

SSD-56284960 - Redbank Power Station Re-opening – Submission in Opposition

Dear Commissioners,

I am opposed to the proposed re-opening of the Redbank Power Station (SSD-56284960).

The proposal ignores greenhouse gas emissions from clearing trees and treats CO₂ emissions from burning wood as zero - despite the fact that burning wood is more emissive per unit of energy than coal ([Mackey et. al, 2025](#)).

The Federal Government is paying organisations/farmers to re-forest areas and elsewhere to plant trees. So it doesn't make sense to cut down trees and burn them .

Burning biomass is unnecessary in Australia when we have solar energy and wind energy and for backup – big batteries and pumped hydro.

The proposal fails on two counts, that burning timber releases CO₂ – increasing global warming, and also that the tree clearing required to provide the biomass will increase the loss of native forest impacting on bio-diversity.

It conflicts with government commitments:-

- 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, the NSW Government made a commitment to 'end excess land clearing' which has not been delivered.
- 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.
- The NSW Government made an [election promise](#) to 'introduce legislation prohibiting the burning of any forests and cleared vegetation for electricity', and has long recognised that 'burning timber and cleared vegetation for electricity is not carbon neutral and is neither clean nor renewable energy'.
- 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.
- Importantly, in 2022, and soon after it came to power, the Federal Labor Government ruled out the use of native forest wood as an eligible source of renewable energy under the Renewable Energy Act.

The Proposal to re-open the Redbank Power Station and burn biomass is deeply flawed and must be rejected.

Yours Faithfully
Mary Edwards

[Redacted Signature]