

**From:**  
**To:** [NRC](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to logging and grazing of parks in the Pilliga  
**Date:** Sunday, 27 July 2014 5:11:57 PM

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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

Not so long ago the then Premier Emma uttered the infamously obtuse assessment - "what is point of saving the planet if we ruin the economy doing so?" I thought that I would never hear such an asinine comment again, yet it appears to be the mindset that persistently pervades our political system and the politicians' business masters. The principle of conservation seems to have been totally obliterated from the political / developmental dialogue, as has the awareness that we depend on nature, not vice versa. In this vein, 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. That is a given.

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, as is the Prime Minister's recent offensive comment to the effect that foresters are the ultimate conservationists.

I strongly object to my taxes being used to subsidise logging of state conservation areas and that felled trees will be burnt to generate 'green' electricity. This risks being the thin end of the wedge. Justifying logging of these conservation areas through green energy subsidies is unethical.

Plans to graze domestic stock in state conservation areas are totally unacceptable, and claims that cattle grazing reduces weeds and fire risk have no scientific basis. But this should not surprise, given the increasing and irrational attacks on science from much of the pro-business right wing of politics. Furthermore, it is consistent, in such an intellectual vacuum, with the pronouncement by the previous Minister for the Environment to the effect that wiping out the trees improves the survival chances of koalas. Beyond stupid.

In May 2005 conservation areas were created in the Brigalow-Nandewar region to protect the highest quality habitat for endangered species. This included 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.

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

If White Cypress Pine is such an invasive native species that it can be logged without restriction on private and leasehold lands, why then is there such a shortage of these trees? The truth is that White Cypress Pine has been over-cleared on private land and logged out of state forests. The same

sawmills that over exploited these resources now want access to the last stands set aside in reserves.

Plans to obtain 1,000 to 14,000 cubic metres of sawlogs and 23,000 cubic metres of landscape products a year from 44,000 hectares of conservation areas are totally unacceptable. Just 2.5 per cent of the 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 Cypress woodland environment through logging and grazing. These are not ecological restoration processes, but the opposite. They 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 cattle for sale.

I also reject Natural Resource Commission's proposals to:

- Blatantly stack park management committees with local graziers and loggers;
- Require NPWS regional managers to deliver commercial logging and grazing outcomes; that is totally contrary to the raison d'etre of conservation areas;
- 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.

Yours sincerely,

Peter W. Green

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