

**Submission
No 29**

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

Name: Mr Derek Robertson

Date Received: 13 February 2020

I make no pretenses in relation to my substantive submission, which will amount to about 50 words, none of which will be in the slightest memorable or original; however, in order to lend my submission a shred of credibility, let me list a few qualifications which will, I hope, entitle me to an opinion:

- * I have an Honours degree in Earth Sciences (geophysics)
- * 16 years as a senior secondary science teacher
- * a number of years and a number of science courses developed and delivered for Continuing Education, WEA and U3A
- * joint founder of one NGO, executive member of the 2 leading conservation organisations in South Australia and currently a governor of WWF
- * Team leader of the UNDP/GEF post-UNCED Agenda-21 project in Indonesia
- * Consultant on Community Development projects for UNESCO
- * Project evaluation and assessment for Ausaid
- * Founder and manager of an environmental and social consultancy in Indonesia, and
- * probably one or three others which I have temporarily forgotten.

The substance of my submission is:

1. given the potency of the heavy metals in fly-ash, I cannot see why there should be any extension of fly-ash dumps in NSW or anywhere else under any circumstances, and
2. I fail to understand why measures have not already been taken to rid all communities in the vicinity of coal ash dumps of the dumps and the power stations responsible for them.

Surely, the track record of similar dumps overseas, and the proven toxicity of the heavy metals they contain should not only give pause to any plans to extend the dumps, but should also serve to hasten the removal and clean-up of the dumps themselves and all vestiges of the industry which produced them in the first place.

Thank you for your time and attention.