



Marie-Claire Porcedo

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
Sydney
NSW 2001

Dear Natural Resources Commission,

Re: Submission to River Red Gum Assessment

River Red Gum forests need National Parks instead of logging

As an inhabitant of New South Wales and as a world citizen, I feel extremely concerned about the future of River Red Gum forests and consequently of the Murray river. I am forwarding this submission in the hope that, as an independent organisation, you will act to protect these forests.

First, I would like to highlight the fact that the River Red Gum forests are a significant home for endangered animals and for migratory birds. Their lives depend on the government's decisions and we know that healthy natural areas are necessary to keep a balance in environment.

The River Red Gum forests are protecting the Murray river and both protect Australian fauna and flora. This refuge provides habitat for at least 69 plants and animals and 51 ecosystems that are threatened with extinction. They are also abundant sources of insects for food. There is a great diversity of floral species, many of which are unique to the area. Moreover, many threatened species, classified at a state or national level, are located in the area.

Today, River Red Gum forests are under severe stress (changed water regimes, intensive logging, patch-clearfelling and grazing). The environmental impact will be severe if we don't do anything to save them. Already 75 per cent of the trees are dying or stressed.

The River Red Gum forests and the Murray River are Australian icons in an environmental and cultural point of view. They are part of our country.

To finish, in an economical point of view, National Parks will be good. Economy will be improved by providing more jobs and money. Currently, the logging of Red Gum forests is not so profitable. More than 95% of Red Gum that is logged is used only for extremely low value products.

For all that reasons I am in favour of the creation of National Parks to save River Red Gum forests and the Murray river and to stop logging and grazing.

Sincerely,

Marie-Claire Porcedo