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Sent: Sunday, 18 October 2009 1:38 PM

To: Avtar Singh

Subject: Submission Regarding Regional Assessment of River Red Gums and Woodland Forests

Submission to the Natural Resources Commission regarding the Regional Assessment of River Red Gums and Woodland Forests.

The Rainforest Information Centre (RIC) was founded in 1981 to protect the rainforests of the world. For close to three decades, we have witnessed the demise of many forests worldwide and the increasing loss of biodiversity.

On the other hand, we have been pleased at times with the protection offered for forests of high conservation value and old growth, particularly here in Northern New South Wales.

The current endangerment of the River Red Gum forests is alarming. Excessive harvesting coupled with reduced water availability, through over-use, drought and climate change have brought the forests to the edge of destruction. Their situation is so dire at present and their demise so unthinkable that heroic efforts must be made to rescue them.

We recommend that the Natural Resources Commission should take an extremely conservative approach to the assessment of any further destruction of these precious forests.

The NRC needs to address the following matters which it did not cover in the Assessment:

1. A thorough scientific assessment of the conservation values of the forests needs to be completed
2. The ecological impact of past and future logging needs to be assessed.
3. The already established national reserve criteria for these forests need to be met.
4. Refugia and linking habitats need to be identified.
5. The legal requirements of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 need to be addressed.

Furthermore, the Rainforest Information Centre urges that the following measures be introduced immediately:

1. There should be no further logging at all in the River Red Gum and Woodlands Forests.
2. All remaining publicly-owned forests in the bioregion should be included in new National Parks, with adequate funding provided.
3. These parks need to be created in consultation with the traditional custodians whose ancestors' management ensured that these forests have been conserved for millennia up until the present.
4. Environmental water flows to the forests must be increased.

5. Local individuals and businesses affected by cessation of logging need to be compensated.

We and future generations look towards governing bodies such as yourselves to make bold decisions that conserve the environment well into the future and that stem the unleashed tide of extinction. The choice is yours.

peace  
for the Earth  
Ruth Rosenhek

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Act now to stop old growth logging in Tasmania (plus PM & Frog animation)

<http://stillwildstillthreatened.org/form/please-protect-southern-forests-tasmania>

Watch Earth Spirit Action, a deep ecology journey, at  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6jCpChUxOw>