

**J. & G. COULTER PTY LTD
368 RIVER RD
Gonn Crossing
KERANG**



**VIC 3579
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Natural Resources Commissioner

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you concerning the inquiry you are currently undertaking into the Riverina Red Gum forests.

Our company, J & G Coulter Pty. Ltd., has been employed in the red gum timber industry for over 20 years. We employ 3 people full time and sub-contract work out as the need arises. We are contracted to haul the timber for Arbuthnot Sawmill, which even though it is based in Victoria gets a large percentage of its timber from the N.S.W. red gum forests. They have a quota of approximately 4500M3 of A grade saw logs and also a D grade quota. We are contracted to haul this entire quota and the income from this contract accounts for more than half our annual income.

If our timber quota were to be reduced in any way then that would have a detrimental affect on our income and a flow on effect to businesses in the town of Barham. We use many businesses in Barham for our fuel, tyres, truck repairs, auto electrical work etc. With the current drought already severely affecting the businesses in Barham they do not need another source of income reduced.

We believe that the red gum forests in our area are well managed in a sustainable way. In the 20 years of our involvement with the N.S.W. red gum forests we have rarely been into the same area twice. We realise that the prolonged drought is putting these trees under stress and only substantial rains will relieve this problem, but there is still lots of new young trees growing. We believe that the policy concerning the thinning of the forest is beneficial to the overall health of the red gums. It allows the stronger healthier trees to mature into useable timber.

We hope you make an informed decision based on facts that will allow our family company to continue doing the work that we know in an industry we love.

Yours sincerely

Jeanette Coulter