

Appendix B. Vales Point Solar Project Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan



Vales Point Solar Project

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP)

November 2017



Vales Point Solar Project CSEP

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VALES POINT SOLAR PROJECT

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (CSEP)

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COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (CSEP)

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

Vales Point Power Station on the NSW Central Coast is a leading electricity generator with an installed capacity of 1,320 megawatts. Vales Point is a coal-fired power station that is owned and operated by Delta Electricity (Delta). Delta are seeking to develop a large scale solar photovoltaic generation facility and associated infrastructure near the existing Vales Point Power Station in the local government areas of Lake Macquarie and the Central Coast (formerly Wyong) (the project).

Key components of the project are:

- Construction and operation of up to 55 megawatt (MW) capacity solar facility delivering an annual output of approximately 110 gigawatt hours (GWh);
- Installations of approximately 220,000 solar panel modules supported by either steel piles or concrete ballasted footings;
- Connection to the National Electricity Market via a short 33 kV transmission line;
- Approximately 100 jobs during an 18 month construction program; and
- Estimated 30 year design life with ongoing employment for up to five people.

The project benefits include:

- Production of renewable energy, directly contributing to the State's renewable energy targets and the objectives of the NSW Government's Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP);
- Creation of employment opportunities, including 100 full-time equivalents during construction and up to 5 during operations;
- Direct and indirect benefits to the local economy during the life of the project; and
- Increased energy security through valuable contributions to a more diverse energy mix.

The project is consistent with the objectives of the *NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan* and will contribute to achieving the Commonwealth Government's National Renewable Energy Target of 33,000 GWh of energy generated by renewable sources by 2020.

Delta proposes to develop the project on existing rehabilitated areas of the Vales Point Ash Dam (VPAD) associated with the operation of the Vales Point Power Station as shown in **Error! Reference source not found.**. The project site is entirely within the existing property boundary of the Vales Point Power Station. The proposed project would connect to the existing Ausgrid substation located on the corner of Ruttleys Road and Construction Road to the north of the ash dam site.

Delta has been established within the local community since the main power station was built in the 1960's and has developed strong community relationships during this time. Delta maintains a community reference group known as the *Community and Regional Environment (CARE) Forum* which meets quarterly at Vales Point Power Station. The CARE Forum membership includes representatives from the surrounding community interest groups. Delta also supports a sponsorship program that focuses on local projects and community groups. The Vales Point Solar Project Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan will build on existing community communication pathways and tools to ensure ongoing and meaningful consultation occurs throughout the life of the solar project.

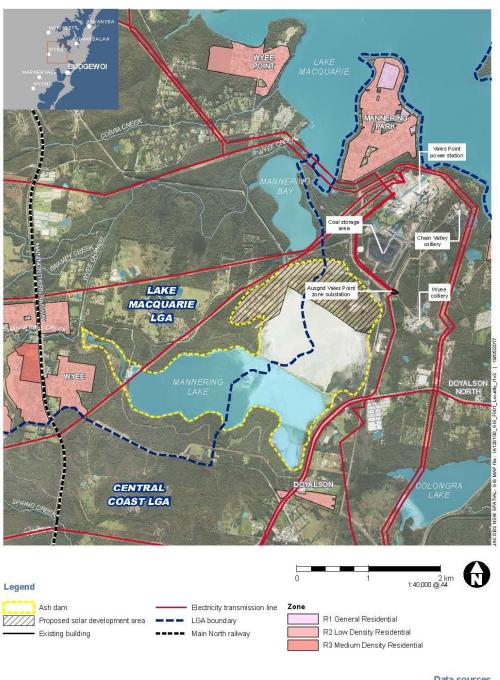


Figure 1 | Site location

Data sources
Delta Electricity 2015
Jacobs 2015
Ausimage 2014
LPI 2014

1.2 Consultation Objectives

Delta is committed to the participation of all stakeholders in the development and environmental assessment of the Vales Point Solar Project and believes all stakeholders who may be affected by project decisions have a right to be involved in the decision making process. The aim of the Vales Point Solar Project Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) is to ensure broad stakeholder interaction at all stages of the project from the development and assessment process, through construction and operation, and final decommissioning and closure phases of the project.

The key principles of the CSEP include:

- i. Transparency open communication is essential to building trust with all stakeholders;
- ii. Inclusiveness the consultation process will seek participation from a broad range of stakeholders;
- iii. Effective communication by choosing the most appropriate methods and technologies the plan will aim to:
 - Inform by providing information in a timely manner to stakeholders as the foundation of all engagement processes;
 - Consult by actively seeking stakeholder views and inputs into planning and development decisions; and
 - Collaborate by partnering with stakeholders in the decision making process including the development of alternatives and identification of the preferred position; and
- iv. Accountability the plan will be monitored and reviewed to ensure the aims are being achieved and opportunities for continual improvement are supported.

1.3 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) Structure

The key components of the CSEP are detailed in the plan include:

- i. The project background and consultation objectives are presented in Section 1;
- ii. A social profile discussion for the surrounding community is provided in Section 2;
- iii. Identification of key stakeholders and consultation strategies for the project is completed in Section 3;
- iv. Roles and responsibilities for implementing the CSEP are discussed in Section 4;
- v. The process for management of issues is described in Section 5;
- vi. Project based activities and engagement tools are described in Section 6;
- vii. The Consultation Action Plan is listed in Section 7; and
- viii. The CSEP monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework is described in Section 8.

1.4 Implementation Strategy

The VP Solar CSEP has been developed as part of the early planning and assessment phase of the project. Consultation with key stakeholders will occur throughout the project life cycle as shown in Table 1. The CSEP will be reviewed regularly and updated as required to ensure ongoing and meaningful consultation is achieved.

Table 1: Indicative Consultation Summary for Project Development Phases

Project Phase	Preliminary Assessment Requirements	Community and Stakeholder Consultation for EIS	EP&A Act (1979) Assessment Process	Construction	Operation	Decommission and Project Closure
Indicative Timeline	May 2017	June-Dec 2017	Oct 2017 – Feb 2018	July 2018	Jan 2020	Jan 2045
Stakeholders	CARE ForumLocal GovernmentNSW Planning	 CARE Forum Neighbours (<1km) Broader Community Local Government NSW Planning Other NSW Gov Agencies 	 CARE Forum Neighbours (<1km) Broader Community Local Government NSW Planning Other NSW Gov Agencies 	 CARE Forum Local Community/Stakeholders NSW Planning (Compliance) 	 CARE Forum NSW Planning (Compliance) 	 CARE Forum Local Community/Stakeholders NSW Planning (Compliance)
Key Activities	Preparation of Preliminary Environmental Assessment	Preparation of EIS and preliminary design considerations	EIS on exhibition Preparation of submissions report	Update CSEP to include any consent conditions requirements. Activities to align with project milestones.	Provision of regular updates.	Provision of regular updates.
Outcomes	Receipt of SEARs	Submission of DA and EIS	Completion of Submissions Report Project Assessment and Approvals	Construction works completed on schedule, within budget and fully compliant with project approval conditions.	Safe operation and compliance with approval conditions.	Safe closure and site remediation.

1.5 Relevant Guidelines

The CSEP has been prepared with reference to:

- i. Establishing the social licence to operate large scale solar facilities in Australia: insights from social research for industry (Ipsos, 2015); and
- ii. NSW Planning Draft EIA Guidance Series (June 2017) Guideline 6: Community and Stakeholder Engagement.

2.0 Community Social Profile

2.1 Overview of Central Coast Council (formerly Wyong) and Lake Macquarie City Council LGA

The Vales Point Ash Dam (VPAD) is located in the southern section of the Vales Point Power Station property and extends across the Local Government Area (LGA) boundary of Lake Macquarie and Central Coast Councils.

The City of Lake Macquarie LGA is situated adjacent to the city of Newcastle and is part of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Area. Lake Macquarie is located 150 km north of Sydney and has a population of approximately 203, 000 (as at June 2016) living around the lake in 95 communities (including 9 town centres). The city area covers 757 square kilometres. Lake Macquarie has a significant coal mining and power generation industry presence as well as smaller agriculture and manufacturing industries. One of Lake Macquarie's major tourist attractions is the lake itself which provides both recreational and tourist based activities (LMCC, 2016).

Central Coast Council LGA was created with the amalgamation of Wyong Shire Council (northern Central Coast) and Gosford City Council (southern Central Coast) in 2016. Geographically, the LGA covers an area of 1,651 square kilometres and is bordered to the east by the Pacific Ocean, bound by the Hawkesbury River in the south, the Watagan Mountains in the west and the southern end of Lake Macquarie in the north. Traditionally a holiday and retirement area, the area has experienced rapid population growth over the last 30 years and is now established as a popular coastal urban fringe area (WCP, 2013). The LGA has a total population of over 330,000 people and has significant employment including services, tourism, manufacturing, retail and industrial. As a result, the cultural identity of the region is distinct from that of the mining and heavy industry base of Lake Macquarie and Newcastle.²

The nearest residential areas in relation to the VPAD are located at Mannering Park approximately 1 kilometres to the north, Doyalson North around 1.4 kilometres to the east, Wyee approximately 2.2 kilometres to the west and Doyalson 2.3 kilometres around to the south. A number of rural residential receivers are located in closer proximity to the site along Summerhayes Road (Wyee), approximately 700 metres from the north western boundary of the VPAD.

2.2 Northern District (Central Coast Council formerly Wyong LGA)

The Central Coast Northern District includes the residential areas of Gwandalan, Summerland Point, Lake Munmorah, Chain Valley Bay, Kingfisher Shores, Mannering Park and Doyalson North. The area is mainly residential with some rural areas which include an established horticulture industry. The industrial landscape also includes the Vales Point Power Station, built in the 1960s, as well as the coal mines of Chain Valley Bay Colliery and Mannering Colliery.

European settlement of the area dates back to 1800s, although population was minimal until the 1960s. In 2016, the Northern District population was approximately 16,500 people with approximately 80% of the group born in Australia with English the main language spoken at home. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 5.0% of the population which is above the state and national averages (ABS, 2016). As a popular retirement region, the area has numerous senior's organisations and active community groups.

Infrastructure in the area includes:

- Three primary schools and two secondary schools;
- Wyong Hospital;
- Post Offices at Mannering Park and Summerland Point;

- Retail and service centres including retail precincts at Lake Munmorah, Summerland Point,
 Mannering Park, Chain Valley Bay and Doyalson;
- Sporting facilities including playing fields and the Point Wolstoncroft Sport and Recreation Centre;
- Accommodation options include caravan parks and one motel;
- Retirement and Community Villages; and
- Several recreational areas adjacent to Lake Macquarie and coastal areas including the Munmorah State Conservation Area.

The North Wyong Structure Plan (NWSP, 2012) predicts a growth target in the area of 17,400 new dwellings from 2006 to 2031 (e.g. 700 per year over that period). This figure includes areas now zoned for residential development but not yet developed, and the Warnervale Town Centre.

Almost half the employed people who live in the former Wyong LGA work outside the LGA (NWSP, 2012). Regional strategies such as the North Wyong Structure Plan (2012) aim to increase local employment by expanding existing employment nodes, such as Doyalson and Charmhaven, and developing new employment areas at Lake Munmorah and in proximity to existing employment nodes around Wyong Hospital, schools and the power stations (NWSP, 2012).

The Wyong Community Plan (2008-2013) lists the amenity of the natural environment, the relative affordability, proximity to major cities and lifestyle opportunities as the most important positive aspects for residents living in Wyong. The key challenges and resident concerns were the risk of losing the lifestyle opportunities with continued rapid population growth and development, the education, training and employment opportunities for young people in the area and the lack of specialist health services and transport infrastructure. Consideration of these community priorities and concerns is important when assessing the impacts of a new development in the area.

2.3 Wyee (Lake Macquarie City Council LGA)

Wyee has a population of approximately 2,500 (ABS, 2011). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 4.4% of the population which is above the state and national averages. The town is mainly residential with some small rural properties.

Wyee has a primary school and a small commercial centre providing day-to-day goods and services. Wyee has a railway station on NSW Trainlinks's Central Coast and Newcastle Line and is situated close to the M1 Freeway and Pacific Highway road networks. Bethshan Ministries operates a conference centre and a substantial aged care complex to the north of the existing village. Recreational facilities include Wyee Oval, local tennis courts and a skate park and playground area.

In Wyee, 95.6% of people only spoke English at home (ABS, 2011). The area has a comparatively young population, particularly the proportion of couples with children. These characteristics contrast with the broader local government context.

Substantial new residential and employment growth will take place in northern Wyong over the next few decades, including the development of a new regional centre at Warnervale. This will likely increase demand for residential areas near Wyee as detailed in the North Wyong Structure Plan (2012) and the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy.

In 2010, Lake Macquarie Council adopted the Wyee Structure Plan after public exhibition. The plan provides strategic direction for the planning and future development of Wyee. The plan states that 'Wyee will continue to exhibit the visual and aesthetic character of a rural village' which is an important characteristic when considering the impact on a community of a new development.

3.0 Stakeholder Groups and Consultation Strategy

A key step in the CSEP is the identification of stakeholders and development of engagement strategies for each group. The level of engagement is specific for each group and dependent on the stakeholder level of interest or significance of potential project impacts.

Table 2: Project Stakeholders.

Stakeholder	Interest or Concern	Management Strategy
Surrounding Landowners (within 1 km of project footprint)	 Access to information Construction and operation impacts (eg. visual amenity, noise, traffic, fugitive dust, property values). 	 Initial flyer mail out to introduce project and arrange personal meeting. Face-to-face consultation and direct feedback is required during EIS stage to discuss draft assessment and potential project impacts. Project and construction updates to be provided. Project website. Community Enquiry/Infoline management.
Local Community	 Access to information. Construction and operation impacts (eg. visual amenity, noise, traffic, fugitive dust, property values). Community and regional benefits. 	 Initial flyer mail out to introduce project – Delta Community News. CARE Forum to be provided with project and construction updates. Briefings/presentations to local community groups as required. Project website. Community Enquiry/Infoline management.
Delta Electricity Staff and Shareholders	 Access to information. Ongoing employment opportunities. Achieving project production and commercial milestones. 	 Regular updates to be provided to internal stakeholders including: Team Leader updates; Just Generated internal newsletter; and Exec/Board papers. Project website.

Stakeholder	Interest or Concern	Management Strategy
NSW Government Agencies	 Access to information. Consultation during EIS process. Community concerns and impacts. Mitigation strategies for potential project impacts. 	 Initial project briefing Discuss draft environmental assessment prior to submission. Develop construction and operation management plans to ensure compliance with approval conditions. Media releases. Project website.
Local Government	 Access to information. Community/regional benefits. Community concerns and impacts. Consultation during EIS process. 	 Initial project briefing. Discuss draft environmental assessment prior to submission. Media releases. Project website.
Local businesses and Interest Groups	 Access to information Community/regional benefits 	 Briefings/presentations as required. Media releases Project website Community Enquiry/Infoline management
Media	Access to informationCommunity/regional benefitsProject impacts	Media releasesProject websiteCommunity Enquiry/Infoline management

4.0 Roles and Responsibilities

The Project Manager is responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the CSEP. Any changes to the CSEP must be approved by the Project Director and recorded using the Delta document control procedures.

All external communications related to Delta Electricity or the solar project must be approved for release by the Company Secretary.

Table 3 presents contact information for all persons identified in the CSEP as having key roles in the implementation of the plan.

Table 3: Contact Details of key project roles.

Role	Name	Contact
Project Director	Justin Flood	P. 02 4352 6452
		E: Justin.Flood@de.com.au
Project Manager	Anthony Callen	P: 02 4352 6027
		E: Anthony.Callen@de.com.au
Company Secretary	Steve Gurney	P: 02 4352 6003
		E: Steve.Gurney@de.com.au

5.0 Consultation Tools

5.1 Website

Delta will maintain a project specific webpage that can be accessed by the community and other stakeholders through the company website. The webpage will be updated regularly as the project develops to provide an update on completion of project milestones. The webpage can be accessed at the following address:

http://www.de.com.au/sustainability/projects/solar-project

5.2 Fact Sheets

Fact sheets will be developed to describe the project and the environmental assessment process and will be regularly updated to reflect the project progress.

Fact sheets will be made available on the project website, in hard copy at information sessions and provided to interested parties by email or regular post.

Fact sheets must be approved for release by the Company Secretary in line with all external communications related to Delta Electricity or the solar project.

5.3 Community Newsletter

Delta regularly publishes a community newsletter to provide an update on operational activities to the community. Delta has utilised both the local newspaper and more recently used a direct mail out to the suburbs surrounding the power station. Delta will continue to use newsletter articles to provide regular project updates

5.4 Community Reference Group

Delta has established a community reference group known as the Community and Regional Environment (CARE) Forum. The CARE Forum is made up of representatives of local Progress Associations and Tidy Town Groups. Delta's Executives hold a meeting with the CARE Forum quarterly to discuss industry developments and local operational matters.

The CARE Forum is an integral component of Delta's overall community communication strategy and will be utilised throughout the development of the solar project to facilitate the transfer of project information to the broader community.

5.5 Project Contact Database

Delta manages a community database (Darzin) that contains personnel contact details and preferred communication method for community members that are interested in receiving operational information from Delta. This database will provide a reference contact group for providing project information.

A project specific database will be established to manage all stakeholder information including contact details and area of interest or concern. The database will be managed by the project team and the information managed under Delta Electricity External Complaints Management Procedure (Obj. Ref. A146205).

5.6 Community Enquiries Hotline

Delta maintains a 24 hour general enquiries and complaints phone line (02 4352 6111) which is attended by switchboard staff during day work and the Shift Manager overnight. Delta also utilises a

community information line (1800 115 277) to provide updates on operational activities to the community.

5.7 Media Releases

Communication via mainstream media pathways provides an opportunity to deliver project information to a wider audience.

There are several local news services including newspapers, radio, community newsletters and online news websites on the Central Coast and surrounding areas.

Media releases and enquiries from journalists will be managed by the Company Secretary, in the first instance, in accordance with Delta's communication policy.

All media statements must be approved for release by the Company Secretary in line with all external communications related to Delta Electricity or the solar project.

6.0 Consultation Action Plan

Table 4 provides an indicative timetable of key engagement activities for the project. This plan will be regularly reviewed and updated as required.

Table 4: Indicative Consultation Action Plan

Indicative Date	Project Milestone	Communication Activity
Q1 2017	Undertaken initial assessment and preparation of request for SEARs	 Identification of stakeholders CARE Forum update Local Council meeting to discuss preliminary assessment Pre-submission meeting with NSW Planning Preparation of factsheet
May 2017	Submission of request for SEARs	Ongoing engagement with NSW Planning
End June 2017	Receipt of SEARs	Ongoing engagement with NSW Planning
Aug-Dec 2017	Preparation of EIS	 Community Newsletter story Update Factsheet Website update CARE Forum update Media as required Letterbox drop to near neighbours and follow up meeting Meetings with community interest groups NSW agency engagement
Dec 2017-Jan 2018	Submission of DA and EIS (Environmental Assessment exhibition period)	 Community mail out to announce exhibition period Local advertising to identify locations to review and comment on EIS Media Release
Feb 2018	Environment Assessment community feedback	Submissions report
June 2018	Project Approvals	– Media Release
Dec 2018	Construction start	– Media Release
Jan 2020	Operation period	Regular updates at CARE Forum
2045	Closure and Decommission	Regular updates at CARE Forum

7.0 Issues Management

Delta maintains a 24 hour general enquiries and complaints phone line (02 4352 6111) which is attended by switchboard staff during day work and the power station Shift Manager overnight. Delta also utilises an information line (1800 115 277) to provide updates on operational activities to the community.

All complaints, enquiries and requests received that are related to the solar project will be managed within Delta's existing External Complaints Management procedure. All community enquiries are recorded in Ellipse by the Environment Team and actioned as described in VP Environmental Management System (EMS) Communications Procedure.

8.0 Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

To ensure the CSEP is achieving the plan objectives the following review actions will be undertaken:

- i. Maintain accurate records of all consultation activities and correspondence with stakeholders;
- ii. Monitor regularly and respond to project direct enquires in a timely manner;
- iii. Track the number of participants in engagement activities throughout different stages of the project;
- iv. Review CSEP at each project stage/milestone to determine if strategy is still relevant and look for opportunities for continual improvement;
- v. Provide periodic updates on engagement activities to senior management;
- vi. Provide a report on the consultation activities that have occurred during the preparation of the EIS, identifying and issues raised and provide an explanation how these issues were addressed as part of the project environmental assessment (SEARS requirement).

9.0 References

Australian Bureau of Statistics Census Data 2011 (Wyee), available at: http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/SSC12583

Australian Bureau of Statistics Census Data 2016 (Northern District, Wyong), available at: http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/10202

NSW Department of Trade and Investment (2015) *NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan* available at: http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/475318/nsw-renewable-energy-actionplan.pdf

Lake Macquarie City Council webpage (Retrieved 28.7.2017), available at: www.lmcc.com.au

North Wyong Structure Plan (2012), available at:

https://www.wyong.nsw.gov.au/getmedia/d1bff3e6-102a-4bd1-bfd1 1c5bdbd2d829/North Wyong Structure Plan.pdf.aspx

DESBM016 Delta Electricity External Complaints Management Procedure (Obj. Ref. A146205).

Establishing the social licence to operate large scale solar facilities in Australia: insights from social research for industry (Ipsos, 2015), available at:

http://www.ipsos.com.au/Ipsos_docs/Solar-Report_2015/Ipsos-ARENA_SolarReport.pdf

NSW Planning Draft EIA Guidance Series (June 2017) – Guideline 6: Community and Stakeholder Engagement, available at:

http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/~/media/Files/DPE/Guidelines/guideline-6-draft-community-and-stakeholder-engagement-2017-06.ashx

Wyong Community Plan (2008-2013), available at:

https://www.wyong.nsw.gov.au/WyongCouncil/media/Imported-Document-Library/My-Community-Plan/Community-Plan---Summary-Report.pdf

Wyee Local Environment Study (2010), Volume 1, available at:

https://www.lakemac.com.au/downloads/50B8C53AD6B9531AF991E8AD0BA17B55555161C3.pdf

Wyee Structure Plan (2010), available at:

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