

Submission  
No 49

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

**Organisation:** Mannering Park Progress

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We know that neither the Vales Point or Eraring ash dumps have dam liners to prevent leaching and the contamination of groundwater into Lake Macquarie and surrounding waterways.

The 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 as exceeding safe limits.

As heavy metals bio-accumulate and magnify up the food chain, it will impair the reproduction of native bird and fish species in the lake.

Already the consumption of Mud Crab and 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.

We also know that large number of the heavy metals that are released from Lake Macquarie's power stations into the environment have concentration limits in place that fall well short of world's best practice and haven't been altered in the time the powers stations have been open despite there being ample evidence of their harmful effects and the ability to for the power stations to mitigate up to 90% of the harmful effects with appropriate technology.

We would ask that 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.

Coal-ash can be beneficially reused in cement, building and manufacturing products which are in high demand. We would like to see the NSW Government carry out a 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

We also believe that the NSW Government must commit to decontaminating the Vales Point and Eraring power station sites whilst ensuring there is adequate funding and using world's best practice of removing all of the remaining contaminated ash site slurry and burying the toxic waste in a geologically stable area then rehabilitate the sites in consultation with experts by using VENM and appropriate native species of plants that will help clean up the lake and remove the source of the contamination from its foreshore.

We hope that this submission is taken seriously as we actually live in Mannering Park and are directly affected by your decision please make it in the best interest of the community and the environment. We want to see our children inherit a clean and healthy living lake.