

To: Felicity Calvert
Subject: Terms of reference

Dear Natural Resources Commission,

It's great you are reviewing Red Gum Forests in NSW - these iconic forests are dying and need protection. I agree the terms of reference should address the points suggested by the Victorian National Parks Association:

1. The environmental crisis facing River Red Gums is severe - it is already well past the eleventh hour. I believe that a decision needs to be implemented and new National Parks created before the end of the year.
2. I believe it is crucial that the precautionary principle is applied in full - given the paucity of detailed environmental surveys in the region. It is important that proper precaution is applied on the side of environmental protection.
3. I support the inclusion in the terms of reference of water management and the impacts of climate change on future water availability.
4. I believe that the identification of large new National Parks should be specified in the terms of reference as a key outcome from the assessment.
5. I support the inclusion of EPBC matters in the assessment but believe that interim protections should be imposed to protect Ramsar wetlands from illegal patch-clearfelling while the assessment takes place.
6. I believe 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.
7. 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
Warwick Sprawson