

## **Request for Modification of National Biodiesel Limited, Port Kembla Soybean Crushing & Biodiesel Refinery Project Approval**

**Proponent:** National Biodiesel Limited  
**Application Number:** 08\_0083  
**Approved:** 05/05/2009

### **Background**

National Biodiesel Limited submitted an Environmental Assessment (EA) in December 2008 for development of a Soybean Crushing Facility, and Biodiesel Refinery, divided onto four Land plots representing 7.36 Ha at Port Kembla. This Project was approved by the Minister of Planning on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 and the Approval remains current. The Approval will lapse if the building works has not substantially commenced by 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The requirement to establish a marketing and distribution network in the local marketplace prior to commencing the construction resulted in a delay in progress on the project until Q4 2011. Despite executing and then servicing a Deed over the Land plots as a protection against any other use of the Land plots during that time, one of the smaller Land plots (1.55 Ha) approved under the original Project was allowed to be developed by the Port Kembla Port Corporation (PKPC) without National Biodiesel Limited's proper knowledge or consent. In order to remedy the situation, PKPC has substituted some nearby adjacent land as part of the reparations. This request for modification is based on the substitution of the new land plot for the specific purpose described under the original Environmental Assessment, and Project Approval.

### **Modification Detail**

#### **Biodiesel Refinery Plot Substitution**

The proposed substitution would move from the original 1.55 Ha site Part Lot 20 DP 1046295, to the nearly adjacent 1.8 Ha plot Part Lot 2 DP 1125445 (see attached drawing, and table below). The new land plot lies approximately 250 meters east of the original plot and closer to both the Crushing Facility and Administrative Office plots in the original approval. This substitution in land plot does not affect the type of production process, production capacity, or plant and equipment used in processing the Soybean Oil into Biodiesel. This is merely a change in proximity of one of the smaller sites to the other larger adjacent sites under the original May 2009 approval. This represents re-locating a minor portion, less than 20%, of the original total 7.36 Ha development in the original Project.

#### **Land Plot Area – with replaced Land plot included**

<b>No.</b>	<b>PT LOT</b>	<b>D.P.</b>	<b>PKPC Approximate Areas (Ha)</b>
1	2001	1030233	2.27
3 (New)	2	1125445	1.8
5	123	1128379	3.11
6	101	1120801	0.43
<b>Total</b>			<b>7.61</b>

#### **Old Land Plot - removed**

3 (Old)	20	1046295	1.55
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## Qualitative Operational Impacts

The impacts from this move are fairly non detrimental and actually beneficial from several standpoints. The minor change in land plots places the operational functions of the manufacturing facility closer together and in better view of the Administrative Office building (plot #6) proposed for the site. This will provide better management oversight and access to the manufacturing operation. The change in land plot also provides the opportunity to use the additional 0.25 Ha (an increase of 3% of the total land developed) to slightly improve the arrangement, and volumes of materials stored on the manufacturing sites. This benefit is merely a result of the slightly larger Land plot footprint to that of the substituted Land plot, and does not affect the production capacity, production process, or equipment used in manufacturing the Soybean Meal, Biodiesel, or Glycerine products.

There should be no impact on the original traffic detail provided in the original EA, as both plots of land use Tom Thumb Road for vehicle access and egress. Since there is no change in production capacity or process, there will be no change in vehicle traffic to or from the site.

## Qualitative Environmental Impacts

The change in land plots represents approximately 20% of the original 7.36 Ha approved in 2009. The land plots discussed are both within the Industrial Zone of the Port Kembla Inner Harbor. The distance between the two plots is approximately 250 Meters. Qualitative Environmental impacts discussed in the EA are listed below:

**Air Quality:** Same Manufacturing Process & Equipment (No Effect).

**Green House Gas Emissions & Energy Efficiency:** Same Manufacturing Process & Equipment (No Effect).

**Hazards & Risks:** Same Manufacturing Process & Equipment (No Effect).

**Traffic & Transport:** Both plots use Tom Thumb Road for truck access. Rail & vessel traffic unaffected. Since there is no increase in production capacity from this change, there should be no increased vehicle traffic (No Effect).

**Ecological:** Similar adjacent property should have similar ecological exposure (undetermined and expect outcome of No Effect).

**Noise Emissions:** New plot of land is slightly further from residential area and more obscured by Grain Corp. Terminal structures (Improvement).

**Predicted Construction Noise Levels:** The same process equipment, buildings, and similar tanks will be erected. New plot of land is slightly further from residential area and more obscured by Grain Corp Terminal structures (Improvement).

**Waste Management:** Same Manufacturing Process & Equipment (No Effect)

**Visual Impact:** New plot of land is slightly further from residential area and more obscured by Grain Corp Terminal structures (Improvement)

**Soils:** Similar adjacent property should have the same soils and environmental exposure (undetermined and expect outcome of No Effect).

**Water:** Similar adjacent property should have similar water & environmental exposure (undetermined).

## Summary

We believe that the change in one of the smaller four original land plots from the original Proposed Development does not have a significant effect on the overall operational or environmental impact of the project, and that this change should be handled as a modification to the original Project Approval.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sid Watts', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sid Watts  
Executive General Manager  
National Biodiesel limited