



Denman Aberdeen Muswellbrook Scone Healthy Environment Group Inc is located in the Upper Hunter coalfields. We are dedicated to providing community voice to industry and all levels of government in defense of our natural environment in the interests of human health and well being, and the protection of biodiversity.

#### DAMS HEG Objects to the Redbank Restart.

Dams Heg is concerned this project will inevitably fast track vegetation clearing. Removing “INS” at scale will have a massive destructive impact on wildlife and native vegetation. However, the location of the fuel source has not been specified by the proponent which means the IPC is not in a position to properly assess those environmental impacts.

Also, attempting to grow plants such as banna grass in the quantities required to burn and generate electricity, in proximity to Redbank seems pretty unrealistic and raises alarm bells. Growing fuel on marginal agricultural land does not sound, by definition, unfeasible.

We are concerned that burning organic material unavoidably produces smoke and other pollutants and that the Hunter air quality is already impacted sufficiently to trigger frequent health alerts. Biomass is a less energy dense fuel source than coal so will obviously cause more air pollution. Haulage by diesel trucks, which are also significant contributors to air pollution notably the carcinogenic PM1.

We’re concerned that the Recommended Conditions of Consent allow, in addition to 40 cumulative days of diesel generated electricity, a provision to exceed this limit if the Australian Energy Market Operator directs it to, and AEMO can extend that direction and Verdant can also use diesel if it takes all practical measures to prevent or minimise air pollution. This means environment will come second to the high prices electricity might command.

(The recent testing of the Hunter Power Project at Kurri, part of the Snowy Hydro, used diesel. It resulted in so many complaints by the locals that the federal member called for it be shut down immediately.)

Burning diesel is burning a fossil fuel and is not green energy. Burning wood releases stored carbon, while this carbon is part of the carbon cycle, burning so much at once can be expected to have negative greenhouse, social and environmental impacts beyond the Redbank generating site. I trust the Panel can see we need to fast track renewables and battery storage and find better, more Earth friendly uses for woody weeds and marginal agricultural land.

Wendy Wales  
President for DAMS HEG Inc

