



22nd August 2009

Forests Assessment
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
Sydney NSW 2001

**Assessments of Red Gum Forests
in the Riverina and Cypress Forests in South-Western NSW**

I wish for my following submission to be considered By the Natural Resource Commission to be included into the Terms of References for Assessment of south-western cypress forests and for Assessments of River Red Gum Forests in the Riverina in South West NSW.

Section 1 (a) of the Terms of reference states that for the purposes of section 15 of the Forestry and National Park Estate Act 1998 including an assessment of the following: environment and heritage values (**including indigenous heritage**), economic and social values, ecologically sustainable forest management, and timber resources;

Indigenous Cultural heritage

It is recommended that a separate section be allocated for Indigenous Cultural Heritage, which would include Ancient and contemporary cultural values and socio and economic involvement , with the aim of enabling a comprehensive consultation with the relevant Traditional Land Culture & Water's Owners for the purpose of reaching arrangements and agreements that result in opportunities that ensure Indigenous involvement in Forest management and partnership and commitment towards maintaining our traditional and cultural values. Consultation and advice from Traditional Owners pertaining to our maintaining and enhancing our cultural , social, economical, and spiritual connection to the Red Gum Forests and Cypress Forests are one of our priority aspirations .

'gagada wiringil gunda gadini ninmeru mirmbul delgi dagada'

Any significant planning regarding usage of natural resources require specific Aboriginal Culture heritage management Plans, especially activities or agreements that could potentially impact on Traditional land owners ability to maintain culture and sustain customs and traditional practices.

The following Documents should be taken into serious consideration:

- (Commonwealth) Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous people

Kind Regards



Brendan Kennedy

WIRINGIL

Traditional & Contemporary Land, Culture & Water's Owner

Tati Tati, Mutti Mutti, Weki Weki, Yita Yita, Wati Wati, Nari Nari