Professor David Lindenmayer AO
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[redacted]

To the NSW Independent Planning Commission,

I am a forest ecologist with more than 43 years of experience in working on Australia's forests, woodlands and the nation's biodiversity. I have published more than 980 peer-reviewed scientific articles and 49 books on biodiversity, forests, woodlands, vegetation cover, and biodiversity (see https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=4a2XbLwAAAAJ&hl=en).

I have been made aware of the proposal to restart the Redbank PowerStation and burn up to 700 000 tonnes of biomass annually. I strongly oppose this proposal for the following key reasons:

1. Burning biomass is a major source of Greenhouse Gas Emissions; biomass is therefore not clean energy (Mackey et al., 2022). This is due to the long lag times between carbon emissions and when that carbon is fixed in the biosphere or geosphere – up to 2000 years (see Mackey and Lindenmayer 2014).
2. Biomass burning invariably leads to accelerated forest degradation (as has been occurring in Europe) (Mackey et al., 2025) and has the potential to contribute significantly to elevated rates of land clearing. This, in turn, contributes to increased levels of biodiversity loss through intensified erosion of forest and woodland condition and forest and woodland cover (Mackey et al., 2025).

I am more than happy to provide substantial further evidence in support of the two key reasons presented as to why burning large amounts of biomass in the Redbank Power Station is a very poor outcome for the climate, for the environment, and for biodiversity.

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References

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Mackey, B.G. and Lindenmayer, D.B. (2014). Fossil fuels' future – Letter. Science, 345 (6198), 739-740. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.345.6198.739-d.

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