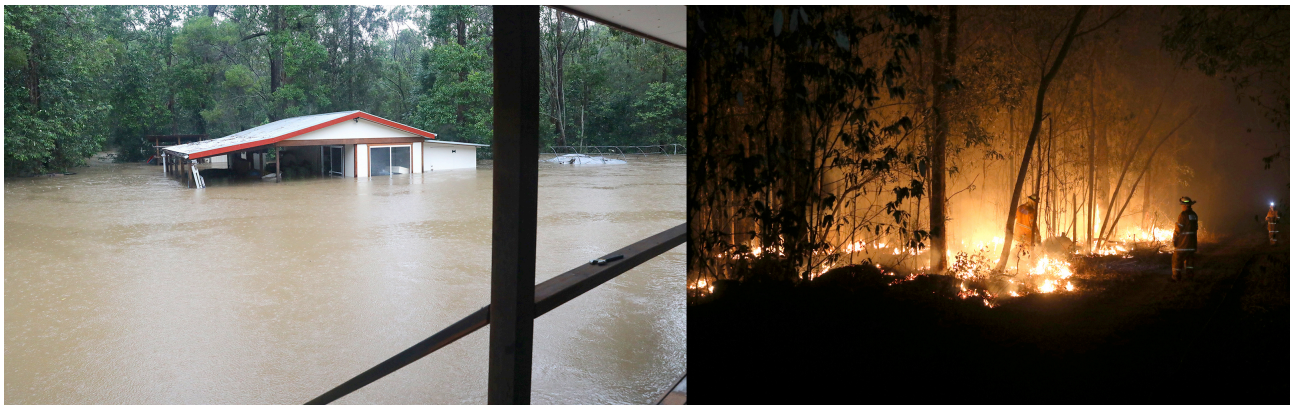


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**My submission to the Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW
Regarding the proposed Restart of Redbank Power Station
SSD-56284960**

My property burnt in the 2019 Black Summer Fires and went a meter underwater in the 2022 North Coast Floods that created an inland sea. Even generational farmers around me are saying we need to act on climate change.



That is one of the main reasons I strongly oppose the Redbank biomass proposal because I don't want to become a climate change refugee forced to leave my beloved home. It will also worsen biodiversity loss, increase greenhouse gas emissions, and repeat the damaging mistakes we have already seen overseas. Governments know we are in a climate crisis costing billions of dollars, loss of billions of animals being cooked in extreme fires or drowning in unprecedented flooding. It's crazy to fuel deforestation that will only exacerbate our climate crisis. It's time to transition from greedy use of resources and take care of our earth's declining health when it comes to complex ecosystems.

The forests of eastern NSW are part of one of the world's 35 biodiversity hotspots, rich in unique species already under severe threat from habitat loss. In the midst of a biodiversity crisis, clearing tens of thousands of hectares of native vegetation—home to millions of animals—cannot be considered sustainable. It will release huge amounts of carbon dioxide, further driving climate heating.

Land clearing is already the single greatest threat to biodiversity in NSW. Most clearing is unapproved, and there is no requirement for habitat surveys to protect threatened species. Supplying 850,000 tonnes of biomass per year will create a strong economic incentive for even more clearing. Claims that most of this will come from Invasive Native Species (INS) are misleading—these species still provide vital habitat for wildlife. Land clearing must stop, not expand.

We don't need to guess what will happen—there are clear warning signs from overseas. In the southeastern United States, surging demand for wood pellets to fuel European power plants has led to unsustainable logging, including the clearcutting of mature hardwood forests. This has degraded ecosystems, driven biodiversity loss, and caused long-term carbon deficits, as forests take decades to recover. While marketed as “carbon neutral,” burning wood pellets often releases more CO₂ than coal when the full lifecycle—logging, processing, and transport—is considered.

These overseas experiences show how biomass creates a dangerous false sense of climate progress. It allows governments to claim lower emissions on paper while real-world emissions and environmental damage rise. Local communities in the US have also suffered from air and water pollution caused by pellet production—an impact we risk repeating here.

Redbank's claim of planting 56,000 ha of biomass crops to supply 70% of feedstock is not credible, and the proposal must explicitly rule out using logging residues in future. Even without those residues, the station will emit over 1.3 million tonnes of CO₂ each year—more than from coal—making a mockery of clean energy claims.

Instead of repeating the US and Europe's mistakes, NSW should invest in genuine low-emission energy like solar and wind. These truly reduce carbon emissions without destroying native forests or harming biodiversity.

For the sake of our forests, climate, and communities, I urge you to reject the Redbank biomass proposal outright.

Respectfully yours,



Jimmy Malecki