

Aleisha Kahn

Forests Assessment

Natural Resources Commission

GPO Box 4206

Sydney

NSW

2001

Dear Natural Resources Commission,

Re: River Red Gum Assessment

As a member of the generation that will inherit Australia in years to come, I recognize the importance of conserving irreplaceable habitats. The Red River Gum forests need protection to insure the survival of not only the Murray River, but of 51 ecosystems, at least 69 plants and animals, and the cultural heritage of indigenous Australians.

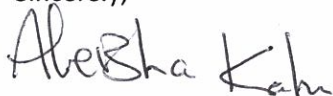
Currently 75% of trees are under stress, dying or are dead because of changed water regimes. There is also a constant degradation of the forest floor fauna because of unrestricted cattle grazing. To add to the destruction of the forests, uneconomical logging practices have persisted for over a hundred years causing erosion, habitat loss, and reduced biodiversity.

I urge you to replace the logging industry with National Parks across the entire State Forests in the region.

Future generations will be able to enjoy this beautiful landscape while also benefitting economically. Research in NSW and the Victorian experience have proven that tourism and jobs increase with the introduction of National Parks; the present logging industry cannot compare to this economic expansion.

It is evident that the Red River Gum forests desperately need protection. I urge you to act from an environmentally, economically and morally correct standpoint and make the region a National Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aleisha Kahn". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Aleisha Kahn