

From: Kim Lowe
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2009 12:45 PM
To: Felicity Calvert
Subject:

Hello

Please help

1. Recommend extensive new Red Gum National Parks
2. Recognise that Red Gum is a vulnerable ecosystem and set it a 60% reservation target
3. Recognise that Red Gum forests are vital refuges for plants and animals in a rapidly warming world
4. Recommend Aboriginal ownership of new National Parks wherever sought by Traditional Owners
5. Recommend much improved environmental water flows to ensure the health of Red Gum into the future
6. Recommend a generous restructure package for individuals and businesses affected by the changes.

Thank you
Kim Lowe

Background

River Red Gum wetlands on the Murray and Murrumbidgee rivers of south-western NSW are unique to the planet. The Barmah-Millewa and Koondrook-Perricoota forests are two of the largest contiguous Red Gum forests left in the world.

River Red Gum wetlands provide an irreplaceable refuge for plants and animals in one of the most heavily cultivated and poorly protected landscapes in Australia.

This region is known to provide habitat for at least 69 plants and animals threatened with extinction, including species such as the Barking Owl, Regent Parrot and Southern Bell Frog. Vast tracts of Red Gum are already under severe stress and are dying as a result of changed water regimes, yet they are still being targeted for intensive logging, patch clear felling and grazing.

The destruction of these unique wetland forests is not delivering a good economic outcome. A recent report by independent economic consultants shows that a much greater economic return would be derived from protecting the River Red Gum forests than is currently being derived by exploiting them. In fact, taxpayers are unknowingly paying to have these precious forests destroyed due to indirect subsidies from the NSW Government to the logging industry. The majority of red gum that is logged (more than 80%) is used only for low value products such as firewood, fence posts and railway sleepers.