

From: Joan Boyd
Sent: Friday, 23 October 2009 4:45 PM
To: Avtar Singh
Subject: Red Gums submission

Dear NRC

Congratulations on the Preliminary Riverina Bioregion River Red Gum and Forests Report. It has provided an informative and systematic coverage of information about very large and complex parts of a bioregion with very special problems.

Issue 4 raises the question What are the key forest values and core ecological processes we should seek to maintain? My response is as follows:

Section 3.44 refers to recent C.S.I.R.O. (2008) work on reserve design to improve viability under changed climatic conditions. It "advocates for

- a shift in objective from preventing ecological change to managing change in ways that minimise biodiversity loss
- greater emphasis on identifying and protecting significant corridors and linkages to improve species and habitat migration
- coordination of a wide variety of conservation programmes across the whole landscape."

Restoring or reinventing habitat linkages implies the need for large scale and contiguous reserves, and the need to buy back some areas cleared for agricultural purposes, and restoring such linkages to nearer natural state by replanting or seeding or whatever other means is needed.

Forestry Officers' expertise would be better employed planning and directing such operations than working on "silvicultural improvements" such as targeted thinning of remnant "timber resources". No further action should be taken or money spent on increasing high productivity growth of Red Gums.

It is clear from section 3.6 (Social and economic values) that the timber industry is in rapid decline, and that adaptation to this is already taking place. Rather than Forestry attempting to eke out supplies it should stop thinking of or referring to the Red Gum Forests as "Timber Resources" and call an end to all further logging.

THIS PARADIGM CHANGE NEEDS TO HAPPEN NOW

From Joan Boyd,