growth.
 - soils receive nutrients from the returning biomass.
 - Undergrowth returned as food for more desirable but slower growing tree species such as pine and ironbark.
 - Nitrogen is put back into the soil.
 - Removal of woody weeds would increase moisture availability to the more desirable species.
 - Mulch would conserve moisture.
 - Fire reduction
 -

SILVICULTURE

- Removal of timber that is not commercially viable for building/fencing etc.
- Removal of Cyprus spiral grain for chip or mulch
- Removal of rot or forked timber
- Removal of heavily infested mistletoe ironbark trees

Suggested uses of these timbers:

- Fire wood can be derived from reject ironbark and large (i.e. 5 inch and up) woody weeds such as Bull Oak
- Chipping or mulching from reject pine and smaller hard woods.
- A small power station to power the shire. It would not be viable to transport any further than 50km radius to power station. A rough estimate of \$70 per tonne to cut and haul timber in a 50km radius.

Benefits of Silviculture

- Removal of crooked stands of ironbark allows better and straighter growing timber.
- Local employment opportunities – “Run by the locals for the locals”
- Shire growth
- Fire reduction

Should there be any funding available, I would be interested in running some trials to demonstrate the mulching to enable the likes of State Forest, National Parkes and Wildlife.

I look forward to hearing further from you and hopefully working together in the future.

Kind regards

Luke Andrews