

CHAIN VALLEY COLIERY CONSOLIDATION PLAN

Application No. SSD-1701746



NSW Independent Planning Commission
GPO Box 3415
Sydney NSW 2001

11th February 2026

OBJECTION:

1. HISTORY:

Future Sooner is a community registered charity that has raised health issues in this region for several years, especially the massive increase of cancers and respiratory diseases.

Members of our charity includes an Associate Professor of medicine, a General practitioner (GP), the former head of the Law faculty of Macquarie University and several long-term residents living both on the Central Coast and at Lake Macquarie.

Future Sooner has representatives who sit on the NSW Coal Ash & Health Community Advisory Committee and Origin's (Eraring's) Ash Dam Expansion Community Consultative Committee.

We have: presented to the United Nations whose final report on toxins and human rights was scathing of Vales Point coal-fired power station; conducted an intensive Citizens Inquiry and published the results; stood before the 'NSW Legislative Council Public Works Committee for the Cost for Remediation of Sites Containing Coal Ash Repositories' (Report 4 March 2021) and conducted Ghost Wipes on homes in the regions testing for impacts of heavy metals falling on residential homes.

The Ghost wipes identified Lead was 28 times greater than the controlled comparison wipes from Sydney's Northern Beaches. Chromium 15 times greater, Nickel 12 times greater, Arsenic 4 times greater and Mercury 1.6 times greater.

The Australian Cancer Atlas (Cancer Council) has Head & Neck cancer at Budgewoi at 102% above the Australian Average (AAA). Oral cancer at 87% AAA, Mesothelioma at 83% AAA, Liver cancer at 73% AAA and chronic Asthma reaching 15.4%

QUESTION:

Before any determine is made, Delta needs to explain what benefit does its two year consolidation/expansion application for the Chain Valley Bay coal mines offer the community?

Obviously there is a financial benefit. Delta has already acknowledged this in its application.

Delta has also made it almost impossible for the community to read, comprehend and respond, to its application as it spans over 2,451 pages.

2. PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES & SUBMISSIONS:

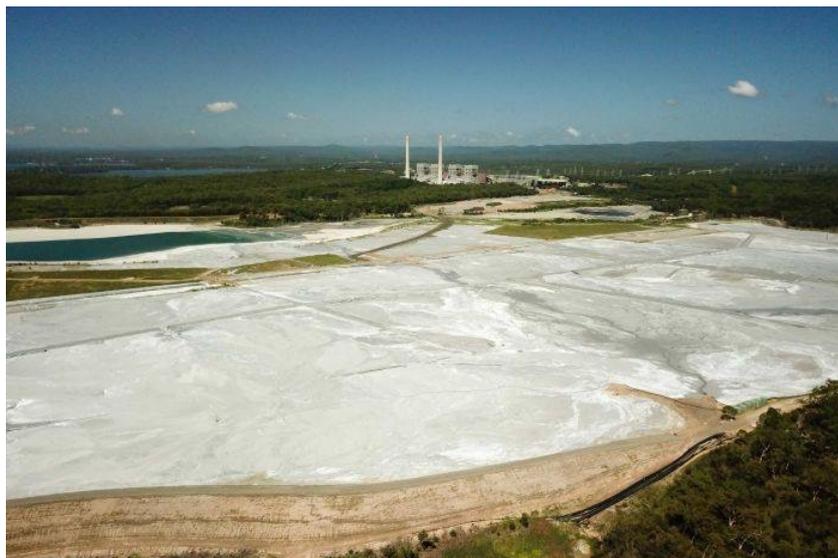
Environmental groups: Hunter Community Environment Centre; Environmental Justice and the Coal Ash Community Alliance have researched the impacts on the lake and its biodiversity and found major environmental damage from coal mining, the burning of coal and storage of byproducts known as Coal Ash. (Out of the Ashes report both 1& 2).

Delta has breached its Environmental Licences on many occasions and merely received a slap on the wrist from the courts and the NSW EPA.

Recently the court found Delta guilty of two major fish kills and condemned it for its cavalier, irresponsible and illegal actions. At the time of writing, Delta is awaiting sentencing

Delta dumped of some 61, 770m³ of asbestos and 159,200m³ of an un-named General Solid Waste that on January 2021, led to a Variation of Clean-Up Notice issued by the NSW EPA (Notice No. 1604734).

These are but two examples of Delta's lack of concern for the health of residents and the environment. Actions, that will only multiply if its application to consolidate/expand its Chain Valley Bay mines goes ahead.



Vales Point ash dam with 30 million tonnes of toxic coal ash leaching into Lake Macquarie and blowing over surrounding residential suburbs from an unlined and uncovered dam which all authorities seem to deem as safe

3. NO COMMUNITY TRUST

Both Delta and the NSW EPA's reputations rank poorly in the eyes of the community due to their consistent lack of transparency and handling of the truth towards the community. I have lived within the toxic range of Delta's operations for over sixteen years, be it coal mining, power generation or simply dumping their toxic biproducts in open dams.

I've seen air pollution and emissions and toxic dust being blown over neighbouring suburbs from Vales point power station. Future Sooner has the evidence from the government's own statistics that show the high level of chronic health conditions (life threatening) in the regions near Vales Point, Eraring and former Lake Munmorah power stations.



Suppressing the dust is their long term plan: (Opposite Doyalson RSL Club)

4. MINE SUBSIDENCE:

Sixteen years ago, when I bought my home, mine subsidence was regulated. The requirement was to obtain an approval licence through the Mine Subsidence Board was mandatory.

Suddenly, the need for such a licence was lifted by the NSW Government giving developers and industry carte blanche to build even though none of the mines had been rehabilitated in any way.

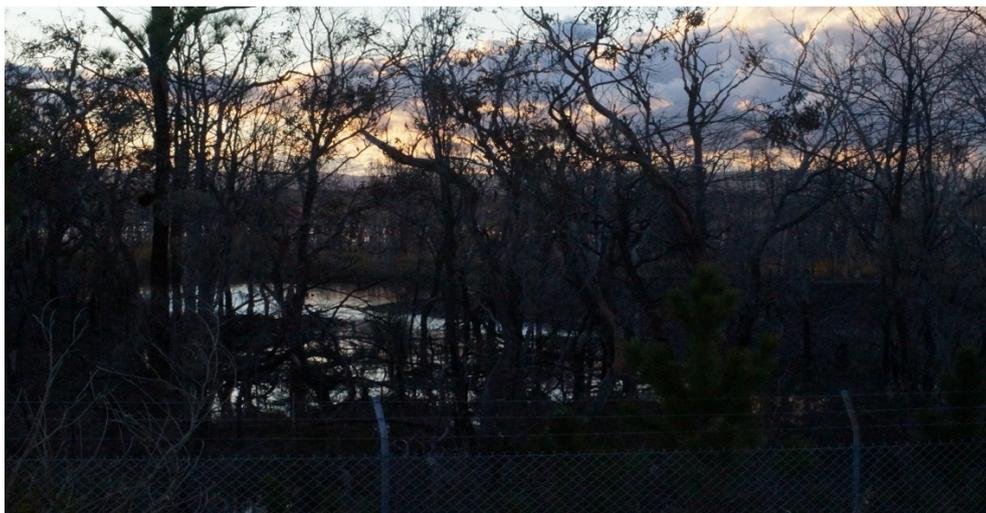
Lake Macquarie and parts of Lake Munmorah are honeycombed with mines which at some time, will collapse and cause a catastrophic incident. It is not a matter of if, but when, potentially impacting on the entire Tuggerah Lakes System and Lake Macquarie.

Impacting subsidence has already been identified as having two significant potential negative impacts.

- 1. Impact to biodiversity of the foreshore, seagrasses and benthic organisms.**
- 2. Impacts on manmade structures, infrastructure and service facilities.**

When the Mine Subsidence Board controlled licencing, residents had a body to approach for compensation. Now there is a foreign owned investment group to deal with the community has little to no confidence in.

How can we trust any government agency that turns a blind eye to the impacts of coal mining in any region and for Delta to ensure that sink holes and major subsidence do not occur from its potential mine expansions?



The impacts have been continually growing larger as poor management practices occur and government departments turn a blind eye. (North Doyalson)

5. NO BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY

The mines have operated for over 63 years with no real benefit to the general community. The old argument of jobs and the economy cannot be compared to the cost to human health and destruction of the environment. The impacts from the mining of the Wallarah, Greater Northern and Sassafern coal seams still have not been totally understood or realised. If the Delta application is approved, what this region will have to endure for decades is continuing subsidence and impacts on the environment and human health.

Impacts such as ...

- **The cumulative impacts of air quality, noise, traffic and social impact.**
- **Greenhouse gas emissions to continue.**
- **Biodiversity impacts such as seagrass destruction, etc.**
- **Potential further subsidence**
- **Surface water impacts on creeks and the lakes.**
- **Groundwater extraction and disposal issues.**

How does this benefit the community?

Worse than Delta's application to expand its mines is the response by many government departments. It appears that they are already determined to support approving the application.

1. **The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure** *have flicked passed any decision to the NSW Independent Planning Commission.*
2. **NSW Subsidence Advisory, SA NSW** *understands that the proposal will not result in additional planned subsidence impacts **other than that allowed under existing approvals and consents?***
3. **NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water** *has determined that the proposed development is not likely to have any significant impact on biodiversity values.*
4. **Department of Planning and Environment** *recommends for post approval.*
5. **NSW EPA** *are satisfied impacts to air quality, odour, ground and surface water impacts have been adequately addressed.*
6. **NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services** *there are expected to be no new or additional impacts to SCA beyond those already approved?*
7. **NSW Resources Regulator** *advises that it has no specific comments regarding rehabilitation matters in relation to the proposal.*
8. **The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC** *grants landowner consent to Great Southern Energy Pty Ltd trading as Delta Coal before the findings of this Commission.*

Why is the community bothering with ticking the boxes so that the Commission has complied with all legal requirements and simply covered their backside.

6. EXISTING IMPACTS:

Swindles Creek has entirely changed because of the mine water discharges. Exceedances of salinity parameters, nitrogen compounds, faecal coliforms and some dissolved metals have already been identified by Delta's submission.

The submission's Figure 1 shows very little under lake operations with the majority under land and encroaching on residential properties.

In contradiction, Delta and its associated companies are not concerned about the surrounding health or environmental issues. In fact, they have stated that **a 2-year extension will maximise the proportion of coal burned at Vales Point Power Station with secondary workings to expand the extent of approved underground mining works located beneath Lake Macquarie.**



Continual issues in all surrounding suburbs

Documentation from Jessie Evans, Director Energy and Resource Assessment, the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has stated that the Project needs to conclude that it is in the **Public Interest**. This has not and could not be concluded when the submission has already stated that **the burning of coal and the continuation of mining secondary workings to expand underground mining would continue.**



It is estimated that Vales Point Power Station produces 1.9 million tonnes of coal ash per annum. Allowing to produce a further 3.8 million tonnes over the two-year mine expansion only exacerbates the impact for both the environment and human health.



Government documents and statistics demonstrate that cancer rates in the region have reached 102% above the Australian average and that 1142 children under the age of fifteen were admitted to Wyong and Gosford Hospitals for acute and life-threatening asthma attacks over a short period of time.

Month Year	Facility	Age Group	Presentations
Jan-2019	Gosford Hospital	0-15	22
Jan-2019	Wyong Hospital	0-15	9
Feb-2019	Gosford Hospital	0-15	53
Feb-2019	Wyong Hospital	0-15	48
Mar-2019	Gosford Hospital	0-15	29
Mar-2019	Wyong Hospital	0-15	20
Apr-2019	Gosford Hospital	0-15	28
Apr-2019	Wyong Hospital	0-15	33
May-2019	Gosford Hospital	0-15	39
May-2019	Wyong Hospital	0-15	29
Jun-2019	Gosford Hospital	0-15	33
Jun-2019	Wyong Hospital	0-15	36
Jul-2019	Gosford Hospital	0-15	30
Jul-2019	Wyong Hospital	0-15	17
Aug-2019	Gosford Hospital	0-15	24
Aug-2019	Wyong Hospital	0-15	14
Sep-2019	Gosford Hospital	0-15	21
Sep-2019	Wyong Hospital	0-15	13
Oct-2019	Gosford Hospital	0-15	20
Oct-2019	Wyong Hospital	0-15	12
Nov-2019	Gosford Hospital	0-15	32
Nov-2019	Wyong Hospital	0-15	25
Dec-2019	Gosford Hospital	0-15	37
Dec-2019	Wyong Hospital	0-15	19
Jan-2020	Gosford Hospital	0-15	13
Jan-2020	Wyong Hospital	0-15	13
Feb-2020	Gosford Hospital	0-15	37
Feb-2020	Wyong Hospital	0-15	28
Mar-2020	Gosford Hospital	0-15	29
Mar-2020	Wyong Hospital	0-15	41
Apr-2020	Gosford Hospital	0-15	3
Apr-2020	Wyong Hospital	0-15	7
May-2020	Gosford Hospital	0-15	9
May-2020	Wyong Hospital	0-15	8
Jun-2020	Gosford Hospital	0-15	40
Jun-2020	Wyong Hospital	0-15	36
Jul-2020	Gosford Hospital	0-15	21
Jul-2020	Wyong Hospital	0-15	13
Aug-2020	Gosford Hospital	0-15	26
Aug-2020	Wyong Hospital	0-15	22
Sep-2020	Gosford Hospital	0-15	17
Sep-2020	Wyong Hospital	0-15	13
Oct-2020	Gosford Hospital	0-15	25
Oct-2020	Wyong Hospital	0-15	9
Nov-2020	Gosford Hospital	0-15	23
Nov-2020	Wyong Hospital	0-15	38
Dec-2020	Gosford Hospital	0-15	14
Dec-2020	Wyong Hospital	0-15	14
Total	Total	Total	1,142

12 MONTHS
 WYONG = 517
 GOSFORD = 625

WYONG = 43 MONTH
 OR 11 PER WEEK

GOSFORD = 52 MONTH
 OR 13 PER WEEK

Data selection criteria:

- CCLHD ED presentations between Jan 2019 and Dec 2020 inclusive
- Patients aged between 0 and 15
- Patients diagnosed with any of the following SNOMED (health classification) diagnoses in ED
 - Acute asthma (disorder)
 - Acute exacerbation of asthma (disorder)
 - Allergic asthma (disorder)
 - Asthma (disorder)
 - Asthmatic bronchitis (disorder)
 - Exacerbation of asthma (disorder)
 - Mild asthma (disorder)
 - Mild intermittent asthma





Living with the destruction of our bushland buffers from air & lake pollution.
Just another impact.

7. DELTA'S APPLICATION MUST BE REFUSED.

Delta's Consolidation application has not been demonstrated that existing approvals and those currently being requested within, will not or could not cause critical, high or medium impacting consequences for both humans and the environment.

As President of Future Sooner and a long-term local resident who is also a cancer patient, it is not possible for us to support Delta's application.

At no point has Delta's application demonstrated how it is in the public interest to consolidate/expand its mines under Lake Macquarie for a further two years. In fact, the consistent behaviour and disregard for the health and well-being of the community and the environment of Delta we believe, can leave the panel in no doubt that the Delta's application should be rejected.

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Gary Blaschke OAM
President Future Sooner

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