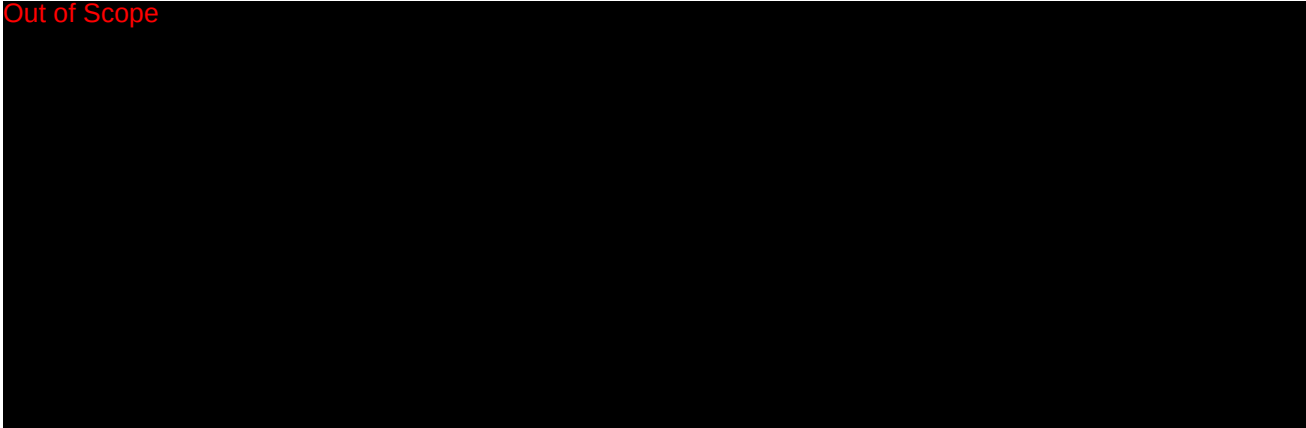


Out of Scope



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 5 February 2026 2:15 PM

Subject: Logging Contract Renewals - Dire Legal and Economic Risks

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [wilderness.org.au](https://wilderness.org.au). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi,

Please take a moment to browse our new report [Public Loss, Private Gain](#), which documents decades of misuse of public funds supporting the Tasmanian native forest logging industry and its non-viability from an economic perspective.

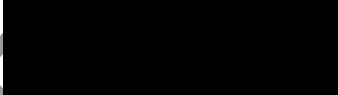
The report follows the passing of new Federal environment laws in December. While the full implications of the new legislation remain uncertain (and may not be clear for some time), Minister Ellis and Forestry Tasmania appear to be pushing to lock in new long-term contracts with sawmills, which are set to expire in 2027. It is likely that projected supply will be significantly affected by the new laws.

**Contacts cannot, indeed must not, be signed before the new National Environment Standards (NES) are finalised and their repercussions fully understood.**

To sign the contracts before then would be, at absolute best, tantamount to negligence. At worst, it suggests something far more sinister.

The Wilderness Society Tasmania is currently exploring legal options to ensure that the Tasmanian people are not subject to enormous payouts, and that the Tasmanian Government is meeting legal obligations.

Sincerely,



The Wilderness Society Tasmania

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management  
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources  
Minister for Skills and Jobs

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place, Parliament Square Building, Hobart TAS 7000  
GPO Box 123, Hobart TAS 7001 Australia  
Phone: +61 3 6165 7770 | Email: [Minister.Ellis@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Ellis@dpac.tas.gov.au)



[REDACTED]  
The Wilderness Society Tasmania  
Email: [REDACTED] [wilderness.org.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@wilderness.org.au)

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 5 February 2026 regarding Tasmania's forest sector and providing a copy of the Wilderness Society report *Public Loss, Private Gain*. I acknowledge the Wilderness Society's views on the Tasmanian native forest sector and the potential implications of recent national environmental law reforms, including those relating to the Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) contracting process. I am pleased to provide a response in my capacity as the Minister for Business, Industry and Resources.

As you have noted, the Australian Government has introduced changes to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, including development of new National Environmental Standards. These reforms remove the Regional Forest Agreement (or RFA) exemption from 1 July 2027, meaning Tasmania's Forest Management System must be accredited under a new authorisation mechanism.

The full impact of these reforms cannot be assessed until the Australian Government finalises the standards, guidance and transitional arrangements. However, the relevant Tasmanian Government agencies are assessing the potential impacts of the Australian Government's reforms on forest operations and related policies, as information becomes available.

With respect to STT's contractual processes, I note your concerns regarding the timing of commercial decisions in the context of the national reforms. STT is a government business operating under a well-established commercial and regulatory framework, and any contracting activity must comply with Tasmania's legislative and governance requirements. As the national environmental standards are finalised, Tasmanian Government agencies will continue to monitor their implications and ensure that any commercial arrangements entered into by STT are consistent with the state's legal obligations and long-term interests. The Government will continue to manage these matters carefully and responsibly, with appropriate regard to due process, commercial prudence and the emerging national framework.

Businesses need clear forward visibility of post-2027 operating conditions to support investment, workforce planning and commercial decision-making. We are confident that Tasmania's forest practices system already delivers outcomes consistent with the intent of the emerging National Environmental Standards. Our priority is to secure a clear, practical

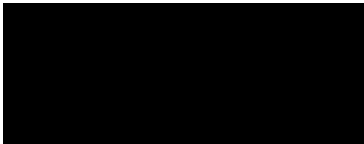
pathway well before the 1 July 2027 deadline, so that workers and communities that rely on our job-rich sustainable forestry sector to put food on the table have the certainty they require.

Common fairness would indicate that if decisions of the Australian Government impact on the ability of Tasmanian forestry businesses to continue to operate and produce the wood and wood fibre our nation needs, then the Australian Government should be prepared to pay appropriate compensation. It is telling that the Wilderness Society would seemingly prefer for everyday Tasmanians to be liable.

I can assure you that the Tasmanian Government remains committed to a strong and sustainable forest industry and will ensure the sector can continue to operate with confidence under the new national arrangements.

Thank you for your interest in this important matter and I trust that this information is to your assistance.

Yours faithfully



Hon Felix Ellis MP  
**Minister for Business, Industry and Resources**

17/3/2026

Long-Term Logging Contracts

**Ms BURNET question to MINISTER for BUSINESS, INDUSTRY and RESOURCES**

My question is from Kurt. Why on earth is the government seeking to renew long-term logging contracts prior to the new National Environment Standards?

Released under RTI

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management  
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources  
Minister for Jobs and Skills

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Ms Helen Burnet MP  
Member for Clark  
C/o email: **Out of Scope** [parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Ms Burnet

Thank you for your constituent question asked on 3 March 2026 in Parliament, regarding Sustainable Timber Tasmania's (STT) engagement with industry towards establishing new contracts for native log supply, as most of the current agreements are set to expire in 2027.

STT has advised that negotiations on contracts are ongoing.

In late 2025, the Federal government made changes to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act*.

STT will take the EPBC changes into account but intends to continue negotiating supply agreements with customers to ensure they have long term certainty.

The Tasmanian Government continues to closely engage with the Australian Government regarding its EPBC reforms and to ensure that our sustainable and renewable forestry industry can continue beyond the 2027 transition.

Thank you for raising these matters in Parliament, I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

**Out of Scope**

Felix Ellis MP  
**Minister for Business, Industry and Resources**

15/4/2026