

Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
Sydney 2001



3rd September 2009

Dear Natural Resource Commission .

Re: Red River Gum Assessment [http://www.nrc.gov.au/rrg](#)

The protection of remaining Red River Gum forests in NSW is vital. Their environmental value has been well recognised by scientists and the Victorian Government (who has taken the necessary steps to protect its own forests). It is also important to take note that large areas have been named as internationally significant by the Ramsar Convention .

The River Red gums of NSW are “vulnerable vegetation”. **Seventy five percent** are under water stress, are dying or are dead. Nationally recognised criteria require that **sixty percent** of remaining vegetation in vulnerable vegetation communities be protected. The most sensible way of doing this is to establish new National Parks across the remaining Red River Gum State Forest Estate.

I urge you to make new National Parks a central platform of your assessment. Economic modelling and the Victorian experience have shown that this will be the best possible outcome for the regional economy. Current timber industry employment will only ever be short term as it is using up a limited resource. Preserving the forests will provide employment in the tourist and educational sectors for generations to come.

Please see wilderness.org.au/rrr for more information,

Yours sincerely,

Sally Millington