

Our ref: SSD-17017460

Andrew Mills  
Chair  
NSW Independent Planning Commission  
GPO Box 3415  
Sydney NSW 2001

18 December 2025

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**Subject:** Chain Valley Consolidation Project (SSD-17017460) – Referral to the NSW Independent Planning Commission

Dear Mr Mills

The Department has completed its assessment of the application for the Chain Valley Consolidation Project (SSD-17017460). The application is being referred to the NSW Independent Planning Commission (the Commission) for determination, as there were more than 50 unique public submissions objecting to the Project.

Delta Power & Energy (Chain Valley) Pty Ltd (the Applicant) propose to consolidate the existing mining operations and development consents of Chain Valley Colliery and Mannering Colliery and to undertake additional secondary coal extraction for two years until 31 December 2029. Chain Valley Colliery and Mannering Colliery are established underground coal mines located on the southern shore of Lake Macquarie, approximately 60 kilometres (km) south of Newcastle, within the Lake Macquarie and Central Coast local government areas.

On 16 December 2025, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces issued terms of reference requesting that the Commission conduct a public hearing on the Project in accordance with Section 2.9(1) (d) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The terms of reference are enclosed to this letter.

The Department has carefully considered the likely environmental, social, and economic impacts of the Project in accordance with the requirements of section 4.15 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

The Department has not provided an overall recommendation but rather has undertaken a comprehensive assessment and evaluation of the Project to inform the IPC as the consent authority and assist it in its need to conclude if the Project is in the public interest. Should the IPC determine to approve the Project, the Department has provided recommended conditions.

I have attached a copy of the Department's assessment report and recommended conditions of consent for the Commissions consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact Jessie Evans, Director Resources and Energy Assessments or [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Jessie Evans.

Jessie Evans

Director

Energy and Resource Assessments