

# A Father's Plea for Kurnell's Future

As a father deeply invested in the future of my children and our community, I am compelled to object to Modification 7 (MOD 7) to State Significant Development SSD-5544 for the Kurnell Terminal in Sutherland Shire, NSW. My family and I have lived near the Kurnell Peninsula for years, cherishing its natural beauty and cultural significance. It breaks my heart to see this land, so rich in history and potential, remain under industrial control when it could be restored for our kids and future generations. Ampol's proposal to consolidate infrastructure, keep fuel storage, and only partially remediate the site feels like a betrayal of the community's trust and a missed chance to heal decades of environmental damage.

My biggest concern is that this plan extends industrial activity on land meant for oil refining, which stopped in 2014. Historical agreements, like the Australian Oil Refining Agreements Act 1954, made it clear that the Kurnell site, including Crown land, was leased for refining only, with strict rules requiring the land to be returned to the public, free of pollution, once refining ended. Yet, MOD 7 pushes to repurpose the site for fuel import and distribution without fully honoring these terms. This isn't just a small change—it's a refusal to give our community what's rightfully ours: a restored peninsula. I want my children to play in safe, green spaces, not grow up next to fuel tanks and pipelines that should've been removed years ago.

The environmental toll of the refinery weighs heavily on me as a parent. For over 60 years, this site has polluted our soil, water, and Botany Bay with hydrocarbons and PFAS, harming wildlife and threatening places like Towra Point Nature Reserve. My kids deserve a healthy environment, not a partially cleaned-up industrial zone. MOD 7's limited remediation focuses on supporting Ampol's operations, not rebuilding the natural habitat with native plants or creating an ecological corridor. Full restoration could clean our water, protect endangered species, and give our community a space to thrive. Instead, this proposal prioritizes profit over our children's future and ignores the urgent need to move away from fossil fuels in a climate crisis.

Kurnell is more than just land—it's a sacred place for the Dharawal people and where Captain Cook landed in 1770. As a father, I want my kids to learn about this history through walking trails or cultural centers, not be cut off by industrial barriers. The 1954 Act protected places like Captain Cook's Landing Place Reserve, yet Ampol's plans continue to limit public access. Imagine the joy of families exploring a restored Kurnell, with parks and paths that honor both Indigenous and European heritage. MOD 7 blocks that vision, keeping the site as a fuel hub instead of a community treasure.

For years, Kurnell residents have endured noise, pollution, and restricted access to our own backyard. My family feels the impact daily, and I worry about the health risks from leftover contaminants. Approving MOD 7 dismisses our struggles and misses a chance to create parks that could lift our spirits and boost our local economy through eco-tourism. Ampol's

community fund is a nice gesture, but it's not enough. We need the land back, fully restored, to create jobs in environmental care and give our kids a place to grow up safely.

This proposal also clashes with NSW's goals for sustainable development and biodiversity protection. Policies like the State Environmental Planning Policy (Kurnell Peninsula) 1989 call for full remediation, not half-measures. As a father, I urge the NSW Government to reject MOD 7 and demand Ampol return the land to the public. Let's work with the Sutherland Shire Council and Indigenous groups to rezone this site for parks or a national park extension. My children, and all children, deserve a Kurnell that's green, safe, and theirs to enjoy. Please hear this father's plea and act for our community's future.

Thanks very Much

David Hill

Kurnell Resident