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**Date:** 10/8/2012 2:34 pm  
**Subject:** Project SSD-4986

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We object to the proposal SSD-4986

We are generally concerned with industrial development on Kooragang Island because of the 24 hour noise levels, dust and other forms of pollution, as outlined in the front page article of the Newcastle Herald today, 8 October 2012.

But this proposal in particular is for an explosives plant to be situated adjacent to an existing chemical plant (Orica). In the event of an explosion in the ammonium nitrate plant, the contents of the chemical storage at Orica would be dispersed over the nearby residential areas, which ones depending on the wind at the time. Our memory is still vivid of the enormous upset caused by teams of people in Hazchem outfits cleaning up after a minor release of hexavalent chromium. What would it be like if the whole storage tank went up?

One could argue that the plant is to be built according to the most current safety standards, so that the risk of catastrophic failure is low. But the consequences of catastrophic failure are very high, and the lesson of the recent Fukushima nuclear plant failure in Japan is that unlikely events do happen. It would be far better to site an explosives plant at a site where the consequences of catastrophic failure are relatively low.