

COPY

22-2-13



Mr C Baumann
Member Pt Stephens

With regard to Crawford's Ammonium Nitrate Storage and Distribution Facility AOR NO SSD 5119.

Some time ago a few hundred-weight of this product was thought to have been stolen from a railway freight car on a siding at Hexham. This provoked a major security scare until it was proven to be an error in calculations with no real loss of product. Now Crawford's propose to store 13500 tonnes of this dangerous product in an area virtually impossible to secure as the whole proposed area backs on to the northern rail line. Most of the premises in that area at one time or another have been broken into suffering loss of property or vandalism. The most recent break-ins that I know of being Thies contractors at their sandgate depot for Newcastle Bypass Roadworks also Crawford's themselves and even Sandgate Cemetery suffers on-going vandalism despite security patrols. The storage area is approximately 1 to 1 1/2 kilometres away from St Joseph's Hospital and Nursing Home as well as daily occupied commercial buildings including Newcastle Markets and many domestic houses. At a recent meeting a senior explosive expert (retired) predicted that an explosion 13500 tonnes of this product would devastate an area of 5 to 10 kilometres radius.

(1)

Crawfords claim the increased use of the facility would end double handling there-by allowing them to reduce the number of semi-trailers by 10 per day but I contend that the distribution of the product will provoke a large increase in the number of vehicles crossing Maitland Rd at Sandgate holding up the already chaotic flow of traffic bothways causing more accidents as it is a well known fact in this area that most of the tail-end bumps happen at traffic lights.

As the product is for use in the valley mines surely the most economic and safest method of distribution would be to store the product in the mines area reducing the number of trucks between the mines and Sandgate.

In closing I respectfully would like you to inform the Premier that many people in Sandgate, Shortland, Wairarapa, and a large number in Mayfield, Birmingham Gardens and Leekham are concerned that the facility having been rejected by Stockton residents is being thrust upon us without a respectable time to examine the details and reply.

Colin Keith

0249683608

151 Maitland Rd
Sandgate