

I wish to express my **objection** to SSD-24668706, Weston Aluminium Additional Waste Streams.

As a nearby resident, I fear that Weston Aluminium (WA) will not store or process hazardous waste appropriately, or that the site is not free from the threat of fire or flood. Any deviation from safe storage or processing guidelines, or the impact of flood or fire at the site, could result in toxic airborne particles or contaminated runoff leaching into the ground or entering Swamp Creek. This would have irreversible detrimental health impacts for the people, pets and wildlife who reside in the surrounding areas, as well as further afield, as swamp creek eventually runs into the Hunter River.

I object to hazardous waste being stored at a location where there is the slightest possibility of a fire occurring at the site. In November 2021 there was a fire at Weston Aluminium. As reported by ABC Newcastle, "large quantities of bottle hand sanitiser, paint, rubber, plastics and aluminium dross were involved in the fire". This was a very scary time as a nearby resident, as we were told to keep our windows shut and that the fire would burn for several days and we were left wondering, 'how did the fire start?' and, 'are we safe?'. In the event of another fire at Weston Aluminium, and if the company were approved to store and process hazardous wastes including PFAS (100-200 tonnes per annum), what would happen to the nearby residents then? How can we know with 100% assurance, that there will not be another fire or that the hazardous waste would be stored safely. This was very much a concern when I read in the scope of works that the building that is to be retrofitted 'to accommodate the new activities' is a building that was damaged in the fire.

An inspection report by the EPA, regarding the fire at Weston Aluminium, has been brought to my attention. In the report the EPA noted some worrying information about Weston Aluminium and how the business was storing its current waste, such as clinical waste, pharmaceutical waste, and quarantine waste. Some concerning statements included in the report were:

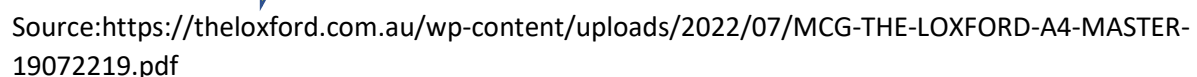
- At the time of the fire, a large proportion of the waste ... **was stored outside buildings and was not stored within constructed bunds.**
- At the time of the fire, large amounts of clinical and related waste **was not stored in designated or clearly marked identifiable areas at the Premises.**
- Before and after the fire, **different types of waste that should be segregated were stored together.**
- Waste, including waste intended to be disposed of in the thermal waste treatment plant has **not been securely or effectively contained or packaged.**

I have also been told about a reported fire at the Weston Aluminium site that was as recent as 26.01.2023.

In October 2016 there was an out-of-control bush fire in the area closely behind the Weston Aluminium site. I know this, as my family and I were at our current location at the time, and we had to evacuate.

I object to hazardous waste being stored at a location that has the possibility to be impacted by flood waters. Cessnock council's Swamp Creek (which is at the back of the Weston Aluminium site) Floodplain Risk Management Study, showed water levels entering the Weston Aluminium site during the 2007 storm which was the result of an intense east coast low pressure system. The study can be found at file:///C:/Users/Sharon%20Boundy/Downloads/DOC2014-028875-Floodplain-Management_-_Swamp-Fishery-Creek-Floodplain-Risk-Management-Study_-_Worley-Parsons-Final-Report_-_14-P.-Jennings-website.pdf

I object to the lack of community consultation and education about the proposal. As a nearby resident the first I knew of the planned proposal was a letter I received from the Department of Planning and Environment dated 6.02.2023. There are a lot of documents to read that are a part of the proposal and I feel that there has not been sufficient time to read over and process all the information contained in the documents.





Source: <https://together.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/sguia/widgets/386818/photos/105484>

The area within the thick black line is a section of the area known as the Sawyers Gully Urban Investigation Area. This map also shows how close MANY homes in the Kurri Kurri area are to the Weston Aluminium site.

The project has not been available to be viewed on the 'view project on map' location on the NSW Government Department of Planning and environment since the start date of the proposal being available to be view on the 8.2.2023 up until this submission was completed 5.03.2023.