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LEADING BUSINESS

Hunter Business Chamber

Orica Ammonium Nitrate Upgrade

Submission December 2013

P: 02 4969 9600

F: 02 4969 9620

E: info@hunterbusinesschamber.com.au

PO Box 607, Hamilton NSW 2303
99 Selwyn Street, Mayfield East NSW 2304

hunterbusinesschamber.com.au

Submission

The Hunter Business Chamber is the largest regional business chamber in Australia and is now over 127 years old. The Chamber represents approximately 1300 member businesses to all levels of government.

The Hunter Region has long held the reputation as the powerhouse of the NSW economy and ranks highly as one of the most valued, diverse and resilient regions in Australia. The Hunter has significant untapped capacity to grow in a sustainable manner and provides a highly desirable lifestyle and strong employment opportunities.

The Hunter Business Chamber welcomes the opportunity to provide a brief supportive submission to the Assessment process for Orica's Ammonium Nitrate Upgrade including:

- modification to the location and storage capacity of the approved site expansion nitric acid tank; and
- construction and operation of three ammonia flaring stacks located in the ammonia storage, nitrates and ammonia plant areas.

The Chamber notes all aspects of the Environmental Assessment (EA) lodged with the Department of Planning. The proponent's commitment to socially and environmentally responsible development is acknowledged with due attention to matters such as air quality and odour, noise and vibration, hazards and risks, and visual amenity.

The Chamber notes the EA's statement that risk associated with the nitric acid tank also complies with the requirements of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Papers and that the additional nitric acid storage would allow Kooragang Island to more readily be able to meet market demand whilst still operating within existing approved limits.

The Chamber notes the commitment of the organisation to minimise risk and impact of non-routine discharges through the implementation of the proposed flaring stacks while the existing scrubbing system would continue to treat routine planned ammonia emissions.

Community consultation has become increasingly important for the proponent and the Chamber is pleased to note their consideration of this and their ongoing commitment to consultation with a wide range of stakeholders in particular with the site Community Reference Group and the broader community, as detailed in the EA.

The Chamber endorses responsible and sensible environmental management measures designed to improve environmental performance while not inhibiting progression of capacity improvement plans as these relate directly to positive and strong impacts on the regional economy.

The Chamber is pleased to provide its overall support to progressing the delivery of this upgrade as an important step to improving overall environmental risk management and future capacity for economic growth.

Contact

For further information please contact:

Anita Hugo
Policy and Public Affairs Manager
Hunter Business Chamber

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f 02 4969 9620
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