

Delta Electricity – CARE Forum Meeting Notes

Date: 19 November 2020

ATTENDEES

Community		Delta Electricity	
██████████	Chain Valley Bay & Macquarie Shores Village Community	██████████	Managing Director
██████████	Chain Valley Bay Progress Association	██████████	Acting Executive Manager Production
██████████	Summerland Point Tidy Towns Group	██████████	Executive Manager Asset
██████████	Summerland Point Progress Association	██████████	Business Development Manager
██████████	Summerland Point Progress Association	██████████	Community Relations
██████████ ██████████	Mannering Park Precinct Committee	██████████	Acting Company Secretary
		██████████	Environment Manager

Meeting was carried out over Microsoft Teams.

All community members were welcomed, and the meeting was opened at 4.12pm.

Industry Update – ██████████

An update on the Infrastructure Roadmap and details of the coal market was provided to the group.

- Coal prices have not recovered from large fall.
- Prices are below production costs for some mines.
- NSW coal production down 3.5Mt for FY21 YTD compared to same period in FY20.

Operational Overview – ██████████

Safety & Health

Advised the members of the following safety details;

- Details regarding recent LTI;
- improvements in digital assessment applications;
- ongoing mitigation of dust leaks; and
- COVID-19 Pandemic Management.

Production

- Unit 5 is in service. YTD availability 72.58%
- Unit 6 is in service. YTD availability 88.75%

- Electricity prices – Transmission constraints caused 15 minutes of high prices.

Coal Supplies

- Chain Valley mine – mini wall coal and herringbone.
- Mandalong mine deliveries via conveyor.
- Minor volume via trucks.

Trucks

- Biomass deliveries are still continuing.
- Vales Point Ash Dam

Asset Management Update – [REDACTED]

Projects

An overview and update on the planned projects for the power station was shared. Including details of the 6A HP Heater, installed in the recent September outage. The works scope completed during the August/September 2020 outage was also provided.

Environmental Update – [REDACTED]

Community Enquiries

Outlined the environmental and land management issues which were raised in the last 3 months and confirmed that all community enquiries are investigated, and appropriate responses and actions are provided. Also confirmed the Delta Community Incident Information number (1800 115 277).

Environment Protection Licence

- More frequent air emissions monitoring – quarterly particulates testing and six-monthly testing of all other licenced substances.
- Introduction of a 99 percentile emission limits for nitrogen oxides (1100mg/m³) and emission limits for sulfur dioxide (100 percentile 1700mg/m³, 99 percentile 1400mg/m³).
- Addition of concentration limits for copper, iron and selenium in outlet canal water.
- Increased water quality analysis requirements for discharges from the ash dam and ambient water sampling locations within Lake Macquarie.
- Requirement to install new particulate continuous emission monitors (x8). Trial installation of one instrument planned for January 2021.

Air Emissions

- Air quality on the Central Coast is rated as very good by the EPA using the Air Quality Index. Compared to other regions, Central Coast air quality ranks as the best for the NSW Greater Metropolitan Region as reported by the EPA this month. Additional NO_x controls at Vales Point are not required given the very good air quality.

- The claims about the health effects of power stations by Newcastle GP and environmental activist, Dr Ben Ewald, are unsubstantiated. A scientific peer review has discredited his 2018 report, finding that it 'estimated emissions and potential concentrations using a very rough approach' and that a 'review of this approach indicated that it should be considered flawed and misleading, not based on good science'.

Nitrogen Dioxide Air Emission Limits

- The current environment protection licence categorises the Vales Point units as belonging to Group 2 (emission standards). This grouping expires in January 2022, unless Delta applies for an extension and it is granted by the EPA.
- In October 2020 the maximum NO_x emission from Vales Point was less than half the limit and the average was about one third of the limit.
- Delta will apply for an extension to remain in Group 2. The application will include reporting on local air quality and modelling of Nitrogen Dioxide emissions.

Out of the Ashes 2 – HCEC Report

- ABC Newcastle – coverage of the second Out of the Ashes report released by the HCEC.
- HCEC typically makes claims about high levels of heavy metal pollution. HCEC's own results for cadmium, chromium, lead and nickel were only slightly above the professionally and independently processed Delta data and are a fraction of the ANZECC guidelines i.e. the HCEC's own data does not support its claims.
- Their reports make sensationalist claims about cadmium in crabs, but it is well understood that the source of cadmium in Lake Macquarie was the Pasmenco smelter and the HCEC cadmium results near Vales Point's operations were actually extremely low.
- HCEC tends to compare sample results from discharge waters to ANZECC guidelines, which is misleading. ANZECC guidelines are designed to be applied to the water quality of the receiving body (in this case Lake Macquarie) and not the individual discharges.
- Delta water quality data is reported publicly, is accurate, is analysed by NATA accredited laboratories, has been available to EPA scientific specialists for scrutiny over many years.
- Call for \$20 levy/tonne of ash to encourage recycling. Delta actively pursue opportunities for sale of fly and bottom ash for use in industry, land remediation and road projects.

NSW Legislative Council – Ash Dam Inquiry

- The NSW Legislative Council recently conducted an inquiry into the costs for remediation of ash dam sites.
- Delta hosted a site visit by the inquiry's Public Works Committee on the 6 October.
- The Committee communicated that they found the visit highly useful to the inquiry.
- The Committee visited the;
 - ash dam site office and facilities;
 - viewed the bottom ash recovery area;
 - new intermediate ash pumping station;
 - already capped and rehabilitated sections of the ash dam; and,

- areas undergoing active capping works.

Additionally, details on Delta's Ash Dam Capping works and recent bushfire hazard reduction burns located at Wyee Point, Doyalson and Mannering Park were shared with the group.

Project Development – [REDACTED]

Vales Point Solar Project

- DA received 25.10.2018 (valid for 5 years).
- PPA signed with Enernet Global that includes the project development rights pending NSW Treasury Approval.
- Enernet ongoing works in progress include:
 - Detailed design (with EPC contractor).
 - Grid connection studies and application with Ausgrid and AEMO.
 - Target dates for construction Q4 2021 and energising mid-2022.

Community Update – [REDACTED]

Community Sponsorship & Events

The members were given an update on recent sponsorship activities and projects which Delta Electricity support. Including details of the annual Delta University Scholarship and an update on the LandCare support throughout the Northern end of Central Coast and Southern end of Lake Macquarie.

Feedback from Community Groups

- **[REDACTED] - Summerland Point Progress Association**
 - Playground has been updated.
 - Tidy Towns have completed allot of garden works around the community.
 - Graffiti has increased recently.
 - Development at Summerland Point and Gwandalan is going ahead.
- **[REDACTED] – Mannering Park Precinct Committee**
 - Ongoing issues with maintenance on the foreshore.
 - Sailing Club extension is going ahead.
- **[REDACTED] – Chain Valley Bay Progress Association / Macquarie Shores Village**
 - CVB Community Hall has had allot of work completed on it.
 - New lighting at the walkway near boat ramp.
 - Thank you to Delta for Community Garden at Kingfisher Shores.

Community members were all thanked for their time and the meeting was then closed.

Next Meeting: February 2021

Meeting notes taken by [REDACTED] – Community Relations