

October 23rd 2009

Dear NRC ,

Re: Red Gum Forests Assessment

It was pleasing to see water issues in red gum addressed in your draft report – however we do not see the proof of climate change given that other long periods of drought have occurred in our history. We do recognise that a long term deprivation of water for the forest reduces forest health and timber growth rates.

An ideal situation would be that the forest receives regular watering and timber yields are sustained. Should the water not be available in the short term, a significant increase in ecological thinning has to occur to give the healthier trees the maximum chance of survival and growth.

A less frequent watering of the forest with no logging or thinning will see dense stands of suckers establish and stagnate – choking the life out of the forests such as the case at Nyah and Yanga.

We, as timber extraction license holders, feel that the panel has got it correct concerning the water issues – however, we believe you have missed a chance in this draft version to publically acknowledge for all to see that the forest health and growth rates are enhanced by active management.

As a third generation timber family, our primary concern has always been the health of the forest.

If we damage the forest we damage our livelihood and our own backyard!

Our family have had personal attacks made on our character by a small group of so called “green activists”. Their actions were more in line with terrorist as they accused us of “illegal logging”. They, the accuser, at the time were illegally entering our worksite and taking our machinery as hostages.

It frightens us to think of this type of individual having dominance over such a precious asset that our family have lived in, worked in and cared for, for the past 150 years.

Chris and Dawn Crump.