

Att. Mr. Nick Hall  
Mining and Industry Projects  
Dept. of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY 2001  
[Nicholas.Hall@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Nicholas.Hall@planning.nsw.gov.au)

I am writing to object to the proposed Incitec Pivot Ltd ammonium nitrate plant on Kooragang Island (SSD-4986). I am a Stockton resident who has lived here many years. I have built a home here and am raising a young family.

I vehemently opposed this proposal for a number of reasons.

The first of which is the sheer unacceptable risk to the surrounding communities of explosion. The storage of ammonium nitrate presents a real, albeit unlikely danger; the effects would be catastrophic and certain death to me, my children and family. I understand this may sound extreme, however, at worst case scenario it is possible. Writing this now it seems utterly absurd that the project is even being proposed.

Furthermore, the issue of pollution is clear and obvious. The noise alone will be far above lawful levels, which is why the proposal has requested a change in noise levels for this area. It is outrageous that a company would have the audacity to request higher noise levels for a residential community because they clearly cannot work within the current ones. This (as well as throughout the entire proposal) there has been no consideration for cumulative pollution and effect. It is impossible to view the IPL SSD-4986 in isolation when a community already must tolerate noise levels above those legislated. I can hear Orica and the Coal Loader all night. I cannot sleep with my window open due to noise. I paid additional money for highly insulated walls and roof when we built here and yet the noise levels have increased and I fear it will become unbearable at times if this project is successful.

Noise is not the only pollution the community deals with; there is also the risk of chemical spill, gas escaping (such as last year's Orica leak), more white powder particles in the air, more stench. All of these factors must be considered from a planning perspective in the way its effects accumulate. That's without mention of the coal dust, helicopter noise from the pilot helicopters etc etc.

Finally, I do not believe the community has been consulted fairly in relation to this proposal. Stockton is a small place, approximately 3000 people, when living here one knows many locals and when discussing the IPL SSD-4986 proposal people either had not heard of what is being proposed or they do not understand what is being proposed. People here are already impacted with the current levels of noise, congestion of roads on Kooragang Island, dust, pollution of the Hunter River and so on. They do not wish for that to be increased. The so called consultation with the community carried out by IPL has in no way reflected local sentiment and clearly not enough people were spoken to or asked the “right” questions.

In conclusion, I respectfully ask that the planning department really look at what is already in operation on Kooragang Island and how that already affects the surrounding communities. To really look at how truly dangerous this proposal could be and not just for Stockton. Please consider how this project will compound the effects of industry we live with everyday, 24 hours a day. When in any area of Newcastle east of Mayfield, Kooragang Island becomes “out of sight out of mind”. Many of the regions jobs (and much the mining industry in general) relies so heavily on this industrial area but there is little to no thought of how the processes affect the local people. I ask for consideration and respect for those of us that live nearby. We want to be healthy and safe.

Yours sincerely,

Joanne Greig  
16 Eames Ave,  
Stockton NSW 2295