

**Submission
No 18**

**INQUIRY INTO COSTS FOR REMEDIATION OF SITES
CONTAINING COAL ASH REPOSITORIES**

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The recent closure of the sports centre facility at Myuna Bay is a reminder of the impacts of exposure to dangerous work sites on the surrounding community. Will this be the first of many lifestyle and development constraints put on the Lake Macquarie community, if remediation and removal of the coal ash dam is not planned for and delivered? The coal ash dam is both a potential toxic issue in groundwater and also a structural issue in any seismic movement. The Hunter is a proud coal community and over its delivered alot of wealth, energy and work. However with the inevitable zero carbon emission targets and the non economic viability of coal fired power, we can expect that Vaile and Erara will close in the next few years. Therefore we need a plan to start to limit the use of water fed waste and open waste sites and start to remediate the existing open pits. We need a target for remediation and removal and a plan to get there, so we are not left with a toxic legacy that we spend years wrangling to get something. Thank you and please help us sort this out.