

Weapons Manufacture in the Hunter Valley: *This is an UNBELIEVABLY terrible idea.*

The “**High Technology Industry Williamstown**” is obviously a weapons manufacturing hub intended to be used for the development, manufacture and testing of weapons; whether it be hardware, including parts thereof and software.

Despite the volumes of jargon in the documents provided, there seems to be a distinct lack of meaningful detail.

Zero specificity of types of weapons to be manufactured.

Comments made by US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin on his recent visit to Australia speak to America’s commitment to supporting Australia’s explosives and ordinance enterprise. There was a particular mention of an MOU that will see the development and manufacture of multiple-missile launch systems.

If this is even remotely the case, it is a grave concern for reasons that span a spectrum of issues from environmental to ethical; but moreover seems ill-advised to make the Hunter Valley a high-value military target as global tensions escalate exponentially.

“Intended Occupiers” We must know which weapons manufacturers will be involved and how those organisations are connected to Israel.

As you *must be aware*, the most recent ***ICJ Advisory Opinion of the 19th of July 2024***, Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian Territories has been deemed illegal. Furthermore, Israel’s political, legal, law enforcement and military practices have been found to amount to the illegal enforcement of apartheid.

Weapons manufacturing relationships with organisations that supply weapons to Israel will put Australia in direct contravention of the ICJ Advisory Opinion which states that all United Nations Member States “have an obligation to” end the suffering being inflicted against the Palestinian People through the illegal occupation and apartheid conditions of Occupied Palestine by Israel.

Clearly; setting up shop for a clientele that is very likely to include companies that will be profiting from the violent deaths of Palestinian children is going to ensure that Australia will find itself in contravention of the ICJ.

[***ICJ Advisory Opinion of the 19th of July 2024***](#)

Waste disposal related to development, manufacture and testing of weapons including but not limited to processes around waste disposal will affect the people, wildlife, and environment in the area.

The EIS skips past critical failures to safeguard the surrounding environment including emissions, destruction to natural habitat and biodiversity, PFAS contamination as well as long-term cumulative effects. These issues are smudged over with bureaucratic box-ticking rather than any kind of proof of engaging with any actual work to resolve the myriad of issues facing *the development*.

The EIS also discusses several Aboriginal cultural sites that the development will essentially bulldoze over, but not before collecting some artefacts to keep in an “Aboriginal Keeping Place.” The half-measures discussed in the EIS are not only insulting` but are known to have been dissatisfactory to the **Worimi Traditional Owners Indigenous Corporation**.

Jobs?

With the huge impact on the community, environment, and historical sites as well as (most importantly) the peace and safety of the region; the apparent benefit of the development is a tiny uptick in employment that amounts to less than a rounding error. This is unacceptable.

Overarchingly this whole proposal should be viewed as an embarrassing shambles with messaging that ends up in the middle of a Venn diagram between a Top Gun sequel, a real estate development scam and a wellness retreat.

Everything about this is transparently; another poorly thought-out and quite disgusting *get-rich-quick scheme* seemingly cooked up to get on board with the increased global demand for weapons and deserves only revulsion and disgust.

In the context of the world teetering closer to the precipice of an epoch-defining nuclear war, the proposal is to (essentially) contribute to the elimination of life on this planet by creating the tools of our own mutually assured destruction.