

TCA'S TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE ANALYSIS of the VEAC – RIVER REDGUM INVESTIGATION

The following tables attempt a “triple bottom line” analysis of the Barmah Forest and Gunbower Forest (part) National Park proposal. They use the traditional assessments of economic, environmental and social and for a range of activities, initial comments are offered on activities possible under current management arrangements (through Dept of Sustainability and Environment [DSE] and Parks Victoria [PV] as a MDBC “Icon site”) and the likely impact on these activities should the Forest become a National Park.

Economic	Activity	Current Management	National Park Management
Wood based industries	Furniture Structural timbers Sleepers Firewood Other products	Continue under sustainable (regulated) provisions but would be enhanced with engineering works to significantly improve flooding necessary to restore biodiversity & inherent RRG vitality..	Disappears Disappears Disappears Disappears Disappears
Tourism and Recreation	Camping Horse riding Motorbike and 4WD driving Fishing	Continues and enhanced by wider experience. Some regulation necessary.	Restricted in space and time following application of PV conditions. No nett increase.
Domestic stock	Grazing	Continues under regulated provisions	Disappears
Apiary	Honey & pollination	Continues	May continue under tighter conditions.
Agriculture	Dryland & irrigated agriculture on private land	Continues under current provisions for water availability. Synergies with multiple-use management.	Significantly reduced water availability for irrigated agriculture.
Hunting	Nesting boxes Wetland restoration	Continues under current management regimes	Disappears
Job opportunities	Diversified employment	Continues and enhanced with more active management	Much reduced opportunity

Environment		Current Management	National Park Management
Greenhouse gas reduction	Carbon sequestration	Enhanced	Declines as the forest matures.
Secure reservation	Acts of Parliament	Continues	continues
Floodplain flooding	Water management	Available but requires more active management	Limited to overbank flows & non-interventionist management
Landscape	Active management	Code of Forest Practices	Passive management
Water	Active management	Continues but significant improved for Barmah Choke by-pass & effective and efficient winter/spring flooding enhanced.	Hugely inefficient use of scarce water resources.
Fire	Prevention & suppression	Codes of Forest & Fire Management requires upgrading	Passive management

Social		Current Management	National Park Management
Employment and business	Timber Industry Tourism Operators Cattle Graziers Apiarists Recreational Businesses	Continues and enhanced with more active management Continues and enhanced with more active management	Reduces to match PV conditions
Recreation & Tourism	Fishing Hunting Horse riding Motorsports & Boating Camping	Continues and enhanced with more active management Continues and enhanced with more active management	Reduces to match PV conditions
Aboriginal heritage and employment	Participation	Continues and enhanced with diversified opportunities	Limited to park objectives and reduced activities
European heritage	Participation	Continues and needs attention	Continues. Authenticity of heritage values compromised by lack of RRG timber for major maintenance & restoration works.
Community involvement	Through BMF look-alike Local Councils Local businesses Aboriginal participation	Now greatly reduced role Continues Continues Continues with increased opportunities	Disappears Disappears Disappears Continues with limited opportunities

Conclusion

The Forest has met society's multi-purpose objectives for over 150 years. It would be a great pity if these significant achievements were sacrificed for a limited national park objective.