



Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP

MEMBER FOR COOGEE

The Hon. Penny Sharpe, MLC
Minister for Climate Change
Minister for Energy
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage

15 May 2026

Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

To the Hon. Penny Sharpe, MLC

Request to not extend the Wood Supply Agreements for native forests

I am writing to formally request that the New South Wales Government not extend any Wood Supply Agreements for native forests and instead transition toward the use of plantations and other sustainable forestry strategies and technologies.

I am proud to be part of a government that has announced the Great Koala National Park, which has reserved 476,000 hectares of forest. We have also declared a temporary moratorium on timber harvesting while key elements of the park are being finalised. As a result, all native forestry operations in these locations have ceased, and the moratorium will protect more than 12,000 koalas, 36,000 southern greater gliders, and habitat for over 100 other threatened species.

I urge the Government to take the Great Koala National Park foresting memorandum as an opportunity to discontinue all other native forest logging operations and pursue sustainable forestry through plantations and other innovative timber solutions.

Native forest logging is no longer the most effective or sustainable model for meeting the State's future timber and environmental needs. They provide critical habitat, water catchment protection, tourism value, and long-term carbon storage, all of which are essential as we respond to climate change and biodiversity challenges.

In light of NSW's climate and carbon objectives, plantations present a stronger opportunity for long-term carbon and environmental outcomes through the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) scheme. Unlike native forests, plantations have clearly defined growth cycles and regeneration practices, making carbon sequestration more predictable and verifiable for ACCU projects.

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As you know, the native forestry industry is facing ongoing financial and operational challenges, raising serious concerns about its long-term viability. Forestry Corporation's native hardwood division has incurred significant losses in recent years, with public reporting indicating losses exceeding \$70 million since 2020.

Unfortunately, we continue to see allegations of unlawful logging activity and the impacts on threatened species habitat and environmentally sensitive areas. In 2025, 29 charges were filed by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales over alleged breaches in Tallaganda State Forest, west of Batemans Bay. More recently, the Forestry Corporation was sentenced in relation to the illegal logging of nine trees in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest. These incidents are deeply concerning for many in the community and highlight the importance of transitioning toward a forestry model that better protects our native ecosystems for future generations.

Communities across NSW, including environmental organisations, scientists, tourism operators, and many local residents, have expressed strong support for transitioning away from native forest logging and toward plantation-based forestry models. In my own electorate, we have had over 1,500 community members contact my office to advocate and raise their concerns.

I encourage the Government to not extend the Wood Supply Agreements for native forests and to invest in a modern forestry strategy that protects biodiversity, supports regional communities, and strengthens NSW's climate and carbon objectives.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and work collaboratively on solutions that put sustainability, economy, job security and long-term environmental outcomes at the forefront of our approach.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP

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