

16th December, 2020

Dear Department of Planning and Environment,

I object to the proposed Chain Valley Colliery Consolidation Project, and increased mining footprint i.e. the Eastern Mining area under Lake Macquarie, for the following reasons:

1. Concern for the health of the communities in the surrounding suburbs, particularly Mannering Park, Doyalson, Chain Valley Bay, Lake Munmorah and San Remo. For many years the residents of these areas have been subjected to pollution emanating from the Vales Point Power Station and the two collieries, Chain Valley and Mannering. The proposal that 9.5 million tonnes more coal is to be extracted, as well as extending the life of the power station another two years beyond the proposed closure in 2027, suggests these communities will be exposed to increased air pollution.
2. The EIS provided by Delta Coal does not adequately address the impact of the proposal on groundwater, surface water and the biodiversity of the area. Currently, the Vales Point Power Station pumps wet sluiced coal ash slurry into its unlined coal ash dam, thus allowing for heavy metals to leach into the groundwater which ultimately finds its way into Lake Macquarie. The Project indicates it is to continue pumping out ground water to the surface of the mines and subsequently into sediment dams to be stored, along with dirty run-off water. These sediment dams discharge into Swindles Creek, which in turn discharges into Lake Macquarie. Thus, there is the potential for ever increasing contaminated water entering Lake Macquarie, further impacting on its biodiversity.
3. The EIS provided by Delta coal on the impact of subsidence appears to be based on historical data and existing performance measurements rather than providing a new subsidence assessment relevant to the current Project of expanding the underwater mining footprint.
4. Delta Coal has indicated that the additional mined coal will not only be used at Vales Point Power Station, but 660,000 tonnes of coal will be trucked from the site to the Port of Newcastle for export and up to 180,000 tonnes for domestic use other than Vales Point Power Station per annum. This proposed transportation of coal via public roads has not been adequately addressed by Delta Coal in terms of a detailed route for the transportation, specifically if the transportation will be near residential homes and schools. This lack of detail makes it impossible for the Department to make an informed decision on the possible impacts on the safety, capacity and condition of the local road network.

To reiterate, for all of the above reasons, I object to the Project.

Sincerely,



