

MEDIA RELEASE

VALES POINT ASH DAM OPERATIONS

The Vales Point Ash Dam has existed since the construction of the original Vales Point “A” power station in the 1960’s.

Delta operates Vales Point Power Station and Ash Dam under the conditions of an Environmental Protection Licence which is regulated by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (NSW EPA).

Delta takes its duty of care to the local community and environment seriously.

As part of this commitment, a routine inspection in September 2018, as part of ongoing monitoring by Delta, identified a significant volume of unapproved demolition waste within the capping material at the Vales Point Ash Dam Pond 4. Delta immediately contacted the EPA, triggering an on-site meeting by EPA inspectors. Delta also immediately contacted local authorities, including the local council and state health authorities.

All deliveries to the ash dam were immediately suspended and the site closed pending investigation.

The EPA visited the site and requested Delta do further testing to determine the nature of the material. An independent analysis commissioned by Delta in response to an EPA Clean Up Notice revealed there was some demolition waste with suspected bonded asbestos, in contravention of EPA guidelines. Multiple tests and comprehensive sampling revealed there was no airborne asbestos present and there was no danger to the local community.

Howard Recycling Services was contracted by Delta to manage the ash dam and capping material in line with EPA requirements. The capping material had been sourced and accepted by Howards Recycling Services and spread across the site. Delta had no evidence prior to the routine inspection in September 2018 that Howards Recycling Services was accepting or spreading unapproved waste on Ash Dam Pond 4.

Delta Managing Director Greg Everett said the Company had zero tolerance of any breaches of this type.

“We’ve conducted extensive testing and analysis and we are confident there’s no risk to the public or environment from the material at Ash Dam Pond 4” he said.

“The Company expects all employees and contractors to fully comply with all local, state and federal laws and protect the local environment. As a result, Delta has terminated its relationship with Howard Recycling Services and launched an internal review to ensure that all staff and contractors understand their obligations and fully comply with the EPA Act and other laws.”

The EPA is reviewing the results of the independent analysis commissioned by Delta. The next step is likely to be preparation of a remediation action plan. Delta continues to monitor the site.

For further information, contact: Steve Gurney, Company Secretary, 02 4352 6003.

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