

16th September 2009

Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Commissioner Williams,

My name is Connie Campbell and my husband and I run a small business in Balranald supplying redgum firewood to a number of major cities in Victoria and South Australia.

I am writing to inform you of my concerns with the order to cease logging in the Central Murray Darling region. This decision will have a devastating impact on our region if it goes ahead.

Our area has experienced drought now for almost 8 years. All local businesses are feeling the effects of such an extended dry period. As a result the local economy is struggling to keep young people as well as more experienced workers in employment. The local timber industry is the only constant and reliable employer in the area at the moment.

Our business employs 13 men, and of these, only 5 do not have families to support. If logging was to be stopped, firewood collection would also halt, forcing our workers to try to find employment in an area that has been nearly crippled by the effects of drought.

Logging in our region is not clear felling. Only suitable trees are fallen, leaving smaller, unsuitable trees to grow and maybe harvested at a later stage. Redgum trees are a renewable resource and will continue to grow in greater numbers after thinning by the industry.

In these times of extremely dry weather it makes sense to thin dying regums now, giving others the chance to thrive. With little or no water for these trees they are all dying off. Why not continue to responsibly thin out trees now so that when the rains and water return, the trees that are left can flourish.

It is difficult enough in the current economic climate to successfully manage and grow a business in an area that is desperately trying to keep young people interested and employed enough to want to stay and develop their region.

A decision like this is likely to damage our area's economy such, that it would be extremely difficult to recover from.

Please, in these already difficult and trying times, give us, our children and the area the chance to prosper whilst still being responsible and aware for our environment.

Yours Sincerely,

Connie Campbell
WAYCON BULK PTY LTD