

Canopy Native Forest Committee
Total Environment Centre of NSW
Level 4, 78 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Cypress Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
Sydney NSW 2001

Submission on the Summary of Available Information for the South-Western Cypress State Forests

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing on behalf of the Canopy Native Forest Committee of the Total Environment Centre of NSW, a voluntary organisation concerned with the protection of our native forests and wildlife from damaging and inappropriate activities.

This Committee welcomes the current assessment process for the cypress forests and the willingness of the government to gather all available information and to change where required the existing management arrangements for these areas.

Canopy contends that the prevailing principle that must apply to their management is maintaining ecological sustainability. This will require the complete protection of many of these forests in conservation reserves managed by DECCW while those remaining as timber production forests must be managed to retain their ecosystems in a healthy state.

It must be remembered that many of these forests play a critical ecological role as remnants of the original environment in landscapes that have been and continue to be over-cleared. They are often the only remaining habitat for woodland birds and bats that have an essential role in controlling insect pests as well as being of value in their own right.

It is good to see the emphasis that the NRC appears to be giving to the potential impacts of climate change on these areas. This strengthens the case for reserving key areas of these forests and maintaining biological links between them.

In its assessment of future management options the NRC must take into account the most recent scientific research into the carbon storage qualities of native forests conducted by the Australian National University (Green Carbon – the role of natural forests in carbon storage – Mackey). This report underlines the importance of protecting native forests as part of the solution to climate change and the contribution of native forest logging to greenhouse gas emissions.

We note that the results of this assessment are preempted to a certain extent by existing twenty year wood supply agreements. These areas must not be made to pay unduly for management decisions already made for other regions.

State Forests should be required to finally implement ecologically sustainable forestry practices by reducing historical logging intensities as they have been forced to do in other regions and by retaining more habitat and seed trees.

These areas with the highest conservation value and in the most original state should be reserved without delay.

The NRC must also begin to comprehensively address the ecological sustainability of private logging activity in the remaining cypress forests.

These measures must be accompanied by a fair restructuring package for affected individuals and businesses.

We look forward to a good, comprehensive assessment report on the cypress forests.

Yours faithfully

Graham Daly
Chairperson
26/03/10