

**Submission
No 71**

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

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My name is Keelah Lam. I'm a long time campaigner for ZERO WASTE so that future generations are not left to solve the enormous problems created by unnecessary waste created by our mindless generation.

This enquiry must take seriously the concerns about the dangers of contamination of the environment and of the health impacts and end of life cost by creating and storing coal ash.

Many in the community are not even aware of the IPC approval for the Eraring power station to close their precious local sports venue and turn it into a dangerous coal ash dump.

Coal ash toxins are well recognised to cause asthma, heart diseases, stroke, lung disease and cancer,

Following privatisation here, poor management and regulation we have had the warnings with a toxic slurry and ash spill poisoning the river.

Listen to the USA expert, Lisa Evans experience of the Tennessee power station coal ash disaster with loss of life, homes, illnesses and coal ash destroying rivers and people 10 years later.

Changes are urgent: EPA must, via the Specific Regulations under Protection of Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW), require coal stations to fund the cost of the clean up and rehabilitation of coal ash dumps, Furthermore they must be required to transition their workforce into land rehabilitation jobs just as Germany so cleverly has done.

Coal powered energy stations must be required to prepare for plan for end of life as we rapidly transition to life-saving renewable energy. They must include communities in closer and long life rehabilitation plans

Our government must take very seriously the threat of leaving an unliveable planet to our offspring and theirs. This inquiry is vital in ensuring a pathway to sustainability with a better outcome for amelioration and adaptation.

I am 76 years old and have grown up at a time when we NEVER had to think about the quality of our air and water. I fear that mindlessness and greed will be allowed to continue.

PLEASE do the right thing and work for the benefit of this planet and all Mother Earth. Do you do you know how to copy copy's dependents. As the saying goes: when all the trees have gone and all the fish have died, they will realise we cannot eat money.