

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I currently live in Metford but I used to live in Lake Macquarie for 15 years. I still frequently visit the Lake which is part of my community. I feel terribly sick that some of the marine life are now so badly affected by heavy metals that I feel I cannot eat catch from the Lake. Neither the Vales Point or Eraring ash dumps have dam liners to prevent leaching and the contamination of groundwater. Exceedences of environmental trigger points for groundwater concentrations of the following metals have been identified at Vales Point and Eraring: arsenic, cadmium, selenium, chromium, lead, mercury, copper, zinc and nickel. Heavy metals bio-accumulate and magnify up food chains, impairing the reproduction of native bird and fish species. The consumption of Mud Crab, Blue Swimmer Crab from Lake Macquarie could result in over-exposure to cadmium, and children are at risk of over-exposure to selenium from Fin-fish consumption. Shorebirds in Mannering Bay contain high heavy metal levels, meaning the toxic substances from the ash dams are travelling into the ecosystem. This is a terrible state of affairs and needs to be justly remedied by the polluters.

As a member of this community, I REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

The NSW EPA amend the Eraring (EPL 1429) and Vales Point (EPL 761) EPLs so that the maximum concentrations limits for water discharge are in line with the ANZECC (2000) guidelines

The NSW Government commit to decontaminating the Vales Point and Eraring power station sites

The NSW Government ensure there are adequate funds set aside to decontaminate the sites comprehensively

The NSW Government carry out feasibility study into the environmentally responsible reuse of coal ash, with an aim of setting up a pilot plant so that Lake Macquarie's coal-ash sites may be returned to wetlands habitat in the future.

I note that Coal-ash can be beneficially reused in cement, building and manufacturing products which are all in high demand. This seems like a logical win/win solution to this environmental disaster.

I refer you to the Hunter Community Environment Centre's report "Out of the Ashes" and to their presentation on Vales Point and Eraring pollution