



The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP  
Premier of NSW  
Member for Willoughby  
280 Willoughby Road  
Naremburn NSW 2065

18 June 2018

Dear Premier,

**Cessation of Logging in Native Forests**

I am writing to you as my local Member, and in my capacity as President of the Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA) Inc, on the issue of the proposed renewal of the Regional Forest Agreements (RFA) that permit logging of our public native forests.

WEPA co-hosted a well-attended public meeting in Castlecrag on 15 May 2018 in association with the National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC). The main object of the meeting was to discuss the extent to which the NSW RFAs over the last few decades have failed to protect threatened species, including the Koala, and continue to threaten the future of public native forests up and down the east coast of NSW. This failure of the RFAs has been carefully and clearly documented by the NPA in their report, *Regional Forest Agreements in NSW: Have they achieved their aims*, 2016.

WEPA finds it difficult to understand why, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are still destroying our public native forests when they are clearly the type of unique location which draws people from all over Australia and from overseas eager to be inspired by their beauty.

We are aware that native logging is only 0.03% of all primary industry employment and that the plantation industry is now the leader in logging and wood supply. It is time for the relatively small number of jobs directly reliant on native forest logging to be transitioned to new employment in the tourism and outdoor recreation industries. We, along with many others in the community want our native forests to be protected for wildlife conservation, clean water and carbon storage.

# Willoughby Environmental Protection Association

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Those attending the WEPA meeting resolved unanimously that we ask you as our local member and Premier to:

- recognise that the Regional Forest Agreements have failed to deliver environmental protection or industry security;
- recognise that the benefits of non-timber forest values are vital for the future of regional economies and ecosystems;
- establish the Great Koala National Park as an immediate priority and;
- commit to a just transition out of native forest logging on public land and the transfer of public forests to protected areas when the RFAs expire.

Action along these lines would leave a visionary natural legacy which will undoubtedly be welcomed by the community today and celebrated by generations to come.

Please feel free to contact me if you require further information on this issue.

Yours sincerely

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