

Submission  
No 69

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 16 February 2020

---

Partially  
Confidential

Key issues that need to be dealt with urgently

1. Reuse of fly ash materials

Only a relatively small proportion of fly ash accumulated as a waste product of burning coal in our conventional power stations (e.g. Vales point and Eraring) is recycled in Australia compared with other countries, such as India, China, the UK and Japan. This is patently unsatisfactory. As a result there are huge ash dams that have and continue to pose dangerous risks to human health and the environment. The technology exists, but the economics is apparently not favoured by business. A tax (levy) of ash produced would help to overcome this dilemma.

2. Continued use of tax payers' money to support power companies

Why are state and federal governments so obsessed with continued financial support for power stations. The particular case in point is Vales Point. Delta energy purchased Vales Point for a ridiculously small amount (\$1 M) and it is now worth in excess of \$700 M. Now the federal government wants to provide \$11 M as a grant (not a loan) to support upgrades. Both Eraring and Vales Point power stations create significant carbon pollution. Both have a limited lifespan. Why doesn't the government instead provide financial support for transition away from coal fired power?