

From:
To: [NRC](#)
Subject: Objection to logging and grazing of parks in the Pilliga
Date: Wednesday, 23 July 2014 3:32:35 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

I want to state my objection to logging and grazing of state conservation areas, which are protected areas set aside for nature conservation. I believe these proposals are inappropriate as they will result in these protected areas being converted into zones for commercial exploitation.

I strongly object to the description of White Cypress Pine trees as an invasive native species. This is a judgmental and emotive term that is being used to justify logging trees in a conservation area. The four state conservation areas targeted for logging under this proposal all support a broad range of young and old white cypress trees in woodlands where eucalypts and other non-cypress species are generally more common (NRC, p63), which suggests that the problem of white cypress exists mostly in the minds of those who want to log these parks. Further, it has been shown (NRC, p67) that logging white cyprus pine does not necessarily increase growth and regeneration of eucalypts in western NSW.

To portray logging and grazing as conservation management is grossly misleading - both logging and grazing usually result in environmental degradation.

I also strongly object to taxes being used to subsidise logging of conservation parks - surely by definition logging is an activity incompatible with conservation? In addition, burning trees felled in these parks to generate 'green' electricity' is highly questionable . There are no two ways about it: assisting an activity such as logging of conservation parks through the use of green energy subsidies is unethical, and provides a less-than-optimal return for the taxpayers' money..

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

In May 2005 parks were created in the Brigalow-Nandewar region to provide protection for the highest quality habitat for endangered species. This includes 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, and they are still needing, and worthy of, protection today.

Associated with the 2005 conservation decision was a \$41 million timber industry restructure fund that enabled thinning of white cypress 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 ecological function of protected woodlands in state conservation areas!

If White Cypress Pine is so invasive a native species that it can be logged without restrictions on private and leasehold lands, why then is there such a shortage of these trees? The truth is that White Cypress Pines have been

over-cleared on private lands and logged out of state forests. The same sawmills that over exploited these resources now want to destroy the last stands set aside in conservation parks - areas that belong in common to the people of NSW and exist to ensure the future of some of our rare flora and fauna. Just 2.5 per cent of this Brigalow-Nandewar region is protected in state conservation areas. These last protected remnants should not be given over to loggers and graziers.

This proposal is about the commodification of protected nature, turning woodlands into wood products and beef for sale. Under this proposal up to 57,000 hectares of state conservation area reserves would be further exploited for profit.

I also reject Natural Resource Commission's proposals to:

- stack park management committees with local graziers and loggers: these parks are conservation areas, and should be managed by committees with a majority of qualified and experienced conservationists;
- require NPWS regional managers to deliver commercial logging and grazing outcomes - this is not, and should not be, one of their functions;
- 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 - in the context of global warming we should not be producing power by burning and polluting, and there is no need when we have an abundance of genuinely clean energy sources such as sun and wind.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Hilder

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