

## **Submission Regarding Redbank Power Station Biomass Proposal**

As a concerned resident of the Hunter Region, I am presenting this submission in opposition to the proposed Redbank Power Station Biomass Application. Rather, I suggest that the site be used for sustainable net-zero energy generation.

The environmental impact statement for this project has vastly underestimated the greenhouse gas emissions and other potential environmental impacts that the project could have, not least of which is what a large new customer for woodchips would mean for logging operations.

The proposal relies on the clearing of invasive native species, but the decision as to what these are is not clear and left to the unregulated and unsupervised criteria of farmers. Furthermore, providing a market for dead native vegetation will drive increases in land clearing at a time when land clearing and associated habitat fragmentation is already one of the greatest threats to biodiversity in NSW, threatening endangered species and ecosystems.

In the proposal the carbon accounting understates the emissions from land clearing. Experience shows that trees cleared for land clearing do not grow back, future growth and carbon storage is lost and other emissions from soils and processing are not counted.

As regards public health impacts, burning biomass can have even more significant public health impacts than burning coal because it releases deadly air pollution.

NSW Labor has promised to close the loophole that allows the burning of any native vegetation for electricity, recognizing that burning timber and cleared vegetation for electricity is not carbon neutral and is neither clean nor renewable energy.

It would be preferable that TND SW reach its renewable energy goals by focusing on high value cleaner energy solutions like solar and wind power.

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