

From: John Leonard
Sent: Tuesday, 13 October 2009 3:08 PM
To: Felicity Calvert
Subject: submission to Forests Assessment

I should like to make a submission to the Forests Assessment Process for the River Red Gum wetlands of south-western NSW.

These forests are a priceless natural resource and extremely in the world. Almost everywhere else in the world riverine forests have been cleared centuries ago. So they are of global significance as well as national significance.

It is vital that these forests are protected from resource management practices which compromise their biodiversity. They also need water!

Points to be noted

- * The forests are home to birds such as Superb Parrot, Regent Parrot, Barking Owl, Gilberts Whistler, Black-chinned Honeyeater. All of these birds are uncommon, and Superb Parrots live almost nowhere else.
- * The River Red Gum forests are the last major remnants of vegetation remaining in one of the most heavily cleared regions in the country; only 1.9% of the NSW Riverina bioregion is currently protected in National Parks.
- * These forests are severely threatened by water stress - recent studies show that in some areas, up to 90% of trees are stressed or dying.

Dr John Leonard