



Forest Assessment  
Natural Resources Commission  
GPO Box 4206  
SYDNEY 2001

Three Valleys Branch  
C/- "Wainoni"  
Pavans Access  
STUARTS POINT 2441

Dear Commission Secretary,  
RED GUM FORESTS

We refer to the first report of the Commission on the red gums and woodland forest along the Murray.

The red gum is iconic of the inland rivers of southern Australia. Their timber has served this country well since the early days of settlement but the time has come to protect the remaining forests which are suffering from declining floods, over cutting, and possibly climate change.

There appears to be no reason in this day and age why such magnificent trees are being sold for firewood and railway sleepers.

We consider that the Commission's first report has not

1. Considered the impact of the present scale of logging on the ecosystems.
2. Identified corridors and refuge areas.
3. Examined the national reserve criteria and how this will be met.
4. Made any scientific assessment of the conservation values of the red gum forests.
5. Given any consideration to climate change and its possible impact on the future of the forest and its wildlife.

We understand that there are businesses and workers that will be adversely affected by the creation of national parks but there has always been change of industry and associated work over the ages and such changes are happening across the whole economy all the time. There is therefore no excuse that changes cannot happen in the red gum forest industry. If Victoria can protect red gum forests then this State should also do so.

Naturally we would argue for compensation packages to those most affected but change is inevitable in any industry and for the future of these wonderful forests change is necessary.

We consider that the Commission in its final report should

1. Recommend large areas for national parks
2. Seek improved water flows to ensure the survival of the forests.
3. Point out the need to protect a valuable and vulnerable ecosystem which may well be threatened by climate change.
4. Ensure that the loss of industries and jobs when logging is stopped is properly compensated.

Yours faithfully

  
M/s P. Coleing Hon. Sec. 14 October 2009