

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I am an aged pensioner.

I have witnessed many changes to the Lake Macquarie area since I was a toddler wading in the waters in the 1950s.

Many of my relatives had worked at power stations around Lake Macquarie - including my dad, some siblings, and several other family members

After school my brothers and sisters and I would swim in the Lake and would be able to look across to the other side of the Lake to Wangi Power Station - where our dad worked until his premature retirement.

A lot of wonderful workers, men and women, young and old have worked at the various power stations. But I am now really pleased that Ross Garnaut has handed down a report on how Australia can become a renewable energy superpower. I look forward to the day when our local workers can take up more opportunities to work in areas of clean renewable energy and the myriad number of green industries which can spin off from it. Like many locals I talk to, I believe this is our way forward so that we can become free of emissions from the stacks as well as the toxic heavy metals and trace elements which leach into the Lake from the coal ash dams.

Many of us around the Lake have been concerned about the impact of the ash dams on the health of local populations and on the birds, fish, crabs, prawns and other living creatures. Whilst as a child we used to love eating fish, crabs and prawns from the Lake, residents are aware that now they have to limit their consumption for health reasons due to contamination. It is a terrible shame that it has come to this.

I recommend the government bring in stronger regulations to prevent heavy metals leaching from the ash dams and blowing into our communities.

I want the government to have plans in place to decontaminate and fully rehabilitate the sites and our shoreline.

I want the governments to stop handing over taxpayer money which helps line the pockets of the private companies and individual owners while local communities wear the health risks. Locals and tax payers in general are left to despair of the potential clean up costs and environmental impacts.