

Delta CARE Forum Meeting Notes

Thursday 7 August 2025

Attendees

Community	
██████	Chain Valley Bay Progress Association
██████████	Gwandalan and Summerland Point Peninsula Improvement Group
██████████	Summerland Point Tidy Towns Group
██████████	Mannering Park Progress Association
██████	Mannering Park Progress Association
██████████	Mannering Park Tidy Towns
Delta	
██████████	Chief Operating Officer
██████████	Business Development Manager
██████████	Power Station Manager
██████████	Manager Health, Safety and Environment
██████████	Head of Communications and Engagement
██████████	Administration Team Leader

Welcome

All community members were welcomed, and the meeting was opened at 2.10pm.

Business and industry update – ██████████

- Delta Corporate Strategy 2025–28 presented.
- Delta organisational values presented. Developed in collaboration with Delta’s workforce to inspire and guide positive behaviours and interactions in the workplace.
- Delta Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) update. Now formally endorsed by Reconciliation Australia. The RAP sets out actions for next 18-months, focused on listening, deepening our understanding of local First Nations culture, and strengthening relationships with First Nations stakeholders and communities. It was developed in collaboration with Delta’s workforce and guided by local cultural facilitators, Gawaura Cultural Immersions. The RAP features artwork by local artist Matt Syron (Worimi/Birripai Darkinjung), reflecting Delta’s connection to Country and culture, and will be published on Delta’s website.
- Industry and regulatory update:



- Federal election outcome reaffirmed national commitment to renewables-led transition. Government announcement of 2035 emissions reduction target is imminent.
- High costs and a slower than expected rollout of renewables and transmission infrastructure driving greater focus on firming capacity and role of gas in system stability and reliability.
- Delta is supporting the renewables transition and remains available to provide essential firming capacity for as long as the system needs. Investing to maintain infrastructure to 2033 and beyond if required – ready to adapt, invest in storage and support the transition with clarity on role we're expected to play.
- Various energy and market reviews underway, including National Electricity Market Review. Draft report released on 6 August 2025 for public consultation.
- Questions and discussion about Delta and Vales Point Power Station role in the energy transition, Delta's exploration of energy generation and storage opportunities, electricity market demand/supply trends and impact on consumer pricing and increasing role of home batteries in the network.

Health, safety and environment update – [REDACTED]

Safety and health:

- A review of working at heights equipment, training and processes has been completed. New face-to-face training program is being implemented.

Environment:

- Overview of community enquiries received and investigated in last three months:
 - One noise complaint from a local resident.
 - Enquiry on the location of cooling water discharge point at Vales Point.
- NOx emissions data and air quality reporting shared. Data available on Delta's website.
- Overview of the Lake Macquarie Environmental Health Study shared. Three-year study led by NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Assessed surface water and sediment quality in lake's southern area near the power stations and coal ash repositories to understand potential impacts on marine life and ecological health. Testing and analysis found low levels of contaminants in both water and sediment, and no evidence of significant environmental impact from the power stations and their coal ash repositories. Importantly, data shows Lake Macquarie is in relatively good condition. Despite decades of industrial and urban activity, the lake's health has improved over time with metal concentrations declining since sampling was conducted in 2011. Study's results and reports are available on NSW EPA's website.
- Delta continues extensive groundwater monitoring.
- General discussion on lake conditions.

Operations update – [REDACTED]

Unit 5 planned maintenance outage:

- Scheduled Unit 5 outage is from Friday 3 October to Sunday 3 November 2025. Unit 6 will remain operational.
- Approx. \$20 million investment in asset reliability – focus is dust leak detection and mitigation, and undertaking plant inspections.
- Over 350 additional workers expected on site, boosting trade for local businesses including accommodation and hospitality.

Changes in operating patterns:

- As more variable renewables enter the system, coal and gas power stations are required to cycle more frequently (shifting between low and high output) to fill gaps and maintain system reliability.
- This has led to changes in operating patterns at Vales Point over time – including an increase in low-load hours, decrease in high-load hours, and increased thermal cycling.
- Increased thermal cycling causing more wear and tear, adding operational complexity and creating higher maintenance needs and costs.

Coal stockpile:

- Overview of stockpile and supply processes shared.
- Future coal needs dependent on Chain Valley production and market demand.
- Options available for longer-term coal supply agreements.
- Current low coal prices forecast to rise.

Vales Point Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) update – [REDACTED]

- Vales Point BESS Project overview and status update provided. Preliminary assessment studies including early community consultation are complete. Scoping Report and request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) have been submitted to Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.
- Focus for H2 2025 includes environmental assessment and technical investigations, community and stakeholder engagement including further opportunities to provide feedback, and State Significant Development Application (SSDA) preparation – targeting submission late 2025.
- Engagement with key stakeholders, including local emergency services, is continuing.
- Lessons from other battery projects are being incorporated into project planning and design.
- Delta is partnering with Samsung for delivery of the project. Construction is subject to the final investment decision and environmental planning approval.

Community update – [REDACTED]

- Update shared on Delta's community support activities over the past three months.
- Applications for the Chain Valley Colliery Community Funding Program open Monday 11 August 2025. See Central Coast Council's website for more details.

Feedback from Community Members

[REDACTED] – Chain Valley Bay Progress Association

- Replacing 20+ year-old pathway signs; working with Council on grant and approvals.
- "Music in the Park" planned for early October at Joshua Porter Reserve.
- Planning underway for January Australia Day BBQ.
- Council repairing playground equipment at the Community Hall.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] – Gwandalan and Summerland Point Peninsula Improvement Group, and Summerland Point Tidy Towns Group

- Creek pathway access issue near bowling club; Council to build small timber bridge.
- Lake foreshore erosion issues at Gwandalan; Council working with Mine Subsidence Board.
- Lioness second-hand clothes sale coming up.
- Bush Dance event planned for October.
- 250 volunteer hours per month for rubbish collection, mowing, and garden maintenance. Two new members joined.
- Large branch damage to Community Hall shade sail – Council responded quickly.
- Significant graffiti issues at new skate park.

██████████ – Mannering Park Tidy Towns

- Engaging with Council on foreshore erosion in Mannering Park.
- Query on Delta's plans for the Rutleys Road conveyor bridge removal.
- Foreshore grass remediation works.
- Investigating mural project for security fence.
- Sailing Club – racing resumes in September, busy time for regattas to end of year.

██████████ and ██████████ – Mannering Park Progress Association

- Historic Walk signage project – engaging with Council to complete final signboard.
- Tennis courts resurfaced, many new members.
- Discussions with Council on new public toilets for Mannering Park shops.
- Noted several serious accidents at Vales Road/Rutleys Road intersection.
- Positive feedback on reduced mowing improving birdlife.
- Community Garden membership increasing.

Community members were thanked for their input and participation.

Next Meeting

Thursday 13 November 2025

Meeting notes taken by ██████████, Administration Team Leader