

**Submission
No 139**

**INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN
NEW SOUTH WALES**

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The NRC released a report on the Red Gum Forests of the Riverina. The report was full of guesswork and lies. The communities of the Red Gum areas were devastated because of the NRC's incompetence at yield assessments, hiding valuable information such as the Chris Bracks report and their total commitment to worse case climate change scenario guesswork.

The NRC and its commissioner have no credibility on this issue and in my opinion reached their conclusions by stealth.

At no time do I consider locking up Red Gums as good for the environment, however suppose for the sake of obtaining a triple bottom line, we accept that it is and consider the following -

Between the now locked up Millewa Group of Forests and the working forests of the Perricoota Group, there is approximately 140,000 hectares. This 140,000 hectares is supposed to achieve a triple bottom line of equal proportion for Environmental, Social and Economic outcomes.

How in good conscious could a government lock up 100,000 hectares into a nothing National Park and leave only 40,000 hectares of working forest and expect this to deliver the desired triple bottom line outcome? It is simply an unfair division of the assets.

As an adjoining landholder, I am petrified of the increased fire risk a tenure of National Park brings. There is a huge fuel load in the National Park as I write this, occurring because of good general rainfall and the third flood event since the change of tenure of the forests. I accept that a name change doesn't alter weather patterns, however these floods have highlighted the incompetence of the NRC. I was at a meeting in Barham when the chair of the NRC, Peter Kanowski, said he doubted greatly whether these forests would ever flood naturally again!

Further to the fire issue, as a landholder it was comforting to know the forestry machines used for harvesting were close by (when the forest was managed by Forests NSW) as these machines and the men who operated them had the dual purpose of fire fighting equipment as well.

As a member of the Red Gum communities, I feel the decision to convert 100,000 hectares of the Millewa group of forests was flawed. It was instigated by a deceitful commission empowering an incompetent government and as such, I welcome this inquiry.