

I am making a submission in **opposition** to the proposed re-opening of the Redbank Power Station (SSD-56284960).

I oppose the reopening of the Redbank Power Station for the following reasons:

1. The project will be reliant on the permanent destruction and fragmentation of native vegetation - core habitat for many threatened species.
 - At every stage of regeneration, woodland forests provide immense value to native plants, wildlife and birds, but this proposal gives **no consideration** to their ecological value - including the importance of restoring connectivity for wildlife across large distances. Ensuring food and nesting resources for birds that range widely across our landscapes is critically important for their survival.
2. A landscape scale assessment of the biodiversity impacts of tree clearing that will supply the Redbank Power Station was not required by the NSW Government.
3. There has also been no requirement to assess or reveal the CO₂ emissions from the projects associated biomass burning and clearing.
4. The NSW Government made a commitment to 'end excess land clearing'. This was in response the recommendations of the Independent Review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 - NSW's environmental protection legislation - which found that the 'Clearing of native vegetation' was one of the key drivers of 'destruction, alteration and fragmentation of habitat across the state' and a primary risk to biodiversity.
 - In response to the review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, the NSW Government committed to strengthening 'the prescriptions for managing invasive native species' to 'reduce the risk of 'misuse' of this provision.
5. The NSW Government made an election promise to 'introduce legislation prohibiting the burning of any forests and cleared vegetation for electricity'.
 - Reopening the Redbank Power Station to burn native vegetation does not honour this promise.
6. Australia has made international commitments to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation and reverse the extinction crisis by 2030. The time taken for forests affected under this proposal to recover far exceeds 2030.
7. The Federal Labor Government in 2022 ruled out the use of native forest wood as an eligible source of renewable energy under the Renewable Energy Act.