

24 January 2017

Mr Robert Byrne
Planning Officer
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Byrne

CARGO STORAGE FACILITY, MAYFIELD (SEE 8137)

I refer to the Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) exhibited on the NSW Department of Planning & Environment web site in relation to the Cargo Storage Facility, Mayfield (SEE 8137). The applicant proposes the establishment and operation of an open air cargo storage facility that will handle large and oversized cargos requiring expansive handling areas, availability to deep-water berths and ready access to state and national transport routes.

Hunter New England Population Health has reviewed the SEE and associated documentation, paying particular attention to the management of air quality, noise, soil, water and other issues which may have an impact on human health.

In respect to this site particular attention should be paid to the provisions of Concept Plan (MP09_0096) approved by the Minister of Planning in 2012 which outlines the future strategic development uses for this remediated portion of the former BHP Steelworks site Closure Area. The plan enables this site to be developed with a range of land based facilities that would service an industrial and/or port related use of mix of cargo types. The proponent should ensure that all provisions of the Concept Plan are complied with before, during and after development.

The following should also be considered in the approval process for this project:

Air Quality

Long and short-term exposure to PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀ causes health effects which may lead to premature death and increased hospital admissions. The SEE states that the air quality impacts from the proposal are negligible. Although the sites most likely to be impacted are industrial, the proponent should demonstrate that the mitigation measures to be implemented throughout the operation of the project include all reasonable and feasible measures to avoid incremental impacts of PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀.

Noise

Environmental noise can have negative impacts on human health and well-being and trigger ongoing community complaints about annoyance and stress. Evidence concerning the adverse health effects of environmental noise is detailed in a number of publications, for example, the *World Health Organisation Night Noise Guidelines for Europe (2009)* and the *WHO Guidelines for community Noise (1999)*. To protect public health, it is prudent to take all reasonable and feasible measures to minimise public exposure to industrial-related noise, irrespective of compliance with the relevant noise policies.

The applicant should ensure compliance with all NSW Environment Protection Authority and local council noise criteria.

Mosquitoes

A mosquito management plan focusing on exotic mosquito species identification should be included in a vector management strategy. A mosquito risk assessment should be included in the SEE to ensure any potential mosquito breeding sites are identified e.g. natural or constructed wetlands, stormwater drains, lagoons, ponds and low lying areas. The mosquito management plan will also assist to prevent both nuisance biting mosquitoes and disease transmitting mosquitoes affecting employees, visitors and the local population.

The stormwater management plan must address mosquito breeding issues such as natural depressions around the site and drainage channels. This is to reduce both nuisance biting and disease transmitting mosquitoes to the local population.

Water Management and Monitoring

The SEE needs to include a comprehensive Water Management Plan (WMP) which addresses potable, surface, ground and wastewater. The WMP should address all aspects of assessment, management and continuous monitoring of water associated with this proposal.

If you require any further information please contact Chris Williams, Environmental Health Officer on 4924 6477

Yours sincerely



Prof David Durrheim
Service Director- Health Protection
Hunter New England Population Health