



NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW
protecting nature through community action

TAMWORTH - NAMOI BRANCH



PO Box 185,
Tamworth NSW 2340



Internet: www.npansw.org.au

DRAFT REPORT, ACTIVE AND ADAPTIVE CYPRUS MANAGEMENT IN THE BRIGALOW AND NANDEWAR STATE CONSERVATION AREAS.

The Tamworth-Namoi Branch of the National Parks Association of NSW is opposed to the recommendations to commercially exploit timber, in the guise of “ecological thinning”, in the Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation areas. Our reasons are as follows:

The proposals set a dangerous precedent to commercial exploitation of all conservation areas. State Conservation areas were set aside to protect significant forests and ecosystems identified in the Western Regional Assessment of 2000- 2005. Areas set aside for conservation were done with extensive consultation with groups, including the timber industry. State Conservation areas were specifically excluded from logging and other exploitative activities. Commercial logging, grazing, firewood collection and use of timber for electricity generation will degrade State Conservation areas.

Commercial logging has no place in the national parks estate of NSW. Logging for profit is just that and not an “ecological thinning” trial. The proposal for such a trial is highly political and it is our opinion that the report was commissioned simply to allow logging in State Conservation areas. The four areas targeted for commercial logging are the largest conservation areas with the best stands of mature white Cyprus supporting large populations of threatened flora and fauna.

The NSW taxpayer has already paid for the Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation areas to be protected. In 2005 the timber industry received multi-million dollar compensation, and now, to open them up the logging is dishonest. Commercial logging in these areas is currently illegal and the proposal in the report to change the legislation is unconscionable.

The science used to justify “ecological thinning” is under dispute and the report does not provide any scientific justification for thinning of white cyprus pine. Dense white cyprus pine stands with mature trees are vital for the survival of other native plants and animals. Removing the larger, mature trees will reduce biodiversity.

Dr Robin Gunning
President
Tamworth-Namoi Branch
National Parks Association of NSW