



Tuesday, August 25, 2009

Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
Sydney
NSW 2001

Dear Natural Resources Commission

Re: River Red Gum Assessment

Australia has the two largest River Red Gum forests in the world.

But while the internationally recognised Red Gum forests in Victoria have been given the protection they deserve, the New South Wales River Red Gums continue to be logged for low value products such as fenceposts, railway sleepers and firewood.

I am really concerned about the River Red Gum Forests of south western NSW, which are in a critical state, due to climate change induced drought, logging and over irrigation. Water stress has led to up to 75% of trees becoming either stressed, dead or dying.

Replacing logging with well managed National Parks will protect the forests, ensure that the Murray retains its filter system and continue to provide vital income to the region. The creation of National Parks will provide for many more jobs for the region, increase economic activity and is the best way to protect the remaining vegetation.

That's why I urge you to make new National Parks the central recommendation from your assessment of the forests.

Sincerely,

Damien Langlois

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Langlois" with a long horizontal line extending to the right.