



# Victorian Environmental Assessment Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

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Friday, October 6, 2006

### Write it down, send it in

The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) today released its River Red Gum Forests Investigation Discussion Paper, signalling the beginning of a 60-day submission period during which the public are invited to have their say on the future of public land in the area.

The Discussion Paper contains information about the Investigation including existing public land uses within the area and the values, uses and resources of the study area. It also contains a summary of issues that have been raised by the community during earlier stages of consultation.

“This document has information for everyone be they water users, local residents, campers or tourists.

“The Paper lists many uses and values associated with this land – making it an excellent resource for both the present and future,” VEAC chairman Duncan Malcolm said.

Mr Malcolm also said that it is important for the public to be aware that this is their chance to contribute to the Investigation, and that the Discussion Paper should provide them with more information and detail on the relationship between different issues and values.

“We really want to know how people use and value this land, and why it is important for them.

“These views are important as they are taken into account during the formulation of the Draft Proposals.”

The next stage of the Investigation is the formulation of Draft Proposals, due to be released in mid-2007.

“People will have ample chance to respond to the Draft Proposals during another 60-day submission period prior to the Final Report being presented to the Minister on 1 February 2008,” Mr Malcolm said.

The Investigation covers some 263,000 ha of public land along Victoria’s northern border, following the major tributaries of the Murray, and includes the significant River Red Gum forests at Barmah, Gunbower and Lindsay-Wallpolla Islands.

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Information about the Investigation, including downloadable versions of the Discussion Paper, brochure and Terms of Reference is available online at [www.veac.vic.gov.au](http://www.veac.vic.gov.au).

Copies of the Discussion Paper can be viewed at regional DSE offices, public libraries and shire offices in the study area. The Paper is also available to purchase for \$10 inc. GST from Information Victoria ([www.bookshop.vic.gov.au](http://www.bookshop.vic.gov.au), 1800 366 356) or the Planning Information Centre, Ground Floor, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne.

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