

**From:** Kim Bebensee  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 October 2009 12:20 PM  
**To:** Felicity Calvert  
**Subject:** Conserving River Red Gum forests.

~~Jennifer~~ Bebensee

14.10.2009

Forests Assesment  
Natural Ressources Comission  
GPO Box 4206  
Sydney  
NSW 2001

Dear NRC,

Re: River Red Gum Assessment

A submission responding to the preliminary assessment report September 2009.

I think the protection of the River Red Gum Forests is very important because these forests are home to many endangered species of flora and fauna (e.g.: Superb Parrot, Barking Owl, Squirrel Glider or Winged Pepper-cress, Slender Sunray etc.). The effect of intensive logging on vulnerable wildlife seems to have been overlooked in your preliminary assessment. In a rapidly warming world, these remnant forests have an even more vital role to play as a habitat refuge. In addition, the conservation of these forests are essential in protecting the ecological health and integrity of the Murray River...an important source of essential water to Eastern Australia. As a consequence the logging of River Red Gum forests has to stop immediately and this issue cannot be left out of the equation.

Australia needs new and large National Parks across the entire River Red Gum State Forest estate (in consultation with traditional owners). Moreover, these National Parks will create many more jobs in the tourism sector than are currently supported by the timber industry. Another point is that much improved environmental water flows are desperately needed to ensure the health of River Red Gum into the future. National Parks will be crucial to ensuring ecosystem resilience.

The protection of these forests is important, not just for our future but for the whole planet. I hope you make a judicious decision.

Sincerely,

Kim Jennifer Bebensee