

Forest Assessment  
Natural Resources Commission  
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NSW 2001

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**Submission to support the protection of River red gum forests by creating new national parks.**

I am a French student studying political sciences and am visiting Australia for a period of one year. Although I travelled a lot across Europe, I truly think I have never seen as much natural beauty and diversity as in this country. Not all countries in the world benefit from such natural worth as yours.

I became personally passionate by River Red Gum Forests while discovering NSW's south western region, as such forests and many of the species they shelter are unique in the world.

River Red Gum forests are extremely important not just in terms of natural values but also in regards to tourism potential. However, something like only 8% of these natural river red gum forests remain in NSW. In fact the surviving river red gum forests in NSW are just the remnants of the original beautiful forests. What is more even those remaining forests are being threatened by water stress. The major threat, however, is from continued, unsustainable logging.

The destruction of these unique wetlands forests is not even delivering a good economic outcome. More than 95% of Red Gum that is logged is used only for extremely low value products such as firewood, fence posts and railway sleepers. I think creating new national parks is in the only way to really preserve these forests from this uncontrolled logging.

Moreover, as the experience in other countries has proved, creating new National Park invariably helps to stimulate the local economy and provides new jobs.

What I consider as very important, economically speaking again, is that contrary to tourism, destructive logging has no future. Each year, NSW's remnant forests are nibbled away. If rampant native forest logging goes on like this, what will happen to forestry industry when this resource has been expended ?

For all those reasons, I deeply hope that you will make the right choice, creating new national parks to preserve the beauty of the south western region of this wonderful state, and its future.

Yours faithfully,

Sophian Aubin.