

Independent Planning Commission

Submission regarding Restart of Redbank Power Station: SSD 52684960

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the public Meeting at Singleton on 11th August and the chance to present my point of view.

I learnt a lot more about the project from listening to both sides of the equation. I too thought the clapping was inappropriate!!

Please find my submission below.

I am here today to represent the future generations and most specifically my 7 grandchildren who range in age from 21yrs to 6 months.

My first submission, 18 months ago, to this planning process was titled “**Tell ‘em they’re dreaming**” and nothing that has been said or submitted since then has made me change my mind; in fact the IPC should be saying this to our governments and their free market friends who continue to try and make money out of these dangerous plans of environmental destruction whilst somehow ticking boxes and painting themselves as warriors of the renewable energy sector.

We should all be considering the future generations.

Make no mistake, this is an awfully stupid way to make electricity and Verdant Earth’s plans have no certain ways of providing sustainable fuel sources. This is always the case with these projects (I have made submissions to at least 2 different projects now). They start off using waste and end up using whole trees, whole forests, whatever they can get their hands on so they can keep making a profit and never mind the environmental losses for the rest of us.

Something that takes years to replace is not a renewable energy source. I know the federal legislation states that wood is a renewable energy source, but that doesn’t make it proper.

It just makes the legislation wrong and ill thought out.

I think that these days even some proponents of the legislation that enabled wood to be classified as a renewable energy resource would admit that it was a very short sighted, expedient and not particularly scientific or sensible view to have taken.

Please watch the documentary “Burned – are trees the new coal?” which is all about this industry...it will be said that it is about the northern hemisphere and doesn't apply to Australia...what a load of bollocks...of course it applies to here. “Capitalism is capitalism is who cares about the future” it's the same all over the world.

From listening to both presentations from Mark Jackson it seems clear that a whole lot of their resource planning is just plain hopeful and not backed by science. And their maths isn't very good.

The clearing of “Native Invasive Species” (NIS) deemed necessary for the first 5 years seems like a mere trifling when described by Verdant Earth but totally devastating when described by experts such as David Watson. We have one of largest areas of Western Woodland right where they propose to clear for the 1st 5 years. All 3 experts from the objectors side said that 20,000Ha would have to be cleared, whilst the proponents said around 4000Ha.

Another big problem with this clearing is this: the transportation. Cobar and surrounds were mentioned as the main source of these Native Invasive Species. That's nearly 600kms away- a roundtrip of over 1100kms, not to mention the getting of the resource from the woodlands to the pile in a town as those double bogies would not be able to drive right to the source. How those people can call this a closed carbon loop process is beyond me....and should be beyond you Commissioners.

There are no definite species planned to be purpose -grown. There is no current data that shows the change in growth patterns that must be occurring due to the changing climate, they “might” grow the unknown species as part of mine rehab, which has already been done by the mining companies and would totally unrehabilitate those places by the constant clearing every 5 years.

In their photos used to portray possible crops as a resource for their power plant stands of Eucalypts are shown; why?

Waste from Native Forests is not allowed to be used for electricity generation.(NSW EPA Eligible Waste Fuel Guidelines (EPA, 2022)). However there seems to be exemptions available in the approval conditions which means that native forest residues, then trees and then whole forests will be able to be put through the incinerators.

Just say No!

It has been scientifically shown that keeping existing vegetation in the ground is one of the quickest and most efficient ways to start combating the effects of climate change.

In my previous submission I implored the Planning Dept to be mindful of the real scientific evidence and the bleeding obvious examples of the environmental crisis that we are at the start of..... I was wrong.

We are not at the start of a crisis. We are headlong into it now and we need to do all we can to ensure a brighter future for our grandchildren.

And as for our effect on all the other species on this planet....don't get me started.

Remember our grandchildren – they will have to live in this mega depeleted, changing climate affected environment – we've had it so good....they deserve a chance at good as well.

In so many ways we know an awful lot about the impact humans have/are and will be inflicting on our habitat, Planet Earth....we just don't seem to be able to say No to the money.

The words "Dept of Planning" implies a consideration for the future; a consideration for the lives our children and their descendants will live (never mind the millions of other species threatened by our human-centric decisions made today)

We haven't been too clever in our curating of our "Castle" so far.

Please be brave, scientific and real and reject this proposal.

If you can't bring yourself to, or don't have the legal means to refuse this application; please please please impose stringent conditions on the operators with regards to the furnace resource, make them show you the maths BEFORE they start anything. Honestly this is such a con.

There are far more renewable, clean and green power generation processes out there.

Remember our grandchildren.

Thank you.

Jane Watson.

