

Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
SYDNEY NSW 2001

12 October 2009

Dear Sir/ Madam

National Parks Association of NSW, Reserves Committee submission for the protection of the River Red Gum Forests.

The River Red Gum Forests of NSW are very unique. The Barmah-Millewa and Koondrook- Perricoota Forests are two of the largest contiguous Red Gum Forests left in the World. The River Red Gum wetlands on the Murrumbidgee rivers of south – western NSW are very special. These forests provide irreplaceable refuges for plants and animals in one of the most heavily cultivated and poorly protected landscapes.

These forests are the habitat for threatened and endangered flora and fauna, including such species as the Barking Owl, Regent Parrot and Southern Bell Frog.

The tracts of Red Gum forests are already under severe stress and are dying as a result of changed water regimes and from intensive logging, patch clear felling and grazing.

The majority of timber felled from these forests is used only for low value products such as firewood, fence posts and railway sleepers of which there are alternatives. Much greater long term economic return would be derived from protecting the River Red gum forests through biodiversity and tourism than that of the current utilisation.

The Committee seeks

- the protection of these forests in new Red Gum National Parks.
- That the Red Gums are a vulnerable ecosystem and set it a 60% reservation target.
- Recognise that Red Gum Forests are vital refuges for plants and animals in a rapidly changing world due to various deteriorating weather conditions with climate change.
- Recommend Aboriginal ownership of any new Red Gum National Parks.
- Recommend much improve environment water flows to ensure the health of Red Gum forests into the future.
- Recommend a generous restructure package for individuals and businesses affected by the changes.

Please consider the points mentioned above.

Yours faithfully



Timothy Bidder
Convenor, Reserves Committee, National Parks Assn of NSW