

To: Independent Planning Commission
New South Wales

Submission opposing the Redbank Power Station Biomass proposal

I am completely opposed to using any power station, including Redbank, to burn native vegetation for fuel. This would be a retrograde and dangerous step, when much preferable power alternatives are available. This project threatens biodiversity, isn't carbon neutral, and will ultimately undermine NSW's climate and conservation goals.

1. It is not ecologically sustainable as it has unacceptable environmental and biodiversity impacts.

- The proposal relies heavily on the clearing of invasive native species, which is poorly regulated and overseen. 'Invasive native species' is a term that's been used to let farmers clear abundant native vegetation on their property with little oversight, for the purposes of increasing agricultural productivity. It is likely to drive up further clearing, as it provides a financial market for the biomass.
- Land clearing and associated habitat fragmentation are already one of the greatest threats to biodiversity in NSW, threatening endangered species and ecosystems.

2. Verdant's claim of "*near-net zero*" emissions is incorrect.

- Trees cleared for land clearing will not grow back, future growth and carbon storage is lost and other emissions from soils and processing are not counted.
- While the proposal mentions the concept of bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) Verdant has not committed to using it.

3. The government needs to prioritise better alternatives to reach NSW's renewable energy goals. NSW must focus on high value cleaner energy solutions like solar and wind power.

I urge the Panel to listen to the many independent experts, including health professionals, climate scientists and biodiversity experts who have already given evidence as to why this proposal should not proceed.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my view on this matter.

Regards

Elisabeth Dark
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