

## WHITBY'S BETTA ELECTRICAL

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29/03/2010

Cypress Forests Assessment  
Natural Resources Commission

Please accept this submission with reference to the assessment of the Cypress State Forests in South Western NSW.

I am 47 years old and have lived in the Narrandera Shire all my life. The first 25 odd years I lived and was raised on a farm adjoining the Gillenbah State Forest and would say I was always been a keen observer of the forests and its habitants. I can honestly say that after looking at the same Forest recently I was very pleased and noted that it looks thicker and healthier than it did back then. I am no expert but why lock up a perfectly healthy forest that with well managed harvesting practices has a future for centuries to risk making the forest a potential fire bomb and loose the whole forest with the first lightning strike along with all the plant and animal life (that have existed in these forests for longer than we know) with it. I fully support the current tenure and well managed harvesting practices that currently exist as they are tried and proven. Surely it would be a better option to make more land available for forests rather than modifying the characteristics of our current State Forests which may put them at risk.

Grants Sawmilling Co. are a huge employer in Narrandera and Condobolin and as far as rural decline goes it is obvious that any cut backs or lessening of the current wood supply agreement held between Grants Sawmilling Co. and NSW State Government goes it would be disastrous for these two small towns, but please consider what is not so obvious is the loss of 50 jobs in a town of 5000 people is 1%. Put 1% of the population of Sydney out of work and that is 4.4 million x 1% = 44,000 jobs. I don't think any organization would like to be responsible for the loss of 44,000 jobs but it is the percentage equivalent to 50 jobs in the bush and this does not take into consideration the knock-on effect which would bring this loss of jobs figure even higher. This knock-on effect would be far reaching to say the least.

My wife and myself run Electrical Appliance Retail stores in Narrandera and Leeton and have many long conversations with other business people in both towns. I can assure you that it is a very narrow line between many businesses just hanging in there and going out of business all together as most businesses have already scaled back or de-tuned as far as possible. Please consider this in your recommendation as it is a hair trigger economy we currently live in.

The jobs the timber industry support are real jobs with wages paid from income that is derived from the sale of timber products mostly to other states and other countries, again I am no expert but surely if this industry brings cash into our economy then it must be supported and not restricted if there is to be a future in the bush.

Currently our major cities have a range of problems including housing and water supply so surely it is better to keep people living in the bush rather than keep trying to squeeze us all into these already over populated suburbs.

I know the NSW Government can do little to stop a 10 year drought in the southern part of the state and little to divert the effects of a world financial crisis but it has an enormous opportunity right here to show support for rural people and the communities we live in.

Sincerely,

Trevor Whitby

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