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23 February, 2018



FRIENDS OF  
KU-RING-GAI  
ENVIRONMENT INC.

### **FOKE Submission: NO MORE Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs)**

Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment (FOKE) has for over 20 years defended and promoted the natural heritage of the Ku-ring-gai, famed for its original and remnant Blue Gum High Forest and Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest.

We call on the Commonwealth and NSW Government not to renew the Regional Forests Agreements. These 20 year agreements have legitimised exploitative industrial logging of our public native forests that have been extremely environmentally destructive.

Forests play a critical role in ensuring a safe climate. They are more important than ever with the onset of the climate change emergency. Forests sequester and store atmospheric carbon and promote rainfall.

Forests play a critical role in protecting endangered wildlife.

It is deeply disappointing that both the NSW Liberal and National Parties have indicated that they support the logging of native forests to burn for both the Australian and international wood biomass 'renewable' energy trade.

RFAs cost taxpayers billions of dollars in subsidies. FOKE understands that from 2009-2015, just in NSW, these subsidies cost the taxpayers \$79 million.

FOKE calls on the NSW and Commonwealth Governments not to renew these environmentally disastrous Regional Forest Agreements.

Yours sincerely

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