



Annabelle Ford

22/09/2009

To: The Natural Resources Commission
Forests Assessment
GPO Box 4206
Sydney 2001

Dear Natural Resources Commission,

Re: River Red Gum Forest Assessment

The conservation of River Red Gum Forests is vital for the health of the Murray River and the area's biodiversity, which depends on the forests.

Misuse such as logging for firewood and fence-posts is destroying the forests and water-stress has led to 75% of the trees becoming stressed, dead or dying. These forests provide habitat to many species of birds and animals, a number of which are threatened or endangered. The forests even include large areas listed as internationally significant under the RAMSAR convention, whose central philosophy is the "wise use" of wetlands. Logging vulnerable forests for firewood can hardly be considered a 'wise' use. The best way of protecting the River Red Gum Forests is to create new National Parks, which will create many more jobs than are currently supported by the timber industry and will increase economic activity in the area as well as preserving this precious ecosystem.

These national icons are vulnerable and need to be protected because they are worth more than just firewood. Creating National Parks will give the best future for the region's economy and the environment. This is why I am urging you to make new National parks the primary recommendation from your assessment of the forests.

Yours Sincerely,

Annabelle Ford.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Annabelle Ford', written in a cursive style.