

**TSO**

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**From:** Roman Suwald  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 August 2009 2:25 PM  
**To:** Felicity Calvert  
**Subject:** River Red gum assessment terms of reference  
18 August 2009

Forests Assessment  
Natural Resources Commission  
Email: [forests@nrc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:forests@nrc.nsw.gov.au)

**RE: River Red Gum Forest Assessment**

Dear NRC,

The Natural Resources Commission has been given the task of assessing the River Red Gum forests.

It is crucially important that the NRC rapidly assess the extreme threats facing the River Red Gum wetlands and recommend strong conservation action to avert those threats.

I would like to make the following comments on the terms of reference:

- The environmental crisis facing River Red Gum is severe. I believe that new National Parks should be created before the end of the year.
- In my opinion it is crucial that the precautionary principle is applied in full – given the paucity of detailed environmental survey in the region. It is important that proper precaution is applied on the side of environmental protection.
- I support the inclusion in the terms of reference of water management and the impacts of climate change on future water availability.
- In my opinion the identification of large new National Parks should be specified in the terms of reference as a key outcome from the assessment.
- Please include EPBC matters in the assessment, but interim protections should be imposed to protect Ramsar wetlands from illegal patch-clearfelling while the assessment takes place.
- It should be clear how the requirements of the EPBC Act will be met, and specifically what process under that Act will be applied and how the approval process will proceed.
- The Terms of Reference need to provide stronger and more specific involvement of indigenous people and consultation with indigenous communities. The TOR should require close investigation of Aboriginal Ownership of conservation reserves wherever sought by Traditional Owners.

Regards  
Roman Suwald Architect