

20 October 2009

Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
Sydney NSW 2001
Facsimile: 02 8227 4399
Email: forests@nrc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Panel,

Re: Submission for Redgum Forest Commission Review

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft red gum assessment report.

Firstly let me say that I thought the report was quite thorough in its assessment of the water issues the forest faces. Everybody agrees it needs a drink.

Secondly I would like to stress the point that human intervention promotes the health of the forest. The draft report does little to acknowledge this. The report states on Pg. 52 – “Long term decline in condition has not been linked to forestry activities specifically”. This statement simply does not go far enough to justify what you witnessed at Nyah and Yanga.

The report needs to say that managed areas are definitely healthier than locked up areas of red gum forest. The report alludes to this fact on Pg 53, where it states that there are “high levels of stress in un-thinned sites in old trees and in sub-dominant trees”. However in such a detailed document more importance needs to be placed on the fact that management is essential to the health of the red gum forest.

I think the report missed an opportunity in the draft to clearly state that management of the forest along with water, is the best way to maintain a healthy forest. Hopefully your final report to the Premier will contain this fact.

Yours faithfully,

Joel Smith