



2 November 2020

The Hon. Daniel Mookhey
Chair, Public Works Committee
NSW Parliament

By email: publicworks@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Mookhey

**Subject: Public Works Committee – Response
Inquiry into costs for remediation of sites containing coal ash repositories**

Thank you for the opportunity to present to the Public Works Committee's inquiry into reducing costs for remediation of sites containing coal ash repositories.

Please see the attached document outlining our responses to questions taken on notice during the hearing on 6 October 2020.

Should you require further information in relation to these responses, please contact me on

Yours faithfully,

Tim Browne
Manager Environmental Systems

Our Ref: F2010/01953/02

Question Taken on Notice #1

The CHAIR: When will that air quality monitoring station be operational? Have you been advised?

Mr GREG PIPER: It is not yet operational. The site has been determined. Mr Browne might be able to advise more there, but the site was actually decided in consultation with Lake Macquarie City Council.

Mr BROWNE: That is correct. The site was identified in consultation with us and my department. I am not aware if it is operational or not at this point.

The CHAIR: When was the decision made to construct it?

Mr BROWNE: I would have to go back and provide that information later. I do not have that date at hand with me today.

Response

Council received correspondence from the Minister for Energy and Environment dated 16 April 2020 advising that the NSW Government will install a permanent air quality monitoring station in the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area. The air quality monitoring station will be installed and operated by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). After considering a number of options, DPIE determined that the Peninsula Rural Fire Brigade site at 56 Fishery Point Road, Mirrabooka as the most suitable long term site.

In August 2020, NSW Public Works Advisory prepared a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the air quality monitoring station. A Deed of Licence, Release and Indemnity was executed in October 2020 between Council and DPIE to allow DPIE to operate the air quality monitoring station on the site for the next ten years. The REF identified that construction would commence in September/October and would be completed within eight weeks.

Question Taken on Notice #2

The CHAIR: Mr Browne and Mr Piper, at various points you have made allusions to beneficial re-use, particularly on road construction. And Mr Browne, that was a heavy part of your opening statement. Have you had engagement with Transport for NSW and/or the previous Roads and Maritime Services about that proposal from a council perspective?

Mr BROWNE: From a council perspective, my department has not specifically had engagement. I will need to take that question on notice. We would be happy to provide details of any engagement that has happened through other departments within the council.

Response

Lake Macquarie City Council records indicate that neither Transport for NSW or the former Roads and Maritime Service have specifically consulted Lake Macquarie City Council staff about the use of flyash in road construction.