

13th August 2025

RE: SSD-56284960 Verdant Earth Technologies

To whom it may concern,

Please accept **my objection to this proposal presented by Verdant Earth Technologies - incorrectly claimed to be, as "ecologically sustainable" and "near net zero" by the proponents,**

Independant scientific fact refutes Verdants hollow claims. Verdants proposal is made more disturbing in an era of existential climate threatening change, where carbon emmissions are causing dangerous rises in global temperatures. Where devastating consequences of land clearing and deforestation across the globe, and in Australia occur. These losses are evidenced as wreaking havoc with communities lives, are causing the unravelling of eco systems and cause irreversable losses to habitat which protect biodiversity and endangered species. Ecosystems which in turn protect the health of all global land mass.

- This proposal, if approved by the NSW Government would actually increase carbon emmissions.

The Verdant proposal is marked by its use of self promotional semantics and sugar coating of the risk, masking the reality that such a proposal presents. This is a transparent and reckless proposal, based on an exploitative business model which manages to take advantage of loop holes in Government legislation using the "Invasive Native Species" loophole. Which in itself is a misleading descriptor and fails to stop illegitimate clearing and tree felling.

The 2016 review of the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act found that tighter controls of the Biodiversity Act are needed, while the Invasive Native Species loophole failed to acknowledge that agricultural grazing and clearing were greater causes of weed infestation and risk. That review resulted in an independent non biased scientific response, stating that retaining insitu forest and woodlands, effectively stops invasive weed spread.

- The current NSW Government has failed in its pre election commitment to end excessive land clearing and to end the burning of bio mass from forests, through failing to enact strong legislation to honour its promises.

The NSW Government is culmulativly allowing desecration of forests and systems of biodiversity across the state of NSW, through its failures to meet its promises and in failing to urgently enact laws which help save the indigenous native landscape. *Its own EPA is weakened by sub standard legislative mechanisms to effect controls on inappropriate proposals and on environmental criminal reoffenders who operate more or less scot free in the current system.*

The NSW Government is publicly and rapidly ruining its reputation by its ongoing supportive association with projects which exploit the environment.

Its continued approval of short term or so called transitional projects, and worse those which intend to operate for many years, threaten endangered species and hasten the breakdown of interconnected ecosystems. Each approval adds to ongoing long term losses for the overall health of the NSW environmental landscape. And encourages uptake of ongoing and reprehensible models of business practices within NSW and other states.

NSW is already labelled as a “deforestation hot spot”. Wilderness Australia reports that “tree clearing in NSW substantially increased to 66,498 hectares in 2023, a 40% increase from 2022”.

- This is in spite of the NSW Government being in possession of factual and reliable scientific evidence which should automatically justify rejection of the many proposals whose stated objectives add to climate change and forest degradation. Governmental economy objectives must have at its centre of deliberations, legislative means to prioritise and protect the environment as an urgent agenda to turn around climate change and habitat loss.

The Verdant Project proposed for Redbank Power Station near Singleton is a step backwards and sets a powerful precedent of “business as usual, while kicking the can down the road” in a very publicly compromised, and transparently inadequate balance of Governmental negotiations, while trying to reach climate change requirements.

Standards of truth telling, ethics and upholding good examples of citizenship, are being failed by those who hold responsibility for the future and act now. Governments give way to influential corporations who resist working to ensure a safe future, to operators who exploit the environment and manipulate weak legislation, to maximise their profits at the expense of all.

The corporate world’s short term profit driven agendas negatively impact on protecting the very environment that humans, agriculture and biodiversity need to survive. There are arguably better climate change circuit breaker options to choose from than burning trees to supply electricity.

Burning bio mass is not a means of cutting back carbon emissions. Government decision making now operates in an intentional moral vacuum where the environment is neglected and is based on a mindset based in the past.

The percentage of failures to protect marine, aquatic river systems and terrestrial environments in Australia is shocking and cumulative, is completely unjustifiable, unconscionable.

- The collapse of many Australian world famous environments which are teetering on the edge of irreversible failure is expanding. This NSW Government’s legacy is already compromised. Federal Laws are being ignored.

There is no justification for allowing the Verdant Proposal. Please act to honour your election promises and urgently work to genuinely protect the environment.

Yours faithfully,

R. Johnston