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28 October 2012.

Nicholas Hall

Planner

Mining and Industry Projects

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney NSW 2001

Via Email Nicholas.Hall@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Hall,

Re Incitec Pivot's ("Incitec") proposed ammonium nitrate/nitric acid manufacturing facility at Kooragang Island (SSD – 4986)

I am a resident of Newcastle. [REDACTED]

Let me say at the outset that I am at a complete loss to understand how any company could boldly ask a planning authority to approve such a manufacturing facility in such a location in 2012.

In 2012, the proposed manufacturing plant's proximity to residential areas alone should make it fanciful.

The fact that there is already an identical plant next door does not change that argument. Put simply, in 2012, the Orica plant shouldn't be where it is either. It survives there because of history. Government allowed it to be built. We are stuck with it. It doesn't follow that if we have one dinosaur we should have two.

When Orica had their 'issues' in August 2011 and the possible dangers crystallised for me (and many other people I spoke to) I stood and wondered how it could be that such a plant could still exist so close to residential areas.

The answer as to why the Orica plant is there on Kooragang Island of course harks back a different era when, I respectfully submit, planning authorities were not as interested or as thorough as they are now and the general public were not as empowered or advised. Also, the environment was not as well respected. Much damage has been done. The words Union Carbide and Sydney Harbour spring to mind. It just wouldn't happen today.

In August 2011 it was stated by many people in the government and the press and indeed by members of the public that such a manufacturing plant (Orica) would never be approved in such a location "these days."

People from other parts of NSW scoff at the residents of Newcastle when they protest at the impact of the industry on their lives (such as noise and pollution). It has been a catch cry often heard, "The residents of Stockton knew it was there when they moved there. They should stop whingeing." Well when I moved to Stockton there were not TWO plants manufacturing ammonium nitrate and nitric acid 800 metres across the water storing over 20,000 tons of ammonium nitrate.

If this plant is built, it will be imposed on the city and community against their will. It will introduce a very significant variable to our lives that we didn't count on. To whom do I look for the resultant decrease in the value of my house?

The one good thing to come out of this EIS is to identify that Orica is unable to meet their noise requirements.

I am also at a loss to understand how it is that Incitec want a relaxation of 5db for recommended noise levels for residential areas.

I understand that decibels are measured on a logarithmic scale. Increasing something by 3db is doubling it! Think about that. A 5db relaxation of recommended levels is an extraordinary request. Its boldness is breathtaking. One can only wonder at the ethics of a person who works within a

process that considers it acceptable to suggest it is appropriate to relax the recommended levels for suburban areas by 5db.

I understand that ammonium nitrate is not an explosive in itself. However, exactly how it is made into an explosive is well known to many. Including terrorist organisations! Terrorism wasn't even on the horizon when Orica obtained their approval in the 1960's when the Orica plant was built.

Not even all parts of the EIS are released to the public – with bodies receiving some parts of the EIS because of security/terrorism issues. This is an amazing situation in itself. It makes the approval process a no-brainer.

I ask that you please stand back and take a proper look at this project. Even a cursory glance will show that it is an ill-fitting proposal. Don't be part of the process that inflicts more stupidity on the next generation. Don't be that person who actually approved a manufacturing plant against common sense and in a situation/position where it doesn't fit.

There is no sensible argument as to why the ammonium nitrate used in the Hunter Valley mines must be made in the Hunter Valley. The coal mines of the Hunter Valley use much equipment made throughout the world. Why is it that ammonium nitrate must be made locally. Incitec no doubt intend to export the ammonium nitrate made at Kooragang Island to other places in the world. So what is the need to make it here?

I am not a person that would be considered 'anti-development'. NSW needs jobs. NSW does not need the 60 ongoing jobs running an ammonium nitrate/nitric acid manufacturing plant AT THAT LOCATION. There are many other places where it could go that are well away. The noise pollution and explosion problems will not present a constant danger to the public if the manufacturing plant is built in an isolated location.

If I can be of any further assistance please don't hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

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