

22nd August, 2009

Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
Sydney NSW 2001

Re: The desperate plight of Australia's River Red Gums

Dear Natural Resources Commission,

I am a Primary School teacher who has worked in the New South Wales education system for the past 38 years. I am presently helping Year 5 students to learn about life of which environmental education is a crucial component.

My family originally settled on the far North Coast of NSW in the 1880's where in the last century the decimation of the Red Cedar/native forests by the logging and dairy industries was almost absolute.

I urge you not to allow our Red Gum forests to be lost in a similar way!

I believe that the survival of the Red Gums and their ecosystem can only be assured by:

- creating extensive National Parks to protect existing trees and
- the establishment of a single management authority for the Murray-Darling River System controlled by the Federal Government.

If the Red Gum forests are not protected, there will be huge ramifications for the Murray-Darling River System and Central Australia. Even the most basic environmental study reveals the web of dependency on old growth trees that exists in any ecosystem – once the canopy is removed all life in the under-story is destroyed - biodiversity and species are lost; Australia becomes a drier continent and a process of desertification and global warming follows.

Successive Federal and competing State Governments have failed to grasp an understanding of the importance of environmental issues. Please bring the plight of the Red Gums to their attention. The future of Australia and its children need the Murray-Darling River System and its Red Gum forests to be protected – please recommend the creation of National Parks across the entire region and the establishment of a Federal Murray Darling Management Authority.

Yours faithfully,



Russell G Moore