

From: Penny Brockman
Sent: Wednesday, 14 October 2009 3:41 PM
To: Felicity Calvert
Subject: River Red Gums

To the Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206, Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sirs,

I understand that the future of the River Red Gum wetlands of south-western NSW is currently being decided and that your organisation is currently taking submissions until 23rd October 2009 with final recommendations to the NSW Government on environmental water flows and any additional areas to be included in new National Parks. This will clarify any areas remaining available for logging and grazing.

These remnant forests are the very last major fragments of once vast Red Gum forests that followed the rivers and flooding areas. They are severely threatened by continuing drought with recent studies showing up to 90% of trees stressed or dying in some areas. Only 1.9% of the NSW Riverina bioregion is currently protected in National Parks.

We have already destroyed vast areas due to excessive clearing and inappropriate agriculture, followed by drought, dust storms and over-grazing. Some of our most rare birds that depend on these ancient forests, ie: the Superb Parrot, Regent Parrot, Barking Owl, Gilberts and Red-lored Whistlers, Black-chinned Honeyeater, Brown Treecreeper, and will be severely affected by further logging.

Please do not allow further logging in these remaining portions of Australia's iconic Red Gum Forests.

Penelope Drake-Brockman