

**Submission
No 32**

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

Name: Mrs Jan Mitchell
Date Received: 13 February 2020

Coal Ash at Eraring and Vales Point power stations:
Submission Regarding Coal Ash

I am a resident of Rathmines on the western shore of Lake Macquarie.

I became aware of the situation about the stockpile of coal ash at Eraring when I noticed that the sports centre just north of Eraring was closed at very short notice. An article in our local paper, The Lakes Mail alerted me to the fact that the coal ash stockpile was so big it was in danger of toppling.

I believe the power station management is negligent for allowing the coal ash stockpile to become so dangerous. Instead, they dismissed their own responsibility and caused much harm to a beloved community facility, mostly used by schools, and by children attending programs during school holidays.

When there are alternatives now available to use coal ash in concrete, road building and other construction, the management of Eraring and Vales Point Power Stations are negligent in not taking steps to sell down the stockpile.

I believe the role of the State Government has also been one of negligence. These two power Stations were sold by the government some years ago, no doubt with an accompanying stockpile of coal ash. The coal ash at that time should have been dealt with safely and there should have been a compliance guarantee from the new owners.

The company should have received a compliance order to remove sufficient coal ash to make the pile safe for neighbouring residents.

I want to see coal-fired power stations in NSW required by law to dispose of coal ash, preferably by selling it for sustainable use.