

## **Objection to Ampol's Proposal for Modification of Kurnell Terminal (Mod 7)**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong objection to Ampol's proposal for the modification of the Kurnell Terminal (referred to as "Mod 7"). While I am not a resident of the area, I am deeply concerned about the potential negative impacts of this project on the environment, local residents, and the broader community—both now and in the future.

### **1. Environmental Risks and Sustainability**

The Kurnell Terminal is situated in a highly sensitive coastal region with significant ecological value. The proposal to modify and expand the terminal poses serious risks to local wildlife, water quality, and the broader natural environment. With increased fuel storage capacity and higher throughput, the likelihood of accidents, including spills and leaks, grows exponentially. The surrounding marine and terrestrial ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to such disasters, which could result in long-term damage to local biodiversity.

Additionally, the environmental footprint of fossil fuel infrastructure like the Kurnell Terminal contributes to broader climate change issues. Given the growing global consensus on the urgent need for decarbonization and the transition to renewable energy sources, it is troubling that the proposal focuses on expanding fossil fuel infrastructure rather than investing in cleaner, more sustainable alternatives. This is a step backward in terms of our responsibility to future generations and our ability to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

### **2. Public Health and Safety Concerns**

Though I am not a resident of the area, I recognize that the Kurnell Terminal's location near populated areas—including residential neighbourhoods, schools, and recreational spaces—exposes local communities to a range of health and safety risks. These include potential exposure to hazardous emissions such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), as well as the ever-present risk of fire or explosion in a facility that stores large quantities of fuel.

Even a small accident could have catastrophic effects on both human health and the environment. The consequences of a major disaster at a fuel terminal could be far-reaching, causing harm to residents, wildlife, and local infrastructure. It is crucial that this proposal is assessed rigorously for safety risks, and that the public is given confidence that appropriate measures are in place to protect people and the environment.

### **3. Impact on Local Communities and Future Generations**

While I am not personally impacted by the immediate changes to the terminal, I am concerned about the long-term consequences for both current residents and future generations. The modification of the terminal would increase the frequency and scale of fuel movements, and with it, the likelihood of hazardous incidents. The increase in fuel storage and throughput would also exacerbate noise and air pollution, potentially reducing the quality of life for local residents.

Moreover, the local Indigenous communities, whose ancestral lands may be affected, must be meaningfully consulted. The Kurnell region holds historical and cultural significance, and the decision to expand fossil fuel infrastructure should not ignore the rights and concerns of Indigenous peoples. Their heritage, as well as their present and future well-being, must be given utmost consideration.

#### **4. Missed Opportunity for Sustainable Energy Transition**

It is deeply concerning that this proposal appears to prioritize the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure at a time when the world is increasingly shifting toward renewable energy solutions. Australia, as a nation, must take bold steps to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and support the growth of sustainable energy technologies such as solar, wind, and hydrogen. By modifying the Kurnell Terminal, Ampol is not only contributing to environmental degradation but also undermining efforts to transition to a cleaner, greener future.

This is a missed opportunity to align the project with the future energy needs of the nation. Rather than investing in infrastructure that supports outdated energy sources, Ampol should be considering how its resources can be redirected toward renewable energy projects that benefit both the environment and the community in the long term.

#### **5. Lack of Adequate Public Consultation**

Finally, I am concerned that the consultation process for this proposal has not been sufficiently transparent or inclusive. The public, especially those who live near the terminal or who are affected by the environmental consequences, should have the opportunity to voice their concerns and engage meaningfully in the decision-making process. The stakes are high, and decisions that affect the future of the community and the environment should be made with full participation from all stakeholders, not just from corporate interests.

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#### **Conclusion**

I urge the relevant authorities to reconsider this proposal in its current form. The potential environmental damage, risks to public health and safety, and the missed opportunity to align with a sustainable energy future are issues that cannot be overlooked. I believe it is critical that we protect the environment for future generations, while also ensuring the well-being of current residents and communities.

I respectfully request that the concerns outlined above be fully addressed before any approvals are granted for the modification of the Kurnell Terminal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Brendon Deguara

██████████ Wattle Grove 2173 NSW