



**Paul Toole**

Minister for Lands and Forestry

**Gabrielle Upton**

Minister for the Environment and Heritage

**Niall Blair**

Minister for Primary Industries

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NEW RULES FOR PRIVATE NATIVE FORESTRY**

Landowners, the forestry industry and the community can have a say on the remake of native forestry rules that will apply to private land, Minister for Lands and Forestry Paul Toole said today.

“Sustainably-managed native forests on privately-owned land are an important part of NSW’s forest estate. Private native forestry makes a significant contribution to the supply mix of the timber industry and represents an opportunity for landholders to broaden their farm mix,” Mr Toole said.

The review, part of the NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap, will support development of new codes of practice, and the rules, regulations and approvals process of private native forestry. It will also guide development of training and advice services.

“We are seeking input of those with on-ground experience and knowledge, interest groups and the general public so we can come up with a workable set of rules that are good for landowners and good for the environment,” Mr Toole said.

There will be further opportunity for public comment next year when the draft codes of practice are released.

Minister for the Environment and Heritage Gabrielle Upton said the Government wants the review to ensure the appropriate balance has been set for private native forestry so that it is done in a way that is ecologically sustainable.

“While this is just the start of the review, we know the forests of NSW are vitally important for iconic plants and animals such as koalas and other threatened species, as well as our precious waterways, and it is in everyone’s interests to make sure the rules are appropriate and effective,” Ms Upton said.

Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair said the review will ensure there is a consistent and sustainable approach to how landholders manage their farms and forests.

“Private native forestry benefits from landholders’ strong sense of environmental stewardship and we want to continue to support it as an alternate source of on-farm income,” Mr Blair said.

Visit the consultation page at [Have Your Say](#) to find out more and to make a submission. The Terms of Reference are on public exhibition for ten weeks and submissions close on 31 January 2019.

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