

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

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GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001



PCU024120

APPLICATION No. 05_0147 MOD 5 Intermodal Logistics Centre Enfield – Modification 5

OBJECTION TO MODIFICATION

I was one of the first objectors to the Intermodal over sixteen years ago. I lived next door, grew up playing on the site and in the Cooks River and most probably know more about the site than most who are still alive.

The entire proposal is nothing of which was put forward to the public nearly two decades ago. The community was able to raise issues on health and environmental degradation to inquiry after inquiry having the Federal Government and State Government withdraw their application on many occasions.

It is apparently obvious that politics and big money have greater control over the future of our communities, as seen over many years of proposals for this site. Government after government could not accept their own inquiry findings and slowly eroded the original proposal and the community objections.

I was the first person to raise the issue of contaminated soils on the site and personally had a NATA approved laboratory screen the soil from what we called Mount Enfield. Obviously the findings were different than that of the railways, yet still showed high levels of heavy metals, asbestos, arsenic and other contaminants.

Once the issue became an air born issue of soil being deposited over the neighbouring suburbs, it became a health issue, even though the Health Department was reluctant to do anything about it. Environmental legislations have become more stringent in 2011 and it is up to the proponent to demonstrate how the modification will not impact further than that of the existing stockpile of contaminated soil.

It would need to be demonstrated that the existing contaminated stock pile has been regularly tested for leaching into the Cooks River, as shown in the original testing. What is proposed is a totally unacceptable way of overcoming what Sydney Ports see as a removal of soil issue and if the Contaminated Sites section of the Department of Environment and Climate Change were doing their job properly, Sydney Ports would have been told a decade ago to dispose of the existing stock pile correctly, not be allowed to add to the existing and future environmental problems.

The proponent would also need to demonstrate that nothing from the site (one contaminated particle of soil) would be able to cross the boundary during and or after modification. That continual monitoring of Air, Water and Environmental impacts on threatened species would occur.

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The Department of Planning and Infrastructure have also failed miserably in any form of "Sustainable" planning of the region. Politics has over-ridden practical and common sense planning which will not only see over-development issues in the near future, but ongoing health issues and claims against the Government for failure to take every precaution available during the two decades of uncontrolled movement of contaminated soil on this site.

I and others have an archive of contamination issues from this site that have been raised at Government Inquiries and public meetings over the past two decades. Most being supported by several Government Inquiry findings and NATA approved laboratories and it will be demonstrated in the future that all Government Departments have erred with every aspect of this proposal, especially contamination.

This proposal does not take into consideration the further impacts on the so called "Conservation" area to be constructed in close proximity, nor does it understand the ramifications for the "Community" area proposed for the old tarpaulin shed at the base of the mountain.

The proposal needs to demonstrate that no impact on the Green and Golden Bell Frog would occur, as this Government recognised site and many new colonies both upstream and downstream may become contaminated.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure must direct Sydney Ports Corporation to produce all records over the past decade or since ownership, showing regular readings of soil contamination of the existing stockpile and or any leaching, regional air quality findings and downstream water quality results over the same period. Unless these findings can be produced, it is an example of how Sydney Ports Corporation has not only failed in their corporate duty to the environment, yet has total disrespect for the health of the local community.

I object totally to any proposal to increase the size of the existing stockpile and call on the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to give a directive to Sydney Ports Corporation to dispose of correctly, the proposed and existing contaminated soils from this site.

Don't make this another environmental disaster for Sydney, as per the Ethylene dichloride groundwater plume at Botany.



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