



Catchment Management Authority Namoi



25th October 2013

Dr John Keniry
Commissioner
Natural Resources Commission
Level 10, 15 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear John

RE: Review of Cypress forest management in the Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation Areas

Thank you for your invitation to comment on the Review of Cypress forest management in the Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation Areas.

Namoi CMA, and going forward North West Local Land Services, is interested in participating in the review and we are happy to assist in terms of data provision and technical commentary aligned with the Namoi Catchment Action Plan. In our view the Terms of Reference for the review are sufficiently broad and adequate to capture the required intent, range of stakeholders and associated issues.

We believe the major issues relating to the management and values of the abovementioned Conservation Areas are as follows:

- 1) Cypress Pine can form thickened stands and dominate vast areas of land to resemble a monoculture given the right conditions. Such growth patterns can negatively impact the ecological balance of vegetation communities. Surveying to assess the current distribution and densities of Cypress stands in these Conservation Areas would be beneficial when used in conjunction with existing Namoi CMA vegetation mapping data (as listed below).
- 2) If the on-site frequency of Cypress in these Conservation Areas is considered excessive, a controlled thinning regime similar to that applied in an Invasive Native Scrub (INS) Property Vegetation Plan (PVP) could be used as an effective management tool.
- 3) The management of invasive species in these Conservation Areas should also be an obvious concern, in terms of the impacts from both exotic weed species and feral animals.

Namoi CMA has the following data and knowledge products that may assist the Natural Resources Commission with the review:

- 1) *Refinement of Vegetation Mapping in the Namoi Catchment: Extant and Pre-European* (Ecological Australia, 2013).
- 2) *Regional Vegetation Communities of the Namoi Catchment* (Ecological Australia, 2013).
- 3) *Biodiversity Conservation Plan for the Namoi Catchment* (OEH, 2012).
- 4) *Bat Conservation and Management in the Namoi Catchment* (OEH, 2009).
- 5) *Mapping Potential Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems in the Namoi Catchment* (SKM, 2010).
- 6) *Prioritisation of Invasive Species for the Namoi Catchment* (Ecological Australia, 2012).

In concluding, should the Natural Resources Commission require further information on this matter please contact Dennis Boschma, Team Leader, Land Services (Native Vegetation) on or alternately dennis.boschma@cma.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Brown
General Manager
Namoi Catchment Management Authority