

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 15 February 2020

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Partially  
Confidential

To the inquiry panel,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the pollution that coal ash dams are contributing to our local environment.

I live in Newcastle and don't get to the lake as often as I would like, but when my family is there we are in awe of what a beautiful natural asset it is for the community. The idea that any industry would be able to pollute the land and waters nearby is unthinkable and definitely an area where government needs to increase regulation to protect species and people exposed to the heavy metals that are being leached.

I'm concerned that these heavy metals can bio-accumulate meaning that they pose a long term and increasing problem in the area.

I would like to see the Vales Point and Erraring power plant owners commit to decontaminating the power station sites and the waste areas.

I would also like to see the industry regulated to use the waste ash in cement making rather than being allowed to leave it in unlined ponds which is clearly posing a huge health hazard.