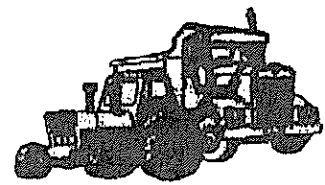


MEMBREY'S *Auto Electrics P/L*



A.B.N 69 640 849 282

108 Grigg Road, Koondrook, (P.O Box 176) Vic. 3580

Phone 5453 1688; Mobile 0427 836 229; Fax 5453 1600; A.H 5453 1343

To-Natural Resource Commission

15 October 2009

Re-Redgum Forests

I would like to voice my objection to the closing of the redgum industry.

I am an owner of a small business in Koondrook & the closure of the Redgum Industry in the area will have a profound effect on the viability of my business due to the fact that a minimum of 30% of my turnover come from a direct result of dealing with the Redgum Industry.

I estimate at least another 20% of my turnover is derived from other customers who are either directly or indirectly connected to the Redgum Industry.

This loss of income will lead to my having to lay off employees & a possibility of closing my livelihood. I employ apprentices & mature aged workers & if they lose their income they will have to relocate out of town.

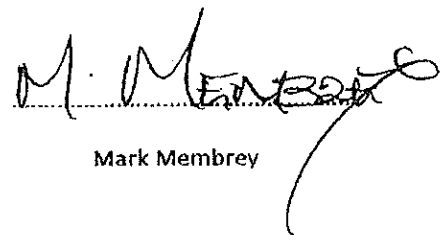
The overall loss of jobs to the Barham & Koondrook Communities would be catastrophic to our small community already struggling with the effects of drought & economic downturn.

In my opinion our Community would not benefit from a projected increase in tourism as most visitors will elect to base themselves in the larger towns of Deniliquin, Echuca & Swan Hill which already have a large tourism infrastructure. I cannot see why more people would come to see a forest which is a National Park when they can already camp & fish here without the restrictions which will be imposed.

I am also a Lieutenant in the Koondrook CFA & one of my employees is the Station Commander of the NSW Fire Brigade Station in Barham & in our professional opinions the setting up of a National Park would be disastrous as the build up of fire loads & lack of road maintenance in the National Park would lead to the possibility of fires in the area being uncontrollable. The fuel loads in the areas now where logging has been suspended are almost to a stage where fires like those that occurred last February 2009 in Victoria are already possible.

Thinning of the Forest certainly helps to keep fire loads below levels where major fire outbreaks are rare. This can be shown by the fact that over the last 25 years there has been only minor fire outbreaks in the local area & none that could be classified as uncontrollable.

Sustainable management of our forests is the only way to ensure preservation of our forests & the benefits they provide for our Communities.


Mark Membrey