

Forests' Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206, Sydney NSW 2001
Facsimile: 02 8227 4399
Email: forests@nrc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Terms of Reference for the Cypress Forests Assessment.

An issue that has been highlighted in many recent scientific publications is the concept of landscape or ecological connectivity and its role in conserving a region's landscape health, ecological processes, ecosystem functioning, ecosystem services and a region's (or continent's) biodiversity assets.

In the light of these publications and recognising the opportunity for Australia to play a leadership role in international nature conservation efforts, it would be recommendable for the Commission to have regard to the following:

- the potential role and value of the identified Cypress Forests in maintaining and sustaining ecological connectivity, ecological processes, landscape health and ecosystem services in Eastern Australia
- the potential long-term effects of resource extractive industries in the identified Cypress Forests on landscape health, ecological connectivity, ecological processes and ecosystem services in Eastern Australia and their costs

I am hopeful that these points can be included in the Terms of Reference for the NRC Cypress Forests Assessment process.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely,

Cecile van der Burgh

MA, Human Geography