



# MATHOURA

## Chamber of Commerce & Citizens Inc.

PO Box 125  
MATHOURA NSW 2710

Secretary : Ian Fisher

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22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009

Forests Assessment  
Natural Resources Commission  
GPO Box 4206  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Panel

**Re: Submission for Redgum Forests Review**

We the Mathoura Chamber of Commerce acknowledge the decline in forest health due to a continued lack of water and certainly welcome an outcome that would see the forests more regularly flooded.

The Chamber considers it essential that no long term reduction in forestry activities occur. Mathoura is a timber industry town; A significant reduction in forestry activities will have serious adverse affects on the town's economy.

Mathouras population is only 700, with a high percentage of the towns employed demographic reliant on the timber industry. This demographic includes timber extraction license holders, directly employed individuals, forestry workers, freighters, as well as the hidden part of the demographic, the shop keepers, the school teachers, and other government employees(of local heritage), hoteliers, accommodation industry workers and farmers. Without this demographic Mathoura has no economy and therefore is no town.

At various times of the year the town's economy is boosted by an influx of tourists who mostly enjoy the forest in its current regime. We are convinced a change in the forest regime, namely National Parks, will have a further serious affect on the town's economy. We site Yanga National Park as proof of this.

In a final comment the chamber is quite certain of the fact the forest's health is improved by forestry practices and sees the timber industry as not only essential to the economy of Mathoura, but also to the long term health of the forest.

Yours Sincerely,

Ian Fisher  
**Secretary**