

Subject: Red gum and cypress forests submission

Submission regarding Red gum and Cypress forests.

To the Natural Resources Commission of New South Wales,

It is great to see the NSW government finally take the health of Australia's greatest river system seriously and to at last ask the NRC to conduct a review into the ridiculous practices that continue to degrade these areas which are then described as 'sustainable'. As a young Victorian who grew up in the VEAC investigation area it is impossible to describe the delight and relief felt when increased protection of Victoria's red gum forests was recommended and is now soon to be implemented. This was so reliving because not only have our amazing rivers and unique red gum forests received greater protection, but also our regional towns and economies, both in the short term and in the context of further climate change.

It is pleasing to see the terms of reference for your red gum and woodland forests and your south western Cypress forests but ask that you include an aspirational target of at least 15% protection of the pre-european extent of these ecosystems as mandated in the National Forest Policy Statement, much more specific inclusion of traditional owners in this process and to further qualify the statement 'appropriate forest management practices in order to promote long term productivity and forest health', especially regarding what the commission regard as 'long term' and what exactly is the measure of 'health'.

Thank you for the chance to make a submission and I look forward to seeing the revised terms of reference.

Regards

Brendan Nugent