

Andrew Mills
Chair - Independent Planning Commission
Office of the Independent Planning Commission
Suite 15.02, Level 15, 135 King Street
Sydney, NSW, 2000



18 July 2025

Redbank Power Station (SSD-56284960)

Dear Mr Mills,

The Department has completed its assessment of the merits of the Redbank Power Station (SSD- 56284960) (the project) and is referring the application to the Independent Planning Commission (the Commission) for determination as more than 50 unique submissions in the form of objections were made.

The project involves the restart of the existing Redbank Power Station by the applicant, Verdant Earth Pty Ltd (Verdant) with the use of biomass as a fuel to generate electricity with a capacity of up to 151 MW and operating 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Biomass fuels proposed to be used are standard fuels per the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2022* and eligible waste fuels (EWFs) under the NSW Energy from Waste Policy Statement.

The Department publicly exhibited the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the project from 8 March 2024 until 11 April 2024 and received 416 submissions (of which 377 were considered unique) during the public exhibition period of the EIS. Of the unique submissions, 215 submissions objected to the project and 162 submissions supported the project. Key reasons for objection from the community include greenhouse gas emissions, offsite biodiversity impacts to source biomass for fuel and air quality and human health impacts from the operation of the power station.

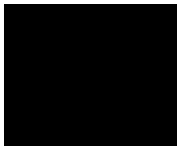
Singleton Council (Council) also made a submission requesting the applicant enter into a voluntary planning agreement (VPA) and raised concerns about the availability of accommodation and road and traffic impacts. Council have since accepted an in-principle offer to enter into a VPA with Verdant for annual contributions totalling \$1,060,000 subject to adjustments in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

In assessing the project, the Department has considered the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project, the submissions and agency advice, the responses to submissions, independent expert review, relevant environmental planning instruments, and the suitability of the site and the public interest, in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

I have attached a copy of the Department's assessment report and recommended conditions of consent for the Commission's consideration.

If you have any questions or wish to arrange a briefing, please contact me on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,



18/7/2025

Steve O'Donoghue
Director Resource Assessments