

**To:** Felicity Calvert

**Subject:** Forests Assessment Natural Resources Commission

25/08/09

We welcome the fact that the Natural Resources Commission has been given the task of assessing River Red Gum forests in NSW. This is a brief submission but we urge you to take it as seriously as we do.

- The areas of red Gums are already under severe stress. Any extra uses like grazing should be ceased.

- In this case it is important to err on the side of environment when these areas are considered.

- The terms adopted should include reference to water management with an eye firmly fixed on climate change. And to include the involvement and consultation of indigenous communities.

-In the area of EPBC matters it is essential to protect any area from any illegal activity such as patch felling during the assessment process.

- Any resultant decisions should state how the requirements of the EPBC Act will be met and applied.

- The country needs a large new national park in the wetland forests on the NSW side of the Murray before they disappear forever.

Regards  
Andrew Luke & Helen Gargan