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From: jacquie kelly
Sent: Friday, 28 August 2009 12:00 AM
To: Felicity Calvert
Subject: Submission to Natural Resources Commission- forests assessment, TOR Red Gum.

26th August 2009
Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
Email: forests@nrc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir,
RE: Assessment of Red Gum Forests

I would like to make a submission to the ToR for the Red Gum Assessment.

The Natural Resources Commission must rapidly assess the extreme threats facing the River Red Gum forests and recommend strong conservation action to avert those threats.

I am from the Murray River and spent a lot of time in the Red Gum Forests of the Riverina near Moulamein, Deniliquin and Tooleybuc. It saddens me that they continue to be abused and damaged by ongoing resource extraction. They are worth so much more as natural areas and must be protected. The Riverina suffers from overgrazing and logging and lack of flooding. This cannot go on. Listen to the scientists who are reporting the depleting quality of the habitat here. River frontages in South West NSW are a disgrace with cattle causing shocking damage to the river bank. My suggestions are:

1. The Terms of Reference (TOR) need to provide stronger and more specific involvement of Traditional Owners. The TOR should require that Aboriginal Ownership of conservation reserves is recommended wherever sought by Traditional Owners.
2. It is crucial that the precautionary principle is applied in full. Given the paucity of detailed environmental surveys in the region, we should err on the side of caution and protect habitat rather than clearfell log it then wait and see if threatened species survive.
3. There is no reserve system to protect river red gum forests despite the National Forest Policy Statement mandating that at least 15% (of the pre-European extent) of each Australian forest type be protected in permanent reserves. Identification of large new National Parks should therefore be specified in the terms of reference as a key outcome from the assessment.
4. The continued logging of red gum forests whilst the assessment is being conducted is illegal and must be halted immediately. Logging in NSW red gum forests is currently illegal under both the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* (1979) and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (1999).

Please accept these suggestions for the TOR for your upcoming assessment.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jacquie Kelly B.App.Sci (Chiro)