

**From:** Barry Tomkinson [mailto:barrryt@bigpond.net.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 5 October 2009 11:53 AM  
**To:** Felicity Calvert  
**Subject:** River Red Gum Assessment

Dear Sir/Madam

STEP Inc is a community based environmental organisation with over 400 members located in the northern Sydney region. We believe that the assessment of the River Red Gums by the Natural Resources Commission is inadequate and for the following reasons:

- The NRC has not conducted a proper scientific assessment of the conservation values of River Red Gum forests in the study area.
- There is no consideration of the national reserve criteria or how they will be met.
- The impact of logging on ecosystems has not been considered.
- CSIRO findings that large protected areas are vital to the survival of species in a warming world have been ignored.
- Refugia, corridors and linking habitats in the region have not been identified
- The report fails to address the legal requirements of that EPBC Act 1999

STEP asks that you address these issues in your next assessment and we recommend that you consider:

- New Red Gum National Parks to ensure a 60% reservation target is reached
- Improved environmental flows to ensure the health of the Red Gum
- An equitable restructure package for those affected by these changes

Yours faithfully

Barry Tomkinson  
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