

Forestry Industry Worker Support Package



The NSW Government will provide comprehensive financial assistance to employees of Wood Supply Agreement holders and to employees of harvesting and/or haulage operators contracted by the Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) directly impacted by the Great Koala National Park (GKNP) moratorium. Employees of FCNSW whose roles have been made redundant due to the impacts of the GKNP moratorium are also intended recipients.

About the package

The Forestry Industry Worker Support Package, includes:

- **Top-up redundancy payments** –employees will receive four weeks of base pay (inclusive of employer redundancy payment) per year of employment with an impacted timber mill, harvesting and/or haulage operator or FCNSW, capped at \$150,000.
- **Additional support for employees over 45 years of age** –a further three weeks of pay for every year of service after the age of 45 (up to a cap of \$50,000), to be calculated separately from the top up redundancy payment.
- **Education and training payments** –of up to \$9,000 for retraining and upskilling.
- **Relocation payments** –of up to \$45,000 for affected workers who move more than 50 kilometres for new employment.
- **Free access to mental health support, and financial and legal guidance** –TELUS Health are the contracted organisation to assist affected workers and their immediate families. Contact TELUS Health on **1800 835 871** and reference “GKNP Moratorium Industry Support Program” or visit one.telushealth.com and enter username: “gknps” and password “wellbeing”.

Eligibility

Eligible employees are those employed on the North Coast of NSW on a full-time, part-time or casual basis who were employed on 7 September 2025 and made redundant within 18 months of that date, being 7 March 2027. Eligible employees include those of a wood supply agreement holder with demonstrated impacts from the GKNP moratorium, a harvesting and/ or haulage operator who held a contract with the Forestry Corporation of NSW which has been impacted by the GKNP moratorium, or an employee of the Forestry Corporation of NSW who can demonstrate the redundancy was due to the impact of the GKNP moratorium. Eligible employees will need to provide an employment separation certificate or equivalent letter of confirmation from the employer that advises the redundancy was due to the GKNP moratorium.

Funding and tax

Redundancy payments and entitlements will be provided to workers by their employer in line with their employment contracts or enterprise agreements. The NSW Government's redundancy top up payment and additional support for employees over 45 will also be provided via the employer. Part time and casual employees will be eligible for the redundancy payments at a pro-rata value.

Training and relocation payments will be administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Further information on the application process and requirements is available at [Forestry Industry Worker Support Program](#).

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has issued [Class Ruling CR 2026/46](#), which explains how support payments under the program are treated for tax purposes. The ruling applies to eligible employees who receive support payments after their employment ends. Find more information about the tax treatments at [Forestry Industry Worker Support Program](#) and be sure to seek independent tax advice.

Additional support

Forestry Industry Worker Support services

Forestry Industry Worker Support services are also available via Enterprise and Training Company (ETC Ltd). This service provides on-the-ground one-to-one support for workers impacted by the GKNP moratorium. Representatives from ETC Ltd are available to assist impacted workers in applying for grant programs and other industry transition matters, such as training and employment. Affected workers can contact the locally based Support Service Coordinator at the Enterprise and Training Company (ETC Ltd) on 0458 118 145 or stacey.connell@etcltd.com.au

Training Services

Training Services can connect you to a range of training products through their network of accredited training providers. For more information, visit training.nsw.gov.au, call 13 28 11, or contact your local Training Services Officer, Gerard Geerligs at Gerard.Geerligs1@det.nsw.edu.au.

TAFE NSW

TAFE NSW offers career counselling services to transition into new roles or industries for those wanting to study with TAFE NSW. To arrange an appointment, please contact counsellingandCareerDevelopmentSupport@tafensw.edu.au or call 131 601 (option 5 and then 2) Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR)

DEWR offers a range of re-employment and support services for retrenched employees and their families. For more information, visit whatsnext.dewr.gov.au/where-do-i-stand/support-retrenched-workers

More information

Please email forestryindustrysupport@dpird.nsw.gov.au
or call **1800 678 593** Option 2, Monday – Friday from 8.30am – 4.30pm
or visit dpird.nsw.gov.au/gknpp