

From: Tim Scrace
Sent: Friday, 23 October 2009 7:35 AM
To: Avtar Singh
Subject: River Redgum submission

Dear NRC, I wish to comment on the preliminary assessment issued by you recently. The report outlines the relatively low employment in forestry in the Riverina bioregion. Also the industry is geared mainly to low value production, mainly of firewood. This situation is deplorable, and I would wish to see some high-value timber production continue outside new National Parks, with the industry being given a restructure package such as the one given to the timber industry in the Brigalow Belt South/Nandewar decision of 2005.

The report also makes the connection between long-term forest health and adequate water flows at the correct time. I wish to state my support for extensive new National Parks in the bioregion, but these must be enhanced with a adequate water flow regime that makes the most of the new parks from an ecological perspective. The many threatened species in this bioregion also need new National parks to ensure their survival into the foreseeable future.

I also wish to state my support for a genuine relationship between the NPWS and Forests NSW with the indigenous peoples of the bioregion. In particular, a co-management arrangement of the new National Parks between NPWS and the local indigenous people. This will help to create a more dynamic and rewarding situation for all stakeholders and visitors to these new National Parks, as well as allowing the indigenous people an oppoertunity to continue their culture into the future.

On a technical point, could you make the page numbers bigger next time?

Thanks you for this opportunity.

Tim Scrace