

Date 13/10/09

Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Natural Resources Commission

RIVER RED GUM ASSESSMENT

The protection of River Red Gum Forests is critical to conserve their well recognised environmental values including large areas which are listed as internationally significant under the Ramsar Convention.

Water stress has led to up to 75% of trees becoming either stressed, dead or dying. Therefore, they must be recognised as vulnerable vegetation.

Nationally recognised criteria require 60% of remaining vegetation in vulnerable vegetation communities be protected - the most sensible way of achieving this is the creation of new National Parks across the entire river Red Gum State Forest estate.

Economic modeling and the Victorian experience have already shown this will also be the best possible outcome for the regional economy and could create many more jobs than are currently supported by the timber industry.

I urge you to make new National Parks the central recommendation from your assessment of the forests and to go to wilderness.org.au/rrr for fuller information

Yours sincerely

Helena Riedel

Richard Roland