

Forests Assessment  
Natural Resources Commission

Dear Commissioner,

The Regional Assessment for the River Red Gums and Woodland Forests by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) fails to meet the standard required for a NSW Forest Agreement (FA) to be made. Compared to the Regional Assessments conducted for the areas that now have FA's in place this one document of 244 pages falls far short and lacks all credibility. This report also fails to address the legal requirements of the EPBC Act 1999.

The NRC has not conducted a scientific assessment of the conservation values of the River Red Gum forests in the study area. The impacts of logging of these ecosystems have also not been considered. CSIRO findings that large protected areas are vital to the survival of species when climate change is taken into account have been ignored.

With regards to protection of these ecosystems, there has been no consideration of the national reserve criteria or how they will be met. Refugia, corridors and the linking of habitats in the region have not been identified.

In the final report by the NRC these failings need to be properly addressed and serious recommendations for the protection of these important ecosystems put forward. This will require the creation of extensive new Red Gum National Parks to meet the JANIS criteria for vulnerable ecosystems that need a 60% reservation target. National parks are crucial to ecosystem resilience and the Red Gum forests are vital refuges for plants and animals in a world affected by climate change. Improved environmental water flows are also needed to ensure the health and survivability of the Red Gum forests into the future.

These New National Parks need to have Aboriginal ownership wherever this is sought by the Traditional Owners.

The creation of large National Parks will have economic impacts for some communities and so a fair restructure package for individuals and businesses affected by the changes is needed.

Yours Sincerely,

Scott Daines