

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
GENERAL MANAGER,
P.O. BOX 56,
DENILIQUIN, N.S.W. 2710



8th September 2009

COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
122 END STREET,
DENILIQUIN, N.S.W. 2710

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Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
Sydney NSW 2001



Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Assessment of Red Gum Forests in the Riverina

Conargo Shire Council is a large rural council situated in the Riverina area of NSW. The council has an area exceeding 8,500 sq km.

The council area has significant areas of red gum forests which are critical to the social and economic security for the residents of the area.

This council is fully opposed to the State Forests being converted to National Parks for the following reasons:-

- a) A number of people are employed in the red gum industry and this employment is vital to our area.
- b) Feral animals would not be controlled which would be a detriment to our farming community.
- c) The spread of noxious weeds would be a disadvantage to our farming community.
- d) A number of people are reliant on these forest areas for fire wood, which is the most economical form of heating for a number of residents.
- e) The State Forests are presently well maintained by the Forest Commission of NSW.
- f) A number of communities in the area are reliant on the red gum forest industry and this would be a disadvantage to them.
- g) Presently the State Forests are well managed by Forests NSW for the reduction in hazards for bushfire control which reduces fire risks for our farming communities.
- h) There are a number of tourists utilising our forest areas now which contributes significantly to our tourism industry and changes to these forest areas could severely disadvantage this industry.

It would be appreciated if you could take the above into consideration and also consider the NSW State Plan when considering if these forests should be converted to National Park.

Please contact Barry Barlow if further information is required.

Yours faithfully

Barry W Barlow
General Manager