

Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
Sydney NSW 2001



Dear Commissioners,

Submission to Red Gum Forest Assessment


Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into your assessment into the health of river red gum and associated ecosystems in the Riverina. I would like to make the following points:

1. We need large new red gum national parks. There is no reserve system to protect river red gum forests despite the National Forest Policy Statement mandating that at least 15% (of the pre-European extent) of each Australian forest type be protected in permanent reserves. Identification of large new National Parks is an essential outcome of the assessment.
2. Traditional Owners must be consulted early and throughout the assessment and must be adequately resourced to participate in these consultations.
3. Aboriginal-Owned National Parks would improve the management of red gum forests, enhance visitor experiences, promote greater understanding of Aboriginal cultures and provide lasting socio-economic outcomes for Traditional Owners. You should recommend that all new National Parks are Aboriginal Owned wherever sought by Traditional Owners.
4. You must apply the precautionary principle. Red gum forests are islands of biodiversity in a highly cleared landscape, and home to many threatened species. High impact activities such as logging and cattle-grazing should be removed from the majority, if not all remaining public red gum forests.

Further points:

Yours sincerely, *N Pastalatzis*
Name: *Neck Pastalatzis*
Address:

Email:
Date: *20/09/09*

Stay in touch!  **Friends of the Earth**

Yes, I would like to receive updates from Friends of the Earth's red gum campaign

NB - we will keep your contact details secure and not pass them on to any other organisation