

Tuesday, September 1, 2009

Forests Assessment

Natural Resources Commission

GPO Box 4206

Sydney, NSW 2001

Re: River Red Gum Assessment

Dear Natural Resources Commission,

I am writing to you as an environmentally aware and concerned citizen to implore you to ensure that the precious Red Gum forests in the Riverina bioregion receive adequate protection through the creation of new National Parks.

It is highly distressing to learn that studies have found that over 75% of trees in the region are stressed, dead or dying as a result of logging, grazing, over irrigation and the growing effects of climate change. These forests play a vital role in determining the health of the Murray River; and are home to a wide range of migratory birds and a number of endangered and vulnerable species of native flora and fauna.

The creation of National Parks in similar areas, such as the recent acquisition of new parks on the Victorian side of the border demonstrate the long term economic growth that accompanies proper protection and conservation of native forests and their surrounding ecosystems. The region in question is also one of both social and cultural significance; to those who visit there, to those who live there and to the traditional owners of the land.

For a variety of reasons therefore - economic, social, cultural and environmental - I strongly urge that the central recommendation from your assessment of the forests be to create new National Parks. Furthermore, I would urge you to ensure that it be a necessary provision of these National Parks that they are jointly managed by the traditional owners of the land.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Makin