NO TO MOD 7

STRONG OBJECTION TO MODIFICATION 7

My name is I am a long term resident of Kurnell, 50 years. I have family ons to Kurnell that date back to the late 1800s

Not only am I a long term resident or Kurnell, I am a former business owner whose business was located in Kurnell, a parent who has raised her family in Kurnell, a child who holidayed in Kurnell travelling across Botany Bay on the ferry from La Perouse each weekend and now currently a retiree who lives in Kurnell.

I am also a proud member of a very close and loyal community. I have enjoyed the natural beauty and benefits of living in such stunning coastal location.

I have witnessed many changes in Kurnell over the years but the one thing that has remained constant is constant battering that Kurnell receives at the hands of corrupt politicians and corporations.

This community comprises many layers, multi generational residents who have endured all of the hardships that Kurnell has had inflicted upon it and also many new families joining and strengthening the community. Not just a postcode but a good old fashioned community, one that is unique and not to be found in many other overpopulated and unconnected suburbs in our city.

Perhaps this is the reason that the government is always ready to inflict that next challenge on our community, in a bid to bring it down and make us just a number like the rest of the shire/cbd/city.

I am writing to express by strong objection to Modification 7 (Mod 7) for the proposed Infrastructure Consolidation and Remediation at the former refinery site in Kurnell.

The plan to leave dangerous contaminants like PFAs, hydrocarbons and asbestos buried on a site converted rather than removed is not a genuine cleanup. It is most definitely a cost cutting measure dressed up as remediation. Allowing toxic materials to remain in the ground puts our health, our wetlands, and our future at risk, especially considering the fact that you expect us to believe the government's climate change and frequent severe weather event predications.

Currently in wet weather the toxic smell of chemicals is strong throughout the suburb and this is apparently a result of earlier Caltex/Ampol failure to correctly clean up spills.

Part of the problem is also the fact that a large proportion of the Kurnell population is employed by Caltex/Ampol and good old fashioned values and loyalty prohibit the correct reaction to the company's misdemeanour for fear of retaliation. I can go back 30 years to an oil spill that impacted the entire community but the school's p&c happily accepted a crappy teeshirt for our school's cricket teams and compensation for the damaged caused.

This MODIFICATION 7 "REMEDIATION" is an example of short sighted, cheap and ineffectual option to ensure that maximum profits and payoffs can be made to government and corporations alike.

Very troubling is the lack of any fixed timeline or independent overview. Mod 7 would hand responsability to Ampol to monitor their own site with no clear obligation to fully remediate the land or make it safe in the long term. Once this plan is approved the land will be locked into industrial use forever.

This hardly seems like a forward thinking solution, without any consideration of the community. Now would be the time to make amends to Kurnell and give it the respect that the birthplace of modern Australia deserves, not some cheap, half arsed solution that will do nothing but add profits to an already profitable corporation.

I urge the Department to reject Mod 7. Ampol should be held responsible for their contamination, subjected to independent environmental auditing and held to a clear enforceable timeline.

Long term people and land wellbeing over short term profitability.

