

MEDIA RELEASE

ENVIRONMENTAL LICENCE APPROVAL

Delta Electricity has welcomed the EPA approved amendment to the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) for Vales Point power station. This represents the outcome of a 12 month process that has required extensive air modelling, community consultation and technology studies.

The NO_x limit for Vales Point has been reduced by over one third to 980 mg/m³. This limit is 120 mg/m³ lower than limits in place at newer stations such as Bayswater and Mt Piper.

Delta appreciates the scientific rigor applied by the EPA in the review, which should allay any community concerns regarding local air quality. The granting of the licence amendment reinforces the scientific data that the Central Coast has the best air quality in the Greater Metropolitan region, with clear evidence that motor vehicles are by far the highest contributor to NO_x readings at ground level in the region.

Additionally, the EPA decision requires Delta to install a second ambient air quality station at Wyee Point. Delta already monitors and reports ambient air quality data from its existing station in Wyee and this additional station will provide the community with further assurance that air quality in the local area will continue to meet ambient air quality guidelines.

Whilst the new NO_x limit is onerous from a compliance perspective, Delta has continued to invest in improvements to its plant and processes which will assist it to meet these new obligations.

The current classification system under the Clean Air Regulations requires Delta to apply for an exemption every 5 years which is not applied to other Power Stations. Delta notes that the regulations are to be reviewed by the EPA in 2022. This presents an opportunity to ensure that performance related outcomes are achieved which ensure ongoing good local air quality rather than outdated provisions which set arbitrary standards based on the time plant, such as Power Stations, were built and results in companies like Delta unilaterally bearing a regulatory burden.