



VAFI

VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOREST INDUSTRIES

Sunday, 5th October 2008

RED GUM REBELLION MARCHES ON ECHUCA FOR FAIR GO

Thousands of River Red Gum community members have voiced their opposition to the VEAC proposals in a protest march through Echuca on Sunday.

Local residents of the River Red Gum region sent a clear message to government that the VEAC proposals did not have the support of the local community and would deliver disastrous environmental, social and economic outcomes for the area.

Speaking at the protest on behalf of the Victorian Red Gum timber industry, the VAFI CEO, Philip Dalidakis, said Sunday's march was a true indication of local communities' opposition to VEAC's ill-conceived proposals.

"This protest is a direct message to the Victorian Government that VEAC's recommendations do not have the support of the River Red Gum communities," Mr Dalidakis said.

"People's livelihoods, entire communities and long standing industries will be destroyed by these ludicrously short sighted recommendations; and even more farcical is their economic modelling which appears to be sourced from fortune tellers given that the quoted value of the forests are based on people's vibe."

"VEAC's recommendations may appear practical from the far off café's they were dreamt up in, but up along the Murray where it counts they are providing no real environmental or economic benefit."

"The science is telling us the same thing that generations of residents are saying, the River Red Gum forests need to be actively managed as a multiple use forest; not locked up and left as a national park." Mr Dalidakis said.

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