

SUBMISSION REGARDING RIVER RED GUM ASSESSMENT

Forests Assessment
National Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Natural Resources Commissioner,

The health of the Murray River is of critical importance, not only to NSW but to all Australians. Red Gums play an important role in the health of the Murray, assisting in the reduction of salinity as well as facilitating biodiversity as important habitats. The 172,000 hectares of River Red Gum forest contain 69 different endangered species and 84,000 hectares of internationally significant wetlands recognized under the Ramsar convention.

Nationally recognized criteria require 60% of remaining vegetation in vulnerable vegetation communities to be protected. Murray River Red Gums in these forests have been described as mostly stressed, dying or dead. They can certainly be described as vulnerable. Thus the logging of these forests for low value products such as railway sleepers and firewood cannot be justified.

Victoria has already taken the lead on the creation of national parks and economic modelling has shown that this outcome could create more jobs than currently supported by the timber industry. I call upon the Commission to make the creation of new national parks a priority, as well as recommending reductions in logging and an end to grazing in wetlands in the Murray River area.

Yours faithfully,



Sue Adams