



**PortAugusta**

CITY COUNCIL

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Council calls for immediate action on pollution from closed power stations**

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The Port Augusta community has had enough of toxic ash billowing across the City from the closed Augusta Power Stations. Coupled with the stench coming from the drying out of Bird Lake at its southern entrance, Council and the community are calling for urgent action and assistance to remediate the ash dams and lakes.

The Port Augusta City Council is alarmed and dismayed at the environmental and health impacts as ash from the former Alinta Power Station, along with foul odours from the associated lakes, engulfs the City.

Port Augusta Mayor Sam Johnson said despite Council raising the issue with State and Federal governments and former site owners, no viable long-term solution has been offered.

"It is completely unacceptable that the Council and community of Port Augusta are left to deal with an environmental disaster arising from the closure of the Power Stations," Mayor Johnson said.

"Council has strongly raised concerns on many occasions about this environmental and economic mess since the announcement of the closure of Augusta Power Stations in June 2015.

"We have made multiple representations, reports and submissions to a range of government departments and industry bodies and while there have been attempts to address the ash issues, ultimately they have failed and the ash and stench continue to represent a hazard to the community and further damage our economy.

Mayor Johnson says Port Augusta is at the forefront of the changing economy and it is outrageous that the community has been left to endure being covered in harmful dust and fund site remediation for the Augusta Lakes.

"We are among the first communities that are affected by the closure of coal fired power stations and we certainly won't be the last. We need industry, and State and Federal Governments to take responsibility for this mess and set a precedent as to how it will work with communities to remediate sites. It is not acceptable that communities should be left with the unaffordable cost of dealing with an environmental mess."

ENDS

*For interviews contact Mayor Sam Johnson on 0419 423 777.*

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