

NRC Forests Assessment – Red Gum Forests



Term of reference 3. 'recommend water management and flooding requirements to sustain the forests and identify values and uses.....'

In my opinion this point should not be considered by NRC. The Barmah-**Millewa** Forests and the Gunbower- Koondrook-**Perricoota** Forests are two of the six **Icon sites** within The Living Murray initiative of the MDA (previously the MDBC) and thus this term of reference is already being addressed. They (the icon sites) have established Consultation Reference Groups etc etc. There would seem to be nothing to be gained by the NRC spending any time on the issue.

Some general comment.

The Millewa Group of River Red Gum forests have had managerial input from NSW Forests (or equivalent) since April 1891. I have lived and worked in the Riverina since 1954 and have spent leisure time in the forests on many occasions. They appear to be well managed by NSW Forests and changing their status will most likely be detrimental to their longer term sustainability.

The NSW taxpayer has recently acquired Yanga Station on the Murrumbidgee and converted it from freehold to National Park status. Most of the 40,000 hectares has red gum forest growing on it. There are plenty of trees there for the public to enjoy! Thus there would appear to be no need for additional 'parks' to be gazetted along or adjacent to the Murray River.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Thompson'.

John Thompson

17th September, 2009

Previously employed by NSW Agriculture