

Nicholas Hall  
Mining and Industry Projects  
Dept. of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

28/10/2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Stockton where I live with my 2-year old daughter and husband. I am also an academic in Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Newcastle. I am writing to you to express my concerns with the proposed ammonium nitrate plant on Kooragang Island (SSD-4986).

I am concerned about direct impact from the plant. I feel that the proposal poses an unacceptable risk to Stockton residents and nearby suburbs. I also feel that the process for considering the plant has been inadequate. I would like to see a more stringent process for this plant considering that there is already an explosive plant on Kooragang with a poor safety and environmental record.

In particular, I am concerned about air pollution, noise pollution, the potential for an explosion, pollution in the Hunter River, inadequate consultation, and traffic impacts.

In reference to making a submission, I confirm that I have not made a political donation of \$1000 or more in the past two years.

**Air pollution:** As the mother of a young child, I am concerned that the proposed plant will add to the air pollution experienced in this area. There are already high levels of coal dust, nitrous oxides and diesel particulates in Stockton. My daughter has exhibited some breathing problems that I believe relate to the levels of air pollution in the area. I believe it is unacceptable to put her, and other young and elderly people, at risk of respiratory health impacts. If the Incitec plant were to proceed, there would be two large ammonium nitrate plants very close to residents which would leave a high concentration of nitrous oxide gases. I am also concerned that extra diesel truck movements will add to air quality problems through additional carcinogenic fine particles.

**Noise pollution:** The night time noise in the area is already a major concern. I would not like to see further noise level increases. I understand that the noise tests for Incitec's EIS took place when Orica's plant was not operational. This means that the noise studies are inadequate and do not reflect the prevailing noise levels in the area.

Furthermore, it is NOT appropriate to relax recommended noise levels for the suburb of Stockton. Stockton residents are not second class citizens and the noise level recommendations are there for a reason.

**Explosive risk:** Incitec's EIS did not adequately address the potential for explosion for the plant. Kooragang already has a high explosive risk and this should not be increased. It is irresponsible in an area so close to houses.

**Traffic:** There is already a problem with traffic congestion on Kooragang. Incitec's proposal will only further burden the existing inadequate road infrastructure

**House prices:** It is likely that there would be a downward pressure on house prices if another ammonium nitrate plant were approved. Thanks to Orica, Stockton already has a reputation as a polluted suburb. The stigma would only increase if another plant were constructed. Incitec's EIS fails to acknowledge this issue and does not address how residents might be compensated for lower house prices.

**River pollution:** I am concerned that Incitec has not proposed a best-practice environmental plan for their plant which would see no effluent released into the Hunter River. The Hunter River needs to be protected as an important recreational and environmental asset for Newcastle. Excessive industrial activity with concomitant licenses to pollute the river is not an acceptable way forward.

**Inadequate consultation:** I feel there has not been adequate consultation on this project. It is a major proposal with the potential for significant impacts of Stockton and Newcastle residents.

I hope you will consider these concerns and objections.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sh W', followed by a period.

Dr Sarah Wright  
11 Church St  
Stockton NSW 2995