

To NSW Department of Planning  
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From Colin Sagar 18 George St Bermagui NSW 2546

Please accept this a Public Submission to the Redbank Power Plant – Proposed Biomass Fueled Electricity Plant

**NB** Please note that the Departmental Portal was unable to be accessed for this Submission and that a postal submission may not have been received by the Department prior to the closure date.

I ask that this emailed Submission is accepted by the Department and that the Portals suitability to the apparent exclusion of other modes of Public input on important matters be reviewed.

I totally accept that this submission may become public.

**Submission:** The NSW Government has committed to reigning in excessive land clearing and acknowledges that the State's environment laws fail to protect biodiversity, including our endangered Koalas and Greater Gliders. It is ludicrous to approve a project that depends on retaining, not fixing, weak clearing laws.

- **National Environmental Significance** 1,480,000 dry tonnes of wood is anticipated to be produced from clearing in years 1-4 of the project. This high volume should make it a matter of National Environmental Significance and require assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for its impacts on federally listed threatened species;
- **Biodiversity and Habitat:** The new proposed fuel source for Redbank power station will create a market to destroy even more habitat. It will incentivise native tree clearing.
- Over time, the effects of land clearing - through fragmentation and disturbance - further degrade the condition and habitat values of remaining vegetation.
- The EIS fails to sufficiently identify the specific areas and species to be cleared or reflect on the cumulative impacts of intensive clearing over the life of the project. Clearing native vegetation destroys habitat and prevents desperately needed ecological recovery.
- **Carbon and Climate:** Biomass burning is not clean. It emits more greenhouse gases per unit of energy than coal. Biomass burning is not GREEN.
- This project is an unnecessary distraction from real renewable energy solutions. It will not help, but hinder decarbonisation of the energy system.
- Burning cleared vegetation is not carbon neutral and the project would create a new source of greenhouse pollution.
- The EIS fails to account for greenhouse gas emissions from the broad scale tree clearing that underpins this project. The NSW Government should analyse the gross level of emissions attributable to tree clearing over the life of the project.
- The proposal is to use cleared habitat and forest biomass from land that has been stripped for farming, not regrowth, meaning there will not be any future carbon sequestration to theoretically reduce the power plant's emissions.
- A massive increase in truck movements to deliver fuel to Redbank is another source of emissions and a far-reaching disturbance.
- **Failing Policy:** The proposal seeks to exploit NSW land management rules that are unequivocally failing nature and that are currently under review.
- **Air Pollution:** Biomass has negative and unjust health impacts including releasing dangerous air pollution.