Quantum DC

MEDIA RELEASE Thursday 12 November 2026

QUANTUM DC PAUSES TUNGKILLO DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION AND RESETS ENGAGEMENT

Quantum DC, the proponent of the proposed Tungkillo Compute and Energy Hub, today announced that it is pausing the planning approvals programme for the project and resetting the way it engages with the local community and the State Government.

Quantum DC CEO Alby Tomassi said the company will not apply for Crown Sponsorship or lodge a Development Application this year to ensure the time needed to work through the significant issues the community has raised, and specialist studies have been independently reviewed in light of them.

“I want the community to know that we have heard them,” Mr Tomassi said.

“We misread the strength of feeling about this proposal and acknowledge the first weeks of our early engagement created more questions than answers.

“We sincerely apologise for this, and we understand the disappointment and frustration it has caused. That is why we are pausing and intend to take a fresh approach to how we engage and how this proposal is tested.”

Quantum DC will now prepare a longer-term and more comprehensive engagement programme to work through and address the range of concerns and detailed questions raised by the community in a thorough and transparent way.

This programme proposes direct meetings with residents, community groups, local businesses, Council and other local organisations, as well as the offer to establish a Community Advisory Group to represent community views and interests to help shape the development of Quantum DC’s proposal.

As a result, the community information sessions scheduled for 20 and 21 November at the Mannum Leisure Centre will not go ahead. This extended programme replaces them to ensure we give the 432 detailed questions compiled on behalf of the community, and submitted to Quantum DC, proper consideration.

“Quantum DC has been in pre-lodgement discussions with State agencies,” Mr Tomassi said. “We now look forward to further engagement with the State Government and relevant elected members.”

Quantum DC also intends to bring together a panel of experts independent of the company to review the specialist studies being undertaken and the evidence behind the proposal, and to advise on whether they address the concerns the community has raised, including in relation to water, energy, noise, lighting and the night sky, traffic, bushfire, farming land, location and the local environment. The panel’s findings will be made public. Further details will be announced once they are confirmed and Quantum DC has engaged key stakeholders on the concept.

“We recognise and respect the community’s expectation that this proposal be properly tested and fully considered,” Mr Tomassi said.

“They are entitled to that assurance, and so we are taking the time needed to allow for a full review of our proposal, alongside a community engagement process that listens to people’s concerns and works through them in a meaningful way.

“That is why we will not seek Crown Sponsorship or lodge a Development Application until that work is done.”

More than 350 people have contacted Quantum DC, and a consolidated list of 432 questions compiled by community members has been received.

“We want to thank the community for taking the time to compile those questions,” Mr Tomassi said. “They will be considered by our technical specialists as we progress through the engagement programme, and they will inform the independent review, to ensure the issues are properly assessed and thoroughly considered before any application is lodged.

“We are open to ideas that help shape this proposal, and nothing in the design is off the table. If the process shows that parts of the proposal need to change, they will change.

“We remain committed to South Australia and to getting this right. The specialist studies continue, and every report will be published with any application that is lodged.”

Quantum DC intends to brief Mid Murray Council, local Members of Parliament and the State Government on the revised programme and is writing to everyone who has contacted the project team.

Further details of the engagement programme and the proposed panel will be published at quantumdc.com.au/tungkillo as they are confirmed.

About Quantum DC

Quantum DC is a fully privately owned Australian entity. It is the proponent and the landowner of the proposed Tungkillo Compute and Energy Hub at 312 Collins Road, Tungkillo. Project information, the fact sheet and the FAQ are at quantumdc.com.au/tungkillo.

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