



July 29th 2008

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ENVIRONMENT ALLIANCE TO LAUNCH PLAN AT PARLIAMENT

The Rivers and Red Gum Environment Alliance, a community group representing 107,000 people, will launch a comprehensive report on future land management in the red gum forests of the Murray River on Thursday.

The report was developed as a result of community concerns about the integrity of the River Red Gum Forests Investigation undertaken by the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC), who released their long awaited report last week.

The Alliance believes that the adoption of the VEAC recommendations will have serious implications for the future management of the river red gum forests and communities in northern Victoria.

The plan will be presented to government and launched by Dr Jennifer Marohasy, a director of the Australian Environment Foundation at Parliament House on Thursday 31st July 2008.

Dr Marohasy said "The Conservation and Community Plan is very well researched. It provides a credible alternative for government particularly as it has a strong focus on biodiversity conservation and community well being.

"A key recommendation is for the establishment of Ramsar reserves along the Murray River. This will provide for sustainable multiple use and biodiversity protection under the 'wise use' principles of the internationally accepted Ramsar Convention."

The recommendation by the Alliance, if adopted by government, would create the largest Ramsar reserve in the world.

- ENDS -

Media Contact: Max Rheese 0428 621 320 info@rrgea.org

The Rivers & Red Gum Environment Alliance is a not-for-profit community and user group based environment organisation having no political affiliation. The Alliance objective is to provide the Victorian government with an alternative solution to the Victorian Environment Assessment Council recommendations for the River Red Gum forests. A viable solution to the land and water management challenges facing the red gum forests along the Murray River and its major tributaries is paramount for the environment as well as the communities along the rivers. For more information about the Alliance, visit www.rrgea.org