

Nicholas Hall - Submission in relation to the Marstel application

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Subject: Submission in relation to the Marstel application

Nicholas Hall
 Planning NSW

This is my Submission to oppose approval of an application by Marstel Terminals to construct and operate a Bulk Diesel Tank Farm Terminal on Newcastle Port Corp (NCP) Land (part of the Old BHP Steel works site), adjacent to Wharf 7 at Mayfield.

I write to support the submission made by the Correct Planning & Consultation for Mayfield Group.

I have lived in Newcastle all my life and my mother and grandmother live in Newcastle. It has been a welcome change in the last few decades that Newcastle's reputation for being polluted and dirty has changed into that of a city which is a pleasant place to live and bring up children. I encourage my own children to be proud of this area but I fear for their future if proposals like the Marstel one go ahead.

So it saddens me that we may have our priorities wrong and that proposals such as the Marstel Terminals proposal is a step backwards for residents.

I have learned from the Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield Group that:

- the Marstel Application has no proposal for any of the Bulk Diesel to be transported from its Tank farm, other than by road; and indeed, there is also a serious requirement by Marstel for Bio fuels to be transported into its tank farm by road.
- estimates of up to 16,000 heavy vehicle movements pa (B doubles and the like) have been made – all leading to Industrial Highway at a single intersection, being the intersection with Ingall St, Mayfield.
- The lands on the North Eastern boundary of this intersection are part of the Play grounds of Mayfield East Public School – which was established in the 1850s, and which has an enrolment of about 200 students in classes K to year 6.
- the number of truck movements will be excessive.

I agree with the Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield Group that these will impact on Mayfield and Newcastle in a number of unpleasant ways: Noise, Vibration, Toxic Diesel exhaust fumes; and the real risk of more and more truck accidents on our already very busy, and often choked local roads, arterial roads, bridges, and highways.

I am alarmed by what the group point out to me - facts already well known to Newcastle residents, especially in recent months since Orica's chemical leaks have been so disturbing for the local area - detailed in their submission:

The Orica Plant is only a few hundred metres across the water from the proposed Marstel Fuel Tank Farm. Orica wants to nearly double its production of Ammonium Nitrate.

Incitec Pivot, adjacent to Orica, currently imports Ammonium Nitrate, and wants to commence making Ammonium Nitrate.

Eastern Star Gas, adjacent to Incitec Pivot, wants to establish a Liquid Gas export facility.

These four businesses, all in close proximity, have the potential for a massive explosion if there is a combination of bad events. Such a Witches Brew could blow up more than half of Newcastle.

The Ammonium Nitrate Factory explosion in Toulouse in France in 2001 killed 31, and registered 3.4 on the

Richter scale. This could happen in Newcastle, and the effects would be far worse, as the combined quantities of chemicals in these 4 plants are much greater.

There also additional safety factors to be taken into account.

Hundreds of thousands of Tonnes of Ammonium Nitrate, from the Kooragang Island manufacturing and importation plants, goes up the Hunter Valley to the mines every year, to be used as explosives in the mines. It all travels by road.

Travelling on the same roads are Diesel and Petrol tankers carrying hundreds of Millions of Litres of Combustible and Inflammable fuel. The Marstel Application would add hundreds of millions of litres of additional fuel to the same roads every year.

It is not a matter of IF, but only a matter of WHEN, before we have an almighty explosion on the very busy, and often choked roads in The Hunter.

I completely support their opposition to this proposal and wish to add my voice to theirs.

Yours sincerely,

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