

MEDIA RELEASE

RESPONSE TO NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW CLAIM

Delta Electricity, the operator of the Vales Point Power Station, has strongly rejected the claims by Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC), labelling them as factually incorrect and deliberately misleading.

Company spokesperson, Steve Gurney, stated that the Vales Point Power Station operates in accordance with strict environmental licence conditions, with diligent oversight by the Environmental Protection Authority.

The NCC is a group of anti-coal activists with one objective, to shut down coal fired power stations', Mr Gurney said.

The NSW Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010 provides groupings for industry. Vales Point Power Station is taken to belong to Group 2 for the purposes of the emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) until 1 January 2022.

Delta has recently submitted an application to the EPA seeking to extend the period of time Vales Point remains within Group 2 for a further 5 year period. In making this application Delta is in no way requesting that it be exempt from any emissions regulations.

Delta's Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) was renewed by the EPA in July 2020 after considerable input from the community and other groups. Notably, limits for emissions such as of oxides of nitrogen have already been tightened as part of this renewal process. Delta continues to comply with these reduced limits and further work will be undertaken in upcoming maintenance outages to replace burners which will result in even greater reductions.

Power Stations are licensed and highly regulated, with significant oversight by the EPA. Environmental data as required under Delta's licence is posted on Delta's website monthly for all to see¹.

Independent EPA analysis consistently shows that air quality on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie is very good and amongst the best in New South Wales. It also concludes that 'levels of nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide easily meet National Standards'². Specifically, monitoring has shown that NO² concentrations were either very good or good at all monitor at all times.

For further enquiries, contact Steve Gurney, Company Secretary on 02 43 526 003 or 0438 229 043

END

14 January 2021

¹ <https://www.de.com.au/environment/environmental-licences-and-monitoring>

² <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Air/annual-air-quality-statement-2018-190031.pdf>



Air Monitoring Data - NO₂ concentrations (Source: Todoroski Air Sciences)

2018

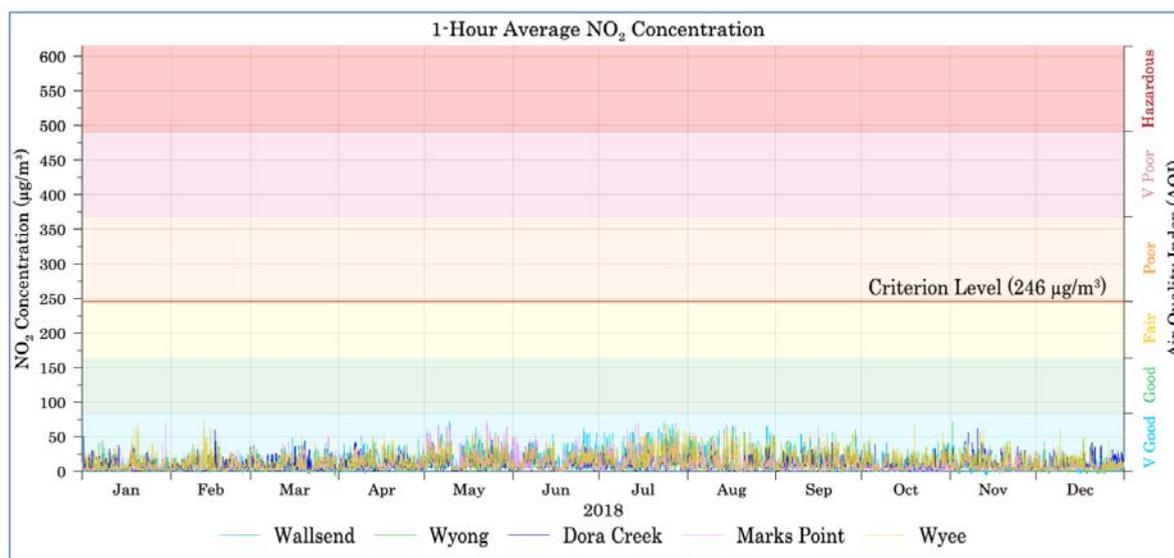


Figure 7-3: Lake Macquarie - Wyong 1-hour average NO₂ levels – 2018

All data recorded at the Lake Macquarie - Wyong monitoring sites were below the 1-hour average NO₂ criterion level of 246µg/m³ in 2018. Measured levels of NO₂ were very good or good at all monitors at all times.

2019

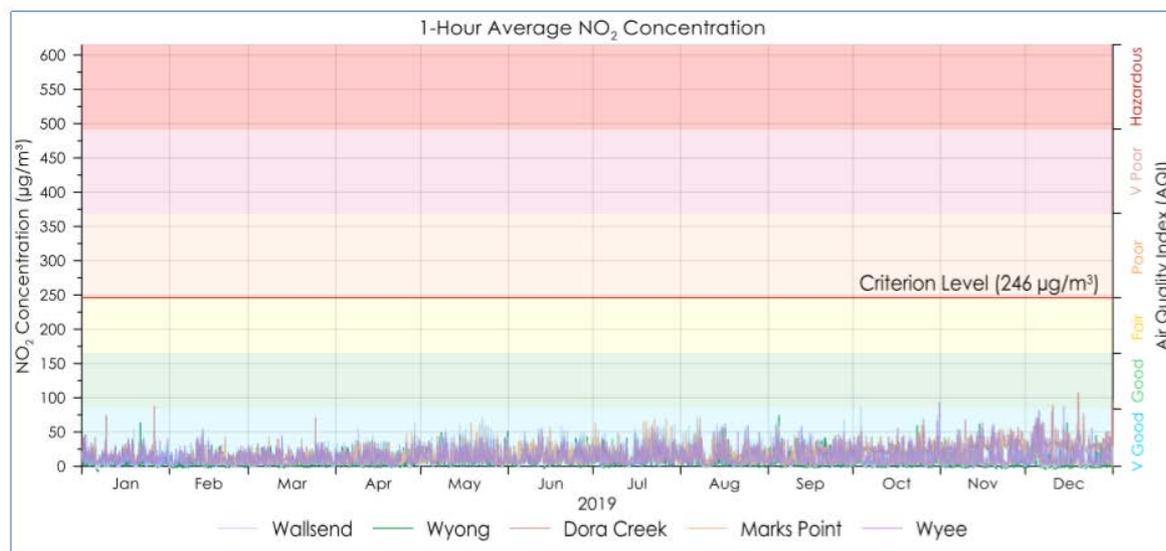


Figure 7-3: Lake Macquarie - Wyong 1-hour average NO₂ levels – 2019