

## Environment and Public Affairs Committee

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**From:** Margaret River Regional Environment Centre <mrrenvirocentre@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 February 2015 1:14 PM  
**To:** Premier.Barnett@dpc.wa.gov.au  
**Cc:** Minister.Davies@dpc.wa.gov.au; Hallett, Nigel; Scott, Sandra; OBrien, Simon; Dawson, Stephen; Brown, Paul; vince.erasmus@fpc.wa.gov.au; Environment and Public Affairs Committee; terry.redman@mp.wa.gov.au; Barry House; Farina, Adele; Holt, Colin; Talbot, Sally; Ellis, Brian; Rowe, Samantha; MacLaren, Lynn  
**Subject:** RE: Financial offer to guarantee the protection of Margaret River's Mowen Forest  
**Attachments:** Mowen Forest letter of offer Premier Barnett.pdf

Dear Premier Barnett,

Please find attached a letter of a financial offer of \$90,000 from Margaret River Regional Environment Centre Inc. for protection of Margaret River's Mowen Forest. We offer the Government of Western Australia the anticipated net income from logging coupes 01 and 02 of Mowen Forest in exchange for a Memorandum of Understanding that guarantees protection of our forest in 2015 and the future.

We look forward to your positive response.

Kinds regards,  
Neroli Carlton, David Rastrick and Naomi Godden

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**Margaret River Regional Environment Centre**  
**PO Box 1827 - Margaret River - Western Australia 6285**  
**Email: [mrrenvirocentre@gmail.com](mailto:mrrenvirocentre@gmail.com)**  
**Website: [www.mrrec.org.au](http://www.mrrec.org.au)**  
**Phone: 0407 776 815**



MARGARET RIVER REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC.  
PO Box 1827 Margaret River WA 6285  
Email: mrrenvirocentre@gmail.com  
Website: www.mrrec.org.au

Premier Colin Barnett MLA: Premier.Barnett@dpc.wa.gov.au

CC:

Hon. Mia Davies MLA: Minister.Davies@dpc.wa.gov.au

Hon. Terry Redman MLA: terry.redman@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon. Barry House MLC: barry.house@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon. Adele Farina MLC: adele.farina@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon. Nigel Hallett MLC: nigel.hallett@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon. Colin Holt MLC: colin.holt@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon. Robyn McSweeney MLC: sandra.scott@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon. Dr. Sally Talbot MLC: sally.talbot@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon. Simon O'Brien MLC: simon.obrien@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC: Stephen.dawsonmp@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon. Brian Ellis MLC: brian.ellis@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon. Paul Brown MLC: paul.brown@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon. Samantha Rowe MLC: samantha.rowe@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon. Lynn MacLaren MLC: lynn.maclaren@mp.wa.gov.au

Vince Erasmus, General Manager, Forest Products Commission:

vince.erasmus@fpc.wa.gov.au

env@parliament.wa.gov.au

16 February 2015

Dear Premier Barnett,

**RE: Financial offer to guarantee the protection of Margaret River's Mowen Forest**

We, the undersigned, hereby make a financial offer to the Western Australian Government of \$90,000 to purchase the right of Mowen Forest to be protected from logging in 2015 and in the future.

Our community, supported by the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, does not support the WA Government's Forest Products Commission's (FPC) logging of 1,610 hectares of Mowen Forest. We are concerned about the negative impact logging on the resident endangered and vulnerable fauna species by the removal and degradation of their feeding and nesting habitat. We are concerned about the significant economic losses incurred by the State from logging native forests. We are concerned about the lack of identification and protection of Wardandi Aboriginal heritage sites. We are concerned that the recent fires in 130,000 hectares of South West forest and woodland habitat has destroyed or heavily degraded food and nesting habitat of endangered and vulnerable species. We are concerned that native forest logging does not consider the social and economic importance of Mowen Forest to local tourism.

Figures provided by your office suggest that the WA Government will gain a net income of \$90,000 from logging coupes 01 and 02 of Mowen Forest. On 18 September 2014, the Minister for Agriculture and Food disclosed costs of \$216,500 for preparing coupes 01 and 02 in Mowen Forest for logging. Costs included road construction, dieback surveys and flora surveys. On 23 September 2014, the Minister also disclosed an anticipated yield of 7,300 cubic metres of first and second grade jarrah timber from Mowen Forest coupes 01 and 02. At the FPC's base rate of \$42.67 per cubic metre of bole sawlog jarrah, FPC will receive \$306,500 for 7,300 m<sup>3</sup> of sawlog timber. This suggests a net income of approximately \$90,000 from logging coupes 01 and 02 of Mowen Forest.



MARGARET RIVER REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC.  
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Website: [www.mrrec.org.au](http://www.mrrec.org.au)

The Margaret River Regional Environment Centre Inc. and Save Mowen Forest have collected donations and pledges from over 170 Western Australians to reach this target. We offer the amount of \$90,000 in exchange for a signed Memorandum of Understanding that ensures the protection of Mowen Forest coupes 01 and 02, and (given the importance of the forest as a whole) the remainder of Mowen Forest. We request that custodianship of Mowen Forest is transferred to the Conservation Commission, and that Mowen Forest will not be logged in 2015 or in the future.

If the Government of Western Australia does not agree with the figure outlined in our offer, we request a detailed explanation of all costs and anticipated yield/income from logging coupes 01 and 02 of Mowen Forest so that we can amend our offer.

During the past six months, Save Mowen Forest has frequently attempted to communicate with Hon. Mia Davies, Minister for Forestry. She has refused to meet with our group to discuss the logging of Mowen Forest. We now request an opportunity to meet with you and discuss our concerns about the logging of our forest. We are committed to finding a mutually agreeable solution to this issue. A delegation from Margaret River will be at Parliament House on Tuesday 17 February 2015 to seek a response from the Government, and we would very much appreciate to meet with you prior to the sitting of Parliament.

FPC recommenced logging in Mowen Forest in January 2015 and vital habitat trees are currently being felled. We therefore request an urgent response to our offer.

Yours' sincerely,

Neroli Carlton

David Rastrick

Naomi Godden

Representatives, Margaret River Regional Environment Centre Inc. and Save Mowen Forest  
Email: [mrrenvirocentre@gmail.com](mailto:mrrenvirocentre@gmail.com)  
Phone: 0407 776 815

On behalf of the following donors:

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Website: [www.mrrec.org.au](http://www.mrrec.org.au)

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