

CARE Forum
Meeting held at Vales Point Power Station
11 November 2009

Community members: Chris Smith, Hans Trumm, Marlene Norman, Kevin Spencer, Peter Bates, Trevor Wrightson, Bob Brooks, Garry Prince, Jill Meechan, Coral Burnham, Garry Prince, Neill Wynn.

Delta attendees: Glenn Sharrock, GM Central Coast Production; Suzanne Laucht, Environment Manager, Luke Edminson, Graduate Environmental Scientist, Russell Williams, Environmental Officer, Margaret Miller, Corporate Relations Manager.

Apologies: Derek Zeitsch, Steve Jackson, Stuart Durie and Marvin Campbell

Glenn Sharrock welcomed all attendees, noting especially a new CARE Forum member representing the Mannering Park Precinct Committee, Trevor Wrightson and another guest, Mr Neill Wynn. He introduced Suzanne Laucht, recently appointed as Environmental Manager and Russell Williams, Environment Officer as well as Luke Edminson, who had attended the previous meeting.

As proposed at previous meeting, copies of a map of the local area were circulated so members could identify the locality of the community they represent.

Actions arising from August 11 '09 CARE Forum meeting were noted for follow up:

1. Circulating maps to ensure no gaps in representation of local community.
2. A presentation on Delta's ambient air monitoring
3. A presentation on Delta's Sustainability program and carbon capture project in particular

The meeting notes were okayed by all present.

Presentation

Peter Coombes, Sustainability Manager spoke about Delta's Sustainability Program which aims to balance Delta's provision of a reliable supply of electricity for around 3.2 million homes each year, with reducing greenhouse gas emissions. He presented a progress report about the different strategies needed to make deep cuts to emissions, including global research into carbon capture and storage in deep geological structures including the Munmorah project with CSIRO. He noted that the Munmorah project is the biggest of four CSIRO pilot plants which are testing different chemical absorption processes to remove CO₂ from power station flue gases. He also provided information on the role of algae as a means to store carbon dioxide following an earlier enquiry about this proposal by Bob Brooks. (see slide presentation)

Formal thanks to Hans Trumm serving on the CARE Forum member

Glenn expressed Delta's deep gratitude for Hans's commitment and presented Hans with a small gift on the occasion of his retirement from the CARE Forum, which he has been engaged in for the past nine years. Hans responded, saying it had been a rewarding experience and commended Delta for establishing the community forum. Every one joined in offering their thanks and best wishes to Hans who would also shortly be celebrating his 80th birthday.

Operational Report

An operational report was provided. It was noted that Vales Point had set new records in continuous operation – from March 2009 to early October 2009, as well as records in availability and performance. It was noted this performance was made possible by capital investment in the plant. There were to be two short outages for VP 5 and 6 to ensure they run reliably during the summer months.

The matter of the fabric filters failing earlier than anticipated (resulting in some visible emissions at Vales Point) was still in negotiation. All 40,000 bags have now been replaced but as the replacement bags are of the same quality, it is likely they too will fail at just 10,000 hours. It was agreed that it is disappointing to sporadically have some emissions visible after this major investment to virtually eliminate them.

Munmorah 3 was in operation August to October. Now out of service with MM4 on stand-by. Planned outages in the Western Region will mean that MM will be required to come in during summer period.

Colongra update

Colongra comprises four 167MW units, with a total capacity of 670 - equivalent to one unit at Vales Point. Units 1 and 2 are available to operate, with Unit 3 ready for handover and Unit 4 due for handover at end November. A noise test with all four units operating is planned to ensure compliance with development approvals relating to noise levels.

Presentation on ambient air monitoring

Luke Edminson outlined Delta's ambient air monitoring program which takes account of prevailing meteorological conditions and includes monthly collection and analysis of dust collected in dust gauges surrounding the two power stations. He noted that data of local conditions has been used in the modelling of emissions from a rehabilitated Munmorah. Monthly monitored parameters include rainfall, relative humidity, temperature, wind direction and speed as well as Carbon Monoxide, nitrogen oxides, Sulphur dioxide and ozone particulates PM10 and PM2.5. A map of the two power stations was shown highlighting the locations of Delta's dust gauges. The results from ambient air monitoring indicate that air quality surrounding the Central Coast power stations are within environmental licence requirements.

Munmorah Rehabilitation proposal update

Glenn provided an update on the Munmorah Rehabilitation development approval process noting that the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project which would rehabilitate the two Munmorah generating units was now on exhibition. Members of the CARE Forum were urged to review the EA and submit their comments to the Department of Planning.

Other issues:

Permanent noise monitors are now plugged into the Operating Room at Vales Point and Munmorah so operators can become aware of untoward noise immediately and remedy as soon as possible to prevent disturbing local community.

Noise monitoring at Colongra is part of the commissioning of the facility as we must ensure that we are within limits set by regulatory authorities and that this is tolerable for the community.

Seagrass surveys, including from helicopters, are now being undertaken because with Munmorah not operational, this is an opportunity to gain baseline data of the

health of seagrass beds. It was noted that helicopters hovering recently were checking high voltage systems for Transgrid.

Bushfire reduction burns will be conducted. Consultation with community to ensure minimum impacts, especially on a local turkey farm!

Community Feedback:

Garry Prince raised the matter of an invitation extended for Delta to present to a local committee. This is to take place on 8 December 2009.

Jill Meechan noted she had previously raised a query about acid rain as requested by an interested community member.

Coral Burnham noted that the Mannering Park volunteers who had worked on the garden and the oval had gained an award at recent Wyong Shire Council awards and thanked Delta for their support of local volunteers. She noted also that Trevor Wrightson was awarded Volunteer of the Year at the same award ceremony. Both awards were acknowledged with acclaim.

Neil Wynn noted that he was in attendance to learn about the community forum.

Peter Bates had nothing to report on this occasion.

Bob Brooks noted he had read an item in the Australian about renewable energy units at Condong and Broadwater sugar mills and how they had been impacted by the drop in value of REC's. This was a consequence of the Federal Government offering subsidies for solar hot water systems. He also asked about the availability of Koala Park tennis courts and commented on their poor condition. He also noted the poor condition of the revegetation of the pipeline. Suzanne and Glenn agreed and said Delta is in discussion with Jemena about resolving the restoration of the pipeline regrowth area.

Trevor Wrightson commented that he was very surprised to receive the nomination and Volunteer of the Year award. He was sorry he was not available to attend the ceremony. He noted that a Precinct Committee, Landcare and Tidy Town group had recently been formed in Mannering Park and that they would welcome Delta's assistance with a number of their proposed activities.

Kevin noted it had been "pretty quiet", following the communities' win in the Land and Environment Court. Gwandalan Summerland Point Action Group challenged the Minister for Planning's concept approval of residential development at Catherine Hill Bay, and the Project Approval for the development at Gwandalan. These were found by the court to be void and of no effect. Kevin noted that the area is still zoned as residential and this could present further problems.

Marlene Norman had nothing to report on this occasion.

Hans Trumm noted that he had retired.

Chris Smith noted new Welcome Wall is more sturdy and that a Delta plaque will be fixed to it.

Meeting finished at 8.30pm. Next meeting was not discussed but propose 5pm, 10 February 2009.