

Submission to IPC Enquiry into the Redbank Power Station Proposal

Dear IPC,

Please accept my submission which is in opposition to the proposed re-opening of the Redbank Power Station (SSD-56284960).

This proposed use of trees to be cleared then burnt to produce energy is totally unreasonable, is not sustainable, it conflicts and contradicts policy commitments made by NSW and Federal Governments.

NSW is a deforestation hotspot, new figures show rates of tree clearing have increased hugely, and that also means loss of habitat for birds and animals. We do not need another driver of forest clearing, habitat loss and greenhouse emissions.

Plantation timber supplied to the construction industry is far superior to forest timber and does not result in destruction of habitat for endangered species.

The Redbank project has been touted as “ecologically sustainable and near net-zero”. This is a complete furphy. Burning trees for energy will increase CO2 emissions and release other particulates into the atmosphere, near net-zero emissions it certainly is not. Burning wood emits more carbon dioxide than coal (Mackey et.al, 2025).

The NSW Government made an election promise to ‘introduce legislation prohibiting the burning of any forest and cleared vegetation for electricity’. Burning timber and cleared vegetation for electricity is not carbon neutral and neither clean nor renewable energy.

At the Federal Government level Australia has made international commitments to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation and reverse the extinction crisis by 2030. This proposed use of trees for electricity will make extinction of animals/birds increase not decrease.

In 2022 the Federal Labor Government ruled out the use of native forest wood as an eligible source of renewable energy under the Renewable Energy Act.

It seems no one has factored into the proposed poor project idea that it will require millions of kilometres of travel by B double trucks each year to get the timber to the Redbank power station.

More pollution, more loss of habitat, more CO2 emissions, more excessive use of our local roads and then a very poor substitute for energy production.

There so many options out there to produce energy than this totally stupid project.

Tony Edye

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