

From:
To: [NRC](#)
Subject: Submission to Draft Report: Active and adaptive cypress management in the Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation areas.
Date: Monday, 4 August 2014 8:52:28 AM

I would like to express my extreme concern about the proposals in the Draft Report on Active and adaptive management in the Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation Areas.

State Conservation Areas are gazetted to specifically protect their natural and cultural values. They are scientifically selected with extensive community consultation. In order to maintain their value it is vital that they are protected from any activity that might degrade their conservation value. Logging and grazing are well recognised as having negative impacts on natural areas and their associated flora and fauna. Ecological thinning, as a commercial activity, is not an acceptable activity in any State Conservation Area. Indeed, allowing any logging or grazing creates a precedent that may result in an expansion of these activities within the National Parks estate, seriously threatening the very landscape that that has intentionally been selected as of high value for protection.

With our native flora and fauna ever under greater threats it is vital that these areas receive maximum protection so that their important biodiversity and threatened species are not compromised. The Brigalow has been identified as one of Australia's 15 national biodiversity hotspots. It supports complex and varied ecosystems, koala populations and threatened species. Any ecological thinning or grazing will have damaging impact. The stated need for ecological thinning is not supported by sound science, additionally the timber industry received substantial financial compensation when these conservation areas were declared.

Selecting the conservation areas that include mature white cypress is indicative of the commercial intent of this draft report. That it has been prepared by the Natural Resources Commission and not the Office of Environment and Heritage reflects the failure to give due weight to the environmental values of these State Conservation Areas and the importance of fully protecting them.

Yours,
Rosie White

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