

Mining and Industry Projects
Dept. of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39, Sydney 2001
Attn. Mr. Nick Hall

27 September 2012

Re: Development proposal SSD-4986

I am writing to object to the Incitec Pivot Ammonium Nitrate Manufacturing facility proposal for Kooragang Island in the Hunter Estuary, Newcastle, NSW

There are already grounds for concern over the the risk posed by existing Amonium Nitrate Plant operated by Orica. Allowing the development of a similar plant more than doubles the risk. **This proposal is unacceptable in this location.**

Orica have had mishaps in the past year at their Kooragang Island ammonium nitrate plant, putting residents at risk, and the handling of notification procedures for affected residents was very poor. The Orica plant is producing and storing Ammonium and Ammonium Nitrate. The amount of material currently stored on Kooragang Island by Orica, 9000 tons, is already significant in terms of the radius of impact on inner Newcastle suburbs from an explosion. While the material itself is regarded as stable, it is well known that Ammonium Nitrate is regularly used to make explosives because it is easy to do.

The Incitec Pivot proposal for the production and storage of Ammonium Nitrate would **more than double** the amount stored on Kooragang Island. Although the company claims that there is only a small risk of explosion, the impacts which would flow from any explosion would be catastrophic.

In this day and age we all live with risk assessment for just about anything we do. We all understand the Risk Assessment Matrix rationale, that even if the risk of an accident occurring is small, if the risk itself is significant and life threatening than the risk overall is increased. Surely putting the residents and infrastructure of all of the Newcastle suburbs within a 5 kilometre radius of this development at risk from the potential explosion of 20,000 tonnes of Ammonium Nitrate is significant

I also note that there is another development proposal currently on exhibition by Newcastle Council which is also related to the storage Fertiliser, DA No 2012/955. It is not clear if this development has any connection to either Orica or the proposed Incitec Pivot development, but the provision for additional storage of fertiliser suggests there may be a connection.

The State Government should refuse the Incitec Pivot development and any future developments associated with Ammonium Nitrate in locations which are close to residential development. Today's Newcastle Herald states that Incitec has decided to "delay" the building of the plant for monetary reasons, although it is proceeding with the EIS process. For concerned citizens that are working hard to oppose this development, this does not represent a victory, only a reprieve. We well understand that we need to keep up our opposition as if the economics change the plant will be back on the agenda.

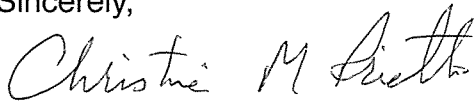
Newcastle enjoys a wonderful coastal setting and with its proximity to the Hunter Region it offers the best of city life and country life. Since its early settlement Newcastle has played

a significant role in the history and development of Australia. The city continues to play a significant role as a working port and the hub for energy production and energy innovation. Newcastle should not should sacrificed to poor industrial planning that shows no consideration of the citizens and the history and infrastructure of a wonderful and vibrant city.

The approach to managing industrial activity in the port of Newcastle has to be a **whole of city** approach, one that gives consideration to the health and future directions of the city and its residents, not just the prosperity of a few industries.

I also mention that I have not made a disclosable donation to any political party.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christine M Prietto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine M Prietto
47 King St
Stockton, NSW 2295