



Hay Shire Council

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20th October 2009

Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Fax: 02 8227 4399

FAXED
20.10.09

Dear Sir/Madam

Commercial Impact of Reduction in Red Gum Harvesting

Council wishes to lodge the strongest objection to any unnecessary reduction in the current red gum harvesting program in the Riverina Bioregion.

Council is not convinced that a radical stop work approach to the current well-managed harvesting program will have any worthwhile impact on regrowth and regeneration of the legendary red gum forest areas. The whole area and its upstream catchment area is suffering from the longest and most severe drought in history. Regeneration and regrowth will occur when the area returns to its periodic inundation of the floodplains.

The commercial viability of our towns and villages of the area has never been more fragile. The lack of water for stock and domestic purposes and the virtual elimination of high value cereal cropping has caused the rural based communities to depend upon government hand-outs and tourism opportunities to barely exist. A return to normal rural commercial opportunities will only occur when the current climatic cycle changes.

The current harvesting of the red gum forests produces many jobs essential for the financial viability of our communities. These jobs provide real primary industry money to support our national economy.

We are all aware that many jobs associated with the protection and investigations of the impact of forest harvesting are funded from nebulous government sources and do little to assist our local communities.

Council is disappointed that government funding can be wantonly expended in an exercise designed to deliberately harm the commercial viability of our communities.

Council represents the community in an endeavour to retain employment opportunities and provide a reasonable infrastructure to reduce the population slide to larger and more central areas where urban job opportunities exist. The potential reduction in harvesting of red gum forests of the area is an unnecessary further impediment to our objectives in this regard.

The cost shifting impost falling on the shoulders of ratepayers due to the lack of responsibility of the State and Federal levels of government in providing community services is well documented.

Any further government decisions to restrict local commercial operations such as red gum harvesting should be totally rejected as an unnecessary additional financial burden to our ratepayers.

Thank you for considering our brief submission in opposition to any additional restriction on the commercial harvesting of red gum forests.

Yours faithfully



Allen Dwyer
General Manager