

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management  
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Minister for Jobs and Skills

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Michael Ferguson MP  
Member for Bass  
Email: [laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Michael

Thank you for your constituent question asked on 4 December 2025 in Parliament regarding forestry workers and the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA).

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges the changes recently passed by the Australian Government to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and the implications these changes may have for Tasmania's forest industry.

These legislative changes remove the long-standing exemption from EPBC requirements for forestry conducted under Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) and as a result, from 1 July 2027, forestry operations in Tasmania will need to meet EPBC Act approval requirements or operate under an accredited pathway.

Tasmania has operated under a strong and enduring RFA framework for 30 years.

I want to assure you that the Tasmanian Government will be taking every measure to ensure that our local sustainable and renewable forestry industry can continue to operate and thrive beyond 1 July 2027.

The Commonwealth Government has a responsibility to ensure that Tasmania's forestry sector, which employs thousands of Tasmanians directly and indirectly and contributes over a billion dollars to our economy each year, can continue. We will hold them to account in this regard.

I have been advised by the Department of State Growth that we are currently working with our national counterparts to develop an accreditation pathway that securely positions the forest industry in Tasmania for the transition. Tasmania's forest management system has long supported a sustainable forest industry and is expected to continue to do so within the new EPBC Act operating environment.

The Tasmanian Government remains a strong supporter of forestry and of the regional jobs and communities that depend on it.

As these reforms progress, we want to ensure Tasmania's well-established and highly regarded forest management system is fully recognised in the development of an appropriate accreditation agreement, reflecting the best practice regulatory system we already have in place.

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

Yours sincerely

Felix Ellis MP  
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources

9/2/2026