

NEWS

MAN WANTED AFTER FATAL POLICE SHOOTING CHARGED

POLICE have charged a 46-year-old man who was wanted after an incident near Wyong last week, in which officers fatally shot a 37-year-old man after he pointed a gun at them. Joshua Samuel York was arrested at a home in Springfield on Sunday

night. Mr York was charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm (DV), stalk/intimidate intend fear physical etc harm (domestic), and two outstanding warrants. He did not apply for bail in court on Monday. The matter was adjourned to October 29.

COVID-19 FINE FOR LAKE PARTY WITH 100 GUESTS

POLICE were called to a home on Letchworth Parade, Balmoral, about 10.30pm on Saturday, following reports of a large party. More than 100 young people had congregated at the home of a 47-year-old woman, who said many of the guests were uninvited.

As police attempted to disperse the crowd, they became hostile towards the officers and threw bottles, rocks, and other projectiles before damaging property, including fences, trees and street signs. Officers have since issued the woman with a \$1000 PIN.

FOOTAGE SOUGHT AFTER CRASH INJURES PASSENGERS

A WOMAN was flown to hospital after a Central Coast crash on Sunday evening. Police said a Holden Commodore sedan and an Isuzu D-Max collided before a Ford Mondeo rear-ended the Isuzu about 6.10pm on Empire Bay Drive. A female passenger

in the Holden, 32, sustained multiple injuries. She was flown to Royal North Shore Hospital in a serious condition. A passenger in the Isuzu was taken to hospital with minor injuries. All three drivers escaped injury. Investigators are examining the crash.

Coal ash keeps piling up

Dumps growing at an alarming rate

BY MATTHEW KELLY

EXISTING coal ash management and reuse practices are failing to prevent the contamination of ecosystems in Lake Macquarie and across the Hunter, a new report has found.

Out of the Ashes II, produced by the Hunter Community Environment Centre, also estimated 100 tonnes of heavy metals leach into NSW waterways every year from the combined 216 million tonnes of accumulated coal ash waste in Lake Macquarie (101 million tonnes) the Central Hunter Valley (84 million tonnes), Central Tablelands (28 million tonnes) and Wollongong (3 million tonnes).

Coal ash, a byproduct of burning coal at power plants, represents 18 per cent of all waste produced in Australia. In NSW there is 200 million tonnes of ash stored in unlined waste dams.

Ash waste is growing by 3.8 million tonnes a year in NSW, the equivalent of seven tonnes of ash waste dumped per minute.

The state government is liable for the bulk of the pollution stemming from coal ash waste

"Contamination studies from 2014 commissioned by NSW Treasury to quantify pollution levels at coal-ash dumps before the privatisation of the NSW coal-fleet show extensive groundwater, surface water and sediment contamination with heavy metals at all NSW coal-ash waste sites," a report summary says.

"Our analysis suggested that these studies underestimate the contamination levels due to poorly selected and limited background wells."

The report's authors also analysed water quality data, which showed numerous exceedances of Australian water quality guidelines relating to heavy metals.

"Industry studies into coal ash confirm that NSW ash poses environmental risks for selenium, molybdenum, boron, vanadium, nickel, zinc and copper," the report said.

A spokesman for Origin Energy, which runs Eraring Power Station, said the company was seeking an external review of the paper by subject matter experts.

"Origin takes our environmental monitoring and reporting obligations extremely



WASTELAND: The Eraring Power station ash dump on the shores of Lake Macquarie. Origin Energy has built a haul road which is 92 per cent coal ash.

seriously, for example Eraring's water monitoring program exceeds regulatory requirements. This monitoring program shows regular compliance with the power

station's EPA licence conditions," the spokesman said.

"While Eraring has the highest ash recycling rate of all NSW coal generators (as acknowledged by the re-

port's authors), we are working hard to further increase ash recycling rates by investing in new technologies, exploring new markets and advocating for the removal of

regulatory impediments."

Origin has already constructed a private haul road paved with a pavement product with an ash content of 92 per cent.

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