

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Dear Panel

Inquiry into the costs for remediation of sites containing coal ash repositories

I live in Lake Macquarie and have often been on the Lake, fishing, sailing or just by the shore.

I am concerned with the state of our Lake with the increasing amount of toxins being released from the coal ash dam.

According to the report released by the Hunter Community Environment Centre, heavy metals are being found in seafood caught in the Lake. 20 samples of mud crab and blue swimmer crab caught, all exceeded the EU's maximum concentration of cadmium. Fish caught in the northern part of the Lake have high levels of mercury and lead. There are high selenium concentrations in sediments of Wyee Creek, Mannering Bay, Whitehead Lagoon and Crooked Creek.

There is also groundwater contamination which represents a risk to human health and livestock.

The Lake is host to many marine species, turtles, dolphins, and others. It has recreational fishing, so these metals are a concern.

These coal ash dams have no lining, and are leeching contaminants into the lake and ground, this needs to be addressed.

I agree with the recommendations put forward by the Hunter Community Environment Centre as below

Recommendation 1: The NSW EPA undertake an investigation into coal ash generated in NSW and ensure appropriate waste classification and licensing.

Recommendation 2: The Commonwealth Controlled Waste NEPM (National Environmental Protection Measure) hazardous waste classification be amended to delete the exclusion of "fly ash generated from Australian coal fired power stations".

Recommendation 3: NSW power station operators must obtain a 'Waste storage - hazardous, restricted solid, liquid, waste licence' and a 'Hazardous waste recovery licence'.

Recommendation 4: The NSW EPA must require all coal fired power station operators to provide financial assurance to secure or guarantee funding during the operation of the facility and during the post-closure period and until the EPA is satisfied that the site is stable and not polluting.

Recommendation 5: To reduce the amount of coal ash dumped in ash dams in NSW, the EPA impose a load-based licence fee of at least \$20 a tonne on all coal ash disposed of in ash dams, landfills, and mine voids.

Recommendation 6: The EPA ensure that all water monitoring data undertaken by Sunset Industries International for its Vales Point power station be uploaded to its website as soon as practicable after the monitoring is undertaken.

Recommendation 7: The EPA ensure that additional monthly monitoring for aluminium, arsenic (iii, and v), cadmium, chromium (iii, and vi), copper, iron, lead, manganese, nickel,

selenium, vanadium, and zinc be added to the Vales Point power station EPL to be undertaken at Mannering Bay, Wye Creek, and Wye Bay.

Recommendation 8: The EPA ensure that all surface water EPL monitoring sites include monthly monitoring for aluminium, arsenic (iii, and v), cadmium, chromium (iii, and vi), copper, iron, lead, manganese, nickel, selenium, vanadium, and zinc with results published on the operator's website.

Recommendation 9: The EPA impose concentration limits according with ANZECC (2000) trigger values for heavy metals and other environmentally-harmful parameters for all discharge from the ash dam including overflow releases into Mannering Bay and Wye Creek.

Recommendation 10: The EPA require additional monthly monitoring for aluminium, arsenic (iii, and v), cadmium, chromium (iii, and vi), copper, iron, lead, manganese, nickel, selenium, vanadium, and zinc, be added to the Eraring power station EPL to be undertaken at Muddy Lake and Crooked Creek.

Recommendation 11: The EPA ensure that all Eraring power station surface water EPL monitoring sites include monthly monitoring of aluminium, arsenic (iii, and v), cadmium, chromium (iii, and vi), copper, iron, lead, manganese, nickel, selenium, vanadium, and zinc and these made public on the operator's website

Recommendation 12: The EPA impose concentration limits according with ANZECC (2000) for all discharged heavy metals and other environmentally harmful parameters from the Eraring power station ash dam overflow releases into Crooked Creek.

Recommendation 13: The NSW Government review load-based license calculations and amend them to better reflect the mass balance and leachate calculations of all water pollutants discharged, and include arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, and zinc to Water Pollutants listed in Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009 under the heading "generation of electrical power from coal."

Recommendation 14: The EPA amend EPL 761 to include a 2ppb limit of selenium concentrations in the cooling water outfall monitored at LMP 1.

Recommendation 15: To identify the extent of potential contamination of Lake Macquarie by the Vales Point Power Station, the EPA should include additional surface water monitoring point in EPL 761 that incorporate areas of Southern Lake Macquarie taking into account currents and inflows and for comparison appropriate background sites near to the mixing zones of Eraring and Vales Point, as well as areas not influenced by any potential inputs from Vales Point or Eraring Power Stations.

Recommendation 16: Vales Point to establish background groundwater monitoring bores at appropriate distances from the ash dam and make the mon

Recommendation 17: The EPA contact all registered bore owners who may be affected by heavy metal contamination identified by the Vales Point and Eraring monitoring to warn them of the dangers to human health, livestock, irrigated crops and irrigated plants and crops of using such water.

Recommendation 18: The EPA launch a full investigation into coal ash reuse in NSW to determine the environmental risks and whether all its current uses are appropriate for a hazardous waste.

Recommendation 19: The EPA revoke the Coal Ash Exemption 2014.

Recommendation 20: The NSW Government list coal ash as an assessable pollutant in Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009.

Recommendation 21: The NSW Government launch an investigation into possible safe commercial uses of coal ash and look to incentivise new on-site industries around safe coal ash reuse as a means of ridding the heavy metal burden of coal ash landfills, rehabilitating coal ash dams and providing affected workers with alternative employment when the State's coalfired power stations are decommissioned