



Ms Robyn Parker MP
Minister for the Environment
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URGENT NEED FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION TO STOP TANJA FOREST LOGGING

Dear Minister Parker,

Federal Environment Minister, Tony Burke has allocated \$10 million to help save the koala in NSW, but your government currently is allowing Forests NSW to make its final preparations to log the habitat of a small, newly discovered population of koalas in Tanja Forest, possibly the last of the once abundant but now virtually extinct Bega Valley sub-species of koalas.

Approximately 90% of the trees logged in Tanja Forest will end up as woodchips at the Eden Chip Mill which already has a huge stockpile of logs and woodchips. The international market for these woodchips has crashed and the Eden Chip Mill was forced to close and lay off workers for several weeks in July and August due to lack of orders. Last year the Eden Chip Mill's report to ASIC indicated it made an \$800,000 loss, and my estimates show, due to the collapse of international hardwood chip prices, they could make a loss of up to \$5 million this financial year and future years. Hence, SEFE is likely to soon go out of business. In their last year or two of operations, they must not be allowed to destroy important koala habitat.

If well managed, tourism associated with the local forests and koala population could provide the replacement jobs in the region once native forest logging ceases, helping ensure its economic future. The NSW Government needs to be proactive and find a forward looking, win-win solution for the region, its environment and its workforce.

Last year, a question on notice revealed that NSW taxpayers were forced to cover losses of \$780,000 Forests NSW incurred in logging our Southern Region Forests, which includes Tanja Forest. Why, is the O'Farrell government allowing this destructive waste to continue? The plantation forestry sector is growing rapidly in NSW, including near Eden at Bombala in the Southern Forestry region; its revenue and jobs creation far outweigh those of the small and shrinking native forest sector.



Please work towards a long term future for the region, which involves ceasing native forest wood logging in New South Wales and permanently protecting this koala population's habitat, giving it a chance at long term survival.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Frances Perkins

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