

Dear Madam /Sirs

I have just attended a meeting in Coonabarabran re, Active Management of Cypress Forests in the Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation Areas.

I wish to submit the following .

Live stock to be use as a management tool within the Pilliga Conservation Area .

I have been breeding cattle these past 30 years . Cattle need some management , they need fresh water and good pasture to prosper. None of these two prime elements are available in the Pilliga Conservation Area .

It was said that the owner would have to supply fencing and water for his stock and graze for a limited time ,late summer was suggested .It would be a waste of time and would not work. Cattle would die from lack of food and sheep would be fly blown and eaten by various wildlife .

The only way would be to release a mob of cattle allowing about 200 hectores per head [that is an educated guess]and round them up yearly , this would work. The amount of management required to do this would be enormous . There is no environmental gain to doing this .In fact the opposite would be the case .

Just in case nobody knows ,cattle and sheep do not eat pine trees .

Cattle entering the forest would have various weed specie in their gut. Their first droppings would spread this weed or weeds , no conservation gain there.

Cattle would find native pasture in the forest but not much, they would also find invasive weed specie, both would be consumed by cattle and the seed spread through the forest , no environment gain there.

Cattle have a hard hoof they cut tracks where they walk and prefer to walk in single file , this leaves a clear cut track which will wash during heavy rain fall , no environmental gain there.

Cattle need to drink , I cannot see owners pushing dams for them , very expensive and only used for a short time .Another negative on the environment .

Cattle will be left to find there own water from the creeks which run in the Pilliga , they will pollute the water ,break down the banks and overgraze the good pasture you can find in creek areas , there is no environmental gain in doing this .

Whoever suggested grazing livestock in the Pilliga Conservation Area either has no idea about raising live stock or have something totally different in mind .

I would ask you to delete from the Draft Report the inclusion of cattle or sheep used as a management tool in the Pilliga .

I would also ask that any other practices to control white and black pine be tried and tested in other areas than Conservation Areas .If they do prove viable that would be the time to use them in Conservation Areas.

Thank you Richard Savage