

Deniliquin
Pastoral Times



Tourists no replacement

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Deniliquin Pastoral Times

Sir,

When Bob Carr created his first national park in the Coolah Tops he told the people of Coolah not to worry.

Income from their tired old timber industry would be easily replaced by 30,000 tourists a year.

Fourteen years later Coolah is still waiting.

Several years ago when the same good times prophet bought Yanga station he told the folk of Balranald they would soon see 1000 tourists a week, flocking to admire the red gums and the frogs.

Yanga is a non event.

Recently the NSW Natural Resources Commission told us all the same thing.

Eco-tourism will create new income from the forests which are to be saved by locking them up in a national park.

A new study has now shown that to replace the income currently generated by the red gum timber industry, a minimum of 330,000 tourists a year to the region will be required.

No wonder Coolah, which probably has yet to see 3000 tourists in a year, is struggling.

No wonder Balranald is already feeling the pinch.

On Wednesday the NRC people who advised Nathan Rees to make the Millewa group of forests a national park will be at the Deniliquin RSL Club from 12 noon to explain why they think tourism can replace the timber industry.

I urge EVERYONE in Deniliquin to attend this public meeting and insist that the commissioners tell us how and where they are going to find 330,000 tourists a year to replace the income they have effectively stripped from our region.

Your attendance is vital. This process is out of control and this is our last chance to stop it!

Yours etc,

David Joss

Mathoura



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