

Callum Firth

From: Xanthe O'Donnell
Sent: Tuesday, 19 November 2019 4:24 PM
To: IPCN Enquiries Mailbox
Cc: Callum Firth
Subject: FW: Eraring Power Station - Ash Dam expansion

FYI

Kind regards,
Xanthe

Xanthe O'Donnell | Principal Planning Officer

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New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

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From: Seppo Rusanen [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 November 2019 4:20 PM
To: Xanthe O'Donnell <Xanthe.ODonnell@ipcn.nsw.gov.au>; Yasmin Catley [REDACTED]
Subject: Eraring Power Station - Ash Dam expansion

Murrays Beach, 19-Nov-2019

Xanthe O'Donnell – Planning Officer

xanthe.odonnell@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

The Independent Planning Commission of New South Wales

The Hon. Yasmin Catley, MP for Swansea ■

swansea@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Shop 1, 204 Pacific Highway

Swansea NSW 2281

Eraring Power Station – Ash Dam expansion

As residents on the Lake Macquarie, we wish to express serious concern regarding proposals to expand the ash dam at Eraring Power station. We strongly suspect that the management of the ash dam in its current form is far from satisfactory, and as such wish to express our opposition to the expansion of this facility.

We have been living on the opposite side of Lake Macquarie now for almost seven years, from where the Power Station is quite visible and only a short distance away across the water. During this time, we've noticed the continuous appearance of ash-like dust on our veranda, window sills, the roof – any flat and level area of the house. After the rain, the tank water can turn black as a result.

The area can appear as clean and unpolluted – almost pristine - so the ash-like dust came as an unexpected surprise after the first couple of years in the area. Of course, there is pollen etc from the trees (and presently ash from the bushfires). But the dust can appear at any time of the year after a windy weather; not only when the gum trees are in blossom. Of course, we cannot have complete verification of the source, but Eraring Power Station appears as the prime suspect.

Consequently, we have raised our concerns to our local MP at NSW Parliament, Yasmin Catley, who has kindly followed up the matter with James Griffin, MP, Parliamentary Secretary, and also directly to Matt Kean, MP, NSW Minister for the Environment. The reply assures criteria exists for handling of the dust, but does not address the basic issues such as how much and for how long will the coal ash remain in the area; how safe is it and what are the long term consequences; options for permanent and safe disposal? Further, there have been reports in the local media leading to doubts on the effectiveness of the control or monitoring of the ash dam, even in its current form.

Accordingly, we oppose any expansion of the ash dam, and in fact would prefer there being no such coal ash storage facility on the shores of Lake Macquarie at all, an area with so much to offer for its growing population.

Kind regards,

Seppo & Paivi Rusanen

