



P.O. Box 113 TOUKLEY
N.S.W. 2263

13-3-2018

Director – Resource and Energy Assessment

N.S.W. Department of Planning and Environment

320 Pitt Street

Sydney N.S.W. 2000

SUBMISSION RE: STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

VALES POINT SOLAR FARM / APPLICATION SSD 8533

To whom it may concern,

It is no hidden secret that our organisation has grave concerns for any development in the region, as there is a history of large business not fulfilling their EPA licensing agreements & being slapped on the wrist with minimal fines after the fact.

Sunset Power International Pty. Ltd. Trading as Delta Electricity has breached their E.P.A. licensing agreement in 2016, which showed that their laboratory was carrying out incorrect procedures for water monitoring and other breaches on the greater site and subsequently were fined.

There has been no forthcoming reply to questions forwarded to Karen Marler A/ Director of Newcastle E.P.A. on 6th March 2017 regarding the incorrect procedures and to whether this has been rectified. In fact we believe that because many of our questions were put in the too hard basket that Newcastle E.P.A. have walked away, by putting their head in the sand, much the same way as the Sydney E.P.A. did so with the Mangrove Mountain issue also on the Central Coast.

Local residents are still bewildered by the lack of official E.P.A. Air monitoring stations on the Central Coast. Only one exists on the Central Coast with the neighboring Hunter/Newcastle having 20, Sydney 24, Illawarra 8 and Rural N.S.W. having 6 and with Delta's license allowing self monitoring.

We as a local Disability Tourism advocate organisation have for several years tried to get accurate information regarding the breaking down of dam walls on the Pacific Highway near Rutleys Road at Doyalson. As this along with poor air monitoring plus other issues could directly impact on our proposals to have the regional declared as a Disability Tourism Precinct destination.

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Delta is reluctant to deal with our organisation, instead passing the buck to their C.A.R.E. Committee, who do not represent or report to the greater community and have in the past reported incorrect information to their miniscule constituents on capping procedures.

Issues such as Ash Dams leaching into neighboring private properties, Cancer Council reports by Torrens University showing Cancer Clusters in close proximity to the Power Station and Ash Dams or self monitoring concerns have not been addressed by either Delta or the E.P.A.

We as the greater community are not willing to accept that this proposal will not create further environmental issues, considering the solar panels being placed on top of massive deposits of toxic Fly Ash that amounts to a portion of the equivalent to 455 Olympic Swimming pools in size.

The capping of the Fly Ash dams with 650 mm of clean fill without any real remediation process or intention, means that the ash will continue to leach over the coming decades if not centuries, considering the dams are fifty years old and unlined. Delta will continue to deposit Fly Ash for the following operational life of Vales Point Power Station for close to another two decades. As the existing dams continue to be filled, there does not seem to be any long term plans for the land that will look like prime housing property for the next generation, as they are covered with grass and small natives and close to a green and clean Solar Farm.

The process of Community consultation on Thursday 8th March at Mannering Park, failed to alleviate the community's concerns, as answers to the construction method were not forthcoming. When asked and were told that Delta had not yet decided on the footing operations to support the Solar panels, to whether they will be pylons or concrete slabs, depending on the cost.

Either way, we need to be assured that either process will not generate further disturbance of the Fly Ash or put increasing pressure on the aging dam walls. We believe that vigorous independent monitoring should be considered for the forthcoming decade if approved.

The answers to such concerns are fundamental to the long term environmental viability of the project. It is expecting us to approve the equivalent to a single dwelling next door to our home within the DA process and when it suits the developer, they may change their mind without any further scrutiny and build multi story developments.

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The reason for the community consultation was to answer all the concerns the regional community had on this proposal. We had no answer to what is to happen to the land after its working lifetime as a solar farm? We received no answers to what the major portion of the existing Fly Ash dams would become?

The State Government's Central Coast Regional Plan 2036 has earmarked the Northern part of the Central Coast for a further 40,500 home sites, well over 100,000 new residents. A population growth larger than that proposed for the entire region surrounding Sydney's Badgerys Creek developments and airport.

The same Regional Plan, spruiks of some \$180 Million P.A. of mining extractions within close proximity to this proposal. Without either planned proposal identifying exactly where? The same land is heavily subject to mine subsidence and we are expected to believe that no mines are below or in close proximity to this site, considering the nearby Pacific Highway has signage that indicates "undulations due to mine subsidence".

Central Coast Council as recent as 12-3-2018 has indicated the release of the Lake Munmorah Master Plan. Nobody knows if this plan has considered the Solar Farm or the ongoing environmental concerns for the region from the Ash Dams or Power Station.

Lake Munmorah's decommissioned power station after several years is only now showing the environmental legacy of P.F.A.S. contamination at both Lake Munmorah and Colongra Bay. Again without the N.S.W. Environmental Protection Agency being too rushed on fish testing since last August 2017. No community answers, apparently no Government concern?

There are too many variables to the outcome that have not yet been explained and therefore the N.L.D.T.P.C. Inc. are unwilling to approve or support the proposal as it stands, until the answers to our questions are received from both Delta and the Newcastle's E.P.A.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Blaschke

Gary Blaschke OAM

President N.L.D.T.P.C. Inc.

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C.C.: Central Coast Council,
Lake Macquarie City Council,
Greg Piper MP,
Nature Conservation Council,
Yasmin Catley MP.

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