

August 25, 2009

Natural Resources Commission of NSW.

Re: NSW River Red Gums

Dear Natural Resources Commission,

I am writing as an individual who values the River Red Gums and the habitat they provide for threatened flora and fauna species. Along with many other Victorians who had lobbied the Victorian Government to save our River Red Gums I was thrilled that new national parks were created in our State in an effort to save this important aspect of Australia's biodiversity.

The Natural Resources Committee has the opportunity to request that the NSW Government take similar action by creating large new national parks within NSW. The environmental crisis facing the NSW River Red Gums is severe, and I am pleased to see that the Natural Resources Commission has been requested to conduct an assessment of the forests in the south west section of the State.

I am also pleased that the indigenous people will be involved in discussions but this should not be just token involvement. Aboriginal Ownership of conservation reserves should indeed be a possibility when the Traditional Owners so desire this to occur.

It is also pleasing to see that EPBC matters are included in the assessment procedure, but it is also essential that Ramsar wetlands are protected during this process. It should be made clear how the requirements of the EPBC Act will be met.

I am optimistic that the Commission will identify the value of the NSW River Red Gums and will make strong recommendations to the NSW Government,

Sincerely

Margaret MacDonald