

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

In fact I'd go so far as to say that this has to be one of the most irresponsible proposals likely to come before the Commission. It contravenes all common sense:

1. It involves burning trees from cleared farm lands when we need to be preserving trees and stopping the clearing of land both from the point of preserving biodiversity and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
2. It is based on the completely false assertion that burning wood is almost carbon neutral and hence it's better to burn wood than fossil fuels. This is ludicrous.
 - a. Fossil fuels used to be wood. Burning wood involves the release of roughly the same CO₂ as burning fossil fuels. To justify this on the basis that trees regrow and reabsorb the CO₂ completely ignores the fact that trees regrow slowly and that in the meantime the CO₂ released is in the atmosphere causing more global warming when it is imperative that we reduce greenhouse gas emissions rapidly in the next 10-15 years.
 - b. Clearing land releases greenhouse gas emissions.
 - c. Clearing land removes mature trees that are removing CO₂ from the atmosphere and helping us reduce global warming.
3. All the additional electricity that NSW needs should be met with renewable energy, not burning trees or fossil fuels.
4. The top priority at present should be reducing greenhouse gas emissions as rapidly as possible and facilitating the removal of CO₂ from the air by trees. This proposal flies in the face of both of these imperatives.
5. This proposal is driven by a desire to gain a short term financial profit. The cost will be disastrous in the slightly longer term for both biodiversity and global warming. The consequences for humans over the next few decades will be catastrophic – just so a few people can make a few dollars now.
6. Approval of this proposal will not only undermine NSW's and Australia's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emission, it will also send completely the wrong message to the public and to industry.

I strongly encourage the Commission to reject this totally irresponsible and unnecessary proposal.

Peter Sainsbury

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