



4 September 2009

Forests Assessment  
Natural Resources Commission  
GPO Box 4206  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear National Resources Commission,

**Re: River Red Gum Assessment**

The protection of River Red Gum Forests is critical to conserve their well recognised environmental values including large areas which are listed as internationally significant under the Ramsar Convention.

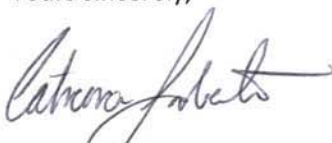
Water stress has led to up to 75% of trees becoming either stressed, dead or dying. Floods are essential to the supply of moisture for the trees, they create the floodplain landform, deposit alluvium from which the soils form and are important for the breeding cycles of native fish and water birds. River Red Gum foliage contains terpenes and phenolic acids which accumulate in the soil and are toxic to other plants. With less flooding, these toxins accumulate causing low biodiversity in the understorey.

The creation of new National Parks across the entire River Red Gum State Forest estate would not only protect this vulnerable ecosystem (a vitally important habitat for a number of threatened and endangered species) but lead to the creation of many more jobs than would otherwise be possible in the timber industry.

I would implore you to prioritise the long term sustainable future of these forests. Not only will you be preserving a beautiful and essential ecosystem but old growth forests have been shown to provide an important carbon sink that is only recently being understood.

Please see [wilderness.org.au/rrr](http://wilderness.org.au/rrr) for more information.

Yours sincerely,



Catriona Lambertson