

Delta CARE Forum Meeting Notes

Thursday 5 February 2026

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 |
| Delta | |
| ██████████ | Executive Manager Business improvement (Chairperson) |
| ██████████ | Business Development Manager |
| ██████████ | Power Station Manager |
| ██████████ | Mine Manager |
| ██████████ | Manager Health, Safety and Environment |
| ██████████ | Head of Communications and Engagement |
| ██████████ | Administration Team Leader |
| Apologies | |
| ██████████ | Mannering Park Tidy Towns |
| ██████████ | Gwandalan and Summerland Point Peninsula Improvement Group |

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

All community members welcomed by the Chair, apologies noted and the meeting opened at 2.05pm. The Chair acknowledged the Darkinjung people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting is held and Vales Point Power Station operates, paying respects to Elders past and present.

Vales Point Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) presentation and discussion –

- Presentation on the status of the project's Environmental Impact Study (EIS) investigations and outcomes of the community engagement undertaken in November and December 2025.
- Technical and EIS investigations are continuing, with EIS field work and site studies expected to be



completed in February.

- Targeting late March for submission of EIS and State Significant Development (SSD) application to NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) for assessment.
- DPHI will publicly exhibit the EIS. Delta will undertake further community engagement to support the exhibition, including letterbox drops and pop-up displays.
- Update on the November and December community engagement and feedback received. Received 1,764 visitors to project webpage, and feedback from 70 attendees across 3 pop-up displays and 37 online survey responses. An Engagement Summary will be published on project webpage.
- The Community expressed strong overall support for the project, recognising its role in the clean energy transition and its value for maintaining local jobs.
- Many questions focused on safety and emergency management, particularly fire risk, emergency coordination, and chemical containment.
- Environmental management was a key interest area, including impacts on Lake Macquarie, contamination risks, noise, electromagnetic field (EMF), and water and air quality.
- The community raised concerns about construction impacts such as traffic on local roads, heavy vehicle movements, and construction-related noise and air quality.
- Feedback highlighted importance of community benefits, including local employment, opportunities for suppliers, workforce upskilling, use of existing infrastructure, and support for renewable energy.
- Delta and Samsung are committed to developing a Community Benefit Funding Agreement in consultation with Central Coast Council and the local community.
- Members were thanked for their efforts in promoting the project and community engagement with their networks, especially on social media.

Questions and feedback from members:

- **Why do noise tests need to be carried out? Do batteries make noise?** Delta advised that batteries have HVAC systems that make some noise, which is substantially less than the power station noise. The noise assessment is required as part of the SSD EIS process.
- **Is the existing concrete pad at the project site strong enough to hold the batteries?** Delta advised geotechnical investigations are in progress as part of the EIS and to determine suitability of the existing concrete foundations – the intent is to use the existing foundations where possible.

Chain Valley Colliery Consolidation Project Update – [REDACTED]

- In 2022, Delta applied for a new development consent to extend Chain Valley Colliery's operations for two years to the end of 2029.
- Update provided on the project, including background information, current planning status, project rationale, and key areas of community concern addressed in the EIS and DPHI's assessment report.
- The application's assessment has moved to the next stage, with DPHI referring its assessment to the Independent Planning Commission for determination.
- The Commission is undertaking a public consultation process, including a public hearing on 19 February and is inviting community and stakeholder submissions until 26 February.
- The public consultation provides an opportunity to review the Department's assessment and provide feedback before the Commission makes its determination.
- More information about the project, the Commission's consultation process, and how to access

project documentation including the EIS and the Department's assessment report, is available on Delta's website.

- It was highlighted the project secures ongoing employment for hundreds of local workers and continuity of a local coal supply to Vales Point Power Station, and in turn ensures reliability and security of NSW's electricity supply as the State transitions to a lower-carbon energy system.
- The application does not seek any changes to the existing approved mining areas, and it does not change how Vales Point Power Station operates or increase its generation capacity. Strong benefits in continuing a local coal supply from Chain Valley Colliery, rather than sourcing from further afield.

Business and industry update – [REDACTED]

- Overview of Delta's priorities for 2026, including focus on asset portfolio growth and diversification, workforce development including reskilling for growth and the energy transition, safe and reliable plant and operations, and long-term operational and organisational sustainability.
- Chief Operating Officer position is currently vacant, and recruitment is underway.
- 2022 Fish Kill in Lake Macquarie – NSW Land and Environment Court handed down its judgement in December, with Court proceedings continuing. Delta is unable to comment further while the matter is before the Court.
- National Electricity Market Review final report released in December. Delta welcomes the review's outcome and will continue to engage with government and industry as implementation develops.

Health, safety and environment update – [REDACTED]

- Overview of safety performance and key initiatives undertaken during last quarter.
- It was highlighted the Lost Time Injury (LTI) frequency rate remains positive at 4.3, compared to industry average of 7.0. There were no LTIs during the Unit 5 four-month maintenance outage.
- Testing undertaken of all types of confined space rescue plans. Workforce completed crystalline silica training, in response to new legislative requirements.
- Four enquiries received from November 2025 to January 2026 relating to water quality, dirt bikes on Delta land, ash stockpile management, and a request to access Delta land to look for orchids.
- NOx and SO₂ emissions data and air quality reporting shared. Emissions continue to comply within regulatory limits. Data is available on Delta's website.
- Update on Vales Point Ash Dam and Mannering Creek Ash Dam management.
- Noted the Dam Safety NSW Operations and Maintenance Audit for Mannering Creek Ash Dam was completed in January 2026 – audit found no non-conformance and results were complimentary of the operations and maintenance of the dam structure.
- Declared Dam Safety Review is underway – undertaken every 15 years. It was noted that new legislation has triggered a review of risk level for declared dams. Assessment underway.
- Annual Dam Safety Standards Reports – are due in March.

Operations update – [REDACTED]

- Update on the completion of the Unit 5 planned maintenance outage. The outage lasted approximately four months, with the unit successfully returned to service on 25 December.
- Over \$40 million invested to underpin continued plant reliability. Critical path was turbine steady bearing and LP rotor overhauls. Other mechanical and electrical overhauls completed on prioritised basis.

- Over 380 people worked collaboratively during outage with no LTIs. Delta staff acknowledged for their dedication and the high standard of work delivered throughout the extended outage period.
- Update on 2026 maintenance and outage program. A minor outage for Unit 6 is planned for October 2026. Combustion emission reduction options being evaluated. Dust reduction program continuing during outage and non-outage periods. HP / IP turbine manufacture in progress in Japan, 30MW efficiency gain, install expected October 2027.
- Update on new welder training simulator at Vales Point, which Delta is using to support training and career development of its workforce. Industry is invited to visit and use the simulator.

Community update – [REDACTED]

- Update on community support and engagement initiatives over the past three months.
- Chain Valley Colliery Community Funding Program 2025-26 – \$58,168 awarded to 7 projects. See Delta website for details.
- Vales Point BESS community engagement undertaken in November and December – reiterated participation highlights shared in the project update presentation. EIS public exhibition expected in coming months, provides another opportunity for community participation and feedback.
- 2026 Australia Day BBQ Breakfast at Mannering Park – around 750 community members visited across the morning. Lions Club of Gwandalan thanked for their dedication and delivery of another successful event.
- Chain Valley Colliery Consolidation Project consultation – reiterated NSW Independent Planning Commission public consultation process, with a public hearing on 19 February and submissions invited until 26 February. See Delta website for project and consultation details.
- 2025-26 Lake Macquarie Environmental Research Grants – a partnership with Lake Macquarie Council and Origin Energy. Applications close 12 February 2026.

Feedback from Community Members – General Business

- No other business matters or issues were raised by members.
- Members shared updates on the activities of their respective community groups.

The Chair thanked members for their participation and contributions to the meeting.

Next Meeting

Thursday 7 May 2026.

Meeting notes taken by [REDACTED], Administration Team Leader.