



Michelle da Silva

1st September 2009

Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
Sydney
NSW 2001

Dear Natural Resources Commission,

The protection of the River Red Gum Forests is extremely important to preserve large areas which are listed as internationally significant under the Ramsar Convention. For example, the Murray-Darlin Basin – which has been recognized as “Australia’s food bowl” by the Federal government – is intrinsically linked with these forests and depends on them to maintain its high environmental value. Logging and grazing in the River Red Gums Forests are major threats to the entire ecosystem and because of them the environmental degradation of the region has reached a point where up to 75% of the trees are stressed, dying or dead.

It is also important to note that the creation of national parks will bring economic advantages to the local population and consequently to the government. The tourism industry, which has proved to be much more profitable and to employ many more people than the timber industry, will be significantly expanded. This is certainly the best possible outcome for the regional economy.

I urge you to recommend the establishment of national parks in the River Red Gums Forests to the New South Wales government. The creation of such parks is critical to ensure the conservation of these areas and minimize the loss of biodiversity.

Sincerely,

Michelle da Silva