



The Goulburn Valley Environment Group Inc.

Po Box 2073 Shepparton Vic 3632 Ph 03 58 269557; e-mail gveg@shepparton.net.au

14th November 2017

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP

Premier

RE: Commercial logging of the Murray Valley National Park

Dear Premier,

The Goulburn Valley Environment Group (GVEG) is one of the peak environmental organisations in northern Victoria and has been actively involved protecting and enhancing our natural environment, flora and fauna for over 25 years in what is one of the most highly cleared regions in Australia. It is from this context and our close engagement both in the River Red Gum National Parks and the development of the Murray Darling Basin Plan that we express our concerns of your Governments renewal of timber industry activities and consideration of tenure swaps in the Murray Valley National Park.

River Red Gum National Parks both in NSW and Victoria are critical, both to the protection of these forests and for the protection of nationally and internationally recognised wetlands with-in these forests.

GVEG does not support logging in National Parks, an identical position to that taken in 2012 by the NSW Government in rejecting recommendations from the Public Lands Inquiry. Rejecting the recommendation, the Government reaffirmed support for National Parks with the statement that "the NSW Government does not support logging in national parks and has no plans to allow it through the implementation of tenure swaps or by other means".

The timber industry and those affected by the formation of these National Parks were the recipients of generous compensation at the time (approx. \$100m), any reversal of policy would be doubling dipping and an expensive back-flip.

National Parks must continue to be managed for conservation and public recreation, not private commercial interests.

GVEG strongly supports River Red Gum National Parks, wetlands with-in and the delivery of environmental flows made possible by the Basin Plan that underpin the health of these important public assets.

We ask your Government to reaffirm its support for the Murray Valley National Park.

Yours sincerely,

John Pettigrew, GVEG President