Hank Bower

[redacted]

NSW 2455

Date: 18/08/2025

To the Independent Planning Commission

Re: Objection - to the Redbank Power Station Project

I wish to submit my objection to the proposed Redbank Power Station project in its entirety as it will deliver unacceptable environmental and biodiversity impacts. According to the Australia Institute the environmental impact statement for this project has vastly underplayed the greenhouse gas emissions and other potential environmental impacts that the project could have, not least what a large new customer for woodchips would mean for logging operations.

The Redbank project will aid climate change, not minimize it, by providing an incentive for land clearing and burning of native vegetative biomass and will result in the burning on large volumes of diesel resulting in carbon emissions in the process of having to transport the biomass from western NSW to the Hunter Valley over 500km away.

I understand that the proposed energy output of Redbank is not market driven, but more so driven by speculation. It is not a smart or sustainable energy solution, and it shouldn't be propped up as being one.

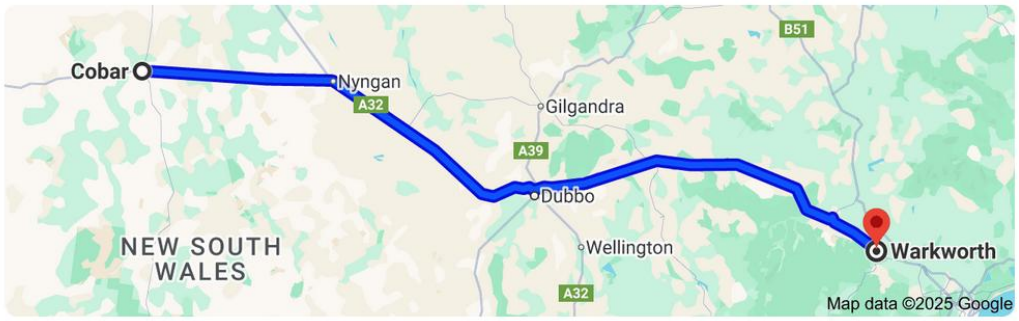
The proposal will have impact on biodiversity including numerous threatened species through clearing of native vegetation which provides habitat for threatened species. The proposal relies heavily on the clearing of "Invasive Native Species" (INS), which is poorly regulated and overseen. 'Invasive native 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.

The NSW Nature Conservation Council have identified that land clearing and "INS" will provide 71% of fuel in the first year and 64% in the second year. Based on information provided by Verdant, at least 20,000 hectares of "INS" will need to be cleared to provide the required fuel levels during the projects first year.

The proposal seeks to exploit NSW land management rules that are unequivocally failing nature and that are currently under review by the Natural Resources Commission. The proposal provides a market for dead native vegetation will drive increases in land clearing. The demand creates the risk that "INS" is managed in an ecologically unsustainable way. Tall this will increase land clearing at a time when land clearing rates need to be reduced for biodiversity protection and to offset climate change. Land clearing promotes climate change and will have immediate and ongoing impact to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) fails to assess off-site impacts – The EIS only considers impacts on the 18ha of land the power station sits on, ignoring the potential biodiversity impacts from the thousands of hectares of land clearing required off-site. Ecological assessments are required before any land clearing is undertaken ensure no threatened species are harmed in the process, the proposal does not advise that this will be undertaken. The list of woodland birds and other terrestrial species that are recognised as threatened species is increasing due to elevated rates of land clearing. This project will only increase the risk to threatened species. Land clearing and associated habitat fragmentation is already one of the greatest threats to biodiversity in NSW, threatening endangered species and ecosystems.

The trucking of biomass to and from the Redbank Plant will result in huge rates of carbon emissions through burning diesel. The proposal states that trucking of biomass will occur between Cobar in western NSW to the Warkworth in the Hunter Valley (see map below), with up to 112 return truck movements to & from the plant per day.



6 hr 31 min (585.0 km) via A32 and Golden Hwy/B84

Directions

The proposal to burn 700,000 to 850,000 tonnes of biomass (as noted in their EIS) will create over 1 million tonnes of CO2 emissions per year; it will not have a net zero output. The content provided in the Australia Institute 2024 submission further unpicks the carbon emission science behind the Redbank EIS and should be considered in the assessment process.

This project will deliver negative environmental impacts and I urge the IPC to not support the Redbank Power Station Proposal.

With regards

Hank Bower