
To: The National Resources Commission (NRC)

23rd March 2010

Dear Sir / Madam

In reference to the current assessment of Cypress State Forests in Southern New South Wales.

The need and justification behind this assessment is a logical one, however, it does provide some concerns. These concerns stem from some of consequences of the Brigalow and Riverina Bioregional assessments.

The Brigalow decision in 2005 and the Riverina Bioregional recommendations have, and will continue to have, significant negative impact on the rural communities within the areas affected by the recommendations and assessments.

My wife and I currently own a business in the town of Narrandera and believe the out come of the assessment has the potential to impact on this business.

The town of Narrandera is situated in Southern New South Wales, and like many towns its size, has been combating rural decline for many years. A task made more difficult over the past ten years due to drought and more recently the Global Financial Crisis. These factors have resulted in the down sizing and closure of many businesses within Narrandera and adjoining Shires. One of the few businesses that have gone against this trend, in recent times, is Grants Sawmilling Co.

Grants Sawmilling Co is a Cypress sawmilling business situated on the outskirts of Narrandera and is probably this Shires single biggest private employer. Through its employment numbers and expenditure Grants contribute considerably to the local economy. Over the past few years Grants have committed significant Capital to upgrade there mills and to grow their business, all of which has helped to offset some of the more negative economic influences being experienced by local businesses.

Grants Sawmilling Co contribution to the economy of Narrandera can not be understated and I urge the Commission to factor this into any recommendations they put forward regarding the future of the Cypress State Forests in South-Western New South Wales.

Yours Sincerely

David Robinson