

## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

25 SEPTEMBER 1990

The Commonwealth has received a request from the New South Wales Government (a copy of which is attached) to defer the Federal Government's consideration of the State Government's proposal on the South East forests of NSW until 8 October 1990.

The Commonwealth was preparing to consider the NSW proposal this week, in accordance with its public undertaking to do so. The Government is very conscious of the legitimate expectation in the industry that decisions be made as quickly as possible.

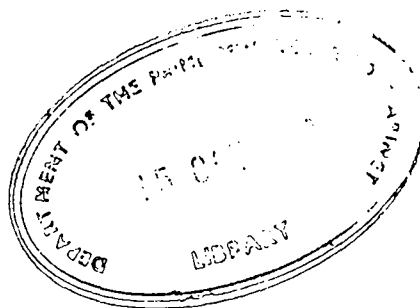
In view of the NSW Government's request, however, I have decided, in consultation with relevant Ministers, to hold over Cabinet consideration.

I wish to emphasise that the Commonwealth will accede to no further requests for delay from any quarter.

The issue will be discussed by Federal Cabinet on 2 October, with a view to final decisions being made absolutely no later than the date nominated by the NSW Government of 8 October.

25 September 1990

The Hon R J Hawke AC MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA



Dear Prime Minister

**SOUTH EAST FOREST/CONSIDERATION BY FEDERAL CABINET**

I presume to write to you in the absence of my Premier, Hon Nick Greiner MP, following a discussion Mr Greiner and I had on Saturday last concerning the time of consideration by both governments of the possibility of an agreed resolution to issues in the South East forest of New South Wales.

As you will be aware, Mr Greiner, is at present in the Peoples Republic of China and endeavours are being made to have him contact you to confirm the New South Wales government view that the original timetable for governmental consideration of these issues on Monday 8 October being agreed upon by the four Ministers should be adhered to.

I understand that requests have been made by the Director of the New South Wales Cabinet Office, Mr Sturgess, to senior officers of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet indicating Mr Greiner's wish that consideration of the matter should be deferred to accord with the original timetable.

In the absence of the Premier, and as the senior New South Wales Minister involved in these negotiations, I write to confirm that there is not, at this time, a formal New South Wales submission to be considered by your government and the New South Wales government has a view that these issues can only be resolved satisfactorily if all four Ministers can agree on the above submission and both governments have simultaneous consideration of it.

I would therefore request deferring the Federal Government's consideration of this issue until 8 October 1990.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Moore".

TIM MOORE  
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT