

Callum Firth

From: Gary [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 7 November 2019 4:04 PM
To: Xanthe O'Donnell; IPCN Enquiries Mailbox; ingrid schraner
Subject: Call for public meeting into expansion of Eraring ash dam
Attachments: ash dam inquiry letter 2019.docx

To whom it may concern, Please find our submission objecting to the expansion and having no opportunity for the community to address this inquiry.

Gary Blaschke OAM

Coal ash Community Alliance Inc.

Spokesperson
[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avast.com

The Independent Planning Commission N.S.W.

7th November 2019

N.S.W. Department of Planning and Environment

Major Development Assessment

Re: Eraring Power Station Ash Dam Expansion MOD 1 (07_0084 MOD 1)

The Coal-ash Community Alliance Inc. wish to object to the N.S.W. Planning Commission and N.S.W. Department of Planning for the proposed Eraring Power Station Ash Dam Expansion, on both Environmental and Human health grounds.

The impacts are well documented that both Eraring and Vales Point power stations have had on the regional communities from Lake Macquarie to the Central Coast. Well over five decades of coal mining, coal burning & the storage of the by products, has left the region with a mounting legacy that neither the operators nor NSW Government have any plan for re-use or remediation.

Over 60 Million tonnes of coal ash is currently stored in two (Eraring & Vales Point) unlined fifty year old dams and currently increasing in volume by some 1.89 Million tonnes per annum. History shows us that the nearby sleeping giant, the decommissioned Lake Munmorah power station has since 1962, with the approval of the Government (Electricity Commission) and their 60 scientists, carried out tests by dumping in the sea at Wybung Head (Lake Munmorah Conservation Area) some 8000 tons of ash a week from powerhouses. These test were deemed highly successful and more importantly the fact that some ash drifted two miles out to sea. (*Blue Gum Flat to Budgewoi / Brisbane Water Historical Society*).

The employment and prosperity that the coal-power generation and mining has brought to the region, has come at a cost. Respiratory and Cardio vascular issues run rampant in the region. A recent Cancer Cluster report on the Central Coast by Torrens University for the Cancer Institute found nine different cancers at least 6% above the N.S.W. average, whilst pre-school infants have been diagnosed with brain cancer and two young teenagers have passed away recently from spinal tumours.

Recent reports by Environmental Justice and the Hunter Community Environment Centre have quantified the environmental contamination issues being caused by ash waste storage and, moving forward we wish to see waste management plans and reuse which address the issues outlined in these reports.

2.

Reports of low birth weights and other medical issues are now only being announced by the growing number of concerned medical professionals and the regional community has had enough. The icing on the cake was the recent closure of the Myuna Bay Sport & Recreation facility by the Berejiklian government for very suspicious reasons that have not been announced by an inquiry.

The environmental impacts of this proposal to expand the walls of the Eraring dam are fundamentally flawed. Yes, the engineers can say that the expansion is nowhere near the questionable dam walls that could at any moment collapse and cause death and destruction. Yet common sense would tell any common person, that the pressure of continually dumping ash for the perceived next two decades, must have a detrimental impact on the entire dam's structure and integrity.

Environmental breaches of licences are a common occurrence at every power station and the history and total ignorance of past authorities, have been swept under the carpet by consecutive governments. The community has lost its confidence in the political process over the past decade with politician after politician being found to be corrupt with some even going to gaol.

The industry's failure to reach the 80% reuse targets is indicative of an industry that just doesn't care about their neighbours or the surrounding environment. Be it an earthquake, continual truck movements, poor management or simply old dam wall failures, that eventually produce a catastrophic event, it will come back on this inquiry for failure to listen to the regional community.

Without any formal Community or Public meeting our suspicions grow day by day. We demand that this inquiry allocates time for the community, who have lived with the impacts and legacy of these operations, to allow them to have a say in their regions future.

Yours sincerely,

Ingrid Schraner

Gary Blaschke

Ingrid Schraner

Gary Blaschke OAM

Secretary

Central Coast representative