



I N L A N D
R I V E R S
N E T W O R K

Level 2, 5 Wilson St, Newtown NSW 2042

PO Box 1132, Newtown NSW 2042

ph 02 8580 6609 fax 02 9290 2525 email admin@irnsw.org.au web www.irnsw.org.au

ABN 34 373 750 383

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 22 March 2010

AUSTRALIA RISKS INTERNATIONAL SHAME

Australia risks international shame in this international Year of Biodiversity if it fails to protect the iconic Red Gum wetlands along the Murray River.

A timely report released today - *Water, Wetlands and Forests: a Review of Ecological, Economic and Policy Linkages* – highlights inland waters as the most threatened ecosystem type of all.

The report has just been released to coincide with World Water Day by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The report stresses that ecosystems need to be managed in their entirety – which means that Murray Red Gums should be protected to improve the health of the whole river system.

The economic benefits of wetlands in contributing to healthy rivers and clean water are highlighted.

Today, on World Water Day, IRN has drawn attention to the plight of the Red Gum wetlands, joining with a number of environment groups to call on the Prime Minister and Senator Wong to act to prevent NSW Murray wetland destruction.

For a full copy of the joint media release, see www.npansw.org.au

Anne Reeves

Hon. President

Inland Rivers Network Inc.

0407 210 608

INLAND RIVERS NETWORK

Working for river and wetland health since 1991