

7 August 2014

To Whom it May Concern,

I write to make strong opposition to the politically motivated recommendations of the NRC to commercially log, graze and gather firewood within the Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation Areas.

I strongly oppose the recommendations of the NRC because:

1. The NRC has provided no scientific evidence to support its recommendations. The reality is that the proposal to log, graze and remove firewood will cause significant degradation of the Brigalow and Nandewar conservation reserves.
2. Conservation Reserves are for the protection of nature, not for the extraction of resources. Both the Brigalow Belt South and Nandewar Bioregions are amongst the most poorly reserved in Australia, permitting activities that extract resources from the few conservation reserves in these bioregions will generate major impacts on biodiversity and impede the recovery of these landscapes from the logging, grazing and firewood collection that happened prior to gazettal as conservation reserves.
3. The Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation Areas are known to be strongholds for numerous threatened species including the Black-striped Wallaby, Koala and Pilliga Mouse, as well as numerous threatened microbat and woodland bird species. Logging, grazing and firewood gathering will impact significantly on the habitats of these species, cause further decline and create an unacceptable risk of localised extinctions.
4. Logging, grazing and firewood collection is permitted within State Forests and freehold tenure across these bioregions. If trials are to be undertaken to gauge the impacts of these activities, then State Forests or freehold land must be used, not conservation reserves.
5. The use of taxpayer funds to subsidise the commercial logging of conservation reserves is totally unacceptable. The logging industry has already received approximately \$50 million in industry restructure funds. No further taxpayer funds should be used to subsidise the logging industry in these bioregions. If taxpayer funds are to be invested in the Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation Areas, these funds must be spent on best-practice, coordinated whole-of-landscape vertebrate pest control, environmental weed control and fire management practices compatible with the conservation of biodiversity.

It is totally unacceptable that the NRC has provided such a biased, scientifically unfounded and politically motivated series of recommendations. According to your website, the NRC "*provides rigorous, high quality independent advice to the Premier and Ministers on managing natural resources and related issues to improve production, biodiversity and community well-being across the state*". When it comes to your report "*Active and adaptive management of cypress forests in the Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation Areas*" you have failed dismally in this task.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Graham