



Paul Toole
Minister for Lands and Forestry
Minister for Racing

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 21 November 2017

NEGOTIATIONS COMMENCE ON FORESTRY FUTURE

Formal negotiations have commenced with the Commonwealth Government to extend Regional Forest Agreements, Minister for Lands and Forestry Paul Toole said today.

“Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) are long-term, 20-year plans that support the sustainable management of native forests,” Mr Toole said.

“RFAs underpin the sustainable management of native forests and set out how we manage issues such as certainty of supply for industry, ecologically sustainable forest management and other compliance and development activities.

“Existing RFAs were developed almost 20 years ago. This is a rare opportunity to update the agreements, ensuring they meet the needs of industry, the community and the environment for decades to come.”

Consultation with industry, environment groups and the wider community will begin soon. The Government wants to hear views on what the new RFAs should say, considering what has changed over 20 years and future issues.

“The NSW Government is committed to working with all interested parties to get the balance right,” Mr Toole said.

The NSW Government will soon release draft principles for negotiating the final RFAs. A review of the existing RFAs will also be undertaken.

“This will provide a full appraisal of the current RFAs and drive optimal implementation of new agreements,” Mr Toole said.

Extension of RFAs was a key commitment in the NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap, which commits to a sustainable and reliable timber supply with the maintenance of environmental values.

There are three RFAs in NSW: Eden, which will expire on 26 August 2019; North East, expiring on 31 March 2020; and Southern, expiring on 24 April 2021.

MEDIA: Lucy Brennan 0427 083 646