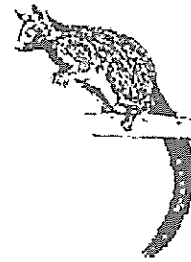


CLARENCE VALLEY CONSERVATION COALITION Inc.

POST OFFICE BOX 1015, GRAFTON N.S.W. 2460.



22 October 2009

Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
SYDNEY NSW 2001
Email: forests@nrc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on Red Gum Forests

The Clarence Valley Conservation Coalition (CVCC) believes that it is vital that the Red Gum Forests of southern NSW be properly protected. These forests are already under serious stress because of changes to water regimes as well as clearing and logging activities.

The CVCC is concerned about the adequacy of the Regional Assessment of the Red Gum Forests being conducted by the Natural Resources Commission. These concerns include:

- The NRC assessment is being undertaken without a proper scientific assessment of the forests and their biodiversity. The CVCC is surprised that any assessment of these important natural areas can be made without what is surely essential information.
- The apparent slant towards logging in the preliminary report does not give us confidence that the final assessment will be balanced or that the impact of logging on biodiversity will be properly addressed.
- The preliminary report neither attempts to consider the value of national parks in conserving biodiversity, nor does it properly consider the diverse economic benefits of national parks.

The CVCC urges the Natural Resources Commission to make the following recommendations in its final report:

- The creation of new national parks to protect the biodiversity of these important forests. The CVCC understands that expert opinion recommends that 60% of these forests should be protected in a new reserve system. This, in our view, should be a minimum.
- Greatly improved environmental flows in the rivers and streams which are vital to the health of the Red Gum forests.
- Appropriate compensation/assistance to those economically impacted by the protection of the Red Gum forests.

Yours faithfully

Leonie Blain
Hon Secretary