

## The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,  
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage,  
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council



### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

#### SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

#### NEW ENGLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE

##### QUESTION:

On 17 September 2025, the Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC asked the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage, the following supplementary question for written answer:

*My supplementary question for written answer is directed to the Minister for Energy. I note the additional information that the Minister just gave. Apart from the one-hour webinar that was held on 26 August 2025, what other webinars or in-person community meetings were held, from when the New England Renewable Energy Zone Generation and Storage Consultation Paper was released up to 12 September 2025 when the feedback was due, to specifically address the issues canvassed in the consultation paper?*

##### ANSWER:

EnergyCo published the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Generation and Storage consultation paper on 15 August 2025. EnergyCo informed stakeholders about the publication and webinar through a website update, the New England REZ e-newsletter, the Powering NSW e-newsletter, a newsletter column reaching more than 40,000 local readers, and a social media post.

EnergyCo hosted a public webinar on 26 August 2025 which addressed the issues raised in the consultation paper and provided stakeholders an opportunity for open questions and answers. The webinar was recorded and published on EnergyCo's website, ensuring all stakeholders could access it. This is available to view at [www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/industry/access-schemes/new-england-rez-access-scheme](http://www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/industry/access-schemes/new-england-rez-access-scheme).

EnergyCo provided briefings and additional information to stakeholders at their request and offered extensions for submissions deadlines to any stakeholder who requested one.

**The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC**

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,  
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage

17/9/25



**The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC**

Minister for Agriculture  
Minister for Regional New South Wales  
Minister for Western New South Wales

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL****SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS****QUESTION:**

My supplementary question for written answer is directed to the Minister for Agriculture.

Further to your comments on the long-standing commitment of the Minns Labor Government to establish the Great Koala National Park and the implications of that decision on forestry, will you please provide a copy of your recent Ministerial Direction to Forestry Corporation under the State-Owned Corporations Act.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Section 26(1)(j) of the SOC Act requires a copy of the Direction to be tabled in Parliament within 14 sitting days after it is issued.

I will comply with this legislation.



**Tara Moriarty MLC**

Minister for Agriculture  
Minister for Regional New South Wales  
Minister for Western New South Wales

17/9/25

**The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC**  
Treasurer



**Supplementary question for written response**

**Date question asked: 17 September 2025**

**Due LC: 10.00 am, 18 September 2025**

**Mark Latham MLC**

My supplementary question for written answer is directed to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer and his colleague Minister Kamper examine the Venues NSW and Evergreen Turf tender documents — they are small in number — and, in particular, the conflict of interest and referee declarations of Mr Naofal and Mr Lewis, and report to the House what action they will take on this matter? What action will be taken regarding the CEO of Venues NSW, Ms Mather? Will Minister Kamper and the Treasurer exercise their responsibilities under section 11 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act given there is a whole section just for them?

**ANSWER**


I am advised by the Minister for Sport:

Venues NSW's current turf tender - Contingent Turf Supply, VNSW2024-128 - has been undertaken in accordance with the NSW Government's Procurement Framework.

Venues NSW established a comprehensive Tender Evaluation Plan, and an evaluation team consisting of four members, namely the General Manager, Commercial Finance & Chief Procurement Officer, Group General Manager, Infrastructure Development, Head of Event Acquisition and the Head Curator. The team was supported by a procurement convenor to ensure process compliance. The project is governed by a steering committee with four members consisting of the Venues NSW Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Legal Counsel and the General Manager, Safety, Security & Facilities.

All project team members, including Johnny Naofal and Adam Lewis, have signed Conflict of Interest declarations following a review and signing of the Procurement Code of Conduct and Evaluation Plan. Both Mr Naofal and Mr Lewis have had direct dealings with both tenderers - Evergreen and HG Turf - as part of business-as-usual turf matters, given both Evergreen and HG Turf are suppliers of turf services at the SCG Precinct. Neither Mr Naofal nor Mr Lewis provided "referee declarations"; they were identified by Evergreen in its generic capability statement. In the Tender documentation, where three "referees" were required, Evergreen identified persons other than Mr Naofal and Mr Lewis as its referees.

The evaluation team assessed the tenders against pre-agreed evaluation criteria. All scoring was conducted by consensus. The outcome of the evaluation process will require endorsement from the steering committee and the Venues NSW Board prior to contract execution.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC**  
Treasurer