



Save the Nature of the Kimberley

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East Kimberley sandalwood plantation needs further environmental assessment

Envions Kimberley (EK) is urging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set a higher level of environmental assessment for a proposed 2400 hectare sandalwood plantation at Kingstons Rest in the East Kimberley. The proposal was referred to the EPA by Perth-based company TFS Ltd last month.

EK's Freshwater Campaigner Dr Gary Scott said: "A large area is being targeted for native vegetation clearing activity (1100 ha)¹ and irrigated forestry so it is imperative that a thorough assessment of environmental impacts is carried out".

"Insufficient information has yet been made available by TFS about the potential environmental impacts from the projected use of up to 20,000 million litres of water per annum (or 20 gigalitres) in peak irrigation times".²

"We are also very concerned about the lack of on-ground fauna surveys to date".

"The EPA should require the proponent to undertake either a Public Environmental Review (PER) or an Environmental Review and Management Plan (ERMP), including a formal public consultation and review period".

"TFS must be able to demonstrate to the Kimberley and WA public that a sandalwood plantation of this size meets the test of environmental sustainability", concluded Dr Scott.

Media contact: Dr Gary Scott, ph. (08) 9192 1922 or 043 937 3386 (mob)

1. To view TFS's application for a permit to clear native vegetation at Kingstons Rest refer to Application No. 1723/1 on the Department of Environment and Conservation website: http://203.20.251.100/cps_reports/

2. TFS Ltd. Investor Presentation March 2007, p8. See http://www.tfsltd.com.au/files/FW_OrdMinnett_Feb07_ASX.pdf