

Independent Planning Commission
Re: Redbank Power Station Biomass Proposal

Dear Commission Members,

I would like to **register my opposition** to the proposal to allow the Redbank Power Station to operate on biomass.

At a time when people are being encouraged to relinquish the use of wood for home heating, for very good health reasons, the proposal to burn native vegetation for power appears to be at odds. Burning native vegetation will lead to an immediate release of Carbon Dioxide that will take many years to be offset, and then only if the cleared land is replanted with long lived woody trees.

Burning wood will not achieve the temperatures of burning coal and so the efficiency of electricity generation will be substantially less. Claims of being carbon neutral are not credible if the biomass is to be transported to the plant by diesel trucks.

It appears that the driving force for this proposal is to allow land to be cleared for agriculture. My further concern is that there is nothing to stop the power station from sourcing biomass from forestry operations. NSW already has a very poor record with regards to land clearing and this proposal will accelerate this activity.

Solar and wind are already established as the cheapest way to generate electricity so there is no need to burn dirty biomass. I find it difficult to understand how this proposal is even economically viable without large subsidies. It is certainly not clean, nor is it renewable.

Regards,

Dr. Peter Sobey
[address redacted]