

**Transcribed initial submission from Kevin Atkinson on the River Red Gum Assessment
Monday 24 August**

Kevin was born and has lived in the region for over 75 years. He is a traditional owner from Cummergunja which covers the area east of the Cobb Highway and follows the river through to Corowa. Over this time Kevin has witnessed the landscape change and remembers it as plains and open woodlands.

Kevin believes forestry is important for the health of the forests and that timber cutting doesn't affect the main contributing factor to the decline in forest health, which is the emptying of the lakes.

Kevin notes that a good relationship has been maintained with Forests NSW, who have conducted a lot of cultural mapping and are aware of the location of important sites. Kevin feels Forests NSW have employed a balanced approach in managing the forests and happy with the way it has been managed. As he has never had relations with National Parks he does not know what to expect with regards to the possibility of a change in land tenure.