

Chain Valley/Manning Community Consultative Committee 2024 Annual Report

CCC project name:	Chain Valley Colliery and Manning Colliery	Reporting period:	January 1 to December 31 2024
Independent chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent contact:	Lachlan McWha Environmental Compliance and Approvals Coordinator

1. Executive summary / introduction

The Chain Valley and Manning Community Consultative Committees received Departmental approval to merge into one committee, whilst under the same operator in 2016. The mines assets and operations were acquired from Great Southern Energy to Seven Group in December 2022 but retains the trading name as Delta Coal. The collieries provide domestic coal to the nearby Vales Point Power Station via an overhead conveyor. Site infrastructure is located within the Central Coast Council Local Government Area and current underground workings are under the Morisset Peninsula in the Lake Macquarie Council Local Government Area. The site encompasses a footprint of approximately 27.62 hectares and is located 60 kilometres south of Newcastle, in proximity to the town of Manning Park.

The committee members are all local identities, well known and very active in their respective areas. Many have been long term members of this committee and other community organisations, bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge to the meetings. One of the original members recently retired and given the interest in the mines' operations, saw an expansion of membership. Local Government does not share that view, with Lake Macquarie Council deciding not to appoint a representative to this committee and Central Coast Council reviewing its external committees early in 2025, although this appears to be indicative of no major issues or concerns at this level of government.

The committee is currently comprised of:

- Six local community representatives;
- One representative from Chain Valley Bay Progress Association and an alternate;
- One representative from Gwandalan Summerland Point Tidy Towns Group;;
- A representative from Central Coast Council;
- Three company representatives, with attendance from other personnel as required;
- One independent Chairperson.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months:

- The committee met four times during 2024, in February, May, August and November.
- attendance at meetings remains consistently high.

- Topics of discussion at meetings were operational activities including environmental incidents, monitoring and performance, land management and rehabilitation, improvement programs such as the waste sorting facility at Chain Valley colliery, desilting of Mannering colliery's sediment dam and the installation of perimeter fencing around the Chain Valley colliery, complaints, local community news and the Consolidation Project to merge existing approvals for both collieries into a single Development Consent and to extend mining operations for a further two years to 2029.
- There were no site tours undertaken for the period, although the meetings are held on site.
- Presentations to the committee remain informative and matters of interest at members' behest are included. A good rapport exists between all parties. There weren't any complaints for the reporting period which demonstrates Delta Coal is regarded as a good neighbour to surrounding areas.
- The committee's Terms of Reference was confirmed at the November meeting. Copies of minutes and presentations are available on the Delta Coal website.

3. Key issues

Other than ongoing interest in the benthic communities and seagrass monitoring and progress of the consolidation project through the government approvals, there were no key issues or concern raised by the committee.

4. Focus for next 12 months:

- Continued comprehensive reporting on all company operations, including monitoring and environmental performance, any community complaints/ responses and progress of consolidation project
- Any emerging issues and management thereof.

Name of chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill
Date:	February 21 2025