

## Central Coast CARE Forum

10 August 2011

### Attendees

#### Community Representatives:

Bob Brooks, Coral Burnham, Trevor Wrightson, Derek Zietsch, John Challinore, Peter Snelling.

#### Delta Electricity:

Glenn Sharrock (General Manager/Central Coast), Julia Harvey (Corporate Relations Manager), Suzanne Laucht (Environment Manager/Central Coast), Shannon Bruce (Senior Environment Officer/Central Coast), Anthony Callen (Sustainability Technologist).

### 1. Operations Overview - Glenn Sharrock

#### Safety, energy production, coals supplies, biomass

Vales Point Unit 5 outage will take 10 weeks. Boilers, turbines, and electrical systems will be upgraded. The contractor workforce will see increased activity with people and equipment on site. Vales Point Unit 6 outage will take place in 2012. Munmorah is on 3 month standby and isn't expected to be in service in 2011/12. Colongra is having its first 'A' Maintenance Inspections which takes place every 2 years using cameras to look at the turbines and combustion chambers.

LDO coal supplies are continuing on internal roads and it was confirmed that LDO coal is not being supplied via Rutleys Rd. Trucks loop through Delta using all internal roads. Discussion took place regarding the proportion of coal from various sources.

In September/October 2011, 5 trucks per week of biomass commences via the Pacific Hwy and Rutleys Rd. Biomass is fuel from renewable sources, including sugar cane, sawmill residues, sorted certified clean waste – licensed by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

Vales Point has now converted its gaseous ammonia plant to aqueous ammonia. The removal of the anhydrous ammonia plant was undertaken as a risk reduction measure and has been completed. Old tanks were emptied, dismantled, and decommissioned.

### 2. Vales Point Ash Dam

Ash dam walls have been constructed, filled, and capped. The trucks turn off the Pacific Hwy to deliver the fill for the walls and then turn back onto Rutleys Road. At peak there can be 30 trucks per day, but for the majority of times very few. The Review of Environmental Factors (REF) has applied conditions to be complied with.

Fill for the walls comes from certified virgin fill, (certified records are required), and the REF was also peer reviewed. Recycled and dam water are used for dust suppression. Boral take 10% of the total ash which is 20% of overall coal burnt. Bottom ash is denser and heavier than fly ash.

The ash dam is scheduled to be used for the remaining life of the station until 2029.

It is unlikely that the ash dam land will be built on. The land is zoned industrial and at this stage it will be capped and revegetated. The dam wall near the Pacific Hwy is high enough in case of a massive rainfall event and will be used to manage the water.

### **3. A-Station Demolition and Removal Project**

A presentation was given on the Vales Point A-Station demolition and removal project outlining the demolition process and issues to be managed. Discussion took place around the Galbestos cladding. It was confirmed that this will be carefully removed in accordance with a strict management plan and disposed of in a licensed facility. CARE Forum members were provided with a copy of Delta's Community Update Newsletter and Q&A fact sheet.

### **4. Carbon Tax Presentation**

The tax will be levied on CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. CO<sub>2</sub> includes methane and other greenhouse emissions. Delta is the largest capacity generator of electricity, but not the largest emitter by any means. Discussion was had about the Australian government modelling at \$20 and \$30 per tonne (the tax is set at \$23/tonne initially) and Delta is concerned about the unfairness of the compensation package and that the compensation will have unintended consequences.

At various levels different types of energy will move in and displace coal, however technologies such as carbon capture will also come into play. Approximately 75% of the tax will be passed through to the consumers. Efficiencies will also improve the efficiency of units and reduce the tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> produced. The output of carbon is monitored via the National Pollution Inventory.

Glenn Sharrock was thanked for his presentation as it clarified the carbon tax, how it was to be implemented, and what the implications were. The presentation is available on the Delta Electricity website with the meeting notes.

### **5. Environmental Issues - Suzanne Laucht**

Community enquiries reported with most relating to land management issues and security.

#### **Bush Fire Management Plan**

Controlled burns are undertaken to keep the levels of fuel down and also to regenerate the bush. Mechanical clearing is also being undertaken, where burns cannot be undertaken safely to protect infrastructure.

#### **Land Management**

Delta engages an external ecologist to prepare vegetation mapping to identify species on Delta buffer lands. Maps are produced and utilised by Delta Central Coast to manage buffer lands.

Some pine trees were removed last year. Once the mature trees are removed they can still leave seeds which can shoot for 5 – 7 years, so a program of targeting the removal of juvenile trees (pre-maturity) is being undertaken over time. Many have been removed but cannot remove all and cannot remove any trees on public land owned by Wyong Council/Lake Macquarie City Council or trees on Centennial land.

## **6. General Business**

### **Derek Zietsch**

Council issues were updated and the meeting was advised that Council have yet to advise a date for the site visit.

Information was provided that money had been spent on the park by Council, for the oval and amenities shed at Wyee Point. The Community want a boat ramp but this is not planned.

### **Coral Burnham**

Discussion was raised about the Koala Park Caravan Park. It was confirmed that it is used for Delta employees only as local government act regulations mean that outside community cannot use.

The Progress Association is going well and working with the Precinct Committee. Coral identified challenges with certain routine maintenance activities, such as dead tree removal, which appears to be a resource allocation issue by Council. Thanks to Delta for the seats. Coral raised the community discussions regarding Council amalgamation and a community meeting tonight.

### **Trevor Wrightson**

The Mannering Park Precinct are strongly involved in LandCare, Tidy Towns, and graffiti removal (which is now removed within 24 hours). Plantings have been undertaken at the point and oval. The amenities block is to be finished by Christmas 2011. Support for the shared pathway is gathering momentum in Wyee Point and Summerland Point but need government grants to progress it.

### **Peter Snelling**

Discussion was held around whether Delta would expand Colongra and that adequate gas supplies would be needed for the upgrade of Colongra.

### **Kevin Spencer**

Tidy Town assessment is next week. LDO application – a community meeting was held and 3 residents attended. Trucks are the main issue. At peak they appear to have 280 trucks with an average of 150 per day. Gwandalan – interest in community garden – will register name – discussion took place on sponsorship opportunities.

### **Bob Brooks**

Precinct Committee called for a meeting with Council in relation to a development on Tall Timbers Road. The main issue is limited access via Tall Timbers Road. Precinct is looking at signage to direct drivers to Chain Valley Bay and other areas. Glenn Sharrock was presented with a Welsh Coal carving.

### **John Challinore**

Could Delta attend a meeting at Lake Munmorah with the community? The future meeting dates will be passed to Glenn Sharrock and Delta will look at options.

### **Meeting closed.**

Next Meeting: Wednesday 9 November 2011.