

From: on behalf of [Peter Maslen](#)
To: [NRC](#)
Subject: Objection to logging and grazing of parks in the Pilliga
Date: Monday, 21 July 2014 9:13:05 AM

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 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.

I 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.

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.

At that time of this conservation decision, thinning of white cypress was funded under the \$41 million timber industry restructure fund to improve the quality and growth rate of these trees for wood production. Now, the Natural Resource Commission claims this same treatment can enhance ecological function of protected woodlands!

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 the last stands set aside in parks.

Plans to obtain 1,000 to 14,000 cubic metres of sawlogs and 23,000 cubic metres of landscape products a year in 57,000 hectares of parks are totally unacceptable. 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.

The Natural Resources Commission's proposals will further modify the native Cyprus woodland environment through logging and grazing. These are not ecological restoration processes but the opposite. These processes 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 for sale. Under this proposal 57,000 hectares of state conservation area reserves are to be further exploited for profit.

I also reject Natural Resource Commissions 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.

In general if the state's forestry managers cannot manage their forests to grow trees like any other crop for timber then a major reevaluation and replacement of policies and competent staff is required. I have been advocating proper forestry management for over 40 years and yet demands are still being put on natural areas to supply the shortfall created by inadequate growth of trees in lands allocated for timber production. The government needs to get its act together and manage our state forests better.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Maslen

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