

Bullatale Creek Trust
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28th August 2009

Mr John Williams
Forests' Assessment
Natural Resource Commission
GPO Box 4206
SYDNEY NSW 2001

RE: Terms of Reference – Assessment of Riverina Red Gum Forests

Dear Sir

The Bullatale Creek Trust is located in the Southern Riverina Region of NSW and operates a water supply system servicing both irrigation and stock and domestic supplies to farmers in the Bullatale Creek region.

The Trust has operated for approximately one hundred years and wishes to ensure that its water supply systems and associated infrastructure, are recognised by the Natural Resource Commission as part of its assessment of Riverina Red Gum Forests.

The New South Wales Government terms of reference for assessment of Riverina Red Gum Forests identify a range of issues to be included in the assessment. The terms of reference also identify that the commission should consult with a range of bodies, including Government Agencies, Local Aboriginal Lands Councils, Local Government and a range of specifically identified interests.

It is important however, that the terms of reference are expanded to ensure appropriate input from those who have legal or other associated rights associated with the area of proposed assessment. A private Infrastructure Operator has specific interests and obligations in terms of any proposed changes.

Recommendation:

That the Terms of Reference include recognition of Private Infrastructure Operator's interests and that these are factored into deliberations.

Recommendation:

The Terms of Reference include that the Bullatale Creek Trust be recognised as a key party to inform the design and conduct of the assessment.

The Bullatale Trust welcomes the opportunity to discuss the issues further with the NRC in order to ensure that the comprehensive assessment, adequately covers the range of interests.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Burge
Chairman
Bullatale Creek Trust