

I'm writing with regard to your planned Eucalyptus Dieback Symposium in April. While noting the document "*Determining baselines, drivers and trends of soil health and stability in New South Wales forests: NSW Forest Monitoring & Improvement Program*" is of limited utility due to the acknowledged lack physical and chemical soil health indicators.

In 1995 we provided the NSW Environment Protection Authority with the results of laboratory analysis from 84 soil samples taken at several locations on State Forests and private land in the Murrumbidgee river catchment on the south coast. Soil samples were taken at depths up to 160cm and the laboratory analysis found soils were dispersible and the dispersibility increased with depth.

Unfortunately the EPA did not believe sub-soils can be dispersible and their 1996 Environment Protection Licence for forestry operations only considered dispersion of topsoils. As this belief has continued since that time, in 2019 I nominated extensive canopy dieback associated with dry weather and drought (DADD) in coastal forests as a Key Threatening Process (KTP) with the already listed bellminer associated dieback (BMAD). In this case the NSW Threatened Species Scientific committee decided DADD is a result of all KTPs including BMAD.

As the purpose of the symposium is to 'untangle' the causes of dieback, could you please advise whether the NRC has uncertainties about the NSW Threatened Species Scientific committee's unpublished decision?