



CLARENCE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC

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Date: 4th June 2017

Attn Acting General Manager
Clarence Valley Council
council@clarence.nsw.gov.au

Comment

to Clarence Valley Council

on the Coutts Crossing Cemetery Pine Plantation

Dear Acting General Manager

The Clarence Environment Centre (CEC) has maintained a shop-front presence in Grafton for over 28 years, and has a proud history of environmental advocacy. The conservation of Australia's natural environment, both terrestrial and marine, has always been a priority for our members, and as such fully support the removal of the exotic pine trees growing on council managed crown land adjoining the Coutts Crossing Cemetery.

Exotic pine species such as those growing at Coutts Crossing are considered to be a weed. In many areas of Australia, these pines have 'escaped' from plantation areas and have now invaded native forests to the detriment of the natural environment of those forests.

We point out that a significant amount of work has been done in the past to remove the pines, which we understand was undertaken with Council approval by a local Landcare group under the Tidy Towns program. A number of our own members have been involved in that work including the Late Jim Knight who was the founding President of our organisation.

Here in our own region there are examples where the removal of pine trees has been deemed necessary for the benefit of the environment and biodiversity in national parks, which has been done at considerable cost to taxpayers. Therefore, to receive an offer to remove these pines at no cost to rate-payers is extremely positive and should be gratefully accepted.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

John Edwards
Honorary Secretary