

**Submission  
No 65**

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

**Name:** Ms Cherylyn Fenton

**Date Received:** 16 February 2020

---

I currently live in East Corrimal but my family have had a residence at 111 Gamban Rd Gwandalan for over 50 years. The extended family uses this for holidays and we have a great love and appreciation for Lake Macquarie. We have enjoyed swimming, sailing, water skiing, fishing and crabbing.

It was sad to inform family members that it was no longer advisable to eat crabs or fish from the lake because of the accumulation of heavy metals in the Lake that have affected the food chain. I have a Masters Degree in Special Education and am well aware of the effects that these metals have on the development of young children.

I am concerned that the coal ash dams at Vales Point and Eraring do not have dam liners to stop contamination entering the Lake. I understand the importance of adhering to the ANZECC (2000) guidelines for water discharge and would expect that there should be no exemptions to these guidelines.

I call on the government of the day to set in place a plan and funding for the decontamination of all coal ash dams. I would also call for an independent feasibility study on ways to reuse coal ash. I have previously read studies on its use in concrete and roads. The owners and operators of these sites have an economic and ethical responsibility to return these sites to as close as possible to their original state so that no damage or failures should be the responsibility of future generations or taxpayers. I also think it is important that the community is informed of any decisions and be involved in future discussions.

I thank you for the opportunity to respond in this inquiry and look forward to being able to tell family members, friends and neighbors at Gwandalan that in the future they will be able to enjoy this beautiful part of the world again without the fear or worry of contamination. It is important that everyone involved should follow due diligence as there has been a lack of trust in Vales Point and Eraring Power Stations being responsible for containing contamination or for government agencies to follow through with their own guidelines.